

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Partnership Teaches Hartford Residents Martin Luther King Jr.'s Strategies for Nonviolent Community Leadership



A mural honoring the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., coordinated by the CT Center for Nonviolence, adorns a wall on the Northend Church of Christ on Albany Avenue in Hartford.

Hartford, Connecticut (December 15, 2014) – As the nation struggles with questions of violence, social change, and conflict, Hartford residents will have the unique opportunity to learn peaceful strategies for addressing these concerns from the teachings of activism’s legendary leader. Hartford Public Library, in collaboration with The Connecticut Center for Nonviolence (CTCN), will present the MLK Nonviolence Leadership Institute, a Level I Certification training in Kingian Nonviolence Conflict Reconciliation, from January 24 through March 28 at the Library’s Downtown location.

The ten-week program teaches the Six Principles of Nonviolence, developed by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as well as basic concepts, strategies and tools that individuals and communities can use to address conflict without resorting to violence. “The training provides a framework for conflict reconciliation management and mediation that can be applied to all areas of conflict in daily life,” Victoria Christgau, Executive Director of the Connecticut Center for Nonviolence, one of the organizers of the program.

The curriculum for the Institute was co-authored by David Jenhsen and legendary civil rights leader Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr., former strategist for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and leading world authority on the discipline of Kingian Nonviolence. The program will include a special February event featuring Dr. LaFayette as keynote speaker. Residents, activists, community groups and students from throughout Connecticut are encouraged to attend this public event.

“The profound nonviolence teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. deserve serious study. His powerful philosophy and methodology is immediately applicable to conflicts that affect our society and all people, individually and collectively,” said Christgau. “We are excited to conduct the training in partnership with Hartford Public Library and are grateful for the funding from the City of Hartford’s Department of Family, Children, Youth and Recreational Services’ CheckIT Grant to produce this training at such a significant turning point in our nation’s history.”

The training will be held Saturdays, January 24 through March 28, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Downtown Library located at 500 Main Street, Hartford. There is no cost to Hartford residents, but space is limited and an application process for registration is required. Please email info@ctnonviolence.org or call 860-567-3441 for more information.

ABOUT THE CONNECTICUT CENTER FOR NONVIOLENCE

The CT Center for Nonviolence is a non-profit organization that empowers communities to reconcile conflict through education and the arts. CTCN has worked with hundreds of people to train and implement the philosophy and strategies of Kingian Nonviolence across racial, social, economic and generational divides.

CTCN has certified over 150 youth and adults in Kingian Nonviolence Conflict Reconciliation since its inception in 2007. In addition CTCN is partnered with leading universities, schools and nonprofit organizations conducting ongoing Kingian Nonviolence training projects for people of all age and has reached thousands of people in numerous settings.

ABOUT [HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY](#)

As a finalist for the 2014 National Medal from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, Hartford Public Library has been recognized as national leader in redefining the urban public library in the 21st century as an innovative and stimulating place where people can learn and discover, explore their passions, and find a rich array of resources that contribute to a full life. Hartford Public Library provides free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Serving the residents of Hartford and beyond at its nine branches and Downtown location, Hartford Public Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year from adults, children and families seeking early literacy opportunities, work skills training, civic engagement, arts enrichment, and so much more. Visit hplct.org.

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