

## MORNING RALLY (GARFIELD HIGH SCHOOL, 23RD & JEFFERSON, SEATTLE)

[Photo credit: Seattle PI  
"The Leschi Elementary Choir performs during a march  
and rally on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day." Photo: Joshua  
Trujillo, Seattlepi.com]

**Leschi School Choir** of K-5 students led by **Debbie Cavitt**. These children have obviously worked hard and put their hearts into their performance!

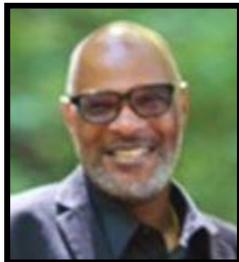


**County Councilmember Larry Gossett**, chaired the MLK Celebration Committee for many years. His office in the King County Courthouse is in the same location that his prison cell was in when he was arrested for unlawful assembly during a sit-in at Franklin High School on March 29, 1968. He was a founder of the UW Black Student Union, and has helped students in High Schools and Middle Schools to organize BSU's.

**DeCharlene Williams** is a longtime member of the MLK Celebration Committee. She is an entrepreneur who owned and operated her own boutique. She also is the founder of the Central Area Chamber of Commerce.



Photo Credit: The



Invocation by **Pastor George Noble**. He is co-founder of Restoration Bible Church. His preaching style includes careful explanation of scripture combined with his signature sense of humor. He holds an earned Doctorate of Philosophy in Biblical Studies from International Bible College and Seminary.

**Chandler Williams** will lead singing "Lift Every Voice", known as "The Black National Anthem."

We appreciate the many **public officials** who come to this event to honor Dr. King and to rededicate themselves to the unfinished work: ending racism, poverty, and war.



**Jenny A. Durkan** is the 56th Mayor of Seattle and the first woman to lead the City in nearly a century. She entered office on November 28, 2017 with the challenge of making Seattle affordable and inclusive for all. She is focused on the housing affordability crisis, helping those experiencing homelessness, creating economic opportunity for all, and providing free college tuition to Seattle’s high school graduates - while also delivering on basic city services. Prior to becoming Mayor, Durkan was a civic leader and nationally-recognized attorney. From 2009 to 2014, she served as the U.S. Attorney for the Western

District of Washington, becoming the first openly gay U.S. Attorney in our country’s history.

**Gerald Hankerson** is the president of the Seattle King County NAACP. He became an activist while incarcerated, working against violence and racism in prison. He is a prolific speaker with a special interest in preventing youth from getting involved in violence.



**Clifton Wyatt** is a longtime member of the MLK Celebration Committee.

[photo credit Susan Fried]

**Claudia Kauffman**, (Nez Perce), is the Intergovernmental Affairs Liaison for the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe. She served in the WA State Senate from 2007 – 2011. Claudia is a founding member of Native Action Network, civic engagement, community and leadership development non-profit organization. She has been foster mother to ten foster children, and advocates for foster children, developmental disabilities, and the improvement of our education system. Claudia is a graduate of Northwest Indian College and lives in Kent, WA, with her husband Larry Cordier and is mother to three children.



**Kristen Beifus** is representing Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action (PSARA). She is honored to be an Executive Board member and co-chair of PSARA's Environmental Justice Committee. PSARA is dedicated to preserving and expanding the Social Security and Medicare systems to insure that all people enjoy economic security, dignity, and respect in their senior years. PSARA is working to mainstream racial, gender, economic, and climate justice through all of our work.

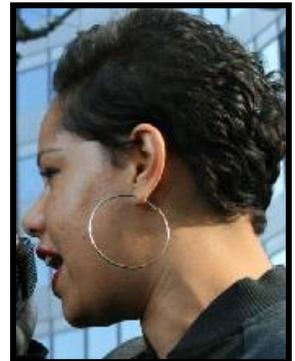


Kristen is also a Community Organizer with UFCW 21, believing that all work has dignity and all workers are worthy of respect. Kristen is committed to a labor movement that advocates for racial and gender equity in our workplaces and our communities.



**Momma Nikki** is a local artist who is no stranger to the arts. You name it, she does it or knows someone who does. She is the co-creator and Host of a local monthly poetry slam & artist showcase, RingSide. She is also a vocalist & MC in her band, Holy Pistola. Whether it's poetry or music, she will always have something that will have you sitting on the edge of your seat wanting just a little more. She is currently working on a few video projects, as well as just released her solo EP last month titled, "Dead-icated To: Side A." She is also a part of the founding group that became The Peoples Party.

**Nikkita Oliver** is a Seattle-based creative, teaching artist, attorney, and organizer. Her writing has appeared in the South Seattle Emerald, Crosscut, the Establishment, and the Stranger. Oliver holds a J.D. and Masters of Education from the University of Washington. She is also the case manager for Creative Justice, an arts-based alternative to incarceration, and has worked for arts organizations such as Writers in the Schools and Arts Corp.



Nikkita is the recipient of the 2017 City Arts Artists of the Year, Gender Justice Power Award (2017), Seattle King County NAACP Leadership Award (2017), Community Legal Services Imagine Justice Visionary of the Year (2017), the University of Washington Women's Law Caucus Outstanding Achievement as a Young Lawyer Award (2017), the Seattle Office of Civil Rights Artist Human Rights Leader Award (2015), and the 2014 Seattle Poetry Slam Grand Champion. She has opened for Cornel West and Chuck D of Public Enemy and performed on The Late Night Show with Stephen Colbert. She is also the first political candidate of the Seattle Peoples Party; running for Mayor of Seattle in 2017 where she finished in 3rd (of 21 of candidates).

**Rabbi Ruth A. Zlotnick** is the Senior Rabbi at Temple Beth Am, a Reform synagogue in Seattle's Ravenna neighborhood. Rabbi Zlotnick has been described by her community as a teacher of Torah and Jewish values and is beloved for her gifts of knowledge, leadership and counsel, inspirational worship services, and creative programming. Rabbi Zlotnick teaches, practices, and encourages the Jewish value of tikkun olam (to repair the world) through her social justice and advocacy work.

### **AFTERNOON RALLY, (WESTLAKE PARK, 4TH & PINE DOWNTOWN SEATTLE)**



**Jerrell "RELL BE FREE" Davis** is a proud product of the South End of Seattle. He brings creative artistry, transformative education and radical activism together thru his music and organizing throughout the city. WA-BLOCxSeattle Peoples PartyxRainier Beach Action Coalition

**Jimmy Matta** is one of two newly elected Latino members of the Burien City Council, winning his seat in a fiercely fought contest. He is the son of immigrants from Guatemala who came to the US in the 1970s. Raised as a farmer worker, Jimmy has fought for social justice and equality since he was a kid. He believes that keeping Dr. King's dream alive will only be possible if we keep being involved in the struggle.

**Young Women Empowered. Nasra Ali** will be representing Y-WE. She is a participant in the Youth Leadership Council of Young Women Empowered. Nasra is 16 years old. She is a junior at Shorecrest High School. A goal of hers is to work at a teen hotline sometime in the near future. She feels most empowered when she's taking part in something that she knows will bring joy and happiness to my life and the lives of others.



**Dadabass (Owuar & Genevia).** Dadabass feat. The Sultan of Swag. Kenyan born Seattle Raised sister and brother Genevia And Owuor Arunga work closely together to deliver messages and sounds intertwining taking the best from poetry, jazz and Hip hop. Covering topics of community building self respect women empowerment and being black in America. Genevia is the main vocals and Owuor the sound behind the vocals, they bring instrumentation and education to every stage.

**Sibusiso (meaning Blessing) Prosper Ndhlovu**, is an eleven-year-old public speaker and who also shines shoes to sponsor underprivileged kids in Africa. He is being raised by a proud single mother Phetheni Ndhlovu from South Africa and is being mentored by Team Issachar from Mount Zion Church in Seattle. Photo by Susan Fried, from The Skanner.



**Bill North** says "I was born and raised in Seattle. I was a charter member of CAYA(Central Area Youth Association), Board member at Madison YMCA, initiated the RBI (Reviving Baseball in the Inner City) a major league baseball sponsored program with Joe Staton and Rev. McKinney (Mt. Zion Baptist Church), the Seattle Mariners, and Rotary Boys and Girls Club. Active in mentoring and speaking to youth in our community. Honored by Northwest African- American Museum, also with Joe Staton. Am currently involved with Garfield Golden Grads at the Leschi School. Kids are my passion and their development is paramount to me."

**Alex & Alex.** **Alex Enger** is an enchilada-loving multi instrumentalist and blues vocalist from Renton, WA. Receiving his first guitar at 13, He spent his first few years too afraid to play for anyone other than his bedroom door, until forming his first band with musicians met through martial arts training at 16. Over the 8 years since, Alex has grown to running his own open Mic program, releasing albums, and performing around the Pacific Northwest.



**Alex Gonzalez** is an R&B musician born and raised in Seattle, and has been singing for almost 20 years. He began singing mariachi music before he even started school, and developed his voice further singing in church through his youth. As a young adult, Alex joined a local open Mic program where he honed his performance skills after picking up guitar from his best friend in high school, and through the years has grown to be a leading musical force and inspiration in the community. Alex is now working passionately to craft his own original music.



**Elijah Lewis** attends Rainer Beach High School. In his words: "I'm a young activist that is actively fighting for my community, by speaking by out and informing others to become young leaders. My plan is to reverse some of the negative effects of gentrification, and speak for those who are silent. The time is now to stand on what you believe in."

**ReWA Youth.** "Refugee Women's Alliance (ReWA) is an award-winning, nationally recognized nonprofit that provides holistic services to help refugee and immigrant women and families thrive." ... "ReWA's Youth Program is committed to providing high quality, culturally relevant services that develop the whole youth. Our mission is to support students in developing and accomplishing their individual goals so that they perform academically in school, pursue their unique passions and interests, and develop deep feelings of self-worth, belonging, curiosity, and investment in their communities."



The ReWA youth will be performing a spoken word poem in honor of MLK's legacy. They are all students at Franklin High School and participants in the Refugee Women's Alliance (ReWA) Youth Leadership Institute. Their names are: **Solome Yohanes**, **Nayseth Quiroz**, **Hamda Hassan**, and **Selamawit Demile**.