



Press Contact: Ashara Ekundayo
BluBlak Media Consulting
ashara.ekundayo@gmail.com
303.260.9209

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**3 Spiritual Visionaries Discuss “The Dream Never Dies”
45 Years After the Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

*A Conversation exploring the “Beloved Community”
with Alice Walker, Jack Kornfield and Michael Bernard Beckwith*

Oakland, C.A. (March 4, 2013) - Join the East Bay Meditation Center (EBMC) for “The Dream Never Dies,” a benefit evening of music and conversation exploring the possibilities and practicalities of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s “Beloved Community” in the 21st century. The event features Alice Walker, Jack Kornfield, and Michael Bernard Beckwith with musical performances by Rickie Byars Beckwith & Raz Kennedy. Thursday, April 4, 2013, 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. at Zellerbach Auditorium, University of California, Berkeley Campus. Tickets are Sliding Scale and range from \$30 - \$100 (\$20 for students w/ ID) at <http://tinyurl.com/av6pbk4> More information at <http://eastbaymeditation.org/>

“It is 45 years after the death of Dr. King and the question still remains: are we any closer to achieving the ideals of the Beloved Community, where collectively hatred is countered with compassion and inequality and injustice are met with nonviolent solutions?” states Konda Mason, EBMC Board member and moderator for the event.

The “Beloved Community,” a term popularized by King and a core tenant of his non-violent philosophy, speaks to an overall effort to achieve a reconciled world by raising the level of relationships among people to a height where justice prevails and persons attain their full human potential. This ideal, demanding that creating such a community “begins by loving others for their own sakes, making no distinction between a friend and enemy as it is directed toward both,” will be in the minds of the presenters and a topic of discussion at “The Dream Never Dies.”

In the tradition of the Civil Rights Movement, which always engaged mind, body and spirit, the evening will open with performances from Rickie Byars Beckwith, songwriter and musical director at Agape International Spiritual Center in Los Angeles, and Raz Kennedy who has been performing and recording as a vocalist, vocal coach and producer in the Bay Area since 1980.

Additional offerings include catered food for sale and a book signing with Alice Walker and Michael Bernard Beckwith.

About the Panelists:

Alice Walker is the Pulitzer Prize winning author of *The Color Purple* and more than thirty volumes of fiction, poetry, and essays including her latest book, *The World Will Follow Joy: Turning Madness into Flowers (Spring 2013)* described as a demonstration of deep compassion, profound spirituality, and necessary political commitments. She has been an outspoken activist and champion of peace for more than three decades and is also the subject of the feature documentary “Alice Walker: Beauty In Truth” directed by Pratibha Parmar currently touring film festivals around the world. More information available at <http://alicewalkersgarden.com/>

Jack Kornfield is an author, peacemaker, scholar, and one of the key teachers to introduce Buddhist mindfulness practice to the West. He trained as a Buddhist monk in the monasteries of Thailand, India and Burma and has taught meditation internationally since 1974. He is also a founding teacher of the Insight Meditation Society in Massachusetts and Spirit Rock Meditation Center in Woodacre, CA. and holds a Ph.D. in clinical psychology. More information at <http://www.jackkornfield.org/about-bio/> or www.spiritrock.org

Michael Bernard Beckwith is an activist, author, and a world leader and teacher in the New Thought–Ancient Wisdom tradition of spirituality. He is the co-founder of the Association for Global New Thought and the Season for Nonviolence. In 1986 Dr. Beckwith founded the Agape International Spiritual Center, a transdenominational community and teaches meditation, scientific prayer, and speaks at conferences and seminars internationally. His books include *Spiritual Liberation, Inspirations of the Heart, 40 Day Mind Fast Soul Feast and A Manifesto of Peace*, and his radio show *Wake Up - The Sound of Transformation* airs nationally on Pacifica radio stations every Friday at 1:00 p.m. PST. More information at <http://www.agapelive.com/>

“The Dream Never Dies” is a benefit produced by the East Bay Meditation Center in partnership with community members to support the continued generosity-based programming of the non-profit organization. Tickets for “The Dream Never Dies” are available Online at <http://tinyurl.com/av6pbk4>, by Phone - 510.642.9988, or In Person at the Zellerbach Ticket Office located at the northeast corner of Zellerbach Hall on the UC Berkeley campus Ticket Office - Tue - Fri, 12 - 5:30 pm; Sat & Sun, 1 pm - 5 pm, and approximately one hour prior to curtain.

Media Inquires:

To schedule phone or print interviews with any of the presenters, contact, Ashara Ekundayo at 303.260.9209 or ashara.ekundayo@gmail.com

About EBMC:

Founded in a celebration of diversity, the East Bay Meditation Center welcomes everyone seeking to end suffering and cultivate happiness. The mission is to foster liberation, personal

and interpersonal healing, social action, and inclusive community building. EBMC offers mindfulness practices and teachings on wisdom and compassion from Buddhist and other spiritual traditions. Rooted in a commitment to diversity, The Center operates with transparent democratic governance, generosity-based economics, and environmental sustainability. For more information: www.eastbaymeditation.org or 510-268-0696.

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