



## A CENTURY OF EXCELLENCE, A FUTURE OF POSSIBILITIES

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### **Press Release**

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### **Join the Celebration of Juneteenth at the Ocean County Library Toms River Branch**

**TOMS RIVER** – Engage in a day of learning, reflection and engagement, honor the steadfastness of the Black community and revel in the evolution of the democratic republic that is America. Join the [“Celebration of Juneteenth: Resilience, Courage and Freedom”](#) at the Ocean County Library Toms River Branch, 9 AM until 2 PM Thursday, June 19.

We invite you to reflect, connect and celebrate through storytelling, music, history and food. We will spotlight community voices including [Joe Holt](#) of Jackson, a decorated veteran whose reflections on his 89 years of life and his military service were profiled in the [Asbury Park Press](#) and [MSN.com](#); Robert Taylor, of the Black fraternity [Phi Beta Sigma](#); and motivational speaker [A'Liah Moore Jackson](#), who will recount her own experiences.

Highlighting the celebration will be the gripping tale *Harriet Tubman: A Journey to Freedom*. With a compelling narrative and soulful songs, [Michelle Washington Wilson](#) and [Valerie Vaughn](#) will convey the extraordinary tale of this beacon of courage and unwavering dedication to freedom.

Michelle Washington Wilson is a Motivational Storyteller, writer and teaching artist who has spent decades preserving African American folklore through the spoken word. Known for her deep knowledge and captivating delivery, Michelle embodies Harriet Tubman's courage, vision and resilience. Valerie Vaughn, “New Jersey's Troubadour,” is the acclaimed folk musician who dedicates her career to preserving New Jersey's legends and history through original songs.

The event will also feature a soul food tasting and a Carousel of Music performance by the nationally renowned [Sounds of Soul](#).

“Celebration of Juneteenth: Resilience, Courage and Freedom” is generously sponsored by the OCL Cultural Awareness Team, the [Ocean County Parks and Recreation Department](#), and the [Ocean County Library Foundation](#).

Please register at <https://tinyurl.com/JuneteenthOCL> to take part in this free program. For more information, please visit or call the OCL Toms River Branch, 101 Washington Street, (732) 349-6200. See the full schedule of Library programs in the online [Calendar of Events](#).

OCL turns 100 this year and you're why we're celebrating! See details on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), [YouTube](#), [Spotify](#), [Pinterest](#) and <https://theoceancountylibrary.org>.

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***Michelle Washington Wilson***



***Valerie Vaughn***



***A'Liah Moore Jackson***  
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