



# MILWAUKEE

## COMMUNITY JOURNAL

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# Celebrating the Life and Legacy of M.L. King!

**F**ive score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity.

But 100 years later, the Negro still is not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later the Negro is still languished in the corners of American society and finds himself in exile in his own land. And so we've come here today to

"Let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia. Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee. Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring."



## The Speech that Defined a Movement 'I HAVE A DREAM'

Here is a transcript of King's legendary speech, delivered on August 28, 1963, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

dramatize a shameful condition. In a sense we've come to our nation's capital to cash a check.

When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men — yes, Black men as well as white men — would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked insufficient funds.

But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt.

We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. And so we've come to cash this check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice.

We have also come to his hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism.

Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quick sands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children.

It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment. This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. 1963 is not an end, but a beginning. Those who hope that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual.

There will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights. The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges.

But there is something that I must say to my people who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice.

In the process of gaining our rightful place, we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred.

We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again, we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force.

The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to a distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny.

And they have come to realize that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom. We cannot walk alone. And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead. We cannot turn back.

There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, when will you be satisfied? We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality.

We can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities.

We cannot be satisfied as long as the Negro's basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a

## YMCA OF METRO MKE HOLDS KING EVENT!



The YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee held its 26th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration recently at Potawatomi Casino Hotel. Aurora Health Care was the lead event sponsor of the event. The celebration drew a wide range of community leaders, residents, and those involved in the continuing fight for justice and equality. The theme for the event was one of Dr. King's most famous quotes: "The time is always right to do what is right." A number of individuals and non-governmental organizations received recognition for their service to the community, especially on behalf of local youth. Northcott Neighborhood House received the Social Responsibility Award. Gov. Tony Evers, Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson, and Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley were in attendance. Also attending was Milwaukee Police Chief Jeffery Norman and new Milwaukee County Sheriff Denita Ball.—Photos by Yvonne Kemp



In honor of its 115 year anniversary of the Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority, Inc., the "Light the Hoan" initiative lit the iconic bridge pink and green (shown above), which are the colors of the sorority. Members of the organization's Milwaukee Epsilon Kappa Omega chapter, attended the ceremony. Founded in 1908, AKA is the oldest Greek-letter organization established by African American college-educated women. It is comprised of more than 325,000 initiated members in graduate and undergraduate chapters located in 12 countries. The Milwaukee AKA chapter was founded in 1949. Since its inception, the chapter has made significant strides in the city with award winning education programs. At left: The new president and officers of the Milwaukee Chapter of the National Black Nurses Association for 2023 were installed during a ceremony recently at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel. The new president and officers are (seated left to right): Martina Ward, Secretary; Edna Hudson-Kinzey, President; Evelyn Merriett, Committees Coordinator. (Back Row): JoAnn Lomax, Member-at-Large.

—Photos by Yvonne Kemp

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