



ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY, INC.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Association for the Study of African American Life and History Announces 90th Annual Black History Luncheon and Featured Authors Event

Pulitzer Prize Winning Biographer David Levering Lewis Among Honorees

WASHINGTON — The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) announced today that the nation's premier Black History Month event will occur on Saturday, Feb. 20, 2016.

ASALH's 90th Annual Black History Month Luncheon will be held at the Washington Renaissance Hotel, 999 9th Street, N.W., in Washington, D.C. This year's theme is, "*Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memories.*"

The Association has selected this annual theme to bring attention to the centennial celebration of the National Park Service and its more than 25 sites with an African American focus, including the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom and, most important to ASALH, the home of its founder Carter G. Woodson, the Father of Black History. They are part of America's hallowed grounds.

"This year's ASALH Luncheon will highlight many of the historic sites that tell the story of our struggle for equal citizenship in America," said Dr. Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, ASALH's newly-elected national president and the Victor S. Thomas Professor of History and of African and African American Studies at Harvard University.

"One cannot tell the story of this nation without preserving and reflecting on the places where African Americans have made history. The history of African Americans unfolds across the canvas of America, beginning before the arrival of the Mayflower and continuing to the present," Higginbotham said.

The luncheon keynote speaker is Dr. Karsonya Wise Whitehead, associate professor of African and African American Studies, Loyola University in Maryland, and ASALH's newly-elected national

secretary. Mistress of Ceremonies will be author and journalist A'Lelia Bundles, great granddaughter of Madam C.J. Walker, the entrepreneur of black beauty culture.

Honorees at this year's luncheon include biographer [David Levering Lewis](#), who won the Pulitzer Prize for his biography of W. E. B. Du Bois. Lewis will receive the Woodson Scholars Medallion. Artist, entrepreneur, and philanthropist, [Charles Bibbs](#), and National Council of Negro Women Chair, [Ingrid Saunders Jones](#), will receive Living Legacy Awards; and HumanitiesDC Director of Grants and Special Projects and long-time ASALH member, Louis Hicks, will receive the Mary McLeod Bethune Service Award.

Prior to the start of the luncheon, a featured authors' event will be held from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. The luncheon will promptly begin at 12:15 p.m.

Luncheon ticket purchases may be made online at asalh.org/black-history-luncheon or by calling 202.238.5910.

For more information, contact: Sylvia Cyrus, executive director, Association for the Study of African American Life and History, 202-238-5910 or email her at executivedirector@asalh.net. To learn more about ASALH, visit asalh.org.

Established on September 9, 1915 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, we are the Founders of Black History Month and carry forth the work of our founder, the Father of Black History. We continue his legacy of speaking a fundamental truth to the world--that Africans and peoples of African descent are makers of history and co-workers in what W. E. B. Du Bois called, "The Kingdom of Culture." ASALH's mission is to create and disseminate knowledge about Black History, to be, in short, the nexus between the Ivory Tower and the global public. We labor in the service of Blacks and all humanity.