

Illinois Commission on
Diversity & Human Relations

Informing, Educating & Affecting
Multi-cultural Change

39TH ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DINNER AND CELEBRATION

More than one thousand concerned attendees from the education, religious, government and business sectors joined together at the Chicago Hilton Hotel in Chicago on Saturday, January 13, 2007 in remembrance of the life, contributions and celebration of Dr. King's 78th birthday. Under the leadership of Co-Chairs Gregg Steinberg, President of International Profit Associates and Larry Wert, President and General Manager of NBC 5 Chicago, attendees reflected on principles held high by Dr. King. Like orchestra conductors, Warner Saunders, Co-Ancor at NBC 5 Chicago and Merri Dee, Community Relations Director at WGN Television, dinner co-emcees, masterfully guided the ninety minute tribute to Dr. King.

The spirit of the audience was lifted by the music of Walt Whitman and the Soul Children of Chicago. The highlight of the evening was an extraordinary message delivered by Dr. B. Joseph White, President of the University of Illinois. Dr. White also received the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Excellence in Leadership Award for his advocacy of a quality education for all children. John Burgess, Manag-

ing Director of International Profit Associates electrified the audience with his call for unity, a key principle of Dr. King.

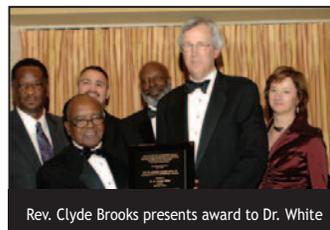
The evening concluded with a dance and raffle. Dance music was provided by the Class Act Orchestra. Raffle prizes included airline tickets donated by Southwest Airlines and American Airlines, a seven cruise donated by International Profit Associates, and other items donated by Motorola, the Woodfield Hyatt Regency Hotel, the Chicago Hilton and Towers and others. Dr. White donated copies of his recently released book entitled THE NATURE OF LEADERSHIP, REP-TILES, MAMMALS, AND THE CHALLENGE OF BECOMING A GREAT LEADER.



Secretary of State Jesse White & University President Dr. Joseph White



The Soul Children of Chicago



Rev. Clyde Brooks presents award to Dr. White



Rev. Clyde Brooks & Rev. Bill Hybels, Pastor, Willow Creek Community Church

A LEADER

A leader is one who does not seek to achieve great things for himself but rather seeks to help others achieve great things.

As stated by the late Ronald Reagan, President ~ United States of America

COMMISSION TO HOLD HUMAN RELATIONS GATHERING

Given the accelerated growth in racial and cultural diversity throughout the Chicago Metropolitan Area, the Commission will convene fifty human relations groups to examine progress in diversity inclusiveness.

The Commission believes that these groups must begin to address exclusionary racism that permeates throughout the area. Persons interested in learning more about the conference should alert the Commission via e-mail.

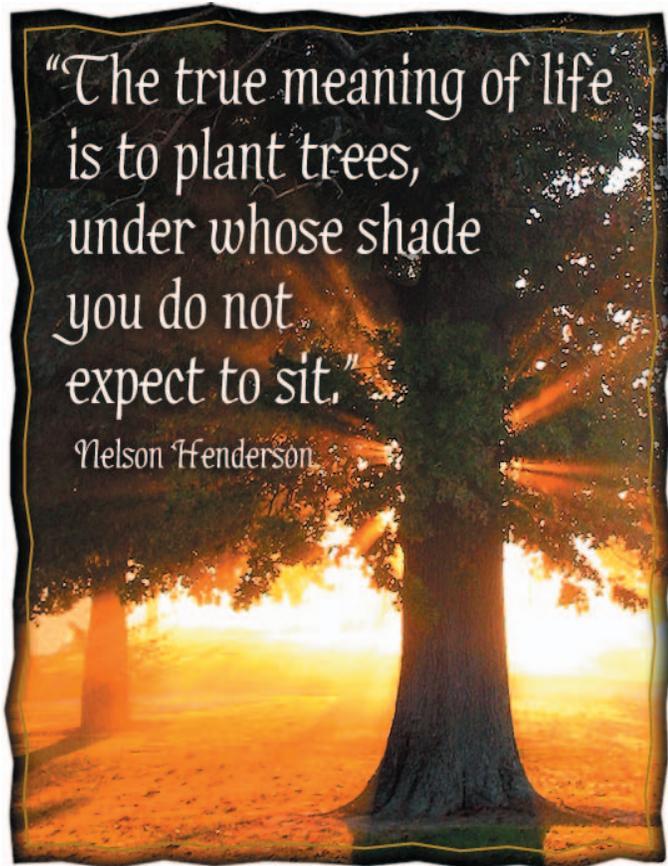
The gathering is planned for the third quarter of this year at the Woodfield Hyatt Regency Hotel in Schaumburg.

COMMISSION TO EXPAND

Given the growing human relations issues, especially in the area of education and an increase in service requests, the Commission is considering opening satellite offices in Rockford and Springfield.

The Commission is extremely concerned with the imbalance of funds received by predominately minority schools and non-minority schools. In addition, the Commission is concerned that more must be done to address student needs in Spanish, problem solving, computers, finance, and English.

The Commission believes that these are the five key areas in which our youth must become more literate.



OUR OWN MERRI DEE TOURS PENTAGON

Merri Dee, the renown television personality with WGN Television and on-going co emcee for the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, recently toured the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Merri along with 15 African Americans from different parts of the United States were chosen for this unique experience. She met with six African American Major Generals as well as high ranking retired military leaders.

She toured the Pentagon and saw places where most people cannot go. She also saw the new memorial for 911 victims. This was an extremely moving experience for Merri since she was on Flight 602, getting ready to land at Washington Regan Airport when her plane had to divert to Dulles Airport and was almost hit by the plane that was high jacked from Dulles and crashed into the Pentagon.

Merri was given the sole honor of placing a wreath at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier and watched the changing

REVEREND BROOKS GUEST OF TEMPLE CHAI

For the third year, Reverend Brooks, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Commission was the guest of Rabbi Steven Hart and his congregation at Temple Chair in Long Grove, Illinois. Each year, Temple Chair holds Sabbath service honoring the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A moving moment of the evening was the reciting of Dr. King's "I Have A Dream" speech by the congregation.

ICDHR PLANS 40TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF DR. KING

The Commission is busy planning the next remembrance and celebration of Dr. King. The Celebration in Schaumburg will be held Thursday, January 10, 2008. The Celebration in Chicago will be held Saturday, January 12, 2008. Interested persons are urged to e-mail the Commission with suggestions as to music, speaker and other matters pertaining to the Celebration.

COMMISSION TO LAUNCH ESFCPS

ESFCPS stands for literacy in English, Computer Science, Spanish, Problem Solving and Finance. Working with gifted students serving as volunteers, the Commission is hoping to place 200 high school students in schools as mentors to help students in need to achieve in at least two of these areas. Persons interested in serving as a volunteer should e-mail the Commission.

NBC 5 TELEVISION HOSTS BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

Reverend Brooks was the guest of Larry Wert, President and General Manager of NBC 5 Television at the stations annual salute to Black History Month. The station is to be commended for the extraordinary presentations on the contributions of Black Americans.

REVEREND BROOKS MEETS RENOUN SCULPTOR

Reverend Brooks attended the dedication of a sculpture commissioned by the Mount Prospect Library on March 10, 2007. The sculpture depicts the importance of peace and is the prize work of Erik Blome, an artist from Crystal Lake, Illinois. In a telephone conversation with Mr. Blome, he shared with Rev. Brooks his sincere dedication to equality and peace and would like for the sculpture to inspire all to seek peace in their daily life. Given the absence of peace throughout the world, the Commission congratulates the library and Mr. Blome for their sensitivity to this need.

REV. BROOKS JOINS DR. JERRY CAIN, PRESIDENT OF JUDSON COLLEGE

Rev. Brooks was honored to have been invited to Judson College for talks with President Cain and his department heads. The meeting was stimulating and laid the ground work for partnering in many areas. Judson College is located in Elgin, Illinois and provides an array of programs and courses leading to a Bachelor of Science Degree.

PRESIDENT EMIL JONES, JR. HONORED

The Honorable Emil Jones, Jr., President of the Illinois Senate was honored by the Commission on Friday, January 12, 2007 at the Woodfield Hyatt Regency Hotel for his outstanding leadership to the people of the State of Illinois. He was presented with the distinguished Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Excellence in Leadership Award. His work in promoting health services, improving education, overhauling the legal system and his advocacy for all Illinoisans regarding of race, creed or color were reasons for his selection. President Jones also served as the speaker at the event. More than 400 concerned suburban residents attended and gave recognition to the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

HOW TO CELEBRATE DR. KING'S BIRTHDAY

It is a well known fact that Dr. King's birthday is a federal, state and county holiday in the State of Illinois. A recent study conducted by the Commission indicated that the Village of Arlington Heights was the only municipality in the northwest suburbs that follows the lead set by higher governments in recognizing Dr. King's birthday. What is greatly misunderstood is that the celebration of Dr. King is also a celebration of diversity. It is unclear if many municipalities, especially suburban entities understand this premise.

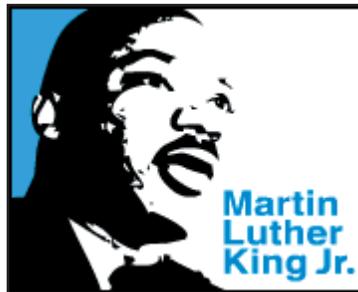
Each year, schools, banks and other entities cease to operate on the day set aside to honor Dr. King's birthday. In this regard, it must be better understood that closing doors does not mean that recognition is occurring. In one instance, one of the largest school districts in the State of Illinois closed all schools but could not find one parent, one student or one faculty member to attend the largest celebration of Dr. King's life in their own back yard.

Dr. King would have wanted us to volunteer time at a hospital, a senior citizen home, work with local youth groups, take meals to the home bound, and find other ways to serve. He would urge us to put self aside and demonstrate a caring spirit for the least of these in our midst. He would urge us to take our children to the library. He would encourage us to talk with our children regarding the world in which they reside and to teach and discuss values that bind people together.

The dinner in itself is not significant. What is significant

is the public demonstration of caring people coming together in remembrance of the challenges that remain to be address. These can be found all around us. Teaching our children that the King Holiday is just another day away from school is not celebrating Dr. King's birthday. There are school administrators who are doing an excellent job in celebrating Dr. King's birthday, however, more progressive administrators are needed.

Much work remains in educating society that Dr. King's birthday should not be color coded. Far too many of our citizens continue to feel that Dr. King's birthday and the holiday is for Black people. This is partly because our schools too often ignore the fact that thousands of non-African Americans received housing assistance, head start programs, health services and a host of other programs because of the work of Dr. King.



Dr. King was not a leader of Black people. He was an advocate of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. He simply believed that America should live up to what its founders had placed in writing. He urged us to seek and do right and treat others as we would like to be treated. As many writers have stated, both white and black Americans benefited from the work of Dr. King. Black people were freed from the legal chains of racism. White people as an institution were freed from having to apply the chains. Dr. King was a man for all seasons and for all people.

MARCH IS



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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COMMISSION IN FINAL STAGE OF PLANNING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIRST POLICE/COMMUNITY RECRUITERS PROGRAM IN ILLINOIS

Captain Kevin Johnson of the Sacramento Police Department and Commission Consultant returned to Chicago on March 1, 2007 to brief educational leaders and law enforcement officials on the status of this new initiative. The goal of the program is to recruit and train community residents and community leaders in the recruitment of sworn police officers. The training will include background investigations, psychological exams, and all aspects of the law enforcement selection process. They will also take trips to Police Academies to gain full knowledge of selecting police officers. While they will not actually conduct these functions, because of the training, they will be better equipped to recruit candidates for participating police departments selected by the Commission. The Commission is seeking academic institutions to assist in post evaluation of the project and to help in developing and processing the data formation design. Attendees at the meeting included Dr. Toni Potenza, Vice President and Dean of Roosevelt University, Schaumburg Campus, Elgin Police Chief Lisa Womack, Aurora Deputy Police Chief Gregory Anderson, Wilmette Police Chief George Carpenter, Tom Dempsey, Director of the Police Training Station at The University of Illinois and his Associate Director, Catherine Sommers, Associate Director Catherine Somers of the Police Training Institute of the University of Illinois, Evanston Division Fire Chief Samuel Hunter, Wilmette Police Recruiter Officer Stephen Leigh, Management and Leadership Director of Judson College, Rev. Roosevelt McGee, Commission Board Member, Director of Criminal Justice at Judson College and Roselle Police Chief Jim Krueger, Officer Jaime Williams, Commission Staff Representative and Rev. Clyde Brooks, Commission President and Chief Executive Officer. The attendees reviewed the plan and offered recommendations.

Palm Sunday



IRS TAX DEADLINE



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WHAT IS THE LEVEL OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF AMERICAN HISTORY?

PLEASE TAKE THE FOLLOWING TEST. TO REQUEST ANSWERS, SEND AN E-MAIL TO THE COMMISSION at info@icdhr.com. THEY WILL BE SENT TO YOU.

MULTIPLE CHOICE (please circle the correct answer)

- 1) ***Crispus Attacks was involved in the:***
 - a) American Revolution
 - b) Second World War
 - c) Boston Massacre

- 2) ***Nat Turner was a:***
 - a) Illinois State Senator
 - b) Revolutionist
 - c) Scientist

- 3) ***Rosa Parks was active in:***
 - a) World War I
 - b) American Revolution
 - c) Chicago Civil Rights Movement
 - d) Montgomery Bus Boycott

- 4) ***Tony Dungy was a famous:***
 - a) Pilot
 - b) College President
 - c) Scientist
 - d) None of the above

- 5) ***Jefferson Long was a:***
 - a) Astronaut
 - b) United States Senator
 - c) Mayor of Atlanta
 - d) First Black elected to the United States of Representatives

- 6) ***Marian Anderson was a well known:***
 - a) Tennis player
 - b) Mayor of the City of Pittsburg
 - c) Famous contralto singer

- 7) ***Jackie Robinson was the first Black to:***
 - a) Play professional football
 - b) Play professional basketball
 - c) Fight in the Korea War
 - d) Play professional baseball

- 8) ***The famous "I Have a Dream Speech" was delivered by:***
 - a) President George Bush
 - b) President Bill Clinton
 - c) Abraham Lincoln
 - d) Bill Cosby
 - e) None of the above

ENTER THE CORRECT ANSWER

- 1) What year did American begin to celebrate Negro History Week (as it was at that time)?
- 2) Who is recognized as the Founder of Black History Month?

TRUE OR FALSE (Please circle the correct answer)

- 1) Five United States Presidents were the owner of slaves (T or F)
- 2) Jean Baptiste Pointe Du Sable, an African American, was the first settler of Chicago (T or F)
- 3) Percy Julian was a famous football player (T or F)
- 4) Only a few African Americans are considered multi racial (T or F)
- 5) Blacks celebrate Black History Month because Whites celebrate White History Month (T or F)
- 6) Blacks are 2/3 rds of the worlds population, therefore, it's okay to refer to them as "colored" (T or F)
- 7) There is nothing wrong with the following statement: "I will hire Blacks But they must be qualified" (T or F)

