

HONORING MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Family-Friendly Tributes To The Civil Rights

Leader On Many Hartford-Area Stages

By **ARIEL BRAND**
CALENDAR@COURANT.COM

This year marks the 83rd anniversary of the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. To pay tribute to his contributions to the Civil Rights Movement, several places around Connecticut are offering family-friendly events.

In Worship

First Cathedral's celebration "Keep on Moving" — Sunday at 5 p.m. — features opera singer DeAnna Tisdale, gospel singer J.J. Hairston, the Praises of Zion choir, performers from Hartford's Artists Collective, the Community Choir and emcee Brad Davis of WDRC-AM. First Cathedral is at 1151 Blue Hills Ave., Bloomfield. Admission is \$15 for reserved seats, \$10 general seats, \$5 for seniors, military personnel with ID. Information: www.firstcathedral.org and 860-243-6520.

The **Third Baptist Church Chorus** and Suffield's interracial, interfaith and intergenerational choir will sing in celebration of the Suffield Interfaith Council's 20th annual King Holiday Observance. The event will begin at 4 p.m. Sunday at the Third Baptist Church, 188 Kent Ave., Suffield. Information: 860-543-2335.

The **Bloomfield Interfaith Association** invites the entire community to its annual Dr. Martin Luther King Remembrance service at the Beth Hillel Synagogue, 160 Wintonbury Ave., at 7 p.m. Monday. Events include scripture readings, community and choir singing and readings from the work of King. This year local non-profit and service agencies will be featured. Information: 860-242-5561.

In School

The **University of Hartford** presents the Martin Luther King Jr. Day program Monday at 11 a.m., featuring keynote speaker **Willie Anthony Waters**, former general and artistic director of the Connecticut Opera. There will also be instrumental, vocal and spoken word performances by students from the Hartt School, the University of Hartford Magnet School as well as the University High School of

Science and Engineering. Visitors can also view the sixteen works from Connecticut artist **Robert Templeton's** civil rights portrait collection "Lest We Forget: Images of the Black Civil Rights Movement," which will be on display at the University's Mortensen Library until Feb. 28. The program is free and will take place in the Lincoln Theater, 200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford. Information: harttweb.hartford.edu or 860-768-4228.

Eastern Connecticut State University will be broadcasting a 12-part series on cable television tracing King's past on the even hours of the day Monday from midnight to midnight. Watch King as he rises from an unassuming Baptist preacher to a pioneer in the civil rights movement and discover how dealt with the dangers due to his equality-seeking efforts. The series, written and produced by **Dwight Bachman**, Eastern's public relations officer, will air on Channel 22, the cable channel at Eastern. Information: 860-465-5114.

At Museums

The Wadsworth Atheneum, 600 Main St., Hartford, celebrates freedom with hands-on activities, live music and poetry on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Internationally recognized quilter and fabric artist **Ed Johnetta Miller** will give a quilting demonstration. This free event will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Information: www.thewadsworth.org or 860-278-2670.

At **Old Sturbridge Village**, in a presentation titled "Honoring a Slave Heroine: The Mumbet Story," storyteller **Tammy Denease** recounts the story of Elizabeth "Mumbet" Freeman, an ardent slave woman who fought for and eventually won her freedom in court in 1781. All MLK Day programs are included in museum admission. Admission is \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors, \$7 for children ages 3-17; children under 3 are free. Children ages 17 and under receive free admission through Tuesday, Jan. 31. Information: www.osv.org or 800-733-1830.

"**Dr. King's Message of Love**" is the theme at this year's Martin Luther King Jr. Family Day Celebration at the **Bruce Museum**, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich. Built for Praise Dance Academy from Bridgeport will perform at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.



Besides walking around the museum's galleries and exhibitions, students can make "I have a dream..." buttons and create self-portraits, which will be added to the Circle of Friends mural. Information: brucemuseum.org or 203-869-0376.

The Yale Peabody Museum, 170

Whitney Ave., New Haven, is offering free admission in honor of "Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s King's Legacy of Environmental and Social Justice" Sunday and Monday. On Sunday, visitors can enjoy world-stage music and dance performances, storytelling and a teen summit that highlights King's message. The **Annual Invitational Zannette Lewis Environmental and Social Justice Poetry Slam** as well as the **Zannette Lewis Environmental and Social Justice Community Poetry Open Mic** will be on Monday. Pre-registration is required. Several educational activities will also be available. Sunday hours are noon to 4:30 p.m.; Monday hours are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Information: peabody.yale.edu or 203-432-5050

Etc.

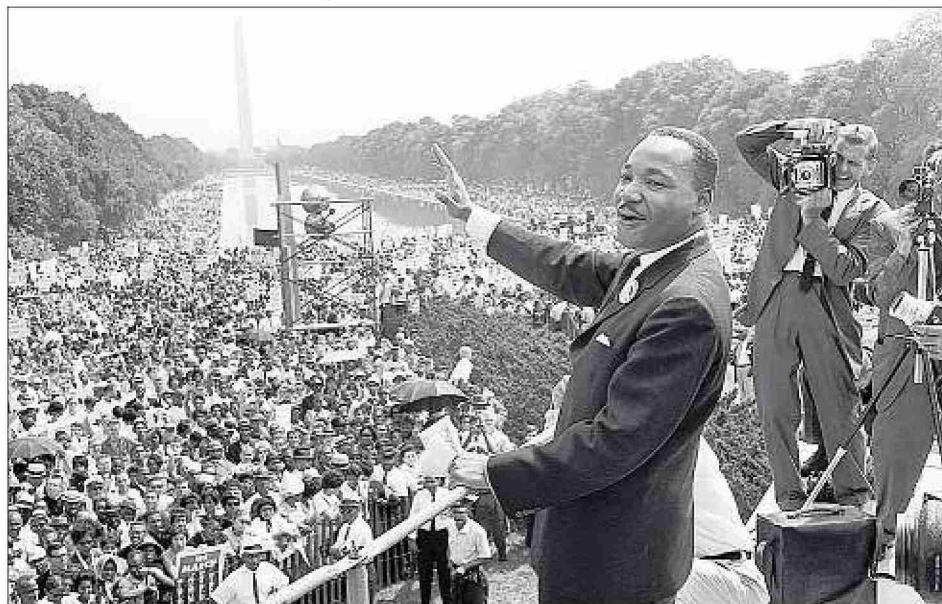
The **AmeriCorps Green Crew** leadership team at **Knox Parks** will be holding a food drive to benefit local homeless shelters. You can drop off

non-perishable food and gently used clothing at the Knox Parks office, 75 Laurel St., Hartford, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For home or office pick up, call 860-951-7694, ext. 15. Information: www.knoxparks.org.

On Film

Some **Simsbury High School** students — Nichole Byer, Billy Cahill, Monika Dragulski, Margaret House, Margaret and Taylor Willerup — have produced a documentary titled "**Martin Luther King in Connecticut**," which details King's early days, working at the Culbro Tobacco Farm in Simsbury in the summers of 1944 and 1947, when he was a student at Morehouse College. In this state, King and classmates played baseball against local teams, attended church, got milkshakes at the local drug store, went to the movies and sat where they pleased. The film is based on five letters King wrote home from Simsbury. Showtime is Monday, Jan. 16, 7 p.m. at Windsor Historical Society, 96 Palisado Ave. Admission is \$6, \$5 for seniors and students, and \$4 for members. Refreshments will be served. Details: www.windsorhistoricalsociety.org.

—Susan Dunne
(sdunne@courant.com)



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. waves to supporters from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in August of 1963 during the March on Washington.