

# NG NEW JOURNAL & GUIDE

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# Learning Juneteenth History Through Puppetry & Storytelling

## VIRGINIA BEACH

On Tuesday, June 18, 2024, a free Jubilant Juneteenth Eve Storytelling and Puppet show for children and their families was held at the Central Library in Virginia Beach. The children were given the opportunity to increase their exposure to the performing arts of storytelling and puppeteering while learning the true meaning of Juneteenth.

The citizens of Virginia Beach funded the Jubilant Juneteenth Eve Storytelling and Puppet Show through a grant from the City of Virginia Beach Arts & Humanities Commission.

D. Green Storytelling, a non-profit organization, was the presenter. Using puppetry techniques, the main characters and the puppets taught entertaining and valuable history lessons while presenting bold, vibrant, and bright slides on a large screen. Throughout the show, the audience was enthusiastically involved and took part in a Juneteenth Rap and rhyming cheers.

Upon arrival, the attendees selected beautiful souvenir Juneteenth necklaces. The show commenced with welcoming remarks and introductions by Dr. Stefanie Gray, Director of Marketing for D. Green Storytelling. Next, the audience was delighted to stand and sing a few stanzas of Lift Every



Photo: Courtesy

The Storytelling Queen in action

Voice and Sing, led by accomplished vocalist Ofelia Wattley. Then, it was time for the main event:

The Storytelling and Puppet Show was presented by the lead performer of D. Green Storytelling, Darlene Green, who is well-known in the community as "The Storytelling Queen!" After the presentation, the audience shared the historical facts they had learned. During the event, the children were excited to become stars, as they were featured in the spotlight and received their certificates of participation on stage; this allowed them to boost their self-confidence and positive self-esteem.

D. Green Storytelling has served the Hampton Roads community since 2011 with presentations in schools,

summer programs, daycare centers, churches, girl and boy scout troops, festivals, and seasonal events, to name a few. Their shows always have a meaningful message, such as believing in yourself.

"We believe that it is important to increase the number of opportunities that low-income students have for exposure to the performing art of storytelling, and that is why D. Green Storytelling is so dedicated to its mission. There was a great turnout, and the show was a tremendous success. The event organizers look forward to serving the community next year with the second annual Jubilant Juneteenth Eve Storytelling and Puppet Show!"

To learn more and donate to this non-profit organization, please visit [www.dgreenstorytelling.com](http://www.dgreenstorytelling.com).



Photo: Courtesy

The Puppet Show Crew