



APRIL 2006

CARE NEWSLETTER



Hello Out There

Though we have encouraged communication between the steering committee and the membership at large in several newsletters, we have not received much communication. The phone is silent and there is no e-mail from membership. PLEASE contact us. We want to hear your ideas for future programs, your concerns-- anything you would like us to address. Or just say hi and let us know you're out there.

Phone: 570-524-CARE (2273)
E-mail: care@dejazzd.com

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND PLAN TO ATTEND

Upcoming Event at Donald Heiter Community Center
Panel Discussion on April 9, 2006 at 4p.m.



PO Box 250, Lewisburg, PA 17837
Phone: 570-524-CARE

Dear fellow members of CARE:

The Community Alliance for Respect and Equality (CARE) would like to invite you to a special panel on Sunday, April 9, 2006 at 4:00 PM entitled, "Where Does the Study of Religion Fit Into Public School Education?" Details are in the enclosed flyer.

The purpose of the panel is NOT to advocate for prayer, Bible study or any other form of worship in the public schools. This is prohibited by the first amendment. The PA Department of Education establishes policies that are in line with the law, and therefore would not permit any of the above mentioned activities as part of a curriculum.

Instead, the panel explores the question of expanding the scope of academic study about religion for the following secular purposes: 1) to expand students' fund of knowledge about world religions, 2) to increase awareness of various religious practices both locally and abroad, and 3) to promote respect for individuals of various religious faiths by destroying myths about religions as well as stereotypes about the people who practice those religions.

Three highly qualified panelists will make presentations, after which there will be time for questions and comments. We hope you will join us. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Lois E. Passi
524-2273
Care@dejazzd.com

P.S. The flyer has not been enclosed but the details are in the letter.



WANTED: Amateur photographers willing to take pictures for CARE newsletters and/or for a photo display for this year's multicultural festival, which will take place later this year (in the fall).

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

CARE Activities and News

Fundraising Underway For Spanish Language Books in Priestly Library

We have so far received \$190 in contributions for the Spanish language books that are being purchased for the Priestly Library in Northumberland. The library approved space for thirty books. Page After Page agreed to order the books for us at discounted prices. We are endeavoring to raise \$400 in the next week.

If you wish to contribute, please contact Claudia Wilshusen at cwilshusen@care2.com. Let her know your name and amount you wish to contribute. Then send your check to: CARE, P.O. Box 250, Lewisburg, PA 17837. In the memo section, write "libros en espanol". This will let us know that your contribution is earmarked for this particular project. Muchas gracias!

CARE Congratulates Harvey Edwards

The VIRGINIA TRAVIS LECTURE AWARD IN SOCIAL JUSTICE will be presented to Harvey Edwards, who will speak on *Seeking Understanding Through Engagement and Dialogue* on Tuesday, April 18th at 7 p.m. in the Forum of Bucknell University on the second floor of the Elaine Langone Center. Please consider joining other members of CARE at this event.

Harvey Edwards earned his BA in English from Bucknell in 1978 along with his secondary teaching certification. After teaching for four years in Montessori preschools in Berkeley and Oakland, California, he returned to Central Pennsylvania and began his full-time teaching career at West Snyder High School. In 1988 he took a position with the Selinsgrove Area School District, where he has been employed for the past 18 years teaching grades nine through twelve. In 1992 he completed his MA in Humanities at Penn State, Capitol Campus in Harrisburg.

For three summers over the past six years he has served as a co-instructor of graduate courses in Composition and Instruction for the Capitol Area Writing Project, a National Writing Project affiliate. Working primarily with future teachers, Harvey has taught Reading in the Content Area at Susquehanna University as an adjunct lecturer in the Education Department. He has also presented Writing across the Curriculum in-service training in numerous regional school districts including Harrisburg, Montgomery, Shikellamy and Sullivan County.

Finishing as a semi-finalist for Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year 2006 last year, he has again been nominated for the honor and is up for consideration as a finalist for the 2007 title.

While Harvey's extracurricular activities include co-advisor of Peer Leadership and advisor of the Student Council, his role as director of the Tolerance Troupe exemplifies his efforts to foster respect, appreciation and understanding among people of diverse cultural backgrounds. The Tolerance Troupe is composed of Selinsgrove Area High School students, grades nine through twelve. The students present skits that depict situations of intolerance and as the actors remain in character; the audience is encouraged to engage in a dialogue to find common ground on the controversial issues. The Tolerance Troupe has presented to schools on all grade levels, colleges, civic groups and various state conferences organizations.

The Travis Award honors a member of the Lewisburg, Bucknell or Central Susquehanna Valley communities who has worked diligently and compassionately to promote social justice and progressive change at the local, national or global level. The recipient must have demonstrated an enduring commitment to one or more of the following principles: social, economic or political equality and opportunity; civil liberties; racial, gender, ethnic or sexuality freedom and dignity, ecological quality, or non-violence. The award recipient will present a talk, which articulates a vision of social justice and a strategy of social change to achieve it.



Volunteers STILL Needed for Fall Festival

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.

CARE Invited By All Families Coalition to Oppose HB 2381/SB 1084

On March 2, Doug Sturm forwarded an email to Lois Passi inviting CARE members to attend a Rally for Equality and Lobby Day on March 14 in Harrisburg to show opposition to House Bill No. 2381 Session of 2006/Senate Bill 1084 Session 2005-2006. On March 12, the Steering Committee voted to write a letter on CARE's behalf, using CARE letterhead and including the current membership figure, opposing the House and Senate version of the "Marriage Protection" proposed legislation (Basically, this legislation would amend the PA Constitution to prevent LGBT couples from entering into civil unions or domestic partnerships as well as marrying. Current versions of HB 2381/SB 1084 are readily accessed online). On March 17, Steering Committee member David Deibler-Gorman sent letters of opposition (see letter) to Representative Fairchild and Senators Corman and Madigan. CARE continues to advocate an accepting and inclusive Central Pennsylvania community!



3/17/06
P.O. Box 250
Lewisburg, PA 17837
care@dejazzd.com

The Honorable Jake Corman
Senate Box 203034
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3034

Dear Senator Corman:

I am writing on behalf of CARE's 160 members to oppose HB 2381/SB 1084, the PA "Marriage Protection Amendment." CARE is a local organization of Susquehanna Valley residents committed to the belief in equal treatment for all. We support and value the contributions of diverse individuals – men, women and children. CARE espouses equal rights for people regardless of gender and sexual orientation, and opposes the passage of legislation that could remove existing legal protection, under local laws, for committed long-term couples and their children.

We believe that committed same sex couples are entitled to the basic rights afforded to heterosexual married couples: hospital visitation, inheritance, pensions, and health insurance to name a few. We oppose any legislation that prevents couples from marrying and/or entering into civil unions or domestic partnerships. We remain committed to building an accepting and inclusive Central Pennsylvania community.

Sincerely,

David Deibler-Gorman,
CARE member

Follow-up Message from David Deibler-Gorman

We received a response from Senator Madigan regarding CARE's opposition to the proposed Marriage Protection Amendment. One thing I learned from Senator Madigan was that this proposed legislation has to pass the House and Senate in the next TWO legislative sessions because it proposes an amendment to the existing PA constitution. Unfortunately, Senator Madigan is sponsoring the proposed change in PA's constitution. I think CARE ought to act on Doug Sturm's recommendation to coordinate a personal visit to the Senators'/Representative's Office (on CARE's behalf) in Harrisburg before this current session runs out. If anyone is interested in working on this issue, please contact CARE.



Correction to March Newsletter

In the article "CARE Will Put 30 Spanish on Spanish language books in library," the following information is incorrect...

"The James V. Brown Library in Williamsport is considering doing the same."

At this point, the James V. Brown Library has not been contacted regarding housing Spanish language books.

Care Business

New Brochure to be Out Soon

CARE is working on a new brochure which we hope to have available to you within the next 2 months. We'll keep you posted! Let us know if you need brochures to help spread the word about CARE.

Project Form When Requesting Reimbursement for CARE Expenses

The steering committee approved the use of a project proposal form on March 12, 2006. The purpose of the form is to give the steering committee details about CARE projects before they are launched. One important detail, for example, is expense. If you wish for CARE to reimburse your expenses, we advise filling out the form and letting the steering committee review it before you spend your own money. This will also help CARE keep track of expenditures, and understand the true cost of all of its projects. If you need a project form, please notify Lois Passi by calling or e-mailing the CARE office: 570-524-2273 or care@dejazzd.com .

Resources Available to CARE Members

1) AGENDA (Winter 2005). This is the official publication of the National Council of La Raza, an advocacy group of Latinos. Articles, policy stands on current issues, reports.

(2) INDIAN REPORT (Fourth Quarter 2005). A periodical prepared and published by the Friends Committee on National Legislation. Four pages. Brief articles on current issues, some probing into critical questions (e.g., how major media cover the lives of people of the Native Nations.)

(3) CRISIS (Jan., Feb. 2006). Official magazine of the NAACP. Articles, book reviews, chapter news, conference announcements, etc. A major piece in this issue: "The Diaspora-- Coming to America: Can Black Immigrants and African Americans Get Along?"

(4) TEACHING TOLERANCE (Spring 2006). Publication for teachers/education by the Southern Poverty Law Center. As always jam packed with lists of resources, creative school activities, teaching tools, critiques of texts, etc. Amazing how few teachers actually use this periodical, though it is up to date and easy to exploit to good advantage.

Please contact the CARE office if you are interested in borrowing any of these!

PLEASE SEND US YOUR COMMENTS, THOUGHTS AND SUGGESTIONS!