

Breakfast

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intentional about what we do as well as what we say. Now next month is Black History Month; sometimes it is referred to as African American History Month. Being that the 2020 national theme for African American History Month is 'The African American and the Vote,' I think it is appropriate today to acknowledge that Dr. King was the driving force behind the passing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965."

Gorham went on to say if we truly believe what Dr. King lived and died for, we cannot allow his dream to die. He said, "Although we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, we must not despair but cling to the dream."

Gorham's address marked the 20th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast hosted by The Chronicle and the Ministers' Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity.

Although there are



Photo by Alphonso Abbott Jr.

Judge Denise Hartsfield looks out at the more than 1,000 people in attendance during the Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast.

legacy and push for future action, the breakfast brings people together like no other and, according to James Taylor, publisher of The Chronicle, together is the only way to tear down the walls of injustice.

"Together we win," Taylor said. "We cannot let our differences of opinion, our different factions of faith, we can't let our Republican, Democratic, or Independent political affiliations stop the work

ration is a very important and fitting way to remember and remind ourselves to continue to love one another, to shine the light of righteousness and fairness on the dark areas of hate and fearmongering, and a lot of that is going," Joines said. "So James, thank you for your hard work and continue to keep this day honored in a great way."

Sponsors for the 20th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast



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Publisher James Taylor addresses the crowd during the 20th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast on Monday, Jan. 20. The prayer breakfast is hosted by The Chronicle and the Ministers' Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity.

many events held throughout the city to honor Dr. King, since the inaugural event held in 2000, the annual Prayer Breakfast has become the unofficial kickoff to Martin Luther King Jr. Day and the various events held in Winston-Salem. A mixture of reflections on Dr. King's

that we're doing on this wall, because together we win."

When discussing the importance of the annual event, Mayor Allen Joines said the Prayer Breakfast is a great way to start the day and commemorate the life of Dr. King.

"Today's commemo-

were: Reynolds American Inc., BB&T, the City of Winston-Salem, Novant Health, Truliant Federal Credit Union, Wake Forest University, and Maximum Enterprises. The Chronicle would also like to extend special thanks to all the other organizations that made the event a success.

Community charged to use influence to uplift others

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

Every year to wrap up the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast, the attendees are charged to make a sacrifice to uplift our community and make it a better place for everyone to live, work, and play. During this year's event held on Monday, Jan. 20, at the Benton Convention Center, Pastor Tembila Covington encouraged the greater Winston-Salem community to reach out to those in need, speak truth to power, and help move those who need it most toward economic stability.

Covington, who is the pastor of Crossing Red Sea Ministries in Rockingham and president of the Ministers' Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity, said while many have benefitted from Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement, many in our communities have been left behind and it's time we do something about it. She said, "The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King talked about a check that

had not been cashed; however, over the years some have received and benefited from those checks. And some who have taken part in receiving those checks have done good to benefit themselves to grow and become great influencers, but they left their communities, leaving behind those who need that economic support and development.

"The charge today would be while we have been able to benefit, we have gone away from our homes and it's time for us to go back to our communities and take charge of what God has given us to do and lead our people to a place they as well can find economic security, they want to find the education," Covington continued. "I charge you to go back to those communities and tell the testimonies that you have long forgotten about, of how you came over before you got to where you are, so that we can begin to connect, build up, and empower one another and go forth to a land of economic sustainability and a land of

freedom."

Following her call to action, the mixed crowd of elected officials, clergy, business owners, students, and countless others stood to their feet and applauded. While making her way to the parking deck, one attendee said she hoped everyone in attendance heard what Pastor Covington was saying. She said, "Everything she said was the God-honest truth. There are people in this community who have the means to make a difference, but they don't because they don't feel it impacts them, but we have to get away from that.

"Just like the pastor said, it's time for us to come together and work toward a common goal."

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast is hosted annually on the third Monday in January to honor the legacy of Dr. King and his contributions to society. The event is hosted by The Chronicle and The Ministers' Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity.



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Community Information & Feedback Sessions

- Tuesday, Jan. 28, 6 p.m. at Carver High School, 3545 Carver School Road, Winston-Salem
- Wednesday, Jan. 29, 6 p.m. at Easton Elementary School, 734 Clemmons Circle, Winston-Salem
- Thursday, Jan. 30, 6 p.m. at South Fork Elementary School, 4332 Country Club Road, Winston-Salem

Each session will include a short video on the various ways we could restructure our City Council, and information stations with more details.

Sponsored by the Winston-Salem Local Governance Study Commission, a non-partisan commission jointly appointed by Mayor Allen Joines and N.C. Reps. Donny Lambeth and Debra Conrad to evaluate how we elect our City Council.



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