

## ‘We can do better’ — Love Walk 2 set for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in Grass Valley

January 18, 2019

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Signs and smiles accompanied those marching for love, peace, and denouncing hate as part of the first Love Walk in September 2017.

### KNOW & GO

**WHAT:** Love Walk 2: A Festival, A celebration of our community to which the general public is invited. (500-750 or more people are expected)

**WHEN:** 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Martin Luther King Day

**WHO IS IT FOR:** General public, includes children's activities

Like most parents, there isn't anything Jamal Walker won't do for his teenage son Imani.

So when in September 2017 Imani came home reporting he had been harassed by a group of young white men, Walker knew a significant challenge had arisen. As co-founder of Creating Communities Beyond Bias, Walker has experienced his own fair share of racism and was devastated

#### WHO IS CREATING AND SUPPORTING THE EVENT:

The event is presented by Creating Communities Beyond Bias in partnership with Community Beyond Violence (formerly the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalition) with support from South Yuba River Citizens League's Wild & Scenic Film Festival.

Community Beyond Violence has put its resources behind this event. The community celebration is not a part of the Wild & Scenic Film Festival, but South Yuba River Citizens League and the Wild & Scenic Film Festival staff have chipped in and are providing films that will be shown at the event.

The City of Grass Valley is behind the event including Howard Levine, mayor of Grass Valley, the Grass Valley police department, and the Grass Valley Downtown Association.

**WHERE:** Opening activities on Mill Street at Bank Street in Grass Valley.

The group then walks through the alley that heads west from Mill Street (across Mill Street from Bank Street), through the South Church Street parking lot, through the parking lot behind Bank of America, and arrives at the Elks Lodge around 11:45 a.m. Entertainment (including music, dance, films on environmental justice) is offered at the Elks Lodge from 11:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Workshops between 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. at St. Joseph's Cultural Center, Grass Valley United Methodist Church, and Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains (see "Workshop Schedule" below).

Children's Activities between 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. at Grass Valley United Methodist Church (see more on children's activities below).

#### OPENING ACTIVITIES ON MILL STREET:

(11 a.m.-11:20 a.m.)

\* "First People's Blessing:" Shelly Covert will begin with a blessing at 11 a.m. She is the spokesperson for the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan and CHIRP (California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project, a non-profit supporting the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan). The Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan are the indigenous people whose original homeland was what is now the Nevada City area.

\* Special guest Jamie-Lee Nelson will sing.

\* Songs by the Peace Choir of Nevada County.

**WALK TO ELKS LODGE:** 11:20 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

**SCHEDULE OF ENTERTAINMENT AT THE ELKS LODGE (upstairs):**

11:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. 400 person capacity; people admitted on first-come-first-served basis.

that his young black son could face the same hatred.

"He was walking down Mill Street and was being followed and harassed by some young white men, as he described them," the elder Walker said of the incident. "There were three or four of them in the car. They were slow-driving down Mill Street calling him (the n-word) and harassing him all the way from the Del Oro down Mill Street and then up around (West) Main Street, by the Bret Harte (Inn) before they finally left.

"This was not the first time that he has experienced that kind of behavior from people, but this was something that felt heavier. He was really terrified. He didn't feel like he had anywhere to turn to. Nobody had his back. He didn't know where to go, or what was gonna happen."

Walker said his initial feeling on the matter was that of anger mixed with disappointment. How could this happen? Why didn't anyone step to his son's defense?

"There are always going to be people in this world who are like that," said Walker. "I was more angry and disappointed that in the amount of time that it took for him to walk the length of Mill Street, and up around, that no one came to his aid. I said, we can do better than this."

#### RECOMMENDED STORIES FOR YOU



[Senate rejects rival Dem, GOP plans for reopening government](#)



[IN THE WAKE OF THE WEEK: Warriors get hot; Sharks surge; NFL down to final four](#)



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11:45 Poet Laureate, Margo Stebbing

11:50 Emcee Eliza Nova and DJ B. Boy Supreme of KVMR's Nobodi Famous radio program)

Introduced

11:55 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Samba Lua and Samba Reggae, dance of Brazil (Youth and adult groups.)

12:20 – 12:30 Nevada City School of the Arts, dance choreographed by Chanthou Lamn

12:35 – 12:50 Arabic Belly Dancer, Anna Lizet Gaona

12:55 – 1:20 Hip Hop, Nevada County youth and adults. (Choreography by Devyn Cottrell)

1:30 – 1:50 Olivia of Fenix dance with Mali West African drumming by Moussa Camara

2:00-2:45 Sista Kat, Nikila Mama Wisdom, Ishence and band (Reggae/Hip Hop)

3:00 – 4:00 Kadija (Multicultural, soul, funk, jazz, Afrobeat)

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE FILMS AT THE ELKS LODGE (downstairs):

(12:00 p.m. to 2 p.m.)

In a downstairs room at the Elks Lodge, a series of seven short films related to social and environmental justice will be shown between 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. These films are provided by the South Yuba River Citizen League's Wild & Scenic Film Festival.

Our Town – After an ugly racial incident, Grass Valley responded with love. (The Love Walk in September 2017.)

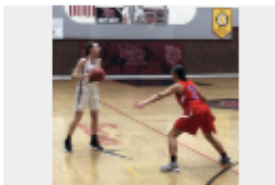
## RECOMMENDED STORIES FOR YOU



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IN THE WAKE OF THE WEEK: Warriors get hot; Sharks surge; NFL down to final four



PREP BASKETBALL: Lady Bruins charge past Lindhurst; Lady Miners rout Rio Linda



ON THE AIR: Meet 'Gaelic Americana' music artist Kyle Carey at KVMR

Thanks to a Facebook post Walker created after the incident, people in the community caught wind of what happened and the next thing he knew, a rather informal plan had been created for people to meet in front of Del Oro to show their support to the Walkers.

The "small gathering" ballooned into a full-on march down Mill Street with over 1,000 in attendance.

The Walkers were, simply put, touched.

"I wasn't surprised that a lot of people came out," Walker said. "I was surprised at just how many people came out. It was amazing. It wasn't about being angry or politics. Let's just show who we really are."

Walker, along with Creating Communities Beyond Bias co-founder Bill Drake, realized they should capitalize on the momentum of the first Love Walk — as it was dubbed — and put forth an effort to make the walk an annual event in Grass Valley.

Love Walk 2 will take place Monday — Martin

Nevada City's Youth Ride Against Racism – When two Nevada City middle school students were racially harassed while riding their bikes on the street, they decided to stand up and pedal the county forward.

Our National Parks belong to everyone. So why are they so white? Learn about the troubling history of public lands and to meet the conservationists of color who are trying to change the parks' future.

The Hammocks – The Hammocks tells the story of an unlikely and defiant turn of the century friendship between a wealthy white doctor and black outdoorsman. Together, they protected and preserved hundreds of acres of pristine coastline.

The Accidental Environmentalist: Catherine Flowers  
Catherine Flowers, a Lowndes County, Alabama activist became passionate about the environment when she found out that tropical diseases, like hookworm, were showing up in her community because of sewage treatment problems. Her journey to solve problems at the intersection of poverty, climate change, and politics has taken her from the Alabama Black Belt to Washington, D.C. to Switzerland and back.

Bring Them Home – An intimate look at the only indigenous tribal-led buffalo drive in North America, Bring Them Home follows members of the Blackfeet Nation as they experience the power of the American bison while driving their herd through rough terrain and hostile weather to their winter pasture – a rare ritual of stewardship that brings hope for a modern-day cultural rebirth.

WE ARE HERE: Bear River People vs. Centennial Dam  
The Nisenan people are the Native Americans who have called the Bear River home for countless generations. The atrocities and land grabs continue to this day. Nevada Irrigation District (NID) is now trying to take and desecrate their homeland and ancestral burial grounds underneath Centennial Dam.

At the time Nevada City's Youth Ride Against Racism is shown, Xylem Larla Day, who is featured in the film, and helped organize the bike ride, will speak. She will be joined by Kit Kohler who made the film.

#### WORKSHOP AND PRESENTATION SCHEDULE:

##### Love Walk 2 Workshops and Presentations

For descriptions of workshops and presentations and to pre-register go to <http://signup.com/go/rbtiBNX>. Workshops and presentations are open on a first come/first served basis. People may just show up but we can't guarantee that space will be available.

Donations of \$5-15 are encouraged for each workshop and presentation for materials and support, but no one will be turned away.

The following will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains (UUCM), 246 South Church Street:

Luther King Jr. Day — in what Drake calls a "celebration of community." This year's event, however, will feature much more than just the walk up Mill Street.

Taking over the Grass Valley Elks Lodge, Creating Communities Beyond Bias — in conjunction with Community Beyond Violence with support from South Yuba River Citizens League as well as Wild & Scenic Film Festival — will offer musical entertainment, games and activities for children, a number of workshops, and several films supplied by Wild & Scenic Film Festival.

Drake said Community Beyond Violence has been an equal partner in creating Love Walk 2, and have enlisted their volunteers to help run the event.

The activities within the Elks Lodge are free to the public, though there is a 400 person limit in the hall. Organizers are hoping they won't need to turn anyone away.

"We encourage donations at the door, though it is a free event," said Drake. "All in all, it costs about \$3,000 to put this on. It's a huge undertaking so we will encourage people to donate if they can."

Creating Communities Beyond Bias is confident this year's Love Walk will be a success and will serve as a reminder to the community how much can be accomplished when working together.

Reflecting on last year's walk, Walker said the show of support did wonders for his teenage son's spirits.

"It was really positive," Walker reported. "It made him feel good. He was born and raised here. He knows nothing else but Grass Valley but he's always felt like an outsider in his own town. Probably from the time he was nine or 10 when he started having to deal with racism as a young black kid.

"To be there and see that many people come out ... he was overwhelmed by it in a sense. It let him know that people do care. He got letters from

12:00- 2:00 p.m. Active Witness: A Hands-on Workshop  
– Room: Channing

Creating Communities Beyond Bias, Annie Haymaker

12:00-12:45 p.m. The Power Shuffle Workshop – Room:  
Sanctuary

(geared for youth but adults can attend)

Community Beyond Violence, Nancy Zeisler, Craig  
Terry, Nevada Union & Bear River High School Students

12:30-1:30 p.m. The Chinese and their Battle for Civil  
Rights 1850-1880, Presentation

– Room: Fahs (upstairs)

By Bill George, the “Pacific Traveler”

1:00-2:00 p.m. Nisenan Homelands – Our History,  
Future and Cultural Identity Presentation

– Room: Sanctuary

By California Heritage Indigenous Research Project,  
Shelly Covert

1:00-2:00 p.m. Walking Love: Connecting with yourself  
& others in the midst of conflict,

Workshop – Room: Alcott

Woolman at Sierra Friends Center, Amy Cooke

2:00-4:00 p.m. Alternatives to Violence (AVP) Workshop  
– Room: Channing

Grass Valley Alternatives to Violence Project, Joyce  
Banzhaf

2:00-4:00 p.m. Poetic Expressions Workshop – Room:  
Anthony Library

Jackie Turner

2:00- 2:30 p.m. Slavery and Racism, Past & Present ,  
Presentation – Room: Fahs (upstairs)

Margo Stebbing

3:00-4:00 p.m. Be Heard, Be Received, and Feel Safe  
Workshop – Room: Alcott

Anna-Lena Gustavsson

The following will be held at the Grass Valley United  
Methodist Church, 236 South Church Street, Grass  
Valley, Wesley Hall on 2nd floor

12:30 -1:30 p.m. Japanese Taiko Drumming Workshop –  
Room: Wesley Hall, 2nd floor

people on the other side of the country, just saying,  
"Hey Imani, we love you."

For a full schedule of Monday's Love Walk events  
see this story online at [TheUnion.com](http://TheUnion.com) or visit  
<http://www.healracism.com>.

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530-477-4231.*

#### CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

(ages 4 to 12)

Bia Novorro will lead children's activities from 12 p.m. to  
4 p.m. at the Grass Valley United Methodist Church, 236  
South Church Street, Grass Valley, Room A on the first  
floor.

Bia is from Brazil and is the founder of the NorCal  
Curumin Brazilian Cultural Foundation. She has served  
as general manager of Games on the Green at the  
California WorldFest for several years. Bia has  
dedicated her life to teaching children Brazilian  
percussion, dance, folklore, and games.

#### SPONSORS/DONORS:

BriarPatch Food Co-op

Earth Justice Ministries

Flour Garden Bakery and Cafe

Nevada City Lions Club

Peace and Justice Center of Nevada County

Pine Street Burgers

SPD Markets

South Pine Café

Summer Thymes Bakery and Deli

Three Forks Bakery and Brewing