



Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1085 Hartford, CT 06143
Business Office: University of Connecticut-School of Social Work
P: 860-567-3441 E: info@ctnonviolence.org www.ctnonviolence.org

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Contact: Melinda Alcosser - 203-215-2317
Email: maps12@comcast.net

**STATE MLK COMMISSION AWARDS VICTORIA CHRISTGAU
WITH THE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 11AM – 1:00PM AT THE CAPITAL BUILDING

PRESS ADVISORY

Ms. Victoria Christgau, Founder/ Executive Director of the Connecticut Center for Nonviolence (CTCN), a non-profit organization that empowers communities to reconcile conflict through education and the arts, will receive The Community Service award by the CT State Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission.

The event will be held at the CT State Capital building, from 11am-1pm, on Monday, January 20th, Martin Luther King Day. Governor Daniel Malloy will offer the keynote. Other state and local government officials are also expected to be present.

Twenty-five ThinkKING - Nonviolence Youth Leaders, along with CTCN staff and other national and local Kingian Nonviolence Trainers will accompany Ms. Christgau to the ceremony. The youth will be hosting Teach-Back presentations for over one hundred basketball players at the Wilson Grey YMCA before and after the event.

Victoria Christgau is a lifelong peace and nonviolence educator. Founder / Executive Director of CT Center for Nonviolence (CTCN). She is the founder and produced the Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Commemoration of Litchfield County, CT, for 20 years. Ms. Christgau is a Teaching Artist for Hartford Performs and the CT Commission on Culture and Tourism. She's conducted Residencies in schools throughout Connecticut for over twenty years. She served as the first director of the World Peace Prayer Society's Peace Pals program and coauthored the International Peace Pals Activity Guide. Ms. Christgau founded the CTCN at the request of legendary civil rights leader, Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr. CTCN has worked with hundreds of people to train and implement the philosophy and strategies of Kingian Nonviolence across racial, social, economic and generational divides. Her work has been featured in the New York Times, Hartford Courant and numerous private periodicals. She is the winner of the Hartford Courant's 2010 Tapestry Award. In 2012 the CTCN received a Community Partnership award from the Hartford Symphony Orchestra for their collaboration with the Peace is Possible program with the ongoing CityMusic project at Burns Latino Academy, in Hartford.

Over the past decade, Victoria has built partnerships between CTCN and UCONN, the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP), the Blue Hills Civic Association, among others, and has trained over 500 CT youth and adults in the principles of Kingian Nonviolence.

For more information, contact Melinda Alcosser 203-215 - 2317 Email: maps12@comcast.net