



MARCH 2006

CARE NEWSLETTER

**COMMUNITY ARTS
& MUSIC SERIES**

**LAST EVENT OF THE
SEASON!!**

**Saturday,
March 18th, 2006**
Family Contra Dance
hosted by the
Countryside Contra
Dancers with caller
Ted Crane

**Time-6:30-8:00pm
Place-Heiter
Community Center**

Supported by the
Community Learning
Space, CARE,
the Donald Heiter
Community Center
and the Pennsylvania
Partners in the Arts
(PPA), the regional
arts funding
partnership
of the Pennsylvania
Council on the Arts.

**PLEASE JOIN IN
THE FUN. COME OUT
AND DANCE!!**

Recent Event in the News

Civil rights movement needs new momentum

By Jeff Shaffer

Staff writer

LEWISBURG — When did the civil rights movement in America end? Was it during the 60s, or perhaps the 70s?

Well, the organizers of Sunday afternoon's viewing of "Briars in the Cotton Patch" at the Campus Theatre, Lewisburg, said it hasn't ended.

On Sunday (February 12, 2006 at 3pm) at the theater, area residents filled up approximately three-quarters of the seating to watch the documentary film which revolved around a southwest Georgian community in the early 1940s.

The documentary, sponsored by the Center for Nonviolent Living, Community Alliance for Respect and Equality (CARE), multicultural centers at both Bucknell and Susquehanna universities and other groups, featured the Koinonia Farm, a radical Christian commune, founded by Clarence Jordan and Martin England. Their philosophy was that all people are related in God's eyes, and therefore lives should be lived according to Christ's love and profits should be shared equally.

Because of the popularity of hatred and violence against African-Americans during the time period, the farm's peaceful and non-segregated lifestyle was a "briar" or thorn in the side of white society.

"So when did the civil rights movement end?" Brian Johnson, director of the multicultural affairs and special assistant to the president at Susquehanna University, asked the crowd before the start of the movie. "Civil rights hasn't ended because it isn't 'right' yet."

While occurrences don't happen the way it did several decades ago, Johnson said there is still segregation in society.

"The youth in society would say it is much better, because of what they see on TV," Johnson said. "They'll see a white rapper or a black pop singer and think 'wow.'"

However, while he said he is grateful for the change in hatred, it is still ever present.

"It's just not so obvious today," he said.

Johnson said recently, while watching the funeral of Coretta Scott King, he felt a great concern over him.

He said he started to cry, wondering who will take charge now, since many who are noted as the forefront of human rights are greatly aging or passing away.



WANTED: Amateur photographers willing to take pictures for CARE newsletters and/or for a photo display for this year's multicultural festival.

For additional information, please contact Lois Passi at the CARE office or 568-1922.

"In those times, even the good people watched the lynching, there won't be change until the good people do something," Johnson said. "Who will take charge now, who is committed today?"

Johnson and Cindy Peltier, affiliated with the center, CARE, Bucknell, and a main organizer of the day's event, said it now needs to be everyday people who need to be committed to the movement.

"Talk needs to become action," Johnson said. "And not just saying, 'I'm here for you.'"

"That's why it is so important to show this film," Peltier said. "We also need to let people know that they can't just wait for a figure to see something happen, normal people need to get involved too."

Peltier said she is seeing a lot of area organizations coming together and it will help to create a big bang.

"This is a step in the right direction," she said.

The documentary was obtained by Ben Willeford, another member of the center and CARE. Willeford, a retired Bucknell professor, actually met Jordan during his undergraduate studies and has kept in touch with him over the years.

"And then Cindy suggested instead of having just a small group watch it on DVD, why not have Bucknell and the whole community watch it together," he said.

Mary Bannon, executive director of the theater, said she appreciated the sponsors coming to the theater to play the documentary.

"We're really happy and excited that they approached us, we like to be involved with the community."

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Upcoming Events

At Bucknell

On Fri., **March 3** at 8 pm, Molissa Fenley and Dancers, with live musicians, performs *Hemispheres*.

The music is composed by Anthony Davis, best known for his opera:

X, The Life and Times of Malcolm X (premiered by NY City Opera in 1986).

Davis, who has been Professor of Music in Afro-American Studies at Harvard University and, more recently, Professor at The University of California, San Diego since 1998, will be conducting at the performance. For tickets & info: 577-1000 or www.bucknell.edu/WeisCenter/

There is also a free meet-the-artist open rehearsal & talk on Thursday, March 2 at 7 pm.

On **March 7** at 7:00 PM in The Langone Center, Room 301, Bucknell. Dr. Signe Waller, the widow of one of five activists killed in Greensboro in 1979 by members of the KKK, will speak about the ongoing Greensboro Truth and Community Reconciliation Project. The Project, based on the post-apartheid South African model, aims to encourage truth-telling by victims, witnesses and perpetrators as a way of healing and transforming the community. The sponsors are the CNL, CARE, and Bucknell's Social Justice College and Office of Multicultural Student Affairs.

On Friday, **March 31** at 8 pm, Soweto Gospel Choir performs *a capella* and accompanied; in eight languages; tribal, traditional, gospel and popular music celebrating the spirit of South Africa.

For tickets & info: 577-1000 or www.bucknell.edu/WeisCenter/



At the Donald Heiter Center

Panel: "Education vs. Proselytizing" originally set for April 9, 2006 has been rescheduled. **Date TBA.**

This panel will discuss the question of whether or not we should educate others about different religions and the difference between proselytizing and educating, how to do so without offense and the value of secularism in a pluralistic society.

Speaker, Ghayda Al Ali will be re-scheduled for the **second Sunday in June.**

Ghayda Al Ali, a local Iraqi woman residing in Lewisburg and a local Bucknell professor of Arabic will speak about her experiences as an Iraqi.

CARE News

CARE will put 30 Spanish language books in library

Claudia Wilshusen, a resident of Lewisburg, is heading up a project to put Spanish language books in some of our area public libraries. She has talked with people at The Joseph Priestly Library in Northumberland and the library has agreed to make space for 30 Spanish language books. The James V. Brown Library in Williamsport is considering doing the same.

Then there will be the fundraising project to pay for the books, as well as the processing of the books (to make them library books with catalogue numbers, etc.).

CARE'S New Email Address

Please note that CARE has a new e-mail address, care@dejazzd.com
Do NOT send e-mails to care4diversity@aol.com Any e-mails sent to that address will not be read, as CARE no longer has access to that account.

Contact Number and Website

CARE's phone number is 524-CARE (2273) and CARE's website is www.care4diversity.org

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for people to help with multicultural festival (preparation of snacks, stories, games and displays from various cultures). We are assembling teams of 3-4 people for the following areas:

- East Indian
- Chinese
- Japanese
- Latino
- African
- African-American
- European

People wishing to make displays representing other cultures are welcome too. Contact Lois at CARE office or 568-1922.

Announcement from Religious Diversity Committee

Invitation to "World's Religions After September 11, A Global Congress"

Dear Friends,

We invite you to participate at the Global Congress, **World's Religions after September 11**, to be held September 11- 15 2006, in Montreal, Canada. This



gathering will give you the opportunity to meet, converse and fraternize with your fellow spiritual attendees. We are expecting an attendance of over 2000 participants worldwide and from various Academic & Spiritual traditions.

The program of the **World's Religions after September 11** Congress is extensive and multifaceted. We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to attend in any of the following categories:

As a participant: you may simply attend the sessions or get involved in the program(s) by submitting a proposition on line via the congress web site.

As an exhibitor: your association can rent exhibit space in the exhibition hall as well as invest in various sponsorship opportunities and advertisement.

Or, should your organization wish to present a religious performance, meditation, prayer or other kinds of religious or spiritual observances, the congress offers you the opportunity to reserve a room for this purpose.

The congress program will include: plenaries, lectures, workshops, panels, worship services, discussions, art performances, meditations, symposia, cultural evenings and other activities.

Each day will be filled with religious observances from an incredible number of faith and traditions. Your privileged point of view will allow you to bridge gaps, share common grounds and to educate others as well as yourselves to better serve your communities.

This Global Congress will allow you to meet people that are open to listening and learning about one another. We invite you to visit our official "Global Congress" website at www.worldsreligionsafter911.com for all information pertaining any involvement in the above mentioned categories. Also, please feel free to communicate with us if you need any additional information.

Please note that this invitation does not implicate any financial obligations by the organizing committee of the congress.

Looking forward to having you amongst us in Montreal.

In Partnership and Peace

Gabriella Salvati

In the News

Defining a skinhead

By Drake Bearden, STAFF WRITER

02/15/2006

One self-proclaimed nationalist says that skinheads are just misunderstood. A new breed of skinheads is emerging in Pennsylvania bringing a fresh approach to a familiar brand of prejudice.

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) released a report that skinhead groups in the United States are increasing and Pennsylvania is a major rallying point.

However, according to a member of the Pennsylvania skinhead movement, the organization is not what people perceive it to be.

"It's about love of your people and love of your country," said Ron, a self-proclaimed white nationalist and a college student who grew up in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Ron - who did not want his last name released - has been an active member of



the skinhead movement for about one-and-a-half years and believes that white nationalists have received a bad rap.

"Everyone to a certain extent prejudices people," Ron said. "White nationalists are just more open about it.

"It's not about blind hatred, just wanting the best for myself and my country. There are people in our country that are hurting it," Ron said.

The new resurgence of skinheads can be attributed to the fall of other hate groups and the skinhead music industry, according the head of ADL's Philadelphia Office, Barry Morrison.

The skinhead music industry creates passion for young people to gravitate to, according to Morrison. Teardown, a Pennsylvania-based group on the label Final Stand Records is a favorite among white nationalists, according to Ron.

The ADL conducted an extensive study about new developing skinhead groups to reach their conclusion.

"It's a function of comparing notes with law enforcement, how many activities have taken place and how large these groups are," Morrison said.

"All of these things have given us the impression that the skinhead movement has been growing," Morrison said.

There are 110 skinhead groups in the United States, including six in Pennsylvania, according to the ADL.

The largest Pennsylvania organization - the Keystone State Skinheads (KSS) - has about 70 members and several regional chapters, including in Philadelphia and Chester County, according to the ADL.

Many of the new skinheads are young, impressionable, undisciplined and violent, according to Morrison.

"To be a skinhead is to be violent," Morrison said. "They have a great tendency to engage in criminal activity."

Ron, who is not a member of KSS but insists he does frequent their functions, agreed that many of the new members are in their 20s, but added that violence and crime are not characteristics of the skinheads.

"We're definitely not violent ... these people just care seriously about protecting their family," Ron said. "If one of us goes to jail, we're useless to the movement."

He added that the notion that members of the skinhead movement are uneducated is far from the truth.

"These people [skinheads] are very well educated," said Ron - who is a junior and college and said he intends to go to medical school, or work as a financial analyst.

Although skinheads are misunderstood, according to Ron, he echoes ideas of complete racial separation that have been championed by other "hate groups."

"This country was meant for white Christians," Ron said. Adding that members of the movement advocate for non-whites and non-Christians to return to their homes of origin and begin a government like white Christians did in America.

"Black people should be given the opportunity to return to their homeland and do the same thing," Ron said. "There wouldn't be anymore interracial crime.

"Asians ... I don't have any problem with them," Ron said. "I [just] think it would be better if they stayed in their land and we stayed in ours."



There are skinhead groups, however, that are not like KSS and other racists groups, according to Morrison.

"The skinhead phenomena originally were not tied to hatred and bigotry when it began in England," Morrison said.

"Some people look like neo-Nazis or skinheads, but do not have the same ideology of hatred," Morrison said. "They would not attack minorities and single them out."

The KSS uses elements of former hate groups in their teachings, according to Ron.

Many in the movement today are devout Christians like the Ku Klux Klan support the former Nazi regime like neo-Nazis and embrace the music and youth of the skinhead culture, according to Ron.

The group is also opposed to abortion - for non-minorities -they want to shut down the border to Mexico, oppose gay marriage and are anti-Semitic, according to Ron.

"Jews are pretty much at the top of the 'we don't like you' list," Ron said. He added that many in the movement also lobby legislators to pass bills like one that would make English the official language of Pennsylvania.

However, they lobby as citizens not skinheads.

"The reason for that is the stereotypical view people have of us," Ron said. "Mainstream America is not going to accept the swastika. The best way to get into politics is to disassociate yourself."

The ADL is actively campaigning to curtail any message skinheads are spreading, according to Morrison.

"We are sounding an alert to the public, clergy, law enforcement and the media," Morrison said.

They are also targeting young people before they are influenced by the hate message, according to Morrison.

"We devote a good amount of time, energy and efforts educating them about bigotry and hatred," Morrison said.

"We sponsored a former neo-Nazi to speak and had films and workshops ... so that young people will not find appeal in hate groups and skinheads," Morrison said.

But the current climate in America supports the growing skinhead movement, according to Ron.

"The movement will definitely keep on going as more and more white people get fed up with reverse racism," Ron said. "We would be accepting of them [minorities] once they're off our soil," Ron said.

News of Delaware County 2006

Township takes step to combat racism

Evan Brandt, ebrandt@pottsmc.com
02/22/2006

UPPER POTTS GROVE -- This township, which could be described in many ways, may soon be described for what it is not.

Tuesday night, township commissioners unanimously embarked Upper Pottsgrove on a path to make it "No Place for Hate."

Part of a campaign by the Anti-Defamation League, "No Place for Hate" seeks to combat all forms of prejudice and celebrate diversity, said Pauline Garcia, who is the program's director.

Garcia explained the program Tuesday to the commissioners before their vote.

She said the Anti-Defamation League is among the nation's leaders in tracking and monitoring hate groups and believes that "because prejudice is learned, it can be un-learned."

So it is with an eye toward educating the people of Upper Pottsgrove about hate and prejudice, and how to combat it, that the "No Place for Hate" program is initiated as it has been in Pottstown and Boyertown.

The program was begun in Philadelphia six years ago when the Anti-Defamation League teamed up with the Philadelphia Inquirer and Daily News newspapers, WPVI-TV and the Philadelphia Free Library, she said.

It begins with a proclamation, like the one unanimously adopted Tuesday by the Upper Pottsgrove Board.

Next, a No Place for Hate committee is established, which then plans a year's worth of activities designed to educate and promote tolerance and understanding and combat racism and prejudice of all kinds, according to the Anti-Defamation League Web site.

"We want to celebrate diversity and educate people about diversity," said Garcia.

Typical activities include school assemblies and other school promotions. Most recently, Junior High West in the Boyertown District and Pottstown Middle School have both been at the forefront of these efforts.

Last spring, in the wake of racial incidents in the Boyertown area, students at Junior High West staged a pep rally in which the student body spelled out the words "United With West," and students signed "resolutions of respect."

Similar efforts in Pottstown have been spearheaded by the Pottstown Police Department.

After a year of such activities in Upper Pottsgrove, the Anti-Defamation League will "certify" the township as an official "No Place for Hate" community.

"The real rewards are for the average citizen of the community that gets certified," Garcia said.

Elwood Taylor, president of the board of commissioners, said the township wants "to declare vocally that we want to be an inclusive community."

From the Mercury, Pottstown PA (2/22/06)