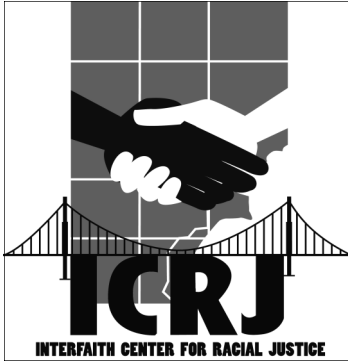


ICRJ Justice Journal

FALL 2011



Points of Interest

- “Freedom Bus” Filled at Kick-Off with ~ 3/4 quarter ton of personal care products for working poor
- 4th Annual Warren Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration: November 20
- Congregational Outreach
- Tenth Anniversary of 9/11
- 2011 LLL Summer Camp for Teenagers

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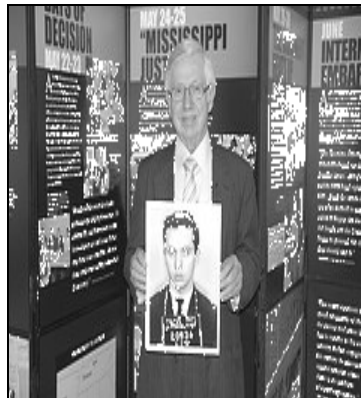
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2012 MLK Holiday SILVER ANNIVERSARY Celebration “Keeping the Wheels of Freedom Turning”

The ICRJ will host its 25th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Celebration of Macomb County on January 16, 2012 at The Royalty House in Warren (8201 Old 13 Mile).

Our Silver Anniversary theme is “Keeping the Wheels of Freedom Turning” which pays tribute to the recent 50th Anniversary of the Freedom Rides.

Freedom Rider, The Rev. Richard Gleason, a Michigan native and adjunct professor at Macomb Community College, will be next January’s Keynote Speaker. Rev. Gleason will share his experiences with the Freedom Rides, Dr. King, and the need to keep the wheels of freedom turning through our individual



2012 MLK Holiday Celebration Keynote Speaker Rev. Richard Gleason with his mug shot

and shared efforts.

Fox 2 Detroit’s Roop Raj will serve as the emcee, and the choir from Greater New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in New Haven, under the direction of Bernard Causey will perform. Greater New Hope in New Haven is led by The Rev. John L. Mack.

Other special features and the formal program are still being planned by the 2012 MLK Celebration Committee to commemorate Dr. King and acknowledge ICRJ’s Silver Anniversary MLK Holiday Celebration.

To begin, in hopes of marking the celebration on more than just the third Monday in January (the MLK Holiday), the ICRJ has partnered with the Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD), the Anton Art Gallery, HOPE Center, and MCREST to engage area high schools in a special art project/contest, traveling art exhibit, and collection drive to donate much needed personal care products to the HOPE Center for distribution there to Macomb’s working poor.

The Art Project/Contest invites every high school in Macomb County to submit one piece of art. The student artists are asked to learn about the Freedom Riders,

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and then convey this understanding while artistically creating what they feel still needs to happen to advance freedom for all.

The Top 10 art pieces will be shown on the big screens at the 2012 MLK Holiday Celebration. In addition, the top pieces will travel throughout the county as a special exhibit throughout 2012 beginning with a ten day stay (January 8-17) at the Anton Art Center in Mount Clemens.



Smithsonian Magazine Photo of Freedom Rider Bus Attacked

To broaden folks understanding of Dr. King’s work and help meet a big need in the county the ICRJ encouraged some area congregations, school districts, and individuals to collect personal care products (specifically: laundry detergent, shampoo, bath soap, deodorant, and toilet paper) to fill a bus (continued on page 3)

Thanksgiving Celebration: Sun., Nov. 20 at 2 p.m.

Begin your Thanksgiving Celebration by coming to the 4th Annual Warren Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration. This fall’s celebration will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. on the Sunday before Thanksgiving (November 20) at the Warren Woods Middle School Auditorium (13400 E. 12 Mile Road).

This free event will include youth

from the LLL Summer Camp for Teenagers, local leaders, area musical groups, and a reception following the formal celebration. A free-will collection will be held to cover the custodial fees for the event. Anything collected over the amount needed will be donated to the ICRJ.

The theme for this fall’s Thanks-

giving Celebration is: “Giving Thanks for American Core Values: Freedom, Equality, and Justice.”

For further information, please contact Michael Curro on (586) 463-3675, at curroicrj@sbcglobal.net, or visit www.icrj.org.



Tenth Anniversary of 9/11 Commemoration in Warren

Working with Warren Mayor Jim Fouts and the City of Warren the ICRJ organized a Tenth Anniversary of 9/11 Commemoration on the grounds of the Warren Civic Center.

Over 1000 people, including Congressman Sander Levin, State Senator Steve Beida, State Representative Lesia Liss, several local officials, and many LLL Summer Camp Alumni.

Below in *italics* is the statement printed in the bulletins (donated by American Graphics Printing Company, Inc.) for the ceremony.

September 11, 2001, is a date embedded in the memories of a whole generation of people who witnessed the horrific sight of airplanes crashing into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City (and later the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. and woods of Pennsylvania). The senseless killing of so many innocent lives continues to haunt us, and the selfless response of police, fire fighters, and paramedics still lifts us. Their dedication and sacrifice is the epitome of public service at its best and most heroic.

Today, on the Tenth Anniversary of 9/11, we gather to remember those who died, commend the first responders to the tragedy and those who serve our nation and communities, and re-dedicate our county to our nation's core values of freedom, equality, and justice. We wish to expand the focus of this date from a look backward in fear to a view forward with hope. We will never forget those who lost their lives and the heroic

actions of those who came to Ground Zero; yet, we must teach our children and generations to come that 9/11 stands for hope and unity rather than death and violence. For in the immediate aftermath of September 11, 2001, the United States



Heart Cloud Above the Stage at the 10th Anniversary of 9/11 at Warren Civic Center

was united and most of the world was standing in support of us. Hence, in marking 9/11 to re-affirm our core values we focus and rededicate our efforts to building a better world for all.

The Warren Kiwanis Club provided refreshments after the ceremony; Ignited Lighting and Sound donated their expertise; Evola Music delivered a keyboard for our use; and, several volunteers helped organize and offer a poignant event.

Below is copy of program outline from the event:

Countywide Ceremony Marking the Tenth Anniversary of 9/11

Co-Chaired by: Jim Fouts, Mayor of Warren, & Imam Steve Eltnak, ICRJ Board President

Gathering Music.....	Louise Frazier Warren Mott H.S. Marching Band
Welcome.....	Mayor Jim Fouts, City of Warren
Opening Introductions.....	Imam Steve Eltnak, ICRJ Board President
U.S. National Anthem.....	Life Application Ministries Church in Warren Choir Raising of the American Flag by City of Warren Police Guard
Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag <i>Joined and Surrounded by 2011 Listen, Learn, & Live Summer Camp for Teenagers: Participants</i>	
Moment of Silence in Memory of Those Who Lost Their Lives on Sept. 11, 2001	
Formal Introduction of Warren Mayor Jim Fouts.....	Imam Eltnak
Special Remarks.....	Mayor Jim Fouts, City of Warren "Freedom, Equality, and Justice" / Hope for the Future
Hymn: "My Country 'Tis of Thee".....	audience led by Warren Community Chorus
Freedom, Equality, and Justice & Remembrance—Placement of WreathRev. Michael T. Curro, Executive Director—Interfaith Center for Racial Justice (ICRJ)	City of Warren, Mayor Jim Fouts U.S. Congressman Sander Levin State and Elected Officials
Anthem: "Prayer for Our Time".....	Warren Community Chorus
Acknowledgement of First Responders and Introductions.....	Mayor Jim Fouts
Recognition of First Responders.....	Police Commissioner Jere Green, City of Warren Fire Commissioner Skip McAdams, City of Warren
21 Gun Salute.....	Police Honor Guard, City of Warren
Music:.....	Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church of Warren Choir
Prayer Litany:..Rev. Roger Facione, ICRJ Board Member and Pastor, Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church	
Special Thanks and Closing Comments.....	Imam Steve Eltnak
Closing Prayer.....	Fr. Gary Schulte, St. Sylvester Catholic Church
Uniting Hymn: "God Bless America".....	audience led by Warren Community Chorus
Departing Music.....	Warren Mott High School Marching Band

Please join us in the Atrium after this afternoon's ceremony for refreshments courtesy of Warren Kiwanis

ICRJ Launches Congregational Outreach Campaign

Earlier this fall the ICRJ launched a new "Congregational Outreach Campaign" in hopes of deepening relationships with and gaining financial support from area congregations.

Initial letters from the ICRJ office were mailed requesting appointments, and subsequent phone calls and emails have been (and are being) placed to hopefully confirm meetings.

Once an appointment is scheduled an ICRJ Presentation Team comprised of ICRJ Board Members, LLL Alumni, and/or ICRJ friends makes the congregational visit and presentation on the ICRJ to discuss ICRJ's past successes and to seek opinions on, involvement in, and funding for future programming.

To date, only a handful of presentations have been made and another handful of appoint-

ments arranged for after the New Year. Hopefully more will be scheduled in the coming weeks, as the few visits held are confirming the thought that while many congregations are familiar with ICRJ's annual MLK Holiday Celebration and Listen, Learn, & Live (LLL), they are not fully aware that the ICRJ is behind the MLK Event and LLL programming.

Improving everyone's knowledge of the ICRJ will hopefully increase the number of organizational members of the ICRJ as once folks learn more about our important work they often feel good about investing in us.

If your congregation or organization is interested in a presentation on the ICRJ, please call (586) 463-3675.

Diversity Training with Head Start

The ICRJ was invited to provide Diversity Training in 2011-2012 for the Macomb County Head Start Program.

Roughly 150 Head Start Teachers, Teacher's Aides, and Administrators participated last June in an opening session on culture that included BaFa BaFa.

This same group then gathered in August for presentations first on Chaldean and then on Muslim culture. Sue Kattula and Muhammad Kibriya, respectively, were the presenters in August.

Later this month Rev. Tyrone Martin will provide a training on African American culture.

ICRJ applauds Head Start for providing Diversity training to All its staff.



August Training

2011 Listen, Learn, & Live Programming Excels



ICRJ's 2011 Listen, Learn, & Live (LLL) programming concluded with a very successful 2nd annual LLL Summer Camp for Teenagers hosted by Mt. Calvary Lutheran and St. Mark Parish in Warren, August 7-12. Forty nine teenagers from eight different cultural groups and/or faith traditions participated.

The 2011 LLL Summer Camp included some changes and additions from the inaugural camp: a service project day (clean-up around Mt. Calvary), a presentation from the Native American Community, and more free time between presentations allowing for a few more fun contests (e.g., water balloon toss and free throw contest).

Many thanks to St. Mark Catholic Parish and Denise Amenta for all of their generous contributions (space, hospitality, breakfast every day, pizza lunch on Friday, and donated items [gift cards] to use as prizes in awarding the winning group that earns the most points during the "Jeopardy" review at the end).

Special thanks also to Donna & Sarah Willey and Mary Swaney for their help, especially with the creation of the LLL Summer Campers "unity squares" sewed together at the end into a beautiful diversity mosaic.

Likewise we again want to thank all of the presenters and cultural communities that made the 2nd LLL Summer Camp possible, including: Willie Dechavez, Phillip McRoberts, Carol Palasigue & Fe San Agustin (Filipinos-Monday); Arun Vijan, Asha Subramanian, Lalitha & Shruthi Chandra, and Geoffrey Berdy (Indians & Jews-Tuesday); Chris & Sue Franklin, and IONA (Native Americans-Wednesday); Mario Campos, Aranxta Martinez, Sue Kattula, and Kristine Segmani (Hispanics and Chaldeans-Thursday); and,



Rev. Martin and '11 LLL Campers

Muhammad Kibriya & Rev. Tyrone Martin (Muslims and African Americans-Friday).

Also we want to again thank Macomb County Commissioners Fred Miller and Toni Mocerri, and Warren Mayor Jim Fouts for their presentations on Monday morning. Further we want to express thanks to Rev. Roger Facione, David Hopps Sr., & Mt. Calvary Lutheran for hosting the LLL Summer Camp on Sunday night and Wednesday.

Thanks also to Rev. Terri Bracy for her help, and Brian Louwers (C&G Newspapers) and Warren Cable TV for their coverage. In addition, we want to thank everyone who helped and apologize if we missed anyone. Finally we don't want to forget Beaumont Hospital, St. John Providence Hospital, St. Sylvester Catholic Parish, the Detroit Metropolitan Association of the United Church of Christ, IONA, and Anne Small for their financial contributions. A lot of great people and generous contributions of time, knowledge, food, and money, make the Summer Camp possible.

Now in hopes of further expanding the LLL Summer Camp, ICRJ Executive Director Michail Curro is presenting to several school groups through the MISD this fall. Our hope is to develop a closer connection with area schools to the LLL camp.

In addition last spring (the fifth season of LLL) modules were held on Jews and Judaism (March), Islam and Muslims (April), Christianity (May), and Chaldeans (June).

Further the 2011 LLL Programming included both pulpit swaps in February, and Sunday experiences of the "Black" Church and discussions on race in June.

Special thanks again to our module hosts: St. Mark Parish, Warren; American Lutheran Church, Clinton Twp.; Islamic Association of Greater Detroit, Rochester Hills; and, Cross Lutheran, Clinton Twp.; and, to our partner communities and instructors: Temple Emanuel, Rabbi Joe Klein, and Cantor Darcie Sharlein; IONA and Imam Steve Elturk; St. Maximilian/St. Francis and Fr. Chris Talbot; and Holy Martyrs Chaldean Catholic Church and Fr. Manuel Boji. Also, we'd like to thank all who participated in one of more modules or sessions. Attendance remained strong.

Furthermore we were very pleased with the pulpit swaps between First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Clemens and Greater Morning Star MBC, and Christ Lutheran, Sterling Heights and Greater New Hope MBC. (Unfortunately the third swap never took place.) And while we hoped for much larger participation we were happy to offer Sunday experiences with the Black Church and Discussions on Race at: Greater New Hope Missionary Baptist Church; North Broadway Church of Christ; and Greater Morningstar Missionary Baptist Church.

In 2012 we look forward to again holding a LLL module on Christianity at an area mosque, expanding the number of pulpit swaps between Black and White congregations, offering modules on Jews and Judaism, Islam and Muslims, Indians and Hinduism, and hopefully facilitating dialogue between Chaldeans and Muslims. **More information will be included in the 2012 MLK Holiday publication, or call (586) 463-3675.**



2012 MLK Silver Anniversary *(continued from pg. 1)*

(the Freedom Bus) at the 2012 MLK Holiday Silver Anniversary Kick-Off at the MISD.

Despite less than six weeks to collect these items, the MISD bus (adorned with MLK Holiday banners) was filled at the Kick-Off with nearly three quarters of a ton (1,418 pounds) of donations. The MISD delivered the items to the HOPE Center the following day and there they are being distributed to the working poor.

Our collection of these items (products that cannot be purchased with a Bridge Card) will continue through the 2012 MLK Holiday, as we hope to fill another "freedom" bus (or more) there. Again our purpose in doing so



2012 MLK Emcee: Fox 2's Roop Raj

is two-fold, to meet a huge need in the county, but also to remind folks that Dr. King was in Memphis, TN to help the working poor (Garbage Workers) gain collective bar-

gaining rights when he was assassinated.

(continued on p. 4)

'We read one day, 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.' But if a man doesn't have a job or an income, he has neither life nor liberty nor the possibility for the pursuit of happiness.'

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr

INTERFAITH CENTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE (ICRJ)

"... Invoking a Community of Respect and Justice"



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Visit our newly re-
designed web page at:
WWW.ICRJ.ORG

The Interfaith Center for Racial Justice (ICRJ) has been working for four decades to build bridges of understanding among people of different cultures and faith traditions. Join us in this important venture whether through attendance at our annual MLK Holiday Celebration of Macomb County, participation in our unique "Listen, Learn, & Live" programming, support of our "Forums on Diversity" segments, involvement in our Macomb/Detroit Multicultural Youth Project, and/or through a donation to or an ICRJ membership. Together we can build a better community, a stronger region, a better world for all.

To contact ICRJ please call Rev. Michail T. Curro, Executive Director on (586) 463-3675 or email him at revcurro@icrj.org.

2012 MLK Holiday Celebration

Continued from p. 3

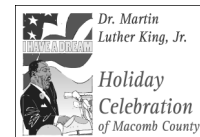
Please encourage your friends, family, and organization(s) to collect and bring these items when coming to the Royalty House on January 16, 2012.



Photo at Hope Center after MLK Kick-Off of 1,418 lbs of Donated Personal Care Products

For more information or to reserve a table or seats for 2012 MLK Holiday Celebration call (586) 463-3675 or email at curroicrj@sbcglobal.net.

Sponsorship & Advertising Opportunities. Available.



Become an ICRJ Member Today

A very important source of funding for the Interfaith Center for Racial Justice (ICRJ) are individual, family, and organizational memberships.

Join us in our efforts to build bridges of understanding, to invoke a community of respect and justice for all.

Individual, family, and youth members will receive:

- ICRJ's newsletter(s), email updates and email notifications of ICRJ programming and events.

Organizational members will receive:

- ICRJ newsletter(s), email notifications of ICRJ programming and events, and discounts for their members participating in "Listen, Learn, & Live" modules. In addition, organizational members are included on ICRJ's letterhead and linked to ICRJ's website.

Please complete the membership form and return to ICRJ today!!!

(for example, the Smith Family) is pleased to support the work of the Interfaith Center for Racial Justice (ICRJ) in invoking a community of respect and justice.

_____ Individual Membership-\$25

_____ Individual Membership and Friend of Martin*-\$35

_____ Family Membership-\$45

_____ Family Membership and Friend of Martin*-\$60

_____ Small Organizational Member \$250

Congregations/Organizations with less than 150 members/ employees or annual budget under \$125,000

_____ Medium Organizational Member \$500

Congregations/Organizations with 300 or more members/ employees or annual budgets over \$200,000

_____ Large Organizational Member \$1000

Congregations/Organizations with 500 or more members/ employees or annual budgets over \$500,000

***Friend of Martin** members are listed in ICRJ's MLK Publication distributed to 10,000 people throughout the county prior to and during the annual MLK Holiday Celebration of Macomb County.