



## Co-directors' Column

### A letter to a neighbor

There is something about the ending of a year and a birth of the new year that causes many of us to reflect. Years gone by become truly present in our minds as we pull out thoughts of people and events from the past. There are many people who come to mind, but the person I want to remember attended Dialogue:Racism in 1992. After attending, she wrote the following letter to her neighbor.

Dear neighbor,

I realize that as private citizens and homeowners, you have the right to decorate your lawn with whatever suits your fancy.

About the black-face lawn jockey you recently put on your front yard – I wonder if you've given serious thought to how it may impact others in the community.

In July I attended a video series/discussion group sponsored by the Center for the Healing of Racism.

A fascinating group of people were present each week, representing many different cultures. The discussions were very lively, informative, thought provoking and often quite emotional.

I went into the series with the mindset that I am an unbiased person who has never knowingly discriminated against anyone or displayed any prejudicial attitude.

Even so, I've come away from those meetings with a heightened awareness of some sensitive issues that get in the way of people of different colors knowing and understanding each other.

For example, I have learned how deeply offended my black friends are by the presence of the lawn jockey on the property of white families.

Often garishly painted with jet black skin and exaggerated whites-of-the eyes, their appearance is an affront to the dignity of black individuals.

The young people of my children's

**Continued on page 2**

### Internalize Oneness

## Volunteer to help your organization

January 5, 2000

Dear Center Members,

As a relatively new member of the Center (three years), I have found myself wanting to be more active and more helpful and not always knowing how to accomplish that. Our Co-Directors are usually so overloaded with work that they could use some help. This letter is a search for that help.

In addition, by working together more, we may further our own racial healing and have more fun together just by making friends. We could use assistance in the following areas:

- A) Answering the phone at the office, filing, photocopying. No set hours, just tell us when you are available.
- B) Grant-writing in order to gain more funds.
- C) Computer skills – help build a website.
- D) Training to help with Dialogue.
- E) Viewing and cataloging our library of 16mm films.
- F) Any other ideas are welcome.

I'll be calling you soon to see if we can enlist your help. Meanwhile e-mail me at [LWHEELER1@houston.rr.com](mailto:LWHEELER1@houston.rr.com) or write the Center at P.O. Box 27327, Houston 77227.

Experience Oneness,  
Lynn Wheeler,  
Volunteer Coordinator

## How to reach us

Phone or fax: 713-520-8226

E-mail: [cfhr1@juno.com](mailto:cfhr1@juno.com)

Website:

[www.centerhealingracism.org](http://www.centerhealingracism.org)

Address: P.O. Box 27327

Houston, Texas 77227

## Read environmental article by Cherry

The January 2001 issue of the newsletter published by Citizen's Environmental Coalition features an article by Cherry Steinwender. Read *Healing Racism in the Environmental Community* by Cherry and Linda Block at [www.cechouston.org](http://www.cechouston.org).

Click on newsletters for the article.

# A new course on racism and discrimination

The time has come when our public schools must address issues beyond the 3 R's and computer proficiency. Many students come to school with a lot of baggage they need to unload before they explode.

My race relations class offers a safe and supportive environment to discuss the current problems of racism and other forms of discrimination in the United States.

Students are exposed to textbook information, along with guest speakers from various ethnicities, documentaries and other videos, current events, and classroom activities on diversity.

They also examine the root causes of racism and how it has been manifested in our history and in our personal lives. Students are also given strategies to use for combatting racism.

Tolerance, acceptance, and inclusion are key words when discussing racism. Students need to know that it is okay to be different and that differences should not be interpreted as weaknesses.

The class is a very diverse group – African American, Asian, Latino, Native American, and White American.

During the course of the curriculum, it is my hope that this class will change the hearts and minds of people of all races, religions, and cultures one student at a time.

I want students to live their lives free of racism and discrimination as exhibited by their interactions with others.

Georgette Dredge  
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## Co-Director's Column

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generation grew up in this community with many benefits and happy experiences. But few of them ever had the opportunity to know people of other ethnic groups as friends, and I think this is unfortunate.

Maybe the children of this generation will grow up with a knowledge of and appreciation for the differences that make each person unique and very special, and maybe also they'll see the similarities that bind us together in friendship. Maybe their generation will do away with the manufacture/sales of lawn jockeys. We can hope.

I hope too that you can accept this let-

ter in the spirit it is intended – an exchange of ideas from one friend to another.

Sincerely,  
Kay

Maybe you did not write a letter but did something to end the cycle of racial conditioning in our world. If so, email us your stories or put them in the mail. Other Center members may find hope by reading your story. Never think that your action is too little, for action is movement and all should be valued.

– CHERRY STEINWENDER

## Weekend workshop proposed to build on Dialogue: Racism

Antaro Burke and Cherry Steinwender are proposing a new and experimental "Advanced Group Workshop for Center Members" who have been through Dialogue: Racism at least once previously.

This intensive weekend workshop will build on the Dialogue: Racism experience by marrying our Dialogue philosophy and method with the group process model of human interaction training groups pioneered and developed for the past 40 years by the NTL Institute.

(Antaro has been an NTL trainer/consultant since 1964, and brings this experience to his involvement in the Center.)

The model we will use will be similar to that in the moving video, *The Color of Fear*, that many of you have seen. The main differences between this group and Dialogue: Racism will be in the group interaction: there will be not only individual sharing but also shared support and some controlled confrontation among and between the participants, along with experiential exercises to assist us in "pushing our envelopes."

The Group Workshop will:

- Take place over an intensive weekend (Friday evening through Sunday), in the

Houston area, sometime in the Spring of 2001;

- Be facilitated by Cherry and Antaro;
- Have free tuition for participants;
- Be held, if possible, in an inexpensive retreat house or conference center, keeping food and lodging costs minimal;
- Have an ethnically and male/female diverse group of up to 15 participants.

While maintaining the criteria of ensuring a good ethnic and male/female mix, participants will be accepted in the order of their application.

We would like to have this group-experience videotaped for training purposes. If you have videotaping experience and equipment, and can donate your services to the Center for this workshop, please contact Cherry as soon as possible.

We are excited about our plans to initiate this new workshop experience for the Center.

If you are ready to provisionally apply for the Workshop, please call Antaro at (512) 301-3537, or email him at [antaroburke@austin.rr.com](mailto:antaroburke@austin.rr.com), or write him at 6105 Back Bay Lane, Austin, TX 78739-1625. For more information contact either Cherry or Antaro.

# DIALOGUE: RACISM

A safe, respectful and loving atmosphere for individuals to learn new information, share their experiences, ask questions to dispel fears, to know each other and to stop the separation.

**Where:** Men in Mission lodge\*

1 South Wynden Drive, 1/4 mile North of San Felipe off South Post Oak Ln.

**When:** Saturday, January 27 and February 3; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## TOPICS:

- Defining prejudice and racism: Overview of the year-long study conducted by The President's Initiative on Race.
- How racism is perpetuated: Early childhood experiences, misinformation and segregation.
- Unaware racism and White Privilege: Confronting this country's history of White privilege.
- Stereotypes, and how they affect us: The award-winning documentary, *Ethnic Notions* shows the deep-rooted stereotypes and dehumanizing caricatures that have fueled anti-Black prejudice.
- Cultural racism: The film *Healing the Hurts* depicts the effects of residential schools on Native-Americans
- Internalized racism: When the anger, hurt and frustration turn inward. The film *A Question of Color* is the first documentary to confront "color consciousness" in the black community. It explores the devastating effect of a caste system based on how closely skin color, hair texture and facial features conform to a European ideal.
- Institutionalized racism: The systems that affects us daily: media, justice system, educational system, health care system, and economic system. The Prime Time video *True Colors* answers the question "does the color of your skin play a role in America?"
- Oneness of humanity: Achieving unity and preserving diversity.
- The next steps: Some of the ways to put this knowledge into action.

The sessions are free and open to the public. Registration is required by calling the office at 713-520-8226 and leaving name and phone number of person or persons attending.

\* The Center is not affiliated with the host group.

## 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.**

Have you gotten around to filling  
out your membership for 2001?

Please take the time to do so.

The work must go on!

**INTERNALIZE  
ONENESS**

Has your address changed?

If so, please notify the Center so your  
newsletter can be timely delivered!

## Human Race Walk/Run

The race is February 4th at 2:30 p.m.  
It will begin and end at The Park Shops  
Mall in downtown Houston.

Call Yvette Banuelos at 713-942-8000  
ext. 108 if you have further questions.



## 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 3.5 disks are preferred. Please send submissions to: robertcn@iapc.net or to **Newberry Communications, P.O. Box 980631, Houston, TX 77098-0631.**

**Telephone: (713) 528-1965.**

*\*Submissions are subject to editing.*

### 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.

## Missing pieces, White allies

By **CHERRY STEINWENDER**

Several years ago I was asked to speak about our diversity to 750 High School students at St. Agnes Academy.

The title of my speech was "Living in a Diverse World." The focus was that we will not always see things the same way – and that is OK.

To bring this point home to the students, I told the story about the White Buffalo named Miracle, which many Native People considered sacred. This belief may not be held by people who are not native, and we do not have to believe it, but we can respect the fact that many native people do.

Today I do not want to call attention to the White Buffalo, but to its owners, Val and Dave Heider. I feel that their story is a great ally story for Native People.

Since a White Buffalo is rare, Miracle's owners, the Heiders, had the chance to sell Miracle for a great deal of money. But the Heiders chose to keep the buffalo and allow Native People to visit her.

Six years ago as I watched this story unfold on television, I had a chance to see the pride and joy on the faces of many people as they left gifts behind for Miracle. The small dirt road leading to the place where Miracle was housed was filled with wonderful and colorful ways of expressing the sacredness of the White Buffalo.

This for some of us may not be a big ally story, but it certainly is a good story – for Native People had the wonderful opportunity to touch Buffalo Camp Woman, who had transformed herself into the white buffalo.

Miracle is no longer white but has taken on the color of the herd.

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