

Contact: Stacey Massey  
1302 Adams Street  
Vicksburg, MS 39180  
Phone: 601-631-2997  
Fax: 601-631-3734  
Email: [stacey@southernculture.org](mailto:stacey@southernculture.org)  
Website: [www.southernculture.org](http://www.southernculture.org)



*Southern Cultural Heritage*  
**FOUNDATION**

---

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 8, 2016

## **SCHF welcomes Alysia Burton Steele for a Presentation and Book Signing** *Delta Jewels: In Search of My Grandmother's Wisdom*

(VICKSBURG, MS) Join us in the SCHC Convent Chapel on **Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.**, as we welcome Alysia Burton Steele for a presentation on her book *Delta Jewels: In Search of My Grandmother's Wisdom*, and a book signing. SCHF will have Alysia's books on site. **Dr. Rolando Herts**, director of the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area and the Delta Center for Culture and Learning will be with us, as well.

The book *Delta Jewels: In Search of My Grandmother's Wisdom*, a collection of oral histories and photographs of African American church mothers from the Mississippi Delta by Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalism professor **Alysia Burton Steele** from the University of Mississippi. Since that time, *Delta Jewels* has been entered into the Library of Congress.

Feeling the emotional pull to reconnect to her grandmother's wisdom and her African-American heritage, Alysia Burton Steele, embarked on a personal mission to record oral histories of women from her grandmother's generation. She complements the rich narrative with poignant photographs illuminating her appreciation of each of the precious Jewels, who have endured inequality, injustice and heart-wrenching tragedy. These inspiring portraits reflect the faces of love and triumph that will inspire readers to hold on to their faith and exhibit courage in the most challenging of circumstances.

Steele also has been selected to receive the Preserver of Mississippi Culture Award from the Mississippi Humanities Council. **Dr. Rolando Herts** nominated Steele for the award.

The Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area's Delta Jewels Oral History Partnership was formed last year and features *Delta Jewels: In Search of My Grandmother's Wisdom*. The partnership has engaged over 500 Delta residents and visitors through community gatherings in Clarksdale, Charleston, Indianola, Yazoo City, Ruleville, and Mound Bayou, as well as Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena. Another program was held recently at Jackson State University in collaboration with the Fannie Lou Hamer Institute @ COFO and the Margaret Walker Center.

Please join us as we welcome **Alysia Burton Steele** and **Dr. Rolando Herts** for a presentation and book signing of *Delta Jewels: In Search of My Grandmother's Wisdom* on **Thursday, February 25, 2016 at 6:00pm** in the SCHF Convent Chapel. For more information, please call the SCHF office at 601.631.2997.

###