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P.O. BOX 250, LEWISBURG, PA CARE NEWSLETTER
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Stop the Hate Rally

Milton Area
Homework Club

CARE Recent Events and Announcements

CARE Leads Off Stop The Hate Rally

Lois Passi, Co-chairperson, spoke to a crowd of approximately 200 Bucknell University students, staff persons and community members in Hufnagle Park at the Unity Jam – Stop the Hate Rally on Tuesday 9/25/07. After a kind and generous introduction by the Director of Bucknell University's Multicultural Center, Jessica Hess, Passi took the stage with Co-Chairperson Margie Torres, other Steering Committee Members and members of the Clergy Roundtable. Passi highlighted CARE's commitment to equality for all people and reminded audience members that CARE responds not only to individual incidents of discrimination but also to public matters concerning diversity. She cited the recent cancellation of a Lewisburg High School Marching Band trip to Knoebel's Grove on the same day that a Gay Pride picnic was being held in the amusement park as an indication of how much work needs to be done to insure respect and equality for people of all sexual orientations in the Susquehanna Valley.

Passi announced CARE's launching of a 10 Myths Campaign in mid-November as one step toward addressing fear of gays among the people of the Susquehanna Valley. CARE will disseminate a brochure that lists 10 myths about GLBTs, the truth. She asked audience members to help by giving a 10 Myths brochure to a friend, relative, coworker or neighbor that may not have accurate information about GLBTs. In addition, she said that brochures would be made available to local businesses and churches. Passi noted that CARE members would make newspapers and radio stations aware of this campaign. Passi ended her speech with a poignant anecdote about the Vietnamese Zen Master, Thich Nhat Hahn.

Following Passi's speech, Melissa Ferrick, played guitar and sang. Ferrick is a musician from Massachusetts who has opened for Ani DeFranco the past few weeks on tour. Attorney Chris Sabas spoke about inalienable human rights in the context of the Hazelton backlash against Latinos. Erica Lopatofsky, a Bucknell University graduate student, and Lee Saville-Andree performed two songs. Marissa Calhoun, a Bucknell student, invited community members as well as students to join her activism efforts. Peggy Cronin, from the Bucknell Writing Center, introduced the crowd to the two parts of the America Project, the second of which is Sekou Sundiata's upcoming "51st (dream) state." Following a song by Voices of Praise and thanks by Ms. Hess, the crowd marched by candlelight onto Market Street, down 4th Street and back to Hufnagle Park in Lewisburg.

Milton Area Homework Club Ready to Go

The Milton Area Homework Club, co-sponsored by CARE, the YMCA of Milton and the Milton Area School District, is set up and ready to go! Fifteen tutors volunteered to tutor students on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Transportation from the schools to the YMCA was arranged by the school district, and teachers are now aware of the program. All of the money was successfully raised by Milton Area businesses. All we need now are referrals.

We will keep you updated about this exciting program.



Peace Vigil

Peace Vigil

The International Day of Peace, created by the United Nations more than 25 years ago, is a special time promoting a “Global Movement for a Culture of Peace.” In 2006, more than 3,500 Peace Day events were held in 200 nations (including all 192 members of the UN) on September 21.

This year, the greater Lewisburg area joined in the celebration on September 20 with a Peace Vigil co-sponsored by PeaceWay (a ministry of nonviolence) and Bucknell’s Office of the University Chaplains. People representing several communities of faith — Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, and Islamic — participated in this brief ceremony with readings, music, and silence. All expressed anguish over the many forms of violence, including warfare, which is wreaking havoc across the globe. Those present also renewed their commitment to working for a new world of peace and nonviolence. Current co-chair Lois Passi and a former co-chair Doug Sturm represented CARE.

Peace is more than the absence of war; it is the presence of justice. CARE is proud to have taken part in this celebration and is committed to promoting a “Culture of Peace” here in the Susquehanna Valley as well as in our world community.

REMINDER! CARE'S ANNUAL MEETING ~ October 27, 2007

Annual Meeting

CARE's annual meeting will be held on Saturday, October 27th from 10:00 a.m. until noon at RiverWoods in Lewisburg. We will focus on two primary concerns: a.) How to create our African American and Latino task forces so that they genuinely foster opportunity for economic advances for people of color in our region, and b.) How to structure CARE's board so that it maximizes decision-making input from diverse groups. Small group discussion/ brainstorming and proposed recommendations will follow a brief introduction. Please let us know if you can join us. RSVP at care@dejazzd.com, 570-524-2273, or call Lois' cell phone 570- 847-6064. Many thanks for the work you do in our community and for your connection with us.

Religious Observances and Programs at Bucknell

Religious Observances at Bucknell

October 4-5 Simchat Torah is observed. This observance represents the end of Sukkot Festival and the ending of the Torah cycle.

October 13 Id al-Fitr is celebrated at the end of Ramadan, the month-long period of fasting for Muslims. Id al-Fitr is celebrated with feasts. Gifts and thanks to Allah for the strength to successfully complete Ramadan.

October 20 Divali/SASA dinner. This dinner celebrates the Hindu Diwali, or festival of lights in celebration of the Hindu new year. This observance is typically celebrated with lights on throughout the home, special prayers, feasting, and fireworks.

DECEMBER Christmas Candlelight Service in Rooke Chapel. Tickets available at Weis Center box office.

November 1-2 All Saints Day- A Christian observance to honor saints.

THANK YOU FOR
YOUR GENEROUS
SUPPORT!

Appeal to CARE Members



Become active in
CARE!

Reflections on the
Jena 6

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

Would you like to be more involved with CARE in its work to promote equality and respect for all those who live in our area? There are many critical issues that need your support, and we are looking for larger participation among our members. Please come to our meetings to find out how you can be an active part of CARE. The steering committee meets on the second Sunday of each month at 4p.m. at the Donald Heiter Community Center in Lewisburg. These meetings are open to the membership at large. We welcome you! Please call 570-524-2273 or email care@dejazzd.com to confirm time and date. We look forward to seeing you!

From the news desk of Doug Sturm

In a recent issue of SoJo, an “e-zine” sponsored by Sojourners, the now widely publicized case of the Jena 6 received notice in a brief article by Lydia Bean. She poses the case with a powerful twist, which, if taken seriously should be cause for reflection about conditions in the Central Susquehanna Valley. Somewhat revised, Bean’s article is reproduced below:

“On September 20, thousands of people converged on Jena, Louisiana, to call for justice for the “Jena 6.” Thousands held vigils in cities across America. The case started on Sept. 1, 2006, when a black student at a high school asked an administrator if he could sit underneath a tree in the courtyard where traditionally only white students sat. The administrator told him that he could sit wherever he wanted. The next morning, there were three nooses hanging in that tree. The school dismissed this hate crime as a prank. When black students protested, the local district attorney threatened that he could take their life away with a ‘stroke of my pen.’ ... America is shocked by the naked bigotry they see in Jena, Louisiana. Why aren't Jena's white residents equally protective of all their town's children? By only intervening to protect whites, Jena's white establishment bears the responsibility for letting conflict escalate between black and white youth. It would be tempting to dismiss the Jena story as representing the vestiges of bigotry in small-town Louisiana -- but Jena is America.”

Heed that final comment, “Jena is America.” If that be so, “Jena is the Central Susquehanna Valley.” And if that were so, then we’ve got to get specific and we’ve got to develop a strategy to confront the matter. That’s the driving purpose of CARE, to work in, with, and through the community to get to it! Where can you help? Let us know!

Addendum: Shortly after the story above was written, CARE received notice of a letter to the editor published in The Morning Call (Allentown PA) that demonstrates the urgent need for our work.

“September 22 2007

“Give me a break. Now these ‘Jena 6’ punks are trying to get off for a crime in Louisiana. Okay, they wanted to sit under the tree that they knew was for the white people. Get over it. The white kids claimed it for themselves. The Jena 6 knew their place, like all non-whites. They should get the maximum punishment allowed by law. It's the South, and that's how the South will be. White people are tired of all this blame, when all non-whites are the racists. We don't owe blacks or any non-whites special rights. It (sic) time we whites join together and bring this country back to the way when our forefathers had established it. This is a WHITE CHRISTIAN COUNTRY.

“ J.J. McLaughlin

“Lower Macungie Township”

<http://www.mcall.com/news/opinion/letters/all-mclaughlin.6052769sep22.0,4618743.story>