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THE CONTRABANDS AND FREEDMEN CEMETERY MEMORIAL
DEDICATION PLANNING COMMITTEE



Cordially Invites You to
The Journey to Be Free:
Our Homecoming Celebration

An Evening to Reconnect, Celebrate and Honor
the Descendants of Families Memorialized
at the Freedmen's Cemetery

Thursday, September 4, 2014

Pre-banquet Descendants' Meet-and-Greet ~ 4:30 p.m.
Family Photos
Self-Guided Tour of the Hall of Fame
Banquet ~ 6 p.m.

The Bulldog Ballroom
Charles Houston Recreation Center
901 Wythe Street ~ Alexandria, Virginia

The Journey to Be Free: Our Homecoming Celebration

Thursday, September 4, 2014

Event Information

Attire

Semi-formal (please, no jeans)

Cost and Advance Reservations

Early Bird discounted rate of \$60 per person, ages 13 and older, before August 15;

Payment may be made by credit card, cash or check (as indicated on the Banquet Reservation Form.), either in full or on the following payment plan , available to Descendant Family members ONLY:

Deposit of \$30 per person due July 15, 2014 will hold the reservation until August 15, 2014. Balance must be received by August 15, 2014.

Tickets purchased after August 15 will be priced at \$75 per person.

Children

Childcare for children ages 3 to 12 of Descendants attending the Banquet is \$16 per child. This will include a meal. Check-in begins at 5:30p.m .at Charles Houston Recreation Center. Reservations and payments are required in advance. The payment plan follows the adult schedule; \$8 per child by July 15, 2014, and balance by August 15, 2014. There is no discount for multiple children.

Seating Option

We will make every effort to seat family groups together. At the time that your reservation is made, please designate the family group with which you wish to be seated.

Who is invited to the Banquet?

Reservations will be offered first to the Descendants' families until August 1 2014. After August 1, 2014, any remaining seats will also be open to the public until the event sells out.

Banquet Location:

The banquet will be held at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, former site of the Parker-Gray School, that for many holds very fond memories. It has been selected for its historical importance to this community in hopes that it will be received as an ideal location for a Homecoming Celebration. For this special evening, the Johnson-Siebert Gymnasium will be transformed into The Bulldog Ballroom (representing the Parker-Gray mascot on the wall), and it will be simply awesome! A recently installed "Hall of Fame" permanent exhibit, documenting significant African Americans in Alexandria's history, will also be on view throughout the building.

Will there be a formal program?

Yes. The program is being planned to recognize and honor the legacy of families that are in attendance, to celebrate their collective journey, and to be a festive community gathering.

Parking

There will be reserved parking designated for this event on the streets that border the Center. Limited street parking in the surrounding community will also be available. Off site parking with shuttle service is also being planned. More details are forthcoming.

Photo Opportunities

A designated area will be available for families to take group photos to commemorate this special occasion. Plans are being made to offer professional photos. More details are forthcoming.

Menu

A special "home-cooked" menu of traditional favorites has been planned for this evening. Anyone with dietary restrictions should advise of the restrictions at the time that the reservation is made. Vegetarian options will also be available if requested at the time that the reservation is made.

For More Information

Please contact the Office of Historic Alexandria at 703.746.4717, or email: descendants@alexandriava.gov.