



AUGUST 2009

P.O. BOX 250, LEWISBURG, PA

CARE NEWSLETTER

Website: www.care4diversity.org

Email address:
care@dejazzd.com



*The 8th Annual HIROSHIMA & NAGASAKI Remembrance
Day
Thursday August 6*

**A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE & DEDICATION
TO A WORLD WITHOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

The Center for Nonviolent Living together with CARE (Community Alliance for Respect and Equality) will once again be observing the anniversary of the only wartime use of atomic weapons. On August 6, 1945 the nuclear bomb, "Little Boy," was dropped on Hiroshima. Three days later another bomb, "Fat Man," was dropped on Nagasaki. By the end of 1945 over 220,000 were dead, approximately one-half of that number having died on the days of the bombings. To this day, survivors and children of survivors continue to suffer and die as a result of the effect of the bombs.

It is our hope that by remembering the victims and recognizing the previously unimagined destruction and horror inflicted by nuclear weapons that people will commit themselves to achieving the worldwide elimination of these weapons.

This August 6th we will begin our observance with a silent procession starting at 6:40 p.m. at Soldiers Park, located near the river at North Water and Market Streets. From there we will proceed westward on Market Street to Hufnagle Park, located at 7th and Market Streets. A Memorial Service will begin at Hufnagle Park at 7:00 p.m. Those who do not wish to join in the procession may go directly to Hufnagle Park.

Jane Keller, Director of the Lycoming County Peace Campaign, will be the Master of Ceremonies for the Memorial Service. Jane is the recording clerk for Pennsdale Friends Meeting and the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, an adjunct English instructor at Lycoming College and Penn College of Technology, a certified spiritual director, and a member of the Pennsylvania Prison Society.

John Peeler will be the Featured Speaker at the Memorial Service. John taught political science at Bucknell University from 1967 – 2006, specializing in Latin American and international affairs. Several of his recent writings may be found at www.spillingink.net. A Lewisburg resident, John is a member of the Union County Democratic Committee. His talk will be on [Nuclear Nonproliferation](#).

Nancy Cleaver will comment on the story of "Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes." She has been creating and instructing others in the art of origami, to fold paper cranes which will be displayed at the park. Nancy will also set up her Interactive Peace Mandala, giving those in attendance the opportunity to add their own statement for peace to the mandala. Nancy's art studio, PenSylvania Calligraphy, is located on Market Street in Lewisburg.

David Deibler-Gorman, Cindy Peltier, Mary Russin, and Doug Sturm will be the Hibakusha (survivor statements) readers.

George Potor will play a song he originally wrote over twenty years ago for a Hiroshima Memorial in Lewisburg. He has been updating the lyrics for this Hiroshima-Nagasaki Memorial. He has entitled the song, "Nagasaki Etiquette (Rise Up Above the Ashes.)"



We hope you will join us, and people throughout the world, who will be calling for peace and nuclear disarmament.

CARE Programming

In several of the past few advisory meetings we have discussed the issue of providing more programming. In that spirit, CARE will begin taking up different issues every other month at the already scheduled advisory board meeting time.

The first will be on September 13th at 4 pm at the Heiter Center, located on North 5th Street Lewisburg. Our topic this meeting will be the isolation of LGBT folks in our area. Please join us for what we hope to be a very spirited and enlightening discussion.

Few resources for addressing the needs of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) individuals have existed in central Pennsylvania. GLBT youth must look for support from outside the region if they cannot find help from teachers, family or friends to deal with bullying. Adults seeking GLBT-friendly services from various social-service providers often find safety by hiding in the closet to escape condemnation and criticism from peers in these programs. GLBT individuals fear losing their jobs if they advocate too much for their rights, and even supporters of the gay community risk retaliation for speaking up on behalf of their GLBT brothers and sisters while working or volunteering. This forced inaction results in weak ties among GLBT persons in the central Susquehanna Valley as they struggle to avoid being noticed. The continued invisibility of the GLBT community in our region of Pennsylvania contrasts with the increased visibility of GLBT individuals in the national media over the past decade. This new focus on GLBT people on television and elsewhere has prompted local youth to come out at earlier ages than ever before—often as early as middle school. Teachers, community leaders, and parents are ill-equipped to deal with the complex issues involved in these situations. Local role models are lacking. Although some positive media attention is occasionally directed to GLBT subjects in our area, the message sent by many organizations and individuals is: “Gay issues are inappropriate for conversation.”

CARE would like to pull these concerns out of the closet for public discussion. As the next era of the civil rights movement swells at the dawn of the twenty-first century, CARE hopes to facilitate the integration of GLBT central Pennsylvanians into our communities as fully respected, equal members. The words of Martin Luther King, Jr., remind us: “History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people.”

Upcoming Events in the Community

**Exhibition not to be missed!!!!
Free open to all: for more info. 577-3981**

William Christenberry: Site/Possession
August 26 – October 9, 2009
Samek Art Gallery Bucknell University
Elaine Langone Center 3rd floor
Lewisburg, PA 17837

Since 1959 William Christenberry has, through his art practice, attempted to “possess” the Southern landscape and culture that has formed his identity. A native of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, he has returned to Hale and Perry counties consistently for more than forty years to document changes and refresh his inspiration. In this pursuit to fix his memory of place, Christenberry has developed a visual language that encompasses drawing, painting, prints, photographs, sculpture and installation, all of which are represented in this exhibition.

Site/Possession, unlike all previous exhibitions of Christenberry’s work—which have primarily stressed the way in which his photographs, paintings, and constructions have described this lived environment—focuses on the artist’s drawings, created between 1959 and 2006, and his *Klan Room Tableau*. Through his lyrical and forceful renderings of Southern trees, K buildings, memory forms, and Klan-related imagery, the exhibition explores the sensorial role of drawings as a medium through which he digests and expresses the culture and landscape that has both nourished and horrified



him.

Christenberry is not interested in creating an image that reproduces the way a place actually looks. Working both intuitively and as a trained professional artist, he seeks to capture real feeling of a place. This is particularly true of the Klan Room Tableau, arguably Christenberry's most vociferous expression of social protest and emotive power. The installation can be seen as a means of exorcising the demons that have haunted the artist since his first encounter in 1960 with a Klansman as he neared the third floor of a Tuscaloosa courthouse.█

Lecture by the artist, William Christenberry and curator

Andrea Douglas:

August 28th at 5 pm.

Gallery Theatre 3rd floor

Elaine Langone Center

Bucknell University

reception to follow the lecture in the gallery

Parking available along Moore Avenue.

+++++

LGBT & Friends

Dance and meet others

September 12th

7pm – midnight

Lewisburg Club

Located on Market Street, Lewisburg between 2nd and Front St.

This event is another attempt to bridge the isolation for many LGBT folks. We have received reports from many who feel very alone here in the Susquehanna Valley and think there is nobody else but them. That could not be further from the truth. If you are not a dancer, there is plenty of room to sit and chat as well. There will be food and a cash bar equipped with non-alcoholic beverages as well. For further information email Cindy Peltier at peltier@bucknell.edu.

+++++

11th Annual Unity Rally/Stop the Hate

September 21st

7pm

Hufnagle Park

Lewisburg, PA

A little history:

The rally is part of a national effort calling fore people of good will to act nonviolently as agents of healing in their communities, to speak up for the victims of hatred and intimidation, and to raise a untied voice against hate inspired violence. The national rallies began the year after the hate crimes & killings of James Byrd, Matthew Shepard and others.

The "Stop the Hate" title for the event was originally adopted from a national event organized after murders and other hateful acts during the late 1990s. National religious leaders of different faiths participated in the first annual STOP THE HATE: Interfaith Vigils Against A Hate Violence, organized by the Interfaith Alliance and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Endorsed by 223 national and local organizations, people of faith organized vigils in over 350 communities in more than 30 states.

The "Unity Jam" part of the title was added in 2006 in order to highlight the focus on unity and the partnering of the university and the local community.

This year's Unity Jam will occur on Monday, September 21, 2009. To enhance the feeling of a true town/gown experience, we are asking community folks to consider marching from Soldier's Park to Hufnagle Park where we will meet a Bucknell University group that will have marched from Bucknell to Hufnagle Park. If you are so moved to join us for the walk, please gather at Soldier's Park at 6:30, otherwise we will see you at the rally. The rally itself will be Hufnagle at approximately 7 pm.



Coming Soon!!!
Film at the Campus Theatre
Prom Night in Mississippi: Loving Across the Color Line

One of the recurring themes in *Prom Night in Mississippi* is love, and the film introduces us to Heather and Jeremy, a white teenager and black teenager who have fallen in love, despite resistance from their parents and community. As Chasidy explains in the film, "[it's about] the fear of your white daughter conceiving with a black man ... that you're afraid of presenting, coming out, [that] you're white and have a mixed baby." This is a fear based on centuries of racist notions about white superiority and the inferiority of people of color and, in particular, the vile stereotype of the black man as an over-sexualized brute from whom white women need protection.

Official support for such beliefs crumbled in 1967 when the Supreme Court struck down state laws banning interracial marriage — "miscegenation" laws that not only targeted African Americans, but also tended to target Asian and Native Americans. In the aptly titled case, *Loving v. Virginia*, the Court determined that "marriage is one of the 'basic civil rights of man'" and proclaimed that "the freedom to marry, or not marry, a person of another race resides with the individual and cannot be infringed by the State." In essence the Court affirmed our capacity to love and live across the color line.

Fast forward 40 years, and there is now a burgeoning multiethnic movement in the U.S. and an increasing number of artists sharing their experiences living across, and between, our nation's traditional color lines. Among these artists is Kevin Michael, an R&B musician on the Atlantic Records label. In 2007, Michael released "It Don't Make Any Difference to Me," which also features Wyclef Jean. Although the grammar may make some teachers cringe ("It *doesn't* make any difference ... !"), the song has been called a "modern-day anthem" of transracial life in the U.S. and serves as an excellent (and fun) vehicle to both explore love across the color line in contemporary times and validate the experiences of multiracial people.

For more information contact Cindy Peltier at peltier@bucknell.edu

From the desk of Doug Sturm...

A "whites only" swimming pool in the city-of-brotherly-love!

Whites Only!--Some of us vividly recall signs of that sort on drinking fountains, restrooms, restaurants, railway cars—accompanied all too often with reports of lynchings of those who allegedly had crossed the color barrier. Though we've been told that's all past history, a couple of weeks ago we received news from Color of Change <www.colorofchange.org> about the reappearance of that vicious sentiment around Philadelphia.

"Two weeks ago outside Philadelphia, sixty-five children from a summer camp [The Creative Steps Summer Camp] tried to go swimming at a club [The Valley Swim Club] their camp had a contract to use. Evidently, the club didn't know the kids were largely Black.

"When the campers entered the pool, White parents took their kids out of the water, and the swimming club's staff asked the campers to leave. The next day, the club told the summer camp that their membership would be canceled and that they would refund their money. When asked why, the club's leader said the 'kids would change the complexion ... and the atmosphere of the club'.

"A 'Whites only' pool in 2009 should not be tolerated. The club's actions appear to be a violation of section 1981 of the Civil Rights Act. Whether or not any laws were violated, a 'Whites only' pool should be something every American condemns."

At the moment, the internet is jam packed with revealing news articles and commentaries about this explosive case for those wishing to explore it further (google "Valley Swim Club"). Senator Arlen Specter has proposed a special investigation. In response, the US Department of Justice has agreed (as of July 18) to review the case.

In fact, however, contrary to America's perennial pretense of equality, our nation still abounds with subtle and not so subtle forms of "White Only" practices—residential



patterns, distribution of income and wealth, cultural opportunities. The swim club case is startling simply because it is so blatant.

A progressive awakening in the Episcopal Church

For many years now, Christian congregations within the US and abroad have been torn apart over the controversy of whether being gay or lesbian is a wicked way of life. That struggle has been exceedingly painful to those demonized by church bodies whose official policy condemns them because of their sexual orientation. Every now and then, however, forces of love and equality are victorious, opening church doors to everyone irrespective of sexual identity. That kind of breakthrough happened in mid-July in the Episcopal Church.

As reported in the New York Times, the New Hampshire Diocese of the Episcopal Church surprised Episcopalians and others across the nation by electing the first openly gay bishop, Gene Robinson, six years ago. In response, the next nationwide convention of the church, adopted a moratorium requesting “Episcopal dioceses to refrain from consecrating bishops whose ‘manner of life’ posed a challenge to the rest of the Anglican communion” (NYT July 15, A11).

Then, last month, at the most recent convention, delegates, by a two-thirds vote declared emphatically “that all levels of ministry in the Episcopal Church are open to the L.G.B.T. baptized.” How members of the church who remain opposed to the LGBT “manner of life” on Scriptural grounds will react remains to be seen.

A passing thought: Doesn't it seem obviously contradictory that religious traditions professing commitment to a God of unqualified love (Christianity), a God of universal justice (Judaism), or a God of peace (Islam) often act in violently exclusionary ways in everyday life?

President Obama at the N.A.A.C.P.'s Centenary: Jim Crow's legacy lives on

The N.A.A.C.P., founded in 1909, celebrated its 100th birthday in July. As a centerpiece of its gala, the first African American president of the United States, Barack Obama, delivered a rousing speech, focusing directly and bluntly on forms of persistent racism still troubling the nation.

While he praised the organization's role in advancing the cause of racial justice over the past century, he issued a serious challenge to the largely black audience about the painful needs that still require attention. An article in the New York Times (July 17, A14) declared that

“Even as he [Obama] urged blacks to take responsibility for themselves, he spoke of social ills—high unemployment, the housing and energy crisis—that have created the conditions for black joblessness. And he said the legacy of the Jim Crow era is still felt, albeit in different ways today.

“‘Make no mistake...the pain of discrimination is still felt in America.’...by African-American women who are paid less for the same work as white men, by Latinos ‘made to feel unwelcome’, by Muslim Americans ‘viewed with suspicion’ and by ‘our gay brothers and sisters, still taunted, still attacked, still denied their rights’.”

Mr. Ben Jealous, head of the association, asserted that this address “‘was the most forthright speech on the racial disparities still plaguing our nation’ President Obama has delivered. And--so we might add--a speech with pertinence to the Central Susquehanna Valley. The spirit of Jim Crow may change in form from place to place and time to time, but remains very much with us here and now.

Weis Center for the Performing Arts at Bucknell University Fall 2009 events

September 11 at 8 p.m. Cello Octet Amsterdam with soprano Pilar Jurado

September 26 at 8 p.m. The Suzanne Farrell Ballet *The Balanchine Couple*

October 17 at 1 p.m. *Tubby the Tuba* with Burning River Brass
Through the generosity of the Weis Center Green Room Board, this concert is



FREE to the community

October 2 at 8 p.m. Béla Fleck, Zakir Hussain, Edgar Meyer

October 17 at 8 p.m. Burning River Brass

October 23 at 8 p.m. Violinist Angèle Dubeau & LA PIETÀ *Myth and Legend*

October 30 at 8 p.m. RED PRIEST~ *Nightmare in Venice~ A Halloween Fantasy!*

November 20 at 8 p.m. Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* by the Montana Repertory Theatre

December 5 at 8 p.m. SOLAS A Celtic Solstice Celebration

December 12 at 1 p.m. THE PAPER BAG PLAYERS *Great Mummy Robbery* (free family matinee)

Through the generosity of the Weis Center Green Room Board, this concert is FREE to the community

For tickets and information or to request a season brochure contact the Weis Center at 570-577-1000 or www.bucknell.edu/WeisCenter/

