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*Movements: Slavery (1619-1865) Reconstruction (1865 to 1877), Post-reconstruction-Jim Crow Laws (1877-1965), Redlining (1930s-present), Stop and Frisk (1968-present), Mass Incarceration-New Jim Crow (1970-present), War on Drugs (1971-present) and, Voter Suppression Laws (from Black enfranchisement to present)*

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# Black History Month 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Harriet Tubman	2 Wilton Daniel Gregory	3 Virgil Abloh	4 Jacob Lawrence
5 Katherine Johnson	6 Bryan Massingale	7 Ida B. Wells	8 Lois Curtis	9 Marie Van Brittan Brown	10 John Lewis	11 Wilma Rudolph
12 Thurgood Marshall	13 Damar Hamlin	14 Shawnee Daniels-Sykes	15 Bessie Coleman	16 Megan Phipus Peace	17 Maya Angelou	18 Shirley Chisholm
19 Lewis H. Latimer	20 Henrietta Lacks	21 Chadwick Boseman	22 Audre Lorde	23 Spike Lee	24 James Baldwin	25 Alexa Canady
26 Odetta Holmes	27 Alvin Ailey	28 Thea Bowman FSPA				


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*Created by Racial Justice Working Group under the Justice Committee,  
JPIC Sisters of St. Joseph Brentwood*

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# Week 1

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February 1	<b>Harriet Tubman</b> (1822-1913)	Abolitionist/ political activist/ part of the “Underground Railroad”	<i>“I was conductor of the Underground Railroad for eight years, and I can say what most conductors can't say —I never ran my train off the track, and never lost a passenger.”</i>	Long Island’s underground RR:  <a href="#">Underground railroad la...</a>
February 2	<b>Wilton Daniel Gregory</b> (1947- )	Catholic Priest/First African American Cardinal in the United States/ Archbishop of Washington, DC	<i>“I have to try to remind people on both sides of the barque of Peter that there is room for us all and that we are not the first generation of Catholics to experience serious theological and pastoral differences of opinion. In fact, from the New Testament, strong leaders within the church disagreed openly. Eventually, the truly great ones found ways to heal conflicts and keep the Lord's flock united.”</i>	Watch: <a href="#">Cardinal Gregory spoke at The National Press Club 9/21</a>
February 3	<b>Virgil Abloh</b> (1980-2021 )	American designer, DJ, entrepreneur, artistic director of Louis Vuitton	<i>“When creativity melds together with global issues, I believe that you can bring the world together.”</i>	Read the <a href="#">obituary</a> Watch <a href="#">Vimeo recording</a> of HR meeting around diversity at Louis Vuitton
February 4	<b>Jacob Lawrence</b> (1917-2000)	Painter/best known works, The Migration Series which depicts the migration of African-Americans from the rural south to the urban north.	<i>“I'd like them to experience the beauty of life, the struggle, how people can overcome certain things that could be frustrating or very demeaning,” he explained. “People have the capacity to overcome these obstacles by various means, and this is an example of that... I'm talking about people in general; I'd like it to be a universal statement.”</i>	Watch: <a href="#">Jacob Lawrence: An Intimate Portrait. 1993</a>
February 5	<b>Katherine Johnson</b> (1918-2020)	NASA Mathematician/ provided calculations of orbital mechanics for first US space	<i>“Take all the courses in your curriculum. Do the research. Ask questions. Find someone doing what you are interested in! Be curious!”</i>	Watch: <a href="#">NASA Trailblazer: Katherine Johnson</a>

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flights/Awarded  
Presidential Medal  
of Freedom

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February 6

**Bryan  
Massingale**  
(1957- )

Catholic  
priest/author/  
activist/  
theologian

*“Thomas Aquinas taught us that courage is the precondition of all virtue. Without courage.... We’re not able to be just, because courage is that virtue that allows us to surmount the fear that comes with the following of the Gospel. If we’re going to do anything that is difficult, there is going to be hesitation; there are ongoing obstacles and opposition, and the fear that those obstacles engender in us. Courage is that virtue that enables us to not be afraid.”*

Watch: April, 2022, [Fr. Massingale receiving the Robert M. Holstein Faith Doing Justice Award](#), given annually to individuals who have “demonstrated a significant commitment to leadership for social justice grounded in the spirituality of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Society of Jesus.”

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February 7

**Ida B.  
Wells**  
(1862-1931)

Journalist/  
Anti-lynching  
activist/Women’s  
Suffragist

*“The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them.”*

Listen and watch:  
<https://lynchinginamerica.eji.org/listen/doria-dee-johnson>  
Consider:  
The lynching’s generational effects.

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## Week 2

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February 8

**Lois J.  
Curtis**  
(1967-2022)

Artist, activist for others  
with disabilities

*““Institutional placement of persons perpetuates assumptions of incapable or unworthy” (Ruth Bader Ginsburg at Supreme Court ruling L.C. vs. Olmstead.)*

Read about Lois in Feb. 9, 2021 publication “[Center for Learner Equity](#)”

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February 9

**Marie Van  
Brittan  
Brown**  
(1922-1999)


Nurse/Inventor/ invented  
closed circuit TV initially  
for home  
security/Jamaica, Queens  
native

*“Since 1993 property crime has fallen in the US by 69% thanks to the pioneering work of one woman: Marie Van Brittan Brown” [UntoldEdu](#)*

Watch:

 Marie Van Brittan Brow...

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February 10	<b>John Lewis</b> (1940-2020)	Politician/Civil Rights Activist	<i>"Get in good trouble, necessary trouble."</i>	In his own words, listen to <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ayew0tuixl">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ayew0tuixl</a>
February 11	<b>Wilma Rudolph</b> (1940-1994)	Polio survivor/ gold medal Olympian/ coach/ activist	<i>"Never underestimate the power of dreams and the influence of the human spirit. We are all the same in this notion: The potential for greatness lives within each of us."</i>	Watch: Olympic records film clip -  <a href="#">Wilma Rudolph's Incredi...</a>
February 12	<b>Thurgood Marshall</b> (1908-1993)	Lawyer/activist/ argued <i>Brown v Board of Education</i> / first Black Supreme Court Justice	<i>"None of us got where we are solely by pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps... – a parent, a teacher, an Ivy League crony or a few nuns – bent down and helped us pick up our boots."</i>	Read (especially watch the clip included): <a href="https://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/educational-activities/justice-thurgood-marshall-profile-brown-v-board">https://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/educational-activities/justice-thurgood-marshall-profile-brown-v-board</a>
February 13	<b>Damar Hamlin</b> (1998- )	Buffalo Bills NFL football player, still recovering from cardiac arrest.	<i>"I am committed to impact my community"</i>	Watch: <a href="#">Damar Hamlin First Annual Toy Drive VLOG</a>
February 14	<b>Shawnee Daniels-Sykes, SSND</b> (1960-2022 )	Theology professor, Preacher, Health Care Ethicist, 2019 Black Excellence Award	<i>"I want all to know that they can achieve their life goals."</i>	Read her bio and achievements in her Obituary <a href="#">here</a> and <a href="#">Shawnee Daniels-Sykes On the Roles, Faith, Socioeconomic Status, Race &amp; Attitude Play in a Pancreatic Cancer Journey</a>

## Week 3

February 15	<b>Bessie Coleman</b> (1892-1926)	First Black/ Native American US female pilot/first Black international pilot/activist	<i>"I refused to take no for an answer."</i>	Watch: scroll through article to clip <a href="https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/bessie-coleman">https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/bessie-coleman</a>
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February 16	<b>Megan Piphus Peace</b> (1992- )	Young woman ventriloquist; Sesame St puppeteer, performed on television shows Tu Si Que Vales (Italy), Die Puppenstars (Germany), and Showtime at the Apollo	<i>"My goal was to have a theme, like perseverance, woven into every performance."</i>	Watch her performance <a href="#">here</a> and her <a href="#">About page here</a> .
February 17	<b>Maya Angelou</b> (1797-1883)	Poet, writer, actress and activist	<i>"People will never forget how you made them feel."</i>	Read " <a href="#">I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</a> ". Enjoy her inauguration poem, " <a href="#">On the Pulse of Morning</a> "
February 18	<b>Shirley Chisholm</b> (1924-2005)	NY state politician/ educator/ author/ first Black candidate for major party nomination for President	<i>"If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair."</i>	Write a Letter to the Editor. Newsday, for example: letters of 200 words or less on public policy issues to <a href="mailto:letters@newsday.com">letters@newsday.com</a> with "Just Sayin'" in the subject line or contact an elected official: <a href="#">How to Contact Your Elected Officials</a> <a href="https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials">https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials</a>
February 19	<b>Lewis H. Latimer</b> (1848-1928)	Inventor and innovator; expert draftsman; author of poetry and books; patent consultant; played the violin and flute, taught immigrants English and drafting; lived in Flushing, Queens.	<i>"We create our future, by well improving present opportunities: however few and small they are"...</i>	Watch "the accomplishments of Lewis Latimer": <a href="https://abc7nv.com/lewis-latimer-black-history-month-lightbulb-new-york-city/11589087/">https://abc7nv.com/lewis-latimer-black-history-month-lightbulb-new-york-city/11589087/</a>
February 20	<b>Henrietta Lacks</b> (1920-1951)	Exploited for medical research/ "immortal cells" which have helped countless patients without	<i>[T]he cell line named for her, HeLa (pronounced hee-lah), has been at the core of treatments for hemophilia, herpes, influenza,</i>	Watch and reflect on the magnitude of the benefit to us (How might we honor the gifts

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the consent nor the knowledge of her family.

*leukemia, and Parkinson's disease as well as the polio vaccine, the cancer drug tamoxifen, chemotherapy, gene mapping, and in vitro fertilization.*

from unknown others?"): "The Immortal Cells of Henrietta Lacks" by Robin Bulleri

 The immortal cells of H...

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February 21

**Chadwick Boseman**  
(1976-2020)

Award winning actor/ playwright/ played Jackie Robinson, James Brown, Thurgood Marshall, Black Panther

*"I was raised in a sort of village. I have a huge family, and I think there is strength in that. It helped me to deal with some of the complications of living in the South because I always felt like I belonged, no matter what."*

Watch one of his [movies](#) or [Chadwick Boseman's Life Advice](#). Consider advocating for or giving to one of the charities he supported: St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital or Boys and Girls Clubs of Harlem or [When We All Vote](#).

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## Week 4

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February 22

**Audre Lorde**  
(1934-1992)

NYC public school librarian/ feminist writer/ civil rights activist

*"Life is short and we must do what has to be done in the now."*

Watch Audre Lorde: the Theory of Difference by Hailey Kemp:

 Audre Lorde: The ...

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February 23

**Spike Lee**  
(1957- )

Actor/ film director/ screenwriter/ professor

*"I don't think my films are going to get rid of racism or prejudice. I think the best thing my films can do is provoke discussion."*

Watch [Trevor Noah's interview with Spike Lee](#) or the [movie Malcolm X](#)

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February 24

**James Baldwin**  
(1924-1987)

Writer, poet, activist, from NYC, passionate on the subject of racism

*"The power of the white world is threatened whenever a black man refuses to accept the white world's definitions."*

Read

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/1962/11/17/letter-from-a-region-in-my-mind>

or watch video of [James Baldwin on Racism](#)

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February 25	<b>Alexa Canady</b> (1950- )	First African American woman neurosurgeon/ “retired” to be chief of pediatric neurosurgery/ Sacred Heart, Pensacola	<i>“If you want to be something, you have to perceive that something is possible.”</i>	Read Dr. Canady’s story in her own words: <a href="#">What It Meant to Me   Leaders &amp; Best Impact</a>
February 26	<b>Odetta Holmes</b> (1930-2008 )	American singer, lyricist, classical training, Civil Rights activist	<i>“You’re walking down life’s road, society’s foot is on your throat, every which way you turn you can’t get from under that foot. And you reach a fork in the road and you can either lie down and die or insist upon your life.”</i>	Watch her interview archived in the <a href="#">Library of Congress</a>
February 27	<b>Alvin Ailey</b> (1931-1989)	Dancer, choreographer, director, founder of the American Dance Theatre, activist.	<i>“...it was a birthday present for Alvin’s mother. You see, she was coming from Texas to see her son’s company and Alvin knew she’d be celebrating a birthday in New York. In those days, none of us could shop at Tiffany or Bloomingdales, so Alvin decided the nicest present he could give his mother was a ballet.”</i>	Watch Cry created by Ailey for his mother or read more about it <a href="#">here</a> or watch an excerpt from Revelations and share the activities included in <a href="#">this</a> .
February 28	<b>Thea Bowman, FSPA</b> (1937-1990 )	Granddaughter of slaves, only child of Methodist parents, her father a physician, her mother a teacher. At 12 she became a Catholic, inspired by the Catholic sisters who taught in her town in Mississippi. PhD., lecturer, teacher, singer.	<i>“I think the difference between me and some people is that I’m content to do my little bit. Sometimes people think they have to do big things in order to make change. But if each one would light a candle we’d have a tremendous light.”</i>	Watch: <a href="#">Going Home Like a Shooting Star: the Thea Bowman Story</a> or <a href="#">her address to the USCCB</a> (US Conference of Catholic Bishops)- she had the bishops locking arms and singing



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