

THE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
TRIBUTE AND DINNER – 25 years

Sunday January 31st 5 p.m.

**Hotel Den Haag -Wassenaar (formerly De Bijhorst)
Zijdeweg 54 (just off the A-44 at the Bridge) 2245 BZ Wassenaar**

Adults – € 30 Children (*under 12*) € 15

Twenty-five years ago, a group of American women decided that no matter how we did it, we would commit ourselves to an annual tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We truly believed and believe that the United States, indeed all nations, can learn from this day and be inspired by the work of one man and a movement that chose love instead of hate and peaceful protest instead of violence.

When one thinks about the Civil Rights Movement, there are no words. A people who were enslaved and freed and then forced to live in segregation or de-facto segregation said we can, we must be free, but the force we use will be “Soul Force.” Dr. King led that movement, but there were so many thousands, indeed hundreds of thousands, who shared his belief in non-violence and his love and commitment to the United States of America and the dignity of people everywhere. He did something so American when America is at its best, its most principled and idealistic. He asked, in fact forced the nation, to begin living out “the true meaning of the Dream” articulated in the Declaration of Independence. “*We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal.*”

This year, to commemorate 25 years, we will have a very special guest from Chicago, IL. *Mr. Timuel Black*, one of the organizers of the 1963 March on Washington and a man who landed on Normandy Beach on D -Day plus Two and was there when the Buchenwald Concentration Camp was liberated. It is written about Mr. Black, “He was profoundly affected by the discrimination he experienced in the army and the human devastation he witnessed in the Buchenwald death camp. He resolved then to dedicate his life to work for peace and justice.” When I spoke to him on the telephone, he remarked, “I’m old, but I’m never too old to keep on trying.” He is the author of a book entitled “Bridges of Memory,” a former high school teacher and administrator, professor of anthropology and sociology and dean of Wright Junior College in Chicago. He was the special guest of Senator Durbin of Illinois at the Inauguration of President Obama.

We are honored too that *The Honorable Fay Hartog Levin*, US Ambassador to The Netherlands will also speak this year and that *Dr. Richard Sprawling*, Superintendent of the American School of the Hague (ASH) who grew up in Montgomery, Alabama and saw segregation everyday will share his thoughts and memories. His first teaching job, a reaction to childhood experiences, was in Africa.

From the American Protestant Church, *Reverend Tim Blackmon* will share his wise words. His father, Henry Blackmon was the Minister of Music there for more than thirty years. From the beginning and until his death, he sang at the Dr. King Tribute. His glorious voice and humble nature were an inspiration – “Oh, Freedom, oh freedom, oh freedom over me.” We certainly will remember him this night. He, like Mr. Black, served in the segregated US Army in the Battle of the Bulge and over Europe. His answer to segregation was a deep love of his fellow man that exuded from his music and his soaring voice.

People who lived the Civil Rights Movement - *Lois Mothershed Pot* and the *Reverend Harcourt Klinefelter* will join us once more. Lois was the first African-American President of the National Christian Students Union and the first Black student in her university. Her sister, Thelma Mothershed, was one of *the Little Rock Nine*, the young high school students who tried to integrate Central High School in Little Rock against the orders of Governor Orval Faubus. They were only able to attend school because of the intervention of President Eisenhower and the National Guard. Lois remembers what happened to "her baby sister" and also to her father who was in the segregated US Army from the Battle of the Bulge to Okinawa.

Reverend Klinefelter finished his studies in Theology at Yale University and went down South "to find Dr. King." He worked for him doing Public Relations for three years, until his death. Reverend Klinefelter tells stories about Dr. King and Mrs. King and sitting in their kitchen and talking and laughing. He has devoted his life to non-violent conflict resolution and went to Sarajevo in the middle of the war to do his work.

Adrienne West and *Tony Ward* will join us with their incredible voices. They will sing songs like "Let Us Break Bread Together" and "Oh, Freedom" Young people, the so-called Bearers of the Torch" will also speak. They must carry forth the message, the "Dream." *Jimmy Yarnell* and a jazz group from ASH and guest artists will play.

We hope you will take time out for this 25th Tribute to Dr. King and bring your children. When we first started, many people asked, "Why? Why are you doing this?" There was a lot of resistance to the Martin Luther King holiday. We asked, "Why not?" We are so proud that we have come so far and vow to continue year after year.

So much has changed since Dr. King and all those who walked with him first marched and "sat-in" and demanded the rights guaranteed to every American – indeed, to every human being. However, even now, there is still much to be done. The motto of Martin Luther King Day is, "Make this a Day on, not a day off!" Let's begin together. In the words of the anthem of the Civil Rights Movement, "*Deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall overcome someday.*"

Please join us on the evening of January 31st for a simple dinner, the kind Dr. King would have approved of and music and words of wisdom from our children and the people who were there.

Roberta Enschede

Sponsored by OAR –Overseas Americans Remember

Roberta Enschede, Tove McGrew, Jessie Rodell, Anneke Beeuwkes & Courtney Smith van Rij

A special thank you to the Honorable James Foster and the Public Affairs Office of The US Embassy for helping us bring Mr. Timuel Black to The Netherlands for The 25th Anniversary of the Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Further information: Roberta Enschede, 070-5118409
Reservations: oarinnl@yahoo.com or call 070-5118409