



Center for the Healing of Racism

Internalize Oneness

JULY - DECEMBER 2025



Message from the Executive Director

This year ends with a bit of sadness as I look back on some of the schools we have served.

Providing our workshops for students from Pre-K to universities and colleges was for many years one of our greatest joys.

Due to the law that prohibits DEI (Diversity, Equality and Inclusion) in educational spaces we are no longer able to reach students with our much-needed work.

Sharing this list of schools we formerly partnered with will give you a chance to feel some of the loss I am feeling.

This list also lets you know how many students no longer have easy access to the knowledge of what healing racism really looks like. More than anything this list allows you to see what your donations to the Center for the Healing of Racism support.



Cherry Steinwender
Executive Director

13) St Luke's United Methodist Church
after school program:

"Opening the Breadbasket"

14) Sam Houston State University

15) Sherman Elementary School:

“Opening the Breadbasket”

16) Spring Branch High School:

CHAT Group

17) Taylor High School:

“Bitter with the Sweet”

18) University of Houston Association
of Social Workers

■ ■ ■

All is not lost; we had a good year, but had to work harder to make up for the loss.

Our amazing Board of Directors has created a special fundraising campaign called “CFHR: A Legacy of Healing, 36 for 36”, which is endeavoring to raise a total of \$36,000.00 (or more) by the end of the year!

You might have already guessed the significance of the number “36” – the number of years that the Center has been in existence so far: 1989 – 2025.

The idea of this fundraiser is to ask supporters to contribute what they can in versions of 36: \$.36, \$3.60, \$36.00, \$360.00, \$3,600.00, or even \$36,000.00!

It is my hope that all of you are taking advantage of this opportunity to donate to this campaign to help us keep our work alive!

- 1) Amigo Por Vida-Friends Charter School
- 2) Alief Montessori School: “Opening the Breadbasket”
- 3) Chambers Elementary School: “Opening the Breadbasket”
- 4) DPA Cultural Diversity Training for Therapists
- 5) Douglas Elementary School: “Opening the Breadbasket”
- 6) Dulles Middle School: “Students Organized Against Prejudice”
- 7) Houston High School for Visual and Performing Arts: two classes
- 8) Houston Community College: three viewing of “Raising our Voices”
- 9) Kincaid Middle School
- 10) Ridgcrest Elementary School: “Opening the Breadbasket”
- 11) St. Agnes Academy High School: 10 classroom presentations
- 12) St Johns High School FACET students

These are Board Member Rabbi Shaul's comments about the Jewish significance of the number 36:

The CFHR Campaign featuring the number 36 resonated with deep meaning for those of us who practice Judaism. The ancient rabbis used numerology as a method to interpret the Bible. Each of the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet has a numerical equivalent. By comparing the numerical value of different words, one can glean new insights and lessons. The Hebrew word for “life” is “Chai” which has two letters that combine to make 18. Thus, the Jewish tradition of donating money in multiples of 18 emerged as an expression of adding additional life to people and causes. The two Hebrew letters in

the alphabet that represent 30 and 6 are called Lamed and Vav. There is a tradition that the world exists for the sake of 36 righteous people (called Lamed-Vavniks). No one knows who these people are but a person who seems to be particularly good/compassionate/righteous is often referred to as a Lamed-Vavnik as a compliment and tribute. So, when we donate money, we are infusing life into organizations and furthering their worthy goals. Furthermore, it inspires us to strive to become Lamed-Vavniks and help repair the world.

This is my “18 cents” as a rabbi. I hope this insight gives us inspiration as well as perspective about how donations can be life changing!

Center had busy year of projects

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

CHERRY STEINWENDER attended the Houston City College, (HCC) Ribbon-Cutting ceremony by invitation.

CHERRY WAS invited to staff a booth at the University of Houston Downtown College of Humanities and Social Sciences Internship Fair.

CHERRY WAS invited to meet with D'Hania Hunt, a teacher at St. John's School, Director of Community Engagement.

CHRISTINE HARRISON and Cherry spoke by Zoom to one of the students who was in the workshops presented at Cristo Rey Catholic High School. We wanted to determine if she would aid us in conducting an after-workshop group of students to meet and talk about what they learned when the Center visited their school.

PROGRAMS PRESENTED

A WORKSHOP for children at the Annual Peace Camp held by the Peace and Justice Committee.

A WORKSHOP for Family

— — — — — Vision Statement

Our vision is to build One America in the 21st century by connecting people through education and dialogue in a diverse world.

Core Beliefs

The human race is essentially one and racism is a learned behavior that can be unlearned.

Houston along with Christine Harrison. About 35 of their staff were in attendance. The follow up debriefing was held at Cherry's home around the dinner table.

THE EDUCATION Department at Lone Star Cy-Fair hosted the "Human Library" and Cherry was asked to be a book to present to the students. This event has been held annually and she has been invited several years from the beginning, which was before the COVID19 pandemic. This year it was by Zoom.

THE CENTER sponsored the American Indian Genocide Traveling Museum in partnership with the Dominican Sisters for a workshop held at the Dominican Mother House. The mission of the Museum is: "Teaching tolerance and respect to help stop the steps that lead to the cycle of genocide."

DIALOGUE RACISM- October 4 and 11, 2025 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM - The two-day workshop was held at the Dominican Mother House. Two new Center members, Elizabeth Boehm-Miller and Goddess Sha, facilitated the workshop. They did a wonderful job!

A VIRTUAL REALITY (VR) workshop on Empathy was hosted by Houston City College (formerly Houston Community College) at its VR lab in partnership with the Center. This is the second time the Center has presented such a workshop, and the response was overwhelmingly positive! It is an authentic way to walk in someone else's shoes.

ON FEBRUARY 2, Cherry attended the MFAH showing of the film *Sugar Cane* and led the talk-back

discussion at the end of the screening.

ON JANUARY 12, Cherry was a guest speaker at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County.

RADIO INTERVIEWS

CHERRY APPEARED several times on KPFT radio. Following are some of the shows where she was interviewed:

EIGHT INTERVIEWS on *Growing Up in America*

OPEN JOURNAL with Duane Bradley

AMPLIFIED HOUSTON

THE AMANDA Sapp Morning Show

FUTURE 2026 INVITATIONS

CHERRY WAS invited by Briana Derry to join KPFT radio as a weekly program host with complete autonomy to choose the guests and topics.

OVER THE LAST two years the Center for Healing Racism has been working with Peace Work United along with several other partners to put a project in place in Ghana, Africa. Our Center member, Christine Harrison, visited Ghana twice to work on this project. Our first meeting as a group was in Washington state, with many meetings on Zoom. Now the divine assignment has fully revealed itself.

THE CENTER will conduct workshops in Ghana for visitors to Elmina

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— — — — — Mission Statement

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

Teen volunteer at Center says he has grown

My time volunteering at the Center for the Healing of Racism has been a good experience for me as a high school student.

I was able to help with different problems running the Center, and help make fliers and cards for events.

Much of my work has been in helping with technological issues, but I also got to work creatively in some

instances. I have greatly enjoyed being able to help run this organization and help with its mission.

I was introduced to the Center about two years ago by my mother, Helen Spaw, who works with the Center on some events and activities. I wanted to get experience volunteering and help a good cause at the same time.

The Center has been a good place to

volunteer. Its mission, to educate on and talk about racism, is one that I agreed with and wanted to help.

Throughout my time working, the people have been friendly and helpful. I have enjoyed my work and feel like I have grown as a person.

— Miles Reynolds
Center Volunteer



The Center wishes peace and blessings for all humankind

The end of 2025 brings no greater pleasure than the opportunity to express thanks to all of you for the aid you have given us to make it to 36 years! To all of you we hope 2026 is filled with HOPE, JOY, HEALTH AND BLESSINGS!

For this season and all seasons, people of all religions and no religion, the world over, are working for peace and unity of the human family. From its beginnings, the Center has been among them.

REFLECTION

In every corner of the globe, people long for an end to division, violence, and unrest. Yet even in the darkest of times, we, as members of the Center, must provide more than hopeful words, but also guide humanity toward unity and compassion. We desire all of humanity to be as one human family, respecting our differences, working tirelessly to break down walls of hostility and build bridges of compassion.

Center had active year; looking forward to 2026

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Castle to aid in processing the deep pain and emotions felt by the 90-minute tour in that space. The first workshop will roll out in 2026.

THE CENTER will meet with Sharri McGlaughting, member of the board of directors at Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church in Houston. The church is an affirming congregation that has been in existence for more than 50 years.

CHERRY WILL BE a keynote speaker at the 41st Annual Celebration

of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday in February, 2026, at the Cypress Creek Christian Church, sponsored by the Enrichment & Brotherhood Organization of Northwest Houston.

ROSITA WADEN will host an ongoing film series in 2026.

JOEL GOZA and several members of the Center will present a workshop for the Jung Center in Spring of 2026. The topic will be, "A Letter to my Children" from Joel's book, *Re-Birth of A Nation*.

A GRANT FROM Summerlee is

allowing the Center to continue its educational programs on the Rosenwald Schools.

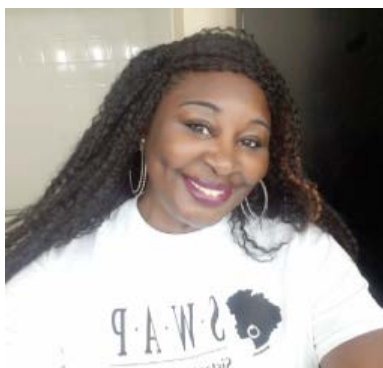
This grant is funding workshops to be presented in communities that were home to all of the Rosenwald Schools in Texas. It will also include two workshops here in Houston.

The first workshop is in the process of being scheduled with the help of Cheryl Donatto from the West Columbia, Texas, Historic Society.

CAMILA HERNANDEZ, a student at the University of Houston Downtown, will join the Center as its new intern.

Two Members completing six-year terms to roll off Center's Board

The Center wishes Sonya Sneed and Kelly Johnson the very best and thank them for their service. God Speed in all their future endeavors.



Sonya Sneed
Former Board Chair



Kelly Johnson
Former Secretary

Letters to the Center

Hi Cherry,

Circling back here to say thank you for sharing your newsletter with me, including our student feedback! Your Lunch and Learn did have a ripple effect and there's ongoing curiosity within our community about the intersection of race, aging, and small groups - a few topics you'd spoken on. Also, our Spring '26 semester is focused on 'Dreaming into Being'- giving ourselves permission and skills to build bridges, and imagine new paradigms. If you'd be interested in another program with us — related to these topics or something else that's relevant for you — our community would be grateful to learn with you again!

Our deadline for planning Spring programs is Sept 1, so please let me know if a Spring '26 program is an appealing possibility for you and I'll send over more relevant details!

**With hope & gratitude,
Sarah Garcia LMSW
Community for Conscious Aging
Manager & Programs Coordinator
The Jung Center**

VR Workshop was wonderful event

I just wanted to say that Saturday was an unforgettable event — full of heart, connection, and empathy. One of the participants said, "I didn't know I was going to cry so

much," and several others asked if we could host it again in the Spring. I let them know that we were already planning to do so.

It got me thinking about our conversation for the Spring event and whether we might focus specifically on apps that highlight Civil Rights, as part of aligning with Black History Month.

You all made this happen, and I'm deeply humbled to be part of such a powerful and purposeful team.

I posted the event on LinkedIn and have already had people reach out from as far as Japan and the United Kingdom (UK).

One person even asked to interview me about the event, and I suggested Cherry Steinwender and Christine Harrison instead.

Another colleague from the UK shared that they had created a Virtual Reality experience around genocide in Iraq. The impact of our work is reaching across borders.

I'd love for us to find a time to meet before the year ends to reflect and start shaping the Spring follow-up. Borrowing Cherry's words: In Oneness.

**Rubén Durán
Reality COLLAB
Curriculum & Compliance**



Internalize Oneness

Flyers of Center's 2025 Programs

A look back at program flyers announcing a year of workshops, films and recognition of history

CENTER FOR THE HEALING OF RACISM
IN COLLABORATION
WITH
Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month
PRESENTS



Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is an annual event celebrating Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States. This special weekend honors the contributions of people from many communities. There are more than 37 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States, with heritage from over 40 countries.

DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2025
TIME: 6:30 P.M.
LOCATION: JAMES REESE CAREER & TECHNICAL CENTER

The sessions are free and open to the public; donations welcomed going.

Pre-registration is required. To register, scan the code or visit:
<https://www.centerforthehealingofracism.org/event-1044444>



CENTER FOR THE HEALING OF RACISM
IN COLLABORATION
WITH
Jewish American Heritage Month
PRESENTS
Black-Jewish Americans



Just over sixty years after the Holocaust, the Jewish American community has made significant gains in the workplace, in education, and in the media. Yet, the Jewish American community has not been fully recognized for its contributions to the United States.

Dr. Jack Black, author of *Black Jews: The Story of the Jewish American Community*, will discuss the history of the Jewish American community and the challenges it has faced.

DATE: MAY 1, 2025
TIME: 6:30 P.M.
LOCATION: JAMES REESE CAREER & TECHNICAL CENTER

The sessions are free and open to the public; donations welcomed to keep the work going.

Pre-registration is required. To register, scan the code or visit:
<https://www.centerforthehealingofracism.org/event-1044444>



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MARKER DEDICATION & UNVEILING



**June 19, 2025
10:00 a.m.**

**James Reese Career & Technical Center
12300 University Blvd.
Sugar Land, TX 77479**

Co-sponsored by Friends of the Sugar Land BC
Celebration to follow until 1 p.m.

For Sponsoring Organizations or Donations, please email:
sugarland@thc.state.tx.us

RSVP to Attend

Hosted by
FRIENDS OF SUGAR LAND BC



Dialogue: Racism



Join us for our signature two-day interactive workshop in a safe, respectful, and loving atmosphere where individuals will learn new information, share their experiences, dispel fear and guilt, and get to know each other.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4 & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11
9AM - 4:30PM**

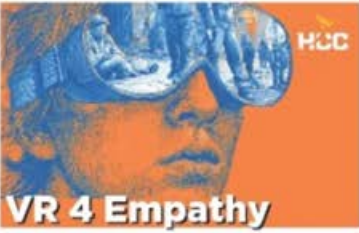
WHAT TO EXPECT:

- ✓ Exploring Bias and Stereotypes
- ✓ Addressing Conditioning
- ✓ Empowering Next Steps
- ✓ Defining Prejudice and Racism

Tuition: Students \$45, Non-Students \$65 for \$200 fee

REGISTER NOW <https://www.centerforthehealingofracism.org/event-1044444>

VR 4 Empathy




Join the Reality COLLAB at HCC Central College for a special Virtual Reality for Empathy Workshop.

Get ready for a storytelling event like no other! This immersive learning initiative will use VR simulations where participants are placed in the shoes of others to explore social issues, lived experiences, and diverse perspectives.

**Saturday, November 15
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

HCC Central Campus
J.B. Whitely Building, Room 201
1301 Alabama St., Houston, TX 77004

To register for this event, scan the QR code or visit:
hcc.edu/VR4E



HOUSTON CITY COLLEGE

THE 2025 JUNETEENTH ALLY AWARD BARBECUE LUNCHEON



THE 2025 JUNETEENTH ALLY AWARD BARBECUE LUNCHEON

DATE: JUNE 25, 2025
TIME: 11 AM

LOCATION: ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 1500 MAIN ST, HOUSTON, TX 77004

Tickets:

- Ambassador Sponsorship: \$1000 - 2 reserved tables to event
- Trailblazer Sponsorship: \$500 - 1 reserved table to event
- Table Sponsorship: \$250 - 1 reserved table to event
- Individual Sponsorship: \$100 - 1 reserved seat to event
- Free Will Contribution: \$50 - 1 reserved seat to event
- Future Leader Scholarship: \$10 - 1 reserved seat to event
- General Admission: \$10 - 1 reserved seat to event

To purchase tickets please visit:
www.centerforthehealingofracism.org

For Ambassador and Trailblazer Sponsorships, call 713-520-8226 or email info@centerforthehealingofracism.org

END
RACISM