

YFA DIVERSITY NEWS

“The older I get, the greater power I seem to have to help the world; I am like a snowball— the further I am rolled the more I gain.” -Susan B. Anthony

FEBRUARY DIVERSITY CALENDAR:

- Black History Month
- 2/4 Rosa Parks Day
- 2/11 National Freedom Day
- 2/12 Chinese New Year
- 2/14 Frederick Douglass Day
- 2/15 Susan B. Anthony Day

Black History Month

Each year in February, we celebrate Black History Month. Black History Month (originally Negro History Week) was founded by Dr. Carter G Woodson as a way to encourage schools and organizations to promote the achievements of black Americans. Dr. Woodson was the 2nd black American to earn a PhD from Harvard University and also founded the Journal of Negro History and the Negro History Bulletin as a way for black Americans to publish their research. Black History Month was first nationally recognized in 1969 by President Gerald Ford. Black History Month is celebrated in the month of February as a way to honor both Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

10 Ways to Celebrate Black History Month:

- * Support a black owned business
- * Donate to a black organization
- * Read a book by a black author
- * Attend a black culture event in your community (or online)
- * Read Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech in its entirety
 - * Read a biography on an influential black figure
 - * Sign up to mentor a black child in your community
- * Visit a black history or Civil Rights museum in your area
 - * Call out racism and prejudice in your community
 - * Register to vote

Staff spotlight: Gretchen Marzicola, PD Pasco Case Management, on celebrating the Chinese New Year:



Growing up in Baltimore, Gretchen celebrated the Chinese New Year with family; spending the day participating in Chinese folk dancing and singing, watching fireworks, and more importantly a day spent around the table with loved ones, eating traditional Chinese New Years’ delicacies. Living in Florida and now having a family of her own, the Marzicola family attends local festivals and participate in activities put on by local Chinese cultural groups. Many will wear traditional Chinese Garb, as well as anything in the color red, which is considered a good luck color. Adults will hand out red envelopes to the children, which contain monetary gifts. You may also see oranges throughout the home during Chinese New Year, which is said to bring riches into your life for the following year. As for food? The dinner table will have roast pork buns, dumplings, and long, long noodles. The noodles are said to bring longevity and happiness – “the longer the noodles, the better”. The day is really all about family – spending time with loved ones while indulging in good fortune foods.

