

Black History Month

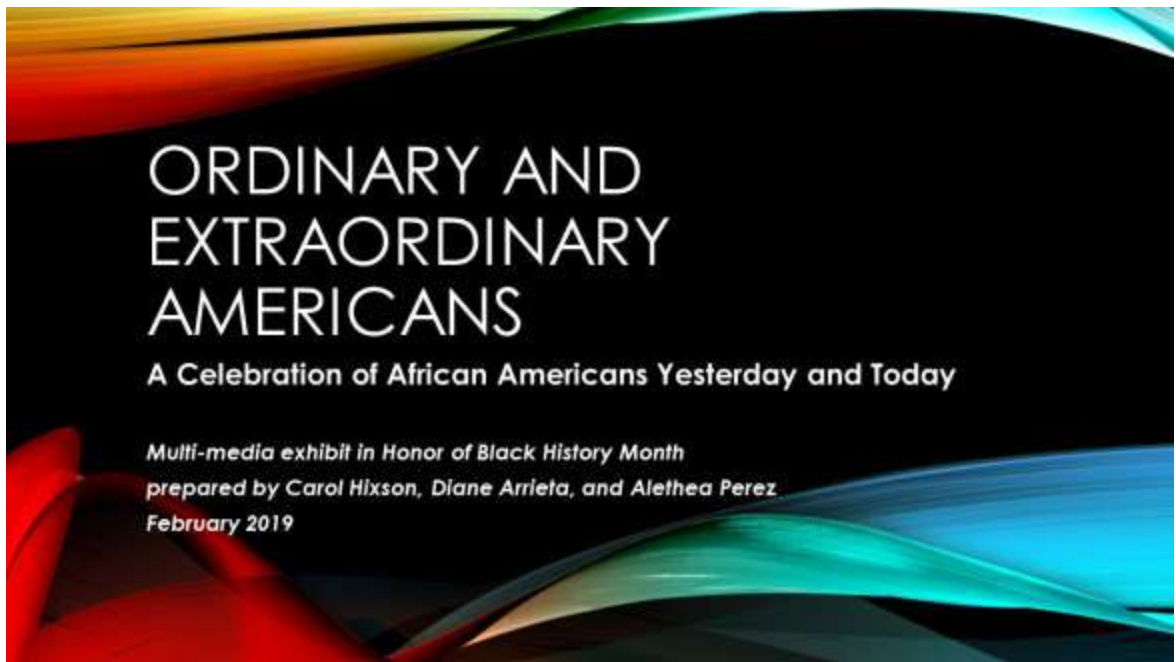
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<https://faulibrarydean.wordpress.com/2019/02/05/black-history-month-2/>

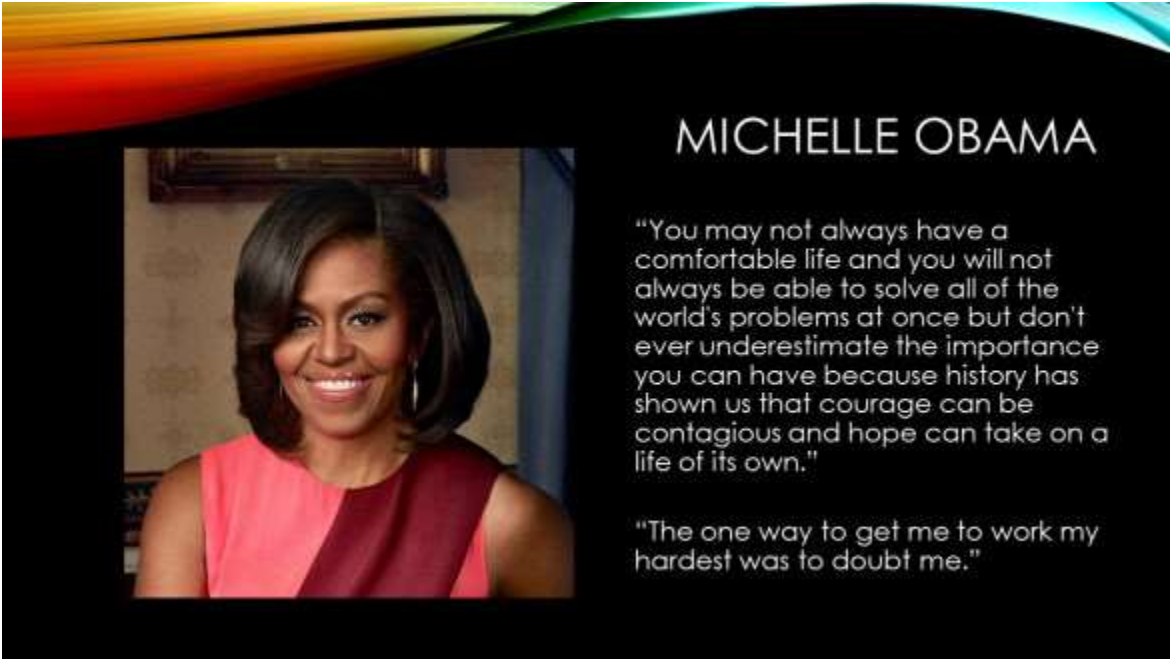


February is Black History Month in the United States. The origins of this monthly celebration and commemoration lie with Dr. Carter G. Woodson. As explained on the website of the [Association for the Study of African American Life and History](#), in 1915 Dr. Woodson "traveled from Washington, D.C. to participate in a national celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of emancipation sponsored by the state of Illinois. Thousands of African Americans travelled from across the country to see exhibits highlighting the progress their people had made since the destruction of slavery... Despite being held at the Coliseum, the site of the 1912 Republican convention, an overflow crowd of six to twelve thousand waited outside for their turn to view the exhibits. Inspired by the three-week celebration, Woodson decided to form an organization to promote the scientific study of black life and history ,,, and formed the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH)." After decades of celebrating with a week of exhibits and events every February, "In 1976, fifty years after the first celebration, the Association used its influence to institutionalize the shifts from a week to a month and from Negro history to black history."

The FAU Libraries, both at the Wimberly Library in Boca Raton and the MacArthur Library in Jupiter, have mounted a multi-media exhibit celebrating the contributions of just a small selection of the "Ordinary and Extraordinary Americans" who have contributed so much to the history and culture of the United States.



The title of the exhibit was inspired by a quotation from the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama, who said, "A change is brought about because ordinary people do extraordinary things." We selected thirty-two of these extraordinary African-Americans to feature in this year's exhibit, from the past and the present and from all walks of life, ranging from President Barack Obama and former First Lady Michelle Obama,



to celebrated artists and writers, like Faith Ringgold, James Baldwin, and Octavia Butler

A color portrait of Faith Ringgold, an African American woman with long braided hair, wearing glasses and a necklace of orange beads. She is smiling slightly.

FAITH RINGGOLD

"I had something I was trying to say and sometimes the message is an easy transmission and sometimes it's a difficult one but I love the power of saying it so I'm gonna do it whether it's hard or easy."

"You can't sit around and wait for somebody to say who you are. You need to write it and paint it and do it"

to politicians, past and present, such as John Lewis, Shirley Chisholm, and Kamala Harris


A black and white portrait of Shirley Chisholm, an African American woman with a short, curly afro hairstyle, wearing glasses and a patterned blouse. She is smiling and resting her chin on her hand.

SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

"When morality comes up against profit, it is seldom that profit loses."

"The emotional, sexual, and psychological stereotyping of females begins when the doctor says: "It's a girl."

to some of the legends of the Civil Rights Movement like Jesse Jackson and Julian Bond



JULIAN BOND

"The humanity of all Americans is diminished when any group is denied rights granted to others."

"Violence is black children going to school for 12 years and receiving 6 years' worth of education."

to sports

icons and leaders like Muhammad Ali, Colin Kaepernick, and Serena Williams




COLIN Kaepernick

"People don't realize what's really going on in this country. There are a lot of things that are going on that are unjust. People aren't being held accountable for. And that's something that needs to change. That's something that this country stands for: freedom, liberty and justice for all."

"Most people don't want to change. They're comfortable and set in their ways. But in order to change, you have to be able to agitate people at times. And I think that's something that's very necessary for us to improve as a country."

to scientists and explorers like Neil deGrasse Tyson and astronaut Mae Jemison




MAE C. JEMISON

"Never limit yourself because of others' limited imagination; never limit others because of your own limited imagination."

"What we find is that if you have a goal that is very, very far out, and you approach it in little steps, you start to get there faster. Your mind opens up to the possibilities."

to musical geniuses like Jimi Hendrix, Marian Anderson, Beyoncé, and Don Shirley.



JIMI HENDRIX

"When the power of love overcomes the love of power the world will know peace."

"To be with the others, you have to have your hair short and wear ties. So we're trying to make a third world happen, you know what I mean?"

To see all the featured people, come by and experience the exhibit featuring items from our collections, look at the slideshow, listen to music or the speech of Julian Bond at the listening station, or pick up a button featuring one of your personal heroes. Check out their inspiring words and "make a difference about something other than yourselves."

TONI MORRISON



"If you're going to hold someone down you're going to have to hold on by the other end of the chain. You are confined by your own repression."

"Make a difference about something other than yourselves."