



Together
Venture

together@venturecs.org

AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL CIVILITY MONTH



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

- Black business month
- Women's equality day
- International day for the remembrance of the slave trade and its abolition

VENTURE COMMUNITY SERVICES

1 Picker Rd.

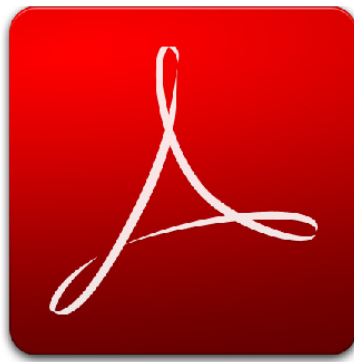
Sturbridge, MA 01566

www.venturecs.org

info@venturecs.org

We recommend you download and install the latest version of Adobe Acrobat to best enjoy the articles and use the hyperlinks. The links and any interactive media will not function if you view the document through your Web browser.

Click on the Adobe Acrobat logo to download.



TOGETHER VENTURE
together@venturecs.org

VENTURE COMMUNITY SERVICES
1 Picker Rd.
Sturbridge, MA 01566
www.venturecs.org
info@venturecs.org

National Civility Month

Civility helps diverse groups unite as a society, helping to reduce disputes and conflicts. People being civil with each other makes the world a much better place and is the key focus of National Civility Month, which is held in August each year. This observance was founded to help the world remember to treat others the way we wish to be treated - with kindness, empathy, and respect. National Civility Month attempts to address the issue of incivility. Our behavior and civility can inspire others to emulate our actions and create a "ripple effect", like a pebble thrown into a lake. Being a role model of decency and humanity can influence others to maintain the same levels of civility.

[UAW-Ford Diversity Digest August 2022.](#)

People being civil to other people is what makes the world a whole lot better and is the key focus of National Civility Month, which is held in August each year. This holiday was founded to help the world remember to treat others the way we wish to be treated ourselves — with kindness, empathy, and respect. This month follows a common theme like other similar awareness months centered around civility, including National Win With Civility Month, International Civility Awareness Month, and more.

Civilize

verb

civilized; civilizing Synonyms of civilize
transitive verb

1: to cause to develop out of a primitive state

especially : to bring to a technically advanced and rationally ordered stage of cultural development

[Merriam Webster Dictionary.](#)

History of The Latin root of civility originated in 509 B.C. with the Romans. Their social and political structure became more decentralized, and democracy took root in the then-powerhouses, Ancient Rome and Ancient Greece. As people began to demand and receive more rights, they started devising words to describe their new republic. The term first meant 'civis' or 'citizen,' which referred to men with property. Over time, the word evolved to 'civitas,' a.k.a. the "rights and duties of citizenship," and then to 'civilitas,' for the "art and science of citizenship."

The current English word is derived from a French root — 'civilité' — but the meaning has changed again. It wasn't about the republic and citizens' rights anymore, it was now used mainly in the French courts to talk about proper behavior, dress, speech, service between the French

lords and those who served them. The complete understanding and evolution of civility came during a major period of enlightenment spanning almost 300 years.

The Renaissance, the Age of Science, and the Age of Enlightenment broadened people's definition of the term, and civility now meant the sense of being human and acting with humanity. Educated and civilized people were expected to exhibit traits of civility, like polished manners, a love and sensitivity towards beauty, respect for absolutely everyone, and a solid adherence to honor and duty. Historians conclude that our understanding of this word inspired many events, including presidential and parliamentary democracy and the women's empowerment movements.

Today's meaning of civility is etched in every person's mind and is a common thread that unites our behavior. As we're gaining a new understanding of ourselves and the environment around us, we are reaching out to people, sharing our love and care, and being civil to one another. And still have a long way to go to become a world mostly free of incivility, which is what National Civility Day addresses.

NATIONAL CIVILITY MONTH TIMELINE

18th Century; *Rights for Everyone*

More and more movements crop up, inspired by a culture of demanding rights and civility for everyone — the American Revolution, the French Revolution, and the Bill of Rights.

December 10, 1948; *Global Recognition*

The U.N. adopts the historical Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which defines the rights and freedoms all humans deserve.

April 22, 2016; *Is Civility Vanishing?*

The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research at the University of Chicago states that 74% of Americans believe manners and behavior have declined in the U.S.

May 18, 2021; *Emotional Civility is Defined*

Reverend Dr. Sharon Styles- Anderson releases a book called "Emotional Civility: The New Standard for Global Success" about a concept she founded — 'emotional civility' — which she coined to help people understand that how we feel influences our interactions with others.

WHY NATIONAL CIVILITY MONTH IS IMPORTANT

Civility is a fundamental trait

It is crucial to building a healthy society where each individual feels accepted and happy. Celebrating an entire month of civility awareness helps educate more people about this behavior and encourages us to behave in a manner befitting our society.

Incivility can destabilize the world

More and more reports of uncivil behavior are emerging from around the world. A world where people are at each other's throats cannot be suitable for communal harmony and development. So, this makes National Civility Month very crucial to deter incivility.

Civility strengthens society

Learning about civility through various awareness events and celebrations like these helps increase incidences of civil behavior in society, bringing the community towards a more positive and strong position.

HOW TO OBSERVE NATIONAL CIVILITY MONTH

Practice civility ourselves

True change begins with us. So, remember to maintain civility in all interactions with other people. Spend time reflecting on your actions, noting how people reacted to them, and figuring out how you can better yourself in this regard.

Influence others towards civility

Your civility can inspire others, too, like a ripple effect. Be the role model and the standard of decent human behavior, so others around you maintain the same levels of civility.

Raise awareness about civility together

Talk to people around you about the importance of this day. You could also drive change by encouraging various officials to hold special events on civility awareness and training this month (or year-long).

[National Today.](#)

BOOKS TO READ TO CONMEMORAT NATIONAL CIVILITY MONTH



I Think You're Wrong (but I'm Listening), a Guide to Grace-filled Political Conversations

Holland, Sarah Stewart

"Two friends on opposite sides of the aisle provide a practical guide to grace-filled political conversation while challenging readers to put relationship before policy and understanding before argument. More than ever, politics seems driven by conflict and anger. People sitting together in pews every Sunday have started to feel like strangers, loved ones at the dinner table like enemies. Sarah Stewart Holland and Beth Silvers say there is a better way. As working moms on opposite ends of the political spectrum and hosts of a fast-growing politics podcast, Holland and Silvers have learned how to practice engaging conversation while disagreeing. In *I Think You're Wrong (But I'm Listening)*, they share principles on how to give grace and be vulnerable when discussing issues that affect families, churches, the country, and the world. They provide practical tools to move past frustration and into productive dialogue, emphasizing that faith should inform the way people engage more than it does the outcome of that engagement. This urgently needed new book reveals how to talk about politics in a way that inspires rather than angers and that pays spiritual dividends far past election day"

If "violent" means acting in ways that result in hurt or harm, then much of how we communicate could indeed be called "violent" communication.

Nonviolent COMMUNICATION

A Language of Life



Words and the way we think matters. Find common ground with anyone, anywhere, at any time, both personally and professionally.

MARSHALL B. ROSENBERG, PhD

Foreword by Deepak Chopra
Contributed by Gary Matthews, Alan Watts, Tony Robbins, Marianne Williamson, John Gray, Jack Canfield, Dr. Thomas Gordon, and others

Nonviolent Communication, a Language of Life

Rosenberg, Marshall B.

5,000,000 COPIES SOLD WORLDWIDE; TRANSLATED IN MORE THAN 35 LANGUAGES
What is Violent Communication? If "violent" means acting in ways that result in hurt or harm, then much of how we communicate --judging others, bullying, having racial bias, blaming, finger pointing, discriminating, speaking without listening, criticizing others or ourselves, name-calling, reacting when angry, using political rhetoric, being defensive or judging who's "good/bad" or what's "right/wrong" with people-- could indeed be called "violent communication." What is Nonviolent Communication? Nonviolent Communication is the integration of four things: ; Consciousness: a set of principles that

support living a life of compassion, collaboration, courage, and authenticity ; Language: understanding how words contribute to connection or distance ; Communication: knowing how to ask for what we want, how to hear others even in disagreement, and how to move toward solutions that work for all ; Means of influence: sharing "power with others" rather than using "power over others" Nonviolent Communication serves our desire to do three things: ; Increase our ability to live with choice, meaning, and connection ; Connect empathically with self and others to have more satisfying relationships ; Sharing of resources so everyone is able to benefit.



Crucial Conversations Tools for Talking When Stakes Are High

Patterson, Kerry Patterson, Kerry • Grenny, Joseph Grenny, Joseph • McMillan, Ron McMillan, Ron • Switzler, Al

The New York Times and Washington Post bestseller that changed the way millions communicate

"[Crucial Conversations] draws our attention to those defining moments that literally shape our lives, our relationships, and our world. . . . This book deserves to take its

place as one of the key thought leadership contributions of our time."

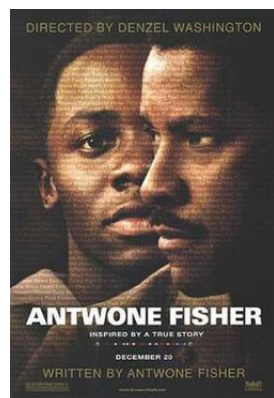
— From the Foreword by Stephen R. Covey, author of The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People

"The quality of your life comes out of the quality of your dialogues and conversations. Here's how to instantly uplift your crucial conversations."

— Mark Victor Hansen, cocreator of the #1 New York Times bestselling series Chicken Soup for the Soul. The first edition of Crucial Conversations exploded onto the scene and revolutionized the way millions of people communicate when stakes are high. This new edition gives you the tools to:

- Prepare for high-stakes situations
- Transform anger and hurt feelings into powerful dialogue
- Make it safe to talk about almost anything
- Be persuasive, not abrasive

FILMS TO WATCH TO CONMEMORAT NATIONAL CIVILITY MONTH



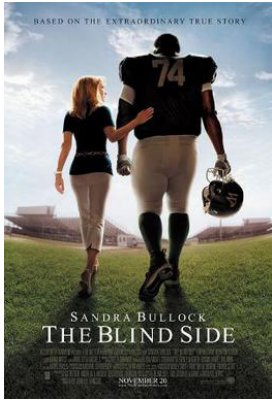
Antwone Fisher

PG-13

Directed by Denzel Washington

Antwone "Fish" Fisher is a temperamental young man from Cleveland, Ohio, with a violent history who is serving in the U.S. Navy. His father was killed before he was born and his teenage mother, Eva Mae Fisher, ended up arrested soon after and put in jail, where she gave birth to him. He was then placed in an orphanage until she was released and could claim him. Since she had not yet claimed him, at the age of two Antwone was placed in a foster home run by a couple, Mr. and Mrs. Tate. Antwone suffers years of physical and emotional abuse at Mrs. Tate's hands and is molested by her adult niece

Nadine. He finally leaves the home at age 14. After living out on the streets for the next few years, he decides to join the U.S. Navy to make something out of his life.



The Blind Side

PG-13

Directed by John Lee Hancock

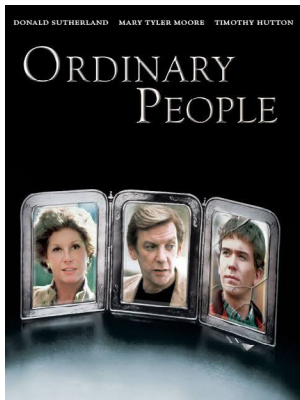
Coach Cotton (Ray McKinnon) convinces board members of a small Christian private school in Memphis, Tennessee, to admit Michael Oher (Quinton Aaron), a gigantic African-American from the slums of the city. He knows that the boy can't play football unless his grades are up to snuff. Leigh Anne Tuohy (Sandra Bullock) is a feisty interior designer married to Sean (Tim McGaw), a laid-back fast food entrepreneur, and mother to Collins (Lily Collins), a pretty teenager, and SJ (Jae Head), a spunky little boy. Learning that Michael is homeless, she decides to do the right thing as a believing Christian and give him a place to stay.

Leigh Anne is a take-charge woman who immediately goes shopping with her new guest and buys him some clothes. At school, Michael is quiet and isolated from the other students who are all white. Although shy and tight-lipped, one of his teachers discovers that he is quite bright but unsure of himself. Michael just needs time. Living with the Tuohy family opens him up to new possibilities.

When this gentle giant finally shows up on the football field, the coach is shocked to see that he has no killer instinct. Little SJ takes charge of his training regimen and single-handedly tutors him in the essentials of the game. But it takes the wise counsel of Leigh Anne to connect with Michael's nurturing instincts. She says to him: "This team is your family and you have to protect them. Tony is your quarterback. You protect his blind side. When you look at him think of me."

Michael takes this message to heart and becomes a formidable left tackle. His aggressiveness and talent serves as a spur to the team who suddenly become winners. But to continue in the sport, Michael has to raise his grades and so the Tuohys hire him a tutor, Miss Sue (Kathy Bates). She shocks these proud NRA Republicans by telling them she is a Democrat. In addition to his grades, Michael faces one last hurdle to entry into big-time college football.

Film Review by Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat



Ordinary People

R

Directed by Robert Redford

This 1980 film won four Academy Awards (Best Picture, Best Director, Best Supporting Actor, and Best Screenplay adapted from Another Medium (the novel by Judith Guest). It is a very special drama about growing up, family life, marriage, love and loss, forgiveness, and renewal. It speaks to experiences, ideas, feelings, and fears common to us all. In the suffering and growth of the ordinary people on the screen, and helps us gain a fresh perspective on our own adolescence and adulthood.

Conrad (Timothy Hutton) is a 17-year-old who has just returned home after four months in a psychiatric hospital following a suicide attempt. His father Calvin (Donald Sutherland), a lawyer, hovers over him with anxious concern. His mother Beth (Mary Tyler Moore), an active woman in their upper-middle-class Lake Forest community, does everything she can to avoid any close contact with him. At school, Conrad is a member of the choir and on the swimming team.

The trauma that has deeply affected the whole family is the accidental death of the older son, Buck, in a boating accident that Conrad survived. Calvin encourages his son to see a psychiatrist, and the boy warily begins twice-a-week sessions with Dr. Berger (Judd Hirsch). Conrad announces he wants more "control" of his life; the psychiatrist soon zeroes in on his family situation. Meanwhile Calvin and Beth's marriage begins to disintegrate; he finds her treatment of Conrad to be too chilly, and she blames him for always siding with their son against her.

Conrad's progress is suddenly reversed when Karen (Dinah Manoff), a friend from the hospital whom he has seen once since their release, commits suicide. Dr. Berger is there when his patient needs him, and he helps Conrad focus on the real source of his problem. A blooming relationship with Jeannine (Elizabeth McGovern) gives Conrad a new measure of

self-confidence. In the end, Beth leaves for an indefinite period of time after both she and Calvin realize that the love has gone out of their marriage.

Ordinary People is a film that works on several levels. It is a sensitive portrait of a young man struggling to regain his equilibrium after caving in to grief and guilt following his brother's death. The story also works as an incisive portrait of a hurting family — one in which surface calm conceals a real lack of communication, self-esteem, and mutual understanding. Finally, the drama presents an edifying example of humanistic psychology at its best.

This film was Robert Redford's first directorial effort. He talked about what he hoped audiences would take away from the film: "Ordinary People has lots of colors. It is a picture of behavior, about something of depth. It has to do with the family unit, which interests me. And with people who keep their lives in perfect order — they interest me. It's about the effort to communicate by a young person through the fog of social structures he's raised in. I don't know what this picture will say to teenagers but I hope it has a message for their parents. I hope it tells them loud and clear to listen to what their children have to say."

Film Review by Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat

BLACK BUSINESS MONTH

The history of Black Business Month can be traced back to the year 2004, when engineering entrepreneur Frederick E. Jordan partnered with the president and executive editor of the scholarly publishing company eAccess Corp, John William Templeton, to start this annual event. The intention of the pair was to "drive the policy agenda affecting the 2.6 million African-American businesses," in order to highlight and empower Black business owners all over, especially given the unique challenges faced by minority business owners. This stemmed from Jordan's own personal experience of the struggle to gain financial backing and funding when he began his own firm in San Francisco in 1969.

Today, he is the successful owner of F. E. Jordan Associates Inc., a company that has international reach, but it also led him to realize that the odds are still not in favor of Black entrepreneurship. To push for equity in the business spaces and to celebrate those who are thriving despite the challenges, Black Business Month is a month-long celebration of entrepreneurs who beat the odds.

Since the late 1700s, both free and enslaved Black people began to open their own small businesses, from barbershops to tobacco shops and shoemaking. As emancipation grew, so did the establishment of Black-owned businesses, and this led to the period between 1900 — 1930 being labeled as the 'golden age' of Black-owned businesses. Segregation saw entire districts becoming Black-owned, such as Black Wall Street in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

In 1915, with the establishment of The National Negro Business League, there was widespread support of African-American entrepreneurship, with The National Business League spreading to over 34 states. By 2002, 1.2 million of the United States' 23 million businesses were owned by Black people, bringing in a revenue of over \$150 billion! How's that for booming business?

BLACK BUSINESS MONTH TIMELINE

1898 Black People Begin to Own Insurance Companies

The North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company is established and quickly becomes one of the oldest and most prominent Black-owned insurance companies in the U.S.

1915 First Black National Business League is Founded

Booker T. Washington founds The National Negro Business League (later renamed The National Business League), to support Black entrepreneurs as they start out.

1920s Black Wall Street

In the Greenwood District of Tulsa, Oklahoma, affluent Black businesses mushroom and flourish, earning the nickname Black Wall Street.

1980s Black Business Brings in Billions

Reginald Lewis is the first African-American to build a billion-dollar company — TLC International Holding.

2004 Black Business Month is Established

Founded by Frederick E. Jordan and John William Templeton, Black Business Month becomes an annual celebration.

HOW TO OBSERVE BLACK BUSINESS MONTH

Show your support

Use Black directories on the internet to guide you to black-owned businesses for your daily needs or any car repair work or fine-tuning that needs doing. This can help you shop local when it comes to small businesses owned by Black people. You can also follow the hashtag trails on social media to follow Black business pages and help them gain a wider reach.

Read about black entrepreneurship

Support Black entrepreneurs by hearing what they have to say firsthand. There is a ton of literature out there that has been written and read by successful black entrepreneurs and businesspeople, so grab any one and get reading. To help you out, we bring you some of the more popular ones, including, "The Color of Money" by Mehrsa Baradaran, "The Little Black Book of Success" by Elaine Meryl Brown, "How to Win Friends and Influence People" by Dale Carnegie, and "Everyday Millionaires" by Chris Hogan.

Try 'Black Food Fridays'

Look no farther than #BlackFoodFridays on Instagram to be part of the super-cool movement started by Charleston, South Carolina's writer/activist/innovator — K. J. Kearney. The aim of the movement is simple; to direct peoples' attention to black-owned restaurants all over the country. The idea is now developing into a business, with apps like 'EatOkra' also doing the same.

[National Today](#)

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS A LIST OF BLACK OWNED BUSINESS NEAR WORCESTER MASSACHUSETTS.](#)



WOMEN'S
EQUALITY
DAY
AUGUST 26

WOMEN'S EQUALITY MONTH

Tuesday, August 26th 2025

National Women's Equality Day, observed annually in the United States on August 26, marks the adoption of the 19th Amendment in 1920, which granted women the right to vote. While this was a pivotal victory in the United States, it was not an end to the struggle for women's rights. It wasn't until the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that more comprehensive protections were established for historically excluded groups in the United States. Officially [recognized by Congress in 1973](#), National Women's Equality Day not only commemorates these achievements but also underscores the importance of continued advocacy to achieve true gender equality.

Today, women and girls continue to face significant barriers to their safety and meaningful participation in social, economic, and political life – both in the United States and across the globe. The Department of State, led by the Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues (S/GWI), is at the forefront of U.S. efforts to advance gender equality overseas, including to promote women and girls' rights and empowerment through U.S. foreign policy, programs, and partnerships.

Our commitment to promoting gender equality through policy is reflected through signature public diplomacy initiatives like the Secretary's annual [International Women of Courage \(IWOC\) Award](#). Since 2007, the IWOC Award has honored over 190 women from 90 countries for their extraordinary courage in advancing peace, justice, and gender equality, often at great personal risk. This unique ceremony and follow-on professional exchange program amplifies the incredible work already being done by women on the frontlines of efforts to promote respect for human rights, prevent and resolve conflicts, and build sustainable peace in their societies.



Complementing this, foreign assistance programming such as SHE WINS, allow women-led organizations to address peace and security challenges in their communities, including through peacebuilding initiatives and localization of Women, Peace and Security National Action Plans. SHE WINS, through its partnership with Search for Common Ground, recently brought together a group of Sudanese women experts to inform the mediation teams on the margins of the Sudan diplomatic talks to ensure that the perspectives and priorities of Sudanese women are integrated into the core objectives. By empowering women activists and leaders, these programs help build more resilient and peaceful societies.

Partnerships with likeminded countries and the private sector are another critical tool used by the Department to promote gender equality. In July 2024, the Biden Administration launched the Women Leading Effective and Accountable Democracy in the Digital Age (Women LEAD) initiative, a public-private partnership that convenes governments, philanthropy, civil society, and multilateral organizations to advance women's political and civic participation and leadership globally. The Department of State and USAID have committed \$150 million towards Women LEAD to advance women's political leadership, prevent and address gender-based violence against women leaders online and offline, and support women's meaningful participation in the criminal justice sector, peacebuilding and conflict resolution. Alongside the United States and 14 countries, more than 20 foundations, international organizations, and civil society partners have made more than \$850 million in commitments. The initiative underscores the importance of supporting women's safe and meaningful participation in leadership roles, which is crucial for building more equitable and just societies.

Despite significant progress since the 19th Amendment, today, Women's Equality Day serves as a vital forcing function for the work that remains to be done to achieve gender equality both in the United States and abroad. Women make up half the global population but continue to face disparities in pay, representation, and opportunities. [Women hold only 10.6% of Fortune 500 CEO positions, 32.8% of university presidencies, and less than a third of global leadership roles](#). Bridging the gender gap could add an [estimated \\$5.3 trillion to the global GDP](#). Women's Equality Day serves as a poignant reminder that the pursuit of gender equality is an ongoing global priority, while commemorating the achievements of women and all those who have supported them in their efforts.

By continuing to promote the rights and empowerment of all women and girls, we can move closer to a world where gender equality is not just an aspiration but a reality. The Department's leadership in initiatives like IWOC, SHE WINS, and under the broader Women LEAD effort demonstrate the critical importance of S/GWI in amplifying the expertise and lived experiences of women and girls worldwide. Today, on National Women's Equality Day, while significant progress has been made, the fight for true equality continues, and it is a fight that we must all champion. S/GWI is proud to center and elevate the needs and perspectives of women and girls in U.S. foreign policy and assistance.

[U.S. Department of State. National Women's Equality Day 2024.](#)

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE SLAVE TRADE AND ITS ABOLITION AUGUST 23



INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE SLAVE TRADE AND ITS ABOLITION

Sat, Aug 23, 2025

The transatlantic trading patterns were established in the mid-17 century. It involved trading ships from Europe, sailing from Europe with manufactured goods to the west coast of Africa, where the goods would be exchanged for people captured by African traders. The transatlantic slave trade benefited the colonial powers of Western Europe primarily. The slave trade brought men, women and children who had been kidnapped, mainly from Africa, to labor as slaves in colonial settlements in Haiti, the Caribbean, and other regions of the world in inhumane conditions. During the final leg of the route, these ships returned home with cargoes of sugar, rum, tobacco, and other items.

More than 480,000 people were enslaved in the British Colonies by the 1790s. Enslaved people were forced to toil on plantations in the Caribbean and the Americas. These plantations produced products such as sugar or tobacco meant for consumption in Europe.

Towards the end of the eighteenth century, people started campaigning against slavery. Still, as it made significant contributions to the country's economy, these Abolitionists (people who campaigned for the abolition of the slave trade) were fiercely opposed by the pro-slavery West Indian lobby. These enslaved people themselves resisted the end of slavery. Resistance for commons in the Caribbean and the slaves in the French colony of St. Domingue seized control of the island and was declared the Republic of Haiti. In 1807, the British government passed an Act that abolished the slave trade throughout the British Empire, but slavery persisted in the colonies until it was finally abolished in 1838. International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is observed to commemorate the uprising on August 23, 1791, in Santo Domingo, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic today, which played a crucial role in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE SLAVE TRADE AND ITS ABOLITION TIME-LINE

1791 Uprising in Haiti

The uprising in Haiti plays a crucial role in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

1807 Abolition of Slave Trade

The British government passes an Act that abolishes the slave trade throughout the British Empire, but slavery persists in some colonies.

1998 First Celebration of This Day

On August 23, 1998, people celebrate International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition for the first time.

1998 UNESCO Takes Charge

The UNESCO Executive Board adopts a resolution to invite all member states to organize events to mark August 23 every year.

HOW TO OBSERVE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE SLAVE TRADE AND ITS ABOLITION

Learn history

Learn about the history of the slave trade and its negative consequences. Find out when and why it began.

Spread awareness

Spread awareness about the horrifying history of the slave trade. Let people know how people fought against which led to its abolishment.

Attend events

Many countries hold various events on this day, such as seminars, plays, poetry events, etc. Attend these events and learn more about the day.

[National Today](#)

BOOKS TO READ TO CONMEMORAT THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE SLAVE TRADE AND ITS ABOLITION

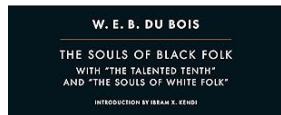


The Souls of Black Folk: With “The Talented Tenth” and “The Souls of White Folk”

1996

The landmark book about being black in America, now in an expanded edition commemorating the 150th anniversary of W. E. B. Du Bois’s birth and featuring a new introduction by Ibram X. Kendi, the #1 New York Times bestselling author of How to Be an Antiracist, and cover art by Kadir Nelson

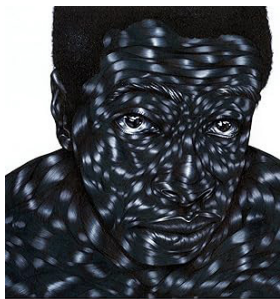
“The problem of the Twentieth Century is the problem of the color-line.”



When *The Souls of Black Folk* was first published in 1903, it had a galvanizing effect on the conversation about race in America—and it remains both a touchstone in the literature of African America and a beacon in the fight for civil rights. Believing that one can know the “soul” of a race by knowing the souls of individuals, W. E. B. Du Bois combines history and stirring autobiography to reflect on the magnitude of American racism and to chart a path forward against oppression, and introduces the now-famous concepts of the color line, the veil, and double-consciousness.

This edition of Du Bois’s visionary masterpiece includes two additional essays that have become essential reading: “The Souls of White Folk,” from his 1920 book *Darkwater*, and “The Talented Tenth.”

For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,800 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.



Black No More

2018

For fans of the Oscar-winning film *American Fiction*: the landmark comic satire that asks, “What would happen if all black people in America turned white?”—featuring an introduction by Danzy Senna, the bestselling author of *Caucasia* and *Colored Television*

It’s New Year’s Day 1933 in New York City, and Max Disher, a young black man, has just found out that a certain Dr. Junius Crookman has discovered a mysterious process that allows people to bleach their skin white—a new way to “solve the American race problem.” Max leaps at the opportunity, and after a brief stay at the Crookman Sanitarium, he becomes Matthew Fisher, a white man who is able to attain everything he has ever wanted: money, power, good liquor, and the white woman who rejected him when he was black.

Lampooning myths of white supremacy and racial purity and caricaturing prominent African American leaders like W. E.

B. Du Bois, Madam C. J. Walker, and Marcus Garvey, *Black No More* is a masterwork of speculative fiction and a hilarious satire of America's obsession with race.

For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,800 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

FILMS TO WATCH TO CONMEMORAT THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE SLAVE TRADE AND ITS ABOLITION TIMELINE



12 Years a Slave

R

Directed by Steve McQueen

The Edwin Epps House, now located on the ground of Louisiana State University of Alexandria, is a stop along Northup's Trail. Solomon Northup and Samuel Bass helped build the house that was completed in 1852.

Solomon Northup is a free African-American man in 1841, working as a violinist and living with his wife and two children in Saratoga Springs, New York. Two white men, Brown and Hamilton, offer him short-term employment as a musician in Washington, D.C.; instead, they drug Northup and deliver him to James H. Birch, the owner of a slave pen. Northup proclaims his freedom, only to be violently beaten and tortured.

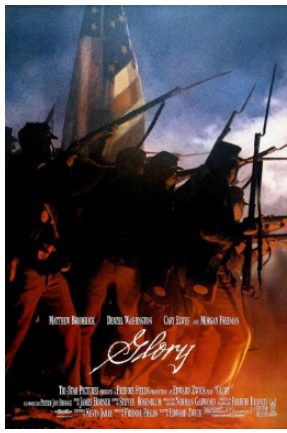
He is shipped to New Orleans with other slaves, who tell him he must adapt if he wants to survive in the South. Slave trader Theophilus Freeman gives Northup the identity of "Platt," a runaway slave from Georgia, and sells him to plantation owner William Ford. Ford takes a liking to Northup and gives him a violin. Tensions between Northup and plantation carpenter John Tibbeats break when Northup defends himself from Tibbeats and beats him with his whip. Tibbeats and his men prepare to lynch Northup but are stopped by the overseer. Northup is left on tiptoes with the noose around his neck for hours before Ford arrives and cuts him down. Northup tells Ford that he is in fact a free man, but Ford has debts to settle and sells Northup to plantation owner Edwin Epps.

Epps, unlike Ford, is abusive and sadistic to his slaves. Northup meets Patsey, a favored slave and Epps' top cotton picker. Epps regularly rapes Patsey, and his jealous wife abuses her. Cotton worms destroy Epps' crops, so he leases his slaves to neighbor Judge Turner's plantation for the season. Turner favors Northup and allows him to fiddle at a celebration and keep his earnings. Northup returns to Epps and pays white field hand and former overseer Armsby to mail a letter to his friends in New York. Armsby takes Northup's money but betrays him. Epps questions and threatens Northup, but Northup convinces him that Armsby is lying. Northup burns the letter. Patsey is caught by Epps going to a neighboring plantation to acquire soap, as Mrs. Epps will not let her have any. Epps orders Northup to whip Patsey, which he reluctantly does, but Epps demands he strike her harder, eventually taking the whip and beating Patsey nearly to death. Enraged and regretting what he did, Northup destroys his violin.

Northup begins constructing a gazebo with Canadian laborer Samuel Bass. Bass, citing his Christian faith, strongly opposes slavery and castigates Epps, earning his enmity. Northup reveals his kidnapping to Bass and asks for help sending his letter. Bass hesitates because of the risk but agrees. The local sheriff arrives, and Northup recognizes his companion as Mr. Parker, a shopkeeper he knew in New York. As they embrace, Epps furiously protests and tries to prevent Northup from leaving but is rebuffed. Northup bids farewell to Patsey and rides off to his freedom.

Northup returns home to reunite with his wife and children. His daughter, who is now married, introduces his grandson and namesake, Solomon Northup Staunton. He apologizes for his long absence while his family comforts him.

An epilogue recounts Northup's unsuccessful lawsuits against Brown, Hamilton, and Birch; the 1853 publication of Northup's slave narrative memoir, *Twelve Years a Slave*; his role in the abolitionist movement; and the absence of information regarding his death and burial.



Glory

R

Directed by Edward Zwick

During the American Civil War, Captain Robert Shaw, injured at Antietam, is sent home to Boston on medical leave. Shaw accepts a promotion to Colonel commanding the 54th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, one of the first black regiments in the Union Army. He asks his friend, Cabot Forbes, to serve as his second in command, with the rank of major. Their first volunteer is another friend, Thomas Searles, a bookish, free African-American. Other recruits include John Rawlins, Jupiter Sharts, Trip, and a mute teenage drummer boy.

The men learn that, in response to the Emancipation Proclamation, the Confederacy has issued an order that all black soldiers will be returned to slavery. Black soldiers found in a Union uniform will be executed as well as their white officers. They are offered, but turn down, a chance

to take an honorable discharge. They undergo rigorous training with Sergeant-Major Mulcahy to prepare them for the challenges they will face.

Trip goes AWOL and is caught; Shaw orders him flogged in front of the troops. He learns that Trip left to find shoes to replace his worn ones; his men are being denied supplies. He confronts the base's racist quartermaster on their behalf. Shaw also supports them in a pay dispute, as the Federal government pays black soldiers \$10 rather than the \$13 per month white soldiers earn. Trip encourages the men to go without pay in protest; Shaw tears up his pay stub in solidarity. In recognition of his leadership, Shaw promotes Rawlins to the rank of Sergeant-Major.

Once the 54th completes its training, they are transferred under the command of General Charles Harker. On the way to South Carolina, they are ordered by Colonel James Montgomery to sack and burn Darien, Georgia. Shaw initially refuses to obey an unlawful order, but agrees under threat of having his troops taken away. He continues to lobby his superiors to allow his men to join the fight, as their duties to date have involved manual labor for which they are being mocked. Shaw then finally gets the 54th into combat after he blackmails Harker and Montgomery by threatening to report the illegal activities he has discovered. In their first battle at James Island, South Carolina, early success is followed by a confrontation with many casualties. The Confederates are defeated and retreat. During the battle, Thomas is wounded but manages to save Trip. Shaw offers Trip the honor of bearing the regimental flag in battle. He declines, not believing the war will result in a better life for slaves.

General George Strong informs Shaw of a major campaign to secure a foothold at Charleston Harbor. This involves assaulting Morris Island and capturing Fort Wagner, whose only landward approach is a strip of open beach; a charge is certain to result in heavy casualties. Shaw volunteers the 54th to lead the charge. The night before the battle, the black soldiers conduct a religious service, and several make emotional speeches to inspire the troops and to ask for God's help. On their way to the attack, the 54th is cheered by the same Union troops who had scorned them earlier.

The 54th leads the charge on the fort, suffering heavy casualties. At night, the bombardment continues, forestalling progress. Attempting to encourage his men, Shaw is killed. Trip lifts the flag, rallying the soldiers to continue the charge. He is shot but holds up the flag until he dies. Forbes takes charge, and the soldiers are able to break through the fort's outer defenses. Outnumbered, Charlie Morse is killed, and Thomas is wounded. At the end of the battle, it is implied that Forbes, Rawlins, Thomas, and Jupiter are killed by canister shot. The morning after the battle, the beach is littered with bodies of Union soldiers; the Confederate flag is raised over the fort. The corpses are buried in a mass grave, with Shaw and Trip's bodies next to each other.

An epilogue reveals that although Fort Wagner was never captured, the courage displayed by the 54th led to the Union Army accepting thousands of Black men for combat—a move that President Abraham Lincoln credited with helping to turn the tide of the war.