



Email address:
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CARE Announcements

CARE's Educational Brochure Available

In November CARE officially released its educational brochure entitled "10 myths about gays... and their corrections."

The aim of the brochure is to dispel myths that lead to prejudice against gays and lesbians. "Fear is based, in part, on false beliefs. By providing accurate information, we hope to dispel some of the fear that leads to prejudice and injustice against gays and lesbians here in the Valley," said Lois Passi, co-chair of CARE. "We don't think this will solve the whole problem, but it is a good first step," she said.

As a public service the brochure will be advertised in the *Daily Item*.

For further information and for a copy, contact CARE, P.O. Box 250, Lewisburg, PA 17837. You may also call 570-524-2273 or e-mail (care@dejazzd.com).

CARE Presence at Upcoming Arts Festival

CARE volunteers will staff the CARE Booth at this year's Lewisburg Arts Festival in downtown Lewisburg on Saturday April 26. Brochures, copies of past newsletters and sign-up sheets to receive the monthly newsletter will be available. In addition to answering questions and sharing experiences about CARE involvement, volunteers hope to engage in fun and meaningful conversations with passers-by. Come to downtown Lewisburg on April 26 to experience art, crafts, ethnic foods, music and more. Should you be interested in staffing the table for an hour, please e-mail us at care@dejazzd.com or call CARE at 524- 2273.

Future Structure for CARE

CARE is becoming more volunteer friendly by breaking down all of our projects into small, bite-size pieces for volunteers. Our goal is to increase the number of volunteers. If everyone does a little, no one will burn out.

Ongoing projects are listed below. If you would like to volunteer, please leave a message with CARE at 524-2273 or e-mail care@dejazzd.com . Your message will be passed on to the appropriate person.

Latino Task Force: Interested in getting to know other Latinos in the area? Want to help organize a picnic or festival or other fun event? Contact Margie Torres.

Task Force for African American Concerns: This group is on fire, and has already begun some wonderful projects. Want to get in on the excitement? Contact Babbette Rose-Faison.

**Thank you for
your generous
support!**

Treasurer,

David Deibler-
Gorman



Please
volunteer for
one of
CARE's many
projects!

Publicity: Tired of having CARE be the best kept secret in town? Do you like writing press releases or doing radio interviews? Contact Lois Passi.

Stop the Hate Rally: This annual fall event needs a few people who will make five-minute speeches about some aspect of diversity. Contact David Deibler-Gorman.

Discrimination Intervention: Do you want to help people who have been discriminated against with supportive phone contact and referrals? Contact Tara Dukor-Jackson.

Fundraising: This once (maybe twice) annual mailing needs people to collate and fold letters, stuff and stamp envelopes. This group can also use people who would like to search out grant opportunities and write grants. Contact Tara Dukor-Jackson.

Treasurer: After three years of fine service, our treasurer is moving on to other responsibilities with CARE. If you are not checkbook phobic and do pretty well with a calculator, contact David Deibler-Gorman. Note: CARE is small, and the number of credits and debits per month are minimal.

Secretary: CARE's secretary of three years will also be moving on to other responsibilities. Are you good at taking minutes, typing them up and sending them out via e-mail once a month? Contact Iris Rifkin-Gainer.

Other: Do you want to help but aren't sure what would best suit your abilities and interests? Call us. There is a place for everyone. We'll figure it out together, making sure that whatever you do fits your time and energy requirements.

African American Task Force, Report on Library Event from Val Foster

If you didn't come you missed a treat...

As the guests arrived, Hope Kopf and surprise guest Muyambi, a Ugandan student from Bucknell, drummed together. The evening began with a history reading about African life. The children learned a West African game and used decorated coffee tins as drums to participate in a call and response segment facilitated by Hope. *The Lion's Drum*, a retelling of a West African folktale, was read by Roberta Reed a member of the African American Task Force. Muyambi and Hope had the children improvise with various kinds of shakers as they played the Djembe. Val Foster read about the history of spirituals and taught *This Little Light of Mine*, which was sung by the children, who then wanted to drum and sing — we had some talented kids!! The children took home decorated drums, shakers and glowing faces. We had lots of fun!!

Thank you, thank you, and thank you again to everyone who made this event successful.

From the Desk of Doug Sturm...

America: One Nation or Two Societies??

In a regular column published on March 7 in the *Daily Item*, Clarence Page recalled the *Kerner Report* published in 1968, which declared "Our nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white — separate and unequal." Circumstances at the time were frightening: 160 race riots had taken place in American cities during the preceding year resulting in massive turmoil, including 80 deaths.

Now, four decades later, while most African Americans fare better, many do not. Page cites a Pew Center report on incarceration: One in every nine black



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

men ages 20 to 34 is incarcerated as is one in every 100 black women ages 35 to 39. The women's data Page compared with white women in the same age group for whom one in 355 is incarcerated.

He notes, as well, that “America’s low-income neighborhoods and their school systems are still segregated by race, but with a key difference: today’s racial divide is a consequence of income divide.” Census figures from 2006 affirm that “the white poverty rate of 10.3 percent is less than half the 24.3 percent of blacks or the 20.6 percent of Hispanics.”

Page's prescription? Aggressive public policies to close the gap “between the two societies we now see growing in new ways, not between black and white, but between the upwardly mobile and those stuck at the bottom.”

Question: How is the “two societies” thesis manifest in the Central Pennsylvania Valley? If so, what can our local and regional authorities do about it?

A Tragic Assassination, Forty Years Ago

In connection with the story above we should recall the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., 40 years ago on April 4, 1968. In an essay published in 1958, King declared that in his teenage years, he learned “that the inseparable twin of racial injustice was economic injustice.”

Even though he is touted in our time primarily for his efforts to achieve racial equity, his life’s work embraced an allied concern with economic inequality throughout the world. He was assassinated, we should not forget, while supporting a strike by sanitation workers in Memphis.

At the time of his assassination, King was engaged in planning the Poor People’s Campaign, a massive coalition of peoples across racial lines, organized to lobby for an economic bill of rights and to press for a \$30 billion anti-poverty program, including housing & jobs for the poor with a guaranteed annual income for all citizens, whatever their status. In a statement as pertinent now as then, King denounced Congress for its “hostility to the poor” as demonstrated in providing “military funds with alacrity and generosity” while dispensing “poverty funds with miserliness.”

Question: Isn’t it time to recapture the full breadth of MLK’s intended dream?

Equally Speaking

Equally speaking is the title of a news web cast sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign (“working for GLBT equal rights”). In a March 10 program, *Equally Speaking* cited several items worthy of attention:

- * In election news, four gay men and a lesbian are running for Congress this year...
- * A development firm is planning...the first resort...in Arizona catering to GLBT retirees...
- * A new survey shows 65% of Pennsylvanians support civil unions in the state...
- * [Yet] PA is one of several states considering a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage...
- * GLBT Catholic groups [plan] to send Pope Benedict...a message affirming the presence of GLBT people in the Catholic Church during his April visit to the US...

To access the program go to www.hrc.org/your_community/9056.htm.

Question: Have you seen CARE’s new brochure, “10 Myths about Gays...and their corrections”? Read elsewhere in this newsletter about how to procure a copy.

