



2010 Martin Luther King Special Issue

Fresno King March & Events Schedule: Pages 4 & 5

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ADVOCATE

Fresno's African American Community Newspaper

DANCE Theatre Of Harlem

Returns to Fresno

The world renown Dance Theatre of Harlem will bring its spectacular talent to Fresno's Saroyan Theatre 7:30 p.m., Friday, February 5th. Billed as an enchanting, family-friendly production and an interactive performance Advocate publisher Mark Kimber encourages huge support from Fresno's Black community. (For ticket information see advertisement on page 9).

"We want to thank The Lively Arts Foundation for bringing this spectacular show to our city and providing an affordable ticket price. These talented artist/dancers give our children a unique sense of pride, accomplishment and encouragement. Every Black child and young person should experience the Dance Theatre Of Harlem at least once in their lives," stated Kimber.

Founded in 1969 by Arthur Mitchell and Karel Shook, Dance Theatre of Harlem was considered "one of ballet's most exciting undertakings" (The New York Times, 1971).

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Mark Kimber, Advocate Publisher: "Every Black child and young person should experience the Dance Theatre Of Harlem at least once in their lives."



OBAMA ON HAITI: "We Must Be There For Them"

Promises all-out relief effort for Haiti

U.S. officials are laying out a massive military response to the Haiti earthquake, saying Wednesday that ships, helicopters, transport planes and a 2,000-member Marine unit were either on the way or likely to begin moving soon.

One of the U.S. Navy's large amphibious ships, the USS Bataan, was ordered to Haiti with a Marine expeditionary unit aboard. The ship is one of more than a half dozen, including frigates, a destroyer and a guided missile cruiser, being sent to the Caribbean nation.

Gen. Douglas Fraser, the head of U.S. Southern Command, said at a news conference that other U.S. military forces are on alert, including a brigade, which includes about 3,500 troops. He said the Pentagon is "seriously looking at" sending thousands of Marines to assist

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HOW YOU CAN HELP VICTIMS IN HAITI

Financial gifts may be made to the American Red Cross International Response Fund, which will provide immediate relief and long-term support through supplies, technical assistance and other means to help those in need. Donations to the International Response Fund can be sent to American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013, or made by phone at 1-800-REDCROSS or online at www.redcross.org.

Tens of Thousands Feared Dead

Bodies piled up on Haiti streets

PORT-AU-PRINCE - Haitian leaders estimated Wednesday that tens of thousands of people have died in the aftermath of the earthquake that throttled this impoverished Caribbean nation, as the United States and other countries mobilized a vast rescue and relief effort to assist the legion of desperate survivors.

Untold numbers of people remained trapped under rubble a day after the 7.0-magnitude quake struck the cap-

ital, Port-au-Prince, a coastal sprawl of makeshift shacks, cinder-block buildings and historic gingerbread homes that witnesses described as a scene of unfolding chaos.

Caked in the flour-white dust of crushed plaster and cement, Haitians dug out family members by hand and piled bodies on street corners, as clusters of bloodied and dazed survivors pleaded for help. The gov-

Continued on Page 12 ▶

Teddy Pendergrass, Soul Icon and Inspirational Figure, Dead at 59

Multi-platinum soul singer Teddy Pendergrass, age 59, died Wednesday in a hospital just outside of Philadelphia, Pa. Pendergrass had been paralyzed from the waist down after suffering a spinal cord injury in a car crash in 1982, and was trying to recover from recent colon cancer surgery.

Pendergrass leaves behind a formidable catalog of soul and R&B classics. Originally rising to fame as part of Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes, Pendergrass experienced success early on with such

Continued on Page 12 ▶



Parents Warned Against Use of Cheap Kids' Jewelry

BY JUSTIN PRITCHARD LOS ANGELES (AP) -

The warnings from the nation's chief product safety officer were unprecedented: Don't give your child any of that cheap metal jewelry you've been hearing about. And don't let your young ones play

with it either - those shiny \$3.99 bracelets and charms could contain toxic cadmium or lead, almost definitely imported from China.

The initial advice Wednesday from U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission chairman Inez

Continued on Page 12 ▶

Census Bureau Says Many Blacks Still Identify Themselves As 'Negro'

BY PHAROH MARTIN

WASHINGTON (NNPA) -

In March, many of the estimated 145 million households who receive the Census Bureau's shortened questionnaire for the na-

tion's decennial headcount may be full of raised eyebrows when they get to question 9, which asks about a person's race.

Beside the designation for respondents who self-identify as Black and African-

American is the word "Negro", an antiquated term that is considered regressive to many in the African-American community, especially today with the country being led by a Black president.

"Being a 24-year-old

Black man I think it takes me back to a place that I've never been, and quite honestly, I view it as politically incorrect. I know that some of the older generations may see it as correct but as a

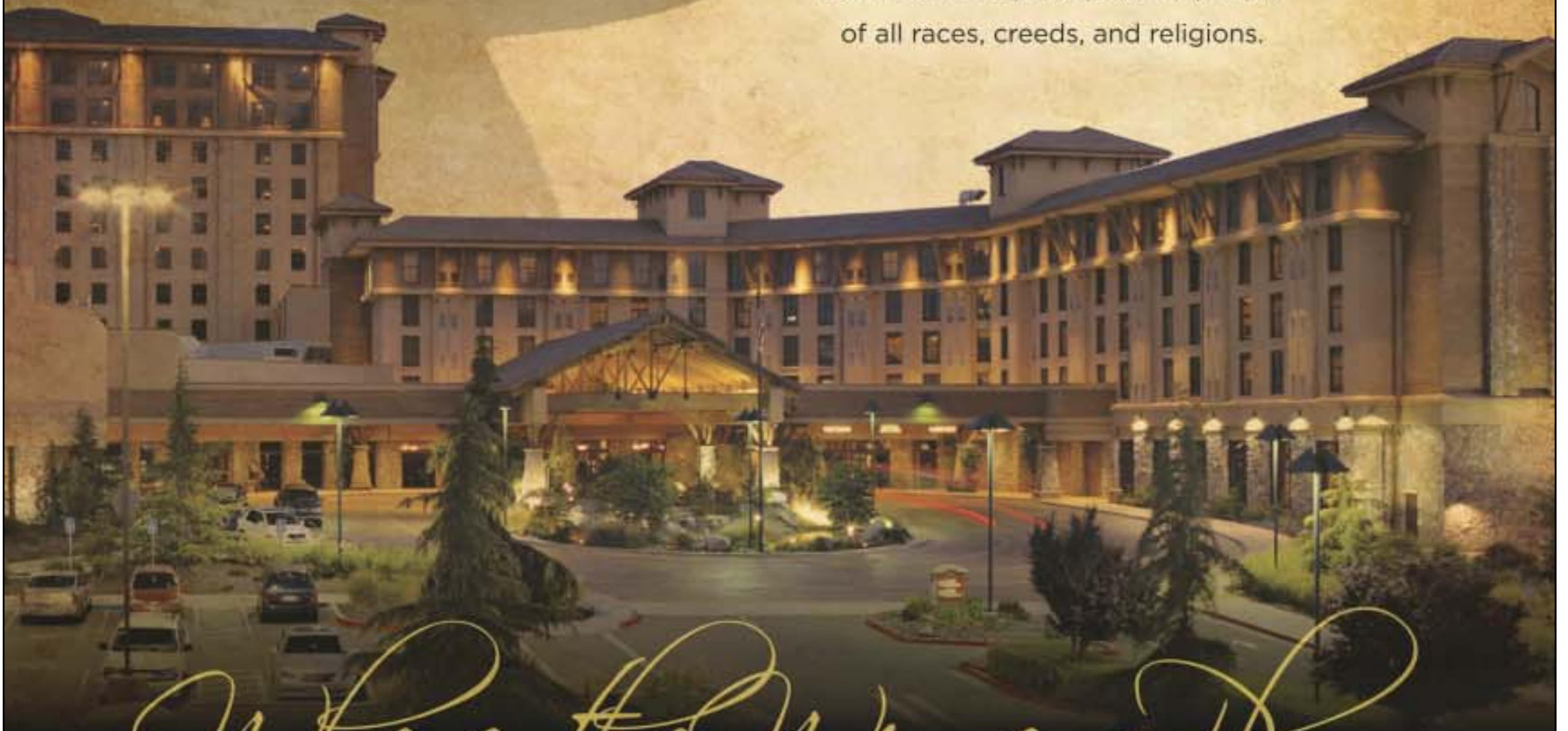
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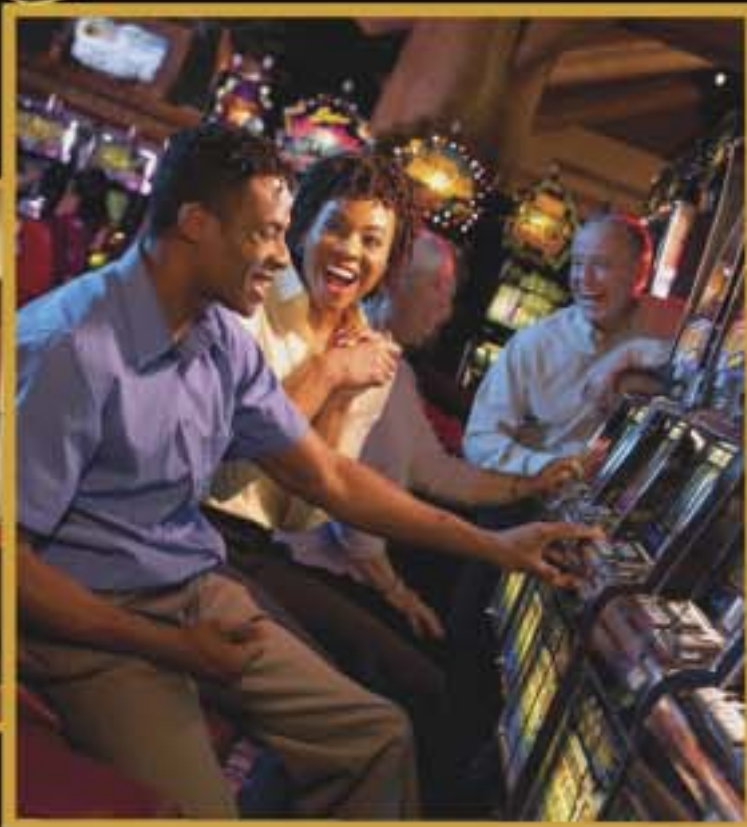
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MACY'S BRINGS YOU THE GIFT OF MUSIC & THE POWER OF A DREAM

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream,
Macy's is proud to sponsor The Boston Children's
Chorus 7th Annual Martin Luther King tribute concert,
"From A Child's Mind", Monday January 18th.

For more information or to support the
Boston Children's Chorus,
visit bostonchildrenschorus.org

A child's mind holds the powerful dreams that change the world.
That's why Macy's and Reading Is Fundamental are helping
to make literacy a priority across the nation. Macy's is a proud
supporter of RIF's Multicultural Literacy Campaign. Since 2004,
Macy's customers have helped raise over \$13 million to help
provide free books and literary resources for children nationwide.
For more information on RIF, visit RIF.org.

★ macy's

FRESNO 2010 MLK CELEBRATIONS

Saturday, January 9

3:30-5:00 p.m.

The Central Valley Progressive PAC meeting will feature candidates for the Fresno City Council, District 5. The meeting is at the Fresno Center for Non-Violence located at 1584 N. Van Ness Ave., Fresno. For more information, go to our website at www.cvppac.org or call 559-435-7360.

Saturday, January 9

7:30 p.m.

LaQuerencia Concerts Presents Lance Canales and The Flood in the LaQuerencia Common House, 2658 E. Alluvial Avenue (between Chestnut and Willow). A group of marvelous local musicians, coming together as Lance Canales and The Flood, will be featured in a House Concert. The group is led by Canales, an outstanding Native American flutist and flues guitarist, and also includes Chris Eacock on upright bass and Jason Williams on the cajon. The group's music has been described as "a bluesy, rootsy, folk rock with a Native Americana twist." Suggested donation is \$15. Seating is limited, so reservations are highly recommended. For more information or to reserve seats, contact Lorenzo Bassman at (559) 367-9528 or lorenzo.bassman@fresnocohousing.org.

Sunday, January 10

6:30 p.m.

Rabbi David Saperstein will speak on "The Religious Community's Social Justice Agenda at a Time of Crisis and Opportunity" Unitarian Universalist Church 2672 E. Alluvial Ave, Clovis. This event is also free of charge and open to the public. For more information about this event or about The Interfaith Alliance of Central California (IACC), contact Natalie Chamberlain, co-chair of IACC, ncchamberlain@yahoo.com 559-227-2050.

Tuesday, January 12

7:30 p.m.

Jordan Wellwood, Audubon California's Conservation Coordinator for the Central Valley & Sierra Nevada, will discuss the major threats that birds face in California and what Audubon is doing to protect the landscapes birds will need in order to thrive in the future. She will also share opportunities for local citizens to get involved and make a real difference in the community. Jordan holds a Bachelors Degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Waterloo in Canada and prior to her work with Audubon California, she worked on conservation policy issues in Sacramento. Her responsibilities with Audubon California involve working with local chapters in a variety of conservation projects, as well as at the state level on Audubon's priority projects for the Central Valley and Sierra Nevada. The program is held at the University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw Avenue in Fresno (across from Fashion Fair Mall).

Wednesday, January 13

12 Noon & 7:00 p.m.

Join the Fresno Center for Nonviolence for a special George "Effie" Ballis event. Explore the man, the documentarian, the poet and guy that takes and records history in pictures and brings life to the hearts of many. The 12 noon showing will be at the Center at 1584 N. Van Ness; the 7 p.m. showing will be at Woodward Park Library, 944 E. Perrin Ave (433-3135 for directions). Both events are free and open to the public. Wheelchair accessible. There will NOT be the usual potluck at 6:30 p.m., but snacks will be available at the library.

Wednesday, January 13

6:00 p.m.

Fresno Stonewall Democrats at Carrow's Restaurant, 4280 N. Blackstone at Ashlan in Fresno. They will be discussing the current policies of the Obama administration in Afghanistan as well as participation in local activities. Fresno Stonewall Democrats represents the interests of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community in Fresno and the surrounding area through the Democratic Party. Dinner at 6:00 p.m., meeting at 7:00 p.m. For more information email ckrugman@sbcglobal.net or call 559-266-9237.



Wednesday January 13

7:00 p.m.

Community reading of Dr. Martin Luther King's Riverside Church speech of April 4, 1967 "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence" at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 2672 E. Alluvial Ave. (Between Chestnut and Willow). Co-sponsored by the interfaith Social Justice Collaborative and the UU Social Justice Coordinating Committee.

We invite the community to join in reading and discussing this remarkable and challenging speech, and to affirm our commitment to work together to realize Dr King's vision. "I am convinced that if we are to get on the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must rapidly begin the shift from a "thing-oriented" society to a "person-oriented society". When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered." ~ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Nearly forty one years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King gave his speech "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence." It was April 4, 1967, a year to the day before he was murdered. He was speaking at the Riverside Church in New York. King billed the speech as a 'declaration of independence from the war' and called the United States 'the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today.' Time magazine called the speech 'demagogic slander that sounded like a script for Radio Hanoi.' And the Washington Post declared that King had 'diminished his usefulness to his cause, his country, his people.' ~Juan Williams.

More information: Connie Young at cyoungn@sbcglobal.net or the Unitarian Universalist Church at 322-6146. Child care: Please call the church by Wednesday, January 6, 2010 to request child care.

Thursday, January 14

7:30 p.m.

The Fresno Folklore Society Presents John McCutcheon at the Unitarian Church of Fresno (Alluvial & Chestnut). His concerts are little feats of magic...storytelling with the richness of literature." Washington Post. John McCutcheon has the charisma of Pete Seeger, the eloquence of a poet, the repertoire of a library, and the virtuosity of an orchestra. Johnny Cash said to him, "He's the most impressive instrumentalist I've ever heard." Tickets: \$20 advance; \$25 a: the door. Advance Tickets may be purchased Online: www.fresnofolkconcerts.com, Unitarian Church of Fresno, Patrick's Music, National Hardware or phone 431-3653.

Friday, January 15

12 Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Opening Garlanding Ceremony of the 2010 Martin Luther King day activities. Location: Fresno County Courthouse Park (at MLK Bust), 1100 Van Ness Ave Please bring flowers. Contact: Dr. Sudarshan Kapoor or Gail Gaston (559) 681-3140- garlandingceremony@mlk-fresno.com. This year's theme: Living the Dream: Let Freedom Ring for Rebuilding Our Community and Nation through Education. www.mlkfresno.com

Friday, January 15

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Martin Luther King day activity - Award Reception. Location: African American Museum, 1857 Fulton Ave. Reception to honor awardees for outstanding service to the community in five categories: 1) Business 2) Organization 3) Youth 4) Female, and 5) Male. Contact: Julia Dudley Najieb-nominations@mlkfresno.com

Friday, January 15

7:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Jesus, a film by Bob Wilkinson with Brandt Russo will be shown at Fresno Pacific University, Ashley Auditorium. This event is free, everyone is welcome! Question/Answer with Brandt Russo following the film For 14 days we traveled through the south in a bus that ran on used cooking oil. We picked up hitchhikers and listened to the stories of the homeless and those who devote their time caring for them. <http://www.adoptajesus.com>

Saturday, January 16

9:00 a.m.

Martin Luther King day activity - Community Breakfast. Location: Clovis Veterans Memorial Building, 453 Hughes Ave, Clovis (Hughes & Fifth Street). Speaker: Jacqueline O'Neil Kelley, known to many as Jackie, and other entertainment. Tickets: \$5.00 each in advance (tables of 8 available with reservation). Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. and program at 9:45 a.m. Contact: Caroline Carlson (559) 324-2416. breakfast@mlkfresno.com.

Saturday January 16

10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Historical & Spiritual Significance of the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Organization Speaker: BK Sister Elizabeth Padilla Teacher / Co-coordinator, Anubhuti Meditation & Retreat Center, Novato Ca. BK Sister Elizabeth will share important landmarks in the development of Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Org. and its mission to bring about world transformation through self transformation. This event will be held at 7319 No. Fourth St. Fresno (South of Alluvial & East of First St.) (559) 435-2212.

Saturday, January 16

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Martin Luther King day activity - All Faith Service. Location St. Rest Missionary Baptist Church, 1550 E. Rev. Chester Riggins Ave. (formerly known as Florence Ave.) On the corner of Elm. Enjoy various beloved spiritual leaders, musical talent and keynote speaker Dr. Amos Cleophilus Brown, Sr., Senior Pastor of San Francisco's Third Baptist Church. Contact: Dr. Sudarshan Kapoor or Rev. Bruce McAlister (559) 227-9819. allfaithservice@mlkfresno.com.

Sunday, January 17

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

"Faces and Places" reception for the artists at the Spectrum Art Gallery at 608 E Olive. This display by Avigdar Adams and Lenetta Huxley will be at Spectrum Art Galary until January 31. They are open Thursday 12:30 - 5 p.m., Friday 12:30 - 8 p.m., and Saturday & Sunday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday, January 17

4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Martin Luther King day activity - Candlelight Vigil. Location: The Red Church (First Congregational Church) 2131 N. Van Ness on the corner of Van Ness & Yale streets. Speaker: SophieDeWitt and a variety of musical performances. Contact: Janet Capella (559) 974-5541. civigil@mlkfresno.com.

2010 Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

Living the Dream: Let Freedom Ring for Rebuilding Our Community and Nation through Education.

Presented by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Committee of Fresno

"Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

"MOUNTAIN OF FOOD" DRIVE: Please support families in the Fresno area by donating food at all MLK events.

Friday, January 15, 2010 ~ Opening Garlanding Ceremony (12:00 -1:00PM). Location: Fresno County Courthouse Park (at MLK Bust), 1100 Van Ness Ave. Opening Ceremony. Please bring flowers. Contact: Dr. Sudarshan Kapoor or Gail Gaston (559) 681-3140. garlandingceremony@mlkfresno.com

Friday, January 15, 2010 ~ Award Reception (6:00-7:30p.m. / Program begins at 6:30p.m.). Location: African American Museum, 1857 Fulton Ave. Reception to honor awardees for outstanding service to the community in five categories: 1) Business 2) Organization 3) Youth 4) Female, and 5) Male. Contact: Julia Dudley Najieb. nominations@mlkfresno.com

Saturday, January 16, 2010 ~ Community Breakfast (Breakfast served at 9:00AM / Program starts at 9:45AM). Location: Clovis Veterans Memorial Building, 453 Hughes Ave, Clovis (Hughes & Fifth Street). Speaker: Jacqueline O'Neil Kelley, known to many as JackieO; Performers: African-American Dance Troupe from Martin Luther King Elementary School, and other entertainment. Tickets: \$5.00 each in advance and canned food donation. Tables of 8 available with reservation. Contact: Caroline Carlson (559) 324-2416. breakfast@mlkfresno.com

Saturday, January 16, 2010 ~ All Faith Service (4:00-6:00p.m.). Location: St. Rest Missionary Baptist Church, 1550 E. Rev. Chester Riggins Ave. (formerly known as Florence Ave.) On the corner of Elm. Enjoy various beloved spiritual leaders, musical talent and keynote speaker Dr. Amos Cleophilus Brown, Sr., Senior Pastor of San Francisco's Third Baptist Church. Contact: Dr. Sudarshan Kapoor or Rev. Bruce McAlister (559) 227-9819. allfaithservice@mlkfresno.com

Sunday, January 17, 2010 ~ Candlelight Vigil (4:30-5:30p.m.). Location: The Red Church (First Congregational Church) 2131 N. Van Ness on the corner of Van Ness & Yale streets. Speaker: Sophie DeWitt, Fresno Interfaith Refugee Ministries, musical performances, and candlelight vigil. Contact: Janet Capella (559) 974-5541. clvigil@mlkfresno.com

Monday, January 18, 2010 ~ March and "Mountain of Food" Collection (9:15-10:45a.m.). Location: St. John's Cathedral, 2814 Mariposa Ave. Marchers assemble at 9:15a.m.. March begins at 10:00a.m., ending at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium for Commemoration Program. "Mountain of Food" will be collected at St. John's Cathedral. Contact: James Lett III (559) 284-6420. mlkmarch@mlkfresno.com

Monday, January 18, 2010 ~ Commemoration Program (10:45-12:00p.m.). Location: Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 2425 Fresno St. Commemoration program celebrating community diversity and culture. Contact: Pastor Leonard Adams (559) 375-6749. mlkprogram@mlkfresno.com

Thursday, February 11, 2010 ~ Student Art Exhibition/Open House (4:30-6:00 p.m.). Location: Fresno County Office of Education (FCOE) 1111 Van Ness Ave. Honoring student speech, essay, and art winners from Fresno County School Districts. Art on display January 27-February 22, 2010 at FCOE. Contact: Shirley Hargis (559)265-3060. speechartcontests@mlkfresno.com

OTHER MLK EVENTS HAPPENING THROUGHOUT FRESNO

(Note: The events below are sponsored by outside organizations and individuals not affiliated with the City of Fresno Rev. Dr. MLK Unity Committee.)

Tuesday, January 12, 2010 ~ Prayer Breakfast commemorating Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., 7:00a.m. Location: Westside Church of God, 1424 W. California Ave., Fresno. Speaker: Dr. Walter Kimbrough (President, Philander Smith College, Little Rock, Arkansas. Sponsored by

West Fresno Ministerial Alliance. Tickets: \$20 per person/Tables of 8 available. Make checks payable to: "WFMA" & mail to 1424 W. California Ave., Fresno, CA, 93706. Contact: Westside Church of God, (559) 237-1444 for info.

Wednesday, January 13, 2010 ~ A Community Reading of Dr. King's Riverside Church Speech of April 4, 1967 (7:00 p.m.) Location: Unitarian Universalist Church, 2672 E. Alluvial Ave (between Chestnut & Willow). Co-sponsored by The Interfaith Social Justice Collaborative (ISJC) and the Social Justice Coordinating Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno. Facilitated by Rev. Bryan D. Jessup. Contact: Unitarian Universalist Church (559) 322-6146 Connie Young. cyoung@sbeglobal.net

Saturday, January 23, 2010 ~ Concert For Unity (7:00 p.m.) Location: Unitarian Universalist Church, 2672 E. Alluvial Ave, Clovis (between Chestnut & Willow), presenting the famous Yuval Ron Ensemble. Enjoy evening of Sacred Ecstatic Sufi music, Hebrew devotional music, Sacred Christina-Armenian music, poetry, and more. Sponsored by the Interfaith Youth Alliance. Reserve your ticket online at www.ifya-net.org, or call Kamal Abu-Shamsieh: (559) 244-9360.

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My mother died of colon cancer when she was only 56.

Terrence Howard, actor/musician



Colorectal cancer is the 2nd leading cancer killer in the U.S., but it's largely preventable. If you're 50 or older, please get screened.

1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)
www.cdc.gov/screenforlife





IMPORTANT TIME PERIODS IN THE LIFE OF Martin Luther King Jr.



1929

January 15: Martin Luther King, Jr. is born to Rev. and Mrs. Martin Luther King, Sr. (former Alberta Christine Williams) in Atlanta, Georgia.

1935: 1944

Dr. King attends David T. Howard Elementary School, Atlanta University Laboratory School, and Booker T. Washington High School. He passes the entrance examination to Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia without graduating from high school.

1947

Dr. King is licensed to preach.

1948

February 25: Dr. King is ordained to the Baptist ministry and appointed associate pastor at Ebenezer.

June 8: Dr. King graduates from Morehouse College with a BA degree in Sociology.

September: Dr. King enters Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania. After hearing Dr. A. J. Muste and Dr. Mordecai W. Johnson preach on the life and teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, he begins to study Gandhi seriously.

1951

May 6-8: Dr. King graduates from Crozer with a Bachelor of Divinity degree.

1953

June 18: Dr. King marries Coretta Scott in Marion, Alabama.



1954

May 17: The Supreme Court of the United States rules unanimously in *Brown vs. Board of Education* that racial segregation in public schools is unconstitutional.

October 31: Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr. appoints Dr. King as the twentieth pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

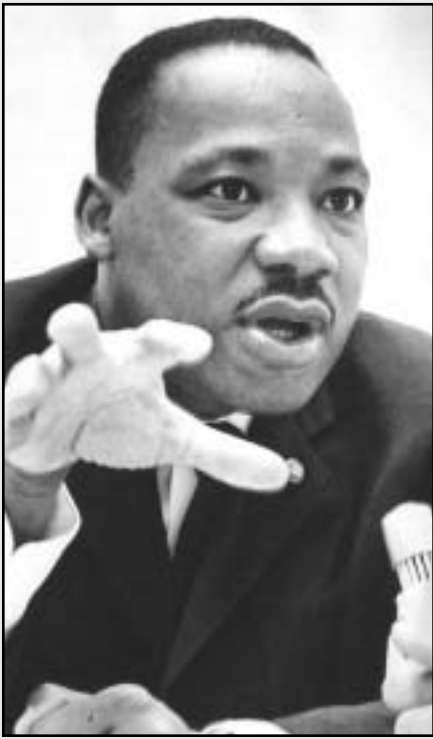


1955

June 5: Dr. King receives a Ph.D. degree in Systematic Theology from Boston University.

November 17: The Kings' first child, Yolanda Denise, is born in Montgomery, Alabama.

December 1: Mrs. Rosa Parks, a forty-two year old Montgomery seamstress, refuses to relinquish her bus seat to a white man and is arrested.



December 5: The first day of the Montgomery bus boycott and the trial date of Mrs. Parks. A meeting of movement leaders is held. Dr. King is unanimously elected president of the Montgomery Improvement Association.

December 10: The Montgomery Bus Company suspends service in black neighborhoods.

1956

January 26: Dr. King is arrested on a charge of traveling thirty miles per hour in a twenty-five miles per hour zone in Montgomery. He is released on his own recognizance.

January 30: A bomb is thrown onto the porch of Dr. King's Montgomery home. Mrs. King and Mrs. Roscoe Williams, wife of a church member, are in the house with baby Yolanda Denise. No one is injured.

February 2: A suit is filed in Federal District Court asking that Montgomery's travel segregation laws be declared unconstitutional.

February 21: Dr. King is indicted with other figures in the Montgomery bus boycott on the charge of being party to a conspiracy to hinder and prevent the operation of business without "just or legal cause."

June 4: A United States District Court rules that racial segregation on city bus lines is unconstitutional.

August 10: Dr. King is a speaker before the platform committee of the Democratic Party in Chicago, Illinois.

October 30: Mayor Gayle of Montgomery, Alabama instructs the city's legal department "to file such proceedings as it may deem proper to stop the operation of car pools and transportation systems growing out of the boycott."

November 13: The United States Supreme Court affirms the decision of the three-judge district court in declaring Alabama's state and local laws requiring segregation on buses unconstitutional.

December 20: Federal injunctions prohibiting segregation on buses are served on city and bus company officials in Montgomery, Alabama. Injunctions are also served on state officials.

Montgomery buses are integrated.

1957

January 27: An unexploded bomb is discovered on the front porch of the King's house.

February 14: The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) is founded.

February 18: Dr. King is featured on the cover of Time magazine.

May 17: Dr. King delivers a speech for the Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom celebrating the third anniversary of the Supreme Court's desegregation decision. The speech,

titled, "Give Us The Ballot," is given at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

June 13: Dr. King meets with the Vice President of the United States, Richard M. Nixon.

September: President Dwight D. Eisenhower federalizes the Arkansas National Guard to escort nine Negro students to an all-white high school in Little Rock, Arkansas.

September 9: The first Civil Rights Act since Reconstruction is passed by Congress, creating the Civil Rights Commission and the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice.

October 23: A second child, Martin Luther III, is born to Dr. and Mrs. King.

1958

June 23: Dr. King, along with Roy Wilkins of the NAACP, A. Philip Randolph, and Lester Granger meet with President Dwight Eisenhower.

September 3: Dr. King is arrested on a charge of loitering (later changed to "failure to obey an officer") in the vicinity of the Montgomery Recorder's Court. He is released on \$100.00 bond.



September 4: Dr. King is convicted after pleading "Not Guilty" on the charge of failure to obey an officer. The fine is paid almost immediately, over Dr. King's objection, by Montgomery Police Commissioner Clyde C. Sellers.

September 17: Dr. King's book, *Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story*, is published by Harper & Row.



September 20: Dr. King is stabbed in the chest by Mrs. Izola Curry, who is subsequently alleged to be mentally deranged. The stabbing occurs in Harlem, New York while Dr. King is autographing his recently published book. His condition was said to be serious but not critical.

1959

January 30: Dr. King meets with Walter Reuther, President of the United Auto Workers Union, in Detroit, Michigan.

February 2-10: Dr. and Mrs. King spend a month in India studying Gandhi's March techniques of nonviolence as guests of Prime Minister Jawaharal Nehru.

1960

January 24: The King family moves to Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. King becomes co-pastor, with his father, of the Ebenezer Baptist Church.

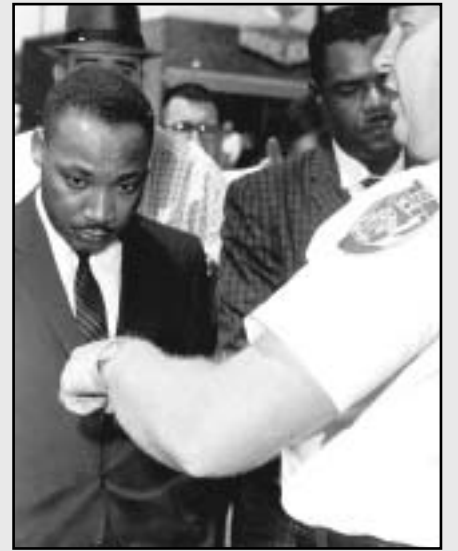
February 1: The first lunch counter sit-in to desegregate eating facilities is held by students in Greensboro, North Carolina.

February 17: A warrant is issued for Dr. King's arrest on charges that he had falsified his 1956 and 1958 Alabama state income tax returns.

April 15: The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) is founded to coordinate student protests at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina on a temporary basis. (It is to become a permanent organization in October 1960.) Dr. King and James Lawson are the keynote speakers at the Shaw University founding.

May 28: Dr. King is acquitted of the tax evasion charge by an all white jury in Alabama.

June 10: Dr. King and A. Philip Randolph announce plans for picketing both the Republican and Democratic National Conventions.



1961

January 30: A third child, Dexter Scott, is born to Dr. and Mrs. King in Atlanta, Georgia.

May 4: The first group of Freedom Riders, with the intent of integrating interstate buses, leaves Washington, D.C. by Greyhound bus. The group, organized by the Congress for Racial Equality (CORE), leaves shortly after the Supreme Court has outlawed segregation in interstate transportation terminals. The bus is burned outside of Anniston, Alabama on May 14. A mob beats the Freedom Riders upon their arrival in Birmingham, Alabama. The Freedom Riders are arrested in Jackson, Mississippi, and spend forty to sixty days in Parchman Penitentiary.

December 15: Dr. King arrives in Albany, Georgia in response to a call from Dr. W. G. Anderson, the leader of the Albany Movement to desegregate public facilities, which began in January 1961.

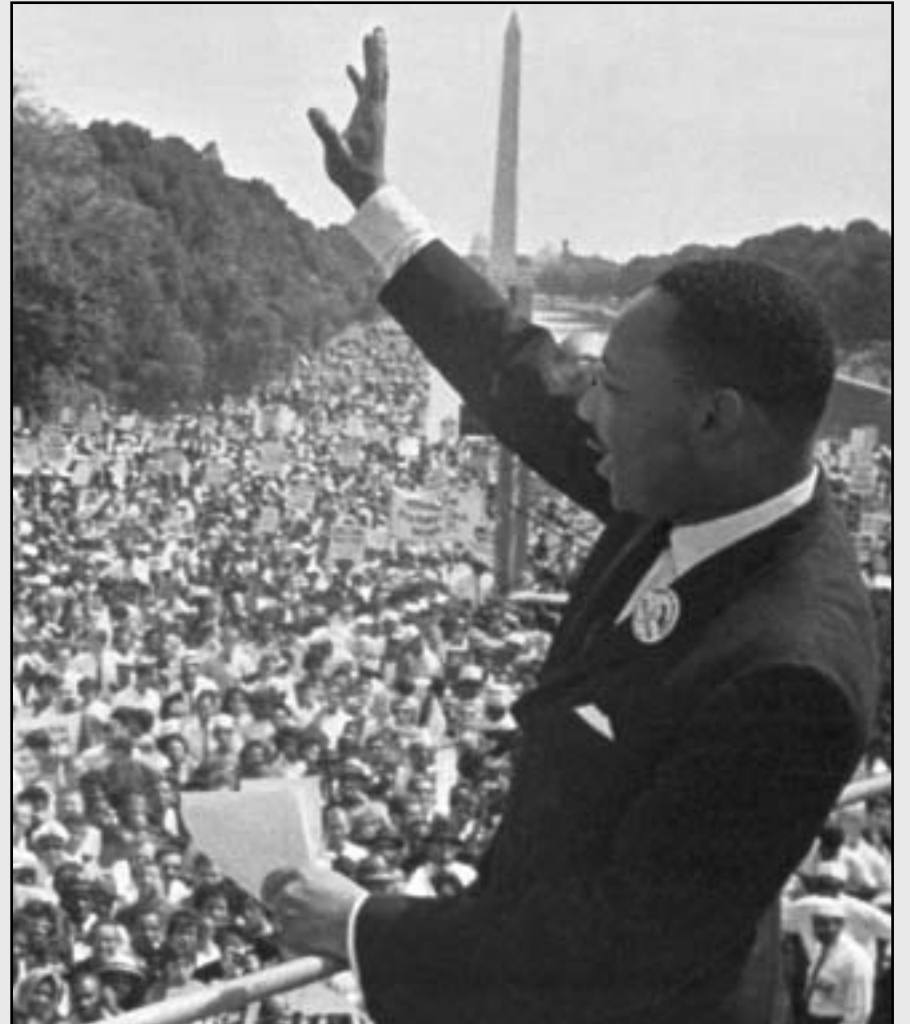
December 16: Dr. King is arrested at an Albany, Georgia demonstration. He is charged with obstructing the sidewalk and parading without a permit.

1962

February 27: Dr. King is tried and convicted for leading the December march in Albany, Georgia.

May 2: Dr. King is invited to join the protests in Birmingham, Alabama.

July 27: Dr. King is arrested at a Georgia city hall prayer vigil and jailed on charges of failure to obey a police officer, obstructing the sidewalk and disorderly conduct.



October 22-27: The trespassing charges are dropped. All jailed demonstrators are released except Dr. King, who is held on a charge of violating a probated sentence in a traffic arrest case. He is transferred to the DeKalb County Jail in Decatur, Georgia, and is then transferred to the Reidsville State Prison. He is released from the Reidsville State Prison on a \$2,000.00 bond.

September 20: James Meredith makes his first attempt to enroll at the University of Mississippi. He is actually enrolled by Supreme Court order and is escorted onto the Oxford, Mississippi campus by U.S. Marshals on October 1, 1962.

October 16: Dr. King meets with President John F. Kennedy at the White House for a one-hour conference.



IMPORTANT TIME PERIODS IN THE LIFE OF Martin Luther King Jr.



1963

March 28: The King's fourth child, Bernice Albertine, is born.

March-April: Sit-in demonstrations are held in Birmingham, Alabama to protest segregation of eating facilities. Dr. King is arrested during a demonstration.



April 16: Dr. King writes the "Letter From A Birmingham Jail" while imprisoned for demonstrating.

May 3-5: Eugene "Bull" Connor, Director of Public Safety of Birmingham, Alabama, orders the use of police dogs and fire hoses against the marching protesters, including young adults and children.

May 20: The Supreme Court of the United States rules Birmingham, Alabama's segregation ordinances unconstitutional.

June: Dr. King's book, "Strength To Love," is published by Harper & Row.

June 11: Governor George C. Wallace tries to stop the court ordered integration of the University of Alabama by "standing in the schoolhouse door" and personally refusing entrance to black students and Justice Department officials. President John F. Kennedy then federalizes the Alabama National Guard, and Governor Wallace removes himself from blocking the entrance of the Negro students.

June 12: Medgar Evers, NAACP leader in Jackson, Mississippi, is assassinated at his home in the early morning darkness. His memorial service is held in Jackson on June 15. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Washington D.C. on June 19.

August 28: The March on Washington, the first large-scale integrated protest march, is held in Washington, D.C. Dr. King delivers his "I Have A Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Afterwards he and other Civil Rights leaders meet with President John F. Kennedy in the White House.

September 2-10: Governor Wallace orders the Alabama state

troopers to stop the court ordered integration of Alabama's elementary and high schools until he is enjoined by court injunction from doing so. By September 10 specific schools are actually integrated by court order.

September 15: Four young girls are killed in a Birmingham, Alabama church bombing.

November 22: President Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, Texas.

1964

Summer: COFO (Council of Federated Organizations) initiates the Mississippi Summer Project, a voter registration drive organized and run by black and white students.

May-June: Dr. King joins other SCLC workers in a demonstration for the integration of public accommodations in St. Augustine, Florida. He is jailed.

June: Dr. King's book, "Why We Can't Wait," is published by Harper & Row.

June 21: Three civil rights workers, James Chaney (black), Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner (both white), are reported missing after a short trip to Philadelphia, Mississippi.

July 2: Dr. King attends the signing of the Public Accommodations Bill, (Part of the Civil Rights Act of 1964) by President Lyndon B. Johnson in the White House.

July 18-23: Riots occur in Harlem, New York. One black man is killed.

August: Riots occur in New Jersey, Illinois and Pennsylvania.

August 4: The bodies of civil rights workers James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner are discovered by FBI Agents buried near the town of Philadelphia, Mississippi. Neshoba County Sheriff Rainey and his deputy, Cecil Price, are allegedly implicated in the murders.

September: Dr. King and Rev. Ralph Abernathy visit West Berlin at the invitation of Mayor Willy Brandt.

September 18: Dr. King has an audience with Pope Paul VI at the Vatican.

December 10: Dr. King receives the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway.

1965

February 21: Malcolm X, leader of the Organization of Afro-American Unity and former Black Muslim leader, is murdered in New York City.

March 7: A group of marching demonstrators (from SNCC and SCLC) led by SCLC's Hosea

Williams are beaten when crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge on their planned march to Montgomery, Alabama, from Selma, Alabama. Their attackers were state highway patrolmen under the direction of Al Lingo and sheriff's deputies under the leadership of Jim Clark. An order by Governor Wallace had prohibited the march.

March 9: Unitarian minister, James Reeb, is beaten by four white segregationists in Selma. He dies two days later.

March 15: President Johnson addresses the nation and Congress. He describes the voting rights bill he will submit to Congress in two days and uses the slogan of the Civil Rights Movement, "We Shall Overcome."



March 16: Sheriff's deputies and police on horseback in Montgomery, Alabama beat black and white demonstrators.

March 21-25: Over three thousand protest marchers leave Selma for a march to Montgomery, Alabama protected by federal troops. They are joined along the way by a total of twenty-five thousand marchers. Upon reaching the capitol, they hear an address by Dr. King.

March 25: Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, wife of a Detroit Teamsters Union business agent, is shot and killed while driving a carload of marchers back to Selma.

July: Dr. King visits Chicago, Illinois. SCLC joins with the Coordinating Council of Community Organizations (CCCO), led by Al Raby, in the Chicago Project.



August-December: In Alabama, SCLC spearheads voter registration campaigns in Green and Wilcox counties, and in the cities of Montgomery, Birmingham, and Eutaw, Alabama.

August 6: The 1965 Voting Rights Act is signed by President Johnson.

August 11-16: In Watts, the black ghetto of Los Angeles, riots leave a total of thirty-five dead. Twenty-eight are black.

1966

February: Dr. King rents an apartment in the black ghetto of Chicago, Illinois.

February 23: Dr. King meets with Elijah Muhammad, leader of the Black Muslims, in Chicago.

March: Dr. King takes over a Chicago slum building and is sued

by its owner.

March 25: The Supreme Court of the United States rules all poll tax unconstitutional.



Spring: Dr. King tours Alabama to help elect black candidates. The Alabama Primary is held, and for the first time since Reconstruction, blacks vote in significant numbers.

May 16: An antiwar statement by Dr. King is read at a large Washington rally to protest the war in Vietnam. Dr. King agrees to serve as a co-chairman of Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam.

June: Stokely Carmichael and Willie Ricks (SNCC) use the slogan "Black Power" in public for the first time before reporters in Greenwood, Mississippi.

June 6: James Meredith is shot soon after beginning his 220-mile "March Against Fear" from Memphis, Tennessee to Jackson, Mississippi.

July 10: Dr. King launches a drive to make Chicago an "open city" regarding housing.

August 5: Dr. King is stoned in Chicago as he leads a march through crowds of angry whites in the Gage Park section of Chicago's southwest side.

September: SCLC launches a project with the aim of integrating schools in Grenada, Mississippi.

Fall: SCLC initiates the Alabama Citizen Education Project in Wilcox County.

1967

January: Dr. King writes his book "Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?" while in Jamaica.

May 10-11: One black student is killed in a riot on the campus of all Negro Jackson State College in Jackson, Mississippi.

July 6: The Justice Department reports that more than 50 percent of all eligible black voters are registered in Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana and South Carolina.

July 12-17: Twenty-three people die and 725 are injured in riots in Newark, New Jersey.

July 23-30: Forty-three die and 324 are injured in the Detroit riots - the worst of the century.

July 26: Black leaders, Martin Luther King, Jr., A. Philip Randolph, Roy Wilkins and Whitney Young appeal for an end to the riots, "which have proved ineffective and damaging to the civil rights cause and the entire nation."

October 30: The Supreme Court upholds the contempt-of-court convictions of Dr. King and seven other black leaders who led the 1963 marches in Birmingham, Alabama. Dr. King and his aides enter jail to serve four-day sentences.

November 27: Dr. King announces the formation by SCLC of a Poor People's Campaign, with the aim of representing the problems of poor blacks and whites.

1968

February 12: Sanitation workers strike in Memphis, Tennessee.

March 28: Dr. King leads six thousand protesters on a march through downtown Memphis in support of striking sanitation workers. Disorder breaks out during which black youths loot stores. One sixteen-year-old is killed and fifty people are injured.

April 3: Dr. King's last speech titled "I've Been to the Mountain Top" is delivered at Mason Temple in Memphis, Tennessee.

April 4: Dr. King is assassinated as he stands talking on the balcony of his second-floor room at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. He dies in St. Joseph's Hospital from a gunshot wound in the neck.

April 9: Dr. King is buried in Atlanta, Georgia.

June 5: Presidential candidate Senator Robert Kennedy is shot in Los Angeles and dies the next day.

1986

January 18: Following passage of Public Law 98-144, President Ronald Reagan signs a proclamation declaring the third Monday in January of each year a public holiday in honor of the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

1999

December 8: A jury of twelve citizens of Memphis, Shelby County, TN concluded in Coretta Scott King, Martin Luther King, III, Bernice King, Dexter Scott King and Yolanda King Vs. Loyd Jowers and Other Unknown Conspirators that Loyd Jowers and governmental agencies including the City of Memphis, the State of Tennessee, and the federal government were party to the conspiracy to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
MONDAY JANUARY 15, 2010

"I believe that even amid today's mortar bursts and whining bullets, there is still hope for a brighter tomorrow"

- Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech, 1964

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COMMENTARY

Who's Country Is This?

BY LES KIMBER,
ADVOCATE FOUNDER –

Ever since President Barack Obama was sworn into office as the 44th President of the United States of America, the Republican right-wing conservatives have vowed to “take their county back.”

Every day some republican, some right wing conservative, or some Hate Radio Talk Show host proclaims their desire to “keep America the country that I grew up in – the country that our founding fathers envisioned.”

They argue that the United States is drifting away from the values that made it “the greatest country that the world has ever known” and unless they stop the Obama administration, by any means necessary, their children will be deprived of the opportunities that they have had to succeed in life.

Their actions and their statements demonizing the president and liberals over

the past year underscore their beliefs that this nation belongs to white males because, as Patrick J. Buchanan said, “the founding fathers were all white males” and presumably this country should always be controlled by white males exclusively.

They ignore the fact that the country that Hate Radio Talk Show hosts Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity, Mark Levin, Glen Beck, and their associates grew up in is a country that openly practiced discrimination against African Americans, Hispanics, Jews, women and other minorities.

They ignore the fact that some of the founding fathers were slave owners which made it very unlikely that they would envision the possibility that a black man would one day become President of the United States of America.

They ignore the fact that this country was not built exclusively by right-wing conservative white males, but by the cumulative con-

tributions of men and women from all races, religions, and political persuasions.

They do not realize that the election of Barack Obama as President of United States of American was no fluke. The American people made the decision on November 8, 2008 to put aside race as a factor in electing the best person to lead this country forward, and in spite of the efforts of the Republican party, the tea-baggers, the right-wing conservatives, and hate radio talk show hosts, they are not going back.

Who's country is this? This country belongs to *all* Americans, from liberals, conservatives, independents, men, women, and children from all walks of life. No race, no religion and no political party has exclusive ownership of this country, and the sooner we all understand that this nation will become, in the words of Frederick Douglass, “the nation that it ought to be,” the better off we'll be.

Lively Arts foundation

Dance Theatre of Harlem Ensemble

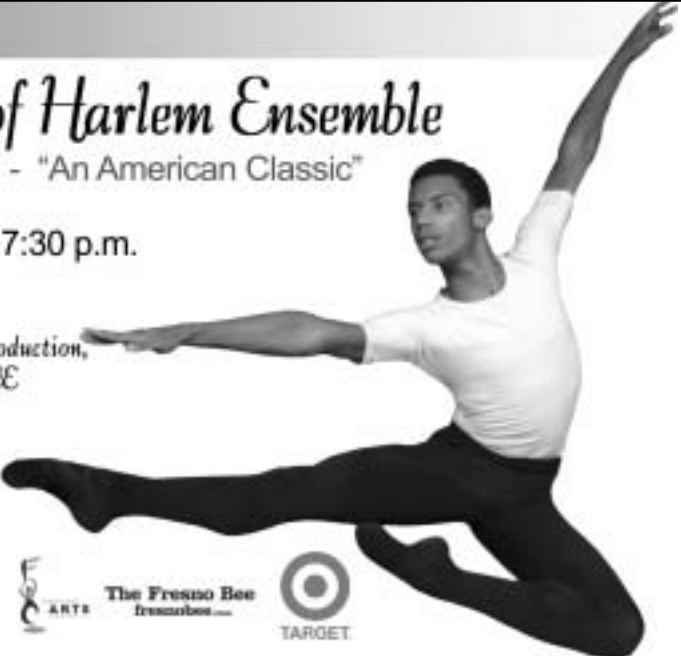

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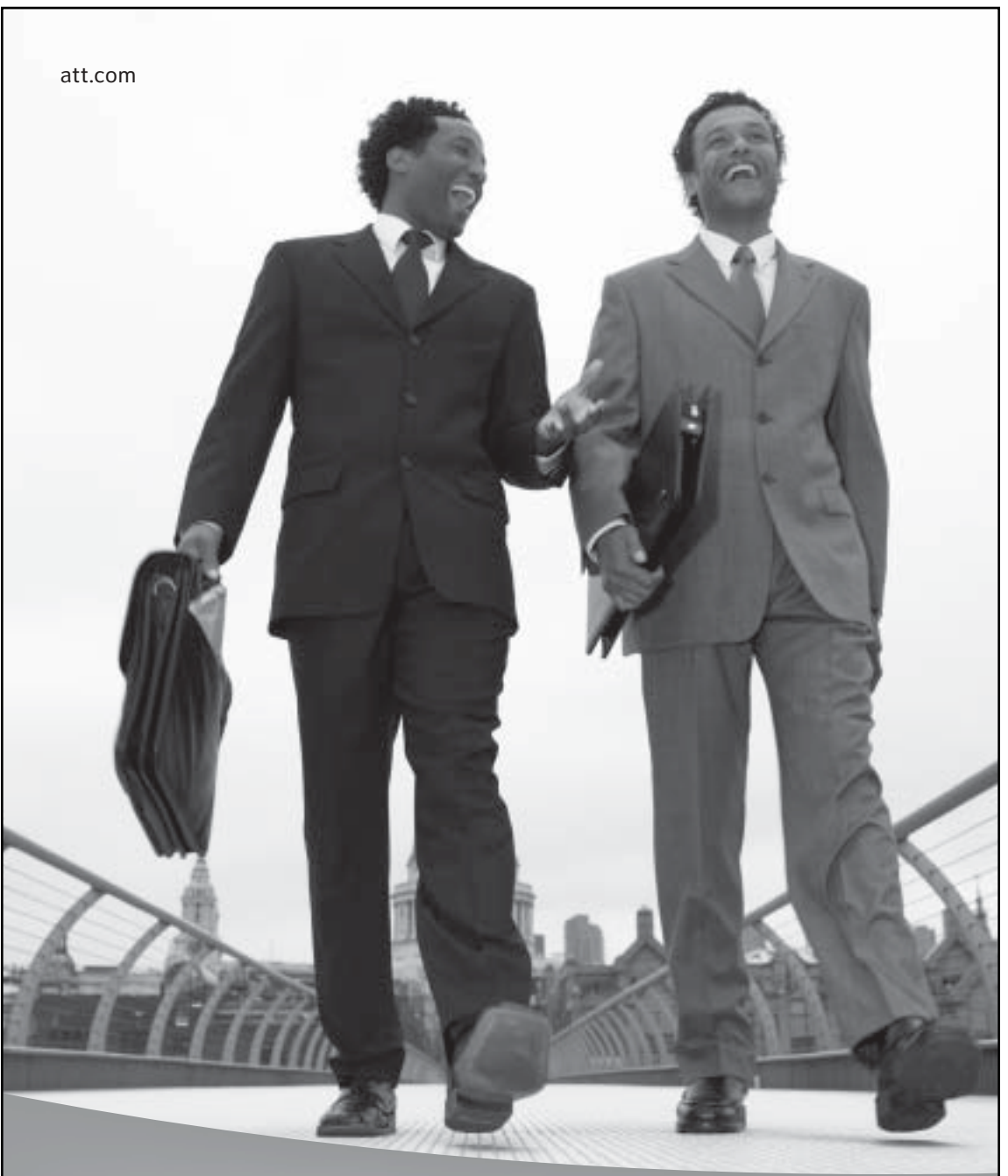
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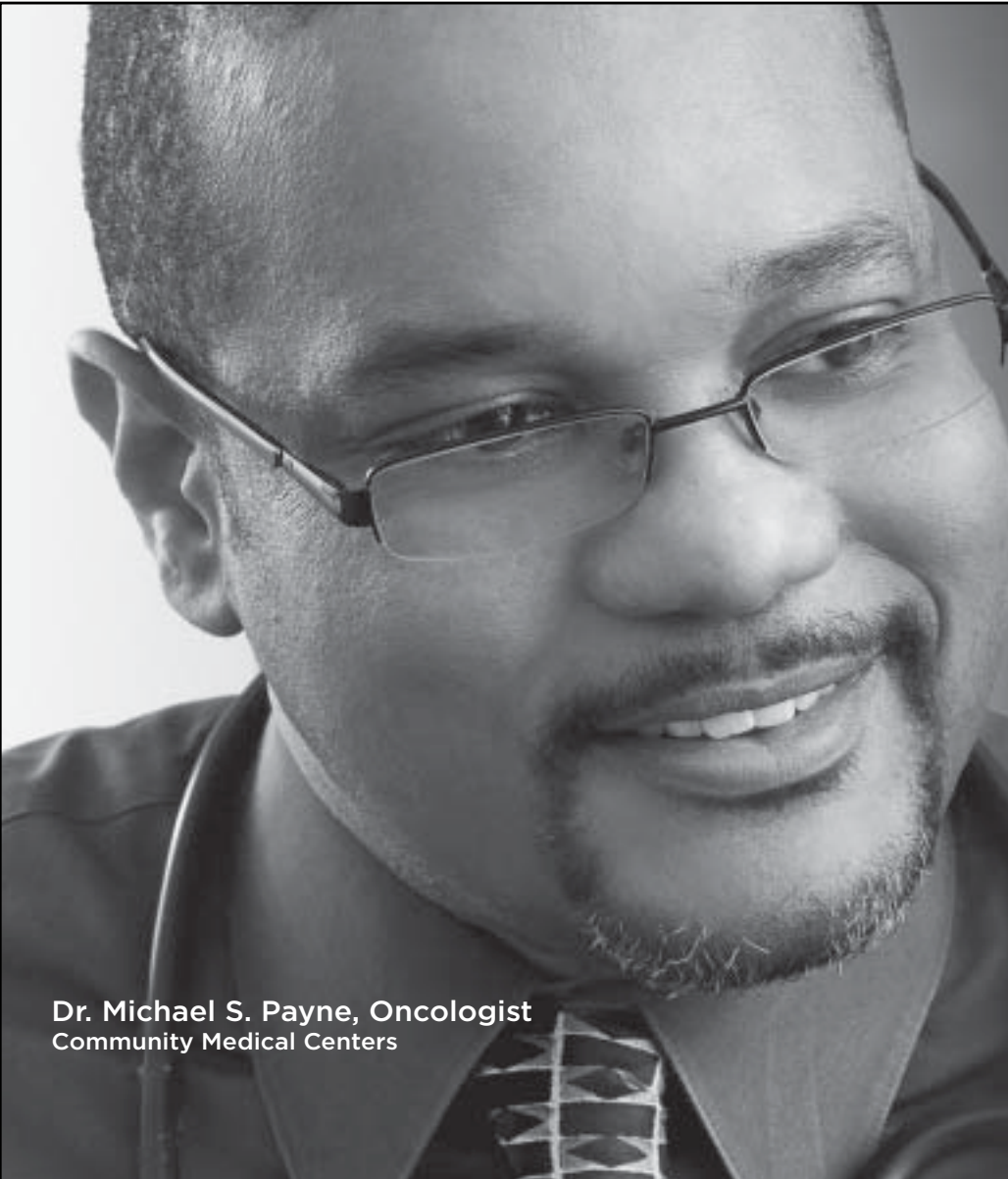
points of view.

Over time, market conditions will change and technologies will evolve. But the culture of new ideas through true diversity remains constant. The diversity of our employees, suppliers and customers enhances the success of our company – and that's never changed.

AT&T is proud to sponsor the Martin Luther King Day edition of the California Advocate, to keep his dream alive.



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Biographical Outline of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave black and poor people hope and a sense of dignity. His philosophy of nonviolent direct action, and his strategies for rational and non-destructive social change, galvanized the conscience of this nation and re-ordered its priorities. His wisdom, his words, his actions, his commitment, and his dream for a new way of life are intertwined with the American experience.

BIRTH AND FAMILY

Martin Luther King, Jr. was born at noon on Tuesday, January 15, 1929 at the family home, 501 Auburn Avenue, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Charles Johnson was the attending physician. Martin Luther King, Jr. was the first son and second child born to the Reverend Martin Luther King, Sr. and Alberta Williams King. Also born to the Kings were Christine, now Mrs. Isaac Farris, Sr., and the Reverend Alfred Daniel Williams King. The Reverend A.D. King is now deceased.

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s maternal grandparents were the Reverend Adam Daniel Williams, second pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, and Jenny Parks Williams. His paternal grandparents were James Albert and Delia King, sharecroppers on a farm in Stockbridge, Georgia.

He married Coretta Scott, the younger daughter of Obadiah and Bernice McMurry Scott of Marion, Alabama, on June 18, 1953. The marriage ceremony took place on the lawn of the Scott's home in Marion, Alabama. The Rev. King, Sr. performed the service, with Mrs. Edythe Bagley, the sister of Coretta Scott King as maid of honor, and the Rev. A.D. King, the brother of Martin Luther King, Jr., as best man.

Four children were born to Dr. and Mrs. King:

- Yolanda Denise (November 17, 1955, Montgomery, Alabama)
- Martin Luther III (October 23, 1957, Montgomery, Alabama)
- Dexter Scott (January 30, 1961, Atlanta, Georgia)
- Bernice Albertine (March 28, 1963, Atlanta, Georgia)

EDUCATION

At the age of five, Martin Luther King, Jr. began school, before reaching the legal age of six, at the Yonge Street Elementary School in Atlanta. When his age was discovered, he was not permitted to continue in school and did not resume his education until he was six. Following Yonge School, he was enrolled in David T. Howard Elementary School. He also attended the Atlanta University Laboratory School and Booker T. Washington High School. Because of his high scores on the college entrance examinations in his junior year of high school, he advanced to Morehouse College without formal graduation from Booker T. Washington. Having skipped both the ninth and twelfth grades, Dr. King entered Morehouse at the age of fifteen.

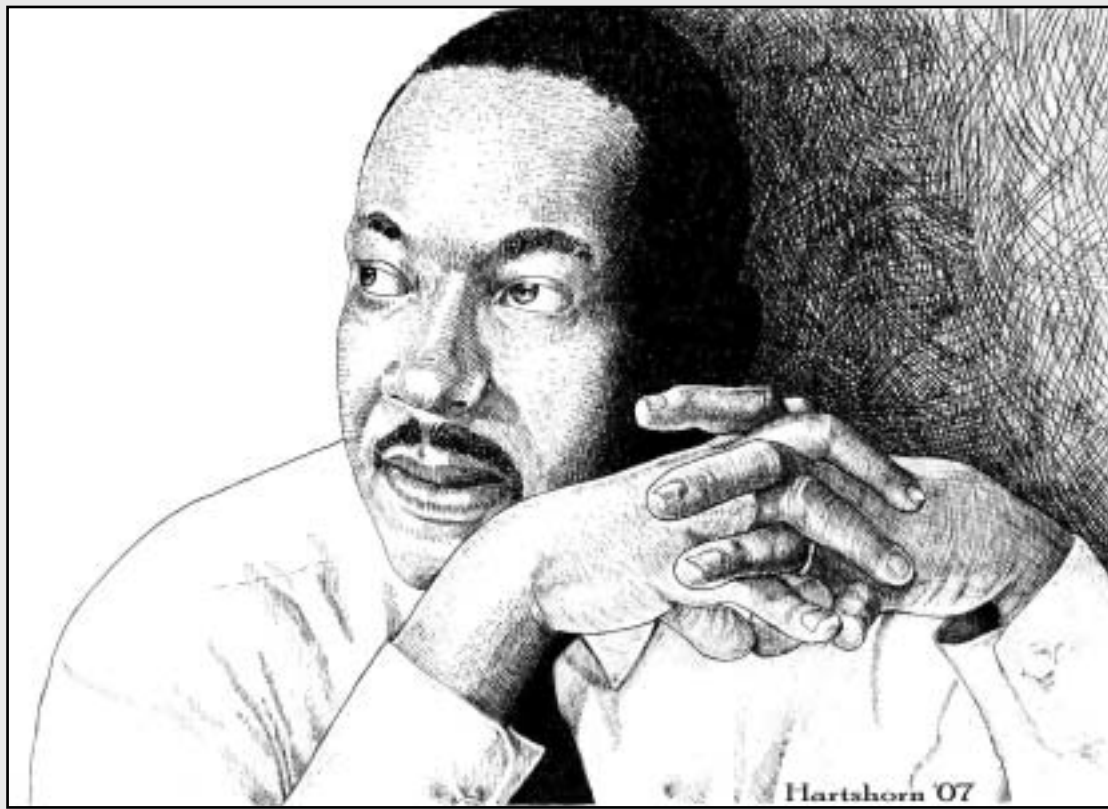
In 1948, he graduated from Morehouse College with a B.A. degree in Sociology. That fall he enrolled in Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania. While attending Crozer, he also studied at the University of Pennsylvania. He was elected President of the Senior Class and delivered the valedictory address. He won the Peral Plafkner Award as the most outstanding student, and he received the J. Lewis Crozer Fellowship for graduate study at a university of his choice. He was awarded a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Crozer in 1951.

In September of 1951, Martin Luther King, Jr. began doctoral studies in Systematic Theology at Boston University. He also studied at Harvard University. His dissertation, "A Comparison of the Conceptions of God in the Thinking of Paul Tillich and Henry Nelson Wieman," was completed in 1955, and the Ph.D. degree was awarded on June 5, 1955.

HONORARY DEGREES

Dr. King was awarded honorary degrees from various colleges and universities in the United States and several foreign countries. They include:

- Doctor of Humane Letters, Morehouse College
- Doctor of Laws, Howard University
- Doctor of Divinity, Chicago Theological Seminary
- Doctor of Laws, Morgan State University
- Doctor of Humanities, Central State University
- Doctor of Divinity, Boston University
- Doctor of Laws, Lincoln University
- Doctor of Laws, University of Bridgeport



- Doctor of Civil Laws, Bard College
- Doctor of Letters, Keuka College
- Doctor of Divinity, Wesleyan College
- Doctor of Laws, Jewish Theological Seminary
- Doctor of Laws, Yale University
- Doctor of Divinity, Springfield College
- Doctor of Laws, Hofstra University
- Doctor of Humane Letters, Oberlin College
- Doctor of Social Science, Amsterdam Free University
- Doctor of Divinity, St. Peter's College
- Doctor of Civil Law, University of New Castle, Upon Tyne
- Doctor of Laws, Grinnell College

CAREER

Martin Luther King, Jr. entered the Christian ministry and was ordained in February 1948 at the age of nineteen at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia. Following his ordination, he became Assistant Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church. Upon completion of his studies at Boston University, he accepted the call of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. He was the pastor of Dexter Avenue from September 1954 to November 1959, when he resigned to move to Atlanta to direct the activities of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. From 1960 until his death in 1968, he was co-pastor with his father at Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Dr. King was a pivotal figure in the Civil Rights Movement. He was elected President of the Montgomery Improvement Association, the organization that was responsible for the successful Montgomery Bus Boycott from 1955 to 1956 (381 days). He was arrested thirty times for his participation in civil rights activities. He was a founder and president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference from 1957 to 1968. He was also Vice President of the National Sunday School and Baptist Teaching Union Congress of the National Baptist Convention. He was a member of several national and local boards of directors and served on the boards of trustees of numerous institutions and agencies. Dr. King was elected to membership in several learned societies including the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

AWARDS

Dr. King received numerous awards for his leadership in the Civil Rights Movement. Among them were the following:

- Selected as one of the ten most outstanding personalities of the year by Time Magazine, 1957.
- Listed in Who's Who in America, 1957.
- The Spingarn Medal from the NAACP, 1957.
- The Russwurm Award from the National Newspaper Publishers, 1957.
- The Second Annual Achievement Award from The Guardian Association of the Police Department of New York, 1958.
- Selected as one of the sixteen world leaders who had contributed most to the advancement of freedom during 1959 by Ling Magazine of New Delhi, India.
- Named "Man of the Year," by Time Magazine, 1963.
- Named "American of the Decade," by the Laundry, Dry Cleaning, and Die Workers, International Union, 1963.
- The John Dewey Award, from the United Federation of Teachers, 1964.
- The John F. Kennedy Award, from the Catholic Interracial Council of Chicago, 1964.
- The Nobel Peace Prize, at age 35, the youngest man, second American, and the third black man to be so honored, 1964.
- The Marcus Garvey Prize for Human Rights, presented by the Jamaican Gov-

ernment, posthumously, 1968.

- The Rosa L. Parks award, presented by The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, posthumously, 1968.
- The Aims Field-Wolf Award for his book, Stride Toward Freedom.

The above awards and others, along with numerous citations, are in the Archives of The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Inc. in Atlanta, Georgia.

PUBLICATIONS

Although extremely involved with his family, his church, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, activities for peace and justice, his world travels, and his many speaking engagements, Dr. King wrote six books and numerous articles. His volumes include:

- Stride Toward Freedom, (New York: Harper & Row, 1958). The story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott.
- The Measure of a Man, (Philadelphia: Pilgrim Press, 1959). A selection of sermons.
- Why We Can't Wait, (New York: Harper & Row, 1963). The story of the Birmingham Campaign.
- Strength to Love, (New York: Harper & Row, 1963). A selection of sermons.
- Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community? (New York: Harper & Row, 1967). Reflections on the problems of today's world, the nuclear arms race, etc.
- The Trumpet of Conscience, (New York: Harper & Row, 1968). The Massey Lectures. Sponsored by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. (Posthumously).

DEATH

Dr. King was shot while standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee on April 4, 1968. Dr. King was in Memphis to help lead sanitation workers in a protest against low wages and intolerable working conditions. James Earl Ray was arrested in London, England on June 8, 1968, and returned to Memphis, Tennessee on July 19, 1969 to stand trial for the assassination of Dr. King. On March 9, 1969, before coming to trial, he entered a guilty plea and was sentenced to ninety-nine years in the Tennessee State Penitentiary.

On December 8, 1999, a jury of twelve citizens of Memphis, Shelby County, TN concluded in Coretta Scott King, Martin Luther King, III, Bernice King, Dexter Scott King and Yolanda King Vs. Loyd Jowers and Other Unknown Conspirators that Loyd Jowers and governmental agencies including the City of Memphis, the State of Tennessee, and the federal government were party to the conspiracy to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. King's funeral services were held on April 9, 1968 at Ebenezer Baptist Church and on the campus of Morehouse College, with the President of the United States proclaiming a day of mourning and flags being flown at half-staff. The area where Dr. King is entombed is located on Freedom Plaza and is surrounded by the Freedom Hall Complex of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic Site. The site is a 23-acre area was listed as a National Historic Landmark on May 5, 1977 and was made a National Historic Site on October 10, 1980 by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

In recent years, events in the lives of the King family have continued to reflect the tragedy and the triumph so uniquely combined in Dr. King's own life and is intrinsic, perhaps, in the lives of all dedicated persons the world over.

Just a little more than a year after Martin Luther King, Jr. was killed, his younger brother, Alfred Daniel, died in a tragic ac-

cident at his home in Atlanta. Funeral services were held at Ebenezer Baptist Church on July 24, 1969, where Alfred Daniel had served as co-pastor.

On Sunday, June 30, 1974, Mrs. Alberta Williams King, the mother of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was shot and killed as she sat at the organ in the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. Again, through an act of violence, there ended a life that was totally nonviolent, a life that was thoroughly Christian, a life that reflected love for all persons and unselfish service to humankind. Again, the indomitable faith of the King family was put to the test, and again love prevailed amid the greatest sadness. The Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr., bereft by the violent deaths of his two sons and now by the equally tragic death of his devoted wife, could still say – and did say – at her funeral service on July 3, "I cannot hate any man."

In 1975, the year following his wife's death, the Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr. resigned his forty-four year pastorate at Ebenezer, passing on the active leadership of the church to the young and inspired Dr. Joseph L. Roberts, Jr. At his retirement banquet on August 1, 1975, however, "Daddy King" made it clear – as if anyone could have thought otherwise – that his resignation did not mean his retirement from the full and active life that has described his long career. This "Giant of a Man," as he was acclaimed on that memorable evening, continued to work and to speak and to use the gifts with which the Lord had endowed him in the loving service of others. Among the Rev. King, Sr.'s many accomplishments is the completion of his one luxury, the publication of his autobiography, Daddy King. Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr. died on November 11, 1984 of a heart attack at Crawford W. Long Memorial Hospital in Atlanta. He was 84 years of age. Funeral services were held on November 14, 1984.

SPEECHES

Dr. King's speech at the March on Washington in 1963, along with his acceptance speech of the Nobel Peace Prize, and his final sermon in Memphis are among his most famous utterances. The following excerpts reveal the cogency, conviction and persuasion of his powerful speaking style.

From the speech "March on Washington"

"I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed; 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.' I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave-owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day, even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice."

"I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character. I have a dream today – I have a dream that one day down in Alabama with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification, one day right there in Alabama, little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with the little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers. I have a dream today."

"This hope is our hope. This is the faith that I go back to the south with. And with this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day."

"...And so let freedom ring, from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania. Let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado. Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California. But not only that. Let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia. Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee. Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring – And when we allow freedom to ring – when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: Free at last, free at last. Thank God almighty, we are free at last."

'The Day They Marched'

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S "I HAVE DREAM" SPEECH

[Delivered on the steps at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. on August 28, 1963 during the historic March On Washington.]

I am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation.

Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of captivity. But one hundred years later, we must face the tragic fact that the Negro is still not free.

One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the Negro is still languishing in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land.

So we have come here today to dramatize an appalling condition. In a sense we have come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir.

This note was a promise that all men would be guaranteed the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check which has come back marked "insufficient funds." But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation.

So we have come to cash this check — a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice. We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to open the doors of opportunity to all of God's children. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood.

It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment and to underestimate the determination of the Negro. This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. Nineteen sixty-three is not an end, but a beginning. Those who hope that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual. There will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights.

The whirlwinds of revolt will

continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges. But there is something that I must say to my people who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice. In the process of gaining our rightful place we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred.

We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again we must rise to the ma-

bility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one. We can never be satisfied as long as a Negro in Mississippi cannot vote and a Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote. No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations. Some of you have come fresh from narrow cells. Some of you have come from areas where your quest for freedom left you battered by the storms of persecution and staggered by the winds

of former slaves and the sons of former slaveowners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a desert state, sweltering with the heat of injustice and oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day the state of Alabama, whose governor's lips are presently dripping with the words of interposition and nullification, will be transformed into a situation where little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls and walk together as sisters and brothers. I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

This is our hope. This is the faith with which I return to the South. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with a new meaning, "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring." And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true.

So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire.

Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York.

Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania!

Let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado!

Let freedom ring from the curvaceous peaks of California!

But not only that; let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia!

Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee!

Let freedom ring from every hill and every molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual,

"Free at last! free at last! thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"



restless heights of meeting physical force with soul force.

The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny and their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom.

We cannot walk alone. And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall march ahead. We cannot turn back. There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, "When will you be satisfied?" We can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities. We cannot be satisfied as long as the Negro's basic

of police brutality. You have been the veterans of creative suffering. Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive.

Go back to Mississippi, go back to Alabama, go back to Georgia, go back to Louisiana, go back to the slums and ghettos of our northern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed. Let us not wallow in the valley of despair. I say to you today, my friends, that in spite of the difficulties and frustrations of the moment, **I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.**

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.

"I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of

Dance Theatre Returns to Fresno...

► **Continued from Page 1**
Shortly after the assassination of The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mitchell was inspired to start a school that would offer children – especially those in Harlem, the community in which he was born – the opportunity to learn about dance and the allied arts. Now in its fourth decade, Dance Theatre of Harlem has grown into a multi-cultural dance institution with an extraordinary legacy of providing opportunities for creative expression and artistic excellence that continues to set standards in the performing arts.

Dance Theatre of Harlem has achieved unprecedented success, bringing innovative and bold new forms of artistic expression to audiences in New York City, across the country and around the world. In February 2004, DTH celebrated its 35th Anniversary, which began with an extensive U.S. tour, followed by a 7-week historic tour of the United Kingdom. DTH received the largest grant ever given to any foreign company by the Dance Consortium in England. Following the UK tour, the Company made its return to Greece, prior to the opening of the 2004 summer Olympics.

During the summer of

2003, the DTH Company made its inaugural engagement at the Lincoln Center Festival 2003, with the premiere of “St. Louis Woman: A Blues Ballet.” In 2002, DTH won the Manchester Evening News Award in Dance as a result of its outstanding performances in England and Manchester. In 2000, Dance Theatre of Harlem performed to sold-out houses in China, giving the country its first performances of Firebird, and conducted extensive outreach and educational activities in Mandarin Chinese. That same year, the Company returned to the legendary Apollo Theater in Harlem,

which marked DTH’s first performances on the stage in 25 years.

Dance Theatre of Harlem is located at 466 West 152nd Street in a newly-designated landmark district in Harlem. The building was designed by Hardy Holtzman Pfeiffer & Associates and received the New York City Department of General Services Award for Excellence. After a major gift from the Everett Foundation in October 1994, the building was officially re-opened and dedicated as The Everett Center for the Performing Arts. The historic site houses dance studios used by both the Company and the School.

“We Must Be There For Them...”

► **Continued from Page 1**
with disaster relief efforts and security in Haiti.

The dispatched troops would aim to keep the peace in the event of post-disaster unrest as part of a larger international effort overseen by the United Nations, whose peacekeeping operation headquarters was destroyed in the quake. About 100 U.N. personnel are believed to be trapped in the ruins.

President Obama promised Wednesday to mount an all-out rescue and humanitarian effort to help the people of Haiti overcome a “cruel and incomprehensible” tragedy. He said the U.S. government is working to account for Americans who were on the island nation when the disaster struck Tuesday.

Mr. Obama sought to show a swift and united disaster response with the United States as an assertive leader, but he said the effort must be an international one.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton cut short a trip to the Asia-Pacific re-

gion to oversee U.S. relief efforts.

How You Can Help

• Financial gifts may be made to the American Red Cross International Response Fund, which will provide immediate relief and long-term support through supplies, technical assistance and other means to help those in need. Donations to the International Response Fund can be sent to American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013, or made by phone at 1-800-RED-CROSS or online at www.redcross.org.

• The Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina recommends that donations be made to the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund through www.er-d.org, by calling (800) 334-7626, ext. 5129, or by mail to Episcopal Relief & Development, P.O. Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058. Write “Haiti Fund” in the memo line of all checks. More information about the diocese’s relief efforts in Haiti

can be found at www.edusc.org/Cange.

• TrueNorth Church in North Augusta partners with www.watermissions.org, which works to provide clear water in Haiti. Donations are accepted online.

• Catholic Relief Services is readying food and other aid to help families in Haiti. To help with relief efforts, donate via phone at 1-877-HELP-CRS or text RELIEF to 30644, online at www.crs.org, or by check with the memo line “Haiti Earthquake” to Catholic Relief Services, P.O. Box 17090, Baltimore, MD 21203-7090.

• The United Methodist Committee on Relief, which has had a long-standing relationship with Haiti through the Methodist Church of Haiti, is accepting donations at gbgm-umc.org/umcor.

World Reaches Out to Haiti

The U.N. is releasing \$10 million from its emergency funds and the European Commission has approved \$4.37 million for humanitar-

ian aid. Here is a selection of other efforts:

Britain: Search-and-rescue firefighters, dogs and 10 tons of equipment

Canada: A military team to assess needed household goods, tents and sanitation packages

China: \$1 million
France: Doctors, food, medical equipment, rubble clearing specialists and sniffer dogs

Germany: Rescue team, \$2.17 million

Iceland: 37 search-and-rescue specialists

Ireland: Telecommunications company donates \$5 million to help repair phone network

Israel: Elite Army rescue unit of engineers, rescue workers, doctors and medics
Mexico: Will send doctors, search-and-rescue dogs and infrastructure damage experts

Netherlands: Rescue team, \$2.91 million

Spain: 100 tons of relief equipment, \$4.37 million

Taiwan: Rescue team, 2 tons of relief aid and equipment

Tens of Thousands Feared Dead...

► **Continued from Page 1**
ernment, depleted by death and injury itself, appeared unable to mount a significant rescue effort in the hemisphere’s poorest nation.

President Obama dispatched military relief vessels and warships to stand off the Haitian coast, pledging “the deep condolences and unwavering support of the American people.” Capitals from Brasilia to Beijing quickly put together relief packages and organized search missions in Haiti, where thousands of foreign residents remained unaccounted for. Within a fearful Haitian diaspora following the tragedy through grim television images, relatives scoured the Internet and taxed the already weak communications links to the country in search of information on their loved ones.

“It’s the disaster of the century” for Haiti, Karel Zelenka, director of Catholic Relief Services in Port-au-Prince, told U.S. colleagues in an e-mail Wednesday morning. “We should be prepared for thousands and thousands of dead and injured.”

Years of political strife and a devastating 2008 hurricane season have left Haiti a volatile country with battered roads, a weak public health system and a landscape of slums that witnesses said Wednesday had largely collapsed across the capital. The relief efforts are likely to be severely hampered by the fact that government agencies and international organizations charged with helping coordinate assistance operations have themselves been shattered by the quake.

The hotel that served as the United Nations headquarters in the country collapsed, leaving more than 100 people, including special envoy Hedi Annabi, unaccounted for in the rubble. U.N. officials confirmed the deaths of 13 Brazilian and Jordanian peacekeepers,

with many others missing. In Washington, a White House official told Haitian activists that three Americans have been confirmed killed.

Searching for the living

On the outskirts of the capital, two cranes and dozens of rescue workers scooped up gravel, dust and wood beams from a four-story building that had collapsed the day before. Three bodies had been removed from the pile earlier in the day, and as night fell, the men worked to rescue three more believed to be trapped in what had been offices. Some used plastic buckets to scoop at the plaster and scattered wood.

As he watched the rescue, Dunois Jean-Baptiste, 44, recalled the “huge dust cloud and . . . big rumbling” of the previous day.

“We heard people calling for help,” he said.

At U.N. headquarters in New York, officials told reporters that heavy equipment, search personnel and medical teams were urgently needed in a nation that has scant public resources in the best of times.

“Basic services such as water and electricity have collapsed almost entirely,” said Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. “Medical facilities have been inundated with injured.”

In an interview with the Miami Herald, Haitian President René Préval described scenes from his city that he characterized as “unimaginable.”

The Haitian parliament building crumbled, and the graceful, snow-white National Palace that sits on a rare patch of emerald lawn in the heart of the capital lies in ruins. A prison in Port-au-Prince broke apart, allowing some surviving inmates to escape. The city’s Roman Catholic archbishop is among the dead.

“The tax office has collapsed. Schools have collapsed. Hospitals have collapsed,” Préval said. “There

are a lot of schools that have a lot of dead people in them.”

Later, on CNN, Préval said he been informed that the death toll could be 30,000 to 50,000. He lamented that injured people have been lying in the streets since the quake struck, saying, “We don’t have the capacity to bring them to the hospital.”

“There are risks that houses continue to collapse,” he said. “There are risks of an epidemic.”

Health concerns

Public health officials in Washington echoed those concerns. The Pan American Health Organization dispatched a team of experts from Panama to assist in the management of mass casualties, the delivery of emergency medical care and the disposal of bodies.

“We fear the impact of this earthquake will be particularly devastating due to the vulnerability of Haiti’s people,” said Jon K. Andrus, the organization’s deputy director.

The United States, France, China and the Dominican Republic are sending search-and-rescue teams to Haiti, a country of 9 million people with a primitive network of two-lane roads, only the most major of which are paved. Andrus said Brazil has sent three jets carrying 21 tons of equipment, and many countries have pledged money. Spain has sent planes with surgical teams.

A U.S. military official said tentative plans are underway for the hospital ship USNS Comfort -- which aided Haiti after hurricanes struck Port-au-Prince two years ago -- to dock off the coast and assist the sick and wounded.

“An unknown number, tens if not hundreds of thousands, have suffered varying degrees of destruction to their homes,” Vincenzo Pugliese, deputy spokesman for the U.N. mission in Haiti, said in a statement. He said “major transport routes have

Teddy Pendergrass, Dead at 59...

► **Continued from Page 1**
‘70s standards as “If You Don’t Know Me By Now,” and “Wake Up Everybody.” He split with the Blue Notes in 1976 to pursue a solo career and exploded right out of the gate with his self-titled solo debut, which went platinum and spawned the hit singles, “I Don’t Love You Anymore” and “The More I Get The More I Want.”

After the 1982 car accident left him in a wheelchair, Pendergrass

became something of a hero and spokesperson for victims of spinal cord injuries. He continued to record R&B hits and he famously made his return to the stage at the massive Live Aid concert in 1985, but his real influence in recent years was with the Teddy Pendergrass Alliance where he encouraged and assisted others with spinal cord injuries to live full lives. To that end, Pendergrass led by example.

Parents Warned Against Jewelry...

► **Continued from Page 1**
Tenenbaum contained plenty of don’ts - but didn’t say what to do with the jewelry if you have it. When pressed, Tenenbaum’s spokesman Scott Wolfson explained parents should grab the trinkets and toss them. Just be sure to “safely dispose” of the merchandise under applicable state and federal environmental law.

It was another escalation in the serious health concern that began Sunday, when The Associated Press published its first investigative report on tests that showed the presence of high levels of cadmium in imported children’s jewelry.

So what are America’s Moms and Dads to do? While neither Tenenbaum nor Wolfson would outright say not to buy cheap children’s jewelry, that inference was clear, too.

A tough conversation around the kitchen table: don’t buy any new stuff, don’t give out any new stuff, don’t play with the

old stuff. In fact, get rid of the old stuff, but in a manner that doesn’t risk putting toxins from the jewelry in to the environment.

And make sure you don’t go out and resell the jewelry through online auctions or to a thrift store, said Wolfson.

So far, there’s been no word of any official recalls. When asked if the recommendations were bigger than a recall, Wolfson replied, “Yes.”

Nowhere in all of the advice was the word “refund.”

So instead of focusing in on specific items, as a recall would do, the CPSC officials are taking on an entire industry.

In a written statement, an attorney representing the Fashion Jewelry Trade Association said the organization’s members “have worked diligently over the past 18 months to comply with new lead standards and other new safety regulations” that were part of major legislation passed in 2008.

Many Still Identify Selves As ‘Negro...’

► **Continued from Page 1**
young man who has grown in a time period where those words were never used I don’t really expect for them to be used now,” said Austin Weatherington, a journalist from Cleveland.

The Census Bureau has explained in a news release that the reason that the word Negro has been included on Census questionnaire is because testing prior to Census 2000 indicated that a large number of respondents self-identified with the term. They decided against omitting the term in order to avoid an unintended undercount due to a change in question wording.

Secondly, the Census Bureau is following the guidance of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget’s 1997 revised standards for the classification of race and ethnicity for federal data after a series of tests were conducted in 1996. To that end, The OMB defined the ‘Black or African American’ racial category as “a person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa,” and stipulated that “terms such as ‘Haitian’ or ‘Negro’ can be used in addition to ‘Black or African American.’” The NAACP is not as alarmed as Weatherington.

“In the African-American community, there is a tendency to be more of a generational divide but there are a lot of older African-Americans that still utilize that term and prefer it,” said Hilary Shel-

ton, NAACP’s vice president for advocacy and director of its Washington Bureau.

The Census Bureau will again be testing the removal of the term “Negro” from the race question in the 2020 Census.

There are reasons other than generational gaps that some prefer Negro or Black.

“For instance, we have people of African decent that have come into the country that are citizens and will be counted as such but don’t like the term ‘African-American’ because they weren’t born here,” Shelton explained. “They prefer the term ‘Black’. But in this particular category, we just need to make sure that we capture all of those groups. So to help prevent the confusion, we’ve added all three terms. So, we think that it’s a good idea.”

Adds Shelton, “We shouldn’t be alarmed . . . Keep in mind that the goal of the census is to collect the information as comprehensive and as accurately as possible.”

There is power in numbers, and the outcome of 2010 Census data will determine how more than \$3 trillion in federal funding will be allocated over the next decade as well as how states will be represented in Congress. And so, the flow of federal funds into Black communities and congressional representation will be determined by how accurate the Black population is counted, how ever they self-identify.

Nations Top Stage Play "The Clean Up Woman" Comes to Fresno

Get ready to see why they call JD Lawrence the King of Dramedy. Telly Award winner JD Lawrence returns with his new stage play "The Clean Up Woman", March 4, 2010 at the Warnors theatre in downtown Fresno. (See ad on this page)

Momma always said, "Never let another woman sit on your bed and never let her clean your house." Journalist Terri Adams pushes aside her newlywed domestic apron for a six figure anchor job with WNY5. When Terri starts neglecting home for her new position, her supportive husband comes to his wits end and demands she clean up her act, starting with the house. To keep the peace, her man and her job, Terri hires a local cleaning service recommended by a co-worker. If not careful, she just might find "The Clean Up Woman" picking up more than she's supposed to. JD Lawrence brings out all the bells and whistles in this witty, fast-paced dramedy that will have you rolling in the aisle.

JD Lawrence, known as the "King of Dramedy", is an American playwright, actor, comedian, dancer, singer, director, and producer of television sitcoms and stage plays. Often playing as many as seven characters in a single production, he has been called The Man of Many Faces.

Lawrence grew up in a family of entertainers. Surrounded by extremely talented relatives, it was only natural that Lawrence would pick up on that same

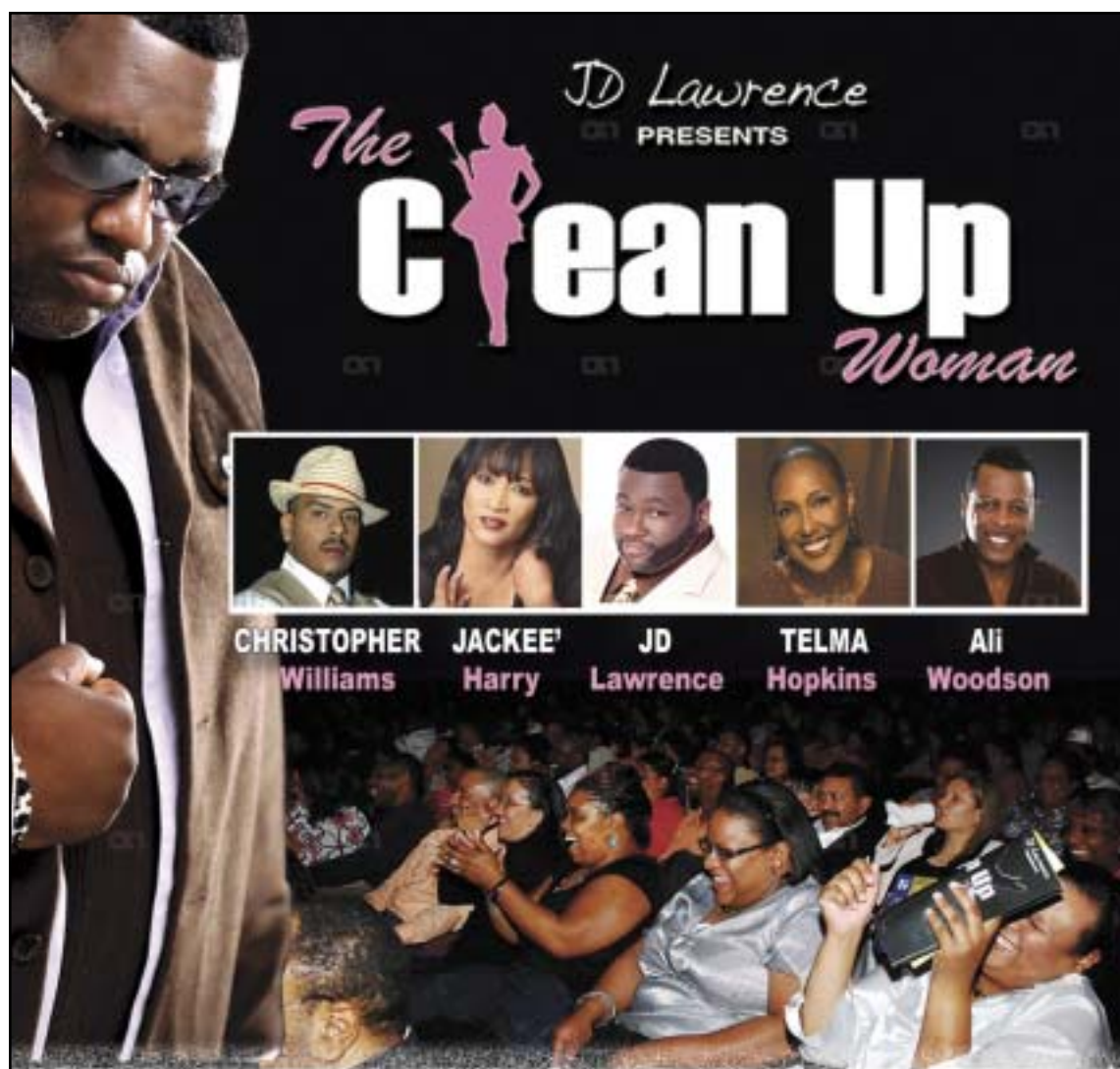
talent himself. At the age of seven, he realized his love of theater and set out to make his mark in the industry. He hit a road block when he discovered that his speech impediment would prevent him from participating in countless productions. Yet, Lawrence would let nothing stand in his way. Overcoming his obstacles, he began creating and starring in his own productions - writing and producing his first stage play, Dream Street, at only eight years old and has been going strong since then.

Lawrence discovered his passion at a very young age and, since then, has discovered how to turn his passion into profit with the triumphant runs of several stage plays. Since his first production, written and produced at the young age of eight, Lawrence has gone on to create a myriad of other productions. Since starting his first stage play, Bless Them Anyhow, in 1991, Lawrence has written and produced twelve others. Family Affair was the first show he began putting big names in, casting Tony Terry. In 1998, he came out with Cut the Devil Loose and followed that with the 2001 debut of "Scissors", with Natalie Wilson and Ronald Winan. In 2002, El DeBarge starred in Lawrence's When a Man Cries and 2004 brought a new production, If You Don't Stand for Something, You'll Fall for Anything. Following a European national tour with the Harlem Gospel singers, Lawrence produced the popular Rumors, featuring: George

Wilbourne, LaToya Luckett, and Telma Hopkins. His most recent stage play, The Clean Up Woman, is the most-anticipated in the US[citation needed], starring Christopher Williams, Jackee Harry, and Thelma Hopkins. He has repeatedly performed to sold-out audience across the country.

Further expanding on his multiple talents, Lawrence's brand will launch a sitcom in 2010 on Gospel Music Channel. Lawrence will make history as he becomes the first playwright to write and star in two consecutive sitcoms, The JD Lawrence Show and Community Servants. Further adding to his list of firsts, Community Servants will be the first ever scripted, music-driven sitcom on television. Lawrence will live up to his nickname, The Man of Many Faces, as he, yet again, plays multiple characters in both sitcoms.

Lawrence is the first playwright to make the Network Journal's (in association with Time Warner) 2006 Top Forty African American Entrepreneurs List.[citation needed] The Telly Award winner is also a two-time "Keep America Beautiful" National Award-winning writer, performer, and director. His unique talents have earned him the honor of being named the country's first African American playwright to simultaneously receive two public performing arts Special Recognition Awards, a Legislature Distinguished Achievement Awards, and a Certificate of Special Recognition from Congress.



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