



February 2, 2026
PRESS RELEASE

**2026 NEPTUNE BLACK HISTORY MONTH
CELEBRATES “EXPRESSIONS OF BLACK FREEDOM”**

Neptune Township Black History Month celebration will be held Saturday, February 14, 2026, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. at the Neptune High School, Michael T. Lake Performing Arts Center.

The program recognizes two important celebrations in 2026; the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution, and the ASALH <https://asalh.org/> annual theme “A Century of Black History Commemorations.” Freedom is the thread that runs through both these celebrations. The American Revolution was a fight for independence and freedom from British tyranny and Africans -enslaved and free – fought with both the British and the colonists. Africans and their African American descendants have engaged in an ongoing struggle for freedom, equality, and inclusion in America from the 17th century through today, employing numerous strategies including lawsuits, boycotts, sit-ins, protest marches, uprising and rebellions. “Expressions of Black Freedom” reveals how Africans – enslaved and free - and their African American descendants articulate their life experiences in America and the continuing desire for freedom, conveyed through art, music, literature, oratory, fashion, and film.

Honoring Black soldiers who fought in the American Revolution War, Kevin Chapman, 1st Rhode Island Regiment Reenactor, will speak about the bravery of this noted regiment in the Continental Army. Performance artist, Lorraine Stone will portray Harriet Tubman, abolitionist, conductor of the Underground Railroad, and suffragist. During the Civil War Tubman led a successful military action of 150 Black Union Army soldiers rescuing over 700 enslaved people in South Carolina.

Also, the program will feature students from Neptune High School’s ROTC, Jazz Band, the awarding-winning Scarlett Sound A Capella choir; and a presentation on the History of Oral Tradition. In addition to student displays and videos, the Midtown Elementary School Liturgical Dance Team & Steppers will perform. Awards will be given to Neptune student contest winners who wrote on the topic “I am Somebody” – why I am important and what freedom means to me.

Doors open at 12:00 p.m. to meet, greet, visit information tables, and view videos and students’ displays. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/neptuneblackhistory>
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