



## **CENTRAL FLORIDA WRITERS AND PUBLISHERS GUILD**

# **The Impact of the African Diaspora on America**

### **Celebrating Diversity, Equality, and Inclusivity All Year Round**

There is no America without the African diaspora. The contributions, resilience, and unwavering spirit of African descendants have been instrumental in shaping the nation's history, culture, and progress. Today, Americans traditionally celebrate Black History Month each February to honor the ancestors who endured unimaginable hardships and to recognize their countless achievements in the face of racial hatred and oppression.

However, the impact of the African diaspora is not confined to a single month. The Central Florida Writers and Publishers Guild (CFWPG) believes that American diversity should be celebrated every day of the year. As Griots, the storytellers who heal the world with their words, we are dedicated to highlighting the richness of our diverse heritage 365/366 days a year.

We invite you to join us in this endeavor by posting about diversity, equality, and inclusivity on your social media platforms. Use the hashtag #CFWPG to connect with others who share our commitment to celebrating the vibrant mosaic that is America. Together, we can honor the legacy of our ancestors and continue to build a more inclusive and equitable future for all.

Let us remember that every day is an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of the African diaspora and to promote the values of diversity, equality, and inclusivity. Join us in this ongoing celebration and be a part of the change we wish to see in the world.

## **Inventions by African Americans**

### **Celebrating Innovation and Ingenuity**

The contributions of African Americans to the world of invention are both vast and profound. Across various fields, from agriculture to technology, African American inventors have left an indelible mark on society, consistently demonstrating creativity, ingenuity, and resilience in the face of adversity. Here, we celebrate some of the most notable inventions by African Americans, exploring their impact on our daily lives and the broader world.

The inventions by African Americans have been pivotal in shaping numerous industries and improving our daily lives. These trailblazing individuals overcame significant barriers to bring their creative visions to fruition, leaving a legacy of innovation and perseverance. As we celebrate these achievements, let us also recognize the ongoing contributions of African American inventors and support the next generation of innovators who continue to enrich our world. By honoring their work, we not only acknowledge their ingenuity but also inspire future generations to dream, create, and excel.



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### Granville T. Woods



Granville T. Woods, often referred to as the "Black Edison," was an influential inventor in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. With over 50 patents to his name, Woods made significant contributions to the development of the telephone, telegraph, and railway systems. One of his most notable inventions was the "Multiplex Telegraph," a device that allowed multiple telegraph messages to be sent over a single wire simultaneously. This innovation greatly improved communication efficiency and safety in the railroad industry.

### Garrett Morgan



Garrett Morgan is best known for inventing the three-position traffic signal, a critical development in road safety. Before Morgan's invention, traffic signals only had two positions: stop and go. His design introduced a third position, allowing for a safer transition between stopping and starting. Morgan also invented a safety hood and smoke protector, an early version of the gas mask, which was used widely by firefighters and in World War I.

### Madam C.J. Walker



As one of America's first self-made female millionaires, Madam C.J. Walker revolutionized the beauty and hair care industry for African American women. She invented a line of hair care products specifically designed for African American hair, addressing issues such as hair thinning and scalp ailments. Walker's innovative hair-straightening formula and the Walker System, which included shampoos, pomades, and hot combs, paved the way for future advancements in the industry.

### George Washington Carver



A pioneer in agricultural science, George Washington Carver's work with crop rotation and soil improvement transformed farming practices in the United States. Carver developed hundreds of products from peanuts, sweet potatoes, and other crops, promoting sustainable agriculture and improving the livelihoods of countless farmers. His inventions included peanut butter, dyes, plastics, gasoline, and even a type of rubber.

### Lewis Latimer



Lewis Latimer was a key figure in the development of electric lighting. He worked closely with both Alexander Graham Bell and Thomas Edison, significantly improving the carbon filament used in light bulbs. Latimer's invention made electric lighting more durable and affordable, contributing to the widespread adoption of electric light. He also authored the first book on electric lighting, "Incandescent Electric Lighting: A Practical Description of the Edison System."



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### Mark E. Dean



In the field of computer engineering, Mark E. Dean has made groundbreaking contributions. As a key figure at IBM, Dean co-invented the ISA bus, a system that allowed multiple devices like printers and modems to be connected to a computer simultaneously. He also led the team that developed the first gigahertz microprocessor, a revolutionary step in computing power and speed.

### Lonnie G. Johnson



Lonnie G. Johnson is an inventor whose work spans various disciplines, including aerospace engineering and toy design. Johnson is best known for inventing the Super Soaker water gun, one of the most popular toys of all time. The success of the Super Soaker allowed Johnson to fund his research in green technology, leading to advancements in thermal energy storage and conversion systems.

### Dr. Patricia Bath



In the medical field, Dr. Patricia Bath's invention of the Laserphaco Probe revolutionized cataract surgery. Her device used laser technology to remove cataracts more accurately and with less trauma to the eye, significantly improving patient outcomes. Dr. Bath was also the first African American woman to receive a patent for a medical device and a strong advocate for access to eye care in underserved communities.

### Sarah E. Goode



Sarah E. Goode was one of the first African American women to receive a patent. Her invention, the folding cabinet bed, was a precursor to the modern Murphy bed. Goode's design provided a space-saving solution for small apartments, allowing the bed to be folded into a cabinet when not in use. This innovative piece of furniture demonstrated her practical approach to problem-solving and resourcefulness.

### Dr. Shirley Jackson



Dr. Shirley Jackson's work in theoretical physics has led to numerous advancements in telecommunications. Her research at Bell Laboratories contributed to the development of technologies such as the portable fax, touch-tone telephone, solar cells, and fiber optic cables. Dr. Jackson's pioneering work has had a lasting impact on how we communicate and access information today.

Dr. Carol Free Harris  
CFWPG Treasurer  
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