

PRESS RELEASE

The Pleasants County Historical Society in conjunction with the West Virginia Humanities Council is pleased to announce that they will be sponsoring Ilene Evans in her portrayal of Harriet Tubman - Escape on the Underground Railroad on Saturday, April 6th at 7 p.m. free of charge at the Marina in St. Marys. Dinner will be available at 6 p.m. as a fundraiser for the Society to support the operating costs of their museums. Tickets are available at Phillips Pharmacy, River's Edge, and St. Marys Hardware for a \$40 donation per person for a dinner of baked steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll, dessert & beverage provided by the Galaxy.

Mrs. Evans is an artist with Voices from the Earth. Her presentation will be in the Chautauqua style with a monologue by Mrs. Harriet Tubman. This will be followed by Mrs. Tubman answering questions in character, followed by Mrs. Evans answering questions as a scholar and actress. This format should provide a very enjoyable evening for participants to better understand the remarkable life and times of Harriet Tubman.

Harriet Tubman was born into slavery in Maryland but escaped through the Underground Railroad in 1849. She became the most famous leader of that network, aiding slaves to their escape to free states and Canada. When the Civil War erupted her underground experiences and knowledge of covert operations made her an invaluable resource to Federal officers. She served as a spy, nurse, scout, and guide for Union troops and was present at the ill-fated assault of Fort Wagner by the 54th Massachusetts in South Carolina.

Tubman is one of the historical characterizations that is part of the WV Humanities Council's *History Alive!* Program that explores history by interaction. Humanities scholars have carefully researched the writings, speeches, and biographies of the characters they portray using their original words when possible.

Tickets are available at Phillips Pharmacy, River's Edge, & St. Marys Hardware. If you have questions or need tickets please contact the program liaison, Dan Boley at (304)588-1162. Your support is greatly appreciated as the Society attempts to preserve our history for posterity.