

2012 Martin Luther King jr Day Celebration report



Claudia's personal notes: This year was one of the smoothest and well produced. The acts were almost uniformly excellent and the process to get to the high quality was less tie intensive on my part. Big successes include the start of the Rogue Valley Gospel Choir. The group was started by Shawn Traub inspired by the slapdash choir we put together last year he created an interdenominational choir that sings real gospel music. Crater High School Flag Team and Teen Theatre collaboration was ambitious, clever, and fun, and at the end rather poignant. The players worked the line doping silly clowning. The skit on stage was about one of the clowns being oppressed by the pother clowns and the entire thing was metaphorical and ridiculous and quite effective. They had images of Dr. King being projected on the flags and had some tumbling as well as acting.

The mega-choir was put together by Kirby Shaw a local arranger and choir director. The group is made up of many different choirs. It was as promised gigantic and they looked great. Kirby wanted to do 3 numbers and had trouble understanding that we do one number per group. We had the in the show as well as singing at the plaza and that turned out well. Their sound is rather canned but it fit into the show well. We didn't need them and the Gospel Choir but we had to support the gospel group on their first outing and frankly their sound was the one the audience had been demanding.



This is the first year the Ashland Danceworks piece has really come into its own. Very impressive! Lots of flipping, and the audience screamed and people cried. There's a young dancer Jada, in the group who is really talented. The Latino Student Union form SOU did the "I have a dream speech" in Spanish. It took me visiting them 3 times and really lighting a fire to get this piece put together. The final product was something to be proud of.

Acknowledging the city politicians was awkward because many didn't show up. We acknowledged empty chairs. Ashland Food Project did a great performance. I met with their organizers a few times at the top. This was a minimal amount of time I invested for a very strong community showing. They had video, speakers, kids. Very strong.

The keynote was extremely sincere. She is not a practiced public speaker but she is doing good work in this community. This was another place in the program where I saw audience members tear up.

Ben Baden wrote an original rap about Martin Luther King. These are always a hit. He takes notes well. His friend DJ Omari is difficult to communicate with. It was very hard to find OSF Company to be

involved this year. Delanna Studi agreed to speak and did a moving speech from Tecumseh. This helped us to honor our Native American community as well as continue to share other stories of people fighting for justice and equality.

Having a huge choir to greet us at the plaza is a great piece of programming that we should continue to do. The connection to the Medford celebration was totally lost this year. I attended their event as usual. We finally had a program that began on time and ended on time. This is the balance we should be looking for each year. This was also a year with some great new committee members. Some of the people who have been volunteering for 15+ years are beginning to be burnt out so the new blood is great. The only issue I foresee is that I tend to pull from an OSF pool and having more community members is important. The SOU people I've pulled in seem to have a lot of turnaround and tend to leave the valley after a year or two.

Using carpenter hall as our overflow space has pluses and minuses. It's nice to have a space we control and know that the connection will be consistent. The show on stage needs better lighting if we want the video to really work. Audience reacted as if the secondary space was very far away. It's too bad the Innerchild Café/Culture Works space is out of business. A few blocks does make a difference. The space was used very well by the choir members and that was a plus.



T-shirt image designed by Sandy Phillips

Martin Luther King, Jr. 2012 Press Release

Ashland's 24th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Celebration Scheduled

Mary Farrell of Maslow Project to be keynote speaker

Ashland, Ore.—The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Celebration committee has scheduled the annual celebration for 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. Monday, January 16 at the Historic Ashland Armory in downtown Ashland. The keynote speaker will be Mary Farrell, founder and executive director of the Maslow Project in Medford, Oregon.

The event is free, but those attending are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for donation to Ashland Food Project.

Please note that American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters will be available.

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, Southern Oregon University, Jefferson Public Radio and City of Ashland. Master of Ceremonies of the celebration is D. L. Richardson, professor of journalism at SOU.

Claudia Alick, producer of the event, says that “the event, as always, resonates with current national conversations and the passions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We continue to draw inspiration from his words, ‘Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or the darkness of destructive selfishness.’”

Keynote speaker Mary Farrell was born and raised in the Rogue Valley. She graduated from Southern Oregon University and began working with homeless children and families through the Medford School District. After several years of street outreach and case management, she founded the Maslow Project as a “youth centric” one-stop resource center where kids access basic needs and supportive services in one location. The Maslow Project has received national recognition for its program model serving homeless youth and has been featured internationally in media outlets such as The New York Times, BBC, 20/20, and MTV. Farrell continues to serve the community on various task forces and is in Class XXIV of the American Leadership Forum of Oregon.

As in the past, this year’s event offers a variety of tributes to Dr. King and his enduring legacy through music, spoken word and dance. Among those participating are the Crater High School Flag Team in conjunction with Teen Theatre, Ashland Danceworks, a choir directed by Kirby Shaw, Rogue Valley Gospel Choir, OSF actor DeLanna Studi, Ben Badden and DJ Omari.

At the conclusion of the event at the Armory, the Black Student Union at SOU will lead a march to the Plaza for a song by a choir and for a re-broadcast of the “I Have a Dream” speech by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Seating is always limited and available on a first-come basis. The doors will open at 11:30 a.m., however, each year the event reaches standing room only by 12 noon.

All ages are welcome but parents are urged to stay with their children during the event.

MLK Celebration 2012 Performance Script	
Time	Performance Details
11:00	Pre-Show entertainment-- Crater High School Flag Team and Teen Theatre
11:30	Doors Open
	Video of Martin Luther King jr Monument from Michelle Zundel
11:50	Matthew Reynolds -Crater High School Flag team -collaborating with Teen Theatre
12:00	MC Welcome Remarks and Intro
	<i>"Crater High School's Flag Team and Lotus Rising Project's Teen Theatre will be performing a dance of discrimination, integration and how one small thing can make a world of difference."</i>
	<i>Martin Luther King Day Celebration Mega-Choir, directed by Dr. Kirby Shaw is a collaboration from members of many different choirs and ensembles from around the valley</i>
12:05	Kirby Shaw--MEGA Choir.-" Common Ground"
12:10	MC thanks committee members and Intro
	Claudia Alick, Michelle Zundel, Kevin Bendaw, Kathy Scott, Jess Carr, Chris Wood, John and Natalie Tyler, Cynthia Maclaren, Ben Cobb, Gina DuQuenne, Paul Collins, Cassandra Phillips (designed T-shirts)
	<i>Ashland Danceworks is a group of young local dancers 9-18years of age. Performing an eclectic mixture of dance styles to Yolanda Adams-- I Believe.</i>
12:15	Aisha Wand's Ashland Danceworks
12:20	MC Thank you's and Intro
	<i>The Southern Oregon University Latino Student Union's mission is to support grand Latino culture arising on campus and together build a spacious environment where we can discuss our differences, goals, and most especially educate students about our culture</i>
12:25	SOU Latino Student Union "I Have a Dream"
12:30	Acknowledgment of Local Politicians
	City council members attending Greg Lemhouse, Dennis Slattery, Carol Voisen, Russ Silbiger, and Ashland Mayor

12:35	MC intro keynote
	<i>Mary Ferrell is the founder and Executive Director of Maslow Project. Born and raised in Medford, Oregon, Mary graduated from Southern Oregon University and began working with homeless children and families through the Medford School District. After several years of street outreach and case management, Mary founded Maslow Project as a “youth centric” one-stop resource center where kids could access basic needs and supportive services all in one location. Maslow Project has received national recognition for its program model serving homeless youth and has been featured internationally in media outlets such as New York Times, BBC, 20/20, and MTV. Mary continues to serve the community on various task forces and is in Class XXIV of the American Leadership Forum of Oregon.</i>
12:40	Keynote Address
12:45	MC Thank You and Intro
	<i>The Legend performed and written by Ben Baden, music from DJ Omari founder of Redant Souljahs</i>
12:50	Ben Baden and DJ Omari- original Rap about MLK jr
12:55	MLK Video 35 sec. Poor People’s speech
1:00 AM	MC Intro
	<i>"The Neighborhood Food Project is a unique way to build community by sharing food... a simple, successful system of a neighbor-to-neighbor food collection every other month, which gets delivered to local food banks to help ensure that no one in our community goes hungry.</i>
1:05 PM	Ashland Food Project (with video)
1:10 PM	MC Thank You, Song, and intro
	<i>Oregon Shakespeare Festival company actor in Romeo and Juliet and The Very Merry Wives of Windsor, Iowa. She’s a recipient of a Best Actress American Indian Film Award and Best Supporting Actress First Americans in the Arts Award (Showtime’s Edge of America); a Best Supporting Actress - American Indian Film Institute, American Indian Film Award, and First American in the Arts Award (Dreamkeeper, Hallmark). She is Chair, Screen Actors Guild President’s National Task Force for American Indians.</i>
	<i>Tecumseh, was a military leader of the Shawnee and a large tribal confederacy that opposed the United States during Tecumseh's War and the War of 1812. This is Tecumseh's Speech to His People as read by DeLanna Studi (Cherokee)</i>

1:15 PM	DeLanna Studi (OSF Acting Company member)- speech by Tecumseh
1:20 PM	MC Intro and Reverend Shuttlesworth Tribute
	<i>The Rogue Valley Gospel Group is comprised of 13 seasoned professional musicians and singers from 6 different churches across the valley. They have a passion for spreading the message of God's love to ALL people through contemporary gospel music. RVGG considers it an honor celebrate this day with you and will be performing the cross-over hit "Shackles" performed originally by Mary Mary.</i>
1:25 PM	Rogue Valley Gospel Group
1:30	MC End remarks and intro of Black Student Union leading a march to the plaza
1:30	Kirby Shaw--MEGA Choir--" Keepin' The Dream Alive (MLK theme). AND MLK "I have a Dream" speech broadcast from van in entirety. DL Hosts.
notes	<i>All start and end times are estimations.</i>

Thank you list MLK Celebration 2012

Sponsors

- Ashland School District
- Oregon Shakespeare Festival
- Southern Oregon University
- Jefferson Public Radio
- City of Ashland
- DL Richardson, Master of Ceremonies
- Alan DeBoer, donating the use of the Armory
- Randy Voris, audio and lighting technician
- Ashland Food Project collection of donated food
- Ashland Emergency Food Bank and ACCESS distribution of the food
- Ashland Printfast producing the poster
- Deluxe Awning Company maintenance of our street banner
- SOU's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program

- Earth Shirtz
- Martolli's Pizza

MLK committee

Claudia Alick, Michelle Zundel, Kevin Bendaw, Kathy Scott, Jess Carr, Chris Wood, John and Natalie Tyler, Cynthia Maclaren, Ben Cobb, Gina DuQuenne, Paul Collins, Cassandra Phillips (designed T-shirts)

- Howard Schreiber for video assistance
- Keith Maclaren and Matt Damon for chair transportation

Sign interpreters Ila Sachs, Lissa Roberts, Molly Kingsley-Holzshu, Denise Wilson

House Assistance and other volunteers

- State of Jefferson Returned Peace Corps Volunteers
- Ashland High School students and parents
- Sharifa Johka
- Julie Simon
- City council members attending Greg Lemhouse, Dennis Slattery, Carol Voisen, Russ Silbiger, and Ashland Mayor

Martin Luther King

Celebration Mega-Choir

Directed by Dr. Kirby Shaw

Performance: January 16th, 2012

Noon-1:00pm

Historic Ashland Armory

208 Oak Street

*Come help us
make a great
big joyful noise!*

Two rehearsals with Dr. Shaw on January 8th & 15th at 7pm

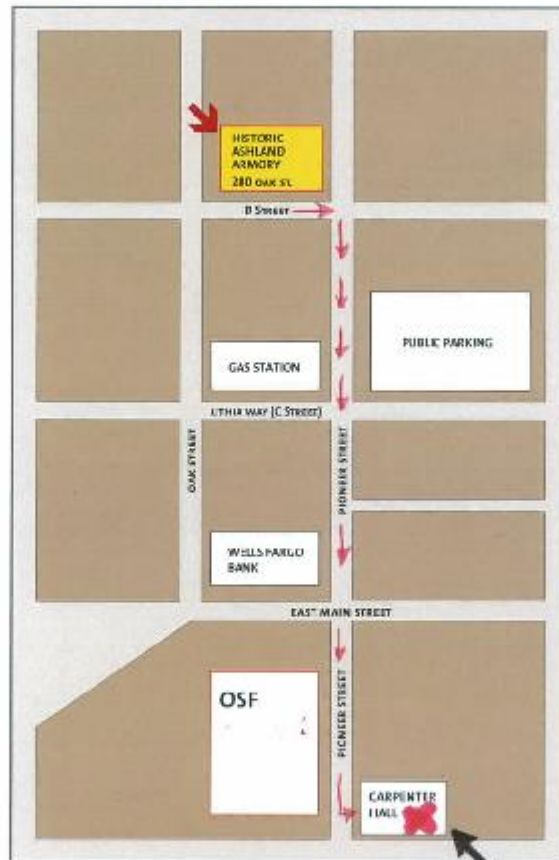
Sheet music & MP3 practice recordings available online

For more information e-mail leannepetrone@charter.net

Jeely Davis



Martin Luther King Jr. City Celebration
Directions to second venue
January 16, 2012



Second Venue: Carpenter Hall

OSF's Carpenter Hall
15 S. Pioneer St.
blue building @ cross roads of pioneer st and hargadine st