

# UNITY

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A CHANGE EMBRACED

**HONORING  
THE LIFE & WORK  
OF MARTIN LUTHER  
KING, JR.**

**AN EVENING BENEFIT FOR  
THE FRIENDS OF THE CONGO  
& VIDEO VANGUARDS/  
YOUTH ACTION COALITION**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2008**

# Martin Luther King Jr.

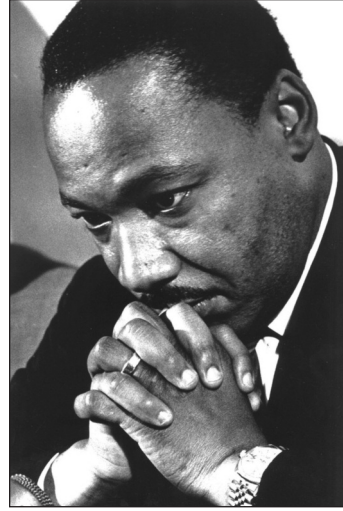
January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968

From *A Testament Of Hope*

by Martin Luther King Jr.

Published Posthumously, January 1969:

"Millions of Americans are coming to see that we are fighting an immoral war that costs nearly 30 billion dollars a year,\* that we are perpetuating racism, that we are tolerating almost forty million poor during an overflowing material abundance. Yet they remain helpless to end the war, feed the hungry, to make brotherhood a reality; this has to shake our faith in ourselves. If we look honestly at the realities of our national life, it is clear that we are not marching forward; we are groping and stumbling; we are divided and confused. Our moral values and our spiritual confidence sink, even as our material wealth ascends.



"In these trying circumstances, the black revolution is much more than a struggle for the rights of Negroes. It is forcing America to face all its interrelated flaws—racism, poverty, militarism and materialism. It is exposing evils that are rooted deeply in the whole structure of our society. It reveals systemic rather than superficial flaws and suggests that radical reconstruction of society itself is the real issue to be faced...It is time we stopped our blithe lip service to the guarantees of life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness...It seems glaringly obvious to me that the development of a humanitarian means of dealing with some of the social problems of the world—and the correlative revolution in American values this will entail—is a much better way of protecting ourselves against the threat of violence than the military means we have chosen."

\*40 YEARS LATER: With the enactment of the FY2008 Supplemental and FY2009 Bridge Fund (H.R. 2642/PL. 110-252) on June 30, 2008, Congress has approved a total of about \$864 billion for military operations, base security, reconstruction, foreign aid, embassy costs, and veterans' health care for the three operations initiated since the 9/11 attacks: Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) Afghanistan and other counter terror operations; Operation Noble Eagle (ONE), providing enhanced security at military bases; and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).

On top of the direct financial costs of war are the emotional, psychological, physical and moral costs to societies (combatants, civilians, veterans), the deterioration and annihilation of infrastructure at home and abroad, and the massive but immoral expenditures on weapons of destruction, nuclear energy and other inappropriate technologies.

# **I HAVE A DREAM OF UNITY**

## **Evening Program**

Master of Ceremonies  
**JULIUS FORD**

Singer Songwriter  
**TOM NEILSON**

Author & Community Leader  
**LEE STRINGER**

Greater Pioneer Valley Youth Leadership  
**VIDEO VANGUARDS YOUTH**

Testimonial for the People of Congo  
**KEITH HARMON SNOW**

Embracing and Empowering Change  
**DR. ENOCH PAGE**

Dignity - A Movement for Peace and Justice  
**CYNTHIA MCKINNEY**

Singer Songwriter  
**TOM NEILSON**

Questions & Dialog  
**COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

### **Thank you to our sponsors:**

- American Friends Service Committee • Blue House Café
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- Green-Rainbow Party of Massachusetts • Healing Touch Acupuncture Clinic • Dr. Enoch Page • Paradise Copies
- Traprock Center for Peace and Justice • Troubadour Books
- Wildcat Sanctuary for Peace • Youth Action Coalition

**And a special thank you to event organizer, Megan Mills**

## Tonight's Presenters



### **MASTER OF CEREMONIES:**

**Julius Ford** is a true renaissance man. Mr. Ford was first aware of his unique gift to inspire and motivate when he was acting Director of the HIV/AIDS division of the Citizens Advice Bureau, in the South Bronx. Refusing to accept that his patients were terminally ill, Mr. Ford forged alliances with Act Up and other alternative medicine organizations, inspiring a campaign to grant access to Medicaid clients to alternative medications, a success story that led to his employment in Brooklyn at Miracle Makers Inc.

Attending Boston College Law School, Mr. Ford created the first student HIV/AIDS law clinic in affiliation with the Justice Resource Institute, recruiting law students from top academic institutions both to provide adequate legal assistance to HIV/AIDS infected individuals and their families and to legislatively lobby for improved HIV/AIDS policies and services.

Focused on international human rights, Mr. Ford joined the Law Firm of Titus and Associates. He also founded The Harriet Project, seeking to build a better America across ethnic, economic and cultural frontiers through honest dialogue and self-exploration. The Project works throughout the penal system in Universities and graduate programs across the country, corporations, schools and community based organizations.

Mr. Ford is also a classically trained singer and published author. He has toured North America lecturing and performing at prestigious concert halls (Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, etc.). His teachings come from deep within his heart.

### **KEYNOTE SPEAKER:**

**Cynthia McKinney** was born in Atlanta, Georgia on March 17, 1955. Ms. McKinney graduated St. Joseph High School; earned a B.A. at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA in 1978; attended Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Medford, MA; and served as a diplomatic fellow at Spellman College, Atlanta, GA, in 1984. Ms. McKinney joined the faculties of at Clark Atlanta University and Agnes Scott College before serving in the Georgia state house of repre-



sentatives from 1988-1992. She was elected as a Democrat to the One Hundred Third and to the four succeeding Congresses, from January 3, 1993 to January 3, 2003. She was an unsuccessful candidate for nomination to the One Hundred Eighth Congress in 2002; was elected as a Democrat to the One Hundred Ninth Congress from January 3, 2005 to January 3, 2007; and was an unsuccessful candidate for nomination to the One Hundred Tenth Congress in 2006. In 2008, Ms. McKinney ran as the Green Party candidate for the office of the President of the United States.



**Tom Neilson's** award-winning songs have been performed in 16 countries on 5 continents and have been used in 4 environmental documentaries. Last year he performed with Cynthia McKinney on the campaign trail and performed "Open the Debates" concerts in Minneapolis and Nashville. Recognized by Homeland Security as "A Musician To Look Out For," he was

stopped at the Canadian border while on tour and failed to get into Canada. World Soul Records calls him "one of the most politically savvy songwriters in the country, reminding people of what is really important, and the power of folk music to say it."

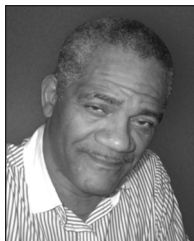
**Dr. Enoch Page** is a diversity consultant and program evaluator who incorporates mindfulness techniques into the courses he teaches as an Associate Professor of Anthropology at UMass-Amherst. He is co-editing a book entitled, *The Globalization of White Supremacy* and he plays a major role in diversifying the faculty and students who collaborate in his academic department. Recently he has organized a conference on Climate Change; directed Anthropology's Recruitment of Diversity and Mentoring Program; organized a minority recruitment conference; and published a chapter looking at how racism intersects with black transsubjectivity.



**Keith Harmon Snow** is the 2009 Regent's Lecturer in Law and Society for the University of California Santa Barbara's (UCSB) prestigious Regent's Lectureship, awarded for outstanding achievement

*(Continued)*

outside of academia. An independent journalist, war correspondent and photographer, Keith has worked for more than a decade to contest official narratives on war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide while also working as a genocide investigator and consultant to the United Nations and other international bodies. Keith joins past UCSB Regent's Lectureship recipients like Vandana Shiva, Barbara Ehrenreich, Peter Matthiessen, Margaret Mead and Aldous Huxley. He has won three Project Censored awards for his Central Africa reportage. He is also a workshop facilitator, involved with healing modalities, consciousness work, personal development and transformational breathwork. Keith is a native of Williamsburg, MA, where he founded the Wildcat Sanctuary for Peace and is involved in organic agriculture.



**Lee Stringer** Once a successful marketing executive for United Products, Inc., Lee Stringer lived on the streets of New York City for almost a decade, until he successfully completed treatment for crack addiction at Project Renewal, Inc. He is the former editor and columnist of *Street News*. He is widely published, including in *The New York Times*, *The Nation*, *The New York Observer* and *Newsday*, and he has authored three critically acclaimed books: *Grand Central Winter: Stories From the Street* (1998); *Like Shaking Hands With God: a Conversation on Writing* (1999); and *Sleepaway School: Stories from a Boy's Life* (2004).

*Grand Central Winter* was among the top ten recommended titles in 1998, is published in 20 languages, and received a Washington Irving Literary Award. *Like Shaking Hands With God*, is based on conversations between Stringer and Kurt Vonnegut. *Sleepaway School* is a coming of age recounting of his childhood.

Stringer, 59, resides in Mamaroneck, New York. He currently directs an academic and literacy program for the Mamaroneck Community Action Program; Conducts weekly writing workshops at Hawthorne Cedar Knolls, a residential treatment facility of the Jewish Board of Family and Children Services; Presides over the Friends of the Mamaroneck Library Board; Vice Presides over the board of the Youth Shelter Program of Westchester; and serves on the boards of Project Renewal and The Doe Fund in New York City.

## Facts about Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

- Over 7 million people have died as a result of conflict and conflict-related causes in the Congo since 1996.
- 45,000 continue to die each month.
- Eighty percent of the population lives on 30 cents or less per day.
- Hundreds of thousands of women have been raped as a weapon of war.
- Congo has anywhere from 64% to 80% of the world's reserve of coltan, but it is also a storehouse of strategic minerals: cobalt, copper, zinc, gold, diamond, silver, magnesium, germanium, uranium, petroleum and many other resources.
- Local elites, neighboring countries, multilateral institutions (IMF, World Bank) foreign governments and foreign corporations are pilfering the Congo's wealth at the expense of the Congolese people.
- The challenge of the DRC is to produce a leadership that will work on behalf of, and in the interest of, the masses of the Congolese people as opposed to working for personal gain and foreign interests.
- The proper usage and management of Congo's wealth can serve as an engine for the development of the entire African continent and make Congo a major player among nations in the global arena.



photo by keith harmon snow

# Proceeds from tonight's event will benefit:

## Friends of the Congo

([www.friendsofthecongo.org](http://www.friendsofthecongo.org)) is a 501-c-3 tax-exempt advocacy organization established at the behest of grassroots Congolese institutions in 2004, to work together to bring about peaceful and lasting change in the Democratic Republic of Congo. FOTC is led by people of African ancestry, and others of goodwill. FOTC believe that strong support from friends of the Congo throughout the globe can channel the vast potential of the DRC to meet the needs of people of Congo and Africa. FOTC works with Congolese institutions from diverse sectors of the society and FOTC projects also support Congolese in areas of education, health, human and civil rights, and work to elevate the quality of life of the people of the Congo and by extension African peoples throughout Africa and the globe.



photo by keith harmon snow

The **Youth Action Coalition** ([www.youthactioncoalition.org](http://www.youthactioncoalition.org)) is a 501-c-3 tax-exempt community development organization. YAC's **Video Vanguard** (VV) project works with youth of color and their allies and involves media making. VV youth learn language and skills for daily dealing with all kinds of oppression. VV supports youth-led visions of community building and on developing leadership skills in youth of all ages. YAC's **MLK Unity Project** focuses on unity and community building in the Pioneer Valley. All Youth Action Coalition programs are free to participants.

## Please give generously.

Your donations to these organizations make a huge difference in their ability to carry out their important missions.

After the event, donations can be sent to:

### Friends of the Congo

1629 K St., NW Suite 300, Washington, DC 20006

**Youth Action Coalition** P.O. Box 747, Amherst, MA 01004

**Note:** Please mark your donation, "MLK Benefit, Northampton MA".