

Subject: Allies for Racial Justice Newsletter

Date: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 10:53:57 AM Central Standard Time

From: Allies for Racial Justice

To: ●●●●●●●●



Connect
Unite
Act

ARJ

ALLIES for RACIAL JUSTICE

NEWSLETTER



January 2025



2025. Yes, it's a brand New Year! As one for your resolutions, Allies for Racial Justice hopes you will renew the commitment to honor the God-given worth of every individual and embrace the

essential importance and beauty of our differences.

In 2025, ARJ will continue our commitment to creating opportunities that pass through the divides, break down the barriers, and help people come together to understand our differences and appreciate our similarities.

Resolve to be an active participant in developing and implementing Christ-centered solutions to help end racial and social injustices.

Together we can be the builders of the Beloved Community grounded in compassion, understanding and equity.

To get involved and join one of ARJ's active Unite, Connect, and Act teams, email us at Allies4RacialJustice@gmail.com

HONORING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. JANUARY 20, 2025



January 20 is the only Federal holiday designated as a National Day of Service. It is intended to encourage all Americans to come together and volunteer to deepen ties to their communities, expand racial equity, and solidify service to others as a national commitment.

King once said “Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace; a soul generated by love.”

This January newsletter provides many opportunities for you to step in and help build the Beloved Community.

CONNECT

Bringing people together to **CONNECT** through engaging educational events.
Let's start a conversation.

WHAT DO WE MEAN WHEN WE TALK ABOUT RACE?



Join a Zoom Small Group Discussion

Thursday, January 23, 2025, 6 - 7 PM

Does it seem like we are sometimes speaking a different language when we try to talk about how differently we understand the same words? Please consider joining our small group discussion to talk about what we can learn from each other when we truly care enough to listen to differing perspectives.

Prior to joining on January 23rd, please watch this [“Under Our Skin”](#) video of 12 people expressing their thoughts about terms referring to race.

To receive the Zoom link for this small group discussion, send a request to Debra Jarvis at djjarvey60@gmail.com with “Under Our Skin” in the subject line.



**The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Nature
Walk
Monday, Jan 20**

Walk: 9 AM Post-Walk Gathering: 11 AM

This annual MLK, Jr. Nature Walk focuses on environmental justice and encourages listening, reflection, and honoring the powerful words of Dr. King. Nature serves as a place of peacefulness, awe, and inspiration, making it the perfect setting to resonate with Dr. King’s timeless messages.

Following the professionally guided 1.5-mile nature walk along Brush Creek; folks will gather at the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Center to enjoy light refreshments and share insights on environmental justice with community leaders. This entire event is free and open to all, but registration is requested to help plan accordingly. Event is “rain or shine” so dress

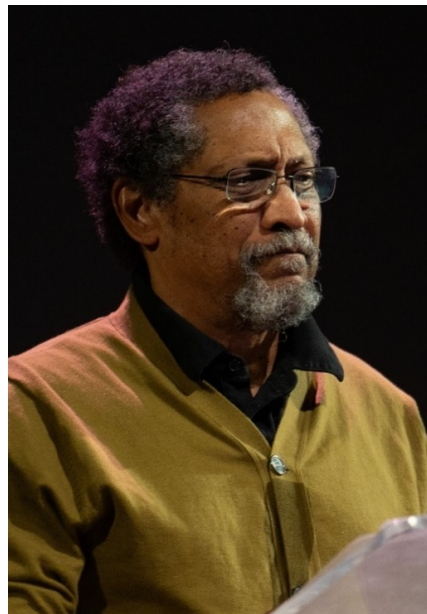
accordingly. You may join the guided nature walk, the post-walk gathering at the Cultural Center, or both.

Click to download a [promotional event flyer](#) with additional details. For more information or inquiries, contact info@heartlandconservationalliance.org or call 816-945-8505.



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. LECTURE SERIES

AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR PERCIVAL EVERETT



Thursday, January 30, 2025 - 6:30 PM

5100 Cherry St, Kansas City, MO 64110, USA
UMKC Student Union, Room 401

The University of Missouri-Kansas City in partnership with the Carolyn Benton Cockefair Chair and the Black Archives of Mid-America in Kansas City presents the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Lecture Series.

Percival Everett, Distinguished Professor of English at the University of Southern California and winner of the 2024 National Book Award for Fiction, will give the keynote lecture. Everett's most recent book, "James," is a re-imagining of Mark Twain's "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" – both harrowing and ferociously funny – told from the enslaved Jim's point of view. The lecture is free and open to the public. [Registration](#) is required.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Lecture Series brings national thought leaders to campus to provide insight and advocacy to current civil rights issues, including education, economic and justice system inequalities.



Bringing people together to **UNITE** by growing authentic relationships through interactive programs.
Let's learn from each other.



Keynote Speaker Henry Louis Gates Jr
Friday, January 17, 2025
Union Station

11 AM - 1:30 PM

The Metropolitan Community College Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Scholarship Luncheon will feature Henry Louis Gates Jr., renowned historian and host of the critically acclaimed PBS Television show 'Finding Your Roots'. Kansas City PBS's Nick Haines will emcee and Bridgette Williams, Exec. Director of the Heavy Construction Association of Kansas City, will receive the Alvin Brooks Kansas City Inspiration Award. Proceeds from this event support scholarships for MCC Students.

Seats are limited! For Sponsorships and ticket information: Call [816.604.1000](tel:816.604.1000)
<https://www.kprs.com/event/mcc-mlk-jr-scholarship-luncheon/>

UPCOMING ARJ LIVE THEATRE EVENT



2 PM SUNDAY, FEB 16

3051 Penn Valley Dr. KCMO 64108

KC Melting Pot Theatre presents **Fences**, an award-winning play that explores the evolving American understanding of race and family relations. It follows a working-class father, who is a former Negro League baseball player, as he tries to raise a family in the 1950s.

ARJ has reserved discount tickets for this Sunday matinee performance. Join us to learn more about the Black American experience. We'll have an interactive post-performance discussion with the play director and actors. We look forward to welcoming you!

Bring your small group, a friend, neighbors too!

For discount tickets **click below**

[CLICK HERE](#)



Bringing people together to **ACT** by supporting racial justice activities throughout our churches and communities.
Let's act together.

CHALLENGE BIGOTRY



We've all been faced with situations where someone makes a biased remark or

reinforces stereotypes to make a bigoted point. How can we respond productively to bias and bigotry?

You already recognize the wrongness of the remark. Now you need to take action by preparing yourself for future encounters. **Speak Up!** is a free publication of the Southern Poverty Law Center designed for individuals who want to learn how to effectively challenge everyday bigotry whenever they encounter it.

The guide contains a collection of real-life stories on how people across the United States spoke up against bigotry in awkward or tense situations with family members, co-workers, friends, classmates, and even strangers. Read it and use the advice to build your personal competency in curbing bias. Because what we say matters.

[Click Here for the PDF](#)



THE KING CENTER

Nonviolence365®
The Courageous Path:
Mission Possible with
Nonviolence365
INTERACTIVE ONLINE EVENT

MONDAY, JANUARY 13 11:30 AM CST

The King Center is proud to lead the way in promoting Dr. King's legacy, empowering individuals to pursue a courageous path toward creating the Beloved Community!

This virtual workshop explores how we can protect freedom, justice, and democracy through the practical application of Nonviolence365 (Kingian

Nonviolence). Through dynamic discussions, interactive sessions and compelling real-world applications, attendees will learn to utilize the power of Nonviolence365 to foster inclusive communities, advocate for justice, and uphold democratic values.

The workshop will emphasize the importance of courage and commitment in the ongoing struggle for human rights, inspiring participants to take actionable steps toward creating a more just and equitable society. Gather your small group and participate together in this exceptional learning opportunity.

For details and registration contact: NV365@thekingcenter.org



CITY YEAR KANSAS CITY MLK DAY OF SERVICE

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 25
8 AM - 2 PM – EAST HIGH SCHOOL**

As a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, City Year Kansas City partners with a local school or community organization for an annual full-day physical service event. Volunteers gather to paint inspirational murals throughout a building to create a positive environment for learning.

AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers invite you to join them for this project centered on social justice. It is intended to deepen ties to the community, expand racial equity and solidify service to others as a national commitment.

CYKC's Day of Service typically occurs on MLK Day but this year it will be held the following Saturday, on January 25. Registration required. For full details, click below.

[**CLICK HERE**](#)

JOIN PARTNER CHURCH MLK SERVICE DAY EVENTS

St. James Church and **Resurrection** provide opportunities for people of all ages and interests to make a meaningful difference through community service projects. As the saying goes: *Many hands make light work*, and these service programs are basic ways to make a positive impact in your church and the Kansas City Region.

The friendly social aspects provide great opportunities to meet new people along the way! Let's sign up and serve together.

Sign-up now for a specific task or try something new.

St. James Church – MLK Serve Day: Monday, January 20 – 9 AM-Noon at St. James-Paseo 5540 Wayne Ave. KCMO 64110

Contact: Dr. Yvette Kim Richards at yrichards@sjumckc.org 816-802-8234

Prayer Service in Sanctuary at 12:15 PM

Resurrection – MLK Serve Days: Saturday January 18 and Monday, January 20 – various locations - find out more [here](#).



Stay Connected – Visit our church's web pages and sign up for pastor newsletters.

Websites

Resurrection resurrection.church/next

St. James Church <https://sjumckc.org>

Pastor Newsletters

St. James Church [e-News](#) from Senior Pastor Emanuel Cleaver III

(click the grey box to join the mailing list)

Resurrection [Weekly Updates](#) From Pastor Adam

Read, View and Learn



Visit the Allies for Racial Justice website for great video and book suggestions that can help us better understand our differences, appreciate our similarities and establish Christ-centered solutions to end racial and social injustices. Terrific selections for ARJ Small Groups!

[Click HERE](#) for all our recommended reading and video resources

For more information on Allies for Racial Justice, visit our website:

<https://resurrection.church/arj>

or join the conversation on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AlliesForRacialJustice>



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Resurrection 13720 Roe Ave Leawood, KS 66224