

A List of Must-Read Works About MLK

By Patricia Welch,
North Portland Library

At this time of year, everyone starts searching for materials by and about Dr. Martin Luther King. Of course, there is much from which to choose. But, what many of your readers might not know is information on Dr. King is available in many formats: not just print but audio, video and digital.

All are available at your local library.

Audio – Books on tape, CD and downloadable audio.

1) “Parting the Waters : America in the King years, 1954-63”

By Taylor Branch.

Available in print, CD and audio cassette.

First in a 3-volume history of American race, violence, and democracy that includes “Pillar of Fire: America in the King Years, 1963-1965” (print and CD), and “At Canaan’s edge: America in the King years, 1965-68.” (print and CD.) Moving from the fiery political baptism of Martin Luther King, Jr., to the corridors of “Camelot” where the Kennedy brothers weighed demands for justice against the deceptions of J. Edgar Hoover, this book provides a portrait of courage and conflict, the deals, maneuvers, betrayals, and rivalries that determined history behind closed doors, at boycotts and sit-ins, on bloody freedom rides and through siege and murder.

2) “I Have a Dream” (audio cassette)

By Martin Luther King, Jr.

American Audio Prose Library,

This is the actual speech delivered at the Washington

Monument, available on audio cassette.

3) “April 4, 1968: Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Death and the Transformation of America”

By Michael Eric Dyson (downloadable audio)

On April 4, 1968, at 6:01 p.m., while he was standing on a balcony at a Memphis hotel, Martin Luther King Jr. was shot and fatally wounded. Only hours earlier had Dr. King ended his final public speech by saying, “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.” Author Michael Eric Dyson investigates the ways in which we as a people have made it to the Promised Land that King spoke of and shines a bright light on the many areas that we still have a long way to go.

Visual - Videos, DVDs and downloadable video

4) “Eyes On the Prize, II: America at the Racial Crossroads, 1965 to 1985, and Two Societies, 1965-1968

Video Recording

Blackside Inc.

Produced, directed and written by Sheila Bernard, Sam Pollard.

In these two episodes of the classic PBS series on the Civil Rights Movement, Dr King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference aid in the non-violent struggle against segregated housing, and the Kerner Commission concludes that America is becoming “two societies -one Black, one white - separate and unequal.”

5) “In Remembrance of Martin”

Downloadable video

PBS

Personal comments from family, friends, and advisors fill



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with his family.

this remarkable documentary honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Coretta Scott King joins the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, Julian Bond, Jimmy Carter, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sen.

See BOOKS page 8

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