



ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON  
DIVERSITY & HUMAN RELATIONS

**NEWSLETTER (OCTOBER 2019 – MARCH 2020)**

**ICDHR TO HOST THE 52<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. REMEMBRANCE DINNER AND CONCERT FEATURING FIVE-TIME GRAMMY AWARD WINNING ARTISTS "THE FIVE BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA"**

The Illinois Commission on Diversity and Human Relations (ICDHR) will sponsor the 52nd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembrance Dinner and Concert on Saturday, April 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the Renaissance Hotel in Schaumburg Illinois located at 1551 North Thoreau Drive, Schaumburg, Illinois.

This event will mark the 52nd anniversary of the death and life of Dr. King, who on April 4, 1968, while standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee was shot and killed by James Earl Ray. Since that time, the ICDHR has sponsored a tribute to him to insure that his life and work are never forgotten.



**FIVE TIME GRAMMY AWARD WINNING MUSICAL ARTISTS**

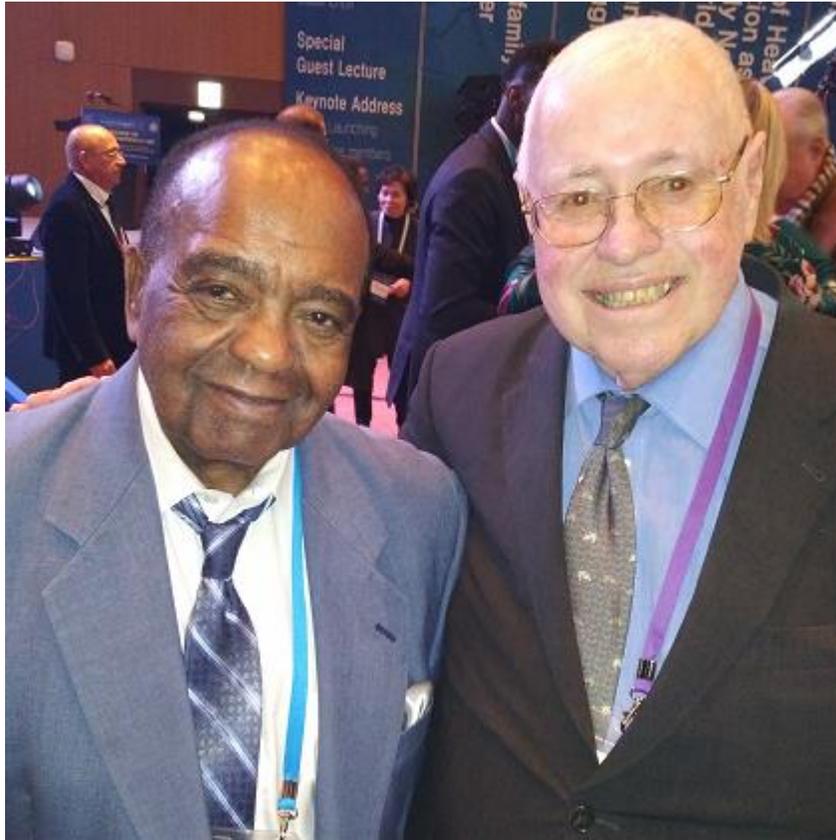
**"THE FIVE BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA"**

Order your tickets for this highly anticipated dinner and concert now by visiting the ICDHR website at <http://www.icdhr.org>, sending an email to Illinois Commission on Diversity and Human Relations (ICDHR) Chairman Rev. Clyde H. Brooks at [cbrooks@icdhr.org](mailto:cbrooks@icdhr.org) or call 1-708-772-8752.

## **ICDHR CHAIRMAN REVEREND CLYDE H. BROOKS PARTICIPATES IN THE “2020 WORLD PEACE SUMMIT” IN SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA IN FEBRUARY 2020**

For the third year in a row ICDHR Chairman, the Reverend Clyde H. Brooks was invited to participate in the “2020 World Peace Summit” in Seoul, South Korea. The summit brought together world leaders whose individual and collective experiences, wisdom and insight are viewed to be critical in building a world of lasting peace through interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal principles.

A key goal of the summit was the reunification of the Korean Peninsula. Under the sponsorship of the Universal Peace Federation, the summit was attended by more than three thousand delegates from 170 nations.



**The Reverend Clyde H. Brooks, ICDHR Chairman and the Dr. William A. McComish, Dean Emeritus and President of the World Appeal headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland**

In addition to Rev. Brooks, attendees included the Rev. T. L. Barrett (Senior Pastor of Life Center), Dr. Mario Molina (Nobel Prize Laureate of Mexico), Vice President H.E. Narmada of Nepal, Rev. Dr. Luonne Rouse (National Co-Chairman of the American Clergy Leadership Council and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Korea), the Honorable H. D. Deve Gowda (Prime Minister of India) and other high level government officials from Japan, Russia, Philippines, Portugal, South Africa and 120 other countries.

Global issues discussed were climate control, economic development and the advancement of peace throughout the world. Rev. Brooks shared his views on the role of church leaders in a time of dramatic change. He also urged attendees to cease viewing quiet as a determining factor in addressing peace.

## ICDHR SUPPORTS LEADERSHIP FORUM

Sponsored by the DuPage AME Church and Unity Partnerships, Reverend Clyde H. Brooks, ICDHR Chairman joined the Reverend Jesse Jackson, President of the Rainbow Coalition, Regina Brent, head of Unity Partnerships and the Rev. Dr. James Miller, Pastor of the DuPage AME Church and more than one hundred leaders from the education, faith, law enforcement and other sectors of the Western Suburbs to assess the growing racial division in Naperville and surrounding areas.



**Pictured above, Rev. Jesse Jackson & Founder/President of Unity Partnership Regina Brent at the “Leadership Forum to Address Community Concerns/Promote Peace” in Naperville Illinois**

The event was held on November 26, 2019 at the Cantigny Park Golf Clubhouse in Wheaton, Illinois.

Notable attendees included:

- \*Michael Childress, President, DuPage County Illinois NAACP
- \*Former Congressman Bill Foster, 14<sup>th</sup> Illinois Congressional District
- \*Shoaib Khadri, President, Islamic Center of Naperville
- \*Adrienne Coleman, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the Illinois Math, and Science Academy.
- \*Dan Bridges, Superintendent of Naperville District 203
- \*Roger Chawla, Representative of Sikh Community in Naperville
- \*Doug Eccarius, Assistant Superintendent of School District 204

Reverend Brooks stressed the importance of healing the community body of the ugly diseases of hate, division, exclusion and racism drifting across far too many of our communities. In his remarks, the Rev. Jesse Jackson shared his civil rights experiences and urged attendees to work harder and together in resolving the lack of unity based on skin color.

Attendees included a number of police chiefs, educators and members of faith groups from around the western suburbs.

**CHAIRMAN'S CORNER:  
ICDHR CHAIRMAN REVEREND CLYDE H. BROOKS PROVIDES PROSPECTIVE ON  
HATE GROUPS AND THE "CHANGING FACE OF AMERICA"**

Currently in America there is a continuous rise of hate groups across the nation, which we have recently seen in attacks on immigrants and members of the Jewish faith. These cowardly acts are believed to sit on a foundation of fear, ignorance, greed and racism, and are included in the mental fabric of many of our citizens today.

Unfortunately this has also created an "us versus them" epidemic that continues to divide our nation.



It is true that the United States is changing and doing so rapidly. However, not all Americans are fearful of this on-going change. Many are working hard to bring us together. There is greater recognition that racial trends in the workplace, housing patterns and attitudes are improving.

The facts are clear. It is projected that within forty years, the population of our country will change greatly. By the year 2,040, 57% of the population in the United States will be made up of people of color. It is interesting to note that for the last eight consecutive years, students entering the first grade in schools across the nation have been people of color. This change must not be met with fear. As Americans we brag that our nation is a melting pot and that we strive to be good Christians.

There are acts that all concerned citizens who denounce hatred in our country should consider taking:

- Contact local organizations headed by people of color to find out what they are doing and how they can be assisted.
- Contact municipal leaders and let them know that you expect them to take leadership in promoting diversity and inclusion of people who are different.
- Send op-eds and/or e-mails to the editor of your local newspapers.
- Find comfort in talking about racial issues.
- End silence when words of hate are heard.

## **PROFESSOR DESTINY PEERY JOINS ICDHR IN PROMOTING IMPLICIT BIAS TRAINING**

The ICDHR is delighted that Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law Professor Destiny Peery is serving as the Facilitator for Implicit Bias Training workshops for the ICDHR for up to 5,000 community leaders and suburban residents in 2020.

Dr. Peery is an attorney who received her JD, PhD, MA and BA from Northwestern University, and has been honored by numerous groups across the nation. She is also an author whose publications include “Redefining Race: Assessing the Consequences of the Law’s Failure to Define Race,” and “The Colorblind Ideal in a Race Conscious Reality” among many others.

Because communities are becoming more diverse and need to meet numerous requests, these workshops will take participants on a journey to identify unknown/unconscious bias that exists in nearly everyone, and explore ways that these biases can be addressed.



**Pictured above, Northwestern University Professor Destiny Peery**

The initial four hour workshop was held on Wednesday, December 11, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Marriott Northwest Hotel in Hoffman Estates.

In announcing the workshop series ICDHR Chairman Rev. Clyde H. Brooks stated “we as humans are products of our upbringing, environment and associations and too often rely on the media, friends and family members to determine what we think about others; especially persons who are isolated from people different than themselves.” These misunderstandings of others can lead to thoughts and actions that are detrimental to themselves and those who they misunderstand.

Across the nation, people of color, persons designated as members of the LGBT family, members of the Jewish Faith, citizens with disabilities and the elderly are ridiculed by persons who truly believe that there is “not a racist, sexist or discriminatory bone in their bodies.” Unconscious bias has resulted in injury, death and exclusion of citizens who have been the recipients of such unconscious bias.

Individuals who are interested in participating in the 2020 Implicit Bias Training workshops (schedule to be announced at a later date in 2020) should send an e-mail to ICDHR Chairman Reverend Clyde H. Brooks at [cbrooks@icdhr.org](mailto:cbrooks@icdhr.org).

## **ICDHR FORMS THE METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION OF BLACK LAW ENFORCEMENT (MABLE)**

Police agencies across the nation are experiencing serious challenges in attracting applicants, especially African-Americans for numerous law enforcement opportunities. The purpose of MABLE is to assist the ICDHR in recruiting African Americans in the area of law enforcement.



The organization consists of current and former law enforcement officers, and will provide mentoring services and engage PPA members in mock exercises in preparation for taking tests for police positions.

Individuals who are interested in MABLE mentoring services should send an e-mail to ICDHR Chairman Reverend Clyde H. Brooks at [cbrooks@icdhr.org](mailto:cbrooks@icdhr.org) or call 1-708-772-8752.

### **THE REVEREND RICHARD GILLS JOINS THE ICDHR BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The ICDHR Board of Directors has elected Reverend Richard Gills to the Board for a two year term. He is a noted theologian and mentors young people throughout the Chicago Metropolitan Area. With his rich background in law enforcement and community organization, he has already demonstrated a profound ability to organize and involve youth in law enforcement.

In addition to his work with the ICDHR he heads ICDHR law enforcement efforts in the Western Suburbs, and is the Associate Pastor at the Hope Tabernacle Church in Forest Park Illinois.

## THE PAST IS ALWAYS CURRENT: A SALUTE TO JAMES AND EARLENE WALLACE

James and Earlene Wallace celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> marital anniversary at a star-studded ceremony in Waukegan, Illinois. James, a former half-back with the Dallas Cowboys, was instrumental 40 years ago in forming the Council of Minority Entrepreneurs (COME), the largest bi-racial purchasing and buyers' movement in the nation.



Under the umbrella of the Minority Economic Resources (MERC), a 501© (3) organization, more than five hundred million dollars in purchasing transactions occurred between minority and majority corporations. ICDHR Chairman represented. MERC was the parent of the Illinois Commission on Diversity and Human Relations (ICDHR). Rev. Clyde H. Brooks served as the Founder and Chairman of MERC and the ICDHR.

### QUOTATIONS TO REMEMBER

\*\*\* THOMAS JEFFERSON (a slave owner)



“I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever.”

“The day is not distant when we must bear and adopt the abolition of slavery, or worse will follow.”

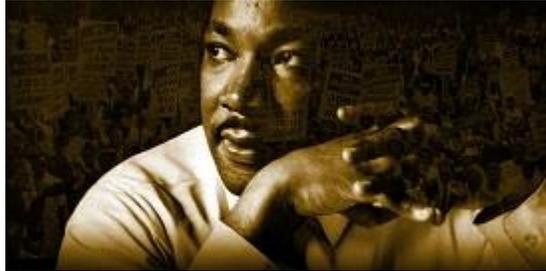
“If we are made in some degree for others, yet in a greater are we made for ourselves. It was contrary to feeling and indeed ridiculous to support that a man had less rights in himself than one of his neighbors.”

“A man’s moral sense must be unusually strong if slavery does not make him a thief.”

“The love of justice and the love of country plead equally the cause of these people, and it is a moral reproach to us that they should have pleaded it so long in vain.”

## QUOTATIONS TO REMEMBER

\*\*\*DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



“Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into friend.”

“We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive.”

“There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies.”

“The time is always right to do what is right.”

“In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

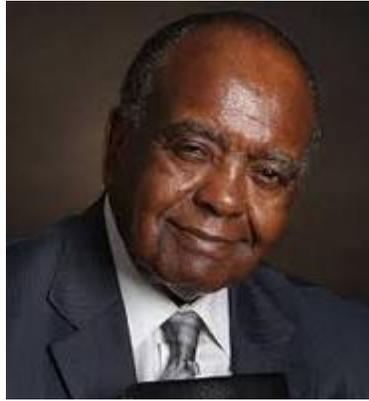
“The hottest place in Hell is reserved for those who remain neutral in times of great moral conflict.”

\*\*\*DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR (immediately before his death)



“Well, I don’t know what will happen now. We’ve got some difficult days ahead, but it doesn’t matter with me now because I’ve been to the mountaintop. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I am not concerned about that now. I just want to do God’s will. He has allowed me to go up to the mountain, and I have looked over and I’ve seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the Promised Land. I’m happy tonight. I am not worried about anything. I do not fear any man. Mine eyes have seen the Glory of the coming of the Lord.”

\*\*\*REVEREND CLYDE H. BROOKS



“If God is in all men and women, why do we fight His goodness that dwells within?”

“I am a man and a child of God, but really, who am I.”

“The silence of Godly people in the face of hate and evil must offend the nostrils of God.”

“Hate of others is really the result of hate of self.”

“To all who profess an appreciation for diversity inclusion must realize that it takes more than one color.”

“To find myself is my wish for the day. I run and seek not knowing why I run or what I seek. My real goal is to find myself in a God given way.”

\*\*\*TYLER PERRY



“Because of Dr. King’s dream, and the countless people who fought against inequality and for the end of segregation, I am now a successful businessman. I am able to live where I want and have my son educated wherever he chooses. We can’t be denied because of the color of our skin.”

**IN MEMORIAM: ICDHR REMEMBERS FORMER FEDERAL JUDGE MANNY BARBOSA AND ARLINGTON HEIGHTS ILLINOIS DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF ANDY WHOWELL**

During the month of November, 2019, our community lost two giants. For years, the Honorable Manny Barbosa, a tired federal judge, joined the ICDHR in promoting justice and equality for the “least of these in our midst.” Judge Barbosa served with ICDHR Chairman, Reverend Clyde Brooks, on the Illinois Human Rights Commission and were both appointed by former Illinois Governor Jim Edgar. Those of us who knew and loved the judge respectfully called him “Manny.” Judge Barbosa suffered from pancreatic cancer and departed us at the age of 72.



**Pictured above, Former U.S. Northern District Federal Judge Manuel “Manny” Barbosa**

The ICDHR will also remember former Deputy Police Chief Andy Whowell, who also departed this life in December 2019. He worked with the ICDHR in the “Bridging the Black and White Divide” Project, a program developed to address the growing division between white and black citizens in our community.



**Pictured above, Former Arlington Heights Illinois Deputy Police Chief Andy Whowell**

Deputy Chief Whowell served for thirty years with the Arlington Heights police department and was well respected throughout the community. He was 62 years of age.

The ICDHR is asking that we keep the families of Judge Barbosa and Deputy Police Chief Whowell in our prayers. They will both be missed.