



Feb. 1, 2023 – Zoom Meeting, 12:15

President Megan welcomed everyone to the Rotary Club of Dover

Thanks to Harry C. for picking up lunch.

Program: Terry John Robinson- Black Heritage Trail Marketing Specialist

Bio: Robinson founded and runs a creative agency called TSTMNT, under which he has released numerous fashion collections and more recently a genre-bending rap album, Monolith. As a community organizer and activist, he has used his platforms to further the progress of people of color by working with the NAACP and the MLK Commission of Florida and has won numerous awards for his efforts including the 2012 Rosa Parks Legacy Awards, 2014 MLK Oratorical Award, and the 2015 Pleasant Street Historical Society Legacy Award. He currently attends the School of The Art Institute of Chicago studying fashion design and Architecture.

In his presentation, Robinson said he is "Bringing Black History out of the Shadows" through local programs, tours ,exhibits, research, and their new office at 222 Court Street in Portsmouth. It is through programs, tours, celebrations, and conferences, they can bring the Black Heritage to the forefront of our communities.

- * Tea Talk Series
- * Spring Teacher's Symposium
- * Summer Guided Tours
- * Juneteenth Celebration
- * Fall Black New England Conference

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Meetings:

Feb. 8 Dover's Vision Ambassadors Program

Guests: Terry Robinson - Black Heritage Trail of NH and Betsey - guest of Cindy I.

Pledge: Jonathan N.

4-Way Test: Malcolm M.

Today's newsletter authored by Melissa L.

Their main purpose is to raise appreciation by sharing black history information gathered through research in a fair and just way. Look at the exposing of the African Burial Ground in Portsmouth in 2003 where 13 coffins were found and exhumed, revealing people who were formally slaves in the area. Many of the dental records went back to around 1854 when they were part of the Negro Court in Portsmouth. They estimated about 200 people were buried there. A statue at the site was designed by artist, who focused on Mother Africa; the hands do not touch, yet they have a connection and it shows that they were taken away from their families.

Over the past 20 years their research conducted across the state expanded to different regions and is now named the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire. The towns that they focused on were Portsmouth, Greenland, Dover, Newmarket, Exeter, Lee, Windham, Concord, Milford, Nashua, Jaffrey, Keene, Andover, Warner, Henniker, Canaan, and Gorham. They were able to find many historic items from some of the descendants and soon there will be a 101 Objects project coming to Portsmouth.

In Newmarket, Wentworth Cheswell was the first known African American to be elected to public office. There is a marker located near where he lived and worked near downtown Newmarket. In Milford, Harriet E. Wilson, novelist, was recognized as a self-taught black woman, who became free and then had the opportunity to publish and sell her book. It was a dangerous feat, yet she moved forward and persevered with the resilience of others. She also patented "hair product" bottles that will be displayed at the Black Heritage Trail office in the near future. Her statue is located in Milford, NH

In Andover, Richard Potter celebrated celebrity. His marker is permanent and cannot be erased. In Canaan, NH, there is Noyes Academy where they taught blacks how to read and write. When this was found out, the locals burned down the buildings because they did not want to see blacks teaching. Similar to the 1960's era. Other black history showed that Henry Highland Garnet & Alexander Crumwell both promoted education.

In Greenland, NH, Ona Marie Judge was known for her history of running away from George Washington. She was very pivotable in what happened in Portsmouth with the Whipple and Langdon families. One can take part in tours available in Portsmouth with actors playing the past black history figures. It is about enticing the younger generation and her book "Never Caught". They have since found pieces of her gravestone.

In Newport, NH, Coit Mountain has been a site where more black history was found. In the research, they discovered many of the jobs by these black workers were the severe tasks. Throughout NH, the areas split into regions to mapping out Black History, including Great North Woods, Lakes Region, White Mountains, Seacoast, Merrimack Valley, Dartmouth & Lake Sunapee, and Monadnock Region.

Wording is intentional to the person when it comes to plaques and markers. Robinson invites the community to participate. They have reached out to the communities to see if they would help with half of the costs and they contribute the rest. Educating the community is the main purpose of the statues and plaques. They want to make sure history gets told the right way.

BHTNH works with 40-50 volunteers, employees and board members. People from all walks of life. They work to be inclusive in our community by providing more education and teaching others how to grow past racial issues amongst each other. Robinson lives in NH, a predominantly white state. He and the organization asks us to put ourselves in the shoes of others not like "us". Come as you are and we want to have a conversation with you. Create more inclusive communities. Art and mural projects are in the forefront and they love working with teachers and students. They hope to continue to offer scholarships for those to attend the Black Heritage conference.

Q+A

1. Where are you fundraising for Dover? Still working on the application process. Have not started fundraising - about \$6,000 for each plaque. Received a grant from UNH.
2. Where are the markers going to be in Dover? Pinehill Cemetery, outside the gate of the entrance. Want to make sure it is accessible to everyone. Unveiling ceremony.

2023 Elinor Williams Hooker Tea Talk Series: Bringing It Back- Conversations We Still Need – Hosted by the Black Heritage Trail of NH

Sundays, February 5 - March 12, 2023 | 2:00 PM

<https://blackheritagetrailnh.org/elinor-williams-hooker-tea-talks-2023/>

Announcements:

Willard Warming Center is looking for meal donations. Sign up at <https://signup.com/go/xaWRjPB>

Bingo report: Last week we hosted 113 players and sold 28 boxes, totaling over 100 boxes for the month of January. Sign-up via the February link if you're able to

help: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F49AEAF22AAF5C61-february1>

We sent out the Bingo letter to form teams each Bingo night.

Rotary Club of Dover, England would like to extend a further invitation to any member of your club. It is a long way to come, but on the weekend of June 23rd, 24th, and 25th, they have their Centenary Ball. It will be a weekend of Fellowship as they will be joined by their Tripartite clubs from German and France. Should any of our club members be heading to England, they invite us to come and join them, as they will be holding a Black-Tie Masquerade Ball on that Saturday evening with entertainment by Ray Lewis and the Drifters. Any questions email Roger Knight at r.k@rkgraphics.co.uk

Foundation Committee:

District Grants are granted from each dollar our clubs send to the District, half will then come back for clubs to use back with those clubs that apply for the District Grants. With this year's theme being Imagine Rotary - imagine a project that you are passionate about and that you would like to bring to the table and let's see what we can come up with (average grant is \$4,000).

Foundation Basics Informational Zoom Meeting - Tuesday, Feb. 7 - Zoom Meeting - starting at 7 pm
ZoomLink: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87055138945?pwd=VmVPU21vQW5XNUZtdFpBY1VGaUJSz09>

International Committee - Monday, Feb. 6 at 6 pm via Zoom - status of things in Mexico and possible projects in Liberia. Contact Gregg D. if interested in joining the Zoom meeting.

Happy Bucks:

Nancy B. \$10 - Because she is happy

Jim M. \$2 - Thank you Terry Robinson, one of the best speakers and wife had one eye cataract and another next week, yet he is still wearing glasses

Kathy F. \$1- Maine Choral - high school singers will be all jazzed up

Jim V. \$5 - There is plenty of the Dover Booster swag from City Hall, buttons, recycle the plastic bags, for the Lions club in South Berwick collecting covers of the water bottles to build benches, for Terry Robinson for his presentation, and going to Utah next month with his sons.

Cindy I. \$1- Thank you to Terry Robinson for his talk, no one did their hair better than Ona Judge

Gregg D. \$2 - Vaccine after 3 years have COVID and getting over it now

50/50 drawing for \$97 - Melissa had the winning ticket, no go as picked the 9 of Diamonds

February Birthdays:

Kathryn L. Feb. 15

February Anniversary:

Kristin S. 7 years

Naila A. 3 years