

**The ASALH 2021 Black History Month Festival**  
**Theme: The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity**

<https://asalh.org/festival/>

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**Monday, February 1, 2021**  
(Times to be determined)  
Free Community Event--Open to Public

*Announcement of the Black History Theme*

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And  
*Introduction of ASALH's Inaugural Virtual  
Black History Month Festival*  
Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, ASALH National President

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**Saturday, February 6, 2021**  
**(12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. EST)**  
Free Community Event--Open to Public

*From the Continent to the Americas: Foodways, Culture and Traditions in the African American Family*

A first for ASALH, this event will feature a panel of authors, chefs and historians who will share their work and discuss the important role that food has played in Black family life throughout the diaspora. Panelists include: **Gina Paige**, CEO and Co-Founder of African Ancestry, Inc. ([www.africanancestry.com](http://www.africanancestry.com)); **Carla Hall**, author and celebrity chef; **Stephanie Evans**, scholar and author, Georgia State University; and **Daphne Maxwell Reid**, actor (*Fresh Prince of Bel Air*) and author of “Grace, Soul and Mother Wit,” will join us for this exciting event!

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**Wednesday, February 10, 2021  
(12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. EST)**

Free Community Event--Open to Public

***Presentation of the Inaugural ASALH Book Prize***  
(More information to come)

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**Saturday, February 20, 2021  
(1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST)**

**\* Ticketed event**

***Finding Our Roots in African American History  
In Conversation with...***

**Henry Louis Gates and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham**

Acclaimed for his scholarship, his documentary films about African, Afro-Latin, and African American History, and his popular television series, “Finding Your Roots,” Henry Louis Gates, Jr., has brought fascinating African American family stories to the wider public. The 2021 Black History Month Festival is proud to feature a conversation between ASALH’s national president Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham and Henry Louis Gates, Jr., who will share his thoughts and

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motivations in popularizing Black History through the heritage of African American families and communities and their search for roots. Joe Madison, popular radio talk-show personality and activist will host the program.

**Wednesday, February 24, 2021**

**(Time to be determined)**

Free Community Event—Open to the Public

***Diving with a Purpose***

This event will feature a panel discussion featuring divers who seek to preserve the heritage of Black people through discovering and investigating wreckages of slave ships and salvaging artifacts. Panelists include: **Justin Dunnavan**, Leader, Society of Black Archaeologists; **Alexandra Jones**, Founder and CEO, Archaeology in the Community; **Kamau Sadiki**, Leader, National Black Scuba Divers (NABS); **Ric Powell**, Co-Founder and Member, Board of Directors, NABS. **Mary Elliott**, Curator, National Museum of African American History and Culture will serve and host and moderator.

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**Sunday, February 28, 2021  
(12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. EST)**

***In the Spotlight: Growing Up in a Single-Family Home***

An ASALH Branch program, this event features Bernice King, daughter of Martin Luther King, Jr, and Coretta Scott King, who will share her perspectives on family. Gloria Van Brakle, director of the Cultural Education Experience Ministry of Maple Springs Baptist Church in Washington, DC, will be the program's host. ASALH's Prince George's County Truth Branch, the National Park Service, and the Cultural Education Experience Ministry co-sponsor the program.

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**Sunday, February 28, 2021  
(7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST)**

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Free Community Event--Open to Public

***In Conversation with...***  
**Ngugi Wa Thiong'o and Sundiata Cha-Jua**

ASALH and PBS Books partner in presenting the final program of the 2021 Black History Month Festival , featuring renown author Ngugi Wa Thiong'o, author of *The Perfect Nine: The Epic of Gĩkũyũ and Mũmbi* , in a conversation with **Sundiata Keita Cha-Jua**, Associate Professor of History and African American Studies at the University of Illinois, Champagne-Urbana. These two noted

scholar-activists will explore *The Perfect Nine*, a dazzling modern epic, myth, and feminist re-imaging of Kenya's origins that subverts patriarchy and roots for social equity in the context of ASALH's 2021 annual theme, **The Black Family**. They will discuss elements relevant to today's struggles for social justice, gender equity, and spiritual rebirth, while illuminating eternal African values essential for wholesome family life.

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***Something Special:  
Performances by Historically Black College and University Choirs***

In partnership with the **105 Voices of History**, the Festival will feature music from the Black experience performed by choirs from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). A committee of directors of music from public and private HBCUs will select many genres of music appropriate for the subject of each Festival program; conductors at the participating HBCUs will direct and ensure performance excellence; the performances selected will be aired during each

Festival program. The performance of “Lift Every Voice and Sing” by HBCU students will also be aired during the Festival.

**Notes:**

**-All times EST**

**-Branches of ASALH will also host virtual programs throughout the month**

*\* February 20 Event is ticketed  
\$50.00 Virtual Admission*

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*\$125.00 Virtual Admission and Barack Obama’s Latest Book, hard-cover*

*\$150.00 Virtual Admission, Book and HBCU 105 Voices T-shirt*

*\$500.00 2 Virtual Admissions, 1 book, 1 T-Shirt*