

- 1 W** 1964: President Lyndon Johnson signs into law the Nurse Training Act of 1964, making it possible for black nurses to get federal funding for their education.
- 2 T** 1958: Frederick M. Jones patents control device for internal combustion engine.
- 3 F** 1979: Robert Maynard, first African American to head a major daily newspaper, *Oakland Tribune* in California.
- 4 S** 1962: New Orleans Catholic schools integrated.
- 5 S** 1960: Leopold Sedar Senghor elected president of Senegal.
- 6 M** **Labor Day**
1848: Frederick Douglass elected president of National Black Political Convention in Cleveland, Ohio.
- 7 T** 1954: Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, Maryland, public schools integrated.
- 8 W** 1907: Negro League's baseball star Buck Leonard born.
- 9 T** 1968: Arthur Ashe Jr. wins men's singles tennis championship at U.S. Open.
2000: Venus Williams wins women's singles tennis championship at U.S. Open.
- 10 F** 1855: John Mercer Langston elected township clerk of Brownhelm, Ohio, becoming first black to hold elective office in the U.S.
- 11 S** 1959: Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington wins Spingarn Medal for his achievements in music.
1999: Serena Williams wins women's singles tennis championship at U.S. Open.
- 12 S** 1992: Dr. Mae C. Jemison becomes first African American woman to travel in space.
- 13 M** 1886: Literary critic Alain Locke, first black Rhodes scholar, born.
- 14 T** 1921: Constance Baker Motley, first black woman appointed federal judge, born.
- 15 W** **Rosh Hashana Begins (Sundown)**
1963: Four black girls killed in Birmingham, Alabama, church bombing.
- 16 T** 1923: First Catholic seminary for black priests dedicated in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi.
- 17 F** 1983: Vanessa Williams crowned Miss America.

- 18 S** 1895: Booker T. Washington delivers famous Atlanta Exposition speech.
- 19 S** 1893: Albert R. Robinson patents electric railway trolley.
- 20 M** 1830: First National Convention of Free Men agrees to boycott slave-produced goods.
- 21 T** 1815: Gen. Andrew Jackson honors courage of black troops who fought in Battle of New Orleans.
1998: Florence Griffith Joyner, Olympic track star, dies.
- 22 W** 1862: Emancipation Proclamation announced.
1989: Gen. Colin Powell is confirmed as Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, first African American to hold the post.
- 23 T** 1863: Civil and women's rights advocate Mary Church Terrell born.
- 24 F** **Yom Kippur Begins (Sundown)**
1957: Federal troops enforce court-ordered integrations as nine children integrate Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- 25 S** 1974: Barbara W. Hancock becomes first African American woman named a White House fellow.
- 26 S** 1962: Sonny Liston knocks out Floyd Patterson to win heavyweight boxing championship.
- 27 M** 2000: Venus Williams wins an Olympic gold medal in women's singles tennis.
- 28 T** 1991: National Civil Rights Museum opens in Memphis, Tennessee.
2000: Venus and Serena Williams win Olympic gold medals in women's pairs tennis.
2003: Althea Gibson, first African American tennis player to win Wimbledon, dies.
- 29 W** 1910: National Urban League founded in New York City.
- 30 T** 1962: James Meredith enrolls as first black student at University of Mississippi.

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Ann Slaughter, D.D.S., M.P.H.

GERIATRIC DENTISTRY

Ann Slaughter

D.D.S., M.P.H. Philadelphia, PA

"Elders inspire me to continue to do what I do," said Dr. Ann Slaughter, geriatric dentistry specialist and assistant professor at the University of Pennsylvania. Her parents each had a scientific background, and throughout childhood she enjoyed spending time with her grandmother and her friends, "so choosing public health seemed natural for me."

Education and clinical dentistry set the pace during her early career, until she was encouraged to apply for the Brookdale National Fellowship Program, a national endowment that funded aging research. "They heard my ideas and decided to give dentistry a chance," said Dr. Slaughter. She spent two years working at the University of Connecticut's Travelers Center on Aging, where she interacted with elderly patients in community settings and collaborated with other medical professionals as part of the program's interdisciplinary training.

Today through her work at the university, Dr. Slaughter is developing an educational program, "Take Charge of Your Oral Health," which will be delivered to African American senior citizens in urban community centers. "We need to raise public awareness about oral signs and symptoms so African American elders will know when they need to go to dentists," said Dr. Slaughter.

"We are developing a program that's culturally sensitive. We are talking on their terms and using their language," she said. "We're also promoting an intergenerational

theme, hoping the elders will provide the messages to their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We need to plant the seeds for the future and change oral health beliefs as the children grow up."

Elder patients, she said, must be approached differently because of past perceptions. "I have had to work very hard and diligently to establish trusting relationships within the community," she said. "When these elders were young, dental care didn't focus much on prevention. They've always associated going to the dentist with the fear of getting their teeth pulled. So there are filters over the issue of trust. I had to earn it from them. And that was a challenge."

While addicted to her work, Dr. Slaughter relaxes once in a while by taking in a classic Humphrey Bogart black and white movie or reading a suspense novel by Richard Patterson. "These are the types of relaxation activities that I enjoy," she said.

Though passionate about all aspects of her field, she's most proud that her geriatric research was recently featured in *Jet* magazine. "Perseverance is the key. Just keep moving," she shared as her words to live by. "I plan to continue building on what I've got, and I hope to make a contribution to reduce health care disparities."



Dental Chairs

The National Museum of Dentistry's Spectacular Tower of Chairs, spanning the museum's two floors of exhibits.