

Black History Daily Doses

FEBRUARY 15th



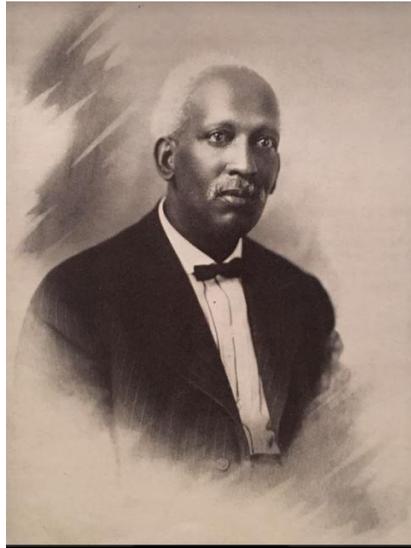
Leah Thomas: Intersectional environmentalism Activist

Leah Thomas (@greengirlleah) is the founder of the Intersectional Environmentalist (@intersectionalenvironmentalist or www.intersectionalenvironmentalist.com), a climate justice community aiming to create inclusion within the environmental activism movement. This began in June 2020, when Thomas posted the graphic "Environmentalists for Black Lives Matter" along with a definition for Intersectional Environmentalism and the following pledge: "with the intention of bringing social justice to the forefront of conversation in environmentalism spaces." Thomas' goal is to center BIPOC and historically-underrepresented voices within the environmental space. She fights to bring awareness of how environmental injustices disproportionately affect marginalized communities and that social injustices are inherently linked to the treatment of our planet. Thomas believes that to be an effective and inclusive environmentalist, one must also be a social and anti-racist advocate. She calls on environmental organizations to diversify membership, for historically white outdoor communities to welcome BIPOC voices, and for low-income and BIPOC people to be less exposed to pollution, heat, and other carcinogens at a disproportionate rate.

Leah believes: "[Intersectional environmentalism] brings injustices done to the most vulnerable communities, and the earth, to the forefront and does not minimize or silence social inequality. Intersectional environmentalism advocates for justice for people + the planet."

Black History Daily Doses

February 16th



Thomas C Unthank

Thomas Unthank was an American physician devoted to improving the standard of medical care for the Black community in Kansas City. In 1898, Unthank graduated from Howard University School of Medicine in Washington DC and moved to Kansas City, MO. He opened Lange Hospital in Kansas City, MO, and co-founded Douglass Hospital, in Kansas City, KS with Dr. S.H. Thompson. In 1903, a flood devastated Kansas City and hospitals were overwhelmed with sick and injured patients. The Convention Hall in downtown Kansas City was used as a makeshift hospital with separate sections for White patients and minority patients. Dr. Unthank was called to serve the one minority section at Convention Hall.

Following the flood, he discovered a newfound motivation to develop a municipal hospital to serve the minority community in Kansas City. Despite ambivalence from city officials and the White medical community, Dr. Unthank overcame the prejudices and indifference by persuading the city to allow him to care for minority patients in the old hospital when White patients were moved to a new facility in 1908. This hospital was renamed General Hospital No. 2 and became the first public hospital in the United States to exclusively serve minority citizens. In 1930, a new hospital was rebuilt to replace the old structure.

Beyond providing medical services and improving healthcare access to the minority community in Kansas City, Dr. Unthank also established a county home for elderly Black citizens as well as a park and recreational area for Black residents in Kansas City. Dr. Unthank died in 1932 and in July 1933, a bust of Dr. Unthank was unveiled in front of General Hospital No. 2, in honor of his lifelong commitment to the Black and minority communities in Kansas City.

Black History Daily Doses

February 17th



Michelle Alexander

Michelle Alexander is an American civil rights lawyer and advocate, legal scholar, and author of *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, bestselling book that transformed the discussion around racial and criminal justice in the United States. In 2005, Alexander won a Soros Justice Fellowship that supported the writing of *The New Jim Crow*, allowing her to accept a joint appointment at the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity and the Moritz College of Law at The Ohio State University. Since its publication in 2010, *The New Jim Crow* has spent nearly 250 weeks on *The New York Times* bestseller list, won numerous awards, including the 2011 NAACP Image Award for best nonfiction, cited in judicial decisions, and empowered a generation of racial justice activists inspired by Alexander's memorable argument: "we have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it."

Alexander is a graduate of Stanford Law School and Vanderbilt University, and taught at several universities, including at Stanford Law School, as an associate professor of law and director of the Civil Rights Clinic. She has clerked for Justice Harry A. Blackmun on the U.S. Supreme Court and for Chief Judge Abner Mikva on the D.C. Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals and engaged in civil rights litigation in both the private and nonprofit sector. It was in her role as director of the Racial Justice Project for the ACLU of Northern California that she launched a major campaign against racial profiling by law enforcement known as the "DWB Campaign (Driving While Black or Brown Campaign)." Currently, she is a visiting professor at Union Theological Seminary in NYC and a contributing opinion writer for *The New York Times*.

Black History Daily Doses

February 18th



Francis Sumner

Francis Sumner was the first African American individual to receive a PhD in psychology in the United States. He has been known as the “father of Black American psychologists” and his career pioneered equality and racial justice in education as well as furthered future generations of Black psychologists.

Sumner was born in December 1895 in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. His parents were deeply concerned with the quality of education available to Black children at the time, so his father developed and implemented a rigorous program of intensive reading and writing assignments. In 1911, 15-year-old Sumner enrolled at Lincoln University. In 1915, he graduated with his bachelor’s degree magna cum laude. He pursued a second bachelor’s degree in English from Clark University in 1916. He returned to Lincoln University as a graduate student and earned his master’s degree in 1917. He then pursued a PhD in psychology from Clark University, but his studies were interrupted by WWI. From 1918-1919, Sumner served in the U.S Army. Sumner returned to Clark University following discharge and received his PhD in psychology in 1920.

In 1928, he accepted a position at Howard University, where he would establish an independent psychology department for the training of Black psychologists. Howard University, like most other historically Black colleges at the time, housed its psychology courses in its education and philosophy departments. However, Sumner believed that an independent psychology department was essential to the strong training of Black psychologists. In 1930, Howard University’s president, Mordecai Johnson, supported Sumner in establishing a psychology department, where he was named both a full professor and head of the department that same year.

Sumner was an active scholar and leader. He led the department for over twenty years and developed a quality program to properly educate and train Black psychology students. Sumner was professionally active, involved in a range of professional organizations, and published numerous articles, despite agencies regularly refusing to fund his research efforts. Sumner suffered a heart attack in January 1954 and buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Black History Daily Doses

February 19th



Alicia Garza

Opal Tometi

Patrisse Cullors

Black Lives Matter Movement Co-founders

In 2013, three Black organizers, Alicia Garza, Opal Tometi, and Patrisse Cullors, founded the Black Lives Matter Movement, in response to the acquittal of Trayvon Martin's murderer, George Zimmerman. The Black-centered political movement now comprises of more than 40 member-led global chapters. The members organize and intervene in violence enacted against Black individuals and communities as well as affirm the humanity of Black folks and bring awareness to their contributions and resilience in the face of oppression and violence. Throughout 2013-2014, the BLM became a platform for groups, organizations, and individuals to highlight anti-Black racism across the country and continue important discussions around violence experienced by Black individuals. The movement focused heavily on the ways in which Black trans women are attacked and violated. Following the 2014 murder of Mike Brown by Ferguson police officer, Darren Wilson, over 600 BLM members gathered in support of the Ferguson and St. Louis community and a national ride was organized for Labor Day weekend, known as the Black Life Matters Ride. Organizers from 18 different cities returned home and developed BLM chapters in their communities, increasing the scope and reach of the political movement that started with work on the ground in St. Louis. The Black Lives Matter Global Network was soon created to support the development of new Black leaders and to as a network of Black people to empower and be empowered.

Black History Daily Doses

February 20th



Morénike Giwa Onaiwu

Morénike Giwa Onaiwu is an American educator, author, and Autism and HIV advocate. She was born in the United States to immigrant parents from Nigeria and Cape Verde. She attended the United States International University in San Diego, where she worked with refugee children and served as a mentor in public schools. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in International Relations, she worked in the non-profit sector serving marginalized populations, including women, at-risk teens, and refugee families.

Giwa Onaiwu has since graduated with a Master's in Special Education from the University of Texas Permian Basin and her career has led her to launch a number of human rights campaigns, focusing on HIV and Autism advocacy. In 2009, she founded the organization, Positive Playdates, to support families affected by HIV. In 2014, the organization developed into Advocacy Without Borders in support of community activists. She has served as the chair of the Autism and Race Committee for the Autistic Women's Network from 2014 to 2020, co-chair of the Women's HIV Research Collaborative and the ACTG Community Scientific Committee elected representative to the international cross-network Community Partners Working Group, and as executive and advisory board members for several different organizations.

Beyond organizational contributions, she has been featured in the Simons Foundation's Spectrum alongside two other women to speak on their individual experiences as autistic women. She has spoken at functions to raise awareness and advocate for marginalized communities, including people of color, abuse survivors, and disabled people, including autistic girls and women of color. She is also an editor and author of several publications. She has multiple adopted and biological children, two of whom are autistic.

Black History Daily Doses

February 21st



Cheryl Dorsey

Sgt. Dorsey, a 20-year veteran of the L.A.P.D and a mother of four sons, is a police expert and a social justice advocate highlighting criminal, social, or public policy injustices affecting marginalized communities across the United States. She focuses on exposing social and systemic disparities while providing strategies and commentary to empower individuals and communities to navigate and change the system.

Dorsey is a Los Angeles native, who was raised in middle-class South-Central LA. She witnessed “white flight” transform her neighborhood due to increasing gang activity from the Crips and the Bloods. She began a career in law enforcement in 1978 with the State of California, Department of Justice.

In 1980, she joined the Los Angeles Police Department where she worked exclusively in patrol and specialized units within the City of Los Angeles. In addition to patrol division assignments, Sgt. Dorsey worked traffic division, Newton Area vice, and the gang unit in Operations South Bureau, known as Community Resources Against Street Hoodlums (C.R.A.S.H) for the next twenty years of her career, allowing her to be a credible and relevant voice to social justice advocacy.

Black History Daily Doses

February 22nd



Indya Moore

Indya Moore is an American actor and model. Indya identifies as transgender and non-binary and uses both they/them and she/her pronouns. Assigned male at birth, Indya left their parents' home and entered into foster care at 14-years-old due to transphobia. After experiencing frequent relocations and bullying, Moore dropped out of high school at 15-years-old and eventually received their GED. Moore became a model for Dior and Gucci at 15-years-old, despite the fashion industry's initial concern.

Even though they were booking modeling gigs, Moore became increasingly disenchanted with the fashion industry and its emphasis on body image. They met Jose Gutierrez Xtravaganza, legendary dancer, who encouraged them to pursue acting and to audition for the independent film, *Saturday Church*. In 2017, Moore walked in New York Fashion Week and was photographed for *Vogue España*. That year, Moore appeared in Katy Perry's music video for the single "Swish Swish" and performed live with Perry on the May 20, 2017 episode of *Saturday Night Live*, where they were credited as a member of the House of Xtravaganza.

Moore was then cast in *Pose*, Ryan Murphy's FX television series. The series premiered in June 2018 and attracted critical acclaim. The first season boasted the largest cast of transgender actors ever for a scripted network series with over 50 transgender characters. That same year (2018), Moore signed a contract with IMG Models and William Morris Endeavor (WME) and became WME's first signed contract with a trans actor. Moore started the production company, Beetlefruit Media, providing a platform for stories about disenfranchised groups. In 2019, Moore became the first transgender person to be featured on the cover of the U.S version of *Elle* magazine. In honor of the first LGBTQ Pride parade, Queerty named Moore among the fifty heroes "leading the nation toward equality, acceptance, and dignity for all people," in June 2020.

Black History Daily Doses

February 23rd



Kimberlé Crenshaw

Kimberlé Crenshaw is a scholar, civil rights advocate, and writer on civil rights, critical race theory, Black feminist legal theory, and race, racism, and the law. In addition to her faculty position at Columbia Law School, she is also a Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of California, Los Angeles and serves on the Committee on Law and Justice of the National Academies of Science. Crenshaw has been foundational in critical race theory and intersectionality, a term that she coined to describe the experience of simultaneous racial and gender prejudice.

She authored the background paper on race and gender discrimination for the United Nations' World Conference on Racism in 2001, served as the rapporteur for the conference's expert group on gender and race discrimination, and coordinated NGO efforts to ensure the inclusion of gender in the WCAR Conference Declaration. She co-founded the Columbia Law School African American Policy Forum (AAPF) and co-authored *Say Her Name: Resisting Police Brutality Against Black Women* with Andrea Ritchie, which documented the killing of Black women and girls by police. The #SayHerName campaign was subsequently launched by Crenshaw and AAPF.

Crenshaw is also highly regarded for her speaking engagements and trainings. She has hosted workshops for human rights activists in Brazil and India and for constitutional court judges in South Africa and is the founding coordinator of the Critical Race Theory workshop. Additionally, Crenshaw co-authored *Black Girls Matter: Pushed Out, Overpoliced, and Underprotected*, and her writings has been found in *the Harvard Law Review*, the *National Black Law Journal*, the *Stanford Law Review*, and the *Southern California Law Review*. Crenshaw writes regularly for *The New Republic*, *The Nation*, and *Ms.* and provides commentary for media outlets, including MSNBC and NPR, and hosts the podcast *Intersectionality Matters!* Crenshaw's groundbreaking work on intersectionality was influential in the drafting of the equality clause in the South African Constitution.