

2010 Ashland Martin Luther King jr Report



Claudia's notes: The committee continues to run well. The recruitment of new committee members of color has been a success. Kevin Bendaw is a great help with the paperwork and it fits right into his job duties. Freda Casillas has reduced her participation and does not attend meeting anymore. She does not feel this event helps with audience development.



- The opening drumming fusion piece combines Native American, African, and Asian drumming styles. Kelvin Underwood (Taiko) Brent Florendo, Dancing Spirit Drum and Sue Lundquist. Great way to begin the show. Always an issue of time. These drumming circles take the time they take but the events we produce are highly scheduled.
- The Thursdays a kids rock band sang Three Little Birds by Bob Marley. Great piece but we missed the elementary school choir. It is part of making sure lots of families are in the audience.

- Crater Renaissance presented Beacon of Light a dance piece with flags, art work, and spoken word.
- Tami Marston & family sang Back of the Bus. Great music and a poignant moment of missing Dave Marston.
- The Teen Theater presented Birds is a scene that uses music, poetry and short monologues written by the youth to address issues of homophobia.



themselves

- This was the piece that we designed. Mosely Wotta entered as a homeless man in a mask and costume. He then began spitting poetry that was smart and moving. The Cyclonic Rockers break-dancers were a great pair to his work. They would have been a little random by

- Keynote Speaker Maria Underwood came from La Clinica. She spoke on gay marriage instead of health and it was a very moving speech.
- Ballet Folklorico did a beautiful dance called “Border Crossings”
- Rich McCloud an african American poet and singer performed a piece with a lot of passion. It was successful if a little pitchy.
- SOU student groups did excerpts of “SOU Race Monologues” edited by myself. I rehearsed them a lot and this was a time investment. Good content and they did a great job reading the work.
- AHS High-school +OSF+ Company sang Man in the mirror. Not enough singers but nice job. We miss the gospel note we hit so well in 2008.
- The RV Peace Choir is very large and we struggle to include them in the show because they take up hundreds of seats. We invited them to meet us singing in the plaza. This was a great way to begin the plaza performance and we should keep it.
- The live steaming was more successful this year. Still need to work on it but it’s getting better.

Press and publicity

<http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100119/NEWS/100119973>

<http://www.dailytidings.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100119/NEWS02/1190308>

<http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/misc?url=/flash/gallery/gallery.html&Avis=MM&Dato=20100118&Kategori=MEDIA01&Lopenr=118009998&Ref=PH>

Part 1: <http://vimeo.com/8858018>

Part 2: <http://vimeo.com/8856188>

These can be embedded on any site using the share button (rollover the video to see).

The original QuickTime files can be downloaded from each page (about 600MB and 1GB).

This video was produced by Ashland TV with assistance from the SOU Convergent Media Program.

PRESS RELEASE

Contacts

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The 22nd Annual Ashland Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Celebration is Noon on Monday, January 18

IF YOU GO

What: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Celebration

When: Noon to 1:30 p.m. Monday, Jan 18

Where: Historic Ashland Armory, 208 Oak St., Ashland

(For overflow attendees, there will be a live-streaming simulcast held at Oregon Stage Works, 191 A St., Ashland)

Admission: Free, People are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to donate to ACCESS food banks.

Ashland, Ore.— The 22nd annual Ashland Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Celebration is scheduled for 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. Monday, January 18 at the Historic Ashland Armory in downtown Ashland. The event is free and open to the public. People are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to donate to ACCESS food banks. The observance of the slain civil rights leader's birthday is produced by a group of community volunteers and is sponsored by the Ashland School District, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the City of Ashland, Jefferson Public Radio and Southern Oregon University.

This year's theme is Caring for the Dream. La Clinica Development Director Maria Ramos Underwood will be the keynote speaker and address Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s words, "*Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'*" Dr. King's leadership inspired a transformation in society toward greater dignity, compassion and justice for all. Considering our world today, we have an opportunity to be a part of further transformation, fulfilling Dr. King's dream for the world. Keeping with the tradition of the community celebration, students from the Ashland School District, Crater Renaissance, and Southern Oregon University will share their words and songs on the life and vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This year's event offers a variety of music and dance by Rich McCloud, Mosley Wotta, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Lightning Bugs, The Marston Family, Taiko Drummer Kelvin Underwood joined by Native American Drummer Brent Florendo, Teen Theater, and Ballet Folklorico Allegre. D.L. Richardson from Southern Oregon University's Communication Department will emcee the event. Following the event, there is a march to the Plaza led by the SOU Black Student Union. At the Plaza, Dr. Martin Luther King,

Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech will be played in its entirety followed by songs from The Rogue Valley Peace Choir.

Come celebrate as a community! Seating is always limited and available on a first come basis. The doors will open at 11:30 a.m. All ages are welcome and parents are urged to stay with their children during the event. Each year the event reaches standing room only by 12 noon. We are pleased to announce that for overflow attendees there will be, with the support of Ashland TV, a live-streaming simulcast held at Oregon Stage Works located nearby at 191 A Street.

Produced by a group of community volunteers and sponsored by the Ashland School District, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the City of Ashland, Jefferson Public Radio and Southern Oregon University, the event is free and open to the public. Sign language interpreters will be provided.

2010 MLK Day Talent Line-up

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PIECE</u>	<u>Description</u>
OPENING DRUMMING	African and Native American drumming fusion	-Kelvin Underwood (Taiko) -Brent Florendo, Dancing Spirit Drum. -Sue Lundquist
Opening Remarks		
The Thursdays	Three Little Birds by Bob Marley	<i>new kids rock band, 9 pieces, age 11-15, 3 girls, 6 boys led by Dave Scoggins</i>
Crater Renaissance --MLK Crater--still image	Beacon of Light	<i>Crater High School Students Theater (led by Matthew Reynolds)</i>
Tami Marston & family		<i>Back of the Bus</i>
Teen Theater	Birds is a scene that uses music, poetry and short monologues written by the youth to address issues of homophobia. The players are...Jazmine Dake; Jane Excell; Rose Marston; Jade Barrilleaux; Jacy Mairs; Drew Woods; Aurelia Grierson; Anna Hume; Uriel Wolfe-Blank; Tay Smith	<i>Led by Kyndra Laughery</i>
Mosley Wotta with the Cyclonic Rockers	Mosley Wotta Moved From Chicago to the small town off Bend Oregon when he was nine years old . It wasn't until he moved to a more rural area that he really started becoming educated about the vast genre off HIP HOP. Since then he has worked as a resident and volunteer artist and musician in libraries, public forums, schools, non profits, art galleries and performance venues. Mosley Wotta promotes the global truths of empathy and evolution.	<i>Poetry, Music, Breakdance</i>
VIDEO	MLK	

Maria Underwood	Keynote Speaker	
Ballet Folklorico	Border Crossings	<i>Dance</i>
Rich McCloud	Perspective (a practice in understanding another's perspective)	Band members: Rich Mccloud-vocals; Aaron Reed of the band "Monk"-drums; Anthony A.K.A. "Cricket"-Lead guitar; Kevin of the band "Monk"-Rhythm guitar; Jacob Akromen-bass
SOU student groups	From "SOU Race Monologues" edited by Claudia Alick	Read by Robert Huitt, Jessie Hecocta, Amanda Martinez, Marcelle Million, Brittany Dixon, and Austin Richardson.
VIDEO	MLK	
AHS High-school + others	Man in the mirror	<i>Song- starts w/ AHS students. Rest join on stage</i>
Final Remarks		
March to the Plaza		
Plaza Performance	RV Peace Choir	



Keynote speech

MLK speech:

Happy Martin Luther King Day everyone. To be honest, I struggled in deciding what to discuss with you today—there is so much going on in the world that merits our attention. And I have to apologize to those in the room that were expecting a discussion on health care because I want to talk to you about something that has unsettled my heart, an **injustice** that I have watched unfold, and which I have kept **quiet** about.

But, before my confession, indulge me and let me plug two very important issues that need our **immediate** attention. If you are able, **please** help the people of Haiti—this is the most impoverished country in the western hemisphere, and the people there have lost the very little that they had. And, **please** vote Yes for measures 66 and 67—our schools, social service systems, and other programs that rely on general funds **cannot** endure additional cuts.

This is not more calamity talk—Oregon schools rank 43rd out of 50, and sick and poor adults in our state must **win** a state-wide lottery to **even apply** for the Oregon Health Plan. This is **shameful**, and we can do something about this—**today**—so please vote yes. **Now**, to my confession.

Some time ago, I had to explain to my teenage daughter why California voters approved Proposition 8, altering that state's constitution to **ban** gay marriage.

I started what I assumed was a very logical explanation of the referendum process and the rules governing a popular vote—and she looked at me with that quiet impatience so common to teenagers, and she said, “**No**, I want to know what gives people the right to dictate the happiness of others. What do **they** care if people want to marry each other? It's wrong, Mom.” She's right—it's **wrong, wrong, wrong**, and in the quiet recesses of our hearts—we know just how wrong this is.

But until this conversation with my daughter, I was lost in the intellectual desert that claims so many forward thinking heterosexuals when it comes to the issue of equal right to marriage. We tell ourselves that this kind of change takes time, but the reality is that we have run out of time.

Today, 45 states have constitutional amendments, state statutes, or pending laws banning gay marriage . . . 45! The truth of the matter is that all of these laws are nothing but the ugly face of discrimination: people in power telling others that they don't matter. And **this** has happened on our watch.

The greatest irony is that I **know** what this feels like. As the person of color in a bi-racial marriage, I know that before June 6th of 1967, my husband and I would have been

denied the right to marry in Virginia, Florida, Texas, Oklahoma, Georgia, and 10 other states.

In 1967, the Supreme Court ruled miscegenation laws **unconstitutional**, asserting that, and I quote, “marriage is one of the basic civil rights of man, fundamental to our very existence and survival.”

We must **never** forget Dr. Martin Luther King’s words: “Injustice **anywhere** is a threat to justice **everywhere**.” Our fates are intertwined—when we turn from **injustice** with **indifference**, we undermine **everything** we have achieved to ensure civil rights in this country.

So I ask you to join with me in breaking our silence—we need to talk to our elected officials, our family, our neighbors, our co-workers, and share with them what I have shared with you today.

This is what you have to tell them:

1. Our Constitution guarantees **every** citizen the right to equal protection under the law.
2. Marriage is **inarguably** a fundamental right.
3. Gays and lesbians are **harmed** by laws preventing them access to **all** the benefits of marriage.
4. To my daughter’s point—this is such a personal matter: **no one** is harmed by gay marriage.

Very recently Senator Al Franken talked about *opportunities to express our humanity*. This is one of those opportunities—**together** we can alter the course we are on. As we commit to **this** work, let’s remember Dr. King’s advice: change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle. And so we must straighten our backs and work for our freedom.

Thank you.

MLK Celebration Volunteers 2010 ... Thank you list

Master of Ceremonies: DL Richardson

Oregon Stage Works, providing the second venue
Ashland TV for technical support for live-streaming simulcast

House Volunteers

- AmeriCorp volunteers
- OSF staff
- State of Jefferson Returned Peace Corps volunteers
- community

Signers: Eileen Hayes, Denise Wilson, Rory Nackerud

MLK community committee

- Claudia Alick
- Chris Wood
- Michelle Zundel
- Kathy Scott
- Cynthia Maclaren
- Dan Hamnett
- David Kelly
- Alan Vellutini
- Gina DuQuenne
- Marvin Woodard
- Jung MayLee
- Paul Collins
- Ben Cobb
- David Kelly

Others: Kevin Bendaw, Freda Casillas; Teresa Cisneros Peterson; Brittany Dixon; Rush Johnson; Neeta Singh; Amina Henry

Sponsors:

- Ashland School District
- Oregon Shakespeare Festival
- Southern Oregon University
- Jefferson Public Radio
- City of Ashland
- Alan DeBoer, donating the use of the Armory
- Printfast for printing the posters

Cindy and Carl Darnell, of Earth Shirts, for providing house volunteers with MLK shirts; tee shirts are available for sale at the back of the armory.

Ashland's Deluxe Awning, for donating half the cost of the new "Celebrate the Dream" street banner hung on Main Street

ACCESS: for providing us containers and transportation for the food collected here today. Access has been helping Jackson County residents break the cycle of poverty since 1976. With a focus on education, ACCESS helps low-income families and seniors through economic crisis by guiding them through changes in the habits that help them become self-sustaining. ACCESS currently serves 1 in 4 Jackson County residents through 25 programs designed to address issues from one-time emergencies to longer-term issues.

Veteran's Administration: bringing vets to the show

The businesses around the armory ... sharing the parking spaces with us.