



“March Toward CommUNITY” Draws 1,000+ Tulsans!

OCCJ hosted its “March Toward CommUNITY” on October 5th in celebration of a half-century of promoting understanding and respect. Event co-chairs were Jack Wing and Marc Delametter. More than 1,000 Tulsans from all walks of life took part in the march, which began and ended at the Greenwood Cultural Center, and culminated with remarks by Mayor Kathy Taylor.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Activities

“Living the Dream: Standing Together—Transforming Lives!” is the theme for the 2009 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday activities. The Commemorative Service will be held at 6 p.m. on Sunday, January 18th, at Boston Avenue United Methodist Church. Highlights include a performance by a city-wide mass choir, presentation of the “Keeping the Dream Alive” award, and a recitation by the winner of the “I Have A Dream” oratorical contest. The Parade is set for Monday, January 19th, 10:00 a.m., beginning at Pine and Greenwood and traversing the historic Greenwood District. The parade will be televised live on KTUL-8.

OCCJ Honors *Tulsa World* at its 50th Anniversary Dinner

OCCJ held its 50th Anniversary Awards Dinner on November 6th at the BOK Center. The black tie affair honored the *Tulsa World*. Some 500 guests attended. Michael P. Johnson, retired Williams vice president, was the Honorary Dinner Chair. Kristen Huber served as the Dinner Committee Chair. Accepting the award for the *Tulsa World* was John Bair, President.

Highlights of the Dinner included:

- The announcement of the Anne and Henry Zarrow Legacy Society by Bill O'Connor, President-Elect of the OCCJ Board of Directors;
- A rousing message from Arianna Harmon (Broken Arrow High School, 2009) about the impact of OCCJ's Anytown on her life.
- Surprise presentation of the first ever OCCJ President's Award to Nancy Day for her 28 years of service to the organization.



Pictured L to R: Jim Langdon, OCCJ President; Michael Johnson, Honorary Dinner Chair; Nancy Day OCCJ Director; John Bair, Tulsa World President; and Bill O'Connor, OCCJ President-Elect.

As we look ahead to OCCJ's next half century, please mark your calendar for November 5, 2009, when our 51st annual awards dinner will be held. We will be returning to the historic and newly renovated Crystal Ballroom at The Mayo Hotel, the site of the very first “brotherhood dinner” 50 years ago.

“This I Believe” Essay and Art Contest Winners Announced

Essay contest winners: Andrew Roberson, Union High School, 2010 & Rebecca Cline, 8th grade, Byrd Middle School.

Art Contest Winners: 5th Grade – 1st Place, Sharlene Robledo, Bell Elementary; 2nd Place, Anthone Barnett, Hoover Elementary; 3rd Place, Athena Shepherd, Bell Elementary and Tori Dawn Dunn*, Bell Elementary; 4th Grade – 1st Place, Elijah Bradley, Sandburg Elementary; 2nd Place, Phillip Jenkins, Hoover Elementary; 3rd Place, Brianna Guy, Bell Elementary; 3rd Grade – 1st Place, John Daniel, Bell Elementary; 2nd Place, Joshua David, Bell Elementary; 3rd Place, Lidya Solomon, Anderson Elementary; 2nd Grade – 1st Place, Alana Wigal, Bell Elementary; 2nd Place, Levi Wilhelm, Bell Elementary; 3rd Place, Alyse Cairl, Anderson Elementary; 1st Grade – 1st Place, Kaci Kitt, Bell Elementary; 2nd Place, Max Nadine, Bell Elementary; 3rd Place, Jordan Hagan, Bell Elementary; Kindergarten – 1st Place, Catelyn Dolph, Bell Elementary; 2nd Place, Summer Wade, Bell Elementary; 3rd Place, Ashley Wassom, Bell Elementary.

*This student was identified as being in the 3rd Grade by the judges; hence two 3rd Place winners in the 5th Grade. The error was brought to our attention by Bell Elementary after the winners were announced.



Back row, left to right (presenters): Bobby Busby, Richard Grounds, and Brad Young; David Bernstein, emcee. Front row, left to right (honorees): Rev. Dr. Andrew Phillips, Dr. Ann Dapice, and Rev. Msgr. Patrick Gaalaas.

25th Interfaith Awards Luncheon Celebrates Proponents of Interfaith Understanding

The 25th Annual Interfaith Awards Luncheon, held on November 20th at the Greenwood Cultural Center honored Ann Dapice, Ph.D., Rev. Msgr. Patrick Gaalaas, and Rev. Dr. Andrew Phillips for their outstanding contributions to interfaith understanding. The event was co-sponsored by the Islamic Society of Tulsa, the Jewish Federation of Tulsa, the Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice, Tulsa Interfaith Alliance, and Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry.

Interfaith Trialogue Series Focuses on Women

The theme for the 2009 Series is “Daughters of Eve: Women, Faith and the Religious Community.” Dates are February 15th, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. at Boston Avenue United Methodist Church (“Sources and Traditions: The Place of Women in Classic Religious Literature”); February 22nd, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. at Peace Academy (“The Lived Reality: Portraits of Contemporary Religious Women”); and March 1st, 3:00 - 5:30 p.m. at the Jewish Federation of Tulsa (The Changing Place of Women in Faith: Leadership, Struggle, and the ‘Feminization’ of the Religious Community”).

Anytown, Oklahoma: A Life-Changing Experience for Teens!

Anytown, Oklahoma, OCCJ's premiere, award-winning human relations opportunity for teens, will be held July 26 – August 1, 2009, at Camp Takatoka near Lake Ft. Gibson. Anytown promotes self-esteem, leadership, and citizenship in the context of a diversity immersion experience. High school sophomores, juniors, and seniors from throughout the state are eligible for this one-in-a-lifetime experience. In the past, countless teens who have attended Anytown have described it as “life-changing.”

The Anytown alumni organization, Leaders Involved in Fighting for Equality (“L.I.F.E.”) meets quarterly to discuss diversity-related issues and plan community service activities. L.I.F.E. Officers for 2008 – 2009 are: Arianna Harmon—President; Michael Hunt—Vice President; Charlean Crawford—Secretary; Alix Goff & Cayce Vincent—Co-Treasurers; & David Lam & Samantha Taylor—Co-Historians. L.I.F.E. officers have met to discuss activities for the academic year.



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Open Tables: Interfaith Dining and Dialogue Comes to Tulsa

“Open Tables—Sharing Food & Faith” is an innovative approach to interfaith relations involving interfaith dining and discussion. Fourteen Open Tables groups met this past summer and fall, with positive responses from all who have participated. An Open Tables celebration was held on December 6th at Boston Avenue United Methodist Church. A new Open Tables program begins January 18, 2009.

Mayor’s Police and Community Coalition Hosts Public Forum on Police/Community Relations

The Mayor’s Police and Community Coalition (“MPACC”) is a diverse advisory committee that addresses issues affecting police/community relations and helps develop recommendations and best practices designed to enhance trust. MPACC members include the mayor, the chief of police, several police officers, several city councilors, and representatives of diverse Tulsa constituencies. OCCJ is a partner in the project. Hannibal B. Johnson facilitates the project. MPACC meets monthly.

MPACC hosted a public forum at City Hall on October 28th focusing on police/community relations. Other public forums and events are being planned.

Celebrate America’s Religious Diversity . . . Every Day!

The Interfaith Calendar is an award-winning year-round resource for understanding religious diversity in America. This 14” x 22” full-color, 14-month, wall calendar highlights a different major world religion each month, and makes a wonderful holiday gift. The 2009 Interfaith Calendar is available for \$20, which goes toward support of the OCCJ. To order this special 20th Anniversary edition, call the OCCJ office, 583-1361.

Noteworthy: Mark Your Calendar!

- TEEN TRIALOGUE SERIES:** The 2009 OCCJ Teen Trialogue topics will be: Holidays in Our Traditions—Significance; Traditions; Show & Tell; Roles of Family, Clergy & Music. Teen Trialogue dates and venues are: January 21st (preparation and planning at home house of worship); January 28th (Trinity Episcopal Church); February 4th (Islamic Society of Tulsa); February 11th (Temple Israel); February 18th (Hindu Temple); March 4th (snow date). Meeting time is 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. (Dinner: 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.; Program: 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.)
- THE FAITH CLUB:** The Faith Club is a book about three women, one Jewish, one Muslim and one Christian, who came together after 911 to search for interfaith conversation and understanding. Since that time, more “faith clubs” have sprung up across the country. A local committee will bring the original faith club women to Tulsa to speak in March at Boston Avenue United Methodist Church. OCCJ is the official sponsor.
- “OPERATION UNDERSTANDING,” YOUTH INTERFAITH TOUR:** The 2009 OCCJ Youth Interfaith Tour, set for Sunday, April 5th, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m., will include: Islamic Society of Tulsa (Mosque); Temple Israel (snacks “to go” provided); Hindu Temple; & Phillips Theological Seminary.

The Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice is a human relations organization dedicated to fighting bias, bigotry, and racism. OCCJ promotes understanding and respect among all races, religions and cultures through advocacy, conflict resolution and education.

OCCJ MEMBERSHIP

OCCJ's mission is accomplished only because of your support. If you are a current member, thank you! If you are not, please renew your membership or join us during this milestone year. If you care deeply about OCCJ — about fighting bias, bigotry, and racism in our society — then please take your support one step further and invite a friend to join OCCJ. You are vital to OCCJ's success!

Thank you for endorsing and supporting the work of OCCJ.

Please complete form and mail to The Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice, 100 West Fifth Street, LL 1030, Tulsa, OK 74103. Contributions are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to OCCJ.
phone: 918.583.1361 • fax: 918.583.1367 • e-mail: tulsa@occjok.org

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