

2024 Northern Slavery Collective Conference Speakers February 5th, 2024 at the TD Bank Conference Center at 1 Vanderbilt NYC

Keynote: Jordan Jace

Consider the Source: Bridging the Gap between Educators and the History Community

Jordan Jace is a researcher, writer, project manager, and educator. Jordan has extensive knowledge and familiarity with using historical resources (documents, artifacts, historic sites, etc.) for educational purposes. His work experience includes 10 years as a professional archaeologist, working in Albany, NY and Williamsburg, Virginia, and 4 years as a secondary Social Studies teacher. In addition, he has undergraduate and graduate degrees in history, anthropology and historical archaeology, and New York State teacher certification in adolescent social studies education. Jordan is also the statewide coordinator for the New York Council for History Education (NYCHE), the New York State Archives Student Research Awards Program, and the newly launched ConsidertheSourceNY.org Diversity and Collaborative Knowledge Program.

Panel Presentation: Forgotten Founders: David Hempstead, Senior, and the Story of the Plain Sight Project

Presenters: Donnamarie Barnes and David Rattray

Forgotten Founders: David Hempstead, Senior, is a short documentary that traces the life of David Hempstead, Senior, from slavery to freedom on the eastern end of Long Island, New York. It also chronicles the work of the Plain Sight Project, which helped uncover aspects of his life and legacy. The screening will be followed by a Q&A by Plain Sight Project leadership Donnamarie Barnes and David Rattray. The Plain Sight Project seeks to restore the stories of the enslaved, indentured, and free people of color to their essential place in American history, starting with the East End of Long Island in the mid-17th century. Plain Sight Project volunteers examine account books, church records, wills and probate records, and a range of other primary sources to find and to learn about enslaved, indentured, and free people of color that helped build their communities. In 2022, the Plain Sight Project and Sag Harbor Cinema were awarded a \$200,000 grant from the Department of Education through Honorable U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer's Congressionally Funded Community Projects. Additional funding was provided by Sylvester Manor and their Mellon Foundation Humanities in Place Project. This collaborative endeavor, named the "Forgetting to Remember" Project, expanded the vital work of the Plain Sight Project, through the production of the Forgotten Founders documentary, education curriculum development, exhibitions, community outreach events, and continued research.

Panel Presentation: Mining the Untold Stories: Black and Women's Voices in 18th and 19th century Albany

Presenters: Heidi Hill, Jessie Serfilippi, Meghan Willis, Shawna Reilly

Three Albany Partners, Historic Cherry Hill, The Underground Railroad Education Center, and Schuyler Mansion have worked together to create an engaging learning experience through sharing the personal stories of Black people of Albany who were enslaved, indentured and in some cases, found freedom. This program, supported through an NEH grant secured by Historic Cherry Hill and piloted in 2023, aims to discuss the primary evidence and explore the lives of people whose stories were not shared traditionally. The program, which was developed with both 4/5 and 7/8th grade teachers, as well as humanity scholars, now has been evaluated by teachers and staff to reach the best learning and questioning outcomes. This session will share the research mined and explore the possibilities of peoples lives. While the program is based in primary source evidence, our goal is for participants to think more deeply about individuals lives and to leave with an impactful experience. A participatory exercise from each of the historic sites will be explored by participants. Slavery and the dangers of freedom seeking can be a difficult topic to discuss with students, though the activities we have developed were enthusiastically welcomed by the students and teachers.