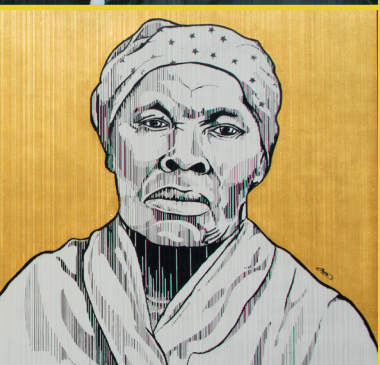
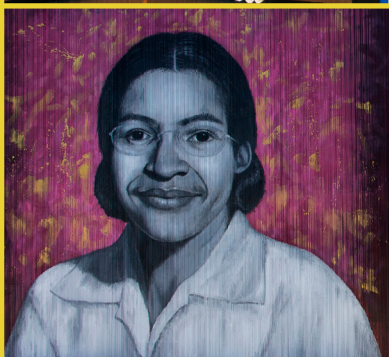
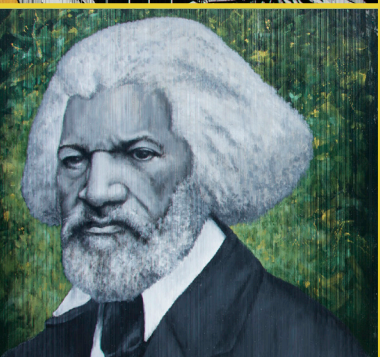


# BUFFALO NIAGARA

# AFRICAN AMERICAN

# HERITAGE GUIDE



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**ON THE COVER:** THE FREEDOM WALL, HIGHLIGHTING 28 LOCAL AND GLOBAL CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE, IS THE REMARKABLE CREATION OF FOUR LOCAL ARTISTS - JOHN BAKER, JULIA BOTTOMS, CHUCK TINGLEY, EDREYS WAJED – UNDERTAKEN WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE ALBRIGHT-KNOX PUBLIC ART INITIATIVE AND THE NFTA.

THE MURAL CAN BE VIEWED AT THE CORNERS OF MICHIGAN AVENUE AND EAST FERRY STREET IN BUFFALO.

PHOTOS BY TOM LOONAN



# AFRICAN AMERICAN BUFFALO

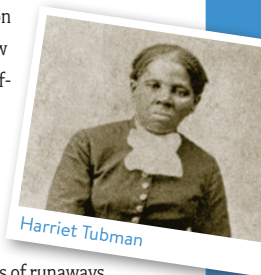
## A Quilt of American Experience



Michigan Street Baptist Church

Buffalo is an heirloom quilt stitched with the tenacity and triumph of the African American spirit. The city was a final stop on the freedom train north from slavery and the Jim Crow South. In its heyday, Buffalo represented hope and self-empowerment for black Americans, and a better life for generations to come.

Black frontiersman **Joseph Hodges** was one of Buffalo's earliest non-white settlers. Local griots - oral historians - know that Underground Railroad conductor **Harriet "Mother Moses" Tubman** led bands of runaways through the Niagara region. Abolitionist **William Wells Brown** lived on Pine Street in Buffalo and helped fugitives cross the water into Canada when he worked for the Lake Erie Steamship Co.



**Frederick Douglass** spoke to a full sanctuary at the Michigan Street Baptist Church. In 1905, **W.E.B. DuBois**, with other black leaders, planned the Niagara Movement and **Booker T. Washington** addressed crowds in Buffalo. **Mary B. Talbert** campaigned for anti-lynching legislation from her home on Michigan Avenue.

Buffalo is where jazz legends like **Dizzy Gillespie**, **Ella Fitzgerald** and **Louis Armstrong** jammed with local musicians at the Colored Musicians Club. Writer **Ishmael Reed** and pop R&B icon **Rick James** hail from Buffalo. "Queen of Soul" **Aretha Franklin** (and her sisters) sang in a Buffalo church choir where her father served as a pastor. Buffalo is where the late **Grover Washington, Jr.** cultivated the smooth in his sax. **Cleveland Witherspoon** invented the electronic car starter here. The vibrations of the African American experience are palpable in Buffalo. Catch the rhythm and realize the whole American story is right here.

[VisitBuffaloNiagara.com/AfricanAmerican](http://VisitBuffaloNiagara.com/AfricanAmerican)

# BLACK BUFFALO HISTORY

## *A Last Stop Before Freedom*

Underground Railroad river crossing re-enactment



At the beginning of the Civil War, the African American population in Buffalo numbered about 500; most were fugitive slaves or their descendants. Proximity to Canada – and to points West – made the city an important Underground Railroad station. Buffalo was pivotal in abolitionist and turn-of-the-century “race relations” movements.

Early houses of worship became cornerstones of activity dedicated to building a free life in the urban North. The **Michigan Street Baptist Church** (511 Michigan Ave.) is the oldest property in the region built and continually owned by African Americans, dating back to 1845.

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*Buffalo’s proximity to Canada made the city an important Underground Railroad station*

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During the peak of Underground Railroad activity, the church, which is now a National Historic Landmark, harbored tired runaways before they crossed the border into Canada.

In **Broderick Park**, on the Niagara River at the foot of Ferry Street, a plaque marks where other runaways crossed treacherous water to salvation. During the first wave of the Great Migration at the turn of the 20th century, black southerners found plentiful work in Buffalo’s steel mills and factories and as domestics. And nearly as soon as they arrived, they founded businesses, established services and organized social groups to support their segregated communities.

There were black-owned hotels, nightclubs, funeral parlors, cleaners, drug stores and restaurants in Buffalo. The city was home to nine black newspapers, of which *The Buffalo Criterion*, founded during this period, is still a vital source of community information.

Already established were a grocery cooperative, a Negro Businessman’s League, an American Colored Worker’s League and the Michigan Avenue YMCA, which was built in 1926 by a black architect named John R. Brent.

Buffalo also emerged as a place where African Americans gathered to chart their collective future. In 1905, it was the site of the first meeting of the **Niagara Movement**.

In 1920, Dr. Theodore Kaakaza, a South African physician; Cornelius White, a window washer; Alfred Boykin, a grocer; and Arthur Lewis, publisher of the Buffalo American newspaper formed a local branch of the Universal Negro Improvement Association. During the time that UNIA Local No. 79 was active, **Marcus Garvey** made a number of visits.

During the second wave of the **Great Migration**, beginning from about 1940, new masses of African Americans fled Jim Crow and flowed into the Queen City. As families relocated and sent back for other family members and friends, the black population grew to 75,000.

As the population increased, the network of support for life in the urban North increased in proportion. The evolution of this network – defined by a strong sense of family, faith and cultural tradition – forms the heartbeat of the present-day city. Buffalo is more than 37 percent African American and nearly 50 percent people of color.

During the summer, almost every glorious weekend in Buffalo offers a celebration of African American culture and heritage. Each December the African American community comes together in one of the few collective weeklong **Kwanzaa** celebrations in the country.

Within Buffalo's African American community, there is a genteel glow of Southern/African tradition and American wisdom. Strong ancestral spirits hold the soul of the Buffalo legacy safe - with steady and persevering pride.



## Mary Burnett Talbert

Mary Burnett Talbert was one of the most committed, versatile and tireless champions of social and political reform for race relations, anti-lynching and women's rights.

In 1899, as a member of the **Michigan Street Baptist Church**, Talbert helped found the Phyllis Wheatley Club, the city's first affiliate of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs (NACWC).

She also played a pivotal role in the advent of the **Niagara Movement**. In 1905, she opened her Michigan Avenue home to W.E.B. DuBois and 27 others for a secret planning meeting of the famous civil rights summit.

By 1910 Talbert was lecturing nationally and internationally. In 1916 she became president of the NACWC. She was president, vice president and director of the NAACP, and as chairman of its Anti-Lynching Committee lobbied nationally for passage of the Dyer Anti-Lynching Bill. During World War I, she assisted with war loan drives, and became a Red Cross nurse with the American expeditionary forces in France. A year before her death in 1922, Talbert became the first African American woman to receive the prestigious **NAACP Spingarn Award**. She rests today in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

# ESCAPE TO FREEDOM

The Niagara River was often the last crossing for people escaping slavery in the United States. From the early 1800s until the end of the Civil War in 1865, thousands of people passed through Western New York as they traveled to freedom in Canada. The **Underground Railroad**, a secret network of people who assisted those escaping slavery by providing money, food, clothing and temporary shelter, made the journey possible.



## UNDERGROUND RAILROAD HERITAGE CENTER

The stories read like a script for a Hollywood drama. There's raw physical courage, a daunting natural obstacle, last minute heroics and the triumph of good over evil. These are the long overlooked and untold stories of runaway slaves escaping bondage — told in riveting detail at the **Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center**. Housed in the former U.S. Custom House, the Heritage Center uses newspaper articles, letters and diary entries written at the time to illuminate the epic struggle of enslaved African Americans to gain their freedom in Canada.

With its location on the border of Canada, Niagara Falls was one of the most important destinations on the Underground Railroad. Free African Americans called it home and many worked in the city's hotels and inns. For those still enslaved, the city was the much-dreamed-of last stop before crossing the Niagara River to Canada.

Through multimedia displays, a recreation of the Cataract House Hotel dining room, historic artifacts, beautiful illustrations and a short film, the Heritage Center tells the true stories of the heroic Americans who fought for freedom and justice on the bluffs overlooking the Niagara Gorge.

The **Underground Railroad Heritage Center** is located at 825 Depot Avenue W. in Niagara Falls. It is open Tuesday through Sunday at 10 am. For more information visit:

[niagarafallsundergroundrailroad.org](http://niagarafallsundergroundrailroad.org)

# A CULTURE OF FESTIVALS

*From jazz to soul-stirring Gospel, in Buffalo there's a celebration to appeal to every generation, and every personal interest. The city is convenient to get to, affordable to visit and only 20 minutes away from the magnificent Niagara Falls, making it an ideal location for a family reunion or group meeting.*



## March

### Harriet Tubman Holiday Celebration

Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Library  
1324 Jefferson Avenue, Buffalo  
716-602-5877

An annual affair that gives the community time to reflect on the contributions of Harriet Tubman while ultimately trying to achieve the goal of attaining a national holiday for her. If successful, she would be the first female and the second African American so honored. On March 10th, the date of Harriet Tubman's death, members of the community sing, dance, recite poetry and perform dramatizations at the library in commemoration.

## June

### Juneteenth Festival of Buffalo

Martin Luther King Jr. Park  
Best Street and Fillmore Avenue,  
Buffalo / 716-891-8801

Since 1975, Buffalonians have celebrated the historic day in June 1865 when Union soldiers rode into

Galveston, Texas with news of the Emancipation Proclamation. The two-day celebration of family, culture and tradition, **one of the largest in the nation**, draws more than 100 vendors from Canada and the Eastern seaboard, and often features Universoul Circus, the country's only African American owned and operated circus. Other festival events include the annual 5K Run and Juneteenth Festival Parade, main stage and cultural performances by local and regional groups, a basketball competition, food court and book fair - and much more.



Juneteenth Festival

July

### Jefferson Avenue Renaissance Arts Festival

Jefferson Avenue between East Utica Street & East Ferry Street, Buffalo / 716-882-7594 or 716-883-4367, ext. 11

A celebration of community and creativity founded by a group of civic-minded women with a vision for economic development and reinvigoration of Buffalo's East Side. The two-day block party starts with a parade and showcases visual artists from Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse, as well as vendors, food, cultural exhibits, entertainment by local performers and children's activities.

### Pappy Martin Legacy Masten Jazz Festival

Martin Luther King, Jr. Park near Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humboldt Parkway, Buffalo [pmljazz.com](http://pmljazz.com)

Over the course of two weekends in July, jazz musicians and fans honor the legacy of local jazz great James "Pappy" Martin. This jazz festival is revered as one of Western New York's best music festivals featuring over a dozen artists.

### Harriet Tubman Annual Retreat

Bus Excursion from Buffalo to Harriet Tubman Home in Auburn, NY 315-252-2081

A celebration of Harriet Tubman's life, commitment, courage and sacrifice. This family-oriented event leaves Buffalo and travels to Tubman's home in Auburn, New York – with videotaped history lessons along the way. The Auburn visit includes a tour of the home and a ceremony at the gravesite of "Mother Moses," as well as interactive history exhibits tracing African American history from Ancient Africa through the Escape to Freedom on the Underground Railroad.

### Taking It to the Streets Rally Weekend

Martin Luther King Jr. Park Best Street and Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo / 716-891-4760 [gmodstreets@yahoo.com](mailto:gmodstreets@yahoo.com) [www.takingittothestreetsbuffalo.com](http://www.takingittothestreetsbuffalo.com)

Two-day open air event, with Gospel singing; preaching; drill, step and drama teams; vendors; health fair; kids zone; senior activities; national & local recording artists; free book giveaways and family reunions.

August

### Pine Grill Jazz Reunion

Martin Luther King Jr. Park Best Street and Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo / 716-884-2013 [www.africancultural.org](http://www.africancultural.org)

During the '50s and '60s, the Pine Grill Nightclub was the jazz hot spot in the City of Buffalo. Jazz icons graced its stage and people from all walks of life met there. Eventually, the nightclub closed its doors; its reign, however, became a Buffalo legend. So, for two weekends each August since 1989, the African American Cultural Center presents the free concerts at the Pine Grill Jazz Reunion to honor the local, national and international artists who carry the legacy of jazz forward. From year to year, the reunion is a highly anticipated Buffalo summer tradition that draws together thousands of Buffalonians, past and present, and attracts new visitors, to bring alive old memories and make new ones under the summer sky.

Harriet Tubman Home





# October

## CMC Jazz Fest

Colored Musicians Club

145 Broadway, Buffalo

716-855-9383

[www.cmctheclub.com](http://www.cmctheclub.com)

For over 100 years, the Colored Musicians Club has shared amazing music with Buffalo. The CMC Jazz Fest is an annual celebration of all things jazz, hosting legendary performers, from esteemed local players to national acts. The festival delivers over 150 performers, 6 days of world class jazz playing on 7 stages throughout the city



## FREEDOM CROSSING MONUMENT



### Lewiston Landing Park / Water Street, Lewiston, NY

The Freedom Crossing Monument was sculpted by local artist Susan Geissler, and depicts a scene from the novel, *Freedom Crossing*, by local author Margaret Goff Clark. The heroine of the story is Laura Eastman, who helps Underground Railroad Conductor Josiah Tryon, a Lewiston tailor, to assist an enslaved family to freedom in Canada. Laura Eastman is a fictional character, but Josiah Tryon was a real “Station Master”. He helped countless enslaved people find their freedom in Canada.



SAMJUE RAEFORD II

## December

### Buffalo Kwanzaa Celebration

Various community locations  
716-578-3571

The Buffalo Kwanzaa Celebration is held at community centers and churches throughout Buffalo each of the seven nights of the Nguzo Saba (seven principles of Kwanzaa). Each year since 1981, Kwanzaa founder Maulana Karenga has been a part of

the collective celebration in Buffalo, which is among only a few of its kind in the country. “First Night Kwanzaa” (Umoja/Unity -December 26), is a much-anticipated event traditionally held at the Buffalo Visual and Performing Arts High School. It is a spiritually uplifting evening filled with African drumming, libations to the ancestors, children reciting the Nguzo Saba and families joining together to celebrate their heritage.



## MY BUFFALO

### Julia Bottoms

**Q:** Why is Buffalo a good place to be a young artist?

**A:** It’s easy to make connections and if people believe in your work, they will go the extra mile to support you. Amazing organizations, like Buffalo Arts Studio, are committed to providing affordable studio space to artists from professionals to emerging artists. Their dedication to cultivating a diverse and inclusive arts community is something unique to Buffalo.

**Q:** How does it feel to be a commissioned artist of the Albright Knox for the Freedom Wall project?

**A:** I feel grateful to have had an opportunity to work on a project of that magnitude. The Freedom Wall is a project that addresses the complex civil rights history of not just the nation, but of Buffalo specifically. It’s a celebration of the resilient spirit of those who struggled for freedom before us and will continue to inspire. I feel a sense of humility when I pass it because I know it’s something so much bigger than just any one artist. It’s the culmination of people coming together and working through the complexities of public art, the community it’s representing, and the impact you hope it will make. I feel fortunate to have been able to be a part of something so special.

*Julia Bottoms is a Buffalo-based artist who creates realistic and recognizable representations, using portraiture to give a glimpse of people of color as sensitive, sincere, and multi-faceted—characteristics that the artist feels are often missing in mainstream portrayals.*

# SPOKEN WORD CIRCUIT

*Buffalo has an impressive and progressive open mic circuit, and has earned a reputation for outstanding regional and bi-national slam fests. If you're an aspiring poet or veteran wordsmith, bring your best lines and sign in at one of these venues.*

## Readings

### **Em Tea Coffee Cup Café**

80 Oakgrove Avenue at Hughes Street, Buffalo / 716-884-1444

Known as the "Poetry Place", this intimate cafe hosts public and private spoken word events.

## Additional Venues

### **Njozi Poetry Regional Slams (with cash prizes) Spoken Word Workshops**

716-553-9491 / [info@njoziensemble.com](mailto:info@njoziensemble.com)

Featured periodically throughout the year. For a schedule, contact [info@njoziensemble.com](mailto:info@njoziensemble.com)

### **Just Buffalo Literary Center**

468 Washington Street, Buffalo  
716-832-5400 / [www.justbuffalo.org](http://www.justbuffalo.org)

At Just Buffalo, our longest standing commitment has been to the community of writers who practice the literary arts. We support writers by providing venues in which they can present, discuss, publish, and improve their work. The Center has hosted readings by Ishmael Reed, Grover Washington, Jr. and Buffalonian Lucille Clifton, among others.

## FREEDOM WALL MURAL



### **Corner of Michigan Avenue and East Ferry Street, Buffalo**

The Freedom Wall is an homage to the efforts and accomplishments of 28 civil right leaders in local and national African-American history. Positioned at the northern entrance of the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor, these large murals are the works of four local artists, John Baker, Julia Bottoms, Chuck Tingley, and Edreys Wajed, in collaboration with the Albright-Knox Art Gallery.

# CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

*Buffalo is among the few northern urban centers able to boast one of two long-standing African American cultural institutions and two African American theater companies.*

## **African American Cultural Center, Inc.**

350 Masten Avenue, Buffalo  
716-884-2013  
[www.africancultural.org](http://www.africancultural.org)

Founded in 1956, the African American Cultural Center, Inc. is a not for profit multipurpose cultural arts performance and education agency dedicated to the development of urban Buffalo to its highest potential. The organization serves as a protectorate of the African American experience, a promoter of diversity education, a stronghold of cultural heritage, and a champion of African American youth in the City of Buffalo. The African American Cultural Center program includes:

- AACC Dance and Drum Performance Company
- Pine Grill Jazz Reunion
- Jumpin' Jambalaya Summer Program
- AACC Cultural Enrichment Program
- Educational Directives for After School

## **Ujima Company, Inc.**

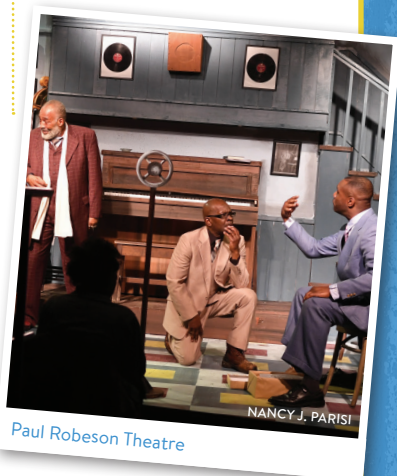
429 Plymouth Ave, Buffalo  
716-322-5178 / [ujimacoinc.com](http://ujimacoinc.com)

Ujima Company, Inc. is a professional theatre company dedicated to the development and presentation of work by African-Americans and other Third World artists. Of all the theatre companies in Buffalo, Ujima supports the longest-standing acting ensemble. It is among the most heralded and awarded arts organizations in the region.

## **Paul Robeson Theatre at the African American Cultural Center**

350 Masten Avenue, Buffalo  
716-884-2013  
[www.paulrobesontheatre.com](http://www.paulrobesontheatre.com)

The Paul Robeson Theatre is the oldest African American theatre in Buffalo Niagara. Founded in 1968 - and named for the multi-talented Harlem Renaissance actor and scholar Paul Busti Robeson - it remains dedicated to nurturing and showcasing the artistic talents of African American playwrights, directors, actors, and stage technicians.





## Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Library

1324 Jefferson Avenue, Buffalo / 716-883-4418

Designed by a local African American architect, Robert Traynham Coles, the 20,000 sq. ft. facility incorporates a circular design, with interconnected interior spaces to bring to mind an African Village. The library includes an African American Resource Room, a technology lab, 150-seat auditorium and an African motif in the block façade.

The carved doors of this facility are a work of art as well. Designed by local sculptor Valeria Cray-Dihaan, the design features West African Adinkra symbols. This library is named after Frank E. Merriweather, Jr., editor & publisher of *The Buffalo Criterion* newspaper, which is the oldest minority newspaper in upstate New York.



## MY BUFFALO

### George Scott

Saxophonist and bandleader George Scott has been a musician for more than 50 years. He's played in Toronto and with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra—but these gigs were years after he first fell into the embrace of the Queen City's historic **Colored Musicians Club** on Broadway.

"This place is one of the jewels of Buffalo," says Scott, who first walked into the cozy CMC at 13 years old and is now its president. "It's Buffalo history. We've had a cross-section of everyone who's been here, particularly if they were into the music. It's everybody's club."

Whether because of its first floor museum, or the Sunday night jam sessions in its speakeasy-style upstairs space where legends like Dizzy Gillespie and Miles Davis once jammed, the CMC is an indispensable piece of the city's fabric. And George Scott has seen it all.

**Q: Why is this place so special for Buffalo's music community?**

**A:** Back in the day, this was the hub for musicians. Whether they were playing here or finishing a gig somewhere else, they ended up here—and you had crowds of people waiting outside just to catch a glimpse of who might come in here.

**Q: Is this the type of place that musicians feel like they can just come in and be themselves?**

**A:** When I was young guy, I would sit in between players who were old enough to be my grandfather, but they gave such guidance and knowledge. It's always been a nurturing place for young musicians to come here and learn.

---

Interview by Michael Farrell



## Muhammad School of Music

617 Main Street, Suite 105, Buffalo

716-570-5064

[www.muhammadschoolofmusic.net](http://www.muhammadschoolofmusic.net)

Muhammad School of Music (MSOM) has been enriching the community with music since 1999! The school serves youth and adults from Buffalo, Niagara Falls, the surrounding suburbs, Toronto, Ontario (Canada), in addition to students who travel into Buffalo from all over the country. MSOM also provides violin classes at numerous schools throughout the City of Buffalo and community outreach programs. The MSOM Chamber Players and Maestro Henri L. Muhammad have performed nationwide and have appeared in several television, radio, newspaper, and magazine features, as well as CD and video recording projects.



## The Niagara Movement

The Niagara Movement began when scholar W.E.B. DuBois called for opposition to Booker T. Washington's position that African Americans accommodate segregation and accept legalized white supremacy. (Washington was founder and president of the all-black Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, and at that time regarded as the nation's official Negro spokesperson.) DuBois, the first African American to earn a doctoral degree from Harvard, recruited a group of well-educated black professionals he called "The Talented Tenth." He urged this group to create a formal platform for equal rights. A summit was planned for Buffalo in July of 1905. The first Niagara Movement meeting was held in the Erie Beach Hotel in Fort Erie, Ontario. The Declaration of Principles authored by DuBois as a result of this meeting became the basis for the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Washington's position that African Americans accommodate segregation and accept legalized white supremacy. (Washington was founder and president of the all-black Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, and at that time regarded as the nation's official Negro spokesperson.) DuBois, the first African American to earn a doctoral degree from Harvard, recruited a group of well-educated black professionals he called "The Talented Tenth." He urged this group to create a formal platform for equal rights. A summit was planned for Buffalo in July of 1905. The first Niagara Movement meeting was held in the Erie Beach Hotel in Fort Erie, Ontario. The Declaration of Principles authored by DuBois as a result of this meeting became the basis for the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).



The first Niagara Movement summit

## El Museo Francisco Oller y Diego Rivera

91 Allen Street, Buffalo

716-464-4692

[www.elmuseobuffalo.org](http://www.elmuseobuffalo.org)

Featuring fine art by Latin-American, African American, Native American and other artists of color. Annual events include Day of the Dead celebration, Allen Street Samba Festival and Invitational exhibit.



## Buffalo City Ballet Co. Inc.

Tri-Main Building, Suite 351

2495 Main Street, Buffalo

716-833-1243

[www.buffalocityballet.org](http://www.buffalocityballet.org)

Buffalo City Ballet Co, Inc. was established in 1972 as Buffalo Inner City Ballet to provide young people of color with opportunities to develop skills in classical dance, including ballet, tap and jazz. Its founding mission is to identify and refine talents through instruction and public performance.



Motherland Connexions tour at Murphy Orchards

NANCY J. PARISI

# HISTORIC SITES & LANDMARKS

*The African American experience in Buffalo is as broad, deep and symbolic as the Niagara River that Underground Railroad passengers crossed to freedom in Canada. Throughout the Buffalo Niagara region, historic safe houses, land markers, scenic locations and cultural institutions give testimony to this history and its relationship to the America that exists today.*



## **Michigan Street Baptist Church**

511 Michigan Avenue, Buffalo  
716-854-7976

The Michigan Street Baptist Church has been a central part of the history and culture of the African American community in Buffalo for more than 150 years. It is one of the oldest properties in Buffalo Niagara continuously owned, operated and occupied by African Americans. The building was erected in 1845 by its African American congregation, and became a legendary Underground Railroad station, providing final sanctuary for hundreds of freedom seekers before they crossed the border to freedom in Canada. It was a central meeting place for abolitionists and later for anti-lynching activists during the early 1900s. Over the years, **Frederick Douglass, William Wells Brown, W.E.B. DuBois** and **Booker T. Washington**, among other great historical figures have graced its sanctuary.





## Colored Musicians Club & Museum

145 Broadway, Buffalo / 716-855-9383 / [www.cmctheclub.com](http://www.cmctheclub.com)

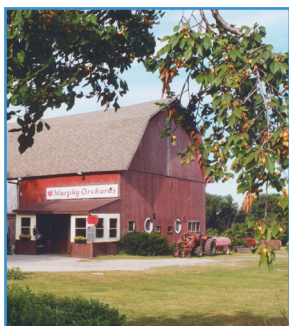
The Colored Musicians Club was established as Local No. 533 in 1917 and chartered in 1935. The Union Hall is still located at 145 Broadway. During the '30s, '40s, and '50s, any musician that visited Buffalo had to check in with the Colored Musicians Club. **Dizzy Gillespie, Art Blakey, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Billie Holliday** and **Ella Fitzgerald** are among the jazz legends who jammed there. In 2018, the Colored Musicians Club was designated on the **NYS and National Register of Historic Places**. Currently, the Club promotes research and the preservation of jazz in Buffalo. Members offer free jazz lessons to community youth, and hold a jam session at the club on Sunday evenings. An interactive museum dedicated to the history of local jazz is downstairs. The giants of jazz come alive at Colored Musicians Club Museum, which retraces Buffalo's role as one of the great cities of jazz. Visitors learn about the musical luminaries who jammed at the club, and the homegrown talent cultivated there who played with some of the towering figures of that era. Pick up an audio stick to hear musical clips from some of these legends, or sample each instrument's contribution to a jazz band through a series of interactive exhibits. A must-see for music lovers!

*Hours: Thursday-Saturday 11 a.m.-4 p.m. or by appointment; email club president George Scott at [gscott2679@aol.com](mailto:gscott2679@aol.com) for more information.*

## Murphy Orchards

2402 McClew Road, Burt / 716-778-7926 / [www.murphyorchards.com](http://www.murphyorchards.com)

This privately-owned and operated fruit farm, located 25 miles east of Niagara Falls, is believed to have been part of the Underground Railroad network between 1850 and 1861. The farmhouse, barn, orchards and landscape itself, remain virtually the same as they were 150 years ago, allowing you to step back in time and experience a very special and unique view of Underground Railroad history. An on-site tearoom is open year-round for your enjoyment.



## Broderick Park

Foot of Ferry Street, Buffalo

Located at the foot of Ferry Street on the scenic Niagara River. Recently designated the “Black Rock Ferry Network to Freedom Site.” Recent improvements include

an amphitheater, concessions, Contemplative Garden, Interpretive Center and Freedom Walk providing images and local stories of the men and women who were escaping slavery by crossing at the Black Rock Ferry site to freedom in Canada.



## Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park

One Naval Park Cove, Buffalo  
716-847-1773

[www.buffalonaivalpark.org](http://www.buffalonaivalpark.org)

This waterfront attraction is the largest inland park of its kind in the nation, and houses an African American Soldiers exhibit. All branches of the Armed Forces are represented in the park's

exhibits. Tour the decks and hulls of a guided missile cruiser, destroyer and WWII submarine, and see uniforms and memorabilia in the museum and exhibits aboard the ships.



## Buffalo History Museum

One Museum Court, Buffalo / 716-873-9644 / [www.buffalohistory.org](http://www.buffalohistory.org)

This National Historic Landmark was built in 1901 during the Pan-American Exposition. The research library includes a large repository of genealogical information and the museum features exhibits and an extensive collection of artifacts, manuscripts, books and photographs that chronicle the development of the Niagara Frontier. The newest exhibit is *Icons: The Makers and Moments of Buffalo Sports*, which explores our rich sports history and investigates the unique connection between fans and our beloved teams and sports idols.

## Forest Lawn Cemetery

1411 Delaware Avenue at Delavan, Buffalo  
716-885-1600  
[www.forest-lawn.com](http://www.forest-lawn.com)

Featuring the final resting sites of several famous African Americans, the cemetery includes the gravesites of **Mary B. Talbert**, **Reverend J. Edward Nash**, **President Millard Fillmore** and Seneca Nation orator **Red Jacket**.



## Freedom Crossing: The Underground Railroad in Greater Niagara

Regional Underground Railroad Interpretive Center, 1201 Pine Street,  
Niagara Falls / [freedomcrossingniagara.com](http://freedomcrossingniagara.com)

Witness the dramatic and heart-rending stories of the people who risked their lives for freedom, as well as the lasting heritage of their ancestors. **Freedom Crossing** tells the story of the Underground Railroad in Buffalo Niagara through historic photographs, artifacts, stories, audio stations, and art.

## Rev. J. Edward Nash & The Nash House



Tall, distinguished and diplomatic, Reverend Jesse Edward Nash provided spiritual and civil rights leadership in Buffalo for more than half a century. The son of freed slaves, he arrived in the city from Virginia in 1892, at age 24, to take the pulpit of the prominent **Michigan Street Baptist Church**. During his 60 years as pastor, Rev. Nash helped to plan and implement the **Niagara Movement** and hosted both **W.E.B. DuBois** and **Booker T. Washington**, among other African American leaders. He also was a catalyst for the formation of Buffalo branches of the National Urban League and the NAACP.

In 1999, members of the Michigan Street Preservation Corporation opened the house at 36 Nash Street where Rev. Nash formerly lived with his family. The opening led to the discovery of a remarkable collection of his personal papers and mementos that had connections to historic civil rights leaders and the civil rights movement. The collection included correspondence between Nash and **Rev. Adam Clayton Powell Sr.**, his old classmate and nationally noted pastor of Harlem's Abyssinian Baptist Church during the early 20th century.

The Nash House has been restored by the Michigan Street Preservation Corporation, a not-for-profit coalition whose mission is to preserve and restore the historic sites along Buffalo's Michigan Street corridor. The house includes a public museum on the upper floor, and research and office space on the lower level. The historic Nash Papers are also available for viewing by historians, researchers and visitors.



36 Nash Street, Buffalo / 716-856-4490 / [www.nashhousemuseum.org](http://www.nashhousemuseum.org)

# FOOD FOR THE SOUL

From genuine Southern soul food to satisfying Jamaican roti, exquisite Pacific Rim cuisine and sinful homemade four-layer chocolate cake, Buffalo offers dining from throughout the diaspora of the African American experience.



Freddie J's BBQ

## The Caribbean Experience **V** **T**

2897 Bailey Avenue, Buffalo  
716-838-5131

## Doctor Bird's Caribbean Corner **V**

842 E. Delavan Avenue, Buffalo  
716-892-7454

## Doctor Bird's Caribbean Rasta-Rant **V**

3104 Main Street, Buffalo  
716-837-6426

## Em Tea Coffee Cup Café **F**

80 Oakgrove Avenue at  
Hughes Street, Buffalo  
716-884-1444

Coffee, tea, smoothies, light fare,  
pastries and desserts  
Open mic poetry (call for times)

## Freddie J's BBQ **F**

195 Grant Street, Buffalo  
716-424-2926

Bar-B-Que, Caribbean and African  
cuisine



Mattie's Restaurant

GREGORY BARR

## Golden Cup Coffee Cafe & Roastery

1323 Jefferson Avenue, Buffalo  
716-883-7770

## Ingram Brothers Catering

716-308-6780

*Old-fashioned soul food*

## Je Ne Sais Quoi **F**

1673 Hertel Avenue, Buffalo  
716-440-1065

*Home-cooked soul food*

## La Verdad **F**

1132 E. Lovejoy Street, Buffalo  
716-768-3150

*Soul food and massive portions of home-cooked BBQ*

## Lee's Barbecue

1269 Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo  
716-896-8887

## Lucy Ethiopian Restaurant **F**

916 Tonawanda Street, Buffalo  
716-597-2305

## Mattie's Restaurant **F**

1412 Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo  
716-597-0755

*Soul food specialties, featuring "the Best Breakfast in Town"*

## The Oakk Room **F**

1435 Main Street, Buffalo  
716-885-6255

## Pandora's Sports Bar & Restaurant **F**

2261 Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo  
716-803-1335

## PhatCatz of WNY

965 Kensington Avenue, Buffalo  
716-235-8549

*Soul food and bar*

## Richies Soul Food Restaurant & Lounge **F**

3199 Main St, Buffalo  
716-931-5596  
[www.richiessoulfood.com](http://www.richiessoulfood.com)

## The Rose Bar & Grille **F**

199 Scott St, Buffalo  
716-424-2007  
[www.therose-buffalo.com](http://www.therose-buffalo.com)

# FRATERNAL AND MASONIC ORGANIZATIONS

## Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity

Rho Lambda Chapter  
PO Box 971, Buffalo

## Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority

Xi Epsilon Omega Chapter  
PO Box 1861, Amherst

## Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority

Gamma Phi Omega Chapter  
PO Box 3231, Buffalo

## Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity

Buffalo Alumni Chapter  
PO Box 2676, Buffalo

## Omega Psi Phi Fraternity

Phi Omega Chapter  
PO Box 1193, Buffalo

## Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity

Theta Sigma Chapter  
PO Box 583, East Amherst

## Zeta Phi Beta Sorority

Kappa Upsilon Zeta Chapter  
PO Box 900, Buffalo

## Delta Sigma Theta Sorority

Buffalo Alumnae Chapter  
PO Box 625, Buffalo

## Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority

Eta Rho Sigma Chapter  
188 Jewett Parkway, Buffalo  
716-883-1438

## Master Craftsman Lodge #110

248 E. Utica Street, Buffalo

## Iconic Lodge #88

453 Porter Avenue, Buffalo

## Paramount Lodge

248 E. Utica Street, Buffalo

## St. John's Lodge

17 Kingsley Street, Buffalo

- F** Family Friendly
- V** Vegetarian Friendly
- T** Take-Out only

# NIGHT SCENE

*Buffalo's night scene reflects a diverse array of entertainment options. Here are some top spots for an evening out on the town.*



## **Oak Room**

1435 Main St, Buffalo  
716-885-6255

Urban adult, nightclub,  
dancing, food

## **The New Golden Nugget**

2046 Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo  
716-834-3967

Urban adult, jazz, R&B, oldies  
Dancing, bar, food

## **Mike's Lounge**

1343 Jefferson Avenue, Buffalo  
716-883-1344

Urban adult, nightclub,  
dancing, food

## **The Old Arthur's Pub**

596 Genesee Street  
716-854-3640

Urban adult, R&B, Bar,  
dancing, food



## *The Colored Musicians Club*

It's rare to find a music venue largely unchanged from its heyday at the height of the Jazz Age. But that's exactly what you'll discover on Sunday, Monday and Thursday nights at the Colored Musicians Club. Ring the doorbell, get buzzed in, head upstairs and saunter up to the club's original 1930s wooden bar for a drink. Just a few feet away, local musicians and big bands jam from the same spot where Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis and John Coltrane performed decades earlier.

Sunday nights feature one of the longest-running weekly jam sessions of local musicians in the United States – at more than 80 years and counting. The George Scott Big Band takes the stage every Monday night, while the Carol McLaughlin Big Band headlines every Thursday night. Feel the presence of generations past while listening to some of the city's best current talent at one of Buffalo's truly unique music venues.

# SHOPPING STOPS

*Black Buffalonians have deep roots as entrepreneurs and shopkeepers. Today, you'll find businesses in the Queen City offer everything from women's wear, men's fashions and cool urban threads, to eclectic collectibles to rich ancestral clothing and cloth, jewelry, art, oils & incense.*



United Men's Fashion

## Clothing & Accessories

### **Black Monarchy**

527 W. Utica Street, Buffalo  
(347) 508-5267  
[www.blackmonarchy.com](http://www.blackmonarchy.com)

Women's clothing and accessories

### **F&S Tailors and Fashion**

2372 Genesee Street, Buffalo  
716-894-3742

Men's and women's clothing and tailoring services

### **Flight 104/Creative Arts Gallery**

364 Genesee Street, Buffalo  
716-882-1925

Clothing, black arts and accessories

### **Global Chic**

242 Grant Street, Buffalo  
716-887-3889

Handmade clothing and home decor

### **Global Villages**

216 Grant Street, Buffalo  
716-887-3889

Handmade clothing, fabrics and accessories

### **J Christian Fashion Boutique**

617 Main Street, Buffalo  
716-980-5248

Women's clothing and accessories

### **Janie's Emporium, LLC**

2943 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo  
716-573-6456

Casual, classic and couture style fashion and accessories

### **MMW Style Studio**

403 Main Street, Suite 108  
716-812-0937  
[www.mmwstylestudio.com](http://www.mmwstylestudio.com)

Women's clothing and accessories

### **New Era Cap Flagship Store**

160 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo  
716-604-9000  
[www.neweracap.com](http://www.neweracap.com)

Licensed sports team & designer caps, apparel & accessories

### **Pamela Inc.**

3142 Main Street, Buffalo  
716-725-6215

Women's clothing & accessories

## Trend Up

85 Allen Street, Buffalo  
347-962-6162  
[www.trendupstore.com](http://www.trendupstore.com)

Men's clothing

## United Men's Fashion

3082 Bailey Avenue, Buffalo  
716-837-0100  
[www.unitedmensfashion.com](http://www.unitedmensfashion.com)

## Walden Galleria Mall

One Walden Galleria, Cheektowaga  
716-681-7600  
[www.waldengalleria.com](http://www.waldengalleria.com)

## Yar Mo's Muse

700 Main Street, Buffalo  
716-440-8966

Women's and men's vintage and  
consignment clothing

## Gift & Specialty Shops

### Asar Fragrances & More

1371 Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo  
716-884-2373

Fragrances, aroma lamps, candles  
and more

### Buffalo Niagara Visitor Center

Washington & Clinton Streets, Buffalo  
716-852-2356  
[www.visitbuffaloniagara.com](http://www.visitbuffaloniagara.com)

### Doris Records

286 E. Ferry Street, Buffalo  
716-883-2410

### Paint The Town

74 Allen Street, Buffalo  
716-241-1516  
[www.officialpaintparty.com](http://www.officialpaintparty.com)

Group painting party studio

### Sasmita Batik Indonesia

617 Main Street, Buffalo  
716-949-0192  
[www.sasmitabatik.com](http://www.sasmitabatik.com)

Handmade Indonesian Batik

### Talking Leaves Books

951 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo  
716-884-9524  
[www.tleavesbooks.com](http://www.tleavesbooks.com)

### Zawadi Books

1382 Jefferson Avenue, Buffalo  
716-903-6740

Specializing in books and materials by  
and about people of African descent.



## WEST SIDE BAZAAR

How can you take a whirlwind trip to India, Burma, China, Ethiopia and Peru in just 30 minutes? By making a stop at the **West Side Bazaar** on Grant Street in Buffalo, where immigrants from around the world sell colorful wares and traditional foods from their home countries.

### West Side Bazaar

25 Grant Street, Buffalo  
716-464-6389  
[www.westsidebazaar.com](http://www.westsidebazaar.com)





# HOUSES OF WORSHIP

*From its earliest African American community, Buffalo churches have forged the spiritual faith, and harnessed the social and political strength needed to build a free life in the urban North. Today, houses of worship of all denominations and faiths populate the city. Their leadership still provides, in addition to spiritual sanctuary, an array of programs and services that address the needs of the African American community.*

## Baptist

### Antioch Baptist

1327 Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo  
716-895-0198

Sunday worship at 10:30 am

### Calvary Baptist

1184 Genesee Street, Buffalo  
716-895-3642

Sunday worship at 10 am

### First Shiloh Baptist

15 Pine Street, Buffalo  
716-847-6555

Sunday worship at 10 am

### Friendship Baptist

402 Clinton Street, Buffalo  
716-847-1020

Sunday worship at 9:45 am

### Humboldt Parkway Baptist

790 Humboldt Parkway, Buffalo  
716-896-4363

Worship services Tuesday-Friday  
at 11 am

### Macedonia Baptist

237 E. North Street, Buffalo  
716-886-3489

### Mt. Olive Baptist

701 E. Delavan Avenue, Buffalo  
716-895-7494

Sunday worship at 9:45 am

### New Hope Baptist

543 Richmond Avenue, Buffalo  
716-883-0821

Sunday worship at 10:00 am



Mt. Olive Baptist

### New Zion Baptist

318 High Street, Buffalo  
716-883-2250

Sunday worship at 10 am

### St. John Baptist

184 Goodell Street, Buffalo  
716-852-4504

Sunday worship at 10 am

### True Bethel Baptist

907 E. Ferry Street, Buffalo  
716-895-8222

Sunday worship at 7:45 and 9:30 am

### True Bethel Baptist

472 Swan Street, Buffalo

Sunday worship at 11 am

## Apostolic

### Greater Emmanuel Temple Church

3189 Main Street, Buffalo  
716-342-2214

Sunday worship at 11 am

### Greater Refuge Temple

943 Jefferson Avenue, Buffalo  
716-886-2199

## AME & AME Zion

### **Bethel AME**

1525 Michigan Avenue, Buffalo  
716-886-1650

### **Centennial AME Zion**

127 Doat Street, Buffalo  
716-897-2533

Sunday worship at 10:30 am

### **Delaine-Waring AME**

680 Swan Street, Buffalo  
716-842-6747

Sunday worship at 10:00 am

### **Durham Memorial AME Zion**

174 East Eagle Street at Michigan,  
Buffalo / 716-856-4943

Sunday worship at 11 am

### **St. Luke AME Zion**

314 E. Ferry Street, Buffalo  
716-883-0961

Sunday worship at 11 am

### **Walls Memorial AME Zion**

455 Glenwood Avenue, Buffalo  
716-886-6527

Sunday worship at 11 am

## Lutheran

### **The Lutheran Church of Our Savior –Missouri Synod**

26 Brunswick Boulevard, Buffalo  
716-885-1108

Sunday worship at 11 am

### **Resurrection Lutheran**

1609 Genesee Street, Buffalo  
716-892-2489

Sunday worship at 10:15 am

## Non-Denominational

### **New Mount Ararat Temple-Prayer**

971 Jefferson Avenue, Buffalo  
716-885-7755

## MY BUFFALO

### Henry Louis Taylor

Dr. Henry Louis Taylor is the director of the Center for Urban Studies at the University at Buffalo and a professor in the department of urban and regional planning. The Center for Urban Studies is the only institution in Western New York exclusively focused on the engagement, research and improvement of Buffalo's black community.

**Q: What do you think sets Buffalo's African American heritage apart from other U.S. cities?**

**A:** We're a black community that's part of an international city; we sit on the border of Canada. That location on the shores of Canada made Buffalo an important waystation on the Underground Railroad. Much of our large black community is of more recent heritage; it was not until after 1940 and the Second Great Migration that a substantial number of African Americans were living in Buffalo.

**Q: What do you love most about Buffalo?**

**A:** I want to be part of the battle to make this a better place to live. I love the gritty, tough, working class persona of Buffalo. It's anchored in the black community but it's part of the persona of the entire region. There's a lot of character here. Buffalo represents one of those places that reflects the challenges the American people face at this moment in time. I've even come to love the weather. The cold and the snow bring the toughness and love here to the surface in a very powerful and creative way.

## MY BUFFALO

### Doug Ruffin



As owner of Urban Legacy Filmworks, Doug Ruffin chronicles the stories, traditions and history of Buffalo's African-American community. Each year, he photographs key events in Buffalo's black community like the Pine Grill Jazz Reunion, the Juneteenth Festival and Jefferson Avenue Arts Festival; Ruffin has also produced documentaries on the last several decades of Buffalo's African American history, from the civil rights era onward. "If you can document these events today, they become history tomorrow," Ruffin says.

**Q: What do you think sets apart Buffalo's African American Heritage from other U.S. cities?**

**A:** Buffalo has a special connection with its history. People love to reminisce on the rich history that exists in this city. Most cities plan for their future. But in Buffalo, you're going forward without forgetting where you came from.

**Q: What do you love most about Buffalo?**

**A:** What I love most is the sense of community. I like the renewed sense of enthusiasm, ambition and entrepreneurship in Buffalo these days, not just from the younger people but from the older generations as well.

### Seventh Day Adventist

**Emmanuel Temple**  
300 Adams Street, Buffalo  
716-853-9055

Sunday worship at 11 am

### Church of God in Christ

**Holy Temple C.O.G.I.C.**  
572 Clinton Street, Buffalo  
716-855-2031

Sunday worship at 11:30 am

**Pentecostal Temple C.O.G.I.C.**  
618 Jefferson Avenue, Buffalo  
716-852-5502

Sunday worship at 8 am & 11 am

### Catholic

**St. Martin De Porres**  
555 Northampton Street, Buffalo  
716-883-7729

Sunday worship at 8 am & 9:30 am

### Episcopal

**St. Philip's Episcopal Church**  
22 Sussex Street, Buffalo  
716-833-0442

Sunday worship at 8 am and 10:30 am

### Independent

**Bethesda Full Gospel World Harvest International**  
1365 Main Street, Buffalo  
716-884-3607

Sunday worship at 9:30 am

**Elim Christian Fellowship**  
70 Chalmers Avenue, Buffalo  
832-7698

Sunday worship at 9 am

### Muslim

**Masjid Nu'man**  
1373 Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo  
716-892-1332

**Muhammad Mosque #23**  
230 Moselle Street, Buffalo  
716-335-2292

Meetings on Sunday at 11 am

# FAMILY REUNION AND GROUP EVENT PLANNER



## **Visit Buffalo Niagara**

716-852-0511 or 888-228-3369

[www.visitbuffaloniagara.com](http://www.visitbuffaloniagara.com)

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Visit Buffalo Niagara offers a variety of **FREE** services to help you plan your next convention, reunion or meeting in Buffalo, from arranging site inspections, to coordinating press coverage and finding hotel rooms and meeting space.

## **Motherland Connexions**

716-282-1028

[www.motherlandconnexions.com](http://www.motherlandconnexions.com)

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Underground Railroad tours and excursions. Kevin Cottrell, Founder and Station Master

## **Tradition Keepers - Black Storytellers of Western New York**

716-834-8438 or 716-886-1399

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Karima Amin and Sharon Holley,  
Master Storytellers

## *Media*

### ***The Challenger***

1337 Jefferson Avenue, Buffalo

716-881-1051

[www.challengercn.com](http://www.challengercn.com)

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Al-Nisa Banks, Publisher and Editor

### ***The Buffalo Criterion***

625 William Street, Buffalo

716-882-9570

[www.buffalocriterion.com](http://www.buffalocriterion.com)

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Francis Merriweather, Editor

### **WUFO 1080 AM**

Gospel / 716-834-1080

[www.wufoam.com](http://www.wufoam.com)

### **WWWS 1400 AM**

Classic Soul, R&B / 716-843-0600

[www.am1400solidgoldsoul.com](http://www.am1400solidgoldsoul.com)

### **WBLK 93.7 FM**

Hip Hop and R&B / 716-644-9393

[www.wblk.com](http://www.wblk.com)

## *Community Organizations*

### **Buffalo Urban League**

716-250-2400

[www.buffalourbanleague.org](http://www.buffalourbanleague.org)

### **NAACP**

716-884-7242

[www.buffalonaacp.com](http://www.buffalonaacp.com)

## *Organizational Resources*

### **Association for the Study of Classical African Civilization (ASCAC)**

176 Texas Street, Buffalo

716-896-1430

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Bro. Modell Gault



Underground Railroad tour led by Kevin Cottrell of Motherland Connexions

# FAMILY REUNION AND GROUP EVENT PLANNER

## **Afro-American Historical Association of the Niagara Frontier**

716-834-4982 / [www.aahanf.org](http://www.aahanf.org)

## **The Buffalo Association of Black Journalists**

716-849-5598

Dedicated to getting more balanced media coverage of minorities and increasing minority representation at both staff and management levels.

## **Buffalo Genealogical Society of the African Diaspora**

[bgsad@verizon.net](mailto:bgsad@verizon.net)

Sonia Walker, President

## **Buffalo Quarters Historical Society**

PO Box 1542, Central Park Station,  
Buffalo, 716-834-2584

Lillion Batchelor, Founder and President

## **Daughters of Creative Sound**

Karima Amin / 716-834-8438

[facebook.com/Daughters.Of.Creative.Sound](https://facebook.com/Daughters.Of.Creative.Sound)

African American women's drum and percussion group performing at many public venues and private celebrations.



## MY BUFFALO *Sheila L. Brown*

**Q:** How has Buffalo evolved in your eyes since your start at WUFO in 1986?

**A:** Back then, half of my clients came from local businesses on Main, Jefferson and Ferry streets. While many of the clients I did business with back then are long gone, today I see new houses, loft style living and new hotels that are really refreshing.

**Q:** Describe your ideal day spent in Buffalo.

**A:** My ideal day in Buffalo starts off with me attending prayer. Following that, I head back to the office to meet with my staff. Later in the day I'll stop by a local coffee shop or restaurant for lunch. Once a week, I like to shop at one of my client's local boutiques. On the weekends, I enjoy time with my husband and we will eat at a local restaurant. If a concert is in town, I am there because I love to dance.

*Sheila L. Brown, Manager and Principal Owner of Visions Multi Media Group, LLC, is a visionary leader and a history-making business executive. Brown fulfilled her longtime dream of owning a radio station, WUFO, becoming the first African-American female to do so in Buffalo.*



### **Harriet Tubman 300s**

716-896-7016

Velma Ferguson, President

### **Jackson Parker Communications**

Tri-Main Center, 2495 Main Street, Suite 402, Buffalo  
716-866-4174 / [jparkerpr.com](http://jparkerpr.com)

Public relations, graphic design, social and digital media, event planning and management.

### **National Black MBA Association Inc. Western New York Chapter**

716-939-1341 / [www.nybmba.org](http://www.nybmba.org)

The association fosters and enhances job performance among members by offering networking opportunities, professional workshops, and seminars.

### **Trent Communications**

142 N. Pearl Street, Buffalo  
[www.trentcomm.com](http://www.trentcomm.com)

Provides not-for-profits and growing businesses with cost effective public relations services.

### **Uncrowned Queens**

716-913-1228  
[www.uncrownedcommunitybuilders.com](http://www.uncrownedcommunitybuilders.com)

African American Women Community Builders of  
Western New York

# EVENT VENUES

These African-American owned venues in Buffalo are the perfect space for your next reunion, event or party in Buffalo.



The Landmark on Pearl

## The Landmark on Pearl

318 Pearl Street, Buffalo / [www.landmarkonpearl.com](http://www.landmarkonpearl.com)

An elegant downtown building with a warm design for a classic experience. Features a full bar, stage and 34' ceilings. The hall accommodates up to 350 guests and is perfect for banquets or concerts.

## Metropolitan Entertainment Complex

1670 Main Street, Buffalo / 716-440-5171 / [facebook.com/metroentcomplex](https://facebook.com/metroentcomplex)

4,000 square foot banquet space for weddings, performances, dances, parties, anniversaries, etc. Features a dance floor next to the stage, with the main room accommodating 350 guests.



## MY BUFFALO

Shane Depree

**Q: What happens at Verve Dance Studio?**

**A:** Verve Dance Studio is a place to learn about the art of B-boying, Hip Hop culture and to educate the community as a whole. We have classes for breaking as well as other urban dances. We also have a monthly dance competition called Battle @ Buffalo.

**Q: Tell us more about Battle @ Buffalo – what is that? Is anyone welcome?**

**A:** Battle @ Buffalo is the city's first all-ages urban dance competition that happens the last Saturday of every month. People from all walks of life come to the school to compete, dance in open circles, observe, talk or just chill out. All B@B events are kid-friendly and anyone is welcome to come and have fun! We partner up with New Era Cap once a year on the last Saturday in August to throw Under The Lights. The event is a special edition of the regular monthly B@B. The main attraction to the event is a 32-crew B-boy Battle, as well as a 16-person All Styles Battle. We also have live music acts, a graffiti exhibition and an interactive art tent where kids can create pictures and paintings on the spot. The event also has between 4-6 different world renowned special guest judges and DJs every year.

**Q: Describe Buffalo's B-boying and Hip Hop culture in three words.**

**A:** Fresh, New, Flavor.

Shane Depree is the founder of Verve Dance Studio, where he teaches B-boying, the dance element of Hip Hop culture. [www.vervedancestudio.com](http://www.vervedancestudio.com)



# ITINERARY



NANCY J. PARIS

The city of Buffalo offers its guests a mix of heritage, cultural and entertainment options. From the Downtown Buffalo waterfront to Niagara Falls and everything in between, plan your day by checking out our itinerary at: [visitbuffaloniagara.com/itinerary/african-american-heritage](http://visitbuffaloniagara.com/itinerary/african-american-heritage)



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*The Buffalo Criterion*  
Francis Merriweather, Editor  
625 William Street  
716-882-9570

*Uncrowned Queens*  
African American Women  
Community Builders of  
Western New York  
[www.uncrownedcommunitybuilders.com](http://www.uncrownedcommunitybuilders.com)

## DISCLAIMERS

The Buffalo Niagara African American Heritage Guide offers a sampling of cultural events and activities, as well as business and personal services and resources in Buffalo and is not intended to be a complete listing. Visit Buffalo Niagara makes no representation, warranties, recommendations, endorsements or guarantees regarding the vendors, enterprises or services listed in or referred to herein. Visit Buffalo Niagara is not responsible for errors, omissions and information, which may no longer be applicable because of the time element. The materials in this publication may not be reproduced without written permission by Visit Buffalo Niagara.

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visit  
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Niagara**

**1-800.BUFFALO**  
**VisitBuffaloNiagara.com**