

Gullah Goings-On

A Taste of Gullah to feature Native Islander music, cuisine and art

This February, the Arts Center is serving up “A Taste of Gullah” with a side of native islander arts, crafts and culture.

Part of the 12th Annual Hilton Head Island Gullah Celebration, the free outdoor festival, taking place on February 21, will feature local Gullah cooks preparing a finger-licking lineup of Lowcountry specialties, including conch stew and shrimp and grits.

“This year’s menu will be even more authentic,” said James Mitchell, president and CEO of the Native Island Business and Community Affairs Association, which is co-sponsoring the event. “We’re adding seafood to the barbecued ribs and chicken and pulled pork sandwiches. Of course, there’ll also be plenty of corn on the cob, greens and red rice.”

The entertainment will be just as varied with performances by the gospel group Voices of El Shaddai, Gullah storyteller Louise Cohen and St. Helena singer/songwriter Osalami Lamoke, who will be playing original works from her progressive Gullah folk music CD, “Osha!”

“It’s folk music with a Gullah twist,” said Lamoke, a native islander. “You can hear the Caribbean influences.”

On the visual arts front, the exhibition

De Aarts Ob We People will be open in the Walter Greer Gallery. The show, on display through February 28, features paintings, crafts, appliqué, sweetgrass baskets, photographs and sculptures created by contemporary and emerging Lowcountry artists specializing in the Gullah tradition.

Among the exhibiting artists are Judy Mooney, David Smalls, Diane Dunham, Allen Fireall, Hank Herring, James St. Clair, Amiri Farris, Gloria Pina, Marquita Willis, Marie Lewis, Rev. Johnnie Simmons, Zelda Grant and Jeri Taylor.

Kids will be invited to make their own artistic creations at several

craft stations set up on the festival grounds.

Don’t miss this cultural classic – one of the signature events of the Hilton Head Island Gullah Celebration. Along with *A Taste of Gullah*, this year’s festivities will feature a number of other events at locations around the island, including the Arts, Crafts and Food Expo, National Freedom Day, an Ol’ Fashioned Gullah Breakfast, A Gullah Film Festival and De Gullah Playhouse.

Visit the Gullah Celebration website at www.gullahcelebration.com for more information on all the February events.



Photo by
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