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Community Conversation

April 18, 2018

MLK's Legacy:

The Dream. The Reality. The Future.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of MLK's assassination, the panelists will focus on MLK's life and legacy: MLK's dreams regarding education, immigration, housing, health care, incarceration, and gender, the progress (or lack thereof) made in the last 50 years in achieving those dreams; and what remains to be done, and how to achieve those dreams.

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

This evening's Community Conversation is generously supported by the Norma and Natale Sestero Fund administered by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

The Norma and Natale Sestero Fund was created through the estate of Natale and Norma Sestero, longtime residents of Glastonbury, with the goal to benefit the people and institutions of the town. The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is the community foundation for the 29-town Greater Hartford region and is dedicated to improving the quality of life for area residents.

Presented in partnership with

Welles-Turner Memorial Library

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Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative

The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization, that was formed in 2001. Since then, the GMLKCI has sponsored up to three Community Conversations per year. GMLKCI works to increase Glastonbury residents' knowledge and understanding of the philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King and to provide leadership and active engagement to build an inclusive community.

A goal of GMLKCI is to bring people together to discuss social justice issues which are as important to us today both as individuals and as members of our community as they were to Dr. King. As Dr. King noted, "**...whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly...**" and "**...the quality of a community is determined by how members of the community relate to one another.**"

The goal of this Community Conversation is to inform and inspire Glastonbury residents to become actively involved in social justice issues by discussing in an open and congenial manner issues which may divide us or bind us together as individuals, families and a community.

All of the social justice issues discussed during this evening Community Conversation are addressed in light of Dr. King's principles:

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

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Oliver Scholes

Oliver Scholes, the Program Coordinator for Public Programs and Outreach at the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, will serve as our moderator / facilitator. Mr. Scholes oversees the Center's programming, including author events, book discussion groups, community history programs, and the award-winning Salons at Stowe Series. Prior to joining the Stowe Center, Mr. Scholes taught modern history at the University of Connecticut.

Appreciation

Thank you for attending today's program. Your presence encourages the work we do as members of the Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative to make Glastonbury a more inclusive place to live and visit.

This project was accomplished by a handful of committed community members but the work does not end tonight. We must each play our part.

While all of our programs are free, 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. Please consider supporting our efforts with a financial contribution.

Ames Grawert

Ames Grawert, Esq. is counsel in The Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law , a nonpartisan law and policy institute that seeks to improve our systems of democracy and justice. Mr. Grawert’s work seeks to develop an understanding of the cost of America’s criminal justice system — to defendants, inmates, and the nation as a whole — and to translate that information into legal change. Previously, Mr. Grawert served as an assistant district attorney in the Appeals Bureau of the Nassau County District Attorney’s Office, where he reviewed and litigated claims of actual innocence in addition to his appellate work. Before entering public service, he was at a private law firm where he represented criminal defendants pro bono in state and federal post-conviction litigation. He uses this experience to examine criminal justice issues from “both sides,” taking into account the interests of prosecutors, police officers, and criminal defendants alike.

Camara Stokes Hudson

Camara Stokes Hudson is an Associate Policy Fellow for Juvenile Justice and Education at Connecticut Voices for Children. Ms. Hudson is a children's rights and racial justice advocate specializing in juvenile justice and education. Ms. Hudson has served young people for several advocacy organizations including; The National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, the Children’s Defense Fund and Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform. In addition, Ms. Hudson has coached debate in several correctional settings with the non-profit SPEAK Inc.. Ms. Hudson has a B.S. degree in Human Development and Family Studies from the University of Vermont.

Program

Reception - Meet the Panelists

Welcome - Robyn Guimont

Introduction to the Program - Oliver Scholes

Panelist Presentations

Jon Bauer, Esq.

Erin Boggs, Esq.

Tekisha Dwan Everett, Ph. D.

Kate Farrar

Ames Grawert, Esq.

Camara Stokes Hudson

Conversation—Questions and Answers

Closing Remarks — Oliver Scholes

Thank you—Robyn Guimont

Please visit the advocacy tables—the work these organizations do is important to our communities.

**Please complete and return
the program evaluation feedback form.
Your opinions are important to our
programming and fundraising efforts.**

Jon Bauer

Jon Bauer, Esq. is the Director of the Asylum and Human Rights Clinic at the University of Connecticut School of Law. As such, Professor Bauer supervises law students who represent refugees who have fled persecution and are seeking asylum in the United States. Since the program's founding in 2002, the Clinic has won grants of asylum or related forms of relief for over 100 clients and their families. In addition, Professor Bauer directs the Immigration Detention and DACA Clinic, which assists young people facing the loss of DACA protection and non-citizens held in immigration detention. Professor Bauer, a Yale Law School graduate, has been teaching and supervising students since 1988, when he joined the UConn faculty after four years as a staff attorney with the Legal Action Center, a public interest law firm in New York City. His teaching has included courses in employment discrimination law, refugee law, immigration and workplace rights, evidence, and a course about Wal-Mart, as well as clinics in the areas of civil rights, poverty law, and mediation. Professor Bauer is a board member and past president of the Connecticut Fair Housing Center, and has served on the boards of several other legal services organizations.

Erin Boggs

Erin Boggs, Esq. is the founding Executive Director of Open Communities Alliance, a Connecticut-based civil rights organization promoting access to opportunity and housing choice with the help of an urban-suburban interracial coalition. Prior to launching the Alliance, Ms. Boggs was Staff Attorney and Interim Legal Director of the CT ACLU, where she litigated fair housing cases. Subsequently, she served as Deputy Director of the Connecticut Fair Housing Center. At the Center, Ms. Boggs focused on developing research, materials, and messaging about the impact of segregation on access to opportunity for people of color in Connecticut. Partnering with the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, Ms. Boggs assisted with the development of a report mapping "opportunity" in Connecticut, which has significantly influenced housing policy in Connecticut. Ms. Boggs has contributed to publications such as the Furman Center at NYU's Slow Debate on affordable housing and segregation and Housing Policy Debate. Ms. Boggs is a graduate of Wesleyan University and Georgetown University School of Law.

Tekisha Dwan Everett

Tekisha Dwan Everette, Ph.D. is the Executive Director of Health Equity Solutions. Dr. Everett's field of expertise is public policy, particularly health care policy, and advocacy in the non-profit, state, and private sectors. Prior to her current position, Dr. Everett served as the Managing Director of Federal Government Affairs with the American Diabetes Association where she provided strategic leadership on policy and advocacy initiatives with the White House, several federal agencies, and Congress. Dr. Everette earned her doctorate in Sociology from American University with a concentration in race, gender, and social justice as it relates to social policy, and received two Bachelor of Arts degrees in Political Science and Interdisciplinary Studies and a Masters of Public Administration degree from Virginia Tech.

Kate Farrar

Kate Farrar is the Executive Director of the Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF). Prior to CWEALF, Ms. Farrar lobbied the Connecticut state legislature on behalf of nonprofit organizations; was the Vice President of the American Association of University Women Campus Leadership Programs in Washington, D.C.; and was the associate director of National Programs and Policy at Wider Opportunities for Women where she led the Family Economic Self-Sufficiency Project, a nationwide project focused on policies and programs to move low-income families toward economic independence. Ms. Farrar also has advocated for women's representation in politics, serving as the President of the Women Under Forty Political Action Committee, the only nonpartisan PAC in the country that supports young women running for office; volunteers as a mentor for the UConn College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and as a committee member of the Aurora Foundation for Women and Girls. Ms. Farrar was a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Connecticut and a master's in public administration from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University.