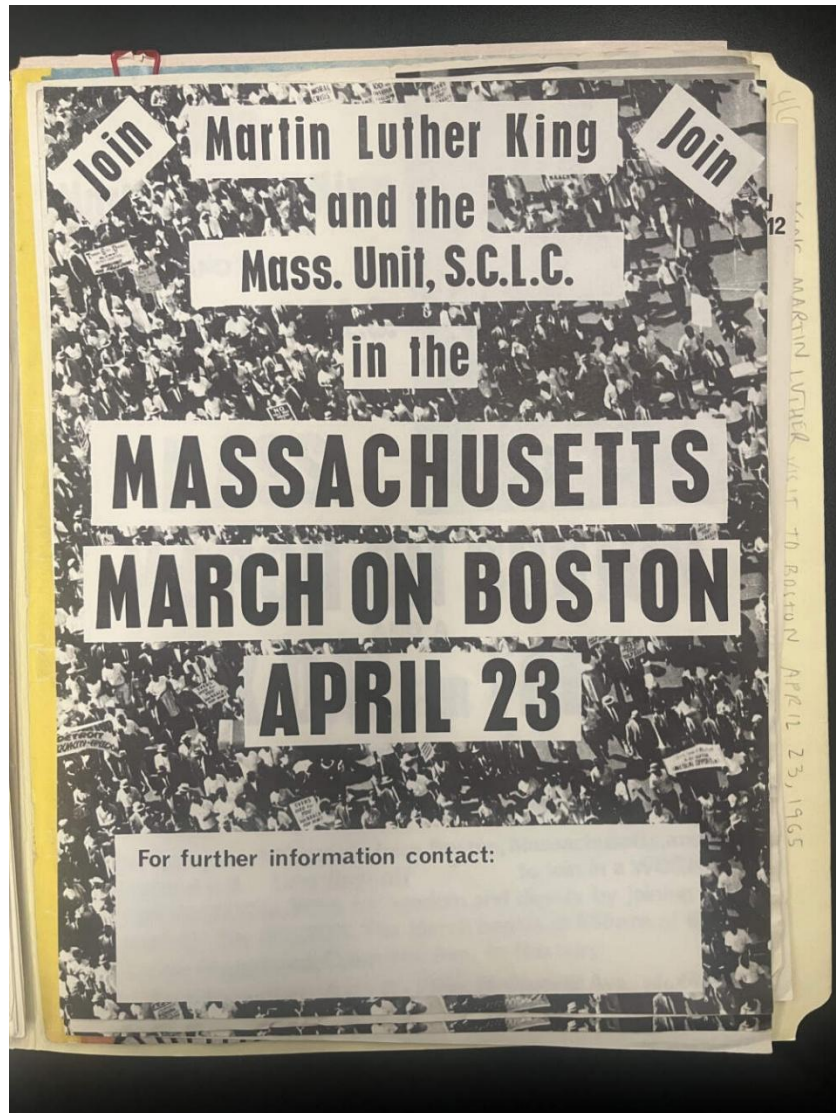


Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Concert
Are We Really Making Progress in the Area of Race Relations?
ABCL's Black History Portrait Banners Concert



Flyer for Freedom March and Rally, April 23, 1965

(Courtesy Northeastern University Archives via Arielle Gray/WBUR)

[Organizers to mark MLK Jr.'s 1965 Freedom Rally in Boston with march of their own | The Common](#)

Narration by Katrina Jones-Lewis

Music by Brother Dennis and Friends

Sunday, January 18, 2026
2 PM



The Black History Project of Lexington

At

Follen Church, 755 Massachusetts Ave, Lexington, MA 02420

Association of Black Citizens of Lexington
presents

Are We Really Making Progress in the Area of Race Relations?

Jonathan Suber..... ABCL President
Aniece Ragland Kerr.....ABCL Historical and Cultural Events Committee Chair
Sean D. Osborne.....ABCL Historian & Concert Production Manager
Atticus Colon.....Youth Usher
Sage Colon.....Youth Usher

Brother Dennis and Friends – Featured Artists

Woke Up This Morning with My Mind Stayed on Freedom

Welcome Jonathan Suber
Occasion Katrina Jones-Lewis

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Reading

Nicholas Lawrence..... *I Look at the World* by Langston Hughes

Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Round

Recitation of *Address to the Two Houses of the General Court of Massachusetts on 22 April 1965*

Josephine Lawrence.....Dr. King led the Freedom March and Rally in Boston on April 23, 1965

Everybody Wants Freedom

Go Tell It on the Mountain by Fannie Lou Hamer

Oh, Freedom

I'm on my Way to Freedom Land

Remembering the Early Years of Boston's MLK Day Breakfast

Aniece Ragland Kerr.....recruited from Atlanta, GA to be a school librarian in Brookline, MA

Keep Your Eye on the Prize

Closing Katrina Jones-Lewis

Freedom by Jon Batiste

Lift every voice and sing

BY JAMES WELDON JOHNSON

A group of young men in Jacksonville, Florida, arranged to celebrate Lincoln's birthday in 1900. My brother, J. Rosamond Johnson, and I decided to write a song to be sung at the exercises. I wrote the words and he wrote the music. Our New York publisher, Edward B. Marks, made mimeographed copies for us, and the song was taught to and sung by a chorus of five hundred colored school children.

Shortly afterwards my brother and I moved away from Jacksonville to New York, and the song passed out of our minds. But the school children of Jacksonville kept singing it; they went off to other schools and sang it; they became teachers and taught it to other children. Within twenty years it was being sung over the South and in some other parts of the country. Today the song, popularly known as the Negro National Hymn, is quite generally used.

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 fathers 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.

Source: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/46549/lift-every-voice-and-sing>

Ideas on How to Build Upon the Legacy of Boston's Freedom March

- Work with the Massachusetts Partnership for Diversity in Education (MPDE) and your school district to recruit, support, and promote Black faculty and staff, <https://www.wearempde.org/>
- Take action to improve local voter access with the NAACP Mystic Valley Area Branch, <https://www.mva-naacp.org/>
- Work with the Massachusetts Fair Housing Center to eliminate illegal housing discrimination in Middlesex County, <https://massfairhousing.org/>
- Support NAACP Legal Defense Fund's LDF's Black Voters on the Rise project, <https://voting.naacpldf.org/>

Follen Responds to Racism

ABCL is grateful to Margaret Micholet and the Follen Responds to Racism Committee for supporting today's concert.

ABCL Scholarship Program

Proceeds from ABCL's Black History Portrait Banners Concert fund ABCL's scholarship program. For more information on the college scholarships send an email to admin@abcllex.org.

Volunteers

We are grateful to ABCL's wonderful volunteers for their time, energy, and commitment. Please thank a volunteer today!

Black History Project of Lexington Donors

ABCL is extremely grateful for the assistance of the Turner 15 Challenge Donors – individuals and organizations who made significant contributions to the Black History Project of Lexington. Their financial contributions and those of other donors fund ABCL's Black History Portrait Banners, Oral and Visual History Project of Lexingtonians of African Descent, and ABCL's Black Heritage Trail of 18th Century Lexington.

Upcoming ABCL Events

- ❖ Thursday, April 9, 2026 – **4th Black History Project of Lexington Banner Unveiling Ceremony**
- ❖ Saturday, July 11, 2026 – **6th Annual Quock Walker Day Hike for Freedom and 6th Annual Quock Walker Day Community Celebration** at Visitors Center Lawn

Keep in Touch

- ❖ www.abcllex.org
- ❖ Instagram: @abcl.2026
- ❖ Facebook: ABCLexMa

