

FDIC News

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Speaker Evokes Concept of “Beloved Community” to Honor the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

By Sonya Weakley
Office of Communications

In her tribute to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. on January 18, Jordan Shelby West, Ph.D., called to mind King’s “Mountaintop” speech, given hours before his assassination, during which he described a place of peace and equal rights, and she invited the virtual audience to picture such a space.

“On the mountaintop you just imagined and felt and smelled, was it peaceful? Are there equal rights?” she asked. “If so, how do we make that happen in this world today? As we think about and honor Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King Junior today, I want us to start where he ended, where he left us and asked us to continue.”

West, who described herself as a Black feminist theorist, is the Associate Vice Provost for Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement at The George Washington University in the Office for Diversity, Equity and Community



Jordan Shelby West, Ph.D.

Engagement. Her address to FDIC employees was part of the FDIC Diversity and Inclusion Education Series provided through the Office of Women and Minority Inclusion (OMWI).

“As we engage in conversations about threats against DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion), about changing policies and

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banning books, we have to understand there is no quick fix,” West said. “As we uplift and amplify the impact of King, we have to understand the complexity in which some of his messages come.”

West shared King’s concept of the “beloved community,” which she said is derived from “agape,” which she described as meaning general goodwill toward all others, regardless of their actions, adding that he believed that all persons exist in an interrelated community and all are dependent on each other.

“King believed we could become a community where we held one another accountable and spoke the truth to power, a community where there was a belief that everyone here was here with good intent,” she said. “If I respond to hate with reciprocal hate, I do nothing but intensify the cleavages of a broken community.”

West invited attendees to think about the concept of a beloved community, in which everyone is cared for, and that is absent of poverty, hunger and hate, in the context of current national and world events.

“So as you consider your impact and the work you’re willing to do, with the changes you may make and how you can make a difference, think about the beloved community and dream if it is possible. Are we there yet? What else can we do to get closer?”

West also shared how her grandparents understood and practiced the concept of agape. “They spent their time giving to the community, knowing that the community had hurt them so much. They taught me what it meant to open the door, even when the person on the other side may not want you to be there, may not believe you deserve to exist.”

She said her grandparents’ love and teachings provided the basis for her response to witnessing police brutality and racial profiling that occurred during her sophomore year of college after someone called the police about a gathering of Black students she attended at the home of two of her friends.

She said the incident helped her put her grandparents’ ideals into practice as an activist, as she began serving on panels, hosting conferences, talking to the press. “For the next three years of my life, I would become the ‘race’ girl on campus,” she said. “I learned to use my voice against the oppressor, rooted in agape and King’s belief in non-violence.”

She said the incident with her friends became the reason for the work that she does. “We are connected and we cannot separate our oppressors from ourselves. When one person is hurt, we are all hurt. King said whatever affects one directly affects us all indirectly.”

She encouraged the audience to be the first to take a step in the face of oppression. “If you show up in this world with the belief that we can be good people, you can make an impact on the world and get people engaged and actually make a difference.”

In her closing remarks, West pointed out that the many black and white photos of King create the impression that he is part of the past and that his narrative is dated. “King existed in color. He is present and current and coexisting with the context of our lives right now.”

She said it is important to recognize that “we can live the dream, and it starts with you. Hope, courage and unity are all possible right in front of us. Take the step and be the first, and remember what it feels like to be on the mountaintop where Black people and all people have equal rights.”

Duane Pitt, Chief, Equal Opportunity Compliance and Training Branch, and Alphronzo Moseley, DSL, Professor/Faculty Lead, Corporate University, opened the program, sharing their perspectives on King’s legacy.

Pitt recalled that as a child, he and his sister and brother were required to memorize King’s famous “I Have a Dream” speech and recite it at family gatherings. “I saw that as a chore. Looking back, knowing what that speech meant, I truly appreciate all that he stood for and all that he went through and understand it is very much a work in progress.”

Moseley noted that King would have been 95 this year, having been assassinated at the age of 39, and his work to achieve a fully equitable, diverse and fair society remains uneven or incomplete. “So we can and must do more to embrace diversity, equity and inclusion in our workforce. To that end, the FDIC is committed to fostering a culture of inclusion where the agency values and appreciates each individual’s opinion and viewpoint.”

In her remarks to close the program, Treisha Thorpe Borris, Ph.D., Special Assistant – Detailee, Division of Risk Management Supervision, and president of the Association of African American Professionals Employee Resource Group (A3P), noted that long before King delivered his “I Have a Dream Speech,” he spoke to 5,000 people in a church in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1955 just four days after Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus. “He recognized the great significance of what Rosa Park had done, and his resounding speech was one of hopefulness.”

She invited the audience to support the Employee Resource Groups at the FDIC that provide employees with supported networks, and she noted that the next Diversity and Inclusion Education Series program will take place at 1 p.m. on February 15 in observance of Black History Month.

More information about upcoming programs is available on OMWI’s Diversity and Inclusion Education Programs website. 📄

Popular Scholarly Journals and How to Access Them

By Kay Lewandowska, Reference & Collection Management Librarian, and Kathleen Monti, Information Technology Librarian

The FDIC Library provides access to thousands of high-quality scholarly journals and reference sources in a wide variety of subjects. Those subjects include but are not limited to United States deposit insurance, economics, banking law, accounting, banking compliance, information technology, artificial intelligence, leadership, knowledge management, and real estate policy. Many of the library's research collections and services are available remotely. From personalized email consultations with librarians to remote access of our online research resources, you have a variety of ways to engage with our collections wherever you are.

Using the FDIC Library catalog is the simplest method to access most of our popular scholarly journals. The Economist, for instance, is among our most frequently requested resources. If you conduct a search for The Economist in the library catalog, a direct link to this title will be provided. While this is not direct access to The Economist online edition, it includes all of the same content, just aggregated on a shared platform with hundreds of other similar titles. This method of access provides you with more content, a broader search within trusted resources, and often includes access to the most recent edition, as well as historical editions that may span decades.

The library collects materials needed to support operations, research, and scholarship at the FDIC, which makes the library's catalog an ideal starting point for your research. Unlike traditional library catalogs, today's catalogs provide more than just information about print books, journals, and periodicals. The current FDIC Library catalog offers a convenient way for users to search for abstracts and full-text articles from a large collection of publications in one location. For example, searching the term "information technology" will yield more than 280,000 results.



To help narrow down your search, the library catalog supports the use of Boolean operators, such as AND, OR, and NOT. (Boolean operators must be capitalized.) Here's a bit more about how to use each operator:

The AND operator – Finds all terms anywhere in a record. When there is no explicit Boolean operator between two terms, the AND operator is assumed. For example, if you search for banking compliance, you will get the same result set as when you search for banking AND compliance.

The NOT operator – The NOT operator is always applied to the term or Boolean expression that is immediately following the operator. The NOT operator is normally used with another term or expression to exclude certain matches. Examples: dogs NOT cats, birds NOT (cats OR dogs) – note that these have the same meaning as dogs AND (NOT cats), birds AND (NOT (cats OR dogs)), respectively.

The OR operator – The OR operator returns results when the record matches either or both search terms. For example, the query dogs OR cats returns records that contain either dog or cat.

The library's catalog also supports the use of approximate term queries. There are three operators for approximate term queries: asterisk (*), question mark (?) and pound sign (#):

The asterisk is a commonly used symbol that broadens a search by finding words that start with the same letters. Use it with distinctive word stems to retrieve variations of a term with less typing. Enter the first three characters of the term (at a minimum) and follow with an asterisk (*).

Example of search: securit*

Example of terms in search results: securit-y, securit-ies, or securit-ization

An asterisk (*) is used for multiple character searching but a question mark (?) is used for single character searching.

Example of search: wom?n

Example of terms in search results: woman, women, womyn, etc.

Example of search: organi?ation

Example of terms in search results: organization or organisation.

The pound symbol (#) is used also supported by the library catalog. You can use this symbol to search variant spellings of a word. You can use more than one pound sign to stand in for more than one character. Each pound sign represents 0-1 characters.

Example of search: teen#####

Example of terms in search results: teens, teenager, teenagers

In addition to these methods for improving your search results, once you have completed a search, there are options on the left sidebar of the results page where you can choose to see only items held by the FDIC Library, items by format (book, article, etc.), content type (full text, peer reviewed, etc.), or narrow to materials by publication year, subject, etc.

For other subject-specific and general databases, see our list of online resources arranged alphabetically by title.

Don't have time to run a search? Then sign up for e-routing! E-Routing notifies you via email when a new issue is published in a specified journal. You can receive the table of contents with direct

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links to articles from that issue in your inbox! It's really that easy!

With over 150 options available for e-routing, these are some top trending journals that your colleagues are receiving notifications from today:

- The Economist
- Journal of Banking & Finance
- Journal of Economics & Business
- Journal of Environmental Economics & Management (NEW!)
- Journal of Financial Economics
- Journal of Financial Intermediation
- Journal of Financial Stability
- Journal of Urban Economics
- National Tax Journal
- The Nilson Report
- The North American Journal of Economics & Finance
- Technology Review
- Texas Law Review
- Yale Journal on Regulation

You can sign up for e-routing here:
E-Journal Routing List

Still not finding what you need? Or are you not sure what you need? Librarians are available to answer research-specific questions via email at library@fdic.gov.

This article is part of an ongoing series of contributions from the FDIC Library. 🏠

Moving On

Name: Lisa M. Snider

Most recent position: Government Information Specialist

Division / Office: Legal Division, Freedom of Information (FOIA)/Privacy Act Group

Location: Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

When and where joined the FDIC:

I joined the FDIC in June of 1980, as a Clerk Stenographer in the Closed Bank Litigation and Liquidation Section (1980–1982) in Washington, D.C.

Other experience: From 1982–1986,

I served as the Secretary to the Deputy Executive Secretary, in the Office of the Executive Secretary. I began my work in the FOIA/Privacy venue concurrently with my secretarial duties back in 1984, as the sole individual receiving, routing, and answering FOIA/Privacy Act requests under the guidance of my supervisor. In 1986, I was promoted and worked full time with the FOIA/Privacy program under the title Program Assistant. After a title change in 1989, I became the FOIA Technician, a position I held until May 2014 when I was promoted to a Government Information Specialist.

Career highlights: Meeting personally with Chairman Sheila Bair in 2009 (along with my FOIA/Privacy Act Group) to give a brief presentation of the work of

the FOIA/Privacy Act Group and explain our processes and procedures, including my specific duties within the group. I also served for six months as the FOIA Technician for two government agencies (the FDIC and the Resolution Trust Corporation) simultaneously during the savings and loan crisis in the late 1980s. Finally, as I reflect on my 43½ year career at the FDIC, I note that I have worked at the agency for nearly half of its 90 years in existence!

Retirement date: January 26, 2024

Plans for retirement: Enjoying time with my four grandchildren, traveling, and pursuing my passion for photography. I am also a proud member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, with a fifth great-grandfather who fought in the American Revolution. I am looking forward to volunteering with my local chapter and furthering my genealogy research. 🏠



Lisa M. Snider

Moving On, cont.

Name: David Groveman

Most recent position: Senior Attorney

Division: Legal Division

Location: Atlanta Regional Office

When and where joined the FDIC:

I joined the FDIC on April 10, 1998 at the Houston, Texas Consolidated Office.

Other experience: Worked in professional sports (Public Relations, Sports Writer) from 1978 until 1980. Prappas & Darlow, private law firm 1983–1985, TSI, enterprise unit of Bell Atlantic, 1985 until April 8, 1988.

Career Highlights: Handled Crime Control Act cases for the Houston Office including the first asset freeze and receiver appointment. Handled a case for the Houston office that continued through to the Dallas office, then went to the 5th circuit in a case of first impression, revolving around splitting

of community property and whether that split is effective against existing creditors (court found that it is not and only effective as to creditors who provide credit after the split). Tried the first FDIC trial using nothing but electronic evidence for the Dallas Office.

Retirement date: January 13, 2024

Plans for retirement: The usual, travel. We are looking at a winter home in Florida and spending summers in Atlanta. First goal is to take my entire family (children, grandchildren) on another family cruise.

Additional comments and thoughts:

I have really enjoyed my career at the FDIC and enjoyed working with the great people who I have worked with. I will always be proud to say I spent the majority of my career with the FDIC and wholly recommend it to my peers.

Government gets a bad rap and my experience is the exact opposite. The FDIC is comprised of hardworking and dedicated people doing great work for the citizens of our country.

I am also happy that prior to law school, I had the opportunity to be employed in the professional sports field, and through that job, was able to travel the country with the teams I worked for and see sports from the inside, the business side of sports which is quite different from the fan perspective.

I consider myself lucky to have had two separate careers with my sports career as a young college graduate and then leaving that career for law school. Of course the majority of my career was as a lawyer and despite all the lawyer jokes, it is a great profession. Both careers were a great experience. 🏠

In Memoriam

John M. Reich

Former FDIC Vice Chairman

Former FDIC Vice Chairman John M. Reich of Huntersville, N.C., passed away on December 14, 2023, surrounded by family and his beloved dog, Ziggy.

John was born to Harry and Hazel Reich in Mattoon, IL, on October 7, 1939. He earned an accounting degree from Southern Illinois University, and after a short stint with the Internal Revenue Service in Champaign-Urbana, IL, he launched a 25-year banking career. He served as vice president, secretary-treasurer, and chief financial officer of Southwest Florida Banks in Fort Myers, then president and chief executive officer of National Bank of Sarasota. Reich became special assistant and later chief of staff for then-U.S. Senator Connie Mack, a longtime friend and former banking colleague in Fort Myers, FL.

He was appointed by U.S. presidents to terms on the board of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, serving for eight years, three as Vice Chairman. During this time, he held roles as a member of Switzerland's Basel Committee

on Bank Supervision; Vice Chairman and board member of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council; member NeighborWorks America; and director of the Office of Thrift Supervision. Upon retirement in 2009, John served on the boards of the Independent Bankers of Florida and the Senior Housing Crime Prevention Foundation.

Bob Russell, John's former deputy at the FDIC and the OTS, provided the following tribute in John's memory:

This extraordinary person has been my mentor and great friend for over 20 years, and I am honored and privileged to pay tribute to him.

I served as John's deputy at the FDIC and as his counsel at the Office of Thrift Supervision. Having the opportunity to work with John Reich at a policy level seemed too good to be true. During that time, we developed a friendship and bond that would last a lifetime.

When I think of John, I am drawn first to his love for his family. He was also dedicated to public service, especially the FDIC. In his role as Vice Chairman,



John M. Reich

he guided the agency through turbulent times with ease. Leading others naturally came to him.

Having the privilege of working with John and calling him a friend has been a great honor. He influenced my life in so many positive ways. I will always be grateful for the kindness and generosity he showed me during our time together.

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John's lifelong commitment to community service included leadership roles for a wide range of community organizations. He chaired the boards of Lee Memorial Hospital in Fort Myers and the YMCA in Sarasota; and he served on the boards of the Babe Ruth Baseball Association and the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra in Sarasota. He was a lifelong, active member of Presbyterian churches, including serving as an elder of the National Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., and chairing its Foundation for Charitable Giving. He was a 32nd Degree Mason and a 20-year Rotarian.

When not working or giving back to his community, John enjoyed spending time with his family and playing tennis, snow skiing, coaching Babe Ruth Baseball, playing piano, and reading spy novels.

He is survived by his wife, Patty Joy Reich, their daughter, Lindsey Joy Haberman, and her husband Matthew, and granddaughters Emma Joy and Madison Noelle Haberman, all of Huntersville, N.C. From his first marriage to Judy Richardson, he is survived by sons Steven Kent Reich and his wife Susan of Woodstock, GA; Scott Edward Reich of Cochran, GA; Michael William and his wife Sherry of Tampa, FL; and

grandchildren Kyle James Reich of Sarasota, FL; Haley Maxine Hines and her husband Brandon of Acworth, GA; Taylor William Reich of Tampa, FL. He is predeceased by his brother, Kent Harry Reich, and survived by his sister-in-law June Reich and nephew Dan Reich and his family.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that people reflect on or honor John's life and legacy in the ways that are most meaningful to them. To plant trees in memory, please visit the Sympathy Store. 🌳

Martha Sue Fiser

Former Paralegal, Legal Division (Denver Consolidated Field Office)

Martha Sue Fiser passed away at her home in Denver on January 2, 2023, at the age of 71. She was born January 14, 1951, in Kingsville, Texas, to Lee and Sue Fiser. She was the middle of three children, between her elder brother Lee and her younger brother Charlie.

Martha spent most of her childhood and adult life in Denver, graduating from East High School and later the University of Denver. Aside from her work as a legal secretary and paralegal with the FDIC, Resolution Trust Corporation and later the law firm Hall and Evans, Martha was an accomplished musician, performing with several well-known choirs including the San Jose Symphonic Choir and the Colorado Symphony Chorus. Martha was an integral part of Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church's Westminster Choir and also served for several years as the music director of Montview's Musique

and Masque program. In addition, Martha loved to work with children, volunteering countless hours to assist the children's and youth choir programs at Montview.

Martha will be remembered for her easy smile, infectious laugh, fierce love of family, and zany sense of humor, as well as for her uncommonly caring nature. She taught so many people the true meaning of friendship simply by being near her.

Martha is survived by her son, Greg Diamond, her daughter-in-law, Kris, her two grandchildren Nick and Paul, her brothers Lee Fiser and Charlie Fiser and their respective families, several cousins and innumerable friends.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to Montview's Musique and Masque program at www.montview.org.

(Though Martha passed away more than a year ago, an FDIC employee brought this announcement to our attention last month and asked that it be published for those who may remember her.) 🌳



Martha Sue Fiser