

PEER BIAS LEADERS NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2022

Welcome to the Peer Bias Leaders Newsletter. We are the Peer Bias Leaders, a student-led equity and inclusivity group at Haddonfield Memorial High School. Each month, we plan to release a monthly newsletter curated by students discussing the importance of equity through books, articles, discussion topics, and more. With this newsletter, we hope to foster conversations and self-education that act as the foundation for change within our community.

In this edition, the Peer Bias Leaders would like to highlight the celebration of Black History Month, which takes place throughout the month of February. The purpose of Black History month is to commemorate achievements and gain a better understanding of Black History. The month highlights the struggle of the black population to be recognized and equally represented in society. We have compiled resources and topics to learn about the resilient and powerful Black Americans and their contributions. While we honor their successes, we cannot overlook the path which they came along to fight oppression.

- Mia Gagliardi, President of the Peer Bias Leaders

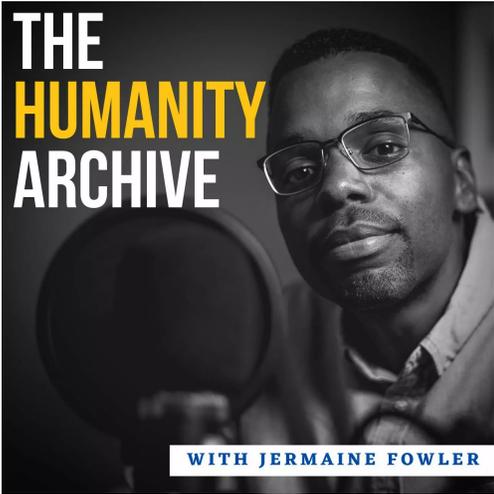
Discussion Topics

- ***When was Black History Month dedicated?***
 - In 1926, Texas A&M Professor Carter G. Woodson initiated the first recognition of accomplished Black individuals and called it “Negro History Week”. This was the week of February 7. In 1976, African-American Professor Albert Broussard deemed it Black History Month instead, giving a full month to appreciate and acknowledge achievements by black people.
- ***Why February?***
 - February is the birth month of Fredrick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, two contributors to the abolition movement. Frederick Douglass was a crucial reformer and writer in the 1800s. He advocated for African-American rights and produced many antislavery works. Abraham Lincoln passed the Emancipation Proclamation, which outlawed slavery and freed all slaves.
- ***MLK Day -- March on Washington***
 - Martin Luther King Jr was born on January 15, 1929, so we celebrate MLK day in January. King was a vital figure to the civil rights movement in the 1960s. The March on Washington in 1963 was one of the most important gatherings of the civil rights movement. He gave his “I Have a Dream” speech to over 200,000 people, preaching his dream of a United States without segregation or racism.
- ***Black inventors***
 - **Garrett Morgan:** The Traffic Light
 - Morgan was a prominent inventor in the 1920s with items such as an improved sewing machine and gas mask. However, he is most accredited for the red-yellow-green system that was inspired by local accidents at intersections in Cleveland, OH.
 - **Alexander Miles:** Automatic Elevator Doors

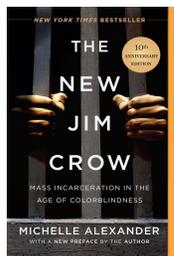
- In 1887, Miles created a mechanism that could open and close elevator doors automatically. This was very useful for the hospitality industry as many accidents were caused from people falling in elevator shafts.
- **Lonnie Johnson**: Super Soaker Water Guns
 - Having such an expansive career, Johnson has worked on stealth bomber Air Force projects and harnessing geothermal energy from power plants. His most successful patent, out of over 80, would be the super soaker water gun that has rewarded him over a billion dollars and the happiness of generations of children.
- **Charles Drew**: Plasma and Blood Work
 - During World War II when blood was a major necessity, Drew discovered how to separate the plasma in blood to increase its storage life. Moreover, he made huge strides in plasma transfusion and helped Britain create its first national blood bank.
- **Thomas Jennings**: Dry Cleaning
 - Jennings became the first African American to receive a patent for his dry cleaning process for delicate clothing in 1820. This opened up a whole new path for up and coming black inventors during a time of harsh racial tensions.
- **Important black figures today**
 - **Amanda Gorman**
 - Gorman received national attention when she performed her poetry at President Biden's inauguration in 2021 and after being named the first National Youth Poet Laureate. Most of her work is centered around oppression, feminism, marginalization, and race, and she comes from a family with history in political activism.
 - **Rosalind Brewer**
 - In the past year, Brewer became one of only two women of Fortune 500 companies when she was named CEO of Walgreens. Along with that, she held prominent positions in other well-recognized brands such as Starbucks, Sam's Club, and Walmart.
 - **Victor Glover**
 - With a history of over 300 NASA astronauts, Glover became the International Space Station's first black astronaut to live and work there in space for an extended time. As a flight test engineer, he has also served as a commanding pilot in the US Navy with over 2000 hours in the air.
 - **Raphael Warnock**
 - Last January, Warnock became Georgia's first black senator in a runoff election. Along with his political career, he also became the youngest senior pastor in the same Church that Martin Luther King Jr was once a pastor.
 - **Nicholas Johnson**
 - Johnson became Princeton University's first black valedictorian in its 275 year history last May upon graduation. Especially since the first nine presidents of the university were slave owners, this accomplishment holds so much sentiment to the racial history and progression in America.

Podcasts of the Month:

- Playlist from NPR to Cover Multiple Different Podcasts:
<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3nMf3Dvo1q6CubgkpUCVjl>
- Good Recommendations to Start With: [13 Podcasts To Listen To This Black History Month \(And Every Month\)](#)

Specific Podcasts	
 <p>THE HUMANITY ARCHIVE WITH JERMAINE FOWLER</p>	<p>The Humanity Archive: “The Humanity Archive is your home for the most provocative, honest and fascinating stories from history. With the most compelling narratives and diverse conversations. This is not the history you learned in school.” (Apple Podcasts)</p>
 <p>the grio DEAR CULTURE POD</p> <p>Apple Podcasts Spotify STITCHER a</p>	<p>Dear Culture: “Dear Culture is a weekly podcast keeping us informed on politics, entertainment, and social justice through the lens of culture with a healthy dose of shady social commentary. Hosted by Gerren Keith Gaynor, theGrio’s Managing Editor, and Social Media Director, Shana Pinnock.” (Apple Podcasts) Recommended For Mature Audiences</p>
 <p>LISTEN ON  Spotify</p>	<p>Bodega Boys: “If you’re hankering for some levity, then this show might be perfect for you. Hailing from the Bronx, Desus Nice (Daniel Baker) and The Kid Mero (Joel Martinez)—together known as “The Bodega Boys”—discuss pop culture topics pulled from Twitter trends and breaking entertainment news. The podcast is available on outlets like Spotify, Apple, SoundCloud, Podbay and YouTube.” (Forbes) Recommended For Mature Audiences</p>

Resources & Books



- [25 Books to Read During Black History Month and Beyond, According to Black Booksellers](#)
- [Black History Month Resource Guide for Educators and Families](#)
- [The New Jim Crow](#): “As the United States celebrates the nation's "triumph over race" with the election of Barack Obama, the majority of young black men in major American cities are locked behind bars or have been labeled felons for life. Although Jim Crow laws have been wiped off the books, an astounding percentage of the African American community remains trapped in a subordinate status--much like their grandparents before them. In this incisive critique, former litigator-turned-legal-scholar Michelle Alexander provocatively argues that we have not ended racial caste in America: we have simply redesigned it. Alexander shows that, by targeting black men and decimating communities of color, the U.S. criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control, even as it formally adheres to the principle of color blindness. The New Jim Crow challenges the civil rights community--and all of us--to place mass incarceration at the forefront of a new movement for racial justice in America.”
- [The Hate U Give](#): “Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed. Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil’s name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what really went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr. But what Starr does—or does not—say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life. Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, this is a powerful and gripping YA novel about one girl's struggle for justice.”
- [Okalani Dawkins: Black History is American History | TED Talk](#): “Okalani Dawkins is a passionate Sophomore excited to create a better world through her passion for Civil Rights. In this talk, she highlights the importance of African American societies in America's history past the Civil Rights Movement, and why we need to pay more attention to matters like those as well.”



Quotes of the Month:

“Prejudice is a burden that confuses the past, threatens the future and renders the present inaccessible.” ~Maya Angelou

