

2011 Ashland Martin Luther King Celebration Report



News Release

Thursday, January 6, 2011

**The 23rd Annual Ashland Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Celebration
to be held Monday, January 18, Noon to 1:30 pm**

Ashland, Ore.— The 23rd 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, Ashland TV, and Southern Oregon University.

In his *Letter from Birmingham Jail*, Dr. King wrote, "We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality," Continuing to take inspiration from Dr. King's life and work, this year's theme is Civil Rights and Civil Discourse.

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.

This year's keynote speaker is social justice leader Magdaleno Rose-Avila, Executive Director of the Social Justice Fund in Seattle, Washington.

Keeping with the tradition of the community celebration this year's event offers a variety of speakers, music, dance and poetry, from David and Gabe Young, Las Colibri (female Mariachi trio featured in the Oregon Shakespeare Festival's production of *Measure for Measure* <http://colibrient.com/>) Liquid Fire Mantra, Natalie Tyler, and students from the Ashland School District and Southern Oregon University

D.L. Richardson from Southern Oregon University's Communication Department will emcee the event. For overflow attendees there will be, with the support of Ashland TV, a live-streaming simulcast held at CultureWorks located nearby at 310 Oak St. Overflow Audience will be greeted by the Peace Choir in this warm inviting space. Following the event, there is a march to the Plaza led by the Lotus Rising Teen Theater. At the Plaza, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech will be played in its entirety.

Come celebrate as a community! Seating is always limited and available on a first come basis, and each year the event is standing room only. 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.

A live webcast will also be available for this year's MLK celebration at:
<http://www.ashlandhome.us/>

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.

Keynote Speaker Bio: The son of immigrant parents and one of 12 children, Magdaleno Rose-Avila began his working life in the onion fields of southeast Colorado at the early age of 11. By 13, he was traveling the migrant stream picking fruits and vegetables. Today, he serves as Executive Director of the Social Justice Fund in Seattle, Washington.

The difficult work of thinning onions as a child provided the background and impetus needed to advocate for workers rights at a very young age. After spending several years organizing workers in Colorado, Rose Avila took on the position of lead organizer and spokesperson for the efforts of Cesar Chavez's United Farm workers Union in the state of Colorado. He was a leading voice and figure in the Chicano Movement of the 1960's and '70's and ran for public office for La Raza Unida Party.

Throughout his career, Rose-Avila has been a United States Peace Corps Country Director in Nicaragua, Guatemala, Paraguay and Micronesia. He has run congressional campaigns and worked for the Democratic National Committee, worked for Colorado Legal Services and The Colorado Migrant Council, taught theatre and sociology at the University of Colorado, and sociology at Colorado College. Between 1985 and 1993 he worked in a variety of administrative

and leadership positions for the Nobel Peace Prize-winning human rights organization Amnesty International USA. He was the Western Director for Amnesty International's Campaign to Abolish the Death Penalty and served as the inaugural Executive Director for the Cesar E Chavez Foundation.

A gifted public speaker, he has inspired thousands throughout his career speaking at high schools, colleges, universities, meetings, conferences, and various public events.

With Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ, author of *Dead Man Walking* he founded The Moratorium Campaign. He also co-founded The Ahora newspaper and bookstore in Colorado, and is the founder of Homies Unidos, a gang intervention program with offices in San Salvador and Los Angeles.

He holds a degree in communications from University of Colorado in Boulder.

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

Second Space! *For overflow attendees, there will be a live-streaming simulcast held at CultureWorks, 310 Oak St. Ashland, OR*

Show is also available online during event <http://www.ashlandhome.us/>

Admission: Free, People are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to donate to ACCESS food banks. Arrive early, seating is limited.

MSU Poems

- Ben: Harmony, 1st verse

We are here to celebrate a man who took a grand stand with confidence and perseverance in his swollen hands. He got for nothing, there wasn't any reason. Just because he's gone don't mean we gotta stop believing.

- Kelsie: Passion 1st verse

Passionately frustrated- people open your minds!

Listen to another perspective, nothing is ever just one way.

See! The color of my skin, the curls in my hair.

Learn a different history- yours isn't the only one.

- Gladys: Stereotype

Stereotype

Just because it's a lie doesn't mean it's a stereotype. Just because it's the truth doesn't mean it's a stereotype. It's a word not a living.

What do I see? I see a Puerto Rican girl with a big Mexican walking through a jewelry store, a jewelry store that has no cameras.

What she hear? She hears white people warning the manager, she hears her black troublemaker friends saying "Steal something", she hears her mom saying,

"Calmate, relajate, and don't be a stereotype."

I'm not a stereotype.

- Christina: What do you see?

What do you see? You see a pretty white girl, simpleton. The perfect American, but your opinion she's too flirty. Half the things she says are dirty, too loud, influenced by her black friend who is too intimidating, too proud, not into dating.

What do you see? You see a white girl that dates black guys, or in your opinion gullible enough to try. She's innocent and confused unaware she's being used, but the black guys do. So says you, but it's not true.

What do you see? You see a passionately angered blonde. I see a girl whose emotions a-whirl, stands by her truth. She's intelligent, thinks her best friend is heaven sent. Loves guys of any ethnicity, despite what people may think they see. I am strong: know the difference between right and wrong. Don't tell me what to do or say as society has done everyday. I have a mind of my own.

- Kelsie: Passion 2nd verse

Passionately angered- ignorance surrounds me, defiant and willful

Afraid to stand out, I stand alone

Such a big world- I feel so out of place.

Starving for another black face.

What am I doing here? I don't belong

I know it, you show it.

You see an angry black woman- I see a woman with passion

Who gave you the right to decide?

- Ari Falkner: Segment from Temporary Poem Of My Time, by Yehuda Amichai

Hebrew writing and Arabic writing go from East to West.

Latin writing, from West to East.

And stones fly from all four winds,
They throw the land, want to get rid of it.
Its stones, its soil, but you can't get rid of it.
They throw Stones, throw stones at me
In 1936, 1938, 1948, 1988,
Semites throw at Semites and anti-Semites at anti-Semites,
Evil men throw and just men throw,
Weeping stones and laughing gravel stones,
Oh, the poem of stone sadness.
Is there in this land
A stone that was never thrown?
Please do not throw any more stones,
Until your hands are weary
And the war is weary
And even peace will be weary and will be.

- Ben: Harmony

We're here to celebrate a man who took a grand stand
With confidence and perseverance in his swollen hands
He got shot for nothing there wasn't any reason
Just because he's gone don't mean didn't stop believing

Some tried to shake him but he was unshakable
Unbreakable turned the skeptics' lacsidasicall
He brought together races, religions, and colors
His words live on while we fightin all our brothers
People bustin gats hidin crack in their hats
Try to be the hardest kid outfits always match
You'd think after his speech and the Washington Monument
I have a dream would just become a mental document
People try to be this there's mostly racial jealousy
I got beat up by white kids while they yellin white supremacy
Racist chumps ain't no friend of me, now they try to beckon me
Got me when I was younger though, physically wrecking me
I needed guidance man a verbally protected shield
But it's hard being the only solider on this battlefield
He prolly disappointed his spirit floatin like a pontoon
Wishin he was god just to bring about a monsoon
Brothers fightin brother we the same damn color
Dr.King always told us to embrace on another
Everytime I got up bloody man I always lost the battle
Said they'd kick my ass if I just went and tattled
I can't believe it did Dr. King teach you nothing?
Every time I think of those days my stomach's buggin
It's real cousin I can't hide it anymore
He's the inspiration people chose to ignore

I won't answer if hatred is knocking on my door
As I walk through memories in that lonely corridor
Am I done? No I'm just startin
I'll be here for a while you wanna start walkin

H to the A to the RMO, N to the Y you should all ready know
Harmony. Harmony, Dr.King said we should live in Harmony (X2)

Harmony that's a funny lil word
That makes the grass green and all the birds chirp
H is for happiness a for acclamation
M is for magnificent all across the nation
O for omnipresent and N for new beginnings
Y is you can have it just as good as lotto winnings
Dr. King had it and I wish I had it too
But it's hard to keep calm when people stepping over you
Didn't raise a fist, didn't shoot a gun
Instead he marched preachin harmony to everyone
Now he's been gone Harmon is hard to juggle
People sayin N words takin a mental tumble
I know I say it too I'm going to cut back
I know if Dr.King was here he would not want me sayin that
Matter of fact I know how hard it is
To live in a neighborhood full of racist kids

See me walkin down the street for them it wasn't logical
Told em that I live here, they told me that's impossible

- Kelsie: Passion 3rd verse

My passion runs deep inside me- so close to the surface.

And I hide from myself for who?

You?

Still a child and yet I'm tired. Tired of being tried and found guilty.

Guilt of blackness. Guilt of female. Guilt of knowing.

What has this done for me?

These chains that still bind-my tongue, my mind, my heart.

Why spare the world my passion?

- Ending, Ben: Harmony, 1st verse

We are here to celebrate a man who took a grand stand with confidence and perseverance in his swollen hands. He got for nothing, there wasn't any reason. Just because he's gone don't mean we gotta stop believing.

MLK Celebration 2011 Performance Script		
Approx Time	Performance Details	Length
12:00	MLK Video and BSU Step Team Processional	2 minute
12:02	SOU BSU Step Team Show	5 minutes
12:10	MC Welcome Remarks and Show is live streaming to CultureWorks and everywhere on ashlandhome.us thanks to Ashland TV. Thank you to VETS	
INTRO SOU BSU Still need list of performers		
INTRO Walker Wolf Pack Chorus from Walker Elementary will sing: “The Dream of Martin Luther King” written by Merle Gartrell and students of Cummings Elementary School. Accompanied by educator and chior director, Andrew Brock, on guitar		
12:15	Wolf Pack Chorus from Walker Elementary	5 minutes
12:20	12:20 MC thank yous	
12:25	Welcome to Medford Group. Ask them to stand. Something about how it's great that we are celebrating as a Rogue Valley.	2 minutes
INTRO Ashland High-school film production from students Kay-Lynn Finwall, TI-Lah Grey, and Sierra Houk. They asked students what MLK's message meant in their lives today		
12:27	Ashland High School Video	5 minutes
12:30	12:30 MC Thanks for Canned Donations and Intro	
INTRO This is the Martin Luther King Day Celebration Chior made up of community members from Medford, Ashland, Talent, and the Orgeon Shakespeare Company. Dircected by Shawn Traub. Accompianist Cameron ????. Soloists, Jade Watt and Sarah Jane Nelson		
12:35	MLK Celebration Chior singing Seasons of Love	5 minutes
12:40	12:40 MC ask for donations and intro keynote	

INTRO KEYNOTES Magdaleno Rose-Avila of the Social Justice Fund in Seattle. Living as a migrant worker at the age of 11 gave Rose-Avila the drive to support workers' rights. He organized workers in Colorado and eventually became a spokesperson for Cesar Chavez's United Farm Workers Union. He also was a leading voice in the Chicano Movement that emerged during the Civil Rights era. He has been a director in the Peace Corps, worked for the Democratic National Committee, Colorado Legal Services and The Colorado Migrant Council and taught sociology at several Colorado colleges. From 1985 to 1993, Rose-Avila held positions for the Nobel Peace Prize-winning human rights organization Amnesty International USA.

	Keynote Address	10 minutes
12:50	12:50 MC Thank You and Intro	
<p>INTRO <i>David & Gabe Young and others. One Day by Matisyahu</i> One Day is a song by Hasidic Jewish reggae singer Matisyahu, and first released in 2009, his first single since Jerusalem (Out of the Darkness Comes Light). The song was also included as a last-minute addition to Matisyahu's album Light. The song expresses a hope for an end to violence and a prayer for a new era of peace and understanding. It appeared on the Modern Rock Chart at number 21 and at number 38 on the US Rock Chart, also in March 2010 it debuted on Billboard Hot 100 at number 90 and reached number 85. The song was featured on the video game NBA 2K10, which was released October 6, 2009. In an interview with Matisyahu "'One Day' is the song I've been wanting to make since I started my career," Matisyahu tells Spinner. "It is an anthem of hope with a big beat, the kind of song that makes you bob your head and open your heart at the same time."</p>		
12:52	David & Gabe Young. Matusyahu One Day	5 minutes
12:57	MLK Video	2 minutes
1:00	MC Thank You and Intro	

INTRO Ashland High School's MSU Multicultural Student Union featuring members are Gladys Vasquez, Ben Baden, Christina Johnson, Ari Falkner, Kelsie Henderson (co president) with original spoken word and rap, and poetry from *Temporary Poem Of My Time*, by Yehuda Amichai .

	MSU Spoken Work Piece	5 minutes
1:10	MC Thank You	

INTRO Liquid Fire Mantra is a fusion of dance, theatre, and circus. founded by Forest Schrodt in 1997 in Ashland Oregon. LFM has performed world wide at major music events, festival, weddings, private events and the OSF Green Show. Traveling to, Bali Indonesia, LFM has studied Balinese dance and is greatly influenced by the Balinese ritual theatre. Liquid Fire Mantra is also trained in modern dance with methods of Bill Evans, Martha Graham, Bartenieff Fundamentals. In addition, study of Frey Faust's Axis Syllabus, Belly dance, Salsa, Swing, Nia, Kung Fu, Aikido, and many years of yoga. Liquid Fire Mantra's passion in life is expressed through memorable performances that invoke hope and inspiration.

1:15	Liqued Fire Mantra	5 minutes
1:15	1:15 MC Thank You and Song	

INTRO Las Colibri, Female Mariachi trio featured in OSF's production of Measure for Measure. Music from Susie Garcia and Michael Keck

	Las Colibri	5 minutes
	MLK Video	1 min
1:20	1:20 MC Thank You and Intro	

INTRO Natalie Tyler

1:25	Natalie Tyler's Story	6 min
	MLK Celebration Chior "We Shall Overcome"	4 min
1:30	1:30 MC Closing remarks	