



THE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY
of Cincinnati
and
Hamilton County

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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***Harriet Tubman's Experience in the Underground Railroad* Depicted in Clay Sculptures of Local Artist-Teacher Raymond S. Lane, Jr.**

Local artist and teacher Raymond S. Lane, Jr. sculpts hand-built clay works that depict 19th century heroine Harriet Tubman, who risked her life repeatedly to lead slaves to their freedom. An exhibit of his work, *Harriet Tubman's Experience in the Underground Railroad*, is showing in the Children's Learning Center of the Main Library, 800 Vine Street, through February 28.

Lane sculpted the works in donated studio space in the basement of his parish, Assumption Church. "I was inspired when I visited Harriet Tubman's house," said Mr. Lane, who also spent hours researching Tubman at the Harriet Beecher Stowe House in Ripley, Ohio. One of his sculptures depicts Mrs. Tubman peering down with a lantern to a young slave, whose head is just visible through a trapdoor to the basement. In another, Mrs. Tubman stands in front of a group of slaves she will lead to freedom, brandishing a shotgun. Mrs. Tubman was said to have threatened to kill anyone who wanted to turn back once an escape was launched.

Mr. Lane's work is not new to art patrons. He exhibited as part of the 1996 National Black Arts Festival, and has sold at several College Fund/UNCF functions. He has also exhibited locally and in major cities throughout the United States, and hopes to one day have his sculptures housed in the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

A legendary figure of the Underground Railroad, Harriet Tubman made 19 trips into the South and successfully guided more than 300 fugitive slaves to freedom. During the Civil War, she served as a nurse, spy, cook, and scout for the Union soldiers. After the war, she crusaded for women's rights. Because she was once an illiterate, highly visible runaway slave, engaged in an illegal activity, few of Harriet Tubman's life achievements were documented. All recorded sources, however, agree that Harriet Tubman spent her life "leading her people out of bondage" and, as she once stated herself, serving as a "Moses" to her people. At her death from pneumonia in 1913, at the age of 93, she was buried with full military honors.

Exhibit Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m., Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., and Sunday, 1:00-5:00 p.m. Information: (513) 369-6922.

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✓ **Information about events at the Main Library and 41 branch libraries is available on the Internet site: www.CincinnatiLibrary.org.**