

The Shoreline

Vol. 11, No. 12

A Shoreline Community, Pine Knoll Shores, N.C.

January 2017

Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

By Barbara Milhaven

Who knew when Martin Luther King Jr. was born, on January 15, 1929, that this Southern African American baby boy would come to be so revered in the United States and the world that he would be honored with a federal holiday? In 1983, Congress designated the third Monday in January as Martin Luther King Jr. Day. This reverence is a tribute to his relentless, nonviolent struggle for racial equality, especially in this country. In the early part of the 20th century, who could have foreseen that Barack Obama, an African American man, would be twice elected as President of the United States?

Many people in this country railed against the injustice of segregation; the inequality in education, job opportunity and housing; and the repression of minority races, but few fought to alleviate these ills. Using spoken and written persuasion, public nonviolent resistance, and civil disobedience, Dr. King did just that and much more. He worked for 13 years as a leader of the civil rights movement in America, resulting in the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, which eliminated legalized racial segregation, and in 1965 the Voting Rights Act, eliminating voting barriers.

Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta, the son of a minister who became a minister. His strong Christian faith and admiration for world pacifists like Mohandas Gandhi gave him the courage to withstand, with dignity, many societal injustices and harrowing personal attacks, including the multiple bombings of his home, physical and verbal abuse, multiple arrests and imprisonment.

He earned a doctorate in theology from Boston University in 1955, and from his Ebenezer Baptist Church pulpit in Montgomery, Alabama, he delivered his famous "Letter from a Birmingham Jail." In 1963 he organized the 250,000-person march to Washington, where he delivered his acclaimed "I Have a Dream" speech. For these powerful speeches and all of his work on behalf of underprivileged Americans and racial equality and harmony in the world, Dr. King received many awards and citations—and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968. His dream, only partially realized in his lifetime, lives on in his writings and speeches, monuments and memorial tributes that encourage and inspire people to work toward fulfilling these ideals. His words still ring true to this day: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

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"Face Behind the Badge" Rescheduled

See page 10

Citizen Scientists Needed

See page 27

PKS History Exhibit Wins Statewide Newsome Award

By Michelle Powers

"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success."—Henry Ford

The Pine Knoll Shores History Committee certainly knows the truth in that statement. The committee's collaboration with the Carteret County Historical Society (CCHS) on the exhibit "Beach Town in a Forest—The Story of Pine Knoll Shores" garnered the prestigious Albert Newsome Award from the Federation of North Carolina Historical Societies at the federation's annual meeting in November.

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Pictured from left: Pine Knoll Shores History Committee members Martha Edwards, Walt Zaenker, Jean Macheca and Michelle Powers and Carteret County Historical Society Director Steve Anderson. History Committee members not pictured are Phyllis Makuck, Ted Lindblad and Clark Edwards.—Photo by Michael Cross

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