

Lift Every Voice and Sing

By James Weldon Johnson, 1899

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and Heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our parents sighed
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou Who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou Who hast by Thy might, led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee.
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee.
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

78 Things We Can Do (at UD) to Live the King Legacy

1. READ all the way through these suggestions. If any bother you, ask yourself why.
2. Keep this handout “handy” and read through it every now and then over the next year. Resolve that by NEXT January, you will have made progress on at least 5 of these suggestions.
3. Go to the Movies. Attend at least one of the Documentaries being shown by Roesch Library over the next weeks, starting with: “I Stand at the River” Thursday. Jan 23 11:30AM & 7PM. Check days, places and times for Created Equal Series in February at http://www.udayton.edu/libraries/events/createdequal_bytype.php
4. When you see a person of color or someone identifiably Muslim (e.g., wearing hijab) on campus, ASSUME that they belong and are a gift to this community.
5. Act on your dream to bring peace to people of all colors, faiths, and points of view.
6. Challenge yourself to be more than just a resource for those who seek you out; become a companion for those who are discriminated against by making the first move to build a relationship.
7. END the bystander epidemic that plagues our communities, our campus, and our world
8. Use your voice to speak for those who are not heard. Do not be afraid to make yourself seen and heard!
9. Challenge yourself to fight for a cause.
10. Speak up when you hear someone make a racist comment or joke.
11. Speak up when you hear someone make fun of poor people.
12. Fast from violent movies and video games.
13. When introduced to someone with a name with which you are not familiar, take the extra time to remember the name AND learn how to properly pronounce it.
14. Smile and say hi to someone from an under-represented group (person of color, person of other than Christian religion, international student, etc.) you see on campus.
15. Invite someone from an under-represented group to join you for lunch or dinner
16. Invite someone from an under-represented group to join you at a social event you are attending.
17. Ask a person from an under-represented group who is in a class with you a question to get to know her or him a little bit (e.g., How did you learn about UD? What is your favorite holiday? What is your favorite food? etc.)
18. Use the word “international” instead of “foreign.”
19. Remember Pope Francis’ exhortation: “We are all in the same boat, headed to the same port! Let us ask for the grace to rejoice in the gifts of each, which belong to all.”
20. Read sacred texts. MLK’s bible (especially the Hebrew prophets, was worn by his constant thumbing of the pages.
21. Visit a neighborhood in Dayton or in your hometown you’ve not yet visited. Have a conversation with someone there, asking them about the gifts of their neighborhood.
22. Be creative! Imagine the Kingdom of God! What would it look like here in the United States? What structures would be transformed?
23. Have a conversation with someone with whom you disagree. Your disagreement might even be strong and emotional. Purposely learn the person’s story, why they think and feel as they do. Find points on which you agree.
24. Read Pope Francis’s “Gospel of Joy” (*Evangelii Gaudium*) message to the worldwide Catholic church. . Some say it is his “I Have a Dream Speech.” Let it touch your heart and challenge your life.
25. Honor the holiness that is in each and every person.
26. Speak kindly of all, ESPECIALLY when they have qualities you do not understand.

27. Remember that, while UD is founded in Marianist traditions, the bond we share must go beyond religion in order to reach our full potential as members of the UD community.
28. Speak up - don't assume someone else will.
29. Take a sociological perspective that recognizes that racism in US society is a "public issue" in addition to causing people "personal troubles." We need to work to change structures that reinforce inequalities.
30. Check your images: Jesus, Mary, and all twelve apostles were Palestinian Jews. Chances are they were NOT blond haired and blue-eyed.
31. When you think about "Catholicism," remember that only 6% of the world's Catholics live in the US, almost half of the Catholics in the US under the age of 40 are not white, and the majority of the world's Catholics live in the southern hemisphere. The Philippines, Mexico, and Brazil each have more Catholics in their population than the US does.
32. If you are white, try for a week prefacing every noun related to yourself with "white": white neighborhood, white school, white TV shows, white grocery store, white sense of humor, white hair, etc.
33. Care for ALL others - truly care, as if each person on Earth is your dearest friend. Seek and want the best for each and every living being.
34. Once a week, pledge to confront and actively challenge racial and ethnic assumptions.
35. In the next year, read two books about a racial/ethnic identity which you know little about.
36. Especially if you are white, if you've never done so, put yourself an experience where you are "the only" member of your race represented
37. Attend an OMA sponsored event at least once a month.
38. Participate in the ArtStreet Friday Film Series in February (and the rest of the year).
39. Educate yourself about how the media's representation of racial & ethnic minorities--usually told from a white lens (like "The Help", "The Blind Side," "Pocahontas," etc.) do more harm than good.
40. Read news stories written from a non-white perspective like ColorLines or Racism Review--you'll be surprised by how frequently racial atrocities occur that are never picked up by the mainstream media (there are *many* Trayvon Martin cases that never make the news).
41. Especially for whites, pay attention to how race impacts your life: who are your neighbors? Who are your teachers? Who are your friends that you eat regular meals with? In restaurants and dining halls, who cleans up after these meals?
42. For students, examine your curriculum and ask yourself from whose perspective is the material taught and who is the intended audience? Is race represented and how?
43. For students, challenge racial assumptions in the classroom. Stand up to peers who make "jokes" about minority groups (beyond race) or disrespect minority faculty. You'll be surprised how much support you'll receive, but most students (and faculty & staff) will stay silent out of fear.
44. For faculty and staff, challenge racial assumption in the classroom and in everyday encounters.
45. Clean your own living and working spaces by making sure trash and recyclables are in proper containers. The workers have enough to do without you adding to their work.
46. Smoke in the right places and use the cigarette butt receptacles instead of leaving them for others to sweep up. Respect those who have to follow you around.
47. Instead of feeling uncomfortable or unsure about why others do or say things, ask them about it. Ignorance is definitely not bliss.
48. Get involved in one of the many volunteer activities offered on campus. Community health is built one person, one step at a time.
49. Take a course on African American history or religion.
50. Buy a copy of Dr. King's essays, *Strength to Love*, read one essay a week and then see what you can do now bring more peace into our world.
51. Give thanks each day that you do not live a country that legally sanctions racial segregation anymore.
52. Send a donation to support the work of the King Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

53. Then look for a chance to VISIT the King Center in Atlanta.
54. Commit to giving a sincerely warm greeting to someone today and every day.
55. Learn what the "beloved community" is and embrace your place in it.
56. Reach out where you live and in your classes to people who are different from you.
57. Try to get to know others as whole people, avoiding just trying to answer your curiosities about how you are different.
58. Try each semester to read about a culture, background or faith tradition that is different than your own. Ponder the positives of this difference.
59. Speak up when others call names or make jokes about people who are outnumbered (e.g. the sole female in a class, the few Asian students on your intramural team, etc.).
60. Ask yourself and talk with your friends about how your career choices will result in vocations that contribute to peace and justice.
61. Believe someone when they tell you they experienced something that was racist/sexist/heterosexist, etc.
62. Protestants should not be seen as a threat to Catholicism. If you are Catholic, let go of naming all things Christian in Catholic terms like "mass" and "priest".
63. "When you see something wrong, say something strong."
64. "Speak the truth in love" . . . make it both/and, not either/or..
65. Pray with someone new and different . . . in THEIR place of worship.
66. Share.
67. Don't keep score.
68. If we want to get real about all this, dominant culture folks will need to better understand themselves, the nature of privilege, power and equity.
69. Watch the trailer for the film "Cracking the Codes" at crackingthecodes.org and decide if you want to use it to start a conversation with a group or class to which you belong.
70. Learn about some of the people that influenced MLK as a student: e.g., Howard Thurman, Gandhi, and Walter Rauschenbusch.
71. Learn about Ella Baker and other women who were took leadership of Civil Rights training of students.
72. Read a biography of Dr. King and recognize that just like us, often his path was difficult and unclear, that he had to respond to daily events that pushed him in ways he might not have chosen.
73. Pay attention to how different forms of oppression interact with one another.*
74. Support people who take risks to confront oppression.*
75. Use the word "undocumented" (or "unauthorized") instead of "illegal" to refer to those immigrants living in the U.S. without authorization.
76. Visit and explore the Welcome Dayton website, www.welcomedayton.org, find out about this initiative to make Dayton an increasingly "immigrant-friendly city", read the stories of the people featured and look at recent news stories on Dayton.
77. Visit the Dayton International Peace Museum at 308 W. Monument Ave, downtown. An exhibit "Immigration: Our Shared Dream" will run through February (2014).
78. Memorize the words to "Lift Every Voice and Sing," written by poet James Weldon Johnson in 1899, sometimes referred to as the "Black National Anthem".

*Suggestions garnered from Allan Johnson's *Privilege, Power and Difference*, 2nd edition. Boston: McGraw Hill, 2006.

Compiled by Sr. Laura M. Leming, FMI, Ph.D. through solicitation of dozens of our faculty, staff students and alumni, for the University of Dayton 2014 Martin Luther King Luncheon. Thank you for sharing your insight to create this "Plethora of Voices."