

Contra Costa County 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual

# Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Commemoration & Humanitarian of the Year Awards



*"Martin Luther King in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century"*



Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors  
Tuesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011



## Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968

**D**r. Martin Luther King, Jr., was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. Both his father and grandfather were ministers. His mother was a schoolteacher who taught him how to read before he attended school. Martin had a brother, Alfred, and a sister, Christine. He obtained a bachelor of arts degree from Morehouse College when he was only 15 years old.

In 1957, Dr. King was elected president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization formed to provide new leadership for the burgeoning civil rights movement. The ideals of this organization are inspired by Christian principles. Its operational techniques are from the teachings of Gandhi. In the eleven-year period between 1957 and 1968, King traveled over six million miles and spoke more than twenty-five hundred times, appearing wherever there was injustice and civil unrest. Additionally, he authored five books and numerous articles.

King led a massive protest in Birmingham, Alabama, that caught the attention of the entire world, resulting in what he called a coalition of conscience that inspired his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," a manifesto of the Negro revolution. He planned the drives in Alabama for the registration of Negroes as voters; he directed the peaceful march on Washington, D.C. of 250,000 people to whom he delivered his famous, "I Have a Dream" speech; he conferred with President John F. Kennedy and campaigned for President Lyndon B. Johnson; he was arrested twenty times and assaulted at least four times; he was awarded five honorary degrees; he was named Man of the Year by Time Magazine in 1963; and he became not only the symbolic leader of American blacks, but also a world figure. This year we examine the thoughts and knowledge of King's doctrine by the younger generation as well as the older generation. We ask them, as well as ourselves whether King's vision and influence has relevance in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and if so, how has it affected your life?

# DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

## 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Commemoration & Humanitarian of the Year Awards

Welcome & Introductions..... Glenn Howell, MLK Committee Chair  
Mistress of Ceremonies..... Chair Gayle B. Uilkema  
Video Presentation..... MLK Committee  
Introduction of Band..... Glenn Howell, MLK Committee Chair  
Musical Selections..... The Danny Armstrong Ensemble

### Key Note Address:

Gordon Baranco, Superior Court Judge, State of California

### Presentation of Humanitarian of the Year Awards:

2011 Student Humanitarian Award..... Glenn Howell, MLK Committee Chair  
2011 Humanitarian Award..... Glenn Howell, MLK Committee Chair  
Musical Selection..... The Danny Armstrong Ensemble  
Adjournment..... Chair Gayle B. Uilkema

### Lunch Reception

### Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors:

District 1: John M. Gioia  
District 2: Gayle B. Uilkema  
District 3: Mary N. Piepho  
District 4: Karen Mitchoff  
District 5: Federal D. Glover

### Special thanks to our sponsors:

General Services Department	Human Resources Department
Animal Services Department	Contra Costa Television (CCTV)
Martinez Police Department	Public Works Department



## Gordon Baranco

Key Note Speaker

Gordon Baranco graduated from the University of California at Davis with a B.A. degree in Political Science, receiving the Lindley Award for Athletic and Scholastic Achievement; and from King Hall (UC Davis) Law School, receiving a J.D. degree.

He has been employed as a Graduate Legal Assistant in the office of the California State Attorney General; a Deputy District Attorney in the office of the San Francisco District Attorney; Managing Attorney for San Francisco Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation; and Assistant to the City Attorney in Oakland.

He was appointed by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. as a judge to the Oakland Piedmont Emeryville Municipal Court, at the age of 32. After serving as a presiding judge of that court, he was appointed by Governor George Deukmejian as a judge to the Alameda County Superior Court, where he now serves.

He currently serves as Vice-Chair of the California Judicial Council Access and Fairness Committee; the Judicial Council Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee; Chair of the Alameda County Superior Court Community Focused Court Planning Committee; Fred Finch Youth Center Board; and as the judge of the Alameda County Homeless/Caring Court, and the Alameda County Parolee Reentry Court. He has previously served on the California Judicial Council Task Force for Collaboration on Mental Health Issues and boards of the Metropolitan Oakland YMCA, the Urban Strategies Council, the Glide Memorial

Methodist Church, and the M. Robinson Baker YMCA.

In addition to serving as a panelist for numerous continuing legal education programs, he has received the following awards: California Commission on Access to Justice, Benjamin Aranda III Access to Justice Award; Alameda County Bar Association Distinguished Judicial Service Award; Charles Houston Bar Association Judicial Excellence Award; The California Public Defenders Association Rose Bird Judicial Excellence Award; Alameda/Contra Costa Trial Lawyers, Judge of the Year. The Alameda County Lawyers Club, Judge of the Year; The Bernard Jefferson Outstanding Jurist Award, California Association of Black Lawyers (twice); Charles Houston Bar Association Community Service Award; Bay Area Urban League Civic Achievement Award; Distinguished Alumnus Award from King Hall, UC Davis School of Law; The UC Davis Young Alumnus of the Year Award; The UC Davis Citation of Excellence; The Greater Oakland YMCA President's Award; The Marcus Foster Institute Outstanding Public Schools Alumnus Award. The Honorable Gordon S. Baranco Award is presented annually to a UC Davis Varsity Basketball Player "who has displayed exceptional leadership, unselfishness, work ethic and commitment to his team."

He has been the commencement speaker for UC Davis College of Letters and Science, and for the African and African American Students of UC Davis commencement.

He is married to Barbara Gee and has two children, Lauren (25) and Brandon (19).



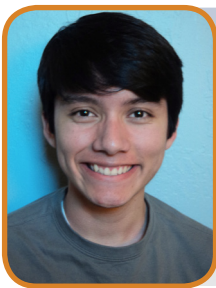
## Laura Johnson

2011 Humanitarian of The Year

Laura Johnson, President of the Board of Directors for Girls Inc. of West Contra Costa County, has been instrumental in maintaining and preserving a very integral aspect of the growth, education, and self realization of girls within the West Contra Costa County Community. Laura's response to the plight of Girls, Inc. of WCCC saved an organization which had been in the community for over 34 years providing valuable support and programs designed to address the special needs of girls in an under-served community. Information and instruction offered by Girls Inc. included self esteem building, literacy, economic literacy, math, science and technology, critical thinking, preventing adolescent pregnancy, AIDS education, academic enrichment, cultural awareness and much more. When Girls, Inc. was forced to close their doors due to the lack of financial resources, Laura knew that something had to be done. She wrote over 10 proposals to apply for funding, contacted over 200 local churches in Richmond, CA, mailed hundreds of letters and personally spoke to hundreds of individuals and organizations in order to raise the necessary funds to save the agency.

Because of Laura's efforts, Girls Inc. was able to reopen their doors and continue to serve the West Contra Costa County community. Her selfless hard work and diligence resulted in a makeover of the neglected facility from Home Depot with over 100 employees volunteering their time and energy to repair and paint the building inside and out, repair the playground with basketball courts, and re-sod and landscape the front yard. Not only has the building become an inviting place for girls to come, but all debts have been cleared and all liens have been lifted. Laura was nominated and selected as the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly District's Woman of the Year, to represent Richmond, CA. because of her accomplishment.

As a retired educator, Laura continues to volunteer her time and resources within the City of Richmond, CA. She provides leadership and direction to ensure that girls in the Richmond community fulfill their dreams and become the best they can be. By investing countless hours and personal finances, she exemplifies what it means to be a humanitarian in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.



## Mario Alvarado

2011 Student Humanitarian of The Year

**M**ario Alvarado is a senior and an honor student at Concord High School. Beyond being very dedicated to his studies, Mario selflessly applies his time and energy to the needs of others. In his sophomore year, Mario began volunteering with CCISCO (Contra Costa Interfaith Supporting Community Organization), a faith based organization which empowers youth by giving them the necessary tools to create positive change within their community. Through this organization Mario advocates for Spanish speaking residents in the Monument area in the City of Concord. As part of his work, he translates from English to Spanish, assisting residents with the completion of necessary paperwork for their US citizenship. Mario also participated in scheduling a Town Hall meeting at Queen of All Saints Church in Concord where residents in the Monument area spoke directly with County officials, letting them know how cutbacks could impact local health clinics and the overall health and well being of the community.

Mario also works with Rotacare, a free health care clinic which provides quality health care for the uninsured. He has participated in health fairs in the Monument area, reaching out to Spanish speaking residents who do not speak English and

informing them about their health care options. Mario volunteers every Thursday at the free health clinic located at Cambridge Elementary School. He welcomes patients and provides information about the clinic. He also translates for patients when they are speaking with the doctors as well as when they speak with the pharmacists concerning medication.

When asked what he has gained through his volunteer work, Mario replied that he has learned to be understanding of people and not to judge them. He appreciates the importance of communicating clearly and with sensitivity. He feels that his purpose is to help the people in the Monument area in any way possible. One of his favorite memories was when he was told that the Town Hall meeting he helped organize resulted in the health care clinic receiving additional funding. Another most fond memory was receiving a big smile from a child. His work has proved to be very gratifying for him.

It is rare to find a young adult such as Mario who excels in his full school schedule and, at the same time, selflessly dedicates precious free time to the needs of others. Mario exemplifies what it means to be a student humanitarian in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.



## 2011 Humanitarian of the Year

Laura Johnson

### Past Recipients of the Humanitarian of the Year Award

Sister Ann Weltz, CSI, 1982	Helen Troxel and Rollie Mullen, 1997
Gertrude M. Williams, 1983	Mary Perez and
Guillermo "Bill" Muniz, 1984	Neil and Carol Wilson, 1998
Donald Fibush, 1985	Orin Allen, 1999
Charles Spears, 1986	Eddie Menosse, 2000
John "JJ" Johnson, 1987	Troy Greer Grove, 2001
Rev. Malcolm & Jo Lee, 1988	Robin Poindexter, 2002
Lonnie R. Bristow, M.D., 1989	Reverend Phillip Lawson, 2003
Yoshiye Togasaki, M.D., 1990	Mr. Walter Ruelig, 2004
January Fredenburg, 1991	Bishop Curtis Timmons, 2005
Lucy Donly, 1992	Jerrold L. Hatchett, 2006
Bessanderson McNeil, 1993	Veronica Pope, 2007
Lloyd Madden, 1994	Charles D. Tinsley, Dr., 2008
Perfecto Villarreal, 1995	Larry Lewis, 2009
Charles Wilson, 1996	Della Randolph, 2010

## 2011 Student Humanitarian of the Year

Mario Alvarado

### Past Recipients of the Student Humanitarian of the Year Award

Lauren Fong, 2005  
Henna Danawala, 2006  
Edgardo Cervano-Soto, 2007  
Jessa Mabellin, 2008  
Brittany Watson, 2009  
Shae Hughes, 2010

### 2011 Committee Members

Glenn Howell – Chair	Denise August
Maceo Trotter	Derek West
Teresa Boney	Nancy Zandonella
Madlin King	



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