



Martin Luther King Jr. Day, also known as MLK Day, is observed on the third Monday of every January in the United States. MLK is remembered for his successful protest against racial discrimination as the leader of the Civil Rights Movement. His powerful speeches created a lasting impact on society during his nonviolent activism and paved a path of acceptance and equality for generations to come.

LEANNE ANG

Features Editor

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter”

HISTORY

In 1979, after Martin Luther King’s death, U.S. Representative John Conyers and U.S. Senator Edward Brooke proposed a bill to Congress to make King’s birthday a national holiday. The bill was five votes short due to cost concerns. However, the King Center eventually asked the public for support. Their campaign was a success thanks to Stevie Wonder, a popular musician, releasing the song “Happy Birthday” to make the campaign popular in 1980. Six million signatures were collected for a petition to Congress making it what is considered to be the largest petition in favor of an issue in U.S. history.

On Nov. 2, 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed the bill making every third Monday of January the official Martin Luther King Jr. Day, an American federal holiday which was first celebrated in 1986. In 2000, 17 years later, it has officially been celebrated in all 50 states and South Carolina was the last state to sign the bill.

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Staff Writer

TRADITIONS

In celebration of Martin Luther King Day, many schools have a tradition of taking time out to teach students about African American history. One such lesson requires a teacher to bring a carton of brown eggs and a carton of white eggs to class. These eggs are used to create a lab for older students. They are asked to crack both eggs and see that what is on the inside is exactly the same: a yolk. This can allow students to interpret that it is what is inside that matters most.

High schoolers are often shown documentaries in class. These documentaries feature videos, photos and interviews that allow students to see history for themselves. Many people, not just students, may watch footage of Dr. King’s famous “I Have a Dream” speech. Hearing and seeing this speech along with the crowd’s reaction can have a powerful impact.

This year the 34th annual Kingdom Day Parade was held in South Los Angeles. The theme was “Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds, Healthy Democracy” and featured marching bands, dancers and politicians. The Grand Marshal was L.A. Dodgers manager Dave Roberts.

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EVENTS

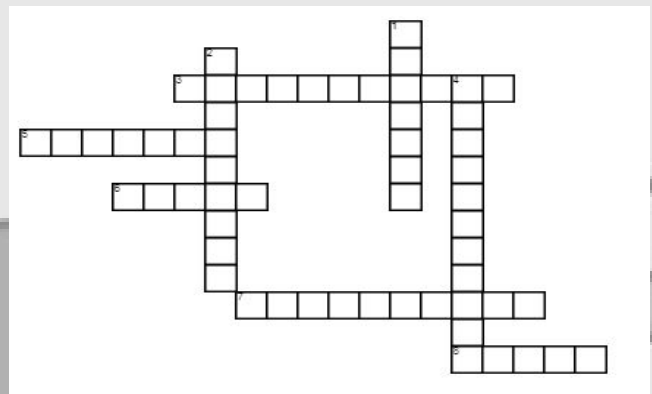
East Palo Alto is one of many cities that holds an MLK Day event. At the MLK Day of Service the mayor plants a tree, among other activities. Volunteers work with groups like Canopy, Grassroots Ecology and the San Francisco Joint Powers Authority to create new habitats for pollinators and birds at entry points of the Bay Trail. This event is held at Martin Luther King Park.

Pasadena KidSpace Children’s Museum holds a weekend event called Unity Days. The event encourages families to celebrate MLK by working together on service projects to benefit the community.

Several museums, including LACMA and the California African American Museum in Exposition Park offer free admission and special activities. They hold events such as inviting young activists to present speeches written by King and an orchestra to perform as a tribute. They also have a children’s march around the Rose Garden, inspired by the 1963 Birmingham Children’s Crusade.

EMILY TRAN

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ACROSS

- 3. The use of peaceful means, not force, to bring about political or social change
- 5. Birthplace of Martin Luther King Jr.
- 6. A cherished aspiration, ambition, or ideal.
- 7. Letter from _____ jail.
- 8. (of a group of people) occupy a place as a form of protest.

DOWN

- 1. The power or right to act, speak or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint.
- 2. Arrested for refusing to vacate her seat and move to the rear of a city bus in Montgomery to make way for a white passenger.
- 4. The rights of citizens to political and social freedom and equality.

MOOR graphic by Mireya Cabarello