



## **ALBUM PRIMARY SOURCES FOR "SAVING AMERICAN BEACH: THE BIOGRAPHY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTALIST MAVYNEE BETSCH"**

### **Album Description**

Last week I read Heidi Tyline King's *Saving American Beach: The Biography of African American Environmentalist MaVynee Betsch* and was fascinated to learn this story. After going down my own rabbit hole, I decided to create an album for anyone looking for primary sources to pair with this picture book biography. In the days of Jim Crow, the beaches in Jacksonville, Florida were segregated, so MaVynee's grandfather purchased land and created his own beach, American Beach. After a career as an opera singer, MaVynee returned to American Beach where she fought to save the Beach. [Pre K - 2](#) [3 - 5](#)  
[Conservation](#) [American Beach](#) [MaVynee Betsch](#)

## National Baptists, Inc. Starts Interracial Revivals in South '50-'51

Letter To Editor

Dear Sir:

I am writing you to inform you that the National Baptists, Inc. is starting a series of interracial revivals in the South for the years '50-'51.

The first revival will be held in the city of Atlanta, Georgia, from September 10 to 15, 1950.

The second revival will be held in the city of Birmingham, Alabama, from September 16 to 21, 1950.

The third revival will be held in the city of Montgomery, Alabama, from September 22 to 27, 1950.

The fourth revival will be held in the city of Mobile, Alabama, from September 28 to October 3, 1950.

The fifth revival will be held in the city of New Orleans, Louisiana, from October 4 to 9, 1950.

The sixth revival will be held in the city of Houston, Texas, from October 10 to 15, 1950.

The seventh revival will be held in the city of Dallas, Texas, from October 16 to 21, 1950.

The eighth revival will be held in the city of San Antonio, Texas, from October 22 to 27, 1950.

The ninth revival will be held in the city of Austin, Texas, from October 28 to November 2, 1950.

The tenth revival will be held in the city of Fort Worth, Texas, from November 3 to 8, 1950.

The eleventh revival will be held in the city of El Paso, Texas, from November 9 to 14, 1950.

The twelfth revival will be held in the city of Phoenix, Arizona, from November 15 to 20, 1950.

The thirteenth revival will be held in the city of Tucson, Arizona, from November 21 to 26, 1950.

The fourteenth revival will be held in the city of Albuquerque, New Mexico, from November 27 to December 2, 1950.

The fifteenth revival will be held in the city of Santa Fe, New Mexico, from December 3 to 8, 1950.

The sixteenth revival will be held in the city of Las Vegas, Nevada, from December 9 to 14, 1950.

The seventeenth revival will be held in the city of Reno, Nevada, from December 15 to 20, 1950.

The eighteenth revival will be held in the city of Sacramento, California, from December 21 to 26, 1950.

The nineteenth revival will be held in the city of San Francisco, California, from December 27 to 31, 1950.

The twentieth revival will be held in the city of Los Angeles, California, from January 1 to 5, 1951.

The twenty-first revival will be held in the city of San Diego, California, from January 6 to 10, 1951.

The twenty-second revival will be held in the city of San Jose, California, from January 11 to 15, 1951.

The twenty-third revival will be held in the city of San Bernardino, California, from January 16 to 20, 1951.

The twenty-fourth revival will be held in the city of Orange, California, from January 21 to 25, 1951.

The twenty-fifth revival will be held in the city of Anaheim, California, from January 26 to 30, 1951.

The twenty-sixth revival will be held in the city of Long Beach, California, from February 1 to 5, 1951.

The twenty-seventh revival will be held in the city of Los Angeles, California, from February 6 to 10, 1951.

The twenty-eighth revival will be held in the city of San Diego, California, from February 11 to 15, 1951.

The twenty-ninth revival will be held in the city of San Jose, California, from February 16 to 20, 1951.

The thirtieth revival will be held in the city of San Bernardino, California, from February 21 to 25, 1951.

The thirty-first revival will be held in the city of Orange, California, from February 26 to 30, 1951.

The thirty-second revival will be held in the city of Anaheim, California, from March 1 to 5, 1951.

The thirty-third revival will be held in the city of Long Beach, California, from March 6 to 10, 1951.

The thirty-fourth revival will be held in the city of Los Angeles, California, from March 11 to 15, 1951.

The thirty-fifth revival will be held in the city of San Diego, California, from March 16 to 20, 1951.

The thirty-sixth revival will be held in the city of San Jose, California, from March 21 to 25, 1951.

The thirty-seventh revival will be held in the city of San Bernardino, California, from March 26 to 30, 1951.

The thirty-eighth revival will be held in the city of Orange, California, from April 1 to 5, 1951.

The thirty-ninth revival will be held in the city of Anaheim, California, from April 6 to 10, 1951.

The fortieth revival will be held in the city of Long Beach, California, from April 11 to 15, 1951.

The forty-first revival will be held in the city of Los Angeles, California, from April 16 to 20, 1951.

The forty-second revival will be held in the city of San Diego, California, from April 21 to 25, 1951.

The forty-third revival will be held in the city of San Jose, California, from April 26 to 30, 1951.

The forty-fourth revival will be held in the city of San Bernardino, California, from May 1 to 5, 1951.

The forty-fifth revival will be held in the city of Orange, California, from May 6 to 10, 1951.

The forty-sixth revival will be held in the city of Anaheim, California, from May 11 to 15, 1951.

The forty-seventh revival will be held in the city of Long Beach, California, from May 16 to 20, 1951.

The forty-eighth revival will be held in the city of Los Angeles, California, from May 21 to 25, 1951.

The forty-ninth revival will be held in the city of San Diego, California, from May 26 to 30, 1951.

The fiftieth revival will be held in the city of San Jose, California, from June 1 to 5, 1951.

The fifty-first revival will be held in the city of San Bernardino, California, from June 6 to 10, 1951.

The fifty-second revival will be held in the city of Orange, California, from June 11 to 15, 1951.

The fifty-third revival will be held in the city of Anaheim, California, from June 16 to 20, 1951.

The fifty-fourth revival will be held in the city of Long Beach, California, from June 21 to 25, 1951.

The fifty-fifth revival will be held in the city of Los Angeles, California, from June 26 to 30, 1951.

The fifty-sixth revival will be held in the city of San Diego, California, from July 1 to 5, 1951.

The fifty-seventh revival will be held in the city of San Jose, California, from July 6 to 10, 1951.

The fifty-eighth revival will be held in the city of San Bernardino, California, from July 11 to 15, 1951.

The fifty-ninth revival

**Reference Link:** <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83004231/1949-08-13/ed-1/seq-5>

Newspaper: The Miami times. [volume] (Miami, Fla.) 1923-current

Newspaper Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83004231/1949-08-13/ed-1/seq-5>

Image provided by: University of Florida

PDF Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83004231/1949-08-13/ed-1/seq-5.pdf>



### **Teaching Notes:**

I've been to American Beach on Amelia Island, Florida. There is now a museum at American Beach led by a dear friend of Mavynee Betch (the great-granddaughter of the founder of American Beach). Here is the link to its website: <https://americanbeachmuseum.org/>



**Teaching Notes:**

I have been to Jacksonville before but now must go back to visit the beach and learn more of its important history. Yes, reading Zora Neale Hurston on American Beach seems apropos.



### **Teaching Notes:**

Oh wow. Thank you so much for sharing this story of Bruce's Beach. There was a segregated beach and amusement park (Lincoln Beach) here in New Orleans, too. Now I want to look into the history of it. The space is essentially abandoned now. I have some photos from when I snuck onto the property when I was in college--empty swimming pools and abandoned structures. I now want to explore more of the history of that beach, what is happening to that property, is there a plaque or monument?



**Teaching Notes:**

Yes! I LOVE Ekua Holmes, too! I was so excited to discover the book and her story. I really want to visit American Beach!



### **Teaching Notes:**

Such a wonderful album. I love American Beach and when I went there the first time was unaware of its important history. Can't wait to access the interview with Zora Neale Hurston!!! She may be my next "beach read" when I visit again.

## Teaching Notes:



Wonderful album [Soline Holmes](#)! Thanks for the information on MaVynee Betsch and *Saving the American Beach*. We've been following another historic segregation story about a beach in Southern California that has been making the news, Bruce's Beach. I was looking for a connection in the Library of Congress- and with the MaVynee Betsch story, you have found it! It is a different story with the same beginning and end - beaches segregated because of Jim Crow and civil rights activists fighting to save those beaches.

### Bruce's Beach in the News:

- Los Angeles Times - [Bruce's Beach can return to descendants of Black family in landmark move signed by Newsom](#)
- Insider: [Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a bill returning historic 'Bruce's Beach' land to descendants of Black couple who were run out a century ago.](#)
- NBC News - [After California moves to return Bruce's Beach to Black family, a push to recover other seized land](#)
- NPR [A Black family got their beach back — and inspired others to fight against land theft](#)

My son lives near there and he sent a couple of pictures of the plaque at the Beach.









### Teaching Notes:



[Soline Holmes](#) I bought this book because I am such a fan of Ekua Holmes, but I was thrilled to learn more about MaVynee Betsch -- thanks so much for this terrific album!



**NPR INTERVIEW ABOUT ZORA NEALE HURSTON VISITING AMERICAN BEACH**

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**SAVING AMERICAN BEACH: THE BIOGRAPHY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN  
ENVIRONMENTALIST MAVYNEE BETSCH**

THE MIAMI TIMES.



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**Reference Link:** <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83004231/1949-08-13/ed-1/seq-6>

Newspaper: The Miami times. [volume] (Miami, Fla.) 1923-current

Newspaper Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83004231/1949-08-13/ed-1/seq-6>

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**SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE: "BEACH LADY"**

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## **NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL 2021: SAVING AMERICAN BEACH**





**FLORIDA HUMANITIES "FOR THE LOVE OF AMERICAN BEACH"**



## AMERICAN BEACH MUSEUM



**AUDIO INTERVIEW WITH MAVYNEE BETSCH**



**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE: MAVYNEE "BEACH LADY" BETSCH**