



Email address:  
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## CARE Announcements

### African American Task Force Report from Babbette Rose-Faison

The task force has been very active and has much to report. Members are meeting once a month to review The Covenant with Black America. The "Covenant" is a national plan of action to address the primary concerns of African Americans today -- from health to housing, from crime to criminal justice, from education to economic parity. This movement to improve the conditions of Black Americans has been promoted nationwide by Tavis Smiley. For more information, go to:  
<http://www.covenantwithblackamerica.com/>

### Youth Mentorship Program

The Task Force has organized a series of youth mentorship workshops for teens which will be offered under the direction of Professor James Peterson. Peterson is the founder of Hip Hop Scholars, an association of academics "dedicated to researching and developing the cultural and educational potential of hip hop, urban, and youth cultures.

"The first session will be on March 5th with a brief parents' meeting from 6:30-7pm. The teens will meet from 7-8pm. The second workshop is scheduled for March 26 from 7-8pm.

### Session 1: From Griots to MCs

In honor of Black History Month "From Griots to MCs" explores in detail the relationship between the ancient historical roles of the African Griot and the more current, modern day roles of the MC. Students will be challenged to work through and construct an historical continuum that highlights the trajectory of the African American oral and folk tradition. We will also closely analyze the lyrics of at least one song that helps to underscore how MCs can function much like griots.

### Session II: Autobiographical ME

For this session students will be required to develop an autobiographical portrait of themselves. These 'portraits' can take on almost ANY form. They can be pictures (or a series of pictures), poems, or lyrics, a recorded song, a short story or essay; a painting or collage, short video, etc. What ever form/shape these 'portraits' might take students must be prepared to share them with the workshop and explain in detail their rationale behind the creative process.

### Task Force Sponsors Special Event for Children on March 27

Val Foster is spearheading a special evening for children at the Union County Public Library. The upcoming event will feature a West African folk tale, singing and drumming. See the flyer at the end of the newsletter for details! Please join in the fun. All are welcome!

**Thank you for  
your generous  
support!**

Treasurer,

David Deibler-  
Gorman



**Please  
volunteer for  
one of  
CARE's many  
projects!**

The SU Colloquium planners are looking at presentations on the following topics thus far:

- Homophobia on conservative college campuses
- LGBT Representation in the media/pop culture
- Coming out late in life
- LGBT Sex Education
- LGBT culture and writing culture
- Is AIDS still a 'gay' disease?

Snail mail:

## From the Treasurer - OPPORTUNITY REMAINS TO CONTRIBUTE TO CARE

Although the number of contributions to CARE dropped off dramatically in February (only one came in), the chance to give to CARE still exists. Feel free to make a contribution with or without the accompanying form sent out last fall to over 400 households with the letter that kicked off the Fall 2007 Campaign. Please send donations to CARE, PO Box 250, Lewisburg, PA 17837

### A Letter From One of the Chairs

Dear CARE member,

Scared to volunteer? Afraid you'll end up doing almost all of the work? Well, you're not alone. Having all of the work fall into the hands of a few people is a common problem in the nonprofit world, and it is one that CARE has grappled with for awhile.

But all that is about to change.

CARE is breaking down all of its projects into small, concrete tasks. It is our hope that more of the membership will step up and volunteer *because* they are taking on a small task. For example, there are many tasks associated with the Martin Luther King celebration every January: advertising in the papers, getting volunteers from Bucknell, reading stories to children, running an arts and crafts table, cooking a dish for the pot luck dinner. By assembling a group of people, each of whom does his or her part, no one will burn out, and CARE will have a larger volunteer base.

Some tasks are ongoing, such as collecting the mail from the post office weekly. Other tasks are specific to an annual event, such as speaking at the annual *Stop the Hate Rally*. Our hope is that everyone can find something that fits their schedule, whether it be an ongoing task or a "once and done" task.

It is no one's responsibility to bear the whole burden for CARE on their own shoulders. However, it is every member's responsibility to contribute something to CARE- to support it in some manner. Will you offer your support? Feel free to contact us at 524-2273 OR [care@dejazzd.com](mailto:care@dejazzd.com) to discuss this further.

Thanks for your support! Lois Passi

### University Events

#### Bucknell University Spring '08 Season Event

March 28th at 8 pm The Weis Center for the Performing Arts  
"Sherrie Maricle and the DIVA Jazz Orchestra"- ALL WOMEN !  
Campus Box office at Bucknell (570) 577- 1000.

#### Susquehanna University Colloquium

*Susquehanna University's Gender-Sexuality Alliance Presents...*  
*"Alphabet Soup"*  
*GSA 5th Annual Colloquium*

The 5th Annual Colloquium from Friday, March 28 to Sunday, March 30. The theme is Alphabet Soup (LGBTQAP, etc. etc. style!)

We will also be having:

- General Q&A Panel on being a sexual minority
- "Out of Your Element" panel - on being a sexual minority in typically heterosexual fields (i.e. sports, business, Greek organizations)
- Out lesbian singer, songwriter and guitarist Jenna DiQuarto (check her out

Kristin Bentzen,  
1858 Weber Way,  
Box #1129,  
Selinsgrove, PA  
17870

**The National  
Women's History  
Project (NWHP)**



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

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)

on MySpace under Jenna and the Jennettes!)

- Drag Show in Susquehanna University's on-campus nightclub, *Trax*

Please pass word on to anyone who would be interested in attending or presenting!

If you or your organization is interested, please contact Kristin Bentzen for a full schedule of the times, dates and locations of the different events as they become available.

e-mail [bentzen@susqu.edu](mailto:bentzen@susqu.edu) phone: (201) 803 - 8765

## History of National Women's History Month

### The Beginning

As recently as the 1970's, women's history was virtually an unknown topic in the K-12 curriculum or in general public consciousness. To address this situation, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women initiated a "Women's History Week" celebration for 1978. We chose the week of March 8 to make International Women's Day the focal point of the observance. The activities that were held met with enthusiastic response, and within a few years dozens of schools planned special programs for Women's History Week, over one-hundred community women participated in the Community Resource Women Project, an annual "Real Woman" Essay Contest drew hundreds of entries, and we were staging a marvelous annual parade and program in downtown Santa Rosa, California.

### Local Celebrations

In 1979, a member of our groups was invited to participate in Women's History Institutes at Sarah Lawrence College, attended by the national leaders of organizations for women and girls. When they learned about our county-wide Women's History Week celebration, they decided to initiate similar celebrations within their own organizations and school districts. They also agreed to support our efforts to secure a Congressional Resolution declaring a "National Women's History Week." Together we succeeded! In 1981, Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Rep. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) co-sponsored the first Joint Congressional Resolution.

### Overwhelming Response

As word spread rapidly across the nation, state departments of education encouraged celebrations of National Women's History Week as an effective means to achieving equity goals within classrooms. Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, Oregon, Alaska, and other states developed and distributed curriculum materials all of their public schools. Organizations sponsored essay contests and other special programs in their local areas. Within a few years, thousands of schools and communities were celebrating National Women's History Week, supported and encouraged by resolutions from governors, city councils, school boards, and the U.S. Congress.

### The Entire Month of March

In 1987, the National Women's History Project petitioned Congress to expand the national celebration to the entire month of March. Since then, the National Women's History Month Resolution has been approved with bipartisan support in both the House and Senate. Each year, programs and activities in schools, workplaces, and communities have become more extensive as information and program ideas have been developed and shared.

### Growing Interest in Women's History

The popularity of women's history celebrations has sparked a new interest in uncovering women's forgotten heritage. A President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in History in America recently sponsored hearings in many sections of the country. It took reports about effective activities and institutions that are promoting women's history awareness and heard recommendations for programs still needed. The Women's Progress Commission will soon begin hearings to ascertain appropriate methods for identifying and then preserving sites of importance to American women's history. In many areas, state historical societies, women's organizations, and



groups such as the Girl Scout of the USA have worked together to develop joint programs. Under the guidance of the National Women's History Project, educators, workplace program planners, parents and community organizations in thousands of American communities have turned National Women's History Month into a major focal celebration, and a springboard for celebrating women's history all year 'round.

### From the desk of Doug Sturm...

#### Impact of the Subprime Lending Crisis on Minorities

United for a Fair Economic (UFE) has just issued a report that details the disproportionate impact of the sub prime lending crisis in the United States on African and Latino Americans.

The report, entitled Foreclosed: State of the Dream 2008, is available on UFE's website <http://www.faireconomy.org/>. It was released to coincide with Martin Luther King's birthday, January 15.

The gist of the findings in the 50+ page report was summarized in the latest issue of UFE's newsletter:

"We found the estimated total loss of wealth for people of color to be between \$164 billion and \$213 billion for sub prime loans taken during the past eight years. This breaks down to losses of between \$71 billion and \$92 billion for Black/African-American borrowers, and between \$75 billion and \$98 billion for Latino borrowers for the same period.

"If subprime loans had been distributed equitably, losses for white people would be 44.5% higher and losses for people of color would be about 24% lower. Despite the overwhelming data, the government and the financial industry have remained largely silent about regulating mortgage brokers to combat racial economic injustice.

"The subprime mortgage crisis affects whole communities negatively, spilling over to increasing amounts of abandoned houses, increased crime, devaluation of neighboring houses, and erosion of the tax base."

A case of structural racism? Most likely, but all the more reason for policy makers to construct a way of overcoming the remarkable inequity.

#### La Raza & the Current Immigration Debate

The National Council of La Raza (NCLR) is, reportedly, the largest Latino rights and advocacy association in the US. Initiated in 1968, NCLR now embraces a network of about 300 community groups across over 40 states. Its headquarters are located in Washington DC where it maintains an active lobby on issues of importance to the Latino community.

Over the past year, comprehensive immigration reform has been one of its dominant concerns. In particular, it has adopted the following four principles:

- 1) a path to citizenship for the current undocumented population;
- 2) the creation of new legal channels for future immigrant workers;
- 3) a reduction of family immigration backlogs; and
- 4) the protection of civil rights and civil liberties.

By legalizing immigrants who live, work, and contribute to life in the U.S., the U.S. could deal fairly with hardworking people who have responded to an economic reality ignored by the law. At the same time, the U.S. can become more secure by enforcing the new law and by allowing undocumented immigrants to come out of the shadows and participate fully in their communities.



For additional information, see La Raza's website on Comprehensive Immigration Reform: <<http://www.nclr.org/content/policy/detail/1058/>>. Question for readers: Are "illegal immigrants" best conceived as aliens and stranger or as partners in the adventure of life?

#### Another Reason to Boycott ExxonMobil.....

After reminding us that ExxonMobil Corporation has been among the top three businesses in Fortune's list of the largest American businesses over the past several years, an article on the website of the Human Rights Campaign announces that

ExxonMobile is also the only U.S. employer that has ever rescinded both a non-discrimination policy covering sexual orientation and domestic partner benefits, and is now the only Fortune 10 company that does not have a non-discrimination policy covering "sexual orientation."

The article notes that as of January 2008, the equal employment opportunity policy of the company (a merger of Exxon & Mobil consummated in 1999) lists race, color, sex, religion, national origin, citizenship status, age, physical or mental disability, veteran and other legally protected status, but not sexual orientation. Source: <<http://www.hrc.org/issues/workplace/8837.htm>>.

Question: Is a corporation with a conscience a contradiction in terms?

#### Nominations Please

**The eleventh Virginia Travis Lecture Award in Social Justice will be presented this spring.**

The 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, state, national or global levels. The recipient must have demonstrated a 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 and conflict resolution. The recipient of the award will receive an honorarium and present a public talk, which expresses a vision of social justice and a strategy to achieve it.

Past recipients of the award in chronological order have been: Nancy Neuman, Brigitta Cooke, Isabel and Karl Patten, Dorothy MacCrae, Don Snyder and Clyde Peeling, Charles Sackrey, Douglas Sturm, Janice Butler, Cindy Peltier, and Harvey Edwards.

The selection committee welcomes nominations for the next recipient of the award. Please email your recommendations to: [ttravis@bucknell.edu](mailto:ttravis@bucknell.edu). If you previously have nominated a candidate who has not yet been selected, your recommendation is on file. Please indicate in an email whether you still want to recommend this person. The deadline for receiving nominations and letters of support is  
March 7.



# The African American Task Force of CARE

Community Alliance for Respect and Equality

**INVITES  
YOUNG AND OLD  
TO JOIN US**

**FOR AN EVENING OF FUN AT THE LIBRARY.**

**Together, we will read The Lion's Drum,  
sing spirituals, and enjoy the drum circle  
led by Hope Kopf.**

**What? Folk tale, singing, drumming**  
**When? March 27, 2008 @ 6:30pm**  
**Where? Union County Public Library**  
**255 Reitz Blvd., Lewisburg**

**Please RSVP – 523-1172**

**1<sup>st</sup> grade and up**

