With February and Black History Month right around the corner, what better way to spend these chilly winter days than reading and learning about some amazing people and the amazing things they've done.

**A Black Women’s History of the United States** by Berry and Gross

In centering Black women’s stories, two award-winning historians seek both to empower African American women and to show their allies that Black women’s unique ability to make their own communities while combatting centuries of oppression is an essential component in our continued resistance to systemic racism and sexism. A Black Women’s History of the United States reaches far beyond a single narrative to showcase Black women’s lives in all their fraught complexities. The result is a starting point for exploring Black women’s history and a testament to the beauty, richness, rhythm, tragedy, rage, and enduring love that abounds in the spirit of Black women in communities throughout the nation.

**Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom** by David W. Blight

As a young man Frederick Douglass (1818–1895) escaped from slavery in Baltimore, Maryland. He was fortunate to have been taught to read by his slave owner mistress, and he would go on to become one of the major literary figures of his time. His very existence gave the lie to slave owners: with dignity and great intelligence he bore witness to the brutality of slavery.

In this “cinematic and deeply engaging” (The New York Times Book Review) biography, David Blight has drawn on new information held in a private collection that few other historian have consulted, as well as recently discovered issues of Douglass’s newspapers. Blight’s biography tells the fascinating story of Douglass’s two marriages and his complex extended family.

**Race Man** by Julian Bond

No one in the United States did more to advance the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. than Julian Bond. *Race Man*—a collection of his speeches, articles, interviews, and letters—constitutes an unrivaled history of the life and times of one of America’s most trusted freedom fighters, offering unfiltered access to his prophetic voice on a wide variety of social issues, including police brutality, abortion, and same-sex marriage. A man who broke race barriers and set precedents throughout his life in politics; co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center and long-time chair of the NAACP; Julian Bond was a leader and a visionary who built bridges between the black civil rights movement and other freedom movements—especially for LGBTQ and women’s rights. As we enter the third decade of the twenty-first century, there is no better time to return to Bond’s works and words, many of them published here for the first time.

**Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments** by Saidiya Hartman

In *Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments*, Saidiya Hartman examines the revolution of black intimate life that unfolded in Philadelphia and New York at the beginning of the twentieth century. Hartman narrates the story of this radical social transformation against the grain of the prevailing century-old argument about the crisis of the black family.

Beautifully written and deeply researched, *Wayward Lives* recreates the experience of young urban black women who desired an existence qualitatively different than the one that had been scripted for them—domestic service, second-class citizenship, and respectable poverty—and whose intimate revolution was apprehended as crime and pathology. For the first time, young black women are credited with shaping a cultural movement that transformed the urban landscape. Through a melding of history and literary imagination, *Wayward Lives* recovers their radical aspirations and insurgent desires.

**Unseen** by Canedy, Cave, and Swarns

It all started with *Times* photo editor Darcy Eveleigh discovering dozens of these photographs. She and three colleagues, Dana Canedy, Damien Cave and Rachel L. Swarns, began exploring the history behind them, and subsequently chronicling them in a series entitled Unpublished Black History, that ran in print and online editions of *The Times* in February 2016. It garnered 1.7 million views on *The Times* website and thousands of comments from readers. Were the photos—or the people in them—not deemed newsworthy enough? Did the images not arrive in time for publication? Were they pushed aside by words at an institution long known as the Gray Lady? Eveleigh, Canedy, Cave, and Swarns explore all these questions and more in this one-of-a-kind book. *Unseen* dives deep into *The Times* photo archives—known as the Morgue—to showcase this extraordinary collection of photographs and the stories behind them.

**Overground Railroad** by Candacy Taylor

Published from 1936 to 1966, the *Green Book* was hailed as the “black travel guide to America.” At that time, it was very dangerous and difficult for African-Americans to travel because black travelers couldn’t eat, sleep, or buy gas at most white-owned businesses. The *Green Book* listed hotels, restaurants, gas stations, and other businesses that were safe for black travelers. It was a resourceful and innovative solution to a horrific problem. It took courage to be listed in the *Green Book*, and *Overground Railroad* celebrates the stories of those who put their names in the book and stood up against segregation. It shows the history of the *Green Book*, how we arrived at our present historical moment, and how far we still have to go when it comes to race relations in America.
**The New Day Senior Services Program**

The New Day Senior In-Home Counseling and Friendly Visitor Program provides in-home counseling, case management and volunteer companion services to seniors, ages 60 years and older, in Peoria, Woodford, Tazewell, Fulton, Marshall and Stark Counties, so that they can continue to live in their own residence and improve their quality of life. The program also provides training in the community on mental health issues to seniors and other professionals who work with older adults. The New Day Senior Services professional staff and trained community volunteers positively influence the experience of aging and help older adults live independently with hope, dignity, community, and a sense of purpose.

**Helpful Links for Seniors**

**Experience Works**
http://www.experienceworks.org/site/PageServer

**Peoria Arts Partners Programs**
https://www.artspartners.net/programs/

**Unity Point Methodist Wellmobile**
http://peoriaintegratedmarketing.com/wellmobile/

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**Senior Morning Lecture Series**

Join the Peoria Riverfront Museum for their bi-monthly free Senior Morning Lecture Series! This special educational program began more than 30 years ago at their predecessor museum, Lakeview Museum of Arts & Sciences. Each Senior Morning Lecture features coffee, light treats and a 30-60 minute presentation on a current exhibition, Dome Planetarium show, educational Giant Screen Theater film or a special topic. Following the presentation, seniors are invited to see, free of charge, the corresponding exhibition, planetarium show or educational film featured in the presentation.

**The Senior Morning Lecture Series takes place on the second Wednesday of every OTHER month and is free for seniors 60 and older.**

Visit [https://www.peoriariverfrontmuseum.org/classes-programs/senior-programs/senior-morning-lecture-series](https://www.peoriariverfrontmuseum.org/classes-programs/senior-programs/senior-morning-lecture-series) for dates, times and lecture topics.

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**Black Fortunes by Shomari Wills**

Between the years of 1830 and 1927, as the last generation of blacks born into slavery was reaching maturity, a small group of industrious, tenacious, and daring men and women broke new ground to attain the highest levels of financial success. Mary Ellen Pleasant, used her Gold Rush wealth to further the cause of abolitionist John Brown. Robert Reed Church, became the largest landowner in Tennessee. Hannah Elias, the mistress of a New York City millionaire, used the land her lover gave her to build an empire in Harlem. Orphan and self-taught chemist Annie Turnbo-Malone, developed the first national brand of hair care products. Mississippi school teacher O. W. Gurley, developed a piece of Tulsa, Oklahoma, into a “town” for wealthy black professionals and craftsmen that would become known as “the Black Wall Street.” Although Madam C. J Walker was given the title of America’s first female black millionaire, she was not. She was the first, however, to flaunt and openly claim her wealth—a dangerous and revolutionary act. Nearly all the unforgettable personalities in this amazing collection were often attacked, demonized, or swindled out of their wealth. Black Fortunes illuminates as never before the birth of the black business titan.

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**Barracoon by Zora Neale Hurston**

In 1927, Zora Neale Hurston went to Plateau, Alabama, just outside Mobile, to interview eighty-six-year-old Cudjo Lewis. Of the millions of men, women, and children transported from Africa to America as slaves, Cudjo was then the only person alive to tell the story of this integral part of the nation’s history. Hurston was there to record Cudjo’s firsthand account of the raid that led to his capture and bondage fifty years after the Atlantic slave trade was outlawed in the United States. Based on those interviews, featuring Cudjo’s unique vernacular, and written from Hurston’s perspective with the compassion and singular style that have made her one of the preeminent American authors of the twentieth-century, Barracoon masterfully illustrates the tragedy of slavery and of one life forever defined by it. Offering insight into the pernicious legacy that continues to haunt us all, black and white, this poignant and powerful work is an invaluable contribution to our shared history and culture.