

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

At their 7th Annual Celebration of Champions, Westchester MLK, Jr. Institute for Nonviolence will honor two groups and a special individual creating change in our communities: Professor James E. Jones, Community Voices Heard and the Jacob Burns Film Center

WHEN: Thursday, May 12, 2016--reception at 5:30pm and dinner at 6:30pm

WHERE: Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 468 Rosedale Avenue, White Plains 10605

The Westchester Martin Luther King, Jr. Institute for Nonviolence is holding their annual Celebration of Champions on Thursday, May 12. Seven years ago, we founded this awards and benefit dinner to honor local individuals and organizations who work for justice and peace in their communities but whose efforts may not be widely recognized. This year, we are honoring those who ignite social change through education in diverse and imaginative ways. Our Champion Educators are: Professor James E. Jones, Associate Professor of World Religions and African Studies at Manhattanville College, for inspiring students to build Dr. King's "Beloved Community"; Community Voices Heard of Westchester County for preparing people to create systematic change; and the Jacob Burns Film Center for transforming community dialogue through the power of film. All our honorees demonstrate a deep commitment to educating and empowering individuals to work for change in their local communities and beyond. We are delighted to honor them at our Celebration of Champions.

The evening will feature jazz music from the incomparable Art Bennett Quartet, a raffle, and a silent auction with opportunities to bid on hotel packages, art pieces and more.

The MLK Institute for Nonviolence is a non-profit organization founded in 1987 as a means to teach racial and social equity. Today, we focus on educating young people and adults about the relevance of the Rev. Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement in the current struggles for racial justice, advocacy through nonviolent action, and building community. We offer conferences, book clubs, Beloved Community Dinners and other public events. We stand with other community groups seeking justice. We have a MLK Freedom Library housed in the Thomas H. Slater Center in downtown White Plains and hold an annual youth conference called Ending Violence Building Hope at Manhattanville College.

Dinner tickets for the Celebration of Champions are on sale until Monday, May 9. Ad sales for our Dinner Journal are open until Friday, May 6. All event details can be found on our website, www.mlkwestchester.org or <https://mlkcelebrationchampions.eventbrite.com>. If you have any questions about the event, please contact us at (914) 949-6555 or connect@mlkwestchester.org.

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