

28 DAYS OF BLACK HISTORY WEEK 1

FROM THE GLEN RIDGE DIVERSITY & INCLUSION ASSOCIATION

Day 1

A Message from Dirk Phillips Superintendent, GR Public schools

The Glen Ridge Public School District is honored to be celebrating Black History Month throughout February. This month, students will focus on the contributions that African Americans have made to our society, including the essential roles they have played in United States history and culture. As the schools integrate DEI practices into daily classroom activities, February offers an opportunity to place a greater emphasis on the importance of diversity within our community.



All About the Holidays: Black History Month is a short video lesson for children in K-3 about why the month of February is designated in the United States as Black History Month, a month set aside to honor the important role that African Americans play in the story of our country.

Source: PBS Learning Media



Day 2

What is Black History Month?

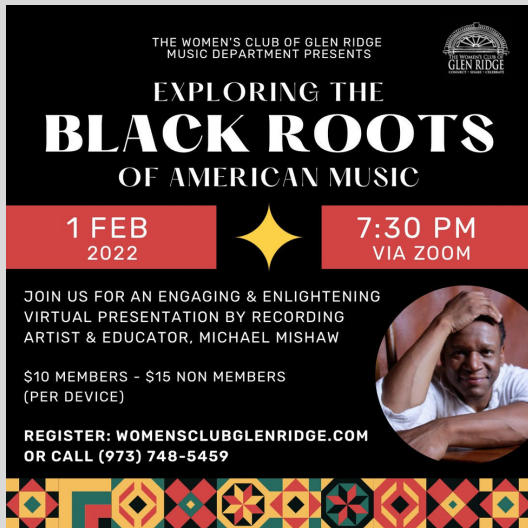
"Black History Month was created to focus attention on the contributions of African Americans to the United States. It honors all Black people from all periods of U.S. history, from the enslaved people first brought over from Africa in the early 17th century to African Americans living in the United States today."

"Today Black History Month continues the discussion of Black people and their contributions by encouraging the study of achievements by African Americans year-round."

This weekly newsletter will connect issues in the past to current issues today to make Black history more relevant to our students' lives.

Source: [National Geographic](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/black-history-month/)

Day 3: Adult Events



Exploring the Black Roots of American Music

February 1, 2022 7:30 PM

Presented by The Women's Club of Glen Ridge Please join us for an engaging and enlightening virtual presentation by recording artist & educator, [Michael Mishaw](#).

[For more information and to RSVP for event click here.](#)

History at Home Matinee: Black Americans in the Revolution

February 10, 2022 1 PM

Presented by Montclair Historical Society Rowan University Professor Jennifer Janofsky shares her research that explores how the [battle of Fort Mercer](#) was remembered by the Black community even as history books continued to either a) ignore their role as Patriots or b) deny their participation.

[Click here to attend this free virtual presentation.](#)



Black History Month Concert at The Woodlands

February 10, 2022 4 PM

Presented by Maplewood Division of Arts and Culture [The Harlem Chamber Players](#) present a Black History Month Concert featuring works by Willaim Grant Still, Nkeiru Okoye, Jessie Montgomery and Antonín Dvořák.

[Click here for more information on free event.](#)

Open Hearth Cooking: Explore African American Foodways

February 13, 2022 2 PM

Presented by Durand-Hedden House & Garden Join Durand-Hedden and [Chef Jesse Jones](#) for an afternoon dedicated to African American cooking by our historic open hearth.

[Click here for more information on free event.](#)

Day 4

Read The Gaslamp: Overcoming "Genteel" Racism

A fascinating article was published by The Glen Ridge Historical Society in November 2020 about Muriel Sutherland, who was the first black graduate of Glen Ridge High School in 1934. Her brother Bill was voted as "most ambitious" member of the Class of 1936. The article recounts their personal history and experiences of growing up in Glen Ridge and their achievements throughout their careers.

[Read full article here.](#)



GLEN RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY THE GASLAMP



Muriel Sutherland



Bill Sutherland

THE ART OF THE (TAP) DANCE

Tap dance originated in the United States in the early 19th century at the crossroads of African and Irish American dance forms. When slave owners took away traditional African percussion instruments, slaves turned to percussive dancing to express themselves and retain their cultural identities. These styles of dance connected with clog dancing from the British Isles, creating a unique form of movement and rhythm.

Some of the most notable tap dancers in our lifetime are Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, the Nicholas Brothers, Sammy Davis Jr., Gregory Hines, and our very own New Jersey born Savion Glover, but the very first known African American Tap dancer was William Henry Lane (c.1825-52) according to the Library of Congress.

Source: [loc.gov](https://www.loc.gov)



Day 5: Family Event

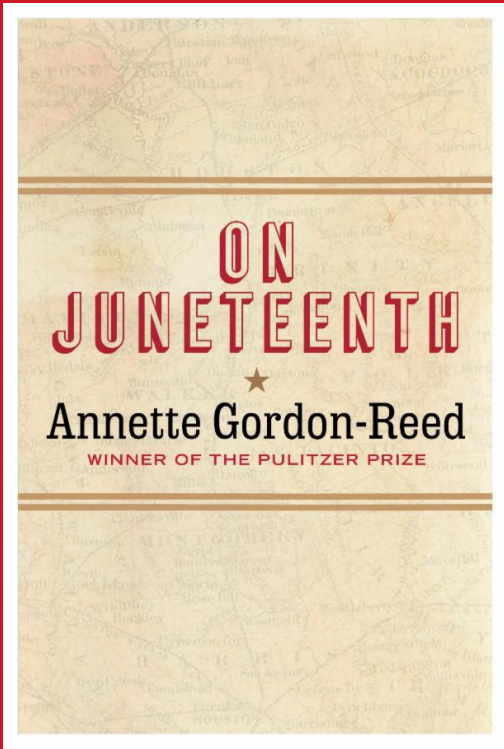
The Tap Dance Kid

February 2-6, 2022

Presented by The New York City Center.

Nominated for seven Tony Awards (including Best Musical), The Tap Dance Kid tells the story of Willie, a 10-year-old boy from an upper-middle-class Black family, who dreams of becoming a professional tap dancer, despite his father's disapproval.

[Purchase tickets here.](#)



Day 6

Expanding OurShelves Book Club: On Juneteenth

February 10, 2022, 7 PM

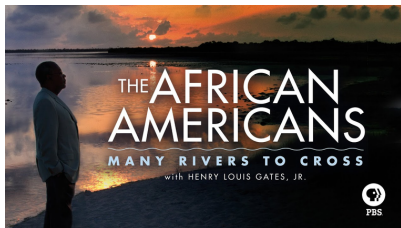
Presented by The Glen Ridge Library Join us for a discussion of *On Juneteenth* by Annette Gordon-Reed. This collection of short essays reflects the author's personal experiences as a Black American in Texas. Through her writings, Gordon-Reed asks the reader to reconsider "the origin of the stories that we tell ourselves in an effort to avoid the nuances of history." You're always welcome to join the discussion, whether you finish the book or not!

[Register here for this event.](#)

Day 7

Watch Together: Recommended Documentaries

Here are some documentaries to try out with your children to help spark conversations about Black Americans' contributions to society.



The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross

For ages 8+

Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr. recounts the full trajectory of African-American history in his groundbreaking series.

Available on [Amazon](#) & [PBS Documentaries Premium Channel](#)

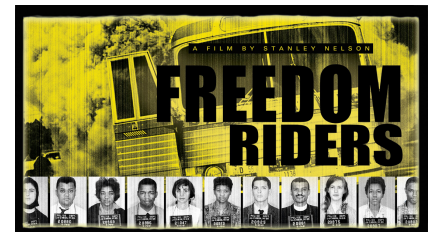


Becoming

PG

Join former first lady Michelle Obama in an intimate documentary looking at her life, hopes and connection with others as she tours with "Becoming."

Available on [Netflix](#)



American Experience: Freedom Riders

For ages 12+

The story behind a courageous band of civil rights activists called Freedom Riders who in 1961 challenged segregation in the American South.

Available on [PBS](#).

