



Days of Dialogue with The Open Temple

Special MLK Shabbat
at The Electric Lodge

1416 Electric Ave, Venice CA 90291

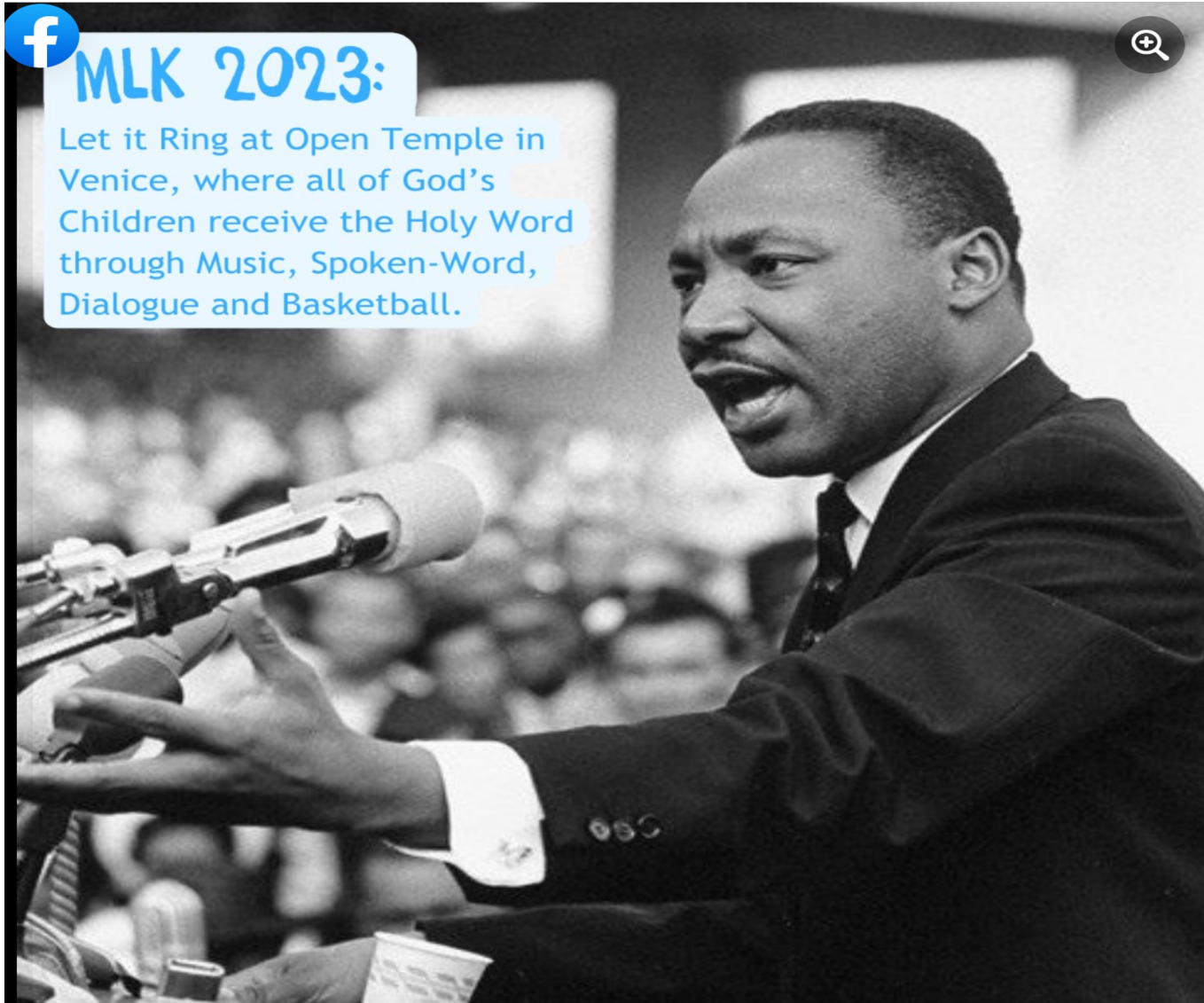
January 20, 2023





MLK 2023:

Let it Ring at Open Temple in Venice, where all of God's Children receive the Holy Word through Music, Spoken-Word, Dialogue and Basketball.



**Rabbi Lori Shapiro and Open Temple presents:
“MLK Shabbat 5783
Exploring the intersection of Blacks, Jews and Prophecy as method of
connecting to the Divine Voice Within
through
Music, Word, Dialogue and Basketball”**

**January 20, 2023
Shabbat Service with Dialogue
Participants
Rabbi Lori Shapiro
Kimberly Haynes – Cantorial Soloist
46 Congregants and Guests
5 musicians – members of the Open Temple Band
5 Days of Dialogue facilitators
4 Hoop Bus representatives**



On January 20, 2023, Days of Dialogue participated in the Open Temple “Disruptive MLK Shabbat.”

DOD was invited by Rabbi Lori Shapiro to weave a dialogue into the immersive Shabbat service.

This was Open Temple’s first service held inside the Electric Lodge building since the onset of the Pandemic. The Electric Lodge is a performance space and hosts a wide variety of events and classes.

To invite people back in, and to sow the seeds of Martin Luther King’s call to work together to build a just society, all attendees had the option of shooting some hoops with Hoop Bus www.hoopbus.com.

Hoopbus’ mission is “to leverage grassroots basketball to advocate for an inclusive, regenerative and equitable society for all.”

Next, congregants and guests were invited in to the temple space for the somatic Shabbat service. What followed was two and a half hours of prayers in Hebrew and English, music, singing, and a short dialogue.

In keeping with Jewish religious service, Rabbi Lori led “Yahrzeit” (lighting candles) for the departed (including Kobe Bryant). David Crosby, who passed away earlier in the week, was also memorialized, with a video.



Dialogue Prompt:

‘What kind of country do we want to be?’ And our Souls must respond with this question:
“What Kind of Human Am I?” as a Country is built upon the Actions of Humans driven by
their Soul Consciousness (or not).

The Dialogue should be carried out with this objective and ask:
“What kind of Human am I and how do I show up in the world?”



Facilitators' Feedback from the Dialogue

- The group I gathered into reflection and dialogue were 10 strong. After the introductory Shabbat presentation that set a foundation for reflecting on our social service, I invited the group to close their eyes and to look within themselves, to recognize and acknowledge their personal experience before sharing. I asked them to reflect on the question:
- *“Who of me shows up for social justice service; how would I like to more fully show up?”*
- Next, the group was invited one-by-one to share what they had experienced within; guided to listen to each person’s expression by taking in their full presence in body, gesture, tone; asked to reserve 10% of their attention to witness how they are listening – whether accepting, judging, hearing their own story, or feeling reactive.... Individuals shared something about their social service towards others as well as revealed something about their desire to change, grow, recognize more about themselves, be more intentional, or to be more open, etc.
- This exercise opened the potential for further introspection and for further dialogue.

- Dorit Cypis, Facilitator

Facilitators' Feedback from the Dialogue

- Group members were engaged & participatory - recurring themes in group:
- They are humans who love deeply
- They are committed to community & willing to put in the time & effort to empower community members
- They are deep listeners - who inquire - ask questions & look at all aspects - as many levels & components of an issue as possible when addressing & attempting to be part of the solution.
- They are grieving - loss is present & they are committed to using their grief to propel them into being a part of Mindful change.
- They are sharing their talents as a way to heal themselves & others
- They are authentic in their relationships & people trust them.
- They wish they could do more.

- Candace Carnicelli, Facilitator

Facilitators' Feedback from the Dialogue

- Due to the wonderfulness, the openness, and the trust already built through the service preceding our dialogue, and the prompt that primed the participants who needed no more than minor coaxing to speak, this went fast - it was difficult, honestly, for me to keep up with the speed and depth of conversation. As soon as I repeated the prompt, "What kind of human am I and how do I show up in the world?" the comments were fluid, nonstop, and deeply personal; and demonstrated a thoughtful group of people who wanted to think deeply about their place in a world of ever-pressing external concerns, and who sought a means to show up in the world, and be that much more present.
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- We talked about:
- People in the group took different tacks, and added spins - so the question became questions, not just "who am I" and "how do I show up in the world?" But adding in:
 - who do I want to be?
 - how can I express that better?
 - how do I fall short? (Doesn't that feel like it's too obvious?)
 - how do I ignore the pressure I feel or the failure I feel for not being that person that I want to be?
 - How can I resolve the conflict between who I am and who I want to be?
- A few swung glancingly at weaknesses and troubles or what they saw or thought others might see as failings - mentioning sadness, physical appearance, debt, disappointment in career or family or relationships; but also provided thoughtful counterpoint, about kindness, compassion, for ourselves and others, and how that can be an element of being present, aware. One mentioned that she wasn't a very good listener; another agreed and said she wasn't a very good listener either, and that listening and learning how to listen better is important. (*facilitator note: they spoke a lot, and fast!)
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Facilitators' Feedback from the Dialogue

(cont'd)

- We talked about the fluidity of experience, that the person you are, the person you want to be, sometimes the person that others see are multiple facets of ourselves. That our experience changes and shifts upon circumstance, experience, and our actions. And that what so many of us seek is consistency in our attempts to be better, to show up, to address the dissonance we might feel between the people we are and how we show up.
- Our speaker noted the internal focus of our discussion, wisely summarizing by saying that one of the best ways to show up the way you want to be in the world is to know yourself on the inside, and perhaps the best way to do that is to show up. Just show up.
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- A wonderful group. Amazing intense discussion in 10 minutes. If I were going to do it again, I would have slowed it down at the start and given people more time to reflect - given ME more time to reflect on the topic! Wow! They were ready. Many thanks to Rabbi Lori and everyone else presenting for a compelling, provocative, interactive opportunity to consider our place in the world with MLK Jr., Rabbi Heschel, and Rabbi Lori as our thought leaders, all framed in basketball and music.

- Marie Stein, Facilitator



Rabbi Lori with HoopBus
representatives





During the service





This dialogue is the first in a series of three with Open Temple.

Facilitators:

Jill Frank, Candace Carnicelli, Dorit Cypis, Roseanne Hubbard, Marie Stein

For more information please contact

Avis Ridley-Thomas

info@daysofdialogue.org

avisridleythomas@me.com

