# The Diary of Our Black Ancestors

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### Introduction

To me, Black History is a diary for African people. They need to know that their ancestors fought very hard for the rights and opportunities that we have today. That that the opportunities we have today should not be taken for granted.

But it also shows the beauty and creativity our ancestors had during those times. How they provided valuable insights into their world and how it all relates to today.

Today we will be looking at twelve people who made a difference in the world.

Always remember Black History serves as an important reminder of the ongoing journey towards equality and justice.

# Here they are!!!

























# Shirley Chisholm

Parents: Ruby Seale and Charles Christopher St. Hill

DOB: November 30th,1924

Place Born: Brooklyn New York

Siblings: three sisters Marital status: widowed

Spouse: Arthur Hardwick Jr. (married 1977; died 1986)

Children: no children

Education: Education: Teachers College, Columbia University (1952), Brooklyn College (1946), Columbia University

#### Societal contributions

- First African American woman in Congress (1968)
- the first woman and African
   American to seek the nomination for president of the United States from One of the two major political parties (1972).
- Founder of the National Women's Political Caucus
- Supported the Equal Rights Amendment
- Legalized abortions throughout her congressional career, which lasted from 1969 to 1983.
- She wrote the autobiographical works Unbought and Unbossed (1970) and The Good Fight (1973).
- She held the position of Purington Professor at Mount Holyoke College (1983–87) and was a visiting scholar at Spelman College (1985).

- In 1993 she was invited by Pres. Bill Clinton to serve as ambassador to Jamaica but declined because of poor health.
- She supported spending increases for education, health care and other social services.
- She advocated on behalf of women and underserved minorities.
- She served as director of the Hamilton-Madison Child Care Center from 1953 to 1959 as an educational consultant to New York City's Bureau of Child Welfare from 1959 to 1964.
- She became one of the founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus in 1969.

# Jane Bolin

Parents: Gaius C. Bolin, Matilda Ingram Emery

DOB: April 11,1908

Place Born: Poughkeepsie (New york)

Siblings: Gaius Charles Bolin Jr.

Marital status: Married twice Spouse: Walter P. Offutt Jr. Children: Yorke Bolin Mizelle

Education: Yale law school



#### Societal Contributions

Was the first American woman to become an attorney and judge.

She was the first black woman to graduate from Yale Law School,

The first to join the New York City Bar Association

The first to join the New York City Law Department

Bolin became the first black woman to serve as a judge in the United States when she was sworn into the bench of the New York City Domestic Relations Court in 1939.

After she retired in 1979, Bolin volunteered as a reading instructor in New York City public schools for two years and served on the New York State Board of Regents,

Bolin was an activist for children's rights and education

She was a legal advisor to the National Council of Negro Women. She served on the boards of the NAACP, the National Urban League, the City-Wide Citizens' Committee on Harlem, and the Child Welfare League.

She worked to encourage racially integrated child services, ensuring that probation officers were assigned without regard to race or religion

Bolin was an activist for children's rights and education.

Bolin served as a Family Court Judge until she was required to retire at the age of 70.

# Mae Jemison

Parents: Charlie Jemison, Dorothy Green

DOB: October 17,1956 Place Born: Decatur AL

Siblings: Ada Jemison Bullock, Charles Jemison

Marital status: single

Spouse: none Children: none

**Education: Cornell** 



At 36 years old, she became the first African American woman to go into space. Dr. Jemison was the science mission specialist on the flight.

During the shuttle mission she conducted experiments in life sciences, material sciences, and was co-investigator in the bone cell research experiment.

Currently, Jemison is leading the 100 Year Starship project through the United States Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). She is also a trained medical doctor, served as a Medical Officer in the Peace Corps and currently runs BioSentient Corp, a medical technology company.

Jemison became the first African American woman to travel in space.

She has also written several books and appeared on many television programs including an episode of Star Trek: The Next Generation.

created an international space camp for middle- and high-schoolers

She began college at Stanford University to study chemical engineering when she was only 16 years old.

# Bessie Coleman

Parents: Susan Coleman, George Coleman

DOB: Jan 26,1892

Place Born: Atlanta, TX

Siblings: Twelve brothers and sisters

Marital status: married Spouse: Claude Glenn

Children:none

**Education: Langston university** 



She challenged the barriers of racial discrimination and refused to participate in segregated events.

She planned to open an aviation school to teach other Black Americans to fly and become an active part of the growing aviation industry.

Making history as the first African American woman to earn a pilot's license.

Bessie Coleman performed as the first African American woman to fly public in 1922.

She refused to perform before segregated audiences in the South.

Speaking at schools and churches, she encouraged blacks' interest in aviation. first woman to get an international pilot's license.

Modeling a pathway for women and people of color in aviation and her challenges to Jim Crow practices.

She toured the country giving flight lessons and performing in flight shows, and she encouraged African Americans and women to learn how to fly.

# Audre Lorde

Parents: Linda Gertrude Belmar Lorde, Frederick Byron Lorde

DOB: Feb 18,1934

Place Born: Harlem NY Siblings: Three sisters Marital status: Divorced Spouse: Edwin Rollins

Children: Elizabeth and Jonathan

Education: Columbia university



During the 1960s, Lorde began publishing her poetry in magazines and anthologies, and also took part in the civi rights, antiwar, and women's liberation movements.

Audre co-founded Kitchen Table, the first U.S. publisher for women of color.

Lorde shocked even other feminists of her time with her progressive theories that racism, sexism, and homophobia were all linked in that they all come from an inability to respect difference.

Lorde's poetry was published very regularly during the 1960 — in Langston Hughes' 1962 New Negro Poets, USA; in several foreign anthologies; and in black literary magazines.

During this time, she was politically active in civil rights, anti-war, and feminist movements.

She was in the critical race theory.

A librarian for several years before publishing her first volume of poetry.

She furthered her education at Columbia University, earning a master's degree in library science in 1961

She led workshops with her young, black undergraduate students, many of whom were eager to discuss the civil rights issues of that time. T

In 1977, Lorde became an associate of the Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press (WIFP).

In 1984, Lorde started a visiting professorship in West Berlin at the Free University of Berlin.

Together with a group of black women activists in Berlin, Audre Lorde coined the term "Afro-German" in 1984 and, consequently, gave rise to the Black movement in Germany. During her many rips to Germany, Lorde became a mentor to a number of women including May Ayim, Ika Hügel-Marshall, and Helga Emde. Instead of fighting systemic issues through violence, Lorde hought that language was a powerful form of resistance and encouraged the women of Germany to speak up instead of fight

# Dorothy Height

Parents: Fannie Burroughs Height, James Edward Height

DOB: March 24, 1912

Place Born: Richmond VA

Siblings: Anthanette Aldridge

Marital status: single

Spouse: none Children: none

Education: NYU Steinhardt



Height began her efforts as a civil rights activist at the age of twenty-five when she joined the National Council of Negro Women.

Throughout her life she fought for equal rights for both African Americans and women.

During the 1930s she was an activist against lynching and for reforms to the criminal justice system.

For all her efforts during the Civil Rights Movement Height was awarded and recognized by many organizations. n 1989, she received the Citizens Medal Award from President Ronald Reagan and in 2004, Height was honored with the Congressional Gold Medal.

In 1957, she became the fourth president of the NCNW. As president, she led the group to expand its mission.

Height's prominence in the Civil Rights Movement and unmatched knowledge in organizing, meant she was regularly called to give advice on political issues. Eleanor Roosevelt, Dwight D. Eisenhower, and Lyndon B. Johnson often sought her counsel.

In 1963, Height, along with other civil rights activists organized the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom

She served as a visiting professor at the University of Delhi, India and with the Black Women's Federation of South Africa.

She also received an estimated 24 honorary degrees.

# Ronald McNair

Parents: Carl McNair, Pearl McNair

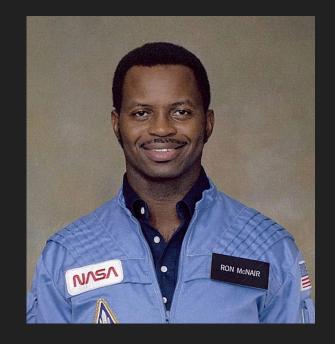
DOB: October 21, 1950 Place Born: Lake City SC

Siblings: Carl S. McNair jr, Eric McNair jr.

Marital status: Married

Spouse: Cheryl B. Moore

Children: Joy Cheray McNair, Reginald Ervin McNair



Education: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, B.S. physics 1971 North Carolina A and T state college, PHD.Physics 1976 Massachusetts institute of technology

Ronald McNair was nationally recognized for his work in laser physics and was one of the thirty-five applicants selected by NASA from a pool of ten thousand.

In 1984, McNair became the second African-American to make a flight into space.

He was a mission specialist on the space shuttle Challenger.

McNair first mission on the Challenger was a success, landing February 11,1984.

A Presidential Scholar, Ford Foundation Fellow, and Omega Psi Phi Scholar of the Year

He had a sixth degree belt in karate and was an accomplished saxophonist.

McNair would counsel young people to persevere, to be prepared, and to believe in themselves

Dr. McNair received an honorary doctorate of Laws from North Carolina A&T State University in 1978 McNair was named Distinguished National Scientist by the National Society of Black Professional Engineers (1979). He also received the Friend Of Freedom Award (1981). He was presented an honorary doctorate of Science from Morris College in 1980, and an honorary doctorate of science from the University of South Carolina in 1984.

# Alvin Ailey

Parents: Lula Elizabeth Ailey, Alvin Ailey Sr.

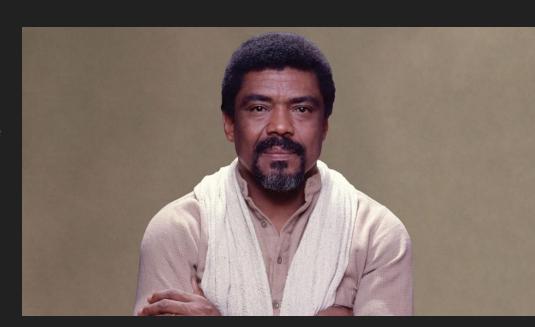
DOB: January 5, 1931, Place Born: Roger's TX

Siblings: none

Marital status: single

Spouse: none Children: none

Education: Los Angeles City College



Alvin Ailey made significant contributions to society through his innovative choreography and establishment of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. His work celebrated African American culture and brought diverse voices to the forefront of the dance world.

He revolutionized the world of dance through his unique choreography and artistic vision. His creations showcased the beauty and power of African American culture, breaking barriers and inspiring countless people.

He formed the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble; and pioneered programs promoting arts in education, particularly those that benefited in underserved communities.

Ailey's talents and contributions to the dance world earned him the Spingarn Medal from the NAACP, a Kennedy Center Honor, several honorary doctorates, the Samuel H. Scripps Award of the American Dance Festival for Lifetime Achievement, and the United Nations Peace Medal.

His most famous dance is *Revelations*, a celebratory study of religious spirit.

Ailey served as the lead dancer in another Broadway musical, *Jamaica*, starring Lena Horne and Ricardo Montalban in 1957.

While in New York, Ailey also had a chance to study dance with Martha Graham and acting with Stella Adler.

He made a dance school/theatre dedicated to preserving the uniqueness of the african- american cultural experience.

Ailey organized the first black repertory dance company in 1958, which toured extensively and came to the forefront during the civil rights movement.

# Gordon Parks

Parents: Unclear

DOB: November 30, 1912 Place Born: Fort Scott, KS

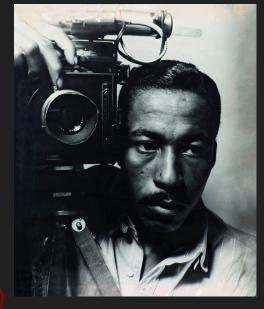
Siblings: 14 siblings

Marital status: Divorced

Spouse: Sally Alvis

Children: Gordon, Jr., David, Leslie, and Toni (Parks-Parsons)

Education: Saint Paul Central High



First African American filmmaker to direct films in the Hollywood system.

He captured powerful images that documented social issues.

His photo essays for Life magazine exposed the realities of segregation and poverty.

He Directed the film "Shaft," which became a cultural phenomenon.

Co-founded Essence magazine, a publication dedicated to celebrating Black culture.

His autobiography, "A Choice of Weapons," inspired many with his personal journey. Created the "Segregation Story" photo series, which brought attention to racial inequality.

Directed the critically acclaimed film "The Learning Tree," based on his own novel.

Championed civil rights through his art, using photography as a tool for social change.

Documented the Black Panther Party in a photo essay for Life magazine.

Served as a voice for marginalized communities, giving them representation through his work.

Received numerous awards and honors for his contributions to photography and film.

# Bayard Rustin

Parents: Archie Hopkins, Florence Rustin

DOB:March 17, 1912

Place Born: West Chester PA

Siblings:none

Marital status:married

Spouse:Walter Naegle

Children:none

**Education: Wilberforce University** 



Bayard Rustin made significant contributions to the civil rights movement in the United States.

He was a key organizer of the historic March on Washington in 1963, where Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

Rustin was a strong advocate for nonviolent protest and played a crucial role in organizing various civil rights campaigns and demonstrations.

He also worked tirelessly for social justice, fighting against discrimination and advocating for equal rights for all.

Rustin's contributions to the civil rights movement continue to inspire and shape our society today. Bayard Rustin was an influential figure in the civil rights movement.

He played a crucial role in organizing the historic March on Washington in 1963, where Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech.

Rustin's commitment to nonviolent protest and his tireless efforts for social justice have left a lasting impact on the fight for equality.

His contributions continue to inspire and shape the world we live in today.

# Arna Bontemps

Parents: Paul Bismark Bontemps

DOB:October 13, 1902

Place Born:LA Siblings:sister

Marital status:married

Spouse: Alberta Johnson

Children:6

Education: University of Chicago



Arna Bontemps was an influential African American writer and poet.

He was known for his works that explored the African American experience and addressed issues of race and identity.

Bontemps contributed greatly to the Harlem Renaissance, a cultural movement in the 1920s and 1930s that celebrated African American art, literature, and music.

His works captured the experiences and struggles of African Americans, addressing themes of race, identity, and social injustice.

Some of his notable works include the novel "Black Thunder" and the poetry collection "The Ballad of the Brown Girl."

Bontemps' writings continue to be celebrated for their powerful portrayal of African American life and their contribution to American literature.

Arna Bontemps made several significant contributions to African American literature and the Harlem Renaissance.

# Carter Woodson

Parents: Anne Eliza Riddle Woodson, James Henry Woodson

DOB: December 19, 1875 Place Born: New canton VA

Siblings: Bessie Woodson Yancey

Marital status: single

Spouse: none Children: none

Education: Harvard



He is the author of more than twenty books.

In 1915, he created the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History while

He worked as a teacher during Jim Crow

American historian who first opened the long-neglected field of Black studies to scholars and popularized the field in schools and colleges across the United States.

In 1919–20 Woodson was dean of the College of Liberal Arts and head of the graduate faculty at Howard University,

in Washington, D.C., and he was dean at West Virginia State College from 1920 to 1922.

He also founded and became president of Associated Publishers, a publishing company that produced books on Black life and culture