

THE CRC NEWSLETTER

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCILS

Promoting harmony & respect among a diverse citizenry of our state



South Carolina Human Affairs Commission
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Black History Month

Black History Month, or National African American History Month, is an annual celebration of achievements by black Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history. The event grew out of “Negro History Week,” the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history.

Listed are a few of the numerous events occurring throughout the country:

THE LATE DR. LISTERVELT MIDDLETON LECTURE SERIES

The Kemetic Institute for Health and Human Development will sponsor the Listervelt Middleton Lecture Series entitled “The Global Unity of African People” with a major emphasis on the African Foundation of World Civilization. Dr. Middleton, a Benedict College graduate and honorary degree recipient, was one of the foremost scholars who researched and interpreted African history and culture as well as the history of Africans in America. Professor Runoko Rashidi, an international Pan-African researcher, author, historian, photo-journalist and activist will present the lecture. For additional information, contact Dr. William F. Gunn through the Office of Communication and Marketing at 803.705.4519. Ponder Fine Arts Little Theater February 16, 7:00pm.

The NiA Company presents a reading of the play, **A Song for Coretta** by Pearl Cleage. Directed by Bonita Peeples, this show tells the story of 5 very different women connected by their grief as they wait in line to pay tribute to a Civil Rights icon. Richland County Library, February 25, 3:00pm-5:00pm, 5306 North Main Street, Columbia.

Join local artist **Bernadette Cali** for a digital viewing of her artwork and storytelling about the Gullah people of Wadmalaw Island in celebration of Black History Month. Her works of art and stories tell of a culture long undisturbed, but will soon vanish in the midst of progress. You may also enjoy some tasty Gullah treats. Daniel Island Library, 2301 Daniel Island Dr., Charleston, February 23, 1:00pm.



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Current CRCs:

Columbia, West Columbia, Lee, Allendale, Hampton, Beaufort, Jasper, Berkeley, Myrtle Beach, Georgetown, Lancaster, Rock Hill, Greenwood, Greenville, Anderson, Laurens, McCormick, Aiken

Community Policing

BURLINGTON, N.C. — Having spent nearly 30 years as an officer in Burlington, Sgt. Wendy Jordan has recognized gaps in the community that needed to be filled.

Most recently, among those needs she identified was a way to help prepare teenagers, specifically girls, to enter adulthood with poise and some key basic life skills.

"I've been able to see a need for this over the years," said Jordan, who focuses on the police department's work in Burlington schools.

Beginning Feb. 7, the Burlington Police Department will host female students from ninth to 12th grades one night a week, during which time they'll learn about leadership, communication, civic responsibility, manners, preparing for college and employment, and other skills.

The students will hear from women working in the police department and from other community leaders. At the end of the free 12-week course, participants will each receive their own pearl necklace as a gift, Jordan said, as well as give a 10-minute speech to the class.

"We'd like them to get their goals set," Jordan said of the participants, whom they will push to make plans to succeed as they continue through high school and on to the next stage of life.

"The girls will be paired up with a mentor, most likely about halfway through the program," Jordan said, who will serve as a resource if the students have questions about school or need someone to talk to about issues they're facing.

"We do a lot of work on leadership within our department, and helping our younger officers sharpen their leadership skills," Jordan said. "If we want leaders, let's reach out and get them even younger and while they're still in school."

As she came up with an outline for the 12 weeks, Jordan said she incorporated leadership principles from training programs and classes she has attended through the police department.

"Leadership is the same across the board," Jordan said. "Corporate, policing, even though we may do different jobs, how to present yourself doesn't change."

By Natalie Allison Janicello
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Annual Event Calendar for COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCILS

January

MLK/Interfaith Awareness

February

African American History

March

Women's History/End Racism Day

April

Fair Housing

May

Law Enforcement/
Community Relations

June

Disaster Preparedness/Emanuel 9
Remembrance, Peace & Reconciliation

July

Employment Discrimination/
Economic Opportunity

August

Youth Project/Back to School

September

Hispanic Heritage/
Cultural Diversity

October

Disability Employment Awareness

November

American Indian Heritage/
Veterans' Appreciation

December

Aging & Poverty Issues