

Black History Month 2020

“African Americans and the Vote”

Since 1976, every American president has designated February as Black History Month and endorsed a specific theme.

The Black History Month 2020 theme, “African Americans and the Vote,” is in honor of the centennial anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment (1920) granting women’s suffrage and the sesquicentennial of the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) giving black men the right to vote.

In the Radical Reconstruction period that followed the Civil War, newly freed black men made great political gains, winning offices in Southern state legislatures and even Congress. The Southern backlash was swift and marked by the passage of “black codes” designed to intimidate black voters, prompting a call for formal, national legislation on the right to vote.

The women’s rights movement grew out of the abolitionist movement, with activists like Frederick Douglass working alongside Elizabeth Cady Stanton to secure the right to vote for all. That goal was reached with the passage of the nineteenth amendment in 1920.

Origins of Black History Month

The story of Black History Month begins in 1915, half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States.

That September, the Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson and the prominent minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), an organization dedicated to researching and



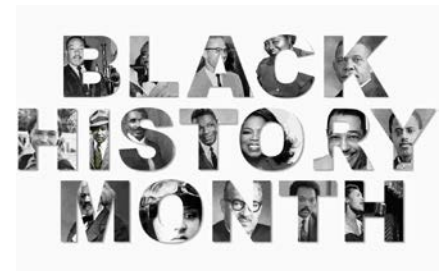
promoting achievements by black Americans and other peoples of African descent.

Known today as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), the group sponsored a national Negro History week in 1926, choosing the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The event inspired schools and communities nationwide to organize local celebrations, establish history clubs and host performances and lectures.

In the decades that followed, mayors of cities across the country began issuing yearly proclamations recognizing Negro History Week. By the late 1960s, thanks in part to the civil rights movement and a growing awareness of black identity, Negro History Week had evolved into Black History Month on many college campuses.

President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.”

Source: <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/black-history-month>



February 2020 Calendar

National African American History Month

- 1-7 – Women’s Heart Week (US)
- 2-8 – African Heritage and Health Week (US)
- 2 – Groundhog Day (US)
- 14 – National Donor Day (US)
- 14 – Valentine’s Day (Christianity)
- 15 – Nirvana Day (Buddhist / Jain)
- 21 – Mother Language Day (International)
- 22 – Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)
- 26 – Ash Wednesday (Christianity)
- 29 – Leap Year Day (International)

Tips for Interpreting in Mental Health Setting *(continued from previous issue)*

Source: http://site.interpretereducationonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Mental_Health_2014.pdf

By Interpreter Education Online

2. Positioning

The interpreter should adjust their positioning to benefit the encounter and to promote direct communication between the parties. Those providers who have some experience working with interpreters may express their wishes on how the interpreter needs to be positioned. However, positioning depends on a variety of factors that providers might not be aware of. Therefore, an interpreter should work with the provider to determine the best possible physical placement for all parties in the situation.

3. Fidelity

Fidelity to the source speech is the most important skill in mental health interpreting. Fidelity to tone and register, for example, is vital. Changing the register even slightly may paint a different picture for the provider. Needless to say, it doesn't require an interpreter to render the message literally. While sentence structure differs from one language to another, it is essential to keep the rendition in the target language as close to the original communication as possible in order for the medical professional to effectively diagnose a patient. If the syntax (word order and sentence structure) of the source language differs from the syntax of the target language, the interpreter should step out of their role as conduit to explain this to the provider.

4. Flow Management Skills

Mental health interpreters must have artful flow management skills to handle the expectations of providers, patients, and patients' family members in an effective and respectful manner. It is essential not to appear patronizing or condescending towards the patient.

5. Switching Modalities

Another important ability that any good mental health interpreter has is being able to effortlessly switch between the consecutive and simultaneous modes and keeping up with the patient's utterances that may be incoherent and/or lengthy. In a typical mental health encounter, an interpreter might need to switch between consecutive and whispering simultaneous a few times to keep up the pace and maintain the accuracy.

6. Post-Session

It is very important for the mental health provider and the interpreter to debrief in the post-session. It is vital to make the provider aware that holding a post-session with the interpreter is beneficial in order to sort out communication issues and possible therapeutic concerns such as any transference that may have surfaced. However, as always, it is important for the interpreter to remember not to overstep the ethical boundaries and only provide information about the patient's language, not personal information or opinions about the patient. Thus, only linguistic and cultural information shall be discussed. For instance, it is perfectly acceptable to discuss a patient's repetition of the same sentence throughout an encounter. However, attempting to medically diagnose the repetition would be outside of the interpreter's scope of practice and competence and is unacceptable.



New Staff Profile: Soledad Vargas

Sol Vargas is the newest staff addition to our written translation projects team. Born and raised in Argentina, Sol has always been passionate about languages and started learning English at a very young age. She pursued her dream of becoming a translator at the National University of Cordoba, Argentina, where she graduated as a Sworn English-Spanish Translator. Sol also obtained a degree in English Language Teaching and a degree in English Literature. In addition, she received an award for outstanding academic achievement from the National University of Cordoba.

After years of working as a teacher at the National University of Cordoba and at several private language schools, Sol travelled to the United States and began working in the tourism industry. She became a hotel administrator at a top South Beach hotel. Sol eventually left administration to begin her career as a freelance translator, working for companies, educational institutions, government agencies, and fellow translators.

Her superior language skills were validated when Sol passed the national certification exam through American Translators Association in 2012. After more than 15 years of experience in the language services industry, Sol is honored to have joined such a renowned institution as UC Davis Health, where she is focused on providing top quality translations to serve the patients of UC Health and their families. Outside of work, she enjoys doing yoga, travelling and exploring off the beaten track places. Welcome onboard, Sol! We are happy to have you as a staff translator for all five UC Health campuses!