

Sojourner News

Update Report of the Sojourner Truth Memorial Statue Committee — September 2002

Statue To Be Unveiled October 6

The Sojourner Truth Memorial Statue will be unveiled in an afternoon dedication ceremony on Sunday, October 6, at 1:30 p.m., rain or shine, at the corner of Pine and Park Streets in Florence. The public is invited.

The program will include brief remarks about the life of Sojourner Truth in Florence and the grassroots community effort, begun almost ten years ago, to create the memorial. The Florence Community Band will perform before and after the ceremony. Additional musical selections will be performed by Joyful Noise Gospel Choir.

Sculptor Thomas Jay Warren will be introduced. Other special guests will include: the Northampton landscape architect firm of Denig Design Associates, which created and donated the memorial design; Senator Stan Rosenberg, whose leadership won a \$100,000 state grant for the memorial; and Mayor Mary Clare Higgins.

Guests are encouraged to bring a lawn chair or blanket, as limited seating will be provided, and to walk, bicycle, or carpool. Limited parking is available behind the Florence Community Center.

For more information about the dedication or the memorial, please contact Monica Green at 585-1010. Additional information about the memorial is available at the statue's website at www.noho.com/sojourner.

Walking History Tour of Florence

Florence resident Paul Gaffney will lead a walking history tour of the neighborhood where Sojourner Truth lived in the 1840s and 1850s. The tour, on October 6, will begin at the Sojourner Truth Memorial, at approximately 2:30, immediately following the dedication ceremony. Gaffney is Professor of Humanities at Landmark College and President of the Florence Association. A contribution of \$5 is requested.

This tour will last about 1 1/4 hours and include the Park Street cemetery; historical residences on Park & Pine Streets; and the Nonotuck Street site of the Northampton Association of Education and Industry, the utopian community of which Truth was a member. Tour participants will learn about the recent research which strongly suggests that Truth's house at 35 Park Street still stands. For more information please contact Monica Green at 585-1010.



Stone Creations owner Paul Forth and staff, shown laying paving stones at the Sojourner Truth Memorial Statue site.

Garden Centers Respond Generously

Local garden centers and nurseries have generously donated perennials, shrubs, and trees to be planted as part of the landscaping design at the Sojourner Truth Memorial. The Committee gratefully acknowledges the in-kind support of the following businesses:

Agway, Inc.
Andrew's Greenhouse
Bay State Perennial Farm
Blue Meadow Farm
Hadley Garden Center
Home Depot
Lashway Forest Products
MacLeod's Nursery
Old Deerfield Landscaping
Wholesale Shrubs & Trees

Volunteers are needed to help with planting this fall. If you are interested, please contact Monica Green at 585-1010.

Beyond the Dedication

As this newsletter goes to press, the memorial is close to completion and the dedication is imminent. What next? A subcommittee recently met to begin discussing how to publicize the memorial through our website and other venues. We want to inform school systems throughout the region of the memorial and encourage field trips for students to learn about Sojourner Truth and the Northampton Association. There are exciting opportunities to work closely with the Florence Association, Florence History Association, and the Lilly Library to develop new resources and programs.

We are seeking new committee members to help with this effort. If you have some enthusiasm for Florence history and would like to help, please contact Phil Hall at 584-4524.

Yes! I'll help!

I'd like to help with landscaping.

I enclose a financial contribution of \$ ____.

Funds are needed to cover landscaping expenses, as well as printing & distributing a new brochure.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (d) _____ (e) _____ email _____

Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to: Sojourner Truth Memorial Statue Committee" at P.O. Box 60405, Florence MA 01062. For more information, please call Monica Green at 413-585-1010.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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