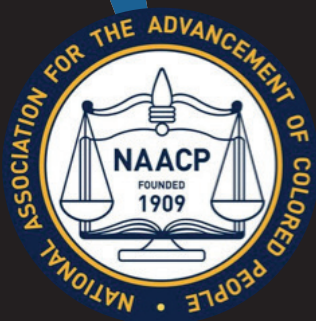


34th ANNUAL  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
**Birthday Commemoration  
and Spirit Hall of Fame**

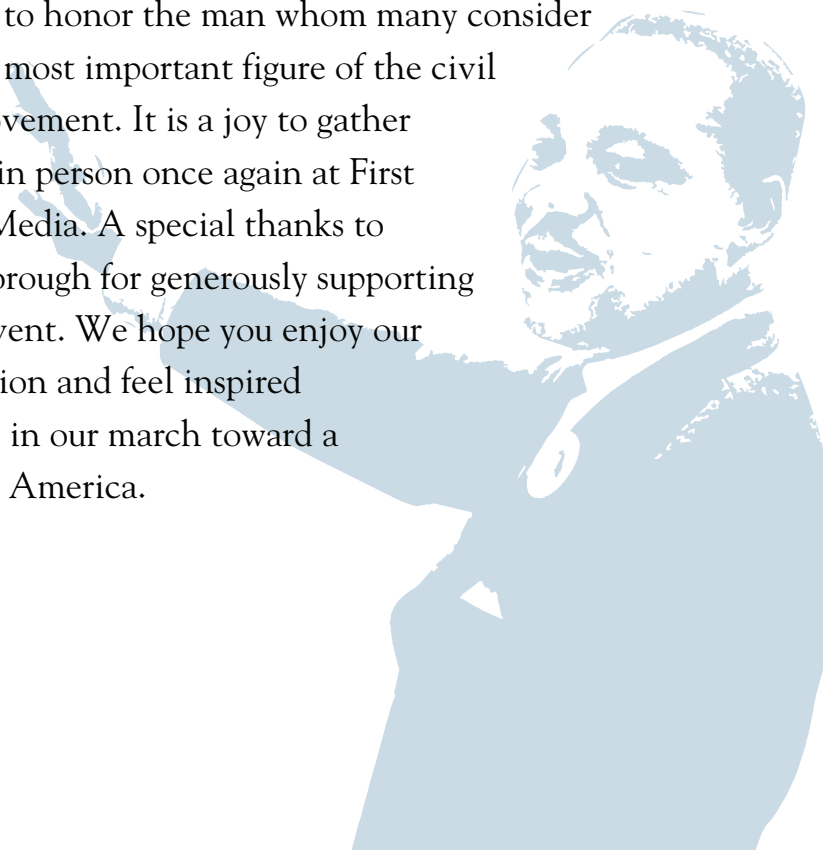
January 15, 2023

featuring keynote speaker  
Chief Executive Officer of The New Pennsylvania Project  
**Kadida Kenner**



**Media Fellowship House and the  
Media Area NAACP welcome  
you to the 34th Annual  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Birthday Commemoration and  
Spirit Hall of Fame**

Each year, MFH partners with the Media Area NAACP to honor the man whom many consider to be the most important figure of the civil rights movement. It is a joy to gather together in person once again at First Church Media. A special thanks to Media Borough for generously supporting today's event. We hope you enjoy our presentation and feel inspired to join us in our march toward a more just America.



# **34th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Commemoration and Spirit Hall of Fame**

## **Musical Prelude**

Danie Ocean

## **Official Welcome**

James Mason, *Media Fellowship House Board President*  
Cynthia Ann Jetter, *Media Area NAACP President*  
Bianca Blake, *NAACP Media Youth Council President*

## **Invocation**

Pastor Laurie Ann Rookard  
*First Church Media*

## **Prayer of Hope**

Reverend Keen Newsome, Sr.  
*St. Paul A.M.E Zion Church*

## **In Memoriam of Pastor Warren Mays, Sr.**

Family of Pastor Warren Mays, Sr.

## **Community Welcome**

Mayor Robert A. McMahon  
*Media Borough*

## **Musical Presentation**

Kathy Anthony

## **2023 Spirit Award Announcements**

Introduced by Akilah Evans-Pigford,  
*First Vice President, Media Area NAACP*

## **2023 Spirit Award Honorees**

Akeiff Staples and Brent Johnstone, *Co-Founders, FathersRead365*  
Kadida Kenner, *Chief Executive Officer, The New Pennsylvania Project*

## **Introduction of Keynote Speaker**

Cynthia Ann Jetter  
*Media Area NAACP President*

## **Keynote Address**

Kadida Kenner  
*Chief Executive Officer of The New Pennsylvania Project*

## **Special Guest Remarks**

Introduced by Amy Komarnicki, *Executive Director,*  
*Media Fellowship House*

## **Musical Presentation**

Danie Ocean

## **Closing Prayer**

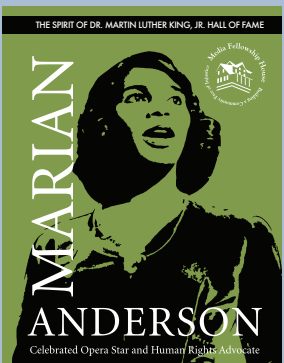
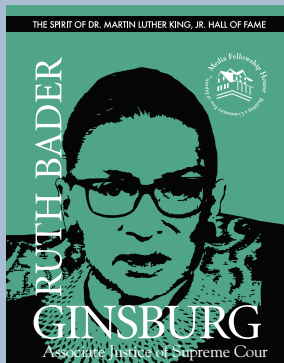
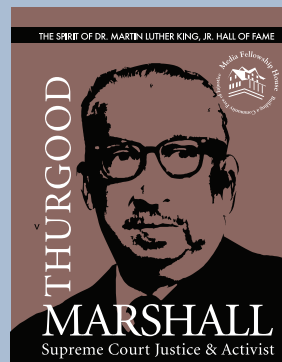
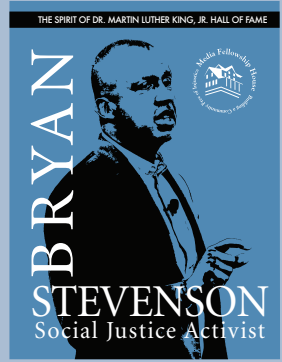
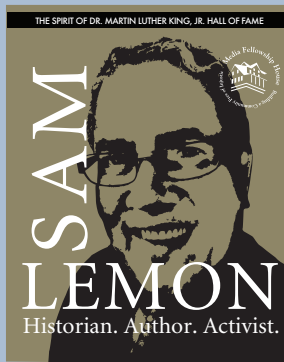
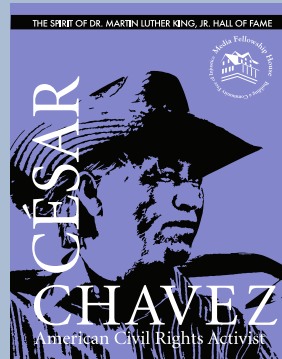
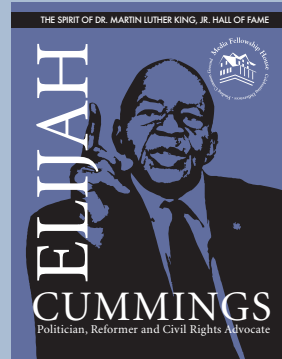
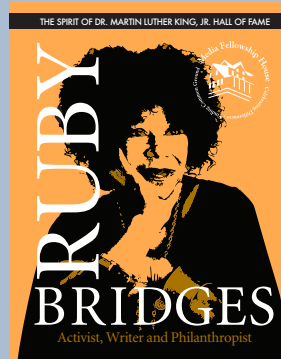
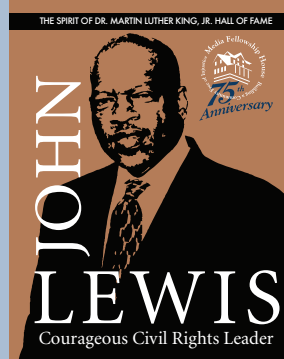
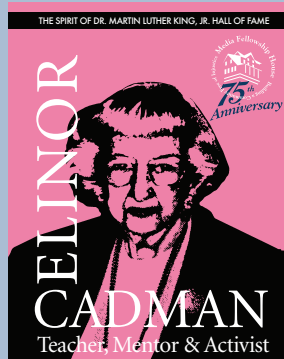
Rabbi Nathan Martin  
*Beth Israel Congregation*

## **Lift Every Voice and Sing**

*Please join as we sing together,  
led by Kathy Anthony.*

## **Closing**

James Mason  
*MFH Board President*



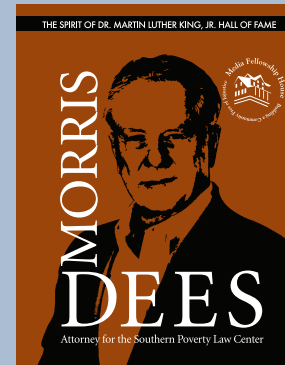
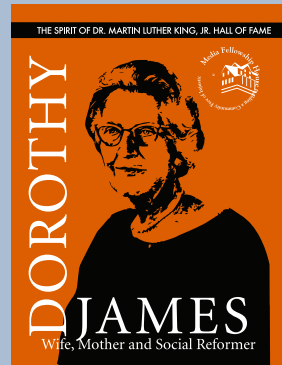
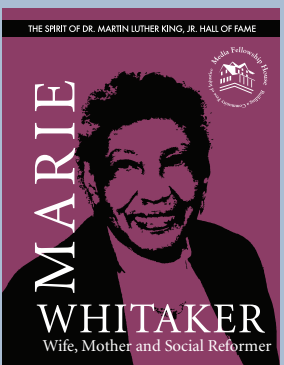
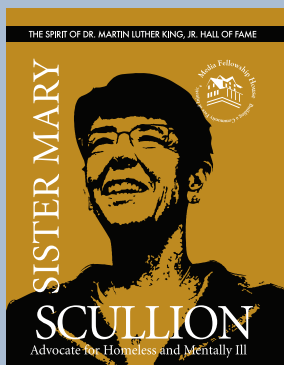
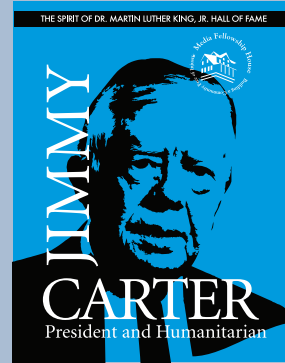
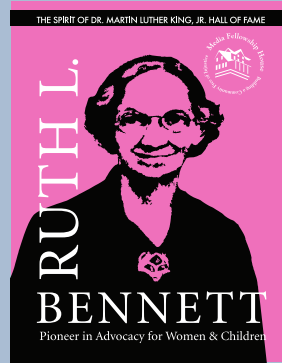
## 2018-2022 INDUCTEES OF THE THE SPIRIT AWARD DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SPIRIT HALL OF FAME

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is known and beloved for his acts and deeds. His qualities were many and included:

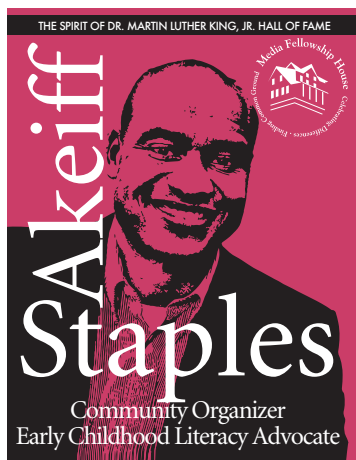
**Loyalty • Leadership • Integrity  
Honesty • Determination • Courage**

In 2018, twelve individuals were inducted into the “Hall of Fame.” Each year since, we have continued to build the Spirit Hall of Fame.

It is hoped that the Spirit Hall of Fame will serve as an inspiration for study and reflection, and bring a wider audience to an understanding of Dr. King, his mission and his life.



## *Spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Hall of Fame*



### **Akeiff Staples and Brent Johnstone** Community Organizers • Early Childhood Literacy Advocates

FathersRead365 (FR365) was co-founded by Akeiff Staples and Brent Johnstone in 2017 after their work with youth in juvenile detention centers, social services, and schools illuminated below proficiency in literacy resulting in a striking inability to function at grade level.

Having first met while attending Temple University and playing football, they decided to join forces to focus their efforts at the earliest stages of child development (birth to 5 years old) and create a movement promoting the importance of reading to children daily.

FR365 promotes caregiver-child literacy activities, with an emphasis on fathers, as essential contributors to a child's language, literacy, and cognitive development. Its work is centered around four pillars: performing active readings and training parents to do the same at home; distributing free children's books; encouraging family and community engagement; and producing original content to inform communities about the importance of literacy at a young age.

For the past five years, FR365 has read to over 10,000 children across Philadelphia in several hundred classrooms, and distributed over 100,000 books to grow their home libraries. In 2019, the organization won the Greater Philadelphia Innovation Award for Parent Engagement from Social Innovations Journal. FR365 has also collaborated with Daphne Pictures to produce a full-length documentary chronicling their work titled, *Reading Is Love*. The feature film is set to hit festivals in 2023.

## *Spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Hall of Fame*



Our Keynote Speaker and Spirit Award Honoree

### Kadida Kenner

Voting Rights Advocate

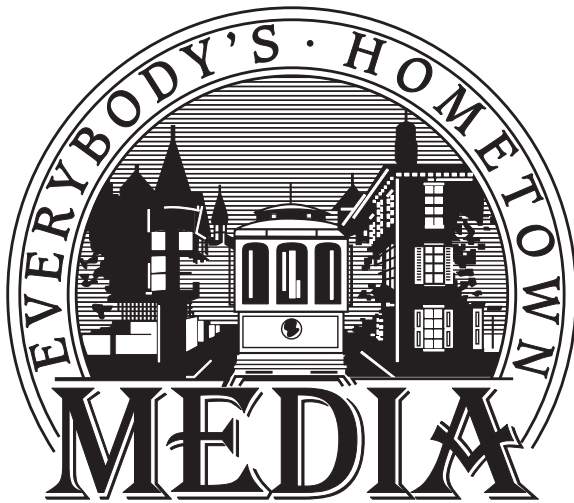
Kadida Kenner is the chief executive officer of the New Pennsylvania Project, a voting rights organization modeled after the successful New Georgia Project founded by Stacey Abrams in 2014. The New Pennsylvania Project's primary focus is to civically engage, register, mobilize and empower often-ignored constituents, especially the youth, and communities of color in rural, urban, and suburban Pennsylvania to transform and expand the electorate in the Commonwealth.

Kadida is a tireless advocate for social and economic justice issues and is motivated to empower and excite the electorate to enthusiastically vote in every election — all the way down the entire ballot. In addition to working on voting rights, Kadida also serves as co-chair of Why Courts Matter – Pennsylvania, an advocacy campaign seeking to protect the independence of our state and federal courts, and educate the electorate about their importance.

The Temple University graduate resides in the Philly suburbs and counts civil rights organizing icon, and Pennsylvania native Bayard Rustin as her hero.

# Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift every voice and sing,  
'Til 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,  
Let us march on 'til victory is won.



**301 N. Jackson Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Media, PA 19063  
610-566-5210**

**Robert A. McMahon, *Mayor***  
**Brian C. Hall, Esq., *Council President***  
**Elizabeth Romaine, *Council Vice President***

**Council Members:**

**Kevin Boyer**  
**Mark Paikoff**  
**Paul Robinson**  
**Joi Washington**  
**Peter Williamson**

Together, we remember Dr. King's legacy and honor  
Media Fellowship House and the Media Area NAACP for their  
dedicated service to Media Borough.



**NAACP**  
*Media Branch*

Our mission is to inform our community of problems affecting minorities; and to protect equal rights and eliminate race-based discrimination. The Media Area Branch NAACP is committed to creating an equal, just environment for Media and surrounding communities.

**Officers:**

Cynthia Ann Jetter, *President*

Akilah Evans-Pigford, *First Vice President*

Ruth Jacobs, *Treasurer*

Dina Stonberg, *Secretary*

Earthalene Jackson, *Member at Large*

Stefanie McArdle, *Member at Large*

[www.naacpmediabranch.org](http://www.naacpmediabranch.org)

[medianaacp@gmail.com](mailto:medianaacp@gmail.com)



**Media Fellowship House**  
**Celebrating Differences. Finding Common Ground.**

Since its founding in 1944, Media Fellowship House has continued to create programs, organize coalitions, and facilitate conversations that promote diversity and understanding. Our efforts focus on fair housing, education, and racial justice advocacy work.

**Officers:**

James Mason, *President*

Robert Keller, *Vice President*

Robert Mickle, *Secretary*

**Directors:**

Elizabeth Campbell

Jonathan Flynn

Rebecca Gerber

Smita Sanwardeker

Karla Schuette Read

Amy Komarnicki, *Executive Director*

[mediafellowshiphouse.org](http://mediafellowshiphouse.org)

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