

ISSUE | February – March 2022

BUILDING BRIDGES

Building Bridges to Diversity and Equity Resources & Events



HAPPY BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Overview:

- Black History Month Celebration
 - Importance of Black History month pg.2
 - #BlackFuturesMonth pg.3
 - Activist Then and now pg.4
- February Holidays
 - Valentine’s Day pg.5
 - Super Bowl pg.6
- Campus Events
 - February Recap
 - Upcoming Events
- Women’s History Month
 - Women’s Empowerment draft
 - Women History Keynote Speaker
 - March Event Recap

This February/March issue of the Building Bridges newsletter we are celebrating Black history & Women's history month as well as the importance it represents. To start the month of February off right we wanted to enlighten people about #blackfuturesmonth, which was a way to not only celebrate Black history but the future of African Americans, a future that we are making for ourselves by standing up and standing out. Not only is February Black History month but it was also Valentine's day, the day of love. Just as the February festivities, march was filled with different events and programs to celebrate women. Things like interviewing female chefs, participating in the women's empowerment draft and many more...

Why Is Black History Month So Important ?

As Everyone should know February is Black history month. For African American it's a month of pride to celebrate the history of our people. People that faced many struggles and challenges but didn't let that stop them from achieving greatness and creating a change. Slavery was a dark time in history for our people, many lives were lost but we still didn't lose faith. From slavery to segregation to the civil rights movement people of color have been fighting for years and Black history month is a representation of the struggle, and work our ancestors did to make the world a better place for generations to come. It represents the culture we've created together, and all the time a person of color beats the odds and changes the world for the better.

"It was Carter G Woodson, the "father of Black history," who first set out in 1926 to designate a time to promote and educate people about Black history and culture" (Franklin 2022). There was a time before when there wasn't even Black History month. Today all of history is whitewashed. With stories about several white men and their heroic tales of how they created the institutions we still practice today. "There is no American history without African American history" (Franklin 2022). American was built on the backs of Black slaves and yet we get little to no representation and were still fighting for the same basic civil rights.

After Carter G Woodson, came up with the idea to educate people about Black History it wasn't till fifty years later that the president officially recognized Black history month. Black Americans are responsible for a lot of the cultures and trends we see today, but we don't always get credit for the work we have done. That is why Black history month is important because it's important to see how far we came. To see that we too have people to look up to and represent the struggle we as African Americans go through. Black History Month is a reminder that if our ancestors were able to face their problems and struggles head on and make it out on the other side, then we can as well

For More information visit : <https://www.npr.org/2022/02/01/1075623826/why-is-february-black-history-month>



#BlackFuturesMonth

what is #BlackFuturesMonth?

The Movement for Black Lives is using this time to consider and celebrate our radical Black history to dream and imagine a world in which we are all free and self-determined; and to map and illustrate a world in which all Black lives matter.

A celebration for the History of our people as well as future we are creating for generations to come



Activist Then & Now

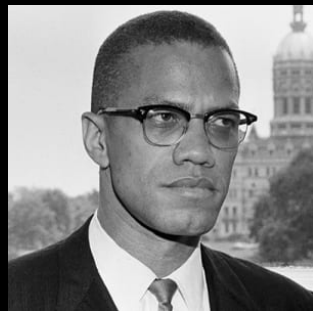
Then...



**Martin Luther
King Jr
(1929–1968)**



**Nelson
Mandela
(1918–2013)**



**Malcolm X
(1925–1965)**

Now...



Laverne Cox

One of the most high-profile Black and LGBTQ rights activists in Hollywood today, Cox speaks out regularly about issues transgender women of color face in entertainment and beyond. Her recent work of executive producing the Netflix documentary Disclosure sheds light on harmful portrayals of the trans community in media.



Tarana Burke

Founded the #MeToo Movement long before Hollywood co-opted it, to offer solidarity to girls of color in underserved communities who survived childhood and sexual abuse



Opal Tometi

one of the three co-founders of the influential Black Lives Matter (BLM) Movement, created in the wake of Trayvon Martin's killer being acquitted in 2013. In the time since that tragic event, BLM has grown to be the defining voice of the modern Civil Rights Movement

For More Information visit: <https://www.diversityinc.com/10-modern-black-civil-rights-leaders-to-follow-today/>



THE TRUTH BEHIND VALENTINE'S DAY

Origins of Valentine's Day

From Feb. 13 to 15, the Romans celebrated the feast of Lupercalia. The men sacrificed a goat and a dog, then whipped women with the hides of the animals they had just slain. The Roman romantics "were drunk. They were naked," Noel Lenski, now a religious studies professor at Yale University, told NPR in 2011. Young women would line up for the men to hit them, Lenski said. They believed this would make them fertile.

The brutal fete included a matchmaking lottery in which young men drew the names of women from a jar. The couple would then be, um, coupled up for the duration of the festival — or longer, if the match was right.

The ancient Romans may also be responsible for the name of our modern day of love. Emperor Claudius II executed two men — both named Valentine — on Feb. 14 of different years in the third century. Their martyrdom was honored by the Catholic Church with the celebration of St. Valentine's Day. One Valentine had been prosecuted by the emperor Claudius II Gothicus after he refused to worship the Roman gods. While in prison, he signed a letter that said "from your Valentine" to a woman he allegedly healed from blindness.

Many have said the holiday could be inspired by his kindness and love. Around the same time, a priest named St. Valentine of Terni went against the emperor's orders and secretly married young, swooning couples.

Emperor Gothicus, however, believed unmarried men made better soldiers. Nothing to love, less to lose. Gothicus executed him on February 14 around 269 AD, history says. Since he died for the sin of arranging marriages, his death is remembered as a day of love.

Modern day Valentine's Day

Due to the titling of the letter being finished as from your valentine over the centuries the lore of the history became a romantic holiday. The National Retail Federation (NRF) revealed that Americans spent more than \$21 billion on Valentine's Day in 2021. The amount was 20% less than the \$27.4 billion they spent in 2020. While Valentine's Day is celebrated with cards, candy and flowers in North America, other places around the world put their own spin on the holiday.

They may celebrate a little differently now to make sure they social distance, but people still find ways to show their love during this holiday. In Finland and Estonia (both countries in Northern Europe), February 14th is less about romance and more about friendship. In fact, these countries celebrate Friend's Day rather than Valentine's Day. During this holiday, people exchange cards and small gifts with their friends. For Valentine's Day, the Bronx Zoo lets you name a roach after your sweetheart, sounds disgusting but it's kind of cute when you think about. Kinda like a Pug, ugly but cute. Unlike in most countries when valentine's day is designated to women, in South Korea boyfriends and husbands are spoiled with chocolate and assortments of gifts in this new day and age the acknowledgment and celebration is a stark contrast to what it was known to be in previous times, Now surrounded by love and the celebration of love. Now with this celebration spreading around the world hopefully the entire world can know what it means to love and show love but not only on Valentine's Day.

SUPERBOWL LVI HALF TIME SHOW



A celebration of black excellence and influence in the amazing city of Los Angeles California. Westside A momentous occasion as the half time show of the Superbowl LVI celebrated the likes and prestige of artist and Producer Dr.

Dre. Creator of Beats by Dre, Producer and member of NWA from the late 80's- early 90s with hits such as F the Police, straight out of Compton, and Gangster, Gangster. Being in California, specifically L.A, we could forget to include one of the Kings of L.A Snoop Dogg. Snoop now the new owner of Death Row Records his former label saw the release of some of his greatest hits such as Gin and Juice and Nothing but a G thang. Why this is so unique and beautiful but also a wonder to see is because of the past these two individuals had and the NFL's motives for not amplifying the voices or culture of their Black players and watchers. Center field during the half time show performance also showed the likes of 50 Cent, Mary J. Blige, Eminem, and Kendrick Lamar. All these artists found many of their hits with the producer from LA Dr. Dre. Highlights of the show was the successor to an all-Black woman leading the nation that day in singing of the star-spangled banner, national anthem, and Black National anthem. We got a glimpse of some of the

most memorable music videos reminiscing on the past where 50 cent was the hottest IN Da Club, from times when Mary was the only thing playing in the dances and Family Affairs. With Eminem kneeling for success as Lose Yourself played for a roaring ovation. Lastly, we can't forget about Kendrick having the city going M.A.AD.

OMG!!!!!! WOW WOW WOW!!!!!! THE GREATEST HALF-TIME SHOW I'VE EVER SEEN!!!

best performance YESSSSSS!! QUEEN MARY J. BLIGE DID IT!!!!!!

lizanesworld 7w 581 likes Reply

woody_thegreat 7w 537 likes Reply

nicole_oh1 Well Done - She is the Queen Hair Amazing! Make up Amazing! Outfit Amazing! Performance Amazing!

Let's put some things in perspective. On this stage, you have a tech billionaire, an R&B legend, 3 box office hit actors, a football coach who's sent over 30 kids to college, an academy award and a combined 32 (more than twice that in nominations) Grammys.

On top of all of that, every single artist on that stage came from nothing and survived through violence, poverty and addiction. What you're literally looking at right here is the American dream! Now tell me how they didn't deserve to be there or some other mess about their show not being "that good"

Buz Livingston @BuzLivingston · 3/10/22
Replying to @BuzLivingston
Regardless of what you think of their music, the Super I — Snoop Dogg, Eminem, Mary J. Blige, 50 cent, Kendrick Lamar, and Dr. Dre epitomize the American Dream. They all grew up in poverty or in the neighborhood. 10/

slimladvny THE BEST HALF TIME SHOW EVER! Seriously felt like a teenager all over again! Thank you

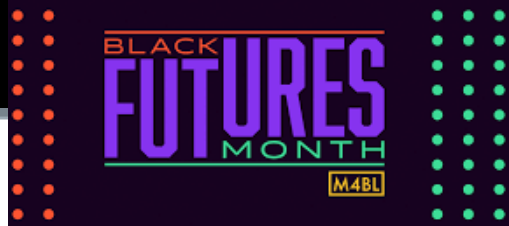
bethmikamason2 BEST half time show ever! MJB

behavesss Mary J Blige you did the damn thing! Half time was everything all lit up

nevinly Legends everywhere

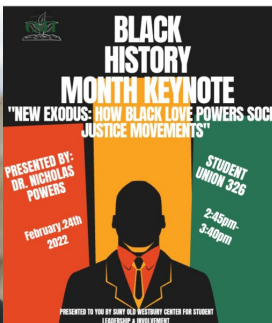
FEBRUARY ROUND UP

**Can we Talk : Black
Future Month**



**Games For The
Culture**

**Black History Culture Cafe:
Peri Peri Shrimp**



**Black History Month Keynote
Speaker**

March 1st

Women's History Month

Women's History Month is an annual celebration of women and all they have done. Their contributions to the past, to our culture and to our society. Women for a long time were seen as second-class citizens who contribute nothing substantial to society. Such sentiment is far from the truth for women are the nurture of society. Women are looked to as superhero's because their ability to find a solution in the face of any problem. women face many struggles in the world today. From sexual harassment, unequal pay, and even gender bias. Women's History month is a way we can give back and show women how much we appreciate and support them. As the only people on earth that can produce life, women make the world go round. They can be entrepreneurs, C.E.O, teachers, stay-at-home moms, and head of households. Whatever role it is remembered to always appreciate women and the power they bring to the world.

Women's Empowerment Draft 2022

With the 15TH pick of 2022 Women's Empowerment draft. SUNY Old Westbury selected Rosa Parks for her work as a civil rights activist and redefining what a woman is capable of in this society.



Women's History Keynote Speaker



This year we were pleased to welcome Shanequa Levin as our Womans Month Keynote Speaker

"Be A Curse Breaker" was life changing. Shanequa Levin delivered an elaborate speech and presentation. Shanequa touched on many topics but her key theme was being a curse breaker. She educated us on the term, "generational curse" and taught us the importance of changing the trajectory of our lives to combat those curses. Shanequa shared with us her personal experience and upbringing. It was amazing to hear about her ancestral struggles and how she was the change of that. She noticed a pattern and was determined to do more and be better for her children. It was amazing to witness a black story that was full of struggle but ended in triumph.

-Patrica Jasmin

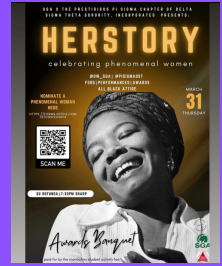
March Round Up :



JUST IN TIME FOR
MIDTERMS STUDENTS
HAD THE CHANCE TO
BUILD- A- FRIEND



WE SAW OUR VERY OWN
ALPHAS SHOWING LOVE
TO THE LADIES FOR BEING
SPECIAL IN THEIR OWN
WAYS



SGA HERSTORY
EVENT CELEBRATING
PHENOMENAL
WOMEN



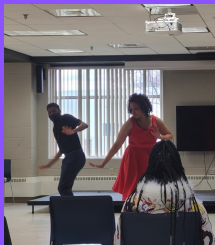
CULTURE CAFE
INTERVIEWING FEMALE
CHEFS



CAN WE TALK SERIES:
WOMEN'S HISTORY



WOMEN'S HISTORY
KEYNOTE SPEAKER



DANCE LECTURE/DEMONSTRATION
WITH THE VASHTI THEATER