

UC BERKELEY PANHELLENIC NEWSLETTER

Black History Month

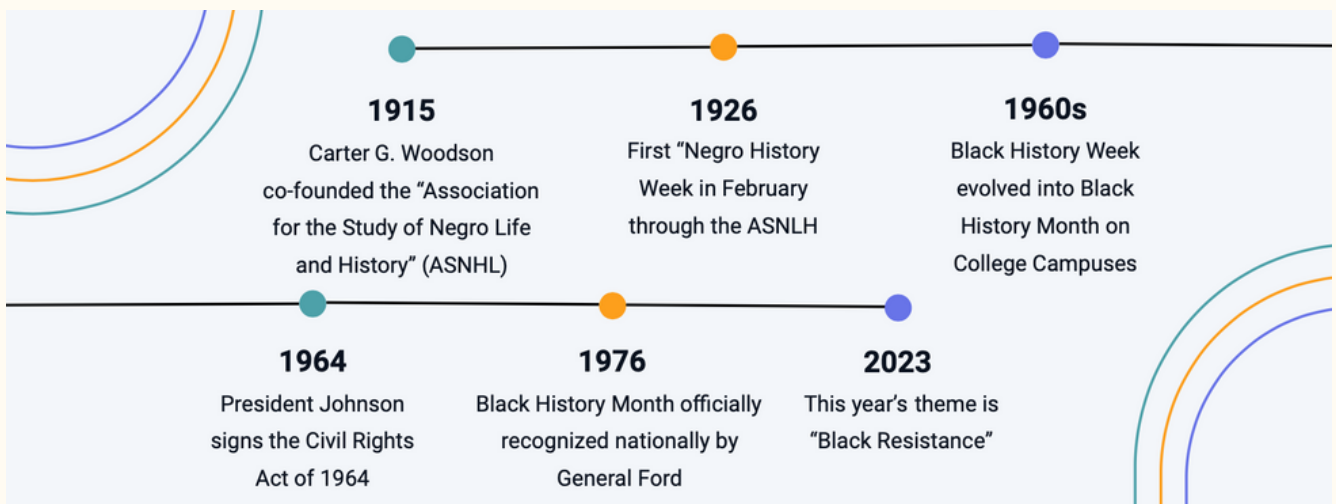


HOW DID THIS MONTH START?

Carter G. Woodson

Author, journalist, and historian, Carter G. Woodson, studied the African Diaspora as well as African American history. Woodson's work and contributions to social history have been so great that he is often referred to as the "Father of Black History." During the early 1900s, few historians were studying Black History except Woodson. As such, in 1915 Woodson founded the "Association for the Study of Negro Life and History" (ASNLH) with co-founders: A.L. Jackson, George Cleveland Hall, and James E. Stamps. In 1926, the ASNLH declared the second week of February as "Negro History Week" with the intention of highlighting Black history.

Timeline of Black History Month





Ways to Honor Black History Month

1. SUPPORT BLACK OWNED BUSINESSES (IN BERKELEY)

LOCAL BUSINESSES: CupCakin' Bake Shop, Revolution Books, Bleu Honey Salon, Nuttin' Butter Cookies, Alchemy Collective Cafe, Super Juiced, Organic Bliss Day Spa

[SEE A FULL LIST OF BUSINESSES](#)

2. SUPPORT AND LEARN ABOUT BLACK WOMEN AND FIGURES

3. DONATE TO ORGANIZATIONS AND NON-PROFITS THAT SUPPORT ANTI-RACISM AND EQUALITY

Black Women For Wellness (California)
Healthy Black Families (Bay Area)
Black Women's Blueprint (National)
Ella Baker Center (Bay Area)
Equal Justice Initiative (National)
The Thurgood Marshall College Fund (National)
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights (Bay Area)

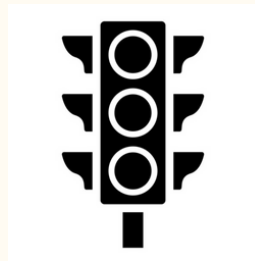
4. READ AND PURCHASE BOOKS BY BLACK AUTHORS

5. ATTEND ONLINE LECTURES, EVENTS, AND CELEBRATIONS

[ONLINE EVENTS](#)

6. LISTEN TO PODCASTS (SUCH AS "THE 1619 PROJECT") AND WATCH DOCUMENTARIES

10 Things You May Not Know Were Invented by Black Creators



Blood Bank

- **Charles Richard Drew** studied the preservation of blood at Columbia University, in which he ultimately discovered a method of separating plasma and red blood cells. This changed the way blood could be preserved, leading to the establishment of the first blood bank.

Three Light Traffic Signal and the Gas Mask

- **Garrett Morgan** patented the first three light traffic signal in the U.S. and later also implemented the “yield” component to traffic safety. Morgan also invented the first gas mask which contained tubes connected to wet sponges that filtered out smoke.

Automatic Elevator Doors

- **Alexander Miles** patented the automatically opening and closing mechanism of elevator doors after recognizing the potential risks of manual elevator doors.

Clothes Dryer

- **George T. Sampson** invented the first form of an automatic clothes dryer. His dryer, which included the use of suspension rods over a stove, was the dryer that prompted the expansion of the utilization of gas and electricity in modern dryers.

Golf Tees

- **Dr. George Grant**, Harvard Dental School, invented the wooden golf tee as a result of his frustration with the prior process of using wet sand as a tee.

Lawnmower

- **John Albert Burr** improved the design of lawnmowers making them what they are today. He designed a new lawnmower with improved traction, rotary blades, and clogging prevention.

GPS

- Mathematician **Dodger Gladys West** collected, processed, and calculated data—with the Naval Weapons Laboratory—that resulted in the construction of computer programming and a mathematical model of the earth’s shape. West’s calculations and model contributed to the development of the GPS (global positioning system) used today.

Refrigeration Technology

- Surgeon and pharmacist **Thomas Elkins** improved refrigeration by the invention of a covered container that remained at a low temperature as a result of the circulation of cold water through metallic coils within the container.

Home Security System

- Nurse **Marie Van Brittan Brown**, invented and patented the first home security system which included cameras, monitors, two way microphones, and peepholes. Her invention later influenced the development of modern home security systems.

Upcoming Events

"Black Resistance" – Art Display at the Library of Congress and Online

February 8th – Through the African American Lens: Afrofuturism: The Origin Story
(Documentary)

February 8th – African Americans in Business: Doing Historical Company Research
(Zoom Event)

February 9th – Art AfterWords (Online Book Discussion)

February 23rd – African American Folk Music with Jake Blount (Online Live Music Event)

[MORE EVENTS](#)