

Black History Daily Doses

INTRODUCTION:

Black History Month was founded 1969 to recognize and celebrate the central role of black people in U.S. History. Though, there is always something more to learn about our prominent and most discussed Black Civil Rights Leaders and Historical Figures (MLK, Rosa Parks, etc.). There are many more that we do not hear much about. The intent of this daily email is share with you the names of some of the lesser known (but no less notable) Black people and highlight important dates in Black History that may also be lesser known but have contributed greatly to our history and modern society. We hope that you enjoy these small doses of history that ideally pack a big punch!

Thank you to Robert Austin and Dr. Tyler Droege for suggesting this wonderful idea and highlighting the importance of knowing our history.

Black History Daily Doses

FEBRUARY 1ST



Thandiwe Abdullah

Raised in a family of black activists, Thandiwe can't even remember her first protest because she was just two to three years old when her mother took her to [a Free the Jena Six rally](#). It wasn't until she was six that she can recall driving up to Oakland, California with her mother to protest the merciless killing of Oscar Grant in 2009. What Thandiwe quickly came to notice was that she and her siblings were some of the only children in these spaces. In 2013 Black Lives Matter movement sprouted in response to the murder of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin. Thandiwe was only 10 years old at the time. About two years later, she created an offshoot of the movement that sought to involve children in activism. "***BLM was founded on the principals of being open to families and the idea that the village raises the child,***" she told *Seventeen*. "***But my siblings and I were essentially the only children that they were raising.***" So, she created the BLM Youth Vanguard. Thandiwe helped introduce the BLM movement into school programs. Thandiwe's work with BLM Youth Vanguard has focused on reducing the role of police in the LA Unified School Districts (LAUSD). They successfully advocated for the reallocation of 25 million dollars away from the LA Schools Police Department toward LAUSD. They also successfully ended random searches in the LAUSD. They are now working on entirely removing school police from campuses.

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FEBRUARY 2ND



August Wilson: Playwright

Born Frederick August Kittel in 1945 to a white German-American father and an African American mother, Wilson took his mother's name in the early 1970s. He grew up in Pittsburgh's ethnically diverse Hill District, where he was surrounded by the sounds, sights and struggles of urban African American life that would later fuel his creative efforts. Today, August Wilson is the winner of multiple Tony Awards and Pulitzer Prizes. He is a critically acclaimed playwright whose works shine a light on the lives of Black families in the 20th century, with all but one set in Pittsburgh. He is best known for a collection of plays known as the *Seminal Cycle* or the *Pittsburgh Cycle* or the *Century Cycle* which include: *Jitney* (1979), *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* (1982), *Fences* (1983), *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* (1984), *The Piano Lesson* (1986), *Two Train Running* (1990), *Seven Guitars* (1995), *King Hedley II* (1999), *Gen of the Ocean* (2003), *Radio Golf* (2005).

In addition to his creative work, Wilson sought to strengthen and promote African American theatre. Wilson was motivated to convene a conference on African American Theater at Dartmouth in 1998. As a result of that meeting and in collaboration with Dartmouth College professors Victor Walker and William Cook, the **African Grove Institute of Arts** was born as a home for African American theatre, and August Wilson serves as chairman of its board of directors. Since, AGIA hosts regional and local seminars throughout the United States with the goal of strengthening African-American theatre companies by helping them identify and overcome artistic and financial problems.

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FEBRUARY 3rd



Tarana Burke

Tarana Burke is a Black activist, community organizer, and creator of the #MeToo movement who helped raise awareness on sexual violence across our society. But Tarana was an activist, community leader and organizer way before she created the #MeToo movement. Starting as a teenager, Tarana led campaigns and launched initiatives around issues like housing inequality, racial discrimination, and economic injustice. Fueled by her passion for activism, she decided to attend Alabama State University, a Historically Black University (HBCU), to further develop her organizing skills. After graduating, she moved to Selma, Alabama to work for 21st Century. While working with this organization, Burke encountered many young women of color that were survivors of sexual violence and abuse. In her position, she began to identify ways to provide these women of color support, resources, and safe spaces to share their stories. Later in her career, as the director of a youth camp, she described a [difficult interaction with a young woman](#) whose story was so painful to hear that Tarana's reaction, although initially regrettable, motivated the creation of this movement.

The #MeToo movement was created in 2006 and at that time focused on bringing resources, support, and pathways to healing to survivors of color of sexual violence where none existed before. In 2017 the #metoo hashtag went viral and woke up the world to the magnitude of the problem of sexual violence. What had begun as local grassroots work had now become a global movement — seemingly overnight.

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FEBRUARY 4th



Albert Sidney Beckham

Albert Sidney Beckham, PhD, is known as the first Black American to hold the title of [school psychologist](#), and the third to receive a PhD in Psychology. He received his bachelor's degree in psychology from Lincoln University under the supervision of Francis Sumner (The father of Black Psychology), then went on to receive a master's degree from Ohio State University. He then joined the military and served his military duties as a war professor of psychology at Wilberforce University. After his service he moved to New York City to begin his doctoral program in psychology, but his studies were interrupted after he chose to take an offer to teach psychology at Howard University. Not only was Beckham the first to teach psychology at Howard University, he taught all psychology courses at the university and established its first psychological lab which provided counseling, intelligence testing and consultations. After 5 years at Howard University, he returned to NYU to complete his PhD in educational psychology. After receipt of his degree, Dr. Beckham accepted a position at the institute of Juvenile Research. During his time, in addition to his clinical services in counseling and vocational/educational assessments, Dr. Beckham became a prolific and distinguished researcher. His work focused on intelligence and behavioral disorders. In particular, he sought to dispel the myth that IQ tests and the prevalence of certain behavioral disorders could "prove" the racial inferiority of African-Americans and other races. In addition, he studied how these inequalities in schools affected children's performance in school and on IQ tests. Contrary to the popular beliefs at the time which endorsed the inherent intellectual inferiority of children of color, Beckham found that the intellectual discrepancies observed in children across races were not due to inherent racial differences, but were a reflection of disparities in how these children were raised and which resources they had access to.

In addition to his research, Dr. Beckham and his wife Dr. Ruth (one of the first American women to complete a doctorate in Psychology) opened one of the first psychological clinics in public schools at DuSable High School, where they sought to counsel, empower, and provide resources to Black students with academic or behavioral disorders. All in all, Beckham was a leader in the fight against "scientific racism" and helped set the stage for future generations of psychologists.

Black History Daily Doses

FEBRUARY 5th



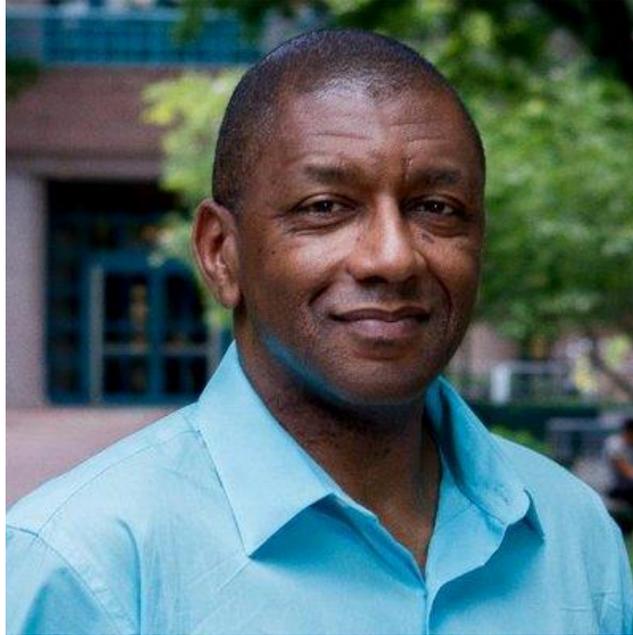
Ibram X. Kendi

Born Ibram Henry Rogers in 1982, he changed his middle name to "Xolani" (meaning "peace" in Zulu), and with his wife, Dr. Sadiqa Kendi, they chose their new last name together and unveiled "Kendi," (meaning "loved one" in Meru) to their family and friends at their wedding in 2013. Dr. Kendi attended Florida A&M University, where he majored in Journalism as he initially aspired for a career in Sports Journalism. However, throughout his undergraduate career, he became increasingly distant from sports journalism and became interested in engaging in racial justice work, and so picked up a second major in African American Studies. He went on to pursue a graduate education and earned a doctoral degree in African American Studies from Temple University. Today, Dr. Kendi is recognized as an award winning historians and renowned scholar. He is prolific writer and his works have awarded him a National Book Award, 5 times New York Times Bestselling author, and the MacArthur Fellowship or "genius Grant." Dr. Kendi's work has focused on recounting America's history with race and racism and reveals (1) how the structure of racism came to be, how it functions, how it has reproduced itself over time, and its lingering effects; and (2) how human beings can overcome divisive and pacifying racist ideas to organize together, take action against racism, and create an equitable and just world for all. In his international bestseller book "How to be an Antiracist," Dr. Kendi explains that in our conversations around racism, [the contract is not between "racist" and "not racist,"](#) but rather between "racist" and "antiracist." He described the use of "not racist" as a term of denial and encourages its removal from our vocabulary and the adoption of the term "antiracist". Antiracist, in contrast to "racist" is not state of being, but rather a process of conscious effort and intentional actions to bring about more socio-political equity.

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FEBRUARY 6th

The Stevenson Brothers: Part 1



Howard C. Stevenson

Dr. Stevenson has served for 30 years as a clinical and consulting psychologist working in impoverished rural and urban neighborhoods across the country. He is a nationally sought expert on how racial stress and racial trauma can affect every stage of life. His work focuses on how educators, community leaders, and parents can emotionally [resolve face-to-face racially stressful encounters](#) that reflect racial profiling in public spaces, fuel social conflicts in neighborhoods, and undermine student emotional well-being and academic achievement in the classroom.

Dr. Howard is the Executive Director of the [Racial Empowerment Collaborative \(RCE\)](#) at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education. The RCE is a research, program development, and training center that brings together different stakeholders to study and promote [racial literacy](#) and health in schools and neighborhoods. One of their current projects is PLAAY (Preventing Long-term Anger and Aggression in Youth), a community centered program developed for youth and parents.

He is considered as one of the top university-based scholars in the U.S. who did the most to shape educational practice and policy. Stevenson is currently the Constance Clayton Professor of Urban Education and Professor of Africana Studies at the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education. He has written numerous peer-reviewed publications, and he is the author of the teaching book [Promoting Racial Literacy in Schools](#).

Black History Daily Doses

FEBRUARY 7th

The Stevenson Brothers: Part 2



Bryan Stevenson

Mr. Bryan Stevenson is an American lawyer, social justice activist who has dedicated his career to helping the poor, the incarcerated and the condemned. He is the [founder/executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative \(EJI\)](#), a human rights organization based in Montgomery Alabama. Mr. Stevenson has argued and won multiple cases at the United States Supreme Court, including a landmark 2012 ruling that banned mandatory life-imprisonment-without-parole sentences for all children 17 or younger and a 2019 ruling protecting condemned prisoners who suffer from dementia. Mr. Stevenson and his staff have won reversals, relief, or release from prison for over 135 [wrongly condemned prisoners](#) on death row and won relief for hundreds of others wrongly convicted or unfairly sentenced. Mr. Stevenson has initiated major new anti-poverty and anti-discrimination efforts that challenge inequality in America. He led the creation of two highly acclaimed cultural sites which opened in 2018: the [Legacy Museum](#) and the [National Memorial for Peace and Justice](#). These new national landmark institutions chronicle the legacy of slavery, lynching, and racial segregation, and the connection to mass incarceration and contemporary issues of racial bias. An HBO documentary "True Justice," follows Mr. Bryan Stevenson and EJI in their struggles for fairness in the justice system. He also wrote a bestseller book, which has been adapted into a movie "Just Mercy," a memoir that recounts his journey as a civil rights attorney.