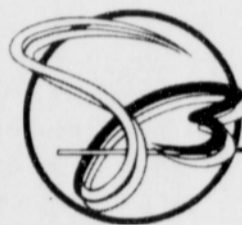


Experiences For A Lifetime

REMEMBERING Martin Luther King, Jr.



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A large crowd in back-alley Chicago hears King's pitch to build a movement against slum conditions in their heartland city.

COURAGEOUS AFRICAN AMERICANS

A Tribute to Dr. King

BY JUNE ACOSTA POTTER

Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was born on Jan. 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Ga.

Early baptized, both he and his father, Michael, both took the name Martin in 1935. As he matured, the young King developed an uncanny intuition and sensed what the future held for him.

Well and thoroughly educated, Martin Luther King Jr. earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse College in 1948 at a just 19 years old. He received his Divinity degree from Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pa., in 1951, and a Doctorate from Boston University in 1955.

Following his earlier ordination in 1947, he became pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala. in 1954: the same year the U.S. Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision; declared segregated education to be illegal, of "outlaw status."

The next year, 1955, Dr. King followed enthusiastically upon seamstress Rosa Parks demonstration of sheer courage, by refusing to surrender her seat on a crowded bus to a white man.

In 1964, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Dr. King led the extraordinary successful boycott of the Montgomery, Ala. bus company; and this led to active leadership in the Civil Rights Movement.

A pure and gentle man, but possessing steel courage and greatness of spirit, Dr. King was arrested countless times and sentenced to jail.

He was a follower of Gandhi and adhered to non-violence in seeking justice, in confrontation with authorities.

Wise and learned as well, King was familiar with the writing of New Englander Henry David Thoreau and the Russian novelist Leo Tolstoy

(both of whom believed in non-violent methods of working for changes in society). Dr. King extended his influence into northern cities.

Unmatched in rhetorical skills, he was as well a poet. The combined talents produced powerful and glorious visions of what the future might hold.

Black writer James Thomas Jackson wrote in an essay published in the Los Angeles Times, in February 1976, and subsequently republished in the book "Waiting in Line at the Drug Store" in 1993 by University of North Texas Press:

"He was a Messiah to innumerable blacks and, one must admit, to innumerable whites. The whites marched along with us in the civil rights movement, were abused and even died for Dr. King's causes and dreams, because they are the universal causes and dreams of mankind."

Throughout the centuries of recorded history, there have been those few of diverse race, who have thrilled and enlivened us with their eloquence, and with the power and glory of their words and phrases.

I still hear, and am moved again, by Dr. King's words spoken, following the 1963 March on Washington in his 1968 "Mountaintop" speech.

"I may not get there with you..." he intoned, foreseeing, with almost divine vision, his own death. But he said, "we, as a people, will get there, to the Promised Land," and, when there, we will cry as he did, "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

In accord with his belief in non-violence and forgiveness, he undoubtedly forgave his assassins, before he breathed his last on April 4, 1968.

After that awful day, his family, following his example, forgave those who had been instrumental in his death.

In honoring Dr. King this month on the occasion of his birthday, we are honoring the best and noblest within us.

One of America's greatest gifts to the world: Martin Luther King Jr.



"We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools."

-Dr. Martin Luther King



In the spirit of Dr. King, support a youth in our community by becoming a mentor with **Mentor Portland!**

Learn how you can give back
January 15th anytime between 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Laurelwood Brewery
5115 NE Sandy Blvd, Portland

Contact Elaine at 503-542-2312 or visit
www.mentorportland.org for more information



Boys & Girls Aid

www.boysandgirlsaid.org

King Day of Service Activities

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of purposeful community engagement will be honored with the help of Hands on Greater Portland and United Way.

On the national Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, Monday, Jan. 21, volunteers will beautify the

front entrance of Marshall High School, help those with mental illness by upgrading facilities at the David's Harp socialization center, apply protective covers to David Douglas School District library books, fix up the Black Parent Initiative's new

home in northeast Portland, build a food pantry at Shiloh Christian Center and create a handprint mural with youth at Hacienda CDC.

home in northeast Portland, build a food pantry at Shiloh Christian Center and create a handprint mural with youth at Hacienda CDC.

Contact Mindy Coolidge at 503-413-8902 for more information or to volunteer.

Sisters to March with 'Strength of Love'

The community-advocacy group Sisters of the Road invites everyone to join their annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day march and rally. This year's theme "Empowered by the Strength to Love" combines the wisdom of Dr. King's sermons with the local organization's

current campaign focusing on empowerment.

On Monday, Jan. 21 at 2 p.m., people will begin gathering at the Sisters of the Road center, 133 N.W. Sixth Ave., to enjoy some snacks. The march begins at 3 p.m. toward First Unitarian Church, 1011 S.W. 12th

Ave., where a program will feature speakers from Sisters' Civic Action Group and Paul Boden of the Western Regional Advocacy Project.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Mary at 503-222-5694 or visit sistersoftheroad.org.

Chase & Weil, LLP

Salutes

Martin Luther
King Jr.

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