

**News Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Leslie Baker, 757/728-5316
leslie.baker@hamptoncvb.com
Seamus McGrann, 757/727-6841
mmcgrann@hampton.gov

Hampton History Museum hosts virtual programs, opens new exhibit

Hampton, VA - The Hampton History Museum invites all to join September's virtual programming on Facebook Live. The Port Lecture series will feature award-winning storyteller and historical interpreter Valerie Davis as she reprises her dramatic presentation of Martha Ann Fields' story of self-liberation. The award-winning band Brackish Water Jamboree will bring the jamboree to you as they perform their original music for this month's Front Porch Music Series. Also, take a step back in time in remembrance of Hampton's seaside resort for the 7th annual BayShore experience and the opening of Hampton History Museum's newest exhibit.

From Tragedy to Triumph: The Martha Ann Fields Story Monday, September 13, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Celebrated award-winning Djelimusa (African storyteller) and historical interpreter Valerie Davis, captures the physical, historical, and spiritual essence of Martha Ann Fields, a former enslaved cook, as she reveals this true story of love, longing, faith, betrayal and courage.

Martha Ann Fields took a chance on her future in 1863 when she gathered her eight children and crossed the Pamunkey River in the dead of night to reach Union lines. Travel alongside her on her family's arduous journey from Nutshell Plantation in Hanover County to Fort Monroe. Learn how "Freedom's Fortress" played an integral part in establishing her new life as a free woman. Discover the impact her family had on Virginia politics and history in the years following their escape.

Brackish Water Jamboree Wednesday, September 15, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

This lively, award-winning contemporary string band is known for an eclectic mix of foot-stomping bluegrass, old-time folk and classic Americana featuring guitar, fiddle, clawhammer banjo and upright bass. Brackish Water Jamboree performs all original music (and a few staple standards) that echo classic country, upbeat Appalachian fiddle tunes, ragtime blues, the Bakersfield sound and more.

Brackish Water Jamboree is Paul Edward on vocals, banjo and guitar; Joseph Custer on vocals, mandolin, guitar and banjo; Taylor Vertrees on bass; and Amanda Beason on fiddle.

NEW EXHIBIT: Historic Black Beaches: Bay Shore and Other Memorable Sands

Opening to the public Saturday, September 18, 2021

African Americans in many waterfront communities who were denied access to public beaches pooled resources to create their own coastal retreats. Many became vacation destination spots featuring hotels, music halls and amusement parks. All created special memories including swimming, church services, family fun, and formal dances. Two complementary exhibits explore some of these special places.

Museum admission is free on Saturday, September 18 and Sunday, September 19. The exhibit will continue through Sunday, February 27, 2022.

7th Annual BayShore Experience Event and Display Saturday, September 18, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Join hosts Reginald Robinson and Judy Leonard for the annual celebration of “The Vacation Paradise of the South.” Take a stroll down memory lane of the beloved Hampton seaside resort for African Americans during the Jim Crow Era. Robinson and Leonard will perform skits and sing-alongs, enlighten with history and stories, honor the BayShore Hall of Fame 2021 class, and present the 2021 Charles H. William Award of Leadership.

For more information, call 757-727-1102, visit HamptonHistoryMuseum.org

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Images attached:

Valerie Davis as Martha Ann Fields, courtesy of Valerie Davis

Brackish Water Jamboree, courtesy of Brackish Water Jamboree

Bay Shore Beachgoers, ca. 1925, courtesy of Reginald Robinson and Judy Leonard

Bay Shore Carousel, ca. 1955, courtesy of Reginald Robinson and Judy Leonard

Partially bordered by the Hampton Roads harbor and Chesapeake Bay, Hampton, with the 344,000 sq. ft. Hampton Roads Convention Center and the award-winning Hampton Coliseum, is located in the center of Coastal Virginia and the Hampton Roads metropolitan area. Hampton is the site of America's first continuous English-speaking settlement, the site of the first arrival of Africans in English North America, and is home to such visitor attractions as the Virginia Air & Space Science Center, Fort Monroe National Monument, Hampton History Museum, Hampton University Museum, The American Theatre, among others.