

Public Libraries of Saginaw

2015 African-American History Month

A Century of Black Life, History, and Culture



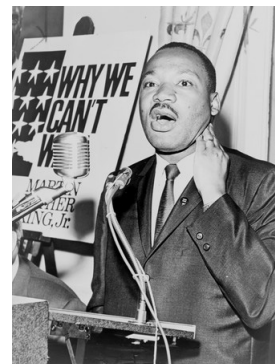
Board of Directors of the Coleman Manufacturing Co., Concord, N.C., the only Negro cotton mill in the U.S. in the early 1900s.

Over the past century, African-American life, history, and culture have become major forces in the United States and the world. In 1915, few could have imagined that African-Americans in music, art, and literature would become appreciated by the global community. Fewer still could have predicted the prominence achieved by African-Americans, as well as other people of African descent, in shaping world politics, war, and diplomacy. Indeed, it was nearly universally believed that Africans and people of African descent had played no role in the unfolding of history and were a threat to American civilization itself. A century later, few can deny the centrality of African-Americans in the making of American history.

This transformation is the result of effort, not chance. Confident that their struggles mattered in human history, black scholars, artists, athletes, and leaders self-consciously used their talents to change how the world viewed

African-Americans. The New Negro of the post-World War I era made modernity their own and gave the world a cornucopia of cultural gifts, including jazz, poetry based on the black vernacular, and an appreciation of African art. African-American athletes dominated individual and team sports transforming baseball, track-and-field, football, boxing, and basketball. In a wave of social movements, African-American activism transformed race relations, challenged American foreign policy, and became the American conscience on human rights.

While the spotlight often shines on individuals, this movement is the product of organization, of institutions and institution-builders who gave direction to effort. The National Urban League promoted the Harlem Renaissance. The preservation of the black past became the mission of Arturo Schomburg and Jesse Moorland, leading to the rise of the Schomburg Research Center in Black Culture and Howard University's Moorland-Spingarn Research Center. The vision of Margaret Burroughs and others led to the African-American museum movement, leading to the creation of black museums throughout the nation, culminating with the Smithsonian's National Museum of African-American History and Culture. Student activism of the 1960s resulted in the Black Studies Movement and the creation of black professional associations, including the National Council of Black Studies, and a host of doctoral programs at major American universities.



Martin Luther King, Jr. at a press conference in 1964.

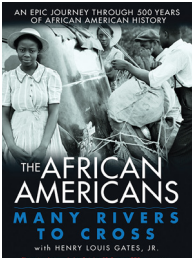
At the dawn of these strivings and at all points along the road, the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, now the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History (ASALH) has played a vital role. When he founded the Association in 1915, Carter G. Woodson labored under the belief that historical truth would crush falsehoods and usher in a new era of equality, opportunity, and racial democracy, and it has been its charge for a century. In honor of this milestone, ASALH has selected "A Century of Black Life, History, and Culture" as the 2015 National Black History theme.

© The Association for the Study of African-American Life and History at www.asalh.org

The library has planned many programs and activities throughout the month of February, and we invite our community to participate in these events. A suggested list of titles for all age groups to read is available through our website at www.saginawlibrary.org, or you may visit one of our four library locations for more information.

A Century of Black Life, History, and Culture

THEMED BOOKS

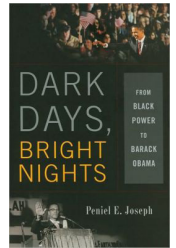


African-Americans: Many Rivers to Cross by Henry Louis Gates Jr.

The "African-Americans: Many Rivers to Cross" is the companion book to the six-part, six-hour documentary of the same name, which aired on national, primetime public television in the fall of 2013. **305.896 Ga**

Dark Days, Bright Nights: From Black Power to Barack Obama by Peniel E. Joseph

Told through the lives of activists, intellectuals, and artists, including Malcolm X, Huey P. Newton, Amiri Baraka, Tupac Shakur, and Barack Obama, "Dark Days, Bright Nights" will make coherent a fraught half-century of struggle, reassessing its impact on American democracy and the larger world. **323.1 Jo**

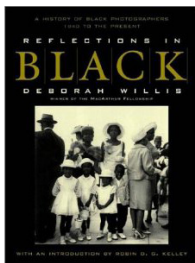
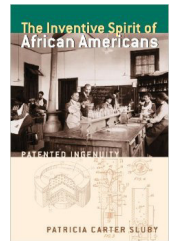


The Harlem Hellfighters by Max Brooks

This graphic novel details the gripping story of the 369th Infantry regiment or, The Harlem Hellfighters, as the Germans called them. They had spent more time in combat than any other American unit, never losing a foot of ground to the enemy, or a man to capture, and winning countless decorations. Though they returned home triumphantly from World War I as heroes, this African-American unit faced tremendous discrimination. Even so, they fought courageously on and off the battlefield to make Europe, and America, safe for democracy. **Fiction Brooks**

Inventive Spirit of African-Americans: Patented Ingenuity by Patricia Carter Sluby

In this important study, former United States primary patent examiner Patricia Carter Sluby pays homage to the inventive spirit of African-Americans. Beginning with the contributions of enslaved Africans brought to American shores, Sluby introduces inventors and patent holders from all fields up to and including the leading edge of today's technology. **609.2 SI**



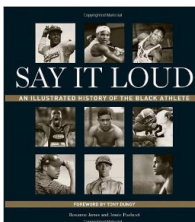
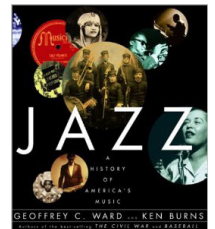
Reflections in Black: History of Black

Photographers 1840 to the Present by Deborah Willis

"Reflections in Black," the first comprehensive history of black photographers, is a groundbreaking pictorial collection of African-American life. Featuring the work of undisputed masters such as James VanDerZee, Gordon Parks, and Carrie Mae Weems among dozens of others, this book is a refutation of the gross caricature of black life that many mainstream photographers have manifested by continually emphasizing poverty over family, despair over hope. **770 Wi**

Jazz: A History of America's Music by Geoffrey C. Ward and Ken Burns

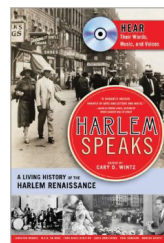
Continuing in the tradition of their critically acclaimed works, Geoffrey C. Ward and Ken Burns vividly bring to life the story of the quintessential American music—jazz. Born in the black community of turn-of-the-century New Orleans but played from the beginning by musicians of every color, jazz celebrates all Americans at their best. **781.65 Wa**



Say it Loud: An Illustrated History of the Black Athlete by Roxanne Jones

Say It Loud pays tribute not only to such household names as Jackie, Ali, Michael, Tiger, Venus, and Serena but to the forgotten many who made their success and glory possible. They are heroes, stars, agitators, and entertainers; mentors, innovators, history-makers, and record-breakers. They are the men and women whose physical gifts buoyed the spirits of a people and lifted up the soul of a nation. **796.089 Jo**

Harlem Speaks: A Living History of the Harlem Renaissance by Cary D. Wintz
"Harlem Speaks" showcases the lives and works of the artists, writers and intellectuals behind the stunning outburst of African-American culture in the three decades after World War I. In the tradition of the New York Times bestseller "Poetry Speaks," the book combines each subject's key works with biographical and critical essays by leading Harlem Renaissance authority Cary Wintz and other experts.
810.9896 Ha

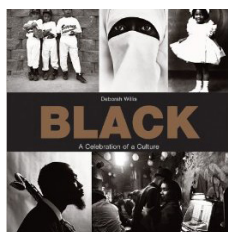
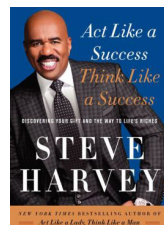


A Century of Black Life, History, and Culture

TELLING THE STORY: ADULT SELECTIONS

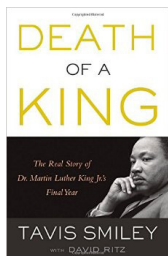
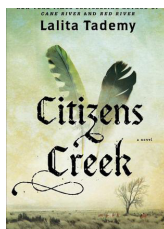
EVERYONE SHOULD READ!

Act Like A Success, Think Like A Success by Steve Harvey
There are countless books on success, but Harvey tells the reader how to achieve their dreams using the gift that they already have. He also guides the reader into defining their gift and then acknowledging it, perfecting it, connecting it to become a success. **158 Ha**



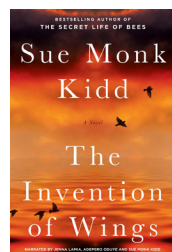
Black: A Celebration of a Culture by Deborah Willis
From Jessie Owens to Barry Bonds, Ella Fitzgerald to Halle Berry; this is a vibrant panorama of twentieth-century black culture in America and around the world. Divided into segments, the author examines in detail subjects such as children, work, art, beauty, history, Saturday night, and Sunday morning. This book is a joyous and inspiring exhibition of culture. **305.896 BI**

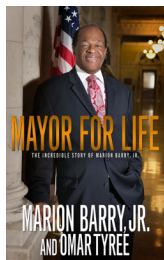
Citizens Creek by Lalita Tademy
Cow Tom, born into slavery in Alabama in 1810 and sold to a Creek Indian chief before his tenth birthday, possessed an extraordinary gift: the ability to master languages. As the new country developed westward, and Indians, settlers, and blacks came into constant contact, Cow Tom became a key translator for his Creek master and was hired out to U.S. military generals. His talent earned him money—but would it also grant him freedom? And what would become of him and his family in the aftermath of the Civil War and the Indian Removal westward? **Fiction Tademy**



Death of a King by Tavis Smiley
Dr. King encountered many trials and tribulations—denunciations by the press, rejection from the president, dismissal by the country's black middle class and militants, assaults on his character, ideology, and political tactics, to name a few during his final 365 days of life. However, he still had to rise above it all so that he could lead and address the racism, poverty, and militarism that threatened to destroy our democracy. **B King**

The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd
This richly imagined narrative brings both black history and women's history to life with an unsentimental story of two women who became sisters under the skin - Handful, a slave in body whose mind roves freely and widely, and "owner" Sarah, the daughter of the wealthy Grimke family, whose mind is shackled by family and society. **Fiction Kidd**





Mayor for Life by Marion Barry, Jr.

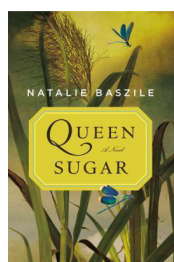
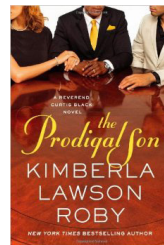
This provocative, captivating narrative follows the Civil Rights activist, going back to his Mississippi roots, his Memphis upbringing, and his academic school days, up through his college years and move to Washington, D.C., where he became actively involved in Civil Rights, community activism, and bold politics. The four-time mayor of Washington, D.C. passed shortly after the release of his biography.

B Barry, M

The Prodigal Son (A Rev. Curtis Black Novel) by Kimberla Lawson Roby

A year ago Matthew became a teenage father, dropped out of Harvard and married his son's mother. Still brewing on the fact that his mother, Charlotte, had taken matters into her hands and practically destroyed his wife, Racquel; Matthew distanced himself from Reverend and First Lady Black for more than a year. Sadly, things get worse! He needs his family but can he ever return home?

Fiction Roby



Queen Sugar by Natalie Baszile

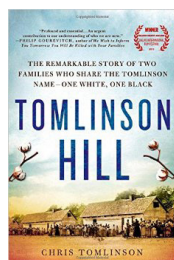
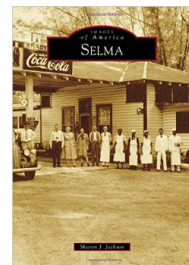
Charley Bordelon's deceased father has left her an 800-acre sugarcane field in their native Louisiana, attaching clear restrictions that she must revive the farm or give it to charity. Reluctantly, the widow and her 11-year-old daughter relocate from L.A. to rural Louisiana. As a citified black woman with no experience in farming, can Charley make a go as a sugarcane farmer in an area that clings to privileges afforded to whites, males, and the wealthy?

Fiction Baszile

Selma (Images of America) by Sharon J. Jackson

A century after one of the last battles of the Civil War, Selma again became the scene of a dramatic struggle when it served as the focal point of the voting-rights movement. As marchers headed for Montgomery to petition the state legislature for reforms in the voter-registration process, they were met six blocks outside of town at the Edmund Pettus Bridge by state and local law enforcement. That day, March 7, became known as Bloody Sunday as the marchers were turned back with Billy clubs and tear gas. On March 25, after much discussion and a court injunction, some 25,000 marchers finally crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge on their way to Montgomery.

976.145 Ja



Tomlinson Hill: The Remarkable Story of Two Families Who Share the Tomlinson Name--One White, One Black by Chris Tomlinson

Foreign correspondent Chris Tomlinson returns to Texas to discover the truth about his family's slave owning history, when the two families, one black and one white, trace their ancestry to the same Central Texas slave plantation. Tomlinson discovers that his counterpart in the African-American family is LaDainian Tomlinson, one of the greatest running backs in the history of the NFL.

305.896 To

Start Here

Public Libraries of Saginaw

Go Places

Butman-Fish Library • 1716 Hancock • 799-9160

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Wickes Library • 1713 Hess • 752-3821

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