



## MLK Memorial Breakfast *Reimagined*

**Online-Only Breakfast on January 17th; Two New Virtual Events honoring King's legacy**

*"From Resistance to Representation: Black Women Proving the Dream"*

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 6, 2022 (revised January 13, 2022)

The **52nd Annual Martin Luther King Memorial Breakfast on Monday, January 17th** will be a live, **online-only event**. Despite plans to host a hybrid event (virtual and in-person at the Boston Convention Center), the recent surge in coronavirus due to the highly transmissible omicron variant, which is expected to peak over MLK weekend, necessitates this move to an **online-only gathering**. As the "beloved community" we must care for one another. The nation's oldest commemoration and Boston's premiere event will be **live** on Zoom. We are inviting the beloved community to gather online and have breakfast together—from the safety of our own homes.

We are re-imagining the annual breakfast as a **THREE-PART CELEBRATION**:

- 1. January 17th** (9am) **Online Breakfast**, featuring keynote speaker, **Professor Annette Gordon-Reed**, author of Pulitzer Prize-winning *On Juneteenth* (2021). Boston Globe senior opinion editor **Kimberly Atkins Stohr** will preside.
  - » You're invited to have your breakfast ready and cameras on! We'll celebrate the "love feast" – a communal meal shared among the faithful. **Please register now at [bostonmlkbreakfast.org](https://bostonmlkbreakfast.org) in order to receive the Zoom log-in information.**
  - » Breakfast attendees will also enjoy musical interludes and performances from the Berklee Institute for Jazz and Gender Justice and an inspirational rendition of "Lift Every Voice and Sing" by "Sweet Lamb," Lauren Britt.
- 2. March 24th** (4-6pm) **Women's History Month Roundtable**, celebrating female leadership in the civil rights movement, with a tribute from **U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren**.
  - » Panelists include **Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, U.S. District Attorney Rachael Rollins, State Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz, State Representative Liz Miranda, and Councilwoman Julia Mejia.**
- 3. April 4th** (6-8pm) **Award Ceremony**, honoring "Drum Majors for Justice" and scholarship recipients. The ceremony will be headlined by **U.S. Senator Ed Markey** and **Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healy**.
  - » **Drum Major Awards** will be presented to accomplished women and organizations that empower women, including Sarah Ann Shaw, Judge Margaret Burnham, and Chastity Bowick, Women's Lunch Place, the Caribbean Foundation of Boston, and the Transgender Emergency Fund of Massachusetts.
  - » **Scholarship Awards** will also be presented to students at participating Madison Park, Burke, and O'Bryant high schools, Orchard Gardens K-8 School, and Roxbury Community College.



The MLK Memorial Breakfast, in conjunction with Northeastern University, will also present two interactive, **online teach-ins**: *civic engagement and activism* (Wednesday, January 26th) and *women in entrepreneurship* (Thursday, March 31st). Please see below for details.

Registration for all events at [bostonmlkbreakfast.org](https://bostonmlkbreakfast.org).

There is no doubt that the drive for a more just and equitable society remains to be a necessity in this nation. *Join us for these series of gatherings that connect and inspire the “beloved community” and honor the legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

In Love and Liberation,

Martin Luther King Memorial Breakfast Committee, Inc.

Boston, MA

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## TEACH-INS on Civic Engagement and Women in Entrepreneurship

On **Wednesday, January 26, 2022**, the Committee will sponsor a teach-in from **4:00 – 6:00pm**, at the Cabral Center in the John D. O’Bryant African American Institute on Northeastern University’s campus. A panel of Black women involved in various forms of civic engagement and activism will teach, discuss, and inspire a hybrid audience. Attendees can register for the free, interactive 75-minute session for opportunities to learn and get engaged.

Invited panelists for the civic engagement and activism teach-in:

- Tanisha Sullivan – President, Boston NAACP
- Chastity Bowick – Award-winning activist, civil rights leader, and transgender health advocate and Executive Director of the Transgender Emergency Fund of Massachusetts, Inc.
- Judge Margaret Burnham – Northeastern Law Professor, Founder of Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project
- Ekoa Holmes – Visual artist and community activist
- **Moderator:** Dr. Regine Michelle Jean-Charles – Director, Africana Studies, Northeastern University

On **Thursday, March 31, 2022**, the Committee will sponsor a second teach-in from **4:00-6:00pm**. The second teach-in will commence at the Cabral Center in the John D. O’Bryant African American Institute on Northeastern University’s campus. A panel of Black women entrepreneurs will teach, discuss, and inspire an in-person and hybrid audience about their struggles and triumphs in business development.

Invited panelists for the women in entrepreneurship teach-in are:

- Nia Grace – Owner, Darryl’s Corner Bar and Kitchen
- Ivy Lawson – Owner, Iveyy’s Everything Honey, Northeastern Alum
- Cheryl Straughter – Owner, Soleil Restaurant, Nubian Square
- Jaeda Turner – Creator, Black Owned Boston

Assuredly, the pandemic has provided moments to reflect and re-imagine how to sustain the essential work towards social justice and equitable outcomes for all. We hope that you will join us for these very important moments of celebration, learning, and uplift.