

# HUPdate

► Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

## “TO DREAM THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM”



► The Rev. Cedrick Jones and the Philadelphia Girls Choir were part of this year's MLK celebration.

“Of all the forms of inequality,  
injustice in health care is the most  
shocking and inhumane.”

These words, originally spoken by The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr before the Medical Committee for Human Rights in 1966, echoed through Medical Alumni Hall at HUP's annual tribute to the civil rights leader. Although snow postponed the original event, it did nothing to diminish the spirits of the audience as they heard how King's words remain pertinent today.

“We honor a great man whose advancement of dignity, justice, and peace was formed by his religious values,” said **Rabbi Robert Tabak** of Pastoral Care. Referring to “Love your neighbor as yourself,” in the Bible's book of Leviticus, Tabak reminded those in attendance that “all human beings, whatever their color, religion, gender, or sexual orientation, whatever their physical or mental abilities, each person deserves respect.”

Citing persistent health inequality across the United States, guest speaker Reverend Cedric Jones of Mt. Zion Baptist Church asked, “What if Dr. King was right?” He challenged the audience to use King's words as inspiration in their work at HUP and in the community.

**Regina Cunningham, PhD**, chief nurse executive, said the essence of King's work remains alive today, for example, in the University's 2020 compact which focuses on advancing diversity and inclusion in the institution. “These are more than social and demographic imperatives,” said Cunningham. “Embracing diversity and inclusion creates strength and advantage for Penn because we live in and serve in a global society.”

Recalling a play she had seen, *The Man in Room 306* (a fictional account of the last night in King's life), Cunningham said, “One of the things that I found really interesting was that, as a young person, he had a secret ambition to be an opera singer.” While he didn't follow that path, “we know that he used his voice in an incredibly powerful way.”

Cunningham added that King's dream in many ways reflects the American dream, including having the opportunity to achieve based on ability, industriousness, strength, and character.

In addition to the inspiring speeches, the audience was also treated to performances by the Philadelphia Girls Choir and **Tamika Patton** of HUP Administration, who served as mistress of ceremonies and worked with members of Pastoral Care to organize the celebration.

### ► INSIDE

A New Celebration of Art & Life .....	2
Speaking with HUP's Leaders.....	3
HUP Goes Red to Support Heart Health .....	3
The Todd Rohrbach Award .....	4
CAREs Grant Supports CTCL Awareness .....	4