

NEWSLETTER

Spring /Summer2017

EXPANDED UNDERGROUND RAILROAD EDUCATION PROGRAM AVAILABLE

Thanks to funding from Prairie Meadows, the West Des Moines Historical Society has a new program to offer school tours visiting the Jordan House.

Developed by two Iowa State University School of Education Masters candidates, the curriculum explores the history of the fight for racial equality in Iowa, using voting records and other documents. Students taking part in this expanded opportunity explore James Jordan's dual roles as a rule maker as well as a rule breaker, and how these roles can be just as valid today as they were in the late 19th century.

The curriculum can be tailored for students in high school and middle school. **To schedule a tour of the Jordan House utilizing this expanded curriculum, please call 225-1286.**



A class from Scavo High school exploring the expanded curriculum.



Middle school students enthusiastically discussing rule breaking vs. rule making.



Scaffolding will return in 2017

RENOVATIONS AND REPAIRS IN 2017

Keeping the Jordan House, built in the mid 19th century and the Bennett School, constructed in 1927, structurally sound and attractive can be a major undertaking, but a critical part of the West Des Moines Historical Society's mission. Thanks to support from the City of West Des Moines, Bravo, MidAmerican Energy Foundation and Society members and donors, in 2016, the Society completed critically needed repairs to flat roofs, foundations and chimneys at the Jordan House and window repairs at the Bennett School. In 2017 additional restoration includes Jordan House porch columns, siding and gutters, and a new coat of paint on the

exterior.

Be part of the restoration and preservation story with a donation to the West Des Moines Historical Society today! Your funds will support not only preservation, but also education and programs for schools and the community.

To donate, please go to www.wdmhs.org or return the donation envelope included with this newsletter.

DISCOVER DECORATION DAY



**Sunday, May 21
1p.m. - 3p.m.
Jordan House
2001 Fuller Road**

Discover the history behind Decoration Day by joining the West Des Moines Historical Society and the WDM Parks and Recreation Department on Sunday, May 21 at the historic Jordan House and Jordan Cemetery.

Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy Civil War era tunes played by the West Des Moines Community Band. There will be activities for children and free treats for all!

Tours of the Jordan House will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Cost of a tour is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students.

After the concert guests are invited to walk ½ mile to the historic Jordan Cemetery where limited parking is available. Cemetery maps and educational brochures will guide people to the gravesites of notable WDM citizens. This event will be a great way to teach children and adults alike the true meaning of Memorial Day.



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HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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**All West Des Moines Historical Society members are invited
to attend the annual meeting**

Tuesday, April 11, 2016 * 5:30 p.m.-6:15 p.m.

Board of Directors meeting to follow.

The Jordan House - 2001 Fuller Road - West Des Moines

Refreshments will be served



2016 Contributors*

Thank you to our generous donors! To become a member or to renew your membership, please complete the remittance envelope enclosed with this newsletter or visit our secure donation page at www.wdmhs.org.

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Make and live history with us!

BECOME A MEMBER AND VOLUNTEER!

West Des Moines' history is colorful, rich and diverse. You are a part of this history so help us preserve and keep it alive for future generations.

We invite you to join us as we uncover, explore and shape our history. For volunteer opportunities, call 225-1286

Go to wdmhs.org today or use the attached envelope.



LOCAL LEADERS MEET WITH JORDAN SCHOLARS

The James C. Jordan Scholars Leadership Institute Scholars are a class of 18 metro high school students who are learning about James Jordan's role in local history. Recent programs have focused on Jordan's legislative career, philanthropy, banking and civil rights. The Jordan Scholars Leadership Institute is sponsored by Patricia & Ed Berkley, Kemin Industries, Polk County, Ruan Transportation. West Bank, the West

Des Moines Community Foundation, and the West Des Moines Historical Society.

In 2016 & 2017 the Scholars met with or are scheduled to meet with state legislators, leaders from West Bank and Kemin Industries, Polk County Supervisors, the World Food Prize, Greater Des Moines Partnership and leaders in the fight for civil rights.

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