**The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Westside Coalition presents:**

**38th Annual Celebration of**

**Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

A picture containing person, wall, necktie, indoor

Description automatically generated

**2023 THEME**

**“When you stand up for justice,**

**you can never fail”**

**Monday, January 16, 2023**

**John Adams Middle School Performing Arts Center**

**2426 16th Street, Santa Monica, California**

**PROGRAM OF CELEBRATION**

INVOCATION Dr. Joseph Metoyer, Senior Pastor, ACTS A Church That Studies

WELCOME, Darlene Evans, Chair, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

INTRODUCTIONS AND Westside Coalition and Gleam Davis, Mayor of Santa Monica

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PERFORMANCE Santa Monica Playhouse Diversity-in-Education Students

Evelyn Rudie, Co-Artistic Director

COMMUNITY LIGHT Presented by Dr. Monika White, Chair, Community Light Award

AWARD PRESENTATION Committee, to Pepperdine University’s Foster Grandparent

and ACCEPTANCE Program, Dr. Shanetta Weatherspoon, accepting

PERFORMANCE “The House We Live In,” William Bryant accompanied by Gil Leib

EDUCATION AWARDS Presented by Dr. Bernice Brown, Chair, Education Award

PRESENTATION and Committee, to Awardees

ACCEPTANCE

PERFORMANCE Lindiwe Rose Dancers

Lindiwe Rose, Founder, Director, Choreographer

INTRODUCTION OF Nat Trives, Founder, Rev. Dr. Martin

KEYNOTE SPEAKER Luther King, Jr. Westside Coalition

KEYNOTE SPEAKER Dr. Ben Chavis, Jr., Civil Rights Icon

PRESENTATION In Memoriam and Appreciation by Beth Guynn

PERFORMANCE “We Shall Overcome.” Led by William Bryant

BENEDICTION Rev. Carolyn Baskin-Bell, Pastor First AME Church of Santa Monica

CLOSING REMARKS Darlene Evans, Chair, Rev. Dr. Martin

Luther King, Jr. Westside Coalition

***Please continue to enjoy our event by attending the MLK Community Involvement Fair in the John Adams Quad outside the auditorium immediately following the program.***

**PERFORMANCES**

A group of people posing for a photo

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**Santa Monica Playhouse**

Celebrating 63 years of continuous theatrical and educational services to the community, the Playhouse presents a ShortBurst Theatre piece by past and present members of its Diversity-in-Education Conservatory. They have created a special piece for this event entitled, “***A Birthday Wish***.” Performers are Mahra Devaskar, Tanner Goldstein, Sanam Lyer, Adya Mohanty, Sampson Anderson Robinson, and Sofia Wong. In story and song, the youth celebrate Positive Peace, which is not simply the absence of conflict, but the existence of justice for all people.

**Lindiwe Rose Dancers**

Lindiwe Rose is a South African dancer, choreographer, and teacher from Cape Town with degrees in dance and musical theatre. She has choreographed and danced for famous artists, stage performances, videos, commercials, television, and movies. She is a post-Apartheid child whose parents fought for freedom and justice and taught her about *UBUNTU* which means “I am who I am because of who we are.” This unifying theme is clearly reflected in her dances.

**William Bryant**

Mr. Bryant, a graduate of Santa Monica College, is an ordained minister. He has experienced a professional career in which he earned three platinum albums and three gold albums. For almost 40 years, he has performed as an instrumentalist, composer, arranger, and producer. He worked with many well-known performers but instructing and directing SMC’s Emeritus Gospel Chorus (since 2001) has given him the greatest level of artistic gratification. The Chorus has over one hundred students. An accomplished singer, he performs “The House I Live In,” music by Earl Robinson and lyrics by Lewis Allan, accompanied by Gil Leib.

**Gil Leib**

Mr. Leib is an accompanist and has had a varied career as a free-lance pianist/arranger in TV, musical theater, recording, and as musical director for celebrities touring around the world. He has been a lifelong activist for civil rights and social justice issues and is a proud Board member of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Westside Coalition.

**COMMUNITY LIGHT AWARD**

****

**Dr. Shanetta Weatherspoon**

The MLK Community Light Award is given each year to an outstanding non-profit organization. Organizations are recognized not only because of the services they provide but because their work enhances the spirit of Dr. King.

This year’s awardee is Pepperdine University, Graduate School of Education and Psychology’s Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) which offers an intergenerational approach to community volunteerism by giving older adults the opportunity to volunteer with youth ranging from infancy to 21 years of age. Foster Grandparents are mentors, tutors, and friends to children with exceptional needs or circumstances.

The program partners with schools and community-based organizations to provide children and older adults a chance to grow together through one-on-one daily attention that helps young people grow, gain confidence, and become more productive members of society.

Accepting the MLK Community Light Award is Dr. Shanetta Weatherspoon, Executive Director of the program. Under her direction, the program has flourished.  With a significant professional background, Dr. Weatherspoon has brought the Pepperdine University Foster Grandparent Program to national attention serving as a model for other organizations.

**2023 STUDENT EDUCATION AWARDS**

***Santa Monica/Westside Legacy Fund for Women and Girls Award***

A person smiling for the camera

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**Maya Calderon – Alexander Hamilton High School**

Maya Calderon is a senior attending Alexander Hamilton High School in Los Angeles. She is in the Academy of Media and Performing Arts (AMPA) program. Her concentration is dance. Maya plans to attend a California State University to major in Kinesiology or Nursing. Her goal is to become a chiropractor or nurse. Maya comes from a loving family with different cultural backgrounds. She is proud of her mixed heritage, Mexican from her mother and African American from her father. Maya’s grandma on her mother's side came to America from Mexico to give her family a better life so they would not suffer the way she did. The legacy of Maya's family is an example of overcoming difficulties. Maya achieved goals she never imagined she would. She became Captain of her Dance Team and was crowned Homecoming Queen.

***Principle Two***

Why not be violent?

I am heard, no longer ignored

I am seen no matter what

Justice with violence is the reward

I hate it when they don’t take me seriously

There is an anger in me

An anger that gives me rage

An eye for an eye I can guarantee

It's a battle of right and wrong

My two bare hands are the witness and suspect

I feel like fighting for our lives

Fighting literally, only to protect

Why not be violent?

You may ask again

Because when you use brutal force

You will never see the end

Violence leads to a never-ending cycle

You fight and they fight back

Its fire fighting fire

How could we not expect that

It's like the universe is working against it

Telling us that with aggression it will never work

Everybody involved pays the price

And the ones watching gets to smirk

You can make love out of hate

You can become enemies to friends

Everybody wants a new beginning

That's when it all depends

Why not be violent?

Is the question we think of

If you want to see change

Be the change you want,

so we can all rise above

***Saul Morrison Award***

A person with his hand on his chin

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**Shawn Johnson Jr. – Alexander Hamilton High School**

Shawn Johnson Jr. is a senior at Alexander Hamilton High School in Los Angeles, class of 2023. He will continue his education at Santa Monica City College, majoring in Business Administration, and pursue his bachelor’s degree at a California State University. Shawn’s hobbies are playing basketball, video games, going to movies and amusement parks along with spending time with his family. He is a member of Holman United Methodist Church where Rev. James Lawson was senior pastor for 25 years. His church activities include Acolytes, Cherub Choir, Jr. Ushers, and Youth Fellowship Group.

***Essay***

*Principle Two*

I would like to thank the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Westside Coalition for helping me learn more about Dr. King by studying his 6 Principles of Nonviolence. I choose principle two. “The end result of nonviolence is redemption and reconciliation. Nonviolence seeks to win friendship and understanding with and among people. The purpose of nonviolence is the creation of the Beloved Community.’’

Nonviolence refers to the personal act of being peaceful and harmless to other people under any condition. About 2 years ago when playing in a basketball league, I got mad at another player for trash-talking and I got physical and hit him with the basketball and we scuffled. They broke us up and I realized I should not have done that, so I apologized to him, and we have been friends ever since. I knew I could have handled the situation better at the time, but we were losing, and his trash-talking hurt my feelings.

I wish we were taught about Dr. King’s 6 Principles of Nonviolence in school. We only hear about Dr. King during black history month. A few days ago, I was talking to some friends at school about my writing this essay regarding Dr. King’s 6 Principles of Nonviolence and none of them had ever heard of these principles. But we all agreed that somehow the violence must stop. When we are at the park someone must be on the lookout just so we can play basketball and not feel scared that something might happen to us.

We are only 16 and 17 years old, what can we do to stop all this craziness that is going on in our streets? Sometimes when you have a beef with someone you never know why you didn’t like that person, then find out you have something in common with that person. Violence must stop!

***Sue Schuerman and Sally Mendelsohn Award***

A picture containing orange

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**Apriltroy Coleman – Alexander Hamilton High School**

Apriltroy Coleman is a senior at Alexander Hamilton High School. She was born and raised in Los Angeles. Most of her high school years have been devoted to high academic achievement. Apriltroy has sat on the council of different clubs such as Dear Diary, a mental health awareness club she founded, and Empowerment for Hamilton, an activist club promoting transparency and fairness for minorities on high school campuses. She volunteers at the Robertson Library Teen Council, where she works on a project raising awareness of the school-to-prison pipeline and creating better pathways for troubled students. Apriltroy plans to attend Brown University. She will give back to her community by becoming a criminal defense attorney.

***The Hope of a Promise***

*Principle One*

*We have nothing to fear but fear itself*

People who move with the wind of pain but do not inflict

We march upon freedom day and night

But I know that only when it's dark enough you can see the stars

The stars attached to the flag that promised us freedom

The stars of Equality

The stars that reach as far as we want them to

The reach is for Justice

Justice built into the stone of movement

Determined to trust one another

Respect and Respond to the needs of one another

We go up and we go down together

We have risen from the ashes, and we are here to rebuild a peaceful society

We are the burning bush of our society

We have a certain fire; no water can put out

We got to stay together and maintain Unity

There is someone who suffered for the freedom

All we say to America is to push this cure of violence with us

Only when it's dark enough we can see the stars

The men and women who chained us like animals don't know this

Everyone suffered from it

These stars show us more than the constellations towards a hopeful freedom

Over my head, I see freedom for everyone

Peace

Nonviolence or Nonexistence

We have nothing to fear but fear itself

We need to March in Peace

This is not a War on them

This is a fight for Us

This is about Justice with Peace

***Clyde Smith Award***

A person wearing glasses

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**Miles C. Mauldin – USC Hybrid High College Prep**

Miles Christopher Mauldin is a senior at USC Hybrid High School Prep. He is the oldest of 3 children. Miles has a twin brother and a younger sister. His interests are reading books, playing video games, and hanging out with his family and friends. For the past three years, Miles has been involved in the following clubs at school: Anime, Movies, and Comics (AMC), Black Student Union (BSU), and Christian Club. Miles’ short-term goal is to get into a coding program. His long-term goal is to acquire his bachelor’s degree and become a successful video game designer.

***“The Better Choice”***



*Principle V*

Being nonviolent is choosing to be loving and caring towards others, even though the response could be violent. In my case, it was difficult for me to react to violence using nonviolence. There were various situations at school and work, where I was called names and people tried to pick fights with me. They used my kindness for weakness. Not only did I have to resist physical violence, but I also resisted spiritual violence. To ignore all these distractions, I used nonviolence to counter their negative behavior by ignoring them and reporting the incidents to a teacher or supervisor. I cared enough not to retaliate and return the same negative behavior, especially not knowing what others were going through to cause them to act that way. My love is infinite, unselfish, and boundless towards others that have evil, hatred, and violence in their hearts. My love will always be greater than the hater's hatred toward me and others. Forgiveness in the community is the healing of the wound or scar. Without forgiveness, the scar in the community gets infected. It gets worse and worse. Principle 5 is that Nonviolent love, that disarms your opponent and shields you from becoming them. I refuse to harm anyone that has hatred and demonstrates violence toward me. I choose to be compassionate towards others instead. I am the open hand.

***Santa Monica/Westside Legacy Fund for Women and Girls Award***

A person with dark hair

Description automatically generated with low confidence

**Maleeyah Frazier – Alexander Hamilton High School**

Maleeyah is a senior at Alexander Hamilton High School and aspires to become a juvenile attorney. She has worked with Students Deserve (SD) and Reclaim Our Schools Los Angeles, participated on panels alongside Black Lives Matter (BLM) organizers, and had articles published in the Los Angeles Times newspaper. Maleeyah will continue working with youth to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline. She’s maintained a 4.0 GPA accumulating to a 4.3 while holding multiple leadership titles such as 1st Vice President on a school, regional, and state level with the United Black Student Unions of California (UBSUC), Co-captain of her Dance Team, Senior Class President, and the first Black student to become President of her performing arts academy leadership. She will attend the University of California Los Angeles or Spelman College to major in sociology or public affairs.

***In Order to Liberate our Souls; We Must Choose Love.***

*Principle 5:* Non-violence.

What is it? It has been fueled to give me a sense of liberation.

The type of liberation that gives me peace of mind mentally and spiritually.

This type of nonviolence can be temporary,

but when we work together it will soon give us a sense of community.

My mother always said never to show hate,

say I hate, encourage hate, or hold hatred towards anyone.

She said you should never hold grudges or be angry at people for too long, and that you “forgive”.

For,

forgiving restores the balance that is shifted and puts the perspective in focus when it’s blurry.

She’s reminded me over time that forgiveness fuels nonviolence.

As,

non-violence would be my key to liberation.

But how can I feel liberated when

I am repeatedly given the opposite?

Growing up in poverty has always given me the feeling that liberation was something that I lacked.

From reading ripped-up books telling me that peace was something my community lacked,

to being sent out to schools that kept students like me on a hook.

Being in classes given looks always gave me a sense of dis-belonging.

But within my community, we are given two pathways one that fuels violence and nonviolence.

But over time, we are shown that love wins over hate,

and we can feel liberated as one through peace.

**Principle 5:** Through the nonviolent message and movement of Martin Luther King Jr., Principle 5 stood out to me as a significant principle. This poem embodies Principle 5 since it speaks about the value of nonviolence, and my own experiences within my community. Through non-violence my community organizations have been able to support our neighborhood, which places a strong focus on the value of the individual, the group, and liberation, through nonviolent approaches in order to restore the value of community building within our schools. Together, we can accomplish anything through love and not hate.

***Lillie Bell Blakley Award***

A person wearing a suit and bow tie

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

**Xavier D. Mauldin – USC Hybrid High College Prep**

Xavier Devion Mauldin is 17 years old and has a twin brother. He is a senior at USC Hybrid High College Prep. Last year the opportunity to become president of the Black Student Union (BSU) was presented to Xavier by the former president. He proudly accepted knowing that he would be the keeper of a space where students of African descent would be able to express themselves freely. Although challenging, Xavier has come to appreciate and enjoy educating students regarding topics related to ethnic studies and history. Xavier will pursue a career as a high school humanities teacher. He has applied to many Cal State Universities hoping to pursue a Liberal Studies degree.

***“You and I”***

***Principle 3***

I was cut.

You drew blood.

You’re the master of facades.

You wielded the knife.

The knife in front of me.

You’ve cut many before.

I’d lie if I said, “the cut didn’t leave me sore”.

You are aware.

Your knife too sharp.

Couldn’t describe it as dull.

I’m not mistaken, you have sores too.

You can’t cut yourself, someone else did this to you.

It kills me, it’s the irony.

So, I inquire

Why?

Why keep on sharpening your blade?

You’re clothed in wounds.

You try, attempt even, but I can see it.

You do it with hesitation.

Don’t pretend like it’s true before you get cut.

You know what path you want them to choose.

But instead to flee you stay to end up scarred.

Once Again, I say you’re not caged.

You let what happened in the past hold yourself from being free.

What’s been done, declare it history.

The scratches, slits and gashes you inflict upon us,

is the mere image of what you lack in trust.

I’m still bleeding.

Healing along the way.

You can forgive those that betrayed, not doing so.

From peace you can astray.

I do it solely because they were cut before that day.

Anger and impulse you’ve reacted in many ways.

We both have a sense that this may be cliché.

It’s the same message

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave.

The man, who made a timeless change

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**A person wearing a suit and tie

Description automatically generated with medium confidence**

**Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.**

Dr. Chavis is an African American Civil Rights Movement 64-year veteran leader and icon. He is an author, chemist, United Church of Christ ordained minister, and PBS TV Executive Producer of the Chavis Chronicles. Currently the President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, he also chairs the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, We Are Digital, and the Energy Action Alliance. At the request of his longtime friend, Nelson Mandela, Dr. Chavis co-founded Diamonds Do Good. In 1982, he coined the term, “environmental racism” during civil rights protests of racial and environmental injustice in Warren County, North Carolina. He was featured in the movie, Belly, alongside Nas and DMX.

Dr. Chavis began his career in 1963 as a statewide youth coordinator in North Carolina for the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). In 1970, he was appointed Southern Regional Program Director of the 1.7 million- member United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice (UCC-CRJ) and by 1985 was named the Executive Director and CEO of the UCC-CRJ.  In 1988, Dr. Chavis was elected Vice President of the National Council of Churches of the USA.  From 1985 to 1993, Dr. Chavis wrote and produced the national syndicated newspaper column and radio program, “Civil Rights Journal.”

In 1993 and 1994 Dr. Chavis served as the Executive Director and CEO of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and was the youngest person to hold that position. In 1995, Dr. Chavis was the National Director and organizer of the Million Man March. From 1995 to 1997, he was the Executive Director and CEO of the National African American Leadership Summit (NAALS).  In 2001, Dr. Chavis and Russell Simmons co-founded the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network. In 2009, Dr. Chavis joined with Ezell Brown to establish the Education Online Services Corporation.

A native of Oxford, North Carolina, Dr. Chavis earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of North Carolina, Duke University, and Howard University. He is a proud member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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**EDUCATION AWARDS**

**Lillie Bell Blakley Endowment**

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Carol Blakely

Norma A Harris

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**Clyde Smith Award**

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**Saul Morrison Award**

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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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Baha’i Faith Community of Santa Monica

Brady United—United Against Gun Violence

The Children's Lifesaving Foundation

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Helpguide International.org

Human Relations Council SM Bay Area

LA County Mental Health Dept—Service Area

Leadership Team 5

League of Women Voters of SM—Karen Carrey

Meals on Wheels West

NAACP Santa Monica Venice Branch

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Quinn Research Center—Bill & Carolyne Edwards

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SGI-USA—Michael Sage, Ian Mcllraith,

Debbie Williams

The Santa Monica Symphony

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU**

Dr. Ben Drati, Jerry Gibson, Deena Burkett, Leihua Hartley, Scean Sputzier, Lori Whitesell—SMMUSD

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Greg Evans

Gitta Morris Martin—Independent Photography

New Roads School—Mark Vickers-Willis

Prof. Redelia Shaw and Prof. Gail Fetzer, Santa Monica College

Renee Cunning—Santa Monica Symphony

Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein, SMMUSD School Board

Santa Monica Area Interfaith Council

Santa Monica College Foundation—Lizzie Moore and Taziwa Chanaiwa

Chief Ramon Batista and the Santa Monica Police Department

SGI—Michael Sage, Ian McIlraith, Debbie Williams

**AN ADDITIONAL THANK YOU TO THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

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**~~~~~~~~~~~**

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

In recognizing the traditional custodians of the land, we pay respect to the Tongva, the history and culture of the community, and all Native Americans as America's First Peoples. We pay respect to the Tongva Elders past, present, and future, for they hold the memories, the traditions, and the culture of this area, which has become a place of learning for people all over the world. We acknowledge and appreciate the Tongva people who are alive today, as well as generations to come as we continue to help steward this land, we all love.

**HISTORY**

1986 Norma Gonzales. The Gas Co.  
***"We Have A Dream"***

1987      ﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿Nathaniel Trives, Former Mayor, City of Santa Monica  
***"Celebrate The Dream"***

1988 Rev. Clarence Jefferson Davis, Jr., Calvary Baptist Church   
***"Living The Dream, Let Freedom Ring"***

1989 ﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿Pastor Lydia Waters, Compton Methodist Church  
***"Living The Dream, Let Freedom Ring"***

1990 Dr. Richard Moore, Superintendent/ President, Santa Monica College

***"We Still Have A Dream”***

1991 Rev. Bernice King, CEO, The King Center

***"Sharing Our Dreams: On the Road to the Mountaintop"***

1992 John E. Jacob, President/CEO, National Urban League

***"Education: The Road to Freedom"***

1993 Ret. Dr. James M. Lawson, Holman United Methodist Church

***"Fulfill The Dream Now: Education, Equality and Justice for All "***

1994 Dr. Paul Cummins, Crossroads School, Dr. Sylvia Roussea, SMMUSD and

Cheryl Miller, USC Basketball and TNT sportscaster  
***"From Dreams to Reality: Undoing Racism"***

1995 Hugh B. Price, President/CEO, National Urban League

***"Commitment to The Dream: Community & World Unity"***

1996  ﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿Walter Leonard, President (Ret.), Fish University  
***"Sleeping through the Revolution"***

1997  ﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿John Bryant, President/CEO, Operation Hope  
***"Passing the Torch: Are you Ready?"***

1998 Joe R. Hicks, Executive Director, Los Angeles City Human Relations Commission

***"His Dream, His Hope: Our Challenge"***

1999 Angela E. Oh, President Clinton's Initiative on Race

***"Why We Won't Wait: Education, Jobs, Justice, Peace, Community Now! "***

2000 Donzaleigh Abernathy, Actress/Activist

***"Hate Against Hate Has Not Worked: Give a Hug, Give Love”***

2001 ﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿Dr. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, National League of Women Voters  
***"Unity and Diversity”***

2002 ﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿Father Michael D. Gutierrez, Pastor, Saint Anne's Catholic Church  
***"A Man and His Impact on Contemporary Society"***

2003 Dr. Sylvia Rousseau, District 1 Area Superintendent, LAUSD

***"Soul and Spirit of the Man"***

2004 The Honorable Judge Dorothy Nelson, United States Court of Appeals, 9th Circuit  
***"Marching Backwards: Trampling Our Civil Rights"***

2005  Paul Cummins, Founding Headmaster, Crossroads School  
***"State of the Union: A Time For Love Not Hate, For Understanding Not Anger,***

***A Time for Peace Not War"***

2006 ﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿ Yolanda King, Founder, Higher Ground Productions  
***"Remember, Celebrate, Act: A Day On, Not A Day Off"***

2007 ﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿Dr. Lawrence Edward Carter, Sr., Morehouse College  
***"Peace is not absence of violence It is the presence of justice"***

2008  ﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿Dr. Firuz Kazemzadeh, Yale University Emeritus and Dr. Wilma M. Ellis, Chair, Women on the Move  
***"We have flown the air like birds and swum the sea like fishes but have yet to learn the simple act of walking the earth like brothers"***

2009.     The Honorable Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Former Under-Secretary-General and

High Representative of the United Nations  
***"Be the Change You Want to See In the World"***

2010 Dr. Adena Williams Loston, President, St. Phillip's College

***"For Hope to Become Reality: We Must All Do Our Share"***

2011 Val Zavala, Vice President, SoCal Connected KCET LA

***"Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport: We Must Act Now!"***

2012 Congresswoman Janice Hahn, 36th California District

***"Peace Begins with Me"***

2013 Nathaniel Trives, Former Mayor, City of Santa Monica  
***"Redeem The Dream"***

2014 Gerald C. Rivers, Entertainer

***"Unity in Community"***

2015 Gabriela Rosco, Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice-Los Angeles

***"The Fierce Urgency of Now"***

2016﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿ Sheila James Kuehl, Los Angeles County Supervisor, 3rd District  
***"Peace Requires Justice"***

2017 Dr. Kathryn E. Jeffery, Superintendent/ President, Santa Monica College  
***"Stand Against Injustice"***

2018 Dr. Tommie C. Smith, 20om Olympic Gold Medalist, \*I Olympiad,1968

***"Never Lose Hope: Unity Wins"***

2019 Derric Johnson, Founding Director of the Equity & Justice Institute

***"Injustice Anywhere is a Threat to Justice Everywhere"***

2020 Amanda Gorman, First Youth Poet Laureate of the United States

***"Now is the Time to Make Real the Promises of Democracy"***

2021 Congressmember Karen Bass, Rep. 37th District, California Tamika L. Butler, Esq.

***"If Not Us, Then Who? If Not Now, Then When?"***

2022 LE Granderson, sports, culture columnist, Los Angeles Times and

host of Life Out Loud podcast

***"The Time is Always Right to Do What is Right"***

2023 Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., Civil Rights Icon

***“When You Stand Up for Justice You Can Never Fail”***

**ABOUT US**

***The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Westside Coalition*** was

founded in 1986, as a community partnership with the City of Santa

Monica, Santa Monica College, Westside Interfaith Council, NAACP

Santa Monica Venice Branch, Neighborhood Resource Development

Corporation, Temple Beth Shir Shalom, NCCJ (which became the

Human Relations Council of Santa Monica Bay Area) and others.

Today the Coalition is a nonprofit organization comprised of a

diverse group of volunteers including individual community members,

churches, institutions, community organizations, and businesses.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

To educate, inspire, and promote

the ideals of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

to end inequality and racism, and to promote

justice, understanding, and love for all

**VISION**

To remind the community of

Dr. King’s challenge to bring

Peace, hope, love, and dignity

to all peoples of the earth, and

Dr. King’s vision of a worldwide community

that respects and values all people,

presses for social and economic justice,

and counters racism, sexism, and intolerance

through nonviolent action.

**CONTACT US**: 818-207-3934

For more details and information about MLK, our program and awardees, go to our website: [www.mlkjrwestside.org](http://www.mlkjrwestside.org)

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