



Black History Month - 2006

Every February, Americans celebrate Black History Month. This tribute dates back to 1926 and is credited to a Harvard scholar named Carter G. Woodson. The son of former slaves, Woodson dedicated his life to ensuring that black history was accurately documented and disseminated.

In an effort to bring national attention to the contributions of black Americans, Woodson organized the first annual Negro History Week in 1926. He chose the second week of February in honor of the birthdays of pivotal black supporters Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

From Jackie Robinson to Tiger Woods, Harriet Tubman to Barack Obama, Black History Month pays tribute to inspirational African Americans from the past, as well as those who will continue to make history well into the future. (Taken from Biography.com)

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE:

1. A native of Detroit and graduate from UCLA, this politician and diplomat was the first black person awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his role in fostering an armistice between warring Arabs and Israelis: [] Frederick Douglass [] Ralph Bunche [] Jesse Jackson

2. This renowned photographer, writer and filmmaker was the first African American photographer to work at *Life* and *Vogue* magazines. Among other notable African American firsts, he was the first to produce a film for a major motion picture company. He deemed the first camera he bought – a \$7.50 Voightlander Brilliant – was to become his weapon against poverty and racism. This creative genius is: [] Spike Lee [] Gordon Parks [] James Baldwin

3. This much honored individual – in 1988, she won the Science and Technology Award given by *Essence* magazine, in 1990 she was Gamma Sigma Gamma's Woman of the Year⁴ and in 1991 she earned a Ph.D. from Lincoln University – will always be remembered as the first African-American woman in space. She is: [] Mae C. Jemison [] Bessie Coleman [] Wilma Rudolph

(Answers: 1.) Ralph Bunche 2.) Gordon Parks 3.) Mae C. Jemison)

Did You Know?

Rest Haven for Blacks was a 24-bed nursing home for African Americans in the early 1950's.

Jones-Walker Hospital was built in the 1920's to serve the black community in Fort Myers/Lee County.

Trinity United Methodist Church is one of the oldest established congregations in Fort Myers dating back to May, 1889.

Bunche Beach was the first Fort Myers black beach in 1949. Although we are not able to confirm this, it is believed that Bunche Beach was named in honor of Dr. Ralph Bunche.

Williams Academy Black History Museum was acquired from the Lee County School District in 1994. It was subsequently moved to its current location at 1936 Henderson Avenue, Fort Myers.

RECIPES

Egg Plant Stuffed

What Mrs. Fisher Knows About Old Southern Cooking
Applewood Brooks (reprint from 1881 cookbook)

Take out the inside of the plant and boil it in just enough water to cover it for ten minutes, and then drain or press the water all out through a cullender. Chop some ham fine, take bread crumbs and butter (one tablespoonful to one egg plant), and have equal proportions of ham, cracker and bread crumbs to the inside of the plants. Season with salt and black pepper to taste and fry it brown. Then stuff the plants full and close and put them to bake. They will bake in ten minutes, but should not be put in the oven until just before table use. They are a delicious vegetable prepared in this manner. Use a hot oven.

(taken from <http://southernfood.about.com/library>)

Corn Pudding



Corn oil
2 large eggs
1 can evaporated milk (6 oz.)
¼ cup sugar
1 tablespoon cornstarch
1 can creamed corn (16 oz.)
1 teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon black pepper – freshly ground
1 tablespoon unsalted butter or margarine

- 1) **Lightly grease a 7 by 7 baking dish with corn oil.**
- 2) **Beat the eggs and evaporated milk in a small bowl until blended. Stir the sugar and cornstarch together in a small bowl and add them slowly to the egg mixture, beating constantly, until blended. Fold in the corn, salt, and pepper. Pour the mixture into the greased baking dish and dot with the butter.**
- 3) **Bake until the pudding is set and golden brown on top, about 1 hour. Serve hot from the dish.**

(taken from www.thegutsgourmet.net/soul)

Notable African Americans



Shirley Chisholm – Born in Brooklyn, NY in 1924. She was the first black woman to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. She was also an active member of the black Congressional caucus.



Colin Powell – Born in Harlem, NY in 1937. He graduated from the City College of New York and got his Masters in Business Administration from George Washington University in 1971. He was the first African American to serve at Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1989 to 1993. He recently resigned his post as U.S. Secretary of State.



Jewel Plummer Cobb – Born in Chicago, IL in 1924. Dr. Cobb is a biologist physiologist. She graduated New York University in 1950, has a PhD in Cell Physiology and was the President of California State University at Fullerton until 1990.



Carver G. Woodson – Born in New Canton, VA in 1875. Dr. Woodson graduated from Harvard with a PhD in History. He was the second African American to earn a Harvard doctorate. Dr. Woodson established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and in 1926 he launched Negro History Week.



Condoleezza Rice – Born in Birmingham, AL in 1954. She graduated with a Masters in Political Science from the University of Notre Dame and Doctorate in International Affairs from the University of Denver in 1981. On January 26, 2005, she became the first black female sworn in as the U.S. Secretary of State.



Jesse Jackson – Born in Greenville, SC in 1941. Rev. Jackson is a political leader, clergyman and civil rights activist. He graduated from

Chicago Theological Seminary and was ordained a Baptist minister in 1968.

(Information taken from <http://www.infoplease.com>)