

# 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Connecticut Freedom Trail Bicycle Ride and Quilt Exhibit

**September 22, 2018**

Bike Ride 8:00 A.M. - 11:45 A.M.  
Museum Performance 12:30 P.M.



# The 20th Anniversary of the Connecticut Freedom Trail and Bicycle Celebration



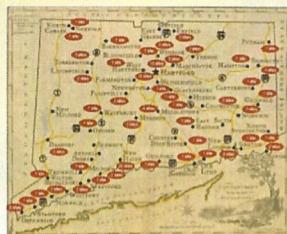
Welcome to the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Connecticut Freedom Trail Bicycle Ride and Freedom Trail Quilt Project. In 1998, cyclists converged on Hartford CT, from all over the state carrying quilt squares representing Freedom Trail sites that were stitched together and hung in the Connecticut State Library.

## The Freedom Trail



The Connecticut Freedom Trail documents and designates sites that embody the struggle toward freedom and human dignity, celebrate the accomplishments of the state's African American community and promote heritage tourism. The Trail officially opened in September 1996, and as of fall 2010, there are more than 130 sites in more than 50 towns, and the Trail continues to grow.

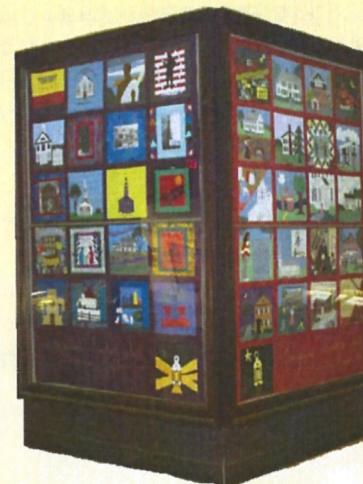
For more info about the Freedom Trail  
<http://www.ctfreedomtrail.org>



# The Freedom Trail Quilt Project

The Freedom Trail Quilt project and the display of the quilts in the Museum of Connecticut History represent an acknowledgement by public and private groups of the great significance of the Freedom Trail story within the history of Connecticut and the nation

In 1997, a grass roots citizens group of interested volunteers from every corner of the State came together to form the Freedom Trail Planning Committee. They dedicated their time and efforts to creating a lasting tribute to the Connecticut Freedom Trail through one of the most traditional of American art forms – quilting. Four quilts, representing each region of Connecticut, were completed in 1998.



# Bike Ride



COMMEMORATE THE 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
CONNECTICUT FREEDOM TRAIL BICYCLE RIDE WITH  
A TOUR OF  
SEVERAL FREEDOM TRAIL SITES IN  
HARTFORD, CT

Bicyclists will meet at the Connecticut State  
Library located at 231  
Capitol Ave., at the Oak Street entrance.  
Bicyclists should arrive as early as 8:00 A.M. to have  
your bike checked and no later than 8:30 A.M. to sign  
in. The ride will leave at 9:00 A.M. and return to the  
Connecticut State Library by 11:45 A.M.

**HELMETS REQUIRED, RAIN OR SHINE**



## The Freedom Trail Sites on the Route



**African-American Memorial, Ancient Burying  
Ground, 60 Gold St.**

**Union Baptist Church, 1921 Main St.**

**Faith Congregational Church, 2030 Main St.**

**Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church, 2051 Main St.  
Marietta Cantz House, 61 Mahl Avenue**

**Mary Townsend Seymour Gravesite,  
North Main St. at Mather St.**

**Wilfred X. Johnson House, 206 Tower Ave.**

**Frank T. Simpson House, 27 Keney Terrace**

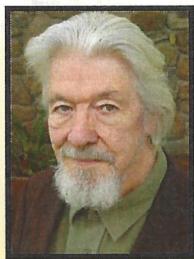
**Mark Twain House, 351 Farmington Ave.**

**Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, 77 Forest St.**

**Soldiers and Sailors Monument, Bushnell Park,  
31 Pratt St.**

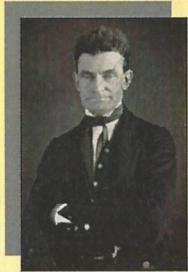


## Norman Thomas Marshall



In his 1967 New York debut, Norman Thomas Marshall played the title role in the Judson Poets Theatre production of the Theatre of the Ridiculous classic, *Gorilla Queen* by Ronald Tavel. Since then he has participated in several hundred plays, films, soap operas, voice overs, commercials and radio dramas as actor, director, producer and playwright with such stalwarts as Moses Gunn, F. Murray Abraham, David Hasselhoff, Burt Reynolds, Harvey

Fierstein, Bette Midler, Christopher Lloyd, and Barbra Streisand. Since 1995, his attention has centered on *John Brown: Trumpet of Freedom*, a one-person play with thirty characters that has been performed several hundred times from California to Denmark.

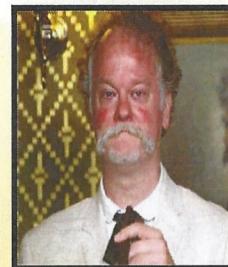


## John Brown

John Brown was an American abolitionist who believed in and advocated armed insurrection as the only way to overthrow the institution of slavery in the United States. He first gained attention when he led small groups of volunteers during the Bleeding Kansas crisis of 1856. In October 1859, Brown led a raid on the federal

armory at Harper's Ferry, West Virginia (still Virginia at the time) to start a liberation movement among the slaves there. He seized the armory, but seven people were killed, and ten or more were injured. He intended to arm slaves with weapons from the arsenal, but the attack failed. Within 36 hours, Brown's men had fled or been killed or captured by local farmers, militiamen, and US Marines led by Robert E. Lee. He was tried for treason against the Commonwealth of Virginia, the murder of five men and inciting a slave insurrection, was found guilty on all counts, and was hanged.

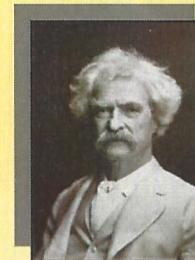
## Christopher "Kit" Webb



Christopher "Kit" Webb is a Connecticut native living in Wethersfield. He has worked at the Mark Twain House and Museum for five years, both as a regular tour guide and playing the Clemens coachman, Patrick McAleer, on the museum's Living History tours. As a freelancer, he also portrays Mark Twain, calling himself a "Twain imposter" rather than a "Twain impersonator" (it's more accurate and Twain

would have found it funny). His love for Twain was inspired by his grandfather who was a big fan of the writer. Kit also works at the University of Hartford's Harriet School and plays bass in The Rude Mechanicals, a local band.

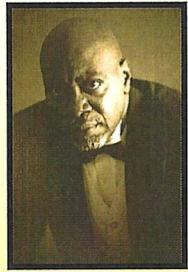
## Mark Twain



Samuel Clemens is better known as Mark Twain, the pen name he used as a writer and humorist. A prolific author, Twain may be best known for *Tom Sawyer* and *Huckleberry Finn*, but he also wrote many other novels, including *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, *Roughing It*, *The Gilded Age*, *Following the Equator*, *Joan of Arc*, *Eve's Diary*, *The*

*Mysterious Stranger*, other novels and numerous short stories and essays. Before settling in Hartford - where he spent 17 years, the longest he ever settled in one place. Twain traveled the world as a journalist and author. This experience opened Twain's eyes to the commonality of people.

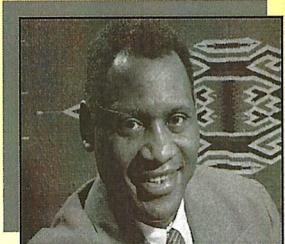
## Marvin Jefferson



Marvin Jefferson has an extensive background as a professional actor and between 1997 and 2009 he has performed a Chautauqua (first person characterization of a historical figure) of the life of Paul Robeson as singer, athlete, scholar and social activist for the Newark school district, performing in every school in the district. He prepared for his portrayal of Paul Robeson by attending, in the summer of 1997, the Annual

Great Plains Chautauqua in West Fargo, North Dakota. Between 2005 - 2010 he appeared as Robeson in the Colorado, Maryland, Nevada, Ohio, South Carolina and North Carolina Chautauqua festivals. He has also appeared in various productions throughout New York City including an Off-Off Broadway theatrical version of *Paul Robeson, A Chautauqua* at Urban Stages theatre company. Marvin studied acting at the Mason Gross School of Arts, Rutgers University.

## Paul Robeson



Paul Robeson was a Singer, Actor, Athlete, Scholar, Social Activist. A man of deep conviction and extraordinary complexity, Paul came of age during one of the more difficult periods in American history. For over 25 years, Paul was known as one of the great

artists of his generation. Between 1927-1939, Paul lived in London, England and it was there that he became totally politicized. He became an uncompromising fighter, for civil and human rights at home and abroad and for friendship with the Soviet Union. It was these activities that led the U.S. government to nearly destroy him during the 1950s.

## Dana Fripp



Praised for her beautiful voice, natural acting ability, and compelling stage presence, the New Haven-born songstress Dana Elizabeth Fripp found singing to be a pastime of the heart at a very early age. She had her first formal public singing experience in her elementary school's glee club, and was later selected to represent her school in all-city youth chorus. At age 12, Ms. Fripp was invited into the world of Gospel music, and believes she owes much of the nurturing of her

natural sense of musicality, harmony, storytelling, and love for collaboration to her years singing in incredible choirs and ensembles. As a soloist, she has participated in ceremonial festivities surrounding *La Amistad*—including making the ship's first major international voyage, launched from the New Haven Harbor. She's been honored to share musically for the New Haven Branch of the United States Postal Service during their local celebrations of national stamp unveilings, including International Women's Day. She was especially moved to sing at the unveiling of the stamp honoring acclaimed contralto and civil rights icon Marian Anderson at Gateway Community College.

## Marian Anderson



Marian Anderson was an American singer. Anderson was one of the most celebrated singers of the twentieth century. Most of her singing career was spent performing in concert and recital in major music venues and with famous orchestras throughout the United States and Europe between 1925 and 1965.

Anderson became an important figure in the struggle for black artists to overcome racial prejudice in the United States during the mid-twentieth century. In 1939, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) refused permission for Anderson to sing to an integrated audience in Constitution Hall. The incident placed Anderson into the spotlight of the international community on a level unusual for a classical musician. With the aid of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and her husband Franklin D. Roosevelt, Anderson performed a critically acclaimed open-air concert on Easter Sunday, April 9, 1939, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

## Donna Dufresne



Donna Dufresne has been performing on stage as a singer since she made her debut at age three at the local Grange Hall. She has continued to study voice and music throughout her life. Donna began integrating music and storytelling into the curriculum as a teacher and director of an environmental education program. There she wrote and recorded a collection of catchy children's songs with topics ranging from ecology lessons to global warming.

While working toward a degree in history she developed several historical characters which she performs as one-woman shows, including Rachel Carson, Prudence Crandall and an 18th century farm wife.

## Prudence Crandall



Prudence Crandall was an American schoolteacher and activist who pushed for women's suffrage and the rights of African Americans in the United States. Originally from Rhode Island, Crandall was raised as a Quaker in Canterbury, Connecticut, and she became known for establishing an academy for the education of African-American girls and women. In 1831, Crandall opened a private school for young white girls. However, when she admitted Sarah Harris, a 17-year-old African-

American female student in 1832, she had what is considered to be the first integrated classroom in the United States. After Crandall decided to admit girls of color into her school, the parents of the white children began to withdraw their support. Despite the backlash she eventually received from the townspeople, she continued to educate, exclusively, young girls of color before she was forced to leave, with her husband Rev. Calvin Philleo, due to the magnitude of retaliation from the townspeople. In 1886, two decades after the end of the Civil War and the abolition of slavery, Connecticut passed a resolution honoring Crandall and providing her with a pension; she died a few years later in 1890.

## Paul Hammer



Paul Hammer rode in the 1998 Connecticut Freedom Trail Ride from New Haven to Hartford which was sponsored by the Connecticut Bicycle Coalition, of which he is Past President. Together with Tony Cherolis of BiCi Co. he conceived today's bicycle tour of Freedom Trail sites in Hartford as a 20th anniversary tribute. Based on an idea suggested by Todd Levine of the State Historic

Preservation Office, Paul identified five performers to portray historical figures on the Connecticut Freedom Trail, and lead a panel discussion in combination with today's bike ride.

Paul works for the Yale Program for Recovery and Community Health (PRCH), is a long-time bicycle advocate, and has been a playwright, composer, lyricist, producer, director and actor in community theater for four decades. He writes poems occasionally when he is so moved but is not sure he is actually a poet.

# Sponsors

## Performance Sponsors

Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office  
Department of Economic and Community Development  
The Connecticut State Library  
Museum of Connecticut History  
Friends of Prudence Crandall Museum

## Hartford Freedom Trail Ride Sponsor

Center for Latino Progress/BiCi Co.



Department of Economic and  
Community Development

State Historic Preservation Office

