

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**WORDS  
to  
LIVE BY**

**Henry Ward Beecher**  
Author, 1858  
"Liberty is the soul's right to breathe."

**Maya Angelou**  
Poet, 1993  
"In all my work, what I try to say is that as human beings we are more alike than we are unlike."

**Indira Gandhi**  
Former prime minister of India, 1976  
"Mankind will endure when the world appreciates the logic of diversity."

**W.E.B. DuBois**  
Author, journalist, historian, 1910  
"If we expect to gain our rights by nerveless acquiescence in wrong, then we expect to do what no other nation ever did. What must we do then? We must complain. Yes, plain, blunt, ceaseless agitation, unflinching exposure of dishonesty and wrong – this is the ancient, unerring way to liberty, and we must follow it."

**Toni Morrison**  
Author, 1992  
"The best art is political, and you ought to be able to make it unquestionably political and irrevocably beautiful at the same time."

**Jesse L. Jackson**  
Civil rights leader, 1989  
"We all find flag-burning repugnant. We find burning crosses repugnant. But they have been burning crosses longer than they have been burning flags, and there has been no rush for a constitutional amendment to stop the burning of crosses."

**Hinton R. Helper**  
Anti-slavery author, 1857  
"Give us fair play, secure to us the right of discussion, the freedom of speech, and we will settle the difficulty at the ballot box, not on the battleground – by force of reason, not force of arms."

**Wynton Marsalis**  
Musician, 1993  
"The more you encourage someone else's freedom of expression and the more different that someone else is from you, the more democratic the act."

**Alice Walker**  
Contemporary American writer, 1983 (author of "The Color Purple")  
"No person is your friend who demands your silence or denies your right to grow."

**James Baldwin**  
Writer, 1964  
"It was books that taught me that the things that tormented me most were the very things that connected me with all the people who were alive, or who had ever been alive."

## Hate Crime: The story of a dragging in Jasper, Texas

**Stephanie Douthit**  
NEWS EDITOR

"Hate Crime: The Story of a Dragging in Jasper, Texas" by Joyce King is a compelling and emotionally driven story that draws readers into the thoughts, feelings, and experiences of first-time author Joyce King, as she explores one of the most horrific trials in U.S. history of the dragging in Jasper, Texas.

King is former reporter and anchor for a CBS radio affiliate who writes guest columns and opinion pieces for a variety of publications. After being fired from her

job, King took another position in which she was not enthusiastic about having.

She was assigned to cover the dragging murder of James Byrd, Jr. in Jasper, Texas. King did not want to leave her "comfort zone" and head to Jasper into a racially charged national story that unknowingly, it would change her life.

On Sunday, Jun. 7, 1998, an unidentified body was discovered in the middle of

Huff Creek Road, a part of the Huff Creek community in Jasper. The body was identified as that of 49-year-old James Byrd, Jr.

### Book Review

Byrd was murdered by three men who drug him to his death behind a vehicle; it was discovered that he had been dragged for three miles after tracking miscellaneous items and a trail of dried of blood and flesh.

James Byrd, Jr.'s death gave the world a glimpse of

the injustices in America and changed the mindset and opinions of some people. Racial division was put into the spotlight and forced many to accept the inevitable, acknowledging the differences amongst one another. In the prologue, King stated "I feel tremendous relief that I will never have to step foot in such a place," but she reluctantly involved herself in a the story. While reading her story one will notice the deeply embedded fear that King had while traveling to Jasper, and in every action she takes while there.

I was under the impression that King was fearful and not knowing what to expect, but she was not willing to allow her fear to overcome her purpose for being in Jasper; covering a nationally recognized injustice to a human being.

Her involvement in this case changed her interactions not only with her family, but it also changed her as a person. She no longer consumed herself with negative thoughts of race and racial interactions, but it became her mission to create understanding for establishing justice for everyone.

Joyce King currently resides in Dallas and gives lectures around the country. She has also written "Growing up Southern: White Men I Met Along the Way," about a little girl's evolution to a woman of color in America, and "Forgotten Hurricane: Conversations with My Neighbors," which is a memoir about Hurricane Katrina. She continues to go to Jasper every year since her involvement in the case.

Copies of "Hate Crime: The Story of a Dragging in Jasper, Texas" is available in O'Kelly Library.