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**R i c h m o n d , V i r g i n i a**

**Elegba Folklore Society, Inc.**

**Richmond's Cultural Ambassador**

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## Fact Sheet

**WHEN** Saturday, August 19 • 4p - 11p, Free.

**WHERE** Abner Clay Park, 200 E Clay St, Richmond, Virginia.

**WHO** A Family Festival Open to the Public.

**Presented by Elegba Folklore Society, Inc.**

**Richmond's Cultural Ambassador**

In Partnership With: City of Richmond, Dominion Energy, Wells Fargo, NBC12, BLKRVA, Richmond Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Facilities, United Nations' 2015 – 2024 International Decade for People of African Descent and State of the African Diaspora.

Additional Support: CultureWorks' Arts & Cultural Funding Consortium - Richmond, Henrico, Hanover

**WHAT** A Celebration of African American Folklife. **Returning for its Thirty-Second Year**, this Weekend Event **shares global African cultural influences** with An All-Star Line-Up of World Music, Entertainment and Material Culture Traditions.

**FEATURES** **On the Zeke Allison Main Stage:** Washington, DC Go-Go & “Sensual Crank” with, **Be’la Dona**, Reggae with **Tunji Band**, **Dikki Du & the Zydeco Krewe**, **Elegba Folklore Society’s African Dancers & Drummers** neo-soul with **Angelica Baylor** and Richmond favorite, **Lady E**, sings the blues.

**In the Park:** Interactive Folkloric Demonstrations, The Juanita Ragland Heritage Market, Delicious Down Home Food, Annie Tyler Children’s Place and the Waverly Crawley Community Row.

**ALERTS** Please scroll to page 6 for details about parking, shuttles, drop off and pick up locations.

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## **32nd Down Home Family Reunion/333**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **ELEGBA FOLKLORE SOCIETY PRESENTS 32nd DOWN HOME FAMILY REUNION, A CELEBRATION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN FOLK LIFE**

**RICHMOND, VA** • The *32nd Down Home Family Reunion* explores a full spectrum of music, dance, stories, food, shopping and enrichment in this weekend **Celebration of African American Folklife**. Elegba Folklore Society, Richmond's Cultural Ambassador, presents this cultural arts festival that takes attendees on a journey of heritage and folklore from West Africa into the Americas.

On **Saturday, August 19**, the *32nd Down Home Family Reunion* will happen, **4:00 - 11:00 p.m.**, downtown in **Historic Jackson Ward's Abner Clay Park, 200 W Clay Street**. Elegba Folklore Society invites Virginians and visitors back to this event designed to link West African and African American cultural traditions and to demonstrate ways these practices have influenced the American South.

The *32nd Down Home Family Reunion, A Celebration of African American Folklife* is presented by the Elegba Folklore Society, Inc., Richmond's Cultural Ambassador in partnership with the City of Richmond, Dominion Energy, Wells Fargo, Richmond Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Facilities, NBC12 and internationally, The State of the African Diaspora and United Nations' 2015 – 2024 International Decade for People of African Descent. Additional support is provided through the CultureWorks Arts & Cultural Funding Consortium - Richmond, Henrico, Hanover.

Attendees can be a part of **Bringing the World Home** in this Celebration of African American Folklife — a celebration of culture, a celebration of heritage, a celebration of the soul. The influences of Africans and African Americans on the fabric of America interweaves endless

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## **32nd Down Home Family Reunion/444**

impact that has shaped our world in the sciences, in design, in mathematics, in literature and all forms of the arts, in athletics, in foodways traditions, politics, social change, education and more. America would not recognize itself otherwise. In **Bringing the World Home** we see ourselves more clearly here and in a global community.

**Be'la Dona** headlines this year's event. An all-female band born in Washington, D.C., Be'la Dona is so unique in their musical presentation that they have branded their style as "Sensual Crank." Versatility is the group's main attribute, and they will present rock, R&B, gospel, pop, jazz, and, expectedly, some of DC's own go-go. These ladies are strong, talented, and beautiful. Named *Best Go-Go Group* by WAMA at least three times, Be'la Dona is more than a group; it's a movement.

Live and direct from Lawtell, Louisiana, Dikki Du (Troy Carrier) was born into Zydeco royalty: Father, the late, great Roy Carrier, brother Chubby and sister Elaine. Troy played the washboard for Roy Carrier on local gigs, then he joined forces with the great C.J. Chenier for two years. Troy's brother Chubby Carrier then started a family band and offered Troy a job playing the drums. Troy toured with his brother from the late 80's until the 90's, when he returned home to pick up the accordion. It has now been twelve years that **Dikki Du and the Zydeco Krewe** have been on the scene. This set will be preceded by a dance lesson. Put a hump in your back. Et toi?

Singer. Songwriter. Arranger. Vocal Consultant. Multi-talented vocalist **Angelica Baylor** is no stranger to the stage, studio or the entertainment industry here in the US or abroad. She has been singing all her life, and she toured with national recording artist, Ginuwine, in 2010 that started a 10-year relationship. Here, she shared the stage with The Isley Brothers, Faith Evans and The Jacksons among others. She will honor the Down Home Family Reunion with her own brand of neo-soul.

The year was 1981 when Babalade Olamina and Hermon "Blues" Maclin started the **Tunji Band**. Since then, the band has performed with Ziggy Marley, Third World, Burning Spear, Steel Pulse, Herbie Hancock, The Wailers, Gill Scott and an array of other great artists. The group's members are talented with diverse musical backgrounds. They play their original roots reggae compositions along with songs by Bob Marley, Steel Pulse, Third World, ASWAD, Gregory Isaacs, Peter Tosh and other reggae classics.

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## **32nd Down Home Family Reunion/555**

**Elegba Folklore Society's exciting and culturally enriching performance company** will appear with a colorful and interactive program of African dance, music and the oral tradition that celebrates the oneness of the African Diaspora. The company performs domestically and internationally. They will engage the festival's audience with relatable stories and traditions no matter their age or background. "In a way that perhaps you will expect or in a way that is totally spontaneous, your energy will blend beautifully with ours, closing the gap between performer and audience. Participants find themselves swept up in the oneness of movement and rhythm that links them with the global significance of this timeless art form," says the group's artistic director, Janine Yvette Bell. This year the djembe orchestra expands to include the kora.

**Elegba Folklore Society's performance company** is an annual festival favorite.

The **Zeke Allison Main Stage** opens up with Richmond-based blues vocalist **Lady E**, a fixture on the local music scene for a decade.

People **in the park** will revisit and participate in a variety of cultural traditions. As a highlight of the **32nd Down Home Family Reunion**, attendees will have the chance to participate in two **Interactive Folkloric Demonstrations**.

**Events for children and teens** are focused in the **Annie Tyler Children's Place**, where participants can showcase their performing talents and create a craft in recognition of the **32nd Down Home Family Reunion's** theme, **Bringing the World Home**. Plus, there will be games, contests, the bounce house and more.

A captivating **Juanita Ragland Heritage Market** will offer an assortment of art, hand-mades and imports for browsing and purchase. Community service providers will inform from the **Waverly Crawley Community Row**.

**Food** is a familiar way to continue the celebration of shared traditions, and it continues to be a centerpiece for the **Down Home Family Reunion**. This year's selections will include Southern style chicken, corn-fried fish, an assortment of down home vegetables, frozen fruits and mouth-watering desserts that are African-inspired and Southern favorites.

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## **32nd Down Home Family Reunion/6**

*Down Home Family Reunion* will place signage to lead attendees to convenient parking and satellite parking. Attendees are encouraged to visit [www.efsinc.org](http://www.efsinc.org) for parking updates and shuttle schedules. While the festival disallows attendees to bring coolers, animals and tents, there will be a drop off and pick up point in front of the park at 200 W Clay St, W Clay and Brook Road, for those who need it.

### **32ND DOWN HOME FAMILY REUNION EVENT SCHEDULE**

#### ***Zeke Allison Main Stage***

- 4:15 Lady E**  
Blues
- 5:15 Tunji Band**  
Reggae
- 6:15 Dikki Du & the Zydeco Krewe**  
Louisiana Zydeco
- 7:30 Angelica Baylor**  
Neo Soul
- 8:45 Elegba Folklore Society**  
African Dance & Music
- 9:45 Be'la Dona**  
Go-Go
- 11:00 Event Closes**

The **Juanita Ragland Heritage Market, Waverly Crawley Community Row** and **Interactive Folkloric Demonstrations** are ongoing from **4:00p - 11:00p** The **Annie Tyler Children's Place** is open from **4:00p - 8:00p**

The Elegba Folklore Society is a widely recognized, not-for-profit organization that offers services in cultural arts programming and education. In addition to planning special events, services include organizing exhibitions of visual art and material culture, presenting performance and teaching programs in dance theatre and music and guiding cultural history tours. This group created the **Down Home Family Reunion** and has produced it annually (minus 2020) since its inception.

## **32nd Down Home Family Reunion/777**

*Elegba* -- eh LEHG bah -- is the name given to the Orisa --ohr• REE• shah-- (an intercessor or aspect of nature) who, in the Yoruba --YOUR• ruh• bah tradition of West Africa, is the gatekeeper. He opens the roads to bring clarity out of confusion. Through its various services, the Elegba Folklore Society hopes to provide road-opening experiences for its audiences. Janine Yvette Bell is the society's founder and artistic director.

***The Elegba Folklore Society is Richmond's Cultural Ambassador  
Embrace the spirit!***

For more information, the public can call the Elegba Folklore Society at 804/644-3900, email [story1@efsinc.org](mailto:story1@efsinc.org), log on to [www.efsinc.org](http://www.efsinc.org) and find Elegba Folklore Society on Facebook or Instagram (@efsinc).

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