



Atlanta Remembers a Leader

The city celebrates the memory and contributions of Martin Luther King, Jr.

ATLANTA (January 12, 2004) – Monday, Jan. 19, Atlanta will take time to honor and commemorate the memory of a great native, Martin Luther King, Jr. Several area attractions are hosting special events that will involve visitors and residents in the celebration, appreciation and education that takes place during the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend.

The Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site will play host to a full schedule of events over the weekend and holiday. Join Christine King Farris, sister to King, Jan. 15 at Ebenezer Baptist Church and The Visitor Center Atrium. Farris will read and sign her illustrated children's book, *My Brother Martin: Memoirs of a Childhood with Martin Luther King*. Other events at the birthday celebration include a puppet show, "A Day On, Not a Day Off," storytelling and birthday cake.

The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra joins the glee clubs from Spelman and Morehouse colleges for the 12th annual concert honoring the life and legacy of King, "A King Celebration," Jan. 16 in the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel at Morehouse College.

Saturday, Jan. 17 brings several events, including the kick-off of The 2004 Martin Luther King Jr. Service Summit, a three-day summit exploring King's message of service, activism, diversity and nonviolence, and the Annual Musical Tribute from 2-4 p.m. at Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church. That evening will host The Annual Salute to Greatness Awards Dinner, which is The King Center's primary fundraising initiative. The dinner will take place at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta and honorees include Bono, the lead singer for U2, and Target stores.

Christine King Farris returns Sunday, Jan. 18 for a book signing at The King Center from 2-4 p.m. in the Freedom Hall Gift Shop and Auditorium. Yolanda King, King's daughter, and author Elodia Tate will be on site from 4-6 p.m. to sign copies of *Open My Eyes, Open My Soul*. Attendees can expect to see Coretta Scott King, King's widow, at the events, as well.

The Annual Commemorative Service, Jan. 19, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., is the spiritual hallmark of the King Holiday observance. Held at Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, the service will feature tributes to the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. from local, national and international leaders. Following the service will be a March and Rally, assembling on Peachtree Street between Baker Street and Auburn Avenue.

Other attractions honoring the holiday include Imagine It! Children’s Museum of Atlanta. Thursday, Jan. 15- Monday, Jan. 19, visitors can explore the legacy King left through imaginative interactive programs, including a “Wall of Dreams” exhibit, in which children will join gallery interpreters in drawing and describing their dreams on the wings of construction-paper doves.

Paschal’s Restaurant will host a Human Rights Prayer Breakfast and Workshop, Jan. 16 at 8:30 a.m. The workshop will explore ties between international human rights and the U.S. civil rights movement. The Shrine of the Immaculate Conception will give its annual Eucharistic Service, where homilies, choirs, dancers and drummers will perform, Jan. 17, 2-4 p.m.

To celebrate the holiday weekend, the ACVB is offering special discount rates at various Atlanta hotels. Visit www.atlanta.net/mlk for details and for additional weekend packages that include attractions, shopping and dining.

Established in 1913, the ACVB is a private, nonprofit organization created exclusively to market metro Atlanta and Georgia as premier conventions, meetings and leisure destinations in the regional, national and international marketplace and to favorably impact the Atlanta economy through conventions and tourism.

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For more information, please contact:

Michelle Gryder
Public Relations Assistant
404.521.6398
mgryder@atlanta.net

Brandy Humphries
Public Relations Manager
404.521.6645
bhumphries@atlanta.net

Lauren Kenworthy
Public Relations Specialist
404.521.6649
lkenworthy@atlanta.net