



NOVEMBER 2008

P.O. BOX 250, LEWISBURG, PA

CARE NEWSLETTER

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Thank you to  
the new  
CARE  
volunteers!

## CARE Update

### CARE Represented at Regional ACLU Annual Dinner

CARE sponsored a display table at the annual dinner of the Central Susquehanna Chapter of Pennsylvania's American Civil Liberties Union on Sunday, November 16. Representing CARE at the event were Margie Torres, Cindy Peltier, and Roz Richards. The primary subject of the meeting was on the movement to abolish the death penalty accomplished through a dramatic give-and-take between Walter Everett (Lewisburg) and Mike Carlucci (Huntington, CT). Over twenty years ago, Carlucci murdered Everett's son, yet over the ensuing months and years, given Everett's act of forgiveness, they have developed a close friendship, and now devote much time and energy telling their story to demonstrate a constructive alternative to capital punishment--restorative justice. CARE has on occasion expressed its opposition to the death penalty on grounds of its inhumane discriminatory effects.

### African American Concerns Task Force

#### Richard Wright: Centenary

This year marks the centenary year of Richard Wright's birth (1908-1960). Wright was the controversial author of many books and other publications during the 20th century, most notably his novels, Native Son and Black Boy. Both these stories have been cast in film. His works are still studied as representative of an insightful, if debatable, perspective on the black experience during that time. CARE's Task Force on African American Concerns has a powerful biography of Wright recently produced on DVD in hand, and is contemplating a showing with discussion for its members. For further information, contact either Babbette Faison (527 3180) or Rosalind Hamilton.

### From the desk of Doug Sturm

November 4, 2008: A Milestone...of sorts...

Whatever our partisan identity, we should rejoice that, at long last, an African American has become, as is sometimes said, the "most powerful person in the most powerful nation in the world." Barack Obama is the President Elect of the United States of America.

In historical context, we must remember what Martin Luther King, Jr., has called America's schizophrania: a nation born of racism while proclaiming to be a paragon of democratic principles. Racism, ethnocentrism, patriarchalism, homophobia, xenophobia have continued to plague our culture through the decades. And yet, at this one moment, Nov. 4, a breakthrough, even granting that race was a significant factor in this drawn out electoral process.



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)

(1) Obama's speech on race, delivered in the thick of the primary (March 2008), is well worth rereading (<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?ID=88478467>). Insisting that race is an issue we cannot afford to ignore, he insists, among other things, "In the white community, the path to a more perfect union means acknowledging that what ails the African American community does not just exist in the minds of black people; that the legacy of discrimination...while less overt than in the past, [is] real and must be addressed not just with words, but with deeds, by investing in our schools and our communities; by enforcing our civil rights laws and ensuring fairness in our criminal justice system; by providing this generation with ladders of opportunity that were unavailable for previous generations. It requires all Americans to realize that your dreams do not have to come at the expense of my dreams; that investing in the health, welfare and education of black and brown and white children will ultimately help all of America to prosper."

(2) Notwithstanding Obama's sentiments, however, consider Steva Stowell-Hardcastle's column (Daily Item, Oct.9'08, p. A7), reporting comments heard as she and others canvassed voters during Obama's campaign in Union County, e.g., "I don't trust him; the blacks want to take over our country," "I'm voting for 'McCain' because I support the Klan," "I don't want to turn the White House black." She concludes, "...racism festers in the Susquehanna Valley. It threatens the health of our community, and especially the health of our children. We will never reach our potential until this shameful state of mind is erased"

(3) On a different note shortly after the election, Bob Herbert in his New York Times column (Nov. 8, '08, p. A21) quoted Taylor Rogers who was in Memphis the evening MLKing was assassinated: "A black president in the White House? In those days, you wouldn't even have thought about *going* to the White House. Not unless you were a janitor or something." Herbert cites this dramatic happening as indicative of the "promise of America" that has sustained the marginalized and oppressed over the years despite their pain.

(4) Commenting on the election, Clarence Page (Daily Item, Nov. 10'08) observes, "Race and racism have not evaporated. Nor has the need for our diversity to be respected, not just tolerated....But Obama's victory moves our old baseline of racial expectations to a higher and happier level. It's hard to argue that our society is irredeemably racist when our multiracial electorate just elected a man with African roots and an Arabic-sounding name to be commander-in-chief."

(5) From another perspective, an Associated Press release (Daily Item, Nov. 17'08, p. D8) reports a significant acceleration of racial incidents across the nation following the election: "Cross burnings. School children chanting 'Assassinate Obama'. Black figures hung from nooses. Racial epithets on homes and cars." Mark Potok of the Southern Poverty Law Center is quoted as believing that there is a " large subset of white people in this country who feel that they are losing everything they know, that the country their forefathers built has somehow been stolen from them."

One case cited from Greater Pittsburgh, "a black man said he found a note with a racial slur on his car windshield, saying, 'now that you voted for Obama, just watch out for your house.'"

And so, yes, we must rejoice over the milestone of Nov. 4.... but then, the urgency of CARE's mission remains undiminished. So your assignment, dear reader: Send CARE your thoughts about what needs to do here and now to pursue the persistent yearning for a genuine democratic society in the Valley? Let's have a word from you.



HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING!!

## Swastika on Bucknell Campus

Recently, Bucknell's student newspaper, *The Bucknellian* (Nov. 14'08, p.1), reported that the image of a swastika along with the telling phrase, "Arbeit Macht Frei," were etched on a stall in the men's room at the Langone Center.

The symbol of the swastika has history of three millennia -- customarily indicating good fortune, happiness, well-being. However in a perverse turn of history, Adolf Hitler selected that symbol to represent the National Socialist Party in Germany, signifying the supremacy of the Aryan race with its mission of dominating the world.

The motto, "Arbeit macht frei" (Work Liberates) was fixed into the gateway of the most feared of all the death camps of the Nazis (Auschwitz/Birkenau), where, it is estimated, millions of men, woman, children were mercilessly executed en masse—predominantly Jews, but including gays, gypsies, Jehovah's Witnesses, physically and mentally disabled peoples, etc. "The addition of these words," declared Jewish chaplain, Serena Fujita, "makes it clearly an anti-Semitic incident."

More broadly, whatever the exact intention of the responsible party, the slogan conveys a perspective that stands in opposition to the principle of human rights. In addition, while the graffiti might be the work of one person, it most likely expresses a subculture of many. The happening, in short, cannot be dismissed as of minor importance.

Question: Is there any effective way of getting at that subculture and transforming it?

## Reflections from Lois Passi

### Letter to the *Daily Item* Editor

"Now that my house has burned down I can see more clearly the rising of the moon." This Zen wisdom is pertinent for our times. Banks are collapsing at an unprecedented rate. People are losing their jobs and homes, while many are struggling to fill their gas tanks and heat their homes. Some of us lost the security of knowing that the basics will be there for us.

Obviously we will work hard to restore our economic security. Yet, in the loss of what seemed secure, there is opportunity to realize where our true security lies. Instead of being preoccupied with purchasing something at the mall, we might truly enjoy the board game we play with our children at home. Perhaps our energy can't be tied up in the landscaping, as we can no longer afford it. Instead, we can see the night sky with new eyes and feel the air on our skin, a form of landscaping that comes without price.

The last quarter of the year is full of religious observances that emphasize personal reflection, simplicity and charity. For those with no religious preference, nature offers its colorful landscape for a reflection on simplicity, while foreclosures and job losses provide opportunities for charity. This time of year can help us to turn our hearts in the right direction.

Though this season may be difficult, may we all experience more profoundly that which is untouched by fluctuations in the market—the beauty that surrounds us, our faith, and our love for others.

Lois Passi  
New Columbia, PA



## Upcoming Events in the Community and Beyond

### At the Heiter Community Center

#### **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DAY CELEBRATION!**

Martin Luther King, Jr., was in January born 80 years ago; he was assassinated 40 years ago this past April.

During the short span of this lifetime he engaged in a struggle to realize the full acknowledgement of the human rights of all peoples, particularly of the African American community in the United States—a struggle for which he gave his life.

His dream of peace and justice across the world remains as vivid now as then. Good enough reason to stop for a day to celebrate his life and his work and to recommit our energies toward that same struggle.

Where: Heiter Community Center, 100 North Fifth Street, Lewisburg

When: Monday, January 19, 2009

Time: 4:00-6:00 p.m. Children's Activities

6:00-7:00 p.m. Family Dinner

7:00-8:00 p.m. Theatre Troup & Guest Speaker

Call 524 5000 for additional information

Co-sponsors: Heiter Community Center, CARE and others.

### At Bucknell University

The Weis Center will present Luna Negra dance theater on Friday, January 30, 2009. Luna Negra is devoted to the creation and presentation of contemporary dance by Latino choreographers. The company's distinctive style blends ballet and modern dance techniques strongly flavored by Latino and Afro-Caribbean dance forms. For tickets and information call (570) 577-1000 or visit [www.bucknell.edu/WeisCenter](http://www.bucknell.edu/WeisCenter). Information for the entire Spring 2009 Weis Center series can also be found on the website.

### Peace Gathering in Philadelphia

From January 13-17, 2009 over six hundred delegates from about 45 different Christian faith communities will be gathering in Philadelphia to renew, revitalize and integrate efforts to seek peace amidst our nation's violent responses to international terrorism and violence in institutions and communities. On Saturday January 17, the conference planners, working with over 35 faith communities in the area, have planned a public event that will gather the 600 delegates and a hoped for 1500 more people from the wider communities to begin a long-term nonviolent campaign working to stop the sale of illegal handguns on the streets of Philadelphia, and ultimately the nation. This campaign is directed at gun store owners, and asks them to sign a voluntary Code of Conduct (created by the U.S. Mayors Against Illegal Guns Coalition, and adopted by Wal-Mart, the nation's top seller of guns). Veterans in the struggle against gun violence are very excited by this campaign, and expect it will go far toward severely diminishing the trafficking of illegal guns in our cities and communities. Philadelphia's mayor Nutter and the police are supportive of this program. The program Saturday Jan. 17 includes morning training workshops at 10 locations in Philly, gathering three or four congregations at each location, a gathering of all participants at a central location for worship and song, and a demonstration at a local gun store that has been documented by the ATF to be one of the top ten stores in the nation whose guns end up used at the scene of violent crime in the area.



In Northeast PA, folks in the State College and Bloomsburg areas are considering organizing bus or van transportation to this event, so that we may participate and experience the joy of working with others in such a well-thought-out nonviolent campaign. If you, or your group or faith community would like to consider joining this event, please contact Wade Wright at 570-925-5708 or [w9a8d7e6w@epix.net](mailto:w9a8d7e6w@epix.net). These busses or vans would leave early enough to join in the Saturday morning training workshops, or would have a similar training experience on the ride down.

### Susquehanna University's Arlin M. Adams Center for Law and Society Opens Mediation Clinic and Offers Mediation Training

#### Message from Al Sobel, Center Director

Mediation Training is an initial 40 hour training commitment that is fulfilled during three weekends in a month. Those who want to mediate cases involving child custody and/or visitation will be asked to take an additional 40 hours of training on those subjects. A person must agree to volunteer for at least one year as a Clinic mediator and mediate two cases per month. A mediation session will not last more than two hours, but with preparation, travel and post-session work, a mediator should plan on spending four hours per case per month. Mediators will also be asked to participate in continuing education programs offered by the Clinic and others, as it is very important to keep learning if one wants to improve as a mediator. The only way to sharpen a mediator's skills is to give the mediator actual cases to mediate. Our next training cycle is dependent on how much work we generate for the mediators. I expect that we will have a training program after school is out in the Spring, because a number of faculty have stated a desire to participate, but problems doing so while school is in session. Whether we train more mediators before then cannot be determined now. I have attached the mediator application form. Please share it with anyone who wants to be trained given the conditions noted above, and suggest that they complete it and send it to me. I will keep it on file and notify them when we next plan to train a new group of mediators.

## Application to be a Volunteer Mediator

The goal of the Program/Clinic is to help clients resolve disputes to their own satisfaction. Everything we do in the office, our programs, and our mediation revolves around that goal. The mediators for all Program/Clinic cases are impartial neutrals, who are committed to mediating in an honest, open, informed and confidential process. Their job is to give our clients an opportunity to reach agreements on issues that they wish to mediate or to decide that mediation is not the right way for them to resolve the issues. Mediators do not give legal advice or any other advice. Our mediators do not fix their clients' problems. Instead they empower the clients to do it for themselves.

We welcome your interest in helping us with this goal. As we consider your application, we will aim to find out whether there is a way that we can give you a good experience as a volunteer.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (evening) \_\_\_\_\_

City, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Please attach additional pages if you have more to say than we gave you room for.**

1. Tell us your availability to mediate. We need our mediators to be available regularly on a particular day and block of time, preferably on week days when most of our mediations are done. Please write in the specific blocks of time when you are able to commit at least 3 hours of time (the time includes mediation, planning, debriefing, and to and from the mediation site, ordinarily Program/Clinic offices).

We need a commitment to be available to mediate at least 40 times in the coming year. If you cannot make that commitment, please tell us how much time you can commit to mediation.

Day	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Saturday			XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

2. Why do you want to be a Volunteer Mediator?

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3. What mediation training have you completed? Please tell us the name of the trainer, the number of hours of the program, the topics and kinds of mediations you were trained to do, and the training dates \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Have you ever served as a mediator?  Yes  No If yes, where and what kind of disputes?

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5. Have you been a party in a mediated dispute?  Yes  No If yes, what kind of dispute? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. What kind of disputes do you believe you would like to mediate?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child & Parent Visitations | <input type="checkbox"/> Divorces              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Disputes            | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Disputes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Injury            | <input type="checkbox"/> Consumer              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School, Child, Parent      | <input type="checkbox"/> Discrimination        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental         |

7. Describe ONE situation in which you were called on to resolve a dispute but not as a mediator. It might have occurred at work, home, school, or simply in the community.

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8. What skills and abilities would you bring that would enhance your ability as a volunteer mediator?

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9. In what other areas have you served as a volunteer? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. What languages do you speak other than English, if any? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Personal Background

This information can help us figure out what to have you do based on your life experience as well as your training and interests.

### Family:

How many sisters and brothers do you have, if any? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you married? \_\_\_\_\_ Have you been divorced? \_\_\_\_\_

How many children do you have, if any? \_\_\_\_\_

### Education:

Highest Grade Completed: \_\_\_\_\_ degrees/certificates \_\_\_\_\_

School (s) or college(s) attended \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Occupational certificates or licenses: \_\_\_\_\_

### Employment:

Current or last employer \_\_\_\_\_

Job responsibilities: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Civic organizations in which you have been active and duties you took on: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Information you would like us to know to provide you a good experience as a volunteer.

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