

PREVIOUS CELEBRATIONS

2016

The 34th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration with Workshops, Rally and March January 18, 2016

**WE HAVE THE POWER
TO MAKE CHANGE**

WORKSHOP ON SOCIAL JUSTICE TEACHING: VIDEO AND ARTICLE now available

If you didn't make to the workshop "The Need For Social Justice Teaching - and the Obstacles Such Education Faces" by Jon Greenberg, Sharon H. Chang, and Rogelio Rigor, or want to see it again, you can access a video of the entire workshop at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNT5sIBlhic>

One of the workshop presenters, Sharon H. Chang, wrote an article published in the The Seattle Globalist, "Why We Need to Save Social Justice Teaching" available at <http://www.seattleglobalist.com/2016/01/21/save-social-justice-teaching-seattle-public-schools-greenberg-rigor/46598>, with links to more resources

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MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE SEATTLE MLK CELEBRATION

Real Change newspaper featured the a photo of the MLK Celebration March on its front page in the Jan 20, 2016 edition, see <http://realchangenews.org/issue/january-20-2016>. More great photos were inside the issue. We thank Real Change also for donating display ads announcing the event!

There was also a front page photo in The Skanner, Jan. 20, 2016, see <http://www.theskanneronline.com/app.php?bookcode>
And don't miss the lovely photo of Eddie Rye, Jr., with Sen. Patty Murray on page 7 of that paper. Eddie is a co-founder of the MLK Celebration

committee. Eddie was honored with the Skanner Foundation's Drum Major for Justice award for his long-time community activism.

A radio story about the MLK Celebration (by Joshua McNichols on KUOW, Jan 18, 2016) featured the workshop led by Elmer Dixon "A Call to Action: Addressing the Dis-proportionality in Incarceration of Black, Latino and Native American Youth in King County." See <http://kuow.org/post/seattle-activists-turn-outrage-action-mlk-day>

Before MLK day, the Seattle Times published this article "Seattle MLK celebration's younger leaders bring new priorities" by Nina Shapiro (Seattle Times, Jan. 17, 2016)
<http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/seattle-mlk-celebrations-younger-leaders-bring-new-priorities/>

And here's the S.T. article on the rally and march, with 7 photos on the website, "Speakers at King rally: Much work left to be done" by Janet I. Tu, (Seattle Times, web posted Jan. 18, 2016, print edition Jan. 19, 2016)
<http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/speakers-at-king-rally-much-work-left-to-be-done/>

[Click here for Jan. 2016 Flyer designed by local artist Al Doggett !](#)

**Monday, January 18, 2016,
starts at Garfield High School,
400 23rd Avenue
at East Jefferson, Seattle**

9:30-10:50 a.m. [Workshops](#) (Jan. 2016) in high school classrooms

Photo below by Susan Fried: Senator Patty Murray attended the workshop session. Here she is shown sharing a light moment with MLK Celebration Committee Co-founder Eddie Rye (center) and 2016 Committee Co-Chair Bobby Alexander. At left and right are committee members Wesley Hawkens and Marilyn Tukes. Eddie was honored with the Skanner Foundation's Drum Major for Justice award for his long-time community activism.



**11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. [Rally](#)
with speakers, poetry, and music in the Gymnasium (Jan. 2016)**

A capacity crowd filled the Garfield HS gymnasium with many more people assembled outside to participate in the march. Photo by Susan Fried.



Below: Planning Committee Co-chair Bobby Alexander addresses the crowd about the meaning of our Celebration. Photo by Susan Fried.



**12:30 p.m. March to Jackson Federal Building,
2nd & Madison, downtown Seattle**

**~1:45 p.m. Outside [Rally](#) at Federal Building (Jan. 2016), time
approximate**

**1:30 - 4 p.m. [Updated 1/16/16!](#)
[Click for Details](#)**

**[Information and Opportunity Fair
at Garfield High School, Seattle
\(Jan. 2016\)](#)**

[info on education, job training and more](#)

[2015/2016 MLK Celebration Committee Leadership](#)

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2015

The 33rd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Rally and March

**The Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee 2015 theme was:
Fight for Your Rights in 2015!**

[Click here for 2015 flyer \(pdf\)](#)

King County's 33rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration!

This year's theme to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy is Fight
For Your Rights in 2015!

WHEN: Monday, January 19, 2015

Workshops – 9:00 to 9:50 AM

[Click here for the list of Jan. 2015 workshops](#) (updated 1/13/15 with room
numbers and participants)

[Click Here for Details of Jan. 2015 Rallies](#)

Rally – 10:00AM to 11:00AM

Pre-March Speakers– 11:00 to 12:00 PM

March leaves Garfield HS -- 12:00PM

WHERE: Garfield High School (23rd and E. Jefferson St, Seattle)

We are honored to be joined this year by **keynote speaker Jelani Brown, a young man from Ferguson, Missouri**, who was involved in the organizing in response to the police killing of an unarmed Black teenager Mike Brown. He will speak about his experiences growing up in the St. Louis area, organizing his community since Mike Brown's death, and a vision of this movement going forward.

Seattle has one of the largest annual Martin Luther King Day Celebrations in the U.S. We honor the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., for his work toward racial equality and toward economic justice for all people, for his commitment to nonviolence, and for his stand against war and militarism.

Our theme this year "**Fight for Your Rights in 2015!**" reflects the unfinished work and our commitment to working toward Dr. King's goals. As

Dr. King said, "Three hundred years of humiliation, abuse and deprivation cannot be expected to find voice in a whisper."

Equally important to Dr. King, in addition to demanding equal rights, was to conduct the struggle in a principled manner, with **self-disciplined activists using nonviolent means**. Speaking proudly of the demonstrations in Birmingham, Dr. King said that some spectators had thrown bottles, "But the demonstrators remained nonviolent. In the face of this resolution and bravery, the moral conscience of the nation was deeply stirred."

Education was a big part of all of Dr. King's campaigns, for instance he said in 1961, "In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, such as 'right to work.' It is a law to rob us of our civil rights and job rights. Its purpose is to destroy labor unions ... "

In 1959, Dr. King made this **call to the struggle**, "As June approaches, with its graduation ceremonies and speeches, a thought suggests itself... Whatever career you may choose for yourself—doctor, lawyer, teacher—let me propose an avocation to be pursued along with it. Become a dedicated fighter for civil rights. Make it a central part of your life. It will make you a better doctor, a better lawyer, a better teacher. It will enrich your spirit as nothing else possibly can. It will give you that rare sense of nobility that can only spring from love and selflessly helping your fellow man . Make a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle for human rights. You will make a greater person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in."

If Dr. King were alive today, he would be urging us all to **"Fight for Your Rights in 2015!"**

Information: Eddie Rye, Jr., 206-786-2763

[Click Here for 2015 event flyer](#)

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2014

2013-2014 was the last year Larry Gossett chaired the Committee. He served on the Committee for over 20 years. The new Executive team was elected at the February meeting. The new Executive Team:

James Williams, Chair; Larry Tukes, Vice Chair; Renita Borders, Secretary; Julie Horowitz, Treasurer; Lacy Steele, Parliamentarian.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee 2014 theme was Rise Up! Restore the Dream!

The 32nd annual region-wide Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration was a huge success with nearly 6,000 participants! Continue to be active in your local and national communities to rise up and restore Dr. King's vision. The Committee will begin planning the 2015 salute to Dr. King in October 2014.

"The problem of racism, the problem of economic exploitation, and the problem of war are all tied together. These are the triple evils that are interrelated."

-Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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