

# GREEN VALLEY NEWS

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## NEIGHBORHOODS

### Religious community honors Martin Luther King Jr.

By JOSHUA PRIMACK

The Rev. Richard Lewis Jr. walked off the pulpit Monday night to a standing ovation.

Lewis delivered Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech at the 14th Annual Interfaith Celebration at St. Thomas More Catholic Community on Jan. 17, a speech he began learning at age 11, soon after the civil rights leader's death.

"I've modeled a lot of things after Dr. King," Lewis said after the ceremony. "After his death, I decided to be a part of the movement that takes peaceful means, peaceful actions."

Lewis now gives the speech on three or four occasions at this time of year, he said. "It gives me great joy to give this speech," Lewis said.

Lewis was the main feature at the evening ceremony of multicultural performances to remember King.

The Henderson Interfaith Coalition - including The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Green Valley Stake, Community Baptist Church, Green Valley Presbyterian Church, The Spiritual Living Center, St. Thomas More and Valley Outreach Synagogue - host the event annually.

The crowd featured a racial mix as performers from several Henderson Interfaith Coalition



MIKE STOTTS/NEWS STAFF PHOTO

Internationally acclaimed blues, jazz, and soul singer and instrumentalist "Lady J" Joyce Huston from Las Vegas played her trumpet solo "America the Beautiful" at the 14th annual Interfaith "Remember the Dream" Celebration at St. Thomas More Catholic Community on Monday evening.

congregations took the stage to pay homage to King.

"I think that Dr. King would have been proud (of Lewis)," Henderson resident Debbie Daniel said. "As long as he does the speech, Dr. King will never die."

Henderson resident Joyce Huston performed a trumpet solo of "America the Beautiful," noting before she began that she is living King's dream, having been born into poverty in St. Louis, Mo., and earning a college education. Now, she plays trumpet with some of the world's foremost jazz musicians and battles fibromyalgia.

Rabbi, Richard Schachet of Valley Outreach Synagogue - who heard King's "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 28, 1963 - told his own tale of arriving in the nation's capital for the protest in

front of the Lincoln Memorial before introducing Lewis.

King was the keynote speaker of an all-day protest at which speakers were allotted 15 minutes, Schachet said. Men, women and children of all races, colors, creeds and religion gathered in Washington, D.C., to protest the failure of legislation that would have supported racial integration mandated by the Brown v. Board of Education ruling, he said.

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Area musician "Lady J" Joyce Huston plays her trumpet at a Martin Luther King Jr. remembrance service in Henderson on Monday.