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**Thank you to  
the new  
CARE  
volunteers !**

## CARE Announcements

### CARE Held Special Meeting on April 13

CARE gains new secretary, treasurer

On Sunday, April 13th, CARE held a special meeting at the Cherry Alley Café in Lewisburg to introduce new people to the organization. Among the new attendees were Freddi Carlip, Ruth Cohen and Charisse Hines. Ann Longanbach, who has helped us over the years with our newsletter mailings, also came. Each of these people generously agreed to help CARE in the future. We learned that Freddi Carlip was the person who began our Festival of Festivals a number of years ago, when it was held at her home. It is a pleasure to have all of these people, returning and new people alike, come on board.

David Deibler-Gorman, our current treasurer, will move on to other duties with CARE as of July. His new duties include organizing the annual Stop the Hate Rally. David has done an exemplary job as treasurer and has been extremely reliable and dependable. The checkbook couldn't have been in better hands. Charisse Hines generously offered to take on the duty of treasurer. Thanks, Charisse, for jumping in after attending only one meeting.

Iris Rifkin-Gainer will be resigning her post as secretary effective July, though she plans to continue with CARE. Iris's minutes were spectacular, how she managed to get it all down on paper is a mystery, but she always did it well. Ruth Cohen offered to be secretary once Iris leaves. Again, many thanks, Ruth, for offering to assume this role so quickly.

These are just a few examples of how well our effort to increase our volunteer base is going. It is our hope that others will come on board with us. Though several people offered to do big jobs, there are many medium and small jobs with CARE as well. If every member came forward and offered to do something, as these people have, imagine what we could accomplish.

We ended the meeting by taking time to reflect on what CARE means to us, and how the work of CARE is needed more than ever at this time. It was a warm and fun meeting. We hope to have many more. And we hope to see you there, too!

### Upcoming Meeting of Steering Committee

Please note the change of date and place for the next CARE Steering Committee: Sunday May 4 from 4:00-5:30pm in Cindy Peltier's home at 1195 Smoketown Road. All are cordially invited.



## [Alternative to Exclusive Prayer Breakfast to be Held in Camp Hill](#)

The Rev. Paul Fullmer of Annville, PA sent us a press release announcing that an Alternative to Exclusive Prayer Breakfast will be held on Tuesday, May 6, at 7:15 a.m. in Camp Hill. This gathering occurs in response to the Commonwealth Prayer Breakfast organized and supported by the Pennsylvania state legislature, which will occur at the same time inside the Radisson Penn Harris (Rev. Fullmer's event will occur outside this hotel).

The press release reports that last year's Commonwealth Prayer Breakfast featured Ralph Drollinger as keynote speaker. He is reportedly the president of Capitol Ministries, a privately funded evangelical Christian organization. He was reported to have stated that his organization will work to put "men who are Bible expositors" in every state capitol. The event was said to feature conservative Christians exclusively.

On January 19, 13 local religious leaders representing Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist and Sikh faiths reportedly sent an e-mail to Rep. Robert W. Kauffman to offer their participation in the breakfast prayer meeting, expressing "hope that the event might reflect the broad range of faith expression that we enjoy in our state." According to the article, the e-mail was never answered; therefore, the alternative event was planned.

Congratulations to Rev. Fullmer and his colleagues for taking a public stand against religious domination and intolerance. Many here in Central Pennsylvania need to be reminded of the religious diversity that exists here, and the need to respect people of all faiths.

If you wish to attend this event, or to send a note of congratulations to Rev. Fullmer, e-mail him at [bpfullmer@comcast.net](mailto:bpfullmer@comcast.net).

## [Arts Festival - Report on Children's Activity Table by Val Foster](#)

During the Lewisburg Arts Festival on April 26, many children joined us at the CARE Table where they had the opportunity to make peace bracelets and color spring pictures. The idea for the rainbow PEACE bracelets came from the many ways that rainbow flags have been used in various cultures around the world. Rainbows and rainbow flags are seen to some as a sign of faith, diversity, harmony, and hope; for others they signify social change and peace. The familiar six-color rainbow flag represents gay and lesbian pride. Our PEACE bracelets were made of the seven colors found in the Italian Peace flag. Many children are now proudly wearing this sign of peace, and we hope that this message will be spread far and wide!

## [African American Task Force Report from Babbette Rose-Faison](#)

The Youth Mentorship Program, under the direction of Bucknell Professor James Peterson, is in full swing. Fourteen African American teens from Lewisburg and Milton School districts attended the first session and sixteen participated in the second session. The next meeting is on April 30, and there will be a full report on the program in our next newsletter.

## [Interfaith Service to Honor Gay Pride Month](#)

A group of clergy concerned for the well being of LGBTs (lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transsexuals) in the Valley are once again organizing an interfaith service to honor LGBTs. The service will be held on Sunday, June 22, at 7:00 P.M. in St. John's United Church of Christ, 1050 Buffalo Road, Lewisburg. This event is free and open to the public.





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)

Last year's event was attended by 120 citizens. It was a delightful and triumphant service that featured three speakers, as well as music from the Buffalo Valley Singers and from the choir members of the United Church of Christ. Clergy of various faiths participated, including Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Earth-based religions, and Unitarian Universalism. The service lasted approximately one hour and was followed by informal social gathering.

The clergy hope to make this an annual event. We hope to see many of you there this year

### A Jewish Holiday: The Celebration of Passover

Passover occurs in the spring, from the fifteenth to the twenty-second of the month of Nisan on the Hebrew calendar. Passover commemorates the time when Jews were slaves in Egypt.

This is also a time to celebrate liberation. At the seder, or Passover dinner, in many homes today, attention is paid to the struggles of oppressed peoples all over the world.

Matzah, a flat, unleavened bread is eaten for the entire holiday period. All other bread products (even the crumbs) are removed from the home in preparation for Passover. Matzah is a reminder of exodus of the Jewish people who were forced to flee Egypt before their bread had risen. They baked it on their backs in the sun as they walked.

Bitter herbs are eaten in memory of the bitterness of being a slave. Haroset, a delicious mixture of chopped apples, chopped walnuts, cinnamon and sweet wine, symbolizes the mortar of bricks made in the blazing sun by Jewish slaves in Egypt. Other symbolic foods are served, arranged on a special plate, and tasted at appropriate moments by all present at the seder, as the story of Passover is read from the Haggadah. Delicious foods, with many regional ethnic variations are prepared for the seder and served throughout the week.

Children play an important part in the holiday. The youngest at the table asks the Four Questions: "Why is this night different from all other nights?" which is actually one question asked four times. The answers found in the Haggadah recap the journey of slavery into freedom. The seder often ends with traditional songs.

### From the desk of Doug Sturm

#### Anti-Semitic Graffiti in Wilkes-Barre

On a Sabbath afternoon in late March this year, members of the Congregation Ohav Zedek who arrived for services were shocked to discover anti-Semitic graffiti painted on the front doors of their synagogue.

Bold swastikas disfigured the doors. A star of David was splashed on one. The graffiti were accompanied with the German words "Abschaum" (scum) and "Jude" (Jew).

A few days later a crowd of three hundred people representing a range of Jewish and Christian groups held a demonstration of support and solidarity for the congregation.

Within a short time, police apprehended two young women as the culprits, one of them a juvenile. The other, Nora Rynkeiwicz, 18, reportedly had a website declaring her identity as a neo-Nazi.

Rynkeiwicz is alleged to have sought membership in the Keystone State Skinheads, a hate group that has been distributing and posting fliers in theScranton & Wilkes-Barre. As a male only group, the Skinheads spurned her effort.



Among sources for this story is television station WNEP.

Query: Any evidences of anti-Semitic activity lately in the Central Susquehanna Valley?

### State College Mayor presides over Commitment Ceremony for Four Gay/Lesbian Couples

On March 29, four couples (two gay, two lesbian) “exchanged vows and rings, sealing their pledges with a kiss” (Daily Item, March 31) in the Penn State Alumni Hall.

Presiding was State College Mayor Bill Welch who declared this was the “first publicly-held same-sex commitment ceremony ever to be performed by a public official in Centre County,” although John Street, former Mayor of Philadelphia, administered such a ceremony at a earlier time (The Daily Collegian Online, March 31).

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, it should be noted, does not legally recognize same-sex marriages or civil unions.

Witnessing the event were about 700 people, including Steve Glassman who currently chairs the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC). CARE has, over the years, collaborated in a number of ways with the PHRC. Steve is recognized as the highest-ranking openly gay official in Pennsylvania. Along with many others, Steve has sought to expand the mandate of the PHRC to embrace sexual orientation in its anti-discrimination efforts.

Resource:

[www.collegian.psu.edu/archive/2008/03/31/couples\\_unite\\_in\\_ceremony.aspx](http://www.collegian.psu.edu/archive/2008/03/31/couples_unite_in_ceremony.aspx)

Query: How many mayors, supervisors, or commissions in our region might be persuaded to officiate at such a ceremony?

### Commentary on the Squabble Over Jeremiah Wright

Ponder the following paragraph from Larry Pickens essay in *The Progressive Christian* online, posed on April 9:

“What is also clear is that for African Americans, change does not ride up on the wings of inevitability. Political deliberation and debate are significant tools for change, but too often are primarily tools of the powerful and the privileged. Substantive change for those outside of power often comes because of the actions of those considered to be cranks, zealots, prophets or agitators. Sometimes a new order is only found in the midst of struggle. This is why I believe that Jeremiah Wright cannot be dismissed simply because he challenges our complacency and willingness to make friends with the status quo.” [tpcmagazine.org/nexus](http://tpcmagazine.org/nexus).

Query: What does such a perspective imply for the work of CARE in the context of our region? What sorts of strategies might we develop to create a “new order”?