

46th Annual RI Heritage Festival

Explore the world through art & music!



Saturday, September 21, 2024
12 pm - 5 pm
WaterFire Arts Center, Providence

Free Admission



**RI Historical Preservation
& Heritage Commission**



This festival is made possible in part by a grant from the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, through an appropriation by the Rhode Island General Assembly, and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. We would also like to thank our sponsors, United Way of RI, Amica Insurance, Coastal1 Credit Union, Neighborhood Health Plan of RI, Women & Infants/Urogynecology, Navigant Credit Union, and Tri-County Community Action Agency for their generous support.

Emcees

Angela Sharkey - A volunteer of the RI Heritage Day Festival for the past several years. Ms. Sharkey is a certified Korean interpreter and real estate agent with Coldwell Banker in East Greenwich. She began teaching the traditional folk dance of Korea in New Jersey in 1982 and established the Hibiscus Cultural Group to extend Korean Folk Dance Heritage to Korean Associations, community events and interest forums. Ms. Sharkey teaches Korean music, dance, and instruments. She currently serves as the President of the Korean American Cultural Society of Rhode Island.

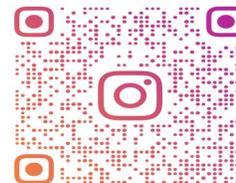
Kobi Dennis - A lifelong Community Activist, founder of Project: Night Vision, RI Midnight Basketball, Turn-up RI Youth Conference, Cultural Festival RI, Director of the Princes 2 King Youth Mentoring program in Providence, and former Chief Operating Officer of the YMCA of Greater Providence. A proud father of three and committed family man, Kobi has personally mentored thousands of youth from Providence, RI, to Dayton, OH. Kobi has received over 30 Community service awards for his passion and commitment to the betterment of all people. He is widely known and respected as the "Community Guy" throughout Rhode Island.

Schedule is subject to change

11:50 AM Flag Parade Begins

12:00 PM Opening Remarks: Executive Director Jeff Emidy
Welcome: Governor Dan McKee
Land Acknowledgement: Silvermoon Mars LaRose
Emcees: Angela Sharkey and Kobi Dennis
National Anthem: Ahlyha Nicole Bright

**Follow us on Instagram to
stay up to date with
Rhode Island
Heritage Events.**



RIHPHC HERITAGE

**Schedule is subject to change*

12:00

- ◆ Silvermoon Mars LaRose - Land Acknowledgement
- ◆ Ahlyha Nicole Bright - Singing the National Anthem
- ◆ Fraternidad Folklorica Boliviana
- ◆ PADAM - Dance Performance
- ◆ Lydia Perez and Yoruba 2 - Drum Performance
- ◆ SGTV Alpenblumen Bavarian Folkdance Group

1:00

- ◆ Nazeli Armenian Dance Group - Dance Performance
- ◆ Rhode Island Black Storytellers
- ◆ Dance BFF - Bollywood Dance Performance
- ◆ Azama Dance Company - Middle Eastern Dance Performance
- ◆ French American School - Singing Performance

2:00

- ◆ The Colombian American Cultural Society Inc. - Dance Performance
- ◆ RI Swedish Heritage Society – Swedish Folk Songs
- ◆ Quisqueya In Action Folklore Dance - Dominican Dance Performance
- ◆ Rhode Island Tamil Sangram and School - Song and Dance Group
- ◆ Medalit Scott - Peruvian Folklore Dance

3:00

- ◆ Aftab Dance Group - Iranian Dance Performance
- ◆ Arte Latino of New England - Storytellers
- ◆ Kelly School of Irish Dance - Dance Performance
- ◆ Morenda Boliviana San Bartolome - Dance Performance
- ◆ Seoyon Kim - Korean Harp Performance

4:00

- ◆ Na Pua O' Polynesia - Dance Performance
- ◆ Rhythm Nation Dance Company - Filipino Dance Group
- ◆ Ecuador Sumag Llacta and School - Musical and Dance Performance
- ◆ India Association of Rhode Island - Dance Performance
- ◆ Falun Dafa Association of New England - Meditation Instruction



Silvermoon Mars LaRose <https://www.tomaquagmuseum.org/>

Silvermoon Mars LaRose, a member of the Narragansett Tribe, is the Assistant Director of the Tomaquag Museum. An artist and educator, she has worked in tribal communities for over 25 years, serving in the areas of health and human services, education, and museum administration. Silvermoon graduated from the University of Rhode Island in 2004 with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, a minor in Justice Law and Society and continued her education at Western Washington University in Rehabilitation Counseling.

Ahlyha Nicole Bright <https://www.backstage.com/u/ladybug/>

Ahlyha is a twelfth-grade student at Beacon Charter School for the Arts in Woonsocket, RI. She is a performer, actor, musician, and student.

Fraternidad Foklorica Boliviana of RI

Fraternidad Folklorica Boliviana of RI was founded in 1992 at St. Patrick Church in Providence. They are committed to promoting the traditional dance and music of Bolivian culture.

PADAM www.kuchipudiprafulla.com

Prafulla's Academy of Dance and Music (PADAM), promotes the heritage of Indian Classical Dance and Music. Mrs. Prafulla Velury has been teaching Kuchipudi, a form of Indian classical dance, for 20 years in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Lydia Perez and Yoruba 2 <https://www.priaa-ri.org/>

Lydia Pérez is the Founder, Artist, and Director of the Puerto Rican Institute for the Arts and Advocacy, Inc., (PRIAA), Founder of Yoruba2, an Award winning and nationally recognizes traditional music from Puerto Rico.

SGTV Alpenblumen Bavarian Folkdance Group
<https://www.gacsri.org/alpenblumen-schuhplattlers>

The SGTV Alpenblumen was founded in 1982 by Kurt Van Dexter and Justin Maguire both long-time Schuhplattler dancers. Schuhplattler is a very old traditional form of folkdance that originated in the alpine regions of Bavaria, Austria, and Südtirol, which is a region in the Italian alps.



Nazeli Armenian Dance Group stsahmes.org

The Nazeli Armenian Dance Group was created in October 2000 under the auspices of the Cultural Committee's Arts Education Program of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church of Providence, RI. The group's goal is to inspire young Armenians through traditional music and dance and to preserve and promote the Armenian heritage in the Diaspora. Their dance instructors and choreographers, Lusine Corsini, Narine Lemme, and Talin Faryan, share their enthusiasm and love for Armenian dance and culture with the Armenian youth of Rhode Island.

Rhode Island Black Storytellers ribsfest.org

RIBS is a non profit committed to promoting the Awareness, Appreciation and Application of Black Storytelling through performances, workshops, cultural, historical and educational programs for all people. They define Black Storytelling as the oral arts and traditions of African and African descended people world-wide.

Dance BFF www.danceBFF.com

Dance BFF works to bring awareness and experience of Indian dance as an art form to greater Rhode Island's cultural communities and among the state's young people. The group is a hub for Bollywood and Indian dances in the Ocean State, featuring dancers who bring together the various moods and flavors of dances from different regions of India using colorful costumes, synchronized steps, and upbeat music. This Best of RI Award-winning group features co-founders Rupa Datta, Rutuja Patil, and several other dancers.

Azama Dance Company www.inarabellydance.com/azama

They perform colorful, artistic belly dance that represents the many facets of Middle Eastern culture. This vibrant group performs dazzling solo and group numbers for appreciative audiences of all ages. With their artistic director, Inara of Inara Belly Dance, they are sure to bring a smile to your face and to make you want to get up and dance.

French American School <https://www.fasri.org/>

The French American School of Rhode Island's students will perform songs in French.



The Colombian American Cultural Society Inc.

<https://www.facebook.com/colombianamerican/>

The Colombian American Cultural Society, Inc, established in 1971 as a non-profit organization, has a mission to preserve and promote the cultural, traditional and folkloric of the Colombian American community. Its goal is to disseminate and channel the knowledge of its culture and roots to the Colombian immigrants and descendants who reside in Rhode Island.

RI Swedish Heritage Association riswedishheritage.org

Ellen and Kendall Svengalis will perform Swedish Folk Songs.

Quisqueya In Action Folklore Dance

<https://www.instagram.com/quisqueyainaction/>

Quisqueya in Action, Inc., a nonprofit organization, founded in 1987 in the city of Providence by an energetic group of Dominican youth. Every year the youth of QIA performs for the Dominican Festival of Rhode Island to represent their culture and heritage. The group is made up 32 dancers in which each dancer represents a city in the Dominican Republic. With pride they dance as a "A Generation that Cares."

Rhode Island Tamil Sangam and School <https://ritamilsangam.org/>

Rhode Island Tamil Sangam (RITS) is a non-profit, member based cultural organization, that primarily focus on promoting Tamil Culture and Heritage in and around Rhode Island area. Through its cultural and other outreach activities RITS aims to increase the awareness of Tamil culture and heritage within the local Tamil society, as well as promote intercultural harmony with other communities.

Centro Cultural Andino, Inc Medalidt09@gmail.com

Is honored to present a Peruvian Folklore dance "VALICHA" of the city of Cusco, Peru. The performance is by Medalit Scott . They believe that is I important to celebrate their heritage because it breathes life and meaning into their identities and knowledge of who they are.



Aftab Dance Group www.aftabdancegroup.com/

At its core, Aftab Dance Group is a vehicle by which they can share their passion for Iranian culture with our community and bring an audience together by way of dance. The group is run by students and young professionals in the Boston area and has been performing at various cultural events in the Greater Boston and New England area for over 15 years.

Arte Latino of New England www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063539623846

Arte Latino of New England (ALNE) is a non-profit bilingual (Spanish/English) arts group dedicated to live performances. They promote Latinx Culture through theater, poetry, performances, & events.

Kelly School of Irish Dance thekellyschoolofirishdance.com

The Kelly School of Irish Dance is an internationally renowned performance focused school training dancers in both traditional and modern Irish Dancing with the goal to create dancers who shine with confidence on and off the stage while taking pride and celebrating their culture.

Morenada Boliviana San Bartolomé Instagram: [mbsb_2024](https://www.instagram.com/mbsb_2024)

This group has been sharing their vibrant culture through dance and music since 1998, showcasing the beauty of their traditional costumes and folkloric performances in festivals each year. The Morenada is a Bolivian folkloric dance with African influences that honors our ancestors and transports emotions of joy, devotion, and appreciation.

Seoyon Kim

Seoyon Kim attends the Wheeler School & is a member of the Oh Jung-Hee Ensemble. She performs “gayageum byeong-chang” (singing with self-accompaniment on the gayageum, a traditional Korean zither). Seoyon won a Gold Medal in the K-12 Category at the Asian Traditional Performing Arts Competition (2018) and the Third Place Award at the 20th Global Competition of Korean Traditional Performing Arts (2022). She has performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.



Na Pua O' Polynesia [tropicalisland-dancers](https://www.tropicalisland-dancers.com)

This RI based dance troupe was founded in 1988 by artistic director Carolyn Castro. Performing at various events throughout the New England area, the dancers, drummers, & musicians bring you on a cultural tour of the Polynesian Islands of Hawaii and New Zealand, as well as Tahiti and the Philippines. Their performance will be using drums, ukulele, gourds, and more.

Rhythm Nation Dance Company

They are a group of Filipino-American women of all ages who perform cultural and wholesome dances, mainly at charity events. Although America is now their home, they continue to honor their heritage through dance, keeping their roots alive.

Ecuador Sumag Llacta [instagram.com/ecuador_sumag_llacta/](https://www.instagram.com/ecuador_sumag_llacta/)

Ecuador Tierra Linda, founded in 2002 in the Andes of Ecuador, is a fusion of Andean music and dance. They now share the rich cultural heritage of their people from New England, continuing to promote and preserve traditional dances and music.

The India Association of Rhode Island (IARI) www.indiari.org

IARI is a non-profit, non-political, and non-religious organization that strives to represent the various issues concerning a growing Asian-Indian community in the State of Rhode Island.

Falun Dafa Association of New England www.falundafa-ne.org/

Traditional Chinese culture, follow the "truth", "compassion" and "forbearance". The meditation improve people's mind and body and keep peace and happiness. This group will provide a demonstration of Falun Dafa exercises and meditation.

Follow the Food Trucks on
Instagram



angkor_boba_tea_h
ouse_fdtruck_



cultro_pvd



The.luxe.lemon



eatvillagegreek



Amica is proud to support
Rhode Island's Heritage Festival

Amica.com 866-51-Amica (26422)
Amica Mutual Insurance Company, Lincoln, Rhode Island



Coastal1 Credit Union was founded on the principle of "people helping people." That's why we're proud to celebrate **The 46th Annual Heritage Festival!** Because we believe that supporting our community is the smarter way to bank.
#coastal1inthecommunity



Coastal1.org



United Way of Rhode Island's
mission is uniting our community
and resources to build racial equity
and opportunities for all
Rhode Islanders.



**EVERY RHODE ISLANDER.
ONE UNITED WAY.**

We are honored to support the
Rhode Island Heritage Day Festival.

www.unitedwayri.org

United Way
of Rhode Island



RI Heritage Festival Cultural Groups & Table Displays

Andean Cultural Center of Rhode Island www.andeancenter.org/

The Andean Cultural Center of Rhode Island is dedicated to preserving and promoting the cultural richness of Andean countries. One of their key objectives is to reunite people of Andean descent living in Rhode Island, providing a space for community members to connect with their cultural heritage.

Armenian Community of Rhode Island

The Armenians of Rhode Island proudly preserve their rich cultural heritage. The community includes three prominent Armenian churches that serve as hubs for spiritual and cultural activities. Additionally, vibrant Armenian dance groups, Armenian language schools, and various other cultural and historical organizations actively contribute to the celebration of Armenian heritage in the state.

Arte Latino of New England facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063539623846

Arte Latino of New England (ALNE) is a bilingual performing arts organization dedicated to promoting and fostering artistic expression. They promote culture, diversity, and individual growth, allowing every artist to present their art to welcoming communities.

Attorney General's Office (401) 274-4400 riag.ri.gov

The Rhode Island Attorney General's Office advocates for and protects the people of Rhode Island. As the State's top legal official, the Attorney General defends civil rights, investigates and prosecutes criminals, fights public corruption, and protects Rhode Island workers and the environment.

Book Are Wings booksarewings.org/

Books Are Wings seeks to provide every child with regular access to books. They engage students in classrooms, at school functions, community events, and playgrounds, promoting the idea that reading is not just school work but a way of life.

Cape Verdean Museum <https://capeverdeanmuseum.org/>

The Cape Verdean Museum is dedicated to preserving the history and culture of Cape Verde, showcasing the rich heritage and contributions of Cape Verdeans.

Center for South East Asians cseari.org

The mission of the Center for Southeast Asians (CSEA) is to promote the prosperity, heritage, and leadership of Southeast Asians in Rhode Island, fostering a strong and vibrant community.

Colombia in Rhode facebook.com/colombianamerican/

Colombia in Rhode Island is a bilingual, bicultural organization with a mission to preserve the rich history and folklore of Colombians in the state, promoting cultural pride and awareness.

Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island www.diiri.org/

For the past 100 years, Dorcas International has created a welcoming environment for all, empowering the most vulnerable among us. They provide wraparound programs and services to help those overcoming educational, cultural, economic, and language barriers.

RI Heritage Festival Cultural Groups & Table Displays

Falun Dafa Association of New England <https://falundafa-ne.org/>

Traditional Chinese culture, follow the "truth", "compassion" and "forbearance". The meditation improve people's mind and body and keep peace and happiness. This group will provide a demonstration of Falun Dafa exercises and meditation.

Greater Providence YMCA ymcagreaterprovidence.org

The mission of the YMCA of Greater Providence is to build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all, through programs, services, and relationships that are based upon our core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility.

India Subcommittee/India Museum & Heritage Society [Debbie & Nitin Trivedi](#)

Founded in March 1999, the India Museum & Heritage Society actively promotes Indian heritage and culture through music, dance, and artistic programs. India is a secular country, and all festivals are celebrated together by most Indians.

International House of RI ihouser.org

Founded in 1963, the International House of Rhode Island (IHRI) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that promotes friendship, connection, learning, and global understanding by bringing people together from around the world for cross-cultural exchange.

Iranian American Cultural Society of Rhode Island

[Iranian American Cultural Society of Rhode Island](#)

The Iranian American Cultural Society of Rhode Island is a non-political resource group for anyone interested in Persian culture, language, history, and arts.

Korean American Association of Rhode Island rikorean.org

Their mission is to support the Korean-American community through education, fellowship, and maintaining Korean heritage for second and third generations.

Lady Elfreda (401) 261-3371

Originally from Liberia, West Africa, Lady Elfreda and Williametta Thorpe are sisters who draw creative inspiration from their African roots. Lady Elfreda's fabrics and fanti and kanti prints come from West Africa.

Medalit Scott representing Peru Medalitd09@gmail.com

Medalit Scott is from Peru and now resides in Rhode Island. As a proud Peruvian, she is eager to share her culture, traditions, and folklore in the USA. Her dance performances have been showcased in Providence and Newport, RI, from 2018 to 2023. Celebrating heritage is important as it breathes life and meaning into our identities and our understanding of who we are.

RI Heritage Festival Cultural Groups & Table Displays

Peace Flag Project thepeaceflagproject.org

The Peace Flag Project, a pro-peace 501(c)3 organization, helps everyone to be a peacemaker. Einstein wrote, "Imagination is a preview of life's coming attractions." What we can imagine, we can create. The Peace Flag Project focuses on imagining peace, understanding peace, creating peace, and being peace.

Providence Children's Museum providencechildrensmuseum.org

The mission of the Providence Children's Museum is to inspire lifelong learning for all through play, creativity, and exploration.

RI Black Heritage Society riblackheritage.org/

As one of the oldest African Heritage organizations in the country, RIBHS has recorded, retained, and interpreted these historical facts and preserved the documents and artifacts of African-American and African descendants' history and accomplishments in Rhode Island. Their primary mission is the preservation of African Diaspora descendants' historical artifacts -- books, art, papers, and images, as well as facilitating the interpretation efforts by those seeking to enlighten others about their heritage.

RI Black Storytellers ribsfest.org

RIBS is a non profit committed to promoting the Awareness, Appreciation and Application of Black Storytelling through performances, workshops, cultural, historical and educational programs for all people. They define Black Storytelling as the oral arts and traditions of African and African descended people world-wide.

RI Day of Portugal ridayofportugal.org

This organization celebrates the holiday, Dia de Portugal, de Camões e das Comunidades Portuguesas, in Rhode Island. They work to preserve Portuguese cultural traditions for future generations and to promote the contributions of Portuguese people, language, and culture to the rich fabric of the state.

RI Department of Emergency Management Agency riema.ri.gov

The mission of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency is to reduce the loss of life and property for the whole community while ensuring that as a state we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all natural, human-caused, and technological hazards.

RI Swedish Heritage Association riswedishheritage.org

The Rhode Island Swedish Heritage Association (RISHA) is an educational, nonprofit organization that promotes Swedish culture in Rhode Island and southeastern New England. They aim to share their heritage and traditions and preserve their history for future generations.

RI Heritage Festival Cultural Groups & Table Displays

RI Tamil Sangram and School ritamilsangam.org/

Rhode Island Tamil Sangam (RITS) is a nonprofit, member-based cultural organization focused on promoting Tamil culture and heritage in the Rhode Island area. Through cultural and outreach activities, RITS aims to increase awareness of Tamil culture within the local Tamil community and promote intercultural harmony with other communities.

Roger Williams Park Zoo rwpzoo.org

Roger Williams Park Zoo is an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), American Humane certified, and home to many endangered species. Their accreditation assures visitors that the zoo is dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for guests, and a better future for all living things.

St. Andrew's Society of RI sasri.co/home-page

The St. Andrew's Society of Rhode Island provides educational opportunities for its members and the general public to participate in programs designed to foster a better understanding of the history, culture, and traditions of Scotland.

Tomaquag Museum tomaquagmuseum.org

Tomaquag Museum's mission is to educate all of our relations (everyone) on Indigenous cultures of the Dawnland (focusing on Southern New England) through engagement and shared dialogue to reconcile the past and empower present and future generations.



ARTS CREATE A BETTER RI, AND NOT JUST FOR ARTISTS...

RISCA
RHODE ISLAND STATE
COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

THE ARTS:

- Keep our restaurants full.
- Fill our parking lots and garages.
- Bring customers to our shops and performance spaces.

**YOUR ARTS COUNCIL WILL NEVER
STOP INVESTING IN THE ARTS.**



LEARN MORE! WWW.ARTS.RI.GOV



Here for One Another

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island *is here for our community.*

We are proud to support the
RI Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission.

1-800-459-6019

www.nhpri.org



Is Urgency Urinary Incontinence impacting your life?

Urgency urinary incontinence is a strong sudden urge to urinate that is hard to stop.

It is a common condition that can have a negative effect on a woman's quality of life.

If you are 18+, this study may be for you

To learn more, scan the QR code or go to:
womenandinfants.org/best-trial-therapy



Denisses Cortorreal,
(401) 259-2059

¿La incontinencia urinaria de urgencia está afectando su vida?

La incontinencia urinaria de urgencia se refiere a ese repentino y fuerte deseo de orinar que es difícil de controlar. Es una condición bastante común que puede afectar la calidad de vida de la mujer. Si tiene más de 18 años, este estudio puede ser adecuado para usted.

Para obtener más información, escanee el código QR o visite el sitio web:
womenandinfants.org/best-trial-therapy



Denisses Cortorreal,
Bilingüe (Español)
(401) 259-2059



Where compassion meets action.
Offering programs to help individuals and families in need.

Locations in:
North Kingstown, South Kingstown,
Westerly, Johnston, North Providence

(401)351-2750
www.tricountyri.org



SAVE THE DATE TO COME JOIN US!
**RHODE ISLAND'S
47TH
HERITAGE FESTIVAL**
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2025
from 12 pm - 5 pm
at WATERFIRE ARTS CENTER



RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission (RIHPHC) is the state office that identifies and protects historic buildings, districts, and archaeological sites, and carries out programs to document, support, and celebrate the rich cultural heritage of Rhode Island's people. Supporting and promoting heritage groups and subcommittees across the state of Rhode Island, the RIHPHC strives to preserve the traditions of each cultural group, foster pride in ethnic heritage, and promote a sense of brotherhood and understanding among our citizens. The annual RI Heritage Festival has been a signature event for over four decades.

Rhode Island's 46th Heritage Festival was coordinated by Donna Alqassar, RI Heritage Program Coordinator and Senior Historic Grants Manager, in conjunction with the support of Jeffrey Emidy, RIHPHC Executive Director, Joanna Doherty, RIHPHC Deputy Director, ATR Treehouse, Let's Party RI, and Luminous Creative Agency.

Thank you to the following:

Sponsors

Amica Insurance
Book Are Wings
Coastal1 Credit Union
Navigant Credit Union
Neighborhood Health Plan of RI
Rhode Island State Council on the Arts
United Way Rhode Island
Women & Infants Urogynecology

Extra Special Thanks:

Governor Daniel J. McKee
Silvermoon Mars LaRose
Providence Fire and Police Departments
RI Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
RI Office of Library & Information Services
Preserve RI
WaterFire Arts Center Staff

RIHPHC Staff

Rosemary Carreiro
Mary Kate Harrington
Virginia Hesse
Kelsey Mullen
Roberta Randall
Charlotte Taylor
Elizabeth Totten
Shanna Vecchio-Schubert
Sarah Zurier

SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK WITH US!
Please use this QR code or website link to take our survey.



<https://bit.ly/4bt1Mol>

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel
[@rihistoricalpreservationhe836](https://www.youtube.com/@rihistoricalpreservationhe836)
to see previous performances and workshops.



RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
The Old State House
150 Benefit Street
Providence, RI 02903-1209
www.preservation.ri.gov/Heritage

Heritage Program Coordinator: Donna Alqassar
Donna.alqassar@preservation.ri.gov
401-222-4133