

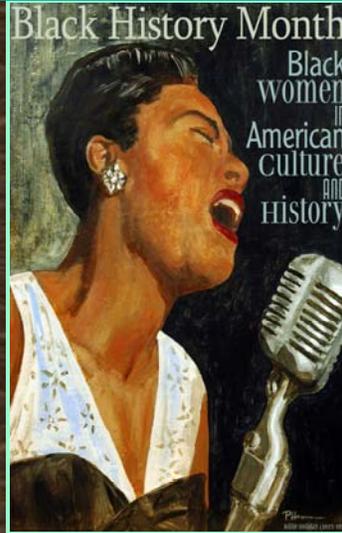
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black Women in American Culture and History

Fort Belvoir Equal Opportunity Office

From the American Revolution to the present, African American women have played a myriad of critical roles in the shaping of our nation. During the years following the Civil War, the Great Migration occurred, when a large percentage of Black Americans moved from the South to industrial cities in the Northeast and Midwest. They found new identities in Harlem. New York's Harlem became a cultural center for poor and middle-class Blacks. Blacks moved from all over the country to New York to receive an education. The *New Negro Movement* began as a series of literary discussions in Greenwich Village and Harlem.

Later termed the *Harlem Renaissance*, this movement brought unprecedented



Billie Holiday (1915-1959)

creative activity in writing, art, and music, redefining the artistic expressions of African Americans. At the heart of this cultural explosion were talented women who took their experiences of being Black females and shaped their stories into careers as artists, writers, and musicians. Their art, writing, dance, and music addressed not only race issues but gender issues as well.

The Harlem Renaissance made an indelible mark on American culture in ways still seen today. From the lingering sounds of the great jazz riffs to present day films, art, and books, the creative fingers of the Harlem Renaissance still touch America today.

Black Women in American Culture

Zora Neale Hurston—Writer
Augusta Savage—Sculptor
Nancy Elizabeth Prophet—Artist
Marian Anderson—Singer

Interesting Facts

- Faye Wattleton was the first African American woman appointed to head the Planned Parenthood Federation
- Harriet Tubman served with the U.S. Army in South Carolina as a Soldier, scout, spy, and nurse.
- Carol Moseley Braun was the first and only African American U.S. ambassador to New Zealand.
- Mae Jemison was the first black female astronaut and the first black woman in space.
- Crisis was the name of the publication where many Harlem Renaissance women writers found an outlet for their stories and verses.

The Fort Belvoir and INSCOM Equal Opportunity Offices Celebrate

African American /
Black History
Month **Black
Women**
In American
History & Culture

14 February 2012
1145 - 1330
Fort Belvoir Officers Club
(Belvoir Room)

This is a FREE Event!

Guest Speaker:
CSM Patrick Z. Alston
CSEL United States Army
Strategic Command

Guest Entertainment: N & R Productions

For More Information Contact: SFC Alston 703.805.2288 • SFC Roberts 703.805.5390 • SFC Taylor 703.428.5628