

STORROWTON VILLAGE
Museum
EASTERN STATES
Exposition

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – West Springfield, MA

**Storowton Village Museum Introduces
Summer Solstice Celebration, June 19**

Storowton Village Museum's new Summer Solstice Celebration will feature a variety of activities including a virtual and in person Juneteenth Speaker Series, Blacksmith Collective, and Garden Party as well as tours throughout the museum. The full event takes place Saturday, June 19 from 10am – 4pm. Tickets, when purchased online at StorowtonVillage.com by June 18, are \$12 per person and under 6 free, or \$15 in person on the day of the event.

Juneteenth Speaker Series

In the Storowton Meetinghouse lower level

Storowton Village Museum recognizes the historic impact of Juneteenth, a holiday celebrated on June 19 to commemorate the emancipation of enslaved people in the U.S., with a lecture and panel discussion featuring speakers notable in fields of history, education, and cultural anthropology. Juneteenth was first celebrated in Texas in 1980 and is recognized today as a state holiday in 47 states. On June 19, 1865 the last group of slaves was notified of the terms of 1862 Emancipation Proclamation.

- **11am – Lecture:** The Significance of Juneteenth in History and Present -- by J. Anthony Guillory, Ph.D. who teaches American History, African American History and African American Literature at Springfield Technical Community College (STCC). Guillory's first dissertation project explores the development of physical culture initiatives within African American communal spaces along the East Coast between 1900 and 1920. He currently resides in Dallas, Texas, after six years in Massachusetts and continues as an adjunct professor of English and History while earning a second doctoral degree at the University of Texas at Arlington.
- **1pm – Panel Discussion:** Land Ownership, Generational Wealth, & Inequality – moderated by J. Anthony Guillory, Ph.D. with speakers Nedra Lee, Ph.D. and John Diffley, Esq.
Lee examines the intersection of race and class in the lives of African Americans during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Although her research currently focuses on the United States south (particularly Central Texas), she has a burgeoning interest in the archaeology of New England. She has received funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Ford Foundation and the Texas Historical Commission and has previously worked for the Smithsonian Institution Libraries and the City Museum of Washington, DC.
Diffley is a professor of History at STCC and coordinator for the Liberal Arts/General Studies Program and the Commonwealth Honors Program. Diffley earned a Master of Arts in

History and an advanced Certificate in Public History from UMASS Amherst. He also earned a Juris Doctor degree from Western New England University School of Law and is admitted to practice law under the Massachusetts Bar.

Speaking engagements will be livestreamed via Zoom and are free to participate virtually. Donations are welcomed. In-person participation is included with admission to the event. In person participants should feel comfortable going up and down stairs to attend.

This portion of the Summer Solstice Celebration is coordinated in partnership with STCC Multicultural Affairs Operations Manager, Vonetta Lightfoot and scholar, J. Anthony Guillory. We thank them for their assistance with securing speakers and fostering discussion, building and promoting the Juneteenth collaboration.

Blacksmith Collective

Blacksmith Shop and Outside the Greenwich Barn

- **Blacksmith demonstrations** from various time periods, including early America to present day, will occur throughout the event and include featured demonstrations by volunteer blacksmiths.
- **Silent Auction** - Participate in the auction for an opportunity to purchase items hand forged in our authentic Blacksmith Shop. The auction supports our volunteer blacksmith program and other educational initiatives at the Museum. The auction will begin at 10am on the day of the event and conclude at 3pm. Auction winners will be announced in person and via Facebook Live. Winners do not have to be present, but must be able to pick up items by June 22, 2021. Those absent will be contacted via the information they provide. Items cannot be shipped.
- **Blacksmith Apprentice Experience 10am, 11:15am, 1pm, 2:15pm** – Meet the Master Blacksmith at the shop and circulate through different stations trying out the role of a blacksmith apprentice. Try your hand at a variety of duties blacksmith apprentices would have performed, like maintaining the fire, swinging a hammer, and all the work in between during this 1-hour experience in the Clark Blacksmith Shop. Receive a one-of-a-kind, hand forged hook, a traditional blacksmith cap, and make your own horse shoe nail ring. Be sure you pay attention and respect the knowledge of the Master Blacksmith or you may find yourself hauling water, emptying coal buckets, or tiring your arms keeping the bellows pumping! Must be 12+ with parent/guardian present if under 18. All participants must sign a safety waiver before participation. Close toed shoes and long pants must be worn, and a long sleeve cotton shirt is recommended. No synthetic materials allowed. Safety glasses will be provided for use during the experience. Limited spaces are available and the cost is \$25 per person. When purchasing admission to the Summer Solstice Day Celebration, Blacksmith Apprentice can be added at the online Check Out at www.StorrowtonVillage.com/p/tickets.

Garden Party

Gilbert House Gardens

- All Day – Honor the history and growth of Aunt Helen's Herb Garden, a gift to Helen Storrow and the Village from the Girl Scouts in 1935.
- Visit with our gardener to learn about the history and uses of herbs, the purpose of a kitchen garden, and how we use our gardens as teaching tools today.
- Meet with our cook in the Gilbert kitchen to see how homegrown produce is used in 19TH century open hearth cooking.

Museum Tours & Additional Activities:

All Museum buildings open to the public with costumed guides

- Invigorate your senses while you see and smell cooking demonstrations in the Gilbert Farmhouse.
- Play early American games on the Village green at noon.
- Learn about the summer solstice and various cultural celebrations in the past and present.
- Shop in the newly renovated Village Gift Shop.
- **Yoga on the Green** - Add solstice-themed Gentle Yoga on to your day at 2pm for \$5. Jessica K. Fontaine is a registered yoga instructor (Yoga Alliance RYT 200) and brings Village founder Helen Storrow's love for healthy lifestyle to life through modern yoga. Recommended for ages 12+. When purchasing admission to the Summer Solstice Day Celebration, Yoga can be added at the online Check Out at www.StorrowtonVillage.com/p/tickets. Bring your own yoga mat or add on at Check Out as well (limited quantity available).

Attendees may also visit the Samuel Adams Beer Garden & Storrowton Tavern, both of which will be open and serving delicious menus of options.

For more details and an event schedule, please visit [Summer Solstice](#).

ABOUT STORROWTON VILLAGE MUSEUM

Storrowton Village Museum, an educational arm of Eastern States Exposition (501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization) and located on its grounds in West Springfield, Mass., presents hands-on school programs and guided tours of its historic buildings throughout the year as well as seasonal 19th century-themed events. For more information, visit storrowtonvillage.com.