

## **FAMILY-FRIENDLY BLACK HISTORY MONTH OFFERINGS**

**The Paulist Center's Racial Justice Advocacy Group (RJAG) invites you to join us at these local events held right here on Beacon Hill at the African American Museum of History as we celebrate Black History month in February. All are welcome!**

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**February 2, 2025, 1:00 - 2:00 pm**

*Boston Family Day Celebration*

Museum of African American History 46 Joy Street  
Boston, MA 02114

Join the Museum of African American History on February 2nd from 1-2 pm for the launch of our programming for Boston Family Day. We will have a reenactment with the 54th Mass Regiment along

with the public launch of "Being Frederick Douglass." A new interactive experience using Artificial Intelligence that allows visitors to interact and ask an AI Frederick Douglass questions on the historical figures' life and involvement within the abolitionist movement. We look forward to seeing you there as we kick off our events for this exciting program.

**February 9, 2025, 4:00-5:30 pm**

*Let the Children Sing! A Tribute to William Cooper Nell*

Museum of African American History 46 Joy Street Boston, MA 02114

Join the Beacon Hill Civic Association and the Museum of African American History for a transformative afternoon that intertwines the power of music and the spoken word as we celebrate the life and legacy of William Cooper Nell, a pioneering abolitionist, author, and advocate for education for African Americans who believed that knowledge was key to empowerment. Acclaimed educator and storyteller, Regie Gibson will capture Cooper Nell's fervent spirit and dedication to the fight against slavery and the ongoing struggle for freedom as the Eastern Mass. Youth Ensemble, under the direction of Linda Brown-San Martin, and City Strings United, under the direction of Bithyah Israel, perform a selection of powerful vocal and musical compositions that reflect the historical context of Nell's work.

**February 28, 2025, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

*AP African American Studies Expo*

Museum of African American History 46 Joy Street

Join us as the Museum of African American History hosts the AP African American Studies Expo. On February 28th, from 10 am-2 pm, the expo will feature the new course book in collaboration with Bedford, Freeman & Worth Publishers, and College Board. With words from the author, student exhibitions, presentations, and more. This event is free and open to the public.

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The Boston Public Library has a wonderful selection of offerings as well:  
<https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/v2/events?programs=5c5869bd48617b2b006b1425>

If it's too snowy or cold to go out, here is a list of powerful films to watch during the month:  
<https://woodstockfilmfestival.org/blog/2024/2/27/celebrate-black-history-month-with-these-10-powerful-films>

As the weather gets warmer, RJAG will host a tour of the Black Heritage Walking Tour right here in Beacon Hill – Date TBD. Please join us on this fascinating tour:  
<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2021/04/30/magazine/black-heritage-trail-walking-tour-deep-into-boston-history/?event=event12>

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

#### **Saint Josephine Bakhita (approx. 1869–1947)**



St. Josephine Bakhita was born in the Darfur region of Sudan in 1869 and was kidnapped by slave traders and enslaved as a child. She was forced to walk barefoot over 600 miles and was sold multiple times to different owners before being sold to an Italian diplomat who took her to Italy; here, she valiantly asserted her freedom with the help of the Cannossian Sisters of Venice. Through her faith, St. Bakhita realized the promise of liberty inherent in the human spirit. She lived out the rest of her life as a Cannossian sister, sharing her empowering testimony of human freedom and dignity.

Following her rescue, she was baptized, received other sacraments, and became a religious sister in 1896. Her enslavement during her childhood was put to good use by sharing her testimony with others and advocating for human freedom and dignity. In October of 2000, Pope John Paul II canonized Josephine Bakhita, noting that in this saint, “we find a shining advocate of genuine emancipation.”

With encouragement from Pope Francis, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Union of Superiors General designated February 8th as an annual day of prayer and reflection against human trafficking. We pray that we may work together to remove the causes of this disgraceful scourge in all our cities and neighborhoods. We take bold action to help others grow in awareness of the problem of human trafficking taking place in their communities. We seek opportunities to accompany victims and survivors in their journey toward freedom and assist them in the process of renewal. As a Church in the United States and as Catholics the Feast Day of St. Josephine lays the groundwork for February 8, which is both a Vatican-designated day of prayer and reflection against human trafficking to honor, celebrate the Feast Day of St. Josephine Bakhita and use this as an opportunity to educate, inform the public and honor the saint.