

Q&A ABOUT BLACK HISTORY

WITH

Donna Rogers



Donna Rogers, Managing Editor, The Chronicle

What is the movie or TV mini-series linked to Black History that has had the greatest impact on your life and why?

"Eyes on the Prize" mini-series on PBS. I saw so much news throughout the mini-series that it made the past come to life. It made me think about what people were going through back then so that I could have the rights I have today. It made me realize the responsibility media workers have to the world at large.

What is the book linked to Black History that has had the greatest impact on your life and why?

"The Black Press," by Roland Edgar Wolseley. This was used in an African-American history class I took. I found out a great deal about the history of the Black Press. I found out that even they had to fight injustices just to get papers out. It helped me understand that part Black History.

What is the play or musical linked to Black History that has had the greatest impact on your life and why?

"Crowns." I saw it in Atlanta. It made me think of my late mother, who wore hats, like her mother and sisters. It helped me understand how those "crowns" can hold a lot of history if we look at them introspectively.

What is the song linked to Black History that has had the greatest impact on your life and why?

"Lift Every Voice and Sing." When I sing that song or hear it sung, I feel a sense of pride, that we as a people have overcome so many obstacles to get to where we are.

What is the poem linked to Black History that has had the greatest impact on your life and why?

"I, Too, Sing America," by Langston Hughes. This short poem says a lot about the relationship between white America and black Americans. It makes me determined to overcome.

The Chronicle was founded in 1974. What news story linked to Black History in The Chronicle has had the greatest impact on your life and why? Or, what news story linked to Black History in general has had the greatest impact on your life and why?

The Kerner Commission report, because it showed me how I was able to break into the newspaper business as a black woman. The U.S. riots of 1967 fueled the call for more black men and women in the media to cover news stories such as the riots.



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Ms. Rogers Bio

Donna Rogers has been working as a journalist since high school. She started her professional career as a copy editor more than 30 years ago. Over the years she has worked in writing, reporting, editing and production positions in metro news, features and business divisions of the newsroom. She also has been in charge of a 24-hour newsroom on the Internet that specialized in breaking news.

Rogers has been the editor of award-winning reporters and has worked with award-winning teams. She has worked in leadership roles for several newspapers, in the South and the Midwest. Before coming to Winston-Salem, she helped Georgia, Virginia and South Carolina nonprofits and businesses with public relations and marketing, which included producing a newsletter and leading major marketing campaigns. She also spoken to groups about writing.

Rogers is a native of South Carolina.