

THE INCLUSIVE INSIDER

Message from the Chief Diversity Officer



Richard M. Potter, Jr.
Chief Diversity Officer

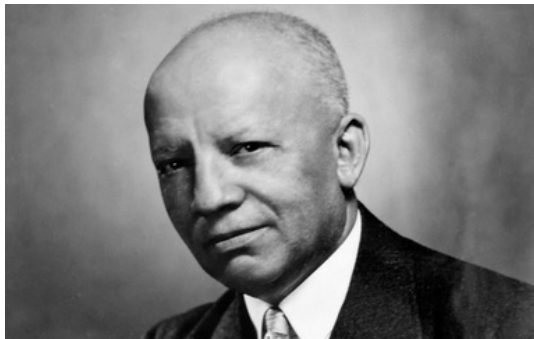
Take Our Survey

We welcome your feedback about this month's Inclusive Insider. [Click here](#) to take our survey

Black History Month 2025

As we celebrate Black History Month 2025, we honor the vital contributions of African Americans to the labor movement. This year's theme, "African Americans and Labor," highlights the resilience and determination of those who have fought for justice, equality, and fair working conditions. From the struggles of enslaved individuals to the leadership of trailblazers advocating for workers' rights, their legacy is woven into the fabric of our nation's workforce. Let us reflect on these powerful stories and commit to continuing the work of creating an equitable and inclusive environment for all. Together, we celebrate history and inspire future progress. Happy Black History Month!

Origins of Black History Month



The roots of Black History Month were planted in 1915, only 50 years after slavery was abolished in the United States, by Carter G. Woodson and Rev. Jesse E. Moorland with "Negro History Week." September of 1915, the Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson and the prominent minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), an organization dedicated to researching and promoting achievements by Black Americans and other peoples of African descent.

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH COMMUNITY EVENTS

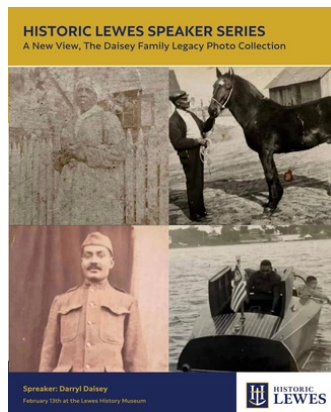


Date: February 1, 2025

Time: 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Walnut Street YMCA
1000 North Walnut Street
Wilmington, DE 19801

Delaware Trailblazers, the 2025 Black History Month kick-off celebration, will explore the deep impact of Delaware African trailblazers through performances, demonstrations, history displays, and more. This event will also feature information tables and merchant vendors. Girl Scouts of all levels will earn a Black History Month fun patch (while supplies last). All ages. FREE. Click [here](#) for more.



Historic Lewes Speaker Series A New View, The Daisey Family Legacy Photo Collection

Date: February 13, 2025

Time: 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

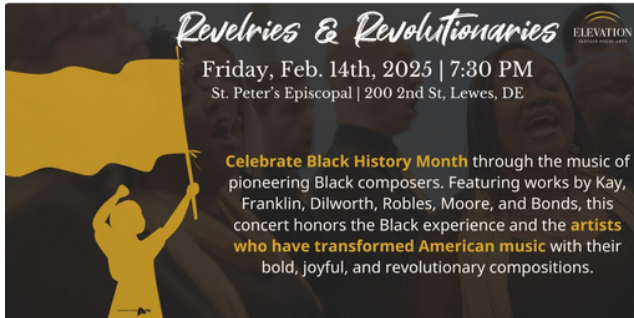
Location: Lewes History Museum
101 Adams Avenue Lewes, DE 19958

Cost: \$10 per person, all children under 12 are free

In April 2022, less than a year after his father's November 2021 passing, Darryl and his siblings came into possession of a cache of old family photos, many of which were stored in an old gold colored can by their late great Aunt Elsie Daisey Draine. In September 2022 Darryl began sharing hundreds of the photos on the "Memories of Lewes" Facebook page. Unbeknownst to him and his family, the photos offered a rare glimpse into the African American history of Lewes from the late 1800s through the 1960s and would be used to facilitate and enrich the completion of the "Voices Heard: The History and Legacy of the Black Community in Lewes" documentary and exhibit. Click [here](#) for more.

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH COMMUNITY EVENTS



Date: February 14, 2025

Time: 4:30 pm and 7:30pm

Location: St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Lewes, DE.

To find out more click [here](#)

Celebrate Black History Month through the music of pioneering Black composers. Featuring works by Kay, Franklin, Dilworth, Robles, Moore, and Bonds, this concert honors the Black experience and the artists who have transformed American music with their bold, joyful, and revolutionary compositions.

This concert is offered at no cost, in part due to the generous support of the St. Cecilia Music Guild of St. Peter's Episcopal Church. We highly recommend you reserve your seat for free in advance.



From Dreams to Action Celebrating MLK's Legacy to Change

Date: February 28, 2025

Time: 7:00 pm - 8:30pm

Location: Epworth United Methodist Church
19285 Holland Glade Road Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

Cost: \$25 per person

Click [here](#) for more

A Multi-media Celebration to Honor Black History Month
Master of Ceremonies: Calvin Jackson

Choirs:

- The Alliance Singers of Camp Rehoboth
- Friendship Baptist Church Choir Speakers:
- Reverend Tony Neal, City councilperson, Georgetown and ex-offender
- Gwen Miller: Sings Lift Every Voice and Sing

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH COMMUNITY EVENTS



Dying to get out

Date: February 1, 2025

Time: 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Click [here](#) to find out more

The “Death by Incarceration (DBI): State of Delaware Life Sentences” summit is a vital resource for those impacted by the justice system—including incarcerated individuals, their families and friends, policymakers, and the wider community.

KEY DISCUSSIONS & INSIGHTS

- Learn about death by incarceration (life/LWOP/ virtual life sentences) in Delaware.
- Discuss the harms of our current sentencing laws, and the mechanisms for relief.
- Discover actionable policies for reform and explore how individuals can drive meaningful, positive change.



CAMP Rehoboth Gallery Art Reception: Roots & Resilience

Date: January 25 through March 28, 2025

Time: 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Click [here](#) to find out more

CAMP Rehoboth is proud to announce the opening of “Roots and Resilience: Stories of Strength and Spirit,” a dynamic juried exhibition celebrating the history, heritage, and creativity of communities of color. The exhibition will be on display from January 25 through March 28, 2025. An Opening Reception will take place on Saturday, January 25, from 2 to 4 p.m.

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH COMMUNITY EVENTS



Black Male Initiative (BMI)

Date: February 20th, 2025

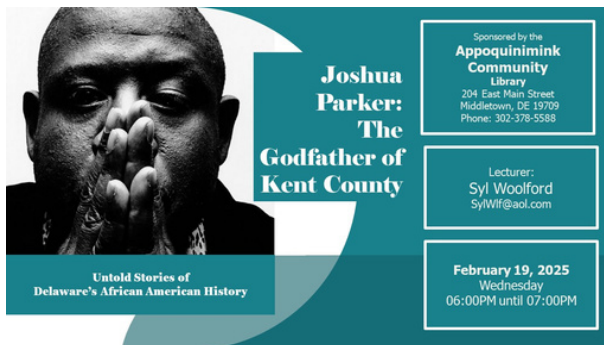
Time: 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Location: Delaware State University Main Campus

Click [here](#) to find out more

The Black Male Initiative (BMI) empowers Black males through education, personal development, and equity-focused support. Programs address identity, entrepreneurship, socioemotional learning, retention, graduation, mentoring, and career development. BMI fosters academic success, professional growth, and community engagement, building a foundation for lifelong achievement and positive societal impact. To find out more click [here](#).

BLACK HISTORY MONTH LEARNING OPPORTUNITY



Joshua Parker: The Godfather of Kent County by Syl Woolford

Date: February 19th, 2025

Time: 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Click [here](#) to find out more

Joshua Parker, born in Dover in 1831, gained political influence through connections formed as a body servant to Delaware's elite. After the Civil War, he leveraged these ties for political appointments and became a key Republican recruiter among African Americans in Dover. In 1892, tensions arose when A. Worthington Brinkley attempted to sway Black voters toward his Independent Colored Republican Party, leading to conflict. Historian Syl Woolford's lecture explores African American political participation and the challenges of the 19th century, offering valuable insights. Don't miss this compelling presentation!

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH LEARNING OPPORTUNITY



... Ending racism and its corrosive consequences

Racism in America – The History We Didn't Learn in School

Date: January 6- February 10, 2025

Time: 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Location: St. Martha's Episcopal Church

The Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice is hosting an event titled "Racism in America: The History We Didn't Learn in School" to explore overlooked aspects of American history related to systemic racism. The session aims to provide attendees with a deeper understanding of historical events and their impact on modern racial disparities. This educational event seeks to promote awareness and foster informed discussions on racial justice and equity.

Learn more at: [SDARJ Event Page](#)

Milford Museum
American History Series Presents:
The Tuskegee Airmen

Saturday
Feb 8,
1:00 PM

Presented by:
Andre Swygert

At Milford Public Library

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.MILFORDMUSEUM.ORG
OR CONTACT TOM@MILFORDMUSEUM.ORG

The Tuskegee Airmen

Date: February 8, 2025

Time: 1:00 pm

Click [here](#) to find out more

Andre Swygert will deliver a lecture on the Tuskegee Airmen at the Milford Public Library on Saturday, February 8, at 1:00 p.m. Swygert, known for his vast knowledge of this historic World War II unit, previously collaborated with Delaware leaders on the nomination of Dr. Luna I. Mishoe, a Delawarean Tuskegee Airman, to the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame. The event honors the legacy of these trailblazers, including civil rights leader Littleton P. Mitchell.

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2025 THEME

2025 – African Americans and Labor



The 2025 theme, African Americans and Labor, encourages reflection on how Black labor has shaped history and culture across the U.S., Africa, and the Diaspora. It explores the connections between work, social justice, and equity, emphasizing labor struggles as vital to understanding the Black past, present, and future. This focus gains even greater importance in light of renewed challenges of racial oppression in the 21st century, inviting fresh interpretations of Black history and contributions. To read the entire 2025 Black History Theme Executive Summary click [here](#). To find out more about the ASALH go [here](#).

10 Things You May Not Know About Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Explore 10 surprising facts about the civil rights leader.

Click [here](#) to find out more

Did you know

1. King's Birth Name Was Michael, Not Martin

King was born Michael King Jr. on January 15, 1929. In 1934, however, his father, a pastor at Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church, traveled to Germany and became inspired by the Protestant Reformation leader Martin Luther. As a result, King Sr. changed his own name as well as that of his five-year-old son.

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Did you know

2. King Entered College At the Age of 15

King was such a gifted student that he skipped grades nine and 12 before enrolling in 1944 at Morehouse College, the alma mater of his father and maternal grandfather. Although he was the son, grandson and great-grandson of Baptist ministers, King did not intend to follow the family vocation until Morehouse president Benjamin E. Mays, a noted theologian, convinced him otherwise. King was ordained before graduating college with a degree in sociology.

3. King Received His Doctorate in Systematic Theology

After earning a divinity degree from Pennsylvania's Crozer Theological Seminary, King attended graduate school at Boston University, where he received his Ph.D. degree in 1955. The title of his dissertation was "A Comparison of the Conceptions of God in the Thinking of Paul Tillich and Henry Nelson Wieman."

4. King's 'I Have a Dream' Speech Was Not His First at the Lincoln Memorial

Six years before his iconic oration at the March on Washington, King was among the civil rights leaders who spoke in the shadow of the Great Emancipator during the Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom on May 17, 1957. Before a crowd estimated at between 15,000 and 30,000, King delivered his first national address on the topic of voting rights. His speech, in which he urged America to "give us the ballot," drew strong reviews and positioned him at the forefront of the civil rights leadership.

5. King Was Imprisoned Nearly 30 Times

According to the King Center, the civil rights leader went to jail 29 times. He was arrested for acts of civil disobedience and on trumped-up charges, such as when he was jailed in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1956 for driving 30 miles per hour in a 25-mile-per-hour zone.

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6. King Narrowly Escaped an Assassination Attempt a Decade Before His Death

On September 20, 1958, King was in Harlem signing copies of his new book, *Stride Toward Freedom*, in Blumstein's department store when he was approached by Izola Ware Curry. The woman asked if he was Martin Luther King Jr. After he said yes, Curry said, "I've been looking for you for five years," and she plunged a seven-inch letter opener into his chest. The tip of the blade came to rest alongside his aorta, and King underwent hours of delicate emergency surgery. Surgeons later told King that just one sneeze could have punctured the aorta and killed him. From his hospital bed where he convalesced for weeks, King issued a statement affirming his nonviolent principles and saying he felt no ill will toward his mentally ill attacker.

7. King's Last Public Speech Foretold His Death

King had come to Memphis in April 1968 to support the strike of the city's Black garbage workers, and in a speech on the night before his assassination, he told an audience at Mason Temple Church: "Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now ... I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land. And I'm happy tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord."

8. Members of King's Family Did Not Believe James Earl Ray Acted Alone

Ray, a career criminal, pled guilty to King's assassination but later recanted. King's son Dexter met publicly with Ray in 1997 and argued for the case to be reopened. King's widow, Coretta, believed the Mafia and local, state and federal government agencies were deeply involved in the murder. She praised the result of a 1999 civil trial in which a Memphis jury decided the assassination was the result of a conspiracy and that Ray was set up to take the blame. A U.S. Department of Justice investigation released in 2000 reported no evidence of a conspiracy. Click [here](#) to learn more.

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9. King's Mother Was Also Slain by a Bullet

On June 30, 1974, as 69-year-old Alberta Williams King played the organ at a Sunday service inside Ebenezer Baptist Church, Marcus Wayne Chenault Jr. rose from the front pew, drew two pistols and began to fire shots. One of the bullets struck and killed King, who died steps from where her son had preached nonviolence. The deranged gunman said that Christians were his enemy and that although he had received divine instructions to kill King's father, who was in the congregation, he killed King's mother instead because she was closer. The shooting also left a church deacon dead. Chenault received a death penalty sentence that was later changed to life imprisonment, in part due to the King family's opposition to capital punishment.

10. George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Cesar Chavez are the Only Other Americans to Have Had Their Birthdays Observed as a National Holiday

In 1983 President Ronald Reagan signed a bill that created a federal holiday to honor King. The holiday, first commemorated in 1986, is celebrated on the third Monday in January, close to the civil rights leader's January 15 birthday.

Did you know



Blanche Williams Stubbs was an influential African American educator, activist, and community leader in Delaware. As a teacher at Howard High School, the only secondary school for Black students in the state at the time, she dedicated her life to education and advocacy. Stubbs co-founded the Delaware Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, which focused on improving opportunities for African American youth. She also worked to provide educational and recreational resources to her community, leaving a lasting impact on Delaware's social and cultural landscape. Click [here](#) to find out more.

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Local Black History Month Resources and Organizations



... Ending racism and its corrosive consequences

The Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice is a non-partisan organization that educates, informs, and advocates for racial justice, equality, and fair opportunity.



The Delaware Black Chamber of Commerce (DEBCC) focuses on supporting Black-owned businesses by providing economic opportunities, resources, and advocacy. Through partnerships, education, and training, DEBCC empowers entrepreneurs to navigate Delaware's evolving economic landscape. The chamber aims to foster visibility and success for Black businesses at local, state, and federal levels while creating job growth and economic opportunities across Delaware. DEBCC serves as a vital hub, connecting businesses to tools and relationships needed for growth and sustainability. To find out more click [here](#),