

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local woman gets national attention for Solomon Northup Day established in 1999.

On Monday October 21st, there will be an annual dinner and fundraiser for *the Underground Railroad Project of the Capital Region.* Featured are an advance screening of *12 Years A Slave* at the Spectrum Theatre with a reception to follow at My Linh Restaurant, Albany, NY. Attending will be descendant Clayton Adams 4th great grandson of Solomon Northup, Ms. Elaine Houston, **NewsChannel 13** anchor, and Saratoga resident Renee Moore, founder, Solomon Northup Day since 1999.

Ms. Moore initiated a 15-year effort to bring annual focus to the autobiography, ***Twelve Years A Slave*** the ordeal of Mr. Northup while celebrating African-American history and culture in Saratoga and the capital region and further to Plattsburgh, NY with the *North Country Underground Railroad Historical Association*.

Solomon Northup Day is a multi-venue program, which has received several national honors including, The U. S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, ***Network to Freedom*** project, ***Anacostia Museum*** [Smithsonian] and the Library of Congress, ***Local Legacies*** project which is now apart of their permanent archives.

This historical program provided a long-term platform for historians, academia, writers, clergy and included other educational programs about Northup family history, the abolitionist movement, the underground railroad, and local African-American history and culture. Ms. Moore incorporates history with recognition of contemporary local artists Francelise Dawkins, and Michael Terra, as well as bookstore displays while honoring the descendants each year a community senior.

Last year ***Saratoga Reads*** selected ***Twelve Years A Slave*** as Book of the Year. Mr. Northup published his autobiography ***Twelve Years a Slave***, in July of 1853 about his ordeal and it is believed he traveled throughout the region selling his autobiography and speaking out against slavery as an abolitionist.

This year's 15th event, Renee Moore and Co-Chair Enid Mastrianni of Glens Falls, took place Filene Hall, Skidmore College, receiving international attention. Attended by more than 50 descendants some of whom were meeting each other for the first time were film actress Lupita Nyong'o who spoke about how attending this event gave even more meaning to her role. New Regency Films and Fox Searchlight premiered never seen before segments of the film with a special message from UK director Steve McQueen.

For more information on this fundraiser: <http://undergroundrailroadhistory.org/12-years-a-slave-screening-and-post-screening-reception>. For more information on this annual celebration and information on Solomon Northup history contact Ms. Renee Moore, themoor78@yahoo.com, 518-596-4329.

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References:

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