

2024 BREWER FAMILY REUNION: JULY 4-7, 2024

Greetings!

In 2024, the Brewer Family will convene once more for the purposes of fellowship and celebrating its shared tradition, culture, stories, and unique honor. Befittingly, this family gathering will take place in beautiful and historic **Detroit, Michigan on July 4 -7, 2024**. Many of you are aware that this grand city, obviously known for being the birthplace of Motown, and once the booming capital of the American automobile industry now in recovery, also once served as a terminus for refugee slaves seeking their freedom on the Underground Railroad. Undoubtedly, for many of these intrepid souls, successfully crossing over the Detroit River into Canada symbolized crossing over into hope, or, at the very least, indicated some opportunity towards experiencing a “rebirth”; a newly acquired opportunity to rediscover and exercise their humanity. The abject horrors of slavery and its cumulative effects does not need to be recounted here, but questions begin to emerge: What does it mean for a people to endure gross suffering? How can a people begin to not only endure, but flourish afterwards?

In 2020, as the country faced growing social and political upheaval over the numbers of Black/African Americans being murdered with impunity, among other troubling issues, there was yet another obstacle moving to the fore: the Covid pandemic. As a result, it is unsurprising that the past three and a half years have been a trying, confusing, and exhausting time for many communities and families, including ours. But, after experiencing what seemed to be innumerable weeks of isolation, frustration, despair, and anxiety, some of us now find ourselves wanting to emerge, standing in the aftermath of scowling times while bracing for a new set of challenges that require dutiful attention too. Again, we encounter reflective questioning: What can rightfully serve as a lodestar for our family as it moves together into the future? What can guide us so that we remain faithful to our shared tradition, culture, stories, and unique honor?

Regeneration is a process where damaged genomes, cells, tissues, organs, body parts, and ecosystems regain healthy functioning after experiencing damage and/or a disturbance. Regeneration is nature’s way of seeking and securing balance after devastation for the purposes of continued flourishing; it is an expression of resiliency, and dare we say, a natural reflection and practice of hope. A likely outcome of any system being able to enact and endure the hardship of regeneration is clear: its members experience a renewal; a revival; a rebirth; a *renaissance*.

During the 2024 Brewer Family Reunion, it is our deepest wish that a spirit of and commitment to a *renaissance* - a reviving of health; a reestablishing of balance; an awakening from despair; and a deliberate striving towards flourishing with renewed vigor - will help answer plaguing questions while also lighting our path together forward. Where Detroit once served as one of the final resting spots on the Underground Railroad for Black Americans fleeing their captivity and inhumane suffering for the purposes of freedom, let us commune there now too for our collective entry into resurgence.

Come, and let us reunite!

Warmly,

Paul G. Brewer, III
Co-chair, 2024 Brewer Family Reunion