

Black History Month & African American Genealogy

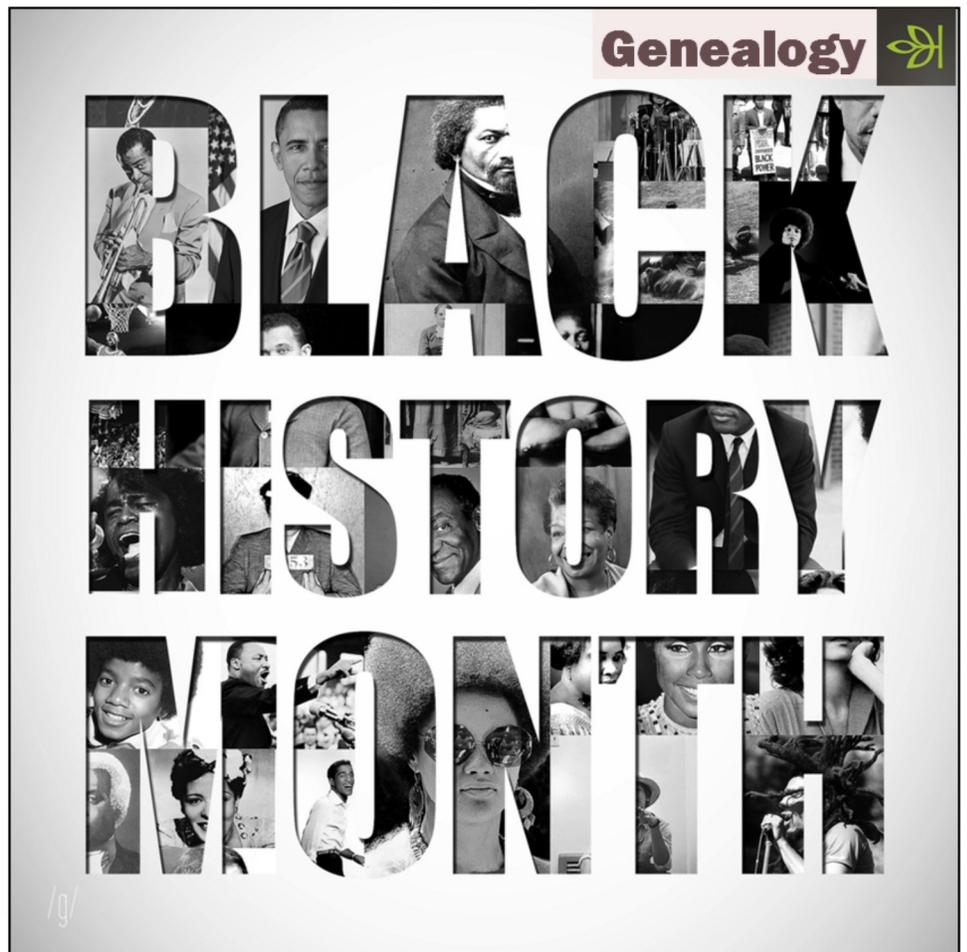
Beginning in 1976 the President of the United States of America has designated February as Black History Month.

The month is set aside as a period of time to acknowledge the many contributions and sacrifices made by African Americans over the course of our national, state and local histories.

Moreover, February offers us an opportunity to reflect upon personal histories and those recorded on a grand scale beginning with the arrival of the first Africans Americans to Jamestown, Virginia in August of 1619. Much of that history has yet to be discovered and put in writing.

The Huntsville Public Library has a great deal to offer to those researching African American family history. Recent additions to the genealogical collection include the twenty volume *Homegoings and Celebrations* which chronicles the Hightower and associated families of Walker County.

The Huntsville Public Library has numerous published materials, microfilm records and vertical files waiting to be



HUNTSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

1219 13th Street
Huntsville, TX 77340
936-291-5472

www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com
@HuntsvilleLib—Twitter
HuntsvillePublicLibrary—FB
Huntsville_Public_Lib—Instagram

Monday through Friday
10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturdays Noon to 4 p.m.
Closed Sunday

examined. The library provides access to online resources including Ancestry Library Edition and Family Search.

Seasoned family historians understand that methodology, organization and skill are needed in order to pursue family histories. African American family historians have unique challenges requiring a set of strategies to dig into a seemingly obscure past. Fortunately, Ancestry.com and Family Search.org have provided online tutorials that address the issues of African American genealogy.

Family historians do not know where their efforts will lead. Many are guided by a determined optimism that an understanding of the past will lead to a bright and dignified future. February and Black History Month give pause for reflection and commitment to understanding, tolerance and acceptance.

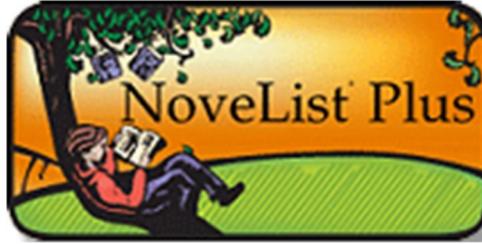
- Richard Lane,
Reference & Genealogy

See page 3 for our full list of
genealogy classes.

DATABASES GALORE

The Database with great taste, in books that is...

NoveList is a database that asks the simple question, what should you read NEXT? You can find information and recommendations about fiction, non-fiction and audiobooks for all ages. NoveList's expertise in books and reading means that you will always get the best help for finding the right books. This database has many features like read-alike book and audiobook recommendations, series information, honest book reviews, list of award winning books and an on shelf feature. The read-alike book and audiobook recommendations are offered through tile, series and authors. NoveList also offers the book's series information, so you can keep track of what's to come in the next book. If you are looking for award winning books, NoveList offers this one place to find them. The on shelf feature shows



what titles are available here at the Huntsville Public Library. Feel free to check out our NoveList database on the library's webpage under the database tab of the adult, teens or children's page

NoveList was founded by Duncan Smith, a new librarian that struggled with the fact that readers' advisory services were only as good as the individual librarian's memory and ability to read a wide range of genres. He thought there should be a

database that would be a 'secret weapon' for keeping track of all the great books to recommend. In 1990, he talked Roger Rohweder and John Strickler into creating NoveList. In 1994, they sold their first copy. NoveList was an immediate hit with librarians and launched with 20,000 titles and 1,200 reviews. In 1999, EBSCO acquired NoveList from CARL. At that time, NoveList had just five employees.

Today, NoveList is a division of EBSCO with more than 50 employees. Over 20+ years, the NoveList team has continued to innovate and develop solutions for readers' advisory, catalog enrichment, email newsletters, library marketing, and more. But, throughout it all, the core mission continues to be helping libraries help readers.

- Ashley Newsome, IT Coordinator

A DATABASE JUST FOR YOU

Database may not be the most interesting word in the world, but don't let that fool you.

Merriam-webster.com defines database as "a usually large collection of data organized especially for rapid search and retrieval (as by a computer)." Ho-hum. Still booring. But wait!

If you need study materials for the GED, a refresher course on Excel, want to learn more about the NCLEX-RN, or need to learn some Greek for your next vacation – maybe it's worth checking out adult databases on the library's website www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com.

There is a wealth of information to be found at your fingertips and, best of all, it's free!

As specified on the li-



brary's website, "Unlike the information often found by searching the Internet with a search engine, the information obtained from these databases is thorough, up to date, and accurate."

Categories such as general information and periodicals, education and career

development, history and genealogy, do-it-yourself reference centers, health and medical, business resources, and books and literature are all found under TexShare Databases, along with Pronunciator (80 foreign languages) and ProCitizen (citizenship information). Included are tutorials

to view and eBooks to download along with a myriad of documents, interactive maps, online galleries and exhibitions.

Don't forget to check out all the exciting databases for children, too.

- Mary Kokot, Adult Reference

Brown Bag Lecture Series back in full swing

Dr. Gillespie to discuss climate change

The Huntsville Public Library continues its Brown Bag Lecture Series on Thursday, February 23. Dr. Marcus Gillespie, Associate Dean in the College of Science and Engineering Technology at Sam Houston State University, will present "Climate Change: Evidence, Causes, and Consequences". He will discuss the scientific consensus regarding climate change.

Dr. Gillespie holds a Ph.D. in Geography with emphasis in geomorphology from Texas A & M, and a M.A. in Geography from the University of Wyoming with emphasis on the environment. His undergraduate studies in Psychology and Earth Science were completed at Sam Houston State University. Dr. Gillespie has served as Chair of the Department of Geography and Geology at Northwest Missouri

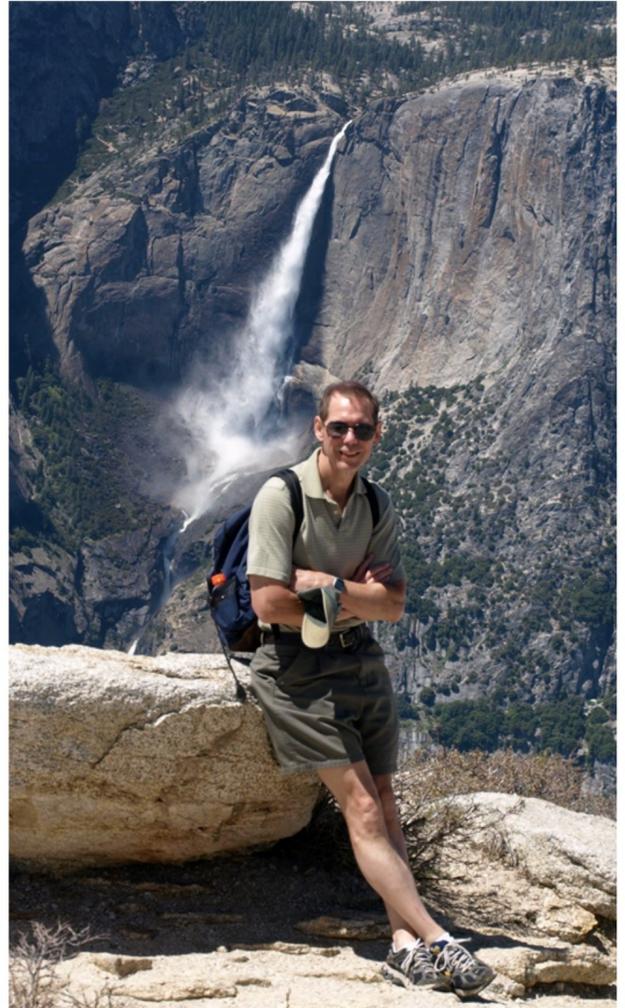
State University and Chair of Geography and Geology at Sam Houston State University.

Dr. Gillespie has taught several university level courses including Weather and Climate, Climatology, Meteorology, Conservation of Natural Resources, Soil Science, Earth Science, and Geomorphology.

Dr. Gillespie was the Chair of SHSU's successful 5-year accreditation plan to enhance scientific literacy and critical thinking. Dr. Gillespie also taught astronomy, biology, and physics at the high school level.

Attendees may bring a brown bag lunch. Lunch time begins at 11:30 a.m. and the lecture will begin at noon. The lecture series is planned for the fourth Thursday of each month. Some of the topics that will be explored include interesting and novel topics of general appeal to Huntsville. Beverages will be provided. Admission is free. Registration is requested.

For more information, call 936-291-5471.



Upcoming Genealogy events

Basic Genealogy classes set

There will be a continuation of the Basic Genealogy research classes at Huntsville Public Library on Thursdays from 3 to 5 p.m. beginning Jan. 26, 2017. Johnnie Jo Dickenson will guide participants in the research of their family history using investigative tools such as online databases and resources and the library's extensive genealogy collection. The two-hour sessions will be held every week through Feb. 23, 2017 in the Library's Community Room. Please register online at www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com or call Mary Kokot at 936-291-5471.

Winter Lock-In planned

The Huntsville Public Library & Walker County Genealogy Society will host the annual Genealogy Winter Lock-In on Sunday, Feb. 19, from 12:30 to 6 p.m. Beginners and longtime researchers are all invited. Society Members will be available to assist in all areas of research. Bring all your paperwork! A light lunch will be provided by the Society. Register online

at www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com or contact Mary Kokot, Adult Services Coordinator, at 936-291-5471 for more information.

Frances Sprott Goforth Memorial Genealogy Weekend

The Frances Sprott Goforth Memorial Genealogy Weekend will be held Aug. 4 & 5, 2017 at the Huntsville Public Library. This year's event, "One-half of our Ancestors are Women: Finding our Female Ancestors" is hosted by the Huntsville Public Library and the Walker County Genealogical Society. The weekend will run from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 4, with a light supper being provided during the lock-in. The weekend continues from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5. The event is free but requires registration. Call 936-291-5471 or sign up online at www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com. Admission is free.

A silent auction will be held during the weekend and is open to the public. The auction will end at 4 p.m. Saturday.

Pancakes, Art Contest happening

PANCAKE SUPPER

There are two annual Huntsville Public Library events coming up soon, one delicious and one artistic. If you are among the many who enjoy breakfast for dinner or "Brinner," then you should bring your family to the library on Friday, February 17th. The Huntsville Kiwanis Club will be hosting their annual Pancake Supper Fundraiser at the library from 5:30- 7:30 p.m.

The Kiwanis members will be cooking and serving all you can eat pancakes, sausages, coffee, and juice.

Not only is it just \$5 per person, but the food is fantastic. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go to aid literacy in the library as the Kiwanis support many library programs such as the Reading is Fundamental/Kiwanis Readers Are Bound for Success and the annual Summer

Reading Program. This brinner is always a winner.

ART CONTEST

Have you noticed the artwork in the Children's Library? It comes from children in the Huntsville community as part of the Friends of the Huntsville Public Library Art Contest.

Every year the library hosts an art contest for students 5-18 years old, and the winners' artwork is enlarged, framed, and hung in the Children's Room and Teen area. From a hand-drawn goat to a *Star Wars* inspired painting, last year's artists showed their talent by pursuing the "Inspired by the Imagination of Daydreams" theme.

This year's contest is now open with a deadline for submission of Wednesday, March 1st. The theme for 2017 is "Found in Nature." Interested artists are encouraged to pick up an entry form to familiarize themselves with the art contest rules, especially since the artwork must be submitted with a completed entry form to become eligible for judging.

Submissions will be separated based on the age of the artists, and a panel of judges selected from the community will cast their votes. Winners of this contest will be announced at the Artwork Unveiling Ceremony at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 11th.

- Rachel McPhail,
Children's Librarian



Listing of Events Find this information online at www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com

Do you have children ages 2 or under? Then Mother Goose Lapsit is a story time designed for you! Held on Mondays at 10:30 a.m., enjoy a half hour of developmentally appropriate play featuring stories, songs, and rhymes. This program introduces little ones to the story time experience and is perfect for their language development and developing vocabulary.

Get crafty at the Huntsville Public Library. Bring a friend to Elementary Craft Time from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 2nd.

Come to Story Time – a fun early literacy program for kids 5 and under. Join us for interactive stories, songs, rhymes, and crafts. The early literacy practices featured each week help build the foundation for a lifelong love of reading and learning. For parents and caregivers, story time offers an opportunity to experience early literacy

practices in action, discover great books and resources for home use, and socialize with other parents after Story time. Wednesday and Friday sessions share a theme with something new each week. Story Time is sponsored by Amerigroup. Story times are held on Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:45 a.m.

Is your child interested in the world of technology? Learn to 3-D Print with him or her in a two-day class at the Huntsville Public Library. This class will be held from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. on a Tuesday and Wednesday evening. Class size is limited to five students aged 7 through 15 and a parent must attend the program. At the end of each session, students will be able to take home their 3D printed object. Multiple sessions scheduled: Feb. 6 & 8 and Feb. 21-22. Registration is required and participants will need to bring their own USB drive.

The Huntsville Public Library is offering free basic computer skills classes. Classes will be held on Tuesdays or Fridays from 10 to 11 a.m. or on Tuesdays or Thursdays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. starting Jan. 3rd through March 31st. These classes will feature class activities on how to use a mouse, typing, web-based email and internet browsing. Class size is limited so you must be registered to take the class. You can register online or at the Tech Reference Desk.

FREE Dance Classes have returned to the library. Jarell and Madeline Rochelle are back with an exciting month of dance classes for ages 7-15 planned. Classes will be held from 5:45-6:45 Mondays, February 6th-March 6th. Sign-up and a parental consent form required. Registration is available online.

Please check online calendar for all dates.