

THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
WESTSIDE COALITION PRESENTS

**39TH ANNUAL
REV. DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR.
CELEBRATION**



**THEME:
“STOP THE HATE,
START THE HEALING”**

January 15, 2024, 9:00am

**SGI-USA World Peace Ikeda Auditorium
525 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica, CA**

PROGRAM OF CELEBRATION

INVOCATION

Joseph Metoyer, Senior Pastor, ACTS A Church That Studies

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS and ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Darlene Evans, Interim Chair, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Westside Coalition, Phil Brock, Mayor of Santa Monica and Rob Schwenker,
President, Santa Monica College Associates

PERFORMANCE

“Two Anthems” performed by Linda Alvarez and Abraham Cervantes
accompanied by Gil Leib

EDUCATION AWARDS PRESENTATION and ACCEPTANCE

Presented by Katherine Quinn, Chair, Education Award and Committee

COMMUNITY LIGHT AWARD PRESENTATION and ACCEPTANCE

Presented by Ericka Lesley, Chair, Community Light Award Committee
to Jenese Center, accepted by Alyson Messenger, Managing Staff Attorney

PERFORMANCE

“The Talented Tenth,” by Richard Wesley, performed by
Ben Guillory and Nic Few, Robey Theatre Company

NAT TRIVES SERVICE AWARD PRESENTATION and ACCEPTANCE

Presented by Darlene Evans to Nat Trives

PERFORMANCE

A Tribute to Harry Belafonte
Ryan Washington, singer/songwriter and Gil Leib, Arranger/Accompanist

INTRODUCTION OF THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Erin Mills, Treasurer, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Westside Coalition

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Lisa Holder, President of Equal Justice Society

PRESENTATION In Memoriam and Appreciation

by Beth Guynn
Member Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Westside Coalition

PERFORMANCE

“We Shall Overcome “ by everyone


BENEDICTION

Nikyska Gilliam, Pastor, Phillips Chapel (The oldest African American Church in
Santa Monica)

CLOSING REMARKS

Darlene Evans

Please continue to spread the joy of our celebration by attending the
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Community Involvement Fair immediately following the program at the Santa
Monica Bay Women’s Club, just a block away, at 1210 4th Street.



H I S T O R Y

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 Rev. 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 Rousseau, 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 J. Leonard, President (Ret.),
Fisk 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! “





HISTORY

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, 200m
Olympic Gold Medalist, XIX 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 LZ 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 Ben Chavis, Jr., Civil Rights icon
“When you stand up for justice, you can
never fail.”

PERFORMANCE
“TWO ANTHEMS”
LINDA ALVAREZ AND
ABRAHAM CERVANTES



Linda Alvarez theatrical training began under the tutelage of Mr. Rabinowicz, where she learned about timing, discipline, character development, role playing, use of memory, script writing and other theatrical concepts. These techniques would later result in her performing as a cast member, playwright, soloist and producer for “Serenity,” and become the producer and co-musical director for “The Veil of Mahalia” and “Praising the King.” She was also a cast member and background singer in “Queenie Pie,” “Ain’t but the One,” and “Heaven,” all based on the works of Duke Ellington, plus “The Wiz” and “Europa.”

Linda was told that she could *la, la, la* before she learned how to speak. During her formative years, she traveled from state to state performing as a soloist and background singer with the singing groups “The Sensations” and the “Evaluations.”

Linda holds a BA in musical education from UCLA and has various degrees from other institutions.

ABRAHAM CERVANTES



Abraham Cervantes studied vocal performance and received his Bachelors of Music from Cal State Fullerton in 2023. At Fullerton, Abraham has sung in opera roles such as Prunier in Puccini's *La Rondine* and Lippo Fiorentino in Kurt Weill's "Street Scene" among other scenes.

Since graduating, Abraham has accepted a position as staff tenor in the Grammy Award winning Pacific Chorale and made his debut with Opera Italia as Spiridione in their production of "Il campanello di notte" by Gaetano Donizetti.

Abraham looks to continue performing in studio, live theatre and concert hall settings as much as possible.

RYAN WASHINGTON



Ryan Washington, twenty-two, was born in Los Angeles and raised in West Adams. He is a singer/songwriter and is currently a college student pursuing a bachelors in music with a focus on guitar.

Gil Leib attended the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and has worked as a pianist, arranger, and music director in television, recording, cabaret, and on the road. As a civil rights activist, he was a freedom rider, an investigator for the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, and has served as a Board member of the Dr. MLK Westside Coalition for many years.

2024 EDUCATION AWARDS



MCCOI JONES
ALEXANDER HAMILTON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Mccoi Jones is a senior attending Alexander Hamilton High School and she majors in dance. Dance is Mccoi's passion, and she plans to receive her teaching credentials so that she can teach other subjects, including dance. Although Mccoi didn't start out at the highest level of her dance class in 9th grade, her hard work and determination took her to the highest level of Hamilton's dance program by her senior year. Mccoi has choreographed dances in hip-hop, jazz, and modern genres, two of which were showcased in the school's dance shows.

Mccoi plans to attend one of three HBCUs: Southern University, Spelman College, or Florida A&M University (FAMU) for her academic pursuits to succeed in her future.

MCCOI JONES POEM

PRINCIPLE THREE

Principle three relates to you and me.
Nonviolence seeks a win/ win situation.
But what about the already hurt men?
The people who had no way to defend themselves when
they were being attacked.
They felt that black men were evil but they had no intentions
to hurt anyone back.
We instead used our words to make statements.
Because our hurt feelings had no replacement.
No room for comfort.
Only fear.
They say, "Police officers",
But "death" is all we hear.
Our purpose of nonviolence is the creation of a beloved
community.
But why are black people the only ones not expected to
have immunity?
Immunity from hurtful words and gestures.
The ability to overcome these times with lectures.
We are strong.
We are strong.
So we should all gather along.
Stand together to let things be clear.
Martin Luther King had a dream.
And for nonviolence redemption
We are all here.



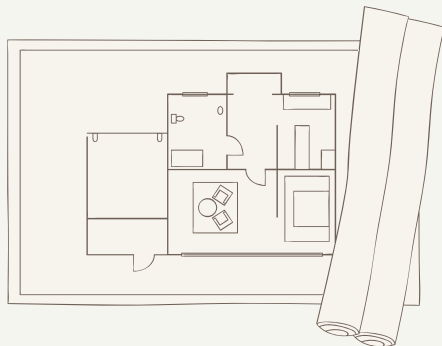


ALEXIS KE
JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

Alexis Ke is 16 years old and the youngest senior attending John F. Kennedy High School.

John F. Kennedy High School is one of the few high schools nationally that offers the International Baccalaureate (IB), a very rigorous Program. As such, Alexis will receive the International Baccalaureate Diploma and her High School Diploma.

Alexis is the Team Captain for the Junior Varsity Girls' Basketball team, a member of the Varsity Squad, is Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Certified, a member of Jr. NBA and Team USA, and the High School Badminton team. She is also in the National Honors Society, International Baccalaureate Connection Club (in the position of Public Relations Officer), Key Club, and the California Scholarship Foundation, among other clubs. Alexis plans to pursue a career in architecture.



ALEXIS KE ARTWORK PRINCIPLE FOUR



I have a dream.” I wish that one day in your time you’ll live to see people of all colors live in harmony. A world where people judge one another based on their character rather than the shade of their skin.

“But Mr. King, whatever do you mean?”

“Come, join me for a leisurely stroll and let us take a deep dive into reality”

The lush trees and soft patches of grass lose their vibrant green hue, gradually transforming into a subtle shade of green. The verdant green blends into the unveiled gateway into the realities of King’s dream. He holds the hand of a young girl representative of the many generations, to come to teach them about the struggle for harmony among the diverse racial backgrounds. He then points towards the struggles in his opening vision and proceeds forward towards it. The image portrays an angel and a demon, and in the background crowds of people from both sides passing on judgment regarding their friendship. Contrary to a contraventional image of a demon, he expresses kindness towards all. Irritated by this, the others frequently taunt and harm him. The angel on the other hand values the belief that we should assess individuals not merely by their appearance but rather by their character.



BLESS MUSLAR
SOUTH LA COLLEGE PREP

Bless Muslar is a 17-year-old high school senior at South LA College Prep. She was born and raised in Los Angeles. Bless enjoys going to the gym, shopping, and participating in and advocating for her community through various leadership activities.

During Bless' junior year of high school, she became student body president and was able to be a medium for her junior class. Her biggest accomplishment was speaking to the LAUSD board about her school experience and how her high school allowed her to excel as a Black scholar. In Bless' senior year, she is a Senior Leader and leads the Black Student Union. In college, Bless will major in political science or sociology, which will prepare her for a career in Law.



BLESS MUSLAR

ESSAY PRINCIPLE THREE

Nonviolence recognizes that evil doers are also victims.

In my belief no man is born evil, though the circumstances that occur in one's environment is what makes one appear "evil" or commit evil actions. An evil doer is a victim of their environment; circumstances, people, things, and events condition one's beliefs whether good or evil, resulting in good or evil acts. For instance, take the Transatlantic slave trade, a great event in humanity where over 12.5 million Africans were taken from their homeland of Africa and transported to the Americas to start new lives as slaves; the historical event leaving a lasting effect on the African American diaspora in present day. Most are quick to label Europeans as the evil doer but it is crucial to stay woke right?! So, let's take a step back and really analyze the true evil and victims of this event.

Late 15th & 16th century

During the age of colonialism the ultimate goal of Europeans was money, and power. When the Portuguese colonizers stepped foot on the prosperous land of the Ancient African Kingdom of Kongo the grand economic and social prosperity was apparent. The colonizers had hit the jackpot. Africa's economic success was the key to everlasting wealth and power so they took advantage although it came with a devastating cost. Through a trading system, colonizers took control of the already existent slave system within Africa. Mechanical machinery (guns, cargo, etc.) were traded in return for African slaves which then eventually turned into kidnapping slaves and taking them through multiple long, horrendous, inhumane journeys, consisting of torture, disease, trauma, and mortality. Once in the Americas, families were broken apart, Africans lost their humanity, becoming chattel commodities. At last, the European's goal was accomplished. Money and power were gained through slave labor but at the cost of the innocent African lives. The evil doers, being Europeans, yet victims of the desperation for money and power.

Nonviolence seeks to win opponents support rather than defeat opponents. Nonviolence seeks a win/win solution. Violence is destructive to humanity. It is both physically and emotionally harmful to individuals and communities, affecting safety, security, trust, education, encourages division and creates enemies. Humanity suffers and loses its ability to thrive. Nonviolence, on the other hand, does the opposite. It heals instead of harming.

A community of understanding and respect is fostered. Conflicts can be resolved under peaceful means instead of perpetuating violence resulting in sustainable peace which looks like social justice and the preservation and respect of human life, where differences can be acknowledged and respected.

Some claim violence is the “answer”, not with bad intent but instead, in defense, to stand up for justice and to assert dominance or respect. Arguably, it is in our human nature to react violently first. Malcolm X, a civil rights leader once opposed of non-violence because he believed non-violence meant defenselessness against white violence toward African Americans. Though, as time passed, X’s beliefs shifted to a nonviolent approach, “Malcolm's views on the methods or means of conflict resolution began to change when he became a Sunni Muslim...He equally began to argue that conflict is not inherent in human beings or immutable or necessarily ordained to last for all time and that it is possible that oppressed people regardless are able to march together in genuine brotherhood and fight (non-violently) together against their common oppressors” (Eyo Emmanuel Bassey & Ejesi Edwin C.& Edor J. Edor. 2020)

Common ground amongst humanity and respect for human dignity is the “win-win” solution nonviolence seeks. Instead of the misconception that everyone needs to be besties and love each other to the moon and back, its ultimate intent is to create a basic understanding for each individual as a human, to embrace differences, and thrive as an intersectional society and seek a positive outcome for all parties involved. The nonviolent goal is to defeat the injustices and discrimination within humanity, not each other.

Works cited

Eyo Emmanuel Bassey & Ejesi Edwin C.& Edor J. Edor (2020) MALCOLM X'S PHILOSOPHY OF VIOLENCE: A PHILOSOPHICAL PARADIGM FOR SOCIAL LIBERATION OF THE BLACK RACE TOWARDS CONFLICT RESOLUTION, PEACE AND EQUALITY. (pg.7)

Those in the background attempt to discourage the young kids from forming a friendship by resorting to various means such as hurling stones at them. In this specific scene, the demon has lost his ability to soar because they burned half his wing off. Both children are subjected to violence as a result, but they choose to put up with it instead of responding with hate.

They accept the violence inflicted upon them but refuse to ever retaliate it back to their people or in other words “nonviolence accepts violence if necessary, in the course of achieving a goal, but will never inflict it.” Their goal being to influence others to continue what they started. What good is it to respond violently when two wrongs don't make a right? It won't improve the issue and will further fuel tensions instead of healing them.

They accept that with every choice comes a consequence, or as Principle Four states “nonviolence willingly accepts the consequences of its acts.” Instead, the angel retrieves her sewing kit and attempts to mend his wing with loose feathers despite the difference in color. The demon accepts her assistance and cooperates by sitting still. This is intended to symbolize the healing process that occurs only if both cooperate. This is the dream King hopes the younger generations will embody. He teaches them the concept of togetherness and the importance of courage. This aims to convey King’s message drawing inspiration from his Montgomery Bus Boycott speech that took place a few days after Rosa Parks’ arrest in December 1955. In this speech, he encouraged and motivated people to take that first initial step, consistently emphasizing that change will not occur overnight nor will it ever be obtained if no action is taken. Although the nonviolent do not long for suffering, it is redemptive. The nonviolent hope that in the end it will be all worth it. (Unearned suffering is redemptive). Dreaming is one thing but action is another.

This aspect is depicted in my artwork through the courage displayed by the demon and angel; they take the first initial step in hopes of change in the future. They maintain their optimism even when they’re the laughing stock of the crowd, with no intentions of ever causing any harm. They understand that by doing this, they hold the belief that their strong core to stick together despite the suffering they endure will reach the hearts and minds of others for the better. This is their greatest weapon when reason fails. Maybe they may not live to see a day when both creatures conjoin the world but, they uphold high hopes and wishes for the future. They hope to reach an emotional appeal to the people. Similar to King's wishes for unity and justice amongst all without resorting to any violence to get his message across.



JOURNEY WALOK

PALISADES CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Journey Walok is a 16-year-old senior at Pacific Palisades Charter High School. Journey has been a Girl Scout for over 10 years and belongs to 3 high school clubs: Black Student Union (BSU), holds a leadership position in Black Women's Association, and Warm Up America Foundation. Warm Up America Foundation is a knitting club where they knit or crochet squares and send them to a facility that makes them into blankets for the less fortunate. Journey wants to help people who are less fortunate, even by just knitting a small square that will be turned into something more essential for the homeless.



NONVIOLENCE PRINCIPLE THREE

Nonviolence recognizes that evil doers are also victims. Many of our young people in today's society can easily fall victim to the socio economic condition of living in poverty. Living in poverty may bring on the motivation and pressure to commit an unlawful act that will bring on a sense of temporary relief. The temporary relief from poverty. For example, such a person may get good grades in school but understands that when he goes home there will be no dinner on the table so he may feel like he would need to commit a crime and steal food from the market to eat. This act may continue and lead to being arrested and possibly growing up in the juvenile system with the cycle continuing into adulthood where the stakes become larger. This is a mild example of an evil doer in my opinion who's a victim of their own socio economic condition.

Nonviolence seeks to win opponents support rather than defeat opponents. This particular part of the principle can be very challenging and could be taken in two ways but when I think about how this applies to me and the things I've witnessed. For example, when it comes to governmental elections I see that both opponents try their best to discredit each other in every way possible to win. The only time that I've seen support from the opponent is after the opponent lost and later gave support. In my case, I seek nonviolence and tend to get the support of my opponents somehow but if that fails, I stop any attempt and remove myself from the situation if possible.

Nonviolence seeks a win/win solution. This is an absolutely fantastic situation when methods of nonviolence can lead to a win/win situation if both parties can come to the conclusion of both sides being satisfied with the results. This could be challenging but we all deal with this all the time rather it be through contractual agreements or negotiations. As a young adult, I believe young adults negotiate special terms all the time in order to achieve a win/win solution through nonviolence. Especially at home with family, rather it be terms to cleaning, doing chores, good grades leading to incentives and so forth.

So overall the third principle of nonviolence truly highlights the importance of actively attempting to see your opponents as humans. When someone has wronged you or disagreed with you from then on you will perceive them as the disagreement. Not as a human being with problems and reasoning but as monsters who cruelly mistreat you, making you not want to see them as victims of their own situation. This is persistently showing more and more throughout younger generations. Youth believing that one opinion or one mistake can account for the person's entire personality is absurd and with this mindset the younger generations do not care to communicate nor negotiate with their opponent and would rather defeat them in any way, shape or form.



COMMUNITY LIGHT AWARD

JENESSE CENTER

Accepted by Alyson Messenger
Managing Staff Attorney, Jenesse Center



A bedrock principle of Dr. King's strategy for social justice was non-violence. Violence undermines justice. Survivors of domestic violence have had their power taken away from them by their partners.

Founded in 1980 by five African American women in South Los Angeles, Jenesse Center is a nonprofit domestic violence intervention and prevention organization with a resolute mission: to restore and provide trauma-informed, culturally responsive, holistic, comprehensive services to survivors and families impacted by domestic and sexual violence, and to advance prevention modalities to sustain healthy and safe communities free of violence.

Jenesse Center works locally, nationally, and globally to shine a light on violence against women, girls, men, and boys and advocates the basic human right for all people to have peace in their homes and relationships. Jenesse's culturally sensitive programs and services not only transition families from crisis to self-sufficiency but also transform the lives of its clients and the community by offering education, referrals, and resources beyond shelter. Their services and programs include transitional shelters, mental health counseling, legal services, vocational training, educational classes, and housing advocacy.

PERFORMANCE
“THE TALENTED TENTH”
BY BEN GUILLORY
AND NIC FEW
ROBEY THEATRE COMPANY



BEN GUILLORY
(GRIGGS)

NIC FEW
(BERNARD)

LETICIA REY

The Talented Tenth is a classic of Black American dramatic literature. First produced in 1989, it is relevant enough that its narrative could be set in 2023. The play borrows its title from a 1903 article by scholar, activist and social reformer W.E.B. DuBois, in which he described the likelihood of one in ten Black men becoming leaders of Black people by continuing their education, writing books, or becoming directly involved in social change.

The Robey Theatre Company was founded in 1994 by Ben Guillory and Danny Glover, veteran actors and friends dedicated to ensuring opportunities for theater actors in Hollywood. We are a community of artists and creatives who believe in the transformational power of plays. Our approach is collaborative and provides a nurturing and supportive environment for BIPOC artists and creatives.

THE NAT TRIVES SERVICE AWARD



The Nat Trives Service Award was created to honor a man who has worked throughout his life for the betterment of the people of Santa Monica, to such a degree that the title, “Mr. Santa Monica” was coined for him. Nat’s lifework exemplifies an unparalleled love and dedication to this City, its people and its organizations, and we, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Westside Coalition, acknowledge and honor his service.

Nat’s life journey began in Alabama where he was born. He moved to Santa Monica as a teenager, at which time he attended Samohi. He continued his education at Santa Monica College (SMC) earning an Associates in Criminal Justice, a Bachelors in Criminal Justice from Cal Statue University Los Angeles (CSULA), and a Master’s of Public Administration from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Nat was a member of Santa Monica Police Department from 1958 - 1969, and was president of the Santa Monica Police Officers Association for five years. He served in the Santa Monica City Council from 1971 to 1977, becoming the City’s first African American mayor in 1975. While mayor, Nat diversified the City administration by adding minorities to the various boards and commissions. He also sought to make the city more inclusive, and successfully lobbied to bring Soka Gakkai International (SGI) to Santa Monica, in the face of significant backlash. Since that time, SGI has hosted many city events including the annual State of the City, with the Chamber of Commerce, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebrations and the Santa Monica Symphony.

Nat has taught criminal justice and political science at SMC and CSULA as well as served in administrative roles at both institutions. He has also been a Political Science professor at the SMC Emeritus College for many years. In the late 1970s, he was named a special master and auditor monitor at the US Federal Court for the Northern District of California.

THE NAT TRIVES SERVICE AWARD

Nat has said “The most rewarding service is volunteerism” and that he was dedicated to “Improving the quality of life” of others.”

His commitment to that is exemplified by the many associations, boards, commissions and nonprofits he has participated in and lead throughout his lifetime, including, but not limited to: Boys and Girls Club of Santa Monica, California Commission on Judicial Performance, Cal State University Los Angeles, Crossroads School for Arts and Sciences, International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Conference of Community and Justice, National League of Cities, National Urban League, National Association of Independent Schools, New Roads School, New Visions Foundation, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Westside Coalition, Rotary Club of Santa Monica, Santa Monica Bay Area Human Relations Council, Santa Monica Black Agenda, Santa Monica Board for Conventions and Visitor’s Bureau, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, Santa Monica College Associates, Santa Monica College- Early Childhood Lab School, Santa Monica Family YMCA, Santa Monica College General Advisory Board, Santa Monica Community College District Personnel Board, Santa Monica Gems, Santa Monica Historical Society Museum, Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District Personnel Commission, Santa Monica Sister City Association, Santa Monica Symphony, Southern California Association of Governments, The Rotary Club of Santa Monica, UCLA Athletics, and Wise and Healthy Aging.

Nat has been married to his high school sweetheart Ida for 68 years, and they have one daughter, Dr. Toni Trives, a very accomplished linguist and teacher at SMC, along with two wonderful grandchildren, Tristan and Tanner.

References:

Bender, Andrew (November 2021). “Mr. Santa Monica’ — and his accomplished family Generations of leadership from Nat, Ida and Toni Trives” (PDF). The SantaMonicaMovie.com.

SMC website directory, <https://www.smc.edu/directory/trives-nathaniel.php>

Santa Monica Mirror: <https://smmirror.com/2012/12/former-santa-monica-mayor-nat-trives-to-be-keynote-speaker-at-mlk-celebration/>

Wikipedia: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nat_Trives

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

LISA HOLDER

PRESIDENT, EQUAL JUSTICE SOCIETY



Lisa Holder is President of the Oakland-based Equal Justice Society and recently completed her two-year term as an appointee of Gov. Gavin Newsom on the historic Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans. Ms. Holder is a nationally recognized, award-winning trial attorney with specialized expertise in equal protection, education equity, employment discrimination, constitutional policing, and international human rights law.

In 2019, she drafted AB 241 and 242, the laws that now require all judges, attorneys, court staff and health professionals to undertake continuing education on bias-elimination. In 2020, she served on the steering committee for the Proposition 16 campaign to repeal California's ban on affirmative action. Ms. Holder received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Wesleyan University and her JD from New York University School of Law where she was a distinguished Root-Tilden Scholar.

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Rachel Feldste

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The Baha'i Community of Santa Monica
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It is necessary to love peace and sacrifice for it. We must concentrate not merely on the negative expulsion of war, but the positive affirmation of peace.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Nobel Lecture, Oslo, December 11, 1964

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Westside Coalition

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