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From left, Bill Bouie, treasurer of the Reston Community Center's board of governors, Reston Community Orchestra Maestro Dingwall Fleary and Beverly Cosham pose after Fleary was given a community service award. Cosham nominated Fleary for his work in promoting works by forgotten African-American composers.

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**Ken Fredgren, chairman of the Reston Accessibility Committee, is presented with a community service award Monday at the Reston Community Center by treasurer of the Reston Community Center's board of governors. Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Dranesville) nominated Fredgren for the award.**

## Reston Remembers Martin Luther King Jr.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

**R**eston came out to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Monday, and recognized some members of the community that were helping live up to King's dream. The Reston Community Center hosted the celebration, which included a march, singing, speeches and workshops to benefit various groups throughout the community.

The morning began at the Southgate Community Center, where several dozen people gathered to march from Southgate to the Reston Community Center.

"We're here to remember what was started 60 years ago. These

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**Michele Norris, an award-winning journalist and host of NPR's "All Things Considered," speaks at the Reston Community Center Monday about her experiences discovering secrets of her family's past and the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.**

### Living the Dream

Three people and one group received community service awards at the Reston Community Center's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. birthday celebration Monday.

❖ Franck Simo, junior, South Lakes High School, for his efforts with the English for Speakers of Other Languages and South Lakes International Club for Education and Entertainment programs.

❖ Dingwall Fleary, Reston Community Orchestra maestro, for his efforts in performing works by neglected African-American composers, including selecting music for the annual Dr. Martin Luther King birthday celebrations.

❖ Ken Fredgren, chairman of the Reston Accessibility Committee, which helps secure access to local businesses and other facilities for people with mental and physical disabilities.

❖ Amy's Amigos, a group of South Lakes students, who in memory of their friend Amy Boyle, participate in various charitable causes around the area and are currently putting together Reston's first youth triathlon in May.



**Members of Amy's Amigos, a group of South Lakes students who formed in memory of their friend Amy Boyle, receive a community service award Monday at the Reston Community Center. Boyle died of a brain tumor several years ago, and her friends formed the group to participate in various charitable events, and are currently planning a youth triathlon in Reston.**



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN

**Sue Pinkman of the Reston Community Players announces the nominees for the 2010 WATCH Awards at the Birchmere Music Hall Jan. 16.**

## Reston Community Players Garner WATCH Nominations

**T**he Reston Community Players garnered 13 nominations as the Washington Area Theatre Community Honors announced the nominees for the 2010 WATCH Awards Jan. 16 at the Birchmere Music Hall in Alexandria.

The RCP production of "Trip to Bountiful" earned nine nominations, including Outstanding Play, while "As You Like It" and "Wonderful Town" scored two nominations each.

Sue Pinkman, president of the RCP board and a founding member of the WATCH Awards, was a presenter at the nomina-

tions announcements.

"Community theatre is like a family," Pinkman said. "We're very proud of the work we do and are excited about our nominations."

Nominees were selected from 121 productions that were adjudicated at 31 community theatre companies. In each of 38 categories, five nominees were selected based on the average scores of eight judges.

Winners will be announced at the WATCH Awards ceremony March 6 at The Birchmere Music Hall.

—JEANNE THEISMANN

### Reston Community Players

#### As You Like It

- Outstanding Featured Actress in a Play, Melissa Bailey as "Celia"
- Outstanding Set Painting in a Play, Cathy Rieder
- Trip to Bountiful
- Outstanding Cameo in a Play, Christopher Guy Thorn as "Roy/Ticket Agent"
- Outstanding Cameo in a Play, Richard Bird as "Sheriff/Ticket Agent"
- Outstanding Costume Design in a Play, Irene Molnar
- Outstanding Featured Actress in a Play, Robin Zerbe as "Thelma"
- Outstanding Lead Actress in a Play, Adriana Hardy as "Carrie Watts"
- Outstanding Light Design in a Play, Adam Konowe
- Outstanding Makeup Design in a Play, Kat Brais
- Outstanding Play
- Outstanding Sound Design in a Play, Kevin P. Garret
- Wonderful Town
- Outstanding Hair Design in a Musical, Jaelyn Young
- Outstanding Sound Design in a Musical, Richard Bird

# Remembering the Dream

FROM PAGE 3

marches changed the face of the Civil Rights movement," said Ruth Overton of the Reston Chorale, who led the singing for the march. "This is a story we must keep telling. The people who marched had things thrown at them, they were beaten with billy clubs and tear gassed. We remember these people who put their lives on the line for the ability to be judged not by the color of their skin, but the content of their character."

The crowd sang songs such as "We Shall Not Be Moved," "This Little Light of Mine" and other staples of the marches of the 1960s.

Once they got to the community center, marchers enjoyed a small breakfast, and then headed to the CenterStage, where community service awards were presented to several individuals and groups.

Franck Simo, a junior at South Lakes High School, was awarded for his efforts at the South Lakes International Club for Education and Entertainment (SLICE) as well as the English for Speakers of Other Languages program. Simo, a native of Cameroon, was given the award for his efforts promoting and running the organization.

"Since arriving from Cameroon two years ago, Franck has been one of the best students I've ever had at ESOL," said Justin Hvitfeldt-Matthews, a teacher at South Lakes who nominated Simo for the award. "As a result of his efforts [SLICE] has grown into a great program."

Simo remained humble about the award, saying "this isn't just my success, this is a success for the entire ESOL program."

**OTHER AWARDS** were presented to Reston Community Orchestra Maestro Dingwall Fleary, Ken Fredgren of the Reston Accessibility Committee and Amy's Amigos, a group of students who participate in various charitable events in memory of their friend Amy Boyle, who died of a brain tumor several years ago.

Fredgren said the recognition was very special to him, saying "Martin Luther King has been my hero for my whole life, and to hear my name mentioned with his in my own community is special."

The keynote speaker for the event was award-winning journalist Michele Norris, current host of NPR's "All Things Considered." Norris spoke about writing her book "The Grace of Silence" and what she learned about her own history in the process.

She recalled discovering that her grandmother on her mother's side, who she remembered as a well-mannered woman full of class, made her living early by dressing up as Aunt Jemima and making appearances at supermarkets.

She also recalled hearing the story from her uncles about how her father, a returning World War II veteran, was shot in Birmingham, Ala. In Feb. 1946, mere months after serving in the Navy.

"He returned to a society that was not quite ready to assimilate men who looked like him into American democracy," Norris



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

**Kevin Gilmore and his nephews Scottie, 4 and Graham Mesaiah, 2, march from the Southgate Community Center to the Reston Community Center Monday, to commemorate the marches of the civil rights movement.**

Norris said though it wasn't easy to hear those stories well after the fact — her father had died years before she heard about his incident in Birmingham - she realized that it might have been a good thing.

"When I started to listen to the hidden conversation about race, I started to hear it about my own family," she said. "Finding these stories about my family was a blessing."

**NORRIS** also paid tribute to King, speaking as someone who remembered his speeches as they happened

"I was struck by the way he used words. He talked about fighting for justice, but not in a pugilistic way, instead they were steeped with grace, honor and humility," she said. "But if we think of him as something so grand, so mythical, then it becomes hard to follow his path."

She recalled the pride her family felt with the election of Barack Obama, even if they didn't agree with him politically.

"There was a shift that happened when you saw the photo of the man at the great big desk in the Oval Office in the White House, a man who looked like he could have been one of their grandkids," Norris said. "And when we think of how America has changed, it's important to remember our heroes, but also remember ... that it happened because people of all colors came together."

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