

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**H.R.H. Oba Adjuyigbe Adefunmi II returns to Key West!
A benefit for the Oyotunji African Village, Sheldon, SC**

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

5:30 pm The Caribbean Queen Junkanoos Parade
Down Duval Street to the Tropic Cinema

6pm – 8:30pm Tropic Cinema

416 Eaton Street, Key West, FL

The Key West Premier of “Ajo Alade”

An autobiographical journey of a boy who would become king!

Tickets pre-paid at the Tropic \$25.00/at the door \$35.00

9pm – 11pm “Royal Reggae” After Party

Blue Heaven 729 Thomas St., Key West, FL

Raffles/Silent Auction/Door Prizes

Donation pre-paid \$10.00/at the door \$15.00

Hor d’oeuvres and cash bar

Reggae Jam hosted by Bongo D

Vendors Welcome!

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

6-9 pm Key West “Royal Reception”

At the home of Caroline and Jerry Cash

2620 Fogarty Street, Key West, FL

Donation pre-paid \$25.00/at the door \$30.00

Includes Open Bar & Dinner Caribbean Cuisine

Island Sounds provided by: Toko Irie

Package deal pre-paid \$50.00 for all 3 events! Includes great prizes

All proceeds go to the Oyotunji African Village Building Fund

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**Please contact Fundraising Coordinator Arida Wright at
(305) 766-4922 for tickets and/or participation**

BLACK HISTORY MONTH FUNDRAISING PRESENTATION
BY
ARIDA WRIGHT

The Kingdom of Oyotunji African Village, located in Sheldon, South Carolina is a village of priests and priestesses specializing in the ancient customs, rituals and traditions of the Yoruba people of Southwestern Nigeria in Africa. It is a priestly college where African-Americans seeking knowledge of their lost ancestry and roots travel to study and confer with these priests. It was founded in 1970 by His Royal Highness Oba Oseijeman Adefunmi I.

This land was chosen in honor of the tens of thousands Africans that died between Africa and being distributed in America. A majority of the slaves came through Charleston, South Carolina. It is the first and only authentic African Village in North America.

On July 3, 2005 twenty-one Key Westers drove to Oyotunji to witness the historic royal coronation of the man, formally known as Prince Ade become King of all the Yoruba's in North America! His new official title/name is His Royal Highness Oba Adejuyigbe Adefunmi II and he ascends the throne of his father His Royal Highness Oba Oseijeman Adefunmi I who passed to the ancestral realms on February 11, 2006. This was the first ever coronation on American soil of an African American Yoruba King.

Our friend, formally known as Ade moved to Key West in 2001 as an artist in residency at the Lofton B. Sands African Bahamian Museum. The purpose of this residency was to design and construct the African Exhibit at the museum along with one elder and many of his peers from Oyotunji. He gave continuous tours of the African Village he built at the Lofton B. Sands Museum, sharing his customs and culture with all who came through. He worked for Norma Jean Sawyer, Exec. Director of Bahama Conch Community Land Trust.

While in Key West, Ade graced the pages of the Key West Citizen newspaper several times and all of these articles are on view in the Press Room at Oyotunji.

Some of the valuable contributions he made to the Key West community include the West African drum classes he taught at Yoga By The Sea and the Coffee Mill. He was one of the originating members of The Caribbean Queen Junkanoos. He volunteered at the Bahama Village Summer School for Performing Arts and taught art work. He also served as spiritual leader at the annual Kwanza celebrations in Bahama Village, as well as consulted with the Mel Fisher Museum in regards to the sunken slave ship the Henrietta Marie, and was instrumental in getting the African Burial Site on Higgs Beach protected.

As a master drummer/conga player, he performed with the following local bands respectively: ARAYATوبا (Brothers of a Royal Tribe), Jah Vibes, Massai, All Stars, Hebrew, Caribbean Queen Junkanoos and the Key West Junkanoos. He was a local street

performer and could be heard beating his drums down at Mallory Square and on Duval Street in Downtown Key West.

He also participated in many Key West parades and festivals including Fantasy Fest, Goombay Festival, the annual Junkanoo parade held at midnight on New Year's Eve and the African American Heritage Festival. He could be found up on stilts, wearing costumes and really enjoying the Key West culture.

His kingdom is in much need of restoration and building. It will take a lot of money from people outside the village (you can go on line to www.oyotunjiafricanvillage.org and see more).

On February 26th, I am bringing the King and his entourage down to help me raise funds for his village. It will be my second fundraising event for the village. This Black History Month event is billed "The Key West Premier" of "Ajo Alade" at the Tropic Cinema. The King has made a moving documentary of his life as a young boy who would become king of all the Yoruba's in North America and it includes his life here in Key West! Oyotunji means to be born again and the purpose of the movie is to inspire cultural community to continue their efforts to preserve the valuable history of Key West.

To donate to Oyotunji directly, checks may be made out to:

The African Theological Arch Ministry ATA which is the organization of Oyotunji which holds the non-profit charter. This fund overseas the Yoruba Royal Academy (which has been in operation for 30 years), the library, the men and women's compound. Then send to address below.

To help with our expenses for the Black History Month Program you may become a sponsor (A sponsor package is attached), checks can be made out to:

Arida Wright
Fundraising Coordinator
P.O. Box 5892
Key West, FL 33045
Call (305) 766-4922 for tickets

A heartfelt thanks for all your support.

Sincerely,

Arida Wright
Fundraising Coordinator