



TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESENTS  
THE 2024 CHERRY HALL ALEXANDER AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY CALENDAR

# AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE ARTS



# ABOUT THE CALENDAR

Tallahassee Community College is proud to present its 24th Annual Cherry Hall Alexander African American History Calendar. This year's theme, "African Americans and the Arts" features individuals that work to preserve history and community memory as well as

for empowerment through fields of artistic and cultural expressions. These fields include honorees within culinary, fashion, film, music, literature, performing and visual arts.

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# Cherry Hall ALEXANDER

Cherry Hall Alexander, a native of nearby Monticello, Florida, began her college career at TCC. She then earned a bachelor's degree and a Master of Library Science at Florida State University (FSU). She is the former Director of Library Services at TCC and founder of the African American History Calendar which was renamed in her honor upon her retirement in 2009. She was inducted into the TCC Alumni and Friends Hall of Fame in 2002 for her many contributions to the College.

Alexander is a member of Philadelphia Primitive Baptist Church where she serves as a deaconess and choir member, as well as on many auxiliaries and programs. She has served as Middle Florida-Georgia Women's Congress Church School President and as Middle Florida-Georgia Association Women's Congress Vice President. She is currently serving as President of the Middle Florida-Georgia Association Women's Congress and 1st Vice President of the Florida State Primitive Baptist Convention Women's Congress. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

She has received numerous awards including the NAACP Gold Star Award, Innovation Baptist Church Enhancing Our Legacies of Power Award, Potential and Prosperity Women's History Month Award, Sealey Elementary School Women of Excellence Award, and Bethel Baptist Women of Excellence Award. She was named one of the '25 Women You Need to Know' by the Tallahassee Democrat and a 'Trailblazer' by the Oasis Center for Women and Girls.

She has been married to her soulmate, Lorenzo Alexander, for almost 48 years. They have two sons, Antron (Jamie) and Ramon (Dr. Taniyah), and six grandchildren, Zoe, Zane, McKenzie, Zayden, Miles, and Mayes.



**PRESIDENT'S  
AWARD**



*Lindsey B.*  
**SARJEANT**



# Lindsey B. SARJEANT

Professor Lindsey B. Sarjeant serves as Chairman of the Music Department, professor of music, and chief musical arranger for the Incomparable Marching 100, Symphonic Band, and Jazz Ensemble at Florida A&M University (FAMU). Affectionately nicknamed Sarj, his musical arrangements have set the standard for excellence among collegiate bands nationally.

He served as Director of Jazz Studies prior to his current role. Over the years, Professor Sarjeant recruited an excellent music faculty and developed one of this country's leading Music Industry and Jazz Studies Programs. When he conducted the FAMU Jazz Ensemble, the group toured the Soviet Union, performing in Leningrad and Moscow and Europe, Paris, Montreux, Amsterdam, Brienz, and the North Sea Jazz Festival in Hague. Many of his students were hired by major recording studios and became noted jazz artists such as Wynton Marsalis, Marcus Roberts, Branford Marsalis, Sun Ra, Count Basie Orchestra, the Duke Ellington Orchestra, Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, and many other famous musicians and groups. The present leader of the Count Basie Orchestra (Scotty Barnhart) is from the jazz program at FAMU led by Sarjeant and was one of many prized students from his program, along with Wycliffe Gordon, Vincent Gardner, and others.

A professional jazz pianist, Sarjeant has played with many professional jazz groups, and has accompanied jazz greats such as Nat Adderley, Archie Shepp, Larry Coryell, Phil Wilson, Slide Hamilton, Della Reese, and many others. He played a major role with the city of Tallahassee in naming the Cascades Park Amphitheater, The Adderley Amphitheater, after brothers, FAMU graduates, and jazz giants Julian "Cannonball," and Nathaniel "Nat" Adderley.

**PRESIDENT'S  
AWARD**



# Longineu **PARSONS, PH.D.**

Dr. Longineu Parsons is a classically trained trumpeter who plays a wide variety of styles, including jazz, blues, jazz fusion, and classical. His career, with its many musical pieces and parts, serves as a metaphor for what he calls "the disorder of the human tribe." He has made it his mission – and the mission of his own Tribal Disorder Records – to use music as "a force against the disorder in the human tribe." In his own life and career, this "disorder" has come in the form of widely diverse musical passions and pursuits.

Dr. Parsons earned a Bachelor of Music at Florida A&M University (FAMU) and a master's in classical trumpet, followed by a Ph.D. in composition at the University of Florida. He currently serves as a professor of music at FAMU.

Leveraging the technique developed through his classical training, the traditional jazz experience of his youth, and the feel developed through his days on the Chitlin Circuit, Dr. Parsons presents a comprehensive arsenal of jazz not often heard. He has performed and recorded with an impressive list of music greats, including Nat Adderley, Cab Calloway, Frank Foster, Billy Harper, Philly Joe Jones, Herbie Mann, David Murray, Sam Rivers, Cecil Taylor, Joe Williams, Nancy Wilson, The Temptations, The Stylistics, and others. Parsons has performed in over thirty countries on five continents, playing alongside many artists from Africa, Asia, Europe, South America, and the Caribbean. Some notables are The Mighty Sparrow, Manu Dibango, and Pierre Akendengue. As an active recording and performing artist, Parsons currently tours with The Longineu Parsons Ensemble and The Nat Adderley and Longineu Parsons Quartet.



# FEBRUARY

| SUNDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | MONDAY                                                                                                                                                 | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY                                                           | THURSDAY                                                                                                            | FRIDAY                                                                                       | SATURDAY                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 28                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 29                                                                                                                                                     | 30      | 31                                                                  | 1<br><small>1901 - Birth of poet, novelist, and playwright, Langston Hughes.</small>                                | 2                                                                                            | 3<br><small>1870 - The 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified.</small>                                      |
| 4<br><small>1913 - Birth of civil rights advocate, Rosa Parks.<br/>2007 - African American head coaches, Tony Dungy (Colts) and Lovie Smith (Bears), coached in Superbowl XL1.</small>                                                                                                                            | 5                                                                                                                                                      | 6       | 7                                                                   | 8                                                                                                                   | 9<br><small>1952 - Ralph Ellison's <i>Invisible Man</i> won the National Book Award.</small> | 10<br><small>1989 - Ronald Brown was the first Black person elected as National Chairman of the Democratic Party.</small> |
| 11                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 12                                                                                                                                                     | 13      | 14<br><b>Valentine's Day</b>                                        | 15<br><small>1804 - New Jersey Legislature approved a law calling for the "gradual" emancipation of Blacks.</small> | 16                                                                                           | 17                                                                                                                        |
| 18                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 19<br><b>President's Day</b><br><small>1942 - Army Air Corps' all-African American 100th Pursuit Squadron was activated at Tuskegee Institute.</small> | 20      | 21<br><small>1965 - Malcolm X was assassinated in New York.</small> | 22                                                                                                                  | 23                                                                                           | 24                                                                                                                        |
| 25<br><small>1870 - Senator Hiram Revels of Mississippi became the first Black man to sit in the U.S. Senate.<br/>2022 - Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson is nominated to become the 116th Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. She would be the first Black woman justice ever to serve on the Court.</small> | 26<br><small>1869 - Congress passed the 15th Constitutional Amendment.</small>                                                                         | 27      | 28                                                                  | 29                                                                                                                  | 1                                                                                            | 2                                                                                                                         |

# Wendy CRAWFORD

As the Artistic Director and Owner of Dance Fusion Studios, Wendy Crawford has led her team to regional and national dance championships nine times in the studio's ten-year history. Formerly the head coach of the Florida State University Golden Girls Dance Team for a decade, she transformed the team from being unranked in her initial year to achieving remarkable accolades: 1st in Florida, 1st in the ACC, and 2nd in the Nation. Crawford's expertise and support were instrumental in Team USA securing the gold medal at the World's Championship, triumphing over both Japan and China. Notably, under Crawford's guidance, two dancers from Dance Fusion Studios were selected for this gold medalist team.

As a seasoned judge, she contributes her expertise to national dance competitions across the United States and has undertaken overseas assignments to audition and train national dance teams in Australia, Switzerland, France, Spain, Ecuador, and Colombia.

Crawford passionately unites and celebrates her dancers within the local community, fostering engagement through performances and service. With a focus on belonging and personal growth, she instills high standards, nurturing encouragement, challenge, and daily motivation. Her dancers consistently earn prestigious titles and hold leadership roles in Tallahassee and beyond, reflecting the studio's desire for excellence. She is driven to elevate the standard of dance in Tallahassee by transforming a weekly dance class into a catalyst for capability, confidence, teamwork, and community.

Her goal extends beyond imparting the necessary training for dancers to thrive at the collegiate and professional levels. Her deeper hope serves as a perpetual reminder to her dancers: by shifting their focus from self-imposed perfection and pressure, to the joy of sharing their passions and celebrating themselves, they can surpass their initial expectations.



# MARCH

| SUNDAY                                                                    | MONDAY | TUESDAY                                             | WEDNESDAY                                                                                         | THURSDAY                                                                                                   | FRIDAY                                                | SATURDAY                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 25                                                                        | 26     | 27                                                  | 28                                                                                                | 29                                                                                                         | 1                                                     | 2                                                                           |
|                                                                           |        |                                                     |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                            |                                                       | 1867 - Howard University was founded.                                       |
| 3                                                                         | 4      | 5                                                   | 6                                                                                                 | 7                                                                                                          | 8                                                     | 9                                                                           |
| 1820 - The Missouri Compromise approved by Congress.                      |        |                                                     | 1857 - The Dred Scott vs. Sanford case was decided by the U.S. Supreme Court.                     | 1985 - Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie released "We are the World" for African famine relief.            |                                                       |                                                                             |
| 10                                                                        | 11     | 12                                                  | 13                                                                                                | 14                                                                                                         | 15                                                    | 16                                                                          |
| 1913 - Harriet Tubman, Conductor of the Underground Railroad, died at 91. |        | 1932 - Birth of Andrew Young, former UN Ambassador. | 1866 - Congress passed the first Civil Rights Act over the veto of then-President Andrew Jackson. |                                                                                                            |                                                       | 1827 - Publication of first Black-owned newspaper, "Freedom Journal" began. |
| 17<br>St. Patrick's Day                                                   | 18     | 19                                                  | 20                                                                                                | 21                                                                                                         | 22                                                    | 23                                                                          |
|                                                                           |        |                                                     | 1852 - Uncle Tom's Cabin was published based on the life of a Maryland Slave.                     | 1856 - Birth of Henry Ossian Flipper, the first Black graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. | 1972 - U.S. Senate passed the Equal Rights Amendment. | 2010 - President Barack Obama signs the Affordable Care Act into law.       |
| 24                                                                        | 25     | 26                                                  | 27                                                                                                | 28                                                                                                         | 29                                                    | 30                                                                          |
| Easter<br>31                                                              |        |                                                     |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                            |                                                       |                                                                             |

# Eluster RICHARDSON

Eluster Richardson has had a passion for art since his childhood in Tallahassee when he began drawing simple machines in elementary school. After high school, he attended Tallahassee Community College to further his desire to be an artist and then spent three years in the U.S. Army. When he returned home, he started working for Central Telephone Company, where he received the Outstanding Achievement Award, recognizing employees for distinguished on-the-job service, quality of character, and dedication to the community.

When he retired after 30 years as a Network Engineer, he began working as a full-time artist specializing in oil watercolor painting. Richardson accepted and produced large commissions, such as nine watercolor paintings of the Tall Timbers Jones Family Tenant project. He also began work as the Artist in Residence for the John G. Riley House Museum and Resource Center where he curated many exhibitions. His work can be found in many private collections locally and around the country.

His work can also be seen in public places throughout Tallahassee such as Leon County Libraries, Community Business Service, John G. Riley House Museum and Resource Center, and Tall Timbers Research Center, as well as throughout the state and country at All Children's Hospital (St. Petersburg, FL), Gadsden Arts Center & Museum (Quincy, FL), Polk County Museum of Art (Lakeland, FL), and Custom House Museum (Clarksville, TN).

Richardson has logged in many hours of serving our community, giving his time to organizations such as the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Florida State University, Tallahassee Senior Center, Gadsden Arts Center & Museum, and Tallahassee Watercolor Society, where he served as president from 2006 to 2008.



# APRIL

| SUNDAY                                                                     | MONDAY                                                                                                                                                        | TUESDAY                                                                    | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY                                                                                                                                                  | FRIDAY                                                    | SATURDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 31                                                                         | 1<br><b>April Fools' Day</b>                                                                                                                                  | 2                                                                          | 3         | 4<br><br><b>1968</b> - The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.                                                           | 5                                                         | 6<br><br><b>1909</b> - Matthew Henson reached the North Pole.                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 7                                                                          | 8<br><br><b>1974</b> - Henry "Hank" Aaron hits his 715th home run, breaking Babe Ruth's record and becoming Major League Baseball's all-time home run leader. | 9                                                                          | 10        | 11                                                                                                                                                        | 12<br><br><b>1861</b> - U.S. Civil War began at 4:30 a.m. | 13                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 14                                                                         | 15<br><b>Tax Day</b><br><br><b>1945</b> - Jackie Robinson joins the Brooklyn Dodgers.                                                                         | 16<br><br><b>1862</b> - Slavery was abolished in the District of Columbia. | 17        | 18                                                                                                                                                        | 19                                                        | 20<br><br><b>1990</b> - Oakland hosted the first Bay Area Black Filmmakers Festival.                                                                                                                                            |
| 21                                                                         | 22<br><b>Earth Day</b>                                                                                                                                        | 23                                                                         | 24        | 25<br><br><b>1917</b> - Jazz singer, Ella Fitzgerald born in New Port News, Virginia.<br><br><b>1944</b> - The United Negro College Fund was established. | 26                                                        | 27<br><br><b>1927</b> - Coretta King, widow of Martin Luther King, Jr., born in Marion, Alabama.<br><br><b>2015</b> - Loretta Lynch becomes the first African American woman to serve as Attorney General of the United States. |
| 28<br><br><b>1967</b> - Muhammad Ali refused induction into the U.S. Army. | 29<br><br><b>1899</b> - Duke Ellington, conductor, lyricist, and pianist, born in Washington, D.C.                                                            | 30                                                                         | 1         | 2                                                                                                                                                         | 3                                                         | 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

# Shepiro **HARDEMON**

Miami native and graduate of Florida A&M University (FAMU), Shepiro Hardemon, is one of the country's premier choreographers and artistic directors. Responsible for developing one of the most comprehensive professional development dance programs, Strikers Dance Troupe and Mahogany Dance Theatre, he has prepared aspiring dancers and choreographers to thrive in the entertainment industry.

Hardemon has cultivated and managed talent on every major television network, showcasing his unique brand and style of urban dance. He was selected by 20th Century Fox to serve as the choreographer for the fictional Atlanta A&T's band in the hit movie *Drumline*, which earned him a nomination for "Best Choreography in a Feature Film" at the 9th Annual American Choreography Awards. In June 2000, he was selected to choreograph Walt Disney World's Tomorrowland and Main Street USA. He has also choreographed for the world-renowned Marching 100 at notable performances such as the 1989 Bastille Day Parade celebrating the Bicentennial of the French Revolution, three NFL Super Bowl games, television commercials, the 2009 Presidential Inauguration Day Parade, and the 2010 ESPY Awards.

The Strikers-All Stars electrified national audiences and judges when they showcased the southern style of urban dance, hip-hop, and step on MTV America's Best Dance Crew, placing in the top four in the country. Other notable performances under his leadership include the Walt Disney World Christmas Day Parade on ABC, Dreamers Academy, two-time winners at the Apollo Theater, America's Got Talent, and BET's 106 & Park: Wild Out Wednesday Dance Competition.

His most recent project, Strikers Youth Arts Project, Inc., provides enrichment services for youth through year-round arts education and athletic programs, access to technology for educational tutorial services, and coordinating events to showcase artistic talent for the community.



## MAY

| SUNDAY                                                                                            | MONDAY                                                                                                                 | TUESDAY                                                                                                           | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                          | THURSDAY | FRIDAY                                                                                                  | SATURDAY |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 28                                                                                                | 29                                                                                                                     | 30                                                                                                                | 1                                                                                                                  | 2        | 3                                                                                                       | 4        |
| 5                                                                                                 | 6                                                                                                                      | 7                                                                                                                 | 8                                                                                                                  | 9        | 10                                                                                                      | 11       |
| 1905 – Robert Sengstacke Abbott published the first 300 copies of the Chicago Defender newspaper. |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                   | 1753 – Birth of Phillis Wheatley who published poems of various subjects, Religious, and Moral.                    |          |                                                                                                         |          |
| 12                                                                                                | 13                                                                                                                     | 14                                                                                                                | 15                                                                                                                 | 16       | 17                                                                                                      | 18       |
| Mother's Day                                                                                      | 1950 – Birth of composer and musician, Steveland Judkins, best known as Stevie Wonder.                                 |                                                                                                                   | 1890 – Sgt. William McBryar received the Congressional Medal of Honor for actions against "hostiles."              |          | 1954 – The Supreme Court ruled in Brown vs. Board of Education that it is illegal to segregate schools. |          |
| 19                                                                                                | 20                                                                                                                     | 21                                                                                                                | 22                                                                                                                 | 23       | 24                                                                                                      | 25       |
|                                                                                                   | 1865 – Tallahassee, Florida, was notified of the abolition of slavery.                                                 | 1943 – Leonard Roy Harmon became the first African American sailor to have war-ship (USS Harmon) named after him. |                                                                                                                    |          | 1856 – Abolitionist John Brown led the attack on Pottawatomie, Kansas.                                  |          |
| 26                                                                                                | 27                                                                                                                     | 28                                                                                                                | 29                                                                                                                 | 30       | 31                                                                                                      | 1        |
|                                                                                                   | Memorial Day                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                   | 1989 – The remains of 19 Black Union soldiers were reburied in U.S. National Cemetery in Beaufort, South Carolina. |          |                                                                                                         |          |
|                                                                                                   | 1936 – Actor Louis Gossett, Jr. born in Brooklyn, New York. He won the Academy Award for "An Officer and a Gentleman." |                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                    |          |                                                                                                         |          |

# Shelby CHIPMAN, PH.D.

Dr. Shelby Rawn Chipman is the director of bands and a professor of music at Florida A&M University (FAMU). Under his leadership, the incomparable Marching 100 performed for the 2023 Summer Louis Vuitton Men's Fashion Show in Paris, France, and marched in the prestigious 2019 Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California. In January 2021, the FAMU Marching 100 participated in the virtual Presidential Inauguration Celebration of President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris. In 2024, Dr. Chipman will conduct the South Carolina Intercollegiate Band.

Dr. Chipman served as the 2021-23 Florida Music Education Association President and the Collegiate Advisor of the Florida National Association for Music Education. He holds memberships in many professional and social organizations: the American Bandmasters Association, the National Band Association, Phi Beta Mu International Bandmasters Fraternity, Kappa Kappa Psi Honorary Band Fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., National Association for Music Education, Florida Music Education Association, Florida Bandmasters Association, and the Florida Music Education Association Multicultural Network. Most recently, he received the "Roll of Distinction" Award from the Florida Bandmasters Association.

The Miami, Florida, native earned bachelor's degrees in both computer science and music education from FAMU, studying under the late Dr. William P. Foster and Dr. Julian E. White. He went on to earn a master's degree in music education at the University of Illinois and a Ph.D. in music education from the Florida State University College of Music. Before his FAMU appointment, Dr. Chipman taught music in the Miami-Dade County Public School system and was named 1993-94 Teacher of the Year.

Dr. Chipman attends Bethel AME Church and is married to Detrick LaShawn. Together, they have one son, Israel Armenian Chipman.



# JUNE

| SUNDAY                                                                                                          | MONDAY                                                                                                                                                                                               | TUESDAY                                                                                      | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                               | THURSDAY                                                                                                                               | FRIDAY             | SATURDAY                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 26                                                                                                              | 27                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 28                                                                                           | 29                                                                                                                                      | 30                                                                                                                                     | 31                 | 1                                                                                          |
| 2<br><br>1875 - Bishop James Augustine Healy was installed as the first Black Roman Catholic Bishop in the U.S. | 3                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 4<br><br>1987 - Dr. Mae Jemison was selected to begin training as a space shuttle astronaut. | 5                                                                                                                                       | 6                                                                                                                                      | 7                  | 8<br><br>1953 - The U.S. Supreme Court banned segregation in Washington, D.C. restaurants. |
| 9                                                                                                               | 10                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 11                                                                                           | 12<br><br>1963 - Mississippi NAACP Secretary and Civil Rights leader Medgar Evers was assassinated by a sniper in Jackson, Mississippi. | 13<br><br>1967 - Thurgood Marshall became the first Black person nominated, and later confirmed, for a seat on the U.S. Supreme Court. | 14<br><br>Flag Day | 15<br><br>1864 - Congress equalized salaries and supplies for Negro Black troops.          |
| 16<br><br>Father's Day                                                                                          | 17                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 18                                                                                           | 19<br><br>Juneteenth                                                                                                                    | 20                                                                                                                                     | 21                 | 22<br><br>1937 - Boxer Joe Louis Barrow became Heavyweight Champion of the World.          |
| 23<br><br>1899 - Private Fitz Lee awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery.                         | 24<br><br>2022 - Ketanji Brown Jackson was sworn in as the 116th Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, becoming the first Black woman and first former public defender to serve on the Court. | 25                                                                                           | 26                                                                                                                                      | 27                                                                                                                                     | 28                 | 29                                                                                         |
| 30                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                        |                    |                                                                                            |

|                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                            |                       |                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>1875</b> - Bishop James Augustine Healy was installed as the first Black Roman Catholic Bishop in the U.S.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p><b>1987</b> - Dr. Mae Jemison was selected to begin training as a space shuttle astronaut.</p> |                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                            |                       | <p><b>1953</b> - The U.S. Supreme Court banned segregation in Washington, D.C. restaurants.</p> |
| 9                                                                                                                    | 10                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 11                                                                                                | 12                                                                                                                                          | 13                                                                                                                                         | 14<br><b>Flag Day</b> | 15                                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                   | <p><b>1963</b> - Mississippi NAACP Secretary and Civil Rights leader Medgar Evers was assassinated by a sniper in Jackson, Mississippi.</p> | <p><b>1967</b> - Thurgood Marshall became the first Black person nominated, and later confirmed, for a seat on the U.S. Supreme Court.</p> |                       | <p><b>1864</b> - Congress equalized salaries and supplies for Negro Black troops.</p>           |
| 16<br><b>Father's Day</b>                                                                                            | 17                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 18                                                                                                | 19<br><b>Juneteenth</b>                                                                                                                     | 20                                                                                                                                         | 21                    | 22                                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                            |                       | <p><b>1937</b> - Boxer Joe Louis Barrow became Heavyweight Champion of the World.</p>           |
| 23                                                                                                                   | 24                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 25                                                                                                | 26                                                                                                                                          | 27                                                                                                                                         | 28                    | 29                                                                                              |
| <p><b>1899</b> - Private Fitz Lee awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery.</p>                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                            |                       |                                                                                                 |
| 30                                                                                                                   | <p><b>2022</b> - Ketanji Brown Jackson was sworn in as the 116th Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, becoming the first Black woman and first former public defender to serve on the Court.</p> |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                            |                       |                                                                                                 |

# Sylvester PECK, SR.

An art teacher for thirty years, Sylvester Peck, Sr. has considered himself an artist all his life. Born and raised in nearby Jefferson County, Florida, his early art inspiration came from images from books in his grandfather's library and later from school art encyclopedias. He drew so much that his father made him promise to keep drawing because one day, it would become the source of his income.

After graduating from Jefferson County High School, he attended Prairie View Agriculture and Mechanical University in Texas on a football scholarship, planning to major in commercial art. Both of his parents passed away within four weeks of him enrolling, and he transferred to Florida A&M University (FAMU) to keep a promise to his mother to finish college. He went on to fulfill that promise by earning a bachelor's degree in fine arts education and master's degrees in sports management and educational leadership, all from FAMU.

Today, Peck is the senior faculty member at Florida A&M University High School, where he has taught for more than 28 years. He is very proud of the students he has had the opportunity to teach during his career, many of whom have become architects, engineers, and professional illustrators.

Peck is a writer, historian, exhibiting artist, and community volunteer. He has worked with the City of Tallahassee in Parks and Recreation, the Winter Festival, Community Centers, and Summer Art Programs and has hosted painting classes throughout the community. He and his wife, Evelyn Graham Peck, have one child, Sylvester Peck, Jr., a daughter-in-law, Bianca Peck, and three beautiful grandchildren, Kalanie, King, and Blessing.



# JULY

| SUNDAY                                                                                  | MONDAY | TUESDAY                                                                                                 | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                            | THURSDAY                                                                                                                   | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------|
| 30                                                                                      | 1      | 2<br><br>1777 – Vermont became the first state to abolish slavery.                                      | 3                                                                                                                    | 4<br><b>Independence Day</b><br><br>1881 – Tuskegee Normal School opened with Booker T. Washington as the first president. | 5      | 6        |
| 7<br><br>1906 – Birth of baseball legend, Satchel Paige, in Mobile, Alabama.            | 8      | 9<br><br>1893 – Dr. Daniel Hale Williams performed what is believed to be the first open-heart surgery. | 10<br><br>1875 – Birth of the founder of Bethune Cookman College, Mary McLeod Bethune, in Maysville, South Carolina. | 11                                                                                                                         | 12     | 13       |
| 14<br><br>1862 – All wounded Civil War veterans began receiving a \$50 monthly pension. | 15     | 16<br><br>1991 – Jazz singer, Miles Davis, named a Knight in the Legion of Honor.                       | 17<br><br>1862 – Congress approved arming Blacks as soldiers in the Union Army.                                      | 18                                                                                                                         | 19     | 20       |
| 21<br><br>1896 – The National Association of Colored Women was formed.                  | 22     | 23                                                                                                      | 24<br><br>1651 – Anthony Johnson granted 250 acres of farmland.                                                      | 25                                                                                                                         | 26     | 27       |
| 28                                                                                      | 29     | 30<br><br>1854 – Immigrant Aid Society founded in Kansas.                                               | 31                                                                                                                   | 1                                                                                                                          | 2      | 3        |

# Darius "Doc D"

# BAKER

Darius Baker, fondly known as Doc D, is a three-time Stellar Award-nominated radio programmer and Tampa Bay Gospel Awards Radio Host of the Year, credited with building two gospel stations from the ground up – WHBT Heaven 98.3 FM and WTAL Hallelujah 95.3 FM, which he currently operates. He has been featured in the national publication Radio Ink as a future leader in radio.

As the founder of Tallahassee Nights Live (TNL) and executive director of the TNL Performing Arts Center, Baker has been developing artists for decades. He launched TNL, a monthly live music showcase, to provide the community with new music from local talent while giving musicians industry knowledge and experience. His talents as a musician, producer, writer, and arranger are only a few things that make him well-respected in the music industry. His experience as an artist and radio executive gives him the tools to help many artists along their musical careers.

When asked why he continues giving so much to aspiring artists, Doc D says, "I know this is my purpose. Oftentimes, I have visions of how to improve and help other artists or musicians. My belief is that my reward will always come from God through his protection and being the ultimate provider for me and my family."

Being a husband and father of four boys, Baker has no time for stagnation. He says, "I want to leave a legacy for not only my boys but for others to follow. If you have the capabilities to help someone reach their dreams, it is selfish of you to ignore them."



# AUGUST

| SUNDAY                                                                                                             | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY                                                                       | THURSDAY                                                                                                                    | FRIDAY                                                                                        | SATURDAY                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 28                                                                                                                 | 29     | 30      | 31                                                                              | 1                                                                                                                           | 2                                                                                             | 3                                                                                           |
|                                                                                                                    |        |         |                                                                                 |                                                                                                                             | 1924 - Birth of novelist James Baldwin.                                                       | 1986 - Blacks comprised 6.2% of the 4,023 full-time career U.S. State Department employees. |
| 4                                                                                                                  | 5      | 6       | 7                                                                               | 8                                                                                                                           | 9                                                                                             | 10                                                                                          |
| 1961 - Birth of President Barack Obama.                                                                            |        |         |                                                                                 | 1977 - Martin Dihigo, John Henry Lloyd, and Ernie Banks, of the Negro League, were inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. |                                                                                               |                                                                                             |
| 11                                                                                                                 | 12     | 13      | 14                                                                              | 15                                                                                                                          | 16                                                                                            | 17                                                                                          |
| 1965 - The first day of the so-called "Watts Riot."<br>1973 - Bronx, New York, debut as the birthplace of hip-hop. |        |         |                                                                                 | 1887 - Eatonville, Florida, the oldest all-Black town in the U.S. was founded.                                              |                                                                                               | 1887 - Birth of abolitionist Marcus Garvey.                                                 |
| 18                                                                                                                 | 19     | 20      | 21                                                                              | 22                                                                                                                          | 23                                                                                            | 24                                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                    |        |         |                                                                                 |                                                                                                                             | 1796 - The African Methodist Episcopal Church was incorporated.                               |                                                                                             |
| 25                                                                                                                 | 26     | 27      | 28                                                                              | 29                                                                                                                          | 30                                                                                            | 31                                                                                          |
| 1994 - Federal appeal court reopened Rodney King case.                                                             |        |         | 1955 - Emmitt Till kidnapped from uncle's home in Mississippi by two white men. | 1958 - Birth of Michael Jackson, King of Pop.                                                                               | 1967 - Thurgood Marshall becomes the first Black Justice confirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court. |                                                                                             |

# La Donna GIBSON

LaDonna Gibson is a second-generation avant-garde in the hair industry. As a master stylist at PrimaDonna Hair in Quincy, Florida, she firmly believes that looking good results in feeling good, and she strives to apply this philosophy to every style she creates. With years of experience as a consultant and advisor for the Gadsden Technical Institute, she is a highly knowledgeable figure and hair connoisseur. As a stylist ambassador, she has traveled extensively both nationally and internationally. One of her most notable accomplishments is the Annual PrimaDonna Hair Expo, which honors emerging local hairstylists and barbers.

As a leader and advocate in the community, Gibson lends her time and talent to many community initiatives and often challenges herself by taking the road less traveled due to her tenacious spirit and fearless disposition. She serves as a volunteer stylist with several nonprofits, including Curls for Queens, and is an active board member for the Fourth and Inches Football Booster Club at Gadsden County High School. She has joined the fight to end homelessness by decorating and furnishing rooms for residents at the City Walk Urban Mission, and she strongly advocates for voting rights and criminal justice reforms through her work with the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition. She is an active member of the National Hookup of Black Women Inc. - Gadsden Chapter and chairperson for the Annual Literacy and Fundraising Committee.

A lifelong learner, Gibson is a proud graduate of Tallahassee Community College and Flagler College, where she earned a bachelor's degree in marketing and business administration, Cum Laude.



# SEPTEMBER

| SUNDAY                                                                                                                                                                                       | MONDAY                                                                        | TUESDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | WEDNESDAY                                                      | THURSDAY                                                                                                                                             | FRIDAY | SATURDAY                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1<br><br><b>1975</b> - Lt. General Daniel "Chappie" James was promoted to General and became first Black officer to make four-star rank.                                                     | 2<br><b>Labor Day</b>                                                         | 3<br><br><b>1838</b> - Disguised as a sailor, Frederick Douglass escaped to freedom in the North.                                                                                                                                                                                     | 4<br><br><b>1848</b> - Birth of inventor Lewis Howard Latimer. | 5                                                                                                                                                    | 6      | 7                                                                                               |
| 8                                                                                                                                                                                            | 9                                                                             | 10                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 11                                                             | 12<br><br><b>1992</b> - Engineer and physician Mae Jemison becomes the first Black woman to fly in space.                                            | 13     | 14                                                                                              |
| 15<br><br><b>1830</b> - Blacks held 1st National Convention at Mother Bethel AME Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.<br><br><b>1884</b> - Bill to establish FAMU sponsored by T.V.R. Gibb. | 16                                                                            | 17<br><br><b>1891</b> - Captain William Wilson received Congressional Medal of Honor.                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 18                                                             | 19<br><br><b>1893</b> - E.R. Robinson patented the electric railway trolley.<br><br><b>1963</b> - Iota Phi Theta fraternity founded at Morgan State. | 20     | 21<br><br><b>1872</b> - John H. Conyers, became the first Black admitted to U.S. Naval Academy. |
| 22                                                                                                                                                                                           | 23<br><br><b>1864</b> - Thirteen Blacks won the Congressional Medal of Honor. | 24<br><br><b>1957</b> - Army paratroopers sent to Arkansas for nine Black students' admittance to school.<br><br><b>2016</b> - The National Museum of African American History and Culture opens as the newest Smithsonian Institution Museum along Washington, D.C.'s National Mall. | 25                                                             | 26                                                                                                                                                   | 27     | 28                                                                                              |
| 29<br><br><b>1784</b> - First African Masonic Lodge #459 established.<br><br><b>1910</b> - The National Urban League was incorporated.                                                       | 30                                                                            | 1 2 3 4 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                |                                                                                                                                                      |        |                                                                                                 |

# Anita FRANKLIN

Gospel recording artist and Tallahassee, Florida, native Anita Franklin was first introduced to the stage as a soloist during church conventions and has embraced her singing journey ever since. The Florida A&M University (FAMU) alum was a member of the FAMU Gospel Choir during her college years. She has written and released several songs, including *You Praise Him*, *You Are Jehovah God – The Reprise*, *Renewed Because of You*, and *The Last Time Holiday Love*.

Franklin's passion and dedication to music opened many doors. She has been featured at many community events, including with the Boys Choir of Tallahassee at the National Bloody Sunday Commemorative Rally in Selma, Alabama, and at the Essence Festival in New Orleans. In 2019, she was invited to appear on an international platform with Dr. Bobby Jones for his Dr. Bobby Jones Presents, which aired on IMPACT TV. She was honored by FAMU during Women's Month: Celebrating Women in the Arts and for her community service during FAMU's 2021 Homecoming Gospel Brunch.

She served as music coordinator for the Tallahassee Branch NAACP for various events and served as co-chair for the Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological, and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) program. In 2022, she was selected as event coordinator for the City of Tallahassee's Soul of Southside Festival's Inspirational Gospel Kickoff.

Franklin is the Founder and CEO of RESET Regional Music and Arts Symposium, where she cultivates and empowers young people to utilize their God-given gifts. She is a member of Greater Love Church of God in Christ, where she serves as director of the Greater Love Community Choir. She is the proud mother of Jacob and Lauren and is happily married to Kenneth E. Hanna.



# OCTOBER

| SUNDAY | MONDAY                                                                                                                                                                         | TUESDAY                                                                                            | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | THURSDAY                                                                                                                             | FRIDAY                                                                      | SATURDAY |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 29     | 30                                                                                                                                                                             | 1<br><small>1989 - Army Gen. Colin Powell became Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.</small>    | 2<br><small>1971 - Soul Train, created by Don Cornelius, is nationally syndicated.</small>                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 3<br><small>1887 - Florida A&amp;M University was founded.</small>                                                                   | 4<br><small>1864 - New Orleans Tribune newspaper began publication.</small> | 5        |
| 6      | 7                                                                                                                                                                              | 8<br><small>1941 - Jesse Jackson, Civil Rights leader, born in Greenville, South Carolina.</small> | 9                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 10<br><small>1899 - I. R. Johnson patented the bicycle frame.</small>                                                                | 11                                                                          | 12       |
| 13     | 14<br><b>Indigenous Peoples' Day</b><br><small>1964 - Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his civil rights leadership of non-violence.</small> | 15<br><small>1991 - Clarence Thomas was confirmed to the U.S. Supreme Court.</small>               | 16<br><small>1995 - Million Man March in Washington, D.C.</small><br><small>1968 - U.S. 200-meter sprint medalists Tommie Smith and John Carlos, who won the gold and bronze respectively, raise their fists in a Black power salute during the playing of the national anthem at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics.</small> | 17<br><small>1969 - Clifton R. Wharton became the first Black president of a predominately white university, Michigan State.</small> | 18                                                                          | 19       |
| 20     | 21                                                                                                                                                                             | 22<br><small>1990 - Civil Rights Act adopted by U.S. Senate, vetoed by President Bush.</small>     | 23                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 24                                                                                                                                   | 25                                                                          | 26       |
| 27     | 28                                                                                                                                                                             | 29                                                                                                 | 30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 31<br><b>Halloween</b>                                                                                                               | 1                                                                           | 2        |

# Sonya WALTERS

Chef Sonya Walters owns and operates Luxe Personal Chef and Catering and is the former owner and founder of Luxe Events Venue. The Columbia, South Carolina, native originally came to Tallahassee to study biological sciences on a full academic scholarship at Florida State University. At the time, she did not foresee a career in the hospitality and events industry.

In 2015, she combined her love of cooking and her Carolina roots to start her catering business. Today, her clients include Tallahassee Community College, various departments at Florida State University, the FSU College of Law, the Florida Board of Bar Examiners, Leon County, the City of Tallahassee, the State of Florida, and an array of other firms, companies, and organizations all over the country. During her time in Tallahassee, she has given her time and talent to organizations such as Children's Home Society, American Heart Association, and Second Harvest of the Big Bend, where she won the Blue Jeans and Blazers Chef's Contest. Her company is also an avid supporter and sponsor of Equality Florida.

While her business continues to grow with clients around the globe, her notable role and occupation is that of the mother of Sebastian (15) and Seth (13) Walters.



# NOVEMBER

| SUNDAY                                                                             | MONDAY                                                                                                                                       | TUESDAY                                                                            | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                        | THURSDAY                                                                           | FRIDAY                                                                                                                         | SATURDAY                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 27                                                                                 | 28                                                                                                                                           | 29                                                                                 | 30                                                                                                                               | 31                                                                                 | 1                                                                                                                              | 2                                                                                                                         |
| 3                                                                                  | 4                                                                                                                                            | 5                                                                                  | 6                                                                                                                                | 7<br><small>1989 - David Dinkens became New York City's first Black mayor.</small> | 8                                                                                                                              | 9                                                                                                                         |
| 10                                                                                 | 11<br><b>Veterans Day</b>                                                                                                                    | 12<br><small>1922 - Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority founded at Butler University.</small> | 13                                                                                                                               | 14                                                                                 | 15<br><small>1966 - Bill Russell became the first Black coach of the Boston Celtics team; first Black to coach in NBA.</small> | 16<br><small>1944 - Black women were admitted to the Navy WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service).</small> |
| 17<br><small>1911 - Omega Psi Phi Fraternity founded at Howard University.</small> | 18<br><small>1955 - Roy Wilkins named Executive Secretary of NAACP.<br/>1949 - Jackie Robinson awarded the Freedom Foundation Medal.</small> | 19                                                                                 | 20<br><small>1989 - Frederick C. Gregory became the first Black to command a space shuttle with the launch of Discovery.</small> | 21                                                                                 | 22                                                                                                                             | 23<br><small>1897 - J. L. Love patented the pencil sharpener.</small>                                                     |
| 24                                                                                 | 25                                                                                                                                           | 26                                                                                 | 27<br><small>1990 - Charles Johnson awarded the National Book Award for fiction.</small>                                         | 28<br><b>Thanksgiving Day</b>                                                      | 29                                                                                                                             | 30                                                                                                                        |

# Wanda BROWN

Wanda Carter Brown's journey is a testament to her unwavering dedication to education, music, and community service. Born and raised in Tallahassee, Florida, her passion for music education led her to pursue a bachelor's degree in music from Florida A&M University (FAMU).

Upon graduation, Brown embarked on her teaching career at Gilchrist Elementary School, where she became a beloved figure over the course of her 35-year career. Her impact on the lives of her students extended far beyond the classroom walls. Brown instilled a sense of community engagement and artistic expression in her students, encouraging them to participate in events like the Tallahassee Winter Festival music competition for more than three decades. Through these experiences, she helped shape young talents and fostered a love for music in the hearts of many.

In recognition of her outstanding service and a tribute to her years of dedication to her students, the music Annex at Gilchrist Elementary was named in her honor in 2022. Her musical talents also took her to notable stages, where she performed for influential figures like Governor Lawton Chiles and Lt. Governor Buddy McKay. Her powerful voice and heartfelt original songs resonated with audiences, leaving a lasting impression on all who had the privilege to hear her sing.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Brown is deeply involved in her community and church. Currently serving as the Youth Director at New Bachelor Primitive Baptist Church, she guides and mentors the next generation, imparting valuable life lessons and spiritual guidance.

In every aspect of her life, Wanda Carter Brown exemplifies the spirit of service, education, and artistic expression. Her enduring legacy continues to inspire generations, leaving an indelible mark on the lives she touches and the communities she serves.



# DECEMBER

| SUNDAY                                                                                                                | MONDAY                                                                                    | TUESDAY                                                                                             | WEDNESDAY                                                                        | THURSDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | FRIDAY | SATURDAY                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1<br><br><b>1955</b> - Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her bus seat to a white man.                   | 2                                                                                         | 3                                                                                                   | 4<br><br><b>1906</b> - Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity founded at Cornell University. | 5<br><br><b>1846</b> - Committee on Civil Rights was organized by Executive Order.<br><br><b>1955</b> - Martin Luther King, Jr. organized the Birmingham Bus Boycott, marking the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement. | 6      | 7                                                                                                                 |
| 8                                                                                                                     | 9                                                                                         | 10<br><br><b>1950</b> - Dr. Ralph Bunche became the first Black recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. | 11                                                                               | 12                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 13     | 14<br><br><b>1829</b> - Birth of John Mercer Langston, first Black elected to public office in the United States. |
| 15<br><br><b>1791</b> - Bill of Rights took effect.                                                                   | 16                                                                                        | 17                                                                                                  | 18                                                                               | 19                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 20     | 21                                                                                                                |
| 22<br><br><b>1943</b> - W. E. B. DuBois became the first Black elected to the National Institute of Arts and Letters. | 23<br><br><b>1867</b> - Madam C. J. Walker, the first Black female millionaire, was born. | 24<br><b>Christmas Eve</b>                                                                          | 25<br><b>Christmas Day</b><br><br><b>Hanukkah Starts</b>                         | 26<br><br><b>1908</b> - Jack Johnson became the first Black Heavyweight Boxing Champion.                                                                                                                                  | 27     | 28                                                                                                                |
| 29<br><br><b>1800</b> - Blacks represented 20 percent of the U.S. population.                                         | 30                                                                                        | 31<br><b>New Year's Eve</b>                                                                         | 1 2 3 4                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |        |                                                                                                                   |

# DJ DEMP

Best known for his famous tagline "Music Inspires," Donnell Benson, professionally known as DJ DEMP, is an international celebrity DJ and a member of the legendary group Ghostown DJs, best known for their classic hit record "My Boo." He began his career as a DJ at the age of 13. His mixes and command of the turntables led to invitations to tour with some of the music industry's top artists. He has made guest appearances on Carson Daly, TRL, BET's 106 & Park, and was nominated for DJ of the Year by Radio One.

He started DEMP WEEK in 1998, a week-long celebration of life, community, and culture. In 2005, he was presented with the first of three mayoral proclamations for his work. DEMP WEEK, now in its 27th year, has grown to be a staple of Tallahassee, attracting people from around the world. In May 2021, he partnered with Anchor Recovery Foundation to open DEMP HOUSE, which provides traditional housing to support individuals struggling with substance abuse and addiction.

He went on to establish the DJ DEMP FOUNDATION in 2022, a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering at-risk youth through education, advocacy, and mentorship. He developed a bullying prevention program that uses music to address social issues and combat the negative impacts of bullying through self-esteem building and positive problem-solving. His mission is simple: give children a safe space to grow and learn.

On January 9, 2023, he received the Key to the City of Tallahassee for his continued dedication and commitment to the community. He became an associate member of the FAMU National Alumni Association during FAMU Homecoming 2023.



# JANUARY

| SUNDAY                                                                                      | MONDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | TUESDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                                              | THURSDAY                                                                | FRIDAY                                                                                         | SATURDAY                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 29                                                                                          | 30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 31                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 1<br><b>New Year's Day</b><br><br>1863 - Proclamation issued emancipation of slaves in Georgia, Florida and South Carolina overruled by Pres. Lincoln. | 2<br><b>Hanukkah Ends</b>                                               | 3                                                                                              | 4                                                                       |
| 5<br><br>1911 - Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity founded at Indiana University.                   | 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 8                                                                                                                                                      | 9<br><br>1914 - Phi Beta Sigma fraternity founded at Howard University. | 10<br><br>1957 - Southern Christian Leadership Conference founded in Atlanta, Georgia.         | 11                                                                      |
| 12                                                                                          | 13<br><br>1913 - Delta Sigma Theta Sorority founded at Howard University.                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 14                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 15<br><br>1908 - Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority founded at Howard University.                                                                              | 16<br><br>1920 - Zeta Phi Beta Sorority founded at Howard University.   | 17                                                                                             | 18                                                                      |
| 19                                                                                          | 20<br><b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b><br><br>2001 - Colin Powell is appointed the first Black Secretary of State.<br><br>2021 - Kamala Harris is sworn in as the first female Vice President, also making her the first Black and South Asian American to hold the position. | 21<br><br>2007 - Lovie Smith, head coach for the Chicago Bears, was the first African American to coach an NFL team in a Superbowl.<br><br>1969 - New York Representative Shirley Chisholm is sworn in as the first Black woman elected to Congress. | 22                                                                                                                                                     | 23                                                                      | 24<br><br>1987 - Segregationists taunted civil rights marchers enroute to the Georgia capital. | 25<br><br>1980 - Black Entertainment Television (BET) network launched. |
| 26<br><br>2005 - Condoleezza Rice takes office as the first Black woman Secretary of State. | 27                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 28<br><br>1986 - Black astronaut Ronald McNair was killed on the space shuttle Challenger.                                                                                                                                                           | 29                                                                                                                                                     | 30                                                                      | 31<br><br>1865 - The 13th Amendment was adopted by the 38th Congress which abolished slavery.  | 1                                                                       |

**STUDENT  
HIGHLIGHT**



*Grace*  
**DUVET**





# Grace DUVET

Born in Pembroke Pines, Florida, and raised in Miami, Florida, Grace Duvet is a young individual whose life is marked by dedication to the arts and a profound desire to positively impact the lives of children. Her early years were shaped by a vibrant engagement with the arts during her time at American Senior High School. Known for her vocal talent, she had the honor of singing at her high school graduation, leaving a lasting impression on her peers and educators.

Duvet is currently pursuing her AA degree at Tallahassee Community College with plans to continue her education at Florida State University to major in political science with a minor in communications. She aims to attend law school to practice family law and become a prominent advocate for children's rights. Her interest in caring for children has been a consistent theme throughout her life. When she was younger, she was inspired by her mother, a pastor, who had a passion for low-income neighborhoods and encouraged young people to continue their education and break abusive cycles.

As a member of the award-winning TCC Forensics Speech and Debate team, Grace uses her voice to champion the cause of Haiti's children who face harsh circumstances and labor. As a freshman, she brought home awards from the 2023 Phi Rho Pi National Forensic Organization National Tournament in Washington, D.C., and was selected as the September 2023 Student of the Month by the Florida College System Activities Association.

**STUDENT  
HIGHLIGHT**



