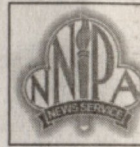


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"GEORGIA'S BEST WEEKLY"

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Georgia Historical Society Plans 275th Anniversary Gala

Georgia Historical Society will celebrate the 275th anniversary of the founding of the colony of Georgia with a black-tie gala on Feb. 16 at 7 pm at the Hyatt Regency Savannah.

The evening will begin with cocktails at the site of Gen. James Oglethorpe's landing on the river walk and dinner will follow in the Harborside Room in a seating plan evoking Savannah's his-

toric squares. The program will feature greetings from Her Majesty's government and the presentation of the Georgia Historical Society's three primary awards. The keynote speaker is Michael Beschloss, NBC's presidential historian,



Michael Beschloss
Keynote Speaker

See **Georgia Historical Society**, page 12

Georgia Historical Society... *Continued from page 1*

who will discuss great moments of leadership in American history. Tickets are \$175. Approximately 500 guests are expected.

Other events marking the occasion are as follows:

Georgia Days Colonial Faire and Muster on Feb. 2-3 from 10 am-4 pm at Wormsloe State Historic Site, 7601 Skidaway Road. This living history program will feature the ruins of the plantation house, costumed interpreters, colonial-era musicians and demonstrations in the spirit of colonial Georgia.

Georgia Days Lecture & Kickoff Event on Feb. 5 at 7 pm at Georgia Historical Society, 501 Whitaker St. An Evening with James Edward Oglethorpe: A Dramatic Historical Presentation is a free lecture open to the public and will explore the life and legacy of Georgia's founder. The annual Georgia Days celebration honors an individual from Georgia's history and Oglethorpe was selected

this year to commemorate the 275th anniversary. A professional interpreter will portray the honoree and use journals, diaries and letters of the time period to relay the first years of the "Georgia Experiment." A display of English trade items and maps will accompany the hands-on program, which is suitable for all ages. A reception will follow.

Super Museum Sunday on Feb. 10 from noon-4 pm. During this Georgia Historical Society's Georgia Days tradition, more than 40 house museums, art museums and other cultural institutions in the area will open to the public at no charge, including Georgia Historical Society's Hodgson Hall Library, 501 Whitaker St.

Black History Month Essay and Public Speaking Contest on Feb. 11 at 5 pm at Georgia Historical Society's Hodgson Hall, 501 Whitaker St. This contest is open to all Georgia high school students. An original, 500-word essay should explore why Oglethorpe and the Georgia Trustees banned slavery in the new colony, what the circumstances were that eventually led to the introduction of slavery in

Georgia and what the long-term effects were of the British government's decision to make slavery legal in Georgia. Essays must be received by 5 pm on Jan. 23 at Georgia Historical Society, 501 Whitaker Street, Savannah, GA, 31401. Five finalists will present their essays publicly at the Hodgson Hall Library and three winners will be selected. Prizes will be awarded and a reception will follow the presentation.

Georgia Day Parade on Feb. 12 at 10:30 a.m. Elementary school students will join dignitaries, costumed characters and local citizens marching through the squares of Bull Street in this Georgia Day tradition. The parade begins at Forsyth Park and continues north on Bull Street, ending at City Hall with greetings from the Mayor and other dignitaries. Awards for a student banner competition will be presented.

Georgia Historical Society, headquartered in Savannah, is the oldest cultural institution in the state.

For more information, contact Georgia Historical Society at 912-651-2125 or visit www.georgiahistory.com.

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