

# The Iowa African-American Journal

Volume 11, Issue 2

Winter 2005

## Individuals Presented Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards

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The Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday celebrates the life and legacy of a man who brought hope and healing to America. The King Holiday honors the life and contributions of America's greatest champion of racial justice and equality.

The citizens of Iowa who best represent these values, and have shown their dedication and commitment to breaking racial barriers and serving the people of their individual communities are the recipients of the 2006 Martin Luther King, Jr. Lifetime Achievement and Service Project Awards.

Jr. Lifetime Achievement and Service Project Awards.

Please join the Iowa Commission on the Status of African-Americans in a state-wide celebration honoring the accomplishments of these individuals at the 17th annual commemoration ceremony on Monday, January 16, 2006 at the Iowa Historical Building. The Historical Building is located at 600 East Locust Street in Des Moines. The program begins at 10:45 AM and is free and open to the public.

### **CONGRATULATIONS! MLK Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients:**

**Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack  
Governor**

**R. Adin Davis  
Des Moines**



**2006  
State of Iowa  
Dr. MLK Celebration  
"What Are You Doing for Others?"**

## Department of Human Rights Celebrates National Human Rights Day

Friday, December 9, 2006, Iowa Department of Human Rights celebrated International Human Rights Day with an Open House at the Lucas State Office Building in Des Moines.

The Iowa Department of Human Rights exists to promote equal access to work services and opportunities to enhance the well-being of diverse populations in Iowa. The staff in the Divisions of Community Action Agencies, Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning, Deaf Services, Status of African Americans, Status of Asian & Pacific Islander Heritage, Latino Affairs, Status of Persons with Disabilities, and Status of Women work daily to support the many citizens of Iowa in which they serve.

Human Rights staff was available from 10AM-3PM to greet visitors wishing to tour the department, gain more knowledge of each division and show support for the efforts of the entire department.

Director Walter Reed, Jr. stated, "The Iowa Department of Human Rights embraces the concept that every person should be treated with dignity and respect, and that we should uphold the most fundamental human courtesies toward one another. It is with this premise that we will continue our efforts to ensure that every Iowan is equally protected and respected."

## Iowa Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Events

| Date          | Description  | Location   | Contact information   |
|---------------|--|--|---|
| January 13    | Des Moines NAACP Youth Council in conjunction with the NAACP Adult Branch and the Black Ministerial Alliance will celebrate Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday on Friday, January 13, 2006 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Guest speaker will be Mr. Cameron Creighton.  | Corinthian Baptist Church<br>814 School St<br>Des Moines   | Gretchen Woods<br><a href="mailto:gretchenahw@peoplepc.com">gretchenahw@peoplepc.com</a>  |
| January 14    | Dr. M.L. King Prayer Breakfast – 9:30 a.m.<br>Sponsored by the Black Ministerial Alliance.   | Mt. Hebron Baptist Church<br>1338 9 <sup>th</sup> St<br>Des Moines   | Minister Toni Harris<br>Church phone 280-9163   |
| January 14    | Martin Luther King, Jr.<br>Scholarship Fund, Inc. Reception & Banquet at 5:00 p.m.<br><br>Dinner at 6:00 p.m.<br>Speaker: Jim Lucas "Keeper of the Dream"  | Pioneer Hi-Bred Int'l, Inc.<br>George Washington Carver<br>Center<br>7100 NW 62 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue<br>Johnston                   | Melinda Mullenix at<br>515-334-6788,<br>email: <a href="mailto:MLKlowa@hotmail.com">MLKlowa@hotmail.com</a>   |
| January 14    | Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Party and Service<br>Project – celebration in honor of his memory. Kids of all ages<br>welcome. 1:00 -3:00 p.m.<br>Martin Luther King Jr. Dinner – 5:30 to 8 p.m.  | African American Historical Museum and<br>Cultural Center of Iowa<br>55 12 <sup>th</sup> Ave SE<br>Cedar Rapids                    | Phone 319-862-2101<br><br><a href="http://www.blackiowa.org">www.blackiowa.org</a>  |
| January 15    | Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration at 6:00 p.m.<br>Sponsored by the Black Ministerial Alliance.  | Union Baptist Church<br>E. University & McCormick St<br>Des Moines   | Union Baptist Church<br>515-265-5185  |
| January 15    | Community celebration honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.<br>3:00 p.m.<br><br>2:00 p.m. - March begins at Second Baptist Church 438 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave   | Ashford University<br>Mullany Theatre<br>400 N. Bluff Blvd.<br>Clinton   | Leslie McCreery<br>Clinton YWCA<br>563-242-2110   |
| January 15-16 | Martin Luther King, Jr.<br>Banquet – Sunday, January 15, 2006.<br>Time: 5:00 p.m.<br>Speaker Rick Coleman, KWWL Sports Director.<br><br>Martin Luther King, Jr.<br>Workshops:<br>Monday, January 16, 2006.<br>Time: 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.<br>Workshops are free and open to the public.  | Five Sullivan Brother's<br>Convention Center<br>Waterloo<br><br>Waterloo Recreation & Arts Center<br>225 Commercial St<br>Waterloo | Contact<br>Mary S. Theroith at<br>(319) 234-7543  |
| January 16    | Iowa Celebration of Dr. King<br>10:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.<br>Featuring a guest speaker, MLK Awards recognition,<br>entertainment and traditional bell-ringing ceremony.   | Iowa Historical Building<br>600 E. Locust Street<br>Des Moines   | Iowa Commission on the Status of<br>African-Americans<br>515-281-7283 or<br>800-351-4659<br>Email: <a href="mailto:chr.icsaa@iowa.gov">chr.icsaa@iowa.gov</a> |
| January 15-16 | Dr. King Tribute Days, Sunday, January 15, is the NAACP<br>Celebration and Awards Ceremony at 1:00 p.m., a march,<br>followed by awards presented for outstanding student<br>achievement in artwork, writing, and multimedia from the Dr.<br>King K-12 Tribute, contest, followed by a speaker.<br><br>Monday is the 14th Annual Dr. King Breakfast at 7:30 a.m.<br>Speaker will be Evelyne Jobe Villines. | NAACP Dubuque Branch and Faces &<br>Voices<br>Dubuque<br><br>Grand River Center<br>Dubuque   | Ruby Sutton, 563-556-6390   |

## Iowa Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Events, con't

| Date  | Description   | Location  | Contact information   |
|---|---|---|---|
| January 16                                    | <p>United Way of Eastern Iowa<br/>Remembering Martin Luncheon<br/>11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.<br/>Keynote by the Vice President of Diversity for<br/>the May Department Stores Company.</p>  | <p>Crowne Plaza Five Seasons Hotel Ballroom<br/>Cedar Rapids</p>  | <p>Contact Darcie Tallman at the United<br/>Way ECI office 319-398-5372 for<br/>details</p>   |
| January 16                                    | <p>Martin Luther King Celebration<br/>featuring the 7th annual Percy and Lileah<br/>Harris "Who is My Neighbor" Award<br/>7:00 p.m.</p>   | <p>St. Paul's United Methodist Church<br/>1340 Third Avenue SE<br/>Cedar Rapids</p>   | <p>Contact Jerry Matchett for details<br/>319-362-2610</p>  |
| January 16                                    | <p>10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Monsanto<br/>Community MLK Diversity Program and<br/>Awards Ceremony.<br/>4:00 p.m. – Social<br/>4:30 – 7:00 p.m. - Program<br/>8:00 – 10:30 p.m. - Reception</p>   | <p>Muscatine High School<br/>2705 Cedar St<br/>Muscatine</p>  | <p>Chris Boar<br/>563-262-7533<br/>Email: <a href="mailto:Christina.l.boar@monsanto.com">Christina.l.boar@monsanto.com</a></p>  |
| Tuesday, January 17                           | <p><b><u>The Martin Luther King Unity Step Show<br/>Presentation</u></b><br/>2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Ballroom –<br/>IMU 7:00 p.m.<br/>Dr. King was a prominent<br/>member of the Alpha Phi<br/>Alpha Fraternity Inc, the first<br/>intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity<br/>established for African Americans.<br/>Representatives from the Black Greek<br/>Organizations will pay tribute to Martin Luther<br/>King, Jr. A reception will follow.</p>  | <p>All events will take place on the Univer-<br/>sity of Iowa campus<br/>University of Iowa<br/>Iowa Memorial Union<br/>Iowa City</p> | <p>Billie F. Townsend<br/>Secretary<br/>African American Council –<br/>University of Iowa<br/>319-354-5995</p> <p>For additional information contact<br/>Paulette Willis at<br/><a href="mailto:paulette-willis@uiowa.edu">paulette-willis@uiowa.edu</a>.</p> |
| Wednesday, January 18                         | <p><b><u>Gospel Fest 2006 –<br/>The Music of Martin.</u></b><br/>2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Ballroom – IMU, 7:00 p.m.<br/>This event will spotlight the local gospel group<br/>CHARISM and present other gospel groups<br/>from the surrounding area. A reception will<br/>follow.</p>  |   | <p>For additional information please<br/>contact Diana Bryant at<br/><a href="mailto:diana-bryant@uiowa.edu">diana-bryant@uiowa.edu</a></p>   |
| Thursday, January 19 and<br>Friday January 20 | <p><b><u>The Meeting – a story of Martin and Malcolm</u></b><br/>Theatrical Performance- Darwin Turner Action<br/>Theatre, Theatre B in the Theatre Building,<br/>7:00 p.m.<br/>Professor Tisch Jones and Bryan Moore<br/>co-direct this production. This eloquent play by<br/>Jeff Stetson, depicts the supposed meeting<br/>between Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King,<br/>Jr., two of the most important men of modern<br/>times. A reception will follow the January 19<br/>performance.</p> |   | <p>For additional information<br/>contact Denise Matthews at<br/>319-335-2700</p>   |
| Friday, January 20                            | <p><b><u>The Other Side of AGEP</u></b><br/>2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Ballroom-IMU 3:30 p.m.<br/>A celebration of the achievements of our Iowa<br/>AGEP graduate students. Students will offer<br/>musical performances and dramatic readings<br/>as a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King. Keynote<br/>speaker Dr. Calvin Mackie (speaker,<br/>professor and inventor).</p>   |   | <p>For more information, please contact<br/>Carlton Goode:<br/><a href="mailto:carlton-goode@uiowa.edu">carlton-goode@uiowa.edu</a></p>   |

## Remembering Rosa Parks



# ROSA LOUISE PARKS

February 4, 1913 – October 24, 2005

**Rosa Louise Parks**, a prime mover in changing the course of American history, sparked the modern civil rights movement in 1955 when she courageously refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama city bus to a white man when ordered to do so by the bus driver. Her act triggered a wave of protest that reverberated throughout the United States. A seamstress by profession, Mrs. Parks was born February 4, 1913 to Leona and James McCauley in Tuskegee, Alabama. Mrs. Parks passed on October 24, 2005 in Detroit, her home since 1957. She was active in the civil rights movement long before her brave act of defiance and was secretary of the Montgomery Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. She is often referred to as “the Mother of the Modern Day Civil Rights Movement.”

She was one of the first women to join the Montgomery NAACP Branch in 1943. In addition to being the branch secretary, she was a youth advisor. She holds two life memberships in the NAACP.

Mrs. Park's activism started after she married Raymond Parks in 1932. The couple volunteered on voter registration and raised money in defense of the Scottsboro Boys, nine young African American men pulled off a train, falsely accused and found guilty of raping two white women in 1931. Her action nearly 50 years ago captivated the nation and helped propel a young preacher, Martin Luther King, into the spotlight after he was drafted to head the Montgomery Improvement Association that led the boycott. Her act of defiance on December 1, 1955 reflected strength and bravery that belied her calm, dignified demeanor. For refusing to give up her seat, Mrs. Parks was arrested, convicted of violating the segregation laws and fined \$10, plus \$4 in court fees. Her action occurred at a time when African Americans who refused to give up their

seat on a bus to a white man could not only be arrested, but even killed.

In 1956, the Park's case led to the United States Supreme Court ruling that segregated public bus service was unconstitutional. Following the bus boycott, Mr. and Mrs. Parks moved to Detroit because of concern for her well-being in the wake of death threats and the bombing of churches and houses, including those of Dr. King and E.D. Nixon, president of the Montgomery NAACP Branch and a close adviser to Mrs. Parks. She became a secretary and receptionist to U.S. Representative John Conyers (D-Michigan), a position she continued in until her retirement in 1988.

Mrs. Parks received numerous awards, including the 1979 NAACP Spingarn Medal, which is given for outstanding achievement by an African American. Other awards include the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1996) and the Congressional Gold Medal (1999), and the Martin Luther King Sr. Award. She was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in 1983 for her achievements in civil rights. She received the Rosa Parks Peace Prize in 1994 in Stockholm, Sweden. Mrs. Parks attended rural schools until she was 11-years-old, then Miss White's School for Girls in Montgomery. Later she attended high school at the Alabama State Teachers College.

Mrs. Park's husband died in 1977.



The Des Moines Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA), ICSAA in partnership with a number of Des Moines area organizations and agencies, hosted a tribute event to Rosa Parks the evening of Thursday, December 1, 2005, the 50th anniversary of her refusal to give up her seat on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama.

The event was held at the MTA's administrative offices (1100 MTA Lane, Des Moines) from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. It featured a reenactment of Mrs. Parks' refusal to give up her bus seat that was performed by Ruth Ann Gaines and the original cast members of the Rosa Parks Play. On December 1, 2005, the MTA also reserved a front seat on all regular-route buses as part of a nationwide transit tribute to honor Mrs. Parks.

## Take Action: Speak Up & Be Heard... How You Can Get Involved in the Democratic Process

Advocacy is a powerful tool for producing social change where we live and work. It can be a starting point for change at the state and national levels as well. Without grassroots advocates taking action in their communities, an advocacy initiative will not be successful. Being an advocate means being willing to speak up, speak out and challenge the status quo. It means being willing to take action and be a voice for positive change. Communicating with lawmakers, through meetings, letters, phone calls, faxes, e-mails, etc. is one major way advocates may exercise their constitutional right to speak out on an issue. Here are some tips to get started:

1. [Send a Letter](#)
2. [Send an e-mail](#)
3. [Make a Phone Call](#)
4. [Meet Face-to-Face with Elected Officials](#)
5. [Write a Letter to the Editor](#)
6. [Call a TV or Radio Talk Show](#)

### Send a Letter

As a constituent, writing a letter to your lawmakers is one way you can really make a difference. Express your position on a specific bill or issue and tell why they matter to you.

#### Tips for Writing a letter:

Include your name and home address, to confirm that you are a constituent who lives **and** votes in the lawmaker's district or state.

- Keep your letter short.
- Explain why the issue is important to you on a personal level.

Remember to ask for a reply.

### Send an E-mail

Please follow the same rules for writing a letter that you would for sending an e-mail. You can take action by sending an e-mail to your federal and state legislators directly.

### Make a Phone Call

By calling your lawmakers, you're choosing the quickest way possible to communicate with your legislators. We will often encourage you to call your legislators when a vote on an important issue is on the horizon.

#### Tips for Phoning your Elected Officials:

- Introduce yourself by saying your name and address, so that the receptionist knows that you're a constituent who lives **and** votes in the lawmaker's district or state.
- Be brief and speak clearly. Let them know who you are, what issue you're calling about, why you care and ultimately, what you want the legislator to do.

Complete your call by asking for your lawmaker's position

on the issue.

### Face-to-Face Meeting

A face-to-face meeting is the most effective way to communicate with your lawmakers. The first step is to schedule an appointment. If the lawmaker is unavailable, ask to meet with the staff member who handles your issue. Remember - most of your elected officials will have district offices, so unless you're in the Washington, D.C., area, choose the office closest to where you live. During your meeting, remember to share your personal story, as this can often make the most compelling case for an issue. After your meeting, send a thank-you note to the lawmaker and his/her staff to let them know you appreciate their time and attention to the issues you discussed.

### Letter to the Editor

Letters to the editor are a great way to get information published in newspapers, magazines, newsletters or electronic publications. Lawmakers often rely on published Letters to the Editors to stay aware of issues of concern back in their districts and states.

#### Tips for Writing a Letter to the Editor:

- **Be short and to the point.** Most publications will print guidelines for letters to the editor in their editorial section. Be sure to review these before you start writing. Make sure you include your name, address and telephone number, so they can verify your submission, as they often will not print letters that do not have this information included. In general, try to keep your letters to 125 words or less and state the reason you're writing in the first paragraph.
- **Write on current issues.** You have the best chance of getting your letter published, if you respond to current issues that appeared in the publication. Write in support of or in opposition to an issue, so you can make a clear case.
- **If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.** Most publications receive many more letters than they can print. They usually will print one as a representation of others they have received. So, if at first you don't succeed, try, try again.

### Call a Talk Show

Calling a local, state or national television or radio talk show is a great way for you to let a large audience know about your issues. Of course, the talk show topic should be something that lends itself to your specific issue. In order to ensure that the topic is discussed in a particular show, you can call a producer of a show to recommend a specific topic. If the program is confirmed, inform friends, colleagues, family, and others so there is good participation.

## Mark Your Calendars

### 8th Annual I'll Make Me A World In Iowa Celebration

Polk County Convention Complex  
in Des Moines

Free and open to the public

Education Day ~ January 27, 2006  
Iowa Historical Building

Celebration Day ~ January 28, 2006  
Polk County Convention Complex

**For general information on IMMAWII activities contact:**

Betty C. Andrews Executive Director: 515-288-7171,  
[bettycandrews@yahoo.com](mailto:bettycandrews@yahoo.com), or visit [www.worldiniowa.org](http://www.worldiniowa.org)

**For IMMAWII vendor information contact:**

Kevin Officer: 515-225-2310 or [kjofficer@earthlink.net](mailto:kjofficer@earthlink.net)

**To volunteer for IMMAWII contact:**

Terry Nettles: 515-225-2069 or [terry.nettles@eds.com](mailto:terry.nettles@eds.com)

## ICSAA News

# ICSAA

Iowa Commission on the Status of African-Americans

Please visit ICSAA's website at

[www.state.ia.us/dhr/saa](http://www.state.ia.us/dhr/saa)



**January 24, 2006**

**ICSAA**

**Breakfast with the Legislators**

**Iowa State Capitol**

**Des Moines**

Quarterly Commission Meeting following



**Available now on website!**

**Greater Iowan African American Resource Guide**

**&**

**African American Facts Sheets**

*click on Resource Center / Research and Statistics*

### ICSAA

#### Statewide Calendar of Events

ICSAA is interested in events for African Americans taking place across the state of Iowa. We would like information about your events to announce in the Iowa African American Journal (published quarterly) and post on our website.

Submission(s) must be made at least **30 days** prior to the scheduled event in order to ensure it gets published.

To submit information about your event(s), please provide the following information:

Organization / Business Name

Contact Name / Title

Address City / State / Zip

Telephone / Fax Number / Email Address Website

Name of Event

Date of Event

Address / Location of Event (Include city, state, zip)

Event E-mail or Web Site address (if applicable)

**ICSAA**

Iowa Commission on the Status of African-Americans

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Winter 2005

Editor: Kim Cheeks

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## Across Black Iowa...

### My Pledge to Make A Difference

I pledge to honor the life and works of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

I pledge to serve to ensure Iowans will continue to enjoy equality, justice, freedom, and peace.

**Do you wish to make a donation to the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ceremony on January 16, 2006, sponsored by ICSAA? If so, please send your gift.**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home & business): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Options:** \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_ Money Order \$

Please make payable to the Iowa Commission on the Status of African-Americans

Please include my/our name in the Annual Report \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No