A black and white portrait of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is positioned on the right side of the top half of the poster. 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 19, 2026

DoubleTree Hotel

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



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.**



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



zelle

TEXT2GIVE



— PROUD SPONSOR OF —
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP'S 2026 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

www.mlperrycpa.com

• *We specialize in preparing people, not just taxes.* •

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



KING SCHOLAR

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL



I HAVE A DREAM
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON
FOR JOBS AND FREEDOM
AUGUST 28, 1963

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.

The Franklin Township High School Madrigals

From the heart of Franklin Township to the bright lights of New York City, the Franklin Township High School Madrigals have become one of the area's most celebrated student vocal ensembles. Known for their excellence, versatility, and passion for music, the Madrigals represent the very best of student talent, teamwork, and dedication.

The Madrigals are the school's premier vocal ensemble, rooted in strong choral tradition and musical discipline. They are known for blending technical skills with emotional expression, performing music that ranges from classical and madrigal-style selections to contemporary and popular arrangements.

Within the Franklin High School music program, the Madrigals stand as ambassadors of the arts—showcasing what can happen when students are challenged, supported, and inspired.

The Madrigals—performing under their contemporary performance name **GoldN'Blues**—captured national attention when they won the **Star Choir Holiday Singing Competition**, sponsored by NBC 4 New York, Telemundo 47, and *The Kelly Clarkson Show*.

Chosen from over 100 choirs across the Tri-State area, they stood out for their vocal precision, energy, and heart. Their big win earned them a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity:

A national television performance on NBC's "Christmas in Rockefeller Center."

On December 3, 2025, they performed **"Joy to the World"** beneath the world-famous Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree—sharing their voices with millions of viewers across the country and putting Franklin Township on the national stage.

The Madrigals are more than performers—they are leaders, role models, and representatives of their community. Their journey reflects commitment to excellence, discipline and teamwork, pride in school and community, and the power of arts education. Their success also brought major support to their program, including scholarships, donations, and recognition that will help future students continue this tradition.

Building on their national success, the Madrigals are preparing for new competitions, performances, and opportunities in 2026—including plans to compete on a national level. Their future is bright, and their voices will continue to reach far beyond the walls of their school.



Soprano—Kalleigh-jenne Welsh, Sarah Craft, Jupiter Mullen, Abigail Balda, Salma Robinson,

Tenor—Joshua Esparra, Jeremiah Watkins, Anthony Holley, Aarav Patel, Renaldo Johnson, Praise Nnadozie

Student Conductors—Abigail Balda and Myles Cherrette / Choreographer & Assistant Artistic Director—Myles Cherrette

Shanel Y. Robinson

Somerset County Commission Director



Shanel Y. Robinson, of Franklin, is the first African American to serve as Somerset County's Commissioner Director – a role she has held since 2021. She has been on the Somerset County Board of County Commissioners since 2019. Robinson was named President of the New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC) for 2025.

Robinson has been awarded many honors: named to [InsiderNJ.com](https://www.insidernj.com)'s 2019-2024 African American Political Power List; Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Award, First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens, 2019; Political Citation Award, Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. (Epsilon Alpha Chapter), 2019; and more.

Robinson holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Labor Studies and Employee Relations from Rutgers University-New Brunswick. She is the former borough administrator for Roselle, New Jersey. Robinson is a veteran, U.S. Air Force Reserves, Avionics Specialist. Robinson is a member of Central Jersey Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. She has three children and three grandchildren.

Robinson's public service includes: Somerset County Board of Commissioners, January 2019-present; Franklin Township Council, 2015-2018, Deputy Mayor, 2018; Franklin Township Financial Oversight Committee, Hamilton Street Business Advisory Committee, Housing Authority, Fire Prevention Committee, Public Safety Committee, I.T. Steering Committee and Fire Chiefs Committee, Former Member/Council Liaison; Puerto Rican Action Board, Vice Chair.

Jonah Mosley-Aviles



Jonah Mosley-Aviles is an 8th grader who attends Franklin Middle School at Hamilton Street Campus. He enjoys playing basketball and is a member of the Franklin Middle School Wind Ensemble. After participating in the Rising Tide Poetry Challenge, he is excited to share his poem once again.

The Rising Tides of Hunger is a poetry competition empowering K-12 students in Franklin Township to explore food insecurity and climate change through creative expression and civic engagement.

Led by the Franklin Food Bank in partnership with the Franklin School District and Rutgers University, Rising Tides of Hunger uses poetry to build literacy, critical thinking, and solutions for a sustainable future. The first annual competition was held in June 2025. There were 1500 submissions, and 15 scholars delivered their poems on stage before an audience of community members, family and friends.



Karinne Hill

Somerset Chapter



Karinne Hill is a proud and committed member of the Somerset Chapter of the New Jersey Orators. She has been a member of the Orators for three years, but her oratorical skills make you think she is an experienced high school Orator.

Karinne is a seventh-grade student at Rutgers Preparatory School with a wide range of academic and extracurricular interests. She is a straight "A" Honor Roll student. Along with academics, Karinne enjoys sketching, baking, roller skating, and swimming, and aspires to become a meteorologist in the future. She has played the electric guitar for over two years and has been a member of the Rutgers Preparatory School cross-country team for two years. She is a proud member of the Junior Usher Board at First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens in Somerset, NJ.

Additionally, as is a proud member of the Somerset Chapter, where she has participated for three years, Karinne has earned high recognition for her Oral Interpretation of Poetry and Prose presentations at competitions. Karinne particularly enjoys presenting in categories where she can showcase her mastery of vocal expression and interpretation. Karinne values spending time with her family and friends and takes pride in her accomplishments both in and out of the classroom.

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 Sunity 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 / Retired Captain, Franklin Township Police Department*
Gary Rosenthal, *1st Vice President / Chair of Human Relations Commission*
Alice Osipowitz, *Secretary / Retired, Franklin Twp. Director of Parks & Recreation*
Meher Rafi, *Franklin Township Board of Education*
Dr. Sheila Tabanli, *Professor, Rutgers University*
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 Grippo, *Franklin Township Board of Education*
Sami Shaban, *Attorney, Business Community*
Telia Bennett, *Educator, Franklin Township /Community Member*
Sonja Asante, *First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens/Franklin Twp. Food Bank*
Regina L. Clark, *Associate Professor, Ramapo College*
Sonia Ismail, *Teacher, 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 \$100

Supporter \$50

Supporter \$25

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

Mr. 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

Mr. Nick Soloman,

Director of School Management

Dr. Brenda Sofield,

Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Ms. Mary L. Clark,

Senior Manager of Policies, Regulations & Communications

~ King Scholar Criteria ~



KING SCHOLAR

Any Franklin Township public high school senior is eligible to apply for the King Scholar Program, regardless of race or religion.

The 2027 King Scholar applications will be available to current Franklin Township public school juniors starting in May 2026.

Applications are available on our website www.ftmlk.org

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 Dangerously: 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 FIBA Hall of Fame in 2016. 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 designs" for high-rise buildings. He created the structural designs for the Sears Tower, the tallest building in the world from 1974 to 1996, and the 100-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

CONGRATULATIONS 2025 KING SCHOLARS



Program

Welcome.....	Sean Hebbon <i>President, FTMLKCF</i>
Presentation of Colors.....	Honor Guard <i>Franklin Township Police Department</i>
“Star Spangled Banner”.....	ElimaryMendoza <i>Franklin High School</i>
NJ Orators Presentation.....	Karinne Hill <i>New Jersey Orators— Somerset Chapter</i>
“Joy to the World”.....	The Madrigals
Spoken Word.....	Jonah Mosley-Aviles <i>Franklin Middle School – HSC</i>
Offertory & Dedication.....	Rabbi Eli Garfinkel <i>Temple Beth El</i>
“Feeling Good”.....	Kaleigh-jenne Welsh <i>Franklin High School</i>
Invocation.....	Father Tom Lanza <i>Saint Matthias Church</i>

Breakfast

Musical Interlude by the Franklin Township Community Band

Greetings.....	Bill Grippio <i>Trustee, FTMLKCF</i>
“Total Praise”.....	Richard Smallwood <i>Franklin High School</i>
Keynote Speaker.....	Shanel Y. Robinson <i>Somerset County Commissioner Director</i>
“When You’re Home”.....	Anthony Holley & Abigail Balda <i>Franklin High School</i>
Benediction.....	Rev. George H. Montanari <i>Middlebush Reformed Church</i>
“Lift Every Voice & Sing”.....	Myles Cherette <i>Franklin High School & 2026 King Scholar</i>

2026 King Scholars

FHS

Sarai Styles
Diya Patel
Myles Churette
Elangkathir Elamaran

CJCP

Aaryan Brahmbhatt
Nyla Gilbert
Saanvi Yalamanchili
Inshera Prempeh
Ava Anyanwu
Areej Idris

TEECS

Mahek Khan
Latif Tabanli
Jemuel Oppong

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

Performance Ortho

Bronze Supporters

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

AKAN Education LLC

Barbara & George Nichol

Michael and Phyllis Beals

Star Patrons

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

Patron Plus

The Presbyterian Church at Peace Chapel

Telia Bennett—Excelsior Solutions

The Franklin Township Chamber of Commerce

Cedar Hill Prep

Berkshire Hathaway—Nick J. DiMeglio

Franklin Township PBA Local 154

Dr. Sayed Qaiser and Dr. Tasneem Firdaus Shamim

Praise Korean Presbyterian Church

Somerset Presbyterian Church

Patrons

Councilman Alex Kharazi

Dr. Sheila and Dr. Moe Tabanli and Family

Franklin Roots Dispensary

Mrs. Rabiah Pervaaz and Viqar Pervaaz

Meher Rafiq & Family

Alice Osipowitz & Family

William Grippo

Dr. Ron & Mrs. Rana Poustchi

The Baha'is of Franklin Township

Zafer Mehmood & Vaseem Firdaus



🌟 CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT | SERVING OUR COMMUNITY 🌟

Congratulations to the 2026 MLK Scholarship Recipients!

We honor the dedication, resilience, and academic excellence of the young leaders selected for this year's Martin Luther King Scholarship. Your commitment to education and service reflects Dr. King's enduring legacy of opportunity and empowerment.

At **AKAN Education LLC**, we are inspired by your success and the promise you represent for the future.

Now Open for Consulting Engagements!

Led by Dr. K. W. Asante — **AKAN Education LLC** partners with schools, districts, and education organizations to deliver high impact professional learning, leadership development, and strategic support that improves outcomes for educators and scholars alike.

Consulting Services Include:

- Professional Development in Differentiated Instruction & Scholar Engagement
- Strategic Planning & Climate, Culture, and Inclusion Support
- School Turnaround and Organizational Leadership Guidance
- Customized Professional Development and Facilitation

📞 Contact Us Today

Visit akanzone.com or email akan.edu22@gmail.com

AKAN Education LLC — *Empowering Educators. Inspiring Change.*



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 continued success on 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

From,

The Catholic Community of St. Matthias

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

St. Matthias School
Open House

PreK-8th Grade
Sunday, January 25, 2026
11:30 am - 1:30 pm



Salute To Greatness

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR



2180 FIVE-STAR



Google
★★★★★

Venus
JEWELERS

Rutgers Plaza, Easton Avenue, Somerset, NJ 08873 | 732.247.4454

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, 252 Franklin High graduating seniors have been awarded scholarships totaling \$309,094. 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 further and expand its mission.

Past keynote speakers have come from various walks of life such as Lt. Governors, NJ Attorney Generals, clergy, lawyers, state leaders, educational leaders, graduates of FHS, TV personalities and others- all who had personal experiences in education, community service, 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.

2026 Greetings



Assemblyman Joe Danielsen Thank you for attending this year's Annual Franklin Townships Martin Luther King Community Breakfast. Your presence today helps the Dr. Martin Luther King Foundation continue to keep the dream alive, by providing scholarships for students who embody the values of Dr. King.

Dr. King was an inspirational leader who possessed a rare ability to inspire and unify people from all cultural and ethnic backgrounds. He understood that while we may come from different walks of life, we all seek the same outcomes—dignity, opportunity, and a better quality of life for ourselves and our families.

Today, our national discourse is too often shaped by divisiveness, misdirection and a rhetoric of hatred—something our nation has not witnessed at this level in decades. Thankfully, here in our diverse township of Franklin, we continue to demonstrate that we can agree to disagree while honoring the importance of every voice and ensuring that no citizen is left behind. As a multicultural community, home to mosques, churches, and synagogues, we take pride in fostering open communication, mutual respect, and understanding among all our residents. Dr. King's message is as relevant today as ever: "The time is always right to do what is right".

We must remain mindful that all our lives are interconnected—bound together as a community, woven into same fabric, and united by shared goals and aspirations. I remain, always at your service.



Phillip D. Kramer, MD — Mayor, Franklin Township

Good morning, friends, neighbors, and distinguished guests,

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. challenged each generation not simply to admire justice, but to practice it—deliberately, persistently, and together. His message reminds us that progress is not inevitable. It is the result of people choosing fairness over convenience, inclusion over division, and service over silence. In our own community, those choices appear in how we govern, how we listen, and how we care for one another—especially

for those whose voices are too often unheard.

As we honor Dr. King's legacy, we are reminded that the work of building a just society is never finished. It belongs not only to leaders, but to neighbors, families, and future generations. Each of us carries responsibility for ensuring that dignity, opportunity, and respect remain more than words, and instead become daily practice.

May this gathering strengthen our shared commitment to that work, today and throughout the year.



Dr. Dennis Hopkins Jr. President, Franklin Township Board of Education

On behalf of the Franklin Township Board of Education, we would like to thank the members of the Franklin Township Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Foundation for all that you have done for our community and our school district.

The Franklin Township Board of Education embraces Dr. King’s mission and shares his commitment to the value of equity for all. Year after year, the Foundation continues to provide vital financial support for our high school seniors through this breakfast and many other meaningful events.

Today, I invite everyone to join us in echoing the words of Dr. King’s historic speech: “I Have a Dream.” Thank you for your continued dedication and service.

Excelsior Solutions
732.374.6633
@excelsiorsolutionstutoring

SAT & AP ENGLISH TUTORING

Cedar Hill Prep proudly supports the Franklin Twp MLK Foundation Community Breakfast. Congratulations to this year’s honorees!

CEDAR HILL PREPARATORY SCHOOL

*We are very proud to support
The Franklin Township Dr. Martin Luther King Community Foundation,
School District &
Many Township Organizations*

Praise Korean Presbyterian Church

15 Cedar Grove Lane
Somerset, NJ 08873
Telephone 732-805-4050

Somerset Presbyterian Church

100 JFK Boulevard Somerset, NJ 08873
Ph: (732) 249-8674
churchspc@comcast.net
www.spcsomerset.org
Rev. Nancy Nalepa-Skibo



PERFORMANCEORTHO
ORTHOPEDICS | SPINE | PAIN



RECLAIM YOUR MOVEMENT
And break free from chronic pain

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY'S
**PREMIER ORTHOPEDIC
PROVIDERS**

BRANCHBURG

HILLSBOROUGH

SOMERSET

WATCHUNG

PERFORMANCEORTHO.COM | 908-751-1010

2025 King Scholars

Kaitlynn Bullock – Fordham University

Arden Gray – Hampton University

Soloman Pasteur – Rutgers University

Christopher Mahaley – Kean University

Chelsea Williams – Pomona College

Chijioke Azu – Rutgers University

Christina Chiles – University of Maryland – Eastern Shore

Noelle Tatum – Montclair University

Devin Portrick – Kean University

Marc Esser – North Carolina A&T

Olivia Neri – Montclair University

Sophia Des Vignes – University of Massachusetts - Amherst



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

BEST WISHES

From

Dr. Syed Qaiser Shamim

Gastroenterology

732-745-9025

Dr. Tasneem Firdaus Shamim

Ophthalmology

732-745-4844

&

1283 State Highway 27
Somerset, NJ 08873

PBA Local 154

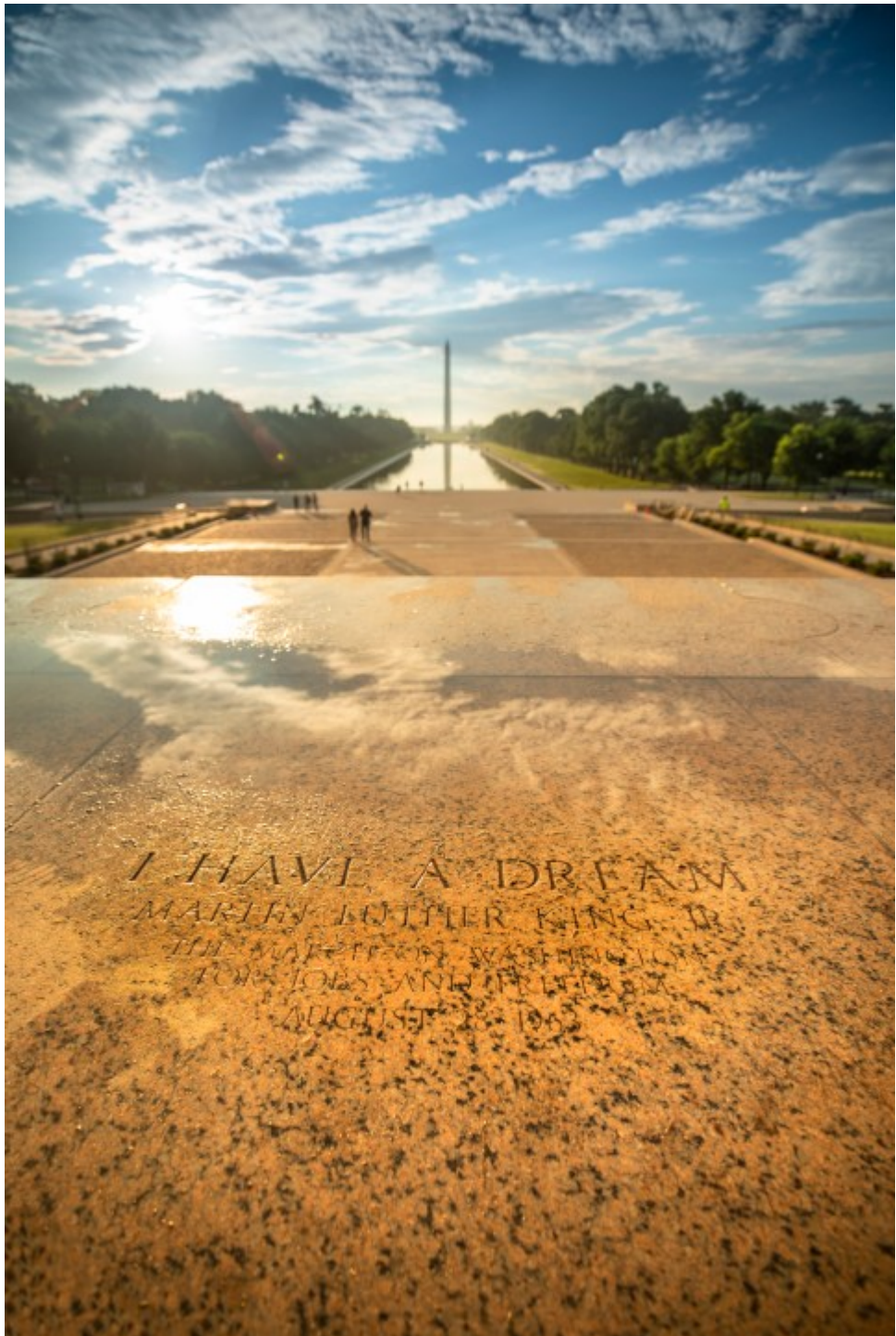
Proud Supporter of the Franklin
Township Dr. Martin Luther
King Community Foundation



Visit us at www.facebook.com/pba154



OUT OF THE MOUNTAIN OF DESPAIR,
A STONE OF HOPE



In Loving Memory of
Eva Nagy

September 25, 1947 - November 27, 2024

The Presbyterian Church at Peace Chapel
1212 Livingston Avenue
North Brunswick, NJ 08902



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



Fontella Best — Advisor

Jianni Holt

Kylah Chiles

Jordan Kinney

Aaron Holley

Avin Henry

Tamiah English—KOT

Josiah Holt

Tristan Hyman



**Thank You
Amazon
and the
TEB9 Team**

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

CONGRATULATIONS

2026 Franklin Township King Scholars

“Leadership is where change begins”

Honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



PLAN. DESIGN. EXECUTE.

