

# WOMEN'S FORUM

*Sharing Wisdom*

## Black History Month

Dear Ladies,

By way of honoring the traditions of February, one ages old - St. Valentine's Day (AD 496) and one relatively new - Black History Month (1976), WF offers a Valentine to two legendary African American women. One a slave, one a free woman. Each with a story that is dramatic, intriguing and takes a page in American History.

Sally Hemings was an enslaved woman owned by Thomas Jefferson. Five years after the loss of his wife, whom he deeply mourned, Jefferson turned to Sally. At her first pregnancy Sally negotiated with her lover/captor(?) the emancipation of any child they should conceive at the child's 21st birthday. (They were to have six children, four of which survived and were emancipated.) Sally

was never emancipated. She stayed on in her position at the Jefferson household as companion/concubine(?) to the third president of our country. An enigma to all, except possibly to Jefferson, who is an enigma himself; Sally's story is at once baffling, sad, and certainly controversial.

Zora Neale Hurston, writer, anthropologist, principal member of the Harlem Renaissance, author of the literary classic **THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD**, will be our **second topic** in the month of February. Usually the topics are announced every two weeks, but because of the book option, should you care to read the book, a little more time helps. This is a popular book so getting a copy at your local library should not be a problem. Also, on YouTube there is an audio book version. Amazon and Barnes and Noble carry the book as

well.

For links to the videos and to join in our programs please contact us at [womensforumusa@gmail.com](mailto:womensforumusa@gmail.com). Your address will then be added to our email distribution list for detailed announcements of all events.

Best always,

Evelyn