

BLACK

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PARENT NEWSLETTER



February 2024



Half Day for Students!!
Half Day for Students!!

NO SCHOOL
Mid-Winter Recess
Feb. 19th – Feb. 23rd



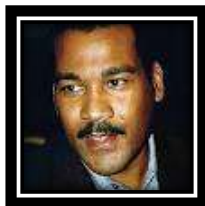


February is BLACK HISTROY MONTH. King Center Charter School is proud to honor the heritage that represents over 97% of our student population. There will be various celebrations and events held throughout the month. Please tune into the King Center Facebook Page for details. While we celebrate, I wish to share one of my favorite quotes regarding Black History Month from the 44th President of the United States-President Barack Obama:

"Black History Month shouldn't be treated as though it is somehow separate from our collective American history, or somehow just boiled down to a compilation of greatest hits from the March on Washington, or from some of our sports heroes. It's about the lived, shared experience of all African Americans, high and low, famous and obscure, and how those experiences have shaped and challenged and ultimately strengthened America. It's about taking an unvarnished look at the past so we can create a better future. It's a reminder of where we as a country have been so that we know where we need to go."

We also take this space to recognize the passing of **Dexter Scott King, the younger son of Dr. and Mrs. King.** His recent passing amplifies the work that remains before us to uphold the mission, principles, and vision of his parents and the importance for our youth to learn and become engaged in the work of social justice and equity for all.

Dexter Scott King (January 30, 1961 – January 22, 2024) was an American [civil](#) and [animal rights](#) activist, attorney, and author. The second son of civil rights leaders [Martin Luther King Jr.](#) and [Coretta Scott King](#), he was also the brother of [Martin Luther King III](#), [Bernice King](#), and [Yolanda King](#); and also grandson of [Martin Luther King Sr.](#) He is the author of *Growing Up King: An Intimate Memoir*.



Dexter Scott King committed his life to carrying forward his father's work – paving the path to the Beloved Community, a sacred place where justice and righteousness abound.

As we continue this to support the dream of Dr. King, we aim to extend our impact to more families in the community. **Please help us spread the news of our OPEN ENROLLMENT period here at King Center Charter School.** We are currently accepting applications for the following grades: Kindergarten, First and Second. All applications can be completed online at www.kccs.org. Parents planning to enroll a SIBLING of a CURRETNLY ENROLLED King Center student, please fill out your application ASAP to secure placement for next school year. If you have any questions regarding enrollment, please see Ms. Coleman.

#missionpossible,

Ms. Coleman, Executive Director



BOARD MEETING
Thursday, February 8, 2024

3rd – 8th Grade - **Mock ELA** Testing
Tuesday, February 6th
Wednesday, February 7th

3rd – 8th Grade - **Mock Math** Testing
Tuesday, February 13th
Wednesday, February 14th



Mock Test
Sharpen your brain

The purpose of Mock tests is to provide our students an opportunity to experience the expectations of a State test before having to take the real ones, as well as for teachers to identify skills students need support on in the coming months leading up to the real New York State Tests. All we need is for students to give their best so we can make instructional decisions to support them in their success come April and May.





BOARD OF TRUSTEE

Ryanelle Trese Gary

Ryanelle was born and raised in Buffalo, NY. She has been a nurse since 2007. Alumni of Trocaire College in Buffalo. She first, graduated with her Practical Nurse Certificate and later in 2020 graduated with her Associates of Applied Science in Nursing Degree. Completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree from Capella University. Having worked in her profession for many years she has encountered a lot of ups and downs. She is continuing her path for her professional goals. Nothing will stop her from accomplishing them. She has a passion for helping others.

Ryanelle is a proud wife, step- mother, and mother of two children. Her daughter an Alumni, Nia who attended King Center Charter School from kindergarten to 8th grade and son Thomas who has attended since kindergarten and currently. Ryanelle is currently VP of PTO with King Center Charter School. She is a Parent Representative on the King Center Charter School Board of Trustees. She is very proud to be a King Center Charter School family member. She is also a member of Black Nurses Rock and Buffalo Blacks Nurses Organizations.



Young Leaders in First Grade had a wonderful experience exploring the Albright-Knox Museum



Words from 1B... We had a great time at the Albright-Knox!



Saludos! / Greetings!

Hola Padres;

*It is with great joy that I would love to share how proud I am of your children's learning skills in Spanish. The main achievements I observe from your children are **communication skills and cultural understanding**. These are the two important standards in Spanish.*

Below is a demonstration of their learning process through games, activities, and CELEBRATIONS!

Happiness, Joy, Love, and Kindness are usually expressions of Love this month. It should be all year round. With this being said, in February, some of the vocabulary themes your child will learn about in Spanish class include:

For the lower grade levels:

- Valentine's Day Celebration
- Happy Birthday (When is your birthday?)
- Months of the year
- Days
- Seasons of the year
- Numbers (1-20) (1-100)
- Projects
- Games

For the upper grade (7th and 8th)

- Personal Subjects Pronouns
- ar verbs
- Adjectives
- Valentine's Day Celebration
- Projects



*Nothing is more beautiful than seeing your child coming to me and greeting me with a formal Spanish greeting throughout the day! **I LOVE WHAT I DO!** Thank you for allowing me to teach your children.*

Please contact me with any questions or concerns or just to say hello! You can reach me via email at mfancher@kingcentercharterschool.org. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of working with your children!

With love and respect,

Señorita Fancher





King Center is proud to announce we are starting our very own Girl Scout Troop!! Girl Scouts learn to : always be prepared, be willing to serve others, show kindness to all, and provide them the opportunity to make friends.

If you have a child in Grades K-1 and are interested in this amazing opportunity, please reach out to their homeroom teacher and a form can be sent home. We have a few spots remaining and look forward to watching our young learners grow in kindness and service to others!

If you are not able to join but would like to help support our Daisy Troop by purchasing Girl Scout Cookies, please contact Mrs. Sierra Radford at sradford@kingcentercharterschool.org.



PTO Meetings
Feb 1st and 15th
4:30pm – 5:30pm
School Cafeteria



Join Our PTO

Celebrating Black History Month with art in Buffalo

To help kick things off, Princessa Williams, Artist of Dr. King's mural on our School, will launch Harmony in Hues on Sunday. It's an exhibit showcasing 21 black artists at her art gallery and studio on Hertel Avenue in North Buffalo.

Artist are bringing their own unique styles to the showing.

The exhibit runs through March 15.

It's free and is open to everyone.



A weekly bus tour called 'Together as One' that will take you to historic landmarks around WNY from the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor to the Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Museum and more.

Other stops include Freedom Park, the Buffalo History Museum, the Freedom Wall and the Central Library.

There will be a free boxed lunch included. It's a coordinated effort led by the Buffalo African American History Museum.

It will take place February 3, 10, 17 and 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. To register

Free Book Friday! February 16th

LOVE to read?



Servant Leadership Inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Cleaning the auditorium!



Replacing the Speech bulletin board!



Spreading love with positive posters!



Spreading peace through song!



Cleaning the cafeteria!



Making thank you cards for our custodians!





- Mayor Byron W. Brown announced a call for retail vendors to take part in the Broadway Market and City of Buffalo's 2024 Black History Month Collaboration in February. Every Saturday, throughout the month of February, Black owned and operated retail businesses will set up shop at the Broadway Market and sell everything from clothes to jewelry to food. Interested vendors can download an application at www.broadwaymarket.org or call the Broadway Market Management Office at 716-893-0705.

- Mayor Brown stated, "My administration continues its strong commitment to help Black retail businesses grow and thrive in Buffalo and Western New York. Black History Month at the Broadway Market is an important initiative that builds on the continued progress we've made to create a more equitable, inclusive, and just community for all City residents, all year long. I encourage interested retail vendors to take part in this great opportunity."

- The vending dates in February are Saturday, February 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2024. Daily vendor stands must be staffed from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Throughout the month of February at the Broadway Market, shoppers will also be treated to live music on Saturdays, featuring some of Buffalo's best African American Musicians and a number of other festive activities.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH
@ THE BROADWAY MARKET

Pop-Up

SATURDAYS IN FEBRUARY | 9AM-4PM

CAKE CRAZY WILL BE ALONGSIDE SEVERAL OTHER AMAZING LOCAL BLACK OWNED VENDORS. LET'S COME OUT AND MAKE THIS EVENT A HUGE SUCCESS.

CHEESECAKE SLICES,
SWEET POTATO PIES + TARTS,
I AM BLACK HISTORY COOKIES,
HIGH SCHOOL PEANUT BUTTER
COOKIES + MORE!



**CASH
PAYMENTS
ONLY**





Buffalo Urban League

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES. CHANGING LIVES.



EMERGENCY HEAP OUTREACH

When: February 7th, 2024

Where: Crucial Community Center
230 Moselle St.
Buffalo, NY 14211

Time: 10am-4pm



**Applicants should bring photocopies
of the following:**

- ID for all household members
- proof of all household resources
- proof of all income received within the last 30 days
- current shutoff notice, if applicable.

Heap funding is available to help eligible households get their equipment inspected and cleaned at **no cost** to homeowners.

Questions?

Email: mray@bulny.org or Call: 716-431-8807

Remembering Black-Theater Trailblazer Lorna C. Hill

The founder of Buffalo's Ujima Company used drama to explore race and ethnicity.



Hill started Ujima in 1978. It is a multi-ethnic and multicultural theatre and provides working opportunities to artists.

According to her biography, Hill is a poet and playwright. Her play, *Yalla Bitch*, was performed at the first International Women Playwrights Conference in 1986.

Buffalo lost a gifted and courageous leader. Lorna C. Hill, actress, playwright, director, teacher, poet, activist, and founder of the longest continuously running theater ensemble in Buffalo, N.Y., died on June 30, 2020 at the age of 69.

“Lorna Hill was among the first Black women to graduate from Dartmouth, and she spent her entire life creating opportunities for people of color to make riveting, provocative theater.”

She graduated from Dartmouth with a BA in American intellectual history, Lorna Hill earned a master's degree in 1978 from the University at Buffalo. That was also the year she founded the [Ujima Company](#), a multi-ethnic and multicultural professional collective dedicated to preserving and performing African American theater, remaining at the helm until her death.

— interviews why she founded Ujima, Hill answered, “I believed we—together—we were going to save our community. And I believed the only way that could be done is through collective work and responsibility. You act. You dance. You sing.”



Hill was honored in 2016 with a billboard for her work in the community and has received several honors and awards for her involvement in the community.

Here are some of the events you can attend this month in recognition of Black History Month.

February 3

•**Equal Justice Lynching Memorial Photo Exhibit by Stephen Gabris – Musical selection by Curtis Lovell** | Stephen will share his experience visiting this moving museum at the Nash Lofts | 163 Broadway Ave | 5-8 p.m.

February 4, 11, 18 and 25

•**2023 Black History Month at the Broadway Market celebration** | 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

•**Free Black History Month Educational Series to address Mental Health in the Black Community** | Online on February 4, 11 and 18 from 10-11:30 a.m. | In person at Elim Christian Fellowship, 70 Chambers Street, Buffalo on February 25

February 7

•**Freedom Is Not Free: Letters from African American WWII Soldiers to Rev. Nash** | Frank E. Merriweather Jr. Library | 1324 Jefferson Ave., Buffalo | 6-7 p.m.

•**Talk Tuesdays: Do You Know Black History? Kahoot Trivia Game Night** | Atrium, 825 Depot Avenue West, Niagara Falls | 6-9 p.m.

February 8

•**Continuity of Care in the 21st Century** | Online or in-person at 825 Depot Avenue West, Niagara Falls | 7-9 p.m.

February 10

•**Alexa & Edreys Wajed Art Show** | Nash Lofts, 163 Broadway Ave. | 5-8 p.m.

•**Black House Beignet Rose Nicaud Celebration** | Black House Beignet, 616 Niagara Street, Niagara Falls | 6-8 p.m.

February 10 – March 25

•**12th Annual Artists of Color Exhibition** | Niagara Arts & Cultural Center, 1201 Pine Ave., Niagara Falls | Opening reception is February 10 from 6-8 p.m.

February 14

•**Dr. Barbara Nevergold, Co-Founder of the Uncrowned Queens Institute tells the little-known story of Andrew J. Smitherman** | Frank E. Merriweather Jr. Library, 1324 Jefferson Ave. | 6-7 p.m.

February 15

•**Stories of Our Resilience** | Online or in-person at 825 Depot Avenue West, Niagara Falls | 7-9 p.m.

February 16

•**Michigan Street Heritage Corridor Podcast on WUFO 1080/Mix 96.5** | 2 p.m.

- **February 17**

- **Charlotte Cardwell Art Show** | Nash Lofts, 163 Broadway Ave. | 5-8 p.m.
- **Say Their Names: Honor Their Legacies** | Buffalo History Museum | 6-8 p.m.

- **February 18**

- **Heart Healthy Presentation Luncheon by Strong Heart 2 Soul** | Atrium, 825 Depot Avenue West, Niagara Falls | 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Niagara Renaissance: Art that Moves our Community** | Email vendor applications to kiara@niagarafallsundergroundrailroad.org or jasiah@niagarafallsundergroundrailroad.org | Atrium, 825 Depot Avenue West, Niagara Falls | 6-9 p.m.

- **February 21**

- **WUFO 1080 Radio Sounds of the Civil Rights Movement** | Frank E. Merriweather Jr. Library, 1324 Jefferson Ave. | 6-7 p.m.

- **February 22**

- **Restore, Reclaim, and Reform Black Midwifery Virtual Presentation** | Online or in-person at 825 Depot Avenue West, Niagara Falls | 7-9 p.m.

- **February 24**

- **Community Pop-Up Exhibition** | Nash Lofts, 163 Broadway Ave. | 5-8 p.m.

- **February 25**

- **David Jonathan & The Inner City Bedlam Concert** | Atrium, 825 Depot Avenue West, Niagara Falls | 7-9 p.m.

- **February 28**

- **Colored Musicians Club Stories** | Frank E. Merriweather Jr. Library, 1324 Jefferson Ave. | 6-7 p.m.
- **Conversation with the descendants of Homer Plessy and Judge John H. Ferguson** | Ceremonial Courtroom, 92 Franklin Street (2nd Floor), Buffalo | 12-2 p.m.
- **Yaa-Asantewaa Drum and Dance Company performs at NFTA Metro Transportation Center** | 181 Ellicott St.

BLACK HISTORY
MONTH 2024
CELEBRATION



Give Your Best

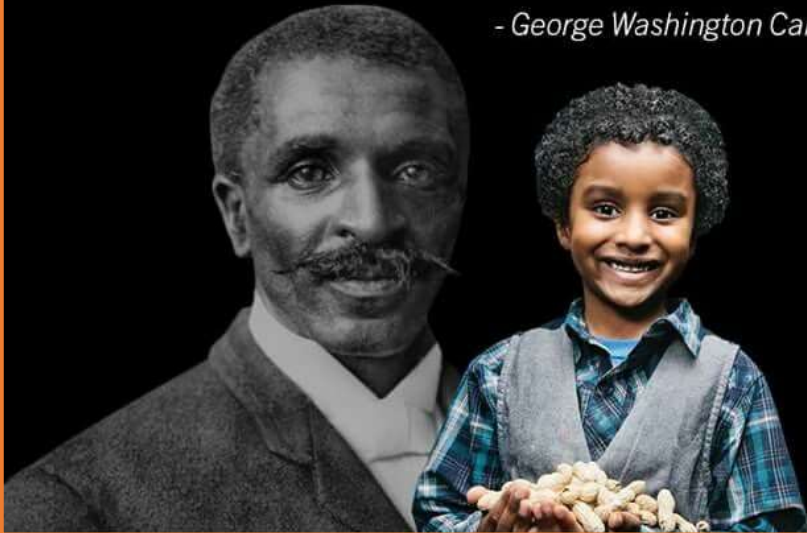


Because You Can



**“ WHEN YOU DO THE COMMON THINGS IN LIFE
IN AN UNCOMMON WAY, YOU WILL COMMAND
THE ATTENTION OF THE WORLD.”**

- George Washington Carver



**People may destroy
your image, stain your
personality but they can't
take away your good
deeds because no matter
how they describe you,
you will still be admired
by those who really
know you better.**



FRIDA KAHLO
'I paint my own reality.'

BECAUSE OF THEM, WE CAN...



MICHELLE OBAMA

*"Success isn't about how much money
you make, it's about the difference
you make in people's lives."*

BECAUSE OF THEM, WE CAN...

**if you can
dream it
you can
do it**



MADELEINE ALBRIGHT

*"It took me quite a long time to develop
a voice, and now that I have it, I am
not going to be silent."*

BECAUSE OF THEM, WE CAN...

Muhammad Ali was "The People's Champ"!

He was a larger than life sports hero known not just for his champion boxing skills. He took his fight outside of the ring to advocate for human rights and freedom of expression.

Muhammad Ali wasn't his birth name. He was born in 1942 in Kentucky, and his parents named him Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr.

In the 1960s, young Cassius Clay had it all.

He was a **rising star** in the boxing world and had nowhere to go but up. But he saw many **injustices** happening in the USA and the world, and he wanted to **fight for causes** that would place him on the right side of history.

Civil Rights

While slavery ended a hundred years earlier, racial segregation and other discriminatory laws still existed.

As African Americans and their allies fought for equal rights for all people and Black liberation, they continued to face discrimination and violence from the police and racist groups.

The Vietnam War

The US sent troops to Vietnam to intervene in a civil war. Many young Black men were drafted to fight in a war that many people saw as unjust. A growing anti-war movement took to the streets to protest the US presence in Vietnam.

When asked why he would not join the US Army draft to fight in Vietnam, Ali said; "My enemy is white people, not Viet Cong, Chinese or Japanese. You are my opposer when I want freedom, you (are) my opposer when I want Justice, you (are) my opposer when I want equality. You won't even stand up for me in America for my Religious beliefs, and you want me to go somewhere and fight, but you won't even stand up for me here in America." Muhammed Ali was called a terrorist for his affiliation with the Nation of Islam, Radical for his close relationship with Malcom X and was deemed 'un-American' for his name change (from Cassius Clay), despite his Gold medal at the 1960 Olympics for the USA.

The times changed, and so did he.

In 1964, he **changed his name** to Muhammad Ali to make a statement about racial justice. He renounced the name Cassius Clay as a "slave name".

I didn't choose it and I don't want it. I am Muhammad Ali, a free name — it means beloved of God, and I insist people use it when people speak to me.

In 1967, when he was drafted by the US Army, he **refused to serve** in the Vietnam War.

No, I am not going ten thousand miles from home to help murder and burn another poor nation.

He risked his career, and even faced jail time for refusing to serve, but he took a stand for peace.

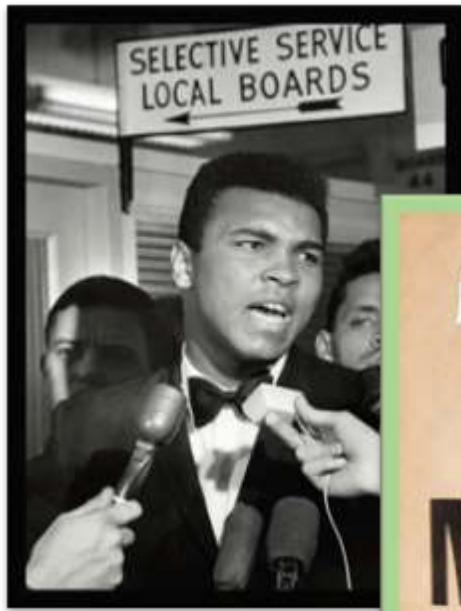
He **became a conscientious objector**, which meant he opposed the war for moral reasons.

It has been said that I have two alternatives...either go to jail or go to the army. But I would like to say that there is another alternative. And that alternative, that alternative is justice.

His decision came at a great cost to his career and personal safety, but he felt his personal sacrifice was necessary because he wanted to **lead by example**.

He was known for his **creative rhymes and dances** that taunted his opponents and won the admiration of fans.

My Families friend and still a FAN I am!



There will be other great fighters, but none could ever be The Greatest. That appellation is reserved squarely for one man: Muhammad Ali.

BOXING

MIAMI BEACH AUDITORIUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF **CHRIS DUNDEE** 17th St. and Washington Ave. AIR CONDITIONED
AUSPICES **VFW Post 3559** PHONE **JE 8-4304 - JE 1-0477** For Reservations

TUESDAY FEB 21 **8.45 P.M.**

10 ROUNDS HEAVYWEIGHTS

CASSIUS CLAY
OLYMPIC CHAMP

DONNIE FLEEMAN
DALLAS, TEXAS

10 ROUNDS-FEATHERWEIGHTS

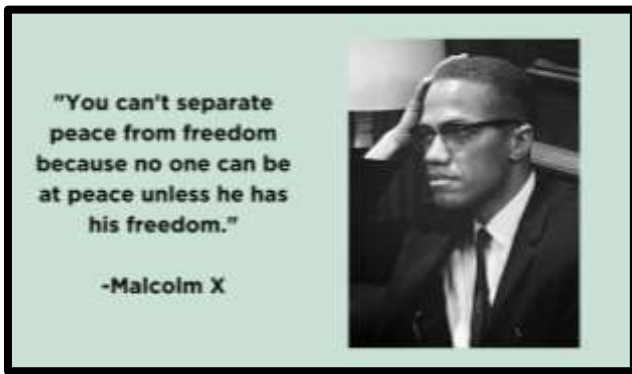
JOHNNY SARDUY HAVANA vs **HECTOR RODRIGUEZ** PUERTO RICO

10 ROUNDS LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHTS

OTHA BROWN UNDEFEATED vs **SAMMY STONE** DEERFIELD BEACH

Admission \$1.50 — — Reserved Seats \$2.50 - \$3.50 - \$5.00 inc. tax

“FREE PARKING IN REAR OF AUDITORIUM”



American history is full of African American trailblazers and pathfinders. Some names, like Barack Obama, are familiar to most of us. Others may not be as familiar, though they certainly should be!

Black history is full of originators, inventors, and movers and shakers, including the first African American billionaire, combat pilot, Nobel Prize winner, poet laureate, Oscar winner, and Miss America.

American history has benefited from the skills and talents of people from every race, religion, and ethnic background. Celebrating Black History Month is a way for Americans to express gratitude to members of the African American community who have given our country so much, and whose achievements went unrecognized for so long.

Until the [Civil Rights Act](#) was passed in 1964, African Americans could be denied entry to theaters, restaurants, hotels, swimming pools, libraries and public schools, and could be denied a job based on race. Before the [Voting Rights Act](#) of 1965 became law, African Americans could encounter state and local barriers, designed to deny them their right to vote.

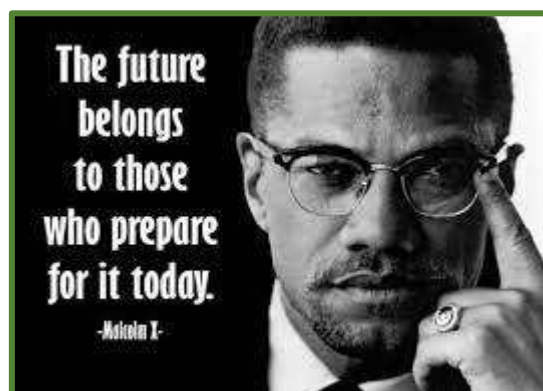
While African Americans may have obtained legally mandated equality in civil rights and voting rights, social mores took a bit longer to evolve. Marriage between Caucasians and African Americans was still illegal until the Supreme Court, in 1967, ruled that prohibiting interracial marriage on state and local levels was unconstitutional.

Even with this progress, textbooks and classrooms in the 1960s and '70s mainly provided the history of Caucasian Americans when teaching American history. Despite being a crucial component in the American story, the lives of many important African Americans were hardly ever mentioned in history classes.

Then, in 1976, President Gerald Ford took the occasion of America's bicentennial year to officially recognize Black History Month, asking Americans to, "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

Some of those accomplishments include:

- African American [Matthew Henson](#) and Admiral Robert Peary, becoming the first men to reach the North Pole in 1909
- Track star [Jesse Owens](#) winning four gold medals at the Berlin Olympics in 1936
- Actress [Hattie McDaniel](#) receiving an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress in 1940
- [Jackie Robinson](#), of the Brooklyn Dodgers, becoming the first African American to play major league baseball in 1947
- [Gwendolyn Brooks](#) winning the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1950
- [Barack Obama](#), a Harvard graduate, former Illinois state senator, and former U.S. senator from Illinois, becoming president in 2009



These actresses from the 1920s starred in Race films during the Silent era. Race films were movies featuring an all-black cast and were shown primarily in Black theaters due to Jim Crow laws. Black actors during the 20s mainly played enslaved people, servant roles, or African tribespeople in Hollywood movies. Race film created avenues for Black actors to explore their talents beyond the stereotypes created by Hollywood filmmakers. Furthermore, some of these actresses were part of films that addressed societal issues of race and class inside and outside the black community.



1930s actors

Ernest Whitman, Bill 'Bojangles' Robinson, Sam McDaniel, Oscar Polk, Rex Ingram, Paul Robeson, Clarence Muse, Ralph Cooper, Frank H. Wilson



Actresses from the 1960s.

Diahann Carroll, Cicely Tyson, Ja'net DuBois, Ruby Dee, Nichelle Nichols, Diana Sands, Abbey Lincoln, Lola Falana, and Claudia McNeil.



1930s actresses.

Josephine Baker, Elisabeth Welch, Edna Mae Harris, Fredi Washington, Hattie McDaniel, Louise Beavers, Nina Mae McKinney, Butterfly McQueen, Ethel Waters