



# Community Alliance for Respect and Equality

DECEMBER 2008

P.O. BOX 250, LEWISBURG, PA

CARE NEWSLETTER

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CARE members in Harrisburg at the Proposition 8 Rally on 11/22/08

## CARE UPDATE

### CARE Represented at Regional ACLU Annual Dinner

On Sunday, November 16, 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 meeting featured a dramatic give-and-take between Walter Everett (Lewisburg) and Mike Carlucci (Huntington, Conn.) about the movement to abolish the death penalty. More than 20 years ago, Carlucci murdered Everett's son, yet over the ensuing years, Everett has forgiven Carlucci, and the two men have developed a close friendship. They now devote much time and energy telling their story in order to educate the public about a constructive alternative to capital punishment--restorative justice. CARE has expressed opposition to the death penalty on the grounds of the inhumane discriminatory effects of this practice.

### 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 of which have been made into films. Wright's 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 Babbette Faison (570) 527-3180 or Rosalind Hamilton.

**Congratulations,  
America!**



## NEWS AND VIEWS

# 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 schizophrenia: a nation born of racism while proclaiming to be a paragon of democratic principles. Racism, ethnocentrism, patriarchalism, homophobia, and 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.

(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, Obama said, “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) Now consider Steva Stowell-Hardcastle’s October 9 column in the *Daily Item* in which she reported comments heard as she and others canvassed voters during Obama’s campaign in Union County: “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.” STowell-Hardcastle 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, Bob Herbert in his November 8 *New York Times* column) quoted Taylor Rogers who was in Memphis the evening Martin Luther King 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 Obama’s election 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 in the November 17 *Daily Item*, Clarence Page 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 printed in the November 17 *Daily Item* 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



HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING!!

Center believes 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.”

In one case cited from the Pittsburgh area, 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 November 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 a genuine democratic society in the Valley? Let’s have a word from you.

### Swastika on Bucknell Campus

The November 14 issue of Bucknell’s student newspaper, *The Bucknellian*, reported that the image of a swastika along with the telling phrase, “Arbeit Macht Frei,” (Work Liberates) were etched on a stall in the men’s room at the Langone Center.

For three three millennia the symbol of the swastika symbolized good fortune, happiness, and 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) hung on the gateway of Auschwitz/Birkenau, the most feared of all the death camps of the Nazis, where, it is estimated, millions of men, woman, children were mercilessly executed en masse—predominantly Jews, but also including gays, gypsies, Jehovah’s Witnesses, physically and mentally disabled peoples, and others not considered members of the Aryan master race “The addition of these words,” declared Bucknell’s Jewish chaplain, Serena Fujita, “makes it clearly an anti-Semitic incident.”

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 being of minor importance.

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

### Reflections from Lois Passi

#### Letter to the Editor of *The Daily Item*

“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 have 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



## WHAT'S HAPPENING

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 born in January 80 years ago; he was assassinated 40 years ago this past April.

During his brief lifetime, King 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.

King's dream of peace and justice across the world remains as vivid now as it was 40 years ago. 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 (570) 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.

#### Invitation to Join Peace Gathering in Philadelphia

Message from Wade Wright

Coordinator for Upper Susquehanna Quaker Meeting

From January 13-17, more than 600 delegates from about 45 different Christian faith communities will gather 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 more than 35 faith communities from the Philadelphia area, have planned a public event that will gather the 600 delegates and a hoped-for 1500 additional people from



#### Entries for Newsletter

CARE would love to hear from you. If you have an announcement or would like to share your thoughts and reflections in the newsletter, please contact Mimi Rice. Her email address is: [mimirice@hotmail.com](mailto:mimirice@hotmail.com)

the wider community to begin a long-term nonviolent campaign to stop the sale of illegal handguns on the streets of Philadelphia, and ultimately the nation. The Saturday event is open to persons of all religious persuasions as well as non-believers. Everyone is welcome. 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 excited by this campaign and expect it will go far toward diminishing the trafficking of illegal guns in our cities and communities. Philadelphia's mayor Nutter and the police are supportive of this program. The Saturday program includes morning training workshops at 10 locations in Philadelphia, with 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 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to be one of the top 10 stores in the nations whose guns end up being used at scenes of violent crime in the area.

Folks in the State College and Bloomsburg areas are considering organizing bus or van transportation to this event, If you or your group or faith community would like to join this event, please contact Wade Wright at (570)925-5708 or [w9a8d7e6w@epix.net](mailto:w9a8d7e6w@epix.net). Busses or vans will leave early enough to join in the Saturday morning training workshops, or there would be a similar training experience on the ride down.

#### Events in Williamsport

"Broadways Spirit of Christmas" will be performed at the Pennsylvania College of Technology on 12/3/08 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$45/\$35/\$25. For information, call (570) 326-2424.

An exhibit of the late David Armstrong's paintings runs from 12/2/08 to 12/17/08 at the Pennsylvania College of Technology's Madigan Library, Room 303. Special Opening weekend receptions will be held on 12/6/08 and 12/7/08 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. For more information, call Penny Lutz at (570) 320-2400, ext. 7973.

"First Friday," an Art and Cultural event in downtown Williamsport, will be held on Friday evenings 12/5/08 and 1/2/09.

The Billtown Brass Holiday Concert at the Community Arts Center in Williamsport will be held on Sunday 12/7/08 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10. Call (570) 322-0227 for more information.

The Williamsport Symphony Orchestra's Holiday Concert will feature Johann Sebastia Bach's "The Magnificat" on Tuesday 12/9/08 7:30 p.m. at the Community Arts Center. There will be a pre-concert talk at 6:40 p.m. in the Arts Center's Capital Lounge. For more information, call (570) 322-0227.

A Holiday Pastry Buffet will be held on Friday 12/12/08 from 6:00 to 7:15 p.m. in the Capital Lounge of the Community Arts Center. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$12.50 for children. Children must be at least 12 years old to be admitted.

Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* will be preformed at the Pennsylvania College of Technology on 12/12/08 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35/\$30/\$25. For information, call (570) 326-2424.

An exhibit called 60 X 60: Small Prints from Purdue University Galleries runs from 1/10/09 to 2/3/09 at the Pennsylvania College of Technology and includes a broad range of artists and techniques. An opening reception will be held on Tuesday, 1/20/09 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. For more information, call Penny Lutz at (570) 320-2400, ext. 7973.

*Giselle* will be performed by the State Ballet Theatre of Russia on 1/24/09 at 7:30 p.m. at the Pennsylvania College of Technology. Tickets are \$45/\$35/\$25. For information, call (570) 326-2424.



## MEDIATION TRAINING

### Other Announcements

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

##### Message from Allan Sobel, Center Director

Mediation Training involves 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. Mediators 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 continue 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.

If you are interested in becoming a mediator given the conditions noted above, you will need to fill out an application which will be kept on file. When we next plan to train a new group of mediators, probably in the spring, we will contact you. If you would like to apply, please contact [mrice@susqu.edu](mailto:mrice@susqu.edu) and you will receive an application by email as an attachment.

**Happy Holidays to you, your family and friends.**

**Thanks to all who support the mission of CARE in so many ways in our communities!**

**We look forward to working together this coming year. Hopefully it will be an exciting time of positive change in our neighborhoods, our country and our world.**