



# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

# Rotary's Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

*At Rotary, we understand that cultivating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive culture is essential to realizing our vision of a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change.*

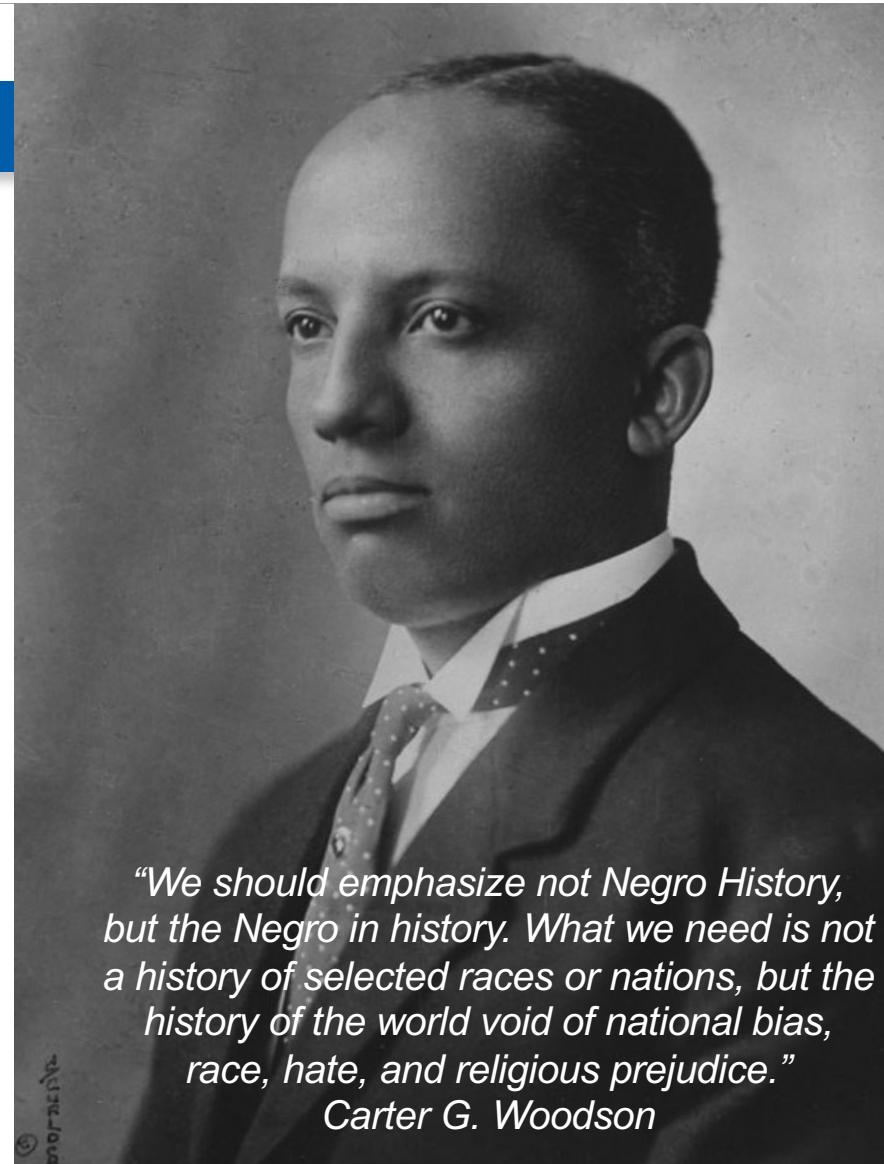
*We value diversity and celebrate the contributions of people of all backgrounds, across age, ethnicity, race, color, disability, learning style, religion, faith, socioeconomic status, culture, marital status, languages spoken, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity as well as differences in ideas, thoughts, values, and beliefs.*

*Recognizing that individuals from certain groups have historically experienced barriers to membership, participation, and leadership, we commit to advancing equity in all aspects of Rotary, including in our community partnerships, so that each person has the necessary access to resources, opportunities, networks, and support to thrive.*

*We believe that all people hold visible and invisible qualities that inherently make them unique, and we strive to create an inclusive culture where each person knows they are valued and belong.*

# What is Black History Month?

- Black History Month is an annual **celebration** of contributions and achievements by people of the *African Diaspora*.
- Also known as African American History Month, the event grew out of “Negro History Week,” the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson.
- In 1926, Woodson initiated the first Negro History Week in February to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.
- Woodson wanted to change the world’s perception of African Americans and recognize their contribution to American society and culture.



*“We should emphasize not Negro History, but the Negro in history. What we need is not a history of selected races or nations, but the history of the world void of national bias, race, hate, and religious prejudice.”*  
Carter G. Woodson

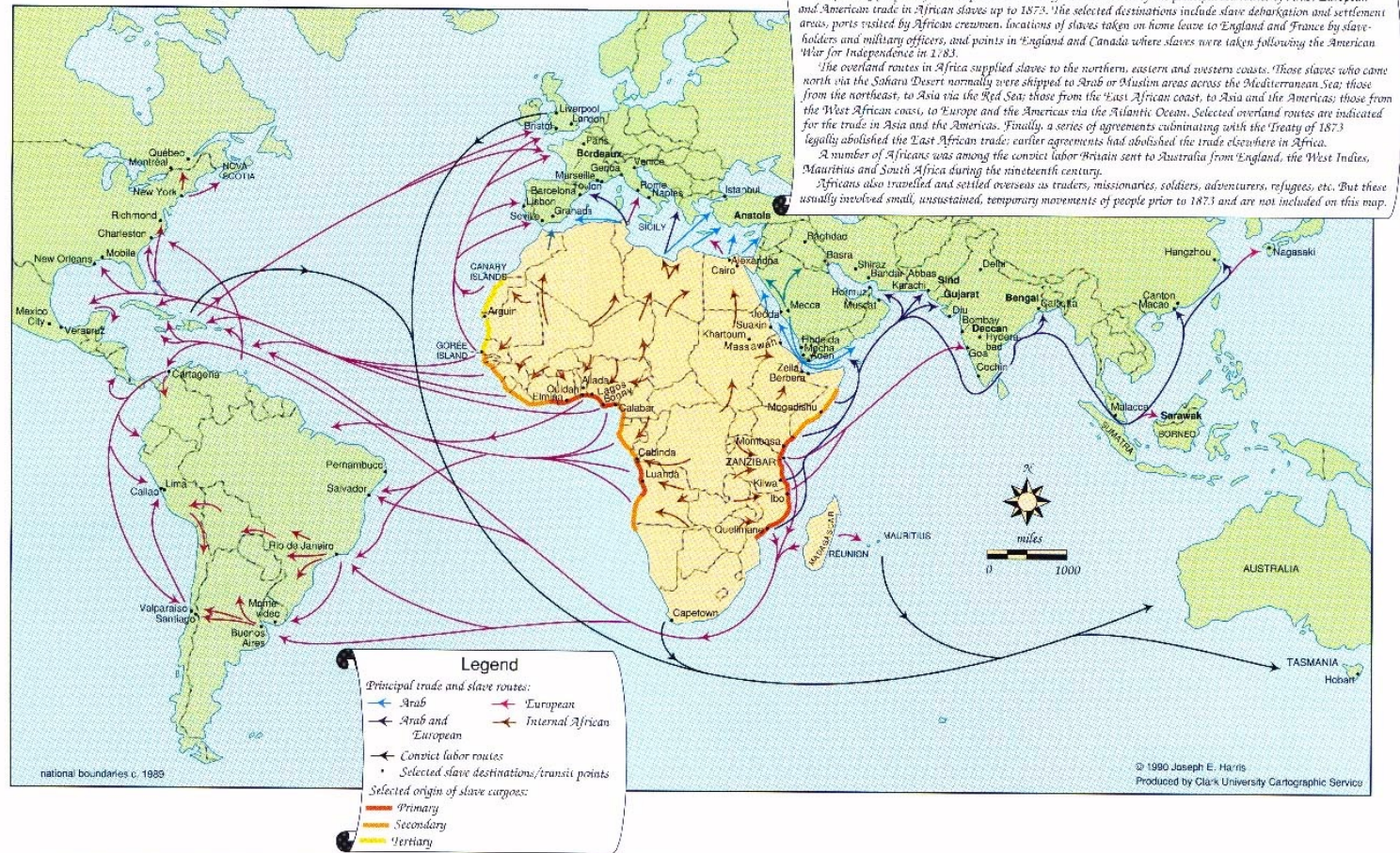


# The African Diaspora

The African Diaspora refers to the many communities of people of African descent dispersed throughout the world as a result of historic movements including slavery and forced migration.

## The African Diaspora Map — I

Based on research by Joseph E. Harris



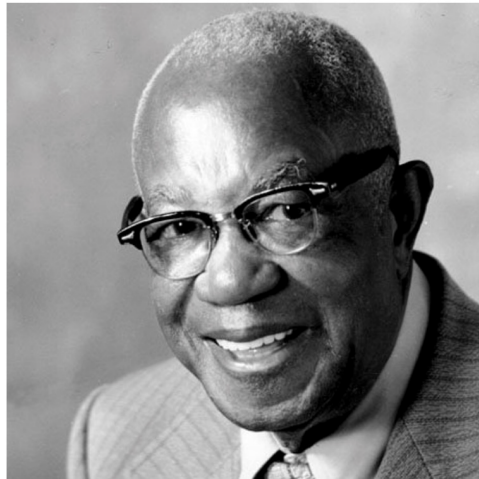


# How does Rotary celebrate Black History Month?

*We value diversity and celebrate the contributions of people of all backgrounds, across age, ethnicity, race, color, disability, learning style, religion, faith, socioeconomic status, culture, marital status, languages spoken, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity as well as differences in ideas, thoughts, values, and beliefs.*



# THE ROTARY CLUB OF BIRMINGHAM COMMEMORATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH



A.G. Gaston (1892-1996)

Since 1976, the United States has recognized February as Black History Month. The Rotary Club of Birmingham celebrates the contributions of countless African Americans who have moved our country forward in the pursuit of freedom and justice for all citizens.


We proudly remember **A.G. Gaston**, who is an important part of our history, as the first Black member of the Rotary Club of Birmingham. Gaston was an important Birmingham entrepreneur and civil rights leader who attended Rotary meetings even after his 100th birthday.

Arthur George Gaston (1892-1996) was an American businessman who established a number of businesses in Birmingham and played a significant role in the struggle to integrate Birmingham in 1963. In his lifetime, Gaston's companies were some of the most prominent African American-owned businesses in the American South.

Gaston formed the Booker T. Washington Burial Insurance Company in 1923, after serving in the army and working in coal mines. He started Smith & Gaston Funeral Home with his father-in-law and established the Booker T. Washington business school with his wife. Other Gaston enterprises included Citizens Federal Savings and Loan Association and the A.G. Gaston Motel. Gaston provided funding, lodging and meeting space to civil rights leaders and often served as a negotiator. The motel was famously bombed in an attempt to assassinate Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rev. Ralph Abernathy in 1963. It was Gaston who posted bail when the pair were arrested. Gaston's house was firebombed in 1963, following a state dinner at the White House with President John F. Kennedy. Additionally, Gaston's legacy includes the A. G. Gaston Boys & Girls Club and the A.G. Gaston Construction Company. The City of Birmingham owns the A.G. Gaston Motel, which President Barack Obama designated the center of the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument in 2017.







# Black History Month: Rotary Club – Guest Speakers

 **THE ROTARY CLUB OF THE BRONX PRESENTS**

## Black History Month

**Our exciting lineup of speakers includes:** At Sammy's Shrimp Box Restaurant  
64 City Island Ave., Bronx NY


	<b>Lori Baker</b> Principal, 11X160 Feb. 2 6 p.m.		<b>Dr. Thomas A. Isekenegbe</b> President, Bronx Community College Feb. 9 12 noon
	<b>Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson</b> Feb. 16 12 noon		<b>Reverend Que English</b> Feb. 23 12 noon


Join us for a sumptuous meal at Sammy's and these wonderful speakers. Meals include soup or salad, soda, coffee and dessert.

For more information, call President TOBA LaCrown @ 347-327-6288  
OR Secretary Mary Springman @ 914-954-4748

**Rotary**  
Club of Blue Bell




 **COOK COUNTY CLERK KAREN YABROUGH**  
AND THE  
**MAYWOOD-PROVISO ROTARY CLUB**



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

# LUNCH & LEARN

 **Maywood/Proviso**

**WEBSITE:**  
<https://maywoodrotary.clubexpress.com/>

**EMAIL:**  
[maywoodprovisorotary@gmail.com](mailto:maywoodprovisorotary@gmail.com)

**FEBRUARY 4th** ♦ **Dr. Lance Williams**

Dr. Lance Williams, Assistant Director of The Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies, Northeastern Illinois University will discuss Black History Month's Founder Carter Woodson and the purpose of Black History Month.

**State Senator Kimberly Lightford** ♦ **FEBRUARY 11th**

Illinois State Senator Kimberly Lightford, Majority Leader and former Illinois Black Caucus Chair will discuss the 2021 groundbreaking legislation awaiting the Governor's signature. "Four Pillars of Policy" addressing criminal justice reform, police accountability, education, economic access, and healthcare.

**FEBRUARY 18th** ♦ **Alexandria Sims**

Alex Sims, Political Consultant, President of APS Public Affairs, and one of the co-founders of "The Black Bench", a Chicago-based training program for future black leaders. Sims will discuss developing black leadership for the 21st Century.

**Professor Stanford Lewis (Ret.)** ♦ **FEBRUARY 25th**

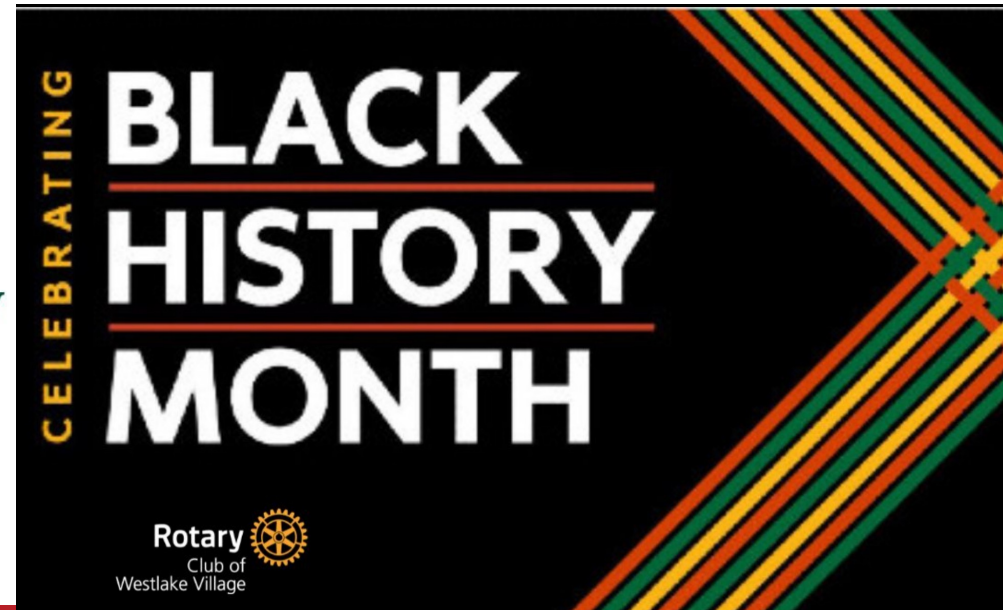
Professor Stanford Lewis, retired formerly of Rutgers University and LeMoyne Owen College will share and discuss the life & times and poetic pieces about Maywood's favorite son Fred Hampton and civil rights icon Congressman John Lewis.

**ZOOM CONNECT INFO**  
Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87350967932?pwd=NVNpeU1ycVFxSzFwS2JRR1Jyc3R4dz09>  
Passcode: 228306 Webinar ID: 873 5096 7932

## Black History Month: Rotary Club – Social Media Posts



Multicultural Month:  
Focus on Black History





## Black History Month: Rotary Club – Social Media Post - Quote



"Black History is American History."

MORGAN FREEMAN, ACTOR




# Black History Month: Rotary Club – Websites

Home - Stories Calendar

## FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

#Rotary International #Rotary Service Black History Month Rotary Club of Northbrook



### STATEMENT FROM ROTARY INTERNATIONAL


At Rotary, we have no tolerance for racism. Promoting respect, celebrating diversity, demanding ethical leadership, and working tirelessly to advance peace are central tenets of our work.

We have more work to do to create more just, open and welcoming communities for all people. We know there are no easy fixes and that challenging conversations and work lie before all of us. Rotary's strength has long been our ability and commitment to bringing people together. We will tap into that strength now as we stand with those who are working for peace and justice. Rotary will do our part to listen, learn and take action to ensure that we continue to contribute to making positive change.

###

Rotary Club of Lenexa

## Black History Month



**February is Black History Month**

**Who is "the father of Black History"?** Answer: *Carter G. Woodson*. Born in 1875, Woodson nationalized the celebration and observance of African American history. The fourth of nine children born to previously enslaved parents, Woodson grew up amidst the poverty and oppression many African Americans faced in the South during the Reconstruction Era. He worked in the fields and coal mines of West Virginia before beginning his formal education at age 20. Believing education was the key to success and freedom, Woodson graduated from high school at age 22 and went on to earn a Bachelor of Literature degree. Over the next 15 years, he became a public school teacher, earned another bachelor's degree and master's degree from the University of Chicago, traveled and studied abroad, and in 1912, completed his Ph.D. in history from Harvard University.

He believed that an appreciation of the historic contributions of Black people would foster pride and challenge racial prejudice. In 1926, Dr. Woodson created a celebratory week as a means to spark an interest in and popularize Black history. He argued that if the history of Black people was studied along with the achievements of others in schools, not only would Black youth develop a sense of pride and self-worth, but racism would also be abolished. He selected the second week of February for the week because it encompassed the birthdays of both Frederick Douglass and President Abraham Lincoln. The celebration became popular in the 1940s and expanded to a month in 1976 to coincide with the nation's bicentennial. *Article based on a Winter 2020 National Park*

Rotary

Home Stories

## Rotary Celebrates Black History Month



The Spirit of Martin Luther King Jr. Award Recipients: Ameer Gardiner, Abraham Clark High School; Saviyah d. Reed, Roselle Park High School; & Robbie Riviere, Roselle Catholic High School



## Shandra Summerville – President Champaign Rotary Club (2021 – 2022)



## Rotary Celebrates Black History Month Across the World – Canada

**Kitchener Rotary**  
3d · 🌐

It's time to celebrate Black History month! Come join us!  
#kitchenerrotary  
#ImagineRotary  
#PeopleOfActionKW... See more

**WATERLOO REGION'S 2023 CCAWR'S BLACK HISTORY MONTH LAUNCH**  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH, 2023  
11:30AM-5PM  
KEN SEILING  
WATERLOO REGION MUSEUM



**BLACK INVENTORS DISPLAY**  
**FRANCIS JEFFERS**  
CANADIAN MULTICULTURAL INVENTORS MUSEUM

Region of Waterloo CCAWR Black Settlers Museum WRAR ROGERS TV



**Rotary Club of Brampton**

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION




**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
Donna Fagan-Pascal  
Chair, Brampton Board of Trade

**February 6, 2023**  
12:00 - 1:30 pm EST

Rotary Club of Brampton  
1857 Queen St. W.  
Brampton, On. L6Y 0B6  
secretary@rotaryclubofbrampton.com

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**  
TUESDAY  
FEBRUARY 7  
2023  
The history of slavery and blacks in Canada



**ON ZOOM**  
get link on club home page

**DR. HARVEY WHITFIELD**  
PROFESSOR U OF C

**Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown**  
www.rotaryclubofcalgary.org

**Rotary Club of Winnipeg**  
1d · 🌐

### Black History Month

Every February, people across Canada participate in Black History Month events and festivities that honour the legacy of Black people in Canada and their communities.

The 2023 theme for Black History Month is: "Ours to tell". This theme represents both an opportunity to engage in open dialogue and a commitment to learning more about the stories Black communities in Canada have to tell about their histories, successes, sacrifices and triumphs.

No matter where you live, we invite all Canadians to learn more about these communities, and how they continue to help shape Canadian history.  
[https://youtu.be/np\\_jD0YUQrw](https://youtu.be/np_jD0YUQrw)



## Rotary Celebrates Black History Month Across the World – England / Tobago



### BLACK HISTORY MONTH TALK

Beyond Black History Month: Solutions and Impact



**HANNAH KUPOLUYI**  
CEO and Founder of All  
Women's Network



**VERONICA MODUPE YUSUF**  
CEO of Sterling Careers  
Limited

#### ZOOM DETAILS

Meeting ID:  
876 4562 9614  
Passcode:  
818689



**DATE**  
17 October 2022

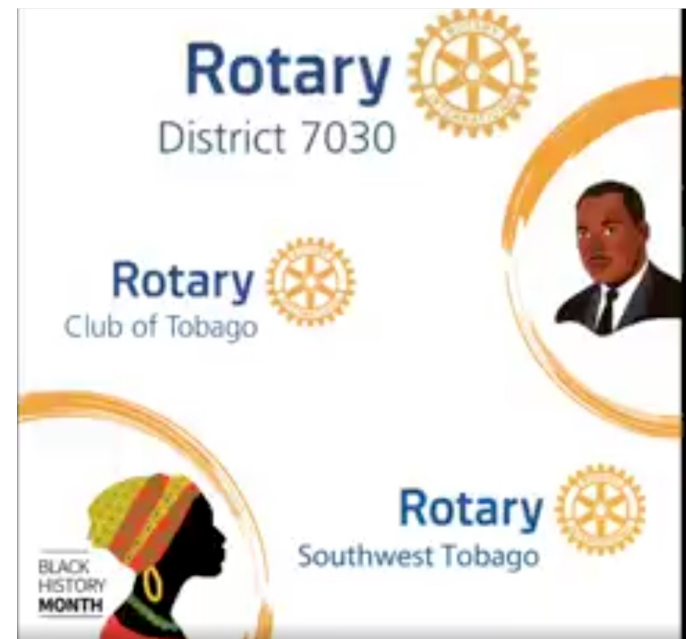


**TIME**  
6:00 PM

**SCAN THE QR CODE  
TO JOIN**



Rotary  
Club of Blue Bell





## Rotary Club of Blue Bell – 2022 Black History Month Facebook Post



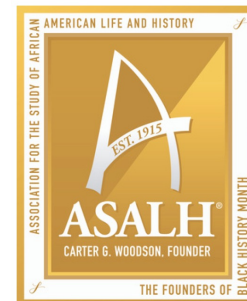
Rotary Club of Blue Bell, PA

February 9, 2022 · 🌐

Celebrating Black History Month with this poem by Langston Hughes. We celebrate the contributions of Black Rotarians to further our mission of Peace.

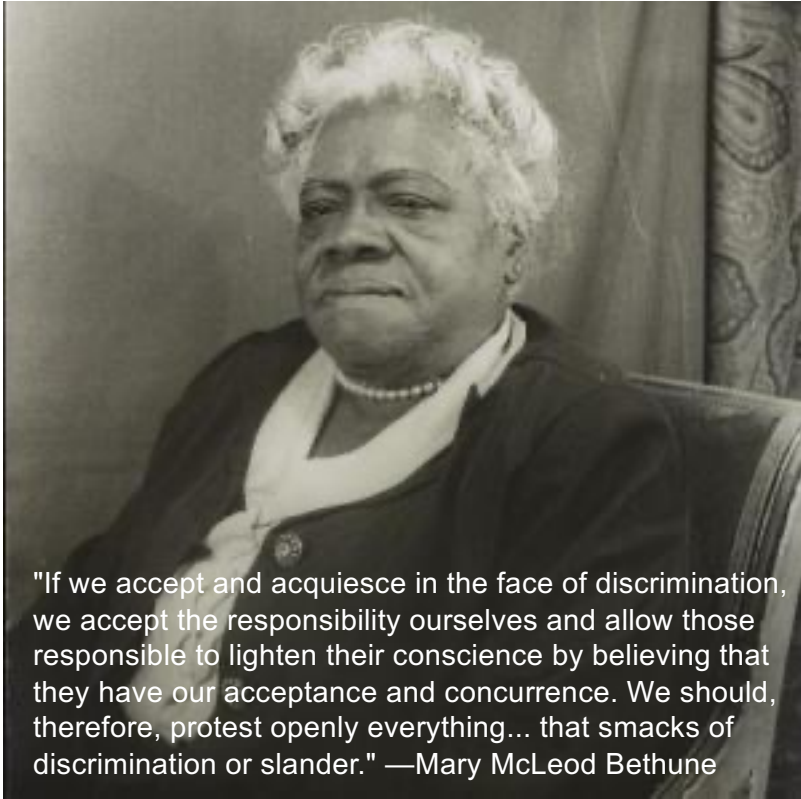
I Dream A World  
I dream a world where man  
No other man will scorn,  
Where love will bless the earth  
And peace its paths adorn  
I dream a world where all  
Will know sweet freedom's way,  
Where greed no longer saps the soul  
Nor avarice blights our day.  
A world I dream where black or white,  
Whatever race you be,  
Will share the bounties of the earth  
And every man is free,  
Where wretchedness will hang its head  
And joy, like a pearl,  
Attends the needs of all mankind-  
Of such I dream, my world!  
--Langston Hughes

# Black History Month – Past Themes



- 2000. Heritage and Horizons: The African American Legacy and the Challenges for the 21st Century
- 2001. Creating and Defining the African American Community: Family, Church Politics and Culture
- 2002. The Color Line Revisited: Is Racism Dead?
- 2003. The Souls of Black Folks: Centennial Reflections
- 2004. Before Brown, Beyond Boundaries: Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education
- 2005. The Niagara Movement: Black Protest Reborn, 1905-1909
- 2006. Celebrating Community: A Tribute to Black Fraternal, Social, and Civil Institutions
- 2007. From Slavery to Freedom: Africans in the Americas
- 2008. Carter G. Woodson and the Origins of Multiculturalism
- 2009. The Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas
- 2010. The History of Black Economic Empowerment
- 2011. African Americans and the Civil War
- 2012. Black Women in American Culture and History
- 2013. At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality: The Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington
- 2014. Civil Rights in America
- 2015. A Century of Black Life, History, and Culture
- 2016. Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memories
- 2017. The Crisis in Black Education
- 2018. African Americans in Times of War
- 2019. Black Migrations
- 2020. African Americans and the Vote
- 2021. The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity
- 2022. Black Health and Wellness

## 2023 Black History Month Theme: **Resistance** – A Journey to Equality



"If we accept and acquiesce in the face of discrimination, we accept the responsibility ourselves and allow those responsible to lighten their conscience by believing that they have our acceptance and concurrence. We should, therefore, protest openly everything... that smacks of discrimination or slander." —Mary McLeod Bethune



I had no idea that history was being made.  
I was just tired of giving up."  
— Rosa Parks





## 2023 Black History Month Theme: Resistance – A Journey to Equality

**DO NOT GET LOST IN A SEA  
OF DESPAIR. DO NOT BECOME  
BITTER OR HOSTILE. BE HOPEFUL,  
BE OPTIMISTIC. NEVER, EVER BE  
AFRAID TO MAKE SOME NOISE AND  
GET IN GOOD TROUBLE, NECESSARY  
TROUBLE. WE WILL FIND A WAY TO  
MAKE A WAY OUT OF NO WAY.**

**~REP. JOHN LEWIS  
#GOODTROUBLE**



## 2023 Black History Month – What you can do



**TOGETHER** WE SEE A WORLD  
WHERE **PEOPLE** UNITE AND TAKE ACTION  
TO **CREATE** LASTING  
**CHANGE** ACROSS THE GLOBE  
IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND IN OURSELVES



- Make a personal goal to educate yourself. Read a book, listen to a podcast, or attend events with African-American themes this month and throughout the year.
- Be an active ally. When you observe someone from an underrepresented group not being treated fairly, use your privilege to speak up and take action.





BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH