

# Harriet Tubman Purple Hats Society presents 4-day celebration



Members of the Purple Hat Society celebrate Harriet Tubman. (Third-Party-Submitted)



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STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — In case you're not familiar with the **Harriet Tubman Purple Hats Society**, allow us to introduce the organization.

The Harriet Tubman Purple Hats Society was founded in 2007 by **Thomasina Williams**, an Advance Woman of Achievement in the Class of 2000, and the late **Andrew Gill**.

The mission and goals of the Society are to empower women to live in the spirit of Harriet Tubman, one of the greatest heroines of her era, by participating in cultural, social, economic and political activities that will have a profound impact on the quality of life in their communities.

The State of New York has authorized March 10 as the official Harriet Tubman Day and to commemorate the occasion the group has organized a four-day celebration.

First off on Thursday, March 10, The Harriet Tubman Purple Hats Society will sponsor a Fifth Grade Essay Contest at PS 20, Port Richmond.

Then on Friday, March 11, members will meet for lunch at **LiGreci's** Staaten, West Brighton at 1 p.m.

On Saturday, March 12, a bus tour of the Underground Railroad sites on Staten Island will take place. Points of Interest, narrated by **Jebbie-Ann Paige**, lecturer and historian. The bus leaves from the Parking Lot at the Bridgeview Senior Center at 150 Nicholas Ave., Port Richmond at 9 a.m. and returns at 1:30 p.m. Bus tickets are \$20 and all are welcome.

On Sunday, March 13, planned is a Founder's Day Worship Service at the Stapleton U.A.M.E. Church, 49 Tompkins Ave. at 11 a.m. with Rev. **Maggie Howard**, pastor. And again all are welcome.

For additional information kindly contact **Elizabeth Plair**, president of the Harriet Tubman Purple Hat Society at 718-447-4005, **Virginia Allen** at 718-448-5183-events coordinator, or **Nancy Ashon-Poku**, vice president at 347-729-2723 or Lucille Herring, historian of The Harriet Tubman Purple Hats Society at 917-842-5550 or 718-494-0472.

Interestingly, Harriet Moses Tubman was born in 1822 into slavery in Maryland as **Araminta Harriet Ross**. She became a leader in the effort to end the evil of slavery and to protect her people from the cruelty of slavery that denied to millions of African-Americans the basic right to human dignity.

After she had escaped to freedom in Pennsylvania she would risk her life many times to return to the south to rescue dozens of slaves who would themselves find freedom in the northern states or in Canada.

For her leadership in guiding these men, women and children to freedom, Harriet Tubman was known as Moses. Her courage in the face of evil will remain forever an inspiration for all individuals of good will to resist tyranny and refuse to submit to injustice here in the United States and around the world.

Harriet Tubman became an American icon in the years after she died.

A survey at the end of the 20th century named her as one of the most famous civilians in American history before the Civil War, third only to Betsy Ross and Paul Revere.

She inspired generations of African Americans struggling for equality and civil rights and she was praised by political leaders across the nation.

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