



A Read in For Black History Month

FEBRUARY 16, 2023

4:00-5:30 in the Harrison Libraries

Join us at the Harrison Libraries for a
Black History Month “Read-In” hosted by
Dr. Markeysha Davis, Chair of Africana Studies

We have chosen this date to commemorate February 16, 1960 – the day that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., engaged a crowd of students and community members at White Rock Baptist Church in Durham, North Carolina. With his speech, “A Creative Protest,” he celebrated students’ efforts to peacefully protest the segregated lunch counters near their campuses, ending with these inspiring words:

“...remember that both history and destiny are on your side. All the stars in their course are supporting you. Go out with the attitude that God is with us and we have cosmic companionship. And one day, historians of this era might be able to say, there lived a great people, a black people who injected new meaning into civilization.”

As King notes through his speech, students and young people are at the heart of the success of many social justice movements. Uplifting and elevating their voices is important to inspiring action, as is sharing with them lessons of the past, and the perspectives of their contemporaries. In King’s spirit, then, our “Read-In” features works from a host of writers representing the African Diaspora. Feel free to choose passages from the books Harrison Libraries will make available or bring your own selections to share. We hope that the powerful words from generations past and present speak to and encourage you and inspire us all.

DR. MARKEYSHA DAVIS is Assistant Professor of Literature and Africana Studies in Hillyer College’s Social Sciences Department and the Director of the Africana Studies minor program in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Hartford.

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