

JOIN ELEGBA FOLKLORE SOCIETY

It's The 35th

DOWN HOME FAMILY REUNION

A Celebration of African American Folklife

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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

101 E. Broad St, Richmond, Virginia 23219

804/644-3900 • story1@efsinc.org

www.efsinc.org

Festival Details

Details: Janine Bell
804/644.3900
jaybee@efsinc.org

Fact Sheet

WHEN

Saturday, August 15 • 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, Commonwealth of Virginia, Walking Together/Investing in Folklife in Communities of Color, BLK RVA, Richmond Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Facilities, 12 About Town, The CW Richmond, 106.5 The Beat, and Hampton Inn & Suites

WHAT

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

FEATURES

On the Zeke Allison Main Stage: Go-Go Legends **EU (Experience Unlimited)**, Louisiana Zydeco with **Dikki Du & the Zydeco Krewe**, **Tunji Reggae Band**, **Lady E & the Blues Synsations**, **Elegba Folklore Society's** African dancers and drummers, and classic soul with **Bak N Da Day**.

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 do's and don'ts, parking, shuttles, drop off and pick up locations.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ELEGBA FOLKLORE SOCIETY PRESENTS 35th DOWN HOME FAMILY REUNION, A CELEBRATION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN FOLK LIFE

RICHMOND, VA • The *35th 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 15**, the *35th 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 *34th 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, Commonwealth of Virginia, Walking Together/Investing in Folklore in Communities of Color, Richmond Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Facilities, BLK RVA, 12 About Town, The CW Richmond, 106.5 The Beat and Hampton Inn & Suites.

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35th Down Home Family Reunion/444

Attendees can be a part of a **Legacy Event** 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 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. The **Down Home Family Reunion** is a **Legacy Event** where we see ourselves more clearly here and in a global community.

EU headlines the **35th Down Home Family Reunion**. As the music industry and fans alike are celebrating 50 years of Go-Go, **Experience Unlimited**, or **EU**, stands among the originators of Washington, DC's special brand of funk. Fronted by bassist and vocalist, Gregory "Sugar Bear" Elliott, Grammy nominated and chart-topping hits include *Da Butt*, *Buck Wild* and *Taste of Your Love*. In this Golden Year, attendees can experience Go-Go Royalty, with **Experience Unlimited, EU**.

Elegba Folklore Society welcomes **Tunji Reggae Band** to the Zeke Allison Main Stage. Founded in 1981 by Babalade Olamina and Hermon "Blues" Maclin, **The Tunji Band** was created with a vision of bringing uplifting messages and culture to the people through reggae music. Over the years, Tunji has shared the stage with Ziggy Marley, Third World, Burning Spear, Steel Pulse, and The Wailers. Blues Maclin, Elektra Records recording artist also known as *The Boogie Doctor*, has stayed on to lead the band

Elegba Folklore Society's performing 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 award-winning company performs domestically and internationally. This special performance will include a "mash up" featuring jazz saxophonist, **James "Saxsmo" Gates** and bassist, **Muzi Branch**. "In a way that perhaps you will expect or in away 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. **Elegba Folklore Society's performance company** is an annual festival favorite.

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35th Down Home Family Reunion/555

[Dikki Du & the Zydeco Krewe](#) come to the **Down Home Family Reunion** live and direct from Lawtell, Louisiana, Dikki Du (Troy Carrier) was born into Zydeco royalty: father, the late Roy Carrier, and Louisiana Music Hall of Famer, 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?

[Bak N Da Day](#) invites audiences to take a trip down memory lane to enjoy its renditions of Doo-Wop, Motown and Philly Soul hits from the '50's, '60's and '70's. A quintet where all have the artistry of a lead singer, **Bak N Da Day** presents its mastery of vocal group harmony, sharp dress and slick routines.

The **Zeke Allison Main Stage** opens up with blues singer [Lady E & the Blues Synsations](#), a solid fixture on the local music scene.

People **in the park** will revisit and participate in a variety of cultural traditions. As a highlight of the **35th Down Home Family Reunion**, attendees will have the chance to participate in three [Interactive Folkloric Demonstrations](#), in this **Legacy Event**, that explore both textile and musical cultural traditions. Attendees can visit **Our Community Story Quilt**, celebrating African American quilt making as art, heritage, memory, and storytelling. Festival attendees can participate in a hands-on workshop celebrating and honoring quilters and preserving community stories with artist and folklorist, [Martha Jones-Carter](#). Instrument maker and folklorist, [Samaria Marley](#) will present **Black Banjo Folkways**, exploring the African roots of the banjo and its evolving presence in America. Visual Artist and percussionist **Orisegun Olomidun** will lead attendees to create mini drums from a calabash in **Make A Calabash Drum**.

Events for children and teens are focused in the [Annie Tyler Children's Place](#), where participants can create crafts in recognition of the **35th Down Home Family Reunion's** theme, **A Legacy Event**. Plus, there will be games, contests and more.

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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 **35th Down Home Family Reunion, A Celebration of African American Folklife**. Visit the **Juanita Ragland Heritage Market** to sample entrées and mouth-watering desserts that are African-inspired or Southern favorites.

ATTENTION

35th Down Home Family Reunion will place signage to lead attendees to convenient satellite parking. Attendees should not park on residential streets where time-based ticketing and towing is enforced. Attendees are encouraged to visit www.efsinc.org for parking updates and shuttle schedules. While the festival disallows attendees to bring coolers or animals, there will be two tent villages for personal pop-ups and 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.

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35TH DOWN HOME FAMILY REUNION EVENT SCHEDULE

Zeke Allison Main Stage

- 4:15 Lady E & the Blues Synsations**
Blues
- 5:15 Bak N Da Day**
Classic Soul
- 6:30 Dikki Du & the Zydeco Krewe**
Louisiana Zydeco
- 7:45 Elegba Folklore Society**
The Dance & Music of the Manding of West Africa
- 8:45 Tunji Reggae Band**
Roots Reggae
- 9:45 EU/Experience Unlimited**
Go-Go Legends
- 11:00 Event Closes**

Annie Tyler Children's Place • Open from 4:00p - 8:00p

Juanita Ragland Heritage Market • Ongoing from 4:00p - 11:00p

Waverly Crawley Community Row • Ongoing from 4:00p - 8:00p

Interactive Folkloric Demonstrations • Ongoing from 4:00p - 8:00p

Festival presenter, [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, A Celebration of African American Folklife*** in 1990 and has produced it annually (minus Covid 2020) since its inception.

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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 a gatekeeper. *Elegba* is a way maker that opens the roads. *Elegba* guards the crossroads 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.

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, log on to www.efsinc.org and find *Elegba* Folklore Society on Facebook or Instagram (@efsinc).

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