

# ScoopUSA Black History Corner

by Adelaide Abdur-Rahman  
Abdurrahman19@comcast.net

## PISCES - February 19 - March 20



### Pisces – The Dreamer

Generous, kind and thoughtful. Very creative and imaginative. May become secretive and vague. Sensitive. Don't like details. Dreamy and unrealistic. Sympathetic and loving. Kind. Unselfish. Good Kisser. Beautiful.

### Amethyst is the stone for the month of February

In the Middle Ages Amethyst was thought to encourage celibacy, and as a result became important in the ornamentation of churches. Amethyst, according to Leonardo Da Vinci, is able to increase intelligence and dissolve evil thoughts. Catherine the great was very fond of amethysts. They adorn the British Crown Jewels and were coveted by Egyptian royalty. Rosaries in Tibet are often made from amethyst, a gemstone considered to be sacred to Buddha. Ancient Greeks believed amethyst would protect against drunkenness ("amethystas" is a Greek word meaning "not drunken") and therefore carved wine goblets from it. Amethyst is believed to purify the mind, increase tranquility and alleviate anxiety.

## February 28

*You are spiritually inclined and your interest in religion is absorbing, but your analytical mind will not let you accept any doctrine, or follow any sect without understanding it. You are loving and sincere, fond of travel and outdoor sports.*

- 1849** Catalina Berroa Ojea, pianist and composer (Song, The Trinity), is born in Cuba.
- 1899** Albert C. Richardson is awarded patent 620,362 for an insect destroyer. He also patent a casket-lowering device.
- 1905** Louis Metcalf, jazz cornetist and trumpeter, is born in Webster Groves, MO.
- 1928** John Albert Ewell, III, mathematician, is born in Newelton, LA.
- 1931** (Leonard E. Weir) (Humza Al-Hafeez) Leonard 12X, the first African American Muslim New York Police Department officer and founder of the National Society of Afro-American Policemen, is born in New York, NY.
- 1934** (William Correa) Willie Bobo, percussionist and vocalist, is born in New York, NY?
- 1939** Charles Gayle, jazz saxophonist, is born in Buffalo, NY.
- 1939** Charles Brown, Olympic bronze medalist featherweight boxer, is born in Cincinnati, OH.
- 1943** Barbara (Jean) Acklin, singer (Love Makes A Woman), is born in Oakland, CA.
- 1945** (Charles Aaron) **Bubba Smith**, National League Football player and actor (Police Academy movie series), is born in Orange, TX.
- 1946** Ysaye Maria Barnwell, singer with the cappella ensemble Sweet Honey in the Rock, is born in New York, NY.
- 1949** (John Kenneth) Ken Blackwell, mayor of Cincinnati, Ohio and first African American to be a major party candidate for governor of Ohio, is born in Cincinnati, OH.
- 1949** Arthur T-Boy Ross, songwriter (I Want You), and younger brother of Diana Ross, is born in Detroit, MI.
- 1956** Adrian Delano Dantley, National Basketball Association player, is born in Washington, DC.
- 1957** Anthony Hardy Williams, Pennsylvania State Senator, is born in Philadelphia, PA.
- 1961** Rae Dawn Chong, actor (The Color Purple), is born in Vancouver, Canada.
- 1967** James Anderson, Jr., Medal of Honor recipient, dies in Quang Tri Province, Vietnam.
- 1968** Juanita Hall, actor (South Pacific), dies in Bay Shore, NY.
- 1970** Tangi Miller, model and actor (Felicity), is born in Miami, FL.
- 1970** James Amos Porter, establisher of the field of African American Art History, dies in Washington, DC.
- 1971** Chene Lawson, actor (The Young and the Restless), is born.
- 1971** Tasha Smith, actor (Why Did I Get Married), is born in Camden, NJ.
- 1977** Eddie 'Rochester' Anderson actor and comedian, dies in Los Angeles, CA.
- 1978** Eligh (Nachowitz) rap artist (Living Legends), is born in Los Angeles, CA.
- 1978** Zara Cully Brown, actor (mother Jefferson on The Jeffersons), dies in Los Angeles, CA.
- 1981** Curome Cox, National Football League player, is born in New York, NY.
- 1986** Eugene Puryear, vice president nominee of the Party for Socialism and Liberation, is born in Charlottesville, VA.
- 1996** Bobb'e Jaques Thompson, actor (That's So Raven), is born in Kansas City, MO.
- 1998** Todd Duncan, actor and baritone singer (Porgy and Bess), dies in Washington, DC.
- 2004** (Versie Eugene Allison) Gene Allison, singer (You Can Make It I You Try), dies in Nashville, TN.



**Bubba Smith**

**2011** Peter John Gomes, minister, dies in Boston, Massachusetts.

**2014** Ophelia DeVore, first African American model in the US who helped established the Grace Del Marco Agency, dies.

## February 29

*You are gentle and sympathetic and considerate of others; easily influenced, and like a change of environment. Your love of literature colors your conversations so that you are in great social demand. You can readily adapt yourself to circumstances. You like attention and your love is true.*

**1756** Primus Hall, (son of Prince Hall), is born a slave in Boston, MA.

**1840** William Harvey Carney, Medal of Honor recipient, is born in Norfolk, VA.



**Robert Sengstacke Abbott**

Chicago Defender), dies in Chicago, IL.

**1952** Sharon Dahlonga Raiford Bush, journalist and executive producer, is born in Greensboro, NC.

**1956** Ronald V. Myers, Sr., physician, Baptist minister, jazz musician and founder of Tchula, Mississippi Health Center, is born in Chicago, IL.

**1964** Mervyn Edwin Warren, singer (Take 6), film music composer (The Wedding Planner) and music arranger (Sister Act 2), is born in Huntsville, AL.

**1967** Terrance Long, Major League Baseball player, is born in Montgomery, AL.

**1968** (Clarence) Chucky Brown, National Basketball Association player, is born in New York, NY.

**1972** Saul Stacey Williams, rap artist and actor (Slam), is born in Newburgh, NY.

**1976** (Jeffrey Atkins) Ja Rule, rap artist (Holla Holla), is born in Queens, NY.

**1984** Cullen Andrew Jones, Olympic gold medalist in swimming, is born in New York, NY.

**1992** Jessie T. Usher, actor (You Don't Know Jack), is born in Maryland

## March 1

*You have definite artistic tendencies that should be developed to your good advantage. You have faith in yourself and your ability and will be successful. You are honest, frank, good nature and sincere in your affections. You will win a deep and lasting love.*

**1841** Blanche Kelso Bruce, the second African American to be elected to Congress and the first to serve a full term, is born a slave in Farmville, VA.

**1889** Marguerite Young Alexander, one of the founders of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., is born in Springfield, IL.

**1892** Anna M. Mangin is awarded patent for a pastry folk.

**1898** Benjamin F. Jackson is awarded patent 599,985 for



**Lupita Nyong'o**

a heating apparatus.

**1905** Benjamin J. Smith, jazz alto and tenor saxophonist and clarinetist, is born in Memphis, TN.

**1911** Walter Davis, blues singer and pianist, is born in Grenada, MS.

**1914** Ralph Waldo Ellison, author (Invisible Man) is born in Oklahoma City, OK.

**1924** Wilmer Joseph Harris, Negro League Baseball player, is born in Philadelphia, PA.

**1925** Homer Plessy, American plaintiff in the US Supreme Court decision in Plessy v. Ferguson, dies in New Orleans, LA.

**1927** (Harold George) Harry Belafonte, Jr., actor and singer, is born in New York, NY.

**1928** Willie L. Mitchell, record producer and arranger (Hi Records label), is born in Ashland, MS.

**1930** Raymond St. Jacques actor (Cotton Comes to Harlem) is born in Hartford, CT.

**1932** Oliver Sain, saxophonist, bandleader and songwriter (Don't Mess Up A Good Thing), is born in Dundee, MS.

**1939** Juan Leovigildo Brouwer Mezquida, composer and guitarist, is born in Havana, Cuba.

**1939** Warren Davis singer with The Monotones (Book of Love), is born in Newark, NJ.

**1945** (Winston Rodney) Burning Spear, reggae singer and musician, is born in Saint Ann, Jamaica.

**1947** Norman Connors, drummer and composer (You Are My Starship), is born in Philadelphia, PA.

**1948** (Winston Rodney) Burning Sphere, Reggae and Rastafari singer, is born in St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica.

**1952** Mercedes Gilbert, novelist and actor (Moon Over Harlem), dies in New York, NY.

**1952** Steven Barnes, science fiction writer (Andromeda), is born in Los Angeles, CA.

**1953** Thomas 'Hollywood' Henderson, National Football League player, is born in Austin, TX.

**1957** (John Cornelius) Johnny Ray, Major League Baseball player, is born in Chouteau, OK.

**1965** Claude Vilgrain, National Hockey League player is born in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada.

**1965** (Robert Booker Tio Huffman) Booker T, professional wrestler, is born in Houston, TX.

**1966** Don Lemon, journalist on CNN, is born in Baton Rouge, LA.

**1968** (Richard Serrell) Richie Rich, rap artist (Don't Do It), is born in Oakland, CA.

**1970** Yolanda Evette Griffith, Women's National Basketball Association player, is born in Chicago, IL.

**1970** Lucille Nelson Hegamin, blues singer, dies in New York, NY.

**1972** Jimmy O'Neal Hurst, Major League Baseball player, is born in Tuscaloosa, AL.

**1973** (Mayce Edward) Chris Webber, National Basketball Association player, is born in Detroit, MI.

**1974** (Robert Henry) Bobby Timmons, pianist, dies in New York, NY.

**1980** Emmitt Littleton Ashford, first African American Umpire in Major League Baseball, dies in Venice, CA.

**1983** **Lupita Nyong'o**, director and actor (12 Years a Slave), is born in Mexico City, Mexico.

**1984** Naima Mora, fashion model and the winner of cycle 4 of America's Next Top Model, is born in Detroit, MI.

**1986** (Ettore Ewen) Big E Langston, professional wrestler, is born in Tampa, FL.

**1987** (Frederick William) Freddie Green, jazz guitarist (Count Basie orchestra), dies.

**1989** Marcus Ryan Harris, National Football League player, is born in Kirkwood, MO.

**2006** Johnny Porter Jackson, drummer for The Jackson 5, dies in Gary, IN.

**2012** (Melvin Randolph) Randy Primas, Jr., first African American mayor of Camden, New Jersey, dies in Chapel Hill, NC.

**2013** Gaynelle Griffin Jones, first African American woman to serve on the First Court of the Texas Courts of Appeals, dies in Houston, TX.

*Know your History and Culture. If you do not know where you come from, you cannot and will not know where you can go.*