



TownTalk

CHAPEL HILL

JANUARY 2017
VOLUME 13 ISSUE 4

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

Remembering our past while building our future.

Friday, Jan. 13

MLK Celebration and Employee Sharing Event - 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Hargraves Community Center

Monday, Jan. 16

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Blood Drive, 1-5:30 p.m., 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 page 3.

20th Annual Celebration Program & Lunch

Hargraves Community Center, 216 N. Roberson St.
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, January 13

Welcome - Lance Norris, Director, Public Works Department, and MLK Employee Committee Chair

Video: The History of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday -
Town of Chapel Hill Employees

Town of Chapel Hill Mass Choir
"Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around"

Excerpt from Play: "Why Should I Move?"
Town of Chapel Hill Employees

The Word Project

Jeff York, Cultural Arts Coordinator, and Poetry Winners

Excerpt from Speech: "I Have a Dream"

Town of Chapel Hill Employees

Town of Chapel Hill Mass Choir

"Man in the Mirror"

Moment of Silence

Recognition and Closing

Roger L. Stancil, Town Manager

Lunch

Following the program, a light lunch will be served.

Town Manager's Message

Town Manager Roger Stancil



"Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be."

—Martin Luther King Jr.

As we honor Dr. King in our celebration Friday, and the other events of the holiday, we are reminded that we are all connected.

While Dr. King's words are famous and repeated often, I see the same concepts in the statement of our organizational RESPECT Values that we wrote: "ownership over our roles...to demonstrate our consideration...for our fellow employees;" "although we may hold different roles...we all work toward a common goal;" "our organizational values serve as a common language when discussing each other's decisions and actions."

Do you see what I see? Do you see the thread of how each of us supports the other and that none of us can be all we can be without that connection? What will you do today to achieve our goal of creating a community, within our workplace, where ALL can thrive?

Employee Activities to Recognize Guidin

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 he had accepted the Nobel award, he led a nonviolent march to promote voter registration that came 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.

Remembering our past while building our future.

Last year's panel of Town employees (past and present) for the Martin Luther King Jr. Employee Celebration was well-received by those in attendance, according to feedback given after the event. The event planning committee has agreed to bring another panel to the event in the future to continue sharing the stories of this great Town from the people who make it what it is.

Prior to last year's panel, the event followed a similar structure for years anchored by a keynote speaker. This year, the committee decided to change the program again, sharing two stories of the Civil Rights Movement.

First, Town employees have brought the story of Rosa Parks back that was first performed for the Town by Transit employees. This year "Why Should I Move" is being performed by employees from multiple departments. This event, which took place in 1955, is known as the start of the Civil Rights Movement.

Next, Town employees will take us back to August 28, 1963, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. where The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. We'll hear the exact words that were delivered by Dr. King to more than 250,000 people on that fateful day.

The Town of Chapel Hill Mass Choir will perform two songs, "Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around" and "Man in the Mirror".

And, once again, the winners of this year's Word Project poetry contest will recite their poems.

This year's event marks the 20th time Town employees have gathered to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. King. Town Manager Roger Stancil will close the event with a special presentation honoring former Town employees who began the celebration in 1997.

This year's program is possible because of the teamwork of the Martin Luther King Jr. Employee Celebration committee and many Town employees who volunteered their lunch hours to rehearse in the Town of Chapel Hill Mass Choir as well as performing in "Why Should I Move" and "I Have a Dream".

The committee needs you! We're asking that anyone who wants to be involved in helping make sure this event continues for years to come to join the planning committee. We'd like to see one representative from each department sitting on the committee. The committee meets once a month beginning around August leading up to the January event. New members will be asked to attend the event debriefing meeting in February.

If you'd like to join the committee, please tell your department director, who will in turn contact Public Works' Angie Turner at aturner@townofchapelhill.org.



g Principles of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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.

The Word Project in Celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.:

Town employees once again demonstrated their talent and insight into the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by writing verse that emphasized values espoused by Dr. King (Brotherhood, Non-Violence, Justice, Morality or Action), or were based on his life or words.

The winners will read/perform their poems at the Martin Luther King Jr. Employee Celebration on Friday, Jan. 13, at the Hargraves Center. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, place winners will also have their poems displayed on bus cards in Chapel Hill Transit buses from late January through March 2017. Four winning poems will be displayed at Town Hall during the month of February. The top two poems will also be displayed in the downtown Walgreen's display case on East Franklin Street.

Entries were judged by Shirlette Ammon, a noted poet with numerous publications. She commented that "all the poems submitted had a generosity, reflectiveness, and hopefulness that everyone can find uplifting."

The winning poems were submitted by:
1st Place - **Dave Almond** (Planning)
2nd Place - **Kay McDaniel** (Public Works)
3rd Place - **Wade Gulledge** (Public Works)
Honorable Mention - **Keith Dodson** (Parks and Recreation)

The Word Project is sponsored by the Town of Chapel Hill Parks & Recreation Department's Cultural Arts Division in conjunction with the Chapel Hill Transit, and the Town's Public Works department.

Blood Drive: Donate blood!

The blood drive, organized in partnership with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Alumnae Chapel Hill Carrboro Chapter, will be held from 1 to 5:30 p.m. at Hargraves Community Center on Monday, Jan. 18. Visit redcrossblood.org to schedule your appointment (enter sponsor code Chapel Hill). Contact: Nate Davis, 919-932-2965 or ndavis@townofchapelhill.org

Day of Service - United Way:

Volunteer registration for the Triangle's Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, sponsored by United Way of the Greater Triangle, has begun. The 10th annual MLK Day of Service will be held Monday, Jan. 16, and individuals, groups and families may sign up at <http://unitedwaytriangle.galaxydigital.com>.

The more than 35 projects for 2017 are spread throughout various nonprofit agencies in Durham, Johnston, Orange and Wake counties.

The signature projects run from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. A Martin Luther King reading and a moment of silence will be part of the day at each signature project location.



"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 will be posted on the Town's vimeo account at vimeo.com/chapelhillgov. Special thanks to Ryan Chamberlain, digital media lab coordinator, for producing this video.

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 or download them to your personal device. Visit the library's website at chapelhillpubliclibrary.org, or ask a librarian for a recommendation. The Library will be open from 1-5 p.m. on Jan. 18. And remember, all Town employees can get a free library card, no matter where they live.



Did You Know?

Monday, Jan. 16, 2016, will mark the 31st time (since 1986) Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday will be observed as a U.S. federal holiday - and the 33rd 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.

Poetry Contest Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the 2017 Word Poetry Contest! Winners of the poetry contest will present their poems at the MLK Celebration and Employee Sharing Event on Jan. 13. Thanks to all for their participation!

1st place – **Dave Almond** (Planning)

2nd place – **Kay McDaniel** (Public Works)

3rd place – **Wade Gullede** (Public Works)

Honorable Mention – **Keith Dodson** (Parks and Recreation)

Each Day We Stand Upon

Awakening

Each day we stand upon awakening
The world laid soundly at our feet
again

Rising wishful of dreams a new day
can bring
Surely the earth will stop shaking but
when

When came this brittle continental rift
Bequeathed by some ancient
moment in time

An instant when I and I went right
and left
The heart of creation asunder behind

But the child cannot be blamed for
their lot

Just as today cannot scapegoat
tomorrow

Generations before crafted all that
we've got

Ours is the choice to own or to
borrow

Fated to live not in the garden we
tend

Gnarled roots we were sown from
seeds long ago
Still we must labor and openly mend

If ever we deign the good seed to
grow.

— Dave Almond

*"We do not make history,
we are made by history."*

— Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Years Later

I grew up so naïve'

Always wanting to please

Not knowing all the hatred that
surrounded me

In the heart of Dixie

So much was brewing

But my home was not showing

Soon I felt the division at school

I had been told we were all the same

Now I could see the world did not
feel that way

That has been many years ago

From the unrest in Alabama

To my home in North Carolina

I knew my world would change

Now, years later it has

I am a part of a mixed race family

And I feel the sting of racism

That still lingers in our world

To quote Dr. King

"I have decided to stick to love...Hate
is too great a burden to bear."

— Kay McDaniel

Truly United

To reach,... reach forward,... reach
upward,...reach outward,...

reach inward,...reach and,...reach hard!

Our world,...our nation,...our
community,...our family,...

our neighbors,...our downtrodden,...

Ourselves,...

Our responsibility!

Ever feel like an outsider?

Ever feel like nobody cares?

Ever think beyond good & bad,... or
right & wrong ?

Dare to feel,...and think,...and act,...on
love? !

Bring your heart with you and share it.

Hold another's hand,... look into their
eyes,... and really see them!

To see,...to try,...to embrace,...

May just open doors of
understanding and acceptance,...

and grow trust both ways.

Who knows,....maybe we can all be as
one? !

Truly United

— Wade Gullede



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