



MLK DAY: THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

On Friday, January 13, Exeter held its 16th annual celebration of the life and legacy of Reverend Martin Luther King, canceling classes so that students and faculty could attend a daylong series of lectures, workshops and performances. The theme for this year's observance was "The Struggle Continues: The Fight for Equality Must Be Waged on Many Fronts."

The keynote address was delivered by writer Rebecca Walker, author of the memoir *Black, White and Jewish: Autobiography of a Shifting Self*, who discussed how critical openness and an understanding of diverse perspectives are to the success of any peace process. University of Tennessee history professor Cynthia Fleming led workshops on the civil rights movement, with a focus on its final stages. Dr. John Kirk, a University of London history professor, lectured on King's strengths as a leader and on the larger forces at work in his time. In all, students had a choice of seven different workshops, including a Story/Song; a dramatic reading of King's own words performed by Exeter students; a discussion of the military's "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy; two films; and small-group discussions about race.

An all-school assembly was dedicated to the memory of Academy history instructor Marcia Carlisle, who passed away last fall. Carlisle, former chair of the MLK Day Committee, was a passionate advocate for individual empowerment and a society that offers equal access to all its citizens. The moving assembly included a Symphonic Choir performance of a short mass, a reading of Dr. King's words, and the reading of a poem by Marshall Moore, husband of faculty member Becky Moore.

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Capping this year's MLK Day celebration was a vibrant student performance, "Herald the Day," which included song, dance and African drumming.

The Art of Kendra O'Donnell

Through May 27, Lamont Gallery will present *Recent Works by Kendra O'Donnell*, an exhibition of paintings by Exeter's principal emerita.

O'Donnell, who grew up in rural upstate New York as an active 4-H member, now lives on an old farm outside of Concord, NH. Her paintings—mothers and daughters, children playing, a wedding party—are always focused on human subjects. O'Donnell explains, "I paint people. I am always interested in the relationship of the figures to the landscape or to the interior that contains them, and to their relationship to each other and to the viewer. What people are feeling is more important to me than who they are. I paint to represent and evoke emotion. Painting is neither the challenge of verisimilitude nor an exercise in self-expression; it is an attempt to create insight."

O'Donnell taught at Princeton and worked as a foundation executive prior to becoming Exeter's ninth principal in 1987. During a sabbatical in 1994, she studied painting at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, and since her retirement in 1997 has devoted much of her time to painting. She had a one-woman show at McGowan Fine Art in Concord last spring.

Blue Girl (2005, oil on canvas, 28 x 14 inches) is featured in an exhibition of paintings by Principal Emerita Kendra O'Donnell now at Lamont Gallery.

