

C O U N T Y O F S A N T A C L A R A



Board of Supervisors
P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, the Underground Railroad was an informal network of secret routes to remote areas, free states, Canada, Mexico, overseas, and safe houses used by slaves to escape slavery, as well as a term often used to refer to those helping escapees; and

WHEREAS, throughout slavery's history, there have always been attempts by individuals to break away from its clutches, and individuals and groups who have stepped up to assist in those efforts; and

WHEREAS, the area later known as Santa Clara County was part of the larger California and National network with individuals who participated in the Underground Railroad, as supporters and/or beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, members of the Underground Railroad coast to coast movement Mary Ann Day Brown, the widow of John Brown of Harper's Ferry (October 1859) fame, and daughter Ellen, who arrived in California in 1863, are buried in the Madronia Cemetery in Saratoga; and

WHEREAS, in 1998 with the passage of Public Law 105-203 Congress directed the National Parks Service to establish the *National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program* to tell the story of resistance against slavery in the United States through escape and flight; and

WHEREAS, there are local initiatives to research and educate the community about the significance of the Underground Railroad history in our local communities; and

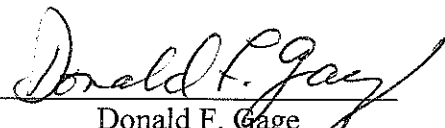
WHEREAS, starting in the month of October there will be exhibits and presentations to different groups and at different venues within the county, including History Park San Jose, schools, and libraries;

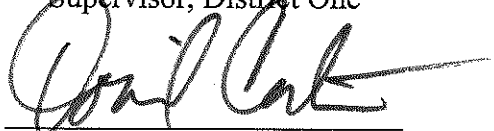
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara does hereby proclaim the **Month of October 2010** as

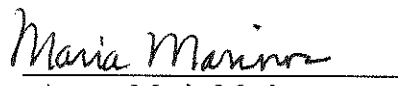
Underground Railroad Awareness Month


in Santa Clara County, and commend the national initiative and the historical groups, museums, and individuals within the county for their work and contribution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, this Twenty-Eighth Day of September, Two Thousand and Ten by unanimous vote.

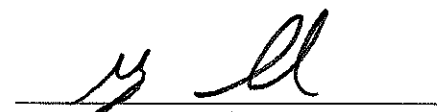

Donald F. Gage
Supervisor, District One


Dave Cortese
Supervisor, District Three


Attest: Maria Marinos
Clerk, Board of Supervisors


Ken Yeager
President, Board of Supervisors




George Shirakawa
Supervisor, District Two


Liz Kniss
Supervisor, District Five