

An aerial photograph of a city street. A large, bright yellow banner with the words 'BLACK LIVES MATTER' in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters is stretched across the street. To the right of the text are three horizontal black bars of increasing length, resembling a menu icon. The street is flanked by various buildings, including multi-story apartment complexes and smaller structures. To the right of the street is a large, green park area with many trees, walking paths, and several circular paved areas, possibly for sports or gatherings. The overall scene is captured from a high angle, looking down on the city.

BLACK LIVES MATTER ≡

**DC BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2021
GUIDE TO ONLINE EVENTS & PROGRAMS**

**The DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities and the DC Black History Celebration Committee
are proud to present this guide to events for Black History Month 2021**

A Brief History of Black History Month

As a Harvard-trained historian, Carter G. Woodson, like W. E. B. Du Bois before him, believed that truth could not be denied, and that reason would prevail over prejudice. His hopes to raise awareness of African American's contributions to civilization was realized when he and the organization he founded, the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), conceived and announced Negro History Week in 1925. The event was first celebrated during a week in February 1926 that encompassed the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The response was overwhelming: Black history clubs sprang up; teachers demanded materials to instruct their pupils; and progressive whites, not simply white scholars and philanthropists, stepped forward to endorse the effort.

By the time of Woodson's death in 1950, Negro History Week had become a central part of African American life and substantial progress had been made in bringing more Americans to appreciate the celebration. At mid-century, mayors of cities nationwide issued proclamations noting Negro History Week. The Black Awakening of the 1960s dramatically expanded the consciousness of African Americans about the importance of black history, and the Civil Rights movement focused Americans of all color on the subject of the contributions of African Americans to our history and culture.

The celebration was expanded to a month in 1976, the nation's bicentennial. President Gerald R. Ford urged Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." That year, fifty years after the first celebration, the association held the first African American History Month. By this time, the entire nation had come to recognize the importance of Black history in the drama of the American story. Since then, each American president has issued African American History Month proclamations. And the association—now the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)—continues to promote the study of Black history all year.

(Excerpt from an essay by Daryl Michael Scott, Howard University, for the Association for the Study of African American Life and History)

DAILY

BlackPower in Washington D.C.

The BlackPower in Washington D.C. website charts the rise, fall and resurgence of Black Power activism in the nation's preeminent Chocolate City between 1961 and 1998 using a web based map and approximately 50 historical photographs.

blackpowerindc.umbc.edu

Subversions Part Two: As An Enemy

6 - 9pm

CulturalDC

A multichannel video installation that creates space for the victims of police brutality. The exhibit will be projected onto the windows of CulturalDC's Source Theatre located at 1835 14th Street NW.

culturaldc.org

FEBRUARY 1

DC Black History Virtual Kick-Off

THE BLACK FAMILY: Saving Our Lives - The Fierce Urgency of Now!

7pm - 8pm

DC Black History Celebration Committee; African American Civil War Museum

Keynote Speaker - Dr. Reed Tuckson, Black Coalition Against Covid-19
MC - Aaron Holmes

Via Zoom: 826 9631 5087 PASSCODE: 372477

Announcement of the Black History Theme and Introduction of ASALH's Inaugural Virtual Black History Month Festival

6pm - 7pm

Association for the Study of African American Life and History

The opening program to announce the 2021 Black History theme and introduction of ASALH's Inaugural Virtual Black History Month Festival

youtube.com/asalhtv; asalh.org

Bishop Henry McNeal Turner Symposium

7pm

African American Civil War Museum; Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia

For much of the nineteenth century, Bishop Henry McNeal Turner was a voice for justice and humanity. He served as a minister, educator and U.S.C.T. veteran. On February 1, 2021 The African American Civil War Museum will present the Bishop Henry McNeal Turner symposium to discuss the life and legacy of this remarkable individual.

zoom.us/j/97350700071

Lou Fields 30th BHM Program: 7th Langton Hughes Book Fair

8pm - 10pm

Baltimore African American Tourism Council of MD, Inc.

Virtual Online Book Fair, family friendly event!

ZOOM Meeting ID 852 1781 7769. No password needed.

FEBRUARY 2

Teen Tuesday: Open Mic Night

4pm

DC Public Library

Poets between the ages of 13 - 19 are invited to perform works in celebration Black History Month. Sign up to perform live or submit a video.

dclibrary.org/node/67699

FEBRUARY 3

Black History Month Virtual Story Time

10:30AM

DC Public Library

Join the Library for a special story time celebrating Black History Month on the Library's Facebook page.

dclibrary.org/node/67717, facebook.com/dclibrary/

A Celebration of African American Life and History: Trailblazer
5pm - 6pm

Association for the Study of African American Life and History
Featuring an Author Talk with Mae Jemison.

[youtube.com/asalhtv](https://www.youtube.com/asalhtv); asalh.org

FEBRUARY 4

Family Learning at the Library - Black History Month Events
4pm

DC Public Library

Tune in to DC Public Library's Youtube every school day at 4 pm for a fun and educational after-school live events and videos! Who's Kamala Harris? Take a fun quiz to learn more about the first female U.S. Vice President! February will have crafts, stories, book talks and more to celebrate Black History Month. These programs are recommended for school-aged children, teens and their families.

[youtube.com/dcpl1](https://www.youtube.com/dcpl1)

Chris Haley's Reflections on Roots
7pm

African American Civil War Museum

"In 1977 the television adaptation of Roots debuted across American television screens, inviting Americans to remember the painful history of the slave trade. By examining the history of his own family, author Alex Haley was able to show the resiliency of African American families against the greatest of odds. Actor, Writer and Film Maker Chris Haley, (nephew of the famous writer) has carried on the tradition of storytelling that made his family one of the most famous in American history. Mr. Haley will reflect upon why 2020 was a reminder and a wake-up call for African American families and the nation.

zoom.us/j/93221836707

Kindred Spirits: Artists Hilda Wilkinson Brown and Lilian Thomas Burwell

9:30 & 10:30pm

PBS on WHUT

Kindred Spirits explores the unique relationship between a Black aunt and niece who rose above the inequities of segregation to become accomplished artists.

[pbs.org/show/kindred-spirits-artists-hilda-wilkinson-brown-and-lilian-](https://pbs.org/show/kindred-spirits-artists-hilda-wilkinson-brown-and-lilian-burwell)

FEBRUARY 5

Soulversations (Episode 1) Sy Smith with host Rus

6pm - 6:45pm

THEARC Theater

Indie artist Russell Taylor (<https://www.russelltaylor.net/>) takes us on a music journey through performances pre-recorded at THEARC Theater along with artist interviews featuring local and national Black artists.

bbardc.org/thearc-theater

FEBRUARY 6

From the Continent to the Americas: Foodways, Culture and Traditions in the African American Family

12pm - 2pm

Association for the Study of African American Life and History

A panel of authors, chefs and historians will share their work and discuss the important role food has played Black family life throughout the diaspora.

[youtube.com/asalhtv](https://www.youtube.com/asalhtv); asalh.org

FEBRUARY 7

Manhattan Branch, Panel Discussion "How African American Families Have Been Portrayed in the Media"

4pm - 6pm

Association for the Study of African American Life and History

Exploring the 2021 theme, discussants will explore how African American families have been portrayed in the media.

[youtube.com/asalhtv](https://www.youtube.com/asalhtv); asalh.org

FEBRUARY 8

Organizing Black Families: The Colored Conventions

7pm

African American Civil War Museum

In the nineteenth century the African Americans began to organize formal conventions around social, political and economic issues that were affecting them. The leader of the Colored Conventions Project is a digital humanities initiative that has brought the history of this important movement to a new generation of scholars.

zoom.us/j/98828596975

FEBRUARY 9

Art AfterWords: A Book Discussion

5:30pm - 7pm

National Portrait Gallery & DC Public Library

The National Portrait Gallery and the DC Public Library invite you to a virtual conversation about representation, kinship and storytelling. Join us as we analyze Bernard Gotfryd's portrait of Alice Walker and discuss the related book "Training School for Negro Girls" by Camille Acker. DCPL cardholders can access the book online.

eventbrite.com/e/art-afterwords-a-book-discussion-tickets-133229734723, dclibrary.org/node/67638

FEBRUARY 10

Presentation of the Inaugural ASALH Book Prize

1:30PM

Association for the Study of African American Life and History

Presentation of the Inaugural ASALH Book Prize.

youtube.com/asalhtv; asalh.org

Mighty Justice: A Family Event About Civil Rights Lawyer Dovey Johnson Roundtree

4pm

DC Public Library

For those people not familiar with Dovey Johnson Roundtree's name, you are invited to learn about a great woman who dedicated her life to service, justice, and lifting up the most oppressed among us. Raised in the Jim Crow South, Dovey Johnson Roundtree's early life was shaped by the strength of her grandmother. Dovey faced every challenge possible. Through sheer will and determination, she became a Civil Rights lawyer who was pivotal in dismantling racially segregated interstate bus travel in the early 1950s. She took clients that other lawyers ignored, saying of those she helped, "I make my clients my children. I can see stars when there is nothing but clay." Never letting herself be beaten down by racism, Dovey Johnson Roundtree was a proud American who believed in the power of public service.

dclibrary.org/mightyjustice

Our City, Our Stories: Author Talk with Camille Acker & Rion Amilcar Scott

6pm

DC Public Library

Join authors Camille Acker and Rion Amilcar Scott live on the Library's Facebook page on Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 6 p.m. for a conversation on their writing about the Black family and the Washington, D.C. area. Acker is a native Washingtonian, a graduate of Howard University and the author of the collection of short stories, Training School for Negro Girls. Scott is from Silver Spring, MD, a graduate of Howard University and the author of two short story collections: Insurrections and PEN finalist The World Doesn't Require You.

facebook.com/dclibrary

FEBRUARY 11

Family Learning at the Library - Black History Month Events

4pm

DC Public Library

Tune in to DC Public Library's Youtube every school day at 4 p.m. for fun and educational after-school live events and videos! To the Stars with Mae Jemison - Learn about the first black woman to travel to space, and engineer and former astronaut Leland Melvin. February will have crafts, stories, book talks and more to celebrate Black History Month. These programs are recommended for school-aged children, teens and their families.

youtube.com/dcpubliclibrary

FEBRUARY 12

Family Learning at the Library - Black History Month Events

4pm

DC Public Library

Tune in to DC Public Library's Youtube every school day at 4 p.m. for fun and educational after-school live events and videos! Dragons in a Bag - a book talk on this new fantasy series featuring a young black protagonist, and make a dragon. February will have crafts, stories, book talks and more to celebrate Black History Month. These programs are recommended for school-aged children, teens and their families.

youtube.com/dcpubliclibrary

FEBRUARY 13

"Looking Backwards, Moving Forward"

10am - 2pm

AAHGS

The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society's Maryland and Washington, DC Chapters, the Laurel (MD) and Washington, DC Family History Centers, as well as the African American Special Interest Group sponsor a Black History Month Conference on Saturday, February 13, 2021, Virtual via Zoom, from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. The theme of the conference is "Looking Backwards, Moving Forward".

wdcfhc.org/AAHGS-Conf/

1st Virtual Black Love Conference and 28th Black Love Day Relationship Ceremony

10am - 9pm

PositivEnergyWorks and African American Holiday Association (AAHA) Black Love Day is a national whollyday to observe 5 Loving Acts to heal relationships celebrated in 2021 in a Conference and 28th Black Love Relationship Ceremony. 1st Virtual Black Love Conference from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with videos and movies in-between and then come to the Ritual for the 28th Black Love Day Relationship Ceremony from 7 to 9 p.m EST The 2021 Black Love theme will shine focus on all of the Tenets with the theme: "Healing the Wounds That Divide - Re-uniting Our Strengths Thru Black Love"

AfricanAmericanHolidays.org; PositivEnergyWorks.com

ROASA's Roadmap to Self

11am

Remembering Our Ancestors Synergistic Association (ROASA)

ROASA's Roadmap to Self to a 100-year overview of America's history (event, eras, places, occurrences, historical picture and ROASA's highlights educating the next generation (2012-2020).

themakingofu.com

FEBRUARY 14

Frederick Douglass and Maryland's Underground Railroad - Livestream Tour

4pm - 6pm

Washington DC History & Culture

Join us for an online/virtual tour of the Frederick Douglass heritage sites in Maryland and Washington, D.C., as well a discussion on how how Frederick successfully escaped from slavery and then was an active conductor on the Underground Railroad until the eve of the Civil War. Learn about his connections to John Brown, Abraham Lincoln, Harriet Tubman and others!

Our program will focus on Frederick Douglass' inspirational life and feature many of the sites within the Washington, D.C. and Baltimore metropolitan area associated with his life. We'll include an overview of

the Eastern Shore, Baltimore City, Old Anacostia, as well as Harper's Ferry in West Virginia.

eventbrite.com/e/frederick-douglass-and-marylands-underground-railroad-livestream-tour-tickets-138117596449?aff=erelpanelorg

FEBRUARY 15

Black History Month Virtual Story Time

10:30AM

DC Public Library

Join the Library for a special story time celebrating Black History Month on the Library's Facebook page.

facebook.com/dclibrary/

FEBRUARY 17

Family Learning at the Library - Black History Month Events

4pm

DC Public Library

Tune in to DC Public Library's Youtube every school day at 4 p.m. for fun and educational after-school live events and videos! Mancala - Learn the history, create a DIY board and play this game. February will have crafts, stories, book talks and more to celebrate Black History Month. These programs are recommended for school-aged children, teens and their families.

youtube.com/dcpubliclibrary

FEBRUARY 19

Family Learning at the Library - Black History Month Events

4pm

DC Public Library

Tune in to DC Public Library's Youtube every school day at 4 p.m. for fun and educational after-school live events and videos! Ella Baker and DC Public Library's African American studies database. February will have crafts, stories, book talks and more to celebrate Black History Month. These programs are recommended for school-aged children, teens and their families. youtube.com/dcpubliclibrary

Howard University Gospel Choir presents....Let Freedom Sing: A Tribute to MLK

6pm - 7pm

THEARC Theater

Back by popular demand! The Howard Gospel Choir presents its annual musical tribute to the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin L. King Jr.

bbardc.org/thearc-theater

Harriet Tubman & Maryland's Underground Railroad Sites - Livestream History Tour

7pm - 8:30pm

Washington DC History & Culture

Join us for an online/virtual tour of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad sites in Maryland. Learn how Harriet successfully escaped from slavery and how she then heroically led others to freedom. Our program will focus on Harriet Tubman's inspirational life and feature many of the Underground Railroad sites in Maryland associated with her. We'll include an overview of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Park in Church Creek, Maryland, and other historic sites along the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway. This is a livestream version of the full-day Underground Railroad bus tours we take participants on. Therefore, this program will be a combined history talk and travel presentation.

eventbrite.com/o/washington-dc-history-amp-culture-8043634040

A Stage Reading of *Live from the Whitelaw Hotel*

8pm - 10pm

THEARC Theater & Restoration Stage

Restoration Stage returns with Steven A. Butler's new '30's era musical love letter to a forgotten Washington, DC historic landmark.

bbardc.org/thearc-theater

FEBRUARY 24

Young, Gifted & Black: THEARC Theater Podcast

12pm - 1pm

THEARC Theater

THEARC Theater team podcast explores the journey and stories of the staff, local artist, programming and productions, community advocacy and arts workforce rooted in the Black experience.

bbardc.org/thearc-theater

Family Learning at the Library - Black History Month Events

4pm

DC Public Library

Tune in to DC Public Library's Youtube every school day at 4 p.m. for fun and educational after-school live events and videos! A story about Katherine Johnson - a black mathematician, and create an origami rocket. February will have crafts, stories, book talks and more to celebrate Black History Month. These programs are recommended for school-aged children, teens and their families.

youtube.com/dcpubliclibrary

Wind Down Wednesday: Good Trouble

5pm - 6pm

National Portrait Gallery

In February, we celebrate African Americans' contributions to U.S. culture and history - but this important recognition should not be limited to 28 days of the year. As the late congressman, leader and activist John Lewis would remark, the work we need to do often involves making "good trouble." In honor of his activist spirit, we will discuss the museum's newly acquired portrait of Lewis and pay homage to his quest for civil rights. Learn about Lewis's organized efforts to lead the nation toward racial equality and the good trouble he made. This conversation about civic awareness, empowerment and community will help you discover how to activate your voice and increase your civic involvement - all year long. Invited guests include Mixin' Mimi, who will craft a mocktail and cocktail to get us into the spirit.

instagram.com/smithsoniannpg/channel/?hl=en

Diving with a Purpose: Recovering and Reexamining Our Roots

6:30pm - 8pm

Association for the Study of African American Life and History

A panel discussion featuring divers who seek to preserve the heritage of Black people through discovering and investigating wreckages of slave ships and salvaging artifacts.

youtube.com/asalhtv; asalh.org

FEBRUARY 25

Enslaved in Georgetown

7pm

African American Civil War Museum

Enslaved at the Georgetown Hotel tells the story of three generations of one family enslaved by the owner of the hotel, Eleanor Lang, and explains the process of their emancipation in 1862 under the D.C. Compensated Emancipation Act. The Georgetown Hotel was located in what is now known as The City Tavern. The site, a national landmark, is in one of the oldest Federal-style buildings in D.C.

zoom.us/j/92601579646

FEBRUARY 26

Family Learning at the Library - Black History Month Events

4pm

DC Public Library

Tune in to DC Public Library's Youtube every school day at 4 p.m. for fun and educational after-school live events and videos! A social history of Double Dutch - learn about Double Dutch in DC and hear Jayla Jumps in, a story by DC Public Library's own Joy Jones. February will have crafts, stories, book talks and more to celebrate Black History Month. These programs are recommended for school-aged children, teens and their families.

youtube.com/dcpubliclibrary

Campaign 72'

8pm - 10pm

DC Black Theatre & Arts Festival; THEARC Theater

An inspiring bio-play about the Shirley Chisholm who was the 1st African American woman to run for president and wrote the book on what it means to persist.

bbardc.org/thearc-theater

FEBRUARY 28

The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity

12pm - 2pm

ASALH's Prince George's County Truth Branch and Maple Springs

Baptist Church Cultural Education Experience Ministry (CEEM)

Prince George's County Truth Branch and Maple Springs Baptist

Church Cultural Education Experience Ministry (CEEM) hosts a program featuring keynote speaker Dr. Charlene Mickens Dukes.

youtube.com/asalhvtv; asalh.org

Artistic Director's Coalition for Ballet in America Pilot Project for African American Inclusion

2pm - 4pm

The Washington Ballet

The companies in the Artistic Director's Coalition for Ballet in America have agreed to participate in this initial pilot program by creating an opportunity specifically for young and aspiring African American and dancers of color to feel welcomed into our organizations with a #BalletOpenHouse.

washingtonballet.org/open-house/

Little Ethiopia DC Wreath Laying Ceremony

4pm - 5pm

Commemorating the sister-cities relationship between Addis Ababa and the District of Columbia, the Addis Ababa Massacre on February 19, 1937, the Pan-African Victory of the Battle of Adwa on the March 1, 1896, and Black History Month.

littleethiopiadc.com

ASALH and PBS Books Present: A Conversation with Ngugi Wa Thiong'o, Sundiata Cha-Jua, and Nubia Kai

7pm - 8pm

Association for the Study of African American Life and History & PBS

Two noted scholar-activists explore The Perfect Nine and the Black Family against the context of today's struggle for social justice, gender equity and other topics.

youtube.com/asalhvtv; asalh.org

For more information and event updates:

dcblackhistory.com

facebook.com/dc.black.history

