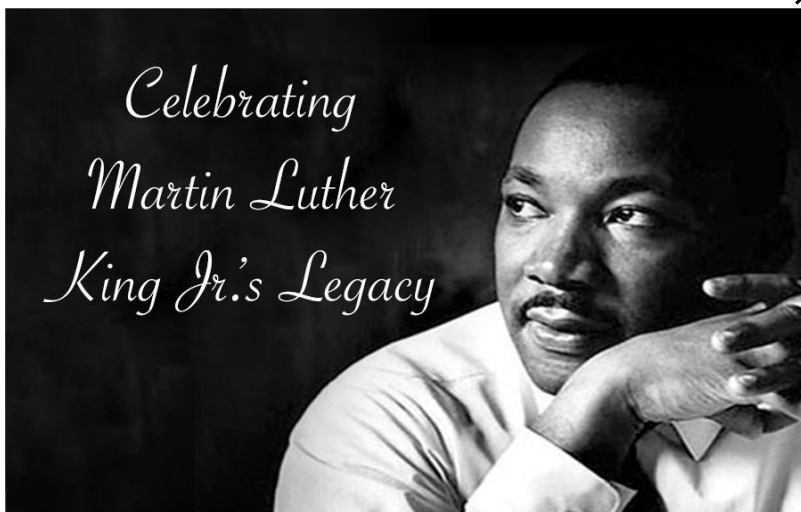




THE PEOPLE'S A.M.E. CHURCH & THE CHELSEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

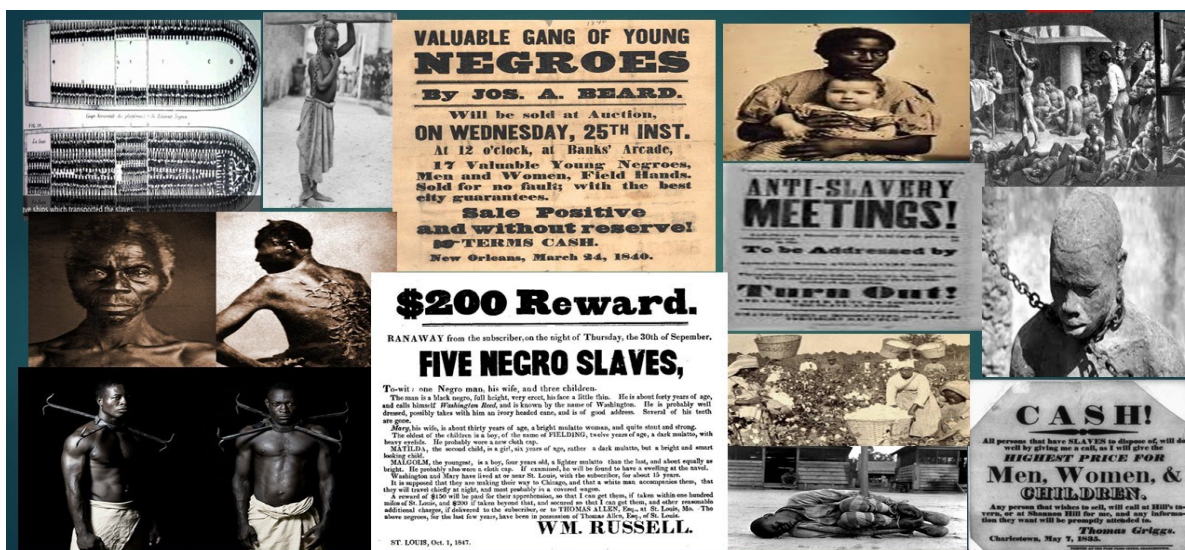
MLK BREAKFAST: CELEBRATION OF THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



THEME: "FROM THE PAST, WE DEFINE THE NOW AND THE FUTURE"

Monday, January 15th, 2024

Venue: Clark Avenue Middle School, 8 Clark Avenue, Chelsea



The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the silence over that by the good people. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"The Other America"
Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Grosse Pointe High School - March 14, 1968



"I need not pause to say how very delighted I am to be here tonight and to have the great privilege of discussing with you some of the vital issues confronting our nation and confronting the world. It is always a very rich and rewarding experience when I can take a brief break from the day-to-day demands of our struggle for freedom and human dignity and discuss the issues involved in that struggle with concerned people of good will all over our nation and all over the world, and I certainly want to express my deep personal

appreciation to you for inviting me to occupy this significant platform.

I want to discuss the race problem tonight and I want to discuss it very honestly. I still believe that freedom is the bonus you receive for telling the truth. Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free. And I do not see how we will ever solve the turbulent problem of race confronting our nation until there is an honest confrontation with it and a willing search for the truth and a willingness to admit the truth when we discover it. And so I want to use as a title for my lecture tonight, "The Other America." And I use this title because there are literally two Americas. Every city in our country has this kind of dualism, this schizophrenia, split at so many parts, and so every city ends up being two cities rather than one. There are two Americas. One America is beautiful for situation. In this America, millions of people have the milk of prosperity and the honey of equality flowing before them. This America is the habitat of millions of people who have food and material necessities for their bodies, culture and education for their minds, freedom and human dignity for their spirits. In this America



children grow up in the sunlight of opportunity. But there is another America. This other America has a daily ugliness about it that transforms the buoyancy of hope into the fatigue of despair. In this other America, thousands and thousands of people, men in particular walk the streets in search for jobs that do not exist. In this other America, millions of people are forced to live in vermin-filled, distressing housing conditions where they do not have the privilege of having wall-

to-wall carpeting, but all too often, they end up with wall-to-wall rats and roaches. Almost forty percent of the Negro families of America live in sub-standard housing conditions. In this other America, thousands of young people are deprived of an opportunity to get an adequate education. Every year thousands finish high school reading at a seventh, eighth and sometimes ninth grade level. Not because they're dumb, not because they don't have the native intelligence, but because the schools are so inadequate, so over-crowded, so devoid of quality, so segregated if you will, that the best in these

minds can never come out. Probably the most critical problem in the other America is the economic problem. There are so many other people in the other America who can never make ends meet because their incomes are far too low if they have incomes, and their jobs are so devoid of quality. And so in this other America, unemployment is a reality and under-employment is a reality. (I'll just wait until our friend can have her say) (applause). I'll just wait until things are restored and... everybody talks about law and order. (applause)

Now let me relieve you a bit. I've been in the struggle a long time now, (applause) and I've conditioned myself to some things that are much more painful than discourteous people not allowing you to speak, so if they feel that they can discourage me, they'll be up here all night.

And so while legislation may not change the hearts of men, it does change the habits of men when it's vigorously enforced and when you change the habits of people pretty soon attitudes begin to be changed and people begin to see that they can do things that fears caused them to feel that they could never do. And I say that there's a need still for strong civil rights legislation in various areas..."



It seems to be a fact of life that human beings cannot continue to do wrong without eventually reaching out for some thin rationalization to clothe an obvious wrong into beautiful garments of righteousness. From: "Toward Freedom: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

~ THE PROGRAM ~

Prelude

Master of Ceremonies

Sis. Joan Cromwell

President: Chelsea Black Community

Welcome

Opening Song

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Led by Chelsea Public High School Choir

Words by Brother James Weldon Johnson/ Music by Brother J. Rosamond Johnson

1. Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning 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.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

*"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America,
and to the Republic for which it stands,
one Nation under God, indivisible,
with liberty and justice for all."*

Musical Selection

Chelsea High School Choir

We Can Build a Bridge - Words/Music by Irv Rothenberg, arranged by Jay Althouse

Invocation

Sis. Beverly Martin-Ross

People's African Methodist Episcopal Church/Chelsea

And I think that we have enough evidence in practical experiences and practical accomplishments of individuals in the Negro community and individuals in other minority groups to demonstrate that there is no truth in the idea of the inferiority of the Negro race, of the superiority of any other race. Dr. Martin Luther King. From *"The American Dream"* Feb. 5, 1964, Drew University

Dance Selection

Sis. Celeste Williams

"Justice Song"

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Sis. Richelle Cromwell

Executive Director: Community Action Programs Inter-City, Inc.

Musical Selection

Mr. Danny Rivera

Soloist

Keynote Speaker

Rev. Dr. George Walters-Sleyon (MDiv, STM, PhD)

Pastor: People's African Methodist Episcopal Church, Chelsea

Greetings

The Honorable: Dr. Almudena Abeyta

Superintendent of the Chelsea Public Schools

Presentation to: Winners of Essay, Poem, and Artwork

Presenter of Certificates:

The Honorable: Dr. Almudena Abeyta

***Brown School**

Kenia Melendez- 412PDF- Drawing

Genesis Reyes- 408PDF- Drawing

Greetings

The Honorable State Senator Sal DiDomenico

Presentation to: Winners of Essay, Poem and Artwork

Presenter of Certificates:

The Honorable State Senator Sal DiDomenico

***ELC Grade 1**

Valarie Gonzalez, Ms. Scott Grade 1 ELC

Matthew Hernandez Medina, Ms. Scott Grade 1 ELC

Yes, if you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice. Say that I was a drum major for peace. I was a drum major for righteousness. And all of the other shallow things will not matter.

Dr. Martin Luther King, "Drum Major Instinct" sermon, February 4th 1968,

Reading:

Excerpts From
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Speeches

*John George Walters-Sleyon, Jr.
Leila Rodriguez
William Walters-Sleyon*

Greetings:

*Fidel Maltez
Chelsea City Manager*

Presentation to: Winners of Essay, Poem, and Artwork

Presenter of Certificates:

Fidel Maltez

**** Hooks Grade 1 School***

*Alaina Gertrudis Colon Morales G-1
Olivia Rosalyn Flores, Teachers Ms. Jada & Mrs. G*

Musical Selection

*Chelsea High School Choir
Run, Mary, Run - Traditional spiritual, arranged by Brian Tate*

Greetings:

*Norieliz DeJesus
City Council President
&*

Representative Judith Garcia

Presentation to: Winners of Essay, Poem, and Artwork

Presenters of Certificates:

Representative Judith Garcia

&

Norieliz DeJesus

****Sokolowski School***

*Monica 211, Ms. Drew
Bradley, -Ms. Drew #211 (Essay)*

The moral arc of the universe bends at the elbow of justice.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Announcement

“Community Service-Donation”

Special Acknowledgements:

Sis. Deborah Washington
People’s A. M. E. Church/Chelsea

THANK YOU For all YOUR support, donations, attendance, & participation.

State Senator Sal DiDomenico
Dr. Almudena Abeyta: Superintendent
of the Chelsea Public Schools
Dr. Aaron Jennings: Equity, Diversity
and Excellence Officer Chelsea Public
Schools
Dr. Tamara Blake-Canty: Chief
Academic Officer Chelsea Public
Schools
“The Essay, Poetry and Art
Committee”
Dean Sharon Caulfield,
Joan Cromwell,
Chelsea Cable TV, Mrs. Paula
Batchelor, Mr. Ricky Velez
Veronica Dyer-Medina: Administrative
Assistant to Superintendent Almi G.
Abeyta
and School Committee Clerk
Peter Pappavaselio
Mr. Michael Bednarsky: Music
Teacher Chelsea High School
The Chelsea Black Community (CBC)
People’s African Methodist Episcopal
Church, Chelsea

Chelsea High School Choir: Cantare
Mr. Michael Bednarsky, Director

SOPRANOS

Jionna Arnold-Day
Erika Castro Castaneda
Yareliz Gonzalez Falcon
Kiara Ramirez Villalta
Stephanie Ruiz Linares
Jayna Singer

ALTOS

Norma Arbaiza
Dafnee Castillo
Alexandra Hinojosa
Louisa Lobo Antunez
Natalia Merino Barahona
Lissel Padilla
Maria Clara Rendon
Silvia G. Rodríguez
Katherine Toloza

BASSES

Erick Gomez Yara
Jeshua Guerra
Anthony Leonel Martinez
Determined Mendoza
Adan Pineda Salinas

***Be a bush if you can't be a tree. If you can't be a highway, just be a trail. If
you can't be a sun, be a star. For it isn't by size that you win or fail. Be the
best of whatever you are. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.***

Closing Song

“We Shall Overcome” (Traditional)

Led by Chelsea Public High School Choir

Traditional Lyrics adapted by Zilphia Horton, Frank Hamilton, Guy Carawan, and Pete Seeger.

(African American Heritage Hymnal # 542)

1. We shall overcome,
We shall overcome,
We shall overcome someday

CHORUS:

Oh, deep in my heart,
I do believe,
we shall overcome
someday

2. We'll walk hand in hand,
We'll walk hand in hand,

We'll walk hand in hand
someday

3. We shall live in peace,
We shall live in peace,
We shall live in peace someday

4. God will see us through,
God will see us through
God will see us through today

Closing Prayer & Blessing

Pastor Ellen Ball

First Congregational Church, Chelsea

History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetrate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

About the Keynote Speaker

Rev. Dr. George Walters-Sleyon Pastor: People's AME Church/Chelsea



Dr. Walters-Sleyon earned his PhD from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland/United Kingdom, where he studied Comparative Criminal Justice/Criminology, Practical Theology, and Ethics. He has a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) and a postgraduate Master (S.T.M.) from Boston University in Divinity, Philosophy, Social Ethics, and Religion/Theology. He has earned a teaching certificate as an Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (AFHEA) of the United Kingdom.

Dr. Walters-Sleyon is a McDonald Distinguished Fellow at Emory University's Center for the Study of Law and Religion and an Associate Fellow at the Scottish Center for Crime and Justice Research in Glasgow/Scotland. He is the pastor of People's African Methodist Episcopal Church in Chelsea.

Dr. Walters-Sleyon is the author of four books and several articles, including *Locked Up and Locked Down: Multitude Lingers in Limbo Revised Edition* (2017); *Nuggets from the Night: An Anthology of Poetic Expressions* (2020); *Prison Chaplains on the Beat in US and UK Prisons* (2021); and *God in the Name of God Jesus Christ* (2022). He is presently working on a two-volume book entitled *The Rush for Black Diamonds: Volume One and Volume Two* coming out in 2024 by Wipf and Stock. Dr. Walters-Sleyon teaches Applied Ethics, Introduction to Philosophy, and World Religions at Bunker Hill Community College as a professor.

Beside his academic interests and pastoral responsibilities, Dr. Walters-Sleyon is a poet, singer/songwriter and gospel recording artist with three albums: *I Believe* (1998), *Hold On You Will Survive* (2004), and *Beyond the Blues* (2019). He is the father of two boys: George, Jr., and William.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'S PRINCIPLES OF NONVIOLENCE



- 1. Nonviolence is a way of life for courageous people.**
 - It is active nonviolent resistance to evil.
 - It is assertive spiritually, mentally, and emotionally.
 - It is always persuading the opponent of the justice of your cause.
- 2. Nonviolence seeks to win friendship and understanding.**
 - The end result of nonviolence is redemption and reconciliation.
 - The purpose of nonviolence is the creation of the Beloved Community.
- 3. Nonviolence seeks to defeat injustice, not people.**
 - Nonviolence holds that evildoers are also victims.
- 4. Nonviolence holds that voluntary suffering can educate and transform.**
 - Nonviolence willingly accepts the consequences of its acts.
 - Nonviolence accepts suffering without retaliation.
 - Nonviolence accepts violence if necessary, but will never inflict it.
 - Unearned suffering is redemptive and has tremendous educational and transforming possibilities.
 - Suffering can have the power to convert the enemy when reason fails.
- 5. Nonviolence chooses love instead of hate.**
 - Nonviolence resists violence of the spirit as well as of the body.
 - Nonviolent love gives willingly, knowing that the return might be hostility.
 - Nonviolent love is active, not passive.
 - Nonviolent love does not sink to the level of the hater.
 - Love for the enemy is how we demonstrate love for ourselves.
 - Love restores community and resists injustice.
 - Nonviolence recognizes the fact that all life is interrelated.
- 6. Nonviolence believes that the universe is on the side of justice.**
 - The nonviolent resister has deep faith that justice will eventually win.