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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUMMER SOLSTICE DESIGNATED AS ‘ANKH DAY’

The Ankh Festival™ and Kemetic New Year Celebration Regenerates Ancient Kemetic Rites and Ceremony While Celebrating the ‘Gift of Life’

For the first time in the western hemisphere a Kemetic (Ancient Egyptian) celebration called the **Ankh Festival™** recognizing receipt of the ‘Gift of Life’ from the Ntcheru (Life Forces) will be celebrated at an annual summer solstice ceremony. The Ankh, the ancient Kemetic (Ancient Egyptian) symbol of life, now recognized globally, will take center stage in a daylong celebration aimed at refocusing the human responsibility towards honoring, sustaining and perpetuating life (Ankh). As a gift from the Ntcheru (Life Forces), it was traditionally recognized and celebrated for thousands of years in ancient Kemet (Ancient Egypt), and by societies under its influence.

Spiritual and social leader Heru-Ka Anu, Seba of the Baltimore, MD based community/organization **Ta-Nefer Ankh**, who specializes in regenerating the ancient Kemetic Way of Life and adapting it for practice in the Western hemisphere, has declared the day of Summer Solstice as ‘**Ankh Day**’; and declared the **Ankh Festival™**, as one of four major festivals acknowledging the cycles of creation celebrated on the solstices and equinoxes.

Asked why recreate an ancient way of living Anu stated: “Its not so much that the way of life was developed or used by our ancient ancestors, the reason is it’s a system that addressed ways of achieving and living an optimal life that is of significance for us. Fundamentally, human being have not changed, we still need to know and understand life-creating and life-sustaining ways of living with creation; also, bearing in mind that the vicissitudes of slavery and racism disconnected and disrupted Black people from our systematic and organized approach to living in this world, we are taking steps to recover and continue forward. We are, as one person put it ‘evolving the culture’ to make it relevant for our day and time.”

Under the guidance of Seba, Heru-Ka Anu, Ta-Nefer Ankh regenerated the **Ancestor Ascension Ceremony** for the first time in the year 2000, with a major ceremony in 2004, and in 2006 declared it and ‘**Ancestors Day**’ to be celebrated during the autumnal equinox. Details of the ceremony, including photographs, can be seen on the website at www.kemetway.com.

The **Ankh Festival™** will take place in Leakin Park, off Eagle Drive, Baltimore, Maryland, on the day of the Summer Solstice, Saturday, June 21 beginning at 11:00 A.M. until 6:00 P.M.

Hundreds are expected to attend from Maryland, DC, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Ohio, New York, Chicago, and other states to participate in a variety of rituals, ceremonies, performances, and other activities for adults and children.

As to what one might expect at the festival-ceremony Anu stated: “Essentially the Ntcheru (Life Forces) of creation will come to earth wherein we will acknowledge them by reenacting Ankh (Life) being extended to humanity, and we will reenact perpetuating Ankh – the Gift of Life – throughout creation, as is our responsibility. There will be rituals, ceremonies, dancing, singing, performances, music, food, arts, crafts and all that makes for a wonderful celebration befitting such an occasion.”

In addition to the **Ankh Festival™**, the **Kemetic New Year** will be celebrated which, as was the custom for most ancient African traditions, began on the summer solstice; it will be recognized in various rituals and ceremonies. “This is all part of restoring our identity, traditions and ‘way of life’ that work for us,” says Seba, Heru-Ka Anu. “These very elements used in past societies, especially Kemet, enabled organization, unity, and building, that allowed for creating and sustaining civilization and the ‘way of life’ that the rest of the world has emulated”.

As host of the **Ankh Festival™ and Kemetic New Year Celebration** in the North-East / Mid-Atlantic region, **Ta-Nefer Ankh** has extended invitations to all Kemetic-centered communities/organizations, African-centered communities/organizations, and the communities at-large to join them in Baltimore to celebrate the ‘Gift of Life’. However, Kemetic-centered communities/organizations who are great distances away and may find it difficult to attend the Baltimore celebration are invited to join them by hosting an **Ankh Festival™ and Kemetic New Year Celebration** in other regions (Mid-West, South, West, and International).

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If you would like more information about this topic or would like to schedule an interview with Seba, Heru-Ka Anu, please call Public Relations at: 443-854-9956 or email Public Relations at: admin@kemetway.com

**We gather to 'Empower Ankh (Life)', 'Raise Ankh (Life)', 'Receive Ankh (Life)',
and 'Give Ankh (Life)' back to each other.**