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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**THE LANDMARK SOCIETY PRESENTS "WALK THE WALK:  
ENCOUNTERS WITH ROCHESTER'S AFRICAN-AMERICAN ANCESTORS"**

*FREE PERFORMANCES DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH*

ROCHESTER, NY January 10, 2013 — Rochester's African American ancestors are brought to life at the 2013 performances of *Walk the Walk: Encounters with Rochester's African-American Ancestors* presented by The Landmark Society of Western New York this February.

"*Walk the Walk* has become an annual event by The Landmark Society because the popular performance helps us put a human face on our history," said Cindy Boyer, Landmark Society Director of Public Programs. "The moving performances show the humor and high energy of Captain Sunfish, the strength of Anna Murray Douglass, the courage of Harriet Jacobs, the pride and faith of George Brown and the dignified determination of Austin Steward and Frederick Douglass."

Now in its 17th year, *Walk the Walk* is offered FREE during a single performance only – Friday, February 8 at 7 p.m. – at the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, 141 Adams Street in the Historic Corn Hill District. This setting is particularly noteworthy as Mt. Olivet Baptist was established in 1910 as the first African-American Baptist church in Rochester. African-American Women's service club, The Links, will provide a refreshment reception, and thanks to a generous sponsor, the performance is free to the public.

An added feature this year is a special performance of *Walk the Walk* for school children in grade 2 on the morning of February 5 in addition to performances for higher grade levels that are scheduled for the mornings of Feb. 7 & 8 at the Hochstein School of Music and Dance. This historic building was the location of Frederick Douglass' funeral, and also stands on the site of an Underground Railroad station. Performances for school children include one-on-one chats and interaction between the student audience and the "Ancestors," and help educators bring to life the difficult decisions faced by these historical figures. Interested educators can contact Boyer at [cboyer@landmarksociety.org](mailto:cboyer@landmarksociety.org). Limited transportation funds are available.

The Landmark Society provides program materials for classroom use before and after the performance, including historic timelines, activity sheets on each Ancestor, and guidelines on appropriate audience etiquette for a live theatre setting. Post-event materials develop language arts and visual arts skills, as students choose from a variety of writing or illustration activities reflecting on their experiences. The activities help teachers meet NYS learning standards in language arts, social studies, and visual arts.

LANDMARK SOCIETY OF WESTERN NEW YORK, INC.

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Started in 1996, *Walk the Walk* has become one of Rochester's premier Black History Month events, bringing to life some of Rochester's richest characters in an entertaining, engaging and educational theatrical production. The performance is a must-see for anyone who appreciates history, theatre and the ribbons of experience that tie all humans together.

***About The Landmark Society:*** *In its 75<sup>th</sup> year, The Landmark Society of Western New York, Inc. is one of the oldest and most active preservation organizations in America, serving nine Western New York counties. Formed in 1937, The Landmark Society continues to protect the unique architectural heritage of our region and promote preservation and planning principles that foster healthy and sustainable communities. For additional information about The Landmark Society, visit [www.landmarksociety.org](http://www.landmarksociety.org). The Landmark Society is supported in part by New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.*