



*"Our lives begin to end the day we become
silent about the things that matter."*

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration 2018

Washington University in St. Louis
January 15, 2018 | 7 pm | Graham Chapel

Schedule of Events

Welcome and Introductions

Reuben A. Hogan and Sydney L. Robinson

“Lift Every Voice and Sing” (Black National Anthem)

Washington University Chamber Choir

Harry V. Moppins Jr. - Organ

“To Sit and Dream” - Washington University Chamber Choir

Composer: Rosephanye Powell; Lyrics by Langston Hughes

Chancellor’s Remarks

Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton

Statement of the Occasion

Reuben A. Hogan and Sydney L. Robinson

Student Essay Winner

Rene Morency

Black Anthology Performance

Keynote Speaker

Vernon C. Mitchell, Jr., PhD

Rosa L. Parks Award Presentation

Mr. James Clark

Vice President of Community Outreach, Better Family Life, Inc.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Service Award Presentation

Audrey Ming Lan Goedegebuure

“More Than I Can Bear” Visions Gospel Choir

Provost Closing Remarks

Provost Holden Thorp

“We Shall Overcome” - Visions Gospel Choir,

Harry V. Moppins Jr. - Organ

Special Program Participants



James Clark is a leading voice in America on the issue of neighborhood stabilization and community organizing. He was appointed Vice President of Community Outreach for Better Family Life, Inc. in 2000 and has implemented numerous innovative programs. Mr. Clark developed the Pulpit to Porches Initiative which empowers neighborhoods by delivering resources to residents through the church, helping restore churches to positions of neighborhood leadership. He directs the “We Must Stop Killing Each Other” campaign that provides public awareness and conflict resolution. Over 13,000 households support the initiative by displaying a sign in their front yards. The Neighborhood Alliance initiative provides resource delivery to eight of the most challenged neighborhoods in St. Louis and St. Louis County. Mr. Clark, is also responsible for the development and implementation of the St. Louis Metropolitan Area Amnesty Project. It provides legal support to citizens with outstanding misdemeanor and Child Support warrants. The “Put Down the Pistol” program provides education and job training. Mr. Clark serves on the Mayor’s Crime Commission, the St. Louis Regional Crime Commission, and the United Way/Washington University Gun Violence Initiative.



Vernon Mitchell Jr., PhD, became Curator of Popular American Arts at the Washington University Libraries in 2015. He oversees the Special Collections Department’s collection development, instruction, and community outreach. Formerly a postdoctoral fellow in the Washington University Program for African and African American Studies and the Film & Media Archive, Mitchell teaches a course entitled “Don’t Believe the Hype: Race, Media, and Social Movements in America, 1915-2015.” He received a doctorate degree in American history from Cornell University and has written about topics such as the Reverend Adam Clayton Powell, Sr. and Black empowerment, Black Greek-Letter organizations and social action, and the struggle for civil rights in East St. Louis.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



“During the less than 13 years of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s leadership of the modern American Civil Rights Movement, from December, 1955 until April 4, 1968, African Americans achieved more genuine progress toward racial equality in America than the previous 350 years had produced. Dr. King is widely regarded as America’s pre-eminent advocate of nonviolence and one of the greatest nonviolent leaders in world history. Drawing inspiration from both his Christian faith and the peaceful teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. King led a nonviolent movement in the late 1950’s and ‘60s to achieve legal equality for African Americans in the United States. While others were advocating for freedom by “any means necessary,” including violence, Martin Luther King, Jr. used the power of words and acts of nonviolent resistance, such as protests, grassroots organizing, and civil disobedience to achieve seemingly-impossible goals. He went on to lead similar campaigns against poverty and international conflict, always maintaining fidelity to his principles that men and women everywhere, regardless of color or creed, are equal members of the human family.

Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech, Nobel Peace Prize lecture and “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” are among the most revered orations and writings in the English language. His accomplishments are now taught to American children of all races, and his teachings are studied by scholars and students worldwide. He is the only non-president to have a national holiday dedicated in his honor, and is the only non-president memorialized on the Great Mall in the nation’s capital. He is memorialized in hundreds of statues, parks, streets, squares, churches and other public facilities around the world as a leader whose teachings are increasingly-relevant to the progress of humankind...”

From the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change (“The King Center”) site at: thekingcenter.org/about-dr-king

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Reuben A. Hogan - Arts and Sciences Class of 2018, President of the Association of Black Students (ABS)

Harry V. Moppins Jr. – Chair of the Washington University Black Alumni Council (BAC)

Rene Morency - School of Law Class of 2018, Student Essay Winner

Sydney L. Robinson - Arts and Sciences Class of 2019, Student Union President

Holden Thorp - Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Mark S. Wrighton - 14th Chancellor of Washington University

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Black Anthology, which began in 1989, is the university's oldest "cultural show" and is a student-written and student-run production. Each year, Black Anthology creates a production that highlights issues that affect the African American community and the American culture more broadly. See *Affiliated Activities* for information about their January 2018 presentation.

Visions Gospel Choir holds a campus concert every semester and performs at a variety of different churches and local events. The choir has performed at the Washington University's annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorations, the 2016 St. Louis Acafest (an A Cappella Singing Festival), Washington University's African Students Association's Fashion Show, the 30th Anniversary of the Ervin Scholars Program, the Washington University 2017 production of the *Vagina Monologues*, and Washington University's Interfaith Week. See <https://www.visionsgospelchoir.com> for additional information and links to performances.

The Washington University Chamber Choir is a select group of about 25 singers. Some members are music majors or minors, and some study voice privately, but many enjoy Chamber Choir as their main or sole musical outlet. In addition to concerts on campus, the Chamber Choir often presents concerts around the city, especially during the December holidays. See <https://music.wustl.edu/ensembles/choirs> for additional information.

CAMPUS PARTNERS

African and African American Studies Department
Association of Black Students
Black Alumni Council
Black Anthology
Bon Appétit
Campus Life
Catholic Student Center
College of Arts and Sciences
Center for Diversity and Inclusion
Cornerstone: The Center for Advanced Learning
Danforth University Center
Office of the Chancellor
Office of the Provost
Office of Residential Life
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Students
Student Union
Washington University Libraries

AFFILIATED ACTIVITIES

African Film Festival - 13th Annual

March 23 – 25, 2018

Brown Hall, Room 100

Screenings at 7:00 p.m. with the additional Youth Matinee on Saturday afternoon

Free and open to the public

Visit <http://africanfilm.wustl.edu> for additional information.

African Students Association – Africa Week

Visit <http://africanstudents.wustl.edu> for the date and additional information.

Black Anthology

“1:05”

January 26 & 27, 2018

7:00 p.m., Edison Theatre, 6465 Forsyth Blvd

Tickets may be purchased at the Edison Theatre Box Office inside the Washington University Mallinckrodt Center or by phone at (314) 935-6543. Black Anthology was founded in 1989 by Marcia Hayes-Harris. The aim was to provide a means of commemorating the history and progress of African Americans. Since its creation, the program has been totally student run, from the script to set and costume design. In the beginning skits were compilations centered on pertinent literature. Over the years, the productions have become a scripted play. Even with the changes in the format of the show, Black Anthology's aim remain the same. Visit <http://blackanthology.wustl.edu> for performance information.

The Black Rep

Help the Black Rep Celebrate Its 41st Season. Visit

<http://www.theblackrep.org>

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Committee congratulates the Black Rep Founder and Producing Director, Ron Himes, on receiving the 2017 *Larry Leon Hamlin Producer Award*, presented by the National Black Theatre Festival

THE EDISON THEATRE SERIES at Washington University

***Fences* by August Wilson**

January 3-21, 2018

This sensational drama originally starred James Earl Jones in 1985 as Troy Maxson, a former star of the Negro Baseball League who now works as a garbage man in 1957 Pittsburg. Excluded as a black man from the major leagues during his prime, Troy's bitterness takes its toll on his relationships with his wife and his son, who now wants his own chance to play ball. The play was revived in 2010 starring Denzel Washington in the lead role.

***Torn Asunder* by Nikkole Salter**

April 13-29, 2018

Torn Asunder dramatizes true stories of newly emancipated

African Americans trying to overcome the ever-present vestiges of chattel slavery to reconnect with their families. The play is based on the research of Prof. Heather Andrea Williams for her book *Help Me to Find My People* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, c2012). (Commissioned by Prof. Heather Andrea Williams and Kathy A. Perkins.

Henry Hampton Film Series

“Sighted Eyes | Feeling Heart”

Screening of the new documentary on playwright and author, Lorraine Hansberry

January 25, 2018

4:00 p.m., Whitaker Auditorium, Washington University

Q&A with director Tracy Heather Strain and producer Randy MacLowery, following the screening

<https://library.wustl.edu/spec/filmandmedia/henry-hampton-film-series>

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium

Spring Semester 2018 (Date: TBD)

Sponsored by the Association of Black Students (ABS), this annual event provides opportunity for fun and activities as well as serious dialogue. Location: Various locations around campus. Signs will be posted. Visit ABS at: <https://www.facebook.com/ABSWashingtonU>

Ritz Chamber Players

February 16, 2018

7:30 p.m., E. Desmond Lee Concert Hall, 560 Music Center, 560 Trinity Ave, St. Louis, MO

“The Ritz Chamber Players are the nation’s first chamber music ensemble series comprised solely of accomplished musicians spanning the African diaspora bringing a fresh, new energy to the classical music genre. The Ritz Chamber Players include some of the world’s most accomplished musicians. They have performed with the most prestigious musical organizations such as the New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, and London Symphony. Ticket and other information is available at: <http://music.wustl.edu/events/1806>

St. Louis African Arts Festival -27th Annual

May 26-28, 2018

World's Fair Pavilion in Forest Park

“The St. Louis African Arts Festival is held in beautiful Forest Park. Each year the festival attracts a diverse audience of thousands of local residents and out-of-town visitors during the Memorial Day weekend. The Festival draws the community together in celebration of the rich contributions of Africa and the African Diaspora. For more information visit: <http://www.stlafricanartsfest.com>

Gerry and Bob Virgil Ethic of Service Award

Nominate someone you admire for Washington University's 15th annual Gerry and Bob Virgil Ethic of Service Award. The award recognizes a select group of people who exemplify a character of service and contribution to the St. Louis region. We encourage a broad range of nominations celebrating individuals who exude passion for service as a way of life, go above and beyond the call of duty, and inspire compassion and action in others. Any member of the WashU community, past or current, who resides in and serves the St. Louis community is eligible to receive the award. Past honorees include undergraduate and graduate students, alumni, staff, faculty, and university volunteers. Learn more and submit nominations at: <http://ethicofservice.wustl.edu>

Deadline for nominations: February 2, 2018

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Committee, 2017/2018

Gail Boker (Office of the Provost)

Jacqueline Carter (Olin School of Business)

Rudolph Clay Jr. (University Libraries)

Dominick Ehling (Catholic Student Center)

Phyllis Jackson (Campus Life)

Tasha L. Jordan (MSW/MAEd Candidate 2018, Brown School of Social Work)

Kayla Kromer (Residential Life)

Hatsephi Kushma (Facilities Planning & Management)

Hope Young (Campus Life)

The Committee organizes and plans the activities and logistics for the

annual celebration. Washington University faculty, staff, and students are welcome to join the committee.

For additional information visit:

<https://sites.wustl.edu/mlkcommemoration>

MARGARET BUSH WILSON CIVIC ENGAGEMENT GRANT

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Committee administers this grant to financially support programming initiatives that directly reflect the spirit of Dr. King and his work toward social justice, civic engagement, and equity for all. There are a limited number of \$250.00 grants available to support Washington University student organizations. Applications will be accepted each academic year until the first Friday in April. Applications can be downloaded at: <https://sites.wustl.edu/mlkcommemoration/files/2016/08/MLK-Grant-Application-1i9qgs2.pdf>

QUOTATIONS BY DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR

“Faith is taking the first step even when you can't see the whole staircase.”

“In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

“We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.”

“If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward.”

“LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING”

Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us,
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers died?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the
slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand.
True to our God,
True to our native land.

This poem was written by James Weldon Johnson (1871–1938) in 1900, and set to music by his brother, John Rosamond Johnson (1873–1954) in 1905. It was adopted by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as its official song.

“WE SHALL OVERCOME”

We shall overcome,
We shall overcome,
We shall overcome, some day.

Oh, deep in my heart,
I do believe
We shall overcome, some day.

We'll walk hand in hand,
We'll walk hand in hand,
We'll walk hand in hand, some day.

Oh, deep in my heart,
I do believe
We shall overcome, some day.

We shall live in peace,
We shall live in peace,
We shall live in peace, some day.

Oh, deep in my heart,
I do believe
We shall overcome, some day.

This is a shorten version of the song which has five stanzas.

“The most prominent freedom song of the civil rights movement of the 1960s.” Accomando, Christina. “We Shall Overcome”. " The Concise Oxford Companion to African American Literature. Ed. William L. Andrew (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001). p. 426

Thank you for attending the 31st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration. Please join us in the Tisch Commons, located in the Danforth University Center (DUC), for a reception sponsored by Bon Appetit, immediately following the close of the program. Our student ushers will assist you.