

Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center sets Black History Month events

As part of the Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center's commitment to preserving and promoting the legacy of and bringing visibility to Black stories in Niagara Falls, several events and programs in February will celebrate Black History Month.

This year's theme is "Illuminating Voices: Connecting the Past to the Present." In February, the Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center will honor Black History Month by celebrating the rich history of people of African descent in Western New York by connecting historical events to modern social issues.

The Heritage Center offers this kind of programming year-round. To enhance it during Black History Month, there is a wide variety of virtual, in-person and hybrid programs planned to reach audiences across Western New York and beyond. That includes youth workshops, musical performances, the continued speaker series, and the grand opening of the historic Cataract House Restaurant and Academy in downtown Niagara Falls.

More information is available on the Heritage Center's website. Most of the events take place in the Atrium of the Heritage Center in Niagara Falls or are available virtually. Events are as follows:

√ "Frederick Douglass WNY: By Any Means Necessary," 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 2, in the Atrium, 825 Depot Ave. West. The kickoff to Black History Month welcomes the Heritage Center's own Dr. James Ponzo in "Frederick Douglass WNY: By Any Means Necessary," a presentation on the life of Douglass, including the impact he had on Rochester and all of Western New York. This is a hybrid event. Pricing is \$8 for singles, \$12 for couples, \$25 for families.

√ "African Drumming & Dancing Community fitness class" with Packard Court Community Center, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 3, in the Atrium at 825 Depot Ave. West, Niagara Falls. This community celebration embraces the resilience and power Black History Month embodies. Join in a collaborative event with the Packard Court Community Center in an African dance class jamboree featuring drums, music, laughs, and



educational conversation. These two sessions are part of the free, 10-week African Drumming and Dance Community fitness program at the Packard Court Community Center. Classes promote health and wellness. They are sponsored by the Niagara Falls Housing Authority and Create a Healthier Niagara Falls Collaborative. This is a free, hybrid event.

√ "Illuminating Voices of our Future," StoryTime animation with the Atlantis School for Gifted Youngsters, 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb 5, in the Heritage Center's Meeting Room, 825 Depot Ave. West. This in-person, collaborative event allows eight youngsters ages 9 to 12 to be the storytellers of their own tales over the four Saturdays. These students will create, produce and record voiceovers for a StoryTime animation episode that features their own character. Saladin Allah, visitor experience specialist, community liaison, and the Founder of the Atlantis School for Gifted Youngsters, will create animations of each child to bring their character to life. The cost is \$40 and that covers all four weeks. The Heritage Center is hoping to fund scholarships for each child. Register here.

√ "Illuminating Voices of our Future," StoryTime animation with the Atlantis School for Gifted Youngsters, part 2, 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb 12, in the Heritage Center's Meeting Room; 825 Depot Ave. West, Niagara Falls.

√ "Black Visions" & "Alma Thomas & Me." This collabora-

tion with the Explore & More Children's Museum will be held from 2-3:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb 12, in two locations: the Atrium at 825 Depot Ave. West, Niagara Falls; and at Explore & More Children's Museum, 130 Main St., Buffalo. This event will allow kids ages 8 to 12 to learn about important Black figures from the past and present who are role models for children and young adults. Participants at Explore & More will be led by Heritage Center staff. They will be given a short lesson about important and influential Black figures past and present. They will then be guided through the creation of vision boards in an effort to empower today's youth. Participants at the Heritage Center will be led by Explore & More staff. They will receive a short informative lesson on art, Black artists, and will be guided in a watercolor painting activity inspired by Alma Thomas. This is a free, in-person event. Capacity is 20 youth at the Heritage Center, but there are no capacity restrictions at Explore & More. Register here.

√ "Blacks in Niagara Falls" with Dr. Michael Boston, in collaboration with the Niagara Falls Public Library, 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb 15, in the Atrium, 825 Depot Ave. West. Boston, associate professor at SUNY Brockport, will present "Blacks in Niagara Falls," a detailed study of the history of African Americans in a small, upstate New York city, from the days of the Underground Railroad to the

SEE BLACK, continued on Page 10

NIAGARA COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Help plan how to protect Niagara County from hazards!

TAKE A QUICK SURVEY
bit.ly/NiagaraHMP

Niagara Wheatfield CSD Community Education
It's Time for New Beginnings!

Registration is now open for Spring 2022
Community Education classes!

We are dedicated to the development of our Niagara Falls, Wheatfield, and Western New York communities by working with our friends and neighbors to create fun, engaging, and meaningful learning opportunities. Whether you teach with us, learn with us, or wish to meet like-minded individuals with similar interests, welcome!

See our online course catalog and register NOW for Spring 2022 classes:
<https://www.nwcsd.org/page/community-education>

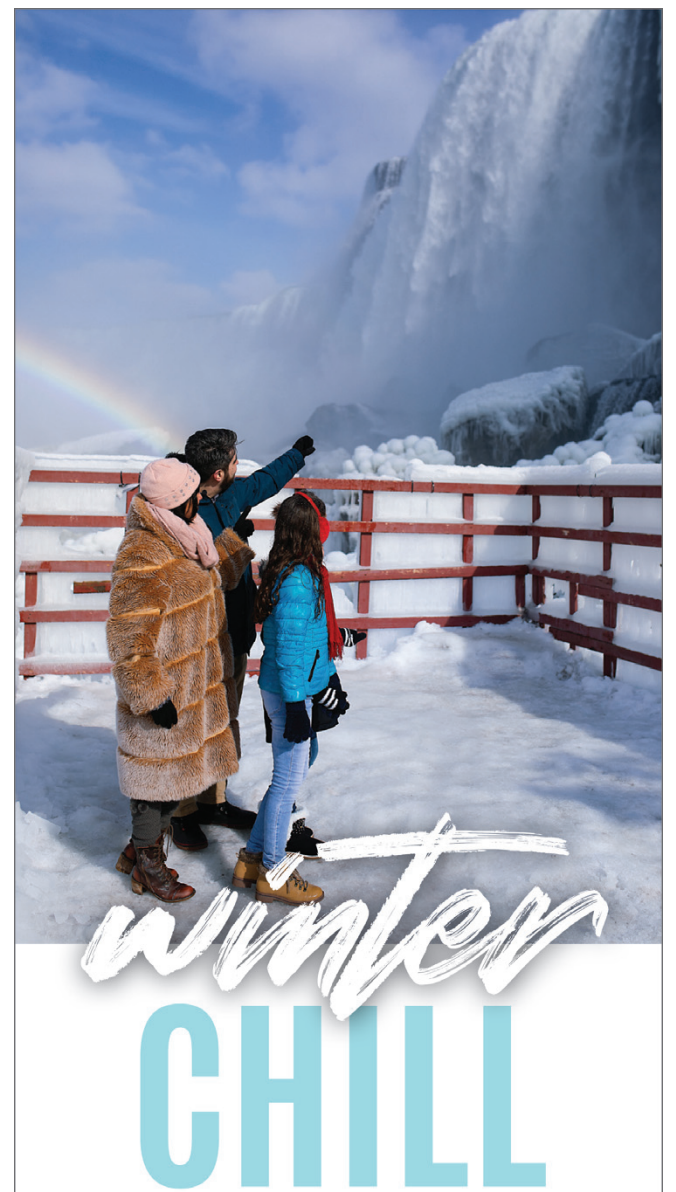
Register online:
<https://nwcsd.coursestorm.com/>

Mail in:
Niagara Wheatfield CSD Community Education
PO Box 309
Sanborn, NY 14132

Phone Contact: 716-215-3034
Spring session runs
February 9 through June 3, 2022

"Never stop learning!"

SCAN QR CODE



Even if you've been to Niagara Falls State Park, have you ever seen it in winter? The frigid Falls is something else entirely. Now is the time to experience one of America's best attractions at its coolest.

Plan your winter escape. Learn more at NiagaraFallsStatePark.com.



February Is

AMERICAN HEART MONTH

A time when all people can focus on their cardiovascular health. The Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention is shining a light on hypertension (high blood pressure), a leading risk factor for heart disease and stroke.

Brought to you by
Niagara Frontier Publications
wnypapers.com

THE SOUND OF THE CITY

WEBR AM 1440

WIN \$1,000

Listen weekdays at 10am & 2pm for the special KEYWORD! Then enter it at WEBR.RADIO.com