

Living the Dream

Groups team up to honor civil rights legend

By HOLLY TABOR
htabor@thenewenterprise.com

In the spirit of honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Hardin County Schools Performing Arts Center, Historic State Theater Complex and Hardin County branch of the NAACP have teamed up to provide a weekend of commemoration. "Lift Every Voice & Sing," A Community Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., begins tonight with a musical performance at the PAC and lasts through Monday, when it concludes with the annual luncheon hosted by the NAACP on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

In years past, events have been held separately. This is the first year the organizations made a collaborative effort to recognize King and his continuing influence.

"Dr. King was such an important part of our history and the history of America, we thought he deserved this sort of recognition," said Dana Beth Lyddan, executive director of the Historic State Theater and Elizabethtown Heritage Council. "It's an important part of our history, and we need to educate the community."

TONIGHT – The American Spiritual Ensemble joined by a community choir, 7 p.m. at the PAC

To kick off the weekend of celebration, the Hardin County Schools Performing Arts Center will host The American Spiritual Ensemble.



Formed in 1995, the ensemble has performed at major venues throughout the United States and around the world with a repertoire that ranges from opera to spirituals to Broadway. Its mission is to keep the American Negro spiritual alive.

During a portion of the show, the ensemble will be joined onstage with a community choir, consisting of local people who auditioned to be part of the group.

Tickets are \$10 for reserved seats and \$5 for general admission. For more information, call 769-8837.

SATURDAY – Heart of Kentucky Men's Chorus, 7 p.m. at the PAC

With more than 30 men singing in traditional barbershop four-part harmony, the Heart of Kentucky Men's Chorus considers itself a community chorus. Saturday night at the PAC the group will perform a number of songs dedicated to honoring diversity, Martin Luther King

Jr. and his contribution to the civil rights movement.

Tickets are \$10 for reserved seats and \$5 for general admission. For more information, call 769-8837.

SUNDAY – "Lifting Our Voices," 3 p.m. at the Historic State Theater Complex

With support from the Benjamin Fund to promote diversity, "Lifting Our Voices" offers a variety of musical styles ranging from gospel to jazz to rap, featuring the talents of Gale Crocker, Na'tashia King, The Gospel Keynotes, Ebony Morgan, The New Generations, Seth Morgan and The Young Disciples

Author Charlene Hampton Holloway, who was the youngest person to be arrested with King during a protest in Louisville, also will read some of her original works during the show.

There will be a reception before

the performance, beginning about 2:30 p.m. Admission to the show and reception is free. For details, call 234-8258.

MONDAY – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Unity Celebration and Lottie O. Robinson Scholarship Fundraiser luncheon hosted by the Hardin County branch NAACP, 11 a.m. Monday at Pritchard Community Center

Dr. Lucian Yates, associate professor and chairman of Kentucky State University's Division of Education and Human Services, will be the guest speaker at this annual event honoring King.

Also at the luncheon, the winners of the NAACP sponsored art and writing contest will be announced.

Entries in the contest, which include posters created by students in grades K-12; poetry by students in grades 6 to 9; and essays by students in grades 10 to 12 will be on display throughout the weekend, making their way from the PAC tonight to this culminating event at the Pritchard Center Monday.

This year, there were not as many entries in the contest as there have been in years past, said Hardin County Branch NAACP President Hortensia Morgan.

"We're a little disappointed with the lack of participation," Morgan said. The problem, she added, was apparently some teachers didn't get information about this year's contest until it was too late.

The luncheon has been moved from the Vaughn Reno Starks Community Center to the Pritchard Community Center.

Lunch is \$15 for adults, \$10 for students under 19. Call 319-3131 for more information.

Holly Tabor can be reached at 769-1200, Ext. 236.