

out&about

PHOTOGRAPHS AND TEXT BY KATHLEEN MURPHY COLAN
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PASSPORT PROJECT GLOBAL GROOVE | Annual MLK Day Celebration



1. Zhane Walters and Ashley Peralta, both of Cleveland's Old Brooklyn neighborhood.
2. Benjamin Gunter of Cleveland's Larchmere neighborhood and Daniel Gray of Cleveland's West Park neighborhood.
3. David and Noah Benson of Cleveland Heights.
4. The Rev. Alfred Leak of Maple Heights and Passport executive director Chloe Hopson of Cleveland's Larchmere neighborhood.
5. Sky McDonald of South Euclid, Julie Barcza of Cleveland's Tremont neighborhood and Tina Haldiman of Cleveland Heights.

Color blind: Multicultural entertainment, home-cooked snacks and a speech by the Rev. Alfred Leak made for a low-key yet spirited evening celebration of the life of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 13 at Passport Project's annual Global Groove get-together. Leak read excerpts from King's oratories and said he does it to thank those who came before him in the civil rights struggle. He said his own life has parallels with King's. Leak's father and grandfather were ministers, as were King's.

The crowd: Approximately 200 people streamed through the rooms for a diverse program. Two dozen student performers danced early in the

evening and lingered over snacks and sodas, as an older crowd moved in to groove with Brazilian music by Moises Borges, classical voice by Joy Fowler, flamenco guitar by Mike McNamara and Hindustani songs by Mili Pradhan.

Hidden treasure: Passport Project, housed in a nondescript old storefront on Buckeye Road in Cleveland, provides arts education aimed at building community and encouraging respect for diversity. Bright batik prints, paintings and photography cover the walls of the space, which has hardwood floors and high ceilings. Children and adults attend classes that include guitar, hip-hop, belly dancing, graphic design, photography, painting and yoga.