

# SACRAMENTO EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING AGENCY DIVERSITY & INCLUSION COMMITTEE



## Black History Month Matters

Black History Month is a time that African Americans are recognized for their numerous accomplishments and contributions to American society. The United States as we know it would have never prospered without African Americans. African Americans providing an overwhelming majority of the labor helped build this country. They built the White House, created the pacemaker, performed the first successful open-heart surgery; they were inventors of many of the modern-day objects, such as, America's first clock, automatic elevator doors, blood banks, the gas mask, ice cream scooper, modern toilets, potato chips, traffic lights and the process of manufacturing carbons, which improved the method for production of carbon filaments used in the lightbulbs. The list goes on and on.

Black History Month is so important because it creates awareness for all people. It's mind blowing to know that, less than a generation ago, African Americans would not have been allowed to be close to their White American neighbors on the street. Black History Month provides an opportunity to inform other of what we continue to go through in order for our country to realize true equality.

Intentional effort to observe the achievements of the African-American community matters. May we all strive to realize the importance of this month because without awareness of the past, our eyes cannot be fully opened to the state of the present and where we are going in the future.

(Merschait, L. 2016)



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH WEEKLY SPOTLIGHT!

### Shirley Chisholm



Shirley Anita St. Hill Chisholm was the first African American woman in Congress (1968) and the first woman and African American to seek the nomination for president of the United States from one of the two major political parties (1972). Her motto and title of her autobiography—Unbossed and Unbought—illustrates her outspoken advocacy for women and minorities during her seven terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. Initially, Chisholm worked as a nursery school teacher. She earned a master's degree from Columbia University in early childhood education in 1951. By 1960, she was a consultant to the New York City Division of Day Care. Ever aware of racial and gender inequality, she joined local chapters of the League of Women Voters, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Urban League, as well as the Democratic Party club in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. Discrimination followed Chisholm's quest for the 1972 Democratic Party presidential nomination. She was blocked from participating in televised primary debates, and after taking legal action, was permitted to make just one speech. Still, students, women, and minorities followed the "Chisholm Trail." Of her legacy, Chisholm said, "I want to be remembered as a woman ... who dared to be a catalyst of change."

<https://youtu.be/v5JCSWxBIk>

Abrams is a native of Mississippi state, which is referred to as the Deep South, a sub-region in the US which resisted the abolition of slavery during the 19th century, and until the mid to late 20th century saw white supremacy, racial segregation, widespread voter suppression and violence against African American people. Abrams, 46, who is a lawyer, entrepreneur, and novelist apart from being a Democratic politician, became the minority leader in Georgia's lower chamber in 2011, and began strengthening the Democratic party's base in the state since then. Then in 2018, Abrams ran for governor in Georgia, becoming the first African American woman to do so in history, but lost to Republican Brian Kemp. The loss prompted her to launch a grassroots campaign called Fair Fight, to redouble registration efforts and counter the alleged voter suppression tactics which she believed led to her loss. Then, in the two years before the 2020 presidential elections, Abrams along with ground-level organizations was able to register large numbers of voters in Georgia—mainly from Black, Hispanic and Asian communities. These voters played a critical role in delivering the state to Biden that aided in his win for presidency.

[https://www.ted.com/talks/stacey\\_abrams\\_3\\_questions\\_to\\_ask\\_yourself\\_about\\_everything\\_you\\_do?utm\\_campaign=tedsread&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_source=tedcomshare](https://www.ted.com/talks/stacey_abrams_3_questions_to_ask_yourself_about_everything_you_do?utm_campaign=tedsread&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare)

### Stacey Abrams



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH WEEKLY SPOTLIGHT!

We share and Celebrate Black History Month in February to preserve the Rich Traditions of African American Poetry all year long with essays and literary milestones and movements in black excellence.

# THE HILL WE CLIMB



*Still i rise*

*We go high*

*There's  
always light*

*I'm speaking*

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/collections/101640/celebrating-black-history-month>



## Virtual Events/Other Resources

### Deep Roots

Webinar Via Zoom  
February 28, 2021  
Noon - 3 p.m.

Join Deep Roots as they explore the Black Hair experience and dig deeper into what lies beneath the surface. Registration is at

<https://bit.ly/smsacdeeproots>



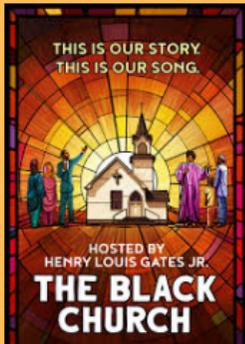
POWER OF PARKS  
for HEALTH  
BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
ROUNDTABLE

Join Us February 25  
6:30-8:00 pm EST



To learn more and register for the event visit :  
<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/healthandsafety/february-noonforhealthroundtable.htm>

Reference: Merchant, L (2016)  
<https://www.theodysseyonline.com/the-importance-black-history-month>



### PBS Series The Black Church

#### This is Our Story, This is Our Song

This is a moving four-hour, two-part series from executive producer, host and writer Henry Louis Gates, Jr., the Alphonse Fletcher University Professor at Harvard University and director of the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research, that traces the 400-year-old story of the Black church in America, all the way down to its bedrock role as the site of African American survival and grace, organizing and resilience, thriving and testifying, autonomy and freedom, solidarity and speaking truth to power.

<https://www.pbs.org/weta/black-church/>

