



Newsletter

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

...Strengthening the link between dialog and action.

UPDATE

February 25, 2009

Newsletter 001

Visit us
www.nccjctwma.org

NCCJ
Connecticut
Western
Massachusetts
1095 Day Hill Road, Suite
100
Windsor, CT 06095

CONTACT
Judith Barlow Roberts
Director of Adult Programs

TELEPHONE
860-683-1039 ext 105
860-640-0022

FAX
860-683-1409

EMAIL
jroberts@nccjctwma.org

NCCJ Community Conversation on Race and Poverty

Western New England College (WNEC) Hosts a Community Conversation on Race Program for Students

As part of an ongoing Diversity Task Force initiative on the campus of the Western New England College, a group of twelve WNEC students participated in a special 2-day Conversation on Race Dialogue program. Facilitated by NCCJ Director of Adult Programs, Judith Barlow-Roberts and WNEC Professor Meri Clark—the participants shared their personal experiences and dialogued on the impact of racism across our country, the community of Springfield, Massachusetts and the WNEC campus. As a result of the program, students created action ideas that emphasized diversity and inclusion on campus and ways to create opportunities to connect with the surrounding community.

If you would like to bring the **Community Conversations** program to your organization or school, contact Judith Barlow-Roberts at NCCJ 860-683-1039 or jroberts@nccjctwma.org

Our Volunteers Make a World of Difference

.... As a part of the continued effort to raise awareness of diversity issues, the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) contacted the NCCJ to facilitate a series of small group dialogues during the spring of 2008. "When I heard about the program, I really wanted to become involved" said Richard Blanks, Richard credits the *Community Conversations on Race* program with raising awareness of not just racism but other forms of discrimination that may have a direct effect on an individual's life experience....

[To read the interview in it's entirety...](#)

Mark Your Calendars

April 2, 2009 and June 17, 2009 2009 Human Relations Award Banquet Tickets

Annually, the NCCJ honors individuals for their high standards of responsible citizenship and leadership, and for their contributions in promoting the principles of tolerance, understanding and cooperation in our increasingly diverse communities at the Connecticut and Western Massachusetts Human Relations Award Banquets.

Connecticut Banquet takes place on April 2, 2009 at the Hilton Hotel, Hartford CT

Western Massachusetts Banquet takes place on June 17, 2009 at Chez Josef, Agawam Massachusetts.

We appreciate your attendance and support of the **Human Relations Award Banquet**. To purchase tickets call Eva Storrs at 860-683-1039 or email: estorrs@nccjctwma.org

Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Children's Health: Causes and Solutions

April 7, 2009 Community Forum: *Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Children's Health: Causes and Solutions*

Guest speaker: Dr. Lee Pachter, Director of Pediatric Inpatient Services, St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center and Professor at University of Connecticut school of Medicine.

Moderator: Helen Caulton-Harris, Director of Health and Human Service for the City of Springfield
Panelist: Dr. Lindsey Grossman, Chair of Pediatrics, Baystate Health, and Dr. Lauren Smith, Medical Director, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

The forum is free of charge. Due to limited seating, please RSVP to Judith Barlow-Roberts at 860-683-1039 ext. 105 or email Judith Barlow-Roberts: jroberts@nccjctwma.org

Traces of the Trade Film Screening

April 25, 2009 *Traces of the Trade* Film Screening Presented by the Grace Lutheran Church 46 Woodland St., Hartford, CT 06105. 9:00am – 12:00 noon

What happens when a proud New England family discovers that much of its wealth came from the buying and selling of human beings into slavery? And what do their struggles have to contribute to our own struggles with lingering racial divisions? To explore these questions and more, you are invited to this widely acclaimed 90-minute film by Katrina Browne, *Traces of the Trade: A Story From the Deep North* at the Grace Lutheran Church, 46 Woodland Street, Hartford.

The screening is free to the public. For further information, contact Ted Steege at 860-882-7714

Bring NCCJ's award winning youth program BRIDGES to your school!

NCCJ will be presenting it's two-day diversity and anti-bullying program to Classical Magnet Middle School, Springfield Renaissance High School, Pioneer Valley Performing Arts High School and Granby High School this winter. Through large group and small group discussions, media presentations, games and hands-on activities, students begin to understand the origins of prejudice and how it affects others, **to confront their own prejudicial beliefs and recognize the harmful effects of stereotypes**. At the completion of the 2-day session, students will develop strategies to implement their learning in their own schools, spreading their knowledge throughout their peers.

NCCJ youth programs are offered at no charge to all public schools in the region.

To schedule a BRIDGES session in your school contact Muneer Panjwani at mpanjwani@nccjctwma.org or (860)683-1039 ext. 102

**If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, or if you prefer to receive the newsletter via mail please contact our offices at
Judith Barlow Roberts
Director of Adult Programs
(860) 683-1039 ext. 105**

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