

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2025

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FROM OUR DIRECTOR



Dear Community,

February is Black History Month, a time to honor the achievements, struggles, and contributions of African Americans. This year's theme, "African Americans and Labor," highlights the contributions of Black workers to the social, economic, and cultural development of the U.S. and the broader African diaspora, while also acknowledging the ongoing struggles for racial and economic justice.

Documentary Screening: Summer of Soul

We are thrilled to present *Summer of Soul (...Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised)*, directed by Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson. This Academy Award-winning documentary brings to life the 1969 Harlem Cultural Festival, an event that celebrated Black music, culture, and pride.

The film features unforgettable performances by iconic artists such as Stevie Wonder, Nina Simone, Sly and the Family Stone, Mahalia Jackson, and Gladys Knight & the Pips. The Harlem Cultural Festival drew hundreds of thousands of attendees, yet it was largely erased from history—until now. This documentary restores the festival's rightful place in history, underscoring the enduring legacy of Black cultural expression and the power of community. We'll be showing this film February 11th at 12:00 p.m. in 4603 South Hall.

"A Fight for Literacy" with Post-Doctoral Scholar Dr. Charles Terry

Following the Summer of Soul screening, join us for a special presentation by Dr. Charles Terry, one of our esteemed post-doctoral scholars. His talk, "A Fight for Literacy: Enslaved African Americans and Education in the Antebellum South," will explore the powerful stories of resistance and the pursuit of education among enslaved African Americans. Dr. Terry's research shines a light on the hidden narratives of literacy and empowerment in the antebellum South, offering a deeper understanding of the fight for education in the face of systemic oppression. Dr. Terry will be giving his talk February 11th at 2:00 p.m. in 4603 South Hall.

Center Updates & Announcements

Dr. Ebenezer Larnyo is on leave until April 2, 2025. We look forward to his return and continued contributions.

Black History Month Community Celebrations

Other celebrations throughout Santa Barbara can be found by [clicking here](#).

Celebrating the Diversity of February

In addition to Black History Month, February offers many opportunities to celebrate different aspects of life and history. Here are a few notable observances:

- National Freedom Day (February 1) – Honoring the signing of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery.
- Valentine’s Day (February 14) – Celebrating love, friendship, and connection.
- Presidents’ Day (February 17) – Reflecting on the leadership and history of the U.S. presidency.
- National Caregivers Day (February 21) – Acknowledging those who dedicate their lives to caring for others.

For a full list of February holidays and observances, visit Parade’s February Holidays and Observances.

Looking Ahead

Mark your calendars for the Black Genealogy Workshop on March 11, 2025, at noon with David Anthony Taylor, where we will explore tools and resources available on TheBPOG.org to uncover African American family histories.

Thank you to our Post-Docs, we are proud of our post-doctoral scholars for their innovative research and community outreach. Your work enriches the Center and strengthens our mission to create meaningful connections and new knowledge.

Closing Thought

“Black history is American history. The more we know, the more we grow.” – Unknown

Thank you for your continued support and participation. Together, we honor the past, celebrate the present, and build toward the future. (Tettegah & Open AI, personal communication, February 4th, 2025)

In solidarity,

Dr. Tettegah, Director &
The Center for Black Studies Research Staff

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH & 4TH IN CBSR DOCUMENTARY SERIES ON AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE



On February 11th, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. in 4603 South Hall, we will be celebrating Black History Month with a showing of Questlove’s *Summer of Soul*. This film showcases the 1969 Harlem Cultural Festival highlighting African American history, culture, music, and fashion. Click here to RSVP.

Food and beverages will be served.

“A FIGHT FOR LITERACY” WITH DR. CHARLES TERRY & OTHER UPDATES

CBSR Postdoctoral Scholar Dr. Charles Terry will be giving his talk A Fight for Literacy: Enslaved African Americans and Education in the Antebellum South on February 11th, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. in 4603 South Hall. The presentation will also be livestreamed accessible by clicking here. Dr. Terry’s presentation will dive into the ways in which anti-literacy laws were passed as part of a larger response to the threat of slave rebellion and agency on the part of enslaved African Americans. It will demonstrate how these laws

functioned to further reify the strict social hierarchy and hegemony of slave owners in the Antebellum South.

Additionally, Dr. Terry gave a keynote speech for the Eternal Flame March hosted by the Santa Barbara Martin Luther King Jr. Committee of Santa Barbara on January 16th (pictured below). He has also continued working with his research group, consisting of three undergraduate students, Kamaya Jackson, Maia Fuller, and Zitong Xi. The group is meeting weekly to continue their project on the 1968 Black Student Movement at UCSB and the North Hall takeover. Lastly, Dr. Terry is continuing to work on his book.



UPDATES FROM MANAGEMENT SERVICES OFFICER TRACEY GOSS



“The times may be uncertain and turbulent, but the CASU team’s goal is to continue to provide the Center with administrative stability and excellence in financial, personnel, and operational administration. We are shifting into high gear in our efforts to overhaul the CBSR’s account mapping, financial processes, and accounting shadow system in preparation for the upcoming mandatory shift to the UC system-wide Common Chart of Accounts and Oracle Financial Cloud systems. We have completed most of our tasks for this fiscal year’s remaining Center programmatic events, clearing our schedules to focus primarily on preparing for the campus Financial Management Modernization (FMM) project. Lastly, and most importantly we look forward to meeting more of you at the upcoming Center documentary viewings and talks. We are becoming increasingly aware of the need to put down our spreadsheets, come out of our offices, and connect with our community. We hope to see you at the Center soon!” - *Tracey Goss*

CBSR WINTER 2025 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

This year the Center’s Advisory Committee consists of Dr. Sharon Tettegah, Dr. Helen Neville, Dr. Antar Tichavakunda, Dr. Beth Pruitt, Dr. Katrina Lui, Dr. Charles Terry, Dr. Ebenezer Larnyo, Dr. Stacey Doan, Dr. Timothy Sherwood, Tony Baylis, Marcus Mathis, Wendy Eley Jackson, Dr. Eileen Boris, and Dr. Kara Mae Brown. The Committee meets quarterly and will be coming together for their Winter 2025 on March 7th, 2025. You can learn more about each committee member by clicking here.

“BLACK PEARLS OF GENEALOGY” WITH DAVID TAYLOR

Family historian David Anthony Taylor will be exploring the Black Pearls of Genealogy website, TheBPOG.org, and the wealth of free tools it offers to support research into African American history. The BPOG is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and celebrating the rich histories of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). Under David’s leadership, the organization has divided its website into two primary sections: the Ancestral Memorials and the Research Portal. With the Ancestral Memorials being dedicated to honoring and commemorating the lives of the formerly enslaved, the United States Colored Troops (USCT), and past and current local heroes within BIPOC communities, and the Research Portal is a resource that offers a wide array of tools and records to assist researchers in exploring the lives and historical contributions of people of color in the United States. Mr. Taylor will be presenting March 11th, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. in 4603 South Hall. [Click here to RSVP for in person.](#) [Click here to register for the livestream.](#)



CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH LOCALLY

Click on each event below for more details!

Black Culture House at
Soul Bites

Forward Ever, Backward
Never - Isla Vista
Community Center

Celebrate BHM - Santa
Maria by NAACP

