



The Drum Newsletter

The Tribune Society, Inc. of the Court in the State of New York
P.O. Box 85 • Canal Street Station • New York, NY 10013

February 2007

BLACK HISTORY MONTH - SPECIAL EDITION

www.tribunes.org

President's Message

Greetings Sister and Brother Tribunes,

This is the annual special issue of The Drum in honor of Black History Month. Martin Luther King Day has come and gone and we look forward to our February Black History Month celebrations. This is the time to look ahead at 2007 and make plans, plan to make more of a difference. Participation in many of the events in our local courts and surrounding areas is not limited to the month of February. We hope you will continue to show your support and participate.

We have had two recent fund-raising events. The first in November to help finance our other programs. The second in December to provide toys to underprivileged children in our communities. The work of Tribune members and your co-workers this February is vital. It provides an opportunity to educate and inform all court users and employees of the richness of the diversity we share.

In preparation for this month, many hours have been spent planning, coordinating and raising awareness. Much has been said

over the years about our past, and the rich heritage we share. Much has been said about how our history has been neglected, unrecorded, or lost. In these times, and especially in our line of work, where maintaining a record is so important; the idea of lost history is painful to even contemplate. We must not only be the makers of the record, but the keepers as well.

This week I was handed two crates full of Tribune Society history. These crates were filled with original documents, ledgers, journals and Tribune records. Some of the documents are more than 30 years old. Our records, fortunately, were never lost, nor neglected, but stored for safekeeping. How will we account for the history making of today? History takes place continuously, and we must be mindful that the events of today, make the history of tomorrow. Each of us is responsible for the history that we make. We must make each day count. Participate and enjoy the celebrations of Black History Month. Make Black History count. Make your history count.

Edward J. Edmead
President

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLAN TO ATTEND!

General Membership Meetings
Thursday, **March 15th, 2007** - 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, **June 21st, 2007** - 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, **Sept. 20th, 2007** - 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, **Dec. 13th, 2007** - 6:00 p.m.

Federal Court House
500 Pearl Street, Room 850 • NYC

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAMS

New York County
February 27, 2007 • 6 p.m.
60 Centre Street

The Keynote speaker will be Lawrence Otis Graham -author and Harvard trained attorney

Bronx County
February 13, 2007 • 6 p.m.
Supreme Court Rotunda
Tentative Keynote speaker Hazel Dukes

Kings County
360 Adams/320 Jay Street
A month long program including various activities including a gospel concert

CONGRATULATIONS

Former Tribune Society President **Frank Pezzella**, now **Professor Frank Pezzella**, as you embark on your new career at John Jay College.

Former Board members Senior Court Clerk **Warren Small** and Assistant Deputy Chief Clerk **Sandra Martin Smith** on your retirements.

Louise Hannibal-Boyce on your promotion to Surrogate Senior Court Clerk
Nhychelle Lowe, daughter of Principal Court Analyst **Al Lowe**, on being a 7th grade inductee to the National Junior Honor Society on 1/5/07

"Reminder - If you have not done so already, please submit your 2007 Tribune Society Dues."

VISIT THE TRIBUNE WEBSITE
AT WWW.TRIBUNES.ORG

“Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history.”

Dr. Carter G. Woodson

The Father of Black History is, without a doubt, Professor Carter G. Woodson. He was born in New Canton, Virginia in 1875, a son of former slaves. Naturally, the family was poor and everyone had to work, school was a luxury the Woodson family could not afford. Carter G. Woodson had to help his family by working in the fields. He was able to teach himself the basics of education while working during this time.

He later moved to West Virginia with one of his brothers for the opportunity to attend a black high school. He supported himself during this time by working in the coal mines. He was nineteen when he entered the high school and, less than two years later, earned his high school diploma. He became a

teacher at another school in West Virginia and later, the Philippines. Amazingly, four years after graduating Woodson returned to his school in West Virginia to become the principal. Seventeen years after graduating high school Woodson received his Ph.D. in history from Harvard University.

Woodson went on to become a power historian, author and journalist. He found the lack of information concerning black history highly disturbing. No less disturbing to him was the mis-information concerning blacks in history. Carter G. Woodson felt strongly that Blacks needed to know their history in order to become productive members of society and to participate intelligently. Professor Woodson decided to dedicate his life to publishing the rightful truth and place of African people in history. Professor Carter G. Woodson, son of former slaves, published eighteen

books and published the *Journal of Negro History*, which is still published today. He was a regular columnist in Marcus Garvey's weekly newsletter, *Negro World*.

Carter G. Woodson was the impetus behind the creation of what is known now as Black History Month in 1926. Originally, his idea was to hold Negro History Week during the second week of February which is the month within which Frederick Douglass was born. Woodson did not intend for the Negro History Week to become permanent, much less expanded to Black History Month. He had hopes that Black History would become commonplace knowledge and the contributions of Africans would be made an integral part of history. One of Woodson's most cherished ambitions was a six volume Encyclopedia Africana which was not completed at the time of his death in 1950.

The History of Black History Month

by Muhammad Small

The month of February is synonymous with Black History Month, an annual commemoration and celebration since 1926. Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson is credited with having started this event with his organization of Negro History Week. This week occurred during the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

Dr. Woodson, the son of a slave, was born on December 19, 1875 in New Canton, Virginia. He studied at Berea College, the University of Chicago, the Sorbonne, and Harvard University, where he earned a Ph.D. in 1912. He

was a gifted historian who introduced the field of Black Studies to scholars. To bring attention to Black contributions to the world, Dr. Woodson founded the above-stated Negro History Week, and, over the course of time, it evolved into the Black History Month that we now know - a four-week-long remembrance of African-American History.

In 1915 he founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History to encourage scholars to embrace the study of the past pertaining to Africans and their descendants throughout the world. Before this occurred the study

of Blacks was neglected, distorted, and biased. Dr. Woodson trained historians to properly preserve the records on Black life and Black people. He dedicated his life working to educate people of all races and ethnicities about the contributions that Black people made throughout history. Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson died on April 3, 1950 and Black History Month is his legacy.

What is Black History Month?

by Leah Richardson

For me, Black History Month means continuing to learn about African-Americans culture and history, sharing experiences and enlightening others, many of whom may also be the product of bigoted teachings. For other individuals, February is more than a time to learn about black history, but it is also a period of great pride and appreciation for such a rich culture. Citizens young and old take the time to remember all the leaders and milestones that were reached; that had an impact on the lives of African Americans.

When I was first introduced to Black History Month, I received this fake version of my ancestors who were bought and brought to America. The story was, as many of us were taught, that Africans came as slaves, Lincoln freed them, Martin Luther King Jr. brought about equality and today we can have that "American Dream." Well what happened? This is so far from the truth of Black History and does not convey the over three hundred

year of pain, suffering and struggling endured by descendants of the Africans first brought to this county and surroundings islands as chattel slaves.

Black History Month, just like the color of my skin, reminds me of the chosen people who suffered the inequalities and pain brought by human cruelty. Yet in spite of the enslavement, hatred and abuses placed upon them, they fought and prevailed as best they could. There were so many people who died just so that my peers and I may have opportunities and inalienable rights that were handed from God and not man.

Black History is not only a reminder of Black American History, but of American History. The economy and social order that we see today was built off the backs of the free-labor slaves working 14 hours a day for almost 200 years as well as the blacks who were and are still denied equal wages and opportunities although they were

qualified and performed the same jobs.

Racism today is veiled in the form of racial profiling, institutional racism and other basic everyday images of black Americans as aggressive people, welfare-abusers and criminals. Yet, again, I am expected to somehow raise children in this society where they will be impacted by the negative images they see of their people through the media and many other sources. It is important that we choose to look at the reality of our social system and the effects that we have on others as a community, otherwise it will be impossible to eradicate the existing inequalities of today.

I will continue to pray that we strive individually and collectively be better people in search of brotherhood and sisterhood that transcend color line that connects our souls. We must learn from our past to reach our future.

In Remembrance

by Leah Richardson

February marks the beginning of Black History Month in St. Louis and around the world. The month long celebration was started in 1926 as Black History Week by Harvard scholar Dr. Carter G. Woodson. In 1926 Woodson organized the first annual Negro History Week, which took place during the second week of February. Woodson chose this date to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. These are two men who

had greatly impacted the black population.

February may be the shortest month of the year, but its days are packed with important anniversaries and remembrances, particularly for African-Americans from the presumed birthday of Frederick Douglass on February 14, 1817 to Malcolm X's assassination on February 21, 1965 and Nelson Mandela's release from prison on February 11, 1990. We should also

not forget the Montgomery bus boycott arrests (February 22, 1956), the ratification of the 15th amendment guaranteeing that race would not prevent a man from voting (February 3, 1870), the Greensboro, North Carolina, Woolworth lunch-counter sit-in (February 1, 1960), Abraham Lincoln's approval of the 13th amendment abolishing slavery (February 1, 1865) and opera star Marian Anderson's birthday (February 27, 1897).

Welcome New Members

The executive board and your fellow Tribunes would like to welcome the following new members to the tribune family

KINGS

Jenise Arno, *Court Office Assistant*
Hon. Sylvia G. Ash, *Civil Court Judge*
Donna L. Bennett, *Senior Court Clerk*
Ra'Shaun C. Blackett, *Court Officer*
Luzmarina Desousa, *Senior Court Clerk*
Marilyn T. Dunn, *Sr Ct Office Assistant*
Herbert N. Hardwick, *Resource Coord.*
Dawn M. Hill, *Senior Court Clerk*
Lisa Keitt, *Senior Court Clerk*
Grace Machuca, *Senior Court Clerk*
David Mccollin, *Senior Court Officer*
Eric A. Paulson, *Senior Court Clerk*
Akua Wright, *Court Assistant*

NEW YORK

Malaika Abdul-Waheed, *Court Assistant*
Thresa Andrews, *Associate Court Clerk*
Brenda Folk-Kirkland, *Assoc. Court Clerk*

QUEENS

Wycinna Atkinson-Brown, *Sr Ct Off Asst.*
Tayuana L. Best, *Secretary to Judge*
Michele Best-Bolton, *Court Assistant*
Niccole H. Burrell, *Court Officer*
Viola L. Dunnom, *Senior Court Reporter*
Shavonn T. Eason, *Senior Court Reporter*
Kelvin J. Gadson, *Court Officer*
Michelle Hernandez, *Court Officer*
Enyde Hunter, *Senior Court Reporter*
Regina M. Jackson, *Senior Court Clerk*

Troy E. Lima, *Senior Court Officer*
Charline Ross, *Court Officer*
Nancy Samms, *Senior Court Reporter*
Carenita Smothers, *Court Office Assistant*
Denise J. Walcott, *Prin. Scy Admin Judge*
Roger B. Williams, *Court Officer*

BRONX

Betty Dominicci, *Senior Court Interpreter*
Lana Jernigan, *Court Officer - Lieutenant*
Haleemah Shakir, *Management Analyst*

WESTCHESTER

Raynette Bernard, *Court Attorney*

Mentoring Never Goes Out of Style

Submitted by: Karen Blanchette

Dear Tribune brothers and sisters,

If you've ever read Black Enterprise or an Essence business issue you have been encouraged to attach yourself to a business mentor. A business mentor is described as someone who can guide you in the steps which will further your career within your chosen profession. Whether the business mentor guides you by personally opening doors for you, or giving you guidance on the academic steps you need to take to fine tune your career goals, or giving you etiquette advice in your journey the fact remains that business journals recommend a mentor (or two). The Tribune Society was formed, in part, to fulfill that requirement for court employees of diverse backgrounds.

Current Tribune members are encouraged to adopt the Tribune Society as your business mentor. A lot of times we (people of color) don't see the value in fraternal organizations,

meetings and what is known in present terminology as networking. Please do not be fooled, networking is one of the most important skills one can adopt in a career path. We've all heard that you never know who you're speaking to within the court houses. After all, administrators and management personnel don't walk around with badges or tags letting you know they are in the position to advance your career. However, participation in fraternal organizations like the Tribune Society will bring you more exposure to those who can and do make critical decisions in hiring and promotions.

As a Tribune member you are in a prime position to request and suggest classes or courses which will be beneficial to your aspirations and will benefit many other court employees as well. Our upcoming Professional Development Seminar is planned with your career goals in mind and we encourage you to attend. General

Membership meetings are always a forum to make requests and share information, we also encourage you to attend these meetings to meet, greet and network.

Another role as a Tribune member we'd like to remind you of is sharing the knowledge of the Tribune Society with new employees who have joined the ranks of the Unified Court System. Remember, the recruitment of members is something we all can participate in and part of our duty and heritage as people of color. There is power in numbers.

In my last submission I wrote the walking mall would be between the Grand Concourse and Grant, the correct street name is Gerard. I also gave the incorrect address for our new Hall of Justice as 217 and the correction is 265 E 161st Street. I apologize for the confusion.

Edward Edmead, *President*
Roderick Randall, *Vice President*
Harold Snipe, *Financial Sec'y*
Joseph Parris, *Treasurer*
Muhammad Small, *Sergeant At Arms*
Ernest Owens, *Recording Sec'y*
Leah Richardson, *County Delegate Coordinator*

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Kevin Browne, *New York County Delegate*
David McClain, *Kings County Delegate*
Regina Greene, *Nassau County Delegate*
Tonia Wharton, *Suffolk County Delegate*

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