



The Southern Dutchess Coalition, INC.

41 Years of Community Information and Services

My People Perish for lack of Knowledge Hosea 4:6

Reverent Barbara E. Baker, Founder Chairperson – 1978 – 2008

Beacon Sloop Club

Dear Pastors, Schools, Community Churches, and Organizations,

January 17, 2022 marks the 44th year the Southern Dutchess Coalition has given tribute to the Legacy of the Honorable Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Our MLK Celebration will be held this year at Salem Tabernacle Church, 7 Dalavan Avenue, on Monday, January 17th, after our 8th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Parade.

Our theme for this year will be “Are we Keeping the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s Dream Alive?”

The Southern Dutchess Coalition and the Beacon Sloop Club are having our 8th Annual MLK Essay Contest. All students in Grades 1-12 are asked to write about our theme: “Are We Keeping the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s Dream Alive?” Students should explain Rev. Dr. King’s Dream, writing about what was happening at the time for Rev. Dr. King to make his “I Have a Dream” speech. They should write about their own thoughts and lives. How are they keeping the Rev. Dr. King’s Dream Alive? What do they plan to do about this in their own lives?

We are very interested in what the youth are thinking and what they have to say.

All students participating will receive a certificate at the MLK Celebration. Six winners will receive \$50 awards from Rhinebeck Bank.

This essay can be an easy classroom project where the teacher teaches some MLK background and gives the assignment, without having to grade papers. In the past, several teachers have taken up the call. It is very important that the teachers or parents make sure that the student’s first and last name, grade, teacher’s name and school are clearly written on the top of the paper. Papers without this information will be disqualified. Papers should be typed, but may be printed by the youngest contestants.

Papers need to be mailed or hand delivered to Sharlene Stout, 31 Rector Street, Beacon, NY 12508 and must be received no later no later than 7pm on Thursday, January 6th, 2022.

If you have questions, please call or text Bonnie Champion at 845-264-5663.

Sincerely,

Jennifer McClinton, SDC President

Sharlene Stout, SDC Vice President

Bonnie Champion, MLK Parade and Essay Coordinator