

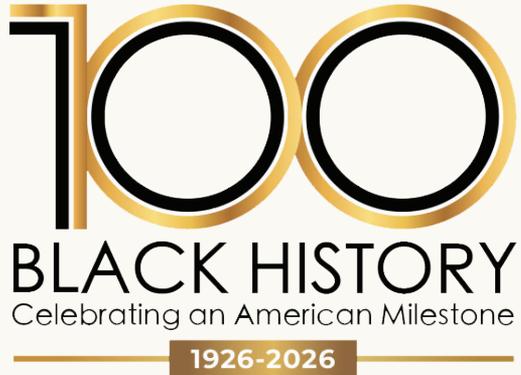
**An American Milestone:
The Centennial of Negro History Week/Black History Month,
1926-2026**

Symposium Program



Dr. Carter G. Woodson

Portrait by Sassa Wilkes



Sponsored by The Dr. Carter G. Woodson Lyceum,
Marshall Health Network and the City of Huntington

The portrait of Dr. Carter G. Woodson that appears in the logo on the cover page and on the commemorative pin featured on page ten of this program, is the work of celebrated West Virginia artist Sassa Wilkes, who produced this work in 2021 (oil on canvas, 30" x 24", Marshall University Special Collections). The image is based on Dr. Woodson's likeness captured in a photograph that is held in the Ancella Bickley Collection at the West Virginia State Archives. Photograph by Eric Himes.

Marshall University's celebration of the centennial of Negro History Week/Black History Month also includes a suite of free, online, short, non-credit classes. The program considers the phrase "Black History" as an umbrella term that incorporates various areas of study, including literature, music, art, history, culture and other disciplines and topics associated with the arts and humanities. The courses are available until May 1, 2026. Dr. Julia Spears is Chair of the Online Black History Courses Subcommittee.
www.marshall.edu/centennial/centennial-courses

THURSDAY, March 5th, 2026

St. Mary's Center for Education

Session One: 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Room A: Literature and Signification

Chair: Dr. Leonard Deutsch, Professor Emeritus of English, Marshall University

“Champion of Liberty!’ Discovering Bessie Woodson Yancey’s Life, Poetry, and Political Voice”

Dr. Katharine Capshaw, Professor of English and Social and Critical Inquiry,
University of Connecticut

“Erasure, Amputation, and Regeneration: The Strange Case of A Gathering of Old Men”

Dr. Joel Peckham, Associate Professor of English, Marshall University

“Signifying in Language and Literature”

Dr. Dolores Johnson, Professor Emerita of English, Marshall University

Comment: Dr. Carol Taylor Johnson, Professor of English and Africana Studies, former
Director of the National Center for Human Relations, West Virginia State University

Session Two: 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Room B: Black Innovation in the Arts, Letters, and Sciences

Chair: Dr. Clinton Arnold, Assistant Professor of Marketing and Business,
West Virginia State University

“Dr. W.E.B. DuBois and the 1900 Paris Exposition”

Sandra Reed, Professor of Art, Marshall University

“Primitive doesn’t always mean primal, and other tips for Blues historians”

Edward Komara, Distinguished Librarian, State University of New York at Potsdam

“Black West Virginia Scientists”

Dr. Anna Mummert, Associate Dean of the College of Science, Marshall University

Comment: Dr. Gregory Breeden, Assistant Professor of Health Sciences,
Marshall University

Break: 10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Session Three: 10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Room A: Black Appalachian History, Preservation, and Information Access

Chair: Ms. Beverly Gray, Co-founder David Nickens Heritage Center, Chillicothe, Ohio

“The Black Appalachian Cultural Center: Creating a Cultural Heritage Tourism
Sector in Southern West Virginia”

Dr. Cicero M. Fain, III, Assistant Provost for Access and Opportunity, Marshall University

“Huntington, West Virginia’s Black City: How Segregation Shaped a Community, 1938-1965”

Ms. Jillian Kendall, M.A. student, Public History, West Virginia University

“Hidden in Plain Sight: The Role of Academic Libraries and LibGuides in Preserving
and Promoting Black Appalachian History”

Ms. Tomeka Jackson, Linked Data Librarian, Assistant Professor, Middle Tennessee State
University, and Ms. Sahara Scott, Global Black Studies Librarian, Brown University

Comment: Dr. Billy Joe Peyton, Professor of History Emeritus, West Virginia State University

Session Four: 10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Room B: Gender and Identity

Chair: Dr. Jennifer Robinette, Drinko Academy and Simon Perry Center Program Coordinator, Marshall University

“From the Monster to the Victim? Blackfishing and White Women Tears”

Dr. Julie Snyder-Yuly, Associate Professor of Communication Studies, Marshall University

“Travelling Through this World: Black and Multiracial Motorcycle Clubs in Appalachia”

Dr. Kelli Johnson, Professor, Librarian IV, Marshall University Libraries, and

Dr. Paul Robertson, Assistant Professor of English, Marshall University

Comment: The audience

Symposium Lunch Program: 12:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.*

Honoring a Century of Scholarship: *The Journal of African American History*

Welcome by Marshall President Brad Smith and Mr. Scott Raynes, President/CEO of

Marshall Health Network. Comments by Professor Burnis Morris and Dr. Montserrat

Miller. **Presentation by:** Dr. Bertis English, Professor of History, Alabama State

University, editor, *The Journal of African American History*, “Looking Backward While Moving

Forward: Carter G. Woodson and the Development of *The Journal of African American History*”

Session Five: 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Room A: Roundtable Discussion

The Historical Significance and Agency of Black Fraternity and Sorority Organizations

Moderator: Mr. William Smith, Jr., Marshall University Board of Governors (Kappa Alpha Psi)

Former West Virginia State Senator Marie Redd (Alpha Kappa Alpha)

Ms. Debra Hart, President, Co-Motion (Delta Sigma Theta)

Mr. Corey Cunningham, Associate Director of Student Life, Marshall University (Omega Psi Phi)

Session Six: 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Room B: Initiatives Addressing Black Public Health and Community Wellbeing

Chair: Dr. Anthony Woart, Chair, Department of Public Health, Marshall University

“The ‘Science’ of Racism: The Shame Psychology Must Acknowledge”

Dr. David Jett Pittenger, Professor of Psychology, Marshall University

“Black Health in Appalachia-Coal Mining in West Virginia and the Associated Health Outcomes for African Americans”

Dr. Georgiana Logan, Associate Professor of Health Sciences, Marshall University

“When Women are Not Heard: Health, Power, and Resilience in Appalachia”

Dr. Paris Johnson, Marshall University

Comment: Dr. Onyechi Megafu, Medical Director, St. Mary’s Medical Center Pain Relief Program, Marshall Health Network

*Symposium Lunch reservations required: contact Jennifer. Robinette@marshall.edu

FRIDAY, March 6th, 2026

8:00 a.m. Bus from Delta Hotel by Marriott Downtown Huntington to Malden WV*

9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Tour of J.Q. Dickenson Salt Works

10:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Special Symposium Address

African Zion Baptist Church

“A New History of Booker T. Washington,” Mr. Larry L. Rowe, Esq., Public Historian

11:30 a.m. Bus from Malden to West Virginia State University

**12:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Lunch on own in the Wilson University Union,
West Virginia State University**

Plenary Session: 1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Wilson University Union, Room 134

Welcome by: West Virginia State University President Ericke S. Cage

Comments by: Professor Burnis R. Morris, Director of The Dr. Carter G. Woodson Lyceum and by Dr. Montserrat Miller, Executive Director, John Deaver Drinko Academy for American Political Institutions and Civic Culture

Recitations: Precious Fagbenro and Isaiah Ray

Keynote address: “A Family-Focused, Place-Based, Framework to Address Poverty Across West Virginia” Rev. Matthew J. Watts I, Senior Pastor, Grace Bible Church, founder of Hope Community Development Corporation

Session Seven: 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Wilson University Union, room 134 West Virginia State University

From Abolition to Integration: Case Studies from the 19th and 20th Centuries

Chair: Mr. Maurice R. Cooley, former V.P./Dean, Intercultural and Student Affairs & Founding Director, Marshall University Society of Black Scholars

“How the Vanguards of Abolition Defied the Spiral of Silence about Slavery in America”
Dr. Jennifer Robinette, Drinko Academy and Simon Perry Center Program
Coordinator, Marshall University

“Frederick Douglass, Journalist”

Professor Dan Hollis, Journalism and Mass Communications, Marshall University

“William J. L. Wallace: The Man of the Hour”

Dr. Carol Taylor Johnson, Professor of English and Africana Studies, former director of the National Center for Human Relations, West Virginia State University

Comment: Mr. David Harris, Marshall Health Network Board Member and
Community Organizer

Reception: 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Wilson University Union, West Virginia State University

Bus back to Huntington: 5:15 p.m.

**Reservations required: contact millerm@marshall.edu*

SATURDAY, March 7th, 2026

Drinko Library, Marshall University

Session Eight: 9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

Drinko Library Room 138

High School and College Essay and Poster Design Winners

Chair: Dr. Montserrat Miller, Executive Director, John Deaver Drinko Academy for American Political Institutions and Civic Culture

Lucile Maroux, 1st Place, 2026 Black History Centennial High School Poster Competition

Kim Arden, 1st Place, 2026 Black History Centennial College Poster Competition

Baylee Parsons, 1st Place, 2026 Black History Centennial College Essay Contest
“Counting on Freedom: Katherine Johnson’s Equation for a More Perfect Union”

Comment: Ms. Alicia Gray, Ross County Historical Society

Break: 10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Session Nine: 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Drinko Library 138

Pedagogies of Race, Pedagogies of Care

Chair and comment: Dr. Eric Lassiter, Director of Graduate Humanities, Marshall University

“Race All Around Us: Historical Monuments and the Politics of Public Memory”

Dr. Anthony Kwame Harrison, Professor of Sociology and Africana Studies, Virginia Tech

“Learning from the Community at the Buildings-Landscapes-Cultures Public Humanities Field School”

Dr. Arijit Sen, Associate Professor of History, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

“Centering Students’ Stories in and about K-12 Schools”

Ms. Anna L. Osborne, English Language Specialist, Greenbrier County Schools

Light Lunch: 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Drinko Library Atrium



Session Ten: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Drinko Library Atrium

Approaching the Bicentennial of America's Black Press and Making the Centennial of Negro History Week/Black History Month a Reality

Chair: Ms. Crystal Good, Founder and publisher of *Black By God*

“Revisiting Carter G. Woodson’s Harvard Years through The HistoryMakers Digital Archive: Reframing the Foundations of Black Historical Consciousness”

Dr. Zebulon Vance Miletsky, Associate Professor of Africana Studies,
Stony Brook University

“Black History Month in the Contemporary Black Press”

Dr. George Daniels, Associate Professor of Journalism and Creative Media,
University of Alabama

“Enabling Woodson: How the Black Press Helped Popularize Black History”

Professor Burnis Morris, Journalism and Mass Communications,
Director of The Dr. Carter Woodson Lyceum, Marshall University

“Discredit, Disrupt, and Destroy: Federal Attempts to Intimidate and Suppress the Black Press”

Dr. Rob Rabe, Visiting Assistant Professor of English and Journalism, Fort Lewis College

Comment: Ms. Jacqueline Proctor, Deputy Director of the West Virginia Bureau of Senior Services

**Dr. Ollie Watts Davis and the University of Illinois Black Chorus
“Yet with a Steady Beat: The Sacred Music of Black Americans
since 1619”**

Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center, 4:00 p.m.*

Dr. Davis’s address and the choir’s performance will reflect the enduring and steady contribution of Black American music to the world. For centuries, this music has moved with purpose and mission; guiding, guarding, and gracing its creators and all who encounter it. The program will draw from the full expression of Black Sacred Music, including Spirituals, art songs, hymns, anthems, and traditional and contemporary gospel, bearing witness to a living tradition whose pulse continues to shape communities across generations and across the globe. The choir will perform selections by composers including Stacey V. Gibbs, Margaret Bonds, Judith Christie McAllister, Quandra L. Clark, original compositions by Dr. Ollie Watts Davis, and many more. Featuring Mike Campbell, pianist.



In a groundbreaking initiative to honor and rediscover a rich history, Marshall University is collaborating with the City of Huntington and Marshall Health Network to commemorate a great epoch in the American story – the centennial of Negro History Week/Black History Month.

Marshall University President Brad D. Smith and Burnis Morris, Carter G. Woodson Professor in the School of Journalism & Mass Communications and director of The Woodson Lyceum, are co-chairs of the Negro History Week/Black History Month Centennial Committee – whose members include Huntington Mayor Patrick Farrell; Scott Raynes, CEO of Marshall Health Network; and Ericke S. Cage, president of West Virginia State University.



The observances involve free online courses, a symposium in March and performances by the outstanding artists (listed below) who share interesting perspectives about Black History – in the tradition established a century ago by Dr. Woodson, the revered Father of Black History who made his mark on our community before establishing Negro History Week in 1926.

SPONSORED BY: MARSHALL UNIVERSITY | CITY OF HUNTINGTON | MARSHALL HEALTH NETWORK

RISING STARS FIFE & DRUM BAND

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026 7:00 PM
JOAN C. EDWARDS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Shardé Thomas Mallory and Chris Mallory from Coldwater, Mississippi, are the dynamic duo behind The Rising Stars Fife and Drum Band. Shardé has led fife and drum bands since her granddad, Otha Turner, was alive and leading his own band that she was a part of. In 2003, Shardé started her band, Rising Stars, to continue her grandfather's legacy. In recent years, the band has grown into a worldwide brand and monumental blues/roots history sensation. The mixture of old school songs with fresh funky beats is bound to keep the young and old on their feet!



FEATURED IN THE MAJOR MOTION PICTURE *SINNERS*



DR. OLLIE WATTS DAVIS AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS BLACK CHORUS

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 6 4:00 PM
JOAN C. EDWARDS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Described as “a bubbling stream of a voice, remarkably smooth down into a resonant, rich low register” (*San Francisco Chronicle*), Ollie Watts Davis earns superlatives wherever she sings. Since her New York debut at Carnegie Hall, she has appeared with many of the nation’s leading orchestras; in opera with the San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival, the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Des Moines Metro Opera, Opera Theatre of Springfield, and Illinois Opera Theatre; and internationally for performances and residencies in the Americas, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia.



All Education & Enrichment Events are Free and Open to the Public

BOWTIE



Dress in a disguise

SHOOFLY



A friendly guide

MONKEY WRENCH



Gather your belongings

NINE PATCH



Community Garden

BEAR'S PAW



Follow the bear tracks over the Appalachian Mountains

CROSSROADS



Routes to freedom

LOG CABIN



NINE PATCH



Community Garden

FLYING GEESE



Points to the direction to follow

DRUNKARDS PATH



Travel in a zigzag to freedom

AN AMERICAN MILESTONE:

Celebrating the Centennial
Of Negro History Week/
Black History Month
1926 - 2026

C.G.M.



This poster, titled "Fabric of Hope," is the winner of the Negro History Week/Black History Month Centennial Poster Competition for college students. It is also the official Centennial Poster. The competition is sponsored by The Dr. Carter G. Woodson Lyceum at Marshall University and co-sponsors Marshall Health Network and City of Huntington. The winning poster was designed by Kim Arden, a Marshall University senior (BFA with graphic design emphasis).

The Woodson Lyceum, founded in 2016, is a forum for addressing key issues involving education, race and a free press. It honors Dr. Woodson (1875-1950), a former West Virginia coal miner, an 1896 graduate of Huntington's Douglass School and its principal (1900-1903). Dr. Woodson created Negro History Week in 1926.



AMERICAN MILESTONE CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

President Brad D. Smith, Marshall University, and Committee Co-Chair

Professor Burnis Morris, Director, The Dr. Carter G. Woodson Lyceum, and Committee Co-Chair

President Ericke Cage, West Virginia State University

Ms. Adrienne Cannon, Library of Congress

Dr. Cicero M. Fain, III, Assistant Provost for Access and Opportunity, Marshall University

The Honorable Patrick Farrell, Mayor of Huntington, West Virginia

Superintendent Tim Hardesty, Cabell County Schools

Mr. David Harris, Marshall Health Network Board Member and Community Organizer

Professor Burnis Morris, Director, The Dr. Carter G. Woodson Lyceum, and Committee Co-Chair

Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander, Professor, Norfolk State University

Mr. Scott Raynes, President/CEO Marshall Health Network

Ms. Jill Upson, former Executive Director of the Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs, State of West Virginia

Dr. Eric Waggoner, Executive Director of West Virginia Humanities Council

Dr. Kaye Whitehead, President of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History

EMERITUS MEMBERS

The Honorable Steve Williams, former Mayor of Huntington, West Virginia

Dr. Kevin Yingling, former President/CEO Marshall Health Network

AMERICAN MILESTONE SYMPOSIUM SUBCOMMITTEE

Dr. Montserrat Miller, Executive Director, John Deaver Drinko Academy, Chair

Mr. Maurice Cooley, former V.P./Dean, Intercultural and Student Affairs & Founding Director, Marshall University Society of Black Scholars

Dr. Cicero M. Fain, Assistant Provost for Access and Opportunity, Marshall University

Mr. David Harris, Marshall Health Network Board Member and Community Organizer

Dr. Elisha Lewis, Chair of Teaching and Learning, American College of Education

Dr. Donte Pennington, former Assistant Research Professor of Human Physiology and Program Leader of Family & Consumer Sciences, West Virginia State University

Dr. Rob Rabe, Visiting Professor of English and Journalism, Fort Lewis College

Dr. Carol Taylor Johnson, Professor of English and Africana Studies, former director of the National Institute for Human Relations, West Virginia State University

CARTER G. WOODSON

FOREVER



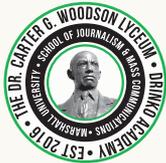
TRUTH...1926-2026



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Marshall University

**John Deaver Drinko Academy for
American Political Institutions and Civic Culture**

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