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Live Blog: The 26th Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast

Presented by The Skanner Foundation from The Oregon Convention Center

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By Helen Silvis Of The Skanner News
January 16, 2012



10:47 Bernie Foster: Let's remember our friend Rob Ingram, who did such a good job for youth in this town..He was our drum Major for Justice Recipient in 2008. he left us too soon, but he eft us with the right words. So in Rob's words; Let's get to work.!

10:32 Bernie Foster, Publisher of *The Skanner News* takes the stage.

Dr. King

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also left us with a challenge when he said:

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

So, in that spirit, I’m going to speak out about a few things that matter.



At *The Skanner* we strive to represent the voices of our



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community; voices that often go unheard. It goes back to our mission statement, and our set of declared values. Here's one of our values:

“What you have to say is important and you deserve to be heard.”

– especially when those views are unpopular. That’s why we wrote an editorial, telling people in mental health crisis, ‘Don’t Call the Police.’

We’re pleased to see that mental health professionals will be involved in those 911 calls, when the problem is mental illness.

We know we didn’t make that happen, but we also know that our editorial gave Portlanders something to think about.



Last fall, we covered the Communities of Color report involving Native Americans. Who understands better than we do, that communities of color in the Northwest are still fighting for true equality? And that solutions won’t come until we listen to those voices in the wilderness.

By the way, that report would not have happened without Marcus Mundy's

pioneering efforts while at the Urban League of Portland.

He commissioned the State of Black Oregon report in 2008, and out of that came the Communities of Color Coalition, which is now documenting the ugly race-based disparities in the Portland metropolitan area. Former President Mundy accomplished many good things. His mistakes were simply -- mistakes. We thank him and we wish him well in his future career.



This year, census figures told us that half of all Black children in Oregon are living in poverty. Gov. John Kitzhaber quoted those figures in his state of the union address before the City Club of Portland. Too many Black families --



and Native and Latino families too -- are in a desperate struggle for survival. It's bad news for the future of those children -- and for us all. Unless we turn it around.

10:30 Lisa Loving introduces the Drum Major for Justice Award. This year it goes to an educator who follows in Kings footsteps. He has worked at Jefferson High School and at King Elementary. He invented the Journey of Freedom game that has become the inspirational Journey to Freedom Project. He works with young black males to increase their academic achievement, Karanja Crews is the



Drum Major for Justice 2012.

Karanja Crews says "I stand on the shoulders of those who mention Dr. King and other civil rights leaders including Ron Herndon and Avel Gordly. Passion for the work. What we all can do is support Journey to Freedom. (The project also financially. Journey to Freedom Project Major for Justice 2012. Cheers!

10:00 Bobbie Foster takes mic to introduce the school Scholarship Awards:

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Pacific NW Council of Carpenters, Doug Tweedy Presents scholarship to Darrell Keys, Hampton University Accepting for him Ralph Nickerson. Tweedy says he's not a venture capitalist or an economic expert. says while he is a middle aged white male he is not one who speaker Mike Green called anti-multicultural, Says the carpenters are pushing to increase diversity among their ranks. Wants to see business owners become more diverse. Says trades offer good middle class incomes and careers. Public works contracts are helping increase minority participation through apprenticeships and support.

Oregon Lottery, Steve Ungar presents 4 scholarships to: Marneet Lewis, Warner Pacific, Kaitlan Purkapile, Portland Community College, Kevin Jones, De La Salle (Natalya Payne, Portland State

University) Ungar talks about his son in the Portland Public School system who told him: Martin Luther King made it possible to have the great friends I have at school. Says \$ 4 billion has gone to education from the lottery.

University of Oregon, Roger Thompson, Vice Provost of Enrollment Management, presents scholarship to Oregon. This year we welcomed the most talented class. As King said function of education is to teach pe class is increasingly diverse. The Jefferson Middle School program will provide full tuition to students wl



Portland Development Commission, Patrick Quinto Deanna Hartley, Georgetown University. Accepting the PDC is committed to supporting the economic g Green. Thanks him for the frank remarks. Says as Ki more committed to talking about true economic jus welath creation are King's legacy too. Says PDC is co opportunities for people of color in Portland.

Achieving of economic justice requires intentionalit the least of our citizens have those oportunities. Say

community development initiative plans to do.

GOLD SPONSORS

Providence Health Systems, Greg Van, Pelt, Vice President/CEO, Christine Trinh, De La Salle

Oregon Health & Science University, Leslie Garcia, Assistant Diversity Office Allyson Knapper, Rice University, Accepting is her mother, Vicki Guinn

Safeway, Steve Frisby, Div. President, Arya Morman, Oregon State University, Her mother Rev. Rene Ward may represent her

Legacy Medical Center, Dr. Lori Morgan, Chief Administrative Officer Legacy/Emanuel Medical Center, Selam Wako, University of Oregon



SILVER SPONSORS

Pacific Power & Light, Pat Reiten, President, Shikar: Accepting is her mother

Family Care, Jeff Heatherington, President, Lorena : Senior De La Salle High School

Wells Fargo, Lisa Smalley, Market Integration Mana



Spelman College, Accepting for her is Lisa Gates
Home Forward, Lee Moore, Chair, Board of Commis

Graduating Senior Open Meadows

Turner Construction, Dan Harmon, Operations Manager, Rudy Rolon-Rivas, Portland State University

BRONZE SPONSORS

Multnomah County Purchasing, Rep Lew Fredericks presenting to Venasha Williams,
Portland Community College

UNITED WAY

United Way, Shaniece Curry, De La Salle High School

United Way, Kelsey Haws, Open Meadows



9:45 in honor of the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King recognizing the urgency of now!

The question I have for you today is: Are you ready t
The America21 Project is ready to stand with you in
connecting the disconnected to a vibrant Portland in
willing to commit to working together then let me s

Green asks audience. Shouts of Yeah we are ready to
claps.

We here today want to forge relationships that bring about real economic change in
our community, Creation of Portland Innovation Round Table.

9:42 Mike Green says: Partnership with the University of Portland is designed to bring
together Portlanders to create a wealth and innovation fund. Talks about Dreem
digital a small tech company in Salem Oregon. One of the companies to receive
investment through this effort.

"These efforts by The America21 Project have been funded by the blood, sweat and
tears of three committed men. We didn't wait for others to invest in us. Instead, we
invested in ourselves. We dream of serving the needs of others nationwide to help



achieve the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, whom we honor today.



Green talking about his [Project 21 to expand investment in Black innovation](#) and technology and to supp



Read Mike Green's [whole speech in *The Skanner's* Opinion secti](#)

9:35 Mike Green: Today Blacks are severely underrepresented in S' technology, engineering and math). Black entrepreneurs and busine under-capitalized. And Blacks are less than 1 percent represented in sector. In fact, there's only one nationally recognized Black angel gr Capital Association. ...

In 2009, there were 1,394 full power commercial television broadc: those were minority owned. Of those, only 9 had Black owners. Tha I have filled your ears with a lot of troublesome information, history that we recognize what Dr. King deeply understood – that relationsl challenges we face, and that the solution lies within building strong Dr. King envisioned a time when America would invest in American be empowered to work together to create a strong nation that is no also strong in its character, exemplified in the dignity it extended to

9:30 Green talks about the investment industry, angel investors and venture capitalists, but Black business and innovation has been left out. This entire industry of risk capital investment was established, nurtured and grown over the past five decades into a private sector economic engine that fuels job growth and creates wealth in White America. As it targeted regions and businesses around the nation, it somehow managed to miss most all of the Black and Hispanic urban communities in the nation.

This targeted investment and lack of inclusive relationships has resulted in today's "islands of poverty surrounded by oceans of material wealth," as Dr. King described the same situation in 1963.



9:25 Think about this for a moment. Dr. King was kil hotel just days before he was to join 1,300 striking s: working conditions so bad that two of them had bee and hundreds were relying on welfare and food star city were so low they couldn't adequately care for th with Black entrepreneurship soaring and Black busi relationships in the supply chains across industry se from all of Black America couldn't reach 1 percent o



decades of presumed progress.

9:23 The standard pathway of helping Blacks was to donate to nonprofits that provided do-good social services rather than do business with Black business owners and support the rising tide of Black entrepreneurs. Today we see the economic consequence of decades of isolation and disconnect due to White businesses and majority corporations keeping Black businesses and entrepreneurs at arm's length....

We can easily calculate the damage of decades of disconnect.

Of the 1.9 million Black-owned businesses in America, 1.8 million are sole proprietors with no employees. None. Zero. That leaves roughly 100,000 Black businesses with an average of 9 employees according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.



9:20 I didn't know White America. I grew up in a Black south side of Houston, Texas....What I did not learn w networks were. And I failed to establish either. Dr. King understood the economic power in develop racial boundaries.

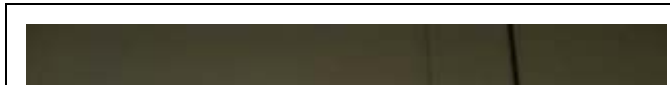
I didn't know it then, but the unemployment rate for unemployment rate for Whites nationwide. Today Black unemployment is near double that of W eerily familiar, it should. Black unemployment has b unemployment every single year since President Bar King was bemoaning the high jobless rate in the 60s.

9:15 Mike Green: The 60s tend to be remembered differently, depending upon which America you grew By the time I was in the first grade, Dr. King was assassinated, racial tension in the nation was at a fever family and friends were wealthy or had any history of wealth. ...Everyone I knew was taught the same th be stronger, be smarter and more tolerant than your White counterparts just to stay even.

9:09 Mike Green: I will tell you a little bit about who I am and use Dr. Martin Luther King's historic speech to guide us through today's message.

My hope is you will walk out of this place more informed, more empowered, more energized and more determined to be an agent of change than when you arrived.

9:04 Jerry Foster introducing Mike Green, keynote speaker. He notes the diversity of the crowd. Talks about how Green was sailor of the year when in Navy. That Green writes about issues important to Black community, His work with Project21can change our world.



8:50 Sen. Jeff Merkeley, Congratualates the



Skanner on the 26th Talks about King's legacy of compassion for sick and poor, responsibility each of us has to make sure the Arc of the Universe tends toward Justice. Talks about Albina Opportunity lending to small businesses. Announces that starting Opportunities Corporation will offer a new scholarship march forward.

Breakfast: Crab patties. Sponge Bob may be in the b

8:30 Bobbie Foster takes the stage Introduces the sp

They include: Pacific NW Council of Carpenters, Doug Tweedy, Steve Ungar of the Oregon Lottery, Roger University of Oregon, Patrick Quinton of the Portland Development Commission, and more.

Madam Wendy Jackson leads the audience in Lift Ev'ry Voice.

8:00 Wrangling a Live stream that doesn't want to go up. Place is filling up.

7:30 People arriving and talking in the foyer. I see Judge Nan Waller, Derriel Ingram, Joe Johnson, Lakeit



3 p.m. Sunday Jan. 15: At the Oregon Convention Center Everything is set up for tomorrow's 26th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast. Tables arranged with programs, and flowers. North Portland Multimedia Training Center staff ready to record the event. Rehearsal all complete. Last minute changes: Pastor Crayton Jackson of Daniels Memorial Church of God in Christ has stepped in to replace Pastor Julia Neufeld. Madam Wendy Jackson will lead the singing.

Everything is ready Sunday, in the Oregon Convention Center, for the Skanner Foundation's 26th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast

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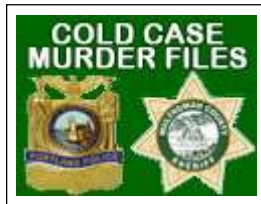
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 **Gabriela Kandziora**
 I had a great time at my first MLK Breakfast! Excellent event! Thank you Bernie, Bobbie, and team Skanner!
 Reply · 1 Like · Follow Post · Tuesday at 6:29pm

 **Linda Sharpe**
 Had a great time "nice picture mickey".
 Reply · Like · Follow Post · Tuesday at 4:56am



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