



Saratoga County Arts Council/The Arts Center
320 Broadway
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
(518) 584-4132 • www.saratoga-arts.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 30, 2007

Contact: Joel Reed: 584-4132 ext 206

**Folk Arts Presentation:
Saratoga's Westside Story: African American Voices
Saratoga Arts Center
Saturday, June 23**

In 2006, the Saratoga County Arts Council launched a three-year project focusing on the folk arts and culture of Saratoga Springs' Westside neighborhood by researching and hosting an evening of oral narrative and audience participation with Saratoga's Italian Americans.

The Arts Council is continuing that project this year by recording the folk histories of the Westside's African Americans. All are invited to a presentation and discussion about the changing cultural and artistic traditions from Saratoga's African American community in The Dee Sarno Theater at The Arts Center, 320 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, on June 23, from 7 to 9pm. There is no charge for admission.

Local community scholars will share their stories about growing up on Saratoga's Westside, and Myra B. Young Armstead, Associate Professor of History and Chair of the American Studies Program at Bard College will be the special guest. Prof. Armstead he will discuss her book, *Lord, Please Don't Take Me in August*, an insightful study of black communities in Newport and Saratoga Springs during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

The audience is invited to participate in a short discussion about the changes brought about by urban renewal and gentrification of communities, and specifically how those changes affected Saratoga's Westside.

There is no charge for the event, and refreshments will be served.

This event is made possible by the Folk Arts Program of the New York State Council on the Arts.

What: *Saratoga's Westside Story: African American Voices*

Where: The Dee Sarno Theater at The Arts Center
320 Broadway
Saratoga Springs, NY

When: Saturday, June 23, 7 pm- 9pm

Admission: Free and open to all. For more information, call The Arts Center at 584-4132