



**Report on CARE's
Annual Meeting**

**Feel like dancing?
Join the Folk Dance
Class!**

Recent and Upcoming Events

CARE's Annual Meeting a Success

CARE held its annual meeting on Sunday, July 23rd at The Bleu Plate in Lewisburg. Approximately 30 people attended. Lois Passi gave a talk about Race and Class in Susquehanna Valley. She presented research that showed, among other things, that:

- 1) There is a great disparity in per capita income between Whites, African Americans and Latinos across Union, Northumberland and Snyder counties. For example, in Snyder county, African Americans and Latinos earn only 1/3 (approximately \$5600) as much as Whites.
- 2) Median household income is low for everyone in all three counties compared with median household incomes across the country.
- 3) Approximately 1 out of every four of our children is not pursuing any education beyond high school (not even a trade school).
- 4) Racist skinheads are well established in areas near our 3 county region, and some Aryans have been detected in Union, Snyder and Northumberland counties.

CARE will endeavor to work with others in the community to begin changing these circumstances. In our next issue, we hope to bring news of at least one initiative that will be started toward this end.

Each participant left with a written report. A vibrant discussion followed the presentation.

If you are interested in receiving information about this report, contact the CARE office (524-2273 or care@dejazzd.com).

Folk Dance Class Summer Series Continues

The Susquehanna Int'l Folk Dancers present folk dance classes two Sundays each month during June, July and August with Paula Davis-Larson. Each one-hour class will focus on a different country.

Class Schedule (6:30 to 7:30):

AUGUST 13 Hungarian Dances of Transylvania

AUGUST 20 Requested Dances

And of course there will be regular DANCING EVERY SUNDAY THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER!, 6-9 pm, suggested donation: \$2.00, Anne Wilson and Oliver Larmi's Red Barn, 1996 Millville Rd. junction at Black Run Rd., Bloomsburg, PA, Phone (570) 784 9339, pdavilar@bucknell.edu, www.sifd.blogspot.com.

Paula Davis-Larson

Assistant Professor

Bucknell University

Department of Theatre and Dance



New brochure is ready!

A copy of the Annual Report is available. Please contact us if you are interested.

Diversity Picnic to be held in Fall

In our next newsletter, we will announce the date and place for our annual diversity picnic. This event is a chance for CARE members to enjoy each other's company, taste each other's cooking, find out what CARE is up to. We hope to see a lot of you there!

Multicultural Festival set for November 4th

Mark your calendars now! CARE will have its second annual multicultural festival on Saturday, November 4th from 1:00-4:00 at River Woods (Marlow Hall). This event is free to the public, and is family oriented. Among other things there will be displays and food from India, Chinese dancing, and stories from around the world. Don't miss it!!

CARE News

Annual Report Available

CARE's annual report is available. The report contains information about all of CARE's programs over the last year, as well as a financial report.

CARE produced 16 programs over the last 12 months. This is remarkable considering that CARE meetings are held only once per month and that we operate on a small budget (total annual budget: \$3200).

If you are interested in seeing this report, contact the CARE office (phone and e-mail noted above).

Newsletter

We are looking for people to help with the monthly newsletter. Even if you can't offer any help, please let us know what you think of our newsletter. Do you read it? Is it in any way helpful or useful to you? Please let us know. Email us at: care@dejazzd.com

New Brochure Available

CARE's new brochure is now available. If you would like one (or several to share with friends and colleagues), let us know.

Book Project and Upcoming Workshop

Forty children's books have been delivered to Milton Public Library. Marilyn Mumford is preparing for another workshop on diversity at Greenwood Friends School in late August.

National News

Racial Bias and the Death Penalty

The July 2006 newsletter of the Legislative Initiative Against the Death Penalty presented, in brief, one of the findings of a recent study on racial bias and the death penalty worthy of our attention:

"A new study of research at Stanford University shows increased death penalty convictions among African-American defendants who are 'stereotypically black'. This study was published in the May edition of 'Psychological Science' and found that blacks who had physical features that are stereotypical for African-Americans, like dark skin, broad nose, or thick lips, were more likely to be sentenced to death than other black defendants. All the defendants in the study were accused of killing whites. Students were asked to identify pictures of defendants with the stereotypical features and 'other black defendants'. 57.5% of the stereotyped defendants were awarded the death penalty while only 24.4% of the others were sent to death row."



**Do you have any
news you want to
share? Send it to us!**

**Email us at
care@dejazzd.com or
call us at
570-524-2273.**

Immigration debate reaches Shenandoah; Borough considers laws against renting to illegal immigrants

The Morning Call - June 22, 2006

By Spencer Soper and Daniel Patrick

Paul Guida was born and raised in this small coal town, and he's glad to hear borough officials plan to crack down on landlords who rent to illegal immigrants, following a similar initiative in nearby Hazleton.

"I don't think it's right for people to be here illegally, taking jobs from Americans who are looking for work," said Guida, 28, who works in a hospital boiler room. "I think it's good what [borough officials] are doing."

Down the street at the Mexican restaurant La Casita de Familia, where sombreros decorate the walls, manager Flor Gomez worries anti-immigrant policies could result in racial tension and discrimination against Hispanics seeking work and housing, regardless of their status.

"I don't know if the problem is as bad as they're making it out to be," she said. "There is a large Hispanic population, but that doesn't necessarily mean they're illegal."

Coal towns built long ago by transplants from Poland, Ireland, Italy and elsewhere in Europe are now being torn apart by the issue of illegal immigration. Former Europeans working in the mines have been replaced by Mexicans, Dominicans, Hondurans and other Central and South Americans working in the fields and factories.

Some residents are glad to see their local officials try to tackle a problem they say the federal government has allowed to get out of control. Others wonder what the fuss is about, and question if small towns with limited resources can do anything of significance.

Pennsylvania's coal region splashed into headlines when Lou Barletta, the mayor of Hazleton in Luzerne County, introduced his Illegal Immigration Relief Act Ordinance.

Besides landing Barletta on national TV and radio programs, his policy has rippled into the neighboring Schuylkill County towns of Shenandoah, Tamaqua and Mahanoy City, where officials are considering similar initiatives to prevent illegal immigrants fleeing Hazleton from settling nearby.

"If Hazleton is going to be focusing on enforcement, [illegal immigrants] aren't going to be willing to stay there," said Joe Palubinsky, manager of the borough of Shenandoah. "More than likely they are going to try to settle nearby."

To thwart that outcome, officials in Shenandoah -- home to a long-established Mexican community -- have pledged to crack down on landlords who rent to illegal immigrants. Council has already taken one largely symbolic step, adopting an ordinance Monday that enshrines English as the mostly white borough's official language for city business.

Mahanoy City will probably discuss similar ordinances next month, Borough Manager Jerry Teter said. "We'll be a bull's eye if we don't," he said.

Tamaqua Mayor Chris Morrison urged Borough Council on Tuesday to be watchful for illegal immigrants and criminals when inspecting apartment buildings.

"If what's going on in Hazleton has the impact that I think it might have, we might end up having an influx down here," Morrison said.

The debate is also swirling in Harrisburg, with bills being considered that would



penalize contractors who violate labor laws by revoking their licenses and give county district attorneys the power to arrest and detain illegal immigrant workers for up to 30 days.

A walk through Shenandoah reveals how cultures co-exist. You can get a seafood salad or meatball sandwich at Francesco's Italian Restaurant on Main Street. And you're likely to find Hispanic clientele at Catizone's Barber Shop.

"We get a lot of [Hispanics] in here," barber John Catizone said. "I don't know if they're legal or illegal. We're not checking IDs."

His uncle, Vince Catizone, who was working the adjacent chair, joked, "We're just checking pocketbooks."

John Catizone said immigration has not been much of an issue in town until news broke about a crackdown in Hazleton.

"Maybe the guy in Philly got the ball rolling with the cheesesteak place," he said, referring to English-only signs posted at famous Geno's Cheesesteaks.

Around the block, Victoria's Grocery also caters to Hispanic and American customers alike with signs in English and Spanish.

Shop owner Jose Perez, from the Dominican Republic, said he thinks all immigrants are being unfairly punished for the misdeeds of a few.

"Most of the people in this community are good working people," said Perez, who also works at a Hazleton meat packing plant. "Good people are paying the consequences for the bad people."

Fermin Bermejo, who has lived in Shenandoah for 15 years, attributes some of the anti-immigrant policies to racism.

Born in America to Puerto Rican parents, he said he likes seeing the community become more diverse. And when people ask for his views on illegal immigration, he likes to talk about tomatoes.

"Would you want to pay a buck for a tomato?" he asks. "That's what it would cost if an American got \$15 or \$20 an hour to pick 'em. The Mexicans do it for less, and people complain that they're taking our jobs. But they wouldn't want to pay a buck for a tomato."

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Items from the Spring '06 Newsletter of UNITED FOR A FAIR ECONOMY

"Incomes of typical U.S. families slid backward from 2001-2004--Blacks and Latinos by 4%; whites by 1%."

"White U.S. families saw their median wealth grow about 6% after inflation from 2001 to 2004, to \$136,000, according to the Federal Reserve. But Black families started the Bush era with \$20,000 in median wealth, and after three years of economic growth had exactly--\$20,000!"

In a brief article, Thomas M. Shapiro, author of **The Cost of Being African American: How Wealth Perpetuates Inequality**, writes, "...whites are about four times more likely to have received money from their parents during their parents' lifetimes to pay for their college educations or for down payments on their homes. Further, studies indicate that nearly 1 in 4 white families received an inheritance after the death of a parent, at a median of \$10,000. In stark contrast, only about 1 in 20 African American families had inherited, and their median inheritance was just \$798."

A report on a key aspect of the racial wealth divide exposed by Katrina, **Stalling the Dream: Cars, Race and Hurricane Evacuation**, may be downloaded from the following website: <www.racialwealthdivide.org>.

“Katrina stranded mostly low-income people of color. Will the next major disaster do the same? Fewer than one in twelve white families have no vehicle, but one in five Black families and one in seven Latino families were carless in 2004.”

“The flooded areas of New Orleans were 76%Black and 18% white. The dry areas were only 43% Black and 49% white.”

“In the U.S., over three-quarters of white families owned their homes in 2004, but a slight majority of people of color still rent. At the slow rate this home-ownership gap is narrowing, it will not close for 1.664 years--about 55 generations.”

A new book with five co-authors, all leading experts on the racial wealth divide: **The Color of Wealth: The Story Behind the U.S. Racial Wealth Divide** was published in June 2006 (New Press). To order copies....and for information about racial wealth divide workshops.... see the website: <[www.racialwealth divide.org](http://www.racialwealthdivide.org)>.