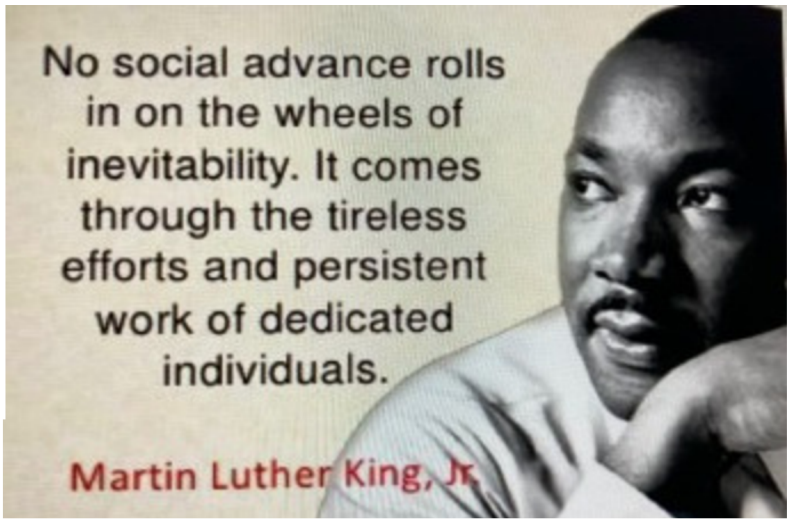
TEMPLE EMANUEL'S

ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. COMMEMORATIVE SHABBAT

6:30 pm Friday, Jan. 17

Prozdor reception begins at 6:00 pm



Special Guest Speaker James L. Stowe, Director of Montgomery County's Office of Human Rights, will discuss:

The State of Human Rights in Montgomery County and Efforts to Build and Sustain a Community of Caring as a New Administration Arrives in Washington D.C.

The Commemorative Service will include special music from Cantor Lindsay Kanter and our Mizmor L'Shabbat Band.

Every January, we celebrate the life and work of Dr. King and focus on how we can advance toward his vision of a Beloved Community. While Dr. King preached that the "arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice," he also reminded us that "no social advance rolls in on the wheels of inevitability; it comes through the tireless efforts and persistent work of dedicated individuals, who are willing to be co-workers with God." Our 2025 speaker, James L. Stowe, longtime director of the county Office of Human Rights, is such an individual, having been in public service for 37 years in the field of human and civil rights.

Under Director Stowe's leadership, the Office of Human Rights provides leadership in enforcement of anti-discrimination laws, educating citizens about cultural diversity and identifying and resolving community tensions as it works toward "Creating a Culture of Service and a Climate of Fairness and Inclusion."

For example, he has spearheaded initiatives to combat incidents of hate violence and bullying in schools, as well as outreach activities with the County Human Rights Commission to convene forums on racial profiling, the criminal justice system, police community relations, LGBTQ+ communities, and the Digital Divide. The core of his work has been to foster unity and understanding in our amazingly diverse county.

Director Stowe is a member of many local community organizations, and is past president of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies and current president of the National Association of Human Rights Workers. He has received local and national civic and human rights awards and recognition.