



Co-directors' Column

Center needs your love, care and support so it can thrive

During my teenage years one of the many questions I asked my mother was what is love? My mind cannot remember what the answer I received was, but I was always able to hang on to what is the cause of love dying.



Cherry

Mother sat me down and without hesitating said, "Cherry, love is like a flower that needs to be cared for. If you fail to give it sunshine and water it will die."

I took this to mean that love, like the plant, had to be nourished.

I never forgot what my mother said and some 40 years later I find these words ringing in my ears.

Only today it is not the love of one person to another that I am thinking about but the love for the Center. I find that like the flower, if the Center is not cared for with sunshine as well as the water of your support, it will die.

In this issue we are calling on you to keep your love for the Center alive by inviting your love ones, friends and family to join you in support of the work.

Just give them the enclosed form, have them fill it out, or you can fill it out and give as a gift. If you have not filled out your membership for 2001 you can use it that way. If the one form is not enough, please feel free to make copies.

After you get your friends and family to join, you can then contact our volunteer coordinator, Lynn Wheeler, and ask her how and where you are needed. If you have talents using, creating and

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Book Review

Black Cuban, Black American: A Memoir

By José Griñán

Author Evelio Grillo brings his extraordinary storytelling to the reader on a personal level. His words, whether in person or in print, are weaved into a tale of quiet rebelliousness that chronicles the first three decades of his unique and inspiring life. His book is expressive, emotional, and a descriptively powerful story that holds your attention with its every word.

In an early chapter of the book, Grillo describes a "fiesta de Noche Buena," known to English speakers as a Christmas Eve feast. You can almost smell the aroma of the lechon asado (suckling pig), and the frijoles negros... black beans seasoned perfectly with a chorizo, and homemade sofrito with a dab of comino added to the pot.

In a later chapter on his WWII Army days, he describes how an unpopular

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Summer fun for most but no rest for Center volunteers

Before you take off on that summer vacation consider making a tax-deductible contribution to the Center to help us continue our work. If you own stocks or bonds that have appreciated in value, you can donate them to the Center and receive a full tax deduction for the value without incurring Capital Gains taxes. Please call the Center for details.

There's room for volunteers at Center office

By Lynn Wheeler

On May 14th, some of our long time members and some new faces met at the Center office to discuss how to best help with the office work and how to coordinate time slots.

Since that day Christie Carrington, Ruth Ingram, Grace Amborski, Sister B. Galiano, Ife Mawusi, Yvonne Canida and yours truly have put in a few hours at the Center answering the phone, copying and otherwise helping our co-directors.

Noble Baker called this month to see if he could use his computer skills to help the Center. Noble is helping us now by updating our web site with some more information on videos that can be checked out from the office.

Our surprise volunteer this month is Patricia Quinones (See related article on page 3). Patricia is from Guatemala and is in Houston for treatment in our medical center. She heard about the Center from Sister Jane, a Center member, and wanted to share part of her time volunteering. Patricia doesn't want to be idle while she's between treatments. She says that it is important for her life to have meaning. She rolled up her sleeves and helped out at the 7th annual Juneteenth Luncheon. We are lucky to have her here in Houston.

Do we still need help at the Center? You bet. We can use help in contacting faith communities and other organizations for a place or a group interested in Dialogue. Also, if you would like writing articles for our newsletter, let us know.

Meanwhile, Internalize Oneness.

Lynn Wheeler, (713) 520-8226 or
lwheeler1@houston.rr.com

Co-directors' Column

Ask others to join in Center's work

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updating web sites, we need you.

Another one of my mother's gems she passed on to me is, "everything shiny is not gold." The Center has proven to be gold as well as shiny due to the input of its members and the people we have served.

The Board of Directors and Center Co-directors wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the people who worked hard

to make our Juneteenth event one that our ancestors would be proud of. A special thanks to James Lacy for printing the tickets over the last three years. My sister, Ruth Ingram and her husband Mike provided music and song for the final touch on what was truly a great celebration.

Again, thanks for making the Juneteenth Luncheon a huge success. We welcome ideas on how we can increase the number of people attending.

– Cherry Steinwender

Book review

Black Cuban, Black American: A Memoir

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sergeant broke up an impromptu celebration in their jungle camp near the Burma Highway in India. You can feel the tension of that night as some of the disgruntled soldiers searched for a live hand grenade to throw into Sarge's tent. The tone of Grillo's words become more serious as he talks about "calming the troops" that night, and having to report to a Major the next day to answer questions about disobeying an order from the night before.

From very humble beginnings in Tampa, Florida, and growing up in a bilingual barrio called Ybor (pronounced ee-bore) City, the author details his early life.

At home, Spanish was the language... the culture was Cuban. But once he walked outside the front door, and throughout the rest of the country, Evelio Grillo discovered he was a Black American living in a segregated society. And, in his book, he recognizes and praises the love, the nurturing, the encouragement and the support he was given by Black Americans.

Under the tutelage and guidance of a black businessman in Tampa, Grillo was given an opportunity to leave Tampa and travel to Washington, D.C., to live with an older brother, and to get an education. He

describes the "Depression Era" trip through the "Jim Crow" South and his eventual arrival in the nation's capital and his enrollment at Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, where he discovers that getting an education has helped him discover and explore a number of new things about himself, and his new adventure. Prompted by a mentor, and noted educator, there was a chance encounter with a nun who, at that chance meeting, and without Evelio ever realizing it, had given him a 4-year scholarship to attend Xavier University in New Orleans.

Though the book is not about race, because of its subject matter, race becomes the Positive focus. It reaches out to all Americans as an understanding of the Hispanic experience from a different perspective and a different time. The quiet rebelliousness expressed in *Black Cuban, Black American: A Memoir*, is a story shared by a countless number of Hispanics of African ancestry. But it's one that hasn't been told this way, until now.

I say these things because I'm a little biased. But I am also very proud. Evelio Grillo is my uncle. He's a man of eloquence, intelligence, insightfulness, and sensitivity. And you can tell from his first book that this is also a man who is full of integrity.

Visitor, though ill herself, still chose to volunteer her time to help Center

By Carol Harvey

I met Patricia Quinones at a party at Cherry's house. Cherry had invited my family over for dinner. Cherry's home was as usual filled with interesting people from around the globe.

Patricia, from Guatemala, was staying in Houston while undergoing cancer treatment at M. D. Anderson hospital. Through Sister Jane she heard about the Center for the Healing of Racism and chose to volunteer her time.

I found her interest and her commitment of time and energy to the Center compelling. Patricia had gone through several remissions of cancer, each one shorter than before. Yet she wanted to use her time meaningfully, doing something important to her, and that something was the Center's work.

Her courage and generosity were astounding to me. So was her spirit. We

sat and spoke Spanish and I learned that she had been attending law school prior to her illness. So we had yet another tie.

We spoke about her family, which I admired, paying out of pocket for her treatment at M.D. Anderson. Her life, the life of a fellow human being, is being treated as precious, valuable and significant. I longed for all of us to hold this message close, to feel her heartbeat, to know this value.

Many times we do not know why we are here. Patricia can know that she gave me the invaluable gift of hope.

We are all special, and even though Patricia had experienced the disease of racism in her life, she still wanted to pass on a message of equality, of oneness, while she was here in Houston.

She sat in the warmth of the Steinwender's home surrounded by people of all different ethnicities, sharing and living the principles of the Center.

A day to celebrate

Juneteenth, or June 19, 1865, is considered the date when the last slaves in America were freed. Although the rumors of freedom were widespread prior to this, actual emancipation did not come until General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston and issued General Order No. 3, on June 19, almost two-and-a-half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

The freedom message reached different parts of the country on various dates between 1863-1866:

Jan 1: NY, Boston, AL, GA, NC, VA, TN
Feb. 1: Philadelphia; May 8: E. MS; May 20: FL; June 19 E.TX, OK, LA, Southwest AK, South OK; Aug. 1: Ontario Canada; Aug. 4: Northeastern AK, North Central TN, Central OK, S. Central TN, Central TN, Central OK, Southeastern MO, Southwest IL; Sept. 22 IN, IL, OH.

The proclamation was ignored by those states that seceded from the Union and it did not apply to those slave-holding states that did not rebel against the Union. As a result, many slaves were unaffected by the provisions of the proclamation. It would take a civil war to enforce the Emancipa-

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We would like to take this opportunity to say that the wonderful article in the last issue about the Beaumont Workshop was written by Sandra Brown

dialogue

Published bi-monthly by the
Center for the Healing
of Racism
P.O. Box 27327
Houston, TX 77227
Ph. 713-520-8226

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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!

Quote of the month

We can at least try to understand our own motives, passions, and prejudices, so as to be conscious of what we are doing when we appeal to those of others. This is very difficult, because our own prejudice and emotional bias always seem to us so rational.
-T.S. Eliot, 1950



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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.

Juneteenth: A day to celebrate

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tion Proclamation and the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to formally outlaw slavery in the U.S.

Juneteenth is celebrated because it symbolizes the end of slavery. It symbolizes freedom. It serves as a historical milestone reminding Americans of the triumph of the human spirit over the cruelty of slavery. It honors those African American ancestors who survived the inhumane institution of bondage, as well as demonstrating pride in the marvelous legacy of resistance and perseverance they left us.

— **Judith Jenkins**

The history above opened the 7th annual Juneteenth luncheon. Judith, our emcee, did a wonderful job of opening the day. The homework she did provided us additional clarity on the Juneteenth celebration. She was followed by Barbara Hacker with the Center's history. Center members and their guests, numbering about 100,

listened intently as the awards were made. The students from Quest high school and Maggi Kindschuh, from St. Agnes High School, are the youngest recipients of the Ally Award and Evelio Grillo, the other recipient, is the longest living.

Tricia McFarlin left the audience spellbound with her statements before introducing the students. I could see her inner beauty and the work she had done on herself around the topic of racism.

Mr. Grillo was introduced by his nephew, José Griñán, with wonderful stories of his childhood memories. He told of the value his family placed on education and family. He recalled that as a young boy he listened as his mother and uncle held long intellectual conversations.

Mr. Grillo wowed the audience as he recalled several stories from his book, *Black Cuban, Black American: A Memoir*. At 83, he is on the road promoting his book and bridging the gap between cultural groups.

— **Cherry Steinwender**

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