20th ANNUAL

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Holiday Observance AND Sunrise Celebration

January 28, 2019
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Note from the Co-Chairs ................................................................. 3
- Historical Reflection: Virginia B. Moore ........................................ 4
- Historical Reflection: Satia Marshall Orange .................................... 6
- Today’s Program ............................................................................. 8
- Keynote Speaker: Dr. Jeanne Theoharis .......................................... 11
- Call-to-Action Speaker: Dr. Loriene Roy .......................................... 12
- Musical Talent: Jason Turner .......................................................... 13
- “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing” ............................................................. 14
- “We Shall Overcome” .................................................................... 16
The 20th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Observance and Sunrise Celebration is sponsored by the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Task Force of the ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table, the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, the ALA Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services, Beacon Press, and OCLC.

Thank you to all co-sponsors for their support of this morning’s event!
NOTE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

We’d like to first welcome and thank you for joining us in celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., via the Martin Luther King Jr. Sunrise Celebration. This joyous and festive occasion has become synonymous with ALA Midwinter Meeting. For many of us—it’s an essential event each year. As we observe our 20th celebration, we look back on our humble beginnings during the first observance that took place in 2000 in San Antonio. As Dr. E.J. Josey delivered the first of many keynotes by respected scholars/authors who have come to be an integral part of the celebration, his focus on equity of access tied librarianship to issues of social justice. Since then, issues of social justice have been at the forefront of the celebration. Whether it’s related to issues of access in libraries, or the injustices of crime and punishment in our great land, the Celebration has served as a catalyst to inspire, motivate, and galvanize librarians and library workers, from all over, to be the version of themselves that advocates for the rights of others. Librarians have the capacity to do this through their everyday tasks, whether it involves welcoming patrons of all backgrounds to your facilities, or providing materials that speak to the fortunes and/or struggles of the everyday American. The Call-to-Action, delivered by a member of our profession during the celebration, is vital in ensuring that we librarians understand how our institutions not only provide the answers, but often seek the solutions.

Thanks again for 20 great years of honoring the life and work of Dr. King. We look forward to bringing you 20 more years of a celebration that celebrates his life while celebrating our profession.

Thank you!

LaJuan Pringle
Co-Chair, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunrise Celebration
Chair, SRRT, Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Task Force
Charlotte Mecklenburg Library

Andrew “Sekou” Jackson
Co-Chair, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunrise Celebration
Trustee, Queens Library
HISTORICAL REFLECTION:
VIRGINIA B. MOORE

Good morning! Thank you! Special thanks to the Co-Chairs for the invitation to bring greetings on this 20th Anniversary of the American Library Association (ALA), Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT), Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Task Force.

This 20th Anniversary is the best of times to reflect on the origins of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Task Force which began as the National Library Involvement Committee of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission. We express wholehearted gratitude to all of the ALA presidents and officers while honoring the memory of those deceased. The late Dr. E. J. Josey (1984–1985) set up the Committee as part of the American Library Association in 1985 and Patricia Wilson Berger (1989–1990) reactivated the Committee appointing Virginia B. (Ginny) Moore as her Co-Chair in 1990.

While waiting to become part of ALA, the Committee focused on library advocacy, information access, and service to the community. Our accomplishments included preparation and national distribution of a “King Holiday Kit for 1991” for use in school, public, academic, and special libraries as well as churches and community organizations. This highly applauded annual compilation contained contributions from libraries, our Association, and the Federal Holiday Commission. Following the Commission’s Sunset in September 1996, the Committee provided the “King Holiday Kit” through the generosity of Dr. Carla D. Hayden, Librarian of Congress, former Executive Director, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, MD, and ALA President (2003–2004) and Averil J. Kadis, Director (Retired) Public Relations Enoch Pratt Free Library and King Holiday Committee Co-Chair (1997–2000).

None of the Committee accomplishments would have been possible without the leadership and ongoing support of Dr. Lucille C. Thomas, ALA Honorary Member and Co-Chair (1993–1995), Mary Biblo, SRRT Liaison (1991–1996), the late Marvin H. Schilken who sponsored meeting refreshments from 1997
until his death in 1999, and numerous others to whom we will always be grateful. Accordingly, at the Commission’s Sunset, booklets recognizing contributors to the success of the National Library Involvement Committee and a “Certificate of Appreciation” signed by Coretta Scott King were presented at the 1996 ALA Annual Conference in New York.

During the 1999 Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia, Mary Biblo, Marvin Schilken, and Ginny Moore presented the required signatures to SRRT Action Council and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Task Force was accepted at the 1999 ALA Conference in New Orleans. We express profound gratitude to Satia Marshall Orange, Director (Retired), Office for Literacy and Outreach Services (OLOS), who launched the first Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Sunrise Celebration at the 2000 ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Antonio. We recognize her establishment and institutionalization of the Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Sunrise Celebration. Moreover, we extend heartfelt appreciation to Satia Orange, and for continued support of succeeding directors and staff of what is now the Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services (Jody Gray, Director). Accordingly, we extend wholehearted thanks to the Black Caucus of ALA (since 2000), World Book, Inc. (2001–2016), and Random House and Beacon Press (since 2011) for their sponsorship of the celebration over the years.

Along with the Sunrise Celebration, the Task Force began presenting the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Multi-Cultural Idea Exchange at the 2000 ALA Conference to provide a forum and showcase of representative King Holiday observances in all types of libraries. Also, the Task Force participated in the Diversity Fair featuring highlights of the Sunrise Celebration and materials from the Multi-Cultural Idea Exchange.

This 20th Anniversary celebration requires expressing sincere appreciation to the Sunrise Celebration Co-Chairs. Thanks, Andrew Jackson, the longest serving, and author of the reading scripts, and special thanks to LaJuan Pringle, my right arm with the Idea Exchange and my successor as Task Force Chair. Wholehearted congratulations on all achievements! In the coming years, may the words ring true of ALA President Michael Gorman (2005–2006) in his “President’s Message” in the 2006 American Libraries: The Sunrise Celebration is the best representation I know of hope and optimism with which the ALA rainbow confronts the future.” May the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Task Force live up to its potential and promise.
HISTORICAL REFLECTION: SATIA MARSHALL ORANGE

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated April 4, 1968.

Four days later, US Congressional Representative John Conyers (D-Mich.) introduced a bill to establish a national holiday, but it never came to a vote. A follow-up campaign advocating national recognition involved Mrs. Coretta Scott King testifying before Congress, Senator Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) re-kindling the Congressional effort, inspirational soul singer Stevie Wonder releasing the song, “Happy Birthday To Ya,” and 7 million signatures demanding the holiday. In 1974 President Ronald Reagan signed the bill, designating the national holiday in January annually in every state. The holiday is now recognized nationally and in more than 100 countries around the world.

The first Sunrise event, honoring Dr. King, Jr. at the 2000 Midwinter Meeting in Chicago, IL, was sponsored by the Advisory Committee of the ALA Office for Literacy & Outreach Services and the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA). A few years later, American Library Association Council voted to not schedule Midwinter meetings on weekends of the national holiday, so that library leadership could participate in their local library celebrations. World Book, Inc. provided hot beverages and pastries from the beginning.

The annual Midwinter sunrise event initiated the opportunity for the OLOS constituencies, reflecting outreach to underserved populations, to come together to reflect Dr. King’s principles of non-violent social change and racial equality for all. To date, a local musician or group and a pastor are typically involved, and program participants, including the current ALA President, the Executive Director, and leaders of multiple ALA units, are invited to read pre-selected quotes from Dr. King’s interviews, speeches and other publications.

From the beginning, a major speaker, not always a librarian, who focuses on the fair inclusiveness of marginalized populations, has been invited to speak. And in later years, the program
historically closed with The Charge for Librarians, presented by an ALA member, highlighting Dr. King’s legacy and his impact of delivery of services to marginalized people in library communities. The singing of “We Shall Overcome” in a room-sized circle ends the often-emotional event. The one-hour program, from 6:30–7:30 AM, with attendance of 300-plus most years, allows conferees time to go to other meetings and events, scheduled for that morning. Thanks to Gale buses, transportation from several local hotels to the early morning event has assured a large attendance each year.

Initially, I was moved to promote a local observance by Stevie Wonder’s “Happy Birthday to Ya,” as a part of national holiday campaign in the early 70s. I had taken a ‘hiatus’ from the library to open a day care center at a local YMCA. As elsewhere in the country, Winston-Salem, NC parents took their children out of school for a day of information and celebration about Dr. King. I asked local restaurants to provide breakfast, lunch and snacks, and teachers took the day off to lead multiple groups with age-appropriate activities, all before the holiday had a national designation. Later I repeated it as director of the Arthur R. Ashe, Jr. Foreign Policy Library in Washington, DC, and then suggested it to the OLOS Advisory committee when I came to ALA. I’m humbled that it now has a following, so many years later, and its impact on attendees continues.
TODAY’S PROGRAM

Welcome
LaJuan Pringle
Co-Chair, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunrise Celebration

Musical Performance
“Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing”
Performed by Jason Turner

Historical Reflections
Virginia B. Moore
Past Co-Chair of National Library Involvement Committee of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission; Past Chair of SRRT Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Task Force

Satia Marshall Orange
Past Director of ALA Office for Literacy and Outreach Services

Participants
Loida Garcia-Febo
ALA President, 2018–2019

Mary Ghikas
ALA Executive Director

Madeline Peña Feliz
President, National Association to Promote Library & Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking (REFORMA)

Ying Zhang
President, Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA)

Richard Ashby
President, Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA)

Lillian Chavez
President, American Indian Library Association (AILA)
Paolo P. Gujilde  
*President, Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA)*

Jennifer Pearson  
*Representative, Association for Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL)*

Kenneth Yamashita  
*President, Joint Council of Librarians of Color (JCLC)*

Safi Safiullah  
*Chair, ALA Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT)*

Ana Elisa de Campos Salles  
*Chair, ALA Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table (GLBTRT)*

Al Kagan  
*Representative, ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT)*

Shauntee Burns-Simpson  
*Chair, ALA Committee on Diversity*

Martin L. Garnar  
*Chair, ALA Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services Advisory Committee*

**Keynote**

Dr. Jeanne Theoharis  
*Author, A More Beautiful and Terrible History; Distinguished Professor of Political Science, Brooklyn College*

**Musical Performance**

“My Living Will Not Be in Vain”  
*Performed by Jason Turner*

**Participants, cont.**

Kevin Reynolds  
*Chair, ALA Committee on Literacy*

Ismail Abdullahi  
*Chair, ALA Committee on Education*
Paulita Aguilar  
*Chair, ALA Rural, Native, and Tribal Libraries of All Kinds Committee*

Rebecca Crawford  
*ASGCLA Accessibility Assembly*

Mahasin Aleem  
*Spectrum Scholar*

Candice Mack  
*Spectrum Scholar*

Charlene Quach  
*Spectrum Scholar*

Nicole Spoor  
*President, New Members Round Table*

Melissa Cardenas-Dow  
*Co-Chair, ALA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Implementation Working Group*

Martin L. Garnar  
*Co-Chair, ALA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Implementation Working Group*

**Call-to-Action**  
Dr. Loriene Roy  
*Professor, School of Information at the University of Texas at Austin*

**Closing**  
Andrew P. Jackson (Sekou Molefi Baako)  
*Co-Chair, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunrise Celebration*

**Audience Participation**

“We Shall Overcome”
KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
DR. JEANNE THEOHARIS

Jeanne Theoharis is distinguished professor of political science at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York. Dr. Theoharis received her AB in Afro-American studies from Harvard College and her PhD in American culture from the University of Michigan. She is the author or coauthor of seven books and numerous articles on the civil rights and Black Power movements, the politics of race and education, social welfare, and civil rights in post-9/11 America. Her widely acclaimed biography The Rebellious Life of Mrs. Rosa Parks won a 2014 NAACP Image Award and the Letitia Woods Brown Award from the Association of Black Women Historians, and appeared on the New York Times Best Sellers list. Her most recent book, A More Beautiful and Terrible History: The Uses and Misuses of Civil Rights History (Beacon 2018) is “a bracing corrective to a national mythology” (The New York Times) that has been created about the civil rights movement. It won the 2018 Brooklyn Public Library Literary Prize for Nonfiction. Moving from “the histories we get” to “the histories we need,” Theoharis challenges nine key aspects of the fable to reveal the diversity of people, especially women and young people, who led the movement; the work and disruption it took, North and South; the role of the media and “polite racism” in maintaining injustice; and the immense barriers and repression activists faced. Theoharis makes us reckon with the fact that far from being acceptable, passive or unified, the civil rights movement was unpopular, disruptive, and courageously persevering.
CALL-TO-ACTION SPEAKER: DR. LORIENE ROY

Dr. Loriene Roy is Anishinabe, enrolled on the White Earth Reservation, a member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. She is a Professor in the School of Information at the University of Texas at Austin (UT-Austin) where she teaches graduate courses in reference and library instruction. Her graduate course, “Access and Care of Indigenous Cultural Knowledge,” is offered at UT-Austin and the University of Hawaii-Manoa (UH-M). She serves on the Boards for the Library of Congress Literacy Awards, Libraries Without Borders, Tribal College Librarians Institute, National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, and Hui ’Ekolu (UH-M). She was the 1997–1998 President of the American Indian Library Association (AILA) and the 2007–2008 President of the American Library Association.

Her recognitions include the 2015 Distinguished Service Award from AILA; the 2014 Library School Alumni Association Distinguished Alumnus Award, School of Information Sciences, The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; the 2014 Sarah Vann Award, ALA Hawai’i Student Chapter at the UH-Manoa Library & Information Science Program; the 2009 Leadership Award from the National Conference Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums; 2007 State of Texas Senate Proclamation No. 127; 2006 ALA Equality Award; 2007 Library Journal Mover & Shaker; Outstanding 2002 Alumna from the University of Arizona’s School of Information Resources and Library Services; the 2001 Joe and Bettie Branson Ward Excellence Award for Research, Teaching, or Demonstration Activities that Contribute to Changes of Positive Value to Society, two Texas Exes Teaching Awards; and two James W. Vick Texas Excellence Awards for Academic Advisors.

She is the Project Director for “Reaching Those Who Served: Recruiting and Preparing Military Veterans for Careers in Librarianship,” [RE-96-17-0018-17] funded through the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Her current research includes “Reading Nation” and studying the impact of their careers on musicians’ health.
MUSICAL TALENT: JASON TURNER

Renowned musician and vocalist Jason Turner has been involved in the Seattle music scene for years. Since the young age of six with roots in the black church, he has been part of the Pat Wright Total Experience Gospel Choir. As a pianist, organist, drummer, and vocalist, he toured with various bands, including the Sam Smith Band that toured Germany and the Netherlands in the 1990s. He then was part of the nationally-touring R&B recording group Second Nature. They toured the country with their hit song “Can You Show Me” and appeared live on Black Entertainment Television.

Thereafter, he focused back on the church devoting himself to developing a 100-voice choir at the Freedom Church of Seattle. He has played piano and organ for several churches and has returned to the church of his childhood, New Hope Missionary Baptist Church of Seattle, were he currently serves as Minister of Music and Co-Director of the Music Department.

Jason is featured in solo engagements at venues in and around the Seattle area singing solo vocals and playing keyboards. He is a gifted musician and cares deeply about helping people through the ministry of music.
“LIFT EV’RY VOICE AND SING”

Lyrics: James Weldon Johnson; Music: John Rosamond Johnson

Lift ev’ry voice and sing,
’Til earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;

Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on ’til victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast’ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;

Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
’Til now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;

Thou who has by Thy might
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.
“WE SHALL OVERCOME”

Traditional; Derived from “I’ll Overcome Someday,”
by Charles Albert Tindley

We shall overcome, we shall overcome,
We shall overcome someday;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We shall overcome someday.

The Lord will see us through, The Lord will see us through,
The Lord will see us through someday;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We shall overcome someday.

We’re on to victory, we’re on to victory,
We’re on to victory someday;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We’re on to victory someday.
We’ll walk hand in hand, we’ll walk hand in hand,  
We’ll walk hand in hand someday;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,  
We’ll walk hand in hand someday.

We are not afraid, we are not afraid,  
We are not afraid today;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,  
We are not afraid today.

The truth shall make us free, the truth shall make us free,  
The truth shall make us free someday;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,  
The truth shall make us free someday.

We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace,  
We shall live in peace someday;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,  
We shall live in peace someday.