



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THE REGINALD F. LEWIS MUSEUM CELEBRATES ITS FIFTH ANNIVERSARY**  
*The East Coast's Largest African American Museum Commemorates its Anniversary with an  
Exciting Lineup of Celebration Events*

**BALTIMORE, MD (May 24, 2010)** – The Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture (The Lewis) , recognized as the largest African American museum on the East Coast, is celebrating its fifth anniversary June 20-27, 2010 in Baltimore, Maryland.

To celebrate its anniversary milestone, the Reginald F. Lewis Museum will coordinate special events and family entertainment. The weeklong celebration, "History in the Making," is designed to raise awareness of the museum throughout the State of Maryland, while educating the public about the museum's mission, purpose, offerings and value as a State museum.

“Since our beginning, the Reginald F. Lewis Museum has brought the history of the African American community to life for thousands of children and adults,” said Dr. David Taft Terry, Executive Director. “Our anniversary celebration will continue our tradition of telling the stories of those who have played an integral role in our history, and remembering their role for future generations.”

**Fifth Anniversary Week Program Highlights:**

***BUILDING MARYLAND, BUILDING AMERICA; THE STRENGTH OF THE MIND; AND THINGS HOLD,  
LINES CONNECT***

The museum's three permanent galleries, located on the third floor, highlight African American heroes in Maryland. Each exhibition provokes important cross-generational dialogue and thought about the rich contributions of African American Marylanders from the state's earliest history to the present day.

***BEYOND SWASTIKA AND JIM CROW: JEWISH REFUGEE SCHOLARS AT BLACK COLLEGES***

**April 23, 2010 – September 26, 2010**

This special exhibition explores a unique bond that grew between two groups – Jewish professors who fled Nazi Germany and African American students at historically black colleges where the refugee professors taught. *Beyond Swastika and Jim Crow: Jewish Refugee Scholars at Black Colleges* was created and is circulated by the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust.

**KICK-OFF PRESS CONFERENCE**

**June 9, 2010, 1:30 p.m.**

A special ceremony will take place to launch the anniversary celebrations. Join Governor Martin O'Malley and Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, along with museum staff, supporters and visitors for a memorable program.

**FIFTH ANNIVERSARY ARTS WALL RETROSPECTIVE**

**June 22, 2010 – June 27, 2010**

An Arts Wall exhibition will be displayed during the Anniversary. The exhibition will feature Maryland artists who are

part of the permanent collection and who have been featured on the museum's arts wall since the museum opened in 2005.

### **MUSEUM HIGHLIGHTS DISPLAY**

**June 22, 2010 – June 27, 2010**

This display reflects the accomplishments of the museum over the past five years in education and resources, collections and exhibitions.

### **ORAL HISTORY SEMINAR**

**June 22, 2010, Noon – 2 p.m., 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

The first seminar will provide visitors with an overview and a demonstration of how to conduct oral history interviews. During the second seminar, visitors can participate in mock oral history interviews and schedule appointments to conduct official interview sessions for Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **LUNCH AND LEARN WITH ESTHER MCCREADY**

**June 23, 2010, Noon – 1 p.m. \***

Esther McCready's courage and determination helped open doors for generations of aspiring African American nursing students. As the first African American to attend the University of Maryland's Nursing school, McCready will discuss challenges faced during her admissions process in the 1950s.

\* Visitors can bring their lunch or purchase lunch from the museum café for this event.

### **LIVING HISTORY THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES**

**June 24, 2010, Noon – 2 p.m.**

Visitors will travel back in time with living history theatrical performances taking place in the galleries and theater. The performances will highlight African Americans in the museum's exhibitions and in the nation's history.

### **THURSDAYS AT THE LEWIS: THE ANNIVERSARY EDITION**

**June 24, 2010, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.**

Unwind with fantastic food, drinks and entertainment at The Lewis. Thursdays at The Lewis takes place every Thursday evening from June to August. This special anniversary edition will feature songstress Kimberly Nichole, DJ Phaze and visual artist Demont Pinder.

### **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO THE MUSEUM!**

**June 25, 2010, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Visitors will enjoy free admission to celebrate the museum's fifth anniversary!

### **RED WALL OF FREEDOM RECEPTION**

**June 25, 2010, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.**

The museum will recognize inaugural donors with a special ceremony. Guests will enjoy light refreshments, musical entertainment by a live band, giveaways and much more!

### **FLOETIC FRIDAYS: THE ANNIVERSARY EDITION**

**June 26, 2010, 8:30 p.m. – 11 p.m.**

"Lyrics, Ladies, B-Girls, Stances, Stanzas and Beats!"

Floetic Fridays takes place bi-monthly from October to June. This special anniversary edition features performances by local artists LOVE the poet, Carolyn Malachi, and Jasmine Pope.

### **FAMILY FUN WEEKEND!**

**June 26, 2010 – June 27, 2010, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

The museum will host family friendly activities including a Double Dutch workshop (Saturday only), face painting and much more! Visitors can reserve a time to record their Oral History on Saturday, June 26 and participate in Genealogy Starter Sessions from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 27.

**MUSEUM HOURS AND ADMISSION**

**June 20, 2010 – June 27, 2010**

Celebration week museum hours are 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. with special programs on select evenings. The museum will be closed on Monday, June 21, 2010. The museum will offer a reduced admission of \$5 during the weeklong celebration. Admission will be free to all visitors on the museum's official anniversary on Friday, June 25, 2010 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**GETTING TO THE MUSEUM**

Visitors can take the Charm City Circulator's Orange and Green Routes directly to the museum for **FREE**. For more information, please visit [charmcitycirculator.org](http://charmcitycirculator.org).

Mrs. Loida Lewis and the Reginald F. Lewis Foundation will host the following events in East Hampton, NY. Proceeds from these two events will benefit the museum:

**THIRD ANNUAL REGINALD F. LEWIS FOUNDATION GALA LUNCHEON**

**June 26, 2010, 12:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.**

Join the Reginald F. Lewis Foundation for its third annual gala luncheon at the Reginald F. Lewis Estate in East Hampton, NY. L. Londell McMillan, Head of Entertainment, Media and Sports at the international law firm of Dewey & LeBoueuf, will be honored. Guests will enjoy a special performance by the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit <http://www.reginaldflewis.com/event-save-the-date.php>.

**BEACH GLAMOUR IN THE HAMPTONS**

**June 26, 2010, 5 p.m.**

This exclusive beachfront affair, organized by New York-based young professionals, will benefit the educational efforts of the Reginald F. Lewis Museum in Baltimore. Tina Wells, 29-year old entrepreneur and founder of Buzz Marketing Group, will be awarded the first RFL Young Entrepreneurial Award. For more information, please visit [www.reginaldflewis.com/beachglamour](http://www.reginaldflewis.com/beachglamour).

**About The Reginald F. Lewis Museum ([www.africanamericanculture.org](http://www.africanamericanculture.org)):**

*The Reginald F. Lewis Museum is Baltimore's premier facility highlighting the history and accomplishments of African Americans with a special focus on Maryland's African American community. A Smithsonian affiliate, the museum is the East Coast's largest African American museum occupying an 82,000 square-foot facility with ample permanent and special exhibition space, interactive learning environments, auditorium, resource center, oral history recording studio, museum shop, café, classrooms, meeting rooms, outside terrace and reception areas. The museum is located near Baltimore's Inner Harbor at the corner of Pratt & President Streets. The museum is also accessible on Baltimore's Charm City Circulator Orange and Green Routes. For more information, please call (443) 263-1800 or visit the museum's web site at [www.africanamericanculture.org](http://www.africanamericanculture.org).*

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**Editor's Note:** Images available upon request. For images, more information or to attend a listed event, please contact Kristi Betz directly at 410-243-1333 ext 225 or via email at [kbetz@weinbergharris.com](mailto:kbetz@weinbergharris.com), respectively.