

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CORRECTED

Santa Barbara 2021 Martin Luther King, Jr Day Observance Virtual Program

Live Streamed from www.mlksb.org and [MLKCommitteeSB Facebook page](#)

Monday, January 18, 2021, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Santa Barbara, CA – The Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee of Santa Barbara presents its 14th annual observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday Holiday. This year, the Committee will present a 2-hour virtual program, live-streamed on mlksb.org and on the [MLKCommitteeSB Facebook page](#) on January 18 beginning at 11:00 am.

This year, due to restrictions on public gatherings, the committee has created a virtual program featuring ceremonial and civic presentations as well inspirational messages from members of the community. Top winners in our Essay and Poetry contest will read their work. Dr Anna Everett and Rev. Richard A Lawrence are the featured speakers. Dr Everett, an emeritus professor of UCSB, was recently elected to the Santa Barbara City College Board of Trustees and also serves on the Santa Barbara County Commission for Women. She holds leadership positions in a number of organizations advocating for marginalized groups.

Rev Richard A Lawrence of San Diego is a retired United Methodist clergyman whose ministry is committed to social justice, Mr. Lawrence was active in the civil rights movement and knew Dr. King personally. In 1965, Rev. Lawrence took an interracial group of students from Chicago to participate in the Selma to Montgomery march. Later when Dr. King came to Chicago, Rev. Lawrence helped him to organize an anti-discrimination demonstration there. He has contributed leadership to dozens of community organizations including: Operation Breadbasket (PUSH), Black United Fund s in Chicago and NYC.

The 2021 Virtual Program will include encore music and dance performances from previous years. Among those being featured include: the combined choirs of B'nai B'rith Choir and Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara Choir, Ken Ryals, Director; World Dance for Humanity, Dance Institute of Santa Barbara, Inner Light Gospel Choir and Coastal West Community Choir, are among those being showcased. The program will feature 'Over the Years', a series of photo montages portraying Martin Luther King Events from 2008 - 2020.

This year's theme is:

“The ultimate measure of a person is not where they stand in moments of comfort and convenience, but where they stand at times of challenge and controversy”