

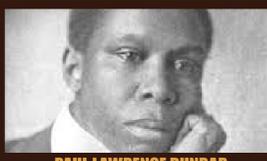
Celebrates

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

"We are not makers of history, we are made by history"
- Martin Luther King, JR.

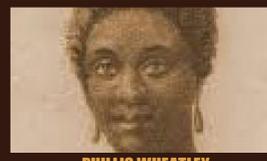


ZORA NEALE HURSTON



PAUL LAWRENCE DUNBAR

Writers & Artists



PHILLIS WHEATLEY



JAMES MERCER LANGSTON HUGHES

PHILLIS WHEATLEY

1753 – December 5, 1784

Phillis Wheatley was the first published African-American woman. Born someplace in West Africa, she was sold into slavery at the age of seven and transported to North America. Purchased by the Wheatley family of Boston, she was taught to read and write. The publication of her *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral* (1773) brought her fame both in England and the American colonies. Wheatley was emancipated after the death of her master John Wheatley.

ALEXANDRE DUMAS

July 24, 1802 – December 5, 1870

Alexandre Dumas was born Dumas Davy de la Pailleterie--was a world-renown French writer of many texts including *The Count of Monte Cristo* and *The Three Musketeers*. Dumas' father, born in the French colony of Saint-Domingue (now Haiti), was the son of a French nobleman and a slave of Afro-Caribbean ancestry. Translated into nearly 100 languages, many of his works were historical novels of high adventure and have been adapted since the early twentieth century for nearly 200 films.

ZORA NEALE HURSTON

January 7, 1891 – January 28, 1960

Zora Neale Hurston was born in Natasulga, Alabama, was an American folklorist, anthropologist, and author best known for her 1937 novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. When she was three, her family moved to Eatonville, Florida; in 1887 it was one of the first all-black towns to be incorporated in the United States.

AUGUSTA SAVAGE

February 29, 1892 – March 27, 1962

Augusta Savage was born Augusta Christine Fells--was an African-American sculptor associated with the Harlem Renaissance. She was also a teacher and her studio was important to the careers of a rising generation of artists who would become nationally known. She worked for equal rights for African Americans in the arts.

JAMES MERCER LANGSTON HUGHES

February 1, 1902 – May 22, 1967

James Mercer Langston was an American poet, social activist, novelist, playwright, and columnist who was born in Joplin, Missouri and spent most of his childhood in Lawrence, KS. He was one of the earliest innovators of the then-new literary art form called jazz poetry. Hughes is also known as a leader of the Harlem Renaissance.

LEOPOLD SEDAR SENGHOR

October 9, 1906 – December 20, 2001

Leopold Sedar Senghor was a Senegalese poet, politician, and cultural theorist who for two decades served as the first president of Senegal (1960–1980). The first African elected as a member of the Académie française (the official authority on the French language), he is regarded as one of the most important African intellectuals of the 20th century. Senghor was a leader in the Négritude movement which valorized distinctive African characteristics in opposition to the perception that Africa did not have culture developed enough to stand alongside that of Europe.

PAUL LAWRENCE DUNBAR

June 27, 1872 – February 9, 1906

Paul Lawrence Dunbar was an African-American poet, novelist, and playwright. Dunbar started to write as a child and published his first poems at the age of 16 in a Dayton newspaper. *We Wear the Mask* (published in 1896) was perhaps his most famous poem.

AUDRE GERALDINE LORDE

February 18, 1934 – November 17, 1992

Audre Geraldine Lorde was born in Harlem, NY to parents from the Caribbean island of Barbados. She was a writer, radical feminist, womanist, lesbian, and civil rights activist. She criticized feminists of the 1960s for focusing on the particular experiences and values of white middle-class women. She was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 1978 and battled cancer for fourteen years until her death at the age of 58. She wrote *The Cancer Journals* which in 1981 won the American Library Association Gay Caucus Book of the Year Award. From 1991 until her death, she served as the Poet Laureate of the state of New York.

MAYA ANGELOU

April 4, 1928 – May 28, 2014

Maya Angelou born as Marguerite Annie Johnson in St. Louis, Missouri--was an American author, poet, dancer, actress and singer. Angelou is best known for her series of seven autobiographies, which focus on her childhood and early adult experiences. Her first book, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (1969) brought her international recognition and acclaim. Beginning in the 1990s, she made around 80 appearances a year on the lecture circuit, something she continued into her eighties. In 1993, Angelou recited her poem "On the Pulse of Morning" (1993) at President Bill Clinton's inauguration, making her the first poet to make an inaugural recitation since Robert Frost at President John F. Kennedy's inauguration in 1961. According to scholar Lyman B. Hagen, her contributions to civil rights as a fundraiser and SCLC organizer were successful and "eminently effective".

JAMES WELDON JOHNSON

June 17, 1871 - June 26, 1938

James Weldon Johnson was an American author, educator, lawyer, diplomat (Venezuela and Nicaragua), songwriter, Harlem Renaissance movement member, and civil rights activist. Of partial French Caribbean heritage, he is best remembered for his leadership of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the song *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, known as the "Negro National Anthem." In 1934 he became the first African-American professor to be hired at New York University. Later in life he was a professor of creative literature and writing at Fisk University.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
ON BLACK HISTORY VISIT
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