

## Free Concert To Celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



*Dmitri Matheny and his quintet will perform from 2 to 4 p.m. as part of Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts' Peace & Community Day, Sunday, January 18.*

*Edited by AZI Staff*

SCOTTSDALE – As part of its free Sunday A'Fair concert series, Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts will present Peace & Community Day on Sunday, Jan. 18, from noon to 4 p.m., a special day of unity in conjunction with the Scottsdale Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration and Community Celebrating Diversity.

The concert will showcase Leon J's JukeJoint from noon to 1:30 p.m., featuring blues, traditional, Americana, country and rock 'n' roll, as well as the Dmitri Matheny Quintet from 2 to 4 p.m., playing jazz classics, hard bop, West Coast cool and beloved standards from the Great American Songbook.

The performance will mark the Arizona premiere of Matheny's new compo-

sition "Strength to Love," dedicated to Martin Luther King, Jr.

Along with free musical entertainment, Sunday A'Fair includes an arts-and-crafts market featuring hand-made works such as jewelry, ceramics, textiles and more; fun activities for children and families; and free admission to Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (SMoCA).

Sunday A'Fair guests are welcome to bring blankets, lawn chairs and picnic baskets and enjoy a relaxing afternoon of great entertainment with friends and family.

Delicious foods from the grill, snacks and cocktails, beer, wine and soft drinks are also available for purchase.

The Sunday A'Fair concert schedule is available at [ScottsdalePerformingArts.org](http://ScottsdalePerformingArts.org) or 480-499-8587.

## Evelyn Plantillas Celebrates Golden Anniversary As MesaCC Student

Among those celebrating Mesa Community College's 50th Anniversary in 2015 is one of its first students, Evelyn (Mosley) Plantillas. Academically precocious, she was just 16 years old when she enrolled after graduating from Tempe High School. Her biology class was in what is now the wedding hall of the Landmark Restaurant at Main and Extension streets. She wrote English essays in the current salad bar and took an archery class in the vacant lot filled with cottonwood trees across the street. Choir was held in a portable building in the parking lot.

Her second year, she moved to MCC's big, new campus at Southern and Dobson, formerly a sheep pasture. The young student wondered why MCC would build a campus so far out in farm land.

Because of her young age, Plantillas says MCC was a better fit for her than going directly to a larger, four-year college.

"It was a very small, intimate and nurturing environment," she explained. "Everyone got to know everybody. I even worked for Jinnett Kirk (dean of students) as a nanny for her children for a while. And, all of the students were about my age, not like today where they are of all ages including people re-careering."

Plantillas adds that although the college was in its first years, it provided expansive educational experiences. She especially enjoyed touring with the choir throughout Northern Arizona, which back in the 60s included some pretty small towns eager for the entertainment.

Being a part of Associated Women Students was very important because she was among a few selected to go to a conference in New Mexico. Being one of seven children, travel was rare for her growing up so the opportunities the college offered were valuable.

Her mother was a Tempe elementary school teacher. When Plantillas graduated from Arizona State University, she followed in her mother's footsteps, but they led her to San Jose, California, where she taught for 27 years. She taught briefly at ASU but when she returned to Arizona, she



*Evelyn Plantillas*

went to work for Gilbert Public Schools.

Plantillas says her experience at MCC was so positive that she always wanted to give something back. She served for nine years on the college's alumni board including a year as its president.

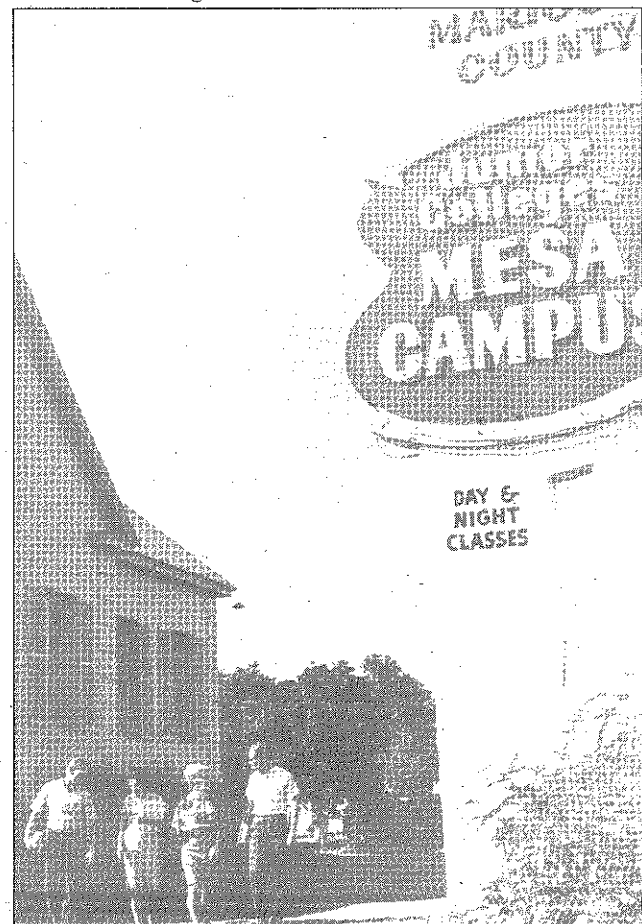
"I wanted to see what was happening at my alma mater," she said. "Education has been my life. I taught elementary ed in California and was teaching high school in Arizona, serving as chair of the special education department. Going to Mesa (Community College) was a very good segue for some of those special needs students."

Although she emphasized that it was always a group effort, the alumni organization chalked up many achievements when she was chair including awarding scholarships and fundraising.

She shared, "One of the most memorable alumni activities was being part of the graduation ceremony. It is so meaningful to see

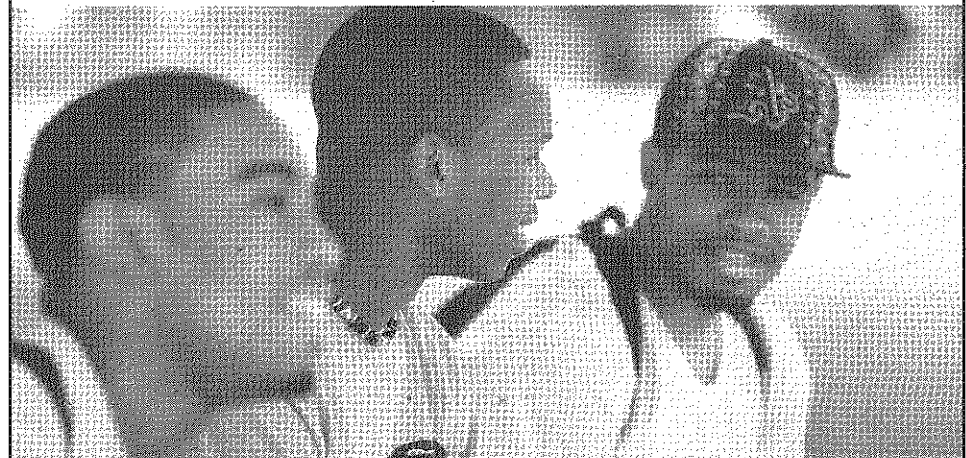
so many students who are struggling through life now celebrate their success. Mesa Community College plans programs that meet the needs of many diverse students, including those who have families and work jobs, so they can reach their goals of higher education."

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*Some of MCC's first classes were held in what is now the Landmark Restaurant at Main and Extension streets.*

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## Kim Covington To Speak at the 20th Annual Tribute To Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Series In The West Valley

12 News Weekend Evening Anchor will be the keynote presenter for the 20th Annual MLK "Evening with a King" dinner Thursday January 15, 6:30 PM at the new Peoria Community Center located at 8335 W. Jefferson St. in Peoria. The Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. series is sponsored annually by the Northwest Black History Committee.



For information on this event and the other events sponsored by The Northwest Black History Committee, contact the NBHC at 623-204-0959 [aznbhc.org](http://aznbhc.org)

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