

# The DRUM Newsletter

Nebraska Department of Education

February 2010



**We should emphasize not Negro History, but the negro in history. What we need is not a history of selected races or nations, but the history of the world void of national bias, race, hate and religious prejudice.**

**Dr. Carter G. Woodson  
(1875-1950)**

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## Are you up for the challenge?

*Carol Rempp*

As I was rereading through the "Do's and Don'ts" of celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. day that was included in the January edition of *The Drum* I began thinking of this list in the context of all multicultural education. One of the most important things that stood out for me is the concept of teaching everyday that racism, prejudice, bias and inequalities are on-going struggles that still face us. They did not die out at the end of the 60's. If we treat these things as relics of the past then it is too easy to excuse inappropriate behavior today. Let me give you an example. I do not believe that it is okay for young men or women of any ethnic group to refer to each other by derogatory terms such as American Indians calling each other "sav" (short for savage) or African Americans calling each other the "N" word. It is important that we continue to teach all children why these types of terms are or were offensive and how they marginalize people.

It is the responsibility of every educator, in every district across the

state, whether you have a highly diverse population or not, to find ways to integrate multicultural education into your daily interactions with students. Not because Multicultural Education is part of Rule 10 but because it is the right thing to do. How? 1) Seek out literature with multicultural themes that promote positive images of ethnic diversity. If you come across something in the literature that you are using that represents a bias or stereotypical image of any ethnic group, don't just pass over it and hope no one notices; use the teaching moment with your students to discuss why it is inappropriate. If it is in a historical context discuss how things were then and why they are not that way now. Give your students the opportunity to show you how capable they are of using their higher order thinking skills to carry out interesting conversations around topics of social justice. 2) Display role model posters in your hallways and classrooms that show diverse populations. Take a look at the role

*Continue page 6*

America....difficult to imagine without Black history and culture.

Dr. Carter G. Woodson established Negro History Week in the 1920's. February was the month of choice due the births of Woodson, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

In 1976, the week celebration expanded to one month, becoming Black History Month.



# Black History Resources

## Activities for the Classroom and the Community

### [The National African American Read-In](#)

(NCTE). The National Council of Teachers of English asks schools, churches, libraries, bookstores, community and professional organizations, and interested citizens to make literacy a significant part of Black History Month by hosting and coordinating Read-Ins in their communities.

### [Celebrate African American Heritage](#)

(Scholastic). This website offers a comprehensive collection of classroom resources including lesson plans, book excerpts, author interviews, information about civil rights leaders, scientists, explorers, musicians, athletes, and little-known African Americans innovators and achievers.

### [Culture & Change: Black History in](#)

[America](#) (Scholastic). Meet famous African Americans, listen to jazz music, publish your own writing, and explore history with the interactive timeline.

[African American History Month for Teachers](#) (Library of Congress). Put the power of primary sources to work in the classroom. Browse ready-to-use lesson plans, student activities, collection guides, and research aids.

## Television Programs

[Unforgivable Blackness: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson](#) (PBS). Jack Johnson – the first African-American Heavyweight Champion of the World, whose dominance over his white opponents spurred furious debates and race riots in the early 20th century – enters the ring once again in this PBS documentary by acclaimed filmmaker Ken Burns. The website includes a teacher's guide.

[Slavery and the Making of America](#) (PBS). The first slaves were bought in 1619, the last freed in 1865. In the intervening 250 years, slaves labored to make America what it is today. This television series was produced by WNET. The website includes a K-12 Learning section.

[Citizen King](#) (PBS). This program, part of the *American Experience* series on PBS, pushes past the

myths that have obscured Martin Luther King's story to reclaim the history of a people's leader. Using the personal recollections, diaries, letters, and eyewitness accounts of friends, family, journalists, law enforcement officers and historians, this film brings fresh insights to King's difficult journey, his charismatic – if at times flawed – leadership, and his truly remarkable impact. The website includes a teacher's guide.

[Eyes on the Prize](#) (PBS). The landmark documentary series. Through contemporary interviews and historical footage, the series covers all of the major events of the civil rights movement from 1954 to 1985. On the extensive website you'll find a wealth of ideas for classroom activities at different grade levels.

## People and Events

[The Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project](#) (Stanford University). A collection of multimedia information about Martin Luther King, Jr., with a special section for teachers that includes lesson plans, an interactive timeline, and an extensive civil rights encyclopedia.

[Rosa Parks](#) (The Academy of Achievement) This website includes video and audio clips of the civil rights pioneer.

[The Underground Railroad](#) (National Geographic). This interactive website asks students to pretend they are escaping along the Underground Railroad and then has them make choices along the way. The site features short text, photos, and audio, as well as a section for teachers.

[Meet Amazing Americans](#) (Library of Congress). A great introduction to famous Americans, this website offers energetically written stories about Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, and Duke Ellington among others.

[Cathay Williams, Female Buffalo Soldier](#) She was born a slave, but once the Civil War ended Cathay Williams didn't want to be dependent on either family or friends. So in 1866, she joined the U.S. Army disguised as a man and became the only known female Buffalo Soldier.

## Guides to Black History

**[African American World](#)** (PBS). This extensive site features an interview with Ruby Bridges Hall, who describes what it was like, as a six year old, to become the first African American child to desegregate an elementary school. The site also offers "Visual Voices," which includes striking photos of Martin Luther King Jr. being arrested, the Tuskegee Airmen, and others.

**[African American History Resources](#)** (Library of Congress) This site celebrates the contributions of African Americans throughout U.S. history. Learn about Harriet Tubman, John Hope Franklin, the Tuskegee Airmen, African Americans in the military, African American band music and recordings, and the Emancipation Proclamation. Find a number of primary documents and resources for teachers.

**[African American Odyssey](#)** (Library of Congress). This site showcases the African American collections of the Library of Congress. Displaying more than 240 items, including books, government documents, manuscripts, maps, musical scores, plays, films, and recordings, this is the largest black history exhibit ever held at the Library of Congress.

**[Black History Month](#)** (InfoPlease). In addition to historical information, this site offers links to contemporary issues as well as quizzes and crossword puzzles that can be used in the classroom.

**[Guide to Black History](#)** (Encyclopedia Britannica). This site includes an extensive timeline, audio and video clips, and biographies.

**[The African American Journey](#)** (World Book). The folks who bring you the World Book Encyclopedia have put together this comprehensive look at the history of African Americans.

**[Celebrate Black History Month](#)** (The History Channel). This multimedia site includes a brief overview of the civil rights struggle, biographies of key players, and video clips of Martin Luther King, Jr., Muhammad Ali, and other famous Americans.



*Photo courtesy of Kevin Fell*

# Educator Resources

I recently read an article in the UNL student newspaper, *The Daily Nebraskan*, about the "Migrations" exhibit that is currently at the Sheldon Art Museum. This prompted me to visit their website (<http://www.sheldonartgallery.org/>) in order to find out more about the exhibit so that I could share it in the newsletter. While looking around the website I realized that the Sheldon has many multicultural resources. On the website you can access the current newsletter which has the calendar of events for January through April, includes information about the "Migrations" exhibit, and tells of new acquisitions that strengthen the African-American collection. Also available on the website is a podcast with Sheldon's Collection Curator Sharon Kennedy discussing a recent exhibition titled "Agents of Change: Mexican Muralists and New Deal Artists." How wonderful it is that our state university art museum promotes a wide variety of multicultural activities!

*MIGRATIONS: New Directions in Native American Art* includes works by six Native American artists who have completed residencies at Tamarind Institute in Albuquerque, New Mexico, or Crow's Shadow Institute of the Arts in Pendleton, Oregon. The title *MIGRATIONS* was chosen because it reflects a diverse implication of movement between times, cultures, and artistic mediums among other things. Along with the exhibit the Sheldon has two special events planned. On February 16<sup>th</sup> artist Marie Watt will present a talk about her interests in sewing circles and textiles. This event is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. at the Ethel S. Abbott Auditorium. She will also be leading a sewing circle at the Lincoln Indian Center that day. On February 27<sup>th</sup> the Standing Eagle Drum Group which is made up of members of the Omaha Indian Nation will perform in the Great Hall at 2:00 p.m. *MIGRATIONS* will be on view until April 25<sup>th</sup>.

The University of Nebraska-Kearney also features an amazing art gallery, MONA. "The Museum of Nebraska Art (MONA) celebrates Nebraska's artistic culture and heritage by collecting and preserving, exhibiting and interpreting the art of Nebraska. Art of Nebraska is defined as art that was created by an artist born, raised, trained, or domiciled in Nebraska or with a substantial connection to Nebraska, or art that reflects Nebraska's culture and environment." With this mission in mind MONA has also made an outstanding effort to promote multicultural exhibits. A visit to their website (<http://monet.unk.edu/mona/>) will lead you on a discovery of many

excellent resources from how to bring art into the classroom to how to apply for funding to assist with field trips to the museum.

## [A couple for recommendations:](#)

### *Nebraska Travels*

December 15, 2009 – March 15, 2010

From South America, Europe, and Asia to this country, artists have found inspiration in the sights, sounds, people, and places of the world. In *Nebraska Travels*, the drawings, photographs, paintings, and prints exhibited are directly created from such experiences.

### *A Pow-Wow of Art: 19th Century Chiefs*

May 29 – June 27, 2010

There is no further information currently available on the website about this exhibit. However, from providing input to the MONA staff I can tell you this is going to be a beautiful exhibit and highly recommend taking time to visit MONA during June! If you are unable to visit in June or would like to take a class field trip the *Charles Bird King* exhibit August 31-December 5, 2010 will also be a wonderful Native American themed exhibit.

We are truly blessed in Nebraska to have two incredible art museums to enjoy as citizens of the state and share with our students. Being connected to our University system they also support and promote art in the classroom. I highly encourage you to visit their websites for further resources and to visit the museums themselves. Art education has a ripple effect whose influence may never be fully realized but cannot be denied.

## Using Art Museum resources to integrate Multicultural Education into your classroom

*Carol Remp*

## Honor Your Self

The Montana Office of Public Instruction is pleased to present the **"honor your Self"** poster series which features 22 American Indian role models from across the state of Montana. The individuals highlighted in this series represent all tribal nations in Montana, both urban and reservation, and were all nominated by their communities and tribal elders and leaders. They also represent a broad spectrum of experiences, colleges, careers, and paths to success. Their accomplishments are truly outstanding and should be celebrated across Montana.

As a part of Montana's Indian Education For All Efforts, these posters are also an excellent resource in presenting contemporary portraits and experiences of American Indians. The series furthers the idea that the individuals come from diverse tribal nations and are a part of the continuum of American Indian identity in Montana.

Another **Native American Role Model** series that promotes these same beliefs is the SEPA Role Model Posters from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. These posters feature Native Americans from across the country who are involved in the sciences.

[http://www.unmc.edu/sepa/index.cfm?L1\\_ID=10&CONREF=10](http://www.unmc.edu/sepa/index.cfm?L1_ID=10&CONREF=10)

### Positive Images—Black History at its best!

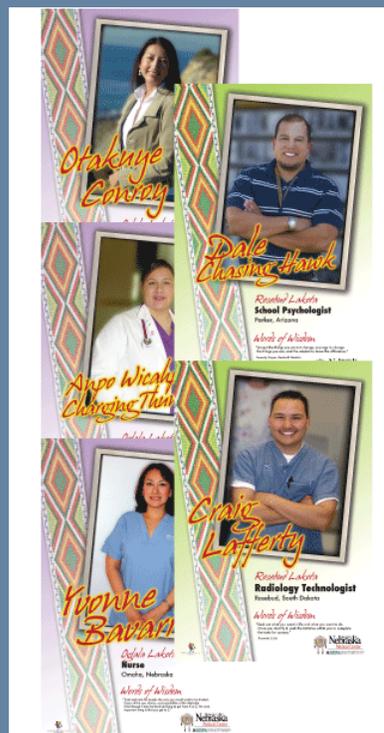
What role model posters can do for your students: Unlock your students' potential with our quality, affordable, eye catching posters. Inspire a whole new generation to develop a 'get-ahead' and 'can-do' spirit. Display images of brilliant people who dared to dream and discuss the contributions they have made to our everyday lives and the obstacles and skepticism they overcame. Great educational tools for cross-cultural awareness.

<http://www.multicultural-art.co.uk/black.html>

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Another primary goal of the series is to promote role models and the value of positive decision making to American Indian students. We hope that by encouraging young American Indians to honor themselves, their minds, their bodies and their talents, that they will also honor their families, their tribal nations and their communities. American Indian youth can create their own path to success by working hard, staying in school, setting positive goals, and following their dreams.

<http://opi.mt.gov/Indianed2/Honor/>  
The Montana Office of Public Instruction



**Positive Role  
Models in Your  
School**  
(SEPA Sample poster set)

# Educator Resources

Poster sets continue

The **National Diabetes Foundation** has many curricular materials, including posters, to help promote healthy lifestyles for African American, Hispanic/Latino and Native American youth. Check out their website at: <http://ndep.nih.gov/publications/index.aspx?Category=Prevention3>

Use these posters to help demonstrate the historical importance of Latinos and Native Americans to Mathematics. **TODOS Poster Set Mathematics Contributions of Latinos and Native Americans**  
<http://www.keypress.com/x18347.xml>

Decorative and informative, this four-poster set depicts mathematics being used by the **Maya, Aztecs, Inca, and Navajo**. The posters will give your students perspective on the origins and history of mathematical ideas and strategies. With vivid images and explanatory text, they brighten classrooms, tutoring centers, and study areas.

The mission of TODOS is to advocate for an **equitable and high quality mathematics education for all students**, in particular Latino/Hispanic students, by increasing educators' equity awareness and their ability to foster students' proficiency in rigorous and coherent mathematics.



Michelle Obama started the "Let's Move" campaign to reduce childhood obesity. She asks parents, teachers, physicians and coaches to get involved.

"It's not about weight...it's about fitness and its about overall nutrition," state Mrs. Obama. Health experts have called child obesity an epidemic in the United States. More and more youth are getting type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure.

Part of the target is school lunches as children consume over half of their daily calories at school.

<http://letsmove.gov/>

## America's move to Raise a Healthier Generation of Kids

### *Editorial continue from page 1*

model posters that are suggested in this newsletter. The SEPA posters can be used for either science or career education classes at all levels. 3) Think about guest speakers who are coming to your school. If there are two equally qualified speakers on the topic you are presenting, why not choose someone from a diverse population. 4) As an educator, are you broadening your own horizons? Are you taking cultural competency training? Are you evaluating your personal thoughts and feelings about diverse populations? When was the last time you took an ethnic studies class to renew your teaching certificate? These are only a few ideas. For more ideas look to organizations such as Teaching Tolerance, The Equity Alliance, the National Indian Education Association, the Center for Research on Education, Diversity & Excellence (CREDE) or the National Association for Multicultural Education.

February is Black History Month. In November we celebrated American Indian Heritage Month. September 15- October 15 is Hispanic Heritage Month. We also have many "heritage" type days and festivals that are celebrated throughout the year. In Nebraska these include our ethnic festivals to celebrate our European heritage. Religious heritage also has a role in celebrations of Nebraskans throughout the year.

We have many reminders of our diversity. And as long as it is good natured and no one takes things too seriously or is willing to just enjoy the party it's perfectly okay to celebrate diversity. Who isn't Irish on St. Patrick's Day? But let's take diversity beyond just the party. Let's challenge ourselves to think of the social justice issues that are also part of diversity and find ways to teach our children to not just tolerate others but to celebrate others. It is okay to be proud of who you are and where you come from. Only through the building up of all students will we increase graduation rates and student achievement. Only through social justice for all students will we have an equitable education system. It starts with you as a classroom, building, or district leader. Are you up for the challenge?



**The cyberbully can prey on anyone within reach of a computer or cell phone.**

**This act is becoming frequent among all ages of school youth. It has been documented as early as 8 years of age.**

**How can YOU as a parent block these messages?**

cyberbullying

## What can **We** do about it?

Being the victim is traumatic. This type of harassment has been blamed in the suicides of our young people.

The Anti-Defamation League has lesson plans and information available on their website for FREE. Visit today, make the pledge and stop cyberbullying in your school. [www.adl.org/education](http://www.adl.org/education)

## Looking for a variety of ways to integrate culture and ethnic groups into your classroom?



The Nebraska Humanities Council in conjunction with various organizations has developed hands-on educational resources that are available for a three-week loan period. They are available on a first-come, first-served basis and are free to educators and community groups statewide. Because they get booked quickly, I suggest planning ahead to the 2010-2011 school year and make your reservations now.

Encounter Kit and Trunk topics that are available include:

- \*Nebraska Folklife Series: this series includes four kits about folk groups in Nebraska.
- \*Nebraska's Culture and History Trunks Series: these two trunks cover a broad range of subjects about Nebraska history and culture.
- \*Nebraska American Indians Series: this series features one trunk each about the four federally recognized tribes that are headquartered in Nebraska. These trunks are available from the Nebraska State Museum.
- \*Plains Pow-wows Encounter Kit: This kit is a sister kit to the American Indian Series and is available from the Center for Great Plains Studies.
- \*Nebraska State Historical Society Czech Traveling Trunk
- \*The Joslyn Art Museum has an extensive series of art in the classroom kits that feature many multicultural themes. Some of these include: African American Art, Arts of Asia, Contemporary Native American Art, Mexican Art and Culture, Multicultural Art and the Student with Special Needs, and Southwest and Plains Native American Crafts.

All of the kits have teacher's guides. The hands-on materials and resources vary with each kit. Most of the materials are appropriate for grades 4-8.

More detailed information including contact information for checking them out is available at the Nebraska Humanities Council Website: <http://www.nebraskahumanities.org/speakers/trunks.html>

# Student Activities



**NCAI ART COMPETITION**  
2010 CENSUS: OUR PEOPLE. OUR NATIONS. OUR FUTURE.

Open to all American Indian, Alaska native, and native Hawaiian students in preschool through postsecondary. All artwork must be received by February 19, 2010

Registration, guidelines and application/release forms are available at <http://www.indiancountrycounts.org/artcompetition/index.cfm>



## Indian Health Service Scholarships

American Indian and Alaska Native students are invited to apply for pre-graduate scholarships from the Indian Health Service. Applicants must be U.S. citizens who can document that they meet Tribal membership requirements and are enrolled in courses leading to a bachelor's degree in specific pre-professional areas as needed by Indian Health programs. Applications are due March 28, 2010. Complete details, including an online application, can be found at the Web site below. <http://www.scholarship.ihs.gov/>

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN

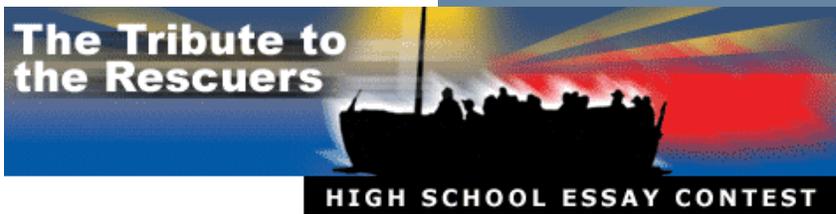
**March 4th, 2010**

(Results announced by April 15th, 2010)

The Anti-Defamation League, through the Institute for Holocaust Education, with generous sponsorship from The Carl Frohm Foundation, invites all **high school students** to write an essay examining moral courage. Moral courage is the ability to take a strong stance on a specific issue and to defend it based on one's personal beliefs or convictions regardless of danger or threats to personal safety; the heroes of the Holocaust are unique examples of moral courage and offer the opportunity to analyze moral behavior and show why these events are still meaningful today. All rules, forms, and essay examples are available at [www.adl.org/tribute-to-rescuers/](http://www.adl.org/tribute-to-rescuers/)

*"I love this essay contest because it gets the kids to really think about what kind of world they want to have, and what they are willing to do to help get it that way."*

*– Deb Ward,  
Burke High School,  
Omaha, NE*



Cash prizes up to \$750 available!

# February Celebrations



Winter

## February 11: Make a Friend Day

We never have enough friends. Do something nice or special for them.

## February 12: Abraham Lincoln's Birthday

Celebrate the writing of his Emancipation Proclamation to end slavery.

## February 12: Plum Pudding Day

This holiday originated in Asian.



## February 17: Random Acts of Kindness Day

A favorite day of many people and groups showing a little kindness and bridge all cultures

## February 20: Hoodie Hoo Day

Northern Hemisphere people go out at noon, wave their hands over the heads and chant "Hoodie-Hoo". Aren't we all a little crazy being cooped up inside all winter by now and want to see the sun!

## February 24: National Tortilla Chip Day

Americans seldom ate corn chips and salsa. The chip recipe was brought to the U.S. from Mexico by Elmer Doolin. Today, this is one of the favorite all time snacks.



**On March 2, the National Education Association calls for every child to be reading in the company of a caring adult.**

The National Education Association is building a nation of readers through its signature program, NEA's Read Across America. Now in its fourteenth year, this year-round program focuses on motivating children and teens to read through events, partnerships, and reading resources. NEA's Read Across America Day, NEA's national reading celebration takes place each year on or near March 2, the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Across the country, thousands of schools, libraries, and community centers participate by bringing together kids, teens, and books, and you can too!

Integrate multicultural literature into your Read Across America Day by 1) reading books with a multicultural theme; 2) inviting community members with diverse backgrounds into your classrooms to read stories about their culture; or 3) have each student read a book about his/her ethnic background or traditions.

The National Education Association website has a list of resources for helping you select appropriate books:

<http://www.nea.org/tools/30651.htm>

# Family Involvement

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## Looking for a way to get Dad's more involved?

*How about a newsletter  
just for him!*

Down to Earth Dad has helped educators,  
practioners, and parents enhance children's  
cognitive, social and emotional development.

<http://www.downtoearthdad.org/>



Native Leadership Training  
March 16-18, 2010  
Albuquerque, NM

[http://www.nativewellness.com/events/  
eventshome.html](http://www.nativewellness.com/events/eventshome.html)

2010 Nebraska Excellence in  
Education Conference

April 21-22, 2010  
Lincoln NE



**Focusing on  
Graduation**

<http://www.nde.state.ne.us/cspd/>