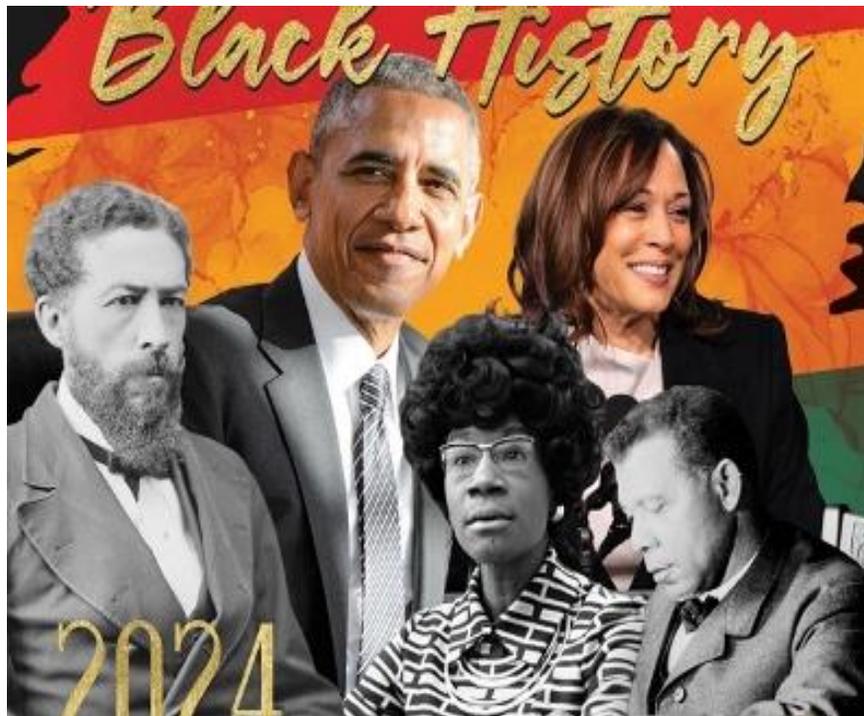


Our Mission Statement

The continual unification of as many organizations as possible, starting at the local level and branching out to both the state of North Carolina and then the entire nation.

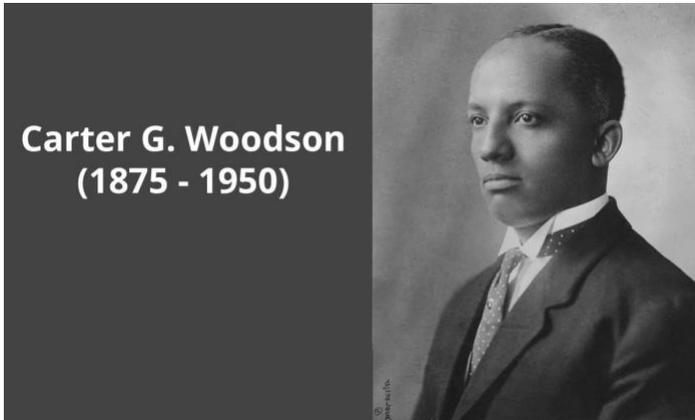
Spotlight

Black History Month



By
DonnaMarie Woodson

**Carter G. Woodson
(1875 - 1950)**



As a child born in the 50's I remember Negro History week which was created by the Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson and the prominent minister Jesse E. Moorland who founded the Association for the

Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH). The organization was dedicated to researching and promoting the understanding of the contributions of Black Americans in this country.

Negro History week began in 1926 by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). The second week of February was chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The event inspired schools and communities nationwide to organize local celebrations, establish history clubs and host performances and lectures.

I look back on Negro History Week fondly because at my school, there were student recitations, choral songs, and my favorite, a trivia contest. This task required us to go to the library and discover the names, dates, and accomplishments of our people, researching the accomplishments that Black people had made in developing the United States.



I loved the mission and the results of learning so much about my ancestors that I had no idea about. All of us need to understand our history so that we can realize the dream of progressing together for the benefit of our society. Because without Black folks we could

never have accomplished all the advances that took us from a rural society into the industrial age and now, the age of technology.

In the decades that followed, mayors of cities across the country began issuing yearly proclamations recognizing "Negro History Week." By the late 1960s, thanks in part to the [civil rights movement](#) and a growing awareness of Black identity, "Negro History Week" had evolved into Black History Month on many college campuses.

President [Gerald Ford](#) officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.”

So, in honor of Black History Month, let’s play a Trivia Game to learn how much know and maybe don’t know about Black History. You won’t need to go the library, (unless you want to), Google works just fine.



Let’s get started!

1. **What was the Greenwood area of Tulsa, Oklahoma also known as in 1921?**
2. **In 1870 what state elected the first African American to be seated as a Representative in the United States Congress?**
3. **Who was the first African American to serve as the United States Secretary of State?**
4. **Billie Holliday, also known as "Lady Day", was one of the greatest jazz musicians of the 20th century. She is best known for the song "Strange Fruit." What was this 'strange fruit' a metaphor for?**
5. **Who is the first Black woman to serve as a US Supreme Court justice?**
6. **The first Jim Crow law segregated train passengers. Where was it passed?**
7. **What famous American was presented with the Medal of Freedom by President Lyndon Johnson in December 1963?**
8. **Who was the first African-American to receive a Ph.D. from Harvard and wrote 'Souls of Black Folk'?**
9. **In what year did the Grammy Awards first broadcast an African American host?**
10. **Who was the first African American model to be featured on the cover of GQ magazine?**

Please let me know how well you did! I'm sure you'll be brilliant!!

Works Cited:

<https://www.history.com/news/the-man-behind-black-history-month>

<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/black-history-month>

<https://www.funtrivia.com/en/History/African-American-4001.html>

Editorial

The Absurdity of Extreme Nationalism and Socially Constructed Racism

**By
Tarik Kiley
1/26/2024**



As a child, I was exposed to many cultures while living in the city of Los Angeles, CA. That experience with diversity was also reinforced in other ways. While it might seem silly, watching the various iterations of the science fiction series, “Star Trek” altered my perception of ethnocentrism, racism, and nationalism. One episode of the original series of Star Trek, called, “Let That be Your Last Battlefield,” tackled the question of racism and extreme nationalism in detail. Let’s examine the lessons that Star Trek presented to its audience, how it shaped public opinion, and the fallacies that this work clearly points out for all to see.

In the Star Trek episode, **“Let That be Your Last Battlefield,”** The crew of the Star Trek Enterprise, encounter an alien in need, who just happens to have a half black and a half white face, literally. Of course, out of curiosity, Captain Kirk wants to know more about this alien’s planet.



Commissioner Beal & Loki

As the plot thickens, another alien with a half black and a half white face somehow boards the Enterprise, too. At this point, the conflict between the two characters is introduced. Apparently, the first alien whose name is Loki (sp.) claims that the second alien who boarded the ship, Commissioner Beal (sp.) is an oppressor and enslaved his kind. The second one, Commissioner Beal, says that in fact, they educated and civilized Loki's kind. So, the scene is set with Loki as representing the oppressed, and the second character, Commissioner Beal, as an oppressor.

Here the idea of “one person's terrorist is another person's freedom fighter” is introduced. Loki claims that he leads “revolutionaries”, not treasonous criminals. This is important to the story, because Loki is under threat of arrest for treason from the second alien character, Commissioner Beal. At this point, Loki asks for political sanctuary from Captain Kirk, who commands the Enterprise.

Now, the neutrality of the Federation comes into play. Because the Federation has no treaties with Commissioner Beal's people, he cannot return Loki to Commissioner Beal to prosecute on charges of treason. Captain Kirk clearly cannot take either side in the conflict.



There are some other details to the story here, but the most important point is the basis of Commissioner Beal's and Loki's conflict, as the concept of indoctrination is introduced. Loki talks to some of the crew about his fear and

apprehension of being oppressed by Commissioner Beal's people. A little later in the story, Commissioner Beal introduces the idea of racial supremacy, in that he claims that Loki is of an inferior breed. Spock, Captain Kirk's first officer, tells Commissioner Beal what the audience is probably thinking, in that Commissioner Beal and Loki appear to be of the same breed.

This is when the absurdity of their conflict becomes apparent. Commissioner Beal says that he is "black on the right side." This means that his half black and half white face is opposite to Loki's. Loki is "white on the right side" of his face. All of Commissioner Beal's people are black on the right side of their faces, and all of Loki's people are white on the right side of their faces.

Of course, Captain Kirk and the crew of the Enterprise can't really see the difference. At this point, Spock offers a history lesson about the previous emotional and irrational state of Vulcan, Spock's home planet. Spock recognizes that Commissioner Beal's arguments for the inferiority of Loki and his people are wildly trivial and completely absurd.



Throughout this whole story, Captain Kirk keeps alluding to the need for “due process”. The captain

continually challenges Commissioner Beal’s prejudice and insists that Loki have a fair trial. Captain Kirk directly challenges the idea of racial prejudice and promotes the idea of rule of law.

Of course, Commissioner Beal and Loki result in violently fighting one another. And this is the point. Their racial hatred of one another is so strong that they don’t realize that both will die from their conflict.

Neither will win.

This is further illustrated by the fact that all the people on Commissioner Beal’s and Loki’s home planet, Cheron (sp.) are dead, when the Enterprise arrives there. The racial hatred was taken to the point of the complete annihilation of all of Commissioner Beal’s and Loki’s people both.

Captain Kirk points out that hatred killed everyone. Towards the end of this story, Spock says, “To expect sense from two with such extreme viewpoints is not logical”, in response to Lt. Uhura saying that the conflict in question, “doesn’t make sense.” And Captain Kirk in the episodes closing words, clearly points out that the only thing that Commissioner Beal and Loki have left is hatred. Of course, they also have a dead planet, which Captain Kirk implies with his words.

Made in the 20th century at a time of increasingly destructive capabilities of warfare, this Star Trek episode clearly points out the absurdity of racial prejudice and socially constructed animosity. The conflict between Commissioner Beal and Loki seemed so trivial, but to them their perspectives were irreconcilable.

This conflict led to both sides ultimately using weapons of mass destruction on one another, which led to the annihilation of the blacks on the right side of the face, and the whites on the right side of their faces both. If everyone dies, then no one wins, and Captain Kirk and Spock point out the fact that racial hatred and warfare based on racial hatred is contrary to the self-preservation of everyone involved.



Works Cited

<https://vimeo.com/81655231>

Announcements



Davidson Democrats' Candidates' Forum

House District 98 candidates:

Beth Helfrich and Lisa Jewel.

Thursday, February 8, at 7 pm

Davidson Town Hall Auditorium at 251 South St.

Democratic Women of North Mecklenburg County

Monthly Membership Meeting

Wednesday, February 14th, 2024

Caldwell Presbyterian Church

Hope Community Center

1609 E. Fifth St. Charlotte 28204

Meet & Greet – 6:30 pm

Program - 7:00 pm

Announcements



North Meck Progressives

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, February 13th 6:30pm

Speaker: Lennin Caro,

Lead Community Researcher

Camino Research Institute and

Adjunct Instructor at UNCC

Birkdale Clubhouse

8915 Devonshire Drive Huntersville

Zoom alternative: starting at around

6:45pm

Link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4352796919?pwd=c](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4352796919?pwd=c0NxMzZVY3kwazJvV0h...)

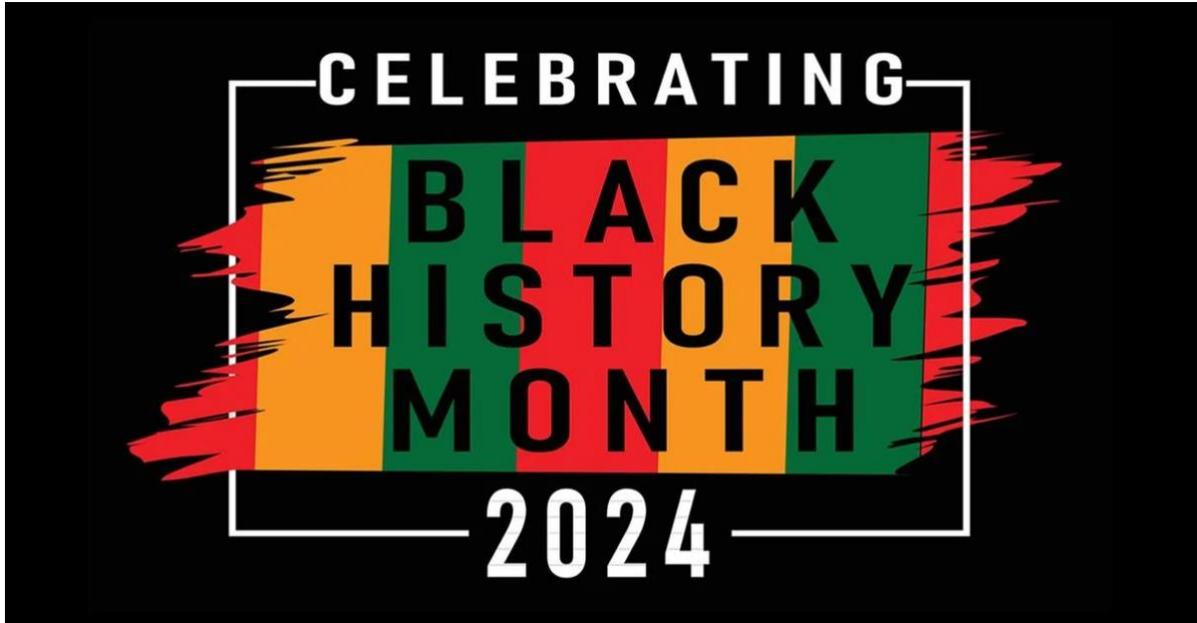
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- **Meeting ID:** [435 279 6919](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4352796919?pwd=c0NxMzZVY3kwazJvV0h...)
- **Passcode:** **NMP021324**



Please submit your group events to donnamarie93@gmail.com by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the Announcements.

HAPPENINGS!



The Executive Corner:

Rev Rodney Sadler, Joel Segal, DonnaMarie Woodson

Rev Glencie Rhedrick