

The Society of Virgin Islands Historians

Presents



The Land and Spirit of St. Croix Recorded in Maps and Dance

January 15, 2022

9:00am -Noon

Via Zoom

<https://bit.ly/SVIH2022>

For info contact: 340-998-4147

Thirty-fourth Annual Meeting

January 15, 2022

9:00-Noon



The Land and Spirit of St. Croix Recorded in Maps and Dance

Welcome

Elizabeth Rezende, President of Society of Virgin Islands Historians
State of the Society
Introduction of Officers, Members 9:00-9:45

Agenda

Presentations:

William Cleveland, PhD, Public and Non-Profit Administration Program, University of Milwaukee, WI
St. Croix Sugar Industry Traced through Variations of the Map Created Originally by Jens Michelsen Beck
Questions and Answers 9:50-10:35

Break 10:40-11:00

Cynthia Oliver, PhD. Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL
Choreographing History-Traces of the Past in Dance's Moving Bodies
Questions and Answers 11:05-11:50

Acknowledgments and Closing Remarks: President Rezende

We wish to acknowledge the Rotary Mid-Island and Liz Googins for her IT support and Fitzgerald Boezm, Jr., VI Port Authority.

Detail of mural at the Henry E. Rohlsen Airport by the students of the S.M.A.R.T. summer art program, 2012, under Cynthia Hatfield and Sunita Banwahree. Reproduced image courtesy of the Virgin Islands Port Authority.

About the Speakers

William Cleveland lived on St. Croix from 1987-1991. In 1988, as an assignment for Dr. Arnold Highfield's *History of the Virgin Islands* class at the University of Virgin Islands, he completed the first-known modern reconnaissance of all the windmill ruins on St. Croix. He used Beck's map and a GPS system for spotting these architectural gems. He then returned in 2020 to dust off the 30-year old research that was never published. He and a group of volunteers, including SVIH members, re-visited some of the sites. Cleveland plans to set up a 600 page- data base of St. Croix windmills, accessible on the Internet.

Cleveland, after having earned his PhD in 2016, moved to Milwaukee where he teaches and works in digital media consulting and serves as a " Cat Herder." William.cleveland@gmail.com

Cynthia Oliver, is a St. Croix, Virgin Island-reared dance maker, performer and scholar. Her work incorporates textures of Caribbean performance with African and American aesthetic sensibilities. She has toured the globe as a featured dancer with contemporary companies: David Gordon Pick Up Co., Ronald K. Brown/Evidence, Bebe Miller Company, and Tere O'Connor Dance, and as an actor in works by Laurie Carlos, Greg Tate, Ione Ntozake Shange, and Derek Weaver,

She earned a PhD in performance studies from New York University, is a New York Dance and Performance (Bessie) Award winning choreographer, a 2016 Maggie Allesee National Center for choreography, Mellon Fellow, a 2017 University of Illinois Center for Advanced Studies Associate (and now CAS Professor), a 2007 University Scholar awardee. She is currently serving her fifth year of a five-year term as Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation in the Humanities, Arts and Related Fields at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, where she is a professor of the dance department with affiliations in African American Studies and Gender and Women's Studies.

She is a widely-published author, with *Queen of the Virgins: Paganry and Black Womanhood in the Caribbean* (2009). Her most recent evening -length performance work, "Virago-Man Dem" premiered at BAM's Next Wave Festival 2017 and toured the country. She is a 2021 United States Artist and a 2021 Doris Duke Artist. coliver@illinois.edu

Notes:

On Wednesday, April 13, 2022 ,Elizabeth Rezende will be presenting a lecture and power point presentation *Casper Holstein's Pivotal Years: Writing, Organizing and Agitating for Change 1921-1927*. This is a project supported by the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands.

Please Consider. . .

After listening to the papers today, I ask you to spend half a minute thinking why the study of Virgin Islands history is important to you. We must learn to live with covid, be informed about the world around us, understand climate change and follow our relationship with this special place.

Why not become a member? Our membership process is easy. Please contact erezende576@gmail.com for a membership application. Then ask two friends who are members of the Society to vouch for your interest and sign the form.

Next, send the form to Society of Virgin Islands Historians, PO Box 26425, Christiansted, St. Croix VI 00824. Remember: The only qualification for membership is an interest in history. The society is comprised not only of scholars but also of people with an interest in learning Virgin Islands and Caribbean History. Once you have received your acceptance, please send a check for \$40 through the mail. Any questions? Call Betsy Rezende 340-998-4147 Our website: www.vihistorians.net

Officers of SVIH: President: Elizabeth Rezende; Vice President: Aletha Baumann; Secretary: Susan Beach, Treasurer: Leonor Gillette

The Society of Virgin Islands Historians

The Society of Virgin Islands Historians is an association of professional historians and associate members, located on the island of St, Croix, but serving all of the Virgin Islands. The membership of the Society hails from the Virgin Islands, other Caribbean islands and the United States, Denmark and other countries. The society promotes the study and advancement of local history through a number of activities, the most prominent among them being the publication of articles and documents, the holding of an annual meeting and conferences, and the promotion of issues vital to local history and preservation.
<http://vihistorians.net/about-society-of-virgin-islands-historians/>