

# Cape May celebrates anniversary of MLK's 1958 speech

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

King's Cape May speech with great eloquence. "The state of the world today does not permit us the luxury of anemic democracy and the clock of destiny is ticking now," McQueen quoted King. Modern psychology frequently uses the term "maladjusted," McQueen said. "I say to you that there are certain things within our social order to which I am proud to be malad-

justed, and I call upon you to be maladjusted in all of these things," McQueen quoted King. "I never intend to become adjusted to segregation and discrimination, I never intend to adjust myself to the viciousness of mob rule, I never intend to adjust myself to the economic conditions which take the necessities from the masses to give luxuries to the classes and adjust myself to the madness of militarism and the self-defeating effects of physical violence."

Mayor Chuck Lear introduced Anna Wright, of Newtown Square, Pa., who witnessed King's speech in Convention Hall in 1958. She said the hall was filled to capacity that night, with people standing in doorways and peering through windows from the outside.

"Of course Dr. King's speech was so great, so strong," she said. "His message to us as Friends was clear and to the point, but it was not just his words, it was the way he said them."

One of the leaders of the conference, Clarence Pickett, said King was a man with a voice that was heard around the world, she said.

"I think that says it all," Wright said. "When Dr. King's speech was over, there was a standing ovation like I had never seen, so heartfelt."

A plaque commemorating King's speech will be installed in Convention Hall.



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The Rev. Derrick McQueen, above left, speaks to the audience during a commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., speech in 1958 to the Friends General Conference. Above right, Mayor Chuck Lear and Anna Wright look at the plaque that will be hung at Convention Hall marking the speech.

"We lost Dr. King 50 years ago," Lear said. "In the vast scheme of things, Cape May shines an admittedly modest light on Dr. King's life and visit here, but we are determined to make it shine in his memory now."

He said it was fitting to gather to observe King's visit to the city with inspirational songs, his words and "hope in our hearts that his message of peace, justice and fellowship will prevail no matter how perplexing or bleak the world seems from our little tip of South Jersey."

Music was provided by a community choir directed by Lois Smith, comprised of choir members from Macedonia Baptist

Church, Cape May Lutheran Church, Cape May Methodist Church and Tabernacle Methodist Church.

The choir offered "Lift Every Voice," "I'm A-Rolling Through an Unfriendly World" and "We Will Overcome."

The Rev. Harold Harris, of Macedonia Baptist Church, acted as master of ceremonies for the event.

Harold Dean Trulear, an associate professor of applied theology at Howard University and director of the Healing Communities Prison Ministry and Prisoner Reentry Project of the Philadelphia Leadership Foundation, was the featured speaker offering a message entitled "Take Me

to the Water." He urged the audience to put a face on the incarcerated and drug-addicted.

"We look at people with addictions and we condemn them. We don't see their humanity, we don't see their struggle. We only see how they hurt us and then we cut them off until they get themselves together again," Trulear said.

He said he has dehumanized inmates, seeing them as animals and thugs.

"But they're your sons, they're your grandsons," Trulear said.

The evening concluded with the choir and the near-capacity audience singing "America the Beautiful."

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| 4    | 12:24 | 1:01 | 6:41  | 6:45  |
| 5    | 1:07  | 1:49 | 7:23  | 7:41  |
| 6    | 1:57  | 2:42 | 8:09  | 8:42  |
| 7    | 2:53  | 3:39 | 8:59  | 9:47  |
| 8    | 3:54  | 4:36 | 9:53  | 10:50 |
| 9    | 4:56  | 5:33 | 10:48 | 11:50 |
| 10   | 5:57  | 6:28 | 11:44 |       |
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