



Nursing Newsletter

In Celebration of Black History Month, we Honor those who Paved the Way



Mary Mahoney was born on May 7, 1845 (some sources say April 16), in Boston, Massachusetts. She was admitted to the nursing school of the New England Hospital for Women and Children and became the first black woman to complete nurse's training in 1879. She was also one of the first black members of the American Nurses Association and has been credited as one of the first women to register to vote in Boston following the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920. Mahoney was inducted into both the Nursing Hall of Fame and the National Women's Hall of Fame. She died in Boston in 1926.

Adah Belle Samuels Thoms

Born and educated in Richmond, Virginia, Adah Belle Samuels Thoms championed equal opportunity for African American women first as a teacher in Virginia and later during her professional nursing career. As President of the Lincoln Hospital Alumnae Association, she hosted the organizational meeting of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses in New York City. Thoms campaigned for the enrollment of black nurses by the American Red Cross during World War I and was influential in increasing the number of African American nurses in public health nursing positions.



Though Harriet Tubman is best known for guiding slaves to freedom on the Underground Railroad and for her civil rights efforts after the war, she also served during the war as a nurse, scout and spy for the Union. Soon after the war started in 1862, Tubman went with a group of Northern abolitionists to South Carolina, where she nursed black soldiers and hundreds of newly liberated slaves who flooded into Union camps during the war. When dysentery hit the camps, according to some accounts, Tubman treated her patients with a bitter brew of boiled roots and herbs based on folk remedies she had learned in her native Maryland.

Estelle Massey Osborne

The first black nurse in the U.S. to earn a master's degree. In 1945, she became assistant professor at New York University, the university's first black instructor. In 1946, she received the Mary Mahoney Award for her efforts to broaden opportunities for black nurses to move into the mainstream of professional nursing.



February Happenings

National Heart Awareness Month

February 1 – Wear Red Day (American Heart Association)

February 3-9 Burn Awareness Week

February 10-16 – National Cardiac Rehabilitation Week

February 14 – Valentine’s Day

February 26-March 4 – National Eating Disorders Awareness Week



National Black Nurses Association, Inc.

The National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) was organized in 1971 under the leadership of Dr. Lauranne Sams, former Dean and Professor of Nursing at Tuskegee University. NBNA is a non-profit organization representing 150,000 African American registered nurses, licensed vocational/practical nurses, nursing students, and retired nurses from the USA, Eastern Caribbean and Africa, with 90 chartered chapters, in 35 states. The National Black Nurses Association’s mission is “to represent and provide a forum for Black nurses to advocate and implement strategies to ensure access to the highest quality of healthcare for persons of color”.



Brig. Gen. Hazel Johnson Brown, PhD, RN

She studied at the Harlem Hospital School of Nursing, where she graduated in 1950. She then joined the army, working in Japan and later Korea during her service. In the 1960s, she also trained Vietnam-bound surgical nurses. She eventually became the first black woman to be promoted to brigadier general and the first to head the 7,000-strong US Army Nurse Corps.

Sojourner Truth

Isabella Baumfree – better known as her self-given name Sojourner Truth – was born into slavery in Ulster County, New York, in 1797. Although Truth is widely known as an impassioned abolitionist who escaped slavery and advocated for the rights of women and African Americans, she originally served as a nurse to the Dumont family. Truth often spoke eloquently before Congress, promoting nursing education and training programs.



2019-2020 BEHS LPN Graduates

These 12 students are just beginning their story, but they are already changing the culture of nursing by completing an LPN program while in high school. They have cared for hospitalized patients as well as educated middle school and elementary school children. They are the men and women of nursing who are paving the way for the next generation.



Free Community Events

- Feb.2 - Natural Health & Essential Oils Class. 4:00pm. 1419 E. Commercial Blvd. suite B. 33334
- Feb. 6 – Thriving with HIV. 6:00pm. 2650 Sistrunk Blvd. Ft. Lauderdale. 33311
- Feb. 12 – GALentine’s Day Workout. 5:00pm. 500 NE Spanish River Rd. Boca Raton. 33431
- Feb. 26 – Good Notes: Journaling and Meditation. 6:00pm. Boca Raton Town Center (Macys). 33431