

The Celebration

Your Hosts: Wallis Finnie, Antoinette M. Riley, Michelle J. Riley

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3:00 - 4:00 p.m. - Reception

Optional

Tour of the 82.5-acre Site

Ride on Historic Mini-Train and/or Merry-Go-Round

Lounge under the Cabana Umbrellas

Stroll the Enchanting Shoreline

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4:15 - 5:15 p.m. - Entertainment and Tributes

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5:30 - 6:30 p.m. - Dancing and Lounging

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Optional

6:30 p.m. Stay to enjoy Virginia Key Beach Drive-In Movie Time:

"Shaft"

"Foxy Brown"

*The Family of
Dinizulu Gene Finnie
is pleased to invite you to celebrate with us
on his 75th Birthday
Saturday, the twenty-fifth of February
Two thousand and seventeen
Three o'clock in the afternoon
The Beachfront Concession Stand & Plaza
Historic Virginia Key Beach Park
4020 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, Florida 33149*

*In lieu of gifts, please consider a tax-exempt donation to the
Virginia Key Beach Park Trust Capital Fund
in support of sustaining our Historic Miami Public Venue.*

R.S.V.P. by February 20

Casual Beachside Chic

Historic Virginia Key Beach Park

is a Natural and Historic Treasure which has been restored and reopened to the public (in February, 2008, after more than a twenty-five year hiatus), with continuing plans to construct an indoor/outdoor interpretive museum experience for the entire 82.5-acre site.

Located on one of the two southernmost barrier islands in the United States (with Key Biscayne), the beach on Virginia Key is one of the most scenic locations in South Florida, free of views of tall buildings, and has been named "Miami's Best Beach" by the *Miami New Times* in its annual series.

The historic site, once Miami's only official "Colored Beach" during the segregation era, was opened by Dade County in 1945 in response to a courageous wade-in protest demanding a bathing beach for the population that built so much of the community into an attractive place for others to visit and to adopt as a new home.

Indeed, the Beach is fondly remembered, in spite of the onerous restrictions, by many for being a hub of Black life in the region, frequented by local residents, African American tourists, and often visiting celebrities who mingled freely with beachgoers.

In 1999, the historic site was saved from being destroyed by private resort development scheme, thanks largely to the leadership and vision of late beloved community matriarch Mrs. M. Athalie Range, the late City of Miami Commissioner Arthur E. Teele Jr., former County Commissioner Dr. Barbara M. Carey-Shuler, and a host of dedicated supporters from a broad spectrum of the community.

The new museum experience will highlight Miami's unique African American history and heritage as well as the fascinating natural features of this cherished location.

Cover image: "Historic Virginia Key Beach Park, Miami"

by Dinizulu Gene Timmie (Detail)

Graphite on Bristol Paper, 30" x 37" (76 x 94 cm.)

2008

Collection of Ms. Michelle T. Riley