

# CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH - 2021

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER TO CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH



## A little about this newsletter:

This newsletter is all about celebrating and loving Blackness. Although Black History Month is only 28 days long, there is so much rich Black History to uncover. Join me on this journey to discover ways that you can celebrate and support Black folx during this special month.

We'll highlight awesome Black people and their accomplishments. We'll also do this in an inclusive way, highlighting folx from all different Black positionalities like: women, men, trans folx, non-binary, LGBTQ, and persons with disabilities. You are going to learn a lot this month.

This is the second edition of the newsletter. We've got a lot of love for the first one and I really appreciate folx sending in resources and submissions. This work disrupts white supremacy culture and empowers historically marginalized and oppressed people.



## The Women of the Black Panther Party Mural

**West Oakland** - A mural dedicated to the women of the Black Panther Party will be unveiled this Valentine's Day. This public art installation will honor the #SayHerName Movement and The Women of The Black Panther Party (WBPP). It will be the home of more than 250 names, the most comprehensive collection of names celebrating the Women in the BPP in existence. It will honor the legacy of women warriors whose only goal was to protect and better the lives of the poor and oppressed (<https://www.wbppmural.com>).

### ★ Read more about the mural here:

<https://oaklandside.org/2021/02/02/black-panther-party-women-mural-west-oakland/>

### ★ Register for the virtual unveiling of the mural here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/valentines-day-the-women-of-the-black-panther-party-mural-unveiling-tickets-133302047011>

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPOTLIGHT



### DIANNE DURHAM

★ **Did you know?** Diane was one of America's best gymnasts, she began taking gymnastics at a local YMCA when she was four years old.

Dianne Durham, the first African American senior national gymnastics champion, passed away earlier this week. Diane was 52 years young. She was known for her combination of grace, artistry and power, as well as her joyful personality. Diane was the last gymnast to beat world-famous Mary Lou Retton in all-around competition, in the lead-up to the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. However, Durham was deprived of a spot on the team due to a combination of injuries and politics.

When asked about her achievements she said, "People said, you're the first Black -- I'm using 'Black' because 'African American' wasn't a term in my era. Do you know that didn't go through my head one time? Not one time. Do you know how many people had to tell me that? I could not understand why that was such a humongous deal." Thank you Diane for being such an inspiration and pioneer for gymnasts of color. Rest in Power.

\*(Special thanks to [gymnastics-now.com](https://gymnastics-now.com))

★ **Read more about the Diane here:**  
<https://bleacherreport.com/articles/2929943-dianne-durham-1st-black-us-womens-gymnastics-champ-dies-at-52>

"Black Power is giving power to people who have not had power to determine their destiny."

- huey p. newton

# This Week's Black History Spotlight

THE NEGRO HISTORY BULLETIN

DR. CARTER G. WOODSON

I wanted to share this awesome resource to all our readers. **28 Days of Black History Month** is a virtual exhibition of 28 works that celebrate Black legacy in the United States. This exhibition centers the voices of Black LGBTQ leaders and Black leaders with disabilities often diminished in our nation's history.

This exhibition is awesome. Sign-up to receive daily works here:

<https://www.28daysofblackhistory.com>.

Also if you like what you see, please support the exhibition by making a donation.

**From 28 Days of Black History:** Dr. Carter G. Woodson created what we know today as Black History Month, but also used independently published media to center the contributions of Black people throughout history in public discourse. Diversifying education and media is just as important now as it was then, and I hope today's work encourages you to keep pursuing new sources to learn and unlearn with.

★ **Read the bulletin here:**  
<https://artsandculture.google.com/asset/excerpt-the-negro-history-bulletin-vol-1-no-1-woodson-carter-godwin-1875-1950-editor/IOHdQEFtTsLIQ?hl=en>





## BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPOTLIGHT



**THOMAS "BLIND TOM"  
WIGGINS**

When people think about great pianists, the usual names come to mind -- Mozart, Chopin, Beethoven. However, there is one name that you probably never heard of -- Thomas "Blind Tom" Wiggins. Wiggins was a musical prodigy and one of the most well-known pianists during the 19th century. Both blind and autistic, Thomas was born into a world where people with disabilities were segregated, shunned and rejected. Sold into slavery as a child, Thomas' owners wanted to kill him because he couldn't work in the fields.

★ **Read more about the Thomas here:**

<https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/wiggins-thomas-blind-tom-1849-1908/>

Fortunately, he avoided death and was left to explore the plantation where he found a piano. Thomas learned how to play piano by ear and began composing at 5 years old. He was truly a musical genius and had an extraordinary memory. At 10 years old, he became the first African American performer to play at the White House. He went on to tour the world and his music inspires people to this day. Thomas' story disrupts the inferiority narratives about Blacks that were 'common sense' during those times. Thank you Thomas for inspiring future generations of Black musicians.

**Did you know?** Thomas also played pieces after one hearing, and memorized poems and text in foreign languages.

## CALIFORNIA'S HIDDEN HISTORY



California. The Golden State. Progressive, liberal, and always forward moving. A free state. These are the words and phrases that people use to describe the state; however, there is a hidden history of California that many people are not aware of -- the hidden history of slavery in California. California in the 1850s was home to enslaved Black people toiling in bondage. Further, the state enacted a fugitive slave law in 1852, which was continuously extended until 1855.

This law stated that enslaved Black people who were brought to California before it was a state remained the rightful property of their slaver, and could be returned if they escaped. White miners even stated that, "We're not here to free the slaves, we just don't want them competing with us". Shortly after the abolition of slavery across the country, the state of California, quickly passed laws limiting voting, property, and marriage rights for Black people and other folk of color. Sadly, the state showed its true intentions with passing those laws and refused to separate from the racism of its southern counterparts.

Understanding the history of our state allows us to engage in honest dialogue about the pervasive anti-blackness that exists in California today. Efforts to change this legacy are underway; however, to move forward we must understand and reconcile with the past.

★ **Check out this great resource about the Hidden History of Slavery in CA here:**  
<https://www.aclunc.org/sites/goldchains/index.html>

## BLACK MEDICAL HERO



**DR. DANIEL HALE WILLIAMS**

On July 9th, 1893, Daniel Hale Williams performed the first successful open heart surgery, before the invention of penicillin, antibiotics, or x-rays. Daniel received his medical degree from Chicago Medical College in 1883. Upset that Black people weren't allowed treatment in hospitals, he opened Provident Hospital in Chicago.

Unlike most hospitals during that era, Provident Hospital was the first medical facility to have an interracial staff. Dr. William's patient's name was James Cornish, a Black man who came into the hospital with a stab wound to the chest. Using new sterile techniques, Dr. Williams was able to avoid internal infection and Mr. Cornish survived the surgery and lived another 20 years! Thank you for your courage and bravery Dr. Williams. Although he faced discrimination, prejudice, and racism, Dr. William's embraced love and not hate -- forging a path for interracial relations that brings people together, rather than divide them. We can use Dr. William's legacy to help us heal our divided nation.

**Did you know?** Musician Stevie Wonder's song "Black Man" honors the achievements of Williams, among others.

The song was written about Wonder's desire for worldwide interracial harmony and criticism of racism. Listen to it here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pEoE2UQXduA>

★ **Read more about Dr. Williams here:**  
<https://www.jsums.edu/gtec/dr-daniel-hale-williams/>

# "The very serious function of racism...is distraction. It keeps you from doing your work." - Toni Morrison

## SUPPORT BLACK ONLINE BUSINESSES



### Beauty Bakerie

Pastry-inspired makeup products that are vegan and cruelty-free. Creator and CEO Cashmere Nicole also created the charity Sugar Homes, which donates money, clothes, toys, and other essentials to orphanages worldwide.

<https://www.beautybakerie.com>



### BLK & Bold

This specialty coffee and tea brand donates 5% of its profits to aid at-risk youths. They sell a vast array of different coffees and flavor profiles, and you can also subscribe to get recurring orders.

<https://blkandbold.com>



### Love, Vera

This lingerie brand is size-inclusive and "celebrates black women, black entrepreneurship, and black cultural influence." They're committed to hiring black talent to create more diversity in the fashion industry.

<https://www.lovevera.com>



### Purhome

We are dedicated to creating natural and safe household cleaning products that can be used by anyone, giving special consideration to selecting ingredients that are plant-based, biodegradable, sulfate-free, and non-toxic.

<https://shoppurhome.com>

## COOL APPS TO TRY

### ANTI-RACISM DAILY

Daily actions to dismantle white supremacy



★ **Anti-racism daily newsletter. Get it here:**  
<https://www.antiracismdaily.com>

### The Safe Place

A Minority Mental Health App geared towards the Black Community.



★ **Get the app here:**  
**apple:** <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/the-safe-place/id1349460763>

**android:** <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.he6ecb72aef1>

## SUPPORT LOCAL CAUSES

Clickable Links

- ★ **City of Dreams** - a Bayview-based nonprofit that is working to break that cycle with youth-facing initiatives for kids 8 and up who are living in San Francisco's low-income and public housing communities.
- ★ **Roots Community Health Center** - Providing health care and housing.
- ★ **People's Breakfast Oakland** - Black Grass-root organization serving the people of Oakland. \*Posting bail for black protestors
- ★ **East Oakland Collective** - Member-based community organizing group invested in serving the communities of deep East Oakland by working towards racial and economic equity.
- ★ **Anti Police-Terror Project** - Oakland-based Black led organization supporting families surviving police terror working to end it in communities of color. Also bailing out protestors.

Bay Area: How to support the Black community (thanks to Courtney Sabahi):

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Vv3zHARNDy14xhhiz8w1mwd1gPAZ5LDVpyKIBEK\\_7mA/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Vv3zHARNDy14xhhiz8w1mwd1gPAZ5LDVpyKIBEK_7mA/edit)

### Want to contribute?

If you would like to add any resources or submit a piece, please do! Submissions for the following Monday's newsletter are due at **5pm on Thursday**.

Contact Mr. Mango @ [blkxstorymatters@gmail.com](mailto:blkxstorymatters@gmail.com)



## EVENTS TO CHECK OUT

### ★ **Black Mental Health Matters: Microtrauma and Microaggressions in Communities of Color**

**Part 1:** Thursday, February 11 | 2:30-4:00 p.m. ET / 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. PT / 9:30-11:00 a.m. HT / 8:30-10:00 a.m. American Samoa / 5:30-7:00 a.m. (Friday) Chamorro Time ([view your time zone](#))

**Part 2:** Thursday, February 25 | 2:30-4:00 p.m. ET / 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. PT / 9:30-11:00 a.m. HT / 8:30-10:00 a.m. American Samoa / 5:30-7:00 a.m. (Friday) Chamorro Time ([view your time zone](#))

The webinar is an interactive presentation with a Q&A session designed to provide participants with an understanding of how racism impacts mental health; how the history of racism impacts the delivery and accessibility of mental health care in communities of color; and how systemic racism and the Black community's experience with police brutality (directly and indirectly) impact young people's mental health, in particular. While both Part I and Part II are open to all participants, Part I of the series will provide insights specific to healthcare providers and the staff that support them, and Part II is designed to be informative for those who face mental health challenges and the families and communities that support them.

[REGISTER HERE](#)