Let's Have a Potluck!



More than 25 years ago, JB was instrumental in organizing gatherings that led to him hosting an annual potluck luncheon. Vince Daniele recalls the history of how the gatherings came to be:

During the early 1990s, a few employees from RIT's Facilities Management Services (FMS) and a handful of NTID faculty members began talking, informally, about good food and cultural traditions. Conversations were originally sparked by what one person or another had brought into the LBJ building for lunch. These conversations resulted in sharing, learning, and often good-naturedly teasing each other about which person might know more than the other about food, cooking, and eating well.

Eventually, a group of about seven to ten faculty and FMS staff members ended up going to lunch together at some of Rochester's Soul Food restaurants from time to time.

From the very beginning, JB was a leader of the luncheon crowd. What began as informal, impromptu gatherings of FMS staff and a mix of faculty from several departments sharing their cultural cuisines subsequently became an annual luncheon open to all faculty and staff.

As the event grew, JB enlisted the help of several individuals to assist with organizing the event. Eventually, the President's and Dean's offices were asked to provide financial support.

They graciously provided space and funding for drinks and some of the food, although potluck dishes have always been the hallmark of the lunches. In 1995, the event was named the NTID Faculty/Staff Cultural Diversity Potluck Luncheon.

An early version of the expanded luncheon was a warm-weather outdoor cookout in the LBJ courtyard—the area that is now the Dyer Arts Center—where NTID faculty and staff prepared and grilled food for more than 70 attendees. When the courtyard was closed, the event moved indoors and became an annual event during the month of February.



Cookout chefs, NTID Courtyard, 1996



Gail Gabriel



JB and Nate Dillon



Bary Siegel



Hope Williams

Eventually, the name changed to the *Black History Month Luncheon*, after which time JB added formal presentations featuring guest speakers. Speakers have included local artists, entrepreneurs, and educators. Posters, photos, and historically-accurate PowerPoint slides were incorporated, depicting African Americans who have made significant contributions to society.



Rev. Myra Brown, 2019

Through the years, several FMS supervisors have been excellent about supporting the luncheon and allowing staff members to set up, participate in, and break down the event. The NTID administration and staff from the President's and Dean's offices have also been wonderful in cosponsoring the event. The potluck lunch celebrating Black History Month is still organized by JB and occurs annually in February. The most recent event had more than 100 attendees.

Event Flyers 2014-2019



Potluck Lunch in SDC 1300 February 12th — 11:30 - 1:30



Guest Speaker — Curtis Rivers - owner of Mood Makers Books an Independent African American bookstore.

 $\label{eq:JTReid} \textit{Mill} share a video of MLK's "I have a dream..." speech in American Sign Language.$

NTID will provide beverages and paper products. Admission is a favorite dish to pass. To support the pass contact Anthony Concessi at a place due to indicate what your dish will be (e.g., bot/cold entrée, side dish, dessert, etc.), and whether you need an electrical outlet.

Host - JB (FMS)





February 24th — 11:30 - 1:00

SDC 1300



Guest Speaker Roderick McEwen-Jones

NTID will provide beverages and paper products. Admission is a favorite dish to pass.
To sign up, please contact Pam G@rit.edu to indicate what your dish will
be (e.g. hot/cold entrée, side dish, dessert, etc.), and whether you need an electrical outlet.

Host - JB (FMS)

Potluck Lunch Celebrating Black History Month

Tuesday, February 23rd 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. SDC-1300/1310



I was not aware of my artistic abilities until my sophomore year of high school. Neither diswing nor taking pictures was a hobby of mine. It was a self-portrait I created in school that awakened my love for art. I was supposed that my diswing.

that awakened my love for art. I was surprised that my drawing was surprised that my drawing was surprised that my drawing family. Seeing the drawing, my mother asked if I add draw a portrait of my uncle who was suffering in cancer. I worried that I would not do a good job, tray mother's faith give me confidence. Creating it drawing of my suncle allowed me to nealize the joy is dut zan Johon Lobber. I file! I now me courspect in

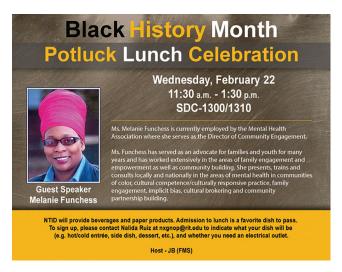
Guest Speaker Illustrator Johnnie Lee Smith

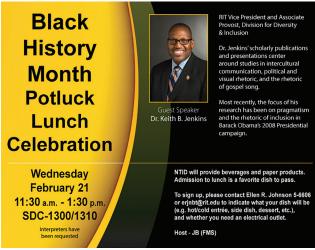




NTID will provide beverages and paper products. Admission to lunch is a favorite dish to pass. To sign up, please contact pignop@rit.edu to indicate what your dish will be (e.g., hot/cold entrée, side dish, dessert, etc.), and whether you need an electrical outlet.

Host - JB (FMS)







Rev. Myra Brown

Myra Brown is an Associate Pastor at Spiritus Christi Church of Rochester, NY in ministry for 25 years. She holds a BA in Religion and Social Justice and was trained in anti-ractim work through the Crossroads organization in 2005.

POTLUCK Lunch Celebrating Black History Month

Conversations for Change

Nyes as and many zero, justice versioning and amin-entire trainings for regional and soos groups youth and offer national organizations across the country in places like Massachusetts, Florida, Ohio, Penneylvania, Nebroika, California and Nilwaskee.

Myra issult a essilion of partners at Sportius Clerati Chemb, caled ERAE, Cipirins Chemb, Ante Nacion Coastono unclosing them is local insure reporting entertural resum Myra for note than 12 years has worked with groups of organization, which solicided inclosed interest, colleges, innovember, faith committee, labor sounds, sureorganization, asseal justices, and political groups, to ord their entrigent assets in her allity to local and engage diversa organization, asseal justices, and political groups, to ord their entrigent assets in her allity to local and engage diversa to the control of the con

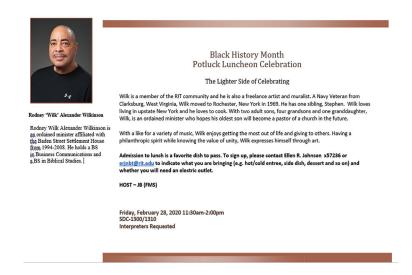
NTD will provide beverage and paper products. Admission to hinch is a favorite dish to pass. To sign uplease contact Ellen R. Johnson 5-2256 or eripidifficted to indicate what your dish will be (e.g. hot/co andrés, side dish, dessect, etc.) and whether you will need an shortizel outlet.

HOST—JB (FMS)

Thursday, February 7, 2019 11:30am-2:00pm SDC-1300/1310 JB has enlisted an impressive lineup of presenters over the years:

- 2012 Dr. Gretchen Mims, JB's daughter
- 2013 Dr. Charlotte LV Thoms, associate professor, NTID
- **2014** Curtis Rivers, owner of Mood Makers Books; JT Reid, sr. admissions counselor, NTID: Martin Luther King, Jr. video presentation
- 2015 Roderick McEwen-Jones, Facilities Management Services staff, local minister
- 2016 Johnnie Lee Smith, illustrator, local artist
- 2017 Melanie Funchess, director of Community Engagement, Mental Health Association
- 2018 Dr. Keith Jenkins, vice president and associate provost for Diversity and Inclusion, RIT
- 2019 Rev. Myra Brown senior pastor, Spiritus Christi Church

The 2020 luncheon will feature Rodney "Wilk" Alexander Wilkinson: an ordained minister, Navy veteran, freelance artist, and muralist.



Also featured will be a dance performance by NTID students, under the direction of Thomas Warfield, senior lecturer for NTID's Department for Performing Arts. Warfield is a world-renowned dancer, singer, actor, choreographer, director, producer, educator, activist, and poet.