

April 2019 Spokane Diversity/Cultural Events

Multicultural Communications Month

Multicultural communication may seem difficult at first – differences in languages, backgrounds, customs, and the like all seem a challenge. By learning more about our different cultures, it become easier to interact. This month has been dedicated to further this cause. Five keys to Effective Multicultural Communication:

<https://unitedlanguagegroup.com/blog/five-keys-to-effective-multicultural-communication/>.

Stand Against Racism - 2019 theme “No Hate, No Fear. Immigrant Justice is Racial Justice”

Join the YWCA in taking a stand against racism from April 25-April 28, 2019. Organizations in Spokane County are invited to become a participating site by hosting their own “Stand Against Racism” or by joining the YWCA and their activities on April 26, 2019. For more information visit <http://standagainstracism.org>.

As Grandmother Taught: Women, Tradition and Plateau Art

Coiled and twined basketry and beaded hats, pouches, bags, dolls, horse regalia, baby boards, and dresses alongside vintage photos of Plateau women wearing or alongside their traditional, handmade clothing and objects, with works by Leanne Campbell, HollyAnna CougarTracks DeCoteau Littlebull and Bernadine Phillips.

Dates: August 2018 through December 2019

Time: Tuesday-Sunday, 10:00 am-5:00 pm

Location: [Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture](#), 2316 W. First Ave

Cost: \$10.00 adult, \$8.00 seniors, \$5.00 children ages 6-17, \$8.00 college students with ID.

For more information visit their website at <https://www.northwestmuseum.org> or call 509.456.3931.

“Inuit Art of Povungnituk”

The artists in Povungnituk, located in Arctic Quebec, have been recognized for over a quarter of a century for the quality of their print making and their distinctive style. The Povungnituk sculptures and prints present a cross section of tribal life and chronicle the history and legends of a people. They are occasionally humorous, often joyous and sometimes tragic. Characterized by crisp images of native animals and human figures set against stark backgrounds, many of the artworks reveal the rituals that have allowed the Inuit people to survive.

Dates: February 16 through May 12, 2019

Time: Tuesday-Sunday, 10:00 am-5:00 pm

Location: [Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture](#), 2316 W. First Ave

Cost: \$10.00 adult, \$8.00 seniors, \$5.00 children ages 6-17, \$8.00 college students with ID.

For more information visit their website at <https://www.northwestmuseum.org/exhibits/upcoming-exhibits/inuit-art-of-povungnituk> or call 509.456.3931.

Unwanted Journey Exhibit

The physical journey from home to possible safety and the journey of rebuilding one’s life in a new place are both experiences of refugees who have been forced to flee their countries because of persecution, war, or violence. This exhibit includes poetry and personal narratives by refugees and mixed-media sculptures and drawings of refugees created by artist Ildikó Kalapács.

Date: Saturday, March 30, 2019 through Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Time: Library Hours

Location: Spokane North Library, 44 E Hawthorne Rd

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information and library hours, call 509.893.8350 or visit their website at www.sclld.org.

“Speaking Up for the Other” Art Exhibit

Art work by Spokane-region middle school and high school students entered into the 2019 Spokane Community Observance of the Holocaust Art Contest.

Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2019 through Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Time: 8:00 am – 6:00 pm, Monday-Friday

Location: Gonzaga University Law School, Floors 1 and 2, 721 N Cincinnati St

Cost: Free and open to the public

Co-sponsored by the Gonzaga University Center for Civil and Human Rights, Gonzaga University Institute for Hate Studies and Temple Beth Shalom.

“Sacred Encounters: Father De Smet and the Indians of the Rocky Mountain West” Exhibit

The exhibit tells the story of how Jesuit missionaries (Father De Smet) came to the interior Northwest at the invitation of the Coeur d' Alene and Salish tribes and the profound effects this sacred encounter had on both cultures.

Date: Open, no end date at this time

Time: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm daily April through September, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm October through March, (closed holidays)

Location: Old Mission State Park, Cataldo, ID (I-90, exit 39 – 60 miles east of Spokane)

Cost: \$5.00 park entrance fee, exhibit \$5.00 per person/\$10.00 per family.

For more information visit their website at

<https://parksandrecreation.idaho.gov/parks/coeur-d-alenes-old-mission>.

Can You Queer Me Now?

Day: Tuesday

Time: 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Hear voices directly from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, and Questioning community right here in the Inland Northwest. You will hear more about current events, local groups, and perspectives directly from the queer youth community. Hosted by Ian Sullivan on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

Democracy Now

Day: Monday-Friday

Time: 8:00 am – 9:00 am & 5:00 pm-5:00 pm

A national, daily, independent, award-winning news program hosted by journalists Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez. Pioneering the largest public media collaboration in the U.S. Link <https://www.democracynow.org/>.

KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

Democracy Now! Headlines in Spanish

Date: Saturday

Time: 7:00 am – 8:00 am

Democracy Now! is a national, daily, independent, award winning news program hosted by journalists Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM.

Website: www.kyrs.org or www.democracynow.org.

Detention

Day: Monday

Time: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Variety music/talk show for teens by teens. This show is produced by the students of West Valley City School.

Hosted by Kade, KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

Dragonflies on Thin Air**Day: Sunday**

Time: 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

One of the few elementary age children's radio shows produced by kids for kids in the country. The program is fun and educational for children and adults, and includes a mix of jokes, music, guests, stories, poetry, trivia and more. Hosted by [Trevor, Zoe, Eva and Selena](#), KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

Irish Music on Tap**Day: Wednesday**

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Music from Ireland, Scotland and England. Hosted by Don and Rick, on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

Latin Lounge**Day: Monday**

Time: 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

A wide spectrum of Latin music. Hosted by "Corazon" on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

Layali Arabia**Day: Saturday**

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Arabic songs from a multitude of different genres to come out of the Arab World. Hosted by Rahmi on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

Queens of Noise**Day: Wednesday**

Time: 8:00 pm-10:00 pm

You will hear best in female vocalist/musicians. Hosted by "Queen of Mean" and "Luscious Duchess", KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

QueerSounds**Day: Thursday**

Time: 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

QueerSounds is radio show dedicated to playing music by and for LGBTQ people. Music, interviews, community events and forums. Hosted by bob, KYRS FM 92.3 or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>
Join the hosts on Facebook at www.facebook.com/qsounds, or email them at queersounds@kyrs.org.

The Persian Hour**Day: Saturday**

Time: noon – 1:00 pm

The Persian Hour's consists of a variety of Iranian music from hip hop to traditional, Jazz, blues, rock and roll and the usual. Also, they will share stories, recipes, and interviews. Hosted by Shahrokh, KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

5th International Conference on Hate Studies – Building Peace through Kindness, Dialogue, and Forgiveness

Various speakers, workshops,

Dates: Tuesday-Thursday, April 2-4, 2010

Location: Hemmingson Center, Gonzaga university

Cost – visit website

For more information visit at www.gonzaga.edu/icohs.

Spokane Theater Arts Council Town Hall Meeting

Meeting is to begin a discussion about diversity in our local theater. How do we build a stronger voice for stories of people of color, gender, and sexual orientation? How can these cultures and communities have better representation?

Date: Wednesday, April 3, 2019

Time: 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Location: David's Pizza, 803 W Mallon

Cost: Open to the actors, dancers, musicians and artists

For more information visit their Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/spokanetheater/>.

Vietnamese Heritage Day

Commemorates Vietnam's founding fathers and 5,000-year-old ancient civilization with music, food, art/history exhibition, slideshows, speeches, gifts, cultural performances, traditional opera, and to honor Vietnam Veterans.

Date: Saturday, April 6, 2019

Time: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Location: Genesis Event Center, 9315 N Nevada St

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information email vasa.spokane@yahoo.com. Presented by the Vietnamese American Senior Association of Spokane

Truth & Poverty Tour

Community conversations: Supporting Student-Centered Movements.

Date: Saturday, April 6, 2019

Time: 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Location: WSU Riverpoint Health Science Building

Cost: Free and open to the public

Register at <https://wapoorpeoplescampaign.org/event/national-emergency-truth-poverty-tour-spokane-wa/>.

Sponsored by Spokane NAACP, Gonzaga Black Student Union, Every Student Counts Alliance and EWU Jewish Club.

Teriyaki Fest

The annual spring festival and fundraiser featuring Japanese chicken or tofu teriyaki dinners.

Date: Sunday, April 7, 2019

Time: 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

Location: Spokane Buddhist Temple, 927 S Perry St

Cost: \$15.00 dinner, \$5-6 for mochi dessert

For more information visit their website at <http://www.SpokaneBuddhistTemple.org/>. Pre-orders available at SpokaneBuddhistTemple.org or by phone. The temple will also have an open house.

Neither Wolf Nor Dog Film

The film is based on the award-winning book by Kent Nerburn, the first of a trilogy about his conversations with a Lakota elder and his family.

Date: Monday, April 8, 2019

Time: 6:30 pm -8:20 pm

Location: The Magic Lantern, 25 W Main Ave

Cost: \$9.00

For more information call 509.209.2383

Contemporary Arab Society's "Great Transformation": Social and Cultural Changes

What should Americans know about the Arab mind? The presenter, Dr. Mohammed Boudoudou, is a sociologist/philosopher and visiting Fulbright Scholar from Morocco. Dr. Boudoudou has been offering lectures and discussions with the Community Colleges of Spokane for the 2018-2019 academic year. He has a vast knowledge and experience as an educator, sociologist, economist, and world traveler. Dr. Boudoudou's areas of expertise are the sociology of the Arab world and Muslim identity.

Date: Monday, April 8, 2019

Time: 6:30 pm -7:30 pm

Location: Shadle Library, 2111 W Wellesley Ave

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information visit their website at <https://www.spokanelibrary.org/calendar/>,

Slovenia: Culture, Sports, Food

Mateja Lončar, a Slovenian national, will discuss the history and culture of Slovenia, describing the country's regions and touching on selected milestones in its recent history. Some of these are curiously commemorated through sports events such as the Run of Trios, a team road race. Slovenia borders on Italy, Austria, Hungary, and Croatia, and seceded from Yugoslavia in 1991 to reach sovereignty for the first time in history.

Date: Monday, April 8, 2019

Time: 6:30 pm -7:30 pm

Location: South Hill Library

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information visit their website at <https://www.spokanelibrary.org/calendar/>,

Circle of Security

Mothers interested in learning attachment and understanding healthy parent-child relationships.

Date: Tuesday, April 9, 2019, every Tuesday for the next 10 weeks

Time: 10:30 am - noon

Location: YWCA Spokane, 930 N Monroe St

Cost: Free, looking for volunteers to plan this event

For more information email Teresa at teresad@ywcaspokane.org or call 509-789-9280.

Unity in the Community (UIC) Planning Meeting

UIC will be celebrating 25 years on August 17, 2019 at Riverfront Park.

Date: Tuesday, April 9, 2019

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: Emmanuel Family Like Center, 631 S Richard Ct, Room 101

Cost: Free, looking for volunteers to plan this event

For more information visit www.nwunity.org.

Next Generation Medicine: The Invisible Wounds of War

Features Christine Mac Donald, Ph.D., for a discussion about the link between mental health, PTSD and traumatic brain injury. An associate professor of neurological surgery and an expert in neuro-imaging and traumatic brain injury, Mac Donald will focus on prediction, diagnosis and therapies, as well as the long-term outcomes for individuals who have experienced these injuries.

Date: Tuesday, April 9, 2019

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Hemmingson Center, 702 E Desmet Ave.

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/next-generation-medicine-the-invisible-wounds-of-war-tickets-55995984497>, or call 509.313.6095.

Finland: Land of the Midnight Sun, 1888,888 Lakes, and So Much More

Presented by the local Inland Northwest Finlandia, get a glimpse into a country that was inhabited over 130,000 years ago in the far north of Europe. Learn some history and get to know a little about modern day Finland..

Date: Tuesday, April 9, 2019

Time: 6:30 pm -7:30 pm

Location: Shadle Library, 2111 W Wellesley Ave

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information visit their website at <https://www.spokanelibrary.org/calendar/>.

Shen Yen

Artistic vision expands theatrical experience into a journey through five millennia of traditional Chinese culture.

Date: Tuesday, April 9, 2019

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: First Interstate Center for the Arts, 334 W Spokane Falls Blvd

Cost: \$80.00 - \$150.00

For more information and/or to purchase tickets visit their website at <http://www.inbpac.com/>.

The Great Folk Scare: American Folk Music Revival

Explore the folk singers and songwriters of the late '50s and '60s. Brad Keeler and Linda Parman perform music celebrating this moment in American history.

Date: Tuesday, April 9, 2019

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Spokane Valley Library, 12004 E Main Ave

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information, call 509.893.8400 or visit their website at <http://sclcd.evanced.info/signup/list?df=list&nd=150&kw=great+folk+scare>.

The Great Folk Scare: American Folk Music Revival

Explore the folk singers and songwriters of the late '50s and '60s. Brad Keeler and Linda Parman perform music celebrating this moment in American history.

Date: Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Cheney Library, 610mFirst St

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information, call 509.893.8280 or visit their website at <http://sclcd.evanced.info/signup/list?df=list&nd=150&kw=great+folk+scare>.

Hispanic Business/Professional Association Membership Meeting

Sabes Qué? Liz Moore from Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane and Ben Cabildo from AHANA

Date: Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Time: 6:00 pm– 7:30 pm, social/networking & dinner with speaker/program

Location: Fiesta Mexicana, 1227 S Grand Blvd

Cost: Around \$10.00--\$15.00 if you order dinner.

For more information regarding the luncheon meeting contact Isabel Mazcot de Torres, HBPA President at hbpaspokane@gmail.com or visit their website at www.hbpaspokane.net.

Diverse Voices Writing Group

Date: Thursday, April 11, 2019

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: Spark Central, 1214 W Summit Parkway

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information call 509.279.0299 or visit their website at <http://www.sparkwestcentral.org/>.

The Doctrine of Discovery & Human Dignity

The Gospel Story tells us we are made in the image of God. History tells us how often we have desecrated that image. Local faith leaver Lenore ThreeStars will lead in a powerful evening exploring the history of the Doctrine of Discovery from an Indigenous Peoples perspective.

Date: Thursday, April 11, 2019

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: First Presbyterian Church, 319 S Cedar St

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information call 509.747.1058.

2019 Indian Youth Leadership Camp (Native Students grades 7-12)

Indian youth (Native American/Alaskan Native) will learn about making responsible decisions, Indian culture and spirituality, prevention, cooperation, healing, developing a positive vision for the future while having fun.

Dates: Friday-Sunday, April 12-14, 2019

Cost: \$30.00

Location: Medical Lake, WA

For more information visit their website at www.nativeproject.org/leadership contact Shedaezha or Taylor at 509.325.5502. Application deadline is April 5, 2018. Hosted by The Native Project.

15th Annual YWCA Spring Fling – Sold Out

Champagne Bruch and Silent Auction

Date: Saturday, April 13, 2019

Time: 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Location: Anthony's at the Falls, 510 N Lincoln Street

Cost: \$60:00

For more information call Kate at 509.789.9312 or visit their website at https://ywcaspokane.org/event/spring-fling-brunch/?instance_id=439.

Korean Food Sale

All proceeds go to support the work of Hope Korean Church.

Date: Saturday, April 13, 2019

Time: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Location: Spokane Hope Korean Church, 806 W Knox Ave

Cost: Cost of Food

For more information call 509.720.9646 or email spokanehopekorean@gmail.com.

16th Happy Earth Day 2019 - Save the Species

Educational and interactive displays, food trucks & Farmers market, petting zoo, and much more.

Date: Saturday, April 13, 2019

Time: 11:00 am – 7:00 pm

Location: Balfour Park Block across Spokane Valley City Hall, 105 N Balfour Rd, Spokane Valley

Cost: Free

For more information visit their Facebook at EarthDaySpokane or call 509.928.9664.

NAACP General Membership Meeting - Celebrate Spokane NAACPs 100th Anniversary

Featured Speaker: Kiantha Duncan, Empire Health Foundation with entertainment: Power2thePoetry and Desja Eagle Tail.

Date: Monday, April 15, 2019

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Location: Calvary Baptist Church, 203 E. 3rd Ave.

Cost: Free open to everyone

For more information check their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/spokane.naACP/>. Dinner buffet Provided.

An Evening with David Barsamian

David Barsamian has altered the independent media landscape, both with his weekly radio show Alternative Radio—now in its 33rd year—and his books with Noam Chomsky, Eqbal Ahmad, Howard Zinn, Tariq Ali, Richard Wolff, Arundhati Roy and Edward Said. His latest book with Noam Chomsky is *Global Discontents: Conversations on the Rising Threats to Democracy*. He lectures on world affairs, imperialism, capitalism, propaganda, the media, the economic crisis and global rebellions.

Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2018

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Unitarian Universalist Church, 4340 W Fort George Wright

Cost: \$10.00, \$5.00 for students with ID. Tickets available at kyrs.org or at the door.

For more information visit their website at <http://kyrs.org/david-barsamian-returns-to-spokane/> or call 509.747.3012.

Diverse Voices Writing Group

Date: Thursday, April 18, 2019

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: Spark Central, 1214 W Summit Parkway

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information call 509.279.0299 or visit their website at <http://www.sparkwestcentral.org/>.

Baha'i Fireside Discussions

Discussions about topics of interest and the Baha'i faith will take place.

Date: Thursday, April 18, 2019 (3rd Thursday of each month)

Time: 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Location: Spokane Valley Library, Small conference room, 12004 E Main Street

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information call 509.354.2800.

Culture Night – Grant Elementary

Evening of fun, culture, and food, will include showcasing of student work, multicultural snacks, and performances.

Date: Friday, April 19, 2019

Time: 5:00 pm

Location: Grant Elementary, 1300 E 9th Ave

Cost: Open to the public

For more information call 509.

Madhura Vani Melodious Reverberations - South Indian Classical Concert

Ensemble of three Indian classical musicians: (Vidwan Sri. D Srinivas – Veena, (string); Vidwan Sri. V S Raghaven – Mridangam (percussion); and Vidwan Sri. Kishna Sriram – Ghatam (percussion)

Date: Friday, April 19, 2019

Time: 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Location: Unity Spiritual Center, 2900 S Bernard St

Cost: \$20.00 general and \$15.00 students at the door. Children under 10 are free. Tickets purchased by April 5, 2019 will receive a \$5.00 discount (call for more information on the discount). Checks/cash only.

For more information email Sreedharani Nandagopal at sacaspokane@gmail.com or call 509.467.558. There will be Indian vegetarian food for purchase at the same venue prior to the concert (5:00 pm). Sponsored by the South Asia Cultural Association (SACA of Spokane).

Treasure Hunt Book Fair

Children (kindergarten to 3rd grade) who attend (parents and siblings are also encouraged to attend) will be given a “treasure map” to navigate through 8 activity booths. Each booth will promote reading comprehension through an age appropriate literacy activity. Children who complete the “hunt” will get to choose a new book to take home (supplied by the JLS Book Bank).

Date: Saturday, April 20, 2018

Time: 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Location: East Central Community Center, 500 S Stone St

Cost: Free

For more information visit their Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/treasurehuntbookfair/>. Presented by the Junior League of Spokane.

22nd Annual K.C.T.F.H.R. Annual Banquet and Gala – Theme “With Liberty and Justice for All”

Keynote: Cherie Buckner-Webb, ID State Senator. Silent Auction

Date: Friday, April 12, 2019

Time: 5:00 pm silent auction and reception, 6:03 pm dinner

Location: The Best Western, Coeur d’ Alene, ID, 306 W Appleway

Cost: \$40.00 for HR Banquet, for tickets call 208.765.3932. Payment must be received by April 8, 2019.

For more information call 208.765.3932 or visit their website at <http://www.idahohumanrights.org/> for registration form. Send check for the banquet to HREI, PO Box 2725, Coeur d’ Alene, ID 83816. Includes silent and one live auction item.

13th Annual Spring Tea

Women & Children’s Free Restaurant & Community Kitchen (WCFR) annual spring fundraiser with a four-course tea service, silent auction and raffle. The purpose is to raise awareness and vital funding for WCFR’s nutrition programs

Date: Saturday April 20, 2019

Time: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Location: The Davenport Grand, 333 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.

Cost: \$50.00

For more information or to register call at 509.324.1995, or visit their website <https://www.wcferspokane.org/> or <https://wcferspokane.ejoinme.org>.

2019 Kalispel Tribal Winter/Spring Pow Wow

Date: Saturday, April 20, 2019

Time: doors open at noon, dance starts at 1:00 pm, dinner at 5:30 pm with an evening session at 7:00 pm

Location: Northern Quest Resort & Casino, 100 North Hayford Rd, Airway Heights

Cost: Free, open to the public

For more information call 877.871.6772.

21st Annual Get Lit! Celebrating Reading and Writing for all ages

Get Lit! Attend numerous community events, readings, workshops and poetry slams. Live music, book signings, Q and A, and more around the Spokane area.

Dates: Monday, April 22, 2019 – Sunday, April 28, 2019

Location: Various Venues

Costs: Varies from each event, many of the events are free, free to all high school and college students with ID (space limited). For more information and schedule, visit their website at <http://getlitfestival.org/>.

Tommy Orange – EWU Get Lit Programs

Author of *There There*, a multi-generational, relentlessly paced story about a side of America few of us have ever seen: the lives of urban Native Americans.

Date: Wednesday, April 24, 2019

Time: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Location: SCC Lair Auditorium, 1810 Mission Ave

Cost: Free and open to the public. Seating in the auditorium is first come, first served. The reading will be followed by a book signing.

Presented by SCC's Hagan Foundation Center.

Diverse Voices Writing Group

Date: Thursday, April 25, 2019

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: Spark Central, 1214 W Summit Parkway

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information call 509.279.0299 or visit their website at <http://www.sparkwestcentral.org/>.

Is Black History or Black Studies Relevant in 2019?

Some people say, "Those young people need to know their history." A people's story is sacred, much more than history, and a human enterprise that America never intended or intends to provide us. Join us for this thought-provoking talk by Dr. Okera Nsombi.

Date: Thursday, April 25, 2019

Time: 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: South Hill Library, 3324 S Perry St

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information visit their website at <https://www.spokanelibrary.org/calendar/#/?i=5>. Eastern Washington University Africana Studies Program presents Community Connections Series: Reclaiming Black Excellence at the South Hill Library on April 25, May 2, May 9, and May 16, 2019.

Refugees: Myths & Realities, Dilemmas & Contributions

Dr. Kassahun Kebede and Dr. Fred Strange from Eastern Washington University's Anthropology Department lead this discussion about the challenges faced by refugees, what assimilation looks like from the inside, and the stories refugees have to tell about their experiences before and after arriving in the United States. The presentation focuses how African refugees—Ethiopian refugees, in particular—make contributions to the U.S. economy and society in places of worship, ethnic restaurants, and other establishments to enhance depressed urban areas. In this talk, you're invited to ask questions and look at the situations of displaced people and the causes and consequences of their uprooting to gain a keener understanding of what refugees endure and what they contribute to the societies they enter.

Date: Thursday, April 25, 2019

Time: 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: Spokane North Library, 44 E Hawthorne Rd

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information and library hours, call 509.893.8350 or visit their website at www.sclid.org.

2019 Stand Against Racism Day – No Hate, No Fear, Immigrant Justice is Racial Justice

Date: Friday, April 26, 2018

Time: 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Location: Empire Health Foundation Philanthropy Center, 1020 W Riverside Ave

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information visit their website at https://ywcaspokane.org/event/stand-against-racism-2018/?instance_id=327 or <http://www.standagainstracism.org/>.

Native American Graduation

Native American students in the Spokane area completing high school, GED, undergraduate, graduate, technical, or professional programs are encouraged to register and invite their family and friends to the celebration.

Date: Friday, April 26, 2019

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Cataldo Hall, Gonzaga university

Cost: Free

From more information visit their Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SpokaneNativeGraduation/>.

2019 WA State NOW Conference - Power of Persistence

Featuring Elisa Law, Women's Suffrage Centennial Coordinator. Other speakers include Kate Bitz, Jessie Turner plus panels and speakers on a variety of intersectional feminist topics.

Date: Saturday, April 27, 2019

Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Location: Spokane Downtown Library

Cost: \$25 for NOW members; the fee for non-members is \$35 (and includes an annual NOW membership), includes lunch.

For more information email now.spokane@gmail.com. Register on-line at www.SpokaneNow.org or their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pg/SpokaneNOW/events/>. Contact Kialynn at waconference@nowseattle.org.

Daughters of Norway

A club to unite women who wish to preserve their Nordic heritage by exploring its rich history, culture, folk arts and native languages. Meetings involve sharing Nordic tales, cooking, arts and tips on retracing family roots.

Date: Saturday, April 27, 2019 (fourth Saturday of each month)

Time: 10:00 am

Location: TBD

For more information call 509.926.8090 or visit www.daughtersofnorwayfreya.org or contact (509) 926-8090 for location and time of monthly meetings.

23rd Annual African American Graduation

Young, Gifted and Black. A Cultural Salute for Outstanding Academic Achievement for K-12 schools and colleges/universities. Deadline to register is Thursday, March 28, 2019.

Date: Saturday, April 27, 2019

Time: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Location: Hemmingson Center, Gonzaga University

Cost: Free

For more information and/or to register email aagradspokane@gmail.com or visit their Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/AAgradSpokane/>.

Refugee and Immigrant Stories: Voices of Hope

Refugee and immigrant speakers from Central America, Ethiopia, Haiti, Iraq and Sudan. A fundraiser for Refugee Connections Spokane. Refreshments, music and door prizes.

Date: Saturday, April 27, 2019

Time: 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm 10:00 am

Location: St. Ann Catholic Parish, 2120 E 1st Ave

For more information call 509.209.2384 or email rsc@refugeeconnectionsspokane.org

Spokane Feminist Art Festival – FEM+FEST

Presented by Spokane NOW.

Date: Saturday, April 27, 2019

Time: 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Location: Spokane Downtown Library, 3rd floor gallery and stage

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information visit their website at www.spokanenow.oeg.

Spokane Community Observance of the Holocaust

Theme of “Speaking Up for The Other. Program will feature high school and middle school students reading their first- place submissions to their creative writing contest as well as a display of all the pieces submitted by Spokane - area students to their Art Contest. Music will be performed by the Lewis and Clark High School Chamber orchestra.

Date: Sunday, April 28, 2019

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Temple Beth Shalom, 1322 East 30th (South Hill)

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information call 509.747.3304.

El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children’s Day/Book Day)

We share stories in Spanish and English, create crafting sensations, and more. C commonly known as *Día*, is a celebration of children, families, and reading together. The celebration emphasizes the importance of literacy for children of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds. *Ages 5+, kids 8 and under must bring an adult.*

Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Time: 3:00 pm-5:00 pm

Location: Cheney Library, 610 First Street, Cheney

Cost: Free

Visit their website at <https://www.sclid.org/>. In partnership with EWU M.E.Ch.A. de EWU club.

El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children’s Day/Book Day)

We share stories in Spanish and English, create crafting sensations, and more. C commonly known as *Día*, is a celebration of children, families, and reading together. The celebration emphasizes the importance of literacy for children of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds. *Ages 5+, kids 8 and under must bring an adult.*

Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Time: 4:00 pm-5:00 pm

Location: Spokane Valle Library, 12004 E main Ave, Spokane Valley

Cost: Free

Visit their website at <https://www.sclid.org/>. In partnership with EWU M.E.Ch.A. de EWU club.

10th Annual EWU Pride Week

Visit their website for events.

Dates: Monday-Friday, April 29-May 4, 2019

Location: EWU, Cheney, WA

For more information on the specific events (dates/time/location) visit their website at

<https://sites.ewu.edu/pridecenter/>.

Save the Date

24th Annual Hispanic/Latino Graduate and Young Scholar Recognition Ceremony

All Hispanic/Latino(a) graduating students from Spokane County high schools and colleges/universities are invited to attend with family members. In addition, Young Scholars, in grades 8-11 with a gpa of 3.00.

Date: May 2, 2019

Time: 5:00 pm

Location: Lair, Spokane Community College, 1810 Greene Street

Cost: Free

For more information email hbpaceremony@gmail.com, visit their website at www.hbpaspokane.net.

10th Annual Lavender Graduation

Lavender Graduation is a cultural celebration of LGBTQ+ and ally graduates from high schools, community colleges, and universities across the Inland Northwest. All graduates receive a lavender stole and rainbow tassel.

Date: Friday, May 3 2019

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Location: Hargreaves Reading Room 201, 717 6th Street, EWU, Cheney, WA

Cost: Free, graduates need to register, visit their website

For more information visit <https://sites.ewu.edu/pridecenter/>. Community members and non-graduates are welcomed to attend.

9th Annual Family Fun Fair

Featuring local mascots, pet adoption drive, petting zoo, bounce castles, interactive activities and more. Plus parenting resources for children with special needs, disabilities, autism, mental health and more.

Date: May 11, 2019

Time: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Location: Riverfront Park and River Park Square

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more email charity@thefamilyguide.org or call 509.928.9664.

Citizens Academy: Spokane Police Dept.

Dates: June 1-2, 2019

Time: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm on June 1 and 9:00 am-5:00 pm on June 2, 2019

Location: SPD Academy, 2302 N Waterworks Street

Cost: Free

For more information go to <https://my.spokanecity.org/police/citizen/training>. To register, email Alaina Gump at agump@spokanepolice.org.

5th Annual SEA-TRI-KAN - Ride for Refugee Resiliency

Route starts at the World Relief's office in Kent, WA, passes through Tri-Cities and finishes in Spokane (about 400 miles).

Dates: Wednesday-Sunday, June 19-23, 2019

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Cost: \$400.00, must register. Registration payment covers all expenses of the ride including meals and snacks, lodging, support vehicles, roadside bike maintenance/repair, transportation back to Seattle.

For more information, visit their website at <https://worldreliefseattle.org/stk>. Fundraiser for World Relief.

Citizens Academy: Spokane Police Dept.

Dates: June 1-2, 2019

Time: 9:00 am to 4:30 om on June 1 and 9:00 am-5:00 pm on June 2, 2019

Location: SPD Academy, 2302 N Waterworks Street

Cost: Free

From more information go to <https://my.spokanecity.org/police/citizen/training>. To register, email Alaina Gump at agump@spokanepolice.org.

Other Diversity/Cultural Information

Hispanic Business/Professional Association (HBPA) Foundation is accepting applications for their **scholarships** for graduating high school seniors and college/university undergraduates for the 2019/2020 year. Visit <http://www.hbpaspokane.net/scholarship.html> for information and scholarship letter/application, deadline April 6, 2019. For more information email hbpaspokane@gmail.com or hbpasholars@gmail.com.

If you know of diversity/cultural event open to the public that you would like added to the monthly calendar, please e-mail Yvonne C. Montoya Zamora at yvonnecmz04@gmail.com with event details. For other events, visit www.visitspokane.com or <http://www.spokane7.com/>.

April 2019 National/International Cultural Celebrations

April 1

April Fools' Day - Canada, UK, USA, England

Celebrated as a day when people play practical jokes and hoaxes on each other. The jokes and their victims are known as "April fools".

Kha B'Nissan - Assyria

Originally celebrated for twelve days, Assyrians place a bunch of green grass at the threshold of their homes to welcome fertility and prosperity in the New Year. On the tenth day, groups of new brides visit every house and receive presents that are then distributed amongst themselves.

Farvardin – Iran

The first month of the Solar Hijri calendar, the official calendar of Iran. It is the first month of the spring season.

April 2

World Autism Awareness Day – UN

On World Autism Awareness Day and throughout April, which is Autism Awareness Month, local organizations hold a variety of events and educational activities to help the public learn more about autism spectrum disorder. Part of [Light it Up Blue](#) campaign, spearheaded by the autism community that aims to foster understanding and acceptance for those with autism. Supporters are encouraged to wear blue clothing and post to social media using the hashtag #LightItUpBlue to raise awareness.

Independence Day – Senegal

Senegal gained partial independence from France today in 1960, with complete independence achieved upon the dissolution of the Mali Federation on August 20th of the same year.

April 5

Ching Ming Festival - China/Taiwan

A national holiday when family graves are visited to ask for the blessings of the departed spirits.

- April 6** **Ugadi – India, Mauritius, Nepal**
 Ugadi marks the beginning of the new Hindu lunar calendar. Celebrated mainly in the southern states of India, people awake before the break of day, bathe and decorate the entrance of their homes with mango leaves. They eat bitter Neem leaves with sweet jaggery to signify the bitter and sweet of life.
- Chakri Day - Thailand**
 A national holiday honoring King Rama I, who in 1782 founded the Chakri dynasty (which still rules the country) and established Bangkok as the country's capital.
- April 6** **Organization of the Church – Christian-Mormon**
 The Church of Latter-day Saints was founded on the sixth of April 1830 at Fayette, New York.
- April 7** **World Health Day - UN**
 At least half of the world's people do not receive the essential health services they need. All UN member states have agreed to try to achieve universal health coverage (UHC) by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Developments Goals.
- April 9** **Jalal (2nd month) - Baha'i**
 The first day of the second Baha'i month. The English translation of Jalal (Arabic) is Glory.
- Independence Day – Georgia**
- April 10** **Day of Pink – LGBT**
 Communities across the world unite in celebrating diversity and raising awareness to stop homophobic, transphobic & all forms of bullying.
- April 13** **Songkran/New Year- Cambodia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand**
 In Southeast Asia, Songkran is recognized as the New Year for Buddhists. For Thais, it is a three-day religious festival in which homes are routinely cleaned, and water is sprinkled on monks paying visits and on statues of Buddha.
- April 14** **Palm Sunday – Christian**
 Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and was cheered by crowds who strew palm branches in his path. It is observed by worship services and parades using palm branches.
- Baisakhi - Bangladesh, Sikh, Hindu**
 The first day of the solar year, this is an agricultural festival celebrating the harvest especially in North India. In Kerala, South India this day is called Vishu. Especially important to the Sikhs, it marks this day in 1699, when the tenth Guru, Guru Gobind Singh, established the order of 'Khalsa'. The festival is a mixture of feasting, dancing and worship.
- Ram Navami – Hindu**
 Celebrates the birthday of Rama, the seventh incarnation of Good Vishu. Hindus read the Ramayan, a Hindu epic, which tells the story of Rama, during the previous eight days.
- Bown Pinai - New Year – Laos**
 Lasts for 3-days. The last day of the festival marks the start of the new year.
- April 15** **Adam's Peak Pilgrimage - Sri Lanka**
 It is an ancient pilgrimage site to the sacred mountain, Sri Pada. According to legend, when Buddha visited Sri Lanka, he planted one foot on the north of the royal city and the other foot on Sumana-Kuta (Adam's Peak), about a hundred miles distance.

Father Damien Day – Hawaii

Anniversary date of Father Damien death of Hansen's disease on the island of Molokai, HI. He cared for sufferers of this disease, also known as Leprosy, continuing his missionary work on the island.

April 17 Independence Day – Syria

In remembrance of the date that French troops left the country in 1946.

April 17 Mahavira Jayanti – Jain

This day celebrates the birthday of Lord Mahavira who was the 24th leader of the Jain religion and born around 599 B.C.

April 18 Holy Thursday – Christian, Christian-Coptic & Eastern Orthodox

On this day, Jesus ate the Last Supper and washed the feet of his disciples prior to his arrest and crucifixion.

Independence Day – Zimbabwe

Independence from Britain was finally achieved this date in 1980.

April 19 Good Friday – Christian, Christian-Coptic & Eastern Orthodox

This day commemorates the passion and death by crucifixion of Jesus. Italian Catholics have a procession call the Way of the Cross.

April 20-27 Pesach/Passover – Jewish

Begins the previous sundown at 6:00 pm. Pesach lasts for eight days. This time commemorates the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. It begins with the ritual meal "Seder" when no leavened bread is consumed with special prayers and symbolic foods.

April 21 Easter – Christian

This day celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from his grave. Most Christians welcome Easter Sunday with a sunrise service.

Feast of Ridvan thru May 2 - Baha'i

Ridvan means paradise and the 12-day festival is the holiest time for the Baha'is. Commemorates Baha'u'llah's stay in the Garden of Ridvan in the last days of his exile in Baghdad and announced he was the prophet whose coming had been foretold. Baha'is do not work on the 1st, 9th, and 12th days of Ridvan.

Kartini Day- Indonesia

This day commemorates Indonesia's first women's emancipationist. There are parades, lectures and social activities attended by women, all wearing their regional dress. Mothers aren't allowed to work as the family does the house chores. Many go on a pilgrimage to the grave of Kartini who died at age 24.

April 22 Earth Day - International

Earth Day is celebrated around the world and events such as festivals and rallies are often organized for the weekends before or after April 22. Many communities also celebrate Earth Month by organizing a series of environmental activities throughout the month of April. The purpose of Earth Day is to celebrate the earth and renew our commitment to building a safer, healthier and cleaner world for all of us.

- April 22** **Easter Monday – Christian**
Commemorates the meeting of women at Jesus’ tomb with an angel who assured them that Jesus had been resurrected from death. It is observed as a holiday in some countries.
- April 23** **St. George’s Day - Christian**
St. George is the patron saint of England. He died in 303 AD. His emblem, a red cross on a white background, is the symbol of the International Red Cross and on the flag of England. It also forms part of the Union Jack and flags of Scotland and Northern Ireland. The Bulgarians and Macedonians celebrate it on May 6.
- April 23** **National Sovereignty Day and Children’s Day - Turkey**
Commemorates the first Grand National Assembly in 1923, and also honors youth as the symbol of modern Turkey.
- April 24** **Martyrs’ Day - Armenia**
Commemorates the 1915 Turkish massacre of 2 million Armenians.
- Administrative Professionals Day- Canada, USA**
On this day, workplaces all over the country acknowledge secretaries, administrative staff, and other support personnel for their contributions.
- April 25** **Anzac Day – Australia, New Zealand**
This is the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War. ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. The soldiers in those forces quickly became known as ANZACs, and the pride they soon took in that name endures to this day. Today it honors those who died in both World Wars as well as in the Korean and Vietnam Wars.
- Maundy Thursday – Christian – Coptic and Eastern Orthodox**
On this day, Jesus ate the Last Supper and washed his feet of his disciples prior to his arrest and crucifixion.
- Liberation Day – Italy**
A day on which to honor the fallen partisans of the Italian Resistance who fought the Nazis as well as Mussolini’s troops throughout World War II.
- Daughters/Sons to Work Day - USA**
On this day, launched by Ms. Magazine in 1993, parents introduced their children to the world of work.
- April 26** **Holy Friday - Christian – Coptic and Eastern Orthodox**
Commemorates the passion and death by crucifixion of Jesus and is a solemn day. Eastern Orthodox members fast on this day. Macedonians make a plashtanitsa or picture of the dead Jesus on a large cloth to be carried in a procession.
- Arbor Day - USA**
A day celebrated to encourage tree planting. Founded in 1872 by J. Sterling Morton. Celebrated the last Friday in April.
- April 26-28** **Gathering of Nations Pow Wow – Aboriginal/Indigenous/Native American**
A three-day celebration that brings over 700 tribes and nations to Albuquerque, New Mexico. This is the largest Pow Wow in North America. Over 3,000 participants share, teach and exchange traditions.

- April 27** **Freedom Day - South Africa**
Commemorates the day in 1994 when for the first time, all South Africans had the opportunity to vote.
- Kings Day – Netherlands**
Celebrated King's Day (*Koningsdag*) for the first time in 2014, after the inauguration of King Willem-Alexander on 30 April 2013 (what was then still Queen's Day). The entire country is painted orange and the streets, canals and parks overflow with celebrations.
- Independence Day - Togo**
Commemorates the proclamation of the independence of Togo from France in 1960.
- April 28** **Pasha/Easter - Christian – Coptic and Eastern Orthodox**
This day celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from his grave.
- Jamal (3rd Month) – Baha'i**
The first day of the third Baha'i month. The English translation of Jamal (Arabic) is Beauty.
- April 29** **Easter Monday - Christian – Coptic and Eastern Orthodox**
Monday commemorates the meeting of the women at Jesus' tomb with an angel who assured them that Jesus has resurrected from death, it is observed as a holiday in some countries.
- Showa-no-hi – Japan**
Commemorates the birth of Emperor Showa (Hirohito) (1901-1989), the reigning Emperor before, during, and after WWII (1926-1989).
- April 30** **Walpurgis Night – Sweden**
Walpurgis is Sweden's annual feast of the witches. Huge bonfires are lit all over the country to scare them away as they fly overhead, headed for their annual Sabbath in Brocken in the Harz Mountains in Germany.
- April 30-May 4** **Gahambar Maidyozarem - Zoroastrian**
This day celebrates the creation of the sky.

Source: Diversity/Cultural Celebrations from Creative Cultural Communications 2019 Diversity Calendar,
<http://usa.multiculturalcalendar.com/v/home.html>.

Books by African-American Writers

In honor and in celebration of 100 years of Spokane NAACP, below is a list of books (fiction and non-fiction) by African American writers that you should add to your reading list if you haven't already read them.

1. KINDRED // OCTAVIA BUTLER

This is one of a string of novels Butler penned centering on black female protagonists, which was unprecedented in a white-male dominated science and speculative fiction space at the time. This story centers Dana, a young writer in 1970s Los Angeles who is unexpectedly whisked away to the 19th century antebellum South, where she saves the life of Rufus Weylin, the son of a plantation owner. When Dana's white husband—initially suspicious of her claims—is transported back in time with her, complicated circumstances follow, since interracial marriage was considered illegal in America until 1967.

2. HUNGER: A MEMOIR OF (MY) BODY // ROXANE GAY

In the second entry of her 2017 memoir *Hunger*, Gay writes, "... this is a book about disappearing and being lost and wanting so very much, wanting to be seen and understood." The author pinpoints deep-seated emotions from a string of experiences, such as an anxious visit to a doctor's office concerning gastric bypass surgery and turning to food to cope with a boy raping her when she was a girl. In six powerful parts, the daughter of Haitian immigrants and National Book Award finalist reclaims the space necessary to document her truth—and uses it to come out of the shadows she had once intentionally tried to hide in.

3. THE FIRE NEXT TIME / JAMES BALDWIN

James Baldwin is considered a key figure among the great thinkers of the 20th century for his long range of criticism about literature, film, and culture and his revelations on race in America. One of his most widely known literary contributions was his 1963 book *The Fire Next Time*, a text featuring two essays. One is a letter to his 14-year-old nephew in which he encourages him not to give in to racist ideas that blackness makes him lesser. The second essay, *Down At The Cross*, takes the reader back to Baldwin's childhood in Harlem as he details conditions of poverty, his struggle with religious

4. BETWEEN THE WORLD AND ME // TA-NEHISI COATES

After re-reading James Baldwin's *The Fire Next Time*, Ta-Nehisi Coates was inspired to write a book-long essay to his teenage son about being black in America, forewarning him of the plight that comes with facing white supremacy. The result was the 2015 National Book Award-winning *Between the World and Me*. Throughout the book, Coates recounts witnessing violence and police brutality growing up in Baltimore, reflects on his time studying at historically black Howard University, and asks the hard questions about the past and future of race in America.

5. INVISIBLE MAN // RALPH ELLISON

Ralph Ellison's 1952 classic *Invisible Man* follows one African-American man's quest for identity during the 1920s and 1930s. Because of the racism he faces, the unnamed protagonist, known as "Invisible Man," does not feel seen by society and narrates the reader through a series of unfortunate and fortunate events he undertakes to fit in while living in the South and later in Harlem, New York City. In 1953, *Invisible Man* was awarded the National Book Award, making Ellison the first African-American author to receive the prestigious honor for fiction.

6. BELOVED // TONI MORRISON

Beloved puts Sethe, a former slave in 1873 Cincinnati, Ohio, in contact with the supernatural. Before becoming a free woman, Sethe attempted to kill her children to save them from a life of enslavement. While her sons and one daughter survived, her infant daughter, known only as Beloved, died. Sethe's family becomes haunted by a spirit believed to be Beloved, and Morrison provides a layered portrayal of the plight of post-slavery black life with a magical surrealism edge as Sethe learns she must confront her repressed memories of trauma and her past life in bondage.

7. ALL ABOUT LOVE: NEW VISIONS / BELL HOOKS

In the 2000 book *All About Love*, feminist scholar bell hooks grapples with how people are commonly socialized to perceive love in modern society. She uses a range of examples to delve into the topic, from her personal childhood and dating reflections to popular culture references. This is a powerful, essential text that calls on humans to revise a new, healthier blueprint for love, free of patriarchal gender limitations and dominating behaviors that don't serve humankind's emotional needs.

8. THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MALCOLM X: AS TOLD TO ALEX HALEY // MALCOLM X, ALEX HALEY

Throughout 1963, Malcolm X would drive from his home in Harlem to author Alex Haley's apartment down in New York's Greenwich Village to collaborate on his autobiography. Unfortunately, the minister and activist didn't live to see it in print—*The Autobiography of Malcolm X* was published in 1965, not long after his assassination in February of that year. The book chronicles the many lessons the young Malcolm (born Malcolm Little in Omaha, Nebraska) learned from witnessing his parents' struggles with racism during his childhood, as well as covering his troubled young adulthood with drugs and incarceration and his later evolution into one of the most iconic voices in the movement for black liberation.

9. THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD // ZORA NEALE HURSTON

During Zora Neale Hurston's career, she was more concerned with writing about the lives of African Americans in an authentic way that uplifted their existence, rather than focusing on their traumas. Her most celebrated work, 1937's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, is an example of this philosophy. It follows Janie Mae Crawford, a middle-aged woman in Florida, who details lessons she learned about love and finding herself after three marriages. Hurston used black Southern dialect in the characters' dialogue to proudly represent their voices and manner.

10. THE NEW JIM CROW: MASS INCARCERATION IN THE AGE OF COLORBLINDNESS // MICHELLE ALEXANDER

The Jim Crow laws of the 19th and 20th centuries were intended to marginalize black Americans who, during the Reconstruction period, were establishing their own businesses, entering the labor system, and running for office. Although a series of anti-discrimination rulings such as *Brown vs. Board of Education* and the Voting Rights Act were passed during the Civil Rights Movement, Michelle Alexander's 2010 book argues that mass incarceration is the new Jim Crow impacting black American lives, especially black men. In the text, Alexander explores how the war on drugs, piloted by the Ronald Reagan administration, created a system in which black Americans were stripped of their rights after serving time for nonviolent drug crimes.

11. SISTER OUTSIDER: ESSAYS AND SPEECHES // AUDRE LORDE

Originally published in 1984, *Sister Outsider* is an anthology of 15 essays and speeches written by lesbian feminist writer and poet Audre Lorde. The titles of her works are as intriguing as the content is eye-opening. "Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power" examines the way people, especially women, lose when they block the erotic—or deep passion—from their work and while exploring their spiritual and political desires. In "The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House," Lorde explains how feminism fails by leaving out the voices of black women, queer women, and poor women. Lorde's ideas are still shaping conversations about feminism today, and her writing is well worth revisiting.

12. THE AUDACITY OF HOPE: THOUGHTS ON RECLAIMING THE AMERICAN DREAM // BARACK OBAMA

Barack Obama's *The Audacity of Hope* was his second book and the No. 1 *New York Times* bestseller when it was released in the fall of 2006. The title was derived from a sermon he heard by Pastor Jeremiah Wright called "The Audacity to Hope." It was also the title of the keynote speech the then-Illinois state senator gave at the Democratic National Convention in 2004. Before becoming the 44th president of the United States, Obama's *Audacity of Hope* outlined his optimistic vision to bridge political parties so that the government could better serve the American people's needs.

13. THE WARMTH OF OTHER SUNS: THE EPIC STORY OF AMERICA'S GREAT MIGRATION // ISABEL WILKERSON

During the Great Migration, millions of African Americans departed the Southern states to Northern and Western cities to escape Jim Crow laws, lynchings, and the failing sharecropping system. Isabel Wilkerson, the first African-American woman to win a Pulitzer Prize in journalism, documented these movements in her 2010 book, which involved 15 years of research and interviews with 1200 people. The book highlights the stories of three individuals and their journeys, from Florida to New York City, Mississippi to Chicago, and Louisiana to Los Angeles. Wilkerson's excellent and in-depth documentation won her a National Book Critics Circle Award for the nonfiction work.

14. BROWN GIRL DREAMING // JACQUELINE WOODSON

Jacqueline Woodson's children's books and YA novels are inspired by her desire to highlight the lives of communities of color—narratives she felt were missing from the literary landscape. In her 2014 National Book Award-winning autobiography, *Brown Girl Dreaming*, Woodson uses her own childhood story in verse form to fill those voids in representation. The author came of age during the Civil Rights Movement and, subsequently, the Black Power Movement, and lived between the laid-back lifestyle of South Carolina and the fast-paced New York City. Through her work, we are reminded of how family and community play a role in helping individuals persevere through life's trials.

15. REDEFINING REALNESS: MY PATH TO WOMANHOOD, IDENTITY, LOVE & SO MUCH MORE // JANET MOCK

Janet Mock, an African-American and native Hawaiian transgender activist and writer, began her career in media as a staff editor at *People*. In 2011, Mock decided to share her story with the world and came out as a transgender woman in a *Marie Claire* article. She released this *New York Times* bestselling memoir in 2014. Mock has used her platform to speak in full about her upbringing as a person of color in poverty and her transgender identity.

16. FIRE SHUT UP IN MY BONES // CHARLES M. BLOW

In his 2014 memoir *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*, *New York Times* columnist Charles M. Blow opens up about growing up in a segregated Louisiana town during the 1970s as the youngest of five brothers. In 12 chapters, Blow offers an extensive look at his path to overcoming poverty, the trauma of being a victim of childhood rape, and his gradual understanding of his bisexuality. Although these are hard truths to tell, as Blow told NPR in 2014, he wrote this book especially for those who are going through similar experiences and need to know their lives are still worth living despite painful circumstances.

17. *I KNOW WHY THE CAGED BIRD SINGS* // MAYA ANGELOU

If you're going to read anything by the late, great, prophetic poet Maya Angelou, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* should be at the top of your list. It provides an in-depth look at the obstacles that shaped her early life. Angelou's childhood and teenage years were nomadic, as her separated parents moved her and her brother from rural Arkansas to St. Louis, Missouri, and eventually to California, where at different times she lived in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Oakland. Besides the blatant racism she saw unfold around her in the South, a young Maya also faced childhood rape, and as a teen, homelessness and pregnancy.

18. *BABEL-17* // SAMUEL R. DELANY

In 2015, Samuel R. Delany told *The Nation* that when he first began attending science fiction conferences in the 1960s, he was one of only a few black writers and enthusiasts present. Over the years, with his contributions and the work of others like Octavia Butler—whom he mentored—he opened doors for black writers in the genre. If you're looking for a sci-fi thriller taking place in space and centering a woman leader protagonist, Delany's 1967 Nebula Award-winning *Babel-17* is the one. Rydra Wong, a spaceship captain, is intrigued by a mysterious language called Babel-17 that has the power to alter a person's perception of themselves and others, and possibly brainwash her to betray her government.

19. *SPLAY ANTHEM* // NATHANIEL MACKEY

Readers of Nathaniel Mackey's poetry are often intrigued by his ability to merge the worlds of music (particularly jazz) and poetry to create soul-grabbing rhythmic prose. *Splay Anthem* is a masterful work exhibiting his style. The 2006 collection includes two poems Mackey had been writing for more than 20 years: "Song of the Andoumboulou," about a ritual funeral song from the Dogon people of modern-day Mali; and "Mu." *Splay Anthem* is woven into three sections, "Braid," "Fray," and "Nub," in which two characters travel through space and time and whose final destinations are unclear. Mackey's nonlinear form is deliberate: "There's a lot of emphasis on movement in the poems, and there's a lot of questions about ultimate arrival, about whether there is such a state or place," he said in *A Community Writing Itself: Conversations with Vanguard Writers of the Bay Area*.

20. *THE HATE U GIVE* // ANGIE THOMAS

Angie Thomas is part of a new crop of African-American authors bringing fresh new storytelling to bookshelves near you. Her 2017 debut young adult novel, *The Hate U Give*, was inspired by the protests of the Black Lives Matter movement. It follows Starr Carter, a 16-year-old who has witnessed the police-involved shooting of her best friend Khalil. The book, which topped the *New York Times* bestseller chart, is a timely fictional tale that humanizes the voices behind one of the largest movements of present times.

21. *NOT WITHOUT LAUGHTER* // LANGSTON HUGHES

Take it back to where Harlem Renaissance legend Langston Hughes began his novelistic bibliography. In 1930's *Not Without Laughter*, Sandy Rogers is an African-American boy growing up in Kansas during the early 1900s—a story loosely based on Hughes's own experiences living in Lawrence and Topeka, Kansas. Hughes vividly paints his characters based on the "typical Negro family in the Middle West" he grew up around, he explained in his autobiography *The Big Sea*. In this way, Hughes paved the way for more storytelling about black life outside of urban, big city settings.

22. SALVAGE THE BONES // JESMYN WARD

Jesmyn Ward's 2011 novel *Salvage the Bones* merges fiction with her real-life experience surviving Hurricane Katrina as a native of rural Mississippi. Ward tells a new story through the eyes of Esch, a pregnant teenage girl who lives in poverty with her three brothers and a father who is battling alcoholism in a fictional town called Bois Sauvage. Through this National Book Award-winning tale, Ward writes an emotionally intense and deep account about a family who must find a way to overcome differences and stick together to survive the passing storm.

23. DON'T CALL US DEAD // DANEZ SMITH

Don't Call Us Dead is a cathartic series of poems that imagine an afterlife where black men can fully be themselves. Danez Smith's poignant words take heartbreaking imagery of violence against the bodies of black men and juxtapose it with scenes of a new plane, one that is much better than the existence those men lived before. Upon arrival, it's a celebration, as men and boys are embraced by their fellow brothers and are able to truly experience being "alive." Smith's prose sticks, and you will think more deeply about the delicacy of life and death long after you've put the book back on the shelf.

24. THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD // COLSON WHITEHEAD

Colson Whitehead brings a bit of fantasy to historical fiction in his 2016 novel *The Underground Railroad*. Historically, the underground railroad was a network of safe houses for runaways on their journey to reaching the freed states. But Whitehead invents a literal secret underground railroad with real tracks and trains in his novel. This system takes his main character, Cora, a woman who escaped a Georgia plantation, to different states and stops. Along her journey, she faces a new set of horrific hurdles that could hold her back from obtaining her freedom.

25. DEVIL IN A BLUE DRESS // WALTER MOSLEY

If you're into mystery but don't know Walter Mosley, it's time to catch up. The crime-fiction author has published more than 40-books, with his Ezekiel "Easy" Rawlins series being his most popular. Mosley's 1990 debut (and Easy's debut as well) *Devil in a Blue Dress* takes the reader to 1940s Watts, a Los Angeles neighborhood where Easy has recently relocated after losing his job in Houston. He finds a new line of work as a detective when a man at a bar wants him to track down a woman named Daphne Monet, kicking off a career that will span 14 novels (and counting).

26. BECOMING // MICHELLE OBAMA

This book and author need very little introduction, but for the sake of formalities, let's do this: *Becoming* is former first lady Michelle Obama's blockbuster memoir that launched in November 2018—and is taking the world by storm. Mrs. 44, a powerhouse in her own right, shot up the charts at record speed, becoming an instant *New York Times* No. 1 best-seller. *Becoming* calls on all the feels; it is thought-provoking, inspiring, has refreshing humor, and in some parts, is outright heart-wrenching. Prepare to be moved at a soul level and have tissues nearby.

27. FRESHWATER // AKWAEKE EMEZI

Author Akwaeke Emezi is a talented millennial Nigerian fiction writer and artist with a graduate degree from New York University. Her debut novel, *Fresh Water*, released in February, 2018 has been described as, "A mesmerizing and poetic novel that cracks open notions of self-control, mental illness, and love." It tells the story of a troubled Nigerian girl named Ada who over time develops multiple versions of herself as a result of being born "with one foot on the other side."

28. HOW NOT TO GET SHOT: AND OTHER ADVICE FROM WHITE PEOPLE // D.L. HUGHLEY

D.L. Hughley is a famed American stand-up comedian, actor, political commentator, and radio host. In his hilarious yet soul-shaking truth-telling book, Hughley touches on politics, race, and life as a black American as only he can. From the book:

White people are always giving out ‘helpful’ advice, such as: ‘Comply with the police and you won’t get shot.’ They’ve been doling out advice to black people ever since ‘I suggest you pick the cotton if you don’t like getting whipped.’ Not getting shot by the police has long been a problem for black people. Even when we had a black president! Now that we have a new set of overlords, with President Trump at the head, wouldn’t it be nice to get a little advice on how not to get shot?

Hughley uses wit and all-too-real jokes to bring the elephant of injustice to the forefront of the room, while also sharing some advice including: ‘If You Do Get Shot, Don’t Rush to Judgement,’ ‘How to Dress Less Threatening,’ ‘What To Name Your Kids,’ and ‘Don’t Drive Like a Suspect.’

29. I CAN’T DATE JESUS: LOVE, SEX, FAMILY, RACE AND OTHER REASONS I’VE PUT MY FAITH IN BEYONCÉ // MICHAEL ARCENEAUX

Houston born and raised Howard University grad Michael Arceneaux’s debut memoir is a stimulating laugh out loud take on his life as a millennial, gay, black man in a world programmed to misunderstand him. His clever play on words, obsession with Beyoncé, and pop culture references make this book impossible to put down. While you’re guaranteed to get multiple chuckles from reading *I Can’t Date Jesus*, you’re also likely to gain a new appreciation for the struggles of the LGBTQ community.

30. NOT THAT BAD: DISPATCHES FROM RAPE CULTURE // ROXANE GAY

Roxane Gay is an award-winning American writer, professor, and commentator. Her book *Not That Bad* is an informative anthology filled with transparent original pieces and some that have been previously published, highlighting the undeniable rape culture that has been formed and addressing the major issue of women often being second-guessed and discredited when they speak out about their experiences. Some contributors to *Not That Bad* include, Gabrielle Union, Amy Jo Burns, and Ally Sheedy.

Gay challenges the world to stop forcing women to measure the level of sexual harassment endured, and makes the case that “Not that bad” can no longer be good enough.

31. POET X // ELIZABETH ACEVEDO

Afro-Dominican award-winning slam poet Elizabeth Acevedo’s YA novel-in-verse debuted in March of 2018 and is still a No.1 best-seller on Amazon. A collection of hard-hitting poems creates the story of Xiomara Batista. A teen girl who wishes for her voice to be heard, but all that is seen in the streets of her Harlem neighborhood are the curves she can no longer hide. She has a lot to say and scribbles her passionate frustrations down in her black leather notebook as she doesn’t want to disappoint her church-going mother.

The New York Times Book Review’s take on Acevedo’s narrative poetry book sums it up perfectly, “The force and intensity behind her words practically pushes them off the page, resulting in a verse novel that is felt as much as it is heard. This is a book from the heart, and for the heart.”

32. RISE AND GRIND // DAYMOND JOHN

Daymond John, best known for being a shark on ABC’s *Shark Tank* and co-founding the FUBU clothing line, brought us a gem earlier this year. In January, John released his nonfiction *New York Times* best-selling business book, *Rise and Grind*. In John’s much-anticipated follow-up to *Power of Broke*, *Rise and Grind* shares that there is no shortcut to success, encouraging readers to out-think and out-work those around them. He also shares helpful routines and success strategies to get ahead.

33. SECRETS WE KEPT: THREE WOMEN OF TRINIDAD // KRYSTAL SITAL

Author Krystal Sital, a Hunter College grad, was born and raised in Trinidad and moved with her family to the U.S. in the '90s. Sital is a mix of the Africans brought to Trinidad as slaves and the Indians brought as indentured servants, and in her debut memoir, she shares a story of racism, abuse, and cruelty women endured in paradise. The author grew up idolizing her wealthy Hindu grandfather until he became hospitalized and the women in her family finally found the courage to share their painful memories of his violent past. Amazon sums this must-read up with, "Violence, a rigid ethnic and racial caste system, and a tolerance of domestic abuse—the harsh legacies of plantation slavery—permeate the history of Trinidad. On the island's plantations, in its growing cities, and in the family's new home in America, *Secrets We Kept* tells a story of ambition and cruelty, endurance and love, and most of all, the bonds among women and between generations that help them find peace with the past."

35. THIS MOURNABLE BODY // TSITSI DANGAREMBGA

Tsitsi Dangarembga is an author and filmmaker from Zimbabwe. She studied medicine at Cambridge, leaving to return home after experiencing racism and isolation. In her fiction story *This Mournable Body*, she shares a tale of a young girl from Zimbabwe whose hopes become bitter over time due to the combination of betrayal, colonialism, and capitalism.

Vanity Fair described the book noting, "The novel explores how race, gender, class, and age are at play in Zimbabwe, and the overwhelming strength of these forces in the face of even the most optimistic and ambitious women."

36. WHEN THEY CALL YOU A TERRORIST: A BLACK LIVES MATTER MEMOIR // PATRISSE KHAN-CULLORS AND ASHA BANDELE

Co-author Patrisse Khan-Cullors co-founded the [Black Lives Matter](#) movement following George Zimmerman's acquittal after his shooting of Trayvon Martin. Having grown up in L.A. in an impoverished neighborhood and raised by a single mother, she witnessed the prejudice blacks suffered at the hands of law enforcement first-hand. *When They Call You a Terrorist* is the powerful memoir of the author's life and how the entire Black Lives Matter movement began, triggering frustration, sorrow, and a fire to get involved.

failings is that those early black chroniclers were required to spend all their energy addressing the emergencies that had been made of their lives, instead of leaving behind a proper record of themselves."

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