

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY ®

**CELEBRATE
BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

ALL MONTH LONG IN

February

Montgomery College Celebrates Black History Month 2026

A Century of Black History Commemorations

◆ 1926–2026: Honoring 100 Years of Legacy, Leadership, and Liberation

In 2026, we commemorate a landmark moment: **100 years since the founding of Negro History Week**, the precursor to today's Black History Month. This pivotal observance began in 1926, thanks to the visionary work of **Dr. Carter G. Woodson** and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), now known as the **Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)**.

Dr. Woodson, along with fellow scholars and civic leaders including George Cleveland Hall, William D. Hartgrove, Jesse E. Moorland, Alexander L. Jackson, and James E. Stamps, believed that history was a tool of empowerment. At a time when Black people were erased or misrepresented in textbooks and public life, their mission was revolutionary: to **research, preserve, and honor the central role of Black people** in American and world history.

Negro History Week was intentionally placed in **February** to coincide with the birthdays of **Frederick Douglass** and **Abraham Lincoln**, two figures deeply respected in Black communities. However, this was never meant to be symbolic. It was a **nationwide educational movement**—mobilizing schools, churches, newspapers, and community groups to affirm the dignity, leadership, and creativity of Black people.

Over the decades, this initiative evolved. Driven by the energy of educators, students, and civil rights activists, it grew into **Black History Month**, formally recognized by **President Gerald R. Ford in 1976**, and later codified by Congress in 1986.

Today, Black History Month is embraced globally—in classrooms, museums, libraries, workplaces, and communities—because of those who refused to let Black stories be forgotten. Their work lives on through us.

“The American Negro must remake his past in order to make his future.”
— Arturo Schomburg

This month, as we reflect on a **century of Black history commemorations**, we carry forward the work of remembrance, education, and justice. Join Montgomery College in celebrating a living legacy.

FEATURED EVENTS

Opening Address: Dr. Jermaine F. Williams

February 3 | 12–1 PM | Virtual

Kick off Black History Month with a powerful message from **President Jermaine F. Williams**, reflecting on this year's national theme and the importance of honoring history with purpose.

 [Register Here](#)

Cooking with Chef Jerome Grant

February 10 | 1–3 PM | Hybrid (In-Person & Zoom)

Taste, learn, and connect through the stories and flavors of African American heritage. Chef Jerome Grant brings history alive through food in this delicious and immersive experience.

 [Register Here](#)

The Divine Nine: Leadership in Motion

February 12 | 1–2 PM | Virtual

A vibrant panel with members of the **Divine Nine** explores the impact of Black Greek-letter organizations on civil rights, education, and leadership.

 [Register Here](#)

Employee Massage Therapy

February 17 | 10 AM–2 PM | CT Building – S108

Take time to recharge! A special event to appreciate our hardworking staff.

Wellness registration & waiver required. Waivers will be available at the event, however, Wellness registration is required beforehand.

Film Screening: *Ain't No Back to a Merry-Go-Round*

February 19 | 5–8 PM | In Person

Join us for a screening of *Ain't No Back To A Merry-Go-Round*, a documentary that explores the 1960 alliance between Howard University students and Jewish community members fighting for the integration of the Glen Echo Amusement Park. With never-before seen footage and immersive storytelling by Emmy-award winning director Ilana Trachtman, four

living protesters share this little-known story, revealing how Black and Jewish activists collaborated during the Civil Rights Movement. A panel discussion with Trachtman and Glen Echo Park protestor Tina Clarke will follow the screening.

[• Register Here](#)



Our Words, Our Worlds: Honoring Black Women's Voices

February 25 | 12:30–1:45 PM | Germantown Campus

An artistic and poetic journey celebrating the contributions of Black women through storytelling and historical reflection.

Details forthcoming.

EXPLORE BLACK HISTORY EVERY DAY

- [Montgomery County Guide to Events](#)
- [MC Library: Resource Guide](#)
- [The African American Experience](#)
- [Black Thought and Culture](#)
- [Oxford African American Studies Center](#)
- [Smithsonian NMAAHC – Stories](#)

NATIONAL EVENTS FROM ASALH

Join ASALH in celebrating this centennial year through national programs, lectures, and convenings:

- [2026 National Convening](#)
- [Justice & Reconciliation Program](#)
- [A Labor of Freedom](#)
- [Book Prize Event](#)
- [State of Historical Preservation](#)
- [Annual Luncheon & Author Book Signing](#)

CONTINUING THE LEGACY

This month and always, **Montgomery College proudly stands with the Black community** in honoring the past, educating the present, and building toward a just future.

Let's make **Black History Month 2026** unforgettable.
Let's commemorate. Let's reflect. Let's celebrate — together.