



## Co-directors' Column

It was an exciting 2006, but we need more volunteers, especially for Web site

What an exciting year! We worked very hard in 2006 to expand opportunities by keeping the Center's name and programs in public view, submitting press releases several times within the year to at least 30 media outlets. We regularly informed our members through emails about upcoming events, and from time to time we posted events on our web site. Perhaps you have heard the radio announcements about Central College and heard the mention of our newsletter, Dialogue, and our new location in the SIS building!

Unfortunately, as some of you have noticed we have not been able to keep our Web site current; therefore, if you can volunteer periodically to update the Web site at <http://centerhealingracism.org>, please call or email the Center. In fact, as we enter 2007, we urge our members to pledge their energy, time, expertise and resources to support the Center's programs and increase our outreach to your communities. Ask yourself: "How can I plug in?"

If we are going to build upon our 2006 achievements toward meeting our ultimate goal of eliminating racism, we will all have to contribute our resources and commit to personal involvement whenever and however we can. We need you! As Johnnetta Cole was fond of saying, "We have to keep talking about difference until difference no longer makes a difference!" Please step up and help us make that difference!

The Center's move to Houston Community College Central has doubled our space and opened up opportunities to better serve our communities and the nation. Also, we can accommodate more interns who will be learning to carry the Center's message into their future career environments. Currently, we have three interns: Sandra

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## How to reach us

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Houston  
Community  
College  
Central

Houston Community College System seeks to provide equal educational opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

## Internalize Oneness

### 2006 highlights of Center's work

- "Opening the Breadbasket" was presented to several elementary groups.

- "Shattering of Stereotypes," "Green People," and "The Bandage Exercise" were conducted for several groups of older students in middle, junior and senior high schools.

- Cherry Steinwender appeared on PBS in a featured interview with Patti Gras on "Living Smart." The interview has aired several times. If you missed it, you can access the interview at Google Video: (<http://www.google.com> ). Click on "Video," and type "Cherry Steinwender" in the search terms box; then choose "Living Smart: Building Better Relationships among the Races."

- Sandy Boyd, Lucie Fultz and Cherry Steinwender presented a shortened version of Dialogue: Racism at the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity (NCORE) in Chicago, Illinois, in June.

- The 2006 Juneteenth Ally Award was given to Deborah Duncan of Channel 11, Patti Gras of Channel 8, and Professor Joe R. Feagin of Texas A & M University. The event had one of the largest numbers of attendees to date.

- Sandy Boyd discussed the Center's work with Larry Paine on "Interchange," KPFT radio FM 90.1.

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## A time to celebrate

June 14, 2007, will mark the 10th anniversary of former President Bill Clinton's appointment of a task force to study race relations in America. The official report went to Congress in 1999.

Below is an excerpt from a letter written to Congress by President Clinton as he left office in 2001:

Despite all the progress we have made in tearing down walls of segregation and barriers of opportunity, an old enemy lurks in the shadows. It continues to poison our perceptions, undermine our progress and threaten our future. Racial equality has been our nation's constant struggle, predating the nation's founding by a century and a half. And race has been our constant struggle.

Now, more than ever, racial discrimination is not only about skin color and other physical characteristics associated with race; it is also about other aspects of our identity, such as ethnicity, national origin, language, accent, religion, and cultural customs.

While overt racial prejudice has diminished, the discrimination of today is often more camouflaged. In a sense, this makes it more dangerous: if you are denied a job, apartment, or prompt service in a store on the basis of bigotry that is never expressed, and even cloaked in politeness, then you have no signal telling you to object, to fight.

In order to build One America, to finish the work that we have started, it is vitally important that all Americans understand that discrimination, intentional or not, obvious or camouflaged still exists and that each of us has the opportunity and responsibility to help eradicate it.

"The Unfinished Work of Building America," January 15, 2001.

The full text can be found at [http://clinton5.nara.gov/library/hot\\_releases/January\\_15\\_2001\\_6.html](http://clinton5.nara.gov/library/hot_releases/January_15_2001_6.html)

## Co-directors' Column

### 2006 exciting, but more volunteers needed

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Ainabe, a baccalaureate candidate in psychology at the University of Houston Downtown; Rachelle Greene, a master's candidate in psychology at the University of Houston Clear Lake; and Emma

Williams, a master's candidate at the University of Houston Downtown. Please drop by our office and welcome these interns.

– Sandy Boyd and  
Cherry Steinwender

## College students grateful for Dialogue:Racism

#### By Sandy Boyd

Fall Dialogue:Racism was conducted at HCCS Central College, and 24 of my students were there for most of the two Saturdays.

Eighteen filled out the evaluations; nine gave the experience the highest possible marks or added even higher scores! Four more gave the highest marks, except for doubting they would participate in future workshops on racism. Another rated every aspect of the Dialogue as highest, except for thinking A/V materials might be improved. Four others were all positive with comments such as: "just superb," "nothing I disliked," "very enlightening," "long for a Saturday but worth it," "devotion of all and aspiration for a society free from racism," "extend to all students in colleges around the country," "meaningful and educational."

The one student who reported negative numbers appears to have gotten the scale backward, because he said it was all good and would change nothing and he would go to other workshops on racism.

Asked what they liked about the work-

shop, eight mentioned the openness and freedom to express their feelings; four said they made new friends. Six wished it had been longer, while one said it was too long. Six said more people should have the experience and that it should be available daily. Six mentioned the knowledge gained, that it was empowering and they came to know themselves better.

The changes five suggested were to make more videos and bring in speakers who appeared in the videos shown during Dialogue. They also expressed a desire to hear other voices describe their experiences of racism.

What they could not know from their perspective is the long-term impact of Dialogue. For example, one middle-aged student who had been struggling with class work since the beginning of the semester, progressively brought her grades up after attending Dialogue and made an "A" on the final exam. This outcome, maybe a coincidence, has occurred a number of times, but it is one reason I want to make Dialogue:Racism available to all students at HCCS.

### **CENTER MEMBERS: WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Can you volunteer in our new office for three hours, one day a week?  
Hours are 9 a.m. - noon and 1 - 4 p.m.

Duties include: greeting visitors, answering the telephone, photocopying, filing and computer work. Please email us if you wish to help. Include in your email the days and times you are available.

# Highlights of Center for the Healing of Racism's work in 2006

Continued from page 1

- We had interviews and brief articles in several publications, including the Egalitarian at Houston Community College, Houston Chronicle, Houston Peace News, and The Leader.
- We conducted three Dialogue: Racism sessions in Houston.
- The Board of Directors spent a weekend retreat in Conroe, Texas, revising our strategic plan. The Board continues to work on new ways to enhance the visibility of the Center, expand programs, and increase funding by enlisting a consultant

to create a marketing plan. The treasurer worked with DonorHouston to include the Center on its Web site so that Center members, other individuals, and organizations may contribute to the Center through the donor site at:

<https://donoredge.ghecf.org/secure/locateLandingPage.do>.

- The Board seated five new members this past year toward meeting its new goal of bringing the total number of members from 9 to 15. We wish to thank those members whose six-year terms expired in 2006, Susan Kennedy and Carla Lacy, and to Tina Matthias and Roberta Osadchey,

whose six year terms will expire will early 2007. We would like to thank Aabha Dave-Brown who resigned early after several years of service. We welcome the new Board members Lupe Casares, Troy Jefferson, Ivan L. Mayers, Bobbi Mooney, and John Preston and look forward to their valuable contributions to our mission.

- One major accomplishment of 2006 was the workshop presented by Professor Joe Feagin on his latest book Systemic Racism (2006). Twenty-five of us increased our understanding of the historical development of institutional forms of racism. Thanks to Dr. Feagin for donating his time.

## Note of THANKS! from Ife Mawusi

"I would like to thank all those guests who attended my November birthday party and offer special appreciation to those who made generous donations to the Center in lieu of personal gifts to me. I feel especially blessed to be honored by so many wonderful people. I'm also delighted to know that your donations through the Center will help make a better

world for all of us. Again, thanks." – Ife

(Note: Ife's party was itself a special gift to all who were able to attend. The jazz duo of Marsha Frazier & Carol Morgan (jazz-lady@hotmail.com) was a delight, the cake from Not Just Donuts was exquisite, the food was delightful, the champagne and sparkling water were bubbly, and the guests were wonderfully generous. Many thanks to our host.)

## Pen Mightier than the Sword

Hello Earl, I read your article in the Houston Chronicle and am responding. It is a subject I have reflected on for a while. It disturbs me that the "N-word" is used so casually today, particularly by younger people. I doubt the word has lost its sting. The (Michael) Richards case is a good example. I wouldn't call Richards a racist since I've learned that prejudice + power = racism. Richards was not in a power situation. It is fairer to say he was acting out his "racial conditioning" something that everyone in America has been exposed to whether born here or immigrated. A bumper sticker from the Center for The Healing of Racism says: "Racism our national disease; getting sick was not your fault, but getting well is your responsibility." An apology from Richards is a start. Now it's his responsibility to educate himself and begin healing. –Lee Ingram

## dialogue

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**MISSION STATEMENT**  
**To serve as a catalyst for the  
healing of racism through  
the education and empower-  
ment of individuals.**

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Have you gotten around to filling  
out your membership for 2007?  
Please take the time to do so.  
The work must go on!

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**INTERNALIZE  
ONENESS**  
.....

Has your address changed?  
If so, please notify the Center so your  
newsletter can be timely delivered!



## INTERNALIZE ONENESS

All submissions to the newsletter are due the first week of the month before publication. Articles are accepted in any form, but e-mail and CD disks are preferred. Please send submissions to: robertcn@iapc.net or to **Newberry Communications, 13511 Sherman Oak Dr., Houston, TX 77085-1480.**  
**Telephone: (713) 551-9025.**

### DIALOGUE: RACISM SERIES

The free Dialogue: Racism series is held in a supportive and honest setting. Information is provided at each session, followed by an opportunity for voluntary sharing. Facilitators say participants leave with a new understanding of racism, what they can do about it, and a sense of community with others of different backgrounds and life experiences.

## From the heart of one volunteer

My name is Chris Pilling. I am 19 years old. I am from Scotland, although I have just graduated from Episcopal High School here in Houston. This summer I volunteered at the Center as an intern.

When I decided to work at the Center, I thought I would just be helping Cherry out around the office filing papers and word processing. While office work was part of my job description, so was receiving a "degree in racial awareness!" I had no idea of the wealth of information that was to be handed to me. It started out as a few talks between Cherry and me, then I was shown films on racism and the effects of racism on all people in America.

While these sessions were very interesting and informative, the experiences that left the most impact on me were hearing all of the personal stories Cherry had to tell and being driven around parts of town that I would normally not feel comfortable venturing into. I also thoroughly enjoyed eating at Frenchy's Fried Chicken and at the very first Ninfas!

Cherry challenged my views of society and opened a new world to me. The summer turned out not to be so much about volunteering but more about learning the destructive, detrimental effects of racism, having new experiences and making a lifelong friend. Thanks, Cherry. **-Chris**

*From: Andrea Hodge, Management Leadership for Tomorrow*

I want to thank you again for the program on listening you shared with our Fellows on Jan. 6, 2007. You were fantastic! Many of the students assessed their skills at the "C" or "B" level. They left feeling they were at an "A" and "A+" pro-

ficiency. We appreciate your participation as we develop future leaders. We are building the summer program now and would like to continue to work with you. We plan to offer an introductory workshop June 16 and continue during the year.

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