

SERCO



## South East Rural Community Outreach

P.O. Box 332 ~ Hopkins, SC 29061 ~ [www.serco-sc.org](http://www.serco-sc.org) ~ 803/788-7185 ~ Non Profit

*"Preserving History and Enriching Communities of the Lower Richland Corridor"*

January – June 2015 Issue

### ~ Upcoming Events ~

**October 2 & 3, 2015 -**  
13<sup>th</sup> Annual SwampFest  
Part I: BBQ, Blues & Jazz  
Part II: SwampFest at the Congaree

**November 7, 2015 -**  
Veterans Day

**December 5, 2015 -**  
8<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Taste & Tour

### ~ In This Issue ~

February 12: Community Engagement Project at LRHS.

February 21: Strong Threads

March 25: RC Conservation Commission & SERCO Exploration

April 25: SERCO's Prevue

May 2: Eastover Parade & BBQ Festival

May 9: Horrell Hill Fest

May 16: New Community Space at Pinewood Lake Park Dedicated

May 25: Memorial Day in Hopkins

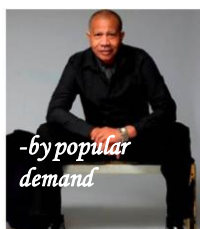
June 5: Dr. Weyeneth Receives State Historic Preservation Award

June 19: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Juneteenth

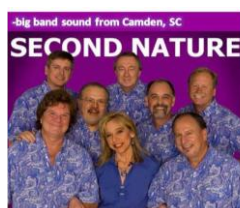
**We Welcome News:** Please send community announcements and news items to SERCO [sercoevents@gmail.com](mailto:sercoevents@gmail.com) or U.S. mail ~ to the attention of D.S. Brooks, PO Box 332, Hopkins, SC 29061. SERCO reserves publishing rights. Photographer: Ken James



### Part I: October 2<sup>ND</sup> ♦ BBQ, Blues & Jazz 7:00pm



Lenny Williams



Second Nature



Chef Fatback



Carlos Santan



Lisa Hayes & the James Brown Experience

**\$20.00 Advance** - Includes Admission, Entertainment & Food (Cash Bar)

Historic Harriet Barber House • 116 Barberville Loop • Hopkins, SC 29061 • 803-261-5596

### Part II: Oct. 3<sup>RD</sup> ♦ SwampFest at the Congaree 11:00am

**FREE EVENT**



Atlas Road Crew A.R.C.



Beulah Boys of Atlanta



Katrina Blanding



Fine Thymes String Band



Kaize Adams



The Sumter Tribe of Cheraw Indians



Drumming Brothers



Frances Marion YGB Gospel Choir

SwampGong

Carnival • Vendors

1<sup>st</sup> - Lower Richland Jubilee Choir

**National Park Tours/Activities • Free Shuttle between Festival Yard & Park**

Old Mt. Moriah Yard - 1001 Old Bluff Road - Hopkins, SC 29061  
Congaree National Park - 100 Nat'l Park Dr. - Hopkins, SC 29061



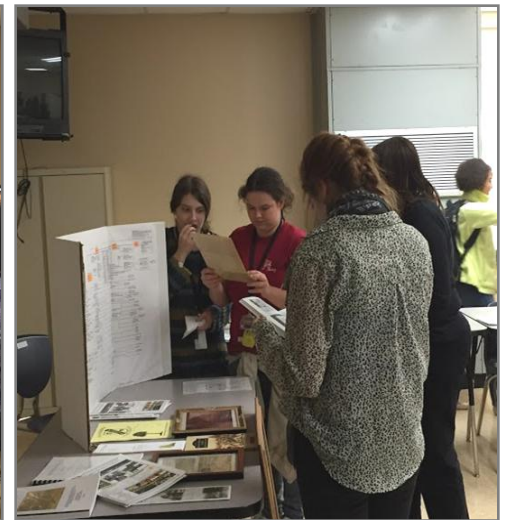
## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECT AT LRHS**

February 12, 2015

The Griot Cafe' was a concept created for Lower Richland High School by Dr. Daniella Cook, Associate Professor for Instruction and Teacher Education at USC. Marie Barber Adams and Deborah Scott Brooks were the first guests invited to join faculty, staff and students there in November (pictured below). In partnership with LRHS, the USC PDS Network and the Harriet Barber House, this community engagement project brought groups together during lunch time to learn about the Lower Richland Heritage Corridor and identified historic sites in the local area. They also learned about the history of the Harriet Barber House and the efforts made to preserve this historic property off Lower Richland Boulevard. US History students later toured the Harriet Barber House and other historic sites in Lower Richland. Student groups conducted research about several of the sites and held a community forum where the research projects were presented. The community engagement project also included 10 in-class learning sessions, inter-generational interactions and media activities throughout the school year.



Dr. Daniella Cook





SERCO  
**South East Rural Community Outreach**

SERCO Newsletter • January – June 2015 Issue • Page 3

8<sup>TH</sup>  
Annual

**STRONG THREADS**

February 21, 2015

*Honoring Our Elders* was the theme for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual StrongThreads, an African American Heritage Festival & Celebration. The event focused on bringing awareness to those who have paved the way and celebrating them. The festival, held at the St. John Holistic Wellness Center, featured informational and history-related displays, entertainment, and vendors. A banquet honoring elders, Melba Moore and WLTX's Darci Strickland, the StrongThreads 2015 Honoree, followed in the evening at the center.

Special Musical Guest

**Ms. Melba Moore**  
Tony Award Winning  
Grammy Nominated  
Broadway Star



Recording Artist Regina Regina Skeeters and Mo'Music served as MC's.



Melodic Hearts backed by Amar and Mo'Music



Audrey Smalls' Museum of Black Inventors



Excerpts presented by Dr. Romando James and actors from his book, *The Life and Journey of Truck Stop Shirley*.

*The Life and Journey of Truck Stop Shirley* will tell the story of the first black woman in South Carolina to manage a truck stop on a major interstate, highway I-85 in South Carolina. Shirley, a six five, 355-pound woman with size 15 shoes, began her journey picking cotton as the daughter of a tenant farmer. Shirley picked and carried over three hundred pounds of cotton per day, on the farm located in Fair Play, South Carolina. The landowners sold the land in which her family tenant farmed to purchase a truck stop, in which Shirley worked as a waitress, cook, and eventually a manager for almost forty years. This story is a story of courage, perseverance, and survival in the life of Shirley Estrich.

[Xlibris Corporation]



# SERCO South East Rural Community Outreach

SERCO Newsletter • January – June 2015 Issue • Page 4

## STRONG THREADS

Continued



The StrongThreads celebration is opened every year by ABATSU. The group is led by Paul Ali Allen.. African-American music began with African drums and dancing. Bottom, left picture depicts audience participation.



Lower Richland Heritage & Genealogy Society (LRH&GS)





# SERCO South East Rural Community Outreach

SERCO Newsletter • January – June 2015 Issue • Page 5

## Prevue...

**LAUNCH: Lower Richland Heritage Corridor Package Tours Program**

**In Partnership with Midlands Authority for Conventions, Sports & Tourism  
Tours Arranged & Provided by SERCO**

On Saturday, April 25, 2015, SERCO hosted **PREVUE** -the Launch for a new tours package program, featuring Lower Richland Heritage Corridor sites. Guests were welcomed by SERCO Board Chair Marie B. Adams, and greetings were made by Kelvin Washington, Richland County Council, District 10, Bill Ellen, President & CEO, Midlands Authority for Conventions, Sports & Tourism, and Cheryl Harris, Richland One School Board Chair.

Prior to the featured presentation by renowned artist/rice crop revitalization advocate, Dr. Jonathan Greene, students from Gadsden Elementary School, the Lower Richland Cluster's National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence (Monica Owens Carter, Principal), surprised him with a gift! The students researched the artist's history and works, produced a bulletin board display and wrote poems for Poetry Month in April. All of the students' poems were compiled in a book entitled, "Off The Wall and Onto The Page," and it was presented to Dr. Green.

Guests viewed a representation of photos, documents and artifacts from the historic sites that will be a part of SERCO's tour options. They enjoyed a delicious lunch, offering local foods, including products from Anson Mills and Manchester Farms, and prepared by Executive Chef Herbert Sims of Gadsden. Also, the Historic Harriet Barber House, built by ex-slaves in the 1880's, was opened for tours.



**"Off The Wall and Onto The Page"  
Presented to Jonathan Green**





# SERCO South East Rural Community Outreach

SERCO Newsletter • January – June 2015 Issue • Page 6

*Preview...*

**LAUNCH: Lower Richland Heritage Corridor Package Tours Program**



Display by Gadsden Elementary Students



Cheryl Harris, Richland One School Board Chair



L/R: Artist Jonathan Green, RC Councilman Kelvin Washington, and Bill Ellen, President & CEO, Midlands Authority for Conventions, Sports & Tourism. Seated: Kathy Morrell Newman, Local Historian /Author, and event guests who traveled from Aiken.



Gadsden Elementary students, parents and faculty with Jonathan Green. Standing to his right is Principal, Monica Owens Carter



Buffet prepared by The Friendly Caterer, featuring Chicken Bog made with sponsored Anson Mills' Carolina Gold Rice, and Bacon-Wrapped Quail Breast Strips from Manchester Farms.



Jonathan Green and Naomi Scipio, Columbia business owner



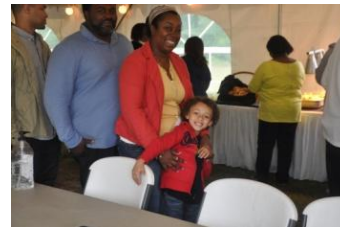
L/R: John Grego, President Friends of Congaree, Volunteer Kate Hartley, Congaree National Park, and Kathy Morrell Newman



Jonathan Green reveals his latest project: Scarves which replicate his art, and which are made in a South Carolina mill.



Jackie & Jeremy Thomas View Kensington Traveling Display.



Carletha Addison, Owner, Sumter Trolley Tours and Tourists Sumter, SC





## Lower Richland Heritage Corridor Guided Tours

*Sponsored by:*

South East Rural Community Outreach  
--In Partnership with  
The Midlands Authority for Conventions,  
Sports & Tourism

*Offering:*

Plantation Tours  
Goodwill Plantation Experience  
Historic Cemetery Tours  
African American History Sites  
Historic Churches

## Tour Highlights

Historic Harriet Barber House  
Hopkins Village site c. 1850  
Hopkins Presbyterian Church  
Government Slave Cemetery  
Wavering Place Plantation  
(Presently Closed for Repairs)  
Kensington Mansion  
Laurelwood Plantation  
Congaree Baptist Church



## Group Tour Packages

Arranged and Provided by –  
South East Rural Community Outreach  
(SERCO)

*-in partnership with the Midlands  
Authority for Conventions, Sports &  
Tourism*

South East Rural Community Outreach  
P.O. Box 332 ~ Hopkins, SC 29061  
803.261.5596  
E-mail: [sercotours@gmail.com](mailto:sercotours@gmail.com)  
<http://www.sercosc.org>



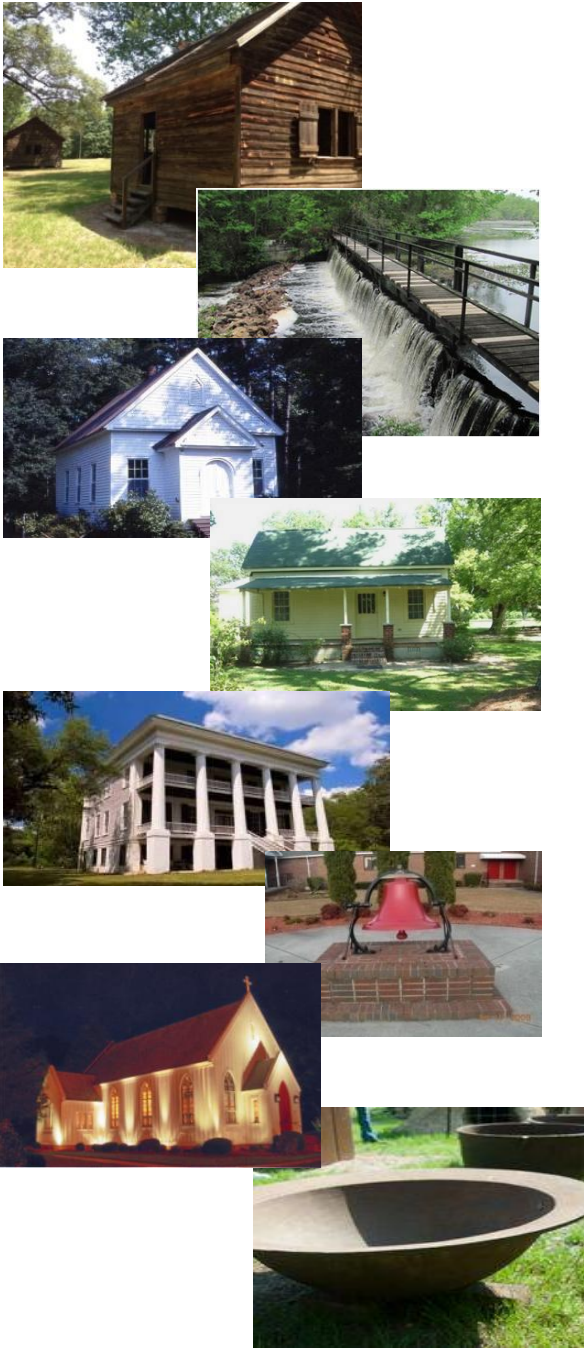
Also available are Day-Long Tours,  
which include sites in Columbia  
(offered in partnership with Historic  
Columbia).



SERCO  
**South East Rural Community Outreach**

SERCO Newsletter • January – June 2015 Issue • Page 8

...from the Lower Richland Heritage Corridor



## Schedules & Other Info

Each Tour is approximately 3 hours.  
Group rates are negotiable.

### *Schedule:*

Tours available Monday ~ Saturday

### *Departure Times:*

January – April: 11:00 AM

May – November: 10:00 AM

### *Transportation and Parking*

Transportation to Lower Richland sites arranged by request. Parking for tours will be available at City parking facilities near the Columbia Regional Visitors Center. Exact parking locations will be announced on a per-tour basis.

### *Vehicle:*

**15 Passenger Van** (Larger capacity can be arranged in advance)

**Step-on Tour Guide** available upon request.



South East Rural Community Outreach (SERCO) is dedicated to historic preservation, conservation, and enriching communities within the Lower Richland Heritage Corridor. Our guided tours provide convenience, knowledge, and great opportunities for visitors to experience the richly diverse culture and historically significant sites of the Lower Richland Heritage Corridor. Also, SERCO invites groups to consider planning tours to incorporate one of our premier events: Congaree SwampFest, a two day event which occurs the first Friday night and Saturday of October (BBQ, Blues & Jazz and SwampFest at the Congaree), Lower Richland Heritage Corridor Holiday Taste & Tour, which occurs the first Saturday of December, and others. See our annual Calendar of Events (<http://www.sercosc.org>).



SERCO  
**South East Rural Community Outreach**

SERCO Newsletter • January – June 2015 Issue • Page 9

### 37<sup>TH</sup> EASTOVER PARADE & BBQ FESTIVAL

The City of Eastover held its 37<sup>TH</sup> Annual Eastover Parade and BBQ Festival on May 1 & 2, 2015. The major activities took place downtown, on Main Street. Event activities included Parade, Carnival, Live Music Performances, Entertainment Barbecue and Food Vendors, and much more!

### HORRELL HILL FEST

The Horrell Hill Fest was held on Saturday, May 9, 2015, and featured a parade, entertainment, displays, games, and food vendors. Funding was provided by a Richland County Hospitality Tax Grant. Councilman Norman Jackson, District 11 serves the Horrell Hill community.

Community members featured on parade float.



Lower Richland Heritage & Genealogy Society (LRH&GS) display.

### NEW LOWER RICHLAND DOCUMENTARY

SC Uplift Community Outreach, Inc. presented a free showing of the documentary film, "**Lower Richland: A South Carolina Jewel**," Saturday, May 16, 2015, at St. John Baptist Church, 230 J.W. Neal Circle, Hopkins, SC.. The film was funded by Richland County Conservation Commission, and was produced by Eugene Washington. The film tells the story of the magnificent accomplishments of African-American citizens of Lower Richland County - persons such as Aesop Goodson, Ellison Weston and William Lowman - former slaves who rose to prominence in the SC House of Representatives.



Eugene Washington



Allen House



Dedra Harvin



Ada Hopkins



Allen Dowdy



Rev. Cole E. Weathers



Glenice Pearson  
George Wilson

L/R: Zack and Levola Taylor, and Nancy Stone-Collum, RC Conservation Commission.



Eugene Washington (standing) leads group discussion.

### EXPLORATION - RC CONSERVATION COMMISSION & SERCO

This picture was taken by N. Stone-Collum, RC Conservation Commission, while on a Lower Richland County exploration trip with Marie B. Adams and Deborah Scott Brooks. This is along Ziegler Road, Eastover/Gadsden. Could this be the site of a once thriving grist/grits Mill?





SERCO  
**South East Rural Community Outreach**

SERCO Newsletter • January – June 2015 Issue • Page 10

10TH Annual

# Memorial Day in Hopkins, SC

May 25, 2015

## Solemn Ceremony

The 10th annual Memorial Day event began with a **Solemn Ceremony** at the St. John Resurrection Memorial Garden (also known as the Government Cemetery), on Ault Road, at 12:00 Noon. The SC Combat Veterans Group, Lower Richland Veterans Formation, and Cadets from McGrady Training Center will perform a special tribute. The guest speaker was the Honorable South Carolina Senator Darrell Jackson, District 21. This ceremony was sponsored the J.P. Holley Funeral Home, the Lower Richland Veterans Formation and the SC Combat Veterans Group.



Rev. (Senator)  
Darrell Jackson



Rev. Chauncy  
Weston



Ret. 1st Sgt.  
Carnell Simmons



Lower Richland Veterans Formation &  
SC Combat Veterans Group



## Final Call

Guests remembered family members who served their country by calling their names at this point in the program. This an annual tradition at the solemn service.



Cadets from the McGrady National Guard Training Center





# SERCO South East Rural Community Outreach

SERCO Newsletter • January – June 2015 Issue • Page 11

## 10TH Annual Memorial Day in Hopkins, SC May 25, 2015

The Honors & Celebration activity followed at 1:00 p.m. at the Historic Harriet Barber House, with a tribute to Lower Richland born Veterans of World Wars I & II. Relatives, representing the honored Lower Richland World War I or World War II Veteran, were acknowledged and presented certificates. Councilman Kelvin Washington, Richland County, District 10, and President Emma "Quiet Storm" Watson, Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club of Columbia, SC Chapter brought greetings. Activities included entertainment by Mike Stone Entertainment, the Gospel Redeemers and others, mule-drawn wagon rides, a buffet lunch, and vendors. The family-oriented day was a free event which continued until 5:00 P.M.

### WORLD WAR I

Frank Adams, Sr.	Gadsden
King Adams	Eastover
Fred W. Alston	Hopkins
Sam Barber, Jr.	Hopkins
Abram Coles, Sr.	Hopkins
Douglas Edmonds	Hopkins
Joseph McRant	Hopkins
Beverly Robinson, Sr.	Hopkins
Blakely Scott, Sr.	Eastover

### WORLD WAR II

Tally Adams, Jr.	Gadsden
Johnnie B. Alston	Hopkins
Sidney Butch Anderson	Eastover
Henry L. Clarkson	Hopkins
Zack Clarkson, Sr.	Hopkins
Heyward Henry	Hopkins
Joseph "Bubba" James	Hopkins
Jesse Newton	Hopkins
Spencer Sumter	Hopkins
Joseph Woodard	Eastover



## Traditional Memorial Ceremony for Veterans





# SERCO South East Rural Community Outreach

SERCO Newsletter • January – June 2015 Issue • Page 12

## 10TH Annual Memorial Day in Hopkins, SC



The Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club of Columbia, South Carolina Chapter traces its beginning to the year 2006. The chapter was organized to honor the rich heritage of the African American heroes who joined the U.S. Army on July 28, 1866. The name "Buffalo Soldiers" was dubbed by Indian Nations Native warriors whom they fought against.



President Emma "Quiet Storm" Watson speaks about the Buffalo Soldiers' and the local club's history.



Gospel Redeemers



Mike Stone Entertainment



Buffalo Soldiers History Display



Buffalo Soldiers led guests in their traditional "Bikers' Shuffle" line dance.



Rosa Alston displays military metals and memorabilia which belonged to her father Fred W. Alston, who was honored as WWI Veteran.



Mike Stone Entertainment recruits guests to be "old school" back-up performers.





**SERCO**  
**South East Rural Community Outreach**

SERCO Newsletter • January – June 2015 Issue • Page 13

## LOWER RICHLAND WELCOMES NEW COMMUNITY SPACE AT PINWOOD LAKE PARK



Residents in Lower Richland celebrated the grand opening of a scenic new community park along the banks of Pinewood Lake — a facility that offers space for picnics, leisurely strolls, exercise routines and a look back at history. During a special ribbon-cutting ceremony, Richland County officials welcomed the public into Pinewood Lake Park, located at 1151 Old Garners Ferry Road. The park abuts Pinewood Lake (formerly known as Caughman Pond) and is complete with walking trails, fitness stations, gardens, picnic shelters and a renovated house from the 1930s that contains historical information about the property.



Norman Jackson, District 11

Richland County Councilman Norman Jackson, District 11, was a huge proponent of the park, advocating for the establishment of a recreational space and an outdoor destination in the Lower Richland community. He spoke to a crowd of residents during Saturday's grand opening. "This is a gem that has been opened for everyone to enjoy," Jackson said. "Here's a place where you can go fishing, where there's serenity, peace and quiet, walking trails, and we're preserving history. This is a place where everyone can now truly enjoy the beauty of it."

[www.richlanonline.com](http://www.richlanonline.com)

## DR. WEYENETH RECEIVES STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD

Dr. Robert Weyeneth of the University of South Carolina, received the Governor's Award for lifetime service to historic preservation in the state on June 5, 2015. Weyeneth is the co-director of the University of South Carolina's Public History Program, and teaches public history, historic preservation and American social and environmental history. These awards and others were presented by Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster. Sponsored by the Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation, the South Carolina Department of Archives and History and the Office of the Governor, the awards recognized significant achievement and lifelong dedication in support of historic preservation.



More personal to SERCO is the partnership formed with Dr. Weyeneth's programs and graduate students which resulted in documentation of valuable Lower Richland Heritage Corridor history. One of the most noted is, "Prized Pieces of Land: The Impact of Reconstruction on African-American Land Ownership in Lower Richland County, South Carolina" (2009). Below pictures are from 2008-2009 related activities.



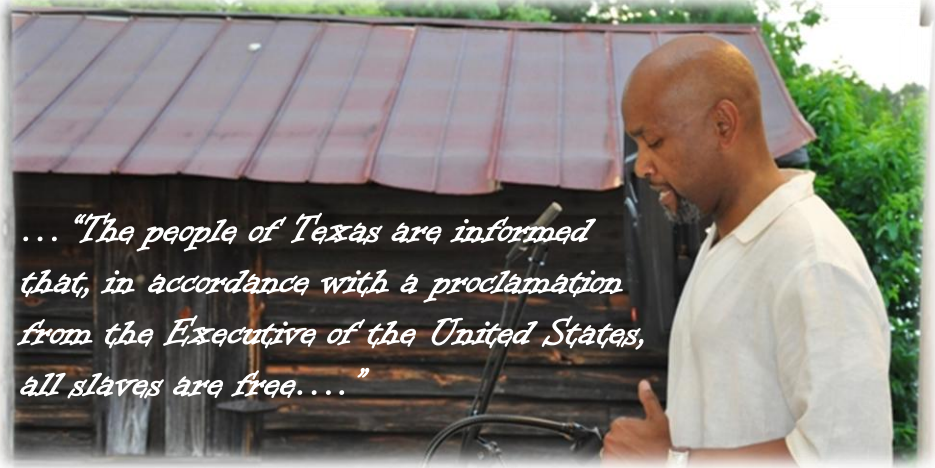


2<sup>nd</sup>  
Annual

## Juneteenth

Historical Observation & Old Fashion Social

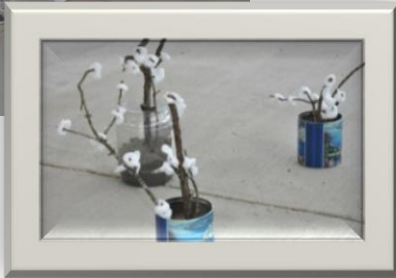
Historic Harriet Barber House  
Friday, June 19, 2015



Rev. Dr. John Kirkland, of Hopkins roots, reads excerpts from *The Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, September 22, 1862, and General Order No. 3, as it was read in Galveston, TX on June 19, 1865.*



Mt. Moriah Baptist Church – Performing Arts Ministry performs excerpts from original Black History play by Min. Cheryl Harris.



Among guests were members of the Greenview Park Senior Club, Columbia, SC. Ms. Tracy Chatman is Senior Park Leader.



Left standing: Displays from Go Columbia 63 Project. Seated: Debbie Bloom, Manager, The Walker Local History Room, Richland County Library



**SERCO WELCOME STATION**  
Guests are greeted and their zip codes are recorded. Guest attended from as far as New Jersey. L/R: Deborah Scott Brooks, Marie Barber Adams



Displays by Michael Dantzler Gardener & Professional Photographer Eastover Community Gardens and "Gardens of Equilibrium"



SERCO  
**South East Rural Community Outreach**

SERCO Newsletter • January – June 2015 Issue • Page 15

2<sup>ND</sup> Annual **Juneteenth**  
(continued)



Music provided by Horizon Band SC



Soloist  
Arrington Jones  
Hand Middle School  
Student



Program host Deborah Scott Brooks assisted by  
SERCO "volun-told" (granddaughter), McKinley  
Brooks Sumpter.



Guests dined on foods prepared by  
Big T BBQ, and reflected that which  
was served at first Juneteenth,  
including red punch.



Oliver O. Thomas, better known as "Oz," served as the host  
for the Old Fashion Social portion of the event, and called the  
Fraternity/Sorority roll for a mini-line dance historically  
known to Greek members as stepping.



The Barnes Son & Mom duo  
enjoy a dance.



Greta Avery from Columbia  
and mom from Orangeburg,  
tour Harriet Barber House.  
Mrs. Frazier mentioned she  
was glad she changed her  
mind and came --looking  
forward to next year.

All who honor the basic principles of freedom, human dignity, and equality for everyone, were invited to SERCO's 2nd Annual Juneteenth - Historical Observation & Old Fashion Social. Guests enjoyed a dramatic skit presented by the Mt. Moriah Performing Arts Ministry, entertainment by Horizon Band SC and others, food symbolic of that served at the first Juneteenth in Galveston, Texas, and good old fashion socializing. This year marked the 150<sup>TH</sup> anniversary of the June 19, 1865 celebration which followed Major General Gordon Grainger's reading of *General Order No. 3*, emancipating slaves in Galveston, Texas. SERCO recognizes that Juneteenth isn't just a commemoration of ending the last bastion of slavery in the United States, it is a tribute to the vision of America's founding premise: Independence for this entire great nation. SERCO's free Juneteenth Celebration was presented as a history lesson, and was held on the grounds of the Historic Harriet Barber House. The restored home, built by ex-slaves in the 1880's and now listed on the National Register of Historical Places, was opened for guests tours.



# South East Rural Community Outreach

SERCO Newsletter • June 2015 Issue • Page 16

*Please Join Us . . .* The mission of SERCO is to create partnerships within the Lower Richland Community to provide charitable, educational and scientific programs to strengthen and expand the capacity of the community for a better quality of life for its residents.

SERCO invites you to become a part of the outreach movement by supporting our Lower Richland Heritage Corridor events and programs throughout the year:

## SOUTH EAST RURAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEMBERSHIP FORM

### INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES:

\$20 INDIVIDUAL    \$40 FAMILY    \$75 ADVOCATE    \$100 PARTNER    \$500 PATRON

### ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES & CORPORATIONS:

\$1,000 BENEFACTOR    \$2,000 CORPORATE SPONSOR

### SUBMIT INFORMATION:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

WORK PHONE: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

FAX : \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed form and check to:

**South East Rural Community Outreach  
Post Office Box 332  
Hopkins, SC 29061**

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