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Renee Willis directs the Metro Choir in Black History Month Celebration set for Feb. 27 in the lobby of Metro Headquarters.



## Noontime Events Celebrate Black History Month

By GAYLE ANDERSON

(Feb. 12, 2008) Black History Month is an American tradition, a time set aside to commemorate and celebrate the contributions to the nation made by people of African descent.

American historian Carter G. Woodson established Black History Week in 1926. For many years, the second week of February was set aside for this celebration to coincide with the birthdays of abolitionist/editor Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

In 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial, the week was expanded into Black History Month. In 2000, President Bill Clinton proclaimed February as National African American History Month.

Metro's African American Employees Association (AAEA) and the celebrated Metro Choir carry on the tradition at Metro Headquarters, offering a series of musical, literary and social events for the entire agency to partake.

The program for 2008 includes:

**Thursday, Feb. 14:** *Poet's Corner.*



Metro employees will present famous speeches and personal poems in celebration of Black History Month, including Bill Satterfield's inspired delivery of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. 12:15 to 1:15 p.m at the Union Station Room, 3rd floor. Refreshments.

**Wednesday, Feb. 27: *This is Why.*** Metro Choir Black History Month Celebration program features great performances of spirituals and gospel music interspersed with Spoken Word presentations honoring Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and U.S. Senator Barack Obama. Special tribute to Metro's own, George B. Parks, Esq. 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. in the Plaza level of Metro Headquarters.



Bill Satterfield headlines Poet's Corner on Thursday.



Author and actress Denise Nicholas discusses her debut novel *Freshwater Road* at AAEA program Feb. 28.

More Around Town> [Check it out](#)

**Thursday, Feb. 28: *Literary Event.*** Author and actress Denise Nicholas discusses her debut novel *Freshwater Road*. Nicholas is best known as the pioneering actress who starred in the TV series *Room 222* and *In the Heat of the Night* (for which she also wrote several episodes), as well as a great many other TV shows and films. Published in 2005, *Freshwater Road* is the story of one young woman's journey into adulthood via the political and social upheavals of the civil rights movement. Noon to 1 p.m. in the Union Station Room, 3rd floor. Refreshments.

All events are free and open to the public.

#### More Around Town!

**Saturday, Feb. 23>** African American Living Legends. The 29<sup>th</sup> annual Black History Month celebration at the AC Bilbrew Library is a joint effort of Supervisor Yvonne Burke and the County of Los Angeles Public Library. Honorees this year are Angela Bassett, Della Reese, Alfre Woodard and Sheryl Lee Ralph with William Allen Young as the Master of Ceremonies. The program begins at 11 a.m. A signing and refreshments follow the program. AC Bilbrew Library is located at 150 E. El Segundo Blvd., Los Angeles. More > <http://www.colapublib.org/bhm/>

**Continuing Thru Feb. 18>** The 16th Annual Pan African Film & Arts Festival (PAFF) is underway at the AMC Magic Johnson Crenshaw 15 Theaters. The complete list of films is available at [www.PAFF.org](http://www.PAFF.org).