

# ENVISIONING A JUST FUTURE:

## *Lessons from the Civil Rights Era*

JANUARY 17, 2026, 3 TO 5PM

MILFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY



FEATURED SPEAKER:

JUNE MANNING THOMAS, PH.D.

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- Member National Spiritual Assembly of Baha'is
- Author: Notable Books on Racial & Social Justice

Across the nation and the world, many are gathered this weekend to consider the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and others who led an important phase in American history: the civil rights era. Some of us were alive at that time and remember its transformative power, as does this speaker. Yet others of us may view events and other observances of that era as obligatory but episodic, necessary perhaps but related to long-ago times and unrelated to contemporary challenges, such as the widening gap between the rich and the poor; conflict by race, class, or politics; or problems of uneven justice. This talk will recall the spirit of that era as a potential source of inspiration for present times. The civil rights era offered a vision of a better future and then many people, communities, and institutions worked together incrementally to help us move towards that better future. We will talk about what practical but gradual strategies might help us, in this era, overcome many of our contemporary challenges and create a future better characterized by improved social and economic justice. Just as happened then, much effective social movement is indeed possible, building from the ground up by engaging families, neighbors, and communities.

Sponsored by: Huron Valley's MLK Day & the Baha'i Community