

Jane J. Martin, Educator and Author

Jane J. Martin
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Jane Martin has spent much of her life working with Africans and Americans for African advancement. Her first African experience was in Liberia in 1961. She worked with Liberian teachers and the Ministry of Education as a member of Operation Crossroads Africa. She has been returning to Liberia ever since – most recently for the inauguration of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the first woman president of an African country.

Dr. Martin received her B.A. and Master's degrees from Bryn Mawr College and her Ph.D. degree in African History from Boston University. She taught African History at various institutions of higher learning in the United States as well as at the University of Liberia and the University of Calabar in Nigeria. From 1984 to 1989, she was executive director of the U.S. Educational and Cultural Foundation in Liberia, a binational Fulbright commission. In the 1990s, as Senior Program Officer at the African American Institute in New York City, she directed the Liberian Watch program, and worked with African human rights groups as well as with African women's organizations.

Since her retirement in 1997, she has maintained her connection with and commitment to Liberia and other African developments. As a member of the African Women and Peace Support Group, she was one of the authors of "Liberian Women Peacemakers: Fighting for the Right to Be Seen, Heard and Counted", published in 2004. Dr. Martin is a member of the Board of Trustees of the NGO, Friends of Liberia (FOL). She has also been active in the partnership between Presbyterian churches of Ghana's Brong Ahafo region and the Presbytery of Lackawanna County in Pennsylvania.

Dr. Martin has a long standing interest in African art. In the past, she learned from and worked with curators and programs of African art in Boston, Monrovia, Liberia and Calabar, Nigeria. Currently she is the volunteer curator of African Art at the Everhart

Museum in Scranton, Pennsylvania, where the present African Art exhibit was developed under her direction in 2001-2.