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The Spark, January 7, 2025, Edition 34



Reflecting on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Vision of a Beloved Community

In 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. retreated into solitude to pen his final book, *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?* Published posthumously a decade later, this profound work served as King's ultimate vision for a just world. He called for remedies to systemic inequalities: better jobs, fair wages, universal healthcare, housing security, and equal education. Yet King's dream extended far beyond the borders of the United States—it was a global call to action, rooted in hope for humanity to fulfill the promise of the 1948 United Nations Declaration for Human Rights.

Theologian Cornel West describes this book as King's "last grand expression of his vision—his most prophetic challenge to powers that be and his most progressive program for the wretched of the earth." King's vision was clear: a Beloved Community is not merely aspirational; it is achievable if we commit to compassion, justice, and equality.

The Charter for Compassion's 40 Days of Peace

In the spirit of Dr. King's legacy, the Charter for Compassion is proud to present 40 Days of Peace, an extraordinary series of programs running now through March 1, 2025. These events are designed to inspire reflection, foster dialogue, and empower action toward building a more compassionate world—a modern realization of King's Beloved Community.

[Continue Reading Here](#)

Charter for Compassion News, Programs, and Webinars



Black Canadian Narratives and Global Connections with Rachel Luke

Course begins TODAY!

Every Tuesday in January (7, 14, 21, 28)

4pm PST / 5pm MST / 6pm CST / 7pm EST / 11am AEDT (Jan 8)

This exciting course's objective is to provide participants with valuable insights into the rich and diverse history of Black Canadian stories, with a focus on universal themes of freedom, resilience, and creativity.

Highlighting successes, triumphs, and the barriers faced by Black communities in Canada and beyond, this course aims to foster a deeper understanding of their contributions to global history and culture through films, interactive activities, and discussions.

[Learn more and Register here](#)



Harmony of Humanity: Exploring a Legacy with Marilyn Turkovich

Series begins TOMORROW!

Every Wednesday in January and February

8am PST / 11am EST / 4pm GMT / 9.30pm IST

Each Wednesday for two months the Harmony of Humanity will concentrate on African American music, the commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and his legacy of creating a "Beloved Community."

This mini-series of programming will start with setting the stage for other programs, concentrating on songs of hope, resilience and determination.

We will continue marking a celebration of songs to honor Dr. King on January 15, and follow with five programs that explore history through song, ending on February 26 with an emphasis on new Freedom Songs.

Learn more and Register here



Creating a Beloved Community with Dr. Richard Rose

Course begins TOMORROW!

Every Wednesday in January and February

12pm PST / 1pm MST / 2pm CST / 3pm EST / 8pm GMT / 7am AEDT (Jan 9)

By examining the work of four Community Builders this course will introduce participants to some of the challenges around the building of the Beloved Community in the midst of a divided nation and ideologically separated global community.

These sessions will address the need to create communities of human flourishing that are sensitive to the requirements for ecological sustainability. In seeking to build the Beloved Community, the course offers a Community Engagement component that encourages the pursuit of meaning, commitment to truth-seeking pluralism, and first-person engagement through participation in a community building activity.

Learn more and Register here



EdNet Forum: My Hero Project with Laura Nietzer

Thursday, January 16

7:30am PST / 10:30am EST / 3:30pm GMT / 9pm IST

The MY HERO Project uses media, art, and technology to celebrate the best of humanity, one story at a time. Using MY HERO's free multimedia resources that inspire and educate on human rights, environmental stewardship, peace, and social responsibility provides students with real-world examples of individuals who embody these values.

[Learn more and Register here](#)



Allies in Action: Community & Partner Chat, in CANADA

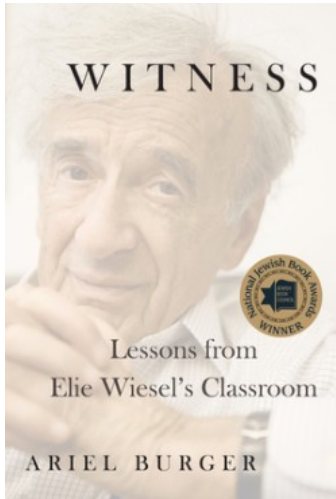
Wednesday, January 22

4:30pm PST / 5:30pm MST / 6:30pm CST / 7:30pm EST

IF you are in CANADA, whether you are a long-standing or new partner, a dedicated member of a compassionate community, or someone who is passionate about building a more compassionate world, your presence and participation are invaluable.

At this gathering, we aim to foster meaningful conversations, exchange innovative ideas, and address any concerns that you may have.

[Learn more and Register here](#)



Global Read: Witness by Ariel Burger

Wednesday, January 29

9am PST / 11am CST / 12pm EST / 5pm GMT / 10:30pm IST

In the vein of Tuesdays with Morrie, a devoted student and friend of Holocaust survivor and Nobel Peace Prize recipient Elie Wiesel invites readers to witness one of the world's greatest thinkers in his own classroom in this instructive and deeply moving read, a National Jewish Book Award-winner.

In this thought-provoking account, Burger brings the spirit of Wiesel's classroom to life, where the art of storytelling and the act of listening conspire to make witnesses of us all—as it does for readers of this inspiring book as well.

The conversation will be moderated by Parker J. Palmer

[Learn more and Register here](#)



Compassion Circle: The Charter Sangha

Saturday, January 25

9am PST / 10am MST / 11am CST / 12pm EST / 5pm GMT / 10.30pm IST

On the last Saturday of every month, the Charter for Compassion offers a 90-minute practice of people coming together to be in a Circle, a Sangha.

Register with this new link for 2025.

[\(RE-\) Register with this new link](#)

We have many more events coming up!

Take a quick peek at some of the upcoming ones:

[Feb. 26 @ 9:00 AM PT • Global Read: God and Nuclear Weapons](#)
[Feb. 28 @ 9:00 AM PT • Global Read: Being Nobel](#)

From our Partners



Happy Birthday Dr. King!

Wednesday, January 15
9am PST / 12pm EST / 5pm
GMT

Join us live on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday with Pato Banton & Antoinette Rootsdahtah.

Dr. King would be 96 years old and so we continue shining light on his legacy and ongoing beautiful work for civil justice and making a Beloved Community.

[Learn more and Register Here](#)

A Historic Convergence

January 16 through March 1,
2025

One World invites you to reflect on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of justice and equality and come together in service and unity to honor his enduring question:

"Where do we go from here: chaos or community?"

[Learn more and Register Here](#)



InterSpiritual Meditation Course

January 10 - February 28, 2025
Fridays at 9am PST / 12pm EST / 5pm GMT

A 7-Step Process from the World's Great Contemplative Traditions: Create a Personal Meditation that is Right for You.

1. Happiness and health
2. Gratitude for life's many gifts
3. Transformation into your highest potential
4. Love and compassion for self and others
5. Mindful calm and focus
6. Wisdom through meditation
7. Service to others

[Learn more and Register Here](#)



Feast for the Soul 2025

January 15 - February 23

Begin the new year with a more mindful and compassionate way of living.

Many people look forward to the annual Feast for the Soul - an annual 40-day spiritual practice journey for self-discovery via mindfulness, meditation, and creating community.

You can think of it as a personal retreat whereby you commit and immerse yourself in 40 days of spiritual practice from January 15 through February 23.

You are invited to join us in whatever way you can.

[Learn more and Register Here](#)



The Spirit of Ubuntu

Sunday, January 19

10am PST / 11am MST / 12pm CST / 1pm EST / 6pm GMT

Ubuntu International, in partnership with The Charter for Compassion and Compassionate Africa, is thrilled to host an exclusive pre-launch screening of full-length award-winning documentary The Spirit of Ubuntu.

At the heart of this global movement is the concept of Ubuntu: "I am because you are, and you are because I am," a powerful reminder of our shared humanity and interconnectedness.

[Learn more and Register Here](#)



Toward a More Just Union: 70 Years In The Civil Rights Struggle

If you are in San Francisco Bay Area!
Monday, January 20 at 11am PST

The San Francisco Interfaith Council invites faith leaders and their congregants to join in the 2025 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Commemorations.

The 2025 March will begin promptly at 11:00 am (arrive early) from the Caltrain Station at 4th and Townsend. Once the March arrives at Yerba Buena Gardens Esplanade, the 14th Annual Interfaith Commemoration Ceremony will commence.

[Learn more here](#)



National Day of Collective Healing with Leslie Odom Jr.

Wednesday, January 29
5pm PST / 6pm MST / 7pm CST / 8pm EST

NO REGISTRATION NECESSARY

Join Charter Partner, Alamo Colleges, San Antonio, TX, District's Arts, Culture and Community Impact team for our 4th Annual National Day of Collective Healing, featuring Tony and Grammy Award-winning vocalist, actor, and songwriter Leslie Odom, Jr.! This special event will take place at the Carver Community Cultural Center, celebrating the solidarity and vibrancy of our city.

[Learn more here](#)

If you are a Partner organization, or belong to a registered Compassionate City/Community with us, and want to promote your events in The Spark, the Charter for Compassion's newsletter, email contact@charterforcompassion.org



Jan 9 - Lunice Stfort with New Partner organization [Camp Perrin Project](#) in Haiti.

Jan. 16 - Tracy Saad with New Partner [Commence Games](#)

Jan. 23 - Mugala Dervile with New Partner organization UJUZI Go-Creation Hub in Uganda.

*If you'd like to be featured in the LIVE show,
email felipe@charterforcompassion.org*



Featured items on the Store



Compassion Hoodie

US\$44

Everyone needs a cozy go-to hoodie to curl up in, so go for one that's soft, smooth, and stylish. It's the perfect choice for cooler evenings, especially when it has compassion all over!

[Shop Hoodies](#)

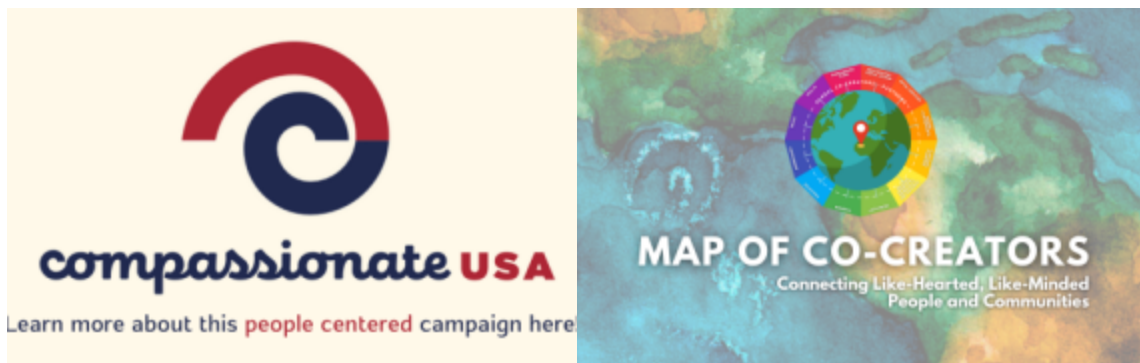


Infinity Logo Cuffed Beanie

US\$28

A snug, form-fitting beanie with the infinity sign. It's not only a great head-warming piece but a staple accessory in anyone's wardrobe.

[Shop Beanies](#)



Charter for Compassion, 2025



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