

Dialogue



Internalize Oneness

Send us your email address!

To save on postal costs, we no longer routinely mail the newsletter to members. Please send us your email addresses to receive the newsletter. Send addresses to cfhr1@juno.com

Quotation

Racism is a refuge for the ignorant.

It seeks to divide and to destroy.

It is the enemy of freedom, and deserves to be met head-on and stamped out.

- Pierre Berton

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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.

Director's Column

The first four months of 2017

By **Cherry Steinwender**

I have been asked by so many people the question, "When are you going to retire?" As I look around me at so many hurtful things happening in our country I feel it would be unkind of me to purchase a rocking chair to watch the morning sun rise and the evening sun set. I feel it would not make me sleep easy when so many people are being hurt by racism, xenophobia, islamophobia, and sexism.

I could not watch or read the news knowing that I am at home rocking. The only way I know to live my life is in the arena of action. That action includes educating the world, empowering people, and connecting allies.

How can I sit in a rocker after reading the wonderful emails I get all the time, letting me know how the work of the Center touched them in ways that have been life changing?

I will share a few of them with you. Each one began Dear Cherry.

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Police officers and young people get to meet and know each other

By **Trent E. McKinney**

I chose the Center for the Healing of Racism to do my internship from the University of Houston Downtown. I am a senior in Political Science.

I've met some of the Center's members already and I'm looking forward to meeting many more as I accumulate the hours I need in order to graduate this summer.

The Center held an appreciation breakfast for those who protect and serve us on this campus, and within our thriving city limits. The Center provided coffee and donuts for Houston

Community College police officers and also HPD officers from 10 a.m. in the morning until a little after noon.

During this session, members of the Center engaged in a very encouraging rap session with a number of the officers who attended. In total, 25 officers visited our offices that morning.

Having known that the Center was hosting such an event a week in advance, I had hopes for a marginal crowd and at best I had imagined that we'd only get a handful of officers to join us

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Internalize Oneness

FOR THE LAST five years I presented "Opening the Breadbasket" for The Spector/Warren Fellowship for Future Teachers Syracuse University at the Houston Holocaust Museum. Twice a year I was at the Museum showing participants breads from at least 25 countries.

Each year I looked forward to seeing Naomi Kaplan, a Holocaust survivor, who would show up with aid to greet the students. Her body showed her age but her love for the teachers was brighter than her weak physical frame.

At the museum in June of 2016, I made it a mission to take a picture with her and several Center members for our office. I'm happy I did. It was the last time I would see her.

Naomi Kaplan Warren was born September 1, 1920 in Wolkowysk, Poland and died October 2, 2016.

Three months after her death I returned to greet future teachers and display the bread showing them how they can teach about the Holocaust by using bread. I felt the loneliness of the room and the disappointment to the teachers who would not meet her.

I will continue to remember her and will sing her song as I present breadbaskets.

— Cherry Steinwender

Dialogue

Published three times
a year by the
**Center for the
Healing
of Racism**

P.O.Box 27327
Houston, Tx 77227
Phone 713-520-8226

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Healing of Racism

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MISSION STATEMENT

To facilitate the healing of racism through education and dialogue in a safe and supportive environment, in order to empower individuals and transform communities.

Have you gotten around to filling out your membership for 2017? If not, please take the time to do so. The work must go on!

Has your address changed? If it has, please notify us so your Center correspondence can be timely delivered!

Also, send us your e-mail address to receive your Dialogue newsletter in your email in-box.

Director's Column

Looking at the first four months of 2017

Continued from page 1

I love you so very much and truly pray for the day that I can financially support The Center as much as I do with my prayers and praise. If the world had one-tenth of the love you have, it would be awesome.

—**Jackson Charlotte
San Jacinto College**

Thank you so much for such an amazing workshop! The feedback, as always with you, has been glowing.

—**Joe Trout
Mankind Project**

It was wonderful talking with you on the phone. You've really had a rich life—and you just keep on keepin' on, doing the good work of helping to heal a badly injured humanity. Racism is still as real and deadly as ever. There has never existed a "post-racial" America as you said.

You have much to celebrate on this birthday. I can't make it to Houston for your birthday, but I will be there in mind and spirit. My hope is that you can rejoice and be filled with gratitude for all that was, is, and is to come in your life. You will meet the new challenges of life with grace, as you always have. You are filled with love—and, as all of us allies

know: love trumps hate!

Much love to you and Siggy.

—**Michael Greene
and Bill Hultquist**

Thank you, Cherry. You remain one of the most influential women I have ever met. I would be less of a person if it hadn't been for your training and friendship. I adore you.

—**Madeline Volek**

For my personal experience with the Center, I have attended sessions of Dialogue Racism, the Living Library, and a few dialogues after several films. But there is much more to the organization. The experience in learning about forms of racism and how it affects us all has been invaluable to me as an individual.

The healing process has begun, but has a long way to go for me and my family. The Center has been instrumental in getting me to a point where I can talk about racism openly, and where I am unafraid of mistakes I may make in efforts to become an ally. My immediate family is in ongoing dialogue now about topics that have caused division in our extended family. The last year has been a year of growth for us.

I credit my experience at the Center for providing the safe and welcoming space to begin to

tackle head-on the pain and injustice caused by racism. The organization has been around for more than twenty-eight years.

—**Marie Pousson**

I'm so glad that I attended Dialogue on Saturday. I was especially touched by the circle and your emotions . . . powerful moments for me.

—**Blanca Velasquez**

I'm in the midst of my stay in Oregon at a monastery called Great Vow. We're actually having a mini workshop today on racism. When someone mentioned Barre, Mass., I mentioned our healing racism workshop there and they asked me to do something here. With a co-facilitator, I'm doing an hour and a half "Opening the dialogue on race and racism" in which we'll briefly introduce racial conditioning, white privilege, and unaware racism then open for safe dialogue. I've been singing your praises, so don't be surprised if you get a call from the monastery.

—**Tricia McFarlin**

It is our hope that you continue to support the work since it is so needed.

—**UTHealth**

Students use spring break for service project

Every spring break, some of the Ismaili community's university students across the country gather in different cities to engage in community as part of the Alternative Spring Break service project. One of these projects

was in Houston on March 16-18, 2017. Students were in Houston to learn about Freedmen's Town history and work on restoring one of the historic homes.

Freedmen's Town is one of the most endangered, post-Civil

War National Register Historic Districts of its kind in the United States. This urban settlement was founded and built by previously enslaved people and their descendants after Emancipation in 1865.

Actions in 2017 to Heal from the Hurts of Racism

For the first four months of this year, we have been very busy conducting workshops for groups from very young children to adults of all ages. We have worked in educational institutions, faith-based institutions and within the private sector.

University of Texas Health Science Center. At the request of Vanessa R. Schick, PhD, Assistant Professor, Division of Management, Policy and Community Health at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, School of Public Health, Lucy McLaughlin and Cherry Steinwender presented a seven-hour workshop on racism for their students.

The Council on Diversity and Inclusion at Rice University. The Council requested the Center for the Healing of Racism to present a workshop on racism. Six Center members took part in presenting this workshop, Ana Eigler, Chad Kalland, Myokie Caine-Barrett, Barbara Hacker, Lucy McLaughlin, and Cherry Steinwender.

United Airlines. Cherry Steinwender was invited to give the Keynote address at United Airlines Black History Celebration.

St. Agnes Academy. Students at St. Agnes Academy heard Cherry speak on the power of listening as part of their Safe Listener Program.

Stephen F. Austin University. Veronica Weaver, M.Ed Director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, TX invited the Center to conduct a workshop on Macroaggressions for eighty students. The workshop presenters were Ana Eigler and Cherry Steinwender. Due to the success of the workshop, Ms. Weaver said she would like to have us return to conduct the same workshop for teachers and staff.

Presbyterian School. Charles E.S. Gramatges, Head of Middle School of the Presbyterian School, invited the Center to present “Opening the Breadbasket” for 190 students. Kathy McDougal and Cherry were the presenters.

Unitarian Universalist in Boca Raton. Dialogue Racism. Second Dialogue: Racism workshop was held for the Unitarian Universalist in Boca Raton, FL, presented by Lucy McLaughlin and Cherry. The first workshop was in 2016.

Unitarian Universalist in Vero Beach. Second “Dialogue Racism” workshop held for the Unitarian Universalist in Vero Beach, FL, presented by Marcy Jowasky and Cherry Steinwender. First workshop was in 2016.

Houston Academy for International Studies (HAIS). Dr. Chang, Dean at HAIS, and Ralph J. Polley, Math teacher, invited the two student interns with the Center to address the tenth grade assembly.

Houston Academy for International Studies. Meeting between Center interns Benjamin Blessing and Isaac Wormepor and the two Houston Academy for International Studies (HAIS) interns Jazzmyne Speed-Williams and Kennedy Elmer to find ways to enhance the international awareness of HAIS students.

Montessori Country Day School. Opening the Bread Basket Workshop held for three classes in three different locations. Joyce Steensrud, Leola Jones, and Cherry presented the workshop.

Career Day. The Center was asked to speak at Bastian Elementary School about the Center’s programs and work. Lucy McLaughlin presented.

University of Houston Downtown Campus. Cherry Steinwender was part of a panel at the 10th Annual Gender Conference.

Lone Star College-Kingwood. Annual Human Library educated students on various social issues. The Center provided two books for the library, “After the Loving” by Cherry Steinwender and “Black Girl and White Privilege” by Deidre Scott.

Mankind Project. Cherry conducted a workshop on Xenophobia for the Mankind Project held at the Montrose Center.

Freedmen's Town. Cherry gave a talk to thirty students from across the country visiting Freedman’s Town in the African American Library at Gregory School.

Houston Community College Upward Bound Program. S.O.S Workshop presented by the Center for students of Upward Bound HCC chapter, facilitated by Oretta Cade and Blanca Velasquez.

Race Forum at KIPP. In celebrating Black History Month, KIPP school hosts a forum on race in America. Cherry was one of the five panelists who discussed civil rights issues in America today. The day started with three hundred students viewing the movie I am Not Your Negro at River Oaks theater.

HCC West Loop Campus. Cherry Steinwender was invited to be a part of U.N. Global Issues Day. The goal was to educate HCC students about important global issues and the role of the United Nations Association (UNA) in American society. The theme was “Think Globally, Act Locally.” Topics discussed were Refugee Status and the Executive Order (Travel Ban); Human Trafficking; Racial Intolerance in America and Abroad.

University of Houston Central Campus. Dr. Hutchinson’s Anthropology of Race class had a chance to hear Cherry talk about racism and “Black Wall Street.”

St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church and School. Rev. Brandon B. Peete, Associate Rector and Director of Spiritual Life at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church and School, and Melissa Huckabay invited the Center to talk to parents of young children about Race. The call was answered by Chad Kalland and Cherry Steinwender with about six Center parents attending.

KPFT Open Journal radio show. Cherry Steinwender shared the story of the Center and spoke about racism.

University of Houston Downtown. Center members attended the Tim Wise lecture series.

Center Offices. Black Wall Street film shown followed by dialogue facilitated by Dee Scott and Marie Pousson.

Dialogue: Racism Winter Session. Facilitated by Marcy Jowasky, Cherry Steinwender and Barbara Hacker.

Clippers Club. Facilitated by Deidre Scott and Marie Pousson.

Let's Review

Trevor Noah's book gives insight into South Africa apartheid

By Barbara Hacker

It seems to be a fact of life that we are blind to many aspects of our own cultural group until we step outside of it and immerse ourselves in another, whether that be by visiting another country, another community within our own country or simply reading a book that gives us a vicarious experience.

Born a Crime, by Trevor Noah, is such a book that

gives insight into racism in particular as manifested in South Africa. Many of us were first introduced to Trevor as the new host of *The Daily Show*.

Bright, funny and insightful, it was intriguing to understand how this young African could have such a grasp of the realities of this country. His book of memoirs answers those questions.

Born to a "black" Xhosa mother and a "white" Swiss German father, and thereby

categorized as "colored" in the institutional racism of South Africa, his very existence was evidence of a "crime."

And for his first five years of life under apartheid, he was kept largely hidden. The end of apartheid and election of Nelson Mandela ended the most extreme restrictions, but poverty and recovery from such a harsh system remained challenges.

Trevor's mother was an incredible woman who seized

every opportunity in life, guided by strong religious faith and vision of what was possible.

The stories he shares are moving, insightful and often hilarious. His ability to look at himself with honesty and humor as well as the craziness of the system he was born into not only explains his insights into his adopted country, but an intelligent and healthy way to respond to it.

CENTER FOR THE HEALING OF RACISM



23rd Juneteenth Ally Award Luncheon
June 24, 2017, Noon

\$50 Individual
\$300 Table of 6

St. Paul's UMC, Fondren Hall
5501 Main Street

RSVP 713-5208226 or
cfhr@juno.com

2017 Ally Award Recipients

Black Lives Matter Houston for calling attention to the importance of black lives.



Justin Normand for individual initiative in support of the Muslim community.

Dara Silverman, the founding director of Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ), an organizing collective for white anti-racist allies with 150 chapters. She has been promoting racial justice for 20 years.

United We Dream for defending the humanity of immigrants.

23rd Juneteenth Ally Award Luncheon

YOUNG PEOPLE NEED US ALL TO BE



Charlotte, North Carolina

Dialogue: Racism would be welcomed in city hit by race-related riot

By Michael (Mickey) Ingram

I remember when I saw people breaking and entering market places looting and pilfering in the riot of Detroit in 1967. Back then I wasn't much into reading newspapers. When I saw what people were capable of with my own eyes, I knew we were living in a dangerous world.

I knew we lived in a dangerous world before, but I didn't know the extent of it until my eyes confirmed my ignorance of racism. Even two years before, the Watts riot of 1965 had only raised my curiosity. The sensationalism of the news media only fuels confusion and racism.

I moved from Houston to Charlotte, NC last April. This city to me is the most beautiful city that I have ever lived in. The streets are clean and hardly have any potholes. Trees are enormous and beautiful. The riot taught me something else. No place is immune to racism. No matter how beautiful the environment.

As a board member of the Center for the Healing of Racism, I feel the responsibility to promote the Center's ideals wherever I can. A meet-up was formed in Charlotte called "Clipper's Club." We meet every fourth Thursday of the month to engage in dialogue on articles about racism from print media and the Internet.

Good Friday Walk for Justice

Hosted by Pax Christi Houston at Hermann Square outside City Hall, the Good Friday Walk for Justice was organized to relate the Stations of the Cross to war,

poverty and other contemporary forms of violence and injustice.

Cherry Steinwender has always participated, calling attention to racism in our country.

Press Release for Boca Raton: Racism Realities? Ruined Lives

Another black person killed by police! Police massacred! Fear prevails as the news of violence rolls in. None of us is immune.

What do we tell our children? How should we react as incidents pile up one after the other?

U.S. police killed at least 194 black people in 2016, according to a project by The Guardian that tracks police killings in America.

In Florida, Trayvon Martin was shot and killed by George Zimmerman who was found not guilty. Corey Jones, waiting for assistance with his disabled vehicle, was shot and killed by an off-duty police officer, Nouman Raja, who remains on house arrest as of this writing.

The Wednesday night before our meeting the next day, a riot broke out due to another shooting of an African American. I had to call off the Clipper's Club because the riot took place on the very street of our meeting.

I was informed by the receptionist of our building: "We got lucky." The lobby of this building is an art museum. I was quite surprised the building remained

In North Miami, a black therapist, Charles Kinsey, with hands in the air saying, "Don't shoot!" shot in the leg while trying to protect his autistic client who was holding a toy truck. We can't say, "It can't happen in our neighborhoods." It has and it will continue to happen. Why? RACISM! Some unaware, some blatant, some more insidious.

If you find yourself reacting angrily to Colin Kaepernick and other athletes who kneel rather than stand for the national anthem, or wondering how a police officer might shoot and kill a black person where there was no obvious threat, or if you feel concerned when rage breaks out prompting more violence and killings, come and

learn more about how racism runs rampant through all our lives. Racism affects us all. To help us understand, The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Boca Raton (UUFBR) will host a two-day workshop entitled Dialogue: Racism.

This workshop provides a way for attendees to explore the many facets of racism in a safe, loving atmosphere under the experienced leadership of Cherry Steinwender and Lucy McLaughlin from The Center for the Healing of Racism, Houston, Texas.

Participation in this workshop could be a first step for you to learn why you react as you do and how you can make a difference.

unharmful.

What bothers me is the persistent ignorance of our society of what racism is all about. The Center for the Healing of Racism gives the correct information that is needed to promote healing in all of our society.

We hope that the Clippers Club will generate members for the Center and a charter can be formed so that the Dialogue: Racism program can be initiated in Charlotte. I certainly hope that a Dialogue: Racism workshop is not too far away in Charlotte, NC.

INTERNALIZE ONENESS

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To eliminate mailing costs, the newsletter is no longer routinely printed and mailed. Send email addresses to cfhr1@juno.com or to cfhr1@yahoo.com



SUBMISSIONS

Newsletter submissions are due the first week of the month before publication. Articles are accepted via e-mail and may be edited for brevity or clarity. Send submissions to the Center's e-mail address.

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DIALOGUE:RACISM SERIES

The 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.

Police officers and young people get to meet and know each other

Continued from page 1

for their appreciation. But when Friday came, I was joyous to see that I had been wrong. The first few officers showed up within five minutes of the scheduled start time and from there the crowd just grew larger.

We held this appreciation to show officers that despite the recent backlash law enforcement has experienced, not all are involved in bashing them.

Similarly, not everyone who's a victim of police brutality is a criminal. The Center, along with millions of other like-minded individuals, appreciates and acknowledges the responsibilities that come with protecting and serving.

We held this appreciation

because we wanted to get to know some of the officers in order to invite them back to participate in a dialogue that we are hosting within the next week. Stay tuned.

Bobbette Trice, Board member, and her daughter Madison, a recent high school graduate who is attending Harvard University in the Fall, played a major part in bringing the appreciation to fruition.

After the appreciation came to a close, we had a brief sit-down to recap what we got from being such gracious hosts and listeners. Madison said that "it was the first time" that she had a conversation with police officers. She added that her brief interactions "aided in connecting to their humanity."

Center members attend White Privilege Conference in Kansas City, Mo.

Joyce Steenrud and Cherry Steinwender attended The 18th Annual White Privilege Conference that was held from Thursday to Sunday April 27 through April 30, 2017 in Kansas City, Missouri.

Joyce and Cherry spent their time with goals: Organizing. Strategizing. Taking Action. Deconstructing the Culture of White Supremacy and Privilege: Creating Peace, Equity and Opportunity in the Heartland.

CENTER FOR THE HEALING OF RACISM

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