

→ "All progress is precarious, and the solution of one problem brings us face to face with another problem."

# Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

Monday, January 21, 2013  
7:00 - 9:30 pm



*Diane Nash leads 4,000 marchers to confront Mayor Ben West at City Hall, which led to the integration of Nashville lunch counters - 1960*

## ***Diane Nash*** ***The Nonviolent Movement of the 1960's*** ***Holds Lessons for Today***

*Presented by*



GLASTONBURY MLK  
COMMUNITY  
INITIATIVE

In partnership with the Glastonbury Human Relations Commission

***Sponsored in part by:***  
***First Niagara Bank***  
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***George H.C. Ensworth Foundation***

"An individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust, and who willingly accepts the broader concerns of all humanity." "An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity."

"Almost always, the creative dedicated minority has made the world better." "An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity."



→ that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." "Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or in the darkness of destructive selfishness." "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase." "Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed." "He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to

# Celebration Program

## Welcome

Diane Lucas, President, Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative

## Invocation

Swaranjit Singh Khalsa, Connecticut Sikh Association

## Flyer Contest Winner

Diane Lucas, Presenting to Lyzzy Capreol

## Anytown Scholarship Winners

Diane Lucas, Presenting to:

- Amanda Cole
- Catherine Cuva
- Sarah Norman

## Joan Kemble Beloved Community Award Winner

Diane Lucas, Presenting to Amanda Siskind

## Choral Performance

Glastonbury High School Madrigal Singers under the direction of Dr. Ethan Nash and Windsor High School Teens of Praise Gospel Choir under the direction of Ms. Tracee White

- Madrigal Singers perform *Steal Away*, arranged by Moses Hogan
- Madrigal Singers perform *Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel*, arranged by Stacey Gibbs
- Gospel Choir performs *King Jesus Is A-Listening*
- Gospel Choir performs *More Like Him*, by Lamar Campbell
- Madrigal Singers and Gospel Choir perform *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

## Diane Nash Introduction

I. Charles Matthews, Esq.

## Keynote Speaker

Diane Nash

## Invitation to Reception and Closing Remarks

Diane Lucas

oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed." "He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to

→ perpetrate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it.”

# Keynote Speaker



Diane Nash played a pivotal role in the Civil Rights movement as a founder of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and as an organizer of sit-ins against segregated lunch counters and of voter registration drives. One of her most important contributions occurred in 1961 when she strategically intervened in the Freedom Ride in Birmingham, Alabama, at a point when the violence against the protestors had become so extreme their resolve had begun to falter. Working tirelessly from Nashville, she sent more students to Birmingham, re-empowered the wavering leadership of the Civil Rights movement, and inspired the protestors to continue.

Born in 1938 into a middle-class Catholic family and raised in Chicago, Nash knew personally the effects of racism, but it was as a college student attending Fisk University in Nashville that she was exposed for the first time to the brutality of the Jim Crow system of segregation. Disturbed by what she experienced, in 1959 she decided to attend workshops in the principles of nonviolence and the techniques of passive resistance. However, she was not convinced that nonviolent direct action would bring about major social change. Her first chance to put what she had learned into practice was at sit-ins at segregated lunch counters in Nashville department stores, actions which effectively contributed to the successful desegregation of Nashville.

Realizing the power of passive resistance, in 1960 she was one of the founders of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), an organization run by students and young adults. In 1961, SNCC threw its support behind student protestors who had been arrested in Rock Hill, South Carolina, after a sit-in at a segregated lunch counter. In the press release that Nash helped draft, she praised the students, writing “we feel that in good conscience we have no alternative other than to join them.” Then she and three other SNCC members went to Rock Hill to carry on the sit-in in place of the jailed students. They were thrown into jail and refused to post bail. Nash told the judge “we feel that if we pay these fines we would be contributing to and supporting the injustice and immoral practices that have been performed in the arrest and conviction of the defendants.” The group spent 30 days in jail during which time they worked on the chain gang, sang hymns and protest songs, and spoke to their fellow prisoners about civil rights. Although they did not achieve their goal of desegregation, they served as role models, inspiring thousands of people to participate in sit-ins, freedom marches, and voter-registration drives in the years ahead.

Martin Luther King wrote Nash and the other protestors that “You have inspired all of us by such demonstrative courage and faith. It is good to know that there still remains a creative minority who would rather lose in a cause that will ultimately win than to win in a cause that will ultimately lose.” But at the same time King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference

“Human salvation lies in the hands of the creatively maladjusted.” “I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the

“Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and

→ final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant.”

“In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.” “Injustice can be more redemptive.”

(SCLC), run mainly by Baptist ministers, were at a loss as to how to interact with the SNCC students. Ultimately the SCLC wanted to control SNCC but were unable to do so. Not only did they not know how to work with students, they also did not know how to work with—and value—women, an issue that would eventually lead to Nash setting her own direction.

In 1961 Nash was deeply involved in the Freedom Rides that had as their goal the integration of interstate transportation. The reaction to the Freedom Rides among Southern whites was extreme: hundreds of people were beaten with baseball bats, a bus was fire-bombed, drivers threatened, and protestors jailed under horrific conditions. The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) was so concerned about the situation, it wanted to stop the rides in Birmingham. However, Nash was convinced that to do so would be a major mistake, telling Fred Shuttlesworth of the SCLC that if they stopped in fear of the violence “the movement is dead.” From Nashville, she sent a select group of students, all trained in nonviolence, to Birmingham to board the bus. She continued to strategize, contacting the press, other Civil Rights leaders, and the U.S. Department of Justice, which was opposed to providing protection or assistance even though segregation on interstate buses was against Federal law. So certain were the students of dying, they had signed last wills and testaments. The Federal government did eventually intervene to end the violence, and the Freedom Rides continued despite intimidation, mass arrests, and imprisonment. Finally, in September, 1961, the ICC issued a unanimous ruling banning segregation on interstate bus transit.

That same year Nash married fellow activist James Bevel and they moved to Jackson, Mississippi. It was there that Nash was convicted of contributing to the delinquency of minors for teaching them nonviolent tactics. Pregnant at the time, Nash refused to pay a fine and opted for jail but the judge suspended her sentence for fear of the negative publicity that would result. The following year, the couple moved to Georgia where Bevel took a position with the SCLC. Together they were involved in the Birmingham Campaign, the March on Washington and the Selma Right-to-Vote Campaign, which helped bring about the passage of the Voting Rights Act. Both Bevel and Nash received the Rosa Parks Award from the SCLC in 1965.

Nash was growing increasingly unhappy with the male domination of the SCLC. After her divorce from James Bevel in 1968, she returned to Chicago with her two children Sherri and Douglass. Thus began a period of raising her children alone while teaching school. Faced with economic discrimination issues, Nash turned her attention to the rights of tenants, welfare advocacy, and fair housing issues.

Since then, Nash has received many awards and honors including the Distinguished American Award in March 2003 from the John F. Kennedy Library. She received the LBJ Award for Leadership in Civil Rights from the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum in March 2004. Fisk University awarded Nash an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree in May 2007. But for Nash, what really matters is not the recognition but the importance of remaining constant to her commitment to nonviolence as the best way to bring about social change.

— By Kathleen Housley

“I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.” “If physical death is the price that I must pay to free my white brothers and sisters from a permanent death of the spirit, then nothing can be more redemptive.”

→ anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." "Law and order exist for the purpose of establishing justice and when they fail in this purpose they become the dangerously structured dams that block the flow of social progress." "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" "Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend." "Man must evolve for all human conflict a method

## Additional Accomplishments

- Director of the direct action arm of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), 1961 United States Congresswoman, 1973-1977
- Appointed by President John F. Kennedy to a national committee that promoted passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Field staff person, organizer, strategist, race relations staff person, and workshop instructor for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), 1961-65
- Activist in the peace movement that worked to end the Vietnam War
- Instructor in the philosophy and strategy of nonviolence as developed by Mohandas Gandhi in India
- One of two people who conceptualized and formed SCLC's initial strategy for the Selma Right-to-Vote movement, and participated in its development until its conclusion; the Selma movement was one of the major efforts that resulted in the Voting Rights Act. For this work, she and her co-strategist received SCLC's highest award for 1965, which was presented by the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

## Awards and Honors

- Ms. Nash received one of six awards at the March on Washington (1963) presented to Negro Women Freedom Fighters
- The War Resisters' League Peace Award for 1965 was awarded jointly to Diane Nash Bevel and James Bevel
- The National Civil Rights Museum presented Ms. Nash with its 2008 National Freedom Award. This award is presented to individuals who have made significant contributions in civil rights and human rights. Previous recipients include Nelson Mandela, President Jimmy Carter, Rosa Parks, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Oprah Winfrey, Thurgood Marshall (posthumously awarded) President William Clinton and Sidney Poitier
- North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University's Human Rights Medal (2009) was presented to Ms. Nash. It is awarded annually to recognize individuals who have endeavored to correct social injustice and have significantly contributed to the betterment of the world
- The National Voting Rights Museum, Selma, Alabama, gave Ms. Nash its Living Legend Award in 2009
- Ms. Nash delivered the 2009 Slavery Remembrance Day Memorial Lecture in Liverpool, England; she is included on the Achievers' Wall in the International Slavery Museum

## Diane Nash's work is discussed in these well-known books:

- Freedom Riders 1961 and the Struggle for Racial Justice, by Raymond Arsenault
- Parting the Waters and Pillar of Fire, by Taylor Branch
- The Children, by David Halberstam
- Walking With the Wind, by Congressman John Lewis
- Freedom's Daughters, by Lynne Olson

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→ internal violence of spirit. You not only refuse to shoot a man, but you refuse to hate him: "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." "That old law about 'an eye for an eye' leaves everybody blind." "The time is always right to do the right thing." "The art of acceptance is the art of making someone who has just done you a small favor wish that he might have done you a greater one." "The hope

## Windsor High School Teens of Praise Gospel Choir

With their rich tone quality and infectious spirit, the Teens of Praise Gospel Choir brings to the genre of gospel music a unique style and sound, a sound and message that is sure to uplift the spirit and encourage the soul. The choir is an honors level choir from Windsor, Connecticut. They perform traditional and contemporary gospel music as well as Negro spirituals and a cappella compositions. These students have demonstrated a high level of musical skills and competencies as well as a commitment to gospel music. Comprised of 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students, this choir meets as a class during the regular school day. Together these students perform in a spirit of unity and provide an electrifying musical experience that comprises a message of hope, love, togetherness, and change.

Under the direction of Tracee G. White, the Gospel Choir has received numerous awards and recognition. These include 1<sup>st</sup> Place with a Superior Rating for the past seven years at musical competitions. The most recent being 1<sup>st</sup> Place with a Superior Rating, and Overall Mixed Choir Award received at the 2011 Festivals of music in Virginia Beach, Virginia. They have also received The Most Outstanding Vocalist Award and The Most Outstanding Accompanist Award at musical competitions for the past six years.

## Glastonbury High School Madrigal Singers

### *Sopranos*

Alina Kuzma  
Teryn Kuzma  
Corinne Prudente  
Kiele Sacco  
Lindsay Semevolos  
Shannon Siwik

### *Altos*

Elena Ayers  
Rebecca Lundy  
Lauren Medina  
Megan Sadlon  
Diana Sparks

### *Tenors*

Peter Fan  
Johan Hartman  
Kevin Lorraine  
Christian Plamenco

### *Bass*

David Brewer  
Trevor Davis  
Luke McNabb  
Jamie O'Flarity  
Eli Poesnecker

## Windsor High School Teens of Praise Gospel Choir

### *Sopranos*

Angelica Ayala  
Sommer Batchelor  
Kyla Ferris  
India Graves  
Khayla Harper-Myers  
Imani Hill  
Cheyanne Johnson  
Sabrina Marcelino  
Zoe Martin  
Sydney Parker  
Chelce Patterson  
Amanda Purdue  
Evelyn Rodriguez  
Toneita Thomas  
Shanice Williams  
Brianna Wynter

### *Altos*

Shaneisia Bloomfield  
Indigo Combs  
Jahzmin Cooper  
Tylr Freeman  
Natasha Jackson  
Courtney Kearse  
Whitney Lane  
Toni-Ann Malcolm  
Ra'Layah Martin  
Janae Miller  
Danielle Milliner  
Chikaodili Okeke  
Destiny Okeke  
Shyanne Palmer  
Alyssa Smith  
Candace Stout  
Brittany Thompson  
Kiona Wilson  
Melissa Wolliston

### *Tenors*

Ronnie Bowman  
Eric Cobb  
Thaddeus Gouch-Grider  
Evan Lollar  
Jaz Outlaw Moore  
Jonathan Rush  
Doyle Scott  
Jabari Washington-Fassett  
Shantelle Weir  
Wesley Wood  
Tynique Woods-Culver

### *Instrumentalists*

Joshua Bennett, Drums  
Joshua Coleman, Drums  
Thaddeus Gouch-Grider, Drums  
Doyle Scott, Drums  
Tikuan Johnson, Keyboard  
Jonathan Rush, Keyboard  
Tyrone Thomas, Keyboard  
Nathan Stoll, Guitar

## Glastonbury High School String Quartet

Tiffany Lao, Violin  
Hayden Rossi, Cello  
Amanda Siskind, Violin  
Mai Vestergaard, Viola

is the art of making someone who has just done you a small favor wish that he might have done you a greater one." "The hope

to end the day we become silent about things that matter." "That old law about 'an eye for an eye' leaves everybody blind." "The time is always right to do the right thing." "The art of acceptance is the art of making someone who has just done you a small favor wish that he might have done you a greater one." "The hope

→ of a secure and livable world lies with disciplined nonconformists who are dedicated to justice, peace and brotherhood.

## Dr. King's Philosophy and Beliefs

Dr. King believed that part of our destiny was what he called a "Beloved Community." This is not a utopian dream but an inevitable reality based on his belief that human beings are innately social and dependent upon each other. Dr. King once wrote, "We are tied together in the single garment of destiny, caught in an inescapable network of mutuality." How we treat each other determines how close we come to that ideal community. He saw segregation as a form of violence, which is a significant barrier to community. But he also recognized that conflict was an inevitable part of human experience and could be resolved peacefully. Adversaries could be reconciled through a mutual, determined commitment to nonviolence.

The path to a Beloved Community is well defined in Dr. King's principles of non-violence and social change. He created a structure for conversations that ensures people hear each other and honor differences without animosity, hatred, physical violence or any form of dominating, controlling or invasive behavior. In his campaign for civil rights he called people into conversations through boycotts and marches. The result was shared understanding and reconciliation. This is the "stuff" of community. However, community does not need to result from disagreements; more often it results from knowing and accepting others in an environment of mutual respect.

We use the phrase "Inclusive Community" as a more descriptive name for Dr. King's Beloved Community. But our goals are the same. This year alone we invited residents to 4 separate conversations on community, held a book talk and discussions on Glastonbury's own Civil Rights Advocates (the Smith Sisters) for both children and adults, provided scholarships to Anytown (National Conference for Community and Justice's week long diversity camp) and of course hold our annual celebration. In short, we encourage any activity that promotes understanding and acceptance of "the other" in our community so that everyone feels that they belong here and the community belongs to them.

## Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative

**Mission:** Provide leadership and active engagement to build an inclusive community.

**Goals:**

1. Increase knowledge and understanding of the life and philosophy of Dr. King to inspire others to continue his work
2. Bring the concept of inclusivity to the community
3. Raise awareness of the social and economic benefits of an inclusive community
4. Engage community members in activities that foster meaningful relationships and dialogue
5. Engage youth to support their development of community-building leadership skills

The nation and the world are in dire need of creative extremists. The ultimate measure of a secure and livable world lies with disciplined nonconformists who are dedicated to justice, peace and brotherhood.

The moral arc of the universe bends at the elbow of justice. The quality, not the longevity, of one's life is what is important. The question is not whether we will be extremists, but what kind of extremists we will be...

→ of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” “We who engage in nonviolent direct action are not the creators of tension. We merely bring to the surface the hidden tension that is already alive.” “Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until I am what you ought to be. This is the interrelated

# Benefactors

## In-Kind Donations

- Dunkin Donuts
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- Kathleen Housley, Diane Nash Biography
- McDonald’s Restaurant
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- Stop & Shop, Oak Street
- Town of Glastonbury
- Tom Zelek & Applied Engineering Class, GHS

## Financial Support

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- Glastonbury High School Key Club
- Glastonbury Public Schools
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- Historical Society of Glastonbury, Jim Bennett
- Peacejam & Chris Gullotta
- Kathleen Housley, author/historian
- Pam Lehn, Computer Arts Teacher, Glastonbury High School
- Erin Perry, Conversations Flyer Design
- Dr. Daniel Roach, Director of Art, Glastonbury Public Schools
- Iris Van Rynbach, author
- String Quartet of Glastonbury High School
- Town of Glastonbury, Mary Wilbor
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- Welles-Turner Memorial Library, Renee Pease
- Windsor High School, Teens of Praise Gospel Choir, Tracee G. White

“We who engage in nonviolent direct action are not the creators of tension. We merely bring to the surface the hidden tension that is already alive.” “Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until I am what you ought to be. This is the interrelated

→ structure of reality." "All men are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality."

# Appreciation

*Thank you for attending tonight's program. Your presence encourages the work we do as members of the Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative. To celebrate the 12th Anniversary of this event we felt it was fitting to make available to the community, a prominent speaker such as Diane Nash. This project was accomplished by a handful of committed community members but the work does not end tonight. Activities are planned throughout the year.*

*All of our programs are free, but we are dependent on you for financial support. The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative is a 501(c)(3) corporation and all donations are tax deductible.*

*Thank you for supporting our efforts through your participation in making Glastonbury a more engaging place to live and visit.*



**GLASTONBURY MLK  
COMMUNITY  
INITIATIVE**

501(c)(3)

Using Dr. King's philosophy and principles to build an inclusive community

## Members of the Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative

Joyce Allen

Lisa Davis

Linda Ferreira

Debra Glass

Monique Green

Donna Kidwell

John Kidwell

Darwin Kovacs

Susan Lowenkron

Diane Lucas

Susan Marks

Annemarie O'Connor

Jean Partridge

David Peniston

Lorraine Rignall

Janine Scott

Jen Siskind

Natalie Lynn Smith

Dawne Westbrook

[www.gmlkci.org](http://www.gmlkci.org) or Diane at 860 633-6078

There is a man's sense of values and his objectivity. It causes him ... to confuse the true with the false and the false with the true.

"Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it." "Like an unchecked cancer, hate corrodes the personality and eats away its vital unity. Hate destroys a man's sense of values and his objectivity. It causes him ... to confuse the true with the false and the false with the true."

→ can be no deep disappointment where there is not deep love." "We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love. There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies." "There can be no deep disappointment where there is not deep love." — Dr. Martin Luther King, 1929 - 1968

*The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative would like to thank our Sponsors, who make this work possible*



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