

# The Tribune Society, Inc.



## The Drum Newsletter

### "Black History Month Celebration Issue"

**"WE CANNOT BE TOO BUSY WITH THE PRESENT THAT WE FORGET THE PAST;  
NEITHER CAN WE BE SO OCCUPIED WITH THE PAST THAT WE NEGLECT THE FUTURE."**

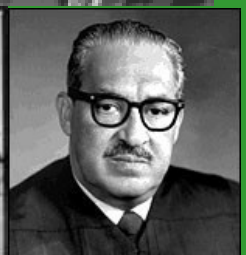
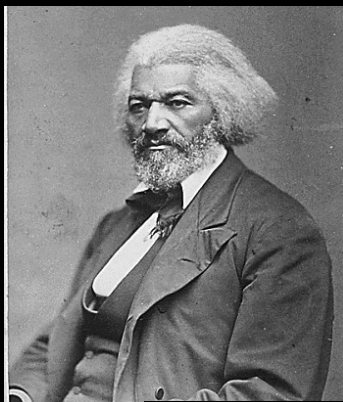
#### 2011 National Black History Theme Announced

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History has launched the national theme for Black History Month as: "African Americans and the Civil War."

"By the end of the Civil War, African American soldiers had numbered more than 180,000 and served in 167 Union regiments. Seventeen were awarded the Medal of Honor."

"... Between 60,000 & 93,000 blacks, Free & Slaves, served in the Confederate military in some capacity."

February 2011



### The Tribune Society, Inc.

Of The Courts Of The State of New York

**General Membership Meeting  
Thursday,  
March 17, 2011  
6:00 P.M.  
Room 850  
U.S. Federal Court  
500 Pearl St.  
New York, NY.**



**Presidential Proclamation**  
**National African American History Month**  
**Tuesday, February 1, 2011— By USGOV**



The great abolitionist and orator Frederick Douglass once told us, "If there is no struggle, there is no progress." Progress in America has not come easily, but has resulted from the collective efforts of generations. For centuries, African American men and women have persevered to enrich our national life and bend the arc of history toward justice. From resolute Revolutionary War soldiers fighting for liberty to the hardworking students of today reaching for horizons their ancestors could only have imagined, African Americans have strengthened our Nation by leading reforms, overcoming obstacles, and breaking down barriers. During National African American History Month, we celebrate the vast contributions of African Americans to our Nation's history and identity.

This year's theme, "African Americans and the Civil War," invites us to reflect on 150 years since the start of the Civil War and on the patriots of a young country who fought for the promises of justice and equality laid out by our forbearers. In the Emancipation Proclamation, President Abraham Lincoln not only extended freedom to those still enslaved within rebellious areas, he also opened the door for African Americans to join the Union effort.

Tens of thousands of African Americans enlisted in the United States Army and Navy, making extraordinary sacrifices to help unite a fractured country and free millions from slavery. These gallant soldiers, like those in the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, served with distinction, braving both intolerance and the perils of war to inspire a Nation and expand the domain of freedom. Beyond the battlefield, black men and women also supported the war effort by serving as surgeons, nurses, chaplains, spies, and in other essential roles. These brave Americans gave their energy, their spirit, and sometimes their lives for the noble cause of liberty.

Over the course of the next century, the United States struggled to deliver fundamental civil and human rights to African Americans, but African Americans would not let their dreams be denied. Though Jim Crow segregation slowed the onward march of history and expansion of the American dream, African Americans braved bigotry and violence to organize schools, churches, and neighborhood organizations. Bolstered by strong values of faith and community, black men and women have launched businesses, fueled scientific advances, served our Nation in the Armed Forces, sought public office, taught our children, and created groundbreaking works of art and entertainment. To perfect our Union and provide a better life for their children, tenacious civil rights pioneers have long demanded that America live up to its founding principles, and their efforts continue to inspire us.

Though we inherit the extraordinary progress won by the tears and toil of our predecessors, we know barriers still remain on the road to equal opportunity. Knowledge is our strongest tool against injustice, and it is our responsibility to empower every child in America with a world-class education from cradle to career. We must continue to build on our Nation's foundation of freedom and ensure equal opportunity, economic security, and civil rights for all Americans. After a historic recession has devastated many American families, and particularly African Americans, we must continue to create jobs, support our middle class, and strengthen pathways for families to climb out of poverty.

During National African American History Month, we recognize the extraordinary achievements of African Americans and their essential role in shaping the story of America. In honor of their courage and contributions, let us resolve to carry forward together the promise of America for our children.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim February 2011 as National African American History Month. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand eleven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fifth.**

**BARACK OBAMA**

**Black History Trivia Questions. Do You Know The Answers?**

1. What event sparked the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People?
2. This Republican was the first black person elected to the U.S. Senate. Who was he and what state did he represent?
3. What is the name of this Civil War soldier, who was the first African American to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor?
4. The Tulsa Race Riot of 1921 destroyed what prosperous black community? What other name has been used to describe this community?
5. When was the importation of slaves outlawed in the U.S.?
6. What dispute led to the founding of the African Methodist Episcopal Church?
7. Where did Frederick Douglass get his last name?
8. Who was the first president to invite an African American man to the White House?
9. When was the first "Negro History Week"?
10. What was "Resurrection City"?

**History of African Americans in the Civil War**



*Once let the black man get upon his person the brass letters, U.S., let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pockets, and there is no power on earth which can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship in the United States." - - Frederick Douglass*

These words spoken by Frederick Douglass moved many African Americans to enlist in the Union Army and fight for their freedom. With President Abraham Lincoln's issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, the Civil War became a war to save the union and to abolish slavery. Approximately 180,000 African Americans comprising 163 units served in the Union Army during the Civil War, and many more African Americans served in the Union Navy. Both free African-Americans and runaway slaves joined the fight. On July 17, 1862, Congress passed two acts allowing the enlistment of African Americans, but official enrollment occurred only after the September, 1862 issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation. In general, white soldiers and officers believed that black men lacked the courage to fight and fight well. In October, 1862, African American soldiers of the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteers silenced their critics by repulsing attacking Confederates at the battle of Island Mound, Missouri. By August, 1863, 14 Negro Regiments were in the field and ready for service. At the battle of Port Hudson, Louisiana, May 27, 1863, the African American soldiers bravely advanced over open ground in the face of deadly artillery fire. Although the attack failed, the black soldiers proved their capability to withstand the heat of battle. On July 17, 1863, at Honey Springs, Indian Territory, now Oklahoma, the 1st Kansas Colored fought with courage again. Union troops under General James Blunt ran into a strong Confederate force under General Douglas Cooper. After a two-hour bloody engagement, Cooper's soldiers retreated. The 1st Kansas, which had held the center of the Union line, advanced to within fifty paces of the Confederate line and exchanged fire for some twenty minutes until the Confederates broke and ran. The most widely known battle fought by African Americans was the assault on Fort Wagner, South Carolina, by the 54th Massachusetts on July 18, 1863. The 54th volunteered to lead the assault on the strongly-fortified Confederate positions. The soldiers of the 54th scaled the fort's parapet, and were only driven back after brutal hand-to-hand combat. African American soldiers participated in every major campaign of 1864-1865 except Sherman's invasion of Georgia.

The year 1864 was especially eventful for African American troops. On April 12, 1864, at Fort Pillow, Tennessee, Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest led his 2,500 men against the Union-held fortification, occupied by 292 black and 285 white soldiers. After driving in the Union pickets and giving the garrison an opportunity to surrender, Forrest's men swarmed into the fort with little difficulty and drove the Federals down the river's bluff into a deadly crossfire. Casualties were high and only sixty-two of the U.S. Colored Troops survived the fight. Many accused the Confederates of perpetuating a massacre of black troops, and the controversy continues today. The battle cry for the Negro soldier east of the Mississippi River became "Remember Fort Pillow!" [ INFO: <http://isaziz.tripod.com/africanh.htm> ]

**TRIVIA ANSWERS**

1. A race riot in Springfield, Mass
2. Hiram Revels from Mississippi
3. Sgt. William H. Carney, 54th Mass. Infantry.
4. Greenwood, Black Wall Street.
5. 1808
6. Segregation of St. George's Methodist Church.
7. A poem "The Lady of the Lake (1810)"
8. Theodore Roosevelt.
9. 1926
10. Washington, D.C.
11. Carol Moseley Braun.
12. W.E.B. DuBois



**THE TRIBUNE SOCIETY, INC.  
OF THE COURTS OF  
THE STATE OF NEW YORK**

**PO Box 85, Canal Street Station  
New York, NY 10013**

**Web Site - www.tribunes.org  
E-Mail - Tribunes31@yahoo.com  
Voice Mail - (212) 479-0807**

- Ernest L. Owens, *President*
- Leah Richardson, *Vice President*
- Joseph T. Parris, *Treasurer*
- Roderick E. Randall, *Financial Sect'y*
- June Farrow, *Sect'y*
- Sharon Hudson, *SGT-At-Arms*
- John W. Stubbs III, *Cnty Del Coor.*
- Joyce Hopkins, *Kings/SI County*
- Allan K. Lowe, *Queens County*
- Dean Hutchins, *Manhattan County*
- Angela Maynor, *Nassau County*
- Lisa A. St. Rose, *Suffolk County*
- Shannon Williams, *Westchester County*
- Vacant— *Bronx County*

**Enjoy and Celebrate  
Black History Month.  
Research your family  
history, research  
Afro-American history,  
research American History  
to create your own  
His or Her – Story.**

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT?**

**“Why do we as black people still refer to ourselves as a minority when people of color are about 75% of the world population?”**

A question submitted by  
Louise Connelly



**Madam C. J. Walker  
(Sarah Breedlove) 1867-1919  
America's 1st self-made  
woman millionaire - Hair  
care entrepreneur and  
philanthropist:  
December 20, 2010, A Harlem  
block on W. 136th Street was  
renamed to honor Madam  
Walker and her daughter,  
A'Lelia. When Madam C.J.  
died, A'Lelia became the  
main patroness for the  
Harlem Renaissance.**



**A'Lelia Walker 1885-1931  
Wealthy Harlem socialite  
known as the “Mahogany  
Millionairess” and the  
“Dekink Heiress”**

The New York State Unified Court System's Committee to Celebrate Black History Month,  
The Tribune Society, Inc. of the Courts of the State of New York and  
The Judicial Friends Association Present a Program and Reception to Commemorate

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Thursday, February 24, 2011, 6:00 p.m.  
Rotunda, Supreme Court, Civil Branch, New York County  
60 Centre Street, NYC

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

**WILLIAM F. KUNTZ II, ESQ.**

Bar Leader, Educator, Scholar, Senior Member of the  
NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD**

**WILLIAM ETHERIDGE**

Chief Clerk VII, *ret.*, Member of the Franklin H. Williams  
Commission on Minorities, Mentor, Tribune Society Member

**EVERYONE IS INVITED**

**KINGS COUNTY COURTS BLACK HISTORY MONTH COMMITTEE**

**PUSHING  
AGAINST  
THE ODDS -  
THE WAR  
GOES ON**

**February 2011**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Feb. 1st - Kick-Off Program</b> Floyd J. Carter & Artherine Carter - Keynote Speakers Special Recognition: Hon. L. Outley, Charles Small, Esq.		1 Floyd J. Carter Tudage Artman 320 Jay St. 10:00 AM General Courtroom 2/83	2	3	4 Reflections: African Americans in the Courts 320 Jay St. 1:00 PM General Courtroom 2/95
<b>Feb. 4th - Reflections</b> African Americans In The Court One of the featured speakers: Hon. Betty Stator	7	8	9 Meet Tracy Mann, Author of <i>Manigie Blue</i> 360 Adams St. 1:00 PM 7th floor Boardroom	10	11 <b>Courts Closed</b>
<b>Feb. 9th - Meet the Writer - Tracy Moore</b> Author of <i>Midnight Blue</i>					
<b>Feb. 16th - Performance</b> Urban Assembly School of The Performing Arts	14	15	16 Performance: Urban Assembly School of The Performing Arts 360 Adams St. 1:00 PM Room 319	17 Town Hall Meeting 320 Jay St. 1:00 PM General Courtroom 2/95	18 Tribune Society Reception 120 Schermerhorn St. 1:00 PM Room 307
<b>Feb. 17th - Town Hall Meeting</b> Court personnel discuss and explore topics of interest. The topic: <i>Pushing Against the Odds - The War Goes On</i>					
<b>Feb. 18th - Tribune Society Reception</b>					
<b>Feb. 21st - Children's Program</b> Registration required, contact Lorna McCallister, Esq., at ext. 49077.	21	22	23 Children's Program 360 Adams St. 10:00 AM Luncheon Performance Lobby 1:00 PM	24 Film Waiting For Superman 320 Jay St. 1:00 PM General Courtroom 2/95	25 Trivia Game 320 Jay St. 1:00 PM General Courtroom 2/95
<b>Feb. 24th - Film: Waiting For Superman</b> The Story of Geoffrey Canada, Director, Harlem Children's Zone					
<b>Feb. 25th - Trivia Game</b> Unseat the current champs: Criminal Court! Put your teams together and contact Iretta Johnson, ext. 61231.					
<b>Feb. 28th - Closing Celebration - Fashion Show</b> Includes entertainment and court personnel as models.	28 Fashion Show 360 Adams St. 1:00 PM Lobby				

For Further Information Call: (347) 296-1233

**Newly Published**

Congratulations to **Iesha Womack**, Senior Court Office Assistant in Westchester Supreme and County Court, who self-published her first novel entitled, "I Gotta Make it to Heaven for Going Thru Hell". Her book has garnered widespread support throughout the country and was recently endorsed by acclaimed author Terry McMillan, enabling Ms. Womack to gain access to an even larger audience in the literary world.

Her book has been featured on NWMassMedia.com (New Book Alert) and TheReviewMagazine.net (#1 Paperback Bestseller), further validating Ms. Womack's ambition to follow her dreams.

Congratulations Iesha!

**Pictured right:** Iesha Womack at Hue Man Bookstore and Café Book Reading and Signing, March 2010, Harlem, NY

