

You Are Invited To A Very Special Exhibit:

HELEN SUZMAN: FIGHTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The exhibition, which chronicles her courageous efforts in photographs, will be on public display and free of charge at several university venues while in Oklahoma. It will debut at Langston University – Tulsa on April 8th and remain until the 16th. It will then move to Rogers State University in Claremore for a showing from April 19th to the 28th. The exhibit will return to Tulsa for a showing at OU - Tulsa, Schusterman Center, May 3rd to May 14th.

Helen Suzman was one of South Africa's most vociferous and energetic opponents of apartheid. She takes pride of place among those liberals who devoted their lives to the fight for human rights and the rule of law in South Africa. From the start of a political career that spanned almost four decades, she worked tirelessly, never flinching from challenging the pernicious system created by apartheid.



"The indomitable spirit of Helen Suzman was a gift to South Africa and the world. A stalwart of the anti-apartheid struggle, she was a true heroine who contributed to our country's peaceful transition when many predicted a racial blood bath. Through her dignified, steadfast—and for a long period, single handed—parliamentary opposition to National Party apartheid rule, she shone a light for justice and accountability."

Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu
Nobel Peace Prize, 1984

HELEN SUZMAN: FIGHTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
is being presented in Oklahoma through the generosity of
P. Vincent LoVoi and Joel Kantor.

Sponsored by
occj
The Oklahoma Center for
Community and Justice
www.occjok.org

The exhibition was organized by the Isaac and Jessie Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Research, University of Cape Town, South Africa

The United States tour of the exhibition is sponsored by
Dobkin Family Foundation
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WILLIAM W. O'CONNOR TAKES OCCJ BOARD HELM;

Jim Langdon Praised for Two Amazing Years

Bill O'Connor, shareholder and director, Norman Wohlgenuth Chandler & Dowdell, became president of the OCCJ Board on January 1, 2010, after having been elected at the 2009 Annual Board Meeting in December at OU-Tulsa. Upon his election, O'Connor thanked Jim Langdon for his leadership as board president the past two years. He said Jim led OCCJ with integrity and passion, and will long be remembered for spearheading the 50th anniversary of the organization's presence in Tulsa in 2008.

Other officers elected at the Annual Meeting were: Sanjay Meshri, President Elect; Lisa Zaidle Clark, Vice President for Fund Development; Sherri Goodall, Vice President for Membership; Adrienne Watt, Vice President for Programs; Russ Florence, Vice President for Public Awareness; P. Vincent LoVoi, Vice President for Public Policy; Robert Franden, Treasurer; and Maria Carlota Palacios, Secretary. Other members of the Executive Committee are: Jim Langdon, Immediate Past President; Risha Grant, Dean Luthey, Steve Malcolm, Brady Nguyen and Sheryl Siddiqui, Members at Large; and Nancy Day, Executive Director.



Bill O'Connor

APPLY NOW FOR CAMP ANYTOWN!

The 17th Annual Anytown, Oklahoma, OCCJ's premiere, award-winning leadership and inclusion training opportunity for high school students, is slated for July 25 – 31, 2010, at Camp Takatoka near Lake Ft. Gibson. Anytown promotes self-esteem, leadership, and citizenship in the context of a diversity immersion experience. Incoming sophomores, juniors and seniors from across the state come together for one week in a camp setting, bringing to each other the experiences of their diverse cultural, ethnic, religious, racial and economic backgrounds. Respect and awareness develop as delegates become friends, learning from and about each other, and about themselves. To find out more about this unique and life-changing program, or to apply to be a delegate, visit www.occjok.org. All applications and letters of nomination must be received by June 1, 2010. Applicants will be notified by June 15.

OCCJ WELCOMES PROGRAM DIRECTOR, JEFF MATTHEWS, AND PROGRAM COORDINATOR, JOSHUA OAKS

OCCJ's first ever, full-time Program Director, Jeff Matthews, joined the staff on February 1st. A native Tulsan and Edison Eagle, Jeff received his B.S. and M.B.A. degrees from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth and then stayed in the metroplex to pursue his career at Bell Helicopter. While there, he served on the board of directors of the Fort Worth chapter of The National Conference of Christians and Jews, a sister organization to OCCJ's predecessor organization. In that capacity, he served on staff at their Camp Anytown and also directed the camp. His return to Tulsa — armed with his broad background in workplace inclusion, experience with Camp Anytown, and belief in and passion for our mission — made him the ideal candidate for this position. Jeff will be responsible for all OCCJ programming, as well as for developing new programs, such as fee-for-service workplace inclusion training. He will also direct Anytown, Oklahoma. Welcome, Jeff!



Jeff Matthews

On March 15th, another new face joined the staff. Joshua Oaks came on board as OCCJ's first ever Program Coordinator. Joshua is a 2002 graduate of Broken Arrow High School and a 2007 OU grad. He is currently pursuing a Strategic Communications masters degree in Mass Communication and Media Management Advertising from OSU-Tulsa. Joshua also works part-time as Sports Buddies Program Coordinator at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oklahoma, is Executive/Marketing Director of Orasi Productions Theatre in Norman and Tulsa, and serves on the Board of Advisors of Oklahomans for Equality. Joshua brings abundant energy, enthusiasm and talent to this new position. He will have primary responsibility for "Different and the Same," and for updating the new website, as well as assisting Jeff in coordinating other OCCJ programs. Welcome, Joshua!



Joshua Oaks

28TH ANNUAL YOUTH INTERFAITH TOUR IS APRIL 18

"Operation Understanding 2010," our 28th Youth Interfaith Tour will be held on Sunday, April 18, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. The tour will begin at Masjid Al-Islam Mosque, followed by Temple Israel, Christian Science Center, First Church, and will conclude at Mt. Zion Baptist Church. The tour is conducted annually for middle school and high school students to afford them an opportunity to learn about some of the different religions in Tulsa. No proselytizing is allowed. As the group visits the houses of worship, the clergy will speak to them and answer questions. For reservations, call 583-1361 by April 15th. Visit www.occjok.org for more details about the tour.

CHERYL BROWN, HANNIBAL JOHNSON HONORED AT FAREWELL RECEPTION

On January 12, OCCJ bid a fond farewell to Cheryl Brown and Hannibal Johnson at a reception at The Summit Club. Cheryl, who served as our loyal Administrative Assistant for the past 20 years, retired a little earlier than expected to care for her mother, Bobbie Atkinson. "Miss Bobbie" as we affectionately called her, died of cancer on March 5. Gifts in her memory may be made to OCCJ to support "Different and the Same."

Hannibal Johnson, our Program Consultant since 1998, left to pursue other interests. Hannibal served on our board and as Vice President for Programs before signing on to direct some of our major programs, most notably, Anytown, Oklahoma.



Hannibal Johnson,
Cheryl Brown,
Bobbie Atkinson (seated)

Titled “Captive Melodies: Musical Voices From the Holocaust,” the 2010 Interfaith Holocaust Commemoration will be held on Thursday, May 6, 7:00 p.m., at Temple Israel, 2004 East 22nd Place. This annual event is sponsored by the Council for Holocaust Education of the Jewish Federation of Tulsa, in partnership with the Tulsa City-County Library, OCCJ and other community organizations.

New Leadership Roundtable (NLR), a group of young professionals who support the work of OCCJ, wants you! Led by Amy Gay, Manager, Multicultural Resources, Tulsa Convention & Visitors Bureau, NLR is engaged in a variety of stimulating OCCJ causes and projects. Check us out at www.occjnlr.ning.com!

The MLK Commemoration Society held the Annual Memorial Service on Sunday, April 11th at Mt. Rose Baptist Church, 1137 North Cincinnati. The speaker was native Tulsan Rev. Bertrand Bailey, Jr., pastor of Greater Bible Way Baptist Church in Mt. Pleasant, Texas. Jeff Matthews, OCCJ Program Director, served as emcee.

Different and the Same (“D&S”) is a highly successful child-focused initiative that helps kids identify, talk about, and prevent prejudice. Through D&S, OCCJ helps teachers and their students address such prickly issues as stereotyping, speaking different languages, cross-cultural and interracial friendships, and standing up against prejudice. These lessons stay with children for a lifetime, helping them develop into caring and compassionate citizens.

Thanks to the continued and tireless efforts of OCCJ Board member and D&S Chair, Nancy McDonald, and her committed volunteers, we have serviced 110 Tulsa Public School second and third grade classrooms this year, which equates to about 2,750 children! There are still many schools waiting for the program, and we need more volunteers. If you are interested in being trained as a D&S volunteer, please call Joshua Oaks, OCCJ's new Program Coordinator, at 583-1361, ext. 10.

In addition to our new website, we've made a quantum leap into the modern era of social networking! Thanks to Russ Florence, OCCJ Vice President for Public Awareness, you can now follow us on Twitter, *www.twitter.com/occj*, and "friend" us on Facebook. If you haven't visited our vibrant and user-friendly website, *www.occjok.org*, we hope you'll take a few moments to do so soon. OCCJ thanks The University of Tulsa, QuikTrip, Williams and TulsaPeople, our website sponsors.

Younger generations live in a radically different world than previous generations did at the same age. “Millennials” or “Generation Y” (those born between 1982 and 1995), have different beliefs, different concerns and different perspectives. These 18- to 25-year olds are the most “wired” generation yet, and the challenges to all faiths of attracting younger generations are much the same. Religious communities, and particularly those who work with youth, must understand who this generation is, what they like and how best to reach them. These were some of the themes heard at Interfaith Dialogue, “Crisis or Con- Youth and Religion in America.”



Beginning on February 7th at Boston Avenue United Methodist Church, panelists addressed “What History and Science Can Tell Us About Teens.” The panel did an excellent job of laying the groundwork for the series. Our speakers were: Dr. Ovidio Bermudez, Laureate Psychiatric Clinic and Hospital; Dr. Gerard Clancy, OU-Tulsa; and Dr. Gary Peluso-Verdend, Phillips Theological Seminary. At the second session on February 21st at the Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center, a diverse panel of nine students and young adults spoke eloquently about their religious lives and what it is like to grow up Jewish, Evangelical, Muslim, Catholic, Protestant, etc., in Tulsa. The third and final session on March 7th was held at Peace Academy. Presenters were: Ken Coughlin, Bishop Kelley High School; David Finer, B’nai B’rith Youth Organization; and Audra Fogle, Boston Avenue United Methodist Church. The speakers shared their experiences on the topic of “Creating Youth Communities of Faith: What Works, What

Doesn't, and Where Do We Go From Here?" Following their presentations, the audience viewed a video of Eboo Patel, founder of the Interfaith Youth Core, speaking to a group of college students. Adrienne Watt, OCCJ VP for Programs, also spoke briefly about our youth interfaith programs. Certificates were presented to four organizations which work with youth and are celebrating their centennial anniversary this year. Camp Fire USA, Girl Scouts of America, YMCA and the American Camp Association were recognized for serving the youth of Tulsa for 100 years. Many thanks to Dr. Bill Crowell, associate minister at Boston Avenue United Methodist Church, for chairing and moderating the Trialogue for a fourth consecutive year, and to his hard-working committee. Special thanks also to Rabbi Marc Boone Fitzerman for designing the Trialogue brochure and poster and to Lauren Zeligson for designing the programs. Visit www.occjok.org to view this year's series.

This annual series is funded in part by the Alfred E. Aaronson Lecture Series Endowment of the Tulsa City-County Library.

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.

You are vital to OCCI's success!

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 • www.ocjok.org

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