

Memphis pilgrimage honors MLK

The 30th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s death brought together people of all ages

By Woody Baird
The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — The 30th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s death brought back memories to those who fought for civil rights and gave a history lesson to those too young to remember.

Mary Mohrbacher, 16, said she and a group of other students from Champaign, Ill., got the chance to talk to people who took part in the movement, some of whom knew King personally.

"Books can give you the facts, but people can actually explain it, tell you how they felt," she said.

The weekend-long anniversary observance, called "Pilgrimage to Memphis," brought in people from all over the country, including Earl Winfrey III of St. Louis, who was born the year King died.

"You have to feel a personal

commitment when you see everything they were going through then," he said.

Etta Johnson told young people about her experiences helping organize civil rights activities in Nashville in the early 1960s.

"We trained students in nonviolence," she said at a prayer vigil at The Lorraine Motel where King was murdered on April 4, 1968. "We taught them how to be spit on, how to be burned with cigarettes or stuck with pins and not react."

In the courtyard of The Lorraine, now the National Civil Rights Museum, vigil participants held small flashlights shaped like candles and read a pledge to remember King's message of justice and nonviolence: "This is my judgment, my purpose and my will. I will hold up my light."

King was killed while in Memphis to help organize a sanitation workers strike.

He was planning to lead a strikers' march on April 8 when an assassin shot him on The Lor-

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Earl Winfrey III
St. Louis resident

raine's second floor balcony. James Earl Ray, a prison escapee from Missouri, pleaded guilty to the murder and is serving a 99-year prison sentence.

A march Saturday tracing the route that demonstrators would have taken through downtown Memphis drew more than 4,000 participants singing "We Shall Overcome" and other standards of the civil rights movement.

"It's a good thing to finish this march," said George Dowdy, who marched with King in the 1960s. "But we've got to follow through [on King's mission]. It's just like faith. Faith is good, but you have to have action, too."

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23	Thurs	5:00-9:00pm	First Aid
28	Tues	5:00-9:00pm	Adult
30	Thurs	6:00-10:00pm	Child/Infant

MAY

5	Tues	5:00-9:00pm	First Aid
7	Thurs	5:00-9:00pm	Adult
12	Tues	6:00-10:00pm	Adult
14	Thurs	5:00-9:00pm	Child/Infant
19	Tues	5:00-9:00pm	First Aid
28	Thurs	5:00-9:00pm	First Aid

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1:00-1:50					Body Sculpt 220 GER Dee
2:00-2:50					Dance Aerobics Mind-Body Fitness 220 GER Melissa
5:00-5:50	Dance Aerobics Mind-Body Fitness 220 GER Melissa	Body Sculpt 220 GER Dee	Dance Aerobics Mind-Body Fitness 220 GER Melissa	Body Sculpt 220 GER Maggie	
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