

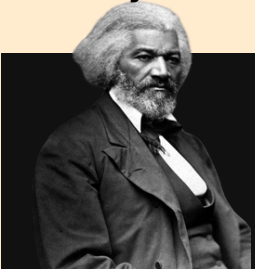
Tri-Valley Haven Black History Month Newsletter February 2025

What is Black History Month?



Black History Month is an annual observance in the United States, celebrated every February, dedicated to recognizing and honoring the contributions, achievements, and history of African Americans. Its origins date back to 1926 when historian Carter G. Woodson, often referred to as the "Father of Black History," established "Negro History Week" during the second week of February.

This week was chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln on February 12 and Frederick Douglass on February 14, both of whom were significant figures in the fight against slavery. Over time, as the civil rights movement gained momentum and there was a growing awareness of Black identity, "Negro History Week" evolved into Black History Month.



"If there is no struggle, there is no progress."

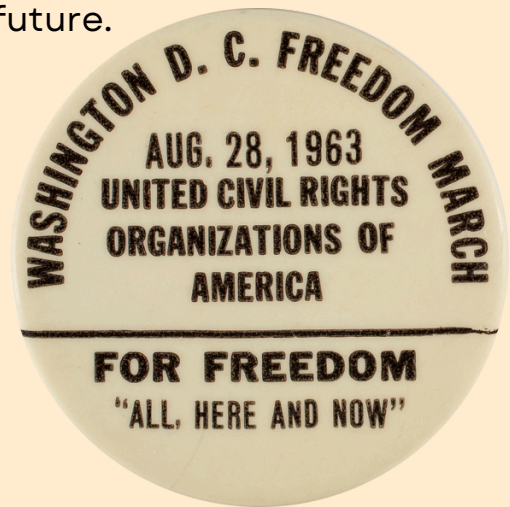
- Frederick Douglass



Film negative by photographer Warren K. Leffler, 1963. From the U.S. News & World Report Collection. Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Division.

Why Black History Month is Important

Black History Month serves as a dedicated time to acknowledge, reflect on, and celebrate the tremendous contributions of African Americans throughout history. Beyond the important figures and events that shaped the nation, it also allows us to highlight the resilience, strength, and ongoing struggles faced by Black communities. This month offers an opportunity to educate, share stories of advocacy, and reaffirm our commitment to racial justice and equity. It reminds us that Black history is American history, and understanding it is vital for moving toward a more inclusive and just future.



2025 Theme: African Americans and Labor

The 2025 Black History Month theme, "African Americans and Labor," emphasizes the vital contributions of Black workers to the economy, culture, and history. It commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and Maids, the first Black union recognized by the American Federation of Labor, founded by A. Philip Randolph. Leaders like Randolph and Addie Wyatt advocated for better wages and job rights, significantly impacting economic justice. The theme encourages reflection on the ongoing influence of Black labor on culture and the importance of economic equity.

Tri-Valley Haven: Sojourner House

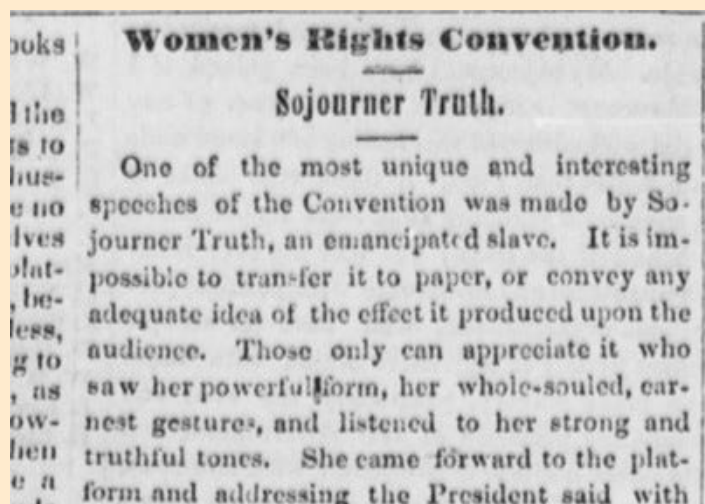
At **Tri-Valley Haven**, we are deeply committed to providing support and care for survivors of violence and homelessness. **Sojourner House**, our homeless shelter, is named in honor of Sojourner Truth, a fearless advocate for racial and gender justice who fought for the rights of Black women and children, as well as for the abolition of slavery. Her legacy continues to inspire our work as we strive to meet the needs of marginalized communities.

Sojourner Truth's powerful advocacy, including her famous "Ain't I a Woman?" speech, underscored the intersectional struggles faced by Black women—struggles that persist today. In the same spirit, Sojourner House provides a safe and supportive space for individuals experiencing homelessness, ensuring that every person who enters is met with dignity, respect, and care.

Our commitment to equity and inclusion is woven throughout the services we provide at Sojourner House. We recognize that individuals from marginalized communities—especially people of color—often face unique barriers to housing and support. In honor of Sojourner Truth's legacy, we prioritize culturally responsive, trauma-informed care that acknowledges the historical and systemic inequities that many survivors face.



Through holistic support services, resources, and advocacy, Sojourner House is not just a place of refuge but a stepping stone toward healing and empowerment. Tri-Valley Haven remains dedicated to ensuring that all survivors, regardless of background, can rebuild their lives in a safe, supportive environment, with the tools and resources they need to thrive. Just as Sojourner Truth fought for justice and equality, we too stand in solidarity with those working toward a future free of violence, oppression, and discrimination.



Honoring Black Leaders in Advocacy

Dr. Kimberlé Crenshaw (b. 1959)

Dr. Kimberlé Crenshaw is a legal scholar, civil rights advocate, and professor known for coining the term “intersectionality.”

This concept highlights how overlapping identities—such as race, gender, and class—can compound discrimination and affect how people experience oppression. Her work has been foundational in shaping conversations around racial and gender justice, particularly in legal and social systems.

***Why it matters:** Intersectionality is a crucial lens in advocacy, helping organizations like Tri-Valley Haven ensure inclusive, survivor-centered support.



Photo Credit: Vox



Tarana Burke (b. 1973)

Tarana Burke is an activist and community organizer who founded the #MeToo movement long before it became a viral hashtag. She started the movement in 2006 to support Black and brown survivors of sexual violence, particularly young women and girls in marginalized communities. Her work has helped millions of survivors worldwide feel seen, heard, and empowered to speak out.

***Why it matters:** Burke’s activism has amplified survivor voices, emphasizing that healing and justice should be accessible to all, regardless of race or background.

Photo Credit: National Women’s History Museum

Angela Davis (b. 1944)

Angela Davis is a scholar, activist, and author who has been a leading voice in the fight for civil rights, women’s rights, and prison abolition. She was deeply involved in the Black Panther Party and the Communist Party USA and has spent decades advocating for systemic change in policing, incarceration, and economic justice.

***Why it matters:** Davis’s work challenges us to think about how violence, oppression, and inequality are interconnected and encourages a future built on justice and community empowerment.



Photo Credit: The New York Times



CELEBRATE
BLACK HISTORY
MONTH

ACHIEVEMENTS CONTRIBUTIONS
THROUGHOUT HISTORY

Stay Connected and Get Involved

At Tri-Valley Haven, we are committed to uplifting survivors and building a more equitable and inclusive community.

To learn more about our work, events, and ongoing efforts, visit our website:
www.trivalleyhaven.org.

Read Our Blog:

Stay up-to-date with our latest updates, insights, and stories from our community.

Get Involved: Find out how you can contribute your time, talent, or voice to support those who need it most.

We deeply appreciate your commitment to standing with us as we work toward a more just, inclusive, and compassionate world.
Thank you for your continued support!

Support Us: Your donation can help us provide essential services like shelter, advocacy, and counseling for survivors.

Support Tri-Valley Haven by clicking on button below:

