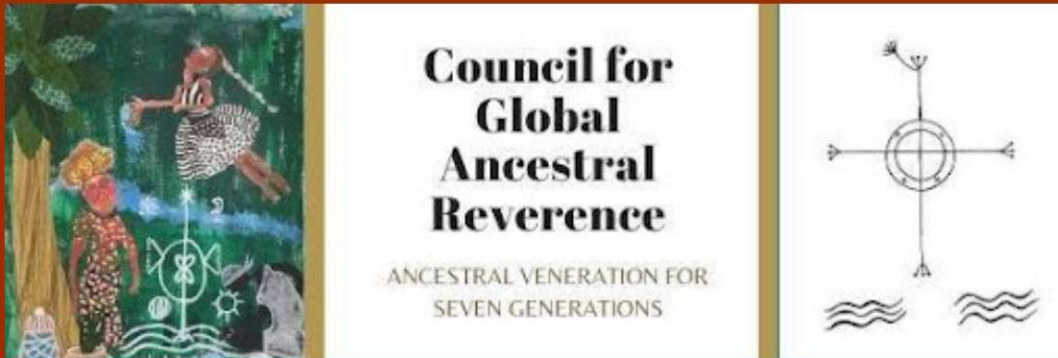


ANCESTRAL SOULS RISING

OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 8, 2023



ARTWORK BY NEDRA T. WILLIAMS

BREATH. POWER. PRAYER.

THE CURRENT TIMES...

We live in the time of a major pandemic that has impacted the lives of African and African descendants around the world. As we engage with death, transition and elevation in the age of COVID-19 we become aware of the absence of many of our acts of closure and mourning.

Our ancient, sacred actions and activities, like the communal building of altars, calling the names of the departed, drumming, ceremonial procession, group singing and chanting, wailing and "falling out," group memorial celebrations like Second Line and laughter-filled, life-remembering repasts cannot be carried out.

In the African Diaspora, there are many rich traditions that elevate and venerate the spirits of our ancestors. One of the most important of these traditions is the gathering of those who are powerful to speak in unison to call the ancestors, to witness their lives well lived. In doing this we acknowledge to them and others that we remember them, we call their names, we speak of them in the community and keep them forever in our hearts.



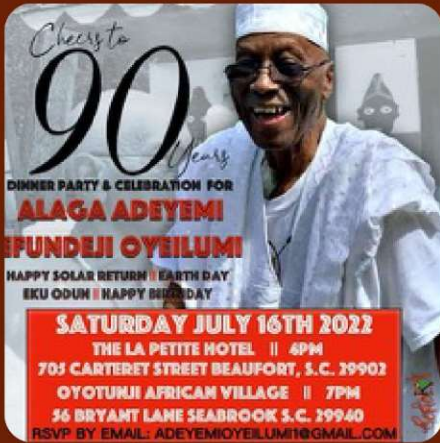
MLK, Jr. School, Children's Village, Cali, Colombia, SA



Crypt of Oyotunji village HRH Osejiman I



EGUNGUN cover (Oyotunji village photo)



CO-FOUNDER OF THE NEW YORK CITY
AFRICAN AMERICAN PARADE

GRAVE STONES, BRICK BAPTIST CHURCH
ST. HELENA'S ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA



DANIELS SIBLINGS, MOBILE, ALABAMA
ANCESTRAL GATHERING



"WE ARE OUR ANCESTORS, WE CARRY THEM IN OUR BODIES."

Our elders have, for many generations, known the power of prayer, ritual and breath. We are calling upon that ancient wisdom at this time of crisis in our community as we are denied breath - "I can't breathe", in our lives and families. We will use our wisdom, our breath, the most sacred thing we have for survival, and our prayers to send energy into the world that invokes and honors our ancestors. Doing this creates a vibration that protects us, and employs their ancient wisdom for the well-being of our communities.

African people often speak of the soul as being multilayered. The Elder priests of Oyotunji Village in South Carolina have studied the beliefs of the entire diaspora and composed a view of the nine layers of the soul.

This analysis provides insight into how we can identify and heal the trauma visited upon African people throughout the Diaspora.

The women and men of the Egungun Societies have taken sacred oaths to oversee these rituals of caring for the ancestors who protect the living. Members of these societies have come together to create a global event that honors the sacred rituals of elevation. This is known as the "Nine Day Elevation of the Souls" ritual. The ritual will include explanations of the nine layers of the soul.

Each day an elder will share with participants actions that can be done for your beloveds. Elders from cultural traditions around the globe will pray together each day for nine days. Registered participants will receive information about the rituals and activities presented during the nine days.



HONORING THE POWER OF THE SISTERS OF BOA MORTE
CACHOEIRA, BAHIA, BRAZIL

SACRED BODIES RITUAL OFFERINGS



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THE 2023 COUNCIL



IYABEJI DR. CATHY ROYAL

BIO:

IYABEJI DR. CATHY ROYAL IS A DAUGHTER OF YEMANJA AND HAS RIGHTS TO THE RITUALS OF THE ANCESTRAL SOCIETIES, WORKING TO BRING THE SPIRIT OF THE ANCESTORS TO THE GLOBAL AFRICAN VILLAGE. SHE IS THE AUTHOR OF SEVERAL BOOKS AND WRITES UNDER THE NAME ODULUNA, "DANCING STORYTELLER".

YEYE LUISAH TEISH

BIO:

LUISAH TEISH IS A STORYTELLER, WRITER, AN ARTIST-ACTIVIST, AND SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR. SHE IS AN INITIATED ELDER (IYANIFA) IN THE IFA/ORISHA TRADITION OF THE WEST AFRICAN DIASPORA AND IS THE AUTHOR OF "JAMBALAYA: THE NATURAL WOMAN'S BOOK OF PERSONAL CHARMS AND PRACTICAL RITUALS".



OHEN IMENE, NEDRA WILLIAMS

BIO:

OHEN IMENE (THE DOCTOR), IYA NEDRA WILLIAMS, IS AN OLOKUN PRIESTESS, HEALER AND VISUAL ARTIST FROM OAKLAND, CA. SHE WAS INITIATED IN BENIN CITY, NIGERIA AND WAS GIVEN HER CHIEFTAINCY TITLE IN 2005. SHE IS A MEMBER OF THE EGUNGUN SOCIETY AND PERFORMS ANCESTOR RITUALS THROUGHOUT THE BAY AREA.





IYA WANDA RAVERNELL-STEWART

BIO:

A FORMER JOURNALIST, WANDA RAVERNELL-STEWART IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF OAKLAND'S OMNIRA INSTITUTE, WHICH ADDRESSES SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS UTILIZING AFRICAN SPIRITUAL PRACTICES. SHE WAS INITIATED TO THE MYSTERIES OF OYA IN 1985.

IYA OSUNKEMI ELIZABETH COLEMAN

BIO:

ÌYÁ ÒŞUNKEMI (ELIZABETH COLEMAN) IS A CULTURAL ARTS EDUCATOR BRINGING AFRICAN AND AFRICAN DIASPORA MUSIC, DANCE, AND THEATER TO CHILDREN AND ADULTS. ÌYÁ ÒŞUNKEMI IS ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE YORÙBÁ SPIRITUAL HOUSE ILÉ ÀŞE ŞÀNGÓ EWÉLÈRÈ AND CO-FOUNDER OF ÌYÁ MỌ̀Ọ̀PÓ WORKSHOP, A SPACE AND FORUM FOR CULTURAL EDUCATION AND ACTION THROUGH ART, MUSIC, WORDS, AND OTHER PRACTICAL MEANS. SHE CURRENTLY LIVES IN SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.



IYA SANGOYEMI-OSUNDIWURA BARBARA EATON

BIO:

ÌYÁ ŞÀNGÓYEMÍ-ÒŞUNDIWÚRÀ (BARBARA EATON) IS AN ONÍŞÀNGÓ AND LEADER OF ILÉ ÀŞE ŞÀNGÓEWÉLÈRÈ, A YORÙBÁ SPIRITUAL HOUSE IN THE ÌŞÈ ŞE TRADITION. SHE IS THE CO-FOUNDER OF ÌYÁ MỌ̀Ọ̀PÓ WORKSHOP AND CO-DIRECTOR OF THE MULTIMEDIA DOCUMENTARY PROJECT "EGÚNGÚN: THE ART OF LIVING." ÌYÁ 'YEMÍ IS AN ARTIST-RESEARCHER WHO EVOKES ANCESTRAL MEMORY BY BUILDING HEALING GARDENS IN SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.



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NIKITIA MAUL