

A black and white portrait of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the image. He is shown from the chest up, looking slightly to the left with a thoughtful expression. His hands are clasped in front of him.

Honoring
DR. MARTIN
LUTHER
KING JR.

**The Annual
Franklin Township
*Community Breakfast***

Monday, January 20, 2025

DoubleTree Hotel

*The Franklin Township Dr. Martin Luther King
Community Foundation, Inc.*

Joy Systems is proud to support

**The Franklin Township
Dr. Martin Luther King
Community Foundation**

and congratulates this year's
scholarship recipients.



The #1 Choice in Refurbished Computers

Cost-effective computing solutions
for schools, business, and homes

A member of the Franklin Township community since 2011

franklin@joysystems.com
www.joysystems.com



WAYS TO GIVE



Scan QR Code to DONATE



Franklin Township Dr. Martin Luther King
Community Foundation



FTMLKCF@gmail.com



Text FTMLK to (732) 538-8898



Sadiq School :A New School and Daycare in Town!
49 Cedar Grove Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873,
Sadiqschool.com 732-532-2030



-Daycare-2.5 -4 years old
-Preschool through 3rd
grade and up to 8th
Grade in the future

Educating Every Child to Succeed
-Small Class sizes -Differentiated Instruction
-Low Tuition



MASJID-E-ALI (AS) / MFI

MASJID-E-ALI 47 CEDAR GROVE LANE, SOMERSET, NJ 08873 TEL: (732) 564-1331 WWW.MASJID-E-ALI.ORG



**The community of Masjid-e-Ali is proud to support Franklin Township
Dr. Martin Luther King Foundation and its mission.**

WE CELEBRATE
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP'S
TWENTY-SIXth ANNUAL
REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

If you encounter an obstacle while pursuing your
dreams, don't change your decision to go...
change your direction to get there.

M. L. PERRY, CPA
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT



1075 Easton Avenue, Tower 2, Suite 3

Somerset, NJ 08873

TEL: (732) 220-9700

FAX: (732) 220-1778

Website: [www: mlperrycpa.com](http://www.mlperrycpa.com)

●We specialize in preparing people, not just taxes●

Congratulations to the Scholarship Awardees!



“THE FUNCTION OF EDUCATION IS TO TEACH ONE TO THINK INTENSIVELY AND TO THINK CRITICALLY. INTELLIGENCE PLUS CHARACTER - THAT IS THE GOAL OF TRUE EDUCATION.”

– REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

FRANKLIN
& REPORTER
ADVOCATE

Eight Villages, One Community

www.FranklinReporter.com

Franklin Township Public Schools

Excellence, Opportunity and Affirmation For Every Child



On behalf of the Franklin Township School Administrators, Officers and Membership, we extend our sincere support for the Dr. Martin Luther King Community Foundation. In keeping with the spirit of “Keeping the Dream Alive,” we encourage and inspire all people to actively seek peace around the world.

Community Fellowship Mass Choir

Established in 2013 and directed by Gabriel Cordeiro, CFMC has become a bastion of the local community, comprising of 100+ members, from over 20 local churches and surrounding cities. They have raised their instruments, both choir and band, in support of the local area and beyond. CFMC's message is international and they were honored to join the Belfast Community Gospel Choir on stage during their USA tour. Most recently the director Gabriel Cordeiro received an award for Outstanding Community Services from the Non-Profit organizations FORNJ and CARE ministries.

OUR GOAL



To help other ministries meet their needs and goals by donating concert proceeds for education, assisting local and international charitable organizations (i.e. Shelter for battered women, hurricane relief and orphanages), local and international missionaries, and the needy.



INVITE YOUR CHURCH CHOIR OR SINGERS!

All are welcome to the CFMC, we believe that music can break the barriers of denomination, and we can come together to spread the hope and good news of The Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout our community and beyond.

GET SOCIAL!



[/cfellowshipmasschoir](https://www.facebook.com/cfellowshipmasschoir)



[/gcord](https://www.youtube.com/c/gcord)



WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



Anyone with any singing experience and love for God can participate in the choir, no auditions required. Ages 14 and up.

BE PART OF THE BAND!

To participate in our band, you must have intermediate skill level in your instrument. For the wind / brass section, sight reading will be required. Ages 14 and up.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

Go to www.cfmchoir.org and fill out the online registration form. You will be notified via email that you have been registered, the dates of rehearsals and events.

Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman



Bonnie Watson Coleman is serving her fifth term in the United States House of Representatives, the continuation of a career in public service advocating for the needs of New Jersey families and the equitable treatment of all people. The first Black woman to represent New Jersey in Congress, Watson Coleman is a member of the Appropriations Committee.

Watson Coleman's work in the House centers on her belief that, in the United States of America, there's a floor below which we should never allow any child, any family, any person to fall. Knowing that millions struggle every day just to make ends meet from the first to the last of the month, her legislative work seeks to bridge the gap for these Americans, making sure that the richest nation in the world doesn't allow millions to live below the poverty line. She's introduced legislation aimed at solving issues like these, including:

- The Healthy MOM Act, which would allow women to enroll in, or change their health coverage if they become pregnant;
- the End For-Profit Prisons Act, which would prohibit the federal government from contracting with for-profit prison corporations;
- the SAFER Pipelines Act that would reform the gas pipeline approval process overseen by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission;
- the Customer Non-Discrimination Act, which would amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to prohibit discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in "public accommodations," such as schools, recreational facilities and retail stores
- The Pursuing Equity in Mental Health Act, legislation to address the disparities in access, care and study of mental health issues among people of color;
- The Improving Diaper Affordability Act, to make the purchase of diapers tax-free;
- The Prohibiting Auto-Insurance Discrimination (PAID) Act, end the use of income, education levels, and other factors unrelated to driving history and ability in setting car insurance rates;
- The Guaranteed Income Pilot Program Act of 2020, to establish a nationwide pilot program to test the outcomes of a federally funded income support program that keeps more American families from experiencing permanent financial fallout and lasting poverty from a single unexpected crisis.

Prior to her election a Representative for New Jersey's 12th Congressional District, Watson Coleman served in the New Jersey General Assembly and shattered racial and gender barriers to become the first Black woman to serve as Majority Leader, and as the Chair of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee.

Watson Coleman is a graduate of Thomas Edison State College and has received honorary doctorate degrees from the College of New Jersey, Rider University, and Stockton University. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and co-chair of the Girl Scouts of America Capitol Hill Honorary Troop. She resides with her husband, William, in Ewing Township. The two are blessed to have three sons: William, Troy and Jared; and three grandchildren: William, Ashanee and Kamryn.

Andrew Mallette



Andrew Mallette is a proud member of the Somerset Chapter of the New Jersey Orators, Inc., a 40-year-old 501C3 nonprofit youth organization that teaches the art of public speaking and reading literacy skills to youth from 7 to 18 years of age in preparation for college. He has been with the Orators for three (3) years.

Today, he will be presenting a Declamation Speech delivered by Baraka Obama at the 2004 Democratic National Convention. He received an Excellent Award when presenting the President Barack Obama 2004 Democratic National Convention Speech at the recent statewide New Jersey Orators Fall Competition.

Andrew is an 11 years old student in the 6th grade at Linwood School in North Brunswick. His favorite subject is English and Language Arts.

New Jersey Orators

732-846-5011

www.oratorsinc.org



Thank you MacAfee Road School !!!

PEACE QUILT

In January, the fourth grade students at MacAfee Road School began discussing the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., his accomplishments, ideals and beliefs. Students used their knowledge to design a quilt square to represent the ideals that Dr. King fought for.

The quilt serves as a symbolic representation of our classrooms and the community of Franklin Township. Each square on our quilt is unique and beautiful standing alone. However, when they are joined together, they form a spectacular quilt. Students discussed how this concept is mirrored in the diversity of our classrooms and community. Each individual is unique and special in their own way. However, working together, we form something truly spectacular!

Please look at the Peace Quilt during the Breakfast and see the work of MacAfee students.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Franklin Township Dr. Martin Luther King Community Foundation is to fulfill Dr. Martin Luther King's Dream of unity among the races through promotion of racial harmony, equality and justice for all, opportunity for building strong relations among all people, educational opportunities and services, scholarships for the youth of Franklin Township and unity celebrations for our entire community.

Franklin Township Dr. Martin Luther King Community Foundation, Board of Trustees

Sean Hebbon, *President / Franklin Township Police Department (Retired)*

Gary Rosenthal, *1st Vice President / Chair of Human Relations Commission*

Alice Osipowitz, *Secretary / Franklin Twp. Director of Parks & Recreation (Retired)*

Meher Rafi, *American-Indian-Islamic Community*

Dr. Sheila Tabanli, *Rutgers Univ. Professor / Franklin Township Charter Schools*

Rabbi Eli Garfinkel, *Temple Beth El*

Dr. Ron Poustchi, *The Baha'is of Franklin Township*

Dr. Jade Gittens-Hebbon, *Premier Foot and Ankle Center*

Bill Grippio, *Franklin Township Board of Education*

Sami Shaban, *Attorney, Business Community/Board of Education*

Telia Bennett, *Educator, Franklin Township /Community Member*

Sonja Asante, *First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens/Franklin Twp. Food Bank*

Regina L. Clark, *Franklin Twp. Public School Parent / Associate Professor*

Sonia Ismail, *Cedar Hill Prep School*

Officer Michael Stallings, *Franklin Township Police Department*

Trustees Emeritus

Eva Nagy, *Past Foundation President / Past President, Board of Education*

Dr. Shirin Poustchi, *The Baha'is of Franklin Township*

Barbara Nicol, *Somerset Presbyterian Church*

Orvyl Wilson, *Director of School Management*

Sponsorship

Diamond \$5,000

Platinum \$3000

Gold \$2000

Silver \$1000

Bronze \$500

Star Patron \$250

Patron Plus \$200

Patron \$100

Supporter \$50

Your donation supports the annual scholarship fund



Premier
FOOT & ANKLE
Center



New Location

37 CLYDE ROAD, SUITE 103
SOMERSET, NJ 08873
(732) 412-1282
www.premierfootnj.com

BUNIONS * HEEL PAIN * INGROWN NAILS * HAMMERTOES * CORNS * CALLUSES
DIABETIC FOOT CARE * WOUNDS * SPRAINS * FRACTURES * FLAT FEET
PEDIATRIC & ADOLESCENT FOOT CARE * FOOT & ANKLE SURGERY



JADE GITTENS-HEBBON, DPM, FACFAS



Thank you for your support of our students!

Dr. John A. Ravally,

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Daniel C. Loughran,

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

Mr. Brian Bonanno,

Assistant Superintendent for Business/Board Secretary

Mr. Stephen Fried,

School Business Administrator/Assistant Board Secretary

Dr. Nick Solomon,

Director of School Management

Dr. Brenda Sofield,

Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Ms. Mary L. Clark,

Senior Manager of Policies, Regulations & Communications



FTMLK is launching a new initiative to empower our students. We are searching for high school seniors who are seeking ways to demonstrate their leadership, creativity and community service.

Upon acceptance into our King Scholars program, students will participate in several activities throughout the school year. The activities may include professional aspects such as event planning, fundraising, and corporate based activities. They will also participate in several community-based activities throughout the year. Completion of these activities will result in FTMLK credits which equate to scholarship

dollars at the end of the school year.

As King Scholars, students have more control of how much scholarship money they receive, since more participation in activities equals more scholarship dollars. Additionally, as King Scholars, students build their high school resume through participation in activities. This added benefit helps participants stand out on their college and scholarship applications.

The opportunity to apply for the King Scholars program is open to all Franklin Township Public Schools seniors. Interested students can find additional information and apply through our foundation's website (FTMLK.org) or use the QR Code.



January is declared as Muslim Heritage Month in New Jersey, a time to honor the remarkable contributions of American Muslims throughout history. From groundbreaking achievements in philosophy, mathematics, and science to transformative innovations in medicine, arts, sports, and beyond, this month shines a light on a legacy of excellence and inspiration.

AZAR NAFISI

Azar Nafisi, an Iranian American, is author of the memoir *Reading Lolita in Tehran* (2003), which has spent over 117 weeks on *The New York Times* bestseller list and has been translated into 32 languages. Her latest book, *Read Daringly: The Subversive Power of Literature in Troubled Times* (2022), is written in the form of a letter to her father about her reading.



Azar Nafisi



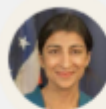
HAKEEM OLAJUWON

Hakeem Olajuwon is a Nigerian American who was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2008 and into the NBA Hall of Fame in 2015. He led the Houston Rockets to NBA championships in 1994 and 1995. In 1996, he played on the Olympic gold medal-winning U.S. national team and was named one of the 50 Greatest Players in NBA History.

Hakeem Olajuwon

LINA M. KHAN

Lina M. Khan, at 32 the youngest Federal Trade Commission Chair ever appointed, was sworn in on June 15, 2021. Formerly associate professor of law at Columbia Law School, she has served as counsel to the U.S. House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law, as legal adviser to FTC Commissioner Rohit Chopra, and as legal director at the Open Markets Institute.



Lina M. Khan

FAZLUR RAHMAN KHAN

Fazlur Rahman Khan was a Bangladeshi American civil engineer and architect, considered the "father of tubular design" for high-rise buildings. He created the structural designs for the Sears Tower, the tallest building in the world from 1974 to 1984, and the 130-story John Hancock Center, both in Chicago. He was also a pioneer in computer-aided design (CAD).



Fazlur Rahman Khan

**Proud to support Franklin Township
Dr. Martin Luther King Foundation and its mission.**

JANUARY 2025

EVA NAGY



The Franklin Township Dr. Martin Luther King Community Foundation, Inc. proudly dedicates this year's Community Breakfast to celebrating the life and legacy of **Eva M. Nagy.**

For over 40 years, Eva Nagy called Franklin Township home, living here with her husband and raising their two children, both proud graduates of the Franklin Township public schools. Throughout her time in the township, Eva remained deeply committed to the community. Her 22 years of service on the Board of Education included holding leadership roles at the local, county, state, and national levels. Eva was a tireless advocate for public education and devoted her efforts to ensuring access and opportunity for all children.

As a dedicated leader, Eva served as the Board of Education President for 15 years and held numerous other influential positions, including Vice President for Legislation/Resolutions with the New Jersey School Boards Association, President of the Somerset County School Board, and Chair of the New Jersey Schools Insurance Group Trustees. A lifelong learner, Eva earned her B.A. in secondary education from The College of New Jersey and achieved Certified, Master, and Certified Board Leader certifications from NJSBA.

In 1997, Eva co-founded the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Community Breakfast alongside Franklin Township School Superintendent Frank Pepe and Chief of Police Daniel Livak. Under her visionary leadership, this event became a cherished tradition and evolved into the Franklin Township Dr. Martin Luther King Community Foundation, Inc. Twenty-eight years later, the Annual Community Breakfast continues to thrive as a testament to her enduring legacy.

The Foundation expresses its deepest gratitude to Eva Nagy for her unwavering dedication to our mission and to the Franklin Township community. Her commitment serves as an inspiration to us all, and we pledge to honor her memory by continuing her work to **Keep the Dream Alive.**

Program

- Welcome.....Sean Hebbon**
President, FTMLKCF
- Presentation of Colors.....Honor Guard**
Franklin Township Police Department
- “Star Spangled Banner”.....Elimary Mendoza**
Student, Franklin High School
- “Turn Up”.....Inspira Performing Arts & Cultural Center**
*Sydnee Bright, Shayne Brown, Skylar Brown, Afia Fourjour, Alalah Forman,
Oceanna Hicks, Madison Musa, Marialis Reyes Durán*
- NJ Orators Presentation.....Andrew Mallette**
New Jersey Orators— Somerset Chapter
- Founders Tribute.....FTMLKCF**
- “Footsteps Towards Purpose”...Inspira Performing Arts & Cultural Cntr.**
*Kristine Smith, Zahra Anderson, Maasai Hurt,
Carrington Jones, Farrah Jones*
- Student Presentation.....TEECS Students**
Shrey Sankhe, Jemuel Oppng
- Offertory & Dedication.....Rabbi Eli Garfinkel**
Temple Beth El
- Invocation.....Imam Rizwan Rizvi**
Masjid-e-Ali

Breakfast

*Musical Interlude by the
Franklin Township Community Band*

Program Continued

*Musical Interlude by
the Franklin Township Community Band*

Song.....Community Fellowship Mass Choir

Keynote Speaker.....Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman
United States House of Representatives

Song.....Community Fellowship Mass Choir

Benediction.....Reverend Sonya Redd
First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens

“Lift Every Voice & Sing”.....Community Fellowship Mass Choir

"God Bless America"Community Fellowship Mass Choir

Anthem.....“Lift Every Voice & Sing”

Lift ev'ry voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,

Ring with the harmonies of liberty;

Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,

Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,

Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,

I WAS A DRUM MAJOR FOR JUSTICE,
PEACE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

Thank you to the following for their generous donations

Diamond Supporter

Amazon/TEB9

Silver Supporters

Najarian Associates

Joy Systems

Masjid-e-Ali (Ali Mosque) of Franklin Township

Sadiq School

Bronze Supporters

Dr. Jade Gittens-Hebbon—Premier Foot and Ankle Center

Star Patrons

Thomas Edison Energysmart Charter School

Franklin Township School Administrators Association

The Superintendent of Schools and His Cabinet

The Franklin Township Muslim Community

Peter Stavrianidis—Venus Jewelers

The Catholic Community of St. Matthias

Unity Bank

Central Jersey College Prep

Robert Vornlocker

AKAN Educational Associates

Somerset County Surrogate—Bernice “Tina” Jollah

Patron Plus

Telia Bennett—Excelsior Solutions

The Franklin Township Chamber of Commerce

Cedar Hill Prep

Berkshire Hathaway—Nick J. DiMeglio

Assemblyman Joe Daniels

Franklin Township PBA Local 154

Praise Korean Presbyterian Church

Somerset Presbyterian Church

Patrons

Dr. & Mrs. Alex and Monireh Kharazi

Dr. Sheila and Dr. Moe Tabanli and Family

Viqar Pervaaz, Mrs. Rabiah Pervaaz, and the late Mr. AbdulHai Pervaaz

Meher Rafiq & Family

Alice Osipowitz & Family

William Grippo

Kimberly Francois

Barbara & George Nichol

Dr. Ron & Mrs. Rana Poustchi

The Baha'is of Franklin Township

Sarah Montanari

Ravikanth Kolla

Tasneem Shamim—Muslim Women's Coalition

Joan Seamon



SOMERSET COUNTY SURROGATE
BERNICE "TINA" JALLOH
PROUDLY SUPPORTS
THE ANNUAL FRANKLIN TWP
COMMUNITY BREAKFAST
HONORING
REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

AKAN

EDUCATION LLC

A KNOWLEDGE ACQUISITION NETWORK

akanzone.com

Contact: 732-672-8661



TAP into Franklin

Your Neighborhood News Online

TapintoFranklin.net

No fees or subscriptions needed, timely and convenient news!
Simply click on our headlines and read stories on the following topics:

- Municipal News
- Local School Happenings
- Town Events
- Breaking News
- Police & Fire Emergencies & Traffic
- & More

Download Free App - Scan for your device below



Visit us at:
120 Cedar Grove Lane
Somerset, New Jersey



UNITY BANK

 EQUAL HOUSING LENDER | MEMBER FDIC

unitybank.com

BEST WISHES

*To the Franklin Township MLK Foundation
For the Annual MLK Community Breakfast*

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday 8:00 AM
Saturday 5:00 PM
Sunday 8:00 AM
10:00 AM
12:00 Noon



**ST. MATTHIAS
CHURCH**

All are welcome

ST. MATTHIAS SCHOOL

OPEN HOUSE

PreK - 8th Grade

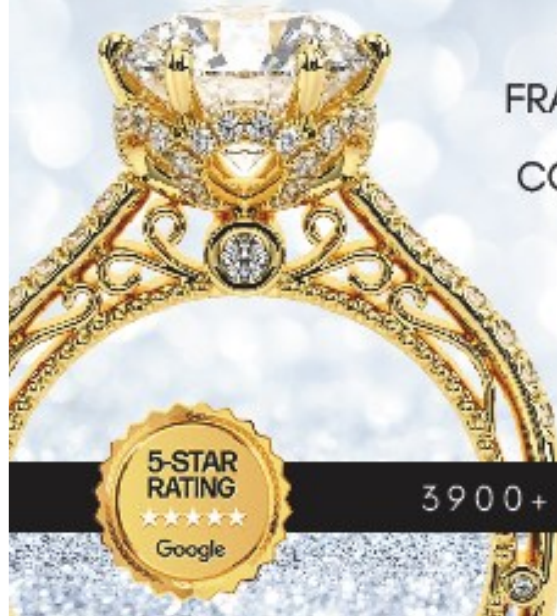
Sunday, January 26, 2025

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM



*From,
The Catholic Community of St. Matthias*

168 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873
www.stmatthias.net • youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ



With Gratitude To The
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP MARTIN
LUTHER KING
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

**VJ VENUS
JEWELERS**



3900+ FIVE STAR REVIEWS

VENUSJEWELERS.COM

History of the Franklin Township Dr. Martin Luther King Community Foundation, Inc.

For decades the Franklin Township community has been religiously, racially and ethnically as well as, socio-economically diverse. Students in the public schools speak 54 different languages. The community has become more diverse than ever.

In 1997 three community leaders, the Superintendent of Schools Frank V. Pepe, the Board of Education President Eva M. Nagy and the Chief of Police Daniel J. Livak, had the vision to create a wonderful opportunity to bring all aspects of the Franklin Township's very diverse community together in honoring the life and works of Dr. Martin King and fulfilling Dr. King's dream of unity among the races. They created The Dr. Martin Luther King Community Breakfast Committee which was composed of various community leaders and citizens. A mission statement was developed and it has been followed ever since.

The first Breakfast was held in 1998 in the old Franklin High School cafeteria with 250 in attendance. The Committee members cooked the meal themselves. It immediately gained so much support that it was moved to the DoubleTree Hotel. Each year 400–500 people gather to celebrate and commemorate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. They represent various members of the Franklin community- civic, religious, government, police and school. The diversity of attendees range across religious, racial and ethnic as well as, socio-economic lines. The ages span from elementary school children to senior citizens.

With this event being aired on cable TV, thousands of community members view the program for several weeks. The Breakfast has become a true community celebration – reflecting the richness and diversity of the Township, while providing scholarships for its Franklin youth. It has brought groups and individuals together who would normally not cross paths. Bonds and relationships have been formed that extended well beyond the Breakfast experience itself.

Since 1998, 238 Franklin High graduating seniors have been awarded scholarships totaling \$282,900. Scholarships are awarded to Franklin High seniors, regardless of race or religion, who are candidates at an accredited college or professional school, have demonstrated a record of community involvement and volunteerism, and have shown outstanding citizenship within the high school and community. In receiving this scholarship, students feel that their community supports them, their education and future plans. There are situations where some students because of family difficulties and challenges would not have had the opportunity for furthering their education without this scholarship.

In order for the Dr. Martin Luther King Community Breakfast Committee to preserve its mission and vision, the Committee members decided in February 2015 to incorporate into the Franklin Township Dr. Martin Luther King Community Foundation, Inc. and has been granted a 501 (c) (3) Public Charity status by the IRS. While it always was an independent Committee, its monies were held in Trust by the Board of Education. Now the Foundation is fully independent and is committed to furthering and expanding its mission.

Past keynote speakers have come from various walks of life such as NJ Attorney Generals, clergy, lawyers, state leaders, graduates of FHS, TV personalities and others- all who had personal experiences in civil rights, diversity and keeping Dr. King's dream alive. Their messages were always thought provoking and helped challenge and reinforce the unity needed in our diverse community and in our lives.

2025 Greetings



Assemblyman Joe Danielsen Dr. King was an inspirational leader who had the ability to inspire and unify people from all cultural and ethnic backgrounds because he realized that while we may have come from different ports of call, we are all in the same boat now. As the second most diverse community in our state, Franklin Township, home to many mosques, churches, and synagogues, we pride ourselves on intercultural communications between all our residents. In Franklin, we can agree to disagree knowing that everyone's voice is important and knowing that we leave no citizen behind.

Today, Dr. King's message is as relevant as ever. "The time is always right to do what is right". So, if you see injustice, tell me. I will support you, work with you and always stand with you. And I will always be at your service.



Mayor Phil Kramer Good morning, friends, neighbors, and distinguished guests,

It is an honor to join you for this year's MLK Breakfast, a tradition that reflects the values we hold dear in Franklin Township. This event is not just about raising scholarships for our youth -- it's about celebrating the vision of Dr. King and committing ourselves to the work still ahead.

Franklin Township is a proud community of remarkable diversity. We don't just tolerate our differences; we embrace them as a source of strength. But as Dr. King taught us, diversity alone isn't enough. True unity requires understanding, empathy, and a willingness to confront the challenges of inequality and injustice.

Dr. King reminded us that "the time is always right to do what is right." This means that while we have much to be proud of as a community, we must also ask ourselves: How can we do better? How can we ensure every voice is heard and every dream is nurtured?

Today, as we reflect on his legacy, let us recommit to being a township where opportunity knows no bounds, where every student we support through these scholarships carries forward the torch of hope, justice, and equality.

We are good now, Let us strive to be great.



Shanel Robinson—Somerset County Commissioner Director

Today we celebrate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Dream he invoked that beautiful sunny day on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. That Dream was not one to have during a restless night and forget in the morning, but to remember and hold dear, to fight for every waking hour. In that speech King called for all who could hear to go back home and continue the struggle to make real the Dream of our founder's Declaration, of Lincoln's Address, and of King's March.

King's call to action six decades ago was not just for those at the March, but also for those of us who hear his words today. Unfortunately, too many of our brothers and sisters still wait for the Dream to come, and so we are called on to continue the struggle to move it forward.

When you leave this breakfast, take not just the Dream but the call to action with you. Make it real in your life, in your work, in your worship, in your community. The Dream is dependent on us here in Franklin, in Somerset County, and in America to continue to make strides until the Dream is a reality for all.



Mrs. Ardaman Singh, Board President 2025 Franklin Township Public Schools

Today, we come together as a community to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a leader whose vision of justice, equality, and unity continues to inspire us. His powerful message reminds us that "Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle."

This year's theme, "*Change Continues With Us*," reflects a profound truth: the journey toward justice and equity is ongoing. Dr. King called each of us to be active participants in shaping a better, more compassionate world. As we reflect on his legacy, let us remember that progress is built through collective action, courage, and an unwavering commitment to fairness for all.

In our schools, we strive to create an environment where every student feels valued, heard, and empowered. Dr. King's dream challenges us to continue fostering inclusivity, respect, and kindness in every classroom and hallway. I encourage each of you—students, staff, families, and community members—to honor his memory not just today, but every day, through acts of service, empathy, and leadership.

Let us recommit ourselves to being agents of positive change. Together, we can ensure that Dr. King's vision of a just and equitable society continues to guide our steps.



Excelsior Solutions

732.374.6633

@excelsiorsolutionstutoring



**SAT
&
AP ENGLISH
TUTORING**

The REALTORS® with a heart

We treat every client like our only client.



NICOLAS DIMEGLIO
Broker Associate REALTOR®
Accredited Buyer Representative



ROBIN WHITE DIMEGLIO
REALTOR® Associate

Residential and Commercial Real Estate Services
LISTINGS · SALES · RENTALS · INVESTMENTS · MANAGEMENT

Serving
MIDDLESEX · SOMERSET · HUNTERDON · MERCER · MONMOUTH COUNTIES

Now accepting appointments for listings.
Inventory is low and this may be the opportune time to sell.



64 Princeton-Highstown Road, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550
732.628.9420 Direct 609.799.2522 Office Mobile 609.687.6611 nicoladimeglio.com



© 2018 REALTORS, LLC. An independently operated subsidiary of HomeServices of America, Inc., a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate, and a franchise of REALTORS, LLC. Brokerage/Marketing HomeServices and the Real Estate Subsequent to the acquisition of HomeServices of America, Inc. "Equal Housing Opportunity" information can be obtained upon request. Please have a current bond with a broker. This is not intended as a contract.



THE
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Congratulates
The
Dr. Martin Luther King
Community Foundation
2025
Scholarship Recipients

2025 Franklin Township Chamber of
Commerce Executive Board of Directors

President: Nick DiMeglio • Vice President: Bill Grippo
2nd Vice President: Peter Stavrianidis
Treasurer: Cassie Doherty • Secretary Nancy Topchev
Communications Director: PJ Parker
Social Media Director: Yohan (John) Park
Policy Director: Namik Sercan
Membership Coordinator: Felicia You
Administrative Assistant: Alice Ostpowitz

Hillsborough Pediatrics

390 Amwell Road, Suite 106 - Hillsborough, New Jersey 08844
Phone: (908) 431-3100 • Fax: (908) 431-3101

Aazim S. Hussain, MD, FAAP
Aimee T. LaRiviere, MD, FAAP
Diplomates American Board of Pediatrics



www.hillsboroughpediatrics.com

Special Thanks
to the
Franklin Township
Community Band
for entertaining the community
and supporting Franklin's
2025
Graduates



FREE membership!



The Franklin Youth Center is a
Proud Supporter of the Franklin
Township Dr. Martin Luther King
Community Foundation Inc.

429 Lewis Street Somerset NJ
(732) 873-7292

Open to Franklin Youth Grades 6 to 12
Register: FranklinTwp.RecDesk.com

Cedar Hill Prep
proudly supports
the Franklin Twp
MLK Foundation
Community
Breakfast.

Congratulations
to this year's
honorees!



CEDAR HILL
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Best wishes as you strive for
equality, justice, and unity.



ASSEMBLYMAN
JOE DANIELSEN

Always at Your Service

732-247-3999 | asmDanielsen@njleg.org | 334 Elizabeth Avenue, Somerset NJ 08873

The videotaping today and videos being
presented at this event were
recorded and produced by
Franklin High School Students
Aspects After Hours

Special thanks to
Mr. PJ Bracco

Ana Medinas, Pia Donnelly
Angeline Pierre, Kennedy Price

PBA Local 154
Proud Supporter of the Franklin
Township Dr. Martin Luther
King Community Foundation



Visit us at www.facebook.com/pba154

TEECS HIGH SCHOOL SUCCESS

MIDDLESEX COLLEGE
ASSOCIATE DEGREE WITH MIDDLESEX COLLEGE
DUAL ENROLLMENT WITH NJIT
NITT

100% COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE

NYU

Georgia Tech

MIT Massachusetts Institute of Technology

RICE

RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY

PENN

RANKED #1 CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL IN NJ/NY NICHEDOM

RANKED #1 TOP CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL SAT SCORES

AP CAPSTONE DIPLOMA

MEMBER OF NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY, NATIONAL SCIENCE HONORS SOCIETY

MIDDLE STATES ASSOCIATION
ACCREDITED BY
LMSA
CESS

**Sincere Thanks and Appreciation
To the Student Volunteers from the
Phi Delta Kappa Sorority, Inc.**



Fontella Best—Advisor

**Isatu Jalloh
Kaitlyn Bullock
Noelle Tatum
Kylah Chiles
Zaniya Huggins**

**Queyonte Carolina
Josiah Holt
Derek Peters
Jordan Kinney
Jianni Holt**



**Thank You
Amazon
and the
TEB9 Team**

**for your generous donation
DIAMOND SPONSOR
of the Franklin Township
Dr. Martin Luther King
Community Foundation, Inc.**

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Honoring a legacy...

"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving." - MLK

To inspire others, one must first believe.

Najarian
EST. 1979
Associates