

The 2023 Winners of the Underground Railroad Free Press Prizes



Preservation Prize
George Lewis

For leading the restoration of a destroyed portion of what had been one of the nation's most heavily traveled Underground Railroad routes, making the route whole again



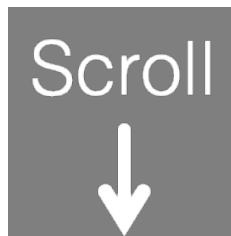
Leadership Prize
Paul and May Liz Stewart

For long perseverance in developing funding for a major expansion of the Underground Railroad Education Center that they founded



**Hortense Simmons Memorial
Advancement of Knowledge Prize**
Larry A. McDonald

For his book *Onward to Chicago's* extensively detailed portrayal of the workings and personalities of northeastern Illinois' Underground Railroad network



The 2022 Winners of the Underground Railroad Free Press Prizes



Preservation Prize
Barbara Lockhart

For bringing back to life and thus preserving the vivid 1850s African American history of her own farm



Leadership Prize
Raul Rothblatt

For unwavering dedication to saving a historic New York City Underground Railroad safe-house from destruction.



**Hortense Simmons Memorial
Advancement of Knowledge Prize**
Bonine Library

For exemplifying what dedicated local organizations are capable of in uncovering and portraying regional Underground Railroad history

The 2021 Winners of the Underground Railroad Free Press Prizes



Preservation Prize
Stuart McMillan

For the lifetime contributions of one dedicated person who has worked tirelessly to preserve the memory of the Underground Railroad in his part of America



Leadership Prize
Historic Sotterley

For its exemplary Common Ground Initiative that brought together Black and White descendants of people who lived at Sotterley Plantation in the era of slavery



**Hortense Simmons Memorial
Advancement of Knowledge Prize**
Jobie Hill

For her exemplary work on the project "Saving Slave Houses" which Ms. Hill has operated for the last ten years

The 2020 Winners of the Underground Railroad Free Press Prizes



Preservation Prize
Kim and Reggie Harris

For discovering and reintroducing songs of the Underground Railroad over their very long performing career



Leadership Prize
Rotary Action Group Against Slavery

For its forceful initiative in persuading Rotary International to put its weight behind the fight to eradicate slavery



**Hortense Simmons Memorial
Advancement of Knowledge Prize**
Kathleen Snowden and Ann Lebherz

For setting the example of collaboration by community historians by their identifying Underground Railroad sites and operators in their county over many years

The 2019 Winners of the Underground Railroad Free Press Prizes



Preservation Prize
***The Underground Railroad Society
of Cass County, Michigan***

For restoration of four Underground Railroad safe-houses and for setting a remarkable example of organizing, fundraising and management



Leadership Prize
***The Maryland-National Capital
Park and Planning Commission***

For rediscovery, purchase, restoration and making available to the public the childhood farm where Underground Railroad icon Josiah Henson lived



**Hortense Simmons Memorial
Advancement of Knowledge Prize**
California State University, Sacramento

For its library's Underground Railroad Project, which documented that there was an Underground Railroad where many assumed none had ever existed

The 2018 Winners of the Underground Railroad Free Press Prizes



Preservation Prize
James "Sparky" and Rhonda Rucker

For their career-long work that has revived the music of the Underground Railroad and its era and reintroduced it to audiences



Leadership Prize
John Pepper

For his indispensable role in gathering nationwide financial support and making the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center a reality



**Hortense Simmons Memorial
Advancement of Knowledge Prize**
Lezlie Wells

For tireless work organizing and leading tours of Underground Railroad sites in and around Niagara Falls, Canada

The 2017 Winners of the Underground Railroad Free Press Prizes



Preservation Prize
Richard Gottfried and Corey Johnson

For their long, tireless efforts that successfully preserved Hopper-Gibbons House, Manhattan's sole surviving Underground Railroad safe-house



Leadership Prize
Judith Wellman

For her career-long leadership in the Underground Railroad community and for creating the Wellman Scale, the accepted standard for evaluating Underground Railroad site and story claims



**Hortense Simmons Memorial
Advancement of Knowledge Prize**
Colson Whitehead

For illuminating the Underground Railroad to millions of readers through his novel, *The Underground Railroad*, winner of the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction

The 2016 Winners of the Underground Railroad Free Press Prizes



Preservation Prize
Allan Nelson

For his decades of research revealing in fine detail the escape of his great-great-grandfather to Canada, the lives led by the freedom seeker and his five fellow travelers, and his ancestor's many living descendants



Leadership Prize
Oprah Winfrey

For leading the way by example by making the single largest gift to the founding of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and for recruiting other major donors to the same cause



**Hortense Simmons Memorial
Advancement of Knowledge Prize**
Grey Roots Museum and Archives

For its long diligent work in uncovering and bringing to public light the Underground Railroad and African Canadian history of Grey County, Ontario, Canada

The 2015 Winners of the Underground Railroad Free Press Prizes



Preservation Prize
***Historic 1776 Dobbin House
Inn & Tavern***

For authentically preserving and innovatively displaying the original Underground Railroad hideaway in Dobbin House



Leadership Prize
Louis Fields

For getting Maryland's annual Harriet Tubman Day observance legislated, founding Baltimore Black Heritage Tours, and leading the state Underground Railroad community for 15 years



**Hortense Simmons Memorial
Advancement of Knowledge Prize**
Nicholas Gunner

For creating the best state Underground Railroad map yet, an interactive map of New York State Underground Railroad sites and historical figures

The 2014 Winners of the Underground Railroad Free Press Prizes



Preservation Prize
Owen Muelder

For preserving the history of the Illinois Underground Railroad, founding and leading Knox College's Underground Railroad Freedom Station, and serving the greater Underground Railroad community



Leadership Prize
The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

For establishing itself as the nation's and world's premiere Underground Railroad institution



Hortense Simmons Memorial Advancement of Knowledge Prize
WGBH Boston

For innovative creation of its interactive Abolitionist Map of America emphasizing Underground Railroad sites

The 2013 Winners of the Underground Railroad Free Press Prizes



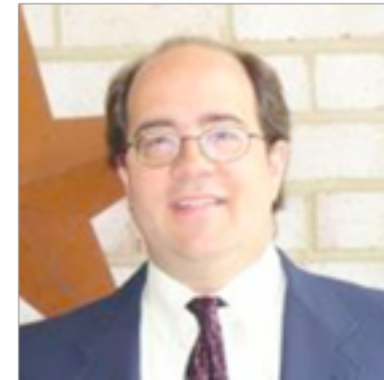
Preservation Prize
The Owen Lovejoy Homestead, Inc.
board of directors and its president Kenn
Corban

For long work supporting the City of Princeton, Illinois, in restoring the former Underground Railroad safe-house and getting it listed on the National Register of Historic Places



Leadership Prize
Wendy Straight

For the long diligence of her work uncovering, mapping and writing on the Underground Railroad in Chautauqua County, New York



Hortense Simmons Memorial
Advancement of Knowledge Prize
David Smith

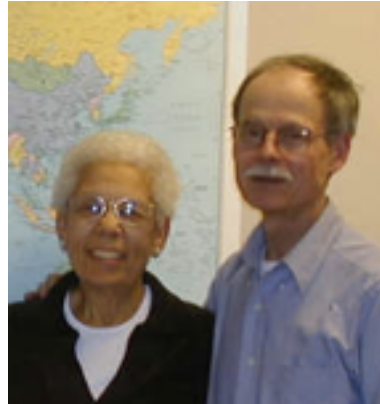
For his exemplary 2013 history, *On the Edge of Freedom: The Fugitive Slave Issue in South Central Pennsylvania, 1820-1870*

The 2012 Winners of the Underground Railroad Free Press Prizes



Preservation Prize
Caroline Miller

For discovering the intact slave pen that became the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center's and the Underground Railroad community's signature artifact, and for decades of preserving local Underground Railroad lore and sites in Kentucky and Ohio



Leadership Prize
Vivian and Donald Papson

For founding the North Country Underground Railroad Historical Association and the much-visited North Star Underground Railroad Museum, and for their years of work in re-illuminating the Underground Railroad in northern New York state



**Hortense Simmons Memorial
Advancement of Knowledge Prize**
Carol Mull

For founding the Michigan Freedom Trail Commission, authoring *The Underground Railroad in Michigan*, and laying out a new 500-mile Underground Railroad bicycle route

The 2011 Winners of the Underground Railroad Free Press Prizes



Preservation Prize
Randolph J. Harris

For his steadfast work in successfully gaining protection of Important threatened Underground Railroad and abolitionist sites in Pennsylvania



Leadership Prize
Jeannie Regan-Dinius

For spearheading the development of Indiana's especially effective state-sponsored Underground Railroad program



Hortense Simmons Memorial Advancement of Knowledge Prize
Bryan and Shannon Prince

For career-long work revealing and promoting Canada's rich Underground Railroad history

The 2010 Winners of the Underground Railroad Free Press Prizes



Preservation
Wilma Morrison

For her six decades of work preserving the Nathaniel Dett Chapel in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada, and promoting Canada's Black history



Leadership
Carl Westmoreland

For his central role in the founding and ongoing operation of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio



**Hortense Simmons Memorial
Advancement of Knowledge**
Graham Hodges

For his prize-winning biography of New York City Underground Railroad conductor and safe-house operator David Ruggles

The 2009 Winners of the *Underground Railroad Free Press Prizes*



Preservation

Julie Finch and Fern Luskin

For their unflagging work in saving Hopper-Gibbons House, an important Underground Railroad safe-house and center of abolitionism in New York City



Leadership

Smithfield Community Association

For its entrepreneurship, organizing, managing and promoting the many significant Underground Railroad and abolitionist sites and history around Peterboro, New York



**Hortense Simmons Memorial
Advancement of Knowledge**

Karolyn Smardz Frost

For her award-winning book, *I've Got a Home In Glory Land: A Lost Tale of the Underground Railroad*, and for her archaeological work on Canadian Underground Railroad sites and lecturing on the Underground Railroad

The 2008 Winners of the *Underground Railroad Free Press Prizes*



Preservation

Paul and Mary Liz Stewart

For rediscovering and restoring the Stephen Myers safe-house in Albany, New York



Leadership

Dr. David A. Anderson

For his lifelong work in rekindling the memory of the Underground Railroad



**Hortense Simmons Memorial
Advancement of Knowledge**

Thomas P. Calarco

For his groundbreaking books revealing the Underground Railroad from New York City to the Adirondacks region