

## February Newsletter

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

So I say to you, walk with the wind,  
brothers and sisters, and let the spirit  
of peace and the power of everlasting  
love be your guide. John Lewis

History makes it abundantly clear, for  
African Americans, the only thing  
more persistent than our struggle is  
our strivings...to summon the wisdom  
of activist Nannie Helen Brurroughs,  
'we specialize in the wholly  
impossible.'

Brenda Tindal

February is Black History Month - an invitation to reflect on the achievements and strengths of the Black community in the US. It is also an opportunity to learn about the oppression impacting the community. As with any heritage month, these monthly "reminders" aim to spark curiosity and awareness, leading to action in our personal, social, and political lives.

The African-American scholar Carter G. Woodson, the founder of Black History Month, chose the month of February because it includes the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.\* Woodson sought to bring awareness of the history suppressed by mainstream culture and increase cross-cultural understanding through education. Changing the narrative was imperative because, in Woodson's words, "when you control a man's thinking, you do not have to worry about his actions."\*

Black History Month helps us connect with strength, resilience, courage, hope, and joy to be agents of change. For example, Fannie Lou Hammer's "I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired, and we want a change"\*\*\* is as powerful a call today as it was in 1964. She stayed the course through poverty, segregation, racism, and violence, inspiring us to forge ahead. Kwame Alexander invites us to consider that, often, Black writers tell us about the "woe," but that Black poetry also speaks of the "wonder":

"Folks, I'm telling you,  
Birthing is hard  
And dying is mean  
So get yourself  
A little loving  
In between."

Langston Hughes cited by Kwame Alexander.\*\*\*

"Specializing in the wholly impossible" takes a lot of courage (cor-agere, to act from the heart). It also takes a lot of joy. What gives you courage? What brings you joy? We hope you can join us at the Diversity & Equity Center to connect and catch a little "in between" to keep on going.

\*[The History Behind Black History Month | Learning for Justice](#)

\*\* [I'm Sick and Tired of Being Sick and Tired - Dec. 20, 1964 | Archives of Women's Political Communication \(iastate.edu\)](#)

\*\*\*Kwame Alexander (Ed.), *This Is The Honey*, An Anthology of Contemporary Black Poets.

**Spotlight on  
Lunar New Year:**



**This Month's Celebrations:**

- 6th Isra and Mi'raj (Islamic) (Feb 6 - Feb 7)
- 10th Lunar New Year
- 14th Ash Wednesday (Christian)
- 14th Saraswati Puja (Hindu)
- 15th Nirvana Day (Buddhist)
- 16th Magha Puja (Buddhist)
- 19th Presidents Day
- 19th Day of Remembrance (Japanese Incarceration)
- 24th Makha Bucha Day (Buddhist)

**Lunar New Year**

Lunar New Year marks the beginning of the new year and Spring in the lunar (and lunarsolar) calendar.\* Various countries across Asia, including, among others, China, South Korea, and Vietnam celebrate the date with their own differences. This year, the Lunar New Year starts on February 10th. The celebrations are also associated with a zodiac animal, and 2024 is the year of the dragon. "Lunar New Year is spectacular" and it is the main yearly celebration in many Asian cultures.\*\*

In Washington, the Lunar New Year could become a recognized state holiday if bill [HB 2209](#) advances in the legislature. The initiative seeks "to promote inclusion and combat violence targeting Asian Americans." Join us on February 5th (1pm-3pm) to celebrate the date with a cookie decorating contest with International Programs. Can you decorate a "dragon cookie"?

\*[Lunar New Year Celebration - National Museum of Asian Art](#)

\*\*[Lunar New Year Dates & Animals of the Zodiac \(rmg.co.uk\)](#)

**At the Diversity & Equity Center:  
Building a Beloved Community Mindset**

**This Month's celebrations**

February 1st: 12pm to 2pm MLK Celebration

February 5th: 1pm-3pm Lunar New Year Cookie Decorating Contest with the International Program.

February 13th: 1:15pm-2:15pm Valentines with the Hero's - Sexual Health and Healthy Relationships

February 20th: 1:15pm to 3:00pm, CC1-002 - Streaming "Uprooted: The Journey of Jazz Dance."

February 26th: 1:00pm-2:30pm-HAWRC at the Diversity & Equity Center.

February 27th: 1:15pm to 3:30pm - Streaming and discussion of "Crip Camp" with Accessibility Services

February 28th: 1pm-3pm- Streaming "Chisholm '72: Unbought and Unbossed" with the Sustainability Club

**Student Lunch Hour**

Wednesdays and Thursdays @ 12pm-1pm.

**Staff Lunch Hour**

Tuesdays @ 12pm-1pm

**Student Affinity Spaces**

Wednesdays and Thursdays @ 3pm-4pm

**Reading Hour**

Mondays @ 3-4pm

**Cascadia Textbook Donation**

Please consider donating a textbook. Many of our students do not have the means to purchase textbooks before the quarter starts. The delay might impact their ability to complete class readings at the start of the term. Envisioned by Cascadia Scholar and D&E Center Ambassador Silas Lawson, the textbook drive seeks to alleviate the issue.

Books can be donated on CC1-002 or CC1-004 from January 18 to January 31.

## (FREE) COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Black farmers collective [Our Farms – Black Farmers Collective](#)

Black owned business - [Support Black-Owned Businesses and Communities · Seattle Good Business Network](#)

Chinatown Lunar New Year Celebration - February 24 [Lunar New Year Celebration | Seattle Chinatown-International District](#) ([seattlechinatownid.com](#))

Edmonds celebrations - Beloved4all - [Events – Lift Every Voice Legacy - Inspiring a Beloved Community](#) ([beloved4all.org](#))

Bainbridge Island Museum of Art: February 17, 6pm: Black History Soiree [Black History Month Soirée Tickets, Sat, Feb 17, 2024 at 6:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Day of Remembrance - Museum of Exclusion Bainbridge Island [Day of Remembrance: Community Clean-up Day - Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial](#) ([bijaema.org](#))

Henry Art Gallery - [Hank Willis Thomas: LOVERULES - From the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation](#) - Henry Art Gallery .

Northwest African American Museum (NAAM):  
A Conversation with Dr. Doretha Williams on Black family history and genealogy [Northwest African American Museum \(naamnw.org\)](#)  
[NAAM | Iconic Black Women: Ain't I a Woman \(naamnw.org\)](#): Ain't I a Woman by Hiawatha D - celebrating the sacrifices, and accomplishments Black women.  
Historians on Hope - [NAAM | Historians On Hope \(naamnw.org\)](#)

Poetry: [Celebrating Black History Month | Poetry Foundation](#)

Smithsonian History Explorer: [Black History Month | Smithsonian's History Explorer \(si.edu\)](#)

Smithsonian: National Museum of African American History and Culture [History, Rebellion, and Reconciliation | National Museum of African American History and Culture \(si.edu\)](#)

Wing Luke Museum - Japanese American Remembrance Trail Tour [Tour Calendar – Wing Luke Museum](#)