



Rotary Club of Martinsburg

Grapevine

Feb 27, 2025

District 7360 | Club 5296

Black History Month

"Lift Every Voice and Sing" is a hymn often referred to as the Black National Anthem. It was written as a poem by James Weldon Johnson in 1900 and set to music by his brother, John Rosamond Johnson. The song was first performed by 500 school children in Jacksonville, Florida, to celebrate President Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

The hymn quickly gained popularity within African American communities and was adopted by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as its official song in 1919. The lyrics of the song reflect the struggles and triumphs of African Americans, drawing on themes of faith, resilience, and hope. "Lift Every Voice and Sing" had a profound impact on the civil rights movements. It served as a powerful anthem that united African Americans in their fight for equality and justice. The song's lyrics, which speak of faith, resilience, and hope, resonated deeply with those involved in the struggle for civil rights.

During the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s, the song was often sung at rallies, marches, and meetings. It provided a sense of solidarity and inspiration to those fighting against segregation and discrimination. The hymn's message of overcoming adversity and striving for a better future became a rallying cry for activists and supporters.



Ujima Tyson and Helen Harris serenaded our club with the "Lift Every Voice and Sing" hymn, referred to as the Black National Anthem. Club members were encouraged to join in and sing. Ujima presented to our club about Black History Month.



"If I Can Help Somebody" continues to be a cherished hymn, reminding people of the importance of compassion, service, and making a positive impact on the lives of others.

"If I can help somebody as I travel along
If I can help somebody in a word or a song
If I can help somebody from doing wrong
No, my living shall not be in vain"

Black History Month: African American Trailblazers in West Virginia

West Virginia has a rich history of African American contributions from the era of slavery to the present day. Here's a list of some of the most influential African Americans from the state:

Political & Civil Rights

#	Name	Accomplishments
1	Martin R. Delany (1812–1885)	First Black field officer in U.S. Army; abolitionist.
2	John Robert Clifford (1848–1933)	WV's first Black lawyer; fought for equal education.
3	Bill White (1937–2010)	First Black state senator in Charleston.
4	Rev. William K. Smith (1895–1969)	Civil rights leader; led voter registration efforts.
5	Pauline McKinney (1903–1990)	Advocate for Black teachers' rights.
6	Clarence L. Hester (1939–2019)	NAACP leader; housing and employment rights activist.
7	Dale G. Peterson (b. 1955)	First Black Commissioner of Human Rights in WV.
8	Andrew Brown (b. 1960)	Community leader; organized voter outreach.
9	Elizabeth Simpson Drewry (1893–1979)	First Black woman in WV Legislature; fair pay advocate.
10	T. Gillis Nutter (1876–1959)	Desegregated public libraries.
11	Levi Daniel (dates unknown)	First Black district president, United Mine Workers.
12	Rev. Leon Sullivan (1922–2001)	Anti-apartheid leader; job training advocate.

Education & Innovation

#	Name	Accomplishments
13	Dr. Carter G. Woodson (1875–1950)	"Father of Black History"; started Black History Month.
14	John W. Davis (1888–1980)	President, WV State University.
15	Ancella Bickley (b. 1930)	Documented WV Black history.
16	J.R. Clifford (1848–1933)	First Black lawyer in WV; won education equality case.
17	John Warren Davis (1888–1980)	Expanded WV State College into a leading HBCU.
18	Carrie Williams (1866–1944)	Won landmark court case for equal school terms.

Business & Agriculture

#	Name	Accomplishments
19	W. A. Brown (1885–1960)	Founded one of WV's first Black-owned businesses.
20	Robert Lee Brown (b. 1938)	Business leader in construction.
21	Leon A. M. Walker (1925–2017)	Innovated mining equipment.
22	Memphis Tennessee Garrison (1890–1988)	NAACP leader; labor organizer for Black miners.
23	James "Jim" Harvey (b. 1935)	Industrial safety innovator.
24	Booker T. Washington (1856–1915)	Led Tuskegee Institute; promoted Black self-reliance.
25	Dr. Edward A. McMillan (b. 1950)	Agricultural scientist; promoted sustainable farming.
26	Dr. A. A. Reed (b. 1945)	Advanced modern farming techniques.

Sports & Culture

#	Name	Accomplishments
27	Hal Greer (1936–2018)	First Black player at Marshall University; NBA Hall of Famer.
28	Bill Withers (1938–2020)	Grammy-winning singer-songwriter (<i>Lean on Me</i>).
29	George P. McLeod (b. 1905)	Advocate for Black heritage in WV.
30	Henry Louis Gates Jr. (b. 1950)	Harvard historian; host of <i>Finding Your Roots</i> .

Medicine

#	Name	Accomplishments
31	Dr. Alice Ball (1892–1916)	Developed first effective treatment for leprosy.
32	Dr. Mildred Mitchell-Bateman (1922–2012)	First Black woman to lead a WV mental health hospital.
33	Dr. William K. Smith (b. 1890)	Physician; civil rights advocate.
34	Dr. Edward A. McMillan (b. 1950)	Cancer and genetics researcher.

Science, Innovation & Technology

#	Name	Accomplishments
35	Katherine Johnson (1918–2020)	NASA mathematician; critical to Apollo missions.
36	Dorothy Vaughan (1910–2008)	First Black supervisor at NASA; expert in computing.
37	Michael D. Turner (b. 1970)	Innovator in renewable energy.
38	Dr. Harold Washington (b. 1940)	Leader in sustainable energy research.

Community Leaders

#	Name	Accomplishments
39	Clarence L. Hester (1939–2019)	Led housing and voting rights efforts.
40	Dale G. Peterson (b. 1955)	Advocate for diversity in education.
41	Andrew Brown (b. 1960)	Led economic development programs.
42	Henry Louis Gates Jr. (b. 1950)	Leading researcher in Black history.
43	Michael D. Turner (b. 1970)	Renewable energy advocate.
44	Katherine Johnson (1918–2020)	Calculated NASA space missions.
45	Dorothy Vaughan (1910–2008)	Early computing pioneer at NASA.
46	T. Gillis Nutter (1876–1959)	Civil rights lawyer.
47	Levi Daniel (dates unknown)	Organized Black miners.
48	Rev. Leon Sullivan (1922–2001)	Civil rights and anti-apartheid leader.
49	Elizabeth Simpson Drewry (1893–1979)	Led fair employment laws.
50	J.R. Clifford (1848–1933)	WV's first Black lawyer.
51	John Warren Davis (1888–1980)	Expanded Black education.
52	W. A. Brown (1885–1960)	Business empire builder.
53	James "Jim" Harvey (b. 1935)	Industrial safety leader.
54	Robert Lee Brown (b. 1938)	Business developer.
55	Leon A. M. Walker (1925–2017)	Innovator in construction.
56	Memphis Tennessee Garrison (1890–1988)	Organized Black coal miners.
57	Ancella Bickley (b. 1930)	Black history preservationist.
58	Dr. A. A. Reed (b. 1945)	Agricultural innovator.
59	Dr. Edward A. McMillan (b. 1950)	Sustainable agriculture leader.

Why This Matters

These 59 Black leaders from West Virginia shaped civil rights, education, business, innovation, medicine, and culture. Their work broke barriers and paved the way for future generations.

Member Birthdays

- Mar 1 – Christine Glover
- Mar 1 – Cari Lefeber
- Mar 2 – Dustin Branner
- Mar 2 – Fred Hollida
- Mar 3 – John Taylor
- Mar 4 – Leslie Crabill
- Mar 5 – Andrew Beckwith
- Mar 9 – Maria Lorensen
- Mar 9 – Diane Smith
- Mar 9 – Steve Truax

Member Anniversaries

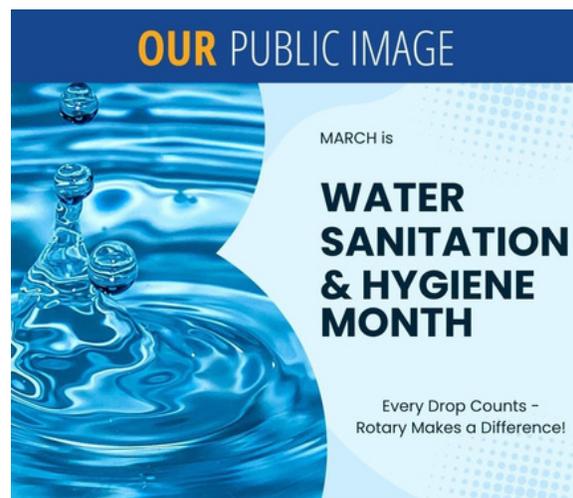
- Mar 1 – Fred Hollida, 38
- Mar 1 – Doug Arndt, 36
- Mar 1 – Jeff Arndt, 36
- Mar 1 – Craig Collis, 33
- Mar 1 – Scott Slick, 7
- Mar 3 – Norman Marriott, 3



LET'S CELEBRATE!

Rotary Club of Martinsburg Calendar & Programs

- Mar 6 – El Salvador – International Partnerships
- Mar 8–9 – 4th Annual Rotary Pickleball Classic event
- Mar 11 – Discover Rotary 5:30PM @ Holiday Inn
- Mar 13 – Bob O’Conner @ Senior Center*****
- Mar 20 – Angelina Gray
- Mar 27 – Grants Presentation
- Mar 28–30 – District Conference at Bedford Springs
- Apr 3 – New Member Bios
- May 14 – Annual Rotary Golf Tournament



Mrs. Fleming, educator at Spring Mills High School, brought two exceptional students to our meeting today. Brenna McTighe and McKenzie Phebus spoke about all of their accomplishments at Spring Mills High so far and shared their future aspirations.

The month of March is Water Sanitation & Hygiene Month, as recognized by Rotary International. Our club, among many others, has donated funds to combat this issue internationally.

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** kindness is a fundamental human value that fosters compassion, understanding, and goodwill among individuals and communities; and
- Whereas,** acts of kindness have the power to uplift spirits, strengthen relationships, and create a more harmonious society; and
- Whereas,** promoting kindness encourages empathy, respect, and inclusivity, helping to build a brighter future for all; and
- Whereas,** *Kindness Day* was created as a day where anyone can be kind to one another by the by Faith Christian Academy's Interact Club; and
- Whereas,** this day was created years ago by Faith Christian Academy's Interact Club; and
- Whereas,** a dedicated day to celebrate and practice kindness can inspire individuals to engage in acts of goodwill and spread positivity throughout our communities.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *March 4, 2025* as:

Kindness Day

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in observance by opening a door for someone, paying it forward in a drive through line, or hosting an event out of kindness

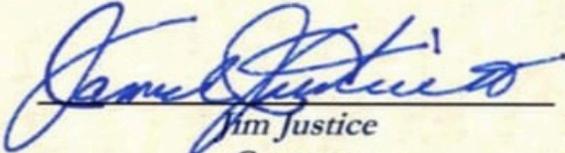
In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Twenty-Third day of October, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Four, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Second year of the State.

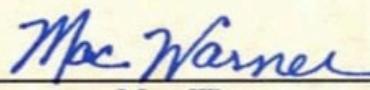
Kindness Day
March 4, 2025

FCA Interact Club initiates a day to promote individual acts of kindness to one another. A dedicated day to celebrate and practice kindness can inspire individuals to engage in acts of goodwill and spread positivity through out our community!




Jim Justice
Governor

By the Governor:



Mac Warner
Secretary of State



TOGETHER, WE

CONNECT



TOGETHER, WE
TRANSFORM



TOGETHER, WE
EMPOWER

Rotary  PEOPLE OF ACTION

DISCOVER ROTARY

Join the Rotary Clubs of Martinsburg for a casual informational mixer. We will have an assortment of appetizers, water, & tea available.

March 11 2025 **530-730pm**

Holiday Inn
301 Foxcroft Ave, Martinsburg, WV

WHY JOIN?

- ✓ Friendship
- ✓ Personal Growth & Development
- ✓ Community Service Projects
- ✓ Leadership Opportunities
- ✓ Professional Networking
- ✓ Global Impact
- ✓ Youth Programs
- ✓ Community / Student Grants
- ✓ Travel Opportunities
- ✓ Local Impact

Contact Info →

Denise Hess 302-841-0582
Charles Mason 304-268-3669

GOLF TOURNAMENT



**Wednesday
May 14th, 2025**



The Woods Golf Course, Hedgesville, WV

\$2,000 - Tournament Sponsor

- Event Recognition
- Marketing & Advertising
- Golf for 8

\$500 - Team Sponsor

- Event Recognition
- Tee sign
- Golf for 4

\$250 - Prize Sponsor

- Event Recognition, Tee sign

\$100 - Tee Sign Sponsor

\$100 - Individual Golfer

\$20 - Extras Package

- Per golfer - 2 Mulligans, Pro Drive, Gold Tee Shot



Basic Education and Literacy



Maternal and Child Health



Peace and Conflict prevention / resolution



Disease prevention and treatment



Water and Sanitation



Economic and Community Development



Supporting the Environment

Company/Sponsor _____

Captain _____ **Phone** _____

Player 2 _____

Player 3 _____

Player 4 _____

For More information contact:

Denise Greenbeck Hess

302-841-0582

dhess@mybank.com

**REGISTRATION: 8AM
SHOTGUN START: 10AM
LUNCH PROVIDED**



Checks made payable to: Rotary Club of Martinsburg
PO Box 2073, Martinsburg WV 25402

Tax Exempt number: 55-6023366

*Proceeds will support the Rotary's 7 Areas of Focus in our local community.