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**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS  
TO ALL!**

Do you have any  
news or suggestions  
for us? Please  
contact us at  
570-524-2273 or email  
to [care@dejazzd.com](mailto:care@dejazzd.com)

## Recent and Upcoming Events

### A Multicultural Holiday Party

Lois Passi gave a one hour long presentation for the Area Agency on Aging on December 19th. The theme was multiculturalism, specifically all of the festivals that are celebrated this time of year. She discussed Diwali (Hinduism), Enlightenment Day (Buddhism), Ramadan and Eid (Islam), Channukah (Judaism), Christmas, and Kwanzaa (a non-religious, African American cultural celebration). The presentation included discussion, pictures, music and food.

One thing discussed was the various ways that Christmas is celebrated in the world. For example, in France, people look for a log to burn. This is known as the "Yule Log". Legend has it that the person whose log burns the longest will have the most luck in the coming year. In Serbia, a plate of rolls is served. One of the rolls will have a coin buried in it. The one who gets that roll also has good luck in the coming year. In Mexico and in Nigeria, there is a community re-enactment of the travels of Joseph and Mary. Those playing Joseph and Mary travel from door to door, with each person refusing them entrance until finally one designated person agrees to take them in. In Nigeria, each person also gives the actors some money. When the re-enactment is over, the money is given to the church. In Bolivia, they celebrate the "Misa del Gallo", or Mass of the Rooster. Each person brings a rooster with them to the Midnight Mass. This is because legend has it that a rooster was the first animal to announce the birth of Christ.

We ended with "Silent Night". In 1818, the curate of a church gave a poem to the choirmaster, requesting that he set the poem to music. He asked that the music be for two voices and guitar because the church organ was broken, and he desperately wanted music for the Christmas Eve service. The result was "Silent Night", which is often accompanied by guitar.

### 2007 Martin Luther King Celebration to Promote Community Service and Positive Community Action

The Donald Heiter Community Center will host a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s (MLK, Jr.) birthday celebration on Monday 1/15/07 from 4:30-8:00pm. This year's theme comes from Dr. King's quote, "Life's most urgent question is, what are you doing for others?" Community Center Staff, who are sponsoring the annual event along with CARE, intend to promote community service and positive community action throughout this year's program and festivities.

The first hour of the celebration will center on activities for children. Dinner, which commences around 5:30pm, will include finger foods, chili, salad, refreshments and dessert. Following dinner, Selinsgrove High School's Tolerance Troupe, under the direction of Mr. Harvey Edwards, is scheduled to perform. Given the Troupe's state-wide reputation for stimulating and provoking meaningful dialogue on issues like race, culture, gender, and community, we are especially grateful that their performance will highlight this year's MLK, Jr. celebration at the Heiter Center in Lewisburg.

Please honor Dr. King's life and work by attending and participating in the



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FOR YOUR  
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GIFTS. YOUR  
DONATIONS  
HELP US TO  
CONTINUE  
OUR WORK!**

CARE is a tax  
deductible  
charitable  
organization -  
501(c)3.

2007 celebration in the Heiter Center at 100 N. 5th Street, Lewisburg, PA. Further information about the event can be obtained by contacting Devon, Heiter Center Coordinator for this year's event, at 524-5000.

### Bucknell Events

Jan. 26 ~ DanceBrazil

Feb 2 ~ Nathaniel Dett Chorale; Afrocentric music of all styles

March 2 ~ Jazz at Lincoln Center's Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra with Arturo O'Farrill

All performances are at 8 p.m.

For more information about these and other Spring '07 events contact the box office at 577-1000 or

check our website at [www.bucknell.edu/WeisCenter/](http://www.bucknell.edu/WeisCenter/)

### CARE's Commitment to LGBTs

Many of us are aware that there have been rumors of late about discriminatory practices against LGBTs in this area. We decline to make a response concerning specific incidences because they are rumors; nothing is confirmed.

However, CARE wishes to be clear about its support of LGBTs. We believe that LGBTs (lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered individuals) deserve the same rights as anyone else. We do not hold these people to be sick or immoral; rather, they are our fellow human beings, equal in worth to their heterosexual counterparts. In the movie "God and Gays", a lesbian put it this way: "People ask me what I want. I want everything you would have given me had you not known that I am gay. I want exactly what every heterosexual has, no more, no less." CARE agrees with this statement and we will continue to work for justice for LGBTs.

### Resources for Understanding and Action

#### The Sunni-Shiite Divide in Iraq

The December 14, 2006 broadcast on Internet Voices, with Dr. Akbar Ahmed, is of particular interest to those who would like to gain a deeper understanding of the religious divide in Iraq. Dr. Akbar Ahmed, Ibn Khaldun Professor of Islamic Studies at American University, Washington, DC, author of more than 30 books on Islam, including his forthcoming book called, *Journey Into Islam*, regular analyst of Muslim issues on *Interfaith Voices*.

Interfaith Voices is an independent public radio show providing engaging and informative discussion on the key public issues of our day through the lenses of many different faith perspectives. We foster religious tolerance and educate our listeners on the broad diversity of religious traditions and viewpoints in the United States, Canada, and around the world. Our purpose is to promote interfaith understanding through dialogue.

The website is:

<http://www.interfaithradio.org/>

#### Congressman Goode's Anti-Muslim & Anti-Immigrant Remarks and What You Can Do in Response

Ask Congressman Goode to Publicly Retract his Racist Remarks on Muslims and Immigrants. This week a controversial letter from Virginia Congressman Virgil Goode was released to the press. In his letter to constituents, Goode expressed his opposition to using the Koran during an unofficial and optional swearing-in ceremony for the nation's first elected Muslim congressman, Member-Elect Keith Ellison of Minnesota. Goode also expressed his, "fear



that in the next century we will have many more Muslims in the United States if we do not adopt the strict immigration policies that I believe are necessary to preserve the values and beliefs traditional to the United States of America and to prevent our resources from being swamped.”

This type of racist and Islamophobic remarks have no place in our diverse democratic nation. In a letter to Congressman Goode, ADC called upon the congressman to immediately, and publicly, retract his racist and ignorant remarks regarding Congressman Ellison, Muslim-Americans and immigrants. And, in a letter from Goode’s congressional colleague, New Jersey Congressman Bill Pascrell stated his disappointment and alarm at Goode’s ethnically offensive remarks.

#### Act Now!

Join ADC in demanding Congressman Goode publicly retract his racist remarks about Muslim-Americans, Congressman Ellison and immigrants. Non-constituents can reach Congressman Goode by phoning or faxing his Washington office at Phone: (202)225-4711 and Fax: (202)225-5681.

Also, please be sure to thank New Jersey Congressman Pascrell for his letter to Goode. New Jersey constituents in the Eighth Congressional district can contact him via email by clicking [here](#). Non-constituents may contact Pascrell’s Washington office to thank him by phoning (202) 225-5751 or faxing him at (202) 225-5782.

#### Sample Talking Points:

-I am contacting you to express my opposition to your racist remarks regarding Muslim-Americans, Congressman Keith Ellison, and immigrants.

-Your comments fail to uphold this Nation’s founding principles of acceptance, tolerance and religious freedom.

-As a Member of Congress, you represent a diversity of Virginians, including Muslims. Your votes and public statements affect a variety of people across this country. Hate speech from congressional leaders will only alienate minorities and increase hate crimes.

Here's a copy of the letter of protest ADC sent to Congressman Good:

December 21, 2006

The Honorable Virgil Goode  
1520 Longworth Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Goode:

The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) is the nation's largest civil rights organization working on behalf of the Arab-American community. ADC is a non-sectarian, nonpartisan grassroots organization representing an American community which consists of people of a variety of faiths, including Christian, Muslim, Coptic, Jewish and others who don't identify as religious. As such, we are appalled by your statement in a recent letter to a constituent concerning the proposed use of the Koran for the upcoming swearing-in ceremony at the beginning of the 110th Congress for freshman Minnesota Congressman Keith Ellison, comments about Muslim immigration to the US, and lack of knowledge of the swearing in ceremony.

Members of Congress from a variety of ethnicities, races, religions, and immigrant groups have been proudly, and patriotically, elected to our Congress to represent the diversity that is America. Your statement on Muslims and immigrants is reminiscent of the ignorance of a by-gone era when people questioned Catholic politicians' allegiances to State or Pope, and those who would criticize the election of Jewish-Americans. The historic

#### Resources:

Read the full text of  
Congressman  
Goode’s letter to his  
constituent  
Read ADC’s  
response to  
Congressman Goode  
Read New Jersey  
Congressman  
Pascrell’s letter to  
Goode

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**HAPPY NEW  
YEAR!**

election of Congressman Ellison by the people of Minnesota's Fifth District proudly follows in our great Nation's founding principles of acceptance, tolerance and religious freedom. Clearly you seem to be unaware that Islam is the fastest growing religion in the US, and not necessarily through immigration. Numerous Americans, of various ethnic backgrounds, are converts to Islam, and they join the more than 1 billion Muslims around the world.

ADC joins a variety of national organizations, your colleagues in Congress and representatives of the US Commission on Civil Rights, startled by your racist remarks. In the words of Michael Yaki, a Commissioner on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, "America was founded by immigrants seeking religious freedom. The idea that there is anything offensive in a member of Congress using the Koran as part of their ceremonial swearing-in is anathema to our founding principles. If anything, we should be trumpeting the fact worldwide that our Nation is proud to have elected and sworn in to our national elected legislature a person who celebrates their Muslim faith."

As you take your oath in the 110th Congress, alongside Congressman Keith Ellison, you should bear in mind that you represent a diversity of people in Virginia's Fifth District, including Muslim constituents, and that your votes and statements in Congress affect the daily lives of all Americans no matter their color, race, religion or immigration status. You also seem to be unaware that when members of Congress are sworn in, they simply raise their right hand. Then, afterwards, in a ceremony, they may take the oath of office on a Bible, another religious book or no book at all. ADC calls upon you to immediately, and publicly, retract your racist and ignorant remarks regarding Congressman Ellison, Muslim-Americans and immigrants.

Sincerely,

**Christine Gleichert ADC Legislative Director**