

## FREEDOM CENTER ESSAY CONTEST

### For Immediate Release

The National History Club and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center are pleased to announce the winners of the 2008 Freedom Center Essay Contest. The contest was held during this school year and students from across the country wrote essays on the history of the underground railroad and the movement that resulted in the abolishment of slavery in the United States. Students also displayed how this movement can help guide the abolition of contemporary forms of slavery that exist in today's world.

### Winners:

1<sup>st</sup> prize: \$1,000

**Malaya Saldana** – Parkview High School, Georgia  
**Kelly Schmidt** – McAuley High School, Ohio

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: \$500

**Hayin Candiotti**, Passaic County Technical Institute, New Jersey  
**Jacob Ratliff**, Amelia High School, Ohio  
**Kevin Ruiz**, Passaic County Technical Institute, New Jersey

Honorable Mention: Copy of David Blight's "Passages To Freedom"

**Katrina Bandeli**, Passaic County Technical Institute, New Jersey  
**Rebekah Frese**, Carlisle Middle School, Iowa  
**Manon Lefevre**, Cromwell High School, Connecticut  
**Angela Sun**, East Middle School, Michigan

### Sponsoring Institutions

The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, is situated on the banks of the Ohio River, which was a great natural barrier separating slave and free states. Untold numbers of enslaved men, women and children crossed the Ohio in or near Cincinnati in the years leading up to the Civil War along a secret escape network called "the underground railroad." The Freedom Center uses exhibits, programs and speakers to educate and inspire contemporary audiences about the legacy of courage and multicultural cooperation as embodied in the story of the Underground Railroad. To find out more please visit: <http://www.freedomcenter.org>

The National History Club (NHC) inspires students and teachers to start history club chapters at high schools, middle schools, and within other student and community programs. Members of history club chapters participate in local and national programs, and create their own projects and activities. The NHC also provides chapters with resources and services that will help them increase the activity and impact of their clubs. To date, more than 360 schools in 43 states have founded history clubs. To find out more please visit: <http://www.nationalhistoryclub.org>

\*\*\* Winning essays can be found on both websites \*\*\*