

Mélanie Edwards is the granddaughter of the composer of "Lift Every Voice and Sing," J. Rosamond Johnson, and the grandniece of the song's lyricist, James Weldon Johnson. Ms. Edwards has worked in education for 40 years after her mother founded her own private, independent elementary school in 1934 operating until 2000. Ms. Edwards' mother also ran a camp from 1934 until 1962 in Pine Bush, NY. Ms. Edwards is currently working on a biography of her grandfather, J. Rosamond Johnson.