

25TH ANNUAL

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE &
SUNRISE CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024





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The 25th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Observance and Sunrise Celebration is sponsored by OCLC, with additional support 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, and Beacon Press.

**THANK YOU TO ALL CO-SPONSORS FOR THEIR
SUPPORT OF THIS MORNING'S EVENT!**



NOTE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

THANK YOU for joining us as we celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Observance and Sunrise Celebration is a tradition that began in 2000. Through the combined effort of the OCLC, Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA), the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT), Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Task Force, the ALA Office of Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services, and Beacon Press, we are thrilled to host this celebration again in 2024.

Our theme this year is *The Three Evils of Society by Martin Luther King, Jr.* The passages heard in today's ceremony mark King's message at the National Conference on New Politics in 1967 in which he linked racism, materialism and war as enduring challenges of that day. Decades later, as we enter 2024, we believe these words sadly still resonate the inequality of a 21st Century America, as we continue to struggle with moral, political, economic and social injustice across our nation.

Sincerely,

ANDREW P. JACKSON (SEKOU MOLEFI BAAKO)

Co-Chair, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Observance
and Sunrise Celebration (BCALA)

APRIL SHEPPARD

Co-Chair, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Observance
and Sunrise Celebration (SRRT)

TODAY'S PROGRAM

WELCOME

Kevin Strowder

Director, Office for Diversity, Literacy
and Outreach Services

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

“Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing”

Virtual performance by Committed of Oakwood
University

(See lyrics on page 9)

PARTICIPANTS

Emily Drabinski

ALA President, 2023-2024

Leslie Burger

ALA Interim Executive Director

K.C. Boyd

Chair-Elect, ALA Ethnic and Multicultural
Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT)

Allison Waukau

Past President, American Indian Library
Association (AILA); Chair, ALA Rural, Native
and Tribal Libraries of All Kinds Committee
(RNTLOAK)

Nichelle Hayes

President, Black Caucus of the ALA (BCALA)

Ray Pun

Immediate Past President, Chinese American
Librarians Association (CALA)

Jaena Rae Cabrera

President, Asian/Pacific American Librarians
Association (APALA)

David López

President, REFORMA—The National Association
to Promote Library & Information Services to
Latinos and the Spanish Speaking

Ziba Perez

Member, Services to Refugees, Immigrants and
Displaced Persons Subcommittee (SRIDP)

Diana Maria Rojas

2012 Spectrum Scholar

Jenn Koetz

President, Association of Bookmobile and
Outreach Services (ABOS)

Ramona DeAngelus

Representative, ALA Social Responsibilities
Round Table (SRRT)

Wendy Stephens

Representative, ALA Social Responsibilities
Round Table (SRRT)

Elizabeth Burns

Chair, Library Services to Persons with Print
Disabilities Interest Group

Lauren Kehoe

Member, RUSA Accessibility Assembly



KEYNOTE

David Delmar Sentíes

Author of *What We Build with Power; The Fight for Economic Justice in Tech*; Founder and former Executive Director of Resilient Coders

PARTICIPANTS, CONTINUED

Janice Welburn

Member, ALA Committee on Diversity

Emma De Vera

Member, Spectrum Advisory Committee

Kathy Bloomfield

Immediate Past President, Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL)

Soline Holmes

Representative, Bridging Deaf Cultures Interest Group

Janice Newsum

Chair, Coretta Scott King Book Awards Round Table (CSKBART)

Kenneth Yamashita

President, Joint Council of Librarians of Color (JCLC)

Elena Rios

2024 Emerging Leader

Camille Cook

2024 Emerging Leader

Dominique Dozier

2024 Emerging Leader

Cara Calabrese

Vice President, New Members Round Table (NMRT)

CALL-TO-ACTION

Dr. Claudette S. McLinn, Ed.D

Founder and Executive Director, Center for the Study of Multicultural Children's Literature

CLOSING

**Andrew P. Jackson
(Sekou Molefi Baako)**

Co-Chair, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Observance and Sunrise Celebration

**Lynn Silipigni
Connaway, Ph.D.**

Director, OCLC Membership & Research

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

"We Shall Overcome"

(See lyrics on page 11)



DAVID DELMAR SENTÍES

David Delmar Senties is the author of *What We Build with Power: The Fight for Economic Justice in Tech* (Beacon Press, 2023).

He is the Founder and former Executive Director of **Resilient Coders**, a highly competitive, free, and stipended nonprofit coding bootcamp that trains people of color from low-income backgrounds for high-growth careers as software

engineers. Resilient Coders was recognized by the White House in 2016, and has been featured in *TechCrunch*, *Fast Company News*, *Boston Globe*, *Boston Herald*, *BostInno*, *Bay State Banner*, *NPR*, *NECN*, *Xconomy*, *VentureFizz*, *Hot 96.9*, and other news outlets. David is especially proud of having been recognized by El Planeta as an influential member of Boston's Latinx community.



DR. CLAUDETTE S. MCLINN

Dr. Claudette S. McLinn is the Founder and Executive Director of the [Center for the Study of Multicultural Children's Literature \(CSMCL\)](#). She is a retired Supervisor, Library Services, Nonpublic Schools, for the [Los Angeles Unified School District](#) with over 34 years of experience as a teacher, librarian, and administrator in elementary and secondary education. She was the owner of a children's bookstore for over 20 years. She was Adjunct Professor at [California State University, Long Beach](#) where she taught graduate courses in children's literature and young adult literature with a focus on multicultural literature.



Dr. McLinn is committed to EDI (equity, diversity, and inclusion), a commitment that has been at the core of her life's work. As an active member in the [American Library Association \(ALA\)](#) for over 25 years, she has chaired and served on many ALA committees, task forces, and book award juries, including the Newbery, Coretta Scott King, Pura Belpré, and Caldecott Awards.

While Chair of the Coretta Scott King (CSK) Book Award Committee, Dr. McLinn also served as Chair of the CSK 50th Anniversary Celebration. Dr. McLinn is the recipient of the 2015 BCALA Appreciation Award, 2020 Distinguished Service Award from the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) and the 2023 Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement.

A sought-after keynote speaker, presenter, and moderator, Dr. McLinn earned a Bachelor of Science in Education and Master of Science in Library Science from [Wayne State University](#). She also earned a second Master of Science in School Management and Administration and Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership from [Pepperdine University](#).

LYNN SILIPIGNI CONNAWAY, P.H.D.

Lynn Silipigni Connaway's

responsibilities include research projects that directly involve OCLC libraries and users, such as developing the digital "visitors" and "residents" framework and the IMLS-funded grant project, Research Student's Information Choices, to study the behavior patterns of college and university

information seekers. Her previous work includes WorldCat data mining projects, JISC-funded investigations of digital information seekers, and IMLS-funded grant projects to study virtual reference services. She also was the project lead on the American Library Association (ALA) Association for College and Research Libraries (ACRL) "Action-Oriented Research Agenda on Library Contributions to Student Learning and Success." Lynn and her collaborators have won numerous awards for their research projects and methodologies.



“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.



