

## Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day with the Old Stone House

The Old Stone House Museum cherishes its rich history of African American leadership in Alexander Lucius Twilight. This January, we celebrate the life and work of another preeminent African American, Martin Luther King Jr. Alexander Twilight and Martin Luther King Jr. shared some remarkable qualities. Both men were preachers and educators and, though they lived in different times, their similar intellect, vision and drive implicitly link their stories. Twilight and King shared a fervor for education, the great equalizing force in American demographics. There seems no better place to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. than the Old Stone House.

To celebrate King's educational legacy, we will host virtual reading and discussion hours for area schools, libraries and at-home learners to help teach about race and racism. This reading will take place on the Friday before Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 15th. On the day of Monday, January 18th, we are facilitating a day of service in the Northeast Kingdom to honor King's own legacy of serving one's community and providing directions for an at home activity.

**Please join the OSH in recognizing MLK Jr. Day on January 15th and 18th by participating in a reading discussion with your students or by giving back to your community and doing an MLK Jr. inspired project.** Everyone who participates by volunteering or attending a reading is encouraged to send in pictures of your day and a brief description to [assistantdirector@oldstonehousemuseum.com](mailto:assistantdirector@oldstonehousemuseum.com). We'll post pictures and stories from the day on the Museum's facebook page and website on the 19th!

**Use this packet as a resource for participating in both efforts and helping to teach about the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. in your community or neighborhood.**

*Friday January 15th: Virtual Readings and Discussion related to Racism, Equity and Inclusion Education*

### **AM Readings: Poems of Race, Mistakes and Friendship**

Book: *Can I Touch Your Hair?* By Irene Latham & Charles Waters

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Do you get nervous when a teacher asks you to pick a partner?
- 2) How do you go about making new friends?
- 3) What is something you have wanted to ask about someone but are afraid to?

**Recommended for Ages/Grades: 2nd through 4th grades**

**Session 1: 9:00am to 10:00am, Session 2: 10:30am-11:30am**

## **PM Readings: Lessons on how to wake up, take action, and do the work**

Book: *This Book is Anti-Racist* by Tiffany Jewell

Discussion Questions:

- 1) How do you identify yourself? What are the things that make you, you?
- 2) What is race? How is race a social construction and not a scientific one?
- 3) How can you take action to help others?

**Recommended for Ages/Grades: 5th through 8th grades**

**Session 1: 1:00pm to 2:00pm, Session 2: 3:00pm to 4:00pm**

- Pre-register your class, homeschool pod, or study group with this form: [[Virtual Reading Registration](#)] or email [collections@oldstonehousemuseum.org](mailto:collections@oldstonehousemuseum.org)
- Join via Zoom (link and further instructions will be provided to the teachers, guardians and supervisors for registered groups prior to the session). Please stay with your students or children during the sessions to help them participate and ask questions.
- If you have access to the books, you are welcome to read them with your students prior to the discussion sessions. During the sessions we will share select passages to be used for discussion.
- If your students cannot participate in the Zoom sessions with the staff of the Old Stone House, we encourage you to have your own reading and discussion using one of the books listed above or one from this recommended list:
  - *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson (high school level/teacher resource for understanding casteism and racism in the United States for the last 400 years)
  - *Don't Look Away: Embracing ANTI-BIAS Classrooms* by Iheoma Iruka, PhD, Stephanie Curenton, PhD, Tonia Durden, PhD, Kerry-Ann Escayg, PhD (teacher resource)

## Monday, January 18th: Celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. with a Day of Service

Choose from our list of recommended service activities or come up with one of your own. Be sure that your service activity of choice follows the State of Vermont COVID-19 guidelines [<https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19>].

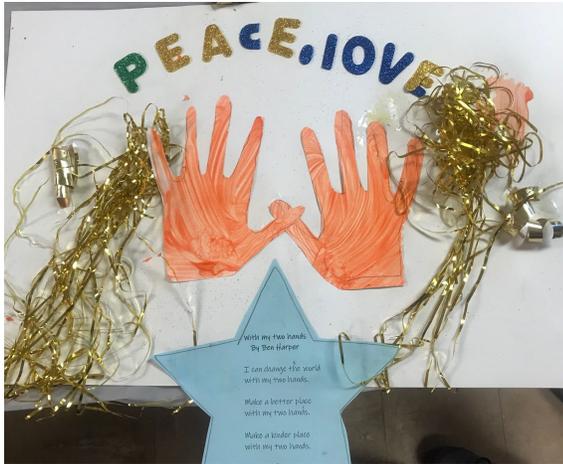
- Shovel snow or stack wood for an elderly neighbor
- Call a neighbor who may not be able to leave their home and ask if you can help with an errand such as picking up groceries or delivering a meal
- Host a virtual activity or reading hour for children of a neighbor who may not have childcare
- Sew masks for a local medical center, senior care facility or neighbor who may need them
- Introduce yourself to someone in your community you do not know.
- Learn a skill or listen to a story from a neighbor. Think about resources in your community made possible by the people living there.

### **At Home Project: Dream Board**

As educators both Martin Luther King Jr. and Alexander Twilight had dreams and visions of a good and equal education for all. King and Twilight shared their dreams and worked to achieve them in different ways. King fought for equitable education through activism and public speaking. Twilight reformed education here in Brownington and built a dormitory so that more students could have access to school.

Think about what your dream for the future might be and visualize it by creating a dream board. Decorate a piece of paper, cardboard or a poster with drawings, pictures or words that represent your dream for the future. Use these questions to help you brainstorm:

- Do you notice something about the world around you today, that you think could be better in the future?
- How might your dream for the future help others around you?
- What steps can you take to help your dream for the future be realized?
- If you celebrated MLK Jr. Day with us last year and made a dream board, how has your dream grown or changed?



Dream board from MLK Day 2020