2016 Commemorative Calendar

Photos by Bob Gore and Rasisi Dais
Welcome to 2016. Welcome to The Positive Community. We present to you The Positive Community’s 2016 Commemorative Calendar. The theme: Faith, Freedom and Cultural Revival—Positive Music Matters! The beautiful images of life and music in this calendar are from the Bob Gore spiritual photography collection joined by popular, Newark, NJ based music photographer, Rasisi Das.

The monthly calendar quotes are inspired from a collection of The Publisher’s Desk editorials written over the past year. Special thanks to Newark pastor Rev. Dr. Pauline E. Ballard whose quotes from a spiritual, biblical perspective affirm our course. Her unique insight is shared in a guest editorial in the 2015 Harlem Summer Issue of The Positive Community, entitled, I Do Believe: Positive Music Matters. This cultural document also includes quotes from Wynton Marsalis and Duke Ellington. The calendar is all about the music, positive music—now more than ever, in spirit and in truth—Positive Music Matters!

Faith-Testing Hope

This year, 2016, begins a new chapter of change in our American freedom journey. We are now in the final year of President Barack Obama’s 2nd term in the nation’s highest office. One hundred and fifty years ago, in 1866, Reconstruction came to the South in the wake of Civil War (to end slavery 1861–1865); a war that cost almost 700,000 American lives. Reconstruction was a violent, bitter period for the African American freedman. But, it was also a time of great faith-testing hope… “We Got By!”

Four hundred years ago, our ancestors were forcibly brought to these shores in shackles and chains. For 250 years the people toiled and suffered all manner of physical abuse; enduring much torment in the mind and the soul—a broken people. We survived Reconstruction and the humiliation of Jim Crow segregation and discrimination right through the March on Washington in 1963—The Second Emancipation—to the triumph of the election of America’s first black president in 2008 and again in 2012. And today, with much hope, we look forward to a future of health, prosperity and happiness—ideals of peace and goodwill.

The Soul of a Nation

Unlike any other ethnic group or race in this country, we the people, descendants of The Great Emancipation have been blessed with a very special gift; a great cultural treasure, a mighty spiritual asset—a goodly heritage; a great music legacy!

From the Slave Work Songs, Folk Tales and the Negro Spirituals; from the Blues, Jazz, to Gospel and Soul Music; from R&B to Hip-Hop, all are the precious gifts and talents of the liberated sons and daughters of the Most High God—The Great Emancipator. Indeed, a forlorn, forsaken people spoke freedom to the soul of this nation and healed the world through the power of music, song and the spoken word—a righteous sound—Positive Music Matters!

Faith, Freedom and Cultural Revival

POSITIVE MUSIC MATTERS®

By Adrian A. Council, Sr., Publisher The Positive Community
Where Do We Go from Here?

Today, as a people, we stand at the crossroads of a great reckoning. Our generation must account for the gifts bestowed upon us, our divine inheritance. It is the gift of our music, the progress of our children and the integrity of our culture that matters most—Positive Music Matters!

How then, in less than a single generation, did we go from enjoying a renowned, world-class artist/entertainer, a supreme talent named Michael Jackson, “The King of Pop,” to celebrating a rapper that goes by the name “Young Thug”; from songs of love, freedom, hope and happiness to an enslaving sound track of doom and death—vulgar, obscene and crude expressions of self-hate and anti-social attitudes, in complete bondage to fashion and debt; from inspired creativity, to shallow cleverness; from music and song to nursery rhyme cadences and music-less chants?

I believe the answers can be found in two sincere, simple and straight-forward questions:

#1—Who are we; and where do we go from here?

#2—Who are we praying to; and just what are we praying for?

America’s Best

A conversation about the future is a conversation about the children and the future of our children’s children! To do nothing is to go backward; and one cannot go forward and backward at the same time. A real conversation and celebration about the inherent, soul-saving qualities of Black Music is a step forward! Matthew 25:14-30, Parable of the Talents, illustrates the point.

After all, the fate and destiny of the people—God’s people—is ultimately in the hands of the people! Only through rediscovery of the African American group personality—our music, art, and culture, can we “revive the smoldering embers of positive values and traditions.” To quote, historian and theologian, James H. Cone, “Music has been and continues to be the most significant creative art expressions of African Americans.”

Never forget this truth: politics fades with fashion; culture endures—generation, to generation, to generation. It carries the faith—hope potential to transcend experiences of many, many lifetimes.

Each of us is called into loving service— to be about the business of our future. It is therefore our God-given responsibility, moral obligation and patriotic duty to protect, promote and preserve our very best—America’s best! A cultural renaissance—a great awakening—is surely underway! We must now decide for ourselves; by ourselves—on our own terms—what really matters!

Positive Music Matters!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:
We thank professor, James H. Cone, of Union Theological Seminary for his insightful, inspiring research study in the book, The Spirituals and the Blues. Dr. Cones is “widely regarded as one of the most influential theologians in America.” Rev. Dr. Pauline E. Ballard is pastor Pentecostal Family Prayer Center, Newark, NJ.

Special thanks to the more than 160 member churches, clergy leadership organizations of all denominations—our friends—that has joined and continues to support The Positive Community’s Great Roll Call to Progress, subscribers of bulk deliveries of the magazine. Special thanks to advertisers: businesses, schools, public and private institutions; civic organizations, fraternities and sororities, and forward thinking cultural groups, that have said “Yes” to a positive community ideal. We encourage our readers to support our community partners—businesses that advertise in this publication, online (thepositivecommunity.com) and our weekly newsletter, That’s What’s Up!

The Positive Community dedicates this 2016 Calendar to our friends, the encouragers who have “gone on to Glory” in 2015: Rev. Dr. Garner C. Taylor, Cephas Bowels (WBGO), Bob Curvin (author and educator), Bishop Kelmo C. Porter, Jr., Rev. Wendell F. McGuinness Jr., Alfonso Bernard, Jr. (son of Rev. AR Bernard) Larrrie W. Stokes, Rev. Anita Burson, Annette Hubbard RN, Rev. Ron Christian and many others who have lived their lives in ministry and in unselfish, loving service to the people.

The Positive Community acknowledges the pastors, musicians, singers, songwriters, composers, Gospel Choirs, music directors, arrangers, Ministers of Music, band leaders, music teachers; music schools and, dance instructors, Praise Dancers, poets, Worship Leaders, music publishers, music producers; music writers and critics and all good people of every race, nation, ethnicity, religion, gender, class and age—the beloved community—who understand and agree that ultimately, Positive Music Matters!

The Positive Community recognizes the support of the dfree movement to eliminate personal debt in our communities.

We also thank a very special group, African Americans for Health Awareness (AHAA), a growing team of community-based health advocates and professionals for a healthy future. Their motto: Health, Family, Education!

A special shout-out to theologians, schools of religious study, colleges and seminaries: New York School of Theology (NYTS), New Brunswick Theological School, Drew University, Newark School of Theology, Nyack College, Union Theological (NY), Unification Theological Seminary (UTS); College of New Rochelle, Felician University and Princeton Theological Seminary. Also, The Schomburg Center for Research and Black Culture.

Cover Photo: Sunday service at the Greater Allen Cathedral AME Church, Queens, NY by Bob Gore. Inserted photos of Jazz and Dance: vocalist, Diane Reeves; jazz dancer and modern tap, Savion Glover, and legendary Jazz drummer Max Roach by Rasasi Dais.

Credits: Photography: Bob Gore (bobgore.smugmag.com www.facebook.com/robert.gore.902) Rasasi Dais (rasasidais@aol.com; Publisher: Adrian A. Council, Sr. (adrian@thepositivecommunity.com) Editor: Jean Nash Wells (jean@thepositivecommunity.com; Special Project Coordinator: Kaylyn Kendall Dines Graphic Design/Production: Penguin Design Group and Martin Mainshain
Music is the tonal reflection of beauty.
—Duke Ellington

Jazz trumpeter Wynton Marsalis and the Marsalis family with the Lincoln Center Orchestra in 2012 at Lincoln Center in NYC. Wynton and his brothers: Branford on saxophone; Delfeayo, trombone; Jason on drums, and father Ellis Marsalis, Jr., playing piano. (Photo by Risasi Dais © 2012)
### January 2016 Calendar

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**New Year’s Day**

1804 – Jean Jacques Dessalines proclaimed the independence of Haiti.

1908 – Alpha Kappa Alpha, the first Black Greek Letter Sorority, was founded at Howard University.

1920 – Delta Sigma Theta Sorority was founded at Howard University.

1930 – Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, originally founded in 1913, was incorporated.

1956 – Martin Luther King Jr. Jr. was killed.

1964 – The Apollo Theatre in Harlem, NY held its first live show.

1968 – President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981, designed to end segregation in the U.S. Armed Forces.

1968 – The Weekly Advocate, the second major Black newspaper in America, was established in New York.

1971 – The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) was organized.

2005 – Barack Obama was sworn in as the first African American senator since Reconstruction and the fifth in history.

### Historical Events

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- **1908** – The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, the first Black Greek Letter Fraternity was incorporated.
- **1913** – Alpha Kappa Alpha, was incorporated.
- **1914** – Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity was founded at Howard University.
- **1917** – The United States succeeded Denmark as the sovereign authority in the Virgin Islands.
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- **1956** – Martin Luther King Jr. Jr. was bombed.

### Historical Dates

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### Key Dates

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**NEW FIRST LAST**

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1956 – Martin Luther King Jr. Jr. was killed.
Indeed our African American history, culture, values, tradition and ideals are most accessible through positive, life affirming music and song! As a people we pay a heavy price for forgetting our blessings—tragic loss of cultural memory and ethnic identity

— Positive Music Matters®

Sidewalk Ministry, 1985, 42nd St. and Eighth Ave., New York City (Photo by Bob Gore)
# February

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- **1865**: John S. Rock became the first Black lawyer admitted to practice before the Supreme Court.
- **1960**: NC A&T students staged a sit-in at the F. W. Woolworth segregated lunch counter in Greensboro, NC.
- **1990**: A 10 year ban on the African National Congress was finally lifted in South Africa.
- **1864**: 64-year-old Freedom Rider Walter Bergman, beaten by Ku Klux Klansmen at an Alabama bus station in 1961, was awarded $50,000 by a U.S. District Court.
- **1944**: Henry S. McAlpin became the first Black journalist allowed to attend a White House press conference.
- **1968**: Three South Carolina State students were killed during segregation protests in Orangeburg, SC.
- **1971**: Leroy “Satchel” Paige became the first Negro League player elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.
- **1989**: Frank E. Petersen, Jr. became the first Black Brigadier General in the U.S. Marine Corps.
- **1995**: Dr. Bernard A. Harris, Jr. became the first Black astronaut to take a spacewalk.
- **1990**: Nelson R. Mandela was released from prison after 27 years.
- **1897**: George Washington Carver was successful in getting a Branch Agricultural Experiment Station and Agricultural School at Tuscaloosa Normal School.
- **1965**: The home of Malcolm X was bombed.
- **1968**: Henry Louis was named Director of the New Jersey Symphony, the first African American to direct an American orchestra.
- **1804**: Lemuel Haynes, Revolutionary War Veteran and the first Black minister to serve for a white congregation, became the first Black person to receive an honorary degree from a white college.
- **1979**: Frank E. Petersen, Jr. became the first Black Brigadier General in the U.S. Marine Corps.
- **1871**: Hiram Rhodes Revels of Mississippi was sworn in as the first Black U.S. Senator.
- **1970**: Virgil Rhodes Reeves of Mississippi was sworn in as the first Black U.S. Senator.
- **1958**: Clifton Reginald Wharton, Sr. became the first Black person to head a U.S. embassy in Europe.
- **1968**: Three South Carolina State students were killed during segregation protests in Orangeburg, SC.
- **1820**: The Mayflower of Liberia, the first organized emigration of Black people back to Africa, left New York for Sierra Leone with 86 Black people.
There are forces all around you who wish to exploit division, rob you of your freedom, and tell you what to think. But young folks can rekindle the weary spirit of a slumbering nation.

—Wynton Marsalis
### March

**Sunday** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** | **Saturday**
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**1687**—The Civil Rights Act of 1875, outlawing discrimination in hotels, places of amusement, and other public conveyances, was passed by Congress; the House removed clauses banning discrimination in churches, schools, and cemeteries.

**1657**—The Dred Scott decision, asserting that Black people could not be citizens of the United States was handed down by the Supreme Court.

**1876**—B. S. Pickens, the first Black state Governor (Louisiana), was denied his seat by the Senate.

**1875**—Morris Coltrane, a Black state Senator (Alabama) was assigned a joint session of Congress to present the Voting Rights Bill of 1965.

**1876**—John Lee, the first Black commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy, was commissioned a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy.

**1876**—P. B. S. Pinchback, the first Black member of the Louisiana state legislature, was denied his seats by the Senate.

**1865**—The Freedmen’s Bureau for Black Education was founded to help freed Black people in contractual relationships and in education.

**1865**—The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was upheld by the Supreme Court.

**1932**—The first Black contemporary daily newspaper, the Atlanta Daily World, began publishing daily.

**1939**—The Black Academy of Arts and Letters was founded in Boston, MA.

**1939**—The Scottsboro Boys, nine Black youths who were falsely accused of raping two white women in Scottsboro, AL were convicted.

**1939**—Langston Hughes founded the New Negro Theater in Los Angeles, CA.

**1939**—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led 6,000 protesters in support of ending segregation, workers, through downtown Memphis, TN.

**1939**—The first Black naval officer training camp for Black officers in Des Moines, IA was opened.

**1939**—Capt. Edward L. Davenport, Jr. became the first Black candidate for astronaut training.

**1939**—Thoma Mundy Petersen of the Nation of Islam was arrested for raping two white women in Scottsboro, AL.

**1939**—Malcolm X withdrew from the Nation of Islam.

**1939**—Maya Angelou, became the first Black woman to have a motion picture starring her written and directed by her.

**1939**—Phyllis Mae Dailey became the first Black nurse appointed to the Navy Nurses Corps.

**1945**—The Associated Negro Press, the first Black news agency, was founded.

**1947**—The U.S. Army created the first Women’s Army Corps.

**1947**—Maya Angelou, became the first Black woman to be performed on stage, at a Black theater.

**1947**—The United States. Congress passed a Civil Rights Bill that made it illegal to discriminate against Blacks looking for housing and through brokers, was passed by the Senate.

**1947**—George “Lute Chocolate” Dixon knocked out Cal McCarthy to become the first Black man to hold an American title in any sport.

**1947**—The University of California at Berkeley began to integrate its lunch counters.

**1947**—The Sun became the first play written and produced by a Black woman to be performed on Broadway.

**1947**—Ferguson, the first Black pro football player on record to win a professional world’s championship.

**1947**—Roseland, the first Black pro football player to receive a patent for a Sail-Handling device, becoming the first Black person to receive a patent.

**1947**—Crispus Attucks was the first person killed in the Boston Massacre.

**1947**—The USS Jesse L. Brown was launched, the first ship named in honor of a Black naval officer.

**1947**—The Renaissance, the first Black pro basketball team, became the first Black team on record to win a professional world’s championship.

**1947**—The Boston Celtics became the first Black NBA player when signing Bill Russell.

**1947**—The Liberty Bowl was the first American title in any sport.

**1947**—The New Negro Theater in Los Angeles, CA went into bankruptcy.

**1947**—The Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas, the first Supreme Court decision to outlaw discrimination in public schooling, was handed down by the Supreme Court.

**1947**—The Supreme Court upheld a 1964 Supreme Court decision to outlaw discrimination in churches, schools, and cemeteries.

**1947**—Carole Gist became the first Black woman to win the “Miss USA” pageant.

**1947**—Dwight, Jr. became the first Black man to hold an American title in any sport.

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Positive Music is the substance of power that can and will break every type of enslavement.

—Dr. Pauline E. Ballard
### April

**Sunday**

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**Monday**

- 1968—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I’ve been to the Mountain Top" speech
- 1989—Happy Pappy, the first variety talent show series with a Black cast, aired on WENR-TV
- 1935—Black University, the first chapter of Phi Beta Kappa at a Black school
- April 1
- 1948—Hampton Institute (University) was founded

**Tuesday**

- 1969—Matthew A. Henson became the first person to reach the North Pole
- 2016—Tax Day
- 1975—Lee Elder became the first African American to play in golf's Masters Championship
- 1976—Full documents revealed that the government had conducted an intensive campaign against civil rights organizations

**Wednesday**

- 1887—The Philadelphia Free African Society was created
- 1914—Oscar DePriest, the first Black Congressman from the North (Illinois), was sworn in
- 1917—The WBA and the New York State Athletic Commission stripped Muhammad Ali of his World Heavyweight Boxing title for refusing to enter the Armed Forces
- 1917—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I've been to the Mountain Top" speech

**Thursday**

- 1787—The Philadelphia Free African Society was created
- 1790—Sidney Poitier was the first African American man to receive an "Oscar" for a leading role for his performance in Lilies of the Field
- 1933—The York Rosenwald Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was organized at Shaw University
- 1949—Happy Pappy, the first variety talent show series with a Black cast, aired on WENR-TV

**Friday**

- 1909—Matthew A. Henson became the first person to reach the North Pole
- 1975—Lee Elder became the first African American to play in golf's Masters Championship
- 1956—Nat King Cole was attacked by a mob of white supremacists while performing on stage in Birmingham, AL
- 1960—The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was organized at Shaw University

**Saturday**

- 1884—The Medico-Chirurgical Society was formed in Washington, DC because the AMA refused to allow Black physicians into their group
- 1944—The United Negro College Fund (UNCF) was founded

**April Fool’s Day**

- 1974—Henry "Hank" Aaron broke Babe Ruth’s MLB record with 715 homeruns
- 1972—Major General Frederic E. Davidson became the first African American to lead an Army division

**Tax Day**

- 1959—Bill White was elected President of the National Baseball League, the first African American to head a major professional sports league in the United States
- 1960—The nation of Togo gained its independence
- 1961—Sierra Leone gained its independence

**Passover Begins**

- 1865—The Freedmen’s Bureau was established
- 1983—Robert C. Maynard bought the Oakland Tribune, becoming the first African American to own a major daily metropolitan newspaper

**Passover Ends**

- 1956—Nat King Cole was attacked by a mob of white supremacists while performing on stage in Birmingham, AL
- 1964—Sidney Poitier was the first African American to receive an "Oscar" for a leading role for his performance in Lilies of the Field
- 1975—Lee Elder became the first African American to play in golf's Masters Championship

**Earth Day**

- 1970—The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was organized at Shaw University
- 1990—Percy Lavon Julian and George Washington Carver became the first Black inventors elected to the National Inventors Hall of Fame

** Arbor Day**

- 1909—Matthew A. Henson became the first person to reach the North Pole
- 1975—Lee Elder became the first African American to play in golf's Masters Championship
- 1956—Nat King Cole was attacked by a mob of white supremacists while performing on stage in Birmingham, AL

**April 30**

- 1964—Sidney Poitier was the first African American to receive an "Oscar" for a leading role for his performance in Lilies of the Field
- 1975—Lee Elder became the first African American to play in golf's Masters Championship
- 1956—Nat King Cole was attacked by a mob of white supremacists while performing on stage in Birmingham, AL
Each of us is entrusted with and responsible for the survival and safe-passage of values from this generation to the next. Music, cultural literacy is essential to the ideal of a quality education.

—Positive Music Matters®
## May

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### May 1
- **1950**: Gwendolyn Brooks’ *Annie Allen* makes her the first Black person to win a Pulitzer Prize.

### May 2
- **1920**: The first game of the National Negro Baseball League was played in Indianapolis, IN.

### May 3
- **1948**: The Supreme Court decided *Shelby v. Holder*, providing that no state or federal court could enjoin or prevent an individual from voting or occupying property due to his race.

### May 4
- **1904**: The first Black Greek-letter organization, Sigma Pi Phi, was formed in Philadelphia, PA.

### May 5
- **1919**: Eugene Antonio Marion was installed as the first Black Archbishop in the United States.

### May 6
- **1787**: The African Lodge No. 459 was founded by Prince Hall in Massachusetts.

### May 7
- **1961**: William Henry Hastie was inaugurated the first Black Governor of the Virgin Islands.

### May 8
- **1920**: Congress declared foreign slave trade an act of piracy, punishable by death.

### May 9
- **1951**: The Municipal Court of Appeals ruled that racial segregation in Washington, DC restaurants was illegal.

### May 10
- **1963**: The War Department created the Bureau of Colored Troops and began an aggressive effort to recruit Black soldiers.

### May 11
- **1858**: John Brown convened an anti-slavery convention in Chatham, Canada.

### May 12
- **1954**: The 93rd Infantry, the first Black division to be assembled during World War II.

### May 13
- **1965**: Patricia Roberts Harris was the first Black woman to be named a US Ambassador.

### May 14
- **1964**: Oscar Hawkins, Garret became the first Black moderator of the United Presbyterian Church.

### May 15
- **1854**: The Kansas-Nebraska Act overturned the Missouri Compromise and allowed slavery in the Northern territory.

### May 16
- **1875**: Oliver Louis won the first Kentucky Derby.

### May 17
- **1891**: Isaac Burns Murphy became the first person to win the Kentucky Derby three times.

### May 18
- **1935**: Jesse Owens broke five world records and set a sixth in a 45-minute span while running for Ohio State University in the Big Ten Championship track meet.

### May 19
- **1954**: The Korean-Nebraska Act overturned the Missouri Compromise and allowed slavery in the Northern territory.

### May 20
- **1968**: Ruth A. Lucas became the first Black woman to be promoted to Colonel in the U.S. Air Force.

### May 21
- **1963**: The Supreme Court overturned the “separate but equal” doctrine in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

### May 22
- **1863**: The War Department created the Bureau of Colored Troops and began an aggressive effort to recruit Black soldiers.

### May 23
- **1915**: The National Baptist Convention was chartered.

### May 24
- **1955**: Jesse Owens broke five world records and set a sixth in a 45-minute span while running for Ohio State University in the Big Ten Championship track meet.

### May 25
- **1952**: The Municipal Court of Appeals ruled that racial segregation in Washington, DC restaurants was illegal.

### May 26
- **1870**: Congress passed the first Civil Rights Enforcement Act to protect the voting rights of Black people.

### May 27
- **1990**: George Augustus Stallings was ordained the first Bishop of the African-American Catholic Church.

### May 28
- **1968**: Ruth A. Lucas became the first Black woman to be promoted to Colonel in the U.S. Air Force.

### May 29
- **1980**: Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., National Urban League president, was seriously injured in an assassination attempt in Fort Wayne, IN.

### May 30
- **1951**: The Municipal Court of Appeals ruled that racial segregation in Washington, DC restaurants was illegal.

### May 31
- **1955**: Jesse Owens broke five world records and set a sixth in a 45-minute span while running for Ohio State University in the Big Ten Championship track meet.
Positive music speaks the language that our soul understands and does respond to. After the song has ended, the melody lingers to sustain us even when we are at “wits end corner!”

“Then sings my soul, My Savoir God to Thee; How Great Thou art; How Great Thou art.”

—Dr. Pauline E. Ballard

Noted Gospel singer, Rev. Maxine Casellas, at the Cake Man Raven annual show, 2012, Brooklyn, NY

(Photo by Bob Gore)
Our foremost great and present hope can only come from within: individual and collective faith; an awareness and knowledge of our collective experience in this land—our history—and a real appreciation for love, wisdom and ideals as reflected through great music, positive music—our collective soul!

—Positive Music Matters®
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Independence Day</td>
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<td>The Reverend Uschi Murphy McKee was named as the first female Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church.</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Congress passed the Second Confiscation Act. This Act was designed to free the slaves from all rebels. Congress also authorized the President to accept Blacks into military service.</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>1943–The USS Harmon, the first warship named for a Black person (1st Class Line TD Roy Harmon), was commissioned.</td>
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<td>1948–President Harry Truman ordered the “equality of treatment and opportunity” for all people in the armed forces by issuing Executive Order No. 9981.</td>
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<td>1874–Father Patrick Francis Healy was named President of Georgetown University and became the first Black president of a predominantly white institution.</td>
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**Notes:**

- **Independence Day**
- **FULL**
- **LAST**
Even when we hum a sacred melody to ourselves, it ushers in a God-given calmness to any situation. Immediately there is a divine connection which resonates a soothing and sweetness throughout the soul that does quiet the troubled heart.

—Dr. Pauline E. Ballard
### August

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1834 – Slavery was outlawed in British colonies; over 700,000 slaves were freed.
1960 – Dahomey (Benin) gained its independence.
1966 – The Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science was chartered.
1960 – Niger gained its independence.
1960 – The Ivory Coast gained its independence.
1861 – Congress passed the Confiscation Act allowing property of rebel slaveholders, including slaves, to be appropriated.
1965 – President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act of 1965, suspending literacy tests and allocating federal examiners to the South.

**1819** – The Dutch brought 24 slaves to the Jamestown colony, the origins of U.S. slavery.
1960 – Senegal gained its independence.
1960 – Congo gained its independence.
1973 – The National Black Feminist Organization (NBFO) was formed.
1963 – Wilberforce University was established by the AME Church.
1948 – Alice Coachman became the first U.S. woman to win an Olympic Gold Medal.
1954 – Charles Henry Babbitt was confirmed as the first Black delegate to the United Nations.
1960 – The Ivory Coast gained its independence.
1960 – Senegal gained its independence.
1960 – Congo gained its independence.
1973 – The National Black Feminist Organization (NBFO) was formed.
1963 – Georg Olden became the first African American to design a U.S. postage stamp.
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Two forms of song—the spirituals and the blues—helped sustain slaves and their children in the mist of “a lot of powerful tribulation.”

—James H. Cone
“The Spirituals and the Blues”

Magnificent jazz guitar and Blues performer King Solomon Hicks playing during the summer of 2015 at Marcus Garvey Park in Harlem.

(Photo by Risasi Dais © 2015)
September

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1957–The Little Rock Nine were met by a hateful mob and the National Guard when they attempted to integrate Central High School.

1968–Gwalia and Mauritius gained independence.

1973–Oil was discovered in the Southern part of the Yuma Desert, Arizona.

1978–The first U.S. citizen to fly in space, Sally K. Ride, became the first American woman in space.


1992–Dr. Mae Jemison became the first Black woman to travel in space.

2000–The first multi-day women’s conference was held in Canada.

2005–The first multi-day women’s conference was held in Canada.

2010–The first multi-day women’s conference was held in Canada.
Cultural Leadership and music literacy is crucial! America’s great cultural and spiritual movements led by King, Malcolm and countless others, successfully overcame the negative with a soul inspiring, positive music soundtrack; it affirmed the dignity of our humanity and revealed before all mankind, the truth, beauty and goodness of a loving and gifted race!

—Positive Music Matters®

Somi, the beautiful & talented Rwanda Jazz singer performing during the spring of 2015 at Mist-Harlem on 116th Street in Harlem. (Photo by Risasi Dais © 2015)
Sacred music is the answer to health, healing and happiness. You see, sacred music is positive music because music had its origins in heaven.

—Dr. Pauline E. Ballard
### November

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#### Key Dates

- **1787**: The African Free School opened in New York City.
- **1910**: The first issue of the NAACP monthly magazine, Crisis, was published.
- **1836**: Theo Wright became the first Black person in the U.S. to receive a degree in Theology.
- **1865**: Shaw University was founded in Raleigh, NC.
- **1841**: Thirty-five Amistad survivors were returned to their homelands.
- **1922**: The Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority was founded in Indianapolis, IN.
- **1930**: The Washington Society of Colored Dentists was founded in Washington, DC.

#### Celebrations

- **November 1**: All Saints’ Day
- **November 10**: Veterans Day
- **November 23**: Thanksgiving Day

#### Events

- **1968**: The Iota Phi Theta fraternity was incorporated.
- **1983**: President Ronald Reagan designated the third Monday in January as “Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.”
- **2008**: Barack Obama was elected the first Black President of the United States.

#### Historical Notes

- **1989**: David Dinkins was elected as the first Black mayor of New York.
- **1990**: The Howard University Medical School opened with eight students.
- **1990**: David Driskell was elected as the first Black major of New York.
- **1994**: Dr. Daniel Hale Williams founded Freedmen’s Hospital School of Nursing.
- **1995**: The Howard University Medical School opened with eight students.
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#### Milestones

- **1787**: The African Free School opened in New York City.
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#### References

- 1865–: Shaw University was founded in Raleigh, NC.
- 1841–: Thirty-five Amistad survivors were returned to their homelands.
- 1865–: Howard University was founded in Washington, DC.
- 1911–: The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity was founded at Howard University.
- 1962–: President John F. Kennedy ordered the end of racial discrimination in federally financed housing.

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**First Sunday in Advent**

**Daylight Saving Time Ends**

**Election Day**

**Veteran’s Day**

**Thanksgiving Day**
The challenge of our times is to address the spiritual and cultural crisis in America today, among the African American people in particular; to respond to the negative by affirming the positive—now.

—Positive Music Matters®

Mr. James Davis, Jr., Minister of Music and Fine Arts at The Abyssinian Baptist Church, Harlem, NY, conducts Handel’s Messiah. (Photo by Bob Gore)
# December

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- **1776**: President George Washington signed the Fairfax Resolves to end the import and export of slaves.
- **1955**: Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white person, sparking the Montgomery Bus Boycott.
- **1833**: Abolitionists formed the American Anti-Slavery Society.
- **1906**: The First Black Greek-Letter Fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha, was founded at Cornell University.
- **1917**: The first issue of the North Star, an antislavery paper, was published.
- **1933**: The Colored Girls School (now the University of the District of Columbia) opened.
- **1970**: Jennifer Hosten became the first Black woman to win the Miss World Pageant.
- **1847**: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations.
- **1944**: Black women were admitted into the Women’s Naval Corps (WAVES).
- **1961**: Tanzania gained its independence.
- **1963**: Zanzibar gained its independence.
- **1975**: Libya gained its independence.
- **1851**: The Colored Girls School (now the University of the District of Columbia) opened.
- **1870**: The Colored Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in Jackson, TN.
- **1895**: The First Black Greek-Letter Fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha, was founded at Cornell University.
- **1929**: The Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority was incorporated.
- **1936**: The Supreme Court ruled that a state must provide equal educational facilities for Blacks within its borders.
- **1956**: The Montgomery Bus Boycott ended.
- **1966**: Kwanzaa was founded by Maulana (Ron) Karenga.
- **1996**: Operation PUSH (People United to Serve Humanity) was organized.
- **2003**: Libya gained its independence.
- **2005**: The first day of Kwanzaa, "Umoja," which means "unity.
- **2012**: The sixth day of Kwanzaa, "Ujamaa," which means "cooperative economics.

**Key Dates:**

- **1833**: Abolitionists formed the American Anti-Slavery Society.
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**December Holidays:**

- **December 25**: Christmas Day
- **December 26**: Christmas Day
- **December 27**: Christmas Day
- **December 28**: Christmas Day
- **December 29**: Christmas Day
- **December 30**: Christmas Day
- **December 31**: New Year's Eve
This year, 2016, begins a new chapter of challenge, change and opportunity in our freedom journey. We are now in the final year of President Barack Obama's 2nd term in the nation's highest office. Imagine what life must have been like one hundred and fifty years ago. In 1866, Reconstruction came to the South in the wake of the Civil War (to end slavery 1861-1865); a war that cost almost 700,000 American lives.

These were also the early days of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's). From those troubling times to the present, we are blessed with an enormous opportunity to measure, analyze and define our American story, our collective claim on the American Dream—to proclaim for ourselves a new language of freedom!

The fate and destiny of the people—God's people—is ultimately in the hands of the people! Only through rediscovery and revival of the African American group personality—our music, art and culture; positive values and traditions—can we save our own community and salvage a future for the children, inspiring a great American Renaissance! . . . And, yes, Positive Music Matters!

Below is a cultural narrative that every child should learn. Our story—our history—a brief presentation of our deep collective experience that dates back to before this nation's founding.

THE CULTURAL NARRATIVE

African Americans are a unique people with a peculiar history in this land. Brought to these shores in chains, from Africa in the early 1600's, our people toiled and suffered as captives in brutal bondage for a quarter of a millennium (250 years). On January 1st 1863, two years into the Civil War, the Emancipation Proclamation, signed by President Abraham Lincoln became law, signaling an end to slavery. On that day, the African American community of the United States of America was born.

One hundred years later, in August, 1963, at the height of the Civil Rights Movement, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stood in front of the Lincoln Memorial, as he led hundreds of thousands to a “March on Washington” seeking an end to discrimination and 90 years of Jim Crow segregation in the South. It was a demand for full and equal citizenship rights for the people in what has been called “The Second Emancipation”

Forty years after Martin Luther King's tragic assassination in 1968, America elects its first black president, Barrack Obama (2008).

In the 100 years between the first and "second emancipation", in the mist of bitter persecution, humiliation, lynching and enduring the denial of basic human rights, the resiliency of the African American spirit continued to shine brightly in religion, business, education, medicine, invention, sports and in the creative arts—music, fashion, dance, language, literature and theater. Indeed, original American art forms and a popular culture which has become the envy of the world were founded upon the souls of a forlorn people! That is our story—the Truth, Beauty and Goodness of a loving and gifted race—revealed!

An Extraordinary History

Ours is an extraordinary history of trial, tribulation and triumph that we must never forget! This is the story that we must tell our children and be ever remembered for all generations. We the people, descendants of The Great Emancipation, must tell our story and sing our songs to each other and the entire world! We must remind ourselves, over and over again of the noble struggle, sacrifices and wisdom of our torch-bearing forefathers; of our goodly heritage; our divine inheritance; our great music legacy—Positive Music Matters!

This is our story, our cultural narrative, a new language of freedom—a springboard towards a great and prosperous future; a spiritually enlightened ideal. A vision of hope and progress; liberty and happiness; health and wholeness; peace and goodwill!

The struggle continues, but victory is certain ... To God be the Glory, forever and ever ... Amen!