



ADACI

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Date: May 20, 2025

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What: ADACI 33rd

Annual International Maafa Commemoration

"Our Story. Our Journey: Ancestor Memory Heals"

Who: AFRICAN DIASPORA ANCESTRAL COMMEMORATION INSTITUTE (ADACI)

When/Where: Saturday, June 14, 2025

Union Temple Baptist Church and procession to the Anacostia River

1225 W Street SE, Washington, DC 20020

Time: 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

ADACI 33rd ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL COMMEMORATION FOR MILLIONS OF ANCESTORS WHO PERISHED DURING THE MIDDLE PASSAGE – THE MAAFA, AND THOSE WHO SURVIVED!

Washington, DC – The African Diaspora Ancestral Commemoration Institute (**ADACI**) will host its 33rd Annual International African Ancestral Commemoration entitled ***"Our Story. Our Journey: Ancestor Memory Heals"*** in honor of the millions of African Ancestors – men, women and children - who perished during the Middle Passage - the Maafa, and those who survived on **Saturday, June 14th, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm**, with prayers/libations, a keynote presentation and special artistic and healing expressions at Union Temple Baptist Church, 1225 W Street, SE, DC; followed by a drum procession to the Anacostia River for a spiritual healing ceremony beneath the historic 11th Street Bridge.

ADACI's annual commemoration focuses on the ongoing healing and restoration of collective memory by recapturing and reassembling the fragmented history of Africa and the African Diaspora. This year's theme is ***"Our Story. Our Journey: Ancestor Memory Heals," reflects the healing that comes when we remember the ancestors, and begin to draw upon their strength, wisdom, courage, and determination, and remembering is the realization that connects us to the source of our power.*** The activities will begin at Union Temple Baptist Church, with the calling of the ancestors by ceremonial drummers. **Chief Fakunle Oyesanya**, President of ADACI-Nigeria, will provide opening prayers and lead the pouring of libations. The **keynote** will be given by **Anthony Browder**, world-renowned author, Egyptologist, cultural historian, and educational consultant, who is known for his work conducting excavations and the restoration of 25th dynasty tombs in Luxor, Egypt, and study tours to Egypt. There will also be **special presentations** by soul singer, educator, and activist, **Ayana Gregory**, healing sacred meditation sounds by **Dr. Ivy Hilton**, and poetry by award-winning poet, author, and teaching artist **Laini Mataka**. A drum procession directed by **Master Drummers Sidiki Paul Lancaster, Bill "Babalu" Caudle, Joseph Soh Ngwa, and Shango Kwame**, will lead participants to the drum procession to the Anacostia River for a Spiritual Healing and Renewal Ceremony beneath the historic 11th Street Bridge, dedicated to our African Ancestors lost during the Middle Passage. **ALL ATTENDEES ARE ASKED TO WEAR WHITE CLOTHING.**

Commemoration activities and libations are expected to take place in Africa and the diaspora, hosted by **ADACI-Senegal; ADACI-Nigeria; ADACI-Cameroon;** and **ADACI-Brazil**, as well as across the U.S. hosted by members of the **International Coalition to Remember the Ancestors of the Middle Passage (ICCAAMP)**

Background: The African Diaspora Ancestral Commemoration Institute (ADACI) was founded in Washington, DC, in 1992 as a community-based cultural, educational, and spiritual nonprofit organization whose purpose is to institutionalize the commemoration of our African Ancestors who perished in the Middle Passage. This mission is accomplished through the observance of ceremonies and the presentation of artistic, educational, and cultural activities. ADACI international chapters include ADACI-Senegal, ADACI-Nigeria, ADACI-Cameroon, and ADACI-Brazil.

For information: (202) 505-2896; (443) 840-9204; or visit us at www.adaciancestors.org.

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