The Transformative Power of a Unified Dream
The 2017 MLK Celebration theme, The Transformative Power of a Unified Dream, was formed based on the principle that we are stronger as a community in advancing social justice and addressing historical inequality in the non-violent and empathetic manner promoted by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This theme also speaks to the immediacy of issues regarding equity that affect community members in Kalamazoo and its surrounding area. Art, education, faith and health are highlighted within the theme.

**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 11**

**WMU/Kalamazoo Public Schools Social Justice Book Bowl**, 5 p.m.

Linden Grove Middle School

Reading competition designed to encourage the love of reading and to promote literacy in Kalamazoo Public Schools. The program exposes young people to different genres of young adult literature focused on social justice in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Each student is responsible for reading two books, including one fiction and one non-fiction selection. Students read the assigned books and prepare with their coaches and teammates for the competition. The Book Bowl begins each October and culminates in January.

**THURSDAY, JAN. 12**

“&quot;The Courage to Create&quot; poetry competition awards reception, 5 to 7 p.m.

WMU Multicultural Center, Adrian Trimpe Building

Writing and research competition designed to encourage the love of poetry, student research in the role of writers as agents for social change, and to promote literacy in Kalamazoo Public Schools. The program exposes young people to various genres of poetry and will provide a forum for parents, local writers, literacy experts, and faculty, staff and students from Kalamazoo College and WMU to build a supportive community to foster youth's creative writing and historical research activities. Categories are “Free/Open Verse (original creation)” and Recitation (performance) of another poet's work on the theme “The Transformative Power of a Unified Dream.”

**FRIDAY, JAN. 13**

| **Community Reflection**, 11 a.m. |
| Stetson Chapel, Kalamazoo College |

Speakers include Kalamazoo College students, faculty, staff and administrators.

**SATURDAY, JAN. 14**

| **Public School Students' Visitation**, 9 a.m. registration |
| East Ballroom, Bernhard Center, Western Michigan University |

High school and middle school students and families have the opportunity to attend a variety of fun and educational workshops. Competitions include a WMU and Kalamazoo Public Schools Social Justice Book Bowl; WMU and Kalamazoo Public Schools Social Justice Art Competition; and a Courage to Create Poetry Competition, open to all middle and high school students. The event is open to families from Kalamazoo Public Schools and the surrounding school districts.

**SUNDAY, JAN. 15**

**The 31st Annual Northside Ministerial Alliance Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration**, 4 p.m.

Mt. Zion Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Addis Moore, host pastor

Keynote speaker: Bishop John Franklin White, president prelate of the Fourth Episcopal District, African Methodist Episcopal Church and president of the AMEC Council of Bishops

**MONDAY, JAN. 16**

City of Kalamazoo Communitywide Day of Service, 8 a.m.

Meet at City Hall, 241 W. South St.

Volunteer opportunities available at volunteerkalamazoo.org

| Convocation, 10:50 a.m. |
| Stetson Chapel, Kalamazoo College |

**Pre-MLK Walk Lunch Discussion, 1 p.m.**

WMU Kanley Chapel Dialogue Center

Participants engage in discussion surrounding the differences and similarities between the Civil Rights era and today. Posters will be available for decorating as well as food and hot chocolate. For more information, contact (269) 387-2506 or kanley-staff@wmich.edu.

| **Commemorative Walk, 3:30 p.m.** |
| Gather at WMU Kanley Chapel, proceed to Kalamazoo College Red Square, then MLK Park in downtown Kalamazoo. |

**TUESDAY, JAN. 17**

| **Dream Luncheon**, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. |
| Student Commons Lyceum, Kalamazoo Valley Community College |

Speaker John Davis will recite a rendition of one of MLK speeches, and students will read their writings on MLK.

**WEDNESDAYS, JAN. 18 TO APRIL 12**

**Lyceum Lecture Series Spring 2017**, noon to 1 p.m.

Lee Honors College lounge, Western Michigan University

Weekly seminars sponsored by the Lee Honors College on a variety of topics, given by WMU faculty and experts from the wider community on the theme “Fulfilling America’s Promise: Racial Equality and Justice.”

Free and open to the public. Lunch is not provided, but the audience is welcome to bring brown bag lunches to the seminars.

First lecture is Jan. 18 with Mia Henry, executive director of the Arcus Center, on taking inspiration from women’s key role in the Civil Rights Movement.

Keynote address is March 27, 7 p.m., Chenery Auditorium, 714 S. Westnedge Ave., Kalamazoo, with Sybrina Fulton, mother of Trayvon Martin, on her work turning grief into advocacy for empowering youth.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 18**

**Emerging HOPE Family Strengthening Program**, 10th Annual Mental Health Forum, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

VanDuesen Room, Kalamazoo Public Library downtown branch

The forum features a keynote address, “When My Father Left and a Stranger Returned Home: Understanding Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder from a Military Daughter’s Perspective” by Mona Lisa Watson, owner and senior consultant at Anom Diversity Consultants LLC. Following the keynote, participants can attend one of three educational workshops.

Mental health agency booths will be set up allowing participants to view the agency display booths, talk with mental health providers and gather information. State Continuing Education Clock Hours and WMU Continuing Education Units will be offered for all workshops and keynote address. There is a fee for both SCECHs and WMU CEUs of $15 per participant. Registration is $25 with limited scholarships available.

To register, visit surveymonkey.com/s/Q03LPK7 or emerginghopelps.org.

For more information, contact Curtis or Pamela Robinson Sr. at (269) 205-3356.