



TOWNtalk

A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

January 2012
Volume 8, No. 5

Special Issue

www.townofchapelhill.org

On the Front Burner



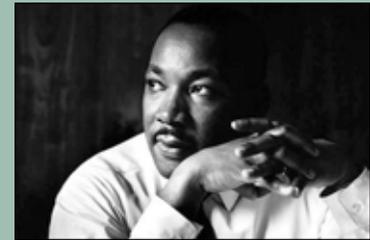
2012 will be the 13th year that employees of the Town of Chapel Hill will observe the Martin Luther King Jr. legacy with a celebration reflecting on Dr. King's principles. This celebration has been nurtured and grown by a dedicated group of Public Works employees led by Maggie Burnett. After consulting with Maggie, I proposed at last year's celebration event at the Town Operations Center that we grow the event to include all departments, working together as a Team to develop ways we can celebrate Dr. King's ideals consistent with our Values of RESPECT.

A committee of people who work for each of our departments has prepared a range of activities to touch many people in different ways. All employees will be invited to participate in a week's worth of activities -- enter a poetry contest, join a reading group or video viewing circle, work on a service team to assist with community improvement, and attend a play about the Rosa Parks story.

The week will culminate with the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Program that is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, January 13, 2012, at Hargraves Recreation Center Gymnasium. All are invited to share our experiences and reflect on their meaning in our lives and community. I am excited about the work our committee has done and look forward to seeing and hearing about others' experiences.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Employee Sharing Event

Continuing the Dream – A Call to Action to Help Make It a Reality ACTIVITIES



Monday, Jan. 9

Group Read – noon to 1 p.m. at Public Works Meeting Room

Video Documentaries – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Public Works Meeting Room

Tuesday, Jan. 10

Group Read – noon to 1 p.m. at Chapel Hill Transit, employee lounge

Video Documentaries – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Public Works Meeting Room

Video Documentaries – 4 p.m., Fire Department Classroom

Wednesday, Jan. 11

Beautification Project – noon to 2 p.m., South Roberson Housing Community

Video Documentaries – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Chapel Hill Transit

Thursday, Jan. 12

Group Read – noon to 1 p.m. at Town Hall, 1st floor conference room

Video Documentaries – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Public Works

Video Documentaries – 4 p.m., Fire Department Classroom

Friday, Jan. 13

MLK Celebration and Employee Sharing Event – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Hargraves Community Center

Video Documentaries – 2 p.m., Fire Department Classroom

Monday, Jan. 16

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Blood Drive, Hargraves Community Center

All employees should check with their supervisors before scheduling service activities during work time. For more details and to register, please see pages 2-3.

CELEBRATION PROGRAM & LUNCH

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 13
Hargraves Center, 216 N. Roberson St.

Welcome – Lance Norris, Public Works Director

Musical Selection – Public Works Ensemble

Cultural Steps and Movement – Rashii Purefoy, Director, Ebony' Soul Strutters

The History of Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration – Maggie Burnett

Poetry in Motion (The Words Project)
Expressions through the Art of Dance – Ebony' Soul Strutters, Hargraves Center

"Why Should I Move?" – Rosa Parks play performed by Chapel Hill Transit

Introduction of Speaker – Brenda Jones

Musical Selection – Public Works Ensemble

The Occasion – Faith Thompson, Chapel Hill 2020 Outreach Coordinator

Reflections of Activities

Committee Remarks – Roger Stancil, Town Manager, and Others

Negro National Anthem – "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Lunch – Following the program, a light lunch of hot dogs and chips will be served.

Employee Activities to Recognize Guiding Principles

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. When he returned to the U.S. from Norway, where had accepted the Nobel award, he led a nonviolent march to promote voter registration that come to be known as the Selma-to-Montgomery Freedom March. More than 25,000 people took part.

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."

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. As famous as he was, Martin Luther King Jr. was not above or below anyone. What turned out to be his final protest march was a gathering of striking garbage workers in Memphis, Tenn. He was there on April 4, 1968, in order to participate in the protest march the next day, when he was shot dead.

Morality

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

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. This led to new laws that ended the practice of keeping people of different backgrounds apart, making life fairer for everyone.



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Melanie Miller

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- **Reading Night:** Police Department employees are organizing Reading Nights at the Hargraves Center from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11. Officers will spend time helping children with their homework. Contact: Jeff Clark, 968-2865

- **Group Reads:** Join fellow employees in reading or listening to excerpts from civil rights and desegregation era oral histories from Chapel Hillians, including some Town employees. The recent history of Martin Luther King Jr. and civil rights is not only to be found in documents, letters or textbooks, but also in the memory of people who witnessed or lived through events.

Group Reads Discussions will be held as brown-bag lunches from noon to 1 p.m. Monday, Jan. 9, at Public Works (admin. meeting room), noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 10, at Chapel Hill Transit (employee lounge), and noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, at Town Hall (first floor conference room). Contact: Maggie Hite (Library) at 932-2947 or mhite@townofchapelhill.org for a link to the text or audio excerpts. Please bring your own memories and stories to share with others or just come to listen and join the discussion.

- **Video Documentaries:** Presentations of videos will be offered that highlight the history of Dr. King, issues of social justice and race relations, and Barack Obama's rise to the presidency.

Public Works will be offering the following presentations: "Martin Luther King Jr.: The Making of a Holiday," "Inauguration of President Obama," "Believe: The Barack Obama Story." Call to reserve your seat: Erin Kawamata, 969-5111, or ekawamata@townofchapelhill.org

Tuesday, Jan. 10 – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Public Works Meeting Room
Wednesday, Jan. 11 – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Chapel Hill Transit
Thursday, Jan. 12 – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Public Works Meeting Room

Fire Department will be offering screenings of the powerful documentary, *Race – The Power of an Illusion*. Each episode is approximately one hour, and two episodes will be shown at each time. All showings will be in the Fire Department classroom at Fire Training, Weaver Dairy Road and Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. if there is enough interest among Town employees additional showings will be scheduled after Jan. 16.

Tuesday, Jan. 10 at 4 p.m. – Episode 1, *The Difference Between Us* and Episode 2, *The Story We Tell*

Thursday, Jan. 12, 4 p.m. – Episode 2, *The Story We Tell* and Episode 3, *The House We Live In*

Friday, Jan. 13, 2 p.m. – Episode 1, *The Difference Between Us* and Episode 3, *The House We Live In*

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 www.vimeo.com/chapelhillgov

of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

• **Y-Town Team Scholarship:** Is your family in need of a helping hand to acquire a membership to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro YMCA? Please consider applying for a special scholarship that your fellow employees helped to create for any Town employee who meets the eligibility requirements of the Y. To apply for the Y's Financial Assistance Program, go online to www.chcymca.org or drop by the Y at 980 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. to pick up an application. On the form, be sure to note that you are a Town of Chapel Hill employee. All information provided by the employee is kept confidential.

To learn more about this opportunity made available from your fellow employees, contact Member Services at the Y. The employees who helped raise the funds for this scholarship include Roger Stancil, Flo Miller, Bruce Heflin, Ralph Karpinos, Catherine Lazorko, Bill Webster, Mary Jane Nirdlinger, Scott Simmons, John Richardson, Megan Wooley, Frances Russell, Lisa Edwards, Erin Kawamata, and Chris Blue.

• **Read All About It:** Check the reading list prepared by Chapel Hill Public Library in this special issue (see pg. 4) offering selections on racial equality and civil rights.

• **Beautification Project:** Join employees in planting flowers and beautifying our public housing units from noon to 2 p.m. Jan. 11 at the South Roberson Housing Community. RSVP: Robert Minick, 969-5122 or rminick@townofchapehill.org.

• **Rosa Parks Play:** A drama reenacting the famous event on December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, in which Rosa Parks refused to obey bus driver James F. Blake's order that she give up her seat to make room for a white passenger. The play will be performed by Chapel Hill Transit employees at the celebration event for employees on Friday, Jan. 13.

• **The Words Project** in Celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Do you enjoy writing poems? An Employee Poetry Contest in celebration of Dr. King's ideals is being organized by the Public Arts Office. Submissions (up to two poems per entrant) convey the principles and ideals of Dr. King (Non Violence, Brotherhood, Justice, Morality, Action). Winners will receive cash prizes of \$100 (first place), \$50 (second place), \$25 (third place) and \$15 (honorable mention). Excerpts from winning poems will be featured on bus posters and displayed on buses during Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.



Did You Know?

Monday, Jan. 16, 2012, will mark the 25th time (since 1986) Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday will be observed as a U.S. federal holiday – and the 27th time (since 1984) that Chapel Hill observes the day as a town holiday. Chapel Hill was one of the first communities in North Carolina to declare Martin Luther King Jr. Day a municipal holiday.

Winners will have an opportunity to share their poetry at the Employee Celebration Program. Posters featuring the poems of Town employees will be displayed on the interior of Chapel Hill Transit buses. Contact: Jeff York, 968-2750 or jyork@townofchapelhill.org



• **Oral Histories:** Tell your story if you are a Chapel Hill/Orange County resident who grew up here during the civil rights era. We are collecting names of employees who are interested in telling their stories to the Southern Oral History Program. Contact: Maggie Hite, 932-2947 or mhite@townofchapelhill.org

• **Blood Drive:** Donate blood! The blood drive, organized in partnership with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, will be held at Hargraves Community Center on Monday, Jan. 16. Contact: Nate Davis, 932-2965 or ndavis@townofchapelhill.org

• **Day of Service – United Way:** This is the seventh year that United Way of the Greater Triangle has coordinated the Day of Service. More than 1,500 volunteers are expected to help with more than 30 service projects across Durham, Johnston, Orange and Wake counties.

This year, the following projects have been identified: Christ United Methodist Church (help make blankets and scarves for agencies in need), Harbor Inc. (help build three wheelchair ramps for seniors), and Haven House (help with painting and construction around the Haven House). To learn more about volunteer opportunities with the United Way of the Triangle, call (919) 463-5013 or visit www.unitedwaytriangle.org.



The Road to the Promised Land: Martin Luther King Jr. & the Civil Rights Movement

Featuring 40 posters from original photographs, facsimiles of landmark documents, and quotations by Dr. King and others engaged in the struggle for civil rights, this exhibition surveys the Civil Rights Movement from the emergence and influence of Martin Luther King Jr. in the

Montgomery bus boycott of 1955 through the 1990s. The exhibition opens at Chapel Hill Town Hall on Feb. 1, 2012 and will remain on display until Feb. 28, 2012.

Reading Recommendations from Public Library

At the Chapel Hill Public Library we have more than just books – we have audiobooks on CD, DVDs and even eAudio and eBooks that can be downloaded to your MP3 player, eReader device or computer. Below is a short list of items about Martin Luther King Jr. in each of these formats with the call numbers to match them. Also visit our web page at chapel-hillpubliclibrary.org/txp/?s=News&id=654

Don't forget: every Town employee can have a free library card, even if you don't live in Chapel Hill or Orange County.

Adults and Teens

- *Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Movement*
Series writer, Steve Fayer. (DVD)
- *A Call to Conscience : The Landmark Speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*
Edited by Clayborne Carson and Kris Shepard. (Book 323.092 Kin)
- *All Labor Has Dignity*
Martin Luther King, Jr.; edited with introductions by Michael K. Honey. (Book with CD)
- *Hellbound on His Trail : The Stalking of Martin Luther King, Jr., and the International Hunt for His Assassin*
(Book, CD, eAudio or eBook download)
- *April 4, 1968 : Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Death and How It Changed America*
Michael Eric Dyson. (Book)
- *At Canaan's Edge : America in the King Years, 1965-68*
Taylor Branch. (Book)
- *Martin Luther King*
Godfrey Hodgson. (Book)

Word Find

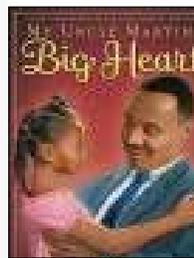
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A S I R K U X T L W L K

action luther
civil martin
justice rights
king

- *King : A Comics Biography*
Ho Che Anderson (Book—Graphic Novel format)
- *Going down Jericho Road : The Memphis Strike, Martin Luther King's Last Campaign*
Michael K. Honey
- *Parting the Waters : America in the King Years, 1954-1963*
Taylor Branch. (Book and eAudio Download)

Grades K – 3

Nonfiction



Big Heart: A Story About Martin Luther King Jr., Through the Eyes of His Niece
Angela Farris Watkins

- *Through My Eyes*
Ruby Bridges
- *Child of the Civil Rights Movement*
Paula Young Shelton
- *My Uncle Martin's*

Fiction



- *A Sweet Smell of Roses*
Angela Johnson
- *These Hands*
Margaret H. Mason
- *Belle, the Last Mule at Gee's Bend*
Calvin Alexander Ramsey and Bettye Stroud
- *Ruth and the Green Book*
Calvin Alexander Ramsey
- *Martin's Big Words: The Life of Martin Luther King, Jr.*
Doreen Rappaport
- *Back of the Bus*
Aaron Reynolds
- *Freedom on the Menu: The Greensboro Sit-Ins*
Carole Boston Weatherford
- *The Other Side*
Jacqueline Woodson

Grades 4 – 8

Nonfiction



- *Birmingham Sunday*
Larry Dane Brimner
- *March On!: The Day My Brother Martin Changed the World*
Christine King Farris
- *Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott*
Russell Freedman
- *A Dream of Freedom: The Civil Rights Movement from 1954 to 1968*
Diane McWhorter
- *Marching for Freedom: Walk Together, Children, and Don't You Grow Weary*
Elizabeth Partridge
- *Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up By Sitting Down*
Andrea Davis Pinkney
- *Coretta Scott*
Ntozake Shange

Fiction



- *My Life With the Lincolns*
Gayle Brandeis
- *The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963*
Christopher Paul Curtis
- *The Rock and the River*
Kekla Magoon
- *One Crazy Summer*
Rita Williams-Garcia

