

Million Man March spirit lives in Peaceoholics

By Nisa Islam Muhammad
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — For the third year in a row the Peaceoholics organized a month of atonement activities in celebration of the Million Man March with a March for Unity through the main street of the poorest community in the nation's capital.

It was a gathering with a message for youth, many of whom were only toddlers or preschoolers when more than a million men gathered on the mall October 16, 1995.

The march concluded at the Union Temple Baptist Church parking lot where a rally featured Rev. Willie Wilson and Dr. E. Faye Williams, who were co-chairs for the Million Man March, and social activist and satirist Dick Gregory.

"It was 13 years ago that the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan called us together for a celebration of our unity. Thirteen years later we are seeing the fruits of that labor," said Williams, who is president of the National Political Congress of Black Women.

"The new cool for men is Barack Obama and the new cool for women is Michelle Obama. We will be celebrating our unity January 20, when we can say, 'Yes we can!'" said Rev. Wilson, pastor of Union Temple.

He told the crowd about meetings at his church in preparation for the men's march.

"For 24 hours, for the final three days leading up to the Million Man March, we developed the program bringing together leaders

from around the country. At 5 a.m. on the day of the march we got word that there were over 300,000 Black men already on the mall," he recalled.

"By the time we got there, there were well over 1.5 million men there. Why did God bless us like that? To create a new energy in our community! Promote life so together in our unity we can make a difference and we can be the difference. Keep the spirit of love alive!" he urged the crowd.

**Make a Difference.
Be the Difference.**

The year was 1995 and Ronald Moten was returning to his community after incarceration. He got involved with the District's Local Organizing Committee and began to work on the Million Man March. He was a vibrant and energetic 25-year-old

looking to make a difference.

While organizing youth for the Million Man March, he met Jaguar Abraham and together they founded the Peaceoholics, people addicted to peace.

"All of this started with me organizing for the Million Man March," Moten told *The Final Call*. "This work is about teaching the children about their power. For many, they think their power is with a gun. Many feel hopeless so they use drugs and do things to raise their self esteem. This is about giving them hope and power.

"Look at our Street Commission. We take young men who are part of the problem and give them a blueprint for success so they can go back to their neighborhood and teach the young people that follow them. We have to take these leaders and show them

how to be successful so they can make change."

**A Rally for
Unity and Change**

Muhammad Mosque No. 4 assistant student minister Rory Muhammad told the rally attendees that on October 16, 1995 there was no division among Black men.

"There were no fights, no arrests, and no violence. There was nothing but love, nothing but peace. Bloods and Crips were hugging that day," he said.

But it was the words of Dick Gregory that brought a hush over the crowd and had them listening intently.

"We got no help from NBC, CBS or ABC that day, yet all the hotels were full for a 100 mile radius. Only two people were arrested that day and one was a White boy who called in a bomb threat and was stupid enough to

stay on the line until they came and arrested him. The other was a Korean who was selling hot dogs without a permit," said Mr. Gregory.

"Nobody will tell you, but the planet hasn't been the same. Obama didn't just happen. The seeds were planted. But look at what we do. Parents take their children to Disneyland to see a rat, but they couldn't have been able to do that without the work of Dr. King. We don't even take our children to see his grave. We have to remember where we came from," he said.

The crowd was full of students from Frank W. Ballou and Paul Lawrence Dunbar high schools who had marching bands in the parade.

"The Peaceoholics are making a difference in our lives," said Ashley Roberts, (See *Peaceoholics*, Page 11)

Health

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medical services are provided to Americans.

"I'm really ashamed that in the richest country in the world we're even having this issue," Konop told banquet attendees. "It makes me disappointed in my country... but the reality is we need to have this discussion.

"We have tens of thousands of people just in Lucas County without health insurance. And that is just an embarrassment."

Without mentioning Barack Obama's name, Konop said he hoped the election would make Urban League Young Professionals conferences on health unnecessary. Later, the keynote speaker delivered a mild rebuke to the commissioner.

"I don't believe that Barack Obama is a savior," Johnson said. "I believe that he has the ability to be a good president. And that's the extent of it. He ain't Jesus.

"It's not about if Obama gets elected... On Nov. 5, work's still gotta be done. And if you love Barack Obama so much, you know he's going to need some help."

He was harsh on the Black Church and on major African-American organizations, such as the National Urban League and the NAACP. The former chooses to "demonize" sex when dialogue with young people is needed regarding sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancies, he said.

The latter two have boards of directors with members who "fill a title" rather than pursue solutions to African-American problems, said Johnson, a former director of the Youth and College Division of the National NAACP.

He called Black institutions "schizophrenic" but saved most of his criticism for those who allow leaders of those institutions to continue unchanged.

"We allow leadership to talk about issues and not do anything about them," he said. "We allow leadership to inspire us but not direct us. We allow leadership to talk good games and pontificate on the problems but not say 'After you're done pontificating on the problems, please break down for me one idea that you have on how to fix it.'"

He said the Black community, generally, refuses to discuss mental health among Blacks and that childhood obesity in the African-American community is a dilemma for which some seem to want an outside solution.

"There is no legislation that can create healthy habits. The federal government, the state government, city council cannot legislate people eating right," he said.

Johnson's audience grew very quiet when he called some churchgoers "lying folk." He said the Black Church is more of an obstacle than a venue for discussing African-American health.

"Ain't nothing wrong with church," he said. "I personally don't like church. And I don't like church people. But that's just me. Church people [are] fools. I like people of God. But I don't like church folk. And if you all church folk get mad, I don't care."

Your Horoscope Says... Nov 6-12

ARIES

You can be very efficient this week if you set your will to the task. New ideas will occur to you as you are working steadily, so keep pencil and paper nearby to jot down your latest brilliance!

Soul Affirmation: I give love and love gives to me.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 29, 55

TAURUS

Avoid getting involved in any office politics or family feuds this week. The week's energy is excitable, but not necessarily exciting. Do your own thing and be proud of what you do. Let others do their own thing, so long as it doesn't hurt anyone.

Soul Affirmation: Money opens doors for friendship to enter.

Lucky Numbers: 10, 29, 46

GEMINI

A message this week may necessitate travel on your part, and you may feel obligated to do something you don't want to. Let the energy flow past you and do what you think is best. Who you are is who you are—be glad about it!

Soul Affirmation: I fill my mind with visions of love this week.

Lucky Numbers: 40, 47, 52

CANCER

You wake up feeling peaceful and wise. Discussions with a close friend may reveal the source of your inner freedom in a very tangible way. So talk about it. You've got everything good to gain.

Soul Affirmation: I let my mind go slack and tighten up my body

Lucky Numbers: 33, 38, 41

LEO

You may feel an extra burst of energy this week. This is a good time for you wrap up any miscellaneous

details on a project that you've been working on. Your vibrations are very conducive towards generosity and general well-being that you'll want to extend to friends and family.

Soul Affirmation: I find many things about myself that I really love.

Lucky Numbers: 17, 25, 31

VIRGO

Any nervous energy you may be feeling can be dispelled with some physical activity. You are doing just fine, so take long walks or try a yoga class and leave your worries behind you. Everything is working out in a perfect way.

Soul Affirmation: Helping others is the true measure of my worth.

Lucky Numbers: 27, 44, 47

LIBRA

A conflict may arise, but you can handle it. Let your life be shaped by the choices you make, not through choices made by others. You're a very independent sign, and you may be feeling downright feisty this week! Act with love.

Soul Affirmation: This week I forgive myself for everything that has happened.

Lucky Numbers: 23, 34, 52

SCORPIO

Love gets you back on an even keel, and you feel balance and much appreciation for all of the blessings in your life. Your creativity is soaring; let some of your wilder ideas free and watch them fly!

Soul Affirmation: Success is mine because I feel successful.

Lucky Numbers: 32, 47, 54

SAGITTARIUS

This week your thoughtfulness and generosity is very evident among those close to you. Do something adventurous, and surprise and impress your

lover. Try to sneak away at lunchtime together and enjoy each other's company. Things will be looking even brighter for you in the next few weeks. Stay happy!

Soul Affirmation: I face each week with a smile and the week smiles back at me.

Lucky Numbers: 20, 47, 48

CAPRICORN

Exercise your social skills in a new and inventive way at work. Make yourself noticed in a positive way. Buy a new scent or wear that daring red item that you've been too shy to put on! Try to resolve the conflict between two of your friends, but you might have to let them go through the motions of anger, and stay out of it.

Soul Affirmation: Time is the greatest peacemaker of them all.

Lucky Numbers: 31, 37, 55

AQUARIUS

Nobody expects the world from you, but a little more effort would be appreciated. Let go of the grudge that you've been harboring and start living again! You'll feel much more lighthearted and free when you forgive and forget about the past.

Soul Affirmation: With my spirit I co-create my week.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 46, 47

PISCES

This week you will feel like you're on top of the world when you finish completing the project that you've been working feverishly on. Take some time off and splurge on a vacation spot that has been tantalizing you!

Soul Affirmation: I focus on the positive things that are happening in my life.

Lucky Numbers: 12, 21, 30