



Celebrating Our Past, Present and Future

Welcome to the 35th Leali Family Reunion!

A special milestone that brings our family together once again. This gathering is a celebration of our shared heritage, the enduring bonds that connect us, and the generations of stories that continue to shape who we are.

As we reunite, we honor our ancestors whose strength, sacrifices, and achievements laid the foundation for our family today. Through fellowship, laughter, and cherished traditions, we reconnect across generations and create new memories to carry forward.

May this reunion be a time of reflection, joy, and renewed connection as we celebrate the legacy of the Leali family—past, present, and future.

Host Hotel:

The Inn at Opryland, A Gaylord Hotel
2401 Music Valley Dr,
Nashville, TN 37214



Table of Contents

Welcome	2
Table of Contents.....	3
Reunion Planning Committee	4
QR Codes	4
Mayor of Nashville Welcome.....	5
Reunion Itinerary	6-7
Nashville Facts	8
Optional Activities.....	9
Past Reunions	10
Worship Service	11
Business Meeting Agenda	11
Milestones and Celebrations.....	12-14
Family Song	15
Acknowledgements	16

Reunion Planning Committee

Clarence Burke—President

LeSondra Barnett-Vice President

Lori Fluker-Finance Officer

Sonja Harris— Secretary

Sheryl Porter Tufts—Coordinator

Freida Baker-Nash

Stephanie Baker

Jimmy Harris

Larry Young

Sylvia Collins

Cassandra Whitlow

Kyle Fluker

AJ Harmon

Darryl Fluker

Sandra Boggess-Montgomery

Jovonte (Nguvu) Porter Tasare

Terkquyose Kennebrew

Briana Taylor

Scan these QR Codes to stay connected with our Leali Family

Leali groupme chat



Leali Facebook page



Share your reunion photos





FREDDIE O'CONNELL
MAYOR

A Letter of Welcome from Mayor O'Connell



Dear Friends,

On behalf of the city of Nashville, it is my pleasure and with heartfelt gratitude that we welcome each of you as you gather in Music City for the 2026 Leali family reunion. We are truly honored that you chose our community as the place to gather, reconnect, and celebrate the legacy that binds your family together.

If you have been to Nashville before, welcome back. If this is your first time here, I'm very excited for you. We're delighted you're visiting.

While you're here, I encourage you to explore the sights and sounds of Music City. I hope you discover the charm and hospitality that Nashville has to offer. Whether it is the bustling streets downtown, the serene beauty of our parks and green spaces, the culinary culture, or deep musical history, there truly is something for everyone to enjoy.

Thank you again for choosing our city as the home for your reunion. We wish you a joyful, meaningful, and memorable gathering.

From our family to yours, welcome to Nashville.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Freddie O'Connell".

Freddie O'Connell
Mayor, Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

Leali Family Reunion Itinerary

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2026

ATTIRE: CASUAL

9:00AM-4:00PM	FUN ACTIVITIES ON YOUR OWN
6:00PM-9:00PM	CHECK-IN/REGISTRATION HOSPITALITY ROOM—BELLEVUE MEET & GREET-LIGHT HORS D'OEUVRES
9:00 PM UNTIL	NASHVILLE NIGHT OUT (ON YOUR OWN)

FAMILY DAY

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2026

ATTIRE: REUNION T-SHIRT

9:00AM—9:15am	MEET IN THE LOBBY AND BOARD BUS FOR FAMILY OUTING
9:30AM	BUS DEPARTS FOR NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSIC (NMAAM)
10:00AM—2:00PM	VISIT NMAAM AND LUNCH ON YOUR OWN
2:00PM—2:15PM	BOARD BUS THAT DEPARTS AT 2:15PM
2:15PM—5:00PM	BUS TOUR OF NASHVILLE AND HBCU'S WITH GUIDE
5:00PM UNTIL	FREE TIME—HOSPITALITY ROOM -BELLEVUE WILL BE OPEN

WORSHIP SERVICE & BUSINESS MEETING
SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2026
ATTIRE: BUSINESS/FORMAL CASUAL

10:00AM	WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP IN THE HOTEL HOSPITALITY ROOM—BELLEVUE
12:00PM—3:00PM	FAMILY BUSINESS MEETING AND BRUNCH
3:00 PM	FAREWELL AND SAFE TRAVELS HOME

National Museum of African American Music is located in Nashville’s Fifth + Broad-way complex. After visiting the museum you can go upstairs to Assembly Food Hall and literally find any food you want, from sit-down to fast-food. The Fifth + Broad complex also includes a number of vendors of classic Black owned restaurants (including Prince's Hot Chicken). www.assemblyfoodhall.com

NOTES

Music City, USA - Nashville Facts

Music Capital

Nashville is home to over 180 live music venues, more per capita than any other U.S. city.

Country Music

The Grand Ole Opry has been broadcasting continuously since 1925, making it the longest-running radio show in history

Recording Studios

Music Row has produced countless #1 hits. Nashville recording studios have shaped the sound of American music for decades

Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's)

Nashville is home to 4 HBCU's Tennessee State University, American Baptist College, Fisk University and Meharry Medical College

Hot Chicken

Nashville is the birthplace of Nashville Hot Chicken, invented at Prince's Hot Chicken Shack in the 1930s.

Athens of the South

Nashville earned the nickname "Athens of the South" for its many universities and a full-scale replica of the Greek Parthenon.

Pedestrian Bridge

The John Seigenthaler Pedestrian Bridge is one of the longest pedestrian bridges in the world at 3,150 feet.

Optional Activities

Old Town Trolley Tours www.trolleytours.com/nashville

Nashville Walking Tours www.nashvilleadventures.com

Top Rated Nashville Walking Tours & Unique Experiences

Nashville Water Taxi Tours www.thenashvillewatertaxi.com

Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum www.countrymusichalloffame.org

Frist Art Museum www.fristartmuseum.org

Opry Mills Mall www.simon.com/mall/opry-mills

Fisk University www.fisk.edu/galleries/ visit the Aaron Douglas Gallery

Jefferson Street Museum www.jeffersonstreetsound.com

Tennessee State Museum www.tnmuseum.org

Nashville Public Library/ Civil Rights Room–Main www.library.nashville.gov

Nashville Jazz Workshop www.nashvillejazz.org

Nashville History Tours www.nashvillehistoryontour.com

United Street Tours www.unitedstreettours.com

Uncle Nearest tours–Black owned Nearest Green Distillery Tours

Nashville Zoo Nashville Zoo at Grassmere | Nashville, TN

Grand Ole Opry House Guided Backstage Tour Tours Calendar | Opry

Belle Meade Guided Mansion Tour & Wine Tasting Belle Meade | Historic Site Tours & Winery in Nashville

Past Reunions

The first family reunion was held in 1955 in Manly, Iowa. The next reunion was moved to 1958 and was held in Denver, Colorado. In 1960, it was held in Flint, Michigan. In 1972, back at our original meeting place, Manly, Iowa which was hosted by Pearlie Leali Barnett and her daughter Flossie Douglas. In 1974 it was held in Fordyce, Arkansas. The family reunion rotated between these 4 cities in August of each even numbered year. The Leali Family Reunion of 1974 was hosted by Suella Fluker and her sister Essie in Fordyce, Arkansas. It was at this reunion; the decision was made to make every other reunion a vacation reunion. The Leali family has had 34 reunions in the locations on this map.



Worship Service

Call to Worship
Prayer
Musical Selection
Message
Musical Selection
Closing Prayer

Business Meeting Agenda

Call to Order & Opening Clarence Burke
Reading of the Minutes..... Sheryl Porter-Tufts
Financial Report Lori Fluker
Historian Report..... Clarence Burke
Presidential Remarks Clarence Burke
Old Business Clarence Burke
Reunion Site Selection Process..... LeSondra Barnett
New Business LeSondra Barnett
Closing Remarks
Closing Prayer

Meeting Adjourned

Milestones and Celebrations

Weddings

Kyle Fluker & Shannon Hayes ----August 9,2025

Mitchell Stevenson & Marcia Frisbie -----May 15, 2026

Graduations

Leai Fluker-University of Virginia Lynchburg, PhD Health Administration, May 3, 2025

Kyle Fluker—University of Minnesota Law School, JD, May 2026

Serena Baker—Wayne State University, BS 2024

Gavin Porter---University of Texas, MS 2025

Lovies Dee Brown—Scripps University, Claremont, CA, BA May 2025

Myles Woods—Children’s Hospital Denver, EEG program, 2023

Brandi L Greene— Colorado Technical Institute online, BS Project Management, 2026

Quincy Clayton—Eaglecrest High School, Aurora, CO, Diploma 2026.

Kevin Whitlow II---KJ graduated May 21, 2026, Magnum Cum Laude from the University of Detroit Jesuit High School. and will be attending Purdue Fort Wayne with a soccer and academic scholarship,

Alexander Looney---Carmen Ainsworth High School, May 2024

Juanita Collins—Madison Academy, Flint Mi, May 21, 2026

Seth Popular—Grand Blanc High School, Grand Blanc, MI May 29, 2026

Keith Perry—Carmen High School, Flint, MI, May 28, 2026

Patience Mastin--- Carmen Ainsworth High School, May 2026

Jomei Leali—Rome City Prep Academy, Rome City, Italy, High school diploma with honors, May 2026

Milestones and Celebrations

Births

Gianna Butler, June 16, 2026 (Shantell Alexander- Great Grand Ruth El)

Valkyrie Mosley August 9, 2024 (AJ Mosley, great grand Chuck & Linda Leali)

Jurnee Rose Green-Bond, October 4, 2024 (Brandi Greene, Niece of Sandra Bogges-Montgomery)

Christian Kane Young, December 3, 2024 (Aaron & Hannah Young)

Noa Grace Young, February 19, 2026 (Aaron & Hannah Young)

Recognitions

Kevin Whitlow II will be attending Purdue University Fort Wayne with a soccer and academic scholarship.

Lovies Dee Brown—attending, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, for her doctorate in counseling psychology.

Serena Baker ---attending Wayne State University Detroit for MS in Public Health.

Gavin Porter continues his studies pursuing a PhD in Community and Regional Planning at University of Texas Austin.

Mia Burke McMahon is attending Post University for her Master of Science in Nursing and MBA dual degree.

Laurel Darling—trip to Ghana & London, England June 2026

Sheryl Tufts—75th Birthday Cruise on Celebrity February 2026

Alphonzo Collins, Sr—Inducted in Flint African American Hall of Fame as coach of Wrestling team that won 1995 State Championship in addition to Boys & Girls Basketball teams.

Milestones and Celebrations

Recognitions (Cont.)

Syvil Burke received Alpha Kappa Alpha's Mid-Atlantic Region Award for Graduate Advisor of the year in 2024, and the University of North Carolina Fraternity and Sorority Services Advisor of the Year award in 2025. Both awards were for her work as Graduate Advisor of the Theta Pi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Syvil and Clarence Burke are celebrating 50 years of committed membership and service in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

John & Leali Alexander celebrated 44 years of marriage on July 2, 2026.

Shelly & Sateesha celebrated 27 years of marriage on December 31, 2025.

Dorothy Baker celebrates her 90th birthday on August 12, 2026.

Transitions

Sylvester Gaffney Collins --October 11, 2024

Edgar Tufts, Jr-- October 29, 2025

John Fluker--- May 24, 2026

Selma Joyce Collins--- February 12, 2026

Milas J Bonner---June 28, 2026

Ja’Nya Monae White --- May 2024 (granddaughter of Lynn Franklin)

Family Song

BOUND BY LOVE

Bind us Together Lord
Bind us Together With
Cords that cannot be broken
Bind us Together Lord
Bind us Together Lord
Bind us Together Lord with Love,
There was a man - George Washington Leali
Sixteen Souls from his seed did spread
The roots of the Leali Family,
And now together we sing
Bind us Together Lord
Bind us Together With
Cords that Cannot be broken
Bind us Together Lord
Bind us Together Lord
Bind us Together Lord with Love

Written by Mamie Leali Patterson

Acknowledgements

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Reunion Committee for their dedication, hard work, and thoughtful organization. This reunion is the culmination of the committee's efforts that began shortly after the 2024 gathering. Every aspect – from hotel selection to logistical planning – was completed with our family's comfort in mind. Your commitment made this weekend possible, and our family is better because of your service.

To all of our family who traveled from near and far to join us in Nashville, thank you for making the journey to celebrate another wonderful reunion. Whether this was your first time attending or one of many, we pray that you have safe travels home. We hope this weekend has given you precious memories – moments to laugh, learn, and fellowship with one another.

We also express our appreciation to the staff of the Inn at Opryland for their hospitality and support in helping make this an enjoyable and comfortable experience for our family.

With love and gratitude,

The Leali Family Reunion Committee