



## **The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission**

**LITTLE ROCK**-The mission of the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, a division of the Arkansas Department of Education, is to promote and preserve the life and legacy of Dr. King in our state; and to promote the principles of nonviolence and equality among all citizens. Our community outreach projects are designed to promote education, an appreciation for history, and to encourage youth to engage in positive leadership development and roles within their communities.

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, a division of the Arkansas Department of Education, proudly announces its 2022 program **“Living Witness to History” celebrating historical figures and events in honor of African American History month. The event is free and open to the public, and will take place on Thursday, February 17, 2022, Mosaic Templars Cultural Ballroom, 501 West Ninth, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201, 6:00 PM.** The program is free and open to the public. Highlights include presentations from Sarah Collins Rudolph, “The Fifth Girl,” survivor of the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama that took the lives of her sister Addie Mae Collins, and three other girls, Oscar-award winning actor, Lou Gossett, Jr., Rhythm and Blues sensation, CASE will also make a special appearance, and a homebuyers education workshop. The Commission will also serve free “soul” food on a first come, first served basis. The food will catered by McCoy Catering and Sunflower Gardens Community Development.

Entertainment and commemorative performances will be provided by Reverend Rickey Lattimore as “Frederick Douglass,” poet Drekkia Writes, singer Amanda Katrice, and youth speaker Kendall Dobbins. Considering the recent violence, The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission will recognize community mentorship program which provide intervention and alternative activities during out of school time. Community service awards will be presented to Jason McGehee, Legendary coaches Oliver Elders, and beloved community coach, Ed Johnson. “These individuals have mentored several young people who have gone on to do great things. It is important to recognize these mentors because they help to steer young people in the right direction. Many of the students go on to become productive member of their communities, many return to their communities to become mentors. This helps to curb violence. “We have galvanized mentors from throughout the communities to help curb violence in our Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission Mentorship Madness program.”

Representing areas throughout the state, the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commissioners Carmen Helton, Johnelle Fulmer, Charles Killion, Patrick Gulley, and Gerald Canada will assist with awards presentations including the Arkansas Travelers Awards to Lou Gossett, Jr. and Sarah Collins Rudolph.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, African Americans ages 18-49 are two times as likely to die from heart disease than whites. In partnership with the Arkansas Minority Health Commission and the Arkansas Department of Health, the Commission will also host free preventative health screens as a part of the program from 5:00 PM-7:00 PM in the Community classroom of the Mosaic Templars building.

“Through this program we want to educate youth by highlighting historical achievements. It is important for our youth to connect with and hear from our older generation, says DuShun Scarbrough, Executive Director. Lou Gossett, Jr. and Sarah Collins Rudolph are retelling times in our country when they were not able to vote or enter public buildings. For some of the youth attending this event, it will be an “awakening,” as what happened to Sarah Collins as an elementary school student played a great part in the Civil Rights movement. Mr. Gossett began his acting career as a teenager.



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“I want this program to be very educational for the youth and the public which is why we are bringing living witnesses such as Lou Gossett, Jr. to speak for our Black history program. Mr. Gossett, who is eighty-four year “young” would have been a part of Dr. King’s generation. This is a blessing for the children because at eight-four years young, he has so much knowledge to dispense to the youth. He is legendary himself, he was the first African-American to win an Oscar for best supporting actor in his role in “An Officer and A Gentleman.” He also played in several mainstream movies including the miniseries, “Roots.”

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**For interviews and for more information:  
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**FREE EVENT** **Celebrate African-American History**



**Special Guest**  
**"Living Witness to History"**  
 February 17, 2022  
 6:00 PM  
 Mosaic Templars  
 Twitter @Case\_Music  
 Instagram @Iam\_Case1



**"Living Witness to History"**  
**Sarah Collins Rudolph**  
 February 17, 2022  
 6:00 pm  
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Connect with us: Facebook: @AMLKC and @ArkansasED Twitter: @AMLKC and @ArkansasED Instagram: @AMLKC and @Arkansas\_ED YouTube: AMLKC and www.ARKingDream.org

**For more information contact DuShun Scarbrough 888-290-KING**

Commemorating Black History Month, The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission presents

 

 

 

**FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS**



#workingtodayforahealthiertomorrow

**\*Temperature Checks \*Blood Pressure \*Health Education \*Pulse Rate \*Oxygen \*Height and Body Mass Index \*Heart Rate \*Must Practice Social Distance \*Masks Required**



**February 10, 2022**  
 1:00 PM-3:00 PM  
 Jessie Powell Tower Community Room  
 1010 Wolfe Street Little Rock, Arkansas 72202

**February 17, 2022**  
 5:00 PM-7:00 PM  
 Mosaic Templars Cultural Center  
 501 West Ninth Street Little Rock, Arkansas 72201  
**Black History Month Community Outreach Program**

**For more information, call 888-290-KING**