

THE BLACK WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CAUCUS, INC.
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April 8, 2020



Harriet Tubman circa 1860

*"Children, if you are tired, keep going!
If you are scared, keep going. If you are
Hungry, keep going. If you want to taste
Freedom, keep going"....Harriet Ross Green Tubman Davis*

Re: Harriet Tubman Day of Commemoration – March 10, 2020

Hello:

We so very much appreciate your participation in yet another successful Tubman celebration.

Percussionist, Dr. Lorenzo Pace, you not only greeted our guests but accompanied the children reading excerpts from Tubman's obituary. Dr. Pace is a renowned sculptor/artist (best known as the artist for the amazing Memorial Triumph of the Human Spirit located at the African Burial Ground). He has also authored several children's books including best seller "Jalani and the Lock".

Mistress of Ceremonies Rev. Imani Carole Parker, you kept the program moving smoothly; you definitely have a gift for gab. Rev. Parker is an actress, poet, minister and community activist who has served as our MC for the past 6+ years. For many years she has travelled around the country portraying Sojourner Truth; she is also one of the stars of "Mama Moses", written, directed and produced by Linda Cousins-Newton, which was performed in Ghana in 2012.

Vocalist, Janice Marie Singleton, you are an outstanding vocalist, actress, motivational speaker and song writer. We were awestricken by your unforgettable rendition of the Oscar-nominated "Stand Up" written and performed by Cynthia Erivo in the movie HARRIET. You might remember Janice from the Tony-winning Broadway production of "The Wiz" where she performed dual roles starring as Glenda, the Good Witch and singing in the pit.

John Galvin, Jr., great-great-great-great grandnephew, is one of the younger descendants. John told us that while he doesn't really know the history about Tubman well enough to share he did spend time telling us what it means to him to be a descendant of such an historical figure. He was wonderful with the students. John is the nephew of Adrienne Roddrick who usually speaks at our annual Tubman celebration. He holds a BS in Criminal Justice and a Master's Degree in Sports Management. John is a successful Real Estate Agent, licensed in NYS for more than 10 years.

Students from PS 154 - Harriet Tubman Learning Center, you were fantabulous, we are grateful that Principal Elizabeth Jarrett has allowed you to join us since we began our celebration in 2009. This year 28 of you walked from your school located at 127th Street to the Monument at 122nd Street/Frederick Douglass Boulevard. Twelve of you recited excerpts from Harriet Tubman's obituary speaking expressively, loudly and clearly – you surely did not even need a microphone. You made us proud. The students were accompanied by two (or was it three) teachers – thank you teachers. Thanks also to **Mr. Tonato Perez** for agreeing to let the children join us.

Students from Fashion Institute of Technology High School, we're so glad you and your teacher Edie joined us; we look forward to seeing you in 2021. Edie, about whose last name I'm having a brain freeze, brought along 10 juniors and seniors who truly enjoyed the celebration.

Adrian Sas, you are an amazing producer of “It's My Park” for the NYC Parks & Recreation Department, we so appreciate your capturing our celebration. Adrian has produced other videos about the Tubman memorial, one featuring the artist Alison Saar. <https://www.facebook.com/pg/nycparks/videos/>

Thanks to **Manhattan Borough President Hon. Gale Brewer** who, while unable to join us, asked **Ms. Athena Moore**, Director of **Hon. Brewer's Harlem office** to represent her. **Ms. Moore**, you were an eloquent and charismatic speaker; we especially appreciated that you spoke directly to the children.

Councilman Hon. Bill Perks, thank you for agreeing to have our program printed; special appreciation to your **Chief of Staff Linda Wood-Guy** for assuring the printing happened.

Special thanks to **NYPD Community Officer Castillo and Sgt. Brown** for processing our sound permit, even though we were a bit tardy getting the information to you. Thanks for the parking spaces as well.

Melinda Dixon, your Tubman lollipops were delicious and beautiful but as always we never have enough.

Floral Expressions of Harlem, Inc., you have created our beautiful yellow wreath since 2009 and we are always pleased.

Barbara Love and **Ermine Thomas**, thank you for always answering our call to volunteer; you are ever so very gracious and we are thankful for your friendship.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Rankin-Fulcher, Co-Chair
Black Women's Leadership Caucus, Inc.

SEE PICTURE ON FOLLOWING PAGE

As appeared in the Amsterdam News, NBC News at 4 PM, NY-One News and “It's Our Park” on NYC Parks & Recreation FB

HARRIET TUBMAN DAY OF COMMEMORATION 2020

March 10, 2020

A loving memory



Athena Moore (Office of Manhattan Borough President), Dr. Lorenzo Pace (percussionist) behind him 5th graders from Harriet Tubman Learning Center, John Galvin, Jr. (Tubman descendant), Edie (teacher from F.I.T. High School, behind her students from F.I.T. HS), Elizabeth Rankin-Fulcher (seated in front of FIT students)

And, of course, the celebrant Araminta (“Minty”) Harriet Green Ross Tubman Davis (1821-1913)

Why we celebrate Harriet Tubman on March 10.

Beginning in 1999, Black Women’s Leadership Caucus, Inc. (“BWLC”) members travelled around New York State and as far away as Baltimore, Maryland and Delaware campaigning for a Holiday for Tubman to be celebrated every March 10 (Tubman died March 10, 1913 at her homestead in Auburn, NY). Although the campaign was unsuccessful, on August 27, 2003 then Governor Pataki signed legislation for the Harriet Tubman Day of Commemoration honoring Tubman every March 10 in New York State. Other states honoring Tubman on March 10 include Delaware, Maryland, Georgia and Texas. Did you know that in these United States we DO NOT HONOR ANY WOMAN with a holiday?

BWLC first began celebrating Harriet Tubman in 2004 in Brooklyn, New York, partnering with then New York Councilman Al Vann. On November 13, 2008, the Tubman Monument, created by artist/sculptor Alison Saar, was dedicated. Every year since 2009, every March 10, BWLC has held a wreath-laying ceremony at the Harriet Tubman Monument located at 122nd Street/Harriet Tubman Square at Frederick Douglass Boulevard in the Village of Harlem, New York.
