



WHO ARE WE?

Salem United, Inc. is a non-profit charitable organization established June 19, 2015. We call ourselves Salem United, Inc., because we come together in one place – Salem:

- EDUCATE, LEARN & APPLY
- SHARE OUR LEGACY TO UNITE

We belong to no one City- We are one people of Massachusetts and New England.

Motto: Roots & Wings

Mission: Preserve, Protect and Build

Preserve its History

Protect its Tradition

Build its Customs and Social Awareness

Contact Us

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We Are Now Accepting New Members

**Special Thanks To Our
COLLABORATORS, PARTNERS AND
SUPPORTERS**

**NEGRO ELECTION
DAY 1740
TO
PRESENT DAY
BLACK PICNIC DAY**



**SALEM
UNITED
INC.**

*Join Us Annually
3rd Saturday of July
at Salem Willows Park,
165 Fort Avenue,
Salem, MA 01970*

DIVISION 1: Lorraine Division

Board of Directors

Executive Officers

Doreen Wade – President

Donald Mitchell – Treasurer

Robyn Harding – Secretary

Board & Members

Giovanni Alabiso | Warren Barnett | Gary Gigi

Gill | Andre Hollywood | Patrick King |

Monieke McNeil | Rachel Meyer | Brooklyn

Brown-Northrup | Annette Kim Singletary |

Anna Whitted |

Special Members

|Shakti Rovner | Kabria Baumgartner |

Anyfern Gonzalez |

DIVISION 2: Pompey Division

Membership and Development

DIVISION 3: Programs

Committees and Development

Program 1: Negro Election Day State Holiday
Celebration & Black Preservation

Program 2: Voting, U.S Census & Civil Rights
& Reform, Civil Service Exam
Registration & Education

Program 3: Gallery, Exhibitions & Tours

Program 4: Events, Workshops & Health Care

Negro Election Day

The Evolution of The First Black Voting System

18th Century

Freed African men now labeled slaves spread throughout New England colonies, used African royal heritage to establish the first Black voting system called *Negro Election Day*! First verified record was **1740** on 2 acres of land on the Saugus River in Lynn/Saugus MA. These men practiced self-governing, holding 2-week debates and elections. Once elected, a one-day celebration was held with parades, music, games and eating! The King/Governor served as mediator and liaison between the slave, elected colonial leaders and white slave owners. They held court trials and deliberated punishment for non-law abiding slaves in their communities. 1800's

With Slaves becoming Free Black people, *Negro Election Day* was relocated to Salem Willows Park. It began a name change Such as **Maids Picnic** and labeled **Emancipation Day**. Salem Willows Park maintained the *Negro Election Day*, changed the month it was being held to warmer weather and maintained its civic presence. It held Black Conventions as they were called. Blacks used bags to come over and the church took an active role in the day.

19th Century

Negro Election Day outgrew its location then transferred to Salem Willows Park, Salem, MA in 1880 choosing the month of July over May due to warmer weather. Emancipation in New England colonies freed these pioneer slaves giving them the right to vote, eliminating the need for a King/Governor. This changed the motivation of the celebration to a 1-day Black political convention and celebration called **Emancipation Day**.

The Black and Indigenous communities involved in ending segregation established itself in mainstream politics. This steered them to reconvene

Emancipation Day to its 2-day status and name it **Maids Picnic** "to honor workers".

Churches in Lynn, Chelsea, Cambridge and Boston, hosted **Maids Picnic**, disassembled celebration to 1 day, renaming it **Sunday Picnic**. The celebration shifted to Sunday. **Sunday Picnic** thrived in Mass maintaining activities while attracting families across Massachusetts and New England.

During **World War II**, celebrating 200 years of *Negro Election Day* celebration another name was changed was crafted, **Colored People's Picnic** and moved to the 3rd Saturday in July. This allowed factory and defense plant workers to attend and attracted families and descendants.

The late 1960's showcased the **Civil Rights Movement**, an awareness of **Black Power!** **Colored People's Picnic** was renamed **Black Picnic Day**, merging pride honor and Black achievement.

20th Century

Black Picnic Day's 1 day celebration embraced family reunions, graduations and its original activities. Night dances were held with concerts by Jazz greats like Duke Ellington and Cab Calloway!

21st Century

3 women imitated a rebirth of **Black Picnic Day**, in 2014 forming Salem United, Inc. 5 years they unmasked the history of *Negro Election Day* and set their mission to preserve protect and build. Today they work toward preserving its historical significance; protecting its legacy as the oldest historical Voting celebration; and building its value using education, self-governing politics, black awareness and pride of who we are and the strength of our voting history in America.

Negro Election Day a Massachusetts State Holiday!



MISSION AND GOALS

Salem United, Inc. Fosters A Commitment To **Preserve** Our Cultural History, **Protect** Our Ethnic Traditions, And **Build** Our Community And Social Awareness.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

Salem United Inc.'s purpose is unifying Individuals, Organizations and Companies in bettering our communities.

Our most significant goals are to:

- Increase participation in Voter Registration and U.S. Census through education and historical significance of the origin of "Negro Election Day", The First Black Voting System..
- Provide history for Black America
- Build mentorships and collaboration. Do charitable works. Provide education.
- Develop sporting events. Cultivate social and community events

We Emphasize Self-Identity, Self-Governing And Family Values To Community Members.