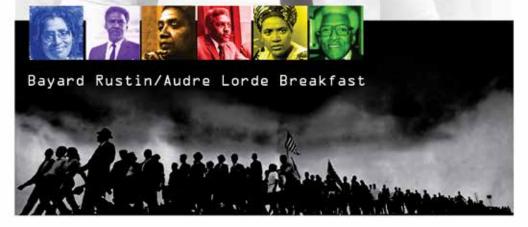


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2016 Rustin Lorde BreakfastCo- Chairs Welcome-Darlene Hudson

Greetings and Happy New Year!

I am overjoyed to welcome you to the 15th year of this special community-wide event recognizing the contributions of Bayard Rustin and Audre Lorde to social change. We break bread once again on this day in fellowship, and to focus on the social activism we must recommit to in 2016. We especially want to energize the next generation of social change agents. Rustin said, "the proof that one truly believes is in action".

While we've had many set-backs in the last year, especially when thinking about the loss of lives due to violence, whether by criminals or some criminal acting police, and the terrible defeat of many progressive candidates at the polls in November – we must remember to celebrate our victories and remain forward looking. On a political level, one of those victories was the reelection of Rep Simone Bell, the first African American out lesbian local representative from Georgia, who was also named House Minority Chief Deputy Whip in the GA House Democratic Caucus. On a national level, while full immigration reform still needs to be done, we can celebrate a partial victory for thousands of undocumented individuals and families who were granted temporary legal status in this country by the Obama administration.

We also are heartened by the thousands of activists of all races and backgrounds demonstrating across the country under the banner "Black Lives Matter" to protest murders of unarmed black and brown people, especially at the hands of the police. This is exactly the kind of activism and coalition-building it took to win voting rights protections for African Americans – as the film "Selma" so beautifully shows us – as well as just about any significant social change. Audre Lorde reminded us "difference is that raw and powerful connection from which our personal power is forged". How true Lorde's and Rustin's words ring today. The highest honor we can give them is to continue their work. We've got a lot to do – but yes we still can!

Again, welcome to your Homecoming! Together we can dream, desire, and act to achieve freedom and justice.

Roshelle Darlene Hudson, MSW Co Founder, Rustin- Lorde Community Breakfast & A Southern Community Activist

2016 Donations



Thanks for your participation in the 15th Annual Bayard Rustin/Audre Lorde Breakfast. Donations to continue the work of the Beloved Community are welcomed and greatly appreciated!

Please make checks payable to: Atlanta Pride

Memo Line: Rustin/Lorde Breakfast 2016

Your donation is a tax deductible contribution. Please let us know if you require an acknowledgement for your donation.





Rustin/Lorde Committee would like to give a special thanks to SONG for their continued support of the breakfast.



www.southernersonnewground.org



2016 Rustin Lorde BreakfastCo- Chairs Welcome-Craig Washington

I was 15 years old when I first heard the song "Born This Way" by Carl Bean. Like all who are closeted, the respectable ones who refuse to wear it on their sleeve, I was deeply afraid of being recognized for what I was. Like most set in bondage, I was reluctant, unready to be set free. This was not the voice of a white gay activist on the evening news, one that we could distance as queer and white, one my father might dismiss with a button on our new "remote control". It was a robust gospel infused discosetting the airwaves aflame on WBLS, New York City's first Black FM radio

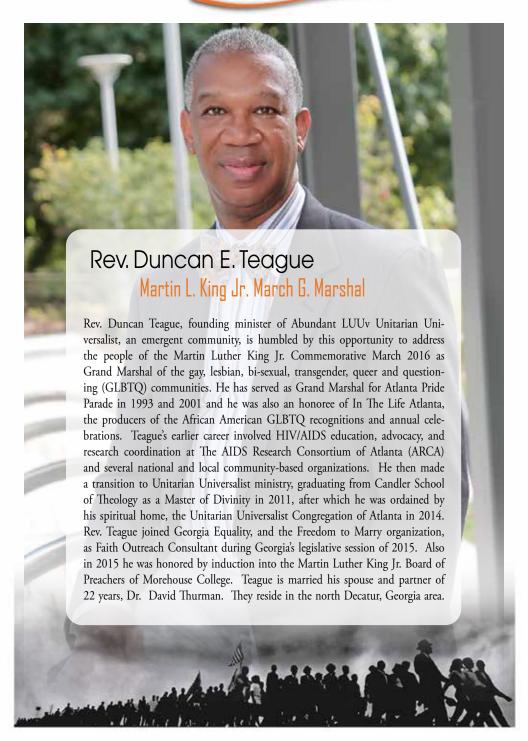
station. The voice confronted, "You laugh at me and you criticize". It petitioned, "We're all the way nature made us to be". It celebrated, "I'm happy, I'm carefree and I'm gay." In disgust and indignation, Dad mimicked the line, "it aint a fault, it's a fact", before turning the dial. But the unspoken truth that terrified us both could not be dialed away. In that same year, Labelle harkened that there was "Something in the Air" as the lead-in to Gil Scott-Heron's "The Revolution will not be televised". Although I would take another five years to walk through it, a door was opened by "Born This Way". Archbishop Bean would go on to found the Unity Fellowship Church movement whose credo declares "God is love and love is for everyone".

Art has an unparalleled power to inspire and transform, to recreate itself and have us reimagine our worlds. It may serve to heal and soothe. It can incite rage and channel that rage into action. Without meaningful expression of our Black genius, African dance rituals, abolitionist poems, field holler, gospel wail, jazz improvisation, Black liberation painters, gender freeing vogue and drag queens, we could never have survived. Our stories would have died with us.

Some reference the freedom songs of the 1960's civil rights era as the soundtrack and spiritual balm for the movement. We assert that such art is itself the activism and that its agency to directly affect change must not be underestimated. Living in a white supremacist patriarchy, we must do more than demand recognition from those who oppose and oppress us. As it is our duty to love and protect each other so is it our duty to recognize and cultivate our own power. Today we affirm the artists from the Harlem Renaissance to the Combahee River Collective, Other Countries to Adodi Muse, Bessie Smith to Monica Raye Simpson, ACT UP to Undetectables, from the Stonewall Riots to Southern Fried Queer Pride, they who have tuck(ed) (their) bodies into places so that wheels don't turn".

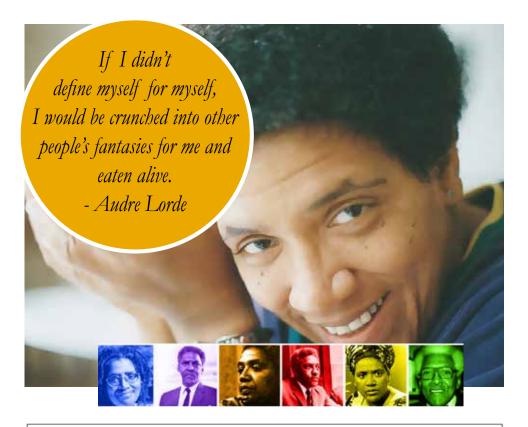












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(Gay Straight Alliance)

February 27, 2016 | Agnes Scott College

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There will be a talent show!









The Rustin Lorde Breakfast was founded in 2002 by Craig Washington then executive director at the Atlanta Gay and Lesbian Center and Darlene Hudson who was a Board member. Darlene and Craig were members of the Martin Luther King, Jr. March planning committee and knew that the March was very welcoming to LGBTQ attendees.

Given this receptivity to lgbtq people and the Center's proximity to the line- up site, they decided that a breakfast event would resonate well with many. They felt that attendees would appreciate the opportunity to share a warm meal and learn more about the roles of women and lgbt people in the Civil Rights movement. They named the community breakfast after the most well known gay activist associated with the civil rights movement, Bayard Rustin, principal organizer of the 1963 March on Washington and a mentor/advisor to Martin Luther King Jr. In 2008, at the suggestion of Mary Anne Adams, Audre Lorde's name was added to symbolize the indispensi-

ble roles of women in social justice movements. The event would not have been possible were it not for the support of key founding sponsors Atlanta Gay and Lesbian Center, AIDS Survival Project, AIDS Treatment Initiatives, Congregation Bet Haverim, EM Designs Group, Human Rights Campaign, In The Life Atlanta, Positive Impact, Radial Café, Southern Voice, Unity Fellowship and ZAMI.





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2016 Response to the Call for Sponsorship

Rustin Lorde Leadership Level

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Thank You for Answering the Call



Special Thanks to



for today's Educational Programmimg

Special Presentation By

Bill Lizor

Sr. Community Liaison

Gilead Sciences, Inc.

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ABOUT US:

The Phillip Rush Center provides office, meeting, and event space for dozens of LGBTQ organizations, including:

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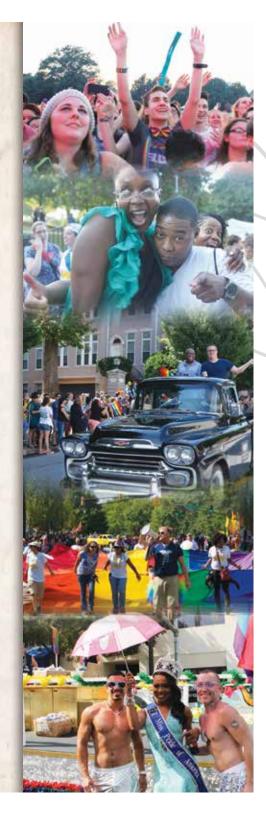
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Ashe Helm - Hernandez R. Darlene Hudson

Creative Art Director

Maurice Cook

Volunteer Coordinator

Anneliese Singh Laura Burton

Logistics

R. Darlene Hudson Kirk Surgeon

Finance Manager

Kirk Surgeon

Children & Youth Corner

Sir Jessie









Monday, January 18, 2016

Invocation: Everyone gathered in lobby

Welcome & Opening of Space Co-Founders: Craig Washington & Darlene Hudson

> Special Guests: Gilead Sciences Bill IIzor

Atlanta > AIDS Fulton County Dept. of Health and Wellness David-Lee Mattison

Special Hosts of Artist Performances: Imani Evans Larry Walker

Justice, Freedom & Desire: Art is Movement
Featured Artists
Monica Raye
Anthony McWilliams

Mary Hooks Taylor Tim'm West

Youth Corner Presentation

Appreciations, Closing & Farewell





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