



Eastern-in-the-News



ILENE EVANS PORTRAYS HARRIET TUBMAN AS EASTERN HONORS BLACK HISTORY

Moorefield — Feb. 19 — In honor of Black History Month, musician and storyteller Ilene Evans will present two performances of Mrs. Harriet Tubman's "Journey to Freedom," Wednesday, February 21, in Moorefield.

Sponsored by Eastern WV Community and Technical College, Evans will offer an 11:30 a.m. show at the college's Moorefield Center off Corridor H, and a 5:30 p.m. performance in the Moorefield Public Library at 102 North Main Street. Admission to both shows is free and open to the public.

In the production, Evans — who serves as artistic director and educator-in-residence at Voices-From-the-Earth Theater in Thomas, W.V. — recounts Tubman's resilient battle to free American slaves.

Hailed in her time as "General Moses" for leading the struggle against cruel and inhumane servitude, this slight-of-stature and visionary woman mounted 13 missions on the "Underground Railroad" — ferrying more than 70 slaves to freedom.



Ilene Evans Performs Harriet Tubman's 'Journey To Freedom' Feb. 21: Musician, storyteller and educator-in-residence Ilene Evans will dramatize Mrs. Harriet Tubman's "Journey to Freedom," Wednesday, February 21.

Internationally renowned as an accomplished actress and singer, Evans has been performing her stories of wisdom, humor, peace and reconciliation for more than 30 years through dance, music and the spoken word. Her performance as this inspirational American woman nurtures the spirit and feeds the soul.

Presented in the "Chautauqua style," the Moorefield program consists of three segments: Mrs. Harriet Tubman's monologue; Mrs. Tubman takes questions and answers; presenter Evans answers questions as scholar and actress.

For more information, please call Paula Worden, at 304-434-8000; or toll-free: 877-982-2322.

Born into slavery around 1820 on Maryland's Eastern Shore, Tubman suffered beatings and injuries that left her with lifelong disabilities. She escaped illegal servitude at the age of 29, and in the decade to follow, dedicated herself to freeing other black Americans held in bondage in the soon-to-secede South.

During the Civil War, Tubman's key planning and intelligence as a Union scout and spy guided Col. James Montgomery's Combahee River Raid in June 1863 that liberated more than 750 slaves.

For her courage and resolve to relieve human suffering in the face of danger and death, scholars rank Tubman alongside Jeanne D' Arc and Florence Nightingale as a great woman of history. Upon her death in Auburn, N.Y. March 10, 1913 at the age of 93, she was buried with full military honors.

Seventy-seven years afterwards, President George H. W. Bush proclaimed March 10 as "Harriet Tubman Day." A Congressional Joint Resolution enacted that commemoration into law three days later.