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Fresno's African American Community Newspaper

SUMMONING THE SOUL OF A NATION



Obama

Obama tells polarized nation: 'We can be better'

'Nation Needs Healing'

BY JULIE PAVE & BEN FELLER

ARIZONA (AP) -

Summoning the soul of a nation, President Barack Obama on Wednesday implored Americans to honor those slain and injured in the Arizona shootings by becoming better people, telling a polarized citizenry that it is time to talk with each other "in a way that heals, not in a way that wounds." Following a hospital bedside visit with Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, the target of the assassination, he said: "She knows we're here, and she knows we love her."

In a memorably dramatic moment, the president said that Giffords, who on Saturday was shot point-blank in the head, had opened her eyes for the first time shortly after his hospital visit. First lady Michelle Obama held hands with Giffords' husband, Mark Kelly, as the news brought soaring cheers throughout the arena.

Speaking at a memorial at the University of Arizona, Obama bluntly conceded
Continued on Page 6 ▶

Jailed Sisters Freed: Eager To Start New Life



Gladys and Jamie Scott

Prison sentences suspended on condition that one donates organ to the other

MISSISSIPPI -

Sisters Jamie and Gladys Scott left prison on Friday for the first time in 16 years, yelling, "We're free!" and "God bless y'all!" as they pulled away in a silver sport utility vehicle. That freedom, though, comes with an unusual condition: Gladys
Continued on Page 6 ▶



BIGGIE

Investigation Into Death Of Notorious B.I.G. Heats Up

Above: Brooklyn Rapper Jamal 'Gravy' Wooldard portrays Wallace in the 2009 hit movie 'Notorius'



Right: Christopher Wallace, AKA Biggie Smalls, AKA Notorious B.I.G.

BY TED ROWLANDS

LOS ANGELES (CNN) - A task force made up of local and federal law enforcement agencies is actively pursuing leads into the 1997 slaying of hip hop artist Christopher Wallace, better known as Biggie Smalls or Notorious B.I.G., according to two sources familiar with the investigation.

According to one law enforcement source, the investigation into the 13-year-old unsolved case was "reinvigorated" months ago as a result of new information, but the source would not elaborate further because of the ongoing investigation that includes the Los Angeles Police Department, L.A. County District

Attorney's Office and the FBI. On March 9, 1997, Wallace, 24, was shot and killed while riding in a Suburban that was driving away from a music industry party at the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles police said a lone gunman in a Chevy
Continued on Page 6 ▶

THE DAY BIGGIE WAS MURDERED

Below is the original L.A. Times newspaper article printed March 7, 1997

Gangsta Rap Performer Notorious B.I.G. Slain

LOS ANGELES -

Star is shot to death in vehicle after leaving music industry party in the Mid-Wilshire district.

By Eric Lichtblau, Chuck Philips and Cheo Hodari Coker Los Angeles Times Staff Writers

Rap music star Notorious B.I.G. was

shot to death along Museum Row in Los Angeles' Mid-Wilshire district early Sunday as he left a music industry party, a brazen attack that marked the second drive-by murder of a gangsta rap celebrity in the last six months.

B.I.G., born Christopher Wallace, was leaving the party at the Petersen Automot-

ive Museum about 12:30 a.m. when police believe someone in a dark car pulled up alongside the passenger side of the GMC Suburban in which he was riding and fired several shots inside.

The 24-year-old rapper, who had earned rave reviews and big sales in giving voice
Continued on Page 6 ▶

Paper Names Ex-Klansman in Civil Rights Murder

BY RICHARD ALLEN GREENE

CNN - Early on the morning of December 10, 1964, Frank Morris ran out of his shoe store, his clothes and skin on fire.

People who saw him in the

hospital afterward said the African-American businessman was so badly burned they didn't recognize him.

"Only the bottom of his feet weren't burned. He was horrible to look at," said the Rev.

Robert Lee Jr., now 96.

Morris survived for four days before dying - long enough to tell the FBI that two men had broken into his store while he slept, smashed windows, doused the place in gasoline

and told him: "Get back in there, nigger."

Locals in Ferriday, the small Louisiana town where Morris lived and died, remember him as having both white and black

Continued on Page 6 ▶

Banks Repossessed 1M Homes in 2010: 2011 Will Be Worse

First quarter of the year will likely show a rebound in foreclosure activity

New York -

The bleakest year in foreclosure crisis has only just begun.

Lenders are poised to take back more homes this year than any other since the U.S. housing meltdown began in 2006. About 5 million borrowers are at least

two months behind on their mortgages and more will miss payments as they struggle with job losses and loans worth more than their home's value, industry analysts forecast.

"2011 is going to be the peak," said Rick Sharga, a senior vice

president at foreclosure tracker RealtyTrac Inc. The firm predicts 1.2 million homes will be repossessed this year by lenders.

The outlook comes after banks repossessed more than 1 million homes in 2010, RealtyTrac said Thursday. That

marked the highest annual tally of properties lost to foreclosure on records dating back to 2005.

One in 45 U.S. households received a foreclosure filing last year, or a record high of 2.9 million homes. That's up 1.67 percent from 2009.
Continued on Page 6 ▶



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Kamala D. Harris Takes Oath as 1st Black Cal. Attorney General

SACRAMENTO – Kamala D. Harris was sworn in as California Attorney General this afternoon in Sacramento, vowing in her remarks to ensure that state law is on the side of the people.

“I am deeply humbled by the trust you have placed in me and I will never forget it is you, the People of California, whom I serve,” Harris said.

The oath was administered by Chief Justice of California Tani Cantil-Sakauye at the California Museum for History, Women and the Arts. The inauguration ceremony included an invocation by Bishop T. Larry Kirkland, Sr. of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and a performance by classical Indian dancer Vidya Sundaram. Sergeant Gerald D’Arcy of the San Francisco Police Department sang the national anthem and the Presentation of Colors was given by the Department of Justice Color Guard and the Sacramento Area Firefighters.

Attorney General Harris stressed in her inaugural address that she will seek innovative new approaches in tackling the state’s toughest problems.

“It is often said that a good prosecutor wins convictions. But a great prosecutor has convictions. In the coming four years, and in the continuing work of the Attorney General’s Office, we are going to do whatever it takes in the cause of protecting and defending the lives and livelihoods of all Californians, by moving beyond the status quo,” Harris said. “To do this, we are going to need to get smart on crime – tougher and smarter about making California the undisputed national leader in innovation in crime fighting.”

As chief law enforcement officer for the state, Harris plans to focus on reducing recidivism and on reforming the state’s revolving door prison system. A major priority of her office will be to lead a renewed collaborative effort against transnational gangs and organized crime.

In her role representing the interests of the people of California, Harris is deeply committed to protecting consumers from mortgage fraud and other scams, as well as to preserving the state’s natural resources.

Harris is the first woman, and the first African American and the first South Asian American, to hold the office of Attorney General in the history of California.



Kamala D. Harris

Attorney General Harris served two terms as District Attorney in San Francisco. First elected in 2003, Harris drew on nearly 20 years of experience as a courtroom prosecutor to fight violent crime. During her tenure, the city increased conviction rates for serious and violent offenses, expanded services to victims of crime and their families, created new prosecution divisions focused on child assault, public integrity and environmental crimes, and launched effective programs to keep parolees from re-offending. To combat one of San Francisco’s biggest challenges, gun violence, she created a gun specialist team and implemented tough gun charging policies.

Calif. Highway Patrol Officer Held in Husband’s Slaying

Nearly two years ago, Officer Tomiekia Johnson said she killed her husband, Marcus Lemons, in self-defense. The L.A. County district attorney’s office has filed murder charges against her.

By Richard Winton and Andrew Blankstein, Los Angeles Times

On a Saturday night nearly two years ago, California Highway Patrol Officer Tomiekia Johnson pulled out a handgun and fatally shot her husband in the head on an offramp of the 91 Freeway in Compton.

She then drove less than a mile to the home of her parents, who called authorities to report the killing. Johnson told detectives she acted in self-defense after her husband, barber Marcus Lemons, physically abused her during a heated argument.

Lemons’ family and colleagues at the Compton barbershop where he worked were immediately skeptical

of Johnson’s story, describing Lemons as a peaceful man who would never hit his wife. But detectives had little to go on, and the case quickly faded from the headlines.

Then on Tuesday, homicide detectives from the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department went to a CHP office in Los Angeles and arrested Johnson at the desk where she had been assigned since the slaying. The same morning, prosecutors charged Johnson with Lemons’ slaying.

Deputy Dist. Atty. Natalie Adomian said Johnson “intentionally shot her husband,” and the killing had nothing to do with self-defense.

“She didn’t call 911, her parents did,” Adomian added.

For more than a year, sheriff’s investigators reconstructed the events that led to 31-year-old Lemons’ killing.

The couple had left a T.G.I. Friday’s in Compton shortly

before the shooting. At some point, the couple stopped the car.

Law enforcement sources told The Times that Johnson was outside the car when she fired the shot.

The sources, who spoke on the condition that they not be named because the case was ongoing, said Johnson later told detective Lemons had physically abused her in the car. The sources, however, said detectives allege that forensic information gathered at the scene contradicts some parts of her account.

Marcus Lemons’ brother, Alonzo Lemons, said he was surprised but grateful when detectives told him that Johnson had been arrested.

“I was kind of in shock. It has been almost two years now,” he said. “It won’t bring him back. It was sad anyway it goes. They have a child together. Now that child is without a mother and a father.”

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Rykeem Yates To Attend The University of Reno Nevada

Rykeem Yates, a former Edison High School football stand-out, will attend The University of Reno Nevada this Fall. While attending high school, he held a cumulative grade point average of 3.0. At that time he played under the leadership of Tim McDonald, was captain of the team, and says he will never forget winning the Valley Championship as a Tiger. At the University of Reno Nevada Rykeem will start as a "grey shirt" Freshman. He is expected to come in and start. He is the son Penny Walters and the nephew of Michael King. "I am personally very proud of him," says King. "I feel as if anyone who has something great going for them like Rykee needs support from the family and the community".



A Taste of Harlem in Fresno



Camalah Kopacz

Harlem Wing and Waffles has finally opened in Fresno's River Park, giving the area an ethnic vibe and bringing customers from all over town to try.

From 13 different flavors of chicken including Jamaica Jerk, Spicy BBQ, Garlic Parmesan wings to waffles, waffle fries, potato salad, baked beans, onion rings, to veggie sticks with a specially made dips. Harlem Wings and Waffles have impressed many of its customers whom for the first time had a chance to taste the traditional black cultural foods.

Camalah Kopacz, owner operator of Harlem Wings and Waffles, says she put her heart into her creation. She wants to make sure that she brought a taste of Harlem here to Fresno. The California Advocate had a great opportunity to interview Mrs. Kopacz and here is what she had to say



about Harlem Wing and Waffles.

Can you give us a little history about your self personally, and your cooking history?

I am Jamaican, I've been in the United States for 3 years. This concept Chicken and Waffles is not new; however, it is new to the people of Fresno. I did go to culinary school here, The Institute of Technology. I've always been a cook but I wanted the formal training. A lot of people say you must be crazy! Starting a business like this, in this economy, but you know what? What's life with out a dream? If we all stop dreaming and we all stop trying, what's going to happen? I would just like to encourage local people to support local business people. So far everyone who has tried my food likes it. As soon as the weather rolls over I will receive more support.

Is there a history of cooks in your family?

My aunt, she is an exceptional cook. We like spicy foods back home. I have a lot of request to put rice and beans on the menu so I'm going to put it on there. I've been getting a lot of love with the jerk chicken.

What menu items would you say are your specialty?

All of the flavors are so good but I hold the Chilli Garlic close to my

heart because I don't think that you can taste the flavor anywhere else because I made the favor for scratch.

What about this area River Park, why is opening up about this area is so significant to you?

Convenience. I live next door. This is the best place for family entertainment. I don't serve alcoholic beverages and on the weekends there are a lot of kids out here. This is the prime location her in Fresno. The Theater is so popular. They have welcomed me and they are very open to my business here.

How long had you wanted to open Harlem Wings and Waffles?

To be honest, I wanted to open a Caribbean restaurant but since the economy is the way that it is I felt that I would have to make more of an effort in selling that than wings and waffles. All of the spices are mine and all of the recipes are mine as well. I created them myself. We marinate and spice our wings as oppose to fry our wings.

What are your ideas to bring customers to experience your restaurant?

Not all of the flavors are fried, we have baked options, teriyaki baked, Jamaican jerked baked

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

"What's Going on in Your Community"

Tiger Youth Basketball League



Tiger Youth Basketball league will be held every Saturday from January to February at Edison High School. Boys and Girls between the grades of K - 8 are welcome to attend. Parents interested can register at Edison High School in the front office or contact Coach Wilkins at (559)284-2335 or email timothy.wilkins@fresnounified.org.

Annual Quilt Show: "Quilts from the Mother Land"



We are planning our Annual Quilt Show, "Quilts from the Mother Land" at St. Community Church of God in Christ for Black History Month in February. If you are interested in displaying your quilt, please join us. The quilt show will be held February 5th, 2011. There is a \$10 entry fee per quilt (a maximum of 2 quilts). General admission is \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. Quilts will be on sale by different quilters. For more information or to receive an application, email wjcjean49@yahoo.com or call (559) 289-2226.

The African-American Museum



The African American Historical and Cultural Museum of San Joaquin Valley presents their Black History Month Celebration Banquet held on February 12th, 2011, at the Holiday Inn Hotel. The reception will start at 6pm followed by a dinner at 7pm For more information, contact (559) 268-7102.

Bethel Temple Fashion Show



Fashion Show! Auction! Lunch Buffet! The Bethel Temple invites you to our 6th Annual Fashion Show and Auction on Saturday, January 29th, 11:30, at the EOC Nielson Conference Center. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased by calling (559) 442-1463.



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Summoning the Soul of the Nation...

► **Continued from Page 1** that there is no way to know what triggered the shooting rampage that left six people dead, 13 others wounded and the nation shaken. He tried instead to leave indelible memories of the people who were gunned down and to rally the country to use the moment as a reflection on the nation's behavior and compassion.

"I believe we can be better," Obama said to a capacity crowd in the university's basketball arena - and to countless others watching around the country.

"Those who died here, those who saved lives here - they help me believe," the president said. "We may not be able to stop all evil in the world, but I know that how we treat one another is entirely up to us."

In crafting his comments, Obama clearly sought a turning point in the raw debate that has defined national politics. After offering personal accounts of every person who died, he challenged anyone listening to think of how to honor their memories, and he was not shy about offering direction. He admonished against any instinct to point blame or to drift into political pettiness or to latch onto simple explanations that may

have no merit.

"At a time when our discourse has become so sharply polarized - at a time when we are far too eager to lay the blame for all that ails the world at the feet of those who think differently than we do - it's important for us to pause for a moment and make sure that we are talking with each other in a way that heals, not a way that wounds," the president said.

The shooting happened as Giffords, a three-term Democrat who represents southern Arizona, was holding a community outreach event in a Tucson shopping center parking lot Saturday. A gunman shot her in the head and worked his way down the line of people waiting to talk with her, law enforcement officials said. The attack ended when bystanders tackled the man, Jared Lee Loughner, 22, who is in custody.

Obama's speech, by turns somber and hopeful, at times took on the tone of an exuberant pep rally as he heralded the men who wrestled the gunman to the ground, the woman who grabbed the shooter's ammunition, the doctors and nurses who treated the injured, the intern who rushed to Giffords' aid. The crowd erupted in multiple standing ovations as each

was singled out for praise.

Memories of the six people killed dominated much of Obama's speech. The president, for example, recalled how federal Judge John Roll was on his way from attending Mass when he stopped to say hello to Giffords and was gunned down; Dorothy Morris, shielded by her husband, but killed nonetheless; and Phyllis Schneck, a Republican who took a shine to Giffords, a Democrat, and wanted to know her better. He spoke at length of 9-year-old Christina Taylor Green, the only girl on her Little League team, who often said she wanted to be the first woman to play in the major leagues. She had just been elected to the student council at her elementary school and had an emerging interest in public service.

"I want us to live up to her expectations. I want our democracy to be as good as she imagined it," Obama said. The little girl was born on Sept. 11, 2001, and had been featured in a book about 50 babies born that day. The inscriptions near her photo spoke of wishes for a happy child's life, including splashing in puddles.

Said Obama: "If there are rain puddles in heaven, Christina is jumping in them

today."

Obama hit an emotional high point when he told of Giffords opening her eyes for the first time not long after his visit to her bedside.

"Gabby opened her eyes, so I can tell you: She knows we are here, she knows we love her, and she knows that we are rooting for her through what is undoubtedly going to be a difficult journey," Obama said. The announcement drew wild cheers from the crowd.

As finger-pointing emerged in Washington and beyond over whether harsh political rhetoric played a role in creating motivation for the attack, Obama sought to calm the rhetoric.

"Bad things happen," he said, "and we must guard against simple explanations in the aftermath."

He spoke of decency and goodness, declaring: "The forces that divide us are not as strong as those that unite us."

Obama spoke to a crowd of more than 13,000 in the arena and thousands more listened on from an overflow area in the football stadium. About a mile away, at University Medical Center, Giffords lay fighting for her life. Other victims also remained there hospitalized.

Investigation Into Death Of Notorious B.I.G...

► **Continued from Page 1** Impala pulled alongside the Suburban and opened fire on Wallace, who was in the passenger seat. Witnesses described the suspect as being an African-American man wearing a suit and bow tie.

The main theory behind shooting was payback in a so-called rap war between East and West Coast hip hop artists and their record companies - Bad Boy Entertainment in New York, which represented Wallace, and Death Row Records, headed by Marion "Suge" Knight, in Los Angeles.

Six months earlier in Las Vegas, a gunman opened fire on a car driven by Knight, killing one of his top artists Tupac Shakur. That murder remains un-

solved also.

"East Coast was Biggie, West Coast was Tupac," Wallace's mother Voletta Wallace told a filmmaker in the 2002 documentary "Biggie and Tupac."

"Come on now, you're messing with lives here and that's exactly what happened. Two lives were lost as a result of what? Stupidity?" Voletta Wallace told the filmmaker.

Retired Los Angeles Police Detective Russell Poole, who worked on the Wallace case, told CNN that he believes Knight was behind the murder, even though the Death Row Records' boss was serving time on a probation violation at the time.

"Suge Knight ordered the hit," Poole said, adding that

he believes it was arranged by Reggie Wright Jr., who headed security for Death Row Records.

Reggie Wright Jr. told CNN he had nothing to do with the murder, and Knight has repeatedly said he had nothing to do with the crime. Poole said he retired early from the LAPD, in part, because he was thwarted in following leads in the Wallace case involving police officers, some of whom worked off-duty for Death Row Records.

"I think I was getting too close to the truth," Poole said. "I think they feared that the truth would be a scandal."

One of the officers Poole said was involved is David Mack, a rogue policeman tied to the LAPD Rampart

Scandal, who was sent to prison for robbing a bank in 1997, the same year Wallace was killed.

Poole said Mack owned the same type of car driven by the gunman who shot Wallace, and Poole said a friend of Mack's resembles a police sketch of the shooter.

CNN was unable to reach Mack for comment, but when allegations of his involvement in Wallace' slaying originally surfaced more than a decade ago, his criminal defense attorney Donald Re called the claims ridiculous.

Poole also assisted Wallace's family in their wrongful death lawsuit against the Los Angeles Police Department alleging a cover-up in the investigation.

Rap Performer Notorious B.I.G. Slain...

► **Continued from Page 1** to the violent edge of the streets, was declared dead at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center at 1:15 a.m. His body was identified Sunday afternoon at the Los Angeles coroner's office by his ex-wife, singer Faith Evans, and his mother, who flew in from New York, officials said.

Although more than 1,000 people were said to be at the party, police said they had few eyewitnesses and even fewer solid leads to the shooting at the intersection of Fairfax Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard.

At the time of the shooting, hundreds of industry executives and musicians were pouring out of the Petersen museum after organizers decided to shut the party down, apparently because of the overflow crowd, according to police. Many of the guests fled in panic as the shots rang out.

Some detectives are worried about a repeat of the stalled investigation into the murder of Tupac Shakur. That rap star—a rival to Wallace—was fatally shot on the busy Las Vegas Strip in September, but police there have complained that witnesses refused to cooperate. The Shakur case remains unsolved.

Detectives said they are investigating whether Wallace's death is linked to bi-coastal tensions within the rap world, but had nothing solid to go on. Other theories are being pursued as well.

Los Angeles Police Department spokesman Jason Lee said: "We're not ruling out anything at this time ... It could be anything. It could be a gang, it could be ties to something, it could be a random shooting. We don't know."

LAPD Det. Raymond Futami said he suspects that witnesses in the Wallace case are afraid to talk.

"It's frustrating," said Futami, one of nearly a dozen detectives on the case. "I think there's a lot of people who are not coming forward. I'm sure there's a little bit of an intimidation factor ... because of the reputation of some of the people who are involved in this case."

Wallace, a 6-foot-3 man who weighed 380 pounds and also went by the name Biggie Smalls, lived in New Jersey and was in Los Angeles to record music and to attend Friday night's Soul Train Music Awards and related festivities. His next album was scheduled to come out in two weeks. Its title now seems grimly ironic: "Life After Death . . . 'Til Death Do Us Part."

Wallace had said in an interview with The Times last week that his injuries in a car accident a few months ago had convinced him to "slow down . . . and think about what you're gonna do with the rest of your life." But he remained stoic about his future, saying he had stopped believing that his stature in the rap industry could insu-

late him from its volatility.

"There's nothing that protects you from the inevitable. If it's going to happen, it's going to happen, no matter what you do," he said. "It doesn't matter if you clean up your life and present yourself differently, what goes around comes around, man. It's crazy for me to even think . . . that a rapper can't get killed just because he raps. I'm stupid for even thinking that it couldn't."

An ex-crack dealer from Brooklyn who had several brushes with the law, Wallace often found himself at the center of speculation about a cross-continent feud between himself and West Coast rap players such as Shakur and industry mogul Marion "Suge" Knight. Last year at the awards show, Wallace's bodyguard brandished a weapon and got into a scuffle with an armed member of Shakur's entourage outside Shrine Auditorium.

Capping off this week's activities was the Saturday night party at the Petersen for artists and music executives, including many from the rap and R&B set who had attended the awards show. The party was thrown by Vibe Magazine and Qwest Records—both founded and operated by Quincy Jones—and by Tanqueray Gin, police said.

Jones, a 40-year entertainment industry veteran, could not be reached for comment Sunday. His daughter Kidada, who was engaged to rap-

per Tupac Shakur and was with him the night he was gunned down, attended the party Saturday.

Selwyn Seyfu Hinds, editor-in-chief of The Source Magazine, the rap industry's leading publication, talked with Wallace for a few minutes at the party. "We just did a cover article on him and he wasn't crazy about the cover," he said.

Hinds said he and others from his magazine left the party and were just outside the museum at a red light at Wilshire and Fairfax—the intersection where police said the shooting took place—when he heard a series of shots.

"It sounded like it was at least 10," he said. "When we heard the shots, we looked up and saw what looked like a big black Jeep. The doors started popping open on the Jeep and it became bedlam, a frantic circle of activity. I saw a guy holding his hands to his face. I couldn't see if the guys around the car had just rolled on the Jeep or they were from inside the car."

Not knowing if the shots would continue, Hinds said he sped off, thinking little of the incident until hours later. Early Sunday morning, his pager began going off and he learned of the shooting. "I was stunned and shocked," he said. It "seemed like Biggie was in such a good mood when I saw him. The whole vibe this weekend after the Soul Train Awards was so peaceful."

Paper Names Ex-Klansman in Civil Rights Murder...

► **Continued from Page 1** customers, which was rare for black businesses in the segregated South in the days before civil rights. He would come out of his store onto the sidewalk so white female customers wouldn't have to go inside alone.

No one has ever been charged with killing him. But Wednesday, more than 46 years after his death at age 51, a local newspaper has named two men it believes were part of a Ku Klux Klan "wrecking crew" that torched his store and murdered him.

One, Arthur Spencer, is still alive. The second, O.C. "Coonie" Poissot, died in 1992.

The Concordia Sentinel, based in Ferriday, reports Spencer's son and the brother of his ex-wife both say Spencer told them he was involved in the killing.

Spencer's ex-wife, Brenda Rhodes, says Pois-

sot told her that he and Spencer were on the wrecking crew that burned Morris's store.

"It came at a time of great lawlessness in this parish, when the Klan was in control of this parish - or if not in control, a great influence," said Sentinel editor Stanley Nelson, using the Louisiana term for county.

The newspaper's sources all indicated that the Klan wrecking crew didn't necessarily expect Morris to be in the store when they burned it.

Spencer's former brother-in-law, Bill Frasier, said he'd once asked Spencer if he ever killed anyone.

"We did accidentally one time," Spencer said, according to Frasier. Sentinel editor Nelson said many racially motivated killings in that era were done by people who might not have planned to commit murder - but should have known what they were doing.

Banks Repossessed 1M Homes...

► **Continued from Page 1** For December, 257,747 U.S. homes received at least one foreclosure-related notice. That was the lowest monthly total in 30 months. The number of notices fell 1.8 percent from November and 26.3 percent from December 2009, RealtyTrac said.

The pace slowed in the final two months of 2010 as banks reviewed their foreclosure processes after allegations surfaced in September that evictions were handled improperly. Under increased scrutiny by the government, lenders temporarily halted taking actions against borrowers severely behind on their payments.

However, most banks have since resumed their eviction processes, and the first quarter will likely show a rebound in foreclosure activity, Sharga said.

Foreclosures are expected to remain elevated through the year as homeowners contend with stubbornly high unemployment, tougher credit standards for refinancing and falling home values. Sharga said he expects prices to dip another 5 percent nationally before finally bottoming out. The decline will push more borrowers underwater on their mortgages. Already, about one in five homeowners with a mortgage owe more than their home is worth.

Sisters Freed: Eager To Start New Life...

► **Continued from Page 1** has one year to donate a kidney to her ailing sister.

Now, with their life sentences for armed robbery suspended, their future is uncertain. Their children have grown up. Their family moved to Florida. They are using technology like cell phones for the first time. And questions abound: Who will pay for their medical care? Would Gladys' conditional release hold up in court? And perhaps the biggest mystery ahead: Are they a compatible match for the kidney transplant?

Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour agreed to release Jamie Scott because of her medical condition, but 36-year-old Gladys Scott must donate the kidney within one year as a condition of her release. The women weren't eligible for parole until 2014. The supporters who fought for the sisters' release insisted that Jamie Scott may not live that long without a new kidney.

The sisters - who are black - and their case have been a cause celebre for civil rights advocacy groups.

The Scotts were convicted in 1994 of an armed robbery in central Mississippi on Christmas Eve the year before, according to court records. The robbery didn't net much; amounts cited have ranged from \$11

to \$200. The Scott sisters' attorney and advocacy groups have long argued that the life sentences they both received were excessive given the amount taken.

An afternoon news conference for the sisters in Jackson was attended by dozens of supporters. Many cheered. Some sang. A few cried.

The sisters - Jamie wearing pink, Gladys wearing purple - sat smiling at a table, their hands clasped before them as their attorney, Chokwe Lumumba, thanked a list of advocacy groups who worked for their release.

"We just totally blessed. We totally blessed," Gladys Scott said. "It's been a long, hard road, but we made it."

Gladys said she learned about her release on television.

"I just started screaming and hollering. I'm still screaming and hollering," she said.

Jamie said she looked forward to moving on with her life and doubted at times she'd ever be free, but she leaned on her faith.

"My sister been saying all day, 'You don't look well,'" she said. "I haven't woke up. It's like a dream."

Jamie said the reality of the situation will probably sink in when she sees her grown children.

Let Freedom Ring for Love (Let Our Violence End)

**In Honor of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
25th Annual All Faiths and Music Service**

Saturday, January 15, 2011, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church
207 E. San Joaquin Street, Fresno, CA.

Prelude	
Welcome & Invocation	Rev. Alvin Dickson Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church
Master of Ceremony	John Sturdivant Second Baptist Church
Choir of Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church	Latonya Haynes and Sarah Thompson, Directors (Rev. Alvin Dickson, Pastor)
Litany	Rev. Bruce McAlister Saints Community Church of God in Christ
Choir of Unitarian Universalist Church (Rev. Bryan Jessup, Pastor)	Lorenzo Bassman, Director Song: I have seen "Freedom" by SI Kahn
Jewish Peace Prayer	Susan Orovitz, PhD.
Choir of Second Baptist Church	Bettye Marshall, Director
The Holy Recitation (SHABAD)	Sikh Temple of Kerman and Sikh Council of Central California (Mohinder Singh Grewal, Spiritual Leader)
Worship Dance	Laotian "CHAMPA" Dancers FIRM University Presbyterian Church Led by Tout Tou Bounthapanya (Rev. Sharon Stanley, Spiritual Leader)
Peace Message	Reza Nekumanesh Islamic Cultural Center, Fresno
Keynote Speaker	Rev. Walt Parry
Choir of Saints Community Church of God in Christ	Michael Walker, Director
Reedley Peace Center Choir	Ruth and Paul Buxman, Directors
Acknowledgment	
New Thought Community House Band	Led by Rev. Lilly D. Murray
Benediction/Blessing	

"We Shall Overcome"

"When I speak of love I am not speaking of some sentimental and weak response. I am speaking of that force which all of the great religions have seen as the supreme unifying principle of life. Love is somehow the key that unlocks the door which leads to ultimate reality." – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Coordinators:

Dr. Sudarshan Kapoor, Rev. Bruce McAlister and John Sturdivant, All Faiths & Music Service Committee
The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Unity Committee, City of Fresno

"Let My People Go"

A LITANY OF COMMEMORATION OF THE REVEREND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. JANUARY 15, 1929 – APRIL 4, 1968

Leader: In the wand order of the universe, our Lord God wisely has chosen men and women to serve Him in each era. Such a servant of our Lord God was Martin Luther King, Jr., whose birth we now commemorate. We are thankful for the life of this 20th Century prophet of freedom, who joined the prophets of history in the cry:

Congregation: In the name of freedom, let my people go.

Leader: Martin Luther King, Jr., envisioned the ultimate freedom; the freedom achieved in struggle; the freedom reached in brotherhood; the freedom fired by the dream of a man; the freedom inspired by the lot of a people; the freedom free of hate: the freedom full of love.

Congregation: In the name of this freedom of love, let my people go.

Leader: He came into our lives when the yearning of people to be free had turned their attention to justice. For justice, and only justice, we shall follow, that we may live and inherit the land which the Lord our God gives us.

Congregation: In the name of justice, let my people go.

Leader: He reminded us that the spirit of man soars from depths of despair with the strength and belief in the promise of the Creator of the universe. We know and we testify: The Lord loves justice; He will not forsake his saints.

Congregation: In the name of the Lord, let my people go.

Leader: And so he set off with us on a journey for justice. It was a journey proclaiming the words of the ancient prophet, Amos: "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream." It was a journey calling forth the modern religious teachings of all Faiths-to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.

Congregation: In the name of the prophet, Amos, and in the name of suffering people, let my people go.

Leader: The journey went to Montgomery, to affirm human dignity and courage; to Birmingham,

to Selma, to ensure the equality of people in human affairs; to a hundred nameless communities, to remove painful shackles of oppression and light joyous torches of liberty.

Congregation: In the name of this journey toward freedom, let my people go.

Leader: When war was encountered, the leader of this journey sang with the people: "Ain't gonna study war no more." When violence was met, he spurned it and said: "Hate is too great a burden to bear."

Congregation: In the name of peace and love, let my people go.

Leader: And even when death was confronted, as the journey reached Memphis, he could say in final triumph, that in life he had found something worth dying for, something worth life itself-the Promised Land, a land of freedom with justice.

Congregation: In the name of the Promised Land, let my people go.

Leader: So we are thankful that the Spirit of the Lord anointed a man who preached good news to the poor, who rejected segregation and embraced liberation, who prophesied the greatness of his people in struggle for the deliverance of all people.

Congregation: In the name of the Spirit of the Lord, let my people go.

Leader: We praise the Lord God for sending us a man of peace who resisted tyranny, a man of nonviolence who fought for liberty, a man of God who worked for people. Thank you, Lord, for Martin Luther King, Jr., who inspired us with his dream, who walked into our lives and our hearts with his marches for justice, who demanded freedom with great courage in the face of grave danger, and who has now passed on into your Promised Land. Thank you for his noble legacy to continue the journey to that land here on earth, in life for all people. Thank you, God; You have sent us one who now causes us to say:

ALL: In the name of God and Martin Luther King, Jr., let my people go.



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Secondhand Smoke Tied to High Blood Pressure in Kids

BY ALAN MOZES
HEALTHDAY

Young kids who live with a parent who smokes face an increased risk for developing high blood pressure while still children, a new study has found.

Warning that children with high blood pressure often become adults with the same problem, the researchers suggested that secondhand smoke poses a substantial and long-term risk to the cardiovascular welfare of young children.

"The prevention of adult diseases like stroke or heart attack begins during childhood," said the study's lead author, Dr. Giacomo D. Simonetti, an assistant professor of pediatrics at the Children's Hospital at the University of Bern, in Switzerland. "Removing any avoidable risk factors as soon as possible will help reduce the risk for heart disease later on and improve the long-term health of children."

And, he added, "Passive smoking is a risk factor. And an avoidable risk factor. So do not smoke because it is not healthy for you and for your children. Smoking increases your – and your children's – blood pressure."

Simonetti, who worked on the study while at the University of Heidelberg in

Germany, and his colleagues report their findings in the Jan. 10 online edition of *Circulation*.

The researchers noted that high blood pressure is the prime risk factor for heart disease. And according to the American Cancer Society, about 46,000 non-smoking Americans die from heart disease each year as a result of living with smokers and the secondhand smoke they produce.

To gauge the impact of secondhand smoke on young children, the research team examined data on 4,236 healthy boys and girls, 5 to 6 years old, who lived in southwestern Germany. Nearly 29% of the children's fathers and almost 21% of their mothers were smokers. For about 12% of the children, both parents smoked.

Even after accounting for other heart disease risk factors – such as low weight at birth, premature birth, high body mass index and parents with high blood pressure – parental smoking appeared to be an independent risk factor for high blood pressure among the children, the study found.

In fact, children exposed to parental secondhand smoke were 21% more likely to have the upper number of their blood pressure reading (the systolic figure,

which corresponds to heart contractions) register at levels among the highest 15% of the population.

Mothers who smoked appeared to confer a worse impact on their child's blood pressure levels than smoking fathers, although the researchers said that likely reflected maternal lifestyle and the generally greater amount of time the mothers spent in the home.

Dr. Gregg C. Fonarow, a cardiology professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, expressed little surprise at the findings.

"We certainly know that secondhand smoke is dangerous and associated with adverse consequences," he noted. "In adults, there's certainly higher heart attack and stroke risk, as well as lung disease. And it's previously been known that secondhand smoke can be dangerous to children's lungs," he added.

"This look at its impact on blood pressure just reinforces the notion that there's no acceptable exposure to secondhand smoke when it comes to infants and young children," Fonarow said. "And it's yet another reason why we need to protect them from exposure because it damages their lungs and blood vessels and can already manifest in harm to their blood pressure."



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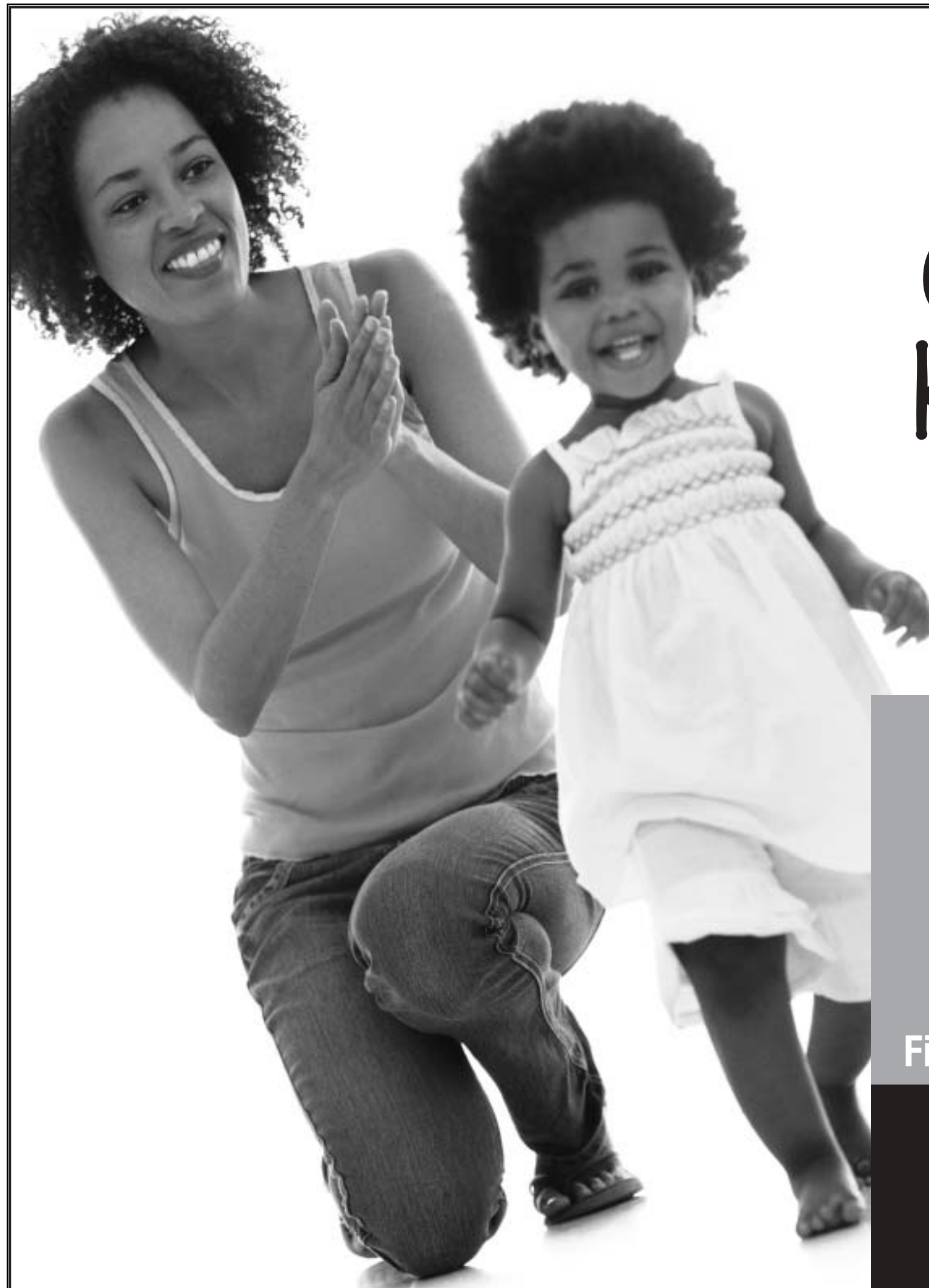
With the economy being where it is right now, workers need new opportunities. In San Francisco, there is only so much new building we can do. But there are so many buildings and homes that need to be retrofitted, made energy efficient, weatherized, and need solar to reduce the electricity usage. My own son is in a solar panel electrician program right now.

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2011 Martin Luther King Special Section Pages 9 - 16

M L K

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The Epic Crusade
For Equality

JAN. 15, 1929 TO APRIL 4, 1968

"Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land!"

With these words, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. built a crescendo to his final speech on April 3, 1968. The next day, the civil rights leader was shot and killed on a balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn.

At the roots Dr. King's civil rights convictions was an even more profound faith in the basic goodness of man and the great potential of American democracy. These beliefs gave to his speeches a fervor that could not be stilled by criticism.

He rose in 1955 from a newly arrived minister in Montgomery, Ala. to a figure of national prominence.

It was Dr. King who dramatized the Montgomery bus boycott with his decision to make it the testing ground, before the eyes of the nation, of his belief in the civil disobedience teachings of Thoreau and Gandhi.

In the summer of 1963, Dr. King led the March on Washington, stirring the emotions of millions with the words "I have a dream." On Dec. 10, 1964, he won the Nobel Peace Prize.

His strong beliefs in civil rights and non-violence made him one of the leading opponents to American participation in the war in Vietnam.

At the time he was assassinated in Memphis, Dr. King was involved in one of his greatest plans to dramatize the plight of the poor and stir Congress to help blacks. He called his venture the "Poor People's Campaign."

— Adapted from the *New York Times*' Obituary. April 5, 1968.

The Theologian Who
Inspired Martin Luther King Jr.

By Vern Barnet
Special to The Star

What is religion? What is God's nature? How should I live my life?

Martin Luther King Jr. explored such questions in his 1955 doctoral dissertation. (Some passages may have been plagiarized, but the viewpoint is always King's own.)

Brilliantly, King compared and criticized two 20th-century theologians who rejected the traditional idea of God as a person. One was German-born Paul Tillich, for whom religion involved an 'ultimate concern'. He thought of God, not as a being, supreme or otherwise, but as the 'ground of being' itself.

King compared Tillich with Henry Nelson Wieman, who said religion was not so much about an 'ultimate concern' as an 'ultimate commitment'. For Wieman, God was neither a being, nor the ground of being, but a process; a creative event.

Wieman was born in Rich Hill, Mo., south of Kansas City. He graduated from what was then Park College.

He later wrote that there, one evening, "looking at the sunset over the Missouri River," he had the most ecstatic experience of his life. He could not sleep all night, "walked in that ecstasy for days" and decided to devote his life to the problems of religious inquiry.

Exactly 100 years ago, Wieman began his first pastorate, at Brookdale Presbyterian Church in St. Joseph.

Travel, more study and teaching led him to the University of Chicago. After retirement, he returned there in 1967 to teach one course, and I was able to study with him. That same year, I met Martin Luther King Jr. in Washington, D.C.

For Wieman, God is that power that can transform us as we cannot transform ourselves, to save us from evil and leading (us) to the best that human life can ever reach.

In Wieman's best-known phrase, God is 'creative interchange', when people interact with one another in such a way that new realities are created, leading to enhanced life for everyone.

King sometimes played on Wieman's phrase. In accepting the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize, King spoke of 'creative turmoil'. In another speech, King praised 'creative maladjustment' to evils like discrimination, religious bigotry and taking necessities from the many to give luxuries to the few.

Here in practice, if not in theory, is where Wieman and King are aligned, for as in the civil rights struggle, King believed that bringing people together, even in disagreement and at some cost, could ultimately lead to a transformation from evil that would not occur otherwise.

Of the many books Wieman wrote, the title of one is especially poignant as I think about King's own decision about how to live his life: 'Man's Ultimate Commitment'.

'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

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE 2011 REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION IN THE GREATER FRESNO AREA...

Greater Fresno 2011 Martin Luther King, Jr. Events

We would like to give a special thank you to the local black Greek fraternities and sororities for heading this year's food drive. We would also like to send out our deepest gratitude to Feed My Sheep Ministries, Clovis Salvation Army & AARP who will take all collected items to give to those in need.

Garlanding Ceremony

Friday, January 14, 2011 (12:00pm - 1:00pm). Fresno County Courthouse Park (at MLK Bust), 1100 Van Ness Ave. Opening Ceremony. Please bring flowers.
Event Coordinators: Dr. Sudarshan Kapoor or Gail Gaston
 (garlandingceremony@mlkfresno.com)

Award Reception

Friday, January 14, 2011 (6:00-7:30pm). Program begins at 6:30PM. 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 5) Male.
Event Coordinator: Tate Hill (nominations@mlkfresno.com)

Program

Saturday, January 15, 2011 (Breakfast served at 9:00am) . Program starts at 9:45. Community Breakfast - Clovis Veterans Memorial Building, 453 Hughes Ave., Clovis (Hughes & 5th St.) Tickets: \$5.00 & canned food donation. Tables of 8 available with reservation.
Event Coordinator: Caroline Carlson (559-324-2416 /breakfast@mlkfresno.com) or Gail Gaston

All Faith Service

Saturday, January 15, 2011 (4:00-6:00pm). Enjoy various beloved spiritual leaders, musical talent and speaker. Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church, 207 E. San Joaquin St., Fresno, CA, 93724.
Event Coordinators: Dr. Sudarshan Kapoor or Rev. Bruce McAlister (allfaithservice@mlkfresno.com)

Candlelight Vigil

Sunday, January 16, 2011 (5:00-5:45pm). Location Center for Spiritual Living. Fresno, 723 W. Clinton Ave., Fresno. Please bring canned food donations.
Event Coordinator: Julia Dudley Najieb (clvigil@mlkfresno.com)

March

Monday, January 17, 2011 (9 am-10:30am). Assemble at St. John's Cathedral at 9 AM. March begins at 10 AM.
Event Coordinators: James Lett III, Enrique Reade & Pastor Bruce Hood (mlkmarch@mlkfresno.com)

Commemoration Program

Monday, January 17, 2011 (10:30am). Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 2426 Fresno St. Celebration of community diversity and culture.
Event Coordinators: Pastor Leonard Adams & Julia Dudley-Najieb (mlkprogram@mlkfresno.com)

Speech Competition

Thursday, January 27, 2011 (1:00pm). Fresno County Office of Education, Room 270.
Event Coordinator: Shirley Hargis (559) 265-3060
 Email: shargis@fcoe.org

Art Exhibition & Reception

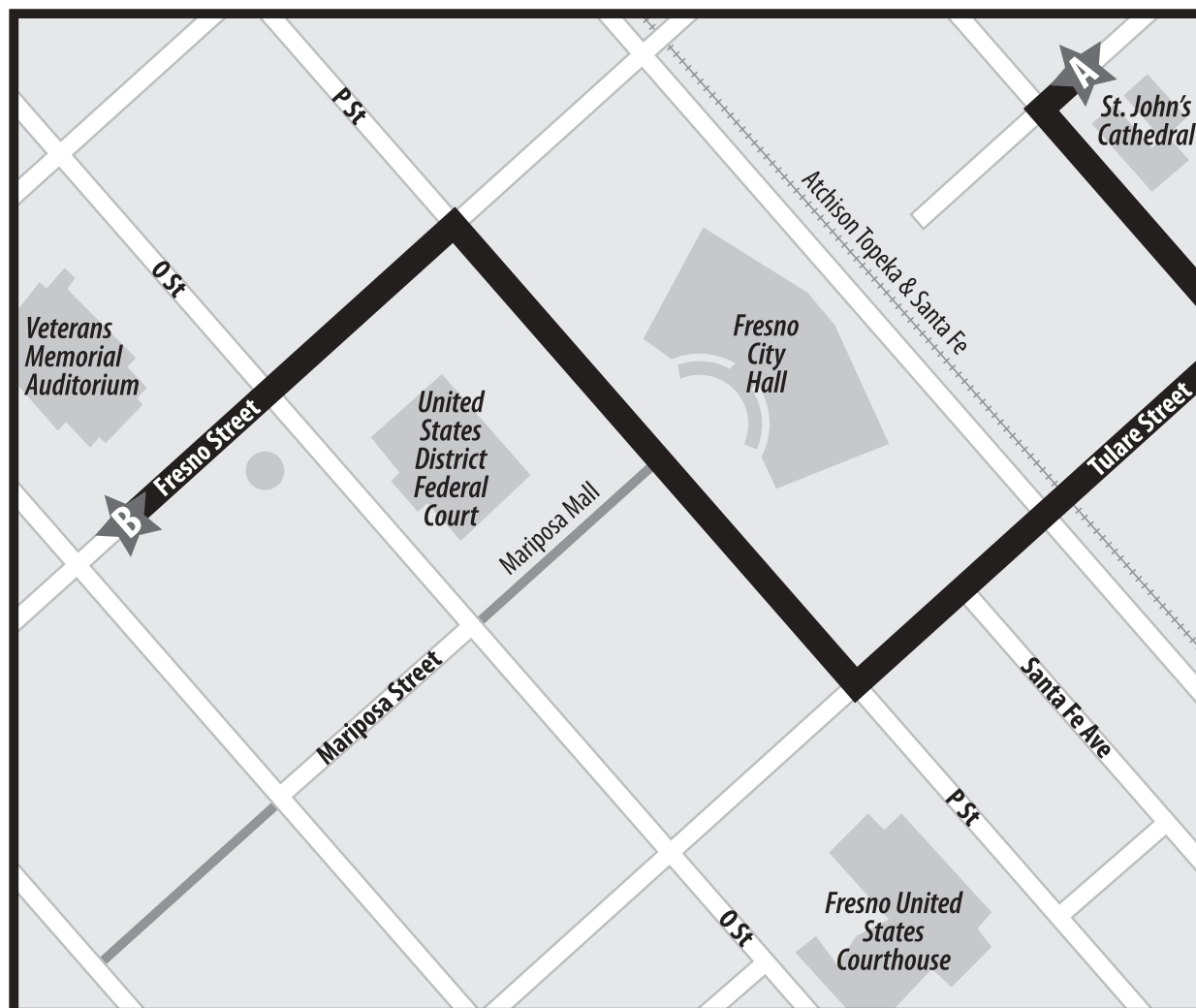
Thursday, February 10, 2011 (4:30-6:00pm). Fresno County Office of Education.
Event Coordinator: Shirley Hargis (559) 265-3060
 Email: shargis@fcoe.org

MARCH ROUTE

9:15am Line-up at St. John's Cathedral

March Begins at at 10:00am. Stops at Fresno City Hall for Speakers.

Ends at Veterans Memorial Auditorium for Commemoration Program (10:45am)



BECOME A VOLUNTEER OR MLK UNITY COMMITTEE MEMBER;
 Sign up at our website: www.mlkfresno.com

Or find out about the MLK events in the Greater Fresno area on Facebook!
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Fresno-Martin-Luther-King-Unity-Committee/143005182419076>



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.

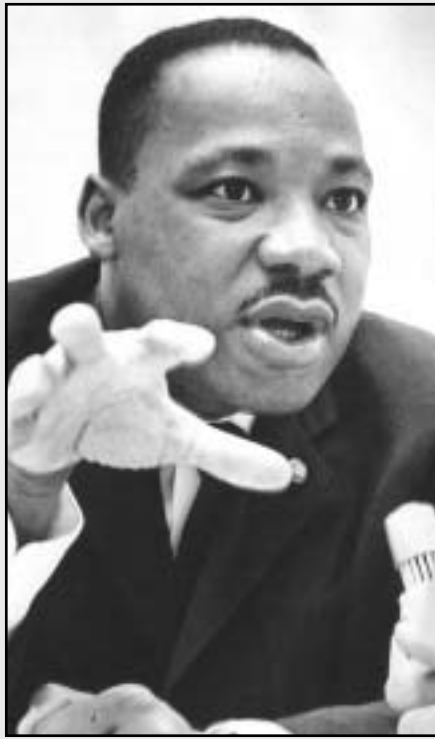


1955

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.

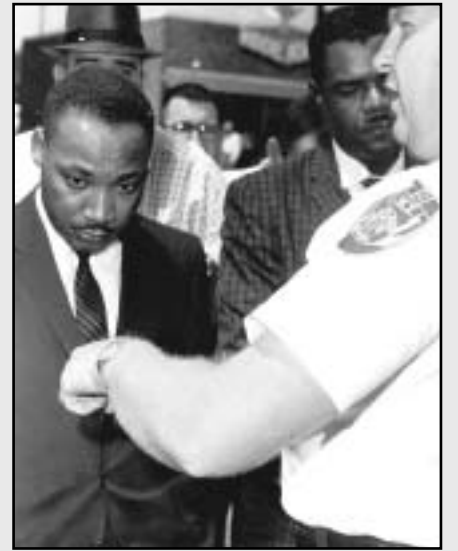
February 1: The first lunch counter sit-in to desegregate eating facilities is held by students in Greensboro, North Carolina.

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.

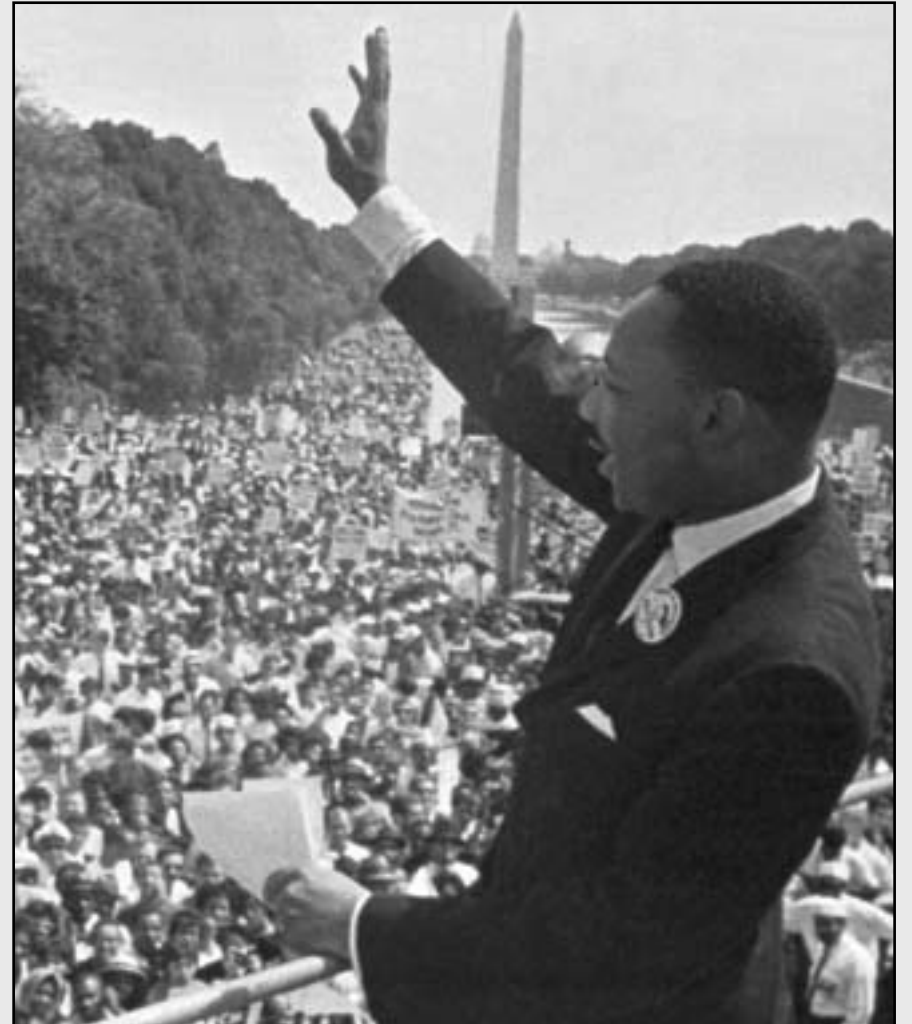
December 16: Dr. King is arrested at an Albany, Georgia demonstration. He is charged with obstructing the sidewalk and parading without a permit.

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.

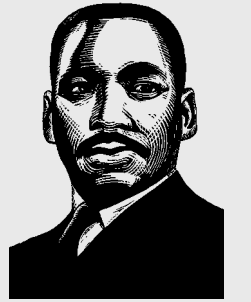
1999

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.





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 reordered 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.

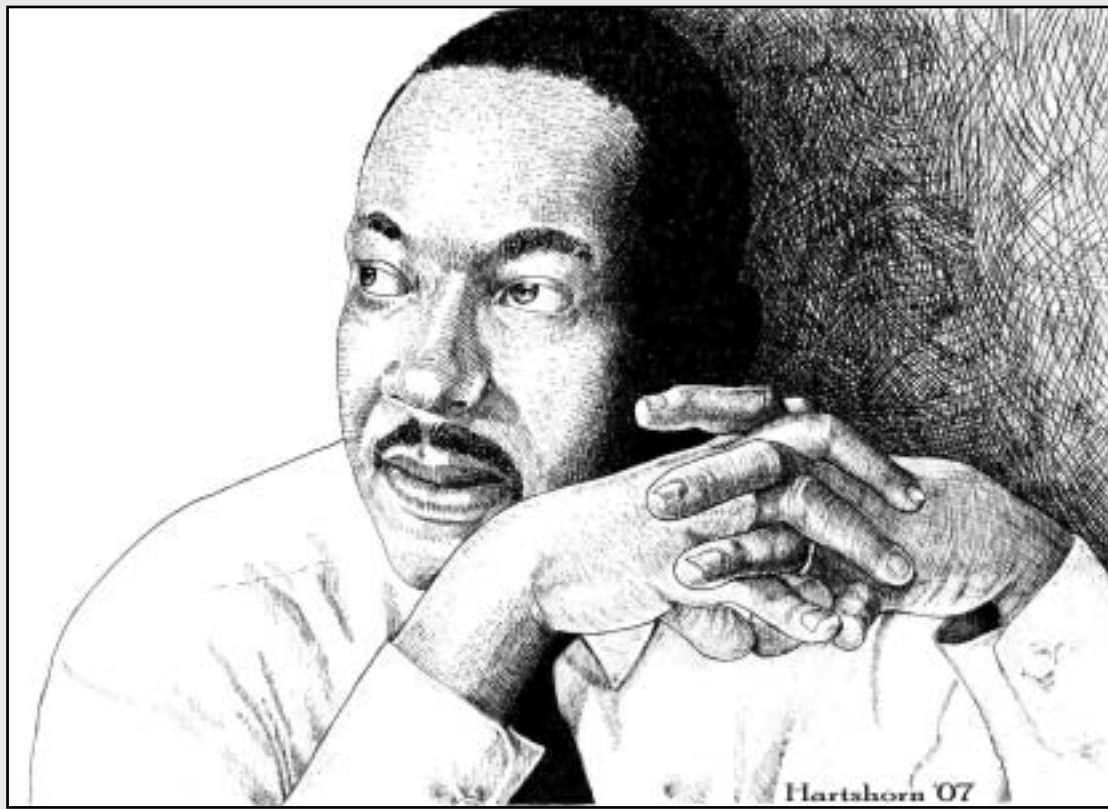
In 1948, he graduated from Morehouse College with a B.A. degree in Sociology. That fall he enrolled in Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania. While attending Crozer, he also studied at the University of Pennsylvania. He was elected President of the Senior Class and delivered the valedictory 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 Government, 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 accident 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."

From the Acceptance Speech, The Nobel Peace Prize, 1964

In MLK's Honor, Let's Strive for Dialogue That's Passionate But Not Poisonous

BY AL SHARPTON

The senseless violence in Arizona this past weekend left all of us stunned, but this devastating act hit home for me more than most. I have been a victim of violence that could have cost my life, and I have been involved in controversies that led to violence in which my words were distorted and misused. As we try to understand the steps that led to the horrors in Tucson, it is not lost on me that the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birth is fast approaching. I hope that we can heal in this moment rather than just take sides and assign blame. Although his house was bombed, he was stabbed, and he lived under constant threats, Dr. King never pointed his finger at others. He sought to be a healer rather than exacerbate tensions.

As a first step, we must reflect on the climate in our public discourse and our personal responsibility.

The issues here are larger than the facts that six lives were senselessly ended and many other people were wounded simply for attending a political event. Those in politics and any other aspect of public life must be more conscious of how their words and actions can trigger anyone, not just those followers they expect might be listening. I raise the dangers of inflammatory rhetoric as a public figure who has been on both sides.

In 1991, weeks of protests followed the racially motivated killing of a black 16-year-old in New York. There were incidents of taunts, people throwing watermelons and open threats. I was leading a peaceful march in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, when I was stabbed. I look at that stab wound every morning. It reminds me of how close I came to leaving my children fatherless - all because of the intense political climate of the day. I wrestled for months with how to address that climate and the race-based attack. Even though this was an effort to kill me, I asked the court for leniency toward my assailant. In the spirit of King's teachings, my focus was to set a tone of forgiveness and reconciliation. Despite my efforts, the judge sentenced this man to nine years.

I decided to visit my attacker in jail. This was by far the most difficult thing I had to do - to look directly in the face of a man who tried to kill me. I told him I did it for me, not for him.

To be clear, I am not seeking credit for a noble act. Nor do I claim to be above feeling anger or understanding the frustrations that can stem from issues of race. Indeed, a few years later, a controversy erupted in Harlem over a white businessman's efforts to evict the longtime owner of the first black-owned business on 125th Street. I decided to support the protesters because I believed that the eviction disregarded the culture and history of the neighborhood.

The morning that I was to lead a peaceful march, I gave a speech during a weekly radio broadcast in which I said that we need to deal with a "white interloper" who was trying to alter the landscape of Harlem. My clear intent was to lead a peaceful protest. I did so that day, but I was wrong to refer to this man's race, and I was not careful in making distinctly clear that we were solely calling for nonviolent opposition.

Two and half months later, a disturbed and troubled man went to a neighboring store and set a fire. He killed several of the store's employees and then himself. My words were immediately raised in the media. My initial response was to defend the fact that I had never condoned such violence, and never would. But the fact is, if I in any way contributed to the climate - which was clearly more volatile than I had thought - I had to be more careful and deliberate in my public language rather than sharpen my defenses.

As we sort out what happened in Tucson, we must resist the temptation to merely cast blame, and we all must be more aware of the weakness of the idea that we do not somehow contribute to the vitriolic atmosphere. Everyone must be alert. Much as I went over the line years ago, those with public voices must ensure that their messages cannot be misconstrued as calling for a heinous act. Every morning, I think about how wounds are very real - psychologically and physically.

I hope that as we celebrate the birthday of Dr. King this weekend, we can think as he did about how we can be passionate toward what we believe in without also being poisonous. It's time for all of us to strive toward a place where intelligent conversation supersedes nonsensical violence.

(The writer is president of National Action Network, a civil rights organization)

The two keys to the future? Technology, and the people who'll be using it.

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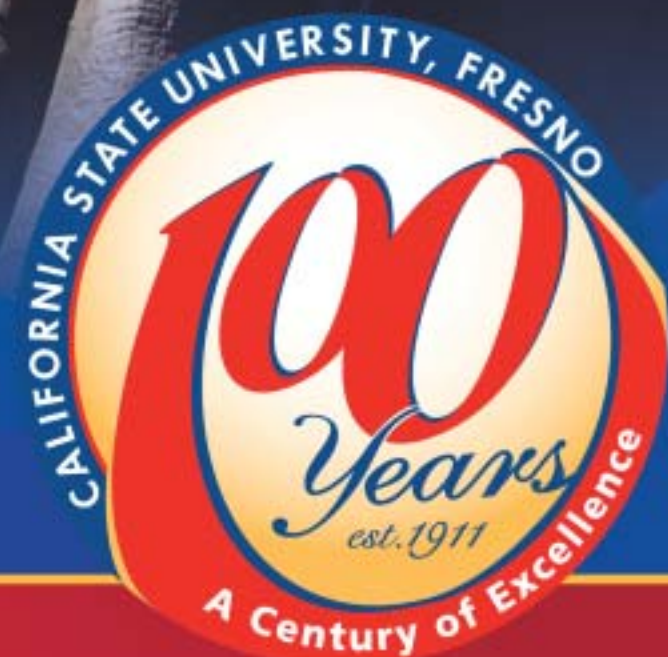


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AT&T salutes The California Advocate local educators for helping keep Dr. King's dream alive.



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THE CALIFORNIA ADVOCATE'S REPORTER ON THE STREET

***If Martin Luther King were alive today,
what would he think about today's political climate and the hate speech by some people in the media?***

Paulette Johnson



He would probably start another march. The media is mainly negative against the less fortunate and minorities.

Eric Dunkins



He would have a negative feeling towards the situation but he would want a positive outcome.

Kemari Yanci



He would be upset but you can't change people that don't want to change.

Catherine Wallace



He would deal with it the way he dealt with it in the past – by promoting "Equal opportunity, not segregation."

Kevin Kelly



He would try to change it. He would try to make a major difference and that's special because some people don't make differences.

Robin Garrett



With all of the things that King has done, he would see improvement, but on the other end, he would see that people still harbor prejudice feelings. King would fight for all people, not just for one race, similar to what our president is doing now.

Shirley Kelly



He would be surprised at the fact that this country is going backwards now that a Black President is in office.

Brandon Cannon



He would be happy to see an African American president, but disappointed by the non-progression of the people in this country when it comes to hate.

Dennis Murry



Hatred was what he would not try to promote. He was able to speak about being perfect and non-violent. The media being negative is out place and it's not helping any causes.

Norman Wells



He would get his people together and try to change it.

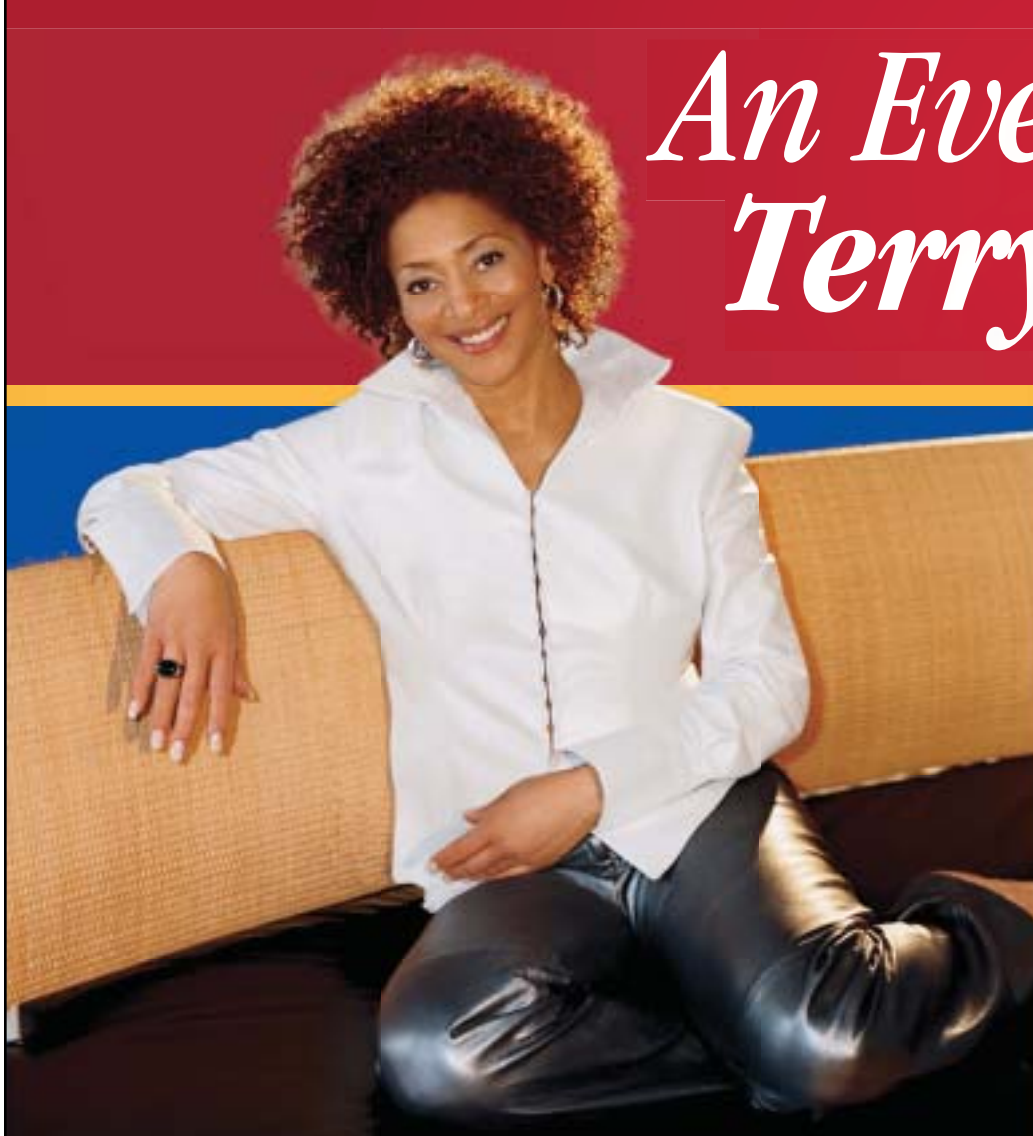
Lee Fane




I think he would deal with it by speaking on uniting people instead of separating them. There is no unity amongst people.

**ARTICLE BY
Marlise Moore
California
Advocate**

**PHOTOS BY
Ken McCoy
Advocate
Photo
Journalist**



An Evening with Terry McMillan

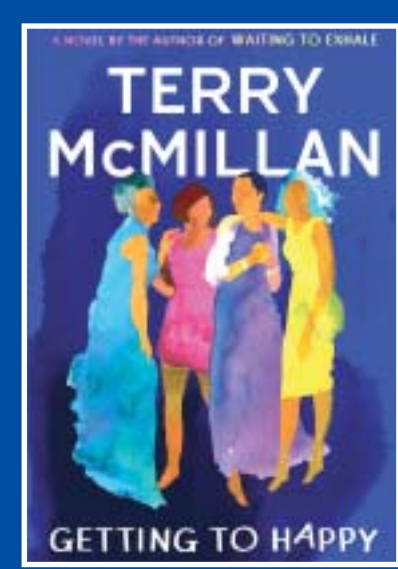
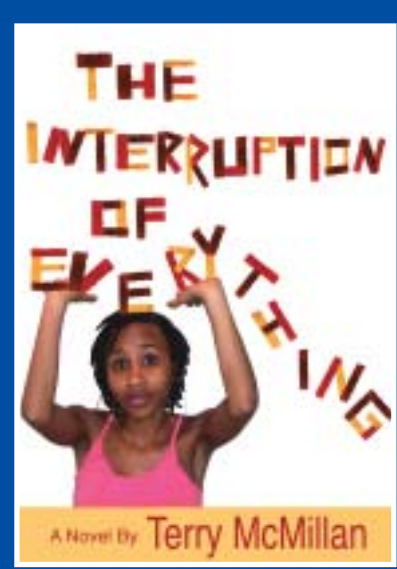
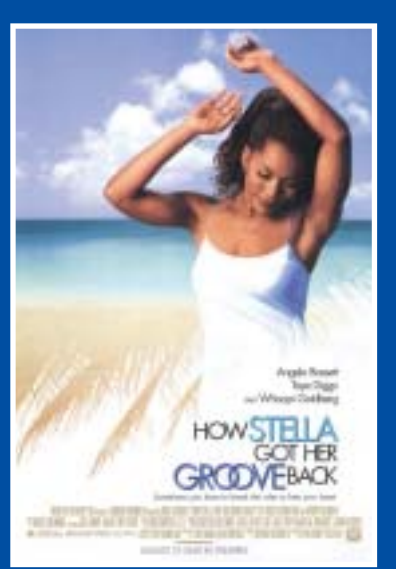


Best-Selling author of *Waiting to Exhale* and *How Stella Got Her Groove Back*, Terry McMillan will speak in depth on her latest novel, *Getting to Happy*. McMillan is the winner of both an NAACP Image Award and an Essence Award. The Martin Luther King Visiting Scholars committee selected McMillan to speak with funding support from IRA.

Since her breakout novel *Waiting to Exhale* surged onto *The New York Times* bestseller list, critics and readers alike have been captivated by her irreverent, often-hilarious take on the issues faced by con-

temporary African-American women. With several of her bestsellers, including *Waiting to Exhale*, *How Stella Got Her Groove Back*, and *Disappearing Acts*, made into hit movies, she has made her mark on both the literary world as well as in Hollywood.

In 2002, McMillan won an NAACP Image Award and an Essence Award. She released her first non-fiction effort in 2006 under the title, *Its Okay if You're Clueless*, and *23 More Tips for the College Bound*. McMillan is currently at work on a signature household line.

**Saturday, February 12, 2011
7:00 p.m.**

**California State University, Fresno
Satellite Student Union**

This event is free and open to the public