

TACKLE BOX

January 2025

Awareness Month & Days

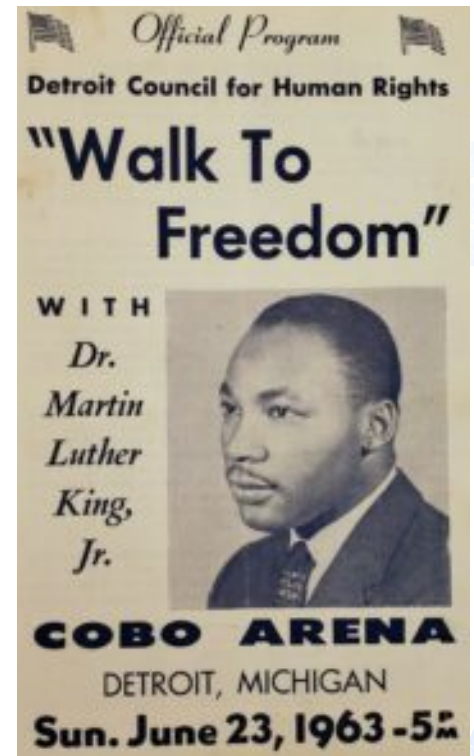
- National Mentoring Month
- Poverty in America Awareness Month
 - Michigan Resources:
 - Assistance Programs
 - Public Benefits - Michigan
 - Financial Assistance Resources for Families
- Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month
 - Resources:
 - National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-373-7888
 - Human Trafficking Resources (michigan.gov)
 - Human Trafficking (michigan.gov)
- World Braille Day - Jan 4th
- Korean American Day - Jan 13th
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Jan 15th
 - Dream - June 23, 1963, Detroit (original to *I have a Dream* speech)
 - National Park Free Day
- International Day of Education - Jan 24th
- International Day of Commemoration in Memory of Victims of the Holocaust - Jan 27th

From Montgomery to Michigan: Dr. King's Legacy"

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led the American Civil Rights Movement from December 1955 until his death on April 4, 1968. Dr. King is widely regarded as America's pre-eminent advocate of nonviolence and one of the greatest nonviolent leaders in world history. Drawing inspiration from his Christian faith and Gandhi's teachings, Dr. King advanced racial equality in America more in the last 13 years of his life than the nation had achieved in the previous 350 years. In 1964, he received the Nobel Peace Prize "for his non-violent struggle for civil rights for the Afro-American population". While we are familiar with the Montgomery bus boycott and the 1963 March on

Washington, many may be unaware of the ties Dr. King has with Michigan. For example, did you know Michigan has ties to the Montgomery Bus Boycott? The bus, a GM 'old-look' transit bus, symbolizes the pivotal moment when Rosa Parks' act of defiance ignited the Civil Rights Movement. For a tangible connection to history, you can visit the bus at the Henry Ford Museum.

On June 23, 1963, Dr. King delivered an early version of his iconic I Have a Dream speech to an estimated 125,000 people at Detroit's Cobo Hall. He and other civil rights leaders came to Detroit to lead the Walk to Freedom, which was one of the largest nonviolent demonstrations in U.S. History. This early version of Dream was recorded by Gordy Records, a subsidiary of Motown Records in Detroit, and was released as an album titled "The Great March to Freedom". Dr. King returned to Michigan in March of 1968, to give a speech at Grosse Pointe South High School called The Other America. In this and other speeches Dr. King examined themes of poverty, racism, and militarism, which tragically are still relevant today. The connections between Dr. King and Michigan help us remember that the Civil Rights Movement was not confined to the South but had and continues to have national significance.





The Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society invites you to join the

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Hosted by the DEIJB Committee

What's MI AFS?

- MI AFS is a professional organization interested in maintaining high standards for the fisheries profession and ensuring conservation of Michigan's aquatic resources.
- Activities of the Michigan Chapter revolve around annual meetings, continuing education workshops, newsletters, and committees.

Mentorship Program:

- Participants will be paired with individuals in different stages of their career to foster a sense of belonging and provide mutual learning opportunities
- People of all experience levels and backgrounds are welcome
- AFS Membership is not required

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, & Belonging Committee Mission:

- Cultivate a chapter culture that ensures all members feel welcome and respected
- Recruit and retain members with underrepresented identities and backgrounds
- Create and advocate for policies and procedures that promote DEIJ at the chapter, regional, and international levels

To register, scan QR Code or email miafsdeij@gmail.com
michigan.fisheries.org

National Poverty in America Awareness Month

January is National Poverty in America Awareness Month. The initiative calls us to examine disparities in our society and ways in which we can help others. As of 2022 (latest U.S. Census), the poverty rate in the U.S. was 11.5%. Thirteen percent of Michiganders live below the federal poverty line. More alarming, nearly 18% of Michigan children under the age of 18 live in households below the poverty line (poverty.umich.edu).

The University of Michigan's Poverty Solutions provides tools and resources to better understand and address poverty in the state.

- [Michigan Poverty & Well-being Map](#)
- [Poverty Facts](#)
- [Food Security in Michigan](#)

Additional resources

- [Interview with "Poverty, by America" author Matthew Desmond](#)
- [Frontline - Growing Up Poor in America](#)
- [Michigan Poverty Task Force](#)



2025 Women of Fisheries Gives Back

Women of Fisheries is providing **two \$250 awards** for early career women in fisheries science.

Applications are

due by January 20th. The funds can be used for career development needs such as training, conferences, or interview attire. Eligibility is for women who graduated within the last 5 years and are currently in the field. More information is available [here](#).



MIAFS DEIJB Travel Award



The second annual MIAFS DEIJB Travel Award is available to assist individuals with meeting-related expenses for the [Michigan AFS](#)

[Michigan AFS Annual Meeting](#) (February 19-21, 2025). While applications from underrepresented groups in fisheries are encouraged, it's not a requirement. Travel award details are available [here](#), and applications can be submitted confidentially to the DEIJB committee via [Google Form](#) by February 1st.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

Not only is Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Day the only U.S. holiday to celebrate a civil rights leader, but it is also the only federal holiday designated as a National Day of Service. Dr. King believed the Beloved Community of his dreams, where people of different backgrounds live in harmony, could be reached through service. Service offers everyone the opportunity for greatness as it empowers individuals, strengthens communities, and bridges barriers. Below is a list of some of the MLK day celebrations and service opportunities taking place in Michigan. We encourage you to consider participating in an act of service on January 20th.



• MLK University Events:

- Central Michigan University
- Eastern Michigan University
- Grand Valley State University
- Henry Ford College
- Macomb Community College
- Michigan State University
- Michigan Tech
- Northern Michigan University
- University of Michigan - Dearborn
- University of Michigan - Flint
- Western Michigan University
 - Guest Speaker: Bakari Sellers

• MLK Community Events:

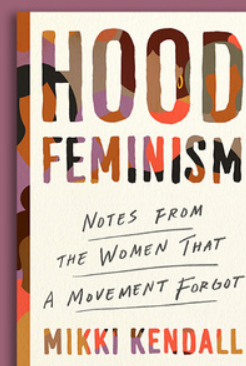
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission of Mid-Michigan
- Royal Oak
- Urban League of West Michigan
- Find other events on Eventbrite

• MLK Service Opportunities:

- AmeriCorps
- Feed America
- Meals on Wheels
- Michigan Association of United Ways
- Volunteer Michigan
- University of Michigan - Flint
- Community

Ally Corner – Book Recommendation

Hood Feminism by Mikki Kendall discusses the problematic nature of some feminist movements, especially as it relates to intersectionality. Often predominantly white movements neglect complex nuances to how they impact further marginalized communities. The book offers several good examples and evidence to support these claims and shows how large institutions throughout the country often are still working to oppress people of color and those of the LGBTQIA+ community. One example shared in the book discussed the use of police within schools and how that often leads to early criminal charges for people of color, rather than actually fixing a problem or allowing a child to express complex emotions. Often the police that are employed by schools lack the proper training to work directly with children and are instead trained to look for criminals. In the same conversation around education, Kendall mentions how school closures in Chicago from 2002 to 2018 affected “533 white students, 7,368 LatinX students, and 61,420 Black students.” How can feminism move forward when it largely fails to address the problems faced by women in some of these marginalized groups? As with so many conversations around diversity, feminism benefits advances better when we bring everyone with us. After all, women of color and those in the LGBTQIA+ have been some of the most successful organizers throughout history and all women need to be aware of how intersectionality can affect all women working toward a more equitable playing field. While this read can be somewhat uncomfortable if you’re a white woman, this book is necessary to be a better woman, ally to women, and feminist.



Featured Artist: the Power of a Thousand Dots



This month, we jump over the pond to the United Kingdom to highlight the works of Clarke Reynolds, or as he has come to be known, the Blind Braille artis. In his early 30s, when illness left Clarke with 5% of his sight, making him legally blind, he was forced to give up his career. While in limbo after the loss of his job, he stumbled across textiles and realized that through touch he could again connect with art, something he had loved all his life. After some experimentation, he realized that he wanted to create art that could be experienced by everyone through color, sound, and touch. Unlike most of the art found in galleries and museums, Clarke's work is designed to be touched and experienced as much as it is seen. He hopes that his work creates empathy, and by interacting with his art, it helps people realize that sight loss is a complex topic. Through his art and community work, Clarke hopes to educate others about sight loss, helping to reduce stigmas and making the future a more inclusive place.



The dog sculpture above is part of a special sculpture trail in London honoring guide dogs for the blind. In this work, Clarke fused braille and color blindness tests. Specifically, he used colors that he can no longer see, which are all colors except yellow.



The pixelated Pac-Man ghosts above are inspired by Clarke's experiences navigating the world as a blind person. He says sometimes it can feel like surviving the day without getting run over is a win, just like playing retro games like Pac-Man and Tetris.

The members of the MAFS DEIJB committee wish all of you a very happy New Year, filled with joy, good fortune and adventure. Please feel free to contact us if you would like to become involved or if you have material you would like shared. You can reach us at miarfsdeij@gmail.com (or you may contact us (anonymously)).

Warm Wishes -

Kyle Brumm (he/him), Dana Castle (she/her), Lydia Doerr (she/her), Tracy Galarowicz (she/her), Kynzie House (she/her), Maggie Haite (they/them), Taylor Skiles (she/her), Kathleen Quebedeaux (she/her)