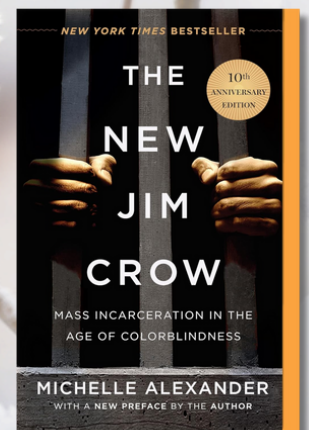
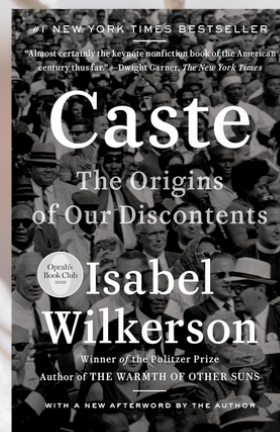
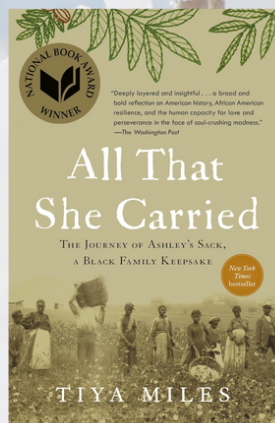
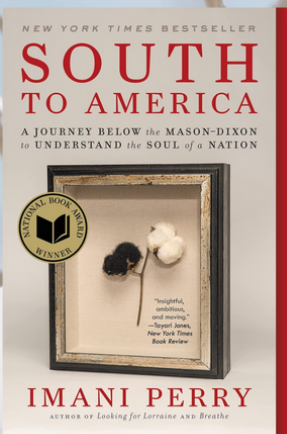
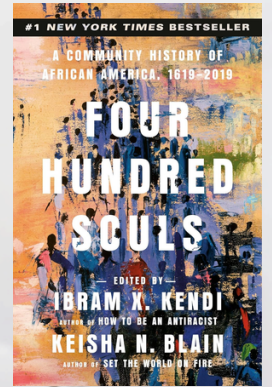
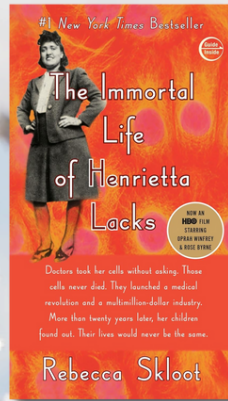


DEIJA COMMEMORATIONS CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2026

Black History Month first began as Negro History Week, established by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, Black Historian, Writer, and Founder of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. On the first officially recognized Black History Month, President Gerald Ford called on Americans to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.” 2026 marks the 100th anniversary of Black History Month. The theme for 2026 is “A Century of Black History Commemorations.”

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Interested in having a facilitated book discussion with your team? Reach out to AskDEIJA@bamsi.org



February 1

National Freedom Day marks the day in 1865 when President Lincoln signed the joint resolution that became the 13th Amendment which ended slavery in the United States.

February 1-2

Imbolc: This Pagan and Wiccan festival serves as the halfway point between the winter solstice and spring equinox, celebrating fire, light, and the return of life.

February 1

Bear/Snow Moon is one of 13 thanksgiving celebrations recognized by many Native American communities

February 2

Tu B'Shvat (Tu Bishvat) is a Jewish observance that marks the “new year” for trees.

February 2

Candlemas (Feast of the Presentation of the Lord) is a Catholic holiday commemorating when Jesus was presented at the temple for purification, 40 days after his birth.

February 2

Groundhog Day is a tradition steeped in folklore, with meanings about the prediction of when Spring will come based on whether or not the groundhog “sees his shadow.” The tradition stems from German immigrants who brought with them beliefs about a hedgehog’s ability to predict weather.

February 7

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is a day to acknowledge how HIV disproportionately affects Black people, to highlight the progress of HIV testing, prevention, and treatment efforts and to mobilize community involvement in combatting HIV among Black people.

February 14

Douglass Day celebrates the birth of abolitionist and social reformer Frederick Douglass.

February 14

Valentine's Day as a secular holiday celebrates the notion of romantic love. In Christianity the day marks the Feast of Saint Valentine, an observance established by the Christian church in the 5th century to replace the Pagan holiday of Lupercalia.

February 15

Nirvana Day (Parinirvana Day, Dana Day) is annual festival that remembers the release from karma and the cycle of suffering of the Buddha after reaching nirvana

February 15

Susan B. Anthony Day commemorates the birth of Susan B. Anthony, a leader of the women's suffrage movement. She advocated for abolition, temperance, labor rights, and equal pay for equal work.

February 15

Mahashivratri (Great Night of Shiva) is a Hindu observance that is seen as a day when natural upsurge of energy in humans.

February 16

Presidents' Day began as a day to recognize George Washington's birthday, but is now considered a day to honor Washington, Lincoln and other U.S. Presidents.

February 17

Mardi Gras (Carnival, Fat Tuesday, Shrove Tuesday) takes place annually on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. The day centers on feasting prior to Lent, as well as on parades and masked balls.

February 17 - March 3

Lunar New Year (Chinese New Year, Spring Festival and Tet Nguyen Dan) is a festival that marks the start of the new year in the lunar calendar used in East Asia, Southeast Asia and elsewhere. The New Year marks the transition between Zodiac signs. 2026 is the year of the Horse.

February 17 - March 19

Ramadan is observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting to commemorate the first revelation of the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad.

February 20

World Day of Social Justice was established in 2007 by the United Nations to promote activities that aim at social justice, solidarity, harmony and equality within and among countries. The theme for 2026 is "Empowering Inclusion: Bridging Gaps for Social Justice."

February 21

International Mother Language Day underscores the role of language in promoting inclusion and supports the preservation of indigenous languages.

February 23

Clean Monday (Pure Monday) is the first day of Great Lent throughout Eastern Christianity.

February 25- March 1

Ayyám-i-Há (Bahá'í Intercalary Days) is a period of celebration devoted to charity, gift-giving and festivities prior to the annual period of fasting.