

Historic House Tour highlights 'gems' from the Roaring '20s



Pictured at Villagers Historic House Tour are (l-r) Donna Latshaw, Barbara Ludovici, Pat Blanco and Gloria Burns.

TO MIAMI'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

George Merrick would have been pleased by the picture-perfect day and the hundreds of history lovers who turned out to tour Gables' Gems from the Roaring '20s. During The Villagers Holiday House Tour, participants were treated to an insider's look at five Coral Gables homes built in the 1920s, including three from Merrick's famous themed Villages.

Conducted Dec. 10, after a pandemic-related hiatus, the return of the House Tour marked the 37th year The Villagers have offered the popular event.

The group also brought back their holiday tradition of raffling off a hand-crafted historic-inspired quilt. Pamela Thomas was the winner of this year's one-of-a-kind piece, *Birds of a Feather*, made in honor of

the historic Doc Thomas House owned by the Tropical Audubon Society.

Co-chairs, Marlin Ebbert and Sweet Pea Ellman put together the day-long event which is a major fundraiser for the organization. Villager members were on-hand throughout the day providing information about the history and unique features of each home.

Proceeds support the preservation and protection of historic sites in Miami-Dade County. Through educating, advocating, fundraising, restoration, and documentation, The Villagers work to preserve the cultural and architectural heritage of local historic sites and neighborhoods. Since 1966, The Villagers have selected more than 75 local organizations as grant recipients and awarded university scholarships to advance historic preservation.

YMCA of S. Fla. to host annual MLK Inspirational Weekend, Jan. 13-16

BY CARLOS GOYCOCHEA

The YMCA of South Florida's 19th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Inspirational Weekend, which honors Dr. King and his legacy through activities that bring communities together in celebration and service to others, is set for Friday, Jan. 13 through Monday, Jan. 16 and includes a breakfast, luncheon, Teen Town Hall and Day of Service projects throughout South Florida.

The weekend, themed Stand For Something, begins on Friday, Jan. 13, with a breakfast in Broward County beginning at 7:30 a.m. at First Baptist Fort Lauderdale, 301 E. Broward Blvd., and luncheon in Miami-Dade County beginning at 11:45 a.m. at Intercontinental Miami, 100 Chopin Plaza.

More than 1,000 business and civic community leaders are expected to attend both the MLK, Jr. Inspirational Breakfast and Luncheon to support the YMCA of South Florida's "I Have a Dream" Youth Scholarship Fund. The Y offers a variety of youth programs which include preschool, after school, employment opportunities, teen groups and college tours and readiness.

The breakfast and luncheon keynote speaker is Michelle Duster, author, public historian, professor and granddaughter of civil rights and women's rights activist Ida

B. Wells. Past keynote speakers include Martin Luther King III, Olympic Gold Medalist Cullen Jones and Stanford University Professor and Martin Luther King Jr. Research and Education Institute director Dr. Clayborne Carson.

During the breakfast and luncheon, the YMCA of South Florida will present two awards in each county. The Dave W. Cash Youth Leadership Award is presented annually to a student in Broward and in Miami-Dade County that has embodied the ideals of Dr. King in advocating for social change in the community. Both recipients are awarded a \$2,000 college scholarship supporting their continued education.

The Spirit of Community Award recognizes a community advocate in both Broward and Miami-Dade County who exemplifies the social activism, advocacy, nonviolence, civic engagement and diversity ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Among the past winners are the Children's Trust, Trail Blazers of Broward County, Derek T. Davis, Valencia Gunder, The Mizell Family, Honorable Darrin P. Gayles, Dr. Robert B. Hayling, Willie E. Gary, Officer Lerue Sarvis and Jason Taylor.

"Throughout this weekend, we remember Dr. King by bringing our community together in celebration and service to others," said YMCA of South Florida president and CEO Sheryl A. Woods. "It means something to Stand For Something, and that's what we do at the Y. We hope everyone will support us in strengthening our communities as we help all youth reach their full potential."

Presenting sponsors of the 19th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Inspirational Weekend are JM Family Enterprises and Brown & Brown Insurance. Additional sponsorships are available at all levels.

Tickets to the 19th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast or Luncheon are \$150 per person or \$2,500 per table. To purchase tickets and for more information, visit <https://ymcasouthflorida.org/event/martin-luther-king-jr-inspirational-weekend-2023/>.

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