



14th Hilton Head Island Gullah Celebration

A Native Island Business & Community Affairs, Inc. Event

PO Box 23452

Hilton Head Island, South Carolina 29925

News Release

Contact: Theresa "Tracy" Brown

843.689.9314

JONATHAN GREEN, Gullah Artist,

Kicks-off of the 14th Annual Hilton Island Gullah Celebration.

The Marsh Tacky Run Concludes this Spectacular Month-Long Event

Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, January 2010—February 2010 will mark the Fourteenth year of the Annual Hilton Head Island Gullah Celebration. Held throughout the month of February and recognized as a *Top 20 Event* by the Southeast Tourism Society, the Gullah Celebration will welcome more than 20,000 tourists and natives to cultural events that honor and preserve the traditions of Hilton Head Island's native Gullah population and their descendants. This year, events are concentrated over the four weekends in February 2010 with the most popular event being the Arts, Crafts and Food Expo, which will be held on President's day weekend. Events are held at Hilton Head Island's premier indoor and outdoor venues, and at the Island's historically black churches. Ticket prices range from \$0 - \$30.

The 14th Annual Hilton Head Island Gullah Celebration is sponsored by The Town of Hilton Head Island, Beaufort County, *The Island Packet*, Coastal States Bank, Kinghorn Insurance Services, Inc., Cumulus Radio, Coca Cola Bottling Company, Wal★Mart Palmetto Electric, Hilton Head Regional Medical Center, C&J Lawn Maintenance, The Gullah Heritage Trail Tour, the Baygall, Chaplin, Stoney & Spanish Wells Property Associations, and a host of local businesses, and individual donor members in *Celebration Circle*.

"We are very pleased with the line up of events we are presenting this year and look forward to sharing the Gullah experience and story with all who come to our great Island," said James Mitchell.

Events include*:

14th Annual Hilton Head Gullah Celebration

Date

Schedule

Monday
February 1

KICK OFF: 2010 Hilton Head Island Gullah Celebration Reception & Opening of the Art Gallery, "DE ARTS OB WE PEOPLE XIII".

5-7 p.m. Donation - \$10

Walter Greer Gallery/Arts Center of Coastal Carolina, 14 Shelter Cove Lane

This month long art exhibit kicks off the Gullah Celebration with a grand opening reception featuring an appearance by Gullah Artist, Jonathan Green. A live auction and a diverse display of original paintings, woodcarvings, burnt woodcraft, sweet grass baskets and sculpture by contemporary and emerging artist from the low country will also boast this event.

**Regular Month-long Gallery Hours:
Monday-Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Free)**

- Saturday
February 6** **National Freedom Day / The Gullah Breakfast**
Established in 1948 by President Truman in remembrance of February 1, 1865 - the day President Lincoln signed the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which outlawed slavery. Two special events will mark this historic occasion - the authentic Gullah Breakfast, and a fitness/walk run with free health screening:
- **8 – 10 a.m. De Island Fitness- 5K Walk/Run & Free Health Screening.**
Registration: \$20. Free T-Shirt
 - **9-11 a.m. [OP' FASHION GULLAH BREAKFAST.](#)**
"Good home cooked food as the Gullahs do it". Prepared by Native Islanders this breakfast will feature stewed oysters, shrimp and grits, fried fish, homemade biscuits and beverages.
- Both events will be held at the Historic
St. James Baptist Church, (est. 1886)
208 Dillon Road. \$10 (each meal)**
- Wednesday
February 10** **Gullah Genealogy, John Griffin, Researcher/Lecturer**
1:00 p.m. Admission: Donation Accepted
Overview and discussion of on-going African American Research at the Heritage Library. Native Island records including the Aiken-Singleton family and "Maybelle, the girl next door", the United States Colored Troops, Land and Plantation records, Mapping projects and Historical Cemeteries.
Heritage Library Foundation History and Research Center
852 William Hilton Parkway, Suite 2A
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928
Reservation Required: 843- 686-6560
- Friday
February 12** **Traditional Gospel Praise and Shout**
7:30 p.m. Free Will Offering
Central Oak Grove Baptist Church
161 Mathews Drive
This event celebrates and honors the spiritual thread that binds the African ancestors and the Gullahs of today through traditional popular and historical homegrown gospel music as well as traditional songs and chants.
- Saturday
February 13** **Arts, Crafts & Food Expo.**
11a.m.-5:00 pm; Admission: \$5 Adults/\$3 Children (5 – 12) **FREE Children 4 and under. Historic Coastal Discovery Museum at Honey Horn, 70 Honey Horn Drive **Rain Venue:** Hilton Head Int'l Baccalaureate Elementary School, 30 School Rd.**
The two-day Arts, Crafts and Food Expo offers cultural demonstrations, i.e., sweet grass basket weaving, indigo dyeing and fishnet weaving, authentic Gullah and African crafts, as well as an offering of traditional Gullah foods and musical entertainment. There are also more than 50 vendors on hand selling authentic Gullah crafts and food, activities for children and staged performances every half hour. An awesome Gullah experience and a great family event.
- Sunday
February 14** **Arts, Crafts & Food Expo Continues.**
Noon – 5 p.m. Admission: \$5 Adults/\$3 Children (5 – 12) **FREE Children 4 and under. Historic Coastal Discovery Museum at Honey Horn, 70 Honey Horn Drive**
- Monday
February 15** **Gullah Film Series. Hosted by Native Islander and Gullah Historian-Lecturer, Dr. Emory Campbell.**
Coligny Theater, Coligny Plaza
Doors Open at 6:30 p.m.
Showtime: 7 p.m./Donation: \$5
1 N Forest Beach Dr.
Film: "Congressman Robert Smalls" A Patriot's Journey from Slavery to Capitol Hill A documentary about the life of Robert Smalls, whose courageous journey from enslavement to election, helped shape American democracy into what it is today. Elected one of the first ever African American Congressmen in 1875, Smalls fought tirelessly for civil rights during his five terms in office, and paved the way for current African American politician.
- Saturday
February 20** **TASTE OF GULLAH**
Noon – 4pm,
Arts Center of Coastal Carolina,
14 Shelter Cove Lane
This Gullah Feast features authentic Gullah dishes such as gumbo and conch stews, as well as classic barbecue ribs, fried fish and chicken and more. Noon entertainment will feature live performances by The Voices of ElShaddai and the Ayoluwa African Theater, Inc.

- Sunday
February 21** **De Gullah Youth Musical.**
7 p.m. Admission: \$10 Adults, \$5 (with student ID), Free 4 & Under
Visual & Performing Arts Center, Hilton Head High School,
70 Wilborn Road.
“Mitchelville” a play depicting the lifestyle of the Gullah people around the turn of the 20th Century. Youngsters from the Native Island Community will express this story through music, singing, dialogue, dancing and acting. This story will truly warm your heart.
- Monday
February 22** **Gullah Film Series. Hosted by Native Islander and Gullah Historian-Lecturer, Dr. Emory Campbell.**
Coligny Theater, Coligny Plaza
Doors Open at 6:30 p.m.
Showtime: 7 p.m./Donation: \$5
1 N Forest Beach Dr.
Film: “Bin Yah: There’s No Place Like Home” is a documentary presented by The ChasDOC Film Society that explores the potential loss of important historic African American communities... due to growth and development. **Bin Yah** will attempt to preserve – at least on film – the memories of the special places that may be lost forever as the struggle between the real “bin yahs” and the “come yahs” escalates.
- Friday
February 26** **Gospel Extravaganza**
7:00 pm. Admission: \$25 Advance; \$30 at Door
Visual & Performing Arts Center, Hilton Head High School
70 Wilborn Road.
Featuring: World Renowned Lee Williams & the Spiritual QCs in an encore engagement presenting an evening of popular and traditional gospel music.
- Saturday
February 27** **Discovery Museum Exhibit; “Animals of the Low Country”.**
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Sponsored by Historic Coastal Discovery Museum at Honey Horn
70 Honey Horn Drive
Exhibiting animals of the Low Country that were indigenous to the area during the era of the Gullahs.
- Sunday
February 28** **Marsh Tacky Run**
11a.m. – 3 p.m. Donation Accepted
Mitchelville Park/Beach. 120 Mitchelville Road.
The event showcases the Marsh Tacky Horses which played an integral part of the survival of the Gullah people on Hilton Head Island. They were the workhorses and were used for plowing and cultivating the fields, transportation and sports. At Christmas time, the Gullah men would have a horse race to determine who had bragging rights for the best horse on the Island. It is with this spirit, that we have reinstated the Marsh Tacky Run and Exhibition Event. (Order Your: 2010 Hilton Head Island Gullah Celebration Poster by renown artist, Jonathan Green Poster, Marsh Tacky Run Poster & the Marsh Tacky Run T-Shirt, Today).