27th Annual Penn Center Heritage Days Celebration

“The Legacy of the Sea Islands”

Come join us for a down-home celebration showcasing the history of Penn School and the rich cultural legacy of the Gullah people of the Sea Islands. For the 27th year, Penn will host the Heritage Days Celebration to showcase Gullah culture featuring entertainers, such as The Darien County Gullah Shouters, Lady’s Island Gospel Choir and Aunt Pearlie Sue and the Gullah Kinfolk. Witness the Africanisms of basketry, storytelling, net-making, hair braiding, and bateau making that are part of a cultural legacy rooted in West Africa.

Designated a National Historic Landmark District since 1974, Penn School was the first school in the South for formerly enslaved Africans, and came to be an international model for rural education. Today, Penn is one of the premier centers for the study of Gullah culture and remains at the heart of a community of history and achievement since 1862.

Penn Center’s mission is to promote and preserve Sea Island history and culture. The 27th Annual Penn Center Heritage Days Celebration will feature an Old Fashion Prayer Service, an art exhibition, traditional Gullah cuisine, a cultural symposium, community education seminars, a fish fry, oyster roast, blues performance, and an Old Fashion Craft Fair. See inside for more details on a fun-filled Gullah experience enriched by the historical significance of Penn Center.

NEW !!
SATURDAY ADMISSION
$5—Adults
(Youth up to 16-FREE)
Thursday, November 12th

**Penn School Founders Memorial Service**
Honoring Laura Towne, Ellen Murray & Charlotte Forten
3:00 PM—4:00 PM
Brick Baptist Church Cemetery

27th Annual Heritage Days Celebration
Opening Ceremony
Flags of the Gullah People
Processional & Presentation
4:00 PM—5:30 PM
Center Stage

**“African American Artists of the Lowcountry”**
York W. Bailey Museum
Gallery Talk & Reception
5:30 PM—7:00 PM
(Open to the public)

**Old Fashion Prayer Service**
7:30 PM—9:00 PM
Bethesda Christian Fellowship
Brick Baptist Church
Ebenezer Baptist Church

Friday, November 13th

Heritage Symposium & Luncheon
“Preserving the Gullah Geechee Heritage”
10:00 AM—1:00 PM
1:00 PM—Lunch Served
The Heritage Symposium will feature a panel of
HBCU Presidents and Commissioners of the
Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor
Adults $25/Students $15
St. Helena Elementary School Auditorium

**“Kids Day” Educational Exhibit**
“Growing the Dream”
Learn about Dr. Martin L. King, Jr.
and visit a life-size replica of his Atlanta home.
(Sponsored by the Nat. Black Arts Festival)
9:30-3:00 PM—Darrah Hall
Center Stage Entertainment
10:00 AM—3:00 Noon
Storytellers, Dancers, Poets, Musicians,
African Drummers, Step Teams, School Choirs
All Outdoor Campus Events / Ticket: $4

**Gullah Roots Village & De Rice Shack**
“Nyam em op” (Gullah for “Let’s eat”)
12:00 Noon—4:00 PM
Visit Penn Center Dining Hall (East)

**Fish Fry, Oyster Roast, Crab Crack & Blues**
6:00 PM—Midnight
Penn Center Grounds
$5—$15

Saturday, November 14th

27th Annual Heritage Days Parade
(Visitors should be in place by 8:00 am)
9:00 AM—10:30 AM
Sea Island Parkway to M.L. King Drive

Old Fashion Craft Fair
9:00 AM—5:00 PM
Crafts, exhibits, food, and merchandise vendors

FESTIVAL TICKETS: $5-Adults; Youth-Free
(up to 16 years old) - Buy tickets at entrance

Center Stage Entertainment
11:00 AM—5:00 PM
Gullah Storytellers, Singers, Aunt Pearlie Sue, African
Drummers & Dancers, Gospel Singers
Penn Center Grounds

**Gullah Roots Village & De Rice Shack**
Demonstrations of the West African/ Gullah
cultural connection, including bateau making
Penn Center Grounds

1:00 p.m.
Special presentation and reception
National HBCU Art Exhibition
Frissell Community House

**Motown Hit Parade Dance**
Frankie “The Big Bopper”
$15 Per Person / $25 Couples
Location: St. Helena Elem. School Gymnasium

Sunday, November 15th

Sunday Morning Worship Service
11:00 AM—1:00 PM
Local Churches
( Brick Baptist—10:00 a.m.,
all other churches 11:00 a.m.)

Heritage Days Performers

Thursday-Saturday

Ongoing Activities
Visit the York W. Bailey Museum and see the exhibit on the Port Royal Experiment and enjoy daily Gullah film series. The museum interprets the history of Penn School and the cultural legacy of the Gullah People. Special Heritage Days admission fees.

Tour the Gullah communities of:
St. Helena Is./Gullah Mahn Tours—(843) 838-7516
Hilton Head Is./Gullah Heritage Tours(843) 681-7066
Or email: tourinfo@gullaheritage.com