

*Chabot College
For Immediate Release*

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**Chabot College Celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday,
Hosting Civil Rights Activist Carolyn McKinstry Jan. 21**

(Hayward, CA) - As part of Chabot College's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration, the college will host Carolyn McKinstry, a civil rights advocate and lifelong member of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., who will provide the keynote address at the event.

On September 15, 1963, McKinstry witnessed the Ku Klux Klan bomb the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. A child when the bombing occurred, McKinstry holds a rare eyewitness account of the not only that tragic event but some of the most jarring aspects in the fight for civil rights by African Americans.

McKinstry was also among thousands of students hosed by firemen during the 1963 civil rights marches and survived a second bomb explosion that destroyed a large portion of her home in 1964. Decades later, she was a subpoenaed witness in the 2002 trial of Bob Cherry, one of three men subsequently convicted of the 1963 church bombing.

McKinstry received a public school education in her native Birmingham before graduating from Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn. She also holds a Master of Divinity from Samford University's Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham. In 2011, she published her memoir, "While the World Watched: A Birmingham Bombing Survivor Comes of Age During the Civil Rights Movement."

In addition to her keynote address, the King Birthday Celebration event, held annually on the Martin Luther King federal holiday, will feature presentation of an annual Community Award and performances by the Mount Eden High School Choir.

The celebration event takes place Monday, Jan. 21 sat 4:30 p.m. at Reed L. Buffington Performing Arts Center, Chabot College, 25555 Hesperian Blvd., in Hayward.

About Chabot College

Chabot College in Hayward is a comprehensive community college in the heart of a thriving, diverse community where students of all ages and backgrounds can get a high quality education at an affordable price. The college awards associate degrees and certificates, and specializes in university transfer, workforce training, and lifelong learning opportunities. <http://www.chabotcollege.edu/>

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