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**Thank you for  
your generous  
support!**

## CARE Recent and Upcoming Events in the Community

### An Evening to Remember

On the evening of Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, having been spared the predicted ice storm, more than 75 folks aged four months and up gathered at Parkview to honor the much-beloved Doug and Margie Sturm for their extraordinary commitment to social justice, human dignity and belief in the power of change for our community and for the world.

As people arrived, they were greeted by Co-Chair, Margie Torres, who guided them to find their peace-sign-adorned place cards and the guest book, while music from many cultures played in the background.

We dined and chatted and were treated to brief yet eloquent comments and readings by several members of the group.

Babbette Rose-Faison included powerful quotations as she spoke of Doug, recalling his influence on and respect for her and her family as they found their places in the valley.

Harvey Edwards recalled his days as a Bucknell student, finding himself in Marge's classroom at the Lewisburg High School for his student teaching placement, and thanking Marge for her tremendous and enduring influence on his teaching.

Cindy Peltier read a favorite poem of Margie's by Sonia Sanchez.

Lois Passi spoke with passion of Doug and Marge's ongoing influence on the community and the legacy of their work for the future. She also presented Doug and Marge with a beautiful framed work created for the occasion by artist Nancy Cleaver incorporating a section of Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken" from Lois' talk.

Doug responded with thanks, noting this particular time of year as one in which celebrations from several cultures highlight the yearning for freedom and peace. He emphasized the fact that we are all part of the movement toward freedom and social justice throughout the great waves of history.

Finally, Harvey Edwards' *Tolerance Troup*, from Selinsgrove High School, enacted a situation which embodied so many of the attitudes confronted regularly by CARE. The audience was then invited to respond and ask questions of the troupe, first in character and then as themselves.

Applause, hugs, handshakes, smiles and several warm standing ovations were the order of the evening.

It was a delight to be in the company of these wonderful folks from so many aspects and time periods in Doug and Marge's lives, including son Rolf Sturm and Leese Walker, and to see so many who admire Doug and Marge gathered together for a lovely evening of appreciation.



## MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., SERVICE

St. Paul's African Methodist Episcopal Church (Milton)  
Sunday, January 20

A special service honoring the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr., will be held at St. Paul's African Methodist Episcopal Church in Milton (232 Willow Street) on Sunday, January 20 (time TBA: during afternoon or evening).

For further information contact Frances Spiller, long time member of CARE, at PO Box 148, 31 Cherry St., Dewart, PA 17730. Or contact Doug Sturm at 524 4035, <sturm@bucknell.edu>.

Driving instructions: From Mahoning Street (going East), just past a railroad crossing, Willow Street is the first street (going North). St. Paul is at the corner of Willow & High. Parking on the street.

## CARE's 2007 Fall Fundraising Efforts Continue

Thus far, 54 contributors have given \$3105.00 to CARE. If you have not already done so, please send in your contribution to CARE, PO Box 250, Lewisburg, PA 17837. Feel free to give again if that is your wish. CARE's long-term goal is to hire a part-time executive director. Your continued generosity will help CARE achieve that goal as sooner.

## Weis Center Events

January 25, 2008 at 8 p.m., Jasmine Guy and the Avery Sharpe Trio present *Raisin' Cane*, a celebration in words, music, and visuals of the Harlem Renaissance at the Weis Center for the Performing Arts at Bucknell University.

February 29, 2008 at 8 p.m., *The 51st (dream) state*, nationally acclaimed poet Sekou Sundiata's contemplation of America's national identity, of its power in the world, and of its guiding mythologies. This multi-media performance features a cycle of songs, poems and monologues supported by still and moving projected images. Performed by an all-star ensemble of singers and musicians, including keyboards, trumpet, drums, bass and guitar, *the 51st (dream) state* is a quest to find a vision of what it means to be both a citizen and an individual in a deeply complex, hyper-kinetic society. Some of the project's implied questions are:

- What does "pursuit of happiness" mean in a society that places so much emphasis on tangible outcomes for most endeavors?
- Given the multilingual reality of daily life in much of the U.S, what is the American language?
- Can the old, central myths about such things as beauty, power, and destiny sustain the nation?
- What does a public imagination steeped in violence say about who we are?
- What are the prospects for love, compassion and human solidarity?

*the 51st (dream) state* was created with the specific purpose of joining art and civic dialogue and is designed to initiate and illuminate public discussions related to the questions outlined above, among others. This performance piece was developed through Sundiata's *America Project*, composed of a series of community dialogues held throughout the country. The dialogue activities included community sings, which are public events featuring cast members and community members singing and discussing their relationships to a variety of American folk, popular, traditional and patriotic songs. Community sings and similarly structured poetry circles, along with citizenship dinners, workshops and discussion forums will continue to be offered as *the 51st t (dream) state* tours. Bucknell will kick off its own *America Project* engagements during the week of February 4-8, 2007 when vocal arranger Richard Harper and other *51st dream state* company members will be on campus for a residency program. For more information, call Cindy Peltier at 570-577-3981.

**TICKETS ARE  
AVAILABLE  
AT THE WEIS  
CENTER FOR  
THE  
PERFORMING  
ARTS**

**DON'T MISS THIS AMAZING PERFORMANCE**



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

## From the newsdesk of Doug Sturm...

### “Optimism about Black Progress Declines: Blacks See Growing Values Gap Between Poor & Middle Class” A Pew Research Center Report (November 2007)

In mid-November, the Pew Research Center (in collaboration with National Public Radio) released the final report of an extensive attitudinal study among Black Americans. The entire report (about 90 pages) is available on the internet at <http://pewsocialtrends.org/pubs/700/black-public-opinion>.

The “Overview” (pp. 1-14) begins with the dominant finding of the survey:

“African Americans see a widening gulf between the values of middle class and poor blacks, and nearly four in ten say that because of the diversity within their community, blacks can no longer be thought of as a single race, a new Pew Research Center survey has found.”

A side bar, “Blacks Assess the State of Black America,” presents data supportive of that conclusion as follows (all based on non-Hispanic Blacks):

#### Are blacks better or worse off now than five years ago?

Better 20%  
Worse 29%  
Same 49%  
Don't know/Refused 2%

#### Will life for blacks be better or worse in the future?

Better 44%  
Worse 21%  
About the same 31%  
Don't know/Refused 4%

#### Have the values of middle class and poor blacks become more similar or more different?

More similar 31%  
More different 61%  
No change (Vol) 2%  
Don't know/Refused 6%

#### Can blacks still be thought of as a single race?

Single race 53%  
Not a single race 37%  
Neither/both (Vol) 3%  
Don't know/Refused 7%

Later in the overview, the following conclusion is drawn from data about attitudes concerning leadership within the Black community: “Over the past two decades, blacks have lost some degree of confidence in the effectiveness of leaders within their community, including national black political figures, the clergy, and the NAACP. A sizable majority of blacks still see all of these groups as either very or somewhat effective, but the number saying “very” effective has declined since 1986.”

Do you suppose these kinds of opinions are reflected in the Central Susquehanna Valley? What do such findings imply, if anything, in terms of CARE's response to continuing discrepancies among different populations in the region?

### Blacks, Hispanics, Asians in the US: Tensions & Stereotypes

How do Blacks, Hispanics, and Asians in America perceive each other? That was the central concern of a study just released by New America Media, a

consortium of several hundred ethnic media outlets.

According to Lesley Clark (*The Daily Item*, Dec. 13, p. A2), the results were mixed, but demonstrated a surprising degree of mistrust and tension, joined with negative stereotypes.

One of the pollsters suggested the study manifests “a racial landscape in flux.” The stimulus of the study was a furor provoked in early 2007 over a column in an Asian weekly headlined, “Why I Hate Blacks.”

More than 40% of Hispanics and Asians polled declared they were “afraid of African Americans because they are responsible for most of the crime.” Yet a slightly higher percentage did not agree with that statement.

More than half of blacks polled felt threatened by Latin Americans because “they are taking jobs, housing, political power” from the African American community. Yet nearly half disagreed. Overall, on this score, far fewer Asians felt threatened.

Most Latinos and blacks felt that Asian owners “do not treat them with respect.”

All three groups declared they were “more comfortable” engaged in business with whites than with either of the other minorities.

Moreover all three groups reported their “ethnic isolation” from each other, tending by and large to circulate with others of their own identity.

Questions to consider: What’s the pattern of attitudes among these three groups in the Central Susquehanna Valley? The same as reported in this national poll? What can be done to overcome stereotyping and mistrust? What’s the role of the white community in promoting and sustaining such stereotyping?

