



EDI FLASH

February/March 2023

Tre's goal in producing the EDI Flash is to highlight the significance of the heritage or history months throughout the year, provide some historical information that helps to deepen our understanding of our shared history, and provide resources for everyone to engage in.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The genesis of Black History Month begins in Chicago 1915, half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States. Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) on September 9, 1915, along with prominent minister Jesse E. Moorland. The ASNLH better known today as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) whose mission is researching and promoting the achievements of Black Americans and other people of African descent. Under the leadership of Dr. Woodson, often regarded as the "father of Black History" the ASNLH established the Journal of Negro History (1916) and the Negro History Bulletin (1937) both were instrumental in the proliferation of access to Black History.

On February 7, 1926, Dr. Woodson launched the celebration of Negro History Week, which would later become what we know today as Black History Month. Dr. Woodson selected the second week of February encompassing the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas which fell on the 12th and 14th, respectively.



"Perhaps the greatest single accomplishment of the
Black artists movement of the 1920"

W.E.B. Duboise (1940s)

As racial pride and consciousness rose in the 1920s, Negro History Week coincided with the birth of the New Negro generation after World War I. Urged by the increase demand and at the behest of Mary McLeod Bethune, the first female president of the Association for the Study of African America Life and History (ASALH). Dr. Woodson established the Negro Bulletin, which selected an annual theme and was dedicated to highlighting everyday people especially teachers and young students.

Black populations increased the ensuing decades, mayors issued Negro History Weeks proclamations, and progressive whites joined Negro History Week with the National Brotherhood Week in cities like Syracuse. During the late 1960s, the Civils Rights Movement, growing awareness of Black identity, and Negro History Week evolved into Black History Month recognize by President Gerarld R. Ford in 1976.

Since then, following the tradition of the Negro Bulletin, every American president designated February as Black History Month and endorsed a specific theme. The 2023 theme, "Black Resistance" marks the 47th anniversary of Black History Month.

- Read more about this year's theme for Black History Month from [United States Census Bureau](#).
- Read more about the origins of Black History from [ASALH: Association for the Study of African American Life and History](#).
- Read more about the contributions of legacy of African Americans at [The New York Times](#).
- Discover the meaning behind the colors that represent Black History [here](#).



Celebrating Women's History Month



March marks Women's History Month. Throughout Women's History Month, we honor and celebrate the struggles and achievements of women throughout American history, culture, and society. In addition, though Congress has devoted one month each year to honor women's sacrifices towards achieving a more just and fair future for all. Women's History is a year-round event to be celebrated.

Women's History Day was celebrated in New York City on February 28, 1909, by socialists and suffragists in recognition of the women who participated in the 1908 garment workers' strike in the city. Many of the 15,000 women in the garment worker's strike who marched through New York City; Lower East Side to protests in Union Square were European immigrant who demanded better wages, voting rights, and working condition for the workers. Their efforts sparked growing protests that would later culminate in the "Uprising of the 20,000," in 1909, a weeks long strike which called for better working conditions and higher wages.

Inspired by the New York women garment workers' strike and the role of women socialists, German activist Clara Zetkin, in March 1910 proposed what would become International Women's Day during the Second International Socialist Women's Conference in Copenhagen. International Women's Day would highlight the struggle and sacrifices for equal rights for women and their continued fight for suffrage. March 8, 1910, marked the beginning of International Women's Day following the conference, International Women's Day celebrations took place throughout Europe including countries such as Denmark, Austria, Germany, and Switzerland. With the wave of International Women's Day growing, women in American were mobilizing to bring attention to the significant contribution women have made to society. During the 1970's, The Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women initiated a Women's History Week celebration in 1987. A week dedicated to women's history was declared by President Jimmy Carter on March 8, 1980. By 1987, Congress designated March as Women's History Month.

- The [National Women's History Alliance](#) designates a yearly theme for Women's History Month. This year's theme is "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories." Learn more [here](#).