

# Historian

(Continued from Page 1)

Franklin himself broke numerous color barriers. He was the first Black department chair at a predominantly White institution, Brooklyn College; the first Black professor to hold an endowed chair at Duke; and the first Black president of the American Historical Association.

He often regarded his country like an exasperated relative, frustrated by racism's stubborn power, yet refusing to give up. "I want to be out there on the firing line, helping, directing or doing something to try to make this a better world, a better place to live," Franklin told The Associated Press in 2005.

In November, after Barack Obama broke the ultimate racial barrier in American politics, Franklin called his ascension to the White House "one of the

most historic moments, if not the most historic moment, in the history of this country."

"Because of the life John Hope Franklin lived, the public service he rendered, and the scholarship that was the mark of his distinguished career, we all have a richer understanding of who we are as Americans and our journey as a people," Obama said in a statement. "Dr. Franklin will be deeply missed, but his legacy is one that will surely endure."

Obama's achievement fit with Franklin's mission as a historian, to document how Blacks lived and served alongside Whites from the nation's birth. Black patriots fought at Lexington and Concord, Franklin pointed out in "From Slavery to Freedom," published in 1947. They crossed the Delaware with Washington and explored with Lewis and Clark.

The book sold more than

3.5 million copies and remains required reading in college classrooms. It was based on research Franklin conducted in libraries and archives that didn't allow him to eat lunch or use the bathroom because he was Black.

"He was working in a profession that more or less banned him at the outset and ended up its leading practitioner," said Tim Tyson, a history professor at Duke. "And yet, he always managed to keep his grace and his sense of humor."

Late in life, Franklin received more than 130 honorary degrees and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Spingarn Award. In 1993, President Bill Clinton honored Franklin with the Charles Frankel Prize, recognizing scholarly contributions that give "eloquence and meaning ... to our ideas,

hopes and dreams as American citizens."

Clinton awarded Franklin the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian prize, two years later, and gave him the role for which he was perhaps best known outside academia, as chairman of Clinton's Initiative on Race. It was a job of which Franklin said, "I am not sure this is an honor. It may be a burden."

As he aged, Franklin spent more time in the greenhouse behind his home, where he nursed orchids, than in libraries. He fell in love with the flowers because "they're full of challenges, mystery" — the same reasons he fell in love with history.

In June, Franklin had a small role in the movie based on the book "Blood Done Signed My Name," about the public slaying of Black man

in Oxford in 1970. Tyson, the book's author, said at the time he wanted Franklin in the movie "because of his dignity and his shining intelligence."

Franklin attended historically Black Fisk University, where he met Aurelia Whittington, who would be his wife, editor, helpmate and rock for 58 years, until her death in 1999. He planned to follow his father into law, but the lively lectures of a White professor, Ted Currier, convinced him history was his field. Currier borrowed \$500 to send Franklin to Harvard University for graduate studies.

Franklin's doctoral thesis was on free Blacks in antebellum North Carolina. His wife spent part of their honeymoon in Washington, D.C., at the Census Bureau, helping him finish. The resulting work, "The Free Negro in North Carolina, 1790-1860," earned Franklin his doctorate and, in 1943, became his first published book. Four years later, he took a job at Howard University. It was the same year "From Slavery to Freedom" was published.

Some of his greatest moments of triumph were marred by bigotry.

His joy at being offered the chair of the Brooklyn College history department in 1956 was tempered by his difficulty getting a loan to buy a house in a "White" neighborhood.

When he was to receive the freedom medal, Franklin hosted a party for some

friends at Washington's Cosmos Club, of which he had long been a member. A White woman walked up to him, handed him a slip of paper and demanded that he get her coat. He politely told the woman that any of the uniformed attendants, "and they were all in uniform," would be happy to assist her.

Franklin was born Jan. 2, 1915, in the all-Black town of Rentiesville, Okla., where his parents moved in the mistaken belief that separation from Whites would mean a better life for their young family. But his father's law office was burned in the race riots in Tulsa, Okla., in 1921, along with the rest of the Black section of town.

His mother, Mollie, a teacher, began taking him to school with her when he was 3. He could read and write by 5; by 6, he first became aware of the "racial divide separating me from White America."

Franklin, his mother and sister Anne were ejected from a train when his mother refused the conductor's orders to move to the overcrowded "Negro" coach. As they trudged through the woods back to Rentiesville, young John Hope began to cry.

His mother pulled him aside and told him, "There was not a White person on that train or anywhere else who was any better than I was. She admonished me not to waste my energy by fretting but to save it in order to prove that I was as good as any of them."

## Your Horoscope Says... Mar. 26-Apr. 1

### ARIES

Serenity is yours as you realize you can get what you need. It's coming and you deserve it! Take a few quiet moments this week to listen to your inner voice. It will give you a powerful hint about what activities you should be pursuing right now.

Soul Affirmation: I let positive emotions carry me through the week.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 17, 21

### TAURUS

In all of the hustle and bustle of the week this week, take some time to observe the Now. There's a great deal to be thankful for! A great idea could come to you when you are out with friends.

Soul Affirmation: I celebrate with those around me.

Lucky Numbers: 39, 51, 52

### GEMINI

Relax the grip you have on your attitudes this week, and just go with the flow. Ease up in full knowledge that goodness is being perfectly fulfilled. Let go of any feelings of insecurity or loss, and bless the perfect moment.

Soul Affirmation: I quiet all confusion.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 5, 24

### CANCER

Exhilaration is high and your mental abilities are amazing. Use your intuition to brainstorm your way to a highly creative idea that could change the way you make your living.

Soul Affirmation: I give thanks for the chance to give.

Lucky Numbers: 23, 46, 49

### LEO

What you say and what you do are in harmony this week. The importance of your idea(s) comes through very clearly to others. They can see that you walk what you talk. Com-

municate your ideas through your values.

Soul Affirmation: I give thanks for the goodness in people.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 11, 18

### VIRGO

You are the best person that you can be. Evaluate your strengths and celebrate them this week. So often when self-evaluating we concentrate on weaknesses. Well, this week, weaknesses don't count. You are wonderful and you are becoming better every day. Nobody is perfect, and if we all were our journey would be boring at best.

Soul Affirmation: I am patient with all that comes my way this week.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 13, 45

### LIBRA

Lots of communicating going on early in the week. You may even hear from someone you haven't seen in ages. The long-distance will certainly make your heart grow fonder. You'll want to catch up with someone you haven't heard from, and will probably seek this person out via email. There's a general feeling of catching up, from correspondence to current fashion.

Soul Affirmation: Anticipation of a beautiful night will light up my week.

Lucky Numbers: 31, 46, 55

### SCORPIO

Confusion exists over some question, and every time you think you've got the answer, circumstances will change and new information will come to your attention. Don't worry, things are going to clear up and work out. Take it easy. Worry will create the exact problem that you're worrying about how to avoid.

Soul Affirmation: I remain conscious of other people's feelings all week long.

Lucky Numbers: 42, 45, 46

### SAGITTARIUS

Cool jazz! Fly dark glasses! Give yourself a chance to show off. It's good. Let others know how many ways you can present yourself. All the ways are real. Start fixing the fantasy in your mind and make preparations so you can make the fantasy true just by stepping into it.

Soul Affirmation: Seeing my past clearly this week gives me a clear vision of my future.

Lucky Numbers: 10, 20, 45

### CAPRICORN

Surprises are in order this week. Keep yourself open and alert for the unexpected. Put yourself in the presence of people whose spirits are akin to yours. The surprise is likely to be a spiritual one, an awakening, a realization.

Soul Affirmation: I stay calm when all about me is in an uproar.

Lucky Numbers: 14, 19, 20

### AQUARIUS

You need to be with someone this week who does not place too many demands on you and who is creative, intelligent, a good conversationalist, and highly spiritual. Perhaps you should be out looking for that person now with eyes wide open! You know what you need.

Soul Affirmation: My mood is enhanced by the company I keep.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 23, 26

### PISCES

Work calls and you're not completely happy with current divisions of labor. Do more than your part as a member of the team and you'll be glad that you did. Your reward will come from someone who also did more than their part.

Soul Affirmation: Generosity of spirit brings generosity to me.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 19, 20

## EMPLOYMENT



**HOUSING AUTHORITY  
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

5390 EAST FLAMINGO ROAD • LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89122-5338  
PHONE (702) 922-1550 • FAX (702) 922-1626

### OFFICE ASSISTANT I-EXECUTIVE OFFICE

THIS RECRUITMENT IS LIMITED TO THE FIRST 100 COMPLETED APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AND WILL CLOSE WITHOUT NOTICE WHEN THAT NUMBER IS REACHED, EVEN IF IT IS PRIOR TO THE CLOSING DATE SHOWN.

#### MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Performs a wide variety of routine clerical work in support of the office to which assigned. One year of office work experience and High school graduate or GED.

This position pays \$1,053.15 bi-weekly, Range 30 Step 1

Recruitment requirements: Completed Housing Authority Application and resume. Visit our website [www.haccnv.org](http://www.haccnv.org) to download employment application. Resumes are not accepted in lieu applications. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

**SCREENING PROCESS:** Applicants who meet the basic qualifications defined above will be further evaluated by participating in a keyboarding test and Microsoft Office applications skills examination. Application packets must be received by the Clark County Housing Authority, 5390 E. Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89122-5335 by 4:00 PM on Friday, April 3, 2009.

ADA/EO/AA EMPLOYER

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