



Newsletter

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

...Strengthening the link between dialog and action.

June 5, 2009

Newsletter 002

Visit us
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NCCJ Hosts Health Forum in Springfield, MA



April 7, 2009, Dr. Lee Pachter, a professor of pediatrics at the University of Connecticut School Of Medicine, and a pediatrician at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford, CT presented his report *on Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Children's Health: Causes and Solutions* on the campus of Western New England College. The event focused on minority child health and development; social determinants of child health; diversity in medicine, and culturally competent healthcare. Dr. Pachter was joined by panelist: Dr. Lindsey Grossman, Chair of Pediatrics, Baystate Health and Dr. Lauren Smith, Medical Director, MA Department of Public Health. 2009 NCCJ honoree: Helen Caulton-Harris, Director of Health and Human Service for the City of Springfield, moderated the discussion.

Dr. Pachter's research is available at www.nccjctwma.org/whatwedo/community.html

The event was co-sponsored by Partners for a Healthier Community & the Human Service Forum

Western New England College Students Promoting Online Dialogue

The Western New England College Diversity Task Force contracted the NCCJ to facilitate a Campus Conversation on Race program as part of an ongoing campus initiative. Student leaders were selected to participate in the winter session discussions. This spring a 6- week dialogue program combining both students & faculty occurred. Professor Meri Clark & community activist Judith Feinstein co-facilitated the circles with Judith B. Roberts. As an action item, Campus Conversation on Race participants collaborated with members of United and Mutually Equally (U&ME) diversity organization to create *Building Bridges*—an online networking community that promotes diversity education discussions.

"Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North" Film and Discussion



On April 25 a film and discussion of *Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North* brought together community people for a special moment in the Greater Hartford community. The widely acclaimed 90-minute film by Katrina Browne chronicles a unique and disturbing journey into the legacy of the slave trade as she comes to grips with the discovery that her New England ancestors, the DeWolfs, were one of the largest slave-trading family's in U.S. history. The film is a probing essay into divergent versions of the nation's history.

Following the film, participants were invited to share their thoughts and reflections on the film in a community discussion. Ledlie Laughlin, a DeWolfs descendant added additional insight on the film experience and his personal journey towards understanding.

Conversation participant, Maisa Tisdale of ABCD (Action for Community Development in Bridgeport) stated, "The power of history to plant seeds of healing transformation is quite profound. On and off screen, hearts and minds were changed – tears and laughter, hope, new levels of trust and commitment emerged." Preston Tisdale, Director of Special Public Defenders for the State of Connecticut and his mother Loyse a veteran of the civil rights movement added passion to the moment, as did Bishop John Selders of Amistad Church (UCC).

SAVE THE DATE:

NCCJ Human Relations Award Banquet

JOIN NCCJ and the Hartford community in a celebration of diversity and outstanding citizenship throughout our region
June 17, 2009

6:00 pm. – 9:00 pm.

Chez Josef, Agawam Massachusetts

For ticket information contact Eva Storrs: estorrs@nccjctwma.org or call (860)683-1039 ext. 108

2009 Honorees:

Helen Caulton-Harris, Director, Health and Human Services, City of Springfield
John and Paula Gallup, Community Leaders
Susan Jaye-Kaplan, Founder, GoFIT, Inc. and Co-Founder, Link to Libraries
Michael Niziolek, Former Vice President, Hasbro, Inc. (posthumous award)

Black in America 2 – CNN Hartford Screening



CNN continues its investigation of the most challenging issues facing African-Americans with "Black in America 2." CNN reports on people who are using ground-breaking solutions to transform the black experience

Hartford's Premier Screening:

June 29, 2009

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

The Hartford Stage

Open to the Public – For Tickets RSVP by June 17th: www.cnn.com/biascreening

**If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, or if you prefer to receive the newsletter via mail
please contact our offices at
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