

Winter 2011

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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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Road Trip to Tolerance



From left, Kali Pratim "Tim" Chowdhury, a docent of the Tolerance Education Center, David Whalen, Mary Morse and Jenois "Lois" Harris.

On November 12, 2010, three of our HRC members set out on a road trip that will stay in their memories forever. They went to the opening of the "Pink Triangle" Holocaust Exhibit at the Tolerance Education Center in Rancho Mirage, CA. They were very moved when they saw the center's historically authentic cloth "original" pink triangle (below). It is displayed along with

authenticated patches consisting of a yellow Star of David for the masses of Jews, a blue Star of David for "trusty" Jews, and a purple triangle for Jehovah's Witnesses.

They also watched the movie "Paragraph 175" and met the creator of the exhibit, David Whalen.

The Pink Triangle Holocaust was a well hidden atrocity. During the Nazi reign over 100,000 homosexuals were arrested and in excess of 50,000 were sent to prison. Between 5,000 and 15,000 were sent to concentration camps.

The exhibit, created by David Whalen, a 15 year Coachella Valley resident, brought to life some of



(Continued on page 2)

Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration



Many of our HRC members attended the Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast at Mt. San Jacinto College on January 17, 2011. Professor Willie Hamilton (l) was Master of Ceremony to a large audience (middle photo) brought together by the MSJC Diversity Committee (r) and other community groups. Highlights of the Celebration were an art contest, speeches on the significance of the day, Gospel music and praise dancing.

Winter Holiday Multicultural Potluck



President Obama's Arizona Speech



The HRC Board of Directors chose to include in our newsletter portions of the speech that President Obama gave in Tucson, AZ after the tragedy there on January 8, 2011.

“How can we honor the fallen? How can we be true to their memory? You see, when a tragedy like this strikes, it is part of our nature to demand explanations -- to try and pose some order on the chaos and make sense out of that which seems senseless. Already we've seen a national conversation commence, not only about the motivations behind these killings, but about everything from the merits of gun safety laws to the adequacy of our mental health system. And much of this process, of debating what might be done to prevent such tragedies in the future, is an essential ingredient in our exercise of self-government. But at a time when our discourse has become so sharply polarized -- at a time when we are far too eager to lay the blame for all that ails the world at the feet of those who happen to think differently than we do -- it's important for us to pause for a moment and make sure that we're talking with each other in a way that heals, not in a way that wounds.”

“We may not be able to stop all evil in the world, but I know that how we treat one another, that's entirely up to us. And I believe that for all our imperfections, we are full of decency and goodness, and that the forces that divide us are not as strong as those that unite us. That's what I believe, in part because that's what a child like Christina Taylor Green believed. Imagine -- imagine for a moment, here was a young girl who was just becoming aware of our democracy; just beginning to understand the obligations of citizenship; just starting to glimpse the fact that some day she, too, might play a part in shaping her nation's future. She had been elected to her student council. She saw public service as something exciting and hopeful. She was off to meet her congresswoman, someone she was sure was good and important and might be a role model. She saw all this through the eyes of a child, undimmed by the cynicism or vitriol that we adults all too often just take for granted. I want to live up to her expectations. I want our democracy to be as good as Christina imagined it. I want



America to be as good as she imagined it. All of us -- we should do everything we can to make sure this country lives up to our children's expectations. As has already been mentioned, Christina was given to us on September 11th, 2001, one of 50 babies born that day to be pictured in a book called "Faces of Hope." On either side of her photo in that book were simple wishes for a child's life. "I hope you help those in need," read one. "I hope you know all the words to the National Anthem and sing it with your hand over your heart." "I hope you jump in rain puddles." If there are rain puddles in Heaven, Christina is jumping in them today. And here on this Earth -- here on this Earth, we place our hands over our hearts, and we commit ourselves as Americans to forging a country that is forever worthy of her gentle, happy spirit. May God bless and keep those we've lost in restful and eternal peace. May He love and watch over the survivors. And may He bless the United States of America. “

HRC Calendar

No General Meeting

Wednesday, February 9, 2011

7th Annual Black History Month Essay Contest

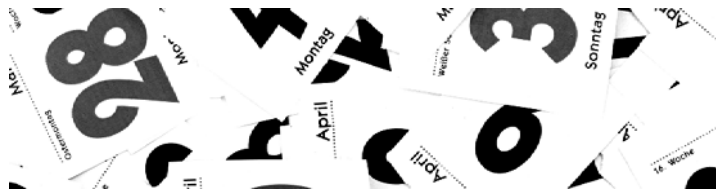
Friday, February 11, 2011
MSJC Library (SJ Campus)
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

HRC General Meeting
Wednesday, March 9, 2011
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Program: to be determined
Sunwest Village Clubhouse

Religious Understanding Day
MSJC College San Jacinto
Saturday, March 19, 2011
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
(Co-sponsored with Interfaith Council and MSJC)

Second Annual First People's Day Holiday
April 9-10, 2011
(Times and locations to be announced)

HRC General Meeting
Wednesday, April 13, 2011
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Program: to be determined
Sunwest Village Clubhouse



Ken Haslam "Smart 'n' Safe Children's Foundation

At the January general meeting, HRC members listened to Ken Haslam, of the Pan-Technicon Center at Farmers' Corner, speak of his family school of health, fitness, stress release, personal development, mental acuity, and self defense.

Ken is the Director of Smart 'n' Safe Children's Foundation, an after school program for children. The program has homework help, strength and conditioning class, self defense and martial arts training, and an anti-bullying strategy called BRAVE (Bully Response, Attitudes, Values and Empowerment) verbal strategy to negotiate a non-violent end to confrontation.



(from l) "Tim" Chowdhury and Mary Morse welcome Ken Haslam of Smart 'N' Safe Children's Foundation.



Diamond Valley Lake Marathon

1/2 Marathon & 5K Walk/Run

<http://dvlrun.com/>

Saturday
April 9, 2011

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