

Juneteenth 2013

A Freedom Celebration

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JUNETEENTH 2013, A FREEDOM CELEBRATION TO BE PRESENTED

Richmond, Virginia • Richmond's Cultural Ambassador, Elegba Folklore Society will present *Juneteenth 2013, A Freedom Celebration* on June 14-15. The **Symposium and Concert** will be at **Pine Camp Arts Center**, 4901 Old Brook Road, **6:00–10:00pm**, June 14. The historic **Manchester Dock**, 1308 Brander Street, on the south bank of the James River, was an entry port for Africans being brought into the Americas to be sold into slavery, and it is the site for **Reflective Celebration**, **4:00-11:00pm**, June 15. This year's theme is *Take Me to the Water*: Water is a cleansing element, a healing element, a traditional gathering place, and, historically, when looking to spirit for a way out, captured Africans proclaimed, "The Water brought us, and the Water can carry us home." This commemoration of *Juneteenth National Freedom Day* will feature a full palette of performers and speakers, who will present according to the theme.

Juneteenth 2013, A Freedom Celebration welcomes author and cultural historian, **Anthony T. Browder** who will present "**Django Decoded**" on June 14. In this pinpoint analysis of *Django Unchained*, Tony Browder draws on his extensive knowledge of media manipulation, graphic artistry and African history to uncover messages from the ancestors hidden within the film.

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Presented by

Elegba Folklore Society
Richmond's Cultural Ambassador
Embrace the Spirit!

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Mr. Browder is the founder and director of **IKG Cultural Resources** and has devoted 30 years researching ancient Kemetic (Egyptian) history, science, philosophy and culture. Mr. Browder's three decades of study have lead him to the conclusion that ancient Africans were the architects of civilization and developed the rudiments of what has become the scientific, religious, and philosophical backbone of mankind. It is from this framework that IKG has concentrated its research and disseminated its findings. He is the author of six publications (including the best sellers, *From the Browder File* and *Nile Valley Contributions to Civilization*) and the co-author of four publications, including two written with his now 30-year-old daughter, Atlantis Tye. His books and DVDs will be available onsite.

Spoken word icons, **The Last Poets** will also appear. With their politically charged raps, taut rhythms, and dedication to raising African American consciousness, **The Last Poets** almost single-handedly laid the groundwork for the emergence of hip-hop. The group arose out of the prison experiences of Jalal Mansur Nuriddin, a U.S. Army paratrooper who landed in jail when he refused service in Vietnam. He began to speak his written thoughts and later joined with Umar Ben Hassan and Abiodun Oyewole. On May 19, 1969, Malcolm X's birthday, they officially formed **The Last Poets** adopting the name from the work of South African Little Willie Copaseely, who declared the era to be the last age of poets before the complete takeover of guns. Their initial performances on the street corners of Harlem led to a discography of Top Ten albums of poetry about the state of society and black people within it. Some include *The Last Poets*, *This is Madness*, *Oh, My People*. Group leader, Oyewole travels the world lecturing on poetry & politics and also spends time teaching at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem. He says, "People need to see a focal point, a beacon, and we don't have no problem with shining."

Elegba Folklore Society's African dancers, drummers and singers will also appear in an interactive concert, *African Dance, Music & the Oral Tradition*. They have taught and performed at universities, schools, festivals, theatres, community centers and churches in a multi-state area and in Senegal, Switzerland and Cuba.

Exhibitors, complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will also be featured at on June 14. Admission is \$15 for one, \$25 for two, children under 12, free. [See tickets.](#)

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On June 15, at 4:00pm the libation ceremony and land blessing open day two of **Juneteenth 2013, A Freedom Celebration**. The stage will feature rousing spiritual renditions as spirituals not only express the souls of people, but they also coded The Underground Railroad. A panel discussion will reflect the theme, Take Me to the Water, engaging the audience in a dialogue about Water as an internal resource for healing. **Elegba Folklore Society's African dancers and drummers** provide an essential cultural context for the day. Day two will also offer **The Freedom Market** featuring food, information exhibits, art and imports along with **special engagement for children**.

Juneteenth 2013, A Freedom Celebration will culminate in the Annual Torch Lit Walk on the Trail of Enslaved Africans, about 8pm, led by **Elegba Folklore Society's** performers with African dance and music and staged interpretations happening at the Dock, at the Canal Walk's Turning Basin, the Henry Brown Memorial, the Reconciliation Statue, at the site of the infamous Lumpkin's Jail in Shockoe Bottom and at Richmond's African Burial Ground at 16th and Broad Streets.

Juneteenth 2013, A Freedom Celebration is a family event. It commemorates the Juneteenth holiday known as *Juneteenth National Freedom Day* by remembering the impact of the trade of enslaved Africans in Virginia, during the 246 years between 1619 and 1865 and its legacy. A constructive way to pay homage to enslaved Africans upon whose backbone Virginia was sustained, from the twelfth year following the English settlement, **Juneteenth 2013, A Freedom Celebration** re-examines the legacy of their contribution and their forfeiture. It provides a cultural framework for building bridges of understanding. **Admission is free.**

Janine Bell, President and Artistic Director of the **Elegba Folklore Society**, appreciates the cultural enrichment **Juneteenth, A Freedom Celebration** gives. She says, "This event is about acknowledgment. Africans who were brought to Richmond to live out their lives in bondage here and in other states have not been properly acknowledged. In one example, the multi-billion dollar, multi-national tobacco industry was built on their backs neither to their own benefit or the benefit of their descendents.

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Now Africa's children with the children of European slave owners can reclaim and understand hidden history. An enhanced level of understanding can bring needed clarity to our lives today."

Attendees may come as they are, and African attire is encouraged. Comfortable shoes and a bottle of water for the Walk are suggested. Free parking is available at the Manchester Dock and at Elegba Folklore Society's Cultural Center. **Shuttle buses will be available for attendees after the Walk and so that elders and those with disabilities can participate fully in the entire experience.**

For tickets or more information visit www.efsinc.org or contact the Elegba Folklore Society at 804/644-3900 or at story1@efsinc.org. Background about the holiday, program schedule and directions follow.

Juneteenth 2013, A Freedom Celebration is a part of Mayor Dwight C. Jones' and the City of Richmond's Freedom Fest. Freedom Fest recognizes the emancipation of enslaved Africans in Richmond as well as slices of cultural life today.

Juneteenth , A Freedom Celebration has been one of the international signature events of the United Nations' International Year for People of African Descent. An excerpt of the declaration says, "The international community has affirmed that the transatlantic slave trade was an appalling tragedy not only because of its barbarism but also because of its magnitude, organized nature and negation of the essential humanity of the victims.... Even today, Africans and people of African descent continue to suffer the consequences of these acts and should be fully integrated into social, economic and political life and at all levels of decision-making." More at: www.un.org. The City of Richmond, Richmond Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Facilities, James River Park System and Future of Richmond's Past sponsor **Juneteenth 2013, A Freedom Celebration** along with media partners, NBC12 and WUPV•CW Richmond and Bounce TV. Arts & Cultural Funding Consortium provides partial support.

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T H E H I S T O R Y O F
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Juneteenth is a freedom celebration that became a tradition when, on June 19, 1865, General Gordon Granger sailed into Galveston harbor and issued a proclamation that gave freedom to a quarter of a million blacks in Texas who were still in bondage 2 1/2 years after the Emancipation Proclamation that President Abraham Lincoln issued was enacted on January 1, 1863. The tradition is so firmly rooted in Texas that it was made a state holiday in 1980, and *Juneteenth* has come to be regarded as the earliest African American holiday.

The freedom message reached different parts of America on various dates between 1863 and 1865, such as January 1 in Virginia, but migrated black Texans continued the *Juneteenth* celebration as they moved to cities in the North and across the country. Today, this holiday is observed from California to New York.

Therefore, an instructive way of uniting these commemorations in a day of national importance is through *Juneteenth National Freedom Day*.

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DIRECTIONS

PINE CAMP ARTS CENTER • 4901 OLD BROOK RD, RVA 23227

From I-95 South: As you approach Richmond you will take exit 82 (Chamberlayne Ave./Rt. 301 South). Continue straight ahead, passing through three traffic lights. After the third light, Azalea Avenue, look for the City of Richmond welcome sign and the Pine Camp Art Center sign in the median. Turn left at the next corner, Watkins Street, and go 1 block to Old Brook Road. Cross over Old Brook Road, and enter the main gate, which will be directly in front of you. Go all the way back on the driveway to the building on the right.

From I-95 North: I-95 North to Exit 80 (Lakeside/Hermitage). As you exit, turn left onto Westbook Rd. go through two traffic lights that cross over Brook Rd./Rt.1 and Chamberlayne Ave./Rt. 301. After you cross Chamberlayne Ave., go one block to Old Brook Road (You will see Henderson Middle School slightly to your right), turn left. Go one block on Old Brook Road (You will see the Pine Camp Art Center sign.), and enter the main gate on the right. Go all the way back on the driveway to the building on the right.

From I-64 West: As you approach downtown Richmond, you will stay in the right lane and merge onto I-95 North. Take Exit 80 (Lakeside/Hermitage). Follow the directions given above.

From I-64 East: After you pass the exit for Staples Mill Road move to the left lane for the interchange to I-95 North (towards Washington D.C.). As soon as you come down the ramp onto I-95 North, look for Exit 80 (Lakeside/Hermitage). As you exit, turn left onto Westbook Rd. through two traffic lights (Brook Rd./Rt. 1 and Chamberlayne Ave./Rt. 301 North). After you cross Chamberlayne Ave., go 1 block to Old Brook Rd. (You will see Henderson Middle School slightly to your right.), and turn left. After 1 block North on Old Brook Road, you will see the grounds of Pine Camp on your right. Enter the main gate and go all the way back on the driveway. The building will be on your right.

MANCHESTER DOCK* • 1308 BRANDER ST, RVA 23224

From I-95 South: Exit at # 73, Maury Street. At the bottom of the ramp turn right. This is an industrial area. Continue just a few blocks up and over the big railroad tracks. Drive through the opening in the floodwall. When you come to the fork in the road, bear left. The road will curve and be intersected by a smaller railroad crossing. As you enter the parking area, bear left. Drive as far in this direction as you can and park.

From I-95 North: Exit at # 73, Maury Street. Follow the directions above.

From I-64 West: Once in Richmond, exit at I-95 South (at the 5th Street and I-95 exits). Exit at # 73, Maury Street. Follow the directions above.

From I-64 East: I-64 merges with I-95 South. Follow it and exit at # 73, Maury Street. Follow the directions above.

Local: Access Southside via the Manchester Bridge; turn left on Maury Street. From the 14th Street (Mayo) Bridge, turn left on E. 3rd Street, cross several blocks and turn left again on Maury Street. Follow the directions above.

* Aka Ancarrow's Boat Landing