

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Black History Month

African-Americans in the West

Washington Park Branch

Thursday, February 4, 6:30 p.m.

From farmers to Buffalo Soldiers, African-American contributions to the U.S. Western narrative are often overlooked, marginalizing these contributions and deeds. This discussion will explore the real and imagined narratives connected to African-Americans in the West in popular culture and will show how this omission began and persists in modern culture. A talk by Dr. Julian Chambliss, Associate Professor of History and Coordinator of the African-American Studies Program at Rollins College.

Celebrate Through Films: Black History Month

Orlando Public Library, Albertson Room Friday, February 5 – 26, 11 a.m.

Celebrate Black History Month with films that highlight the achievements of black Americans and recognize the central role of African-Americans in U.S. history. We will screen *Pride (2/5)*, *The Pursuit of Happyness (2/12)*, *Remember the Titans (2/19)* and *42 (2/26)*.

The Beat Goes On: Rap and Hip-Hop Culture

Orlando Public Library, Albertson Room Saturday, February 6, 2 p.m.

Join us for an ideological, social, and historical, tracing of rap and hip-hop culture from African through successive genres of African-American music. Journey from the 19th Century to the present-day while endeavoring to extract meaning from this empirical reality. Presented by Professor Don Harrell, UCF Africana Studies Program.

African-Americans in the New South

West Oaks Branch

Sunday, February 7, 4 p.m.

The Civil War marked the beginning of a journey for African-Americans in the United States. No longer slaves but not truly free, African-Americans struggled to achieve the true sense of citizenship in the aftermath of slavery. A talk by Dr. Julian Chambliss, Associate Professor of History and Coordinator of the African-American Studies Program at Rollins College.

Echoes of My Sisters' Voices

Orlando Public Library, Library Central Saturday, February 13, 11 a.m.

Explore the lives of women trapped by the bondage of slavery through music, poetry, storytelling and narrative. Dr. Naima Johnston Bush weaves a masterful historical presentation that brings these women's voices to life!

AfroFantastic: Imagination and African-American Freedom

Orlando Public Library, Library Central Saturday, February 13, 2 p.m.

For African-Americans, navigating the reality of a racist society, the power to imagine a better world was a powerful tool. This talk by Dr. Julian Chambliss, Associate Professor of History and Coordinator of the African-American Studies Program at Rollins College, will discuss examples of imaginary stories linked to the black experience and the social and political circumstances these narratives challenged.

What I Didn't Learn in School—An Intro to Unknown African-American History

Chickasaw Branch

Saturday, February 13, 3 p.m.

Join Dr. Naima Johnston Bush for this thought-provoking presentation to educate participants on the various aspects of African-American history that are often overlooked.

Sparky & Rhonda Rucker: Heroes & Hard Times: American History, Song & Story

Orlando Public Library, Library Central

Sunday, February 28, 2 p.m.

This event takes audiences of all ages on a journey that spans more than three centuries of African-American history including slavery, the Underground Railroad, the Civil War, the birth of blues music and the Civil Rights Movement. Each era is interspersed with stories and popular songs from the time period. The Ruckers accompany themselves with finger picking and bottleneck blues guitar, blues harmonica, old-time banjo, spoons and bones.

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