

RUTH ANN BUTLER

Founder and director of the Greenville Cultural Exchange Center

As the child of a Baptist minister, Ruth Ann Butler grew up believing God had a plan for her. It was revealed in 1985, after she visited an African American museum in Tennessee. Butler, then a history teacher, almost immediately began preserving the history of African Americans in her hometown of Greenville. Convinced of her calling, Butler gave up a teaching career, sketched out a plan and cobbled together \$10,000 from local government to start what would become the Greenville Cultural Exchange Center. Today, the center has its own renovated building nestled in a historic downtown Greenville neighborhood. The center features an extensive catalogue of artifacts, oral histories and records for African Americans who want to search their family histories.



2006

SOUTH CAROLINA AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY CALENDAR

MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Howard University in Washington, D.C. opened in 1867.	2 Elijah McCoy, inventor and holder of more than fifty patents, was born in 1844.	3 Sugar Ray Robinson, middleweight boxing champion was born in 1920.	4 Freedom Rides began in 1961.	5 Gwendolyn Brooks became the first Black Pulitzer Prize winner, for Annie Allen, in 1950.	6 Civil Rights Act signed by President Eisenhower in 1960.
7 J.R. Winters patented the fire escape, 1878.	8 Rev. Henry McNeal Turner died in 1915.	9 Slaves in Georgia, Florida and South Carolina were freed, 1862.	10 P.B.S. Pinchback, first Black state governor, was born in 1837.	11 Dancer Martha Graham was born in 1854.	12 Robert Smalls seized Confederate warship in 1862.	13 Boxer Joe Louis was born in 1914.
14 Mother's Day In 1804, a slave known only as York accompanied Lewis and Clark on their expedition.	15 Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, founded at Indiana University, was incorporated in 1911.	16 Sammy Davis Jr. died in 1990.	17 Brown vs. Board of Education made "Separate But Equal" in public schools unconstitutional in 1954.	18 Reggie Jackson, baseball player, was born in 1946.	19 Malcolm X was born in 1925.	20 Robert N.C. Nix was elected to U.S. Congress in 1958.
21 Lowell W. Perry was confirmed as chairman of the Equal Opportunity Commission (EEOC) in 1975.	22 Claude McKay, poet, died in 1948.	23 Bob Marley, reggae legend, died in 1981.	24 Hal McRae was named manager of the Kansas City Royals in 1991.	25 Madame C.J. Walker, entrepreneur, died in 1919.	26 Althea Gibson won the French Open, becoming the first Black tennis player to win a major tennis title, 1956.	27 Louis Gossett Jr., actor, was born in 1936.
28 Eliza Ann Gardner, Underground Railroad conductor was born in 1831.	29 Memorial Day Thomas Bradley was elected mayor of Los Angeles in 1973.	30 Countee Cullen, poet, was born in 1903.	31 NAACP held first conference (as the National Negro Committee) in 1909.	   		