

ScoopUSA Black History Corner

by Adelaide Abdur-Rahman
Abdurrahman19@comcast.net

GEMINI - May 21 - June 21



Smart and witty. Outgoing, very chatty. Lively, energetic. Adaptable but needs to express themselves. Argumentative and outspoken. Like change. Versatile. Busy, sometimes nervous and tense. Gossips. May seem superficial or inconsistent. Beautiful physically and mentally.

The emerald is the stone for the month of May

Archeologists have traced the history of emeralds back to 3000 BC in ancient Egypt and India. Cleopatra prized her emeralds more than any other stone. One of the world's largest emeralds dates back to 1695, weight 214.8 carats and is about 10 cm high. One side is inscribed with prayers and the other with opulent flowers. Ancient scholar Pliny writes, "Sight is refreshed by gazing upon this stone." Roman emperor Nero took his advice by wearing sunglasses made of emerald to watch the gladiators. Omar Khayyam, a Persian mathematician and philosopher, took a copy of his book, with a cover made from gold and over 1,000 emeralds and rubies aboard the Titanic. Emerald is believed to insure loyalty, improve memory, quicken intelligence and forecast upcoming events. It was once thought that if you kept an emerald under your pillow you would dream about the future.

May 24

You give unlimited concentration and enthusiasm to our work. You are a leader with your magnetic personality and strong character. Sincere and trustworthy, you love as intensely as you work

1935 (Ronald R) Ron Edmonds, educator and author (Black Colleges in America: Challenge, Development, Survival) is born in Ypsilanti, MI.

1937 Archie Shepp, saxophonist and composer (The Magic of Ju Ju) is born in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

1938 (Cecil Bustamante Campbell) Prince Buster (Muhammed Yusef Ali), singer-songwriter (Little Honey) is born in Kingston, Jamaica.

1938 Cleo Hill, National Basketball Association player is born in Newark, NJ.

1940 Mary Hatwood Futrell, president of the National Education Association is born in Altausta, VA.

1941 Charles Earland organist and saxophonist is born in Philadelphia, PA.

1943 Victor O. Frazer, Delegate from the US Virgin Islands to the US House of Representatives is born in Charlotte Amalie, US Virgin Islands.

1944 (Patricia Louise Holt) Patti LaBelle, singer (Lady Marmalade) is born in Philadelphia, PA.

1947 (Donise) David Barksdale, original leader of the Chicago based street gang Devil's Disciples is born in Sallis, MS.

1954 (Rogers Lee) Bobby Brown, Major League Baseball player is born in Norfolk, VA.

1955 Derrick Tyrone Gaffney, National Football League player is born in Jacksonville, FL.

1955 Sara Martin, blues singer 'The Famous Moanin' Mama' (You Got Everything a Sweet Mama Needs But Me) is born in Louisville, KY.

1956 (Ricky Daryl Mitchell) Zaid Shakir, co-founder of Zaytuna College in Berkeley is born in Berkeley, CA.

1956 Larry Ernest Blackmon, drummer and lead singer with Cameo (Word Up) is born in New York, NY.

1960 Roy Allen Foster, National Football League player is born in Los Angeles, CA.

1962 Gene Anthony Ray, dancer and actor (Fame) is born in Harlem, NY.

1963 Joe Dumars, III, National Basketball Association player is born in Shreveport, LA.

1963 Elmore James, blues singer 'King of the Slide Guitar' (Dust My Blues) dies in Chicago, IL.

1965 (Aleck or Alex Ford) Sonny Boy Williamson, blues harmonica player and singer dies in Helena, AR.

1965 Gregory Briley, Major League Baseball player is born in Greenville, NC.

1967 (Dwight Myers) Heavy D, rap artist (Now That We Found Love) is born in Jamaica.

1969 Carl Anthony Payne, III, actor (Martin) is born in Trenton, NJ.

1974 Marcus Coleman, National Football League player is born in Dallas, TX.

1974 (Edward Kennedy) Duke Ellington, orchestra leader, composer and pianist dies in New York, NY.

1979 Kareem Michael McKenzie, National Football League player is born in Trenton, NJ.

1981 Jeron Mixon, actor (Old School) is born in Port Hueneme, CA.

1989 Chloe Johnson, television personality, Miss Black Colorado 2011 is born.

1991 (LaFrancis Maurice) Mo Bassett, National Football League player dies.

2002 Susie Garrett, actor (Punky Brewster) dies in Southfield, MI.

2008 (James Harrell) Jimmy McGriff, organist (All About My Girl) dies in Voorhees Township, NJ.



(Patricia Louise Holt) Patti LaBelle

2010 Raymond V. Haysbert, president and CEO of Parks Sausage Company dies in Baltimore, MD.

May 25

You put sincerity and your best efforts into any undertaking, but sometimes your ideas are impractical and fantastic. You should keep your passions and emotions under strong control. You are capable of loving deeply and your require affection in return.

1910 Velma Louise Gaines-Hamock, the only African American funeral home owner who kept a mummy preserved for more than 40 years is born.

1910 (Elmer) Pha Terrell, jazz singer (Until the Real Thing Comes Along) is born in Kansas City, MO.

1911 Laura and L.D. Nelson, mother and son who were lynched near Okemah, Okfuskee County OK.

1919 (Sarah Breedlove) Madame C.J. Walker, hair care entrepreneur dies in Irvington, NY.

1923 William B. Gould, slave and veteran of the American Civil War dies.

1924 Marshall Belford Allen, jazz alto saxophone player is born in Louisville, KY.

1926 Miles Dewey Davis, III, trumpeter and composer is born in Alton, IL.

1932 K.C. Jones, National Basketball Association coach and player is born in Tyler, TX.

1934 Jay Wright, poet and playwright (Balloons: A Comedy in One Act) is born in Albuquerque, NM.

1935 (Carlton Chester) Cookie Gilchrist, gridiron football player is born in Brackenridge, PA.

1936 David Levering Lewis, historian and author (When Harlem Was In Vogue) is born in Little Rock, AR.

1936 Donnie Elbert, singer (Where Did Our Love Go) is born in New Orleans, LA.

1937 Henry Ossawa Tanner, artist whose work is seen in major museums in Europe and the US (formerly lived at 2908 West Diamond Street) dies in Paris, France.

1938 Joyce Carol Thomas, poet, playwright and author (Marked by Fire) is born in Ponca City, OK.

1943 Leslie Uggams, singer and actor (Roots) is born in New York, NY.

1949 Jamaica Kincaid, essayist and novelist (Annie John) is born in St. John's Antigua.

1949 (Elaine Cynthia Potter Richardson) Jamaica Kincaid, author (Girl) is born in St. John, Antigua.

1955 Wardell Gray, jazz tenor saxophonist dies in Las Vegas, NV.

1956 (Lincoln Barrington) Sugar Minott, reggae singer, producer and sound-system operator (Sound of Silence) is born in Kingston, Jamaica.

1959 Pedro Gomez De-Brito, National professional Soccer League player is born in Praia, Cape Verde.

1962 Marie-Alise Recasner, actor (Santa Barbara) is born in Hollywood, CA.

1965 (Aleck Rice Miller) Sonny Boy Williamson, II, blues harmonica player dies in Helena, AR.

1968 William Nathaniel Pennyfeather, Major League Baseball player is born in Perth Amboy, NJ.

1968 Kendall Cedric Gill, National Basketball Association player is born in Chicago, IL.

1970 Octavia Spencer actor (The Help) is born in Montgomery, AL.

1973 Cory Tyler actor (A Different World) is born.

1973 (Delmar Drew Arnaud) Daz Dillinger, rap artist with the Dogg Pound (What Would You Do) is born in Long Beach, CA.

1975 Lauryn Noelle Hill, singer (The Mis-Education Of Lauryn Hill) is born in South Orange, NJ.

1976 Tarik Glenn, National Football League player is born in Cleveland, OH.

1979 Andre Dyson, National Football League player is born in Las Vegas, NV.

1980 Scott Alexander Hairston, Major League Baseball player is born in Fort Worth, TX.

1981 Roy James Brown, singer and songwriter (Good Rocking Tonight) dies in San Fernando, CA.

1982 Rasheeda (Buckner-Frost) rap artist (Certified Hot Chick) is born in Atlanta, GA.

1984 Shawne DeAndre Merriman, National Football League player is born in Washington, DC.

1985 Eric Orlando Young, Jr., Major League Baseball player is born in Piscataway, NJ.

1986 Mario Cashmere Manningham, National Football League player is born in Warren, OH.

1995 Gabby Soleil, actor (The Hughleys) is born in Mission Viejo, CA.

2004 Glenn Dale Cunningham, first African American mayor of Jersey City, New Jersey dies in Jersey City, NJ.

2006 Desmond Dekker, singer-songwriter and musician (Israelites) dies in Thornton Heath, Greater London England.

2009 Ivan Glatone Van Sertima, known for his Olmec alternative origin speculations and author (They Came Before Columbus) dies in Highland Park, NJ.

2011 (Eugene F.) Genie Smith, Negro League Baseball player dies in Richmond Heights, MO.

2014 (Maxwell Antonio Loach) Matthew Saad Muhammad, professional light heavyweight boxer dies in Philadelphia, PA.

2014 (Umberto Alexander Valentino) Herb Jeffries, actor (The Bronze Buckaroo) dies in Los Angeles, CA.

May 26

You are light-hearted, exuberant and fond of gaiety. You like people around you, like to please them and are enthusiastic over new friends. Sometimes passionate and excitable, you are friendly, irresistible and lovable.

1911 Joseph Cornelius Waddy, US Federal Judge is born in Louisa County, VA.

1913 Gwendolyn Clarine Knight, artist is born in Bridgetown, Barbados.

1914 (Harold) Shorty Baker, jazz trumpeter is born in St. Louis, MO.

1914 Frankie Manning, dance instructor and one of the founding fathers of the Lindy Hop is born in Jacksonville, FL.

1916 Edward Allen Carter, Jr., one of seven African American soldiers who were awarded the Medal of Honor in 1997 is born in Los Angeles, CA.

1935 (Robert Theron) Ron Pinkney first African American play-by-play announcer on a major television network (ABC) is born in Annapolis, MD.

1938 (Lemuel) Lem Tucker, journalist and one of the first African Americans to work as a television network reporter (NBC) is born.

1943 Dennis Richmond, news anchor in Oakland, California is born in Rossford, OH.

1944 Marvin E. Pratt, mayor of Milwaukee, Wisconsin is born in Texas.

1949 (Pamela Suzette) Pam Grier, actor (Jackie Brown) is born in Winston-Salem, NC.

1949 Philip Michael Thomas, actor (Miami Vice) is born in Columbus, OH.

1955 Wesley Darcel Walker, National Football League player is born in San Bernardino, CA.

1964 (Leonard Albert) Lenny Kravitz, singer, songwriter is born in New York, NY.

1965 (Gregory Lenard) Greg Lloyd, Sr., National Football League player is born in Miami, FL.

1965 (Paul Scott) Ricky Jordan, Major League Baseball player is born in Richmond, CA.

1968 (William Edward John) Little Willie John, singer (Fever) dies in Walla Walla, WA.

1971 Monte Barrett, professional heavyweight boxer is born in Greenville, NC.

1973 (Christopher Joseph) Chris Latham, Major League Baseball player is born in Coeur d'Alene, ID.

1973 (Jack) J.C. Higginbotham, trombonist dies in New York, NY.

1976 Darnell McDonald, National Football League player is born.

1977 William Powell, singer with the Ojays dies.

1979 Nonso Anozie, actor (Conan the Barbarian) is born in London, England.

1981 Anthony Lee Ervin, Olympic gold medal swimmer is born in Valencia, CA.

1983 Mark Anderson, National Football League player is born in Tulsa, OK.

1987 (George) Ajita Wilson, actor who starred in European exploitation and hardcore films dies in Rome, Italy.

1987 Sakia Gunn, lesbian who was murdered in a hate crime in Newark, New Jersey is born in Newark, NJ.

1989 Phineas Newborn, Jr. pianist dies in Memphis, TN.

1996 Michael Tyrone Sharperson, Major League Baseball player dies in San Bernardino, CA.

Birthday: Joey Kibble, singer with Take 6.

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