



JANUARY 2021
VOLUME 17 ISSUE 4

CHAPEL HILL TownTalk

Celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Message from Town Manager Maurice Jones

The last year has taken a tremendous toll on our country. The pandemic, racial strife, and the deepening of political polarization in our nation have pushed many of us to the edge while testing the strength of our democratic principles. During these tumultuous times many of us are searching for leadership. A collective leadership,

with folks from both sides of the aisle, that can help bring us out of the darkness and closer together.

“Nonviolence means avoiding not only external physical violence but also internal violence of spirit.”

As we take time once again to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and his enduring legacy, I’m reminded of the qualities that made him one of our



nation's greatest leaders. His faith, his focus, his willingness to speak truth to power, his courage. All were needed as he guided the Civil Rights Movement. But what was equally impressive was Dr. King's deep commitment to forgiveness and love.

Dr. King equated love with nonviolence, which became the bedrock for the movement. He once said, "Nonviolence is absolute commitment to the way of love. Love is not emotional bash; it is not empty sentimentalism. It is the active outpouring of one's whole being into the being of another."

24th Annual Employee Celebration Program

Tune in to the 2021 Martin Luther King, Jr., Employee Celebration at www.townofchapelhill.org, youtube.com/c/chapelhillgov, or facebook.com/chapelhillgov. The program will premiere on these platforms at 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 15.

Welcome/Introduction

Lance Norris, Public Works

History of the Holiday

Town employees

Everybody Clap Your Hands

Chapel Hill Mass Choir

Keynote Address #1 (excerpt)

Former Mayor Howard Lee

The Best is Yet to Come

Chapel Hill Mass Choir

Keynote Address #2 (excerpt)

Principal Coretta Sharpless

Trouble Don't Last Always

Chapel Hill Mass Choir

Manager's Remarks

Town Manager Maurice Jones

Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me

Around

Chapel Hill Mass Choir

And when Dr. King spoke of pouring into others, he was not only referring to family or friends or folks he agreed with politically but those who had done him and others harm. "Nonviolence means avoiding not only external physical
(continued on p 2)

Honoring the Life and Legacy

Principles of Dr. King

Brotherhood

Dr. King preached and practiced a philosophy of racial integration and would not give ground when faced with the call for separatism. He said: "When I speak of integration, I don't mean a romantic mixing of colors, I mean a real sharing of power and responsibility."

Action

Between 1955 and 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. helped change America. He brought to the world's attention how unfairly blacks were treated. He had the help of millions of Americans, but his strong leadership and unprecedented power of speech gave people the faith and courage to keep working peacefully even when others did not.

Justice

Martin Luther King Jr. made it clear that we all share a human and moral responsibility to join hands as brothers and sisters in the quest for social justice. What turned out to be his final protest march was a gathering of striking garbage workers in Memphis, Tenn.

Non Violence

In 1964, Dr. King became the youngest person ever to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. (He was 35.) King promptly announced that he would turn over all of the money he received along with the award (\$54,123) to help advance the civil rights movement.

Morality

"The time is always right to do what is right."
— Martin Luther King Jr.

Documenting Local Stories

In the spring of 2016, the Orange County Training School/Lincoln Alumni Association began a partnership with Chapel Hill Public Library to collect, record, and document stories of the local Black community that had previously been untold.

The methodology is based upon the critical oral histories technique that was developed at the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University. The goal is to amplify history that is accessible, equitable, and relevant to today's world, that centers on the people who lived it.

To hear more from the amazing women of the civil rights movement and to learn about Chapel Hill history, listen to Re/Collecting Chapel Hill, a community history podcast by the Chapel Hill Public Library at ChapelHillHistory.org.



Town Manager's Message

(continued from p 1)

violence but also internal violence of spirit," Dr. King said. "You not only refuse to shoot a man, but you refuse to hate him."

That ability to overcome animosity toward others and seek to pour love into them instead is an understandably difficult feat. Most of us would struggle with forgiving those who have harmed us. Dr. King, who was beaten, jailed, and ultimately killed for his beliefs, spent every moment up until his last breath espousing that power of love and forgiveness. His lesson is as relevant

“...it is incumbent upon us to work toward fulfilling his hope for us as individuals and for all of mankind to reject hatred and embrace love.

today as it was 50 years ago, and it is incumbent upon us to work toward fulfilling his hope for us as individuals and for all of mankind to reject hatred and embrace love.

In Dr. King's words, "Man must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression, and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love."



of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"I Have a Dream" Video:

The Chapel Hill Public Library produced a video of Town employees reciting the words from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. The video is posted on the Town's YouTube and Facebook accounts.

Communications and Public Affairs has provided a documentary about the dedication celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in Chapel Hill on May 8, 2005. Available for online viewing at vimeo.com/chapelhillgov/mlkblvd. For more information, visit townofchapelhill.org/history.

Video from Martin Luther King Jr. Employee Celebrations is on our YouTube channel (youtube.com/c/chapelhillgov).

Learn More

The Chapel Hill Public Library has a wide variety of publications about the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.

Find out more about his life and the Civil Rights Movement through movies, books, eBooks, and audiobooks. You can check things out to take home using the Library's Park and Pick Up service or lockers at University Place or download them to your personal device. Visit the library's website at chapelhillpubliclibrary.org, or ask a librarian for a recommendation. And remember, all Town employees can get a free library card, no matter where they live.



Did You Know?

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday has been observed as a U.S. federal holiday since 1986. Chapel Hill has observed the day as a town holiday since 1984. Chapel Hill was one of the first communities in North Carolina to declare Martin Luther King Jr. Day a municipal holiday.



Chapel Hill Nine Marker Dedication

On Sunday, February 28, 1960, nine young men from Chapel Hill's all-black Lincoln High School sat at a booth in the Colonial Drug Store and sought the same service that was given to white customers. Their courageous step sparked a decade of direct-action civil rights demonstrations in Chapel Hill.

A marker on Franklin Street honoring those nine young men and their actions was dedicated on Feb. 28, 2020.

Learn more about The Chapel Hill Nine at chapelhillhistory.org/civil-rights/the-chapel-hill-nine



Community Honors Dr. King

Community events celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Virtual Youth Panel: "He Had a Dream, Are We Living It?"

1-3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16

Youth groups in Carrboro have planned a virtual youth panel discussion. Celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with this webinar event.

Register: <http://bit.ly/3oFF1CG>



36th Annual MLK Banquet

6 p.m. Sunday, January 17

Tickets: \$20

This year's speaker will be North Carolina Superior Court Judge Carl Fox, the first Black judge in his Orange-Chatham County district. The event will also include Governor Roy Cooper and other special guests.

Register <https://mlkpc-ch.org/>

Supply Drive

9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday, January 18

Wake Up And Read: 1820 Capital Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27604

The Frontier: 800 Park Offices Drive, Research Triangle, NC 27709

Join United Way of the Greater Triangle for a physically-distanced supply drive to support four local nonprofits working overtime to stabilize vulnerable residents during the COVID-19 pandemic: Meals on Wheels Wake County, Urban Ministries of Durham, Inter-Faith Council for Social Services, and Johnston Lee Harnett Community Action.

Drop off supplies in designated collection boxes at either location.

Donations needed: unitedwaytriangle.org/mlk-day-of-service-2021

Annual Service in Commemoration of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: Lift Every Voice for Justice

11 a.m. Monday, Jan 18

This free event will be on Zoom.

The Chapel Hill - Carrboro NAACP commemorates the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with a virtual celebration featuring keynote speaker Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II.

Register: <http://bit.ly/3nDpmm3>

Dream Big MLK Day Book Drive Celebration

12-4 p.m. Monday, Jan. 18

Durham Central Park, 501 Foster Street, Durham

Book Harvest provides books to children who need them and engages families and communities to promote children's lifelong literacy and academic success. The Dream Big celebration is a drive-through this year.

Drop off book donations at Durham Central Park and receive bags with books to take home and keep.

Triangle Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee Interfaith Prayer Breakfast

Monday, Jan. 18

Streaming on WRAL.com 7-9 a.m. Watch live on WRAL at 8 a.m.

Keynote Speaker: Bishop Michael Curry

MLK Lecture and Awards Ceremony

6 p.m. Tuesday, January 26
Virtual

The MLK UNC Scholarship for UNC juniors and MLK Unsung Hero awards will be presented. The keynote speaker will be Patrisse Cullors, social activist, best-selling author of *When They Call You A Terrorist* and co-creator of the viral Twitter hashtag and movement, #BlackLivesMatter.

Register: diversity.unc.edu/programs/mlk/

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