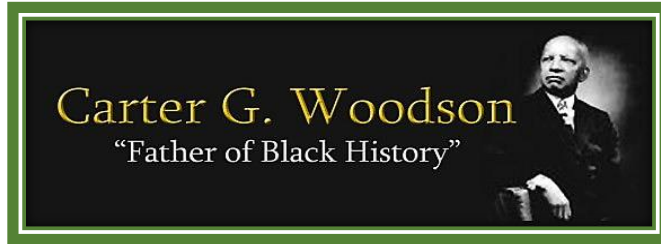
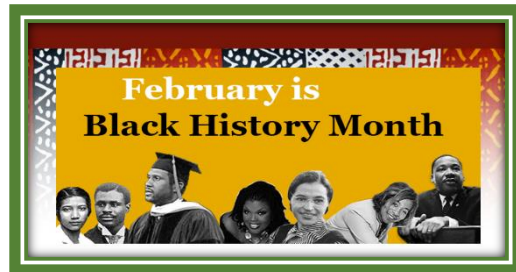


Black History Month



Negro History Week (1926)

Black History Month was created in 1926 in the United States, when historian Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History announced the second week of February to be "Negro History Week." This week was chosen because it coincided with the birthday of Abraham Lincoln on February 12 and of Frederick Douglass on February 14, both of which dates Black communities had celebrated together since the late 19th century. The expansion of Black History Week to Black History Month was first proposed by the leaders of the Black United Students at Kent State University in February 1969. The first celebration of the Black History Month took place at Kent State one year later, in February 1970. In 1976, President Gerald Ford officially declared February the month that we celebrate the achievements of African Americans.



Black History Month, also known as **African-American History Month** in America, is an annual observance in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom for remembrance of important people and events in the history of the African diaspora. It is celebrated annually in the United States and Canada in February, and the United Kingdom in October.



Black History Month was first celebrated in the United Kingdom in London, on October 1, 1987. It was organized through the leadership of Ghanaian analyst Akyaaba Addai-Sebowho then served as a coordinator of special projects for the Greater London Council (GLC) and created a collaboration to get it underway.



February

Black History Month Celebrating "Black Migrations"



"Black History is America's History"

-Morgan Freeman



The 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom (National Archives)

"EVERY GREAT DREAM BEGIN WITH A DREAMER".

***Always remember, you have within you the strength,
the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to
change the world." - Harriet Tubman***

Black History Month Celebration
“The Great Black Migration”

Welcoming Rev. James Ruggieri, Pastor, St. Patrick Church
Opening Prayer Mrs. Barbara Wright, St. Patrick Parish
Song St. Patrick Choir: Lead by Alex Cuellar and Sarah Mulholland
 “Lead Us to the Water” by Tome Kendzia
Reading: Antonio Taylor, Holy Name of Jesus Church, Providence
 “The History of Black History Month”

OUR VISION: “IN SEARCH OF A BETTER LIFE”

Reader: Ethan Ramos, Holy Name Church “Dreams”, by Langston Hughes
Read: Maximus Mowat, Holy Name of Jesus Church & Youth Reader
 Tabernacle of Faith and Deliverance Church
The Great Migration: The African American Exodus from The South,

OUR VOICE: MUSIC, POETRY AND WRITTEN WORD

Song: Holy Name Gospel Choir, Joyce Braboy Director
 "I Want Jesus To Walk With Me" by Nolan Williams
Reading: “Dream Variation” By Langston Hughes Youth Reader
 Tabernacle of Faith and Deliverance Church
Song: All sing together: “Aint Gonna Let no Body Turn Me Around”
Reading: St. Patrick Academy Student, “To be Young Gifted and Black”
Song: Holy Name Choir: “Walking up the King’s Highway”

OUR LEGACY: STRENGTH, COURAGE & DEEP ROOTED FAITH

Reading: Edward Chip Belt, S.S. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Providence
 Life in God’s Service
St. Patrick Choir “Rain Down” by Jamie Cortez
Reading: “Lord, Why Did You Make Me Black?” by RuNett Nia Ebo
Pastor Patricia B. Smith, Tabernacle of Faith Deliverance Church, Providence
 “There Must Be A Coming Together of My People”
Reading: Maya Angelou “Still I’ll Rise St. Patrick Academy Student
Song Brooxana Pierre, St. Patrick Church “Rise up” by Andra Day
Thank You: Fr. James & Patty January
Closing Prayer and Song “O Freedom” Combined Choir” by Lucy Kinchen

Still I Rise *by Maya Angelou*

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
‘Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?
Bowed head and lowered eyes?
Shoulders falling down like teardrops,
Weakened by my soulful cries?

Does my haughtiness offend you?
Don't you take it awful hard
‘Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines
Diggin’ in my own backyard.

You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I’ll rise.

Does my sexiness upset you?
Does it come as a surprise
That I dance like I've got diamonds
At the meeting of my thighs?

Out of the huts of history’s shame
I rise
Up from a past that’s rooted in pain
I rise
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.
Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
I rise
Into a daybreak that’s wondrously clear
I rise
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.

I rise, I rise, I rise
Maya Angelou, "Still I Rise" from And Still I Rise: A Book of Poems. Copyright © 1978 by Maya Angelou. Used by permission of Random House, an imprint and division of Penguin Random House LLC. All rights reserved.

Life in God's Service

When we think of the past and of the future, we must think of how we are living today. Scripture directs us on how to live and serve one another. For it is through serving our brothers and sisters in Christ do we learn to serve Our Lord wholly and fully.

Romans 12:

So then, my friends, because of God's great mercy to us I appeal to you: Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer. Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God—what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect. And because of God's gracious gift to me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you should. Instead, be modest in your thinking, and judge yourself according to the amount of faith that God has given you. We have many parts in the one body, and all these parts have different functions. In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in union with Christ, and we are all joined to each other as different parts of one body. So we are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us. If our gift is to speak God's message, we should do it according to the faith that we have; if it is to serve, we should serve; if it is to teach, we should teach; if it is to encourage others, we should do so. Whoever shares with others should do it generously; whoever has authority should work hard; whoever shows kindness to others should do it cheerfully. Love must be completely sincere. Hate what is evil, hold on to what is good. Love one another warmly as Christians, and be eager to show respect for one another. Work hard and do not be lazy. Serve the Lord with a heart full of devotion. Let your hope keep you joyful, be patient in your troubles, and pray at all times. Share your belongings with your needy fellow Christians, and open your homes to strangers. Ask God to bless those who persecute you—yes, ask him to bless, not to curse. Be happy with those who are happy, weep with those who weep. Have the same concern for everyone. Do not be proud, but accept humble duties. Do not think of yourselves as wise. If someone has done you wrong, do not repay him with a wrong. Try to do what everyone considers to be good. Do everything possible on your part to live in peace with everybody. Never take revenge, my friends, but instead let God's anger do it. For the scripture says, “I will take revenge, I will pay back, says the Lord.” Instead, as the scripture says: “If your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them a drink; for by doing this you will make them burn with shame.” Do not let evil defeat you; instead, conquer evil with good.

The Great Migration

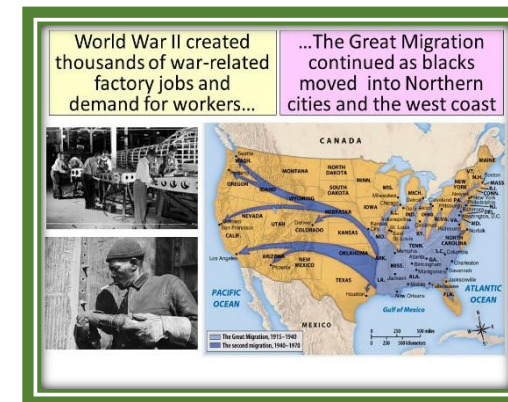
The Great Migration was the relocation of more than 6 million African Americans from the rural South to the cities of the North, Midwest and West from about 1916 to 1970.



Following the Civil War, many African Americans hoped that the South could become a livable place. As part of Reconstruction, the federal government took over the governance of the South and attempted to enforce civil rights for the newly freed people. The 13th, 14th and 15th constitutional amendments, passed between 1868 and 1870, were intended to assure that African Americans maintained their freedom, ability to vote, and equal protection under the law.

These gains were short lived. By the late 1870s, the federal government withdrew from the South. Legislatures filled with white supremacists passed new laws that enforced segregation. These laws became known as “Jim Crow”.

The First World War ignited the Great Migration. The war effort led to increased demand for industrial products made in the North, but also a labor shortage. With the native-born and immigrant populations usually relied upon off at war, companies looked south.



“Northern companies offered well-paying jobs, free transportation, and low-cost housing as inducements to [African Americans] to move North,” writes the historian Spence Crew. “They also sent labor recruiters to the South who received a fee for every recruit they provided for the company they represented.”

“I am more than ever convinced that education is the greatest factor in the upward climb of any person or people. My theme song has been: learn, study, read — continuously.” These words were written in the mid-1960s by Ida Louise Jackson



The Great Migttation Continues



Hoping for a better life, many African Americans headed north.



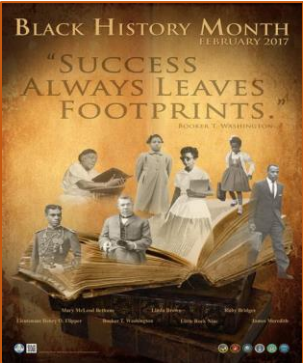
The conditions African Americans confronted in the North were improved but still full of hardship. Racism and prejudice abounded. Government policy kept African Americans out of many neighborhoods through redlining; the restriction of neighborhoods in which people of certain racial and ethnic groups could get approved for a mortgage. (Redlining remains an issue today.)

The impact of the Great Migration on American life is difficult to overstate. The economies, politics, and culture of America’s great cities were forever changed.

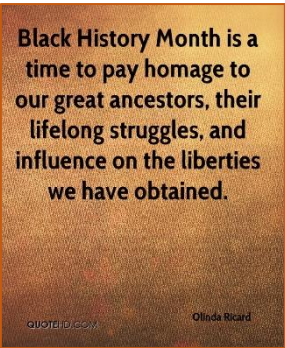


If millions of African Americans had not migrated from the South to northern cities, the modern United States would look completely different. Contemporary American but underreported, historical event.

priceonomics.com/the-great-migration-the-african-american-exodus/



Black History Month
“Success
Always Leave
Footprints”

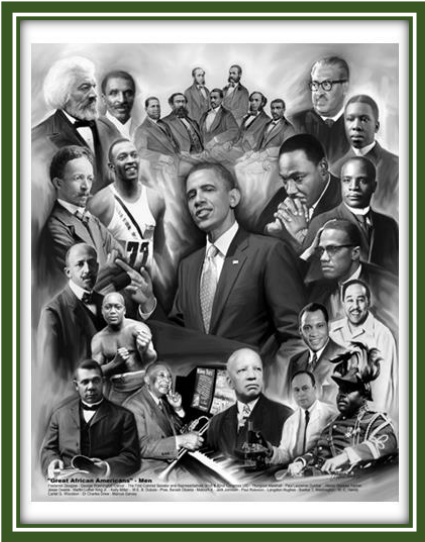


Black Migrations into the 21st century

Today, black migrations are worldwide. In fact, an influx of black immigrants from the Caribbean and Africa are more likely to become citizens or to be proficient English speakers when compared to other immigrant groups.

Ironically, African-American millenials have reversed the historic trend in recent years with an uptick in black populations looking for jobs and cheaper housing in Atlanta and Houston. The sudden shift is not lost on economist and historians, who now see the North-South migration coming full circle.

"Without a struggle there can be no progress" *Fredrick Douglass*



President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.