

Spring 2010

Published quarterly
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Opinions voiced by individuals in this publication may not necessarily be the opinions of the other members of HRC or of the organization as a whole.

**SINCE 1998...
 FOSTERING
 INTERRACIAL
 RESPECT AND
 ACCEPTANCE**

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6th Annual Black History Essay Contest



from left: Alfred Edwards, Andrea Amabilis, Angela Swain, Carsten Edwards, Kristen Hartley and Gabe Ross. Sydney Kujawa did not attend.

On February 10, 2010, HRC held its 6th Annual Black History Month Essay Contest. The quality of the essays this year was excellent! We were able to open the contest to the Menifee area as well as the Hemet and San Jacinto areas. There

were 35 middle school essays and 15 high schools essays submitted.

The Middle School winners were: Kristen Hartley from Bell Mountain Middle School, 1st Place; Gabe Ross from River Springs Charter

(Continued on page 2)



from left, Danielle Dumond, Somialia Miller, Chance Sutliff, Leslie Mondragon and Christopher Torres.

NINTH ANNUAL RELIGIOUS UNDERSTANDING DAY

by Michael Madrigal

The *Blessings of Water* was this year's theme for our ninth annual Religious Understanding Day at Mount San Jacinto College. Considering the growing awareness of the scarcity of our water supply in the valley and throughout the greater southwest, focusing on water seems very appropriate. Water is the essential element for life, and we must concede that our quality of life is dependent on the availability of clean, abundant, and affordable water. The basics of cooking, cleaning, and growing our favorite foods is only possible because of water. Whatever our religious practice happens to be, our spiritual lives are equally dependent on the gift of water. Seven speakers explored this theme at our daylong event held in the college's library. Featured speakers were Robert Lindquist, Lourdes Arguelles, Merrill Brinton, Wiggs Mendoza, Francis Rothluebber, Kalipratim Chowdhury, and Lama Naljorma. They presented water agency, Buddhist, Catholic, Hindu, Latter Day Saints, and Green Coalition perspectives on the theme. Mary Ann Hogan was our moderator for the day. Several faith based organizations offered displays and literature. Over 100 persons attended, with over sixty being MSJC students.



Informing the community about religious diversity and increasing understanding of religious differences is one way the Human Relations Council hopes to prevent religiously motivated hate and bias in our community. Creating an opportunity for interfaith dialogue and cooperation is one of the ways we can foster more positive human relations. We are truly enriched when we can gain insight into each others spiritual and religious practice.

Religious Understanding Day, which took place on March 20, was sponsored by the Mount San Jacinto College Diversity Committee in cooperation with the Hemet – San Jacinto Interfaith Council and the Human Relations Council.



First People's Day

This is a happy group of HRC'ers leaving San Jacinto City Council after having First People's Day declared a holiday for the very first time. We're ready for March 27, 2010 at Farmer's Corner in San Jacinto.

Essay Contest (Continued from page 1)

School, 2nd Place; Alfred Edwards from Monte Vista Middle School, Honorable Mention; Andrea Amabilis from Bell Mountain Middle School, Honorable Mention; Carsten Edwards from Bell Mountain Middle School, Honorable Mention; Sydney Kujawa from Bell Mountain Middle School, Honorable Mention; and Angela Swain from Menifee Valley Middle School, Honorable Mention. High School winners were Somailia Miller from San Jacinto High School, 1st Place; Leslie Mondragon from San Jacinto High School, 2nd Place; Chance Sutliff from Hemet High School, Honorable Mention; Christopher Torres from Hamilton High School, Honorable Mention; and Danielle Dumond from River Springs Charter School, Honorable Mention. There were two Presentation awards as well, won by Gabe Ross from River Springs Charter School and Christopher Torres from Hamilton High School.

Community Forum on Hate and Violence

by Mary Morse



Pilgrim Congregational Church in Hemet was the site of HRC's first Community Forum on Hate and Violence on March 6, 2010. The speakers for the day were Dr. Denise Dalaimo (top left) and Millie Baez of the MSJC Bias Education, Assessment and Response Program, Mike Madrigal and Mary Morse on Community Action Partnership of Riverside County's Structural Racism Project, and Mike Kinsman (below left) of the Western Inland Empire Coalition against Hate (WIECAH).

Over forty-five individuals attended the forum, listening intently and sharing observations and concerns with the speakers. This forum seemed to be very timely especially for the Hemet area because of the current violence against the police department and the emphasis on gang involvement in the area.



Many thanks to Russ Jacobs and Rev. Greg Hepler of the Pilgrim Congregational Church for their leadership, hospitality and courage in offering their church hall for this event.



United States®
Census
2010

IT'S IN OUR HANDS

We proclaim that the Human Relations Council of the Greater Hemet, San Jacinto and Menifee Regions is committed to partnering with the U.S. Census Bureau to help ensure a full and accurate count in 2010.

As a 2010 Census partner, we will:

- ◆ Support the goals and ideals for the 2010 Census and disseminate 2010 Census information to encourage those in our community to participate.
- ◆ Encourage people in our community to place an emphasis on the 2010 Census and participate in events and initiatives that will raise overall awareness and ensure a full and accurate census.
- ◆ Support census takers as they help our community complete an accurate count.
- ◆ Create or seek opportunities to collaborate with other like-minded groups in our community by participating in Complete Count Committees and/or utilizing high-profile, trusted voices to advocate on behalf of the 2010 Census.

HRC Calendar

Saturday, March 27, 2010

First People's Day Holiday

Farmers' Corner, San Jacinto

10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Saturday, April 10, 2010

H/SJ Chamber Fiesta

Ramona Bowl (HRC will have a booth)

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

General Membership Meeting

Program TBD

Sunwest Village Clubhouse, 1001 N. Lyon, Hemet

7:00 PM

Wednesday, May , 2010

General Membership Meeting

Program TBD

Sunwest Village Clubhouse, 1001 N. Lyon, Hemet

7:00 PM

NAACP Visits HRC

by Mary Morse

At HRC's January General Membership Meeting, Rev. Ben Carrington of the Lake Elsinore NAACP spoke about the history of the NAACP and its role in Riverside County today. There was a lot of the history that the audience did not know. For example, the NAACP was formed partly in response to the continuing horrific practice of lynching and the 1908 race riot in Springfield, the capital of Illinois and resting place of President Abraham Lincoln. Appalled at the violence that was committed against blacks, a group of white liberals that included Mary White Ovington and Oswald Garrison Villard, both the descendants of abolitionists, William English Walling and Dr. Henry Moscowitz issued a call for a meeting to discuss racial justice. Some 60 people, seven of whom were African American (including W. E. B. Du Bois, Ida B. Wells-Barnett and Mary Church Terrell), signed the call, which was released on the centennial of Lincoln's birth.

In the 100 years since, the NAACP has been the leading advocate for social justice and equality for people of color. They work hard at forging a better future each and every day for men, women, and

children.

They focus their resources on social justice for ALL. Whether it is support for grassroots programs to benefit children, families, neighborhoods or communities, or breaking down the barriers for minorities in the highest courts and in Congress, the NAACP will fight for the rights of minorities.

The principle objectives of the NAACP:

- ◆ To ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of all citizens
- ◆ To achieve equality of rights and eliminate race prejudice among the citizens of the United States
- ◆ To remove all barriers of racial discrimination through democratic processes
- ◆ To seek enactment and enforcement of federal, state and local laws securing civil rights
- ◆ To inform the public of the adverse effect of racial discrimination and to seek its elimination
- ◆ To educate persons as to their constitutional rights and to take all lawful action to secure the exercise thereof, and to take any other lawful action in furtherance of these objectives.



(from l.) Brian Tisdale, President of Lake Elsinore NAACP, Chuck Reutter, Diann and Rev. Ben Carrington, and HRC member Steve Arnold.

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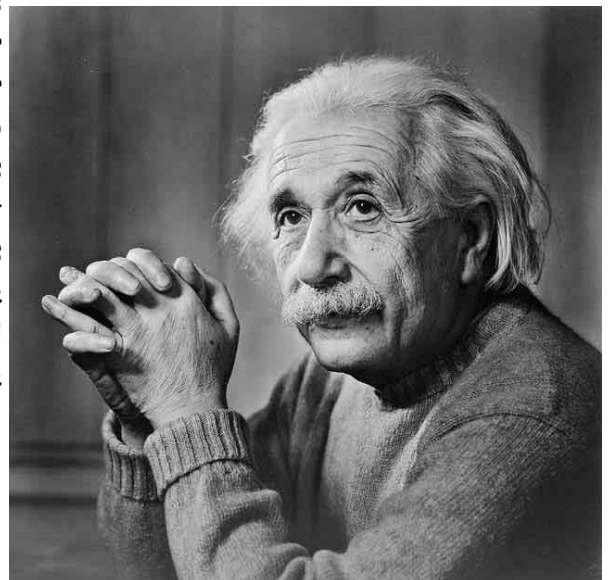
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**OUR
MISSION:**
*To promote
cooperation
and positive
human
relations in
the
community.*

A human being is a part of the whole called by us universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feeling as something separated from the rest, a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty.



ALBERT EINSTEIN