

Dialogue



Center for the Healing of Racism June 24, 2017  SPECIAL EDITION

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.

SPECIAL EDITION

Juneteenth Ally Award Luncheon 2017



Beautifully costumed dancers entertained the crowd

Saturday, June 24, 2017, the Center held its 23rd Annual Juneteenth Ally Award luncheon. Every year, since 1994, the Center has given awards to honor people who have worked to combat racism.

The many recipients who have attended the event to accept Ally Awards include Jane Elliott, famous for her 1968 blue eyes/brown eyes experiment with her students after the assassination of Martin Luther King; author and anti-racism activist Tim Wise; University of Texas Professor Robert Jenkins; Dr. Joe Feagan; Rice University sociology professor Stephen Klineberg who authors the annual Houston Area Survey that tracks the remarkable changes in demographic patterns, economic outlooks, experiences and beliefs of Harris County residents; former columnist Robert Newberry who frequently wrote about racism and social justice issues at the former daily newspaper, the Houston Post; and last year, Yusef Salaam, identified with four other men of color as The Central Park Five, who were unjustly convicted and finally exonerated.

Honorees receive their awards, page 3

This year's luncheon was attended by more than 250 people, all committed to creating a more just and peaceful world. Duane Bradley, recently retired general manager at KPFT Pacifica radio 90.1, emceed.

Entertainment was provided by Chinese dance group Guangdong Association of Texas Art Performing Troupe, by Sweet Mama Cotton playing piano and singing, and jazz singer Yvonne Washington, who performed with poetry and song, including a bit of an impression of jazz great Louis Armstrong.

An afternoon of celebration

Center honors groups, individuals

Award recipients this year included the founder of Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) - an organization with 175 chapters nationwide that brings together white people to become aware of their/our own racism, which is many times unaware.

The group strives to understand the white privilege into which they/we are born, and welcome opportunities to stand up for and with people of color to end racist thinking.

United We Dream received the award for its continued efforts on behalf of Latino youth in the dilemma of undocumentedation.

The local chapter of Black Lives Matter received the award for giving voice to the names of Black lives lost to actions by police.

Finally, a gay white man from Irvington, Texas who, in an individual effort, stood outside of a mosque with a sign telling Muslims that they belong, are part of one America, and that non-Muslims have their back.

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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 filled out your membership for 2017? If not, please take the time to do so. The work must go on!

Visit [Center for the Healing of Racism Facebook page](#) for updates on events, pertinent articles and resources.

Has your address changed? Notify us so Center correspondence can be delivered!

Send us your e-mail address to receive your Dialogue newsletter in your in-box.

Center has been active through the years and received many accolades and awards

By Jackie Newberry

The last two years we have taken a group to Louisiana where Center members visited the Whitney Slave Museum and Plantation. We also visited a typical plantation that focused on the lives of the white family who lived there. There was rarely a mention or recognition of the suffering of slaves.

That plantation, St Joseph, has been the setting of many films, including recent TV productions of *Roots*, *Underground*, *Queen Sugar* and other Oprah Winfrey films and TV series. It was a painful but necessary educational opportunity to see and hear about the reality of what slavery was like for African Americans at Whitney and then to experience the contrasting perspective from the more romantic common depiction of plantation life at St. Joseph. It was life-changing for many of us. Although we were all very aware of history and racism, the impact of that visit affected us deeply. We spent time dialoguing together about our experience and perspectives.

In 1997, the Center was identified as one of top twenty-two organizations out of 183 by "The Center for Living Democracy," profiled for working on racism in the United States. In 1998, the Center was



**Cherry Steinwender
is Executive Director
of the Center**

highlighted as one of the promising organizations as a part of President Bill Clinton's Initiative on Race, "One America in the 21st Century". In 1999, the Center received recognition for contributions to the EEOC and Diversity Seminar by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. That same year, a certificate of Congressional Recognition for 10 years of service was presented to the Center by Congressperson Sheila Jackson Lee.

Mrs. Steinwender and the Center have received numerous awards from organizations

locally and around the country. In 2013, Mrs. Steinwender received the prestigious Gandhi-King-Ikeda Peace Award presented by the Martin Luther King, Jr. International Chapel at Morehouse College. The first recipient of that award was the King of Jordan.

We also worked closely with the James Byrd family in their small town of Jasper, Texas. Mr. Byrd was murdered by several white men as they dragged him to his death chained to the back of a pickup truck. Our work together consoled them, and they have emerged from that terrible experience as loving people, dedicated to spreading the message of the oneness of humanity, continuing to live in a white-dominant town.

We continue to attract young people who have the vigor and dedication to do this kind of work. Each semester, international and local students from various high schools and universities serve as interns with the Center. Many are inspired by what they learn to move on in their future lives, making a difference in the lives of many people victimized by injustice, and teaching others to extinguish racism.

Get

woke

2017 Ally Award recipients

Center has numerous allies in Houston, teaches many

The Center has found many allies in Houston at almost every university and college - Rice University, The University of Houston, St. Thomas University, Houston Community College, San Jacinto College, Texas Southern University, and others.

Also grade schools, junior high schools, high schools, the mayor's office, government agencies - including Child Protective Services, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), law enforcement, corporations such as Shell and Exxon, peace and interfaith organizations, nonprofit organizations such as the Holocaust Museum, Houston Peace and Justice, and our district's U.S. Congressional Representative.

We have worked with many faith communities including the Unitarian church(es), Methodist churches, Buddhist communities, the Dominican



Center Board member Bobbett Trice presents awards to Karla Perez, left, accepting for United We Dream, and right, Dara Silverman of SURJ.



Sisters of Houston of the Catholic church, the Baha'i Faith, the Turkish Islamic Center, Sikh communities, and more. We have been repeatedly invited to conduct classes and training in all of these venues.

We have also hosted delegations from other countries who come to Houston to learn what we are doing. They have traveled from Rwanda, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Brazil, and many European countries through the U.S. State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program.

Twice a year, the Houston Holocaust Museum invites Future Teachers of America to the city. The Center's executive director, Cherry Steinwender, conducted workshops for the groups at each session for the past five years.



Ashton Woods accepts the award for Black Lives Matter



Justin Normand received the Ally Award after he held a sign outside a mosque that told Muslims that they BELONG.

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.

Center offers programs to fight racism

Here in Houston, Texas, the country's most diverse city, it is uplifting to see people come together with one purpose in unity and harmony and in appreciation of the many beautiful cultural differences and perspectives. We are truly blessed in this city to be afforded this opportunity.

The Center is in its 28th year. We have developed programs for the community that have included our Dialogue: Racism, offered three times a year - an 8-week or two-day series that addresses the historical aspects of racism, its various forms, its social impact, and how to interrupt it. Throughout the year, we also provide many events that celebrate a variety of cultures and days of historical importance



Diversity is a Center cornerstone

through films, speakers, and dialogue.

Because of our work with Houston Community College, it has provided us, on their downtown campus, a multi-room building in which to do our administrative work and to

hold events. We have built a multiracial, multi-faith, multi-gender identification community that embraces each other in unity and harmony. Many of the participants have gone on to bring this awareness to others in their personal lives or through projects that reach others.

We offer special programs at all levels of public and private schools from kindergarten to universities. We have provided workshops and conferences to public, private, corporate, governmental, and faith communities in Houston and around Texas, 48 states, and two countries.

CENTER FOR THE HEALING OF RACISM

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