

# Celebrating Black History Month

## ART EXHIBITS

### Celebrating Black History Month • February 1-29

#### CENTRAL LIBRARY

100 Years of Service  
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority  
North Entry

#### HASTINGS BRANCH

Observations in Black – A Pictorial Celebration of Black History Month  
Featuring the photography of Alfred Haymond.  
Reception • Thursday, Feb. 6 • 6-8 p.m.

#### Pasadena African-American Genealogy Group

Search out your heritage and recover the past with this dynamic genealogy group.

Saturday, Feb. 1 • 2:30-5:30 p.m. • Lamanda Park Branch

#### “Phunny Business: A Black Comedy”

What do you get when you mix comedy, race and politics? Producer, writer and director John Davies introduces a screening of “Phunny Business: A Black Comedy,” a fast-talking, sharp-witted documentary which chronicles the rise and fall of All Jokes Aside, Chicago’s first black-owned comedy club. This mostly unheralded “star factory” impacted American pop culture in a huge way, giving early exposure to major talents like Steve Harvey, Dave Chappelle, Chris Rock, Jamie Foxx, Mo’Nique, Bernie Mac and more.

Saturday, Feb. 15 • 2 p.m. • Allendale Branch

#### Talking Drums

Storyteller Ina Buckner-Barnette presents African and African-American historical stories, folktales, poetry and songs to celebrate Black History Month.

Tuesday, Feb. 18 • 1-1:45 p.m. • La Pintoresca Branch

#### Negro Leagues Centennial Presentation

Co-founder and current board member of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, author and historian Phil S. Dixon will discuss the history of the Negro Leagues. Dixon will also sign copies of his books, *The Dizzy and Daffy Dean Barnstorming Tour: Race, Media and American’s National Pastime* and *Wilber “Bullet” Rogan and the Kansas City Monarchs*.

Saturday, Feb. 22 • 2-4 p.m. • La Pintoresca Branch

#### Jazz Concert Celebrating Black History Month

Jazz duo Calvin Chiang and Sean Kendir perform a selection of jazz compositions by African-American composers.

Saturday, Feb. 22 • 3:30 p.m. • Hill Avenue Branch

#### All Power to the People

Black Panther Party members Henry “Hank” Jones and Gene Washington will speak on the misunderstood history of the Black Panther movement and the free programs they provided benefitting local communities. Both have been fighters for social justice, civil and human rights for most of their lives, establishing social, educational and health care programs in the community for seniors, adults, families and youth. Jones joined the Black Panther Party for Self Defense (original name) in 1967. Washington joined in 1970.

Tuesday, Feb. 25 • 3:30 p.m. • Hastings Branch

#### Tween Book Club Discusses One Crazy Summer

Celebrate Black History Month by reading and discussing *One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams Garcia. The novel is about three sisters visiting their mother in Oakland, California, and attending a day camp run by the Black Panthers during the summer of 1968.

For ages 9-13. To sign up, call (626) 744-7262.

Tuesday, Feb. 25 • 4:30 p.m. • Hastings Branch

#### Chocolate Storytime: Tales & Treats for Children

Join us for an afternoon of storytelling and village building, featuring stories authored by and/or about African-Americans, read by Dr. Aysha Randall. Have fun, make new friends and enjoy crafts. For ages 3+.

Friday, Feb. 28 • 4 p.m. • La Pintoresca Branch

#### Black History Festival

Saturday, Feb. 29 • Central Library/Donald Wright Auditorium

1 p.m. • Partners to History: Martin Luther King, Ralph David Abernathy & the Civil Rights Movement

Donzaleigh Abernathy, daughter of the Rev. Ralph Abernathy will discuss her book, *Partners to History*, a tribute and testament to the courage, strength, and endurance of Martin Luther King, Ralph David Abernathy and those involved in the Civil Rights Movement. Men who stirred a nation with their moral fortitude.

#### 2:30 p.m. • African American Poetry

The Pasadena Rose Poets present African American Poetry from our ancestors, present-day icons, and from their new book, *Pasadena Rose Poets Poetry Collection 2019: Reflection. Resistance. Reckoning. Resurrection*. Presented by Gerda Govine, Hazel Clayton Harrison, Toni Mosley, Carla Sameth and Annette Won.

#### 3:30 p.m. • 200 Years of Black Pioneers in Pasadena and Los Angeles

Many people don’t realize how deep the roots the African American community has in Southern California. This talk explores the stories, some little known, of half a dozen pioneering, local, individuals and communities:

- The Pobladores, the original 1781 settlers of the Pueblo of Los Angeles, over half of whom had some African blood.
- Pio Pico, the last Mexican governor of California, of African and Mestizo ancestry.
- Bidy Mason, a midwife, who went from newly freed slave to one of the largest commercial landowners in Los Angeles within 20 years.
- The original African American settlers of Pasadena, who quickly formed a vibrant, tightly knit, community here by the early 1900s.
- Paul R. Williams, the first licensed African American architect west of the Mississippi, who built almost a thousand buildings throughout Los Angeles, including in and around Pasadena, among them mansions for stars such as Frank Sinatra, Lucille Ball, and Barbara Stanwyck.
- Jackie Robinson, who starred in four sports at John Muir High School, PCC, and UCLA, and went on to become the first African American player in major league baseball.

Presented by Dave Nufer, a program developer, researcher, and docent for Pasadena Heritage and The LA Conservancy. He has previously given talks at the library on “Hispanic Influences on California Architecture,” and “The Asian Roots of Pasadena’s Arts and Crafts Architecture.”



#### A Conversation with Lynell George

Los Angeles-based journalist and essayist Lynell George will share her insights on Los Angeles and sign copies of her new book *After Image: Los Angeles Outside the Frame*, a collection of her essays, evocative photographs, profiles and reportage focused on her native city.

Saturday, Feb. 29 • 2 p.m. • Allendale Branch



All Pasadena Public Library programs and events listed in this newsletter are free and open to the public.

Our programs and events are extremely popular. Space is limited and registration may be required. Check program and event listings for details.