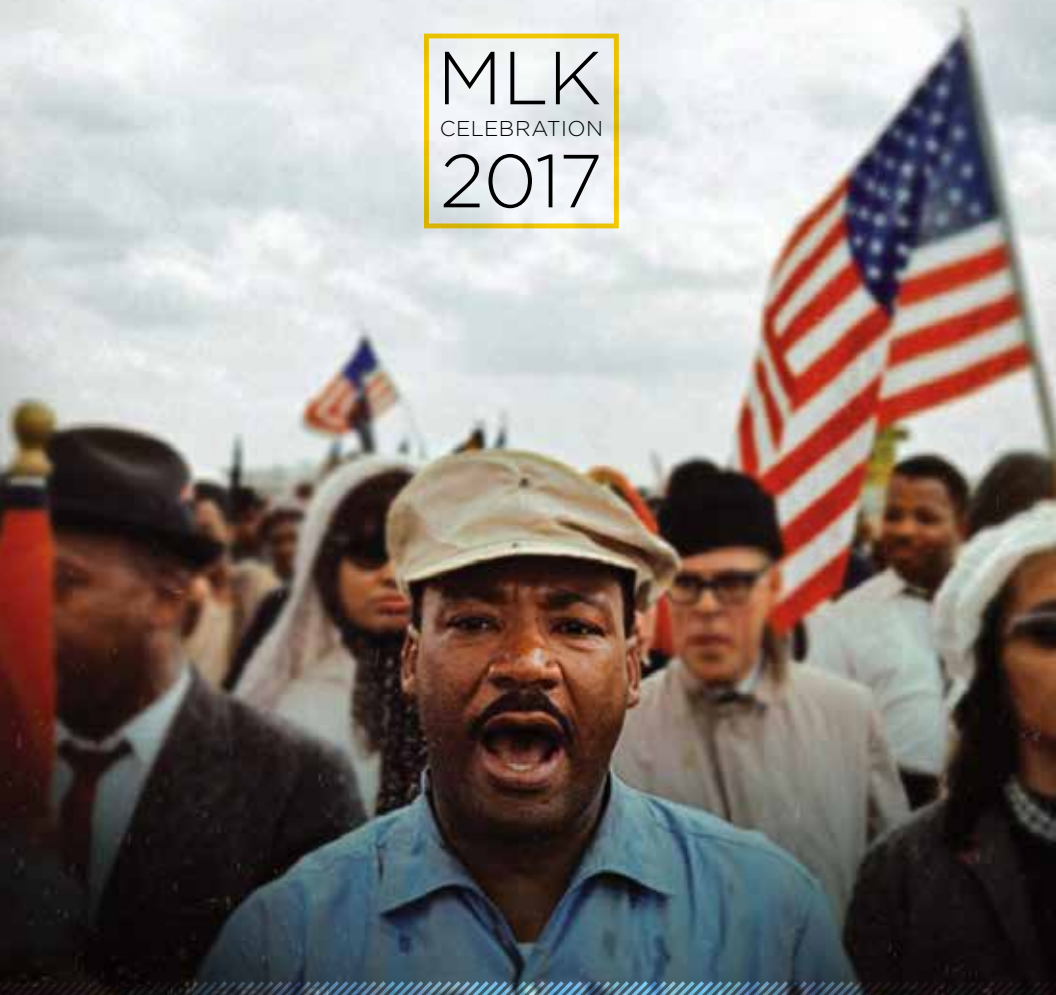


CONSCIOUS HUMANITY: **WHAT IS JUSTICE?**

MLK
CELEBRATION
2017



Jan. 16, 2017

#VALPOMLK

Celebration Overview

For more than 25 years, Valparaiso University and the surrounding community have gathered to celebrate, commemorate, and encourage the continuance of the work begun by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Instead of taking the day off and contemplating our call in isolation for clarity, we choose to gather as a community to collectively reflect on the legacy of Rev. King and the work still left for us to do. Through targeted discussions, focus sessions, and compelling convocation, we allow Rev. King's prophetic work to give life and guidance to fulfilling the dream today.

OUR THEME: CONSCIOUS HUMANITY: WHAT IS JUSTICE?

Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. engaged this country at one of the most difficult times in our history. During this time that shaped American and world history, Rev. King wrote these words: "Cowardice asks the question, is it safe? Expediency asks the question, is it politic? Vanity asks the question, is it popular? But, conscience asks the question, is it right?"

His message of hope, equality, and the dream of unity not only challenged this nation but also shook it awake to the existence of inequities that were rooted deep in the national subconscious. Once again, America finds itself in a difficult time, and there is a distinct need to awaken our humanity. This year, as we continue to celebrate and memorialize the dream and ideals of Rev. King, we also ring the alarm clock to rouse our collective humanity and begin to analyze the important questions of "What is justice?" and "What should be our response to injustice?" In these questions, we find the need to analyze our position as it relates to our humanity and the humanity we believe we have been called to serve. It is in this vein that we celebrate the legacy and work of Rev. King through a day of remembrance and rededication to the dream he shared with us.

OUR SPEAKER: CORNEL WEST, Ph.D.

As we dialogue throughout the day on the theme: "Conscious Humanity: What is Justice?" we are excited to host Cornel West, esteemed lecturer and activist and one of the foremost contemporary thinkers on the topic of justice.

Cornel West is a prominent and provocative democratic intellectual. He is a professor of philosophy and Christian practice at Union Theological Seminary and professor emeritus at Princeton University. He has also taught at Yale, Harvard, and the University of Paris. West graduated magna cum laude from Harvard in three years and obtained his M.A. and Ph.D. in philosophy at Princeton.

In short, West has a passion for communicating with a vast variety of publics in order to keep alive the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. — a legacy of telling the truth and bearing witness to love and justice.

Focus Session Keynote Speakers

ANDREA LYON, J.D.

A leader in curriculum reform and embracing diversity, Andrea Lyon, J.D., was appointed dean of Valparaiso University Law School in July 2014.

Lyon received her J.D. from Antioch School of Law and bachelor's degree from Rutgers University.

She is a nationally recognized expert in the field of death penalty defense and a frequent continuing legal education teacher throughout the country.

TRELAWNEY "TREY" BOYNTON, M.A.

With more than 15 years of experience working in University settings, Trey Boynton, M.A., joined the office of Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs at the University of Michigan in 2014.

Originally from northern California, Boynton received her master's from the University of Michigan, bachelor's from Georgetown University, and attended Spelman College.

She has spent her professional career working to create inclusive environments. Boynton describes her work as head-to-heart work centered on creating space so that all students are valued, celebrated, and able to define their own success.

JOY J. MOORE, Ph.D.

Assistant professor of preaching at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., and academic liaison to the William E. Pannell Center for African American Church Studies, Joy J. Moore, Ph.D., teaches in the area of homiletics and the practice of ministry.

A native of Chicago, Moore holds a Ph.D. from the London School of Theology/Brunel University, a master's from Garrett-Evangelical Seminary, and a bachelor's from National-Louis University.

An ordained elder in the United Methodist Church, Moore seeks to encourage theologically framed, biblically attentive, and socially compelling interpretations of familiar passages in order to understand the critical issues influencing community formation in contemporary culture.

AWILDA RODRIGUEZ, Ph.D.

Awilda Rodriguez is an assistant professor in the Center for the Study of Higher and Postsecondary Education at the University of Michigan. Her research is at the intersection of higher education policy, college access and choice, and the representation of Black, Latino, low-income, and first-generation students in postsecondary education. Her most recent project examines issues of equity in access to rigorous high school coursework. Along with many policy reports and contributions to edited volumes, Rodriguez's work has been published in *Research in Higher Education*, *Educational Policy*, *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*, and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Rodriguez received her doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education and previously worked as a research fellow at American Enterprise Institute's Center for Higher Education Reform as well as a research associate at The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education.

2017 Event Schedule

8 a.m. Registration and Meet and Greet
Lobby, Harre Union

8:30 a.m. Welcome
Community Room, Christopher Center for Library & Information Resources

9:30 a.m. Conference-style Focus Sessions:

WHAT IS JUSTICE?

Multipurpose Room, Helge Center

Welcome

Fighting for Justice: An American Tradition

Reflection

Poverty as Injustice

Reflection

What is Black Justice?

Reflection

Ethnic Cleansing in American Culture

Group Reflection

Break

Video

Awilda Rodriguez

Q&A: All Speakers
Joint Panel

Closing Remarks

JUSTICE AND SOCIETY

Room 234, Neils Science Center

Welcome

Engaging the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict from Home: BDS & Conscious Consumerism

Reflection

Creating Laws to Shackle Justice: New Media & NGO's Proclamations

Reflection

Don't Touch Me: Slam Poetry

Reflection

Lift Up Your Voice: Student Activism through the Years

Group Reflection

Break

Video

Trelawny Boynton

Q&A: All Speakers
Joint Panel

Closing Remarks

JUSTICE AND FAITH

University Theatre, Valparaiso University Center for the Arts

Welcome

The Church & Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries

Reflection

A Christian in India

Reflection

"We Shall Overcome"

Reflection

How Lawyers Balance Justice & Faith

Group Reflection

Break

Video

Joy Moore

Q&A: All Speakers
Joint Panel

Closing Remarks

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Duesenberg Recital Hall, Valparaiso University Center for the Arts

Welcome

A Tale of Two Drug Epidemics

Reflection

A Better Police Force

Reflection

How Just is Our Justice System?

Reflection

"Our Walks Aren't that Different"

Group Reflection

Break

Video

Andrea Lyon

Q&A: All Speakers
Joint Panel

Closing Remarks

Noon. Lunch (OneCard Accepted)
Options: Ballroom (\$12), Café and Founders Table (Paid onsite)

2 p.m. Convocation in the Chapel with Speaker Cornel West, Ph.D.

4 p.m. Meet and greet with Cornel West, Ph.D.
Harre Union

4:30 p.m. Donor Dinner and Q&A with Cornel West, Ph.D. (\$40)

6:30 p.m. Poetry Slam in Café

Track: What is Justice?

WHAT IS JUSTICE TRACK KEYNOTE: AWILDA RODRIGUEZ, PH.D.

Assistant professor in the Center for the Study of Higher and Postsecondary Education at University of Michigan

FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE: AN AMERICAN TRADITION

Kelli Chavez '15, current MSW candidate at the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration

Since its inception, the United States has struggled to define what is meant by "justice" and for whom justice can be a reasonable expectation in American life. Based on a 2015 SALT Shaker blog post, entitled "What is Justice?", this TED Talk-inspired presentation will discuss the concept of justice in the United States from the Founding Fathers through the present day, using contemporary justice movements (Black Lives Matter, California Prison Strike, etc.) to illustrate why continually refining the American concept of justice is important not only for the communities advocating for justice but also for those who may be skeptical or disapproving of these movements. By understanding how the exclusive application of and continued struggle for justice is a hallmark of social and political life in America, this presenter hopes current and future activists will recognize themselves as members of a long standing tradition and will continue working to achieve social justice for themselves and their fellow Americans.

POVERTY AS INJUSTICE: WAVES - VALPO'S APPROACH TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY IN HAITI AND NICARAGUA

Krista Stribling '18, president of EWB-WAVES

WAVES is a service-based organization consisting of Valpo students who collaborate with underdeveloped communities to design and implement sustainable projects to improve their quality of life. Guided by faculty and professional mentors, students employ engineering, nursing, business, education, and science skills to develop solutions that not only solve immediate problems but remain viable after the projects have been completed. This presentation will define the injustice we seek to address and offer insight into what justice looks like for people in Haiti and Nicaragua.

WHAT IS BLACK JUSTICE?

Micia Dismuke '17, president of the Black Student Organization (BSO), and Joseph Robinson '17

Justice in the Black community is different for different people. People on our e-board live in different areas, so their perspective of justice is different. Different e-board members will share what justice means to them or how they have seen justice in their community. We will compare and contrast life in a suburban area with living in the inner city, then discuss how we would like to see justice for Blacks to be the same across the board, no matter what area of this country we live in. Many people we grew up with believe they have never seen justice for their Black friends and family members or their community in general. This is a way for the Valpo community to understand where we come from.

ETHNIC CLEANSING IN AMERICAN CULTURE

Gregory Jones, Ph.D., Lecturer in theology

Review of the various models imposed on domestic and international minority communities to regulate, control, and sustain mainstream Western ideological and social norms.

Key themes will be: violence, incarceration, education, and cultural/social/political manipulation. The presentation will review the impact of Western society's obsession and fear of scarcity on the indigenous, domestic, and international communities of color in American society. The scope of the presentation will focus on the pathological impacts this obsession has made on the health and development of these communities. Using the historical record of American societies' use of violence to obtain and sustain the products of this obsession with material wealth, the presentation will identify the various themes influential in evolving negative stress models within the communities of color in pursuit of Western societies' obsession.

We will also provide alternatives to dismantle some of these negative patterns in communities of color.

Track: Justice & Society

JUSTICE & SOCIETY TRACK KEYNOTE: TREY BOYNTON

Director of the Office of Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs at the University of Michigan

LIFT UP YOUR VOICE: STUDENT ACTIVISM THROUGH THE YEARS

Nura Zaki '17, president of Student Senate, and Brendan Johnson '17, executive director of VUTV

Students at Valpo have historically been aware of the conditions of their community and have been active in speaking truth to power. In an effort to shine a light on the spirit of Valpo students as expressed through their activism for social justice, the Student Senate and student media organizations would like to collaborate to capture visually how this has taken place in the past and how it persists in the student body of today. Through a presentation of pictures and a brief discussion of select events both past and present, we would like to remind the community that seeking justice is not new to our students, but is in fact part of our DNA.

ENGAGING THE PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI CONFLICT FROM HOME: BDS AND CONSCIOUS CONSUMERISM

Eman Akbik '17, Bayan Fares '18, and Yamen Atassi '17

This presentation seeks to provide a basic summary of some of the transgressions against international law committed by the state of Israel, namely the uninhibited spread of settlements into Palestinian territory, the siege on Gaza, and the indiscriminate bombing of civilians in Gaza and the West Bank. The objective of the presentation is to provide a practical measure for people to get involved in opposing these illegal and immoral acts. BDS (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions) is one movement that seeks to boycott goods produced by Israel, especially goods that are produced on Palestinian land. BDS is one way Americans can truly affect this conflict positively, in a manner that has not been achievable diplomatically by our government and other foreign powers. While the MSA is unapologetically pro-Palestine (and anti-Zionism, not anti-Israel, anti-Israeli, nor anti-Jew), we hope that the controversial nature of our topic is not a reason that it is not chosen. History has often taught us that justice is difficult to stand for and that we should not shy away from standing for justice even when it is not convenient.

DON'T TOUCH ME: A SLAM POETRY PROGRAM

Layla Mooradian '18, Claire Mammoser '18, and Katelyn Merritt '17

Our piece will relate to justice through the way in which society views both the perpetrators and victims of sexual assault. Oftentimes, sentences are handed down that don't seem just (such as Brock Turner). Additionally, victims are sometimes blamed for the events. This idea of justice, or lack thereof, is indicative of a larger societal issue.

CREATING LAWS TO SHACKLE JUSTICE: NEW MEDIA AND NGOS PROCLAMATIONS.

Chuck Schaefer, professor and chair of international studies

This presentation assesses the impact of a new trend to thwart justice and justify oppression. Many authoritarian regimes are ratifying new laws, through their rubber-stamp parliaments, to deny freedom of speech, curtail the press, and undercut civil society. With globalization, the Internet, and the codification of stricter international laws and human rights modalities, state sovereignty is under attack as governments "must" comply with ever more intrusive treaty agreements and international pressure to reform. But these regimes have devised a way to fight back. By creating laws that limit the amount of non-national monetary support media outlets, civil society organizations, and NGOs can legally accept, the repressive regimes have effectively undercut progressive influence from intergovernmental agencies (UN et. al.), foundations, and foreign-based NGOs. If foreign support is deemed to be more than, for example, 10 percent, the regime has the right to inspect all files and material. If the organization in question is found to violate these new laws, they can either close or agree to have government officials placed on their staff to oversee operations.

These measures have effectively undercut civil society, freedom of the press, and the ability of citizens to voice opposition to oppression. The focus will be on

how citizens are responding to this misapplication of law. In short, this panel explores how law has been used to ensure there is no justice.

Track: Justice & Faith

JUSTICE & FAITH TRACK KEYNOTE: JOY MOORE, PH.D.

Assistant professor of preaching at Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, Calif., and academic liaison to the William E. Pannell Center for African American Church Studies

A CHRISTIAN IN INDIA

Rebecca C.S. Paul '17 and Alex Ramani

"A Christian in India" will be a presentation given by Chi Alpha. This organization is a campus ministry that stresses diversity and change. Alex Ramani is our youth minister, who comes to campus every Sunday night and empowers us with scripture to take with us for the week. Ramani's testimony is very powerful. He was born and raised in India, a predominately Hindu and Muslim country with only a little more than 2 percent being Christian. With this in mind, Ramani was faced with a lot of backlash as a Christian. He has many examples to share since he was a minority in a majority. A lot of what he dealt with and deals with when he goes back is parallel with many people who have adopted faiths that are either outside the norm of their family or just outside of one's culture. Ramani even has instances now where people tell him that he does not belong because of the way he looks. Through his experiences, Ramani can tie up how his faith helped him through times of judgement and discrimination and how his faith grew because of it.

"THE CHURCH AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE: HEARING THE CRIES" – THE ELCA'S SOCIAL STATEMENT ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Dawn Jeglum Bartusch '87, associate professor of sociology and criminology

For five years (2008–2013), I was a member of the national task force that drafted the social statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America regarding criminal justice. The social statement is entitled The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries. It was adopted in 2013 at the Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA and now guides the church's advocacy efforts related to criminal justice and

various ministries of the church. The social statement considers various images of justice, both in the Bible and guiding responses to crime in the United States today. It also describes positive trends in criminal justice today as well as many areas of needed reform, including an end to mass incarceration and to prison privatization, attention to racial disparities and discrimination within the criminal justice system, and recognition of the special needs of juvenile offenders. I welcome the opportunity to talk about the ELCA's social statement on criminal justice and how faith informs advocacy.

HOW LAWYERS BALANCE JUSTICE AND FAITH

Derrick Howard, associate professor of law, and director of externship programs

"Injustice" is a word that, for many of us, brings to mind a variety of images ranging from the government and politics to retribution, the poor, and justice organizations. Lawyers stand at the intersection of justice and injustice daily, tasked with shepherding disputes to resolution in an adversarial system that often favors the rich, famous, learned, or well-connected. Lawyers are on the frontline when determining which cries of injustice reach the courthouse steps, are laid out before the media for public discussion, and/or are silenced because they conflict with the lawyer's faith or sense of justice.

Track: Criminal Justice

CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRACK KEYNOTE: ANDREA LYON, J.D.

Dean of the Valparaiso University Law School

A TALE OF TWO DRUG EPIDEMICS

Natalie Muskin-Press '05, staff therapist and coordinator of the Alcohol and Drug Education office

This will be a brief discussion of the differences in reporting, policing, and legislative response between the crack epidemic in the 1980s and the current opioid epidemic. It will show examples of how people responded and how that resulted in different actions that led to incarceration for one population and sympathy and harm-reduction treatment for another. This will touch on the drug war, pharmaceuticals, and racism. The presentation will use data, newspaper articles, and evidence-based treatment information.

It will start with a comparison of reporting; move into how presidents, presidential candidates, and other top lawmakers talked about each epidemic; and discuss how legislation differed. It will end with data about drug use and effective treatment and explore how race effects whether you end up on the treatment track or prison for drug crimes.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: A BETTER POLICE FORCE

Haneefah Khaaliq '17 J.D., associate professor of sociology and criminology

The composition of our country is changing dramatically and rapidly. It is no longer composed of just one race or one religion or one people. In the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I have a Dream" speech, he said: "We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality." In this session, we will discuss police brutality and the need to employ a smarter and more thorough form of police training. As the composition of our communities change, we must find ways to connect with Rev. King's dream, add to it, and fight for it as people continue to be victims of unspeakable horrors.

"OUR WALKS AREN'T THAT DIFFERENT": THE VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY INSIDE-OUT PRISON EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Amanda Zelechowski, assistant professor of psychology, and Dawn Jeglum Bartusch '87, associate professor of sociology and criminology

This presentation is intended to introduce students, faculty, staff, and community members to the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program at Valpo. Part of a national program, the Inside-Out course is a dynamic community partnership that brings together sociology and psychology students and incarcerated individuals at Westville Correctional Facility. Through this innovative and transformative instructional model, college students and incarcerated individuals study as peers in a seminar that takes place inside the correctional facility. This presentation will present an overview of the model, considerations for creating additional Inside-Out courses at Valpo, and reflections from former Inside-Out students.

HOW JUST IS OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM?

Alexandra Garcia and Gabriela Martinez, Criminology Club

This presentation will discuss the ways in which we punish people in the United States. The United States of America has one of the largest populations in prison. Crime rates have actually decreased within the past 50 years, yet we are still punishing and sentencing people at the highest rate compared to any other country. We punish people through long sentences behind bars and sometimes even the death penalty. Throughout our presentation we will explore how just is our justice system. How does the United States have the largest prison population? We will be presenting the various ways in which we punish people in addition to who we are putting behind bars.

Convocation

- Prelude Valparaiso University Chamber Concert Band
- Invocation Members of Mosaic
- Welcome Mark A. Heckler, Ph.D., President
- Hymn "Lift Every Voice and Sing," Lutheran Service Book 964
Kantorei and Audience
- Recitation "I am Martin, We are the Movement"
Students from the Multicultural Programs Office
- "Glory" by John Legend with selected pieces of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I have been to the mountaintop" speech Praise Dance by Valpo Students
- Presentation of the Valparaiso University Martin Luther King Jr. Award Mark A. Heckler, Ph.D.
- "I Can Tell the World" Kantorei
- Introduction to Keynote Speaker Stacey A. Miller, Ed.D.,
Assistant Provost for Inclusion
- Keynote Address Cornel West, Ph.D.
- Final Announcements and Acknowledgements Byron R. Martin
MLK Committee Co-Chair

Martin Luther King Jr. Award Recipients

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1995 Lou Jeanne Walton '60 | 2008 Ryan Freeman-Jones '08, '10 M.S. and Gregory Jones |
| 1996 Walter Reiner and Karl Lutze '80H | 2009 Roy Austensen and Renu Juneja |
| 1997 Valpo Faculty Jazz Trio | 2010 Alan Bloom and the Peace and Social Justice Symposium: Jane Bello-Brunson and Delphina (Del) Hopkins-Gillispie, co-founders |
| 1999 Jane Claiborne '01, '04 MALS | 2011 Zhimin Lin |
| 2000 Judith Erwin-Neville and Valpo Gospel Choir | 2012 Ivan Bodensteiner, NaTasha Henry '04, '06 MALS, and the Black Law Students Association |
| 2001 Hugh McGuigan | 2013 Allison Schuette '93, Liz Wuerffel '00, and Holly Singh '98, '05 MALS |
| 2002 David Kehret | 2014 Stacy Hoult-Saros '15 GC |
| 2003 Bill Marion Jr. | 2015 Valpo Men's Soccer Team, Larry Baas, and Zahra Nwabara |
| 2004 Jane Bello-Brunson | 2016 Charles Schaefer |
| 2005 Asian American Association, Black Student Organization, and Latinos in Valparaiso for Excellence | 2017 HEATH CARTER AND FAISAL KUTTY |
| 2006 James Kingsland '82 J.D. | |
| 2007 Alan Harre | |

MLK 2017 Steering Committee

CO-CHAIRS: Byron R. Martin and Carlos Miguel-Pueyo

SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRS: Tatiana Cochran and Deondra Devitt

PRELUDE SUB-COMMITTEE

- Naren raja Pachava
- Angelina Coleman
- Monica Carson
- Patrice Davis
- Lorrie Hodge
- Becky Klein
- Ann Weitgenant
- Jane Lohmeyer
- Dorothy Warner

DAY OF THE EVENT SUB-COMMITTEE

- Leah Birhanu
- Ryan Bye
- Tracy Fronk
- Marisa Henderson
- Merri Roddy

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE MLK CELEBRATION:



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