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Gullah culture in African-American Camp Meetings to be explored in Georgetown, SC

Gullah influences in African-American Camp Meetings is the focus of a free presentation at the Georgetown Library at 405 Cleland Street in Georgetown, SC, on Sunday, August 16th, from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.

In a program entitled *The African-American Camp Meeting Tradition in the Lowcountry*, Dr. Minuette Floyd will focus on describing the camp meetings that take place annually in this coastal area. Through forty-two photographs from seven camp meetings in North Carolina and in South Carolina, Dr. Floyd has captured the essence and the importance of these traditional Lowcountry gatherings. She will reference some of these images digitally at this event.

“When I first went back to the campgrounds, it made me think of my ancestors,” Floyd said. “Camp meetings have been in existence for over 100 years. I can’t imagine how many people came when there was really nothing else to do. Back then, people were in isolation and didn’t really have neighbors. It was the social gathering of the year.”

Floyd’s images will also be on display August 24, 2015- January 25, 2016 at the Avery Research Center at the College of Charleston in the exhibit *This Far by Faith: Carolina Camp Meetings, an African-American Tradition*. Also accompanying the exhibit are two videos: one from a South Carolina camp and another, from North Carolina that Floyd documented. The exhibit was first featured at University of South Carolina’s McKissick Museum.

Dr. Floyd is an Associate Professor of Art Education and the Director of the Young Artist’s Workshop in the Art Department of the University of South Carolina. Her research focuses on multicultural art education, interdisciplinary art instruction, and documentation of folk traditions through photography. She is currently working on a book project that focuses on the African-American camp meeting tradition.

This program is part of a series of presentations entitled *Out of the Rice Fields* made possible by a major *Know Your History Grant* from the Humanities Council SC, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council’s mission is to enrich the cultural and intellectual lives of South Carolinians. For more information, please contact the Georgetown County Library at (843) 545-3300.

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