



# The **TALKING DRUM**

## Stories



***Welcome to  
Aanand and  
Maria!***



***AFM  
Recipients of  
OBHS Harriet  
Tubman  
Award!***



***A Motown  
Christmas  
SOLD OUT!!!***

## About Us

The Amherstburg Freedom Museum is a curated archive that preserves and shares Amherstburg's stories of the Underground Railroad, and the compassion and solidarity it took to make this network possible.

277 King Street,  
Amherstburg, ON N9V 2C7  
Phone: 519-736-5433  
Email:  
[curator@amherstburgfreedom.org](mailto:curator@amherstburgfreedom.org)  
[www.amherstburgfreedom.org](http://www.amherstburgfreedom.org)

**December 2019**



## Welcome to Aanand and Maria!

The Amherstburg Freedom Museum would like to introduce you to two special people: Aanand and Maria. Aanand is our newest part-time staffer and will be giving tours on weekends. Maria is a PhD Candidate from the University of Texas at Austin who is researching at the museum and has kindly offered to volunteer her time on Saturdays. Here is a bit more about them.



**Aanand** is a current student at the University of Windsor, studying in the Communication, Media and Film program. He has previous degrees in English and Education, and spent several years teaching abroad. He has a love of film and history, and an interest in helping others discover the significant and fascinating history of the Windsor-Essex region.



**Maria Esther Hammack** is a doctoral student in History at the University of Texas at Austin. She is currently a Fulbright Researcher in Canada being hosted by the University of Windsor. Under the direction of Professor Guillaume Teasdale, she is conducting research across Ontario and the Detroit River Borderlands region for her dissertation project

entitled *Black Exodus: Channels of Liberation Across Global Frontiers in Canada and Mexico*. Her project reconsiders the Underground Railroad by tracing the channels of liberation and assistance networks that led enslaved and free Black people North and South of US slavery to both Canadian and Mexican destinations. Maria's work considers Black movement, both North to Canada and South to Mexico, as important aspects of the larger history of the African Diaspora in North America. She considers that these movements must be learned, taught and presented together for a better understanding of the shared histories of the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Maria will be conducting research and volunteering here at the museum until Spring of 2020. She is very excited to be learn about Ontario's Black communities and is interested in learning all she can about Black settlers, their experiences and legacies, particularly of those who bravely crossed the Detroit River borderlands. Maria will be organizing and curating a small exhibition on her work, centering the Underground Railroad, here at the museum that will open in the Spring. She hopes to meet and hear from anyone interested in sharing their ancestor's narratives and family's histories. **Feel free to come meet her at the Museum or contact her at [mariaesther@utexas.edu](mailto:mariaesther@utexas.edu).**

## The Talking Drum

The Talking Drum is published monthly by the Amherstburg Freedom Museum. Contributions, story ideas, suggestions and feedback are always welcome. Please contact Mary-Katherine Whelan at [curator@amherstburgfreedom.org](mailto:curator@amherstburgfreedom.org)

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## Amherstburg Freedom Museum Honoured with OBHS Award

The Board of Directors and Staff of the Amherstburg Freedom Museum are honoured and excited to receive the **Harriet Tubman Award– Commitment to a Purpose** from the Ontario Black History Society at their annual Black History Month Kick-off, happening on Sunday, January 26, 2020. If you would also like to attend their Black History Month Kick-off, tickets can be purchased on Eventbrite or by calling 416-867-9420.

### Media Advisory

#### Ontario Black History Society Launches Black History Month with Annual Kick-Off Brunch

*The 2020 brunch celebrates the diverse achievements of African-Canadians*

**TORONTO, ON – January 26, 2020** – Tickets are on sale for the Ontario Black History Society's (OBHS) annual Kick-Off Brunch at the Beanfield Centre in Toronto. Hosted by Tammie Sutherland of City News and Mawuli Chai, the start of Black History Month will be celebrated with history, music, and recognition of the contributions of inspirational African-Canadians. Our keynote speaker is Cameron Bailey, Artistic Director and Co-Head, Toronto International Film Festival.

The OBHS will honour several individuals and organizations for their standout achievements. This year's distinguished awardees include:

- Dr. Daniel G. Hill Award – Cameron Bailey
- Lifetime Achievement Award – Arthur Downes
- Rev. Addie Aylestock Award – Bobby Dean Blackburn
- Mathieu Da Costa Award – Tammie Sutherland
- Harriet Tubman Award – Amherstburg Freedom Museum
- OBHS/UN International Decade Award – Generation Chosen

This year's event is made possible by Lead sponsor TD Bank.

**DATE:** Sunday, January 26, 2020 from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm Marketplace at Noon, Brunch at 1pm.

**LOCATION:** Beanfield Centre  
105 Princes' Blvd, Exhibition Place  
Toronto, ON M6K 3C3

**TICKETS:** Tickets are available on Eventbrite. Call 416 867-9420 for Table pricing.

#### About the Ontario Black History Society

About the OBHS: The Ontario Black History Society (OBHS) is a non-profit registered Canadian charity, dedicated to the study, preservation and promotion of Black History and heritage. The Society aims to foster public interest and encourage the interest of Black History through:

- Recognition, preservation and promotion of the contributions of Black peoples and their collective histories through education, research and cooperation.
- Sponsorship and support of educational conferences and exhibits in this field.
- Promoting the inclusion of material on Black History in school curricular.

Should additional information be required, your office may contact us at (416) 867-9420 or by e-mail at [admin@blackhistorysociety.ca](mailto:admin@blackhistorysociety.ca)





## A Motown Christmas SOLD OUT!!!

Fantastic News! Christmas at the Museum is **SOLD OUT!!!** Thank you to our generous sponsors, ***Detroit Memorial Park Association*** and ***James H. Sutton Funeral Home***, and to everyone who purchased a ticket. See you on December 11th!

AMHERSTBURGFREEDOM.ORG  
519-736-5433  
1-800-713-6336

DECEMBER  
**11TH**

AMHERSTBURG  
FREEDOM MUSEUM

Christmas At The Museum:

**SOLD OUT!!!**

**MOTOWN**

**CHRISTMAS**

FEATURING "TJN EXPERIENCE"

**7PM**

**TICKETS**  
**\$30**

NAZREY A.M.E CHURCH  
277 KING STREET  
AMHERSTBURG

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## The Hour-A-Day Study Club 85th Anniversary Luncheon



Congratulations to the Hour-A-Day Study Club on celebrating an impressive 85th anniversary. At their recent luncheon on November 9th, the Hour-A-Day Study Club awarded \$15,000 to 12 Scholarship and Bursary Recipients.

This organization is a pillar of the community and we wish them many more years of success! Happy Anniversary and congratulations to all of the award winners!

## ACT 5th Anniversary Celebration

AFM Board Directors and Staff had a great time at the Arts Collective Theatre 5th Anniversary Celebration on November 7th. So many great performances from their talented cast. Congratulations on 5 successful years and wishing you many more!





## Freedom Achievers Program—Donate Today!

### *BLACK HISTORY, UNIVERSAL INSPIRATION*

#### Dear Freedom Achievers Supporter,



The town of Amherstburg has one of Southern Ontario's richest histories, especially when discussing its significance on the Underground Railroad. The Amherstburg Freedom Museum's Nazrey A.M.E. Church was a haven for countless African Americans fleeing enslavement and offered these newcomers the assistance they needed to start their new life in freedom. This Church remains a tribute to the bravery and perseverance of Black settlers.

It was Mac and Betty Simpson's dream to build a museum that preserved our heritage and shared Black history with the world. They believed that social, economic and educational problems could be addressed more effectively by people with a greater self-awareness and pride in their own history. Our goal is to share this impactful history with people of all ages, which is why we hosted The Amherstburg Freedom Summit that welcomed young persons of colour and asked them to discuss the challenges they face, but also solutions to create positive change.

A prevailing suggestion was a mentorship program and speaker series, which is why we have created the Freedom Achievers Program. Our initiative includes a mentoring program that will recruit successful achievers as mentors in professional fields such as First Responders, S.T.E.M., Arts & Entertainment, Education, Legal, Medical, Business & Finance. The mentoring sessions will provide insight into career options and actively engage with mentees. We will also host a High-Profile Speakers Series called "Achieving Freedom in the 21st Century" that welcomes at least four diverse high-profile community builders to discuss the challenges they faced and how they challenged issues such as racism, gender inequality and homophobia to create positive change.

We have partnered with the Amherstburg Community Foundation on this event and in October, hosted our first guest speaker, Detroit Piston's Coach, Dwane Casey, but in order to continue our speakers series we need your help to make this happen. Even the smallest donation can help us achieve our goal of \$39,000. To donate, go to [amherstburgfreedom.org](http://amherstburgfreedom.org) or call the Museum, 519-736-5433. Let's work together to create a path to success for the youth of Essex County.

Sincerely,

*Monty Logan*

President, Amherstburg Freedom Museum  
[monty.logan@amherstburgfreedom.org](mailto:monty.logan@amherstburgfreedom.org)





## Subscribe Today!



### Your Subscription Benefits include:

- Monthly "Talking Drum" Newsletter
- Free Admission to the Museum (including temporary exhibits)
- Free Guided Tour (by appointment only)
- Name published in monthly list of subscribers (with permission)
- Invitation to Annual Community Meeting
- Access to genealogy research library

*Please note that as of January 2014, we cannot provide a tax receipt for subscription dues. Should you prefer a tax receipt, please indicate that you wish to make a donation instead. Subscription privileges will not apply.*



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

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_



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