

The Evangel

Special Supplement in celebration of African American History Month

E M M A N U E L L U T H E R A N C H U R C H



This is a special supplement in celebration of African American History Month. I hope you enjoy this special issue of The Evangel, Emmanuel! As a people, African Americans have contributed much in the way of literature, theatre, sports, entrepreneurship, the sciences and music; these are but a few areas where we have made lasting and significant contributions.

The purpose of this special supplement to the February newsletter is to be informative, inspiration and above all educational. Some of the information presented in this supplement may be news to some and familiar to others but the purpose is to remind us how far we have come as a people..

I have also included an events calendar of African American History celebrations to attend around Atlanta. The month may be half over but there is still time to celebrate the end of the month in style.

Go Emmanuel and celebrate!



African American History Facts



Nichelle Nichols is an African American actress who may not have the resume of Halle Berry but she is known for her work on a then little known show called Star Trek. She appeared on this 60s television show in a co-starring role. Ms Nichols wanted to leave the show because she felt that her part was not significant enough. Apparently after having a conversation with Dr Martin Luther King Jr., she was convinced to remain on the show by Dr King who was a fan of the television series. He felt it was important for people to see an African American woman in a part on a major television series portrayed in a positive role. I think she made the right decision to stay with the show. Nichelle Nichols went on to star three years on the show, starred in six Star Trek movies and has been a fixture at numerous Star Trek conventions. Although Ms Nichols' part was fiction, she influenced a young girl by the name of Mae Jemison who later became the first African American woman to travel in space. It is said truth is stranger than fiction ; ironically Mae Jemison the first woman in space and a fan of Star Trek was convinced to suit up and do a cameo role on Star Trek : The Next Generation!



Shani Davis, Vonetta Flowers and Dr Debi Thomas are African American athletes who all have something in common – they have all won medals in the Winter Olympic games. Shani Davis won gold and silver medals in speed skating in the 2006 Olympics held in Turin, Italy and he was the first American speed skater to successfully defend his gold medal winning performance at the next Olympics held in 2010 in Vancouver. Vonetta Flowers won her gold medal in the Winter Olympics held in 2002 at Salt Lake City in the two woman bobsled event. She was the first African American to win a gold medal in the Winter Olympic games. Dr Debi Thomas became a doctor in her post Olympic career. Before she became a doctor, Debi Thomas became the first African American to win an Olympic medal in the Winter Olympics. She took home the bronze medal in figure skating back in 1988. African Americans have often excelled in the Olympic games of Summer but we have these Olympians to thank for African American success stories in the Winter sports. We also can't ignore history being made in our own backyard. Ice hockey is a popular sport featured in the Winter Olympic games. Currently, the Atlanta Thrashers, our own professional hockey team counts on its team roster four African American players : Johnny Oduya, Dustin Byfuglien, Evander Kane and Anthony Stewart! According to the website of the Atlanta Thrashers, our hockey team has 20% of the African Americans currently playing in the National Hockey League, more than any other team in the league.

African American History Facts



Kasi Lemmons is known for her work writing and directing a major feature film which was one of the entries at the Toronto Film Festival in 1997. The title of the film was *Eve's Bayou* and although it received strong reviews from mainstream critics in Hollywood, it was not recognized by Oscar. The film stands on its own as a strong project from a first time African American female writer/director. Samuel L. Jackson was so committed to the project, not only was he one of the stars of the film, he came on board the project as the film's producer.



Before Venus and Serena Williams there was the American Tennis Association (not to be confused with the United States Tennis Association). The ATA is the oldest African American sports organization in the United States. It was founded in Washington, D. C. on the 30th of November in 1916 by a group of African American businessmen, college professors and physicians as the black equivalent of the then whites-only United States Lawn Tennis Association. The purpose of the organization was to promote tennis as a sport for African Americans. When it was founded, it was the governing body for the African Americans who were playing tennis at that time for recreation on college campuses and among African American business professionals. Later those playing under the organization turned serious and began to hold championships and competitions on a regular basis. This organization is still in existence to this day and has expanded to welcome tennis players of all backgrounds,



John Singleton has a unique distinction in Academy Award nominations. He is the first African American nominated for an Oscar for best director. He is also the youngest at the age of 24 in Academy Award history to be nominated for an Oscar in the best director category. Mr. Singleton received his Oscar nomination for **Boys n the Hood**, his first film in 1992

African American History Facts



Everyone knows the part Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. played in the civil rights movement in Birmingham, Alabama but it was a minister by the name of Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth who started the movement. Rev Shuttlesworth enlisted the help of Dr King when he encountered resistance. Rev. Shuttlesworth was one of the co-founders of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and his statue is the one that appears in front of The Civil Rights Museum in Birmingham, Alabama. The Birmingham airport has been renamed Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport. Rev. Shuttlesworth also lent his aid to the civil rights movement in St Augustine, Florida and also in Selma, Alabama. His efforts in Selma led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1964.



Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson is a Harvard educated astrophysicist who has distinguished himself in the work he has done in his field. Dr Tyson is the author of many popular books in the field of astrophysics and the sciences. He has won many awards, is the holder of thirteen honorary doctorate degrees and has received numerous honors for his work. He is a regular on The Tonight Show, Late Night with Conan O'Brien, Late Night with Jimmy Fallon, The Colbert Report and The Daily Show with Jon Stewart. Dr Tyson is passionate about his subject. He has also been the host of a show on PBS entitled **Nova scienceNOW**. Dr Tyson is not a total science "geek", however. In 2000, People magazine named him the sexiest astrophysicist alive!



Dr. Henry Louis Gates was educated at Yale and Cambridge University. He is a literary critic, educator, scholar, writer and editor. He has the distinction of being the first African American to receive the prestigious Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellowship. He is the recipient of numerous honorary degrees and awards for his teaching. He is responsible for the development of programs for academic institutions to study African American culture. He hosted the PBS miniseries **African American Lives** which explored the genealogy of prominent African Americans. Dr Gates sits on the boards of many notable arts, cultural and research institutions. Dr Gates serves in the capacity of Alphonse Fletcher University Professor at Harvard University, where he is the director of the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research.

African American History Facts



Terence Blanchard is an American jazz trumpeter, bandleader, composer, arranger and film score composer. He started out with the Lionel Hampton Orchestra and Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers. He has been a leading artist in jazz music and has experimented with an African-fusion style of playing the trumpet that has made him unique among trumpet players. It is as a film composer that Terence Blanchard has reached his widest audience. His trumpet can be heard on fifty film scores and more than forty of these scores feature his unmistakable compositional style. Since 2000, Blanchard has served as the Artistic Director at the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz. Mr. Blanchard has been nominated for Grammy awards twelve times and has won five. Among the many movies he's composed scores for is *Mo Better Blues*, *Do the Right Thing* and *Malcolm X* among others. He also worked with the aforementioned Kasi Lemmons on the music score for her film, *Eve's Bayou*.



Madam C. J. Walker was an African American businesswoman, hair care entrepreneur and philanthropist. She made her fortune in the development and marketing of a line of beauty and hair care products for black women. She was the founder of the Madam C. J. Walker Manufacturing Company. Madam Walker experimented with home remedies until she developed a shampoo and ointment that contained the ingredient sulphur which made the scalp healthy for hair growth. Her product was well received and Madam Walker sold her product door to door. Madam Walker also taught and trained other black women to aid them in starting their own businesses. She donated money throughout her career to the NAACP, the YMCA, and to black schools, organizations, individuals, orphanages and retirement homes. She moved to a New York estate, Villa Lewaro (which is still standing today) which was designed by Vertner Tandy who was the first licensed black architect in New York. At the time, the house cost \$250,000 to build. At her death from complications of hypertension, she was considered to be the wealthiest African American woman in America. She is considered to be the first self-made female American millionaire as well as the first female African American self-made millionaire.



Events around town

UniverSoul Circus

The Circus is in town! The tour started on the 10th of February but will be in town until February the 27th. Tickets are now on sale! The circus is held at the Turner Field Green Lot on 521 Capitol Avenue. For tickets please visit www.ticketmaster.com. Groups of 20 or more should contact the Group Sales department at 1-800-316-7439 for more information. To find out more about the tour, please visit www.universoul.com for more information.

Atlanta Thrashers

Have you ever been to a live hockey game? Now may be the time to go! You can see our historic hockey team which currently has more African American players on the team than any team in the National Hockey League. The Thrashers play at Phillips Arena and have eleven games on the schedule for February. There are five more games left in this month. Visit the website of the Atlanta Thrashers at <http://thrashers.nhl.com/> for more information. If you can't make a game before the end of February, hockey season goes on through April, with the last game on the 10th of April. Go out and support our players of color! There is also a link on the Thrashers website where you can listen to a game live. Check it out!

Madam C. J. Walker

Theatre South Atlanta, Inc., presents "MADAM", the life of C. J. Walker told in song and dance. Performances began on the 10th of February every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The show will run until the 27th of February. A group of us from Emmanuel went to the performance held on the 10th of February and it was a treat! The performances are held in the Porter Sanford III Performing Arts and Community Center and the address for the theatre is 3181 Rainbow Drive in Decatur, Georgia. To contact the Theatre for ticket information, call 404.286.7264



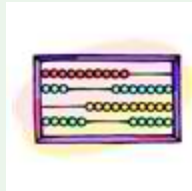
More Events Around Town

The Art of Zachariah Anderson : Black History is World History

The dates for this exhibit are January 6, 2011–February 25, 2011 at the Auburn Avenue Research Library in downtown Atlanta. The library is located on historic Auburn Avenue. This exhibit is an artistic homage to the global contributions of black people to the modern world. The display will be in the Heritage Education Center Auditorium Gallery on the 4th floor. Please visit <http://www.afpls.org/events-aarl> for more details. This link also provides details for the events listed below, also held at the Auburn Avenue Research Library.

African Origins of Writing and Mathematics

Award winning educator Chike Akua will discuss the role of authentic cultural awareness in the academic achievement and character development of African American children and young adults. This event is also being held at the Auburn Avenue Research Library, Saturday the 19th of February at 2:00 pm in the afternoon. Parking is free on the premises.



Burial for a King

Author Rebecca Burns will discuss her latest publication, *Burial for a King*, the story of seven days that changed the country. This book touches on the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., America's shifting attitude towards race and the emergence of Atlanta as a new kind of southern city. This event will be on the 24th of February, Thursday evening at 7:00 pm at the Auburn Avenue Research Library.

Later in the month, Dr. Larry H. Spruill, Assistant Professor of History at Morehouse College, will discuss his latest publication, *Ancestral Beginnings, Diasporas and Genealogy*. This event will be held at 3:00 pm on the 27th of February also at the Auburn Avenue Research Library.

If you haven't been to an event held at the Auburn Avenue Research Library, you are in for a real treat. Now is the time to visit this library whose mission is to support and preserve the history of people of color.

Bibliography



So many books, movies and music...so little time. Some of the materials on this list I have read or own a copy of, the others I have heard about and read good reviews about them. All of them should be available through your local library or are available either at your local bookstore or online at Amazon.com; check one of these titles out and support our African American authors! I have also included a few CDs and films by African Americans as well.

The Pluto Files: The Rise and Fall of America's Favorite Planet

by Neil deGrasse Tyson

This book by Dr. Tyson was his most controversial book. I was one of the many school children who studied a solar system in school that had the planet Pluto in it. Dr Tyson explored the controversial theory that there was no planet Pluto in the solar system!

Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters

by Barack Obama

How can you put together a bibliography of suggested readings on African American authors and not include a book by the President of the United States? This was a no-brainer! I was impressed that President Obama (who wrote this book before he took office) chose to dedicate the profits of this book to a charity for the children of disabled veterans.

Hope on a Tightrope: Words and Wisdom

by Cornel West

A fixture on the lecture circuit and a prolific author this book is one of Cornel West 's latest books. It is a collection of essays, quotations, speech excerpts and letters from several years.

Finding Martha's Vineyard: African Americans at Home on an Island

by Jill Nelson

I had the pleasure of meeting the author of this book at the Auburn Avenue Research Library while she was promoting her newest book, a book of fiction. She is primarily known for her works of non fiction and this is one of them. She documents the history of African Americans on Martha's Vineyard. It explores a unique history of African Americans arriving on the island as slaves and evolving to become property owners on the Vineyard. The island soon became a vacation spot for successful black people.

Bibliography



True Vine: A Young Black Man's Journey of Faith, Hope, and Clarity

by John W. Fountain

This book tells the story of a young African American man who grows up in the most horrible conditions imaginable and discovers his faith. This book as the title suggests details his journey filled with faith, hope and clarity.

Real Men Cook: Rites, Rituals, and Recipes for Living

By K. Kofi Moyo

This is a cookbook but not an ordinary cookbook. The author started the Real Men Cookout, a Father's Day charity event to celebrate African American men as positive role models. Out of this event grew this cookbook which contains the author's favorite recipes. This book also has between its covers a collection of inspirational stories, poems and essays written by other African American men who participated in the Real Men Cookout.

Black Knights: The Story of the Tuskegee Airmen

By Lynn Homan and Thomas Reilly

I attended an event at the Atlanta History Center which spotlighted these brave men who flew during World War II and distinguished themselves. I enjoyed hearing their stories. Some of the Tuskegee Airmen have even put pen to paper and are writing individual accounts of their experiences.

Charging the Net: A History of Blacks in Tennis from Althea Gibson and Arthur Ashe to the Williams Sisters by Cecil Harris and Larryette Kyle-DeBose

This book touches on the origins of the American Tennis Association started in 1918 by African Americans. This organization assisted in the growth and development of the sport of tennis among those African Americans who were playing tennis for recreation. Out of this program came Althea Gibson and Arthur Ashe who went on to win major titles on the main pro tour. This book is a fascinating study of how the sport of tennis started among African Americans long before Venus and Serena Williams arrived on the scene.

Music



Tale of God's Will (A Requiem for Katrina)

by Terence Blanchard

This CD was released by Terence Blanchard as a tribute to the devastation of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Spike Lee used this music as the score of his documentary **When the Levees Broke**.

O's Jook Joint

by Quincy Jones

Get ready to crank up the volume and pat your feet for this one!

Genius and Soul: The 50th Anniversary Collection

by Ray Charles

This has all of Ray's hits in one collection. A must have for Ray Charles fans!

Purple Rain (the Soundtrack) — alert to parents (not all lyrics suitable for children)

by Prince

One of my favorite movie soundtracks. Prince won an Oscar for this soundtrack.

Lenny Kravitz Greatest Hits

by Lenny Kravitz

This man can rock a song! This is another one where it helps to crank up the volume.

Rufusized

by Rufus (with Chaka Khan)

This was released in 1991, over twenty years ago but it sounds just as good today. This is my sentimental favorite. My first concert was seeing Chaka Khan performing with the band Rufus.

Thriller

by Michael Jackson

Everyone should have a copy of this iconic CD by Michael.

What's Love Got to Do With It

by Tina Turner

Tina's first solo album after her split with Ike. I went to see Tina in concert when she was touring in support of this CD and she was amazing. She had the most diverse audience of young, old, black, white, male and female — it was a most unique concert experience.

Film



4 Little Girls (1997) —not rated

directed by Spike Lee

This documentary by Spike Lee received an Oscar nomination. This film debuted in Birmingham, Alabama to kick off the weekend of activities dedicating the Civil Rights Museum. It features interviews of those who share memories of that day. It also features conversations with those who share memories of the four little girls who were killed in the church bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church In Birmingham.

Pursuit of Happyness (2006) — PG 13

directed by Gabriele Muccino

This biographical drama film is based on the best-selling book by Chris Gardner who went from homelessness to a career as a stockbroker. This is truly a rags-to-riches story. Have your box of Kleenex handy for this one.

Love Jones (1997) — Rated R

directed by Theodore Witcher

The African American version of the popular film, “When Harry met Sally”

Eve’s Bayou (1997) — Rated R

directed/written by Kasi Lemmons

The story is told through the eyes of 10-year old Eve who tells a story of a summer that changes her family’s life forever.

Soul Food (1997) — Rated R

directed by George Tillman Jr.

This film tells of an extended Chicago family who experience heartache, tragedy and through it all grow to appreciate one another.

The Preacher’s Wife (1996) — Rated PG

directed by Penny Marshall

You’ve got to love a movie where Denzel Washington is cast as an angel!

The Wiz (1978) — Rated G

directed by Sidney Lumet

The African American musical version of The Wizard of Oz

Film



Waiting to Exhale (1995) – Rated R

directed by Forest Whitaker

Warning: this is a “chick flick” fellas! But this film was sensitively directed by Forest Whitaker an actor who chooses his projects wisely. He works with an excellent ensemble cast. This film is an outstanding adaption to the screen of the Terry McMillan novel of the same name.

Boys n the Hood (1992) – Rated R

directed by John Singleton

The story of a group of childhood friends growing up in a ghetto in Los Angeles. Outstanding debut film for a first time director! Have your box of Kleenex ready for this one.

Malcolm X (1992) – Rated R

directed by Spike Lee

Another great film by Spike who went over budget on this one. He went to several high-profile African Americans who were committed to see this film project completed. It was money well spent!

The Great Debaters (2007) – PG-13

directed by Denzel Washington

This film is based on the true story of Melvin Tolson, a professor at a small African American College, Wiley College in Texas. In 1935, he coached and inspired his students to form the school’s first debate team which challenged Harvard in the national championship. A great sleeper hit.



I’ve only touched on a few of the events happening around town. For more events happening around town, please visit the links below.

<http://projects.ajc.com/topics/metro/black-history-month/>

Calendar of events listed on the website of the Atlanta Journal Constitution

<http://www.atlantahistorycenter.com/cms/Fridays+in+February/368.html>

Calendar of events happening at the Atlanta History Center

<http://www.afpls.org/events-aarl>

Calendar of events happening at the Auburn Avenue Research Library

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You can also follow Emmanuel on
Facebook!



Directions: Emmanuel is located approximately one mile inside I-285 near the I-285/Cascade Road exit on the corner of Cascade Road and Adams Drive.