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Museum Celebrates Black History Month with Eight Free Virtual Programs and Book Events

[Photos link](#)

Houston (January 21, 2021) . . . Holocaust Museum Houston (HMH) will celebrate Black History Month with four free public programs held virtually over Zoom along with four book discussions and storytimes for children, teens and adults. Virtual lectures and films will take place February 4, 11, 18 and 23 at 6 p.m., with book events held February 10, 16, 22 and 24 at various times.

Kicking off the month on February 4, the Museum will host Kam Franklin, local activist and lead singer of The Suffers, for a lecture and performance piece on the interconnections healing and unity have with the acceptance of trauma, radical healing, empathy, education, and inclusivity. On February 11, HMH will screen the documentary film from Ava DuVernay, “13th,” exploring the history of racial inequality in the United States, focusing on the fact that the nation’s prisons are disproportionately filled with African Americans.

The Museum will host history professor and former state parole officer Dr. Dwight Watson on February 18 for a discussion about his book, *Race and the Houston Police Department 1930-1990*, which traces how the Houston Police Department reacted to social, political, and institutional change over a sixty-year period – and specifically how it responded to and in turn influenced racial change. Finally, on February 23, HMH will partner with the Houston Museum of Natural Science to host An Evening with the Lacks Family: The Story Behind The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks. David Lacks, Jr. and Victoria Bapiste will share what it meant to find out—decades after the fact—that Henrietta’s cells were being used in laboratories around the world, bought and sold by the billions.

Black History Month’s first of four book events is a 6 p.m. discussion on February 10 of *Destined to Witness* by Hans Massoquoi. The child of an African diplomat and a German nurse, Massoquoi grew up in Nazi Germany. Swayed by the charisma of Hitler and national pride young Hans learns what it means to be Black under a regime of racism. Teens can join a discussion of *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas at 4 p.m. on February 16. Thomas’ book is the story of a 16-year-old girl who witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend at the hands of police. HMH will host a children’s storytime reading of *The Undefeated*, written by Kwame Alexander with illustrations by Kadir Nelson, on February 22 at 10 a.m.; and a discussion of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot at 6 p.m. on February 24. This story covers the issues of medical ethics, civil rights, and contribution to science surrounding Henrietta Lacks. Now virtually immortal, her cells have been cultured and have rendered valuable medical research for decades.

All programs and book events are free and open to the public, but advance registration is required. For complete information and to RSVP, visit hmh.org/events.

Holocaust Museum Houston, Lester and Sue Smith Campus, is fully bilingual in English and Spanish. Located at 5401 Caroline Street, HMH is closed Mondays except Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Memorial Day and Labor Day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. The Museum's Legacy Café is open on weekends only. Admission is \$19 for adults; \$15 for seniors (ages 65+), AARP members and active-duty military; always free for children and students through age 18; and free to all visitors on Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Parking is available at the Museum's adjacent lot for \$8 for a four-hour period. Tickets are available exclusively online. For more information, visit hmh.org/visit.

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