



The Olive Branch

Week of January 17th, 2014

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. An Advocate for Nonviolence

On Monday, January 20th, we will be celebrating the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Through his tireless involvement in the Civil Rights movement and his unwavering dedication to nonviolence, Dr. King has served as an inspiration to seekers of justice and peace everywhere and has proven that effective change can be brought against unjust systems without the use of violent force.

Martin Luther King's proclivity for nonviolence was drawn from many sources, including the Christian gospels, the works of Mahatma Gandhi, and the writings of authors such as Tolstoy and Thoreau. Ordained a Christian minister in 1954, Dr. King faithfully adhered to the Biblical teachings calling for Christian followers to "love your neighbor as yourself, to "love, pray for, and bless your enemies" and to "turn the other cheek." The pacifistic nature of these teachings was reflected in many of Dr. King's writings, speeches, and actions. In his Letter from Birmingham Jail, King famously urged other religious leaders to adopt Jesus' practice of "extremist" love.

In 1959, inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's use of "truth, soul force, non-injury, and courage" to engage in nonviolent activism, King made a pilgrimage to India in order to

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Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

An Advocate for Nonviolence



deepen his understanding of peaceful resistance and strengthen his commitment to the promotion of civil rights. During this time, King declared that “the method of nonviolent resistance is the most potent weapon available to oppressed people in their struggle for justice and human dignity.” Dr. King’s use of nonviolent action to combat the southern segregation statutes known as Jim Crow laws manifested itself

in various forms of legal protest and civil disobedience.

The extensive media coverage of these actions, and of the often-violent responses of King's adversaries, made many Americans sympathetic to the civil rights movement and convinced them to side with King and the other activists in their struggle for a desegregated nation. This support, based as it was in King's nonviolent practices, was instrumental in bringing about the end of Jim Crow laws. In Birmingham, Alabama, shortly before King's 1963 arrest there, many public places that had previously been segregated were quickly opened to the African American population after a successful desegregation campaign; after seeing the forceful and violent tactics used by the local police against the peaceful protesters (such as firing water cannons and setting trained dogs at them), people across the country were quickly consolidated behind King's movement.

In April of 1963, King participated in the March on Washington, calling for meaningful civil rights legislation to be enacted. At the march, which was attended by an ethnically diverse 250,000 people, King also delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, which helped spur the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and is now regarded as one of America's champion pieces of oratory.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

An Advocate for Nonviolence

In addition to his efforts within the Civil Rights movement, Martin Luther King was also a public opponent to the United States' involvement in the Vietnam War. Decrying the U.S. government as "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today," he accused the country of taking advantage of a poorer nation, killing millions of its people, and seeking to gain capital as a result of the war. He also sought to improve economic justice in the United States, calling for the government to redirect its military funding to the improved welfare of impoverished American citizens.

In April of 1968, Dr. King was assassinated at the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee. Three days after his death, a national day of mourning was declared by President Lyndon B. Johnson. King requested that his funeral make no mention of his various awards and honors, but that it be stated that he sought to love and serve humanity.



In 1983 President Ronald Reagan denoted the third Monday of January to be a federal holiday in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. The day was first observed three years later and is now nationally celebrated.

- by Emily Hart

Spotlight: Dr. Martin Luther King: Early Life and Inspiration

“Non-violent resistance is not for cowards. It is not a quiet, passive acceptance of evil. One is passive and non-violent physically, but very active spiritually, always seeking ways to persuade the opponent of advantages to the way of love, co-operation, and peace.”

-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Most are familiar with the name Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. His “I have a dream” speech is one of America’s most famous. We all know the Martin Luther King of the public eye, but who was he behind the scenes? What was he like growing up? What experiences shaped this man who would change history forever? That is exactly what you are about to find out.

Michael Luther King Jr. took his first breath on January 15, 1929 in Atlanta Georgia. His birth name was Michael but that changed when he was just a boy. King Sr. changed both of their names from Michael to Martin. King Sr. was the pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church, following the death of his father-in-law. Alberta, Martin Luther King Jr.’s mother, worked as a teacher and was also very involved with the Ebenezer Baptist Church community. Martin Luther King Jr. was the second of three children born to King Sr. and Alberta.

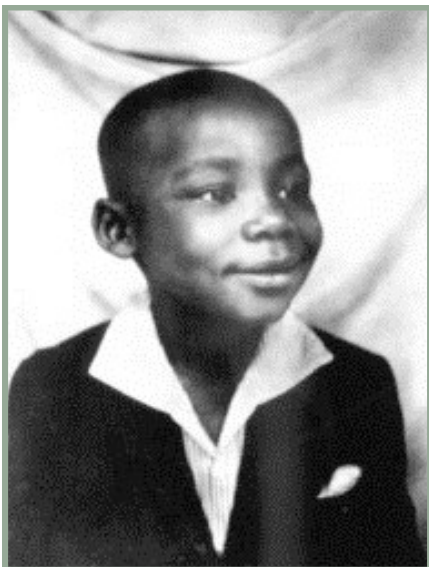
The King family had always been fighting racial prejudice because they believed that racism and segregation were contradicting God’s will. He was an incredible man who forever left a mark on this world. Without Dr. King, who knows where the world would be today.

Spotlight:

Dr. Martin Luther King: Early Life and Inspiration

- ♦ When King Jr. was 12 years old, his beloved grandmother suffered a heart attack and passed away. The news of her passing was so devastating to him that he jumped out of a second story window, allegedly attempting suicide.
- ♦ King Jr. skipped two grades in high school and entered Morehouse College at a mere 15 years of age. He had struggled with his faith, leading him to believe that he did not want to follow in the footsteps of his father and become a pastor but experienced a change of heart during his third year of college.
- ♦ While King Jr. was pursuing his doctorate at Boston University, he fell in love with his future wife, Coretta Scott. Dr. King received his Ph. D. in systematic theology at 25.
- ♦ During his studies at Boston University he was mentored and guided by Howard Thurman. Thurman introduced King to Mahatma Gandhi's idea of nonviolent protests and activism, playing an enormous role in Dr. King's leadership style.

All of these people, events, and encounters in Dr. King's life contributed to his passion for nonviolence and civil rights activism. Dr. King's life had a monumental impact on civil rights.



- by Katie Giglio

On-Campus Events

Unity Week 2014

You are invited to participate in Unity Week 2014, January 20th - January 25th. This year's theme is MOSAIC: Connecting the Pieces and marks the 34th annual Unity Week at Ball State University. Unity Week is planned by student organization leaders and professional staff from across the university. Since 1980, Unity Week remains dedicated to unifying the Ball State community through enlightening social, cultural and educational events. All events are FREE and open to Ball State students, faculty, staff and community members!

Monday, January 20th

- **Holiday Observance**- no classes
- **MLK Community Breakfast**, 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., Student Center, Cardinal Hall
- **MLK Unity March**, 4:00 p.m., Multicultural Center
- **MLK National Day of Service**, 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Volunteers must register with Student Voluntary Services by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 17, 2014 to select preferred service site.

Tuesday, January 21st

- **"I Stand For." Wall & "I am." Photo Shoot**, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Student Center, Tally
Participants will take creative photos with their completed "I Am" statement. Photos will be shown during the Unity Pageant along with the comments written on the "I Stand For" Wall.
- **Minority Workshop**, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Student Center, Cardinal Hall B & C
Participants will go through simulation activities related to the experiences of various cultural and identity groups.
- **Speaker: Coach Ken Carter - "Use Your Passion to Succeed,"** 7:30 p.m., Pruis Hall
Ken Carter is a coach, author, educator and inspiration for the movie Coach Carter which recounts Carter's decision to literally lock his undefeated, state play-off bound basketball team out of the gym and force them to hit the books. Carter is the founder and chairman of the Coach Ken Carter Foundation, a non-profit that promotes and provides education, training and mentoring programs for minority youth. He also founded the Coach Carter Impact Academy, designed to enable disadvantaged youth to reach their full academic and life potential.

On-Campus Events cont.

Unity Week 2014

Wednesday, January 22nd

- **Tunnel of Oppression**, 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Student Center, Ballroom

Participants will engage in an interactive exhibit that highlights contemporary issues of oppression.

Thursday, January 23rd

- **Mural Painting**, 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m., Arts and Journalism Building, Atrium; Members of the Ball State community will have the opportunity to collaboratively paint a 4' x 8' mural of Ball State's institutional icon Beneficence, affectionately called "Benny." The mural will be later displayed in the Student Center Art Gallery.

Friday, January 24th

- **Latinopalooza**, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Pruis Hall; The Latino Student Union will sponsor a talent showcase of Ball State students, faculty and staff.

- **Friday Night Filmworks: The Butler**, 9:00 p.m., Pruis Hall; The Butler tells the story of a White House butler who served eight American presidents over three decades. The film traces the dramatic changes that swept American society during this time, from the civil rights movement to Vietnam and beyond, and how those changes affected this man's life and family.

Saturday, January 25th

- **Unity Week Diversity Symposium**, 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Student Center; Attendees will attend workshop sessions related to diversity and presented by faculty, staff and students of Ball State University. The keynote speakers are Melinda Messineo, Chairperson of the Department of Sociology/Associate Professor of Sociology, and Ro-Anne Royer Engle, Director of the Multicultural Center. Online registration will be open through 5:00 p.m. Thursday, January 16, 2014. Feel free to share this information with your students, colleagues and friends.

- **Unity Scholarship Pageant**, 7:00 p.m., Pruis Hall; The Unity Scholarship Pageant originated in 1968 and is sponsored by the Black Student Association. The pageant strives to promote unity and hosts over 400 people annually as Mr. and Miss Unity of Ball State University are crowned.

For more information, email Barry Hawkins or call the Office of Student Life, (765) 285-2621.

On-Campus Events cont.

Counseling Center Group Therapy Sessions
Spring 2014; times vary
(require appointment at counseling center before joining)

UNDERSTANDING SELF & OTHERS: Group members explore patterns of relating to self and others by discovering understanding and acceptance of themselves and others. The groups thrive on diversity as members discover the common bond through emotional experiences.

JOURNEY TO WHOLENESS: Safe, supportive place for survivors of sexual trauma to explore the meaning of their experiences and to explore effective ways of coping.

WEIGHT NOT, WANT NOT: Supportive group for women with eating disorders or body image struggles who want to explore effective ways of coping.

CHOICES: A group for students who are exploring making changes in their relationship with alcohol and other substances.

SAFE HAVEN: GLBQ SUPPORT GROUP: This therapy group provides a safe place for GLBQ students to explore and discuss patterns of relating to self and others by discovering understanding and acceptance of themselves and others. Topics of discussion vary greatly from coming out, finding support, relationships, family concerns, depression, anxiety, and/or personal growth.

MINDFULNESS GROUP: Assists students in alleviating uncomfortable feelings, such as anxiety, stress, anger, and sadness. The group will practice and discuss relaxation and mindfulness techniques.

Outreach Groups
Spring 2014; times vary
Multicultural Center Library

KALEIDOSCOPE: ETHNIC/RACIAL MINORITY SUPPORT GROUP: Safe, supportive place for ethnic/racial minority students to explore and discuss navigating two or more cultures. Topics may include discrimination, identity of self, family concerns, relationships, adjustment, academic concerns, and body image.

On-Campus Events

Outreach Groups (cont.)

KISS: KNOWING INTERNATIONAL STUDENT STORIES: This gathering is designed to provide support for international students by coming together and sharing cross-cultural stories. The topics include, but are not limited to, the first year experience of studying in the U.S., friendship, food, cultural holidays, driving experience, classroom culture, relationships with professors and classmates, survival skills (cooking, baking ...etc). Through sharing our stories, participants will find similarities and differences as well as gain support from each other. The leaders will also share their stories and encourage members' sharing

Please visit the Ball State Counseling Center or call 285-1736 for more information about Group Therapy and Outreach Group meeting times.

International Conversation Hour

Tuesdays from 6:00-7:30 pm
L.A. Pittenger Student Center

These meetings provide an opportunity for international and U.S. students to learn about each other and their cultures.

For more information, call the Counseling Center at 285-1736 or visit Facebook at BSU International Conversations.

SafeZone Training Sessions

Become an ally/advocate for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning population at Ball State University and beyond. Come to a SafeZone training. Trainings are open to the Ball State community and, if space allows, to interested members of the wider community.

Dates of Training Sessions

1/22/14, Wednesday, 5:30-9:30pm, SC Multipurpose Room
2/20/2014, Thursday, 5:30-9:30pm, SC Room 310
3/21/14, Friday, 1:00-5:00pm, SC Multipurpose Room
4/14/14, Monday, 5:30-9:30pm, SC Multipurpose Room

Off-Campus Events

Kick-Off to Black History Month Celebration

February 1, 2014 from 9:30 am-12:00 pm

Minnetrista Cultural Center

Martin Luther King, Jr. Dream Team's Kick-Off to Black History Month Celebration is at Minnetrista once again this February! Community programming includes the third annual Create for the Dream art contest and silent auction, a continental breakfast, prize raffle, guest speakers, and announcement of essay contest winners.

Anti-Warfare Vigil

January 17, 2014 from 4:30-5:30 pm

Federal Building at Michigan and Pennsylvania, Indianapolis

The weekly vigil protesting warfare is sponsored by the Indianapolis Peace and Justice Center. Bring an appropriate sign or have one provided. For more info, phone Gilbert Kuhn at 677-5967 or email Ron Haldeman at ronjane@igc.org

Bread for the World Meeting

January 18, 2014 at 10:00 am

A-Wing of Main Building at Robin Run Village, 5354 W. 62, Indianapolis

Join us for our monthly meeting! For more info, please call Marjorie Hill at 291-7150 before attending.

16th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Festival

January 18, 2014 from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Christian Theological Seminary, 1000 W. 42, Indianapolis

This event, sponsored by Peace Learning Center, will feature a "Perspectives on Peace" keynote panel, Social Justice Workshops, and more. For more details, email Tim Nation at tnation@peacelearningcenter.org

Peace Vigil

January 18, 2014 at 6:00 pm

Brown County Courthouse, Main and Van Buren Streets (Nashville)

There will be a Peace Vigil on the theme "War Is Not The Answer!", sponsored by Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (Brown County branch). For more info, contact Tom Hougham at 878-4210 or annntom@hotmail.com

Grants and Fellowships

Rotary Peace Fellowships

If you are looking to make an impact by promoting cooperation and tolerance than this may be for you! Rotary Foundation provides fellowships to fund master's degree or professional development certificate study at one of the six Rotary Peace Centers. Recipients of this fellowship promote peace, cooperation, and successful conflict resolution on both the national and international levels. There are two types of peace fellowships available. The deadline for submitting applications is July 1, 2014. Please visit <https://www.rotary.org/en/peace-fellowships> to learn more information.

Conferences

Notre Dame Student Peace Conference

The Annual Notre Dame Student Peace Conference attracts both undergraduate and graduate students from all across the United States and abroad who are committed to a rigorous, multi-disciplinary academic work on peacebuilding. Students present original research and showcase innovative peace building practices. The conference will be held March 29-30, 2014. More information regarding deadlines for research proposals will be posted online at kroc.nd.edu/undergraduate/notre-dame-student-peace-conference as more information becomes available.

National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education (NCORE) 2014

The NCORE conference series constitutes the leading and most comprehensive national forum on issues of race and ethnicity in American higher education. The conference focuses on the complex task of creating and sustaining comprehensive institutional change designed to improve racial and ethnic relations on campus and to expand opportunities for educational access and success by culturally diverse, traditionally underrepresented populations. The conference will be held in Indianapolis, IN starting on May 27, 2014 and ending on July 1, 2014. See <https://www.ncore.ou.edu/> for more information.

Conferences cont.

The 19th Annual Black Solidarity Conference

Through a series of panels, discussions, and speakers, this year's conference participants will gain a historical understanding of the evolution of black art and analyze what role different forms of art play in the expression of black culture. The conference is hosted annually in February at Yale University in New Haven, CT by a student organization.

Organizations

Join these campus organizations in their efforts to bring about positive change and promote social justice around the world!

Ball State TOMS Club

*Wednesdays at 9:00 pm
Bracken Library Room 201*

TOMS Campus Club promotes the awareness, reality, and consequences of children living without shoes, and aids in charitable giving to this cause through programming and activities in accordance with the TOMS Shoes company.



We're on Twitter!
Follow *@bsu4peace* to get our latest updates.



"LIKE" us on Facebook!
Ball State University Peace Center

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Phone: (765)285-1622

Email:
peacecenter@bsu.edu

*If you would like YOUR events to
be included in the newsletter,
please contact:*

*Emily Hart
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*Tacianna Oliver
tpoliver@bsu.edu*

*Katie Giglio
kmgiglio@bsu.edu*

The Center for Peace and Conflict Studies is an interdisciplinary knowledge unit devoted to conducting research on various forms of structural and direct violence and conflict, and also dedicated to implementing projects that employ nonviolent strategies to resolve conflict.

Our programs include:

- Mediation training and services
- Meditation classes
- The Brown Bag lunch speaker series
- The Muncie Interfaith Fellowship
- The Social Justice League on-campus organization

Disclaimer: the events described in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies