

# Celebrating Black History Month

## February 2024



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

Inventors, writers, scientists, artists, world leaders, doctors, athletes...

01

In 1968, **Shirley Chisholm** was elected as the first African American congresswoman.

02

Poet **Gwendolyn Brooks** was the first African American author to win the Pulitzer Prize in 1950 for *Annie Allen*.

03

Read Philosopher **Albert Murray's** book of essays, *The Omni-Americans*.

04

**George Washington Carver** invented 300+ uses for the peanut and developed methods to prevent soil depletion.

05

**Claudette Colvin**, at the age of 15, was the first woman to be detained for refusing to sit at the back of the bus.

06

Read **Rebecca Skloot's** *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*.

07

**Jesse Owens** won four Olympic medals at the 1936 Berlin Games and set the world record in the long jump.

08

**Mae Jemison** is the first African American woman to orbit into space aboard the Endeavour.

09

Film: Watch **Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am**.

10

Considered to be one of the most influential artists in jazz history, **Louis Armstrong** developed jazz into a fine art worldwide.

11

Film: Watch director **Spike Lee's Malcolm X**.

12

Congressman **John Lewis** put in the hard work required to change the nation by getting into "good trouble."

13

**Madam C. J. Walker** was the first US African American female millionaire with a homemade hair care line for African American women.

14

Film: Watch **Rustin**, a film about civil rights activist **Bayard Rustin**, who helped organize the 1963 March on Washington.

15

**Percy Julian** was a pioneer in the chemical synthesis of medicinal drugs from plants such as cortisone, steroids, and birth control pills.

16

**Dr. Patricia Bath** is the first woman African American doctor to patent a medical device and invent a surgery that advanced treatment for cataracts.

17

Photojournalist **Gordon Parks**, the first African American on *LIFE* magazine's staff, used his camera as a weapon against poverty and racism.

18

Happy Birthday **Toni Morrison** and thank you for *Beloved*.

19

Listen to **Mr. Motown** sing "Ooo Baby Baby." Happy Birthday, **Smokey Robinson**.

20

Happy Birthday, **Sidney Poitier**, the first African American and Bahamian to win the Academy Award for Best Actor.

21

**Thurgood Marshall** served as the first African American judge on the US Supreme Court.

22

Happy Birthday to basketball legend **Julius Erving**.

23

Listen to **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** "I Have a Dream."

24

In 1960, six-year-old **Ruby Bridges** defied a mob and desegregated her school.

25

**Sarah Boone**, one of the first African American women in the US to receive a patent, evolved the ironing board.

26

**Muhammad Ali**, known as "The Greatest," was the first fighter to win the world heavyweight title three times.

27

Read **Nelson Mandela's** autobiography *Long Walk to Freedom*.

28

**Jane Bolin** was the first African American woman to attend Yale Law School and to be appointed a judge in the US.

29

Film: Watch **David France's** documentary *The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson*.

...who changed our world.