



In Honor of Harriet Tubman Day, Ray Adamyk, Founder and CEO of One of America's Top Historic Construction Companies, Announces Plans for Restoration of the Salem Chapel BME Church and Underground Railroad Site in St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada

St. Catharines native Adamyk and Spectra Company, a leader in historic restoration and preservation, will restore the church where Harriet Tubman worshipped in the 1850s.

POMONA, California. (March 8, 2022) – When St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada native Ray Adamyk learned that the Salem Chapel, a sacred destination and visitor attraction which had been attended by Harriet Tubman, had fallen into disrepair, he knew he needed to do something. The chapel is located just up the street from where he grew up in Canada – and since initially leaving the Niagara, Ontario area more than 30 years ago, Adamyk has grown the company he founded into one of America's leaders in restoring and preserving historical structures.

As CEO of the award-winning [Spectra Company](#), Adamyk has enjoyed tremendous success. Today, however, his greatest passion is in giving back, which is why Spectra Company will donate \$200,000 in services to restore the Salem Chapel, which houses a visitor museum, back to its original grandeur. Adamyk is making the announcement in honor of Harriet Tubman Day on March 10, 2022. This year also marks the 200-year anniversary of Tubman's birth.

The Pomona, California-based Spectra Company has restored famous buildings from Hearst Castle and Downtown Los Angeles (The Biltmore Hotel and the Bradbury Building), to Catalina Island (Catalina Casino in Avalon) and Hollywood (the Hollywood Bowl and the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel), to historic Pasadena (the Gamble House) and dozens more. For Adamyk, taking on the Salem Chapel & Museum project is the most personal of his entire career, and bigger than any other building he's done previously ([see this video](#) of him addressing the need for unity and how the restoration of Salem Chapel is a symbol of racial reconciliation).

"I was born in England but moved to Canada with my family at age five, and grew up in St. Catharines, at one time living a stone's throw from Salem Chapel," said Adamyk. "I was also a regular with the St. Catharines Boxing Club across the street from the Chapel, won a silver medal in the Ontario Golden Gloves, and even took on future heavyweight champ Lennox Lewis in the ring! I still have friends and family in St. Catharines, so to have the opportunity to restore such a significant piece of its history is extremely special. I'm also fully committed to raising awareness for racial equality, so the work at Salem Chapel goes beyond restoring an important structure."

For this restoration project, Adamyk and his team will work closely with Rochelle Bush, a trustee and resident historian at Salem Chapel. Bush is a Freedom-Seeker descendant, born and raised in St.

Catharines, and is deeply rooted in the community. Her maternal great-great-grandfather was the minister-in-charge of the Salem Chapel during the time in which Harriet Tubman was a member ([see this video](#) of Bush discussing the history and significance of the chapel).

“I feel a spiritual connection to Harriet,” said Adamyk. “She wanted freedom for others, and I do as well. Harriet wanted people to unite around the undoing of evil, which in her time was the material slavery of persons. In my time, I want to see people unite around the undoing of other evils, namely the division fueled by hate, bias, prejudice, racism and ignorance that not only enslaves us to these vices, but also holds our culture back from being truly free.”

“There is something very powerful about the term ‘Freedom-Seeker’,” continued Adamyk. “We are all freedom-seekers in some form. I want to use this special connection to Harriet and the Salem Chapel to remind people that that freedom belongs to all, and we can unite around reconciliation, repentance, forgiveness, and building a future where we are free from any kind of shackle — material, economic or spiritual.”

While Spectra Company is donating much of its time, expertise and labor valued at hundreds of thousands of dollars, funds will also be required for completing the extensive restoration work, which is expected to begin in 2023. Plans are currently underway for the 1st Annual Unity Walk on July 4, 2022 in Pomona, California. Thousands of participants are expected to gather at Lincoln Park in Pomona for the unveiling of a Harriet Tubman statue. From there, anyone from near or far is encouraged to join the approximately 1.5-mile Unity Walk from Lincoln Park to Fairplex to celebrate Unity Day LA & Fairplex’s annual Fireworks Spectacular.

Fairplex is a nonprofit, 501(c)(5) organization located on a 487-acre campus in Pomona. The entertainment, education and event space offers more than 300 year-round events and is home to the LA County Fair, which celebrates its 100th anniversary in May. Fittingly, in this centennial year, the Fair’s theme is Back to Our **Roots!**

During Unity Day LA, Adamyk will dust off his boxing gloves and participate in matches which will include celebrities. There will also be live musical guests and boxing legends. All proceeds from Unity Day LA will be contributed toward the restoration of Salem Chapel, which continues as a religious institution and visitor attraction (museum) to this day. A similar event is planned in the Niagara Area in Canada in 2023.

Salem Chapel History

The most celebrated member of the Salem Chapel is legendary Underground Railroad conductor Harriet Tubman, who moved to Canada after the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act was passed. When she resided in St. Catharines (from late 1851 to early 1862), she attended the Salem Chapel. Tubman was a highly revered member of the community, and was also known as “Moses”. Most of her clandestine Underground Railroad rescue missions began – and ended – in St. Catharines.

In 1868, when she was asked where, and why, she had guided the Freedom-Seekers, Tubman replied, “I wouldn’t trust Uncle Sam with my people no longer; I brought them all clear off to Canada.”

Many scholars agree that the Salem Chapel, British Methodist Episcopal Church, which began as an African Methodist Episcopal Church, is the oldest Black church in Ontario. In 1957, after an extensive two-year restoration project, the church was rededicated and renamed *Salem Chapel*. In 1999, the

Salem Chapel received a National Historic designation by the Government of Canada. Tubman received a national designation for her courageous life deeds in 2005. Tubman also has a stamp in her honor, and will soon be featured on the United States Twenty Dollar Bill.

To donate to this effort, please go to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/Salem-Chapel>

For more information on the Salem Chapel & Museum restoration efforts or Unity Day LA, please contact Joseph Graeve of www.Ptowne.com/UnityDayLA at jgraeve@ptowne.com or 909 762 9618.



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