“Bridging the Gap”: Black History Month at MHC

Hosted by the Association of Pan-African Unity (APAU), this year’s theme for Black History Month is “Bridging the gap: insights into our many communities.” APAU has arranged a dynamic series of events all month long which explore various aspects of Black identity and experience, from poetry to spirituality to gender and sexuality. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

The Betty: Looking Back

The Betty Shabazz Cultural Center, which serves as a safe and educational space for students of color, specifically of African and Caribbean diaspora, was Mount Holyoke’s first cultural center. Here’s a quick look at some of the biggest events in the Betty’s history.
1967 - The 25 black students at Mount Holyoke form the Afro-American Association.

1969 - The group is offered the house on 2 Dunlap Place that will eventually become the Betty Shabazz Cultural Center.

1973 - The house is named the Martha Rolston Perkins Cultural Center, after the oldest living African American alumna at the time (class of 1898).

1980 - The Afro-American Association changes its name to the Association of Pan African Unity and rededicates the house to Betty Shabazz after she spoke to students at Mount Holyoke during a week dedicated to black culture.

2015 - Ilyasah Shabazz, oldest daughter of Betty Shabazz and Malcolm X, delivers the keynote address at Mount Holyoke's Hortense Parker Celebration and the annual Women of Color Conference.

2017 - The Association for Pan-African Unity (APAU) and the Mount Holyoke African and Caribbean Students Association (MHACASA) are thriving student organizations affiliated with the Betty.

Events (cont’d.)

**African Spirituality Matters**

Babalawo Olulwole Ifakunle explored the history of Ifa, a traditional West African belief system, in African-American communities.

Thursday, Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m.

Gamble Auditorium

**Vietnam Night 2017: Unfold**

The annual Vietnamese cultural celebration included dinner and a show!

Friday, Feb. 24, 6-9 p.m.

Chapin Auditorium

**UPCOMING: Sunday Brunch**

Join us to reflect on the month of black history celebration. Hear a sermon, share traditional soul food and enjoy the company of others.

Sunday, Feb. 26, 11 a.m

Chapin Auditorium

*Multipurpose room of the Betty Shabazz Cultural Center. Photo by Lynne Graves.*
Open hours have begun!

As of February 16th, the Cultural Centers are open for all students to explore, build community, learn about one another, and make use of our libraries, kitchens, computer labs, and other spaces. See the graphic below, made by Zowie Banteah assistant Kalea Martin, for more information.

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