

THE CLARION

100

years of
Black History Month



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My name is Adinai Bekbolotova, and I am an international student from Kyrgyzstan, a country located in Central Asia. I am majoring in (visual communication) graphic design and have an interest in marketing; where creativity, strategy, inspiration and storytelling come together. Outside of classes, I'm enjoying cooking, following trends, listening to music and drawing. My journey has not been easy. There were moments of uncertainty, loneliness, fear and doubt. However, I think and believe the growth starts exactly where comfort ends. Through challenges, I will continue to open new perspectives, goals and possibilities.
-Adinai Bekbolotova (Dia)

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Letter from the Editor

Hello Tartans. Spring is on the horizon and as we push through February the new year and new semester begin to lose their luster.

But this does not warrant a loss of ambition or motivation. February may be the shortest month, but it is also packed full of different events and celebrations.

I've been told before that I am too reflective in these letters. But now that I am into my last semester at Sinclair I feel that I cannot really help it.

Everything is going great, but somehow I am plagued with a feeling of missing what I haven't yet lost.

Part of the problem of constantly looking ahead is that there is always a sense of waiting on something to happen, whether it be a bad thing to come or a good thing to end.

My classes have been off to a smooth start. From the content to the teachers and classmates, I find myself with some kind of eagerness to get to class and to tackle the day.

However, I know that after this semester ends, my time here at Sinclair and at the Clarion will be done.

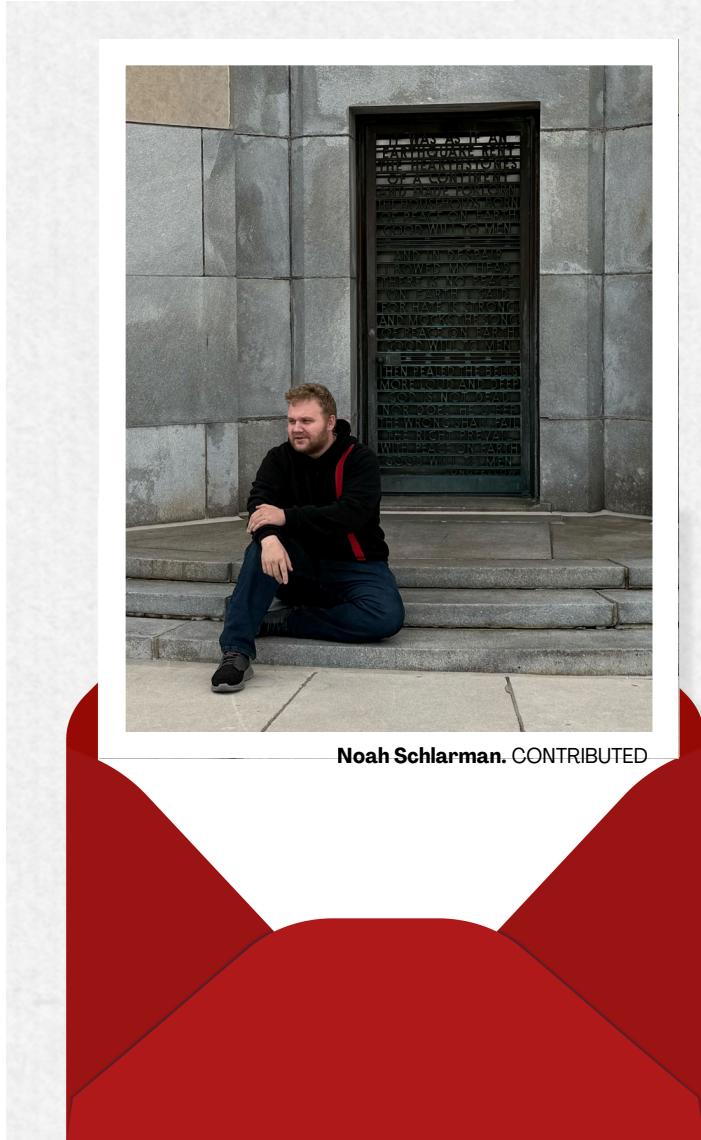
There were ups and downs to my experience here, but I didn't realize that throughout the bumps and turns, I spent so much time focusing on keeping my arms and feet inside the car that I didn't notice it is almost over.

I never understood what old people cared about their legacy for, but now I feel like I am starting to.

When you put time and work into something you feel passionate about, it becomes a part of your identity. You want to leave a piece of you behind, to let people that come after know that you were here once.

While it's easy to get wrapped up in the bitter part of a bittersweet moment, you have to move forward. This place was always meant to be a steppingstone for any student here, and while the two years here is relatively a small blip in the grand scheme of things, its impactful.

When a student leaves this place, whether it was a four-year BSN program or a semester long certificate program, they leave a tartan.



Noah Schlarman. CONTRIBUTED

I will always value my time at Sinclair and will consider myself a tartan for the rest of my life. This place opened so many doors, introduced me to so many people and exposed me to a life I thought I could not have.

I know that it is up to me to take it further, the knowledge I have gained from Sinclair is not the success itself, but rather the tools to help achieve the success I am looking for.

Sinclair is a steppingstone, and the paths it leads to are only limited by our own determination and persistence.

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5 Lesser-Known Black History Facts

These Black history moments are no less noteworthy

Hannah Kichline, multimedia editor

Black History Month went through significant changes before it became what it is today. Carter G. Woodson is one of the people most responsible for its creation, after working for most of his life to promote the advancements of Black people post-emancipation.

The yearly commemoration was first called "Negro History Week" and centered around days that were already prominent in Black culture: Frederick Douglass' and Abraham Lincoln's birthdays. Over time, the week shifted to a month full of memorials and celebrations, becoming official in 1976.

Despite the yearly festivities, there is plenty of information that is largely forgotten or ignored in mainstream teaching. Following are five facts that Tartans may not have learned about Black history.

1.) Ohio is home to one of the country's first historically Black colleges, Wilberforce University. Both the institution and the city it resides in are named after William Wilberforce, a British abolitionist.

One of the university's noteworthy alumni was James H. McGee, who became Dayton's first Black mayor and held the office from 1970 to 1982. When he first arrived in Dayton, it seemed unthinkable that a Black man would be elected, but to this day he remains the city's longest-serving mayor.

2.) Gil Scott-Heron and Stevie Wonder were largely responsible for establishing Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday as a holiday. In 1980, the musicians teamed up to perform 40 shows in less than five months to drum up support.

It became the greatest petition-led event in U.S. history at the time, earning six million signatures before it was passed. Scott-Heron described the achievement as America going "kicking and screaming into its reality."

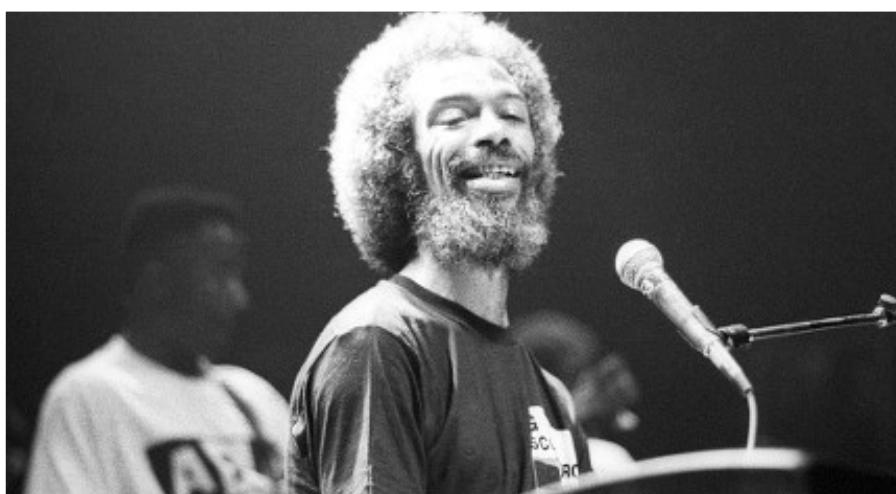
3.) The inventor of adjustable menstrual pads was an African American woman named Mary Beatrice Davidson Kenner. Up until that point,

people were using cloth pads and rags. That changed when Kenner created an improved "belt" that protected much better against leaking accidents.

At the time, applying for a patent was illegal for Black women. However, Kenner remained a lifelong inventor and was able to patent her creation in 1959.



Shirley Chisholm on the campaign trail. U.S. CAPITOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Gil Scott-Heron. SHUTTERSTOCK

"Listicle" continued on page 7

"Listicle" continued from page 6

Bass Reeves, the first Black U.S. deputy marshal.

NMAAHC.SI.EDU

"As deputy marshal, Bass Reeves is said to have arrested more than 3,000 people and killed 14 outlaws, all without sustaining a single gun wound."

- History.com

4.) Many, if not most, cowboys of the "Wild West" were Black. The stories from this time are surrounded by myths and glamor, but "cowboy" was not always a desirable title. Many enslaved and formerly-enslaved Black men were put to work minding ranches and pushing westward for U.S. citizens to settle.

It's even heavily rumored that the inspiration for the Lone Ranger was Bass Reeves, the first Black commissioned U.S. deputy marshal west of the Mississippi River.

5.) Shirley Chisholm was the first Black woman to run for president, all the way back in 1972. She was ultimately unable to secure the Democratic bid, but served as the country's first Black Congresswoman and paved the way for a generation of young Black women to get into politics.

On a blazing campaign trail, Chisholm sued to be included in televised debates and even survived three assassination attempts. During her tenure as congresswoman, Chisholm made a name for herself as independent and unwilling to bend to pressure. After her tenure, she was nominated as the U.S. ambassador to Jamaica by President Bill Clinton, but declined the position due to poor health.

While many stories of Black History Month focus on struggle and perseverance, that is not all there is. The stories of innovation, discovery and progression are just as important as the stories of overcoming oppression. Black history is living, constantly evolving and will only become richer as time goes on.



Martin Luther King Jr. INTERNET ARCHIVE BLOGS

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Building 11, 3rd floor hallway**



Tartan Spotlight

Furaha Henry-Jones promotes connection and community, across the classroom and across the globe

Hannah Kichline, multimedia editor



Furaha Henry-Jones on a boat from Cape Town to Robben Island, South Africa. CONTRIBUTED



[Founding the Ubuntu Study Abroad program] is the thing that I'm most proud of, that I've done here at Sinclair."
- Furaha Henry-Jones

Furaha Henry-Jones is the definition of a polymath. She is a writer, poet, parent and community leader, but thinks of herself as a teacher first.

"I teach and I write," she said. "I write mainly for myself and figuring out how to move through the world."

She began at Sinclair 20 years ago after already working extensively with youth. She taught for 12 years at Kettering Fairmont High School before starting at the college, and was a founding staff member at Mound Street Academies, an alternative school for young adults in downtown Dayton.

"That was kind of cool to be part of starting a school from scratch," she said. "My students were taking some Sinclair classes, and that's how I became more familiar with Sinclair."

Henry-Jones wears many hats at the college. She primarily teaches English Composition; once a year offers African American Literature; leads projects through Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL); and takes special enjoyment in her role as advisor for the African American Students Association (AASA).

"[AASA] are a really eclectic group of folks," she said. "They embody everything I want to be when I grow up."

Henry-Jones also serves on the leadership team of the Internationalization Lab and co-founded the Ubuntu Study Abroad Program with Professor Faheem Curtis-Khidr.

"It's the thing that I'm most proud of, that I've done here at Sinclair," she said.

Henry-Jones has experienced the benefits of going abroad since she studied in Spain at a young age. As part of the program she has led groups of students on trips to Ireland and South Africa, where they gain valuable insight into how many similarities they share with citizens of other countries.

"Interestingly, the very first time I left the United States was the first time that I felt American," she said. "As a Black person in the United States, so much of the history and the experiences that I had were alienating... It still felt like, okay, am I really from here? Do I really belong here?"

The name of the study-abroad program comes from the South African word Ubuntu, meaning "I am because you are." Henry-Jones first heard the words from her South African neighbors in Kettering, and compares it to the "agape" love that Martin Luther King Jr. often spoke about.

"Spotlight" continued on page 9

“Spotlight” continued from page 8

“I didn’t really get it until I was actually in South Africa,” she said. “Even though there was a lot of conflict between people in terms of understanding, culture, etc., there was a deep caring for each other and a really deep understanding that everything I do affects the people around me, and what you do affects me.”

This spirit of interconnectedness resonates especially with Henry-Jones due to her upbringing. Her mother grew up in the segregated South while her father was raised in Illinois and Minnesota, and both were committed to educating her about Black history and culture.

“They both had experiences through the Civil Rights Movement and that time of America, that really informed me about how much I want people to work together,” she said.

Henry-Jones’ approach to teaching African American Literature is directly influenced by this education.

“When I teach my African American [Literature] class, I start off with song lyrics and oral works,” she said. “I think the storytelling and the passing of ideas by mouth is really, really important.”

The tradition of African American literature has been transforming for centuries. Henry-Jones said that the subject of what to include within this category has been highly debated and has room for nuance.

“If it’s a love story and it’s not about anything other than being Black and alive, do I include it? I think yes,” she said. “I think all those things are part of the experience. But depending on where we are in the time periods, particularly the more difficult life is for Black people in the United States, the more our writing is geared towards specific ideas. So slave narratives are prominent during slavery, you know? Now we have Afrofuturism and many ideas, because we have a lot more freedom, freedom to imagine and to be.”

Outside of Sinclair, Henry-Jones is looking ahead to personal passion projects throughout 2026.

“I want to publish a book, a collection of my poetry, because I haven’t done that yet,” she said. She was part of Dayton’s first poetry slam more than 25 years ago and has given performances and TedX Talks featuring her work. “I have lots and lots of poetry and lots of ideas.”

Henry-Jones is also hoping to facilitate a series of gatherings or workshops under the theme of “Unhushed,” allowing people to open up and express their ideas and identities.

There are countless ways to connect with Henry-Jones on and off campus. She will be teaching African American Literature over spring semester and always continuing to encourage students to think outside the box, collaborate with each other and be true to themselves.

I want to publish a book, a collection of my poetry... I have lots and lots of poetry and lots of ideas.”

- Furaha Henry-Jones

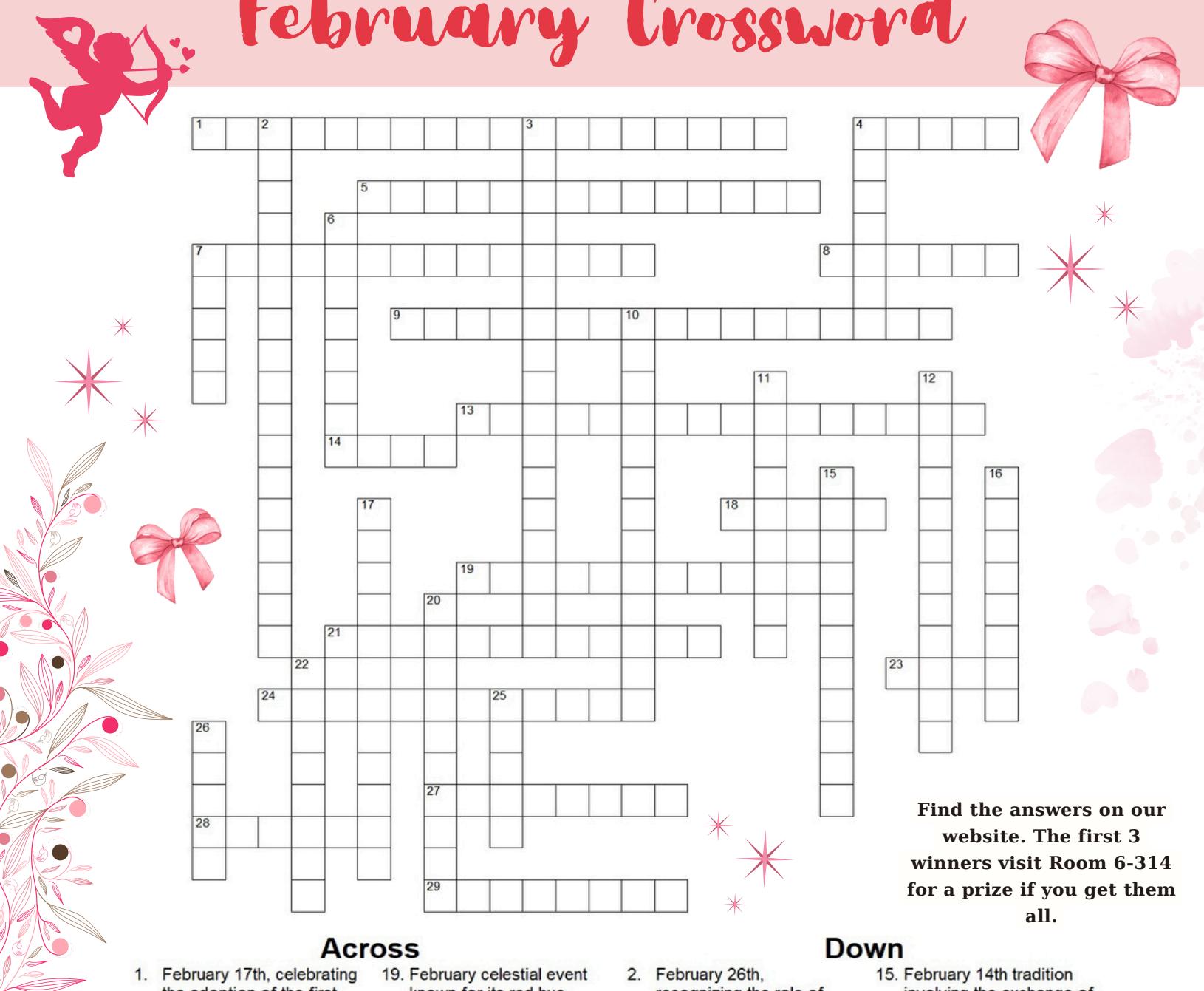


Henry-Jones said the first time she left the U.S. was the first time she felt American. ADOBE STOCK

Find study-abroad opportunities for 2026 on Sinclair’s website.



February Crossword



Across

1. February 17th, celebrating the adoption of the first electric streetcar
4. Birthstone alternative for February
5. Shakespearean play with a famous balcony scene
7. Famous composer born on February 7, 1812
8. Traditional flower associated with February
9. Traditional February activity with red and pink cards
13. Famous U.S. president born on February 22nd
14. Traditional February bird associated with love and courtship
18. Cupid's weapon
19. February celestial event known for its red hue
21. February 2nd tradition predicting early spring or more winter
23. Roman god associated with February
24. February 24th, recognizing the importance of educators
27. Birthstone of February
28. Annual awards ceremony honoring outstanding film achievements
29. Zodiac sign for most of February

Down

2. February 26th, recognizing the role of fairies in literature and folklore
3. February event celebrating the history and achievements of African Americans
4. Love symbolized by a red heart
6. February weather condition characterized by heavy snowfall
7. Traditional February dish often made with beans
10. Romantic holiday
11. Traditional February dessert with a cherry filling
12. Traditional February beverage associated with warmth
15. February 14th tradition involving the exchange of romantic messages
16. Birth flower associated with February
17. February phenomenon involving the alignment of the sun, Earth, and an object in space
20. Roman festival in February dedicated to the god of purification
22. Second month of the year
25. February weather phenomenon with frozen rain
26. Winter constellation visible in February

The Clarion's Poetry Corner

A collection of submissions from the Clarion staff

I Jumped Willingly

I didn't sign up for just the sunny days,
I prepared for the torrents of icy fights and teary pain.
Surpassed all of those stronger men you'd blown astray,
Some told me to turn back and said I'd gone insane.
My intentions were deliberate every step along the way,
But when I reached the peak of your temporary summit.

You led me to a cliff where you told me to leap,
Said evil things like love demands me to commit,
So passion flung me onto the stronger men's heap.
Sometimes I think about how your love is killing me
But remember that I jumped from that ledge willingly.

-Noah Schlarman

Untitled

The body of traitors was weak
Broken and humbled at Petersburg
Yet despite the failure of the flesh
The spirit was allowed to endure
Emboldened by undeserved mercy
They dragged progress to a halt
Restoring chains and blood
While denying all fault
The nation moved forward
Yet this spectre clung and remained
A full reckoning is long overdue
For this poisonous source of pain

-Erik Larson

A mother's broken heart

As a young woman of 16 with no idea of what to expect I enter the labor and delivery unit. The smell of antiseptics is overwhelming. The loud beeping of the monitors is unsettling. I look up to a bright light as the doctor says, "It is time to push." A few pushes later I am handed a 6 lb. 11 ounce baby girl. Scared, tired and sore, I look down falling in love.

Motherhood is a job that comes with no instruction manual. Yet society holds moms to unrealistic expectations. We work too much or not enough. We are overbearing or non-existent. The good moments are never remembered, just the mistakes. At 16 I should have been playing with Barbie's instead I was preparing to give birth to my daughter. Only to be forgotten about 16 years later. Cancelled, disowned, and symbolically replaced. The stretch marks and broken heart are all that's left.

-Marisa Swort

There is still love in this world

I've kissed many lips before
But they were never tender as yours
I've stared at many eyes before
But they didn't have that vision I always searched for
I've hugged many chests before
But only yours made my heartbeat slower
I thought I experienced love many times before
But it turns out I did not
Until I met you darling
Now life without you would feel like a rose
planted under concrete
It would just never blossom

-Danny Bayasgalan

Submit your own poetry piece
for a chance to be published
next issue.



Clarion Cuisine

Tony & Pete's rightfully won Best Deli in Dayton

Hannah Kichline, multimedia editor

Regular readers of the Clarion Cuisine will know that the reviewers especially like to highlight hidden gems in the Dayton area. This month's feature is certainly a gem, but it's anything but hidden.

In the heart of downtown Dayton on Third Street, Tony & Pete's sandwich shop has skyrocketed in popularity throughout its short run. After opening its doors in July 2022, it won the distinction of "Best Deli/Sandwich Shop in Dayton" in 2025, the first year the category was open since 2021.

The shop consistently gets rave reviews and recommendations online, and it's easy to see why the word-of-mouth following is so strong.

Starting when one walks in the door, the entire design of the restaurant is inviting. Colorful posters and wallpaper lend to the nostalgic layout, which is taken even further by the large portion of the shop devoted to grocery items. Tony & Pete's offers beer and wine as well as cheeses, pickles, a wide variety of sauces and even household basics like laundry detergent and toilet paper.

This gives the feeling that the shop is not just for "grab and go" sandwiches, but somewhere Daytonians can stop in for whatever they may need. It's a clear nod to a classic "mom and pop" deli design without being the least bit alienating.

Sam Hall, front of house manager and catering coordinator, spoke to the intentionality of the shop's design, including the way the staff dresses and presents themselves.

"It's not a character," she said. "It's how we feel and how we identify."

The menu offers a great blend of variety and simplicity. A popular philosophy among family-run shops is to find what works and do it consistently. Tony & Pete's does this very well, while still offering "outside the box" choices for those looking to try something new.

During our visit, we tried the Pete, the Gabagool and the Vegan Cold Cut sandwiches. These three options are vastly different in terms of their ingredients, but not one of them lacked in taste or quality. From the first bite, we were hooked by the freshness and obvious care taken to craft each sandwich.

The Pete has a tomato jam and chili oil that lend some sweet heat, especially in the aftertaste. The Gabagool's vinegar added a tangy bite, while the pesto balanced it beautifully. The Vegan Cold Cut also did not disappoint, with thin strips of marinated tofu and zesty vegetables that really brought it to life.

As delightful as these choices were, there is much more to explore on the menu. According to Hall, the most popular items are the Tony, the Midwest Italian and the Turkey Pesto.

We also tried their Tuscan Kale soup of the day and a side of pasta salad. Again, these were phenomenal, almost to the point of overshadowing the main course. The soup was so flavorful and loaded with potatoes and sausage, while the pasta salad was creamy and satisfying without being too heavy.



Exterior of Tony & Pete's. HANNAH KICHLINE



Grocery shelves inside the sandwich shop. HANNAH KICHLINE



Sam Hall, front of house manager and catering coordinator. HANNAH KICHLINE

"Cuisine" continued on page 13

“Cuisine” continued from page 12

What may surprise readers is that the shop’s namesakes, Tony and Pete, do not run the shop themselves. Rather their children, husband and wife team Justin Simmons and Dayton native Kathleen Roll, own and operate the shop with decades of hospitality experience and a clear family focus.

In a particularly challenging time for local restaurants, many of whom operate on razor-thin margins or have had to close up shop entirely, Tony & Pete’s is actually planning an expansion for this year. Hall said it will incorporate the empty space next door as a “larger, functioning kitchen” to help with catering and online orders.

The larger workspace will also allow the shop to bake and sell their own bread, which deserves a special shout-out. The sandwich bread has the perfect thickness and texture, using a house recipe that is currently baked through a partnership with Dorothy Lane Market.

Overall, I am in the rare position of not having a single complaint about our visit. With enthusiastic service, a welcoming atmosphere and a menu that blends the classic with the creative, Tony & Pete’s has all the signifiers of a longstanding institution on the Dayton culinary scene.



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The Vegan cold cut sandwich with Tuscan kale soup.

HANNAH KICHLINE



The Gabagool cold cut sandwich. NOAH SCHLARMAN

Facts About Tony & Pete’s

- The owners have over 25 years of combined hospitality experience, having worked in Dayton, Chicago and NYC before returning to Dayton.
- They emphasize stocking local brands, including produce, chips (Mikesell’s) and craft beers from local breweries.

Black Excellence at Sinclair

JD Ataji, photographer



Valentine's Day History

The murky origins of the most romantic day of the year

Erik Larson, reporter



The yearly Saint Valentine's Day celebration in Rome. VISITITALY.EU

Valentine's Day is celebrated by millions around the world every year, but unlike other holidays like Halloween or Christmas its exact origins are less clear.

Many believe that it was originally a day honoring Saint Valentine, a man who according to legend illegally ministered to Christians and performed marriage ceremonies for couples before eventually being arrested and beheaded by the Roman Emperor Aurelian.

However, the truth of what happened is hard to determine not only because there are very few records that corroborate the legends about Saint Valentine, but because there are multiple legends that contradict each other.

The main source of the confusion is that there were at least three different historical individuals who were referred to as Saint Valentine, but the details of their respective lives and deaths largely remain a mystery. Some evidence suggests that Valentine's Day wasn't initially about love or romance at all and instead may have merely been a celebration of the advent of spring.

By the 1400s, the tradition of exchanging gifts with someone you considered your "valentine" had been established, though it is unclear if these exchanges were always romantic in nature.

Various Valentine's Day traditions became more common in Europe as the middle ages came to an end and over time it became unambiguously associated with romantic love and couples.

The tradition of exchanging Valentine's Day cards originated in England in the 1700s, and Valentine's Day traditions were likewise common in the US even after the Revolutionary War.

But it wasn't until the 1840s that it began to resemble the holiday that we recognize today.

During the 1700s most cards were hand made, but in the 1800s entrepreneurs like Esther Howland began to mass produce more elaborate cards in large numbers, which in turn greatly increased the popularity of Valentine's Day.

Some joke that Valentine's Day was invented by Hallmark to sell cards, and while that's not strictly accurate there are elements of truth there; given how Valentine's Day cards changed over time from a quaint little tradition to a massive business. Even back in the 1800s there were already complaints about the holiday becoming overly commercialized.

Despite this it is still enjoyed by many as a celebration of romance and love, and there are countless variations that still have the same spirit at heart.

Even in places like China that don't have Valentine's Day they still have their own holiday of love, the Qixi Festival, a roughly equivalent tradition that also celebrates the emotional intimacy people have with each other.



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