



Dream Keeper

*Continuing The Dream: Dr. John H. Johnson,
First Chair of the Department of African American Studies and His Vision for
a Student Driven Resources Center*

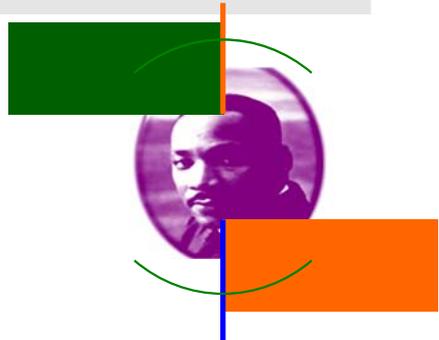
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Like the seasons, each heralding in its own reflection of change, so does the student that enters and exits the sphere of Syracuse University. Their brief encounter is forever entwined with the legacy of an institution that, like the seasons, has witnessed a steady and yet, sometimes rugged path through time. However, for many students of color who attended Syracuse University during an era when Black pride and protests were sweeping the entire country, their legacy was to affect a lasting change on a society that was struggling to accept it and that had many pondering the theoretical question, how can I make a difference? How did students of the early 70's who were already embedded in an environment built on tradition and yet, greatly impacted by the societal views of

that era, effect and contribute to national, political, social, and economic demands for equality? Now, through a donation by Dr. John L. Johnson to the MLK Library, patrons can gain a better understanding of the campus climate at the time and the struggles that ultimately broaden the inclusion of students of color and witness how those gains affected the culturally diverse landscape of Syracuse University.

Dr. John L. Johnson was appointed as Assistant Provost for Minority Group Affairs and Director of Afro-American Studies, October 1, 1969 by then acting Vice Chancellor and Provost, Ralph A. Galbraith. The appointment was instituted by Chancellor John Edward Corbally, Jr. (September 1, 1969 - March 10, 1971.) Dr. Johnson's assignment, described as "highest priority," was to "provide leadership for the plan-



ning effort required to define and establish an academic program of Afro-American Studies." Although, at the time, student advocates for change were not limited to African American voices. In fact, the university was also trying to address concerns from other groups including Jewish students and their objection to classes on Jewish holidays, Puerto Ricans and language discrimination, and foreign students who believed that a requirement to have an approved program of health insurance "unduly" penalized them. While correspondences between Johnson and the administration appeared on the surface to be driven by concern and support for minority student needs, newspaper and other media sources chronicled the realities of the time and the important role SAS (Student African American Society) played in making a difference for all students of color at SU. Dr. Johnson resigned his position as Assistant Provost in February 1971 with a letter to then Vice Chancellor Melvin Eggers.

Legacy of a





Hot Off the Shelves...



Push, author Sapphire discusses her new novel *the Kid* at the American Library Association Annual Conference in Anaheim, California, June 2012.

This section features new additions to the MLK Library collection. Here our staff provides patrons with reviews that will offer a glimpse at the educational, informative, entertaining and sometimes controversial topics of interest new to the shelves. Want to see something at the library, make a suggestion to MLK Library and we'll contact you when it arrives. It's that simple.

David- What was life like for freemen in the middle 1800's,

Ray Robertson's new fictional account provides some insight. Robertson used information from an actual settlement of that period to craft his tale of "Knowledge and forgiveness."

Kiratiana's Travel Guide to Black Paris: Get Lost and Found- a one stop tour of Paris Noir, history, sights, entertainment, and shopping.

Mary Wells: The Tumultuous Life of Motown's First Superstar- Wells' rose to fame as a member of the dynamic group, the Supremes and yet, her life strug-

gles were far from anything that could be described as super.

Protest Psychosis: How Schizophrenia Became a Black Disease- Author Metzl uses data from Michigan's Hospital for the Criminally Insane in Ionia to explore a perceived correlation because mental illness (in particular schizophrenia) and blackness during the civil rights era.

Whitney: Tribute to an Icon- This coffee table treasure is filled with amazing photos for the ultimate fan.

Also available: *Beyond Nature's*

Johnson donates (cont. from page 1)

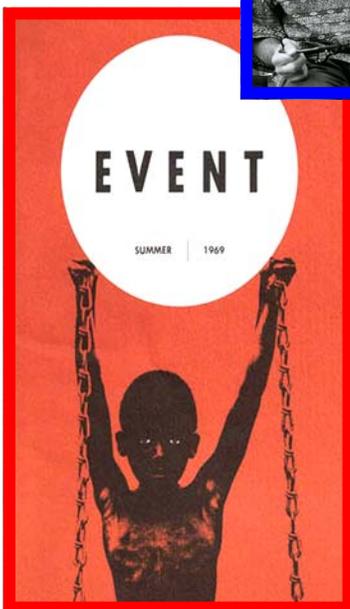


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AAS made great strides in its development and witnessed an expansion of programs including the creation of the MLK Library as director of the King-On-Campus initiative that provided for addressing equality both on campus and within the local community, a practice continued until today. He remains a strong advocate for African American Studies and research including the MLK Library.

Legacy of a King: Library honored by MLK III Visit



Insert: Dr. John L. Johnson
(Credit: Syracuse University Archives).
Bottom: Event Pamphlet, Johnson Collection, MLK Library

Sir Isaac Newton's *Letters* delivered the metaphor, "If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants," whose tenets though not original (as debated by both past and contemporary scholars) attest to the indebtedness that we all owe to those who provided the moral *sustenance* to attain new goals

and to overcome past challenges. African Americans in particular, have long believed in the notion of community uplift and shared goals as evident in our ability to navigate through times of struggle. Standing on the shoulders of not giants but, on those of our ancestors, the ones who paved the way and

for some, paid the ultimate price- death so that others might gain from their sacrifice. We look upon these people with admiration for their courage to cast aside fear and to draw upon the innate, yet seldom exhibited altruism that exists in us all. Dr. King's answer to this theoretical query in his 1963 *Strengthen to*



Legacy of a King: (Cont. from page 2)

Love was that, “ The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. Dr. King’s measure has been proven time and time again through efforts to continue his dream and to provide for lasting tributes world wide since his assassination on April 4, 1968. The same is true here at SU where student activism formed the justification for the MLK Library (see Johnson on page 1.) Over 40 years later, the MLK Library hosted the son of the civil rights icon, Martin Luther King, III upon his visit to the university as part of the Common Ground For Peace

activities. The premier occasion featuring lectures, forums, and a stellar concert was led by the Tibetan spiritual leader, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama during a two-day event in October. MLK III was greeted by the faculty and students of the Department of African American Studies along with a host of faculty, friends and library patrons. Dr. Renate Simson, Chair of the department, thanked MLK III for his willing-



Pictured: Martin Luther King III with senior, Andre Sadler.

ness to alter his schedule that allowed for a visit and library tour. The younger King showed an expressed interest in the origins of the library as a student-led effort and by items such as a letter drafted in 1964 by his late father on display. As MLK III inspected artifacts and library holdings, students commented on the importance of his visit to campus as the son of a great leader and his own work for world peace. Yet, for some including MLK III as witnessed in his attentiveness to the various expressions of gratitude paying honor to the memory of his dad, Dr. King as similar to those from around the world, the measure of Dr. King is evident in people and for those who share the birthright to have called him dad.

Hot Off the Shelves... (Cont. from page 2)

Housekeepers: American Women and Gender in Environmental History

Collected Poems of Lucille Clifton 1965-2010

Gender, Heterosexuality, and Youth Violence: The Struggle for Recognition

Herstories: Leading with the Lessons of the lives of Black Women Activists

Inequality: a Contemporary Approach to Race, Class,

and Gender

Revolutionary Women: A Book of Stencils- Assata, Sylvia Rivera, Olive Morris and many more are presented with the bold style of Queen of the Neighbourhood.

This is the Day: The March on Washington.



Pictured: Assata Shakur

Flash Back

This issue’s Flashback reminds us that activism is more than a concept. Sacrifice for social justice is often not measured by the good deeds that it can inspire but rather by its legacy to continue to affect change in others. Ann and Dale Tussing have been active community leaders for many years. Their work with CORE (Congress on Racial Equality) and local politics, have contributed to many of Syracuse’ and Onondaga human rights causes. Dale is

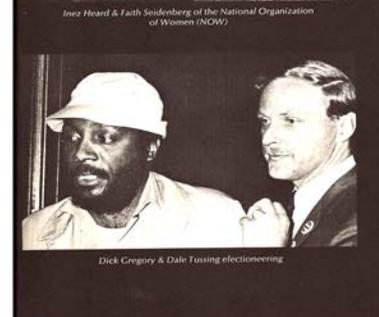
Emeritus Professor of Economics and Ann serves on the Committee to Save 711 East Fayette Street (Site of the old AME Zion church). Both are friends and supporters of the MLK Library. Read more about Ann and Dale Tussing and their donation in “From the Archives” column.

Top: This photo captures CORE’s Inez Heard and Faith Seidenberg. Seidenberg served as counsel for the organization in Syracuse’ Urban Renewal campaign.



Inez Heard & Faith Seidenberg of the National Organization of Women (NOW)

Bottom: Dale Tussing and Dick Gregory campaigning for their perspective offices. In 1968, Gregory was the Freedom and Peace Party candidate for president. Dale was a congressional candidate on the local Liberal party ticket who was endorsed by Gregory’s party.



Dick Gregory & Dale Tussing electioneering



Signs of the Time



Following requests by former students and faculty, the old sign that graced MLK Library's entrance for many years was removed in September. Like many aesthetic items in the library, to some the sign was a reminder of the small gains that helped to create an African American Studies department and its linkages. They found inspiration in the old sign. Although its luster and letters had long faded, its directional mission superseded by new and improved signage, the sign remained as a reflection of

the struggle. For those it was a reminder of the struggle, to exist; struggle, to raise funds; struggle, to create a space; struggle, to operate; struggle, to subsequently survive. Conversely, others voiced their preference for signage that was reflective of its current status, as a viable campus resource. The new sign welcomes visitors with bold silver lettering on a rich black background. The MLK logo, a signature piece created by the artist David MacDonald, is affixed at each end of the sign. Appropri-

ately, David MacDonald's artwork is nestled directly below the sign and can be seen prominently below it inside the library. New lettering was also added for the information message board entitled "In the News."



MLK Around the World

Rosa Bogar, Former Syracuse resident and Friend of the MLK Library, sends best regards from her adopted home of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Ms. Rosa is a tireless advocate of African American studies and is committed to enlightening youth through her activism and scholarship programs. She is a strong supporter of the MLK library and has donated a number of items to the collection.

Thanks Rosa for the love and support!

Vanzetta Evans, former Library student assistant sends a shout-out to all her MLK co-workers and AAS. She is editor of the **Lawrenceville (Ga.) Patch**.

Anthony Robles, Former MLK Webmaster recently celebrated his 1st wedding anniversary this past September and is a supervisor for NYS Department of Labor.



Pictured: Vanzetta Evans



REMEMBRANCE



PRESERVATION



LEGACY

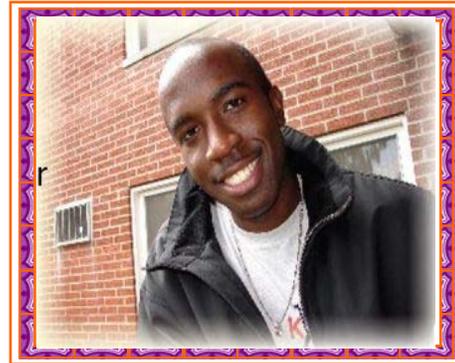
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Follow the Dream....to the MLK Library!

We're on the Web
mlklibrary.syr.edu/



We'll miss your endless smiling face and the huge laughter within a gentle soul. Amadu was a top student of martial arts, in academics, and in life. He never hesitated to help his friends and coworkers. He loved life and instilled his passion to be "the best" in everyone he touched. He was the best in us all....after graduating from SU, Amadu (MLK library assistant) applied to the prestigious Santa Ana (Ca.) Police Department. He was accepted into the academy and served as a highly respected and admired member of the department until his death from cancer.

ASHE

Media

Mooz-lum

Torn between a strict Muslim upbringing and the normal social life he's never had, Tariq Mahdi (Evan Ross) enters college in a state of confusion. His relationships with both Muslims and those outside the world of Islam add even more challenge to his already shaken ideals. Then, the horror of September 11 happens and without warning he is forced to face his past and to make some life changing decisions.

Ms. Shebia's Pick: A Must Watch

Red Hook Summer

RH Summer tells the story of **Flick Royale**, a cheerless young boy from middle-class ATL (Atlanta) who has to spend the summer with his overly religious grandfather **Bishop Enoch Rouse** in the **Red Hook Housing** projects of

Brooklyn, New York. . Just as he becomes comfortable, his summer is flipped upside down. Accusations of child molestation and the real reason he (Bishop Enoch) was forced to leave the South and relocate to New York comes out and changes Flick's outlook on what he has learned during the summer.

Ms. Shebia's Pick
An entertaining look at inner city life: Watch it.

Also,

Documentaries

Ending Silence, Shame & Stigma: HIV/AIDS in the African American Family- A film that discusses this growing epidemic and how cultural mores and taboos are enabling its devastation on the African American family. (EJ)

Hole in the Head: A Life Revealed - Dennis Haysbert narrates Dr. Wilbert Smith & Brett Leonard's shocker of medical apartheid and the courage, hope, and faith that help to gain understanding of man's cruel inhumanity to his fellow man.

(EJ)

Hungry for Change-Asks the question, what factors determine how we eat and address the many perceive notions of health and nutrition. (EJ)

Woke up Black- How do young African Americans navigate through the current struggles and challenges in a post-civil rights era? (EJ)

(EJ) **from the Environmental Justice, Gender and Black Feminism Collection**

