February 3, 2021

Black History Month

Black History Month is a celebration that typically features some of our best programs and events of the year.

But what’s the history behind Black History Month?

According to the National Museum of African American History and Culture: "Born in New Canton, Virginia, in 1875, Carter G. Woodson would never see the first Black History Month. The historian, best known for his 1933 book *The Miseducation of the Negro*, recognized throughout his studies the dearth of African Americans in the nation’s curriculum.

"To stem the tide and bring to the fore those lost voices, Woodson founded in 1915 the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and launched the following year *The Journal of African American History*.

"Seeking to bring even more stories of African Americans to light, in 1926 Woodson founded the first Negro History Week. This was timed in February to coincide with Abraham Lincoln’s and Fredrick Douglass’s birthdays. It wasn’t until 1976 that President Ford extended the observation to a full month - one honoring the contributions of black Americans to this day."

Take care,
Brian Kenney
Library Director
bkenney@whiteplainslibrary.org
Baseball fans of all ages will enjoy our Black History Month StoryWalk featuring Mamie on the Mound: A Woman in Baseball's Negro Leagues as well as Tommy Terrific's Satchel Paige Magic Show, streaming February 13th-20th. These programs are supported by the White Plains Library Foundation.

Black Men in White Coats: Film screening (2/18-21) and discussion (2/22)
Fewer black men applied to medical school in 2014 than in 1978 and black men have the lowest life expectancy in the United States. With only 2% of American doctors being black men, this comes as no surprise. This documentary dissects the systemic barriers preventing black men from becoming medical doctors and the consequences on society at large.

Book Discussions
February 5th: Project Lit for Teens - Solo
February 10th: Project Lit for Kids - From the Desk of Zoe Washington
February 25th: Short Story Book Discussion - ZZ Packer
February 25th: Reading to End Racism - Everything Inside

Jackie Robinson: More than a Ballplayer!
February 11th - 6:30 p.m.
In this presentation John Vorperian, President of the White Plains Historical Society, will discuss Jackie Robinson's accomplishments in addition to breaking baseball's
Jazz and the Civil Rights Movement  
**February 12th - 7:00 p.m.**  
A combined lecture and music performance featuring Flutist/Lecturer Galen Abdur-Razzaq. It will begin with a flute prelude performed by Galen followed by a 60 minute presentation chronicling the history of music from the turn of the century to present day, highlighting various artists, their music, their influence on the evolution of jazz, and their struggles. Registration requested; [click here](#) to register.

Black History Month STEAM:  
**Inventor Lonnie Johnson**  
**February 23rd - 4:00 p.m.**  
We will be reading *Whoosh! Lonnie Johnson's Super-Soaking Stream of Inventions* by Chris Barton. Afterwards, we will create a straw color line. Registration requested; [click here](#) to register.

Intro to African American Genealogy  
**February 18th - 7:00 p.m.**  
In her presentation “Getting a Good Start: Things I Wish I’d Known About Genealogical Research Before I Began,” genealogist Cynthia Maharrey explores: Research—organization, forms, objective and plan; Records—home, local, county or state, federal and where to find them, with an emphasis on African American records; Resources—online, conferences and societies, your genealogical library. For information on attending, [click here](#).

Black History Month Trivia Night with NYC Trivia League  
**February 19th - 7:00 p.m.**  
Test your knowledge in a variety of topics from music, famous people and pop culture to historical events. The game will be run on Zoom and you can play as a solo player or with whomever is in the same room as you. The trivia host will share a website in the Zoom meeting where each player will enter in their responses during the game. We hope to see you there! Registration is requested but not required; [click here](#) to register.
rocket using Grab & Go Kits attendees will pick up in advance. Registration required; click here to register.

Reading Lists

Black History Month OverDrive Collection

"She Writes:" Black Poets OverDrive Collection

Well-Read Black Girl OverDrive Collection

Hank Aaron OverDrive Collection

Claudia Rankine’s reading list for understanding race in America.

Children's Reading List: African American Trailblazers

#BlackJoy Picture Books

Photo of the Week

Above: A scene in the library at the Juniper School which was located in Greenburgh, White Plains. Mrs. Bessie Emanuel Smith is standing, pointing to a photograph. Smith was the first African American teacher in White Plains. Submitted to the White Plains Local History Collection by Mrs. Bessie Emanuel Smith.

We want your photos! In each issue of This Week on Martine we feature one patron submitted photo that was taken in White Plains. To submit your photography for a chance to be featured, visit our submission page, upload a photo, and fill out our form with a short description of the photo and your name.