



———— 21ST ANNUAL ————

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE
AND SUNRISE CELEBRATION**

—— MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2020 ——



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The 21st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Observance and Sunrise Celebration is sponsored by the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Task Force of the ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table, the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, the ALA Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services, Beacon Press, and OCLC.

THANK YOU TO ALL CO-SPONSORS FOR THEIR
SUPPORT OF THIS MORNING'S EVENT!



NOTE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

THANK YOU for joining us as we celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Observance and Sunrise Celebration is a Midwinter tradition that began in 2000. Through the combined effort of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA), the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Task Force, the ALA Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services, Beacon Press, and OCLC, we are thrilled to host this celebration again in 2020. Our theme this year is “The Civil Rights Movement: ‘... *tired of being segregated and humiliated; tired of being kicked about by the brutal feet of oppression.*’” The passages heard in today’s ceremony mark the beginning of Dr. King’s time in Montgomery, in the ‘50s, as the Civil Rights Movement was beginning. Decades after King’s death, we believe his words still resonate the inequality of a 21st Century America, as we continue to struggle with moral, political, economic and social injustice and rampant police brutality across our nation.

Sincerely,

ANDREW JACKSON

Co-Chair, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Observance and Sunrise Celebration (BCALA)

LaJUAN PRINGLE

Co-Chair, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Observance and Sunrise Celebration (SRRT); Charlotte Mecklenburg Library



TODAY'S PROGRAM

WELCOME

LaJuan Pringle

Co-Chair, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Holiday Observance and Sunrise Celebration

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

“Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing”

Performed by Beatrice Sessoms
(See lyrics on page 9)

PARTICIPANTS

Wanda Kay Brown

ALA President, 2019–2020

Mary Ghikas

ALA Executive Director

Kenny Garcia

President, REFORMA: National Association
to Promote Library & Information Services to
Latinos and the Spanish Speaking

Fu Zhuo

President, Chinese American Librarians
Association (CALA)

Richard Ashby

President, Black Caucus of the American Library
Association (BCALA)

George Gottschalk

President, American Indian Library Association
(AILA)

Alanna Aiko Moore

President, Asian/Pacific American Librarians
Association (APALA)

Cathy Zimmerman

President, Association of Bookmobile and
Outreach Services (ABOS)

Kathy Zappitello

Vice President/President-Elect, Association for
Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL)

Kenneth Yamashita

President, Joint Council of Librarians of Color
(JCLC)

Andrea Jamison

Chair-Elect, ALA Ethnic and Multicultural
Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT)

Megan Drake

Chair, ALA Rainbow Round Table (RRT)

April Sheppard

Coordinator-Elect, ALA Social Responsibilities
Round Table (SRRT)



Shauntee Burns-Simpson

Chair, ALA Committee on Diversity

Martin L. Garnar

Chair, ALA Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services Advisory Committee

KEYNOTE

Dr. Imani Perry

Author, *Breathe: A Letter to My Sons*;
Hughes-Rogers Professor of African American Studies, faculty associate in the Program in Law and Public Affairs and Gender and Sexuality Studies, Princeton University

PARTICIPANTS, CONTINUED

LaJuan Pringle

Representative, ALA Committee on Literacy

John Sandstrom

Chair, ALA Rural, Native, and Tribal Libraries of All Kinds Committee

Reed W. Strege

ASGCLA Accessibility Assembly

Anthony Bishop

Spectrum Scholar

Charlotte Roh

Spectrum Scholar

Isabel Soto-Luna

Spectrum Scholar

Nicole LaMoreaux

President, New Members Round Table (NMRT)

Allan Martin Kleiman

Chair, RUSA Library Service to an Aging Population Committee

CALL-TO-ACTION

Loida Garcia-Febo

ALA Immediate Past President

CLOSING

**Andrew P. Jackson
(Sekou Molefi Baako)**

Co-Chair, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Holiday Observance and Sunrise Celebration

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

“We Shall Overcome”

(See lyrics on page 11)



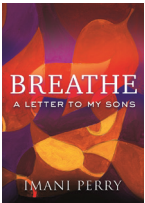
DR. IMANI PERRY

Imani Perry is the Hughes-Rogers Professor of African American Studies at Princeton University and a prolific cultural critic whose work “contributes to a fuller understanding of black history and culture.” (*New York Times*). She is the author of six books,

including most recently: *Breathe: A Letter to My Sons*, which journalist Krista Tippett described as “a vision of human resilience and wholeness that could reframe and redeem this young century’s painful reckonings.”



SAMIER KHAN



Perry is a native of Birmingham, Alabama, and spent much of her youth in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Chicago. She comes from a long line of Southern civil rights activists, and much of her work focuses on multifaceted issues regarding race and African American culture such as the influence of race on law, activism, literature and music. Her acclaimed biography *Looking for Lorraine: The Radiant and Radical Life*

of Lorraine Hansberry won the 2019 PEN American Jacqueline Bograd Weld Award for Biography and was a New York Times Notable Book of 2018. The book also received the Lambda Literary Award for LGBTQ Nonfiction, the Shilts-Grahn Triangle Award for Lesbian Nonfiction, and the 2019 Phi Beta Kappa Christian Gauss Award.

In her 2011 book, *More Beautiful and More Terrible: The Embrace and Transcendence of Racial Inequality in the United States*, Perry discusses the ongoing intersection of race and politics in America, and in *We Forever Stand: A History of the Black National Anthem*, gives a cultural history of the black national anthem, “Lift Every Voice and Sing.”

Perry received a bachelor’s degree from Yale University. From there, she went on to obtain both her J.D. from Harvard Law School and a Ph.D in the history of American civilization from Harvard University. She lives outside Philadelphia with her two sons, Freeman Diallo Perry Rabb and Issa Garner Rabb.

LOIDA GARCIA-FEBO



Loida Garcia-Febo is the Immediate Past President of the American Library Association and has been a librarian for almost twenty years, with experience in academic, public, school and special libraries. She is a library consultant and President of [Information New Wave](#), a not for profit NGO seeking to enhance the education of ethnically diverse communities working with libraries and information workers. She is an author, educator and mentor to librarians and information workers, and frequently presents at library association events and at institutions. She often speaks to the media including ABC, CNN, NPR, Univision, Telemundo and the New York Times. She has taught in 20 countries in five continents and has advocated on behalf of libraries at the United Nations.

Garcia-Febo was elected to the [ALA Executive Board](#) in 2015 and has been a member of the Governing Board of the [International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions](#) (IFLA). She chaired the ALA Committee on Membership Meetings where she led efforts towards the first ALA Virtual Town Hall and the first two annual ALA Virtual Membership Meetings for ALA's almost 60,000 members. She chaired the team developing ALA's Presidential Initiative, Empowering Diverse Voices Leadership Video Series. She has collaborated as a member of Advisory Boards at the School of Information at the San Jose State University, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Global Libraries and Webjunction.

Garcia-Febo loves being a librarian and the work she does in different arenas, advocating for libraries at the United Nations, doing grassroots advocacy and working one-on-one with people from different communities. She believes that *Together, we can bring change!*

BEATRICE SESSOMS



Beatrice Renee Sessoms was born in Philadelphia to the parents of Joseph Sessoms and Virginia Lee Carter. She is the youngest of five siblings who all inspired her to struggle gracefully and become the entrepreneur she is today. As a mother of two, she discovered her nurturing spirit in raising and loving her children beyond compare. She is a proud grandmother of four and great-grandmother of three. At **Mt. Carmel Baptist Church**, Beatrice is a committed member of the Chorus using her gift from God to sing praises to his name. It is a continued dream of hers to lift others through music ministry. A three-year run at the Kimmel Center *Soulful Christmas*, weddings and funerals have all given way to being here with you all today.

“LIFT EV’RY VOICE AND SING”

Lyrics: James Weldon Johnson; Music: John Rosamond Johnson

Lift ev’ry voice and sing,
‘Til earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;

Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening 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 ‘til victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast’ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;

Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?



We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
'Til now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;

Thou who has by Thy might
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.



“WE SHALL OVERCOME”

Traditional; Derived from “I’ll Overcome Someday,” by Charles Albert Tindley

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

The Lord will see us through, The Lord will see us through,
The Lord will see us through someday;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We shall overcome someday.

We’re on to victory, we’re on to victory,
We’re on to victory someday;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We’re on to victory someday.

We’ll walk hand in hand, we’ll walk hand in hand,
We’ll walk hand in hand someday;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We’ll walk hand in hand someday.



We are not afraid, we are not afraid,
We are not afraid today;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We are not afraid today.

The truth shall make us free, the truth shall make us free,
The truth shall make us free someday;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
The truth shall make us free someday.

We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace,
We shall live in peace someday;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We shall live in peace someday.

