

## 28 DAYS OF BLACK HISTORY WEEK 3

FROM THE GLEN RIDGE DIVERSITY & INCLUSION ASSOCIATION

### Day 15 Listen to Jazz Greats

The Glen Ridge Marching Band celebrates Black History Month with an excerpt from their production awarded the 2021 USBands Group 1 National Championship.



The song *Caravan* is a classic entry in the "American Songbook" written by Juan Tizol, Irving Mills and bandleader Duke Ellington.

Watch the video [here](#).

### Day 16 What is an HBCU?

Historically Black Colleges and Universities, or HBCUs, were created under the "separate but equal" philosophy of education. Before the Civil War (1861-1865), the education of Black Americans was discouraged in northern states and prohibited in most southern states. Cheyney University, established in 1837, was the first school established to educate Black Americans.

Most HBCUs were started by free Black Americans, religious organizations such as the African Methodist Episcopal Church, or the federal government to educate formerly enslaved people and train them to teach other Black Americans. Often, HBCUs provided primary, secondary, and postsecondary education for Black Americans because they were the only accessible schools. President George H. W. Bush noted in April 1989 that "At a time when many schools barred their doors to Black Americans, these colleges [HBCUs] offered the best, and often the only, opportunity for a higher education."

Today, there are 101 HBCUs across the U.S. Though originally established to educate Black Americans, 24% of HBCU students are not Black. White Americans and international students are drawn to HBCUs for their strong academic programs, inclusive environments, and affordability. HBCUs have produced legends in their respective industries.



Watch documentary [Tell Them We Are Rising](#), which explores the pivotal role HBCUs have played over the course of the last 150 years.

# Day 17: Adult Events



## The Black Experience in Design: Identity, Expression & Reflection

February 24, 2022 7:30 PM

A conversation with the authors presented by **Watchung Booksellers**. Co-editors Jennifer Rittner and Kelly Walters explore the world of design in this new anthology, which centers on a range of perspectives and spotlights teaching practices, research, stories, and conversations from a Black/African diasporic lens.

Register [here](#).

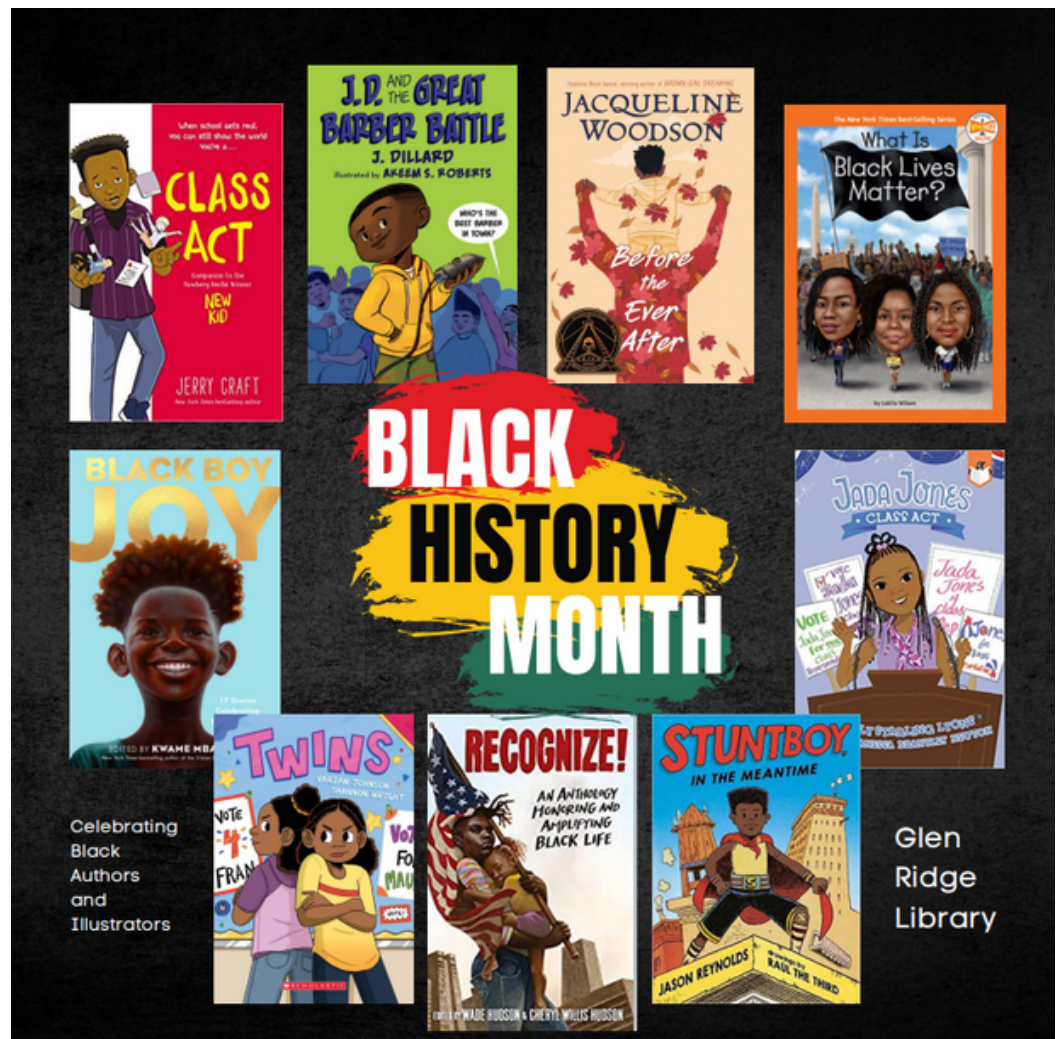
## Day 18

### For the Middle School Student Recommended Reading

Borrow a book from the Glen Ridge Library to help your middle school-age child read up on Black history.

Again, many thanks to Sydney Young of the Glen Ridge Library's Youth Services Department for curating!

Click on the image to request these titles from the Glen Ridge Library.





## Day 19: Get to know... Anthony Bonnett Member of the Glen Ridge Board of Education

### COMMUNITY COMMITMENTS

- Board of Education current member
- Former member, Civic Conference Committee for 2 terms
- Active member in GR Scouting leadership as Cub Scout leader, Assistant Cubmaster, and Assistant Scoutmaster GR Troop 55. As co-chair (with Bernice) of the fundraising committee, oversaw the most successful popcorn sales in Glen Ridge scouting history
- Invested in local sports, serving as assistant GRAA baseball coach and intramural basketball coach

Hi, my name is Anthony Bonnett and I have lived in Glen Ridge since August, 2008, with my wife, Bernice, and twin boys, Alexander and Matthew. To understand what was going on in our district around 2010, Bernice and I began attending Board of Education meetings.

We did this in great part because as parents we felt an obligation to have a vested interest in our boys' education. In order to do that I chose, after about nine years as an audience member, which included two terms on the CCC, to run for a seat on the Board of Education.

I grew up in the South Bronx, about a mile from Yankee Stadium. I was what is sometimes referred to as an inner-city kid. Mass transit was a way of life for my older brother, Lionel, and me, as was the constant noise of city life—you never realize how noisy it is until you leave it. I never played much organized sport because there were few teams to play on. What we did play was pick-up everything! Basketball, softball (on asphalt), baseball, two-hand touch (really shove), football, and other games too numerous to mention. One thing that stands out to me now is that the boys and girls usually played together, something that in every suburb I've lived in doesn't seem to happen.

Black or African American history was something that was not taught in school but learned through people who took the time to tell and show you until you were old enough to start researching for yourself. Much like the noise of the city, you don't realize the impact of not knowing about your history until you are exposed to it. At that point you see what you have missed and (in my case) begin to understand the impact of that lack of knowledge.

## Here are some recommendations for those who want to understand "Black" history, which in no uncertain terms IS American history:

- [National Museum of African American History and Culture](#) It will take at least two visits to see it all and in my opinion the most comprehensive education on this under-represented aspect of American history under one roof.
- [Museum of the American Revolution](#) A rich source of American history for African American, European American, and, in particular, Native American impact on the forming of America.
- [The March Trilogy](#) by Congressman John Lewis
- [Stolen Justice: the Struggle for African American Voting Rights](#) by Lawrence Goldstone



## Day 20

### Explore the Soul Science Lab

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The [Soul Science Lab](#) combines music and multimedia performance to create culturally responsive, interactive educational experiences; the project Soul Science Kids speaks directly to an elementary-age audience.

Soul Science Lab is a music duo formed by artist, educator, and creative director Chen Lo, and multi-instrumentalist, composer, and producer Asante' Amin. Weaving together soul, funk, hip-hop, educational themes, and interactive digital experiences, these soul scientists celebrate through creativity and inspire young minds.

Meet the Soul Science Lab [here](#).



## Day 21

### A Conversation about Growing Up Black

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**Presented by The New York Times.**  
In this short documentary, young black men explain the particular challenges they face growing up in America.

As [Atticus Finch](#) famously said, "You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view ... until you climb into his skin and walk around in it."

These films come from four different series published on [Nytimes.com](#) from 2015 to 2017.

Watch [here](#).