

Juneteenth 2014

A Freedom Celebration

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JUNETEENTH 2014, A FREEDOM CELEBRATION TO BE PRESENTED

Richmond, Virginia • Richmond's Cultural Ambassador, Elegba Folklore Society will present *Juneteenth 2014, A Freedom Celebration* on June 19-22. This year the Society is collaborating with the Virginia Black Music Foundation and Baltimore's Ile Ise Ejiogbe Ifá Temple.

The Concert featuring **South African** vocalist, **Lira**, will happen on Thursday, June 19 in **The Speakeasy Lounge** at the Hippodrome Theater, 528 N. 2nd Street, **7:00-11:00pm**. The **Symposium** will be at **Pine Camp Arts Center**, 4901 Old Brook Road, **6:00-10:00pm**, Friday, June 20. **Dr. Umar Johnson** is the keynote speaker. 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 **In Reflection**, **4:00-11:00pm**, Saturday, June 21. On Sunday, June 22, the **Esu Festival** happens at **Richmond's African Burial Ground**, 16th & Broad Streets, **1:00-5:00p**. This year's theme is based on the Asante proverb, *Wood already touched by fire is not hard to set alight*. Cultural heritage is something that lives internally in everyone even if it is difficult to articulate in the darkness of social-cultural evolution. However, through the vitality of reconnection, darkness gives way to light. This commemoration of *Juneteenth National Freedom Day* will feature a full palette of performers and speakers, who will present according to the theme.

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

JUNETEENTH/222

Juneteenth 2014, A Freedom Celebration's The Concert welcomes Platinum-selling South African singer/model/actress **Lira** who brings what has been called her irresistible blend of R&B, Jazz and African styles. Her appearance on June 19 marks the release of her debut U.S. single "Feel Good" and her debut U.S. album release *Rise Again* on Shanachie Entertainment. Her style led *Essence Magazine* to name her as one of "Five Unique Artists To Change Music in 2012." Born in the midst of Apartheid, the stunning artist shares, "Music changed my world forever it was the companion and silent warrior that spoke for us when we were not able to." This program will be led by entrepreneur, Jarrard Anthony, and the Virginia Black Music Foundation.

Tickets for **The Concert** are \$20 for 1 and \$35 for 2. [See tickets.](#)

Dr. Umar Johnson keynotes **The Symposium** on June 20. He is a Doctor of Clinical Psychology and Certified School Psychologist who is considered an expert on the education and mental health of Afrikan and Afrikan American children. A descendant in family line and in purpose of abolitionist Frederick Douglass, Dr. Johnson is a diagnostician of special education issues. He is known most for his work in identifying mis-diagnosed learning disabled and ADHD students, and he is the author of Psycho-Academic Holocaust: The Special Education and ADHD Wars Against Black Boys, the first book for Black parents with specific strategies on how to address forced special education, mis-diagnosed ADHD & academic racism. With degrees in education and political science, Dr. Johnson's current focus is building The Frederick Douglass & Marcus Garvey RBG Leadership Academy for boys.

The Esu Festival begins during **The Symposium**, and **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, theaters, community centers and churches in a multi-state area and in Senegal, Switzerland and Cuba.

Exhibitors will also be featured on June 20, and complimentary hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Tickets for **The Symposium** are \$10 for 1 and \$17 for 2. [Ticket packages](#) for both **The Concert** and **The Symposium** are \$25 for 1 and \$50 for 2. [See tickets.](#)

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On June 21, at 4:00pm the libation ceremony and land blessing open day three of **Juneteenth 2014, A Freedom Celebration, In Reflection**, at **The Manchester Dock**. The stage will feature rousing spiritual renditions, as spirituals not only express the souls of people, but they also coded The Underground Railroad. A conversation with the audience will discuss the Asante proverbial thematic, *Wood already touched by fire is not hard to set alight*, and local favorites, **Lady E and the Blues Sensations** will perform this music of feeling and identity. **Elegba Folklore Society's African dancers and drummers** provide an essential cultural context for the day. This is **The Esu Festival's Market Day** featuring food, information exhibits, art and imports along with **special engagement for children**. Admission is free.

Juneteenth 2014, A Freedom Celebration's In Reflection 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 Devil's Half Acre (Lumpkin's Jail) in Shockoe Bottom and at Richmond's African Burial Ground at 16th and Broad Streets.

On Sunday, June 22, the **Esu Festival**, with ceremony and rituals for healing and ancestral veneration, will happen at **Richmond's African Burial Ground**, 1:00 – 5:00p.m. This program will be lead by the Ile Ise Ejiogbe Ifá Temple. Admission is free.

Juneteenth 2014, 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 2014, A Freedom Celebration** re-examines the legacy of their contribution and their forfeiture. It provides a cultural framework for building bridges of understanding.

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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 descendants. Now Africa's children with the children of European owners of the enslaved 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. **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, visit Elegba Folklore Society's Cultural Center, 101 E. Broad Street in the downtown RVA Arts District or contact the Elegba Folklore Society at 804/644-3900 or at story1@efsinc.org

Background about the holiday and directions follow.

Juneteenth, A Freedom Celebration was 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.

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The City of Richmond and Dominion along with Richmond Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Facilities, James River Park System, Virginia Black Music Foundation, JAPMEG and Ile Ise Ejiogbe Ifá Temple sponsor **Juneteenth 2014, A Freedom Celebration** along with media partners, NBC12, WUPV•CW Richmond, Bounce TV and WRIR 97.3. Arts & Cultural Funding Consortium provides partial support.

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T H E H I S T O R Y O F J U N E T E E N T H

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