

WELCOME to the second issue of Westminster's Phi Alpha Theta Newsletter! February is National Black History Month and this issue celebrates the lives of some of the famous African-Americans of the twentieth century. In addition to this newsletter, take a moment to check out our displays in the library which highlight African American authors, the Civil Rights Movement, and lynching and mob violence from the early 1900s. Just a few more reasons why history isn't just about a bunch of dead guys.

The father of Black History Month was historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson. What began as Negro History Week in 1926 would grow into Black History Month in 1976. Woodson purposely chose the second week of February for Negro History Week because it included both Abraham Lincoln's and Frederick Douglass' birthdays. Rosa Park's birthday also falls in the month of February.

Phi Alpha Theta is the national history honors society "whose mission is to promote the study of history through the encouragement of research, good teaching, publication and the exchange of learning and ideas among historians."
 — Sherrie Bakelar

Priceless Individuals

All aspects of American Life have been affected by African Americans. Here are just a few memorable individuals that have helped to shape our lives.

Martin Luther King Jr.



Martin Luther King Jr., one of the leaders of the Civil Rights Movement, was the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. His struggle for equal rights began in 1955 when he joined with Rosa Parks and other African-Americans in the Montgomery Bus Boycott and was brought to a sudden end in 1968 when he was assassinated on the balcony of his motel room in Memphis, Tennessee.

— Sherrie Bakelar

This Month in History

- 2/1/1965: Martin Luther King Jr. arrested in Selma, Alabama
- 2/3/1966: Luna 9 lands on the Moon
- 2/13/1633: Galileo in Rome for Inquisition
- 2/16/1923: King Tut's tomb opened
- 2/19/1847: Donner Party rescued
- 2/21/1965: Malcolm X assassinated

Hattie McDaniel



<http://www.redhotjazz.com/hattiemcd.html>

Hattie McDaniel was born in 1895 in Wichita, Kansas. She began her career in performing arts as a band vocalist. She would later move to radio and then the big screen. Her career included a number of "firsts." Hattie was the first African American to sing on a National Radio Network. She was also the first African American to win an academy award; which she won for her portrayal of Mammy in *Gone With the Wind*.

George Washington Carver



<http://www.nypl.org/research/scs/car/car2.html>

George Washington Carver, who lived from 1864 to 1943, was a revolutionary scientist devoted to the peanut and its numerous byproducts. Carver received his high school diploma and later a degree in agricultural science in 1894 from Iowa Agricultural College (now Iowa State University). Not long after, Carver received his masters from Iowa Agricultural College and became the first African American to serve on the college's faculty. Soon after, word of Carver's accomplishment spread to Booker T. Washington, the head of Tuskegee University. It was not long before Washington offered Carver a position at Tuskegee. In his research, Carver produced over 300 byproducts from the peanut. This new crop drastically reduced the south's dependence on cotton crops, and by the end of 1938, peanut farming became a 200 million dollar industry in Alabama alone. Carver never patented any of his discoveries. Carver found it appropriate to let others continue in the footsteps which he had laid. "God gave them to me, how can I sell them to someone else?" Carver said. Carver continued his work until his death in January of 1943.

—Travis Estes

Jackie Robinson



http://www.pbs.org/wnet/aaworld/reference/articles/jackie_robinson.html

Jackie Robinson was the first African American to play in the major league. Before his debut, African Americans were only allowed to play at the collegiate level and in a few segregated leagues. The year before his debut, 1946, the Los Angeles Rams signed two African American players: Kenny Washington and Woody Strode. It wasn't until 1950 that the first African American played professional Basketball. The Boston Celtics signed Chuck Cooper and the New York Knicks signed Nat "Sweetwater" Clifton.

Happy Birthday Rosa Parks!

From seamstress to Civil Rights Activist.



<http://www.achievegreat.com/1965/2/21/1965-rosaparks.html>

In 1955 Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white passenger on a city bus. She was arrested and convicted and in the process, inspired a year long boycott of the Montgomery, Alabama bus system.

Calendar of Events

Celebrate Civil Rights and Black History Month
 And other fun things

- "My Life in Civil Rights" presented by Reverend France Davis, Pastor, Calvary Baptist Church. **February 6 @ 7:00pm U of U room CN229 Contact number: 435-586-7771**
- Donzaleigh Abernathy, daughter of Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, who worked alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., will be performing and lecturing at the University of Utah. Further details: [U of U News Center](#). [Directions and map](#). **February 7 @ 6:00 pm for the performance and 8 @ 12:00pm for the lecture.**
- "Raisin in the Sun" Dramatizing the Civil Rights Movement presentation by Dr. Nicole Aljoe, Assistant Professor of English, University of Utah. **February 8 @ 7:00pm U of U room CN229 Contact number: 435-586-7771**
- David Hochbaum's collages and paintings will be on display at the James Anthony Gallery. Hochbaum's technique, photo construction, features medieval and vintage themes. Further details: [James Anthony Gallery](#). [David Hochbaum's website](#). **Throughout the month of February.**
- The Complete Emmett Till Story: Theft of Different Sorts. Presented by Dr. Clenora Hudson-Weems, Professor of English, University of Missouri-Columbia. Further Details: [Calendar of Events](#) and [Convocations](#). **February 13 @ 11:30 am Southern Utah University Auditorium, Cedar City Contact number: 435-586-7771**
- "Civil Rights in Utah" presented by Dr. Ronald Coleman, Associate Professor of History, University of Utah. **February 15 @ 7:00pm U of U Room CN229 Contact number: 435-586-7771**
- Day of Remembrance: WWII. "A photo documentary exhibit and panel discussion will explore Ogden's Japantown and what took place in Ogden in Utah before, during and after WWII." **February 16—18 Several events have been planned for this weekend. [Check here for a full list, including prices.](#)**
- Dewey Lecture Series presents Roger Khan, author of *The Boys of Summer*, at the Main City Library. Further Details: [Library Calendar of Events](#). **March 3 @ 7:00 pm**

— Amy Yag

Making History

Dear Friends:

Book Highlights

Medical Apartheid
 By Harriet A Washington

The Radical and the Republican
 By James Oakes

Movie Highlights

Breach February 16
 Directed by Billy Ray

I thank you for your assistance these many years. It seems, however, that my greatest utility to you has come to an end, and it is time to seclude myself from active service.

I have been promoted to a higher do-nothing Senior Executive job outside of regular access to information (sic) within the counterintelligence program. I am being isolated. Further, I have detected repeated bursting radio signal emanations from my vehicle. The knowledge of their existence is sufficient. Amusing the games children play.

Something has aroused the sleeping tiger. Perhaps you know better than I.

Life is full of its ups and downs.

I will be in contact next year, same time, same place. Perhaps the correlation of forces and circumstance then will have improved.

Your friend,

The above letter, written by Robert Hanssen who sold American secrets to the Soviet Union and Russia from 1979 until his capture in 2001, was written shortly before his capture. His story has been transformed into the upcoming film **Breach**, in theaters this February.



<http://www.paramount.com/movies/1309356768/p1309356768>

African-American Pioneers



For Further Reading:

- Rosa Parks* by Douglas Brinkley
- On the Bus with Rosa Parks* poems by Rita Dove
- The Spy Who Stayed out in the Cold: The Secret Life of FBI Double Agent Robert Hanssen* by Adrian A Brill
- Jackie Robinson: A Biography* by Arnold Rampersad
- Baseball's Great Experiment: Jackie Robinson and his Legacy* by Jules Tygiel
- African American Women Confront the West: 1600-2000* Edited by Quintard Taylor and Shirley Ann Wilson Moore.
- To the Shantain Top: Martin Luther King Jr.'s sacred mission to save America, 1955-1968* By Stewart Burns
- George Washington Carver, Scientist and Symbol* by Linda O. McMurry

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Sources:
 Black History: <http://www.history.com/minisites/blackhistory/>
 This Month in History: http://www.history.com/tidh_black
 Making History: http://www.barnesandnoble.com/collection/collection_cds2.asp?PID=14554&start=16&z=y&cds2Pid=14554, <http://www.imdb.com/title/t0401997/>
 Breach: http://www.crimelibrary.com/terrorists_spies/spies/hanssen/1.html
 Rosa Parks: <http://www.achievement.org/autodoc/page/nar0int-1>
 George Washington Carver: <http://inventors.about.com/library/week/aa041897.htm>
 Martin Luther King Jr: http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1964/king-bio.html
 Jackie Robinson: http://www.pbs.org/wnet/aaworld/reference/articles/jackie_robinson.htm
 Other Sports Firsts: http://wiki.wsu.edu/wsuwiki/History_Of_Sport
 Hattie McDaniel: <http://www.redhotjazz.com/hattiemcd.html>