

African-American History Month Book List February 2014

2014 Theme: Civil Rights in America

African-American History Month is celebrated each February since 1926 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson sought to commemorate the contributions of people of African descent in the United States through the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History (ASALH). Originally, the second week in February was chosen because it spans the birthdays of both President Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas until the commemoration was eventually expanded into two weeks. In 1976, President Gerald Ford extended the celebration from two weeks into an official month.

Virginia has seen many milestones in the history of Civil Rights in America. It begins in 1619 with the landing of enslaved Africans at Old Point Comfort (today Ft. Monroe in Hampton, VA). Colonial laws of the 17th century gradually codified slavery and reduced the civil rights of African-Americans, women and non-landowners. For centuries, enslaved people bravely took upon themselves their own liberation through hard work, rebellion, advocacy and escape. Virginia saw the beginning of the end of slavery as escaped slaves found liberation as "contraband of war" at Fort Monroe and other federal camps during the Civil War. The 13th Amendment to the Constitution ended slavery in the US in 1865, but it would take another century of advocacy and work for all Americans to gain their civil rights.

The following is a selected list of recently published books, videos and websites that will help you learn more about African-American history with an emphasis on this year's theme, *Civil Rights in America*. All books and videos are available at the Norfolk Public Library, and the websites may be viewed online at any of the public computer stations located in the library or from home. Additional assistance is available at your local branch library. The <u>Sargeant Memorial Collection</u> staff members at the <u>Mary D. Pretlow Anchor Branch Library</u> can also provide assistance researching local African-American history and genealogy.



2014 African-American History Month

Adult Nonfiction

The Big Smoke

(Adrian Matejka) The legendary Jack Johnson (1878–1946), the child of emancipated slaves, overcame the violent segregationism of Jim Crow, challenging white boxers—and white America—to become the first African-American heavyweight world champion. National Book Award finalist for poetry.



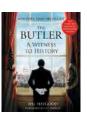
Bury My Clothes

(Roger Bonair-Agard) A meditation on violence, race, and the place in art at which they intersect. Roger Bonair-Agard asserts, and establishing personhood in a world that says you have none. National Book Award finalist.



The Butler: A Witness to History

(Wil Haygood) Son of a Virginia sharecropper, Eugene Allen rose to the rank of butler in the Truman White House. From his unique vantage point "in the hard shadow of power," Allen witnessed history unfurl before him. Subject of the movie *Lee Daniels' The Butler*.



Eyes On the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years, 1954-1965

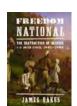
(Juan Williams) This compelling oral history of the first ten years of the Civil Rights movement is a tribute to the men and women, both black and white, who took part in the fight for justice and kept their eyes on the prize of freedom.

(Also on DVD)



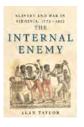
Freedom National: The Destruction of Slavery in the United States, 1861-1865

(James Oakes) A groundbreaking history of emancipation that joins the politics of Lincoln and the Republicans with the courageous actions of Union soldiers and runaway slaves in the South. It shatters the widespread conviction that the Civil War was foremost a war to restore the Union and only gradually a war to end slavery. National Booklist Award Longlist.



The Internal Enemy: Slavery and War in Virginia, 1772-1832

(Alan Taylor) Drawn from new sources, a Pulitzer Prize-winning historian presents a gripping narrative that recreates the events that inspired hundreds of slaves living along the Chesapeake Bay to pressure British admirals into becoming liberators by using their intimate knowledge of the countryside to transform the war. National Book Award finalist.



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The King Years: Historic Moments in the Civil Rights Movement

(*Taylor Branch*) A chronicle of 18 key events in the civil rights movement traces how it evolved from a bus strike to a political and social revolution. Includes selections from the author's *America in the King Years* trilogy.



King: A Biography

(David Levering Lewis) This new edition of an acclaimed book wends through the corridors in which King held court, posing the right questions and providing a keen measure of the man whose career and mission enthrall scholars and general readers to this day.



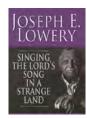
Men We Reaped: A Memoir

(Jesmyn Ward) Award-winning author Ward recounts the loss of five young men in the author's life to drugs, accidents, suicide and the misfortune that can follow those who live in poverty, sharing her experiences as she searches through answers in her community.



Singing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land

(Joseph E. Lowery) The Rev. Dr. Joseph Lowery has been an eyewitness to some of the most significant events in our history and a voice that speaks truth to power--inspiring change that moves us forward.



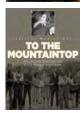
Soul Food: The Surprising Story of an American Cuisine, One Plate at a Time

(Adrian Miller) Delves into the influences, ingredients, and innovations that make up the soul food tradition. Focusing each chapter on the complex culinary and social history of one dish, Miller uncovers what it means for African American culture and identity.



To the Mountaintop: My Journey through the Civil Rights Movement

(Charlayne Hunter-Gault) A personal history of the civil rights movement from an activist and acclaimed journalist begins at the 2009 presidential inauguration of Barak Obama and journeys back through the decades.



Adult Fiction

The Good Lord Bird

(James McBride) Fleeing his violent master at the side of abolitionist John Brown, Henry pretends to be a girl to hide his identity throughout the raid on Harpers Ferry in 1859. Finalist for the National Book Award.



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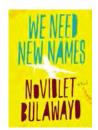
Safe from the Neighbors

(Steve Yarbrough) A high school history teacher looks into his own past and begins to discover secrets from his childhood in Mississippi during the 1960s, secrets that he didn't know existed and that connect him to the violence of the Civil Rights movement.



We Need New Names

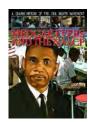
(NoViolet Bulawayo) Follows ten-year-old Zimbabwe native, Darling, as she escapes the closed schools and paramilitary police control of her homeland in search of opportunity and freedom in America. Shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize.



Juvenile

Medgar Evers and the NAACP

(Gary Jeffrey) Medgar Evers's story of courage, dignity and sacrifice is a reminder of the high price some paid to ensure that the United States would meet its promise of equal rights and equal opportunity for all.



My Daddy, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

(Martin Luther King III; ill. by AG Ford) An account of the author's brief years shared with his father offers insight into their special bond, their separation during Dr. King's imprisonment and the author's witness to the famous "I Have a Dream" speech.



Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott

(Gary Jeffrey) The history of the 381 day-long Montgomery Bus Boycott sparked when NAACP secretary and investigator Rosa parks refused to change seats when a Caucasian man entered the segregated bus.



<u>Invasion!</u> (Fiction)

(Walter Dean Myers) Josiah Wedgewood and Marcus Perry were friends in Virginia, but now that they are both involved in the Normandy invasion, the differences in their positions is uncomfortable, for Josiah is a white infantryman and Marcus is a black transport driver, the only role the segregated army will allow him.



Women Civil Rights Leaders

(Anne Wallace Sharp) Placing the role of women in the Civil Rights era in context with American history, this well-illustrated book covers Ida Wells and the campaign against lynching, the women of the Montgomery bus boycott and more.



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2014 African-American **History Month**

Young Adult

Double Victory: How African American Women Broke Race and Gender Barriers to **Help Win World War II**

(Cheryl Mullenbach) An account of the lesser-known contributions of African-American women during World War II reveals how they helped lay the foundations for the Civil Rights Movement by challenging racial and gender barriers at home and abroad.



Homeland (Fiction)

(Cory Doctorow) When Marcus, once called M1k3y, receives a thumb drive containing evidence of corporate and governmental treachery, his job, fame, family and well-being, as well as his reform-minded employer's election campaign, are all endangered. Sequel to Little Brother.



No Crystal Stair (Fiction)

(Vaunda Micheaux Nelson) A fictionalized biography of the bookseller and civil rights activist Lewis Michaux who owned the African National Memorial Bookstore in Harlem, New York City—an intellectual center, gathering place and refuge for everyone from Muhammad Ali to Malcolm X from 1939 to 1975.



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DVD

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Tells the life story of Jackie Robinson and his history-making signing with the Brooklyn Dodgers under the guidance of team executive Branch Rickey.



The Abolitionists

Men and women, black and white, Northerners and Southerners, poor and wealthy, these passionate anti-slavery activists fought body and soul in the most important civil rights crusade in American history to create a more perfect union.



Betty & Coretta

Two extraordinary women—Coretta Scott King, wife of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Dr. Betty Shabazz, wife of Malcolm X—come to life in this Lifetime Movie Network movie.







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King: A Filmed Record-- Montgomery to Memphis

The life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. from the beginnings of the Civil Rights movement in Montgomery, Alabama, and culminating with his assassination in Memphis in 1968. Originally screened in theaters for only a single night in 1970.



Ida B. Wells: Crusader for Human Rights

Profiles the life and work of African-American journalist, Ida B. Wells (1862-1931), a community organizer, grass roots leader and precursor of the modern civil rights movement who waged a relentless public battle against the injustices of lynching and violence against Blacks.



Red Tails

As World War II takes its toll on Allied forces in Europe, a squadron of black pilots known as the Tuskegee Airmen is finally given the chance to prove themselves in the sky, even as they battle discrimination on the ground.



ONLINE DATABASES

Use your Norfolk Public Library card number for access to these and more resources found on our database page at http://www.npl.lib.va.us/research

<u>World Book Encyclopedia</u> -state-of-the-art multimedia, maps, editor-reviewed websites and more.

<u>Biography in Context</u> - outstanding research support with 600,000+ biographical entries. <u>Literati Public</u> - educational content for K-12 students and adults, informational videos and tutorials

<u>Contemporary Black Biographies</u> - Biographical profiles of important persons of African heritage. Multinational coverage spans the century and includes rising personalities as well as groundbreakers and newsmakers in a variety of fields

Norfolk Journal and Guide 1921-2003 - This historical newspaper provides genealogists, researchers and scholars with articles from the *Norfolk Journal and Guide*, 1921-2003

WEBSITES

African American History: 17 Collections

<u>http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html</u> Browse or search primary sources and reference information in 17 categories of African-American history.



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African-American Newspapers and Periodicals

<u>www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/aanp/freedom/</u> The digitized, full text issues of the first African-American owned and operated newspaper, from 1827 to 1829.

Encyclopedia Smithsonian: African American History and Culture

<u>www.si.edu/Encyclopedia/</u> Events, videos, activities and information including the African-American History and Culture online encyclopedia.

JUVENILE AND YOUNG ADULT WEBSITES

Culture and Change: Black History in America

www.teacher.scholastic.com/activities/bhistory/

An interesting website by Scholastic Publishing which allows students to publish their own writings, listen to jazz music and explore history through its interactive timeline.

History Channel: Black History Month

www.history.com/topics/black-history-month

Contains an interactive timeline, videos, African-American facts, milestones, maps and 65 icons of black history.

Madison Voices

www.madisonvoices.com/africanamericanhistory/for kids.htm

African-American history online resources for kids.

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