



## Education and Housing Equity Project Records.

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Dialogue held Thursday, January 15, 1998

NDOD DIALOGUE GROUP

NATIONAL DAYS OF DIALOGUE ON RACE RELATIONS

SIGN-IN SHEET

CITY: Richfield, MN

LOCATION: Richfield City Hall

6700 Portland Ave. So., Richfield, MN

- | <u>NAME</u>   | <u>AREA CODE &amp; PHONE NUMBER</u> | <u>STREET ADDRESS, CITY &amp; ZIP</u>  |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. <u>Camillo De Santis</u>   | <u>(612) 866-5171</u>               | <u>6508 Newton Ave. S., Richfield, MN 55423</u>                              |
| 2. <u>Roger A. Parks</u>  | <u>(612) 861-0193</u>               | <u>7601 Thomas Ave S. Richfield, MN 55423</u>                                |
| 3. <u>Tony Bibas</u>  | <u>(612) 861-5078</u>               | <u>6908 First Ave. So., RICHFIELD MN 55423</u>                               |
| 4. <u>Barbara Devlin</u>  | <u>612-798-6010</u>                 | <u>7001 Harriet Ave. So. " "</u>   |
| 5. <u>Dawn Baden</u>  | <u>869-7806</u>                     | <u>7321 11th Ave So Richfield 55423</u>                                      |
| 6. <u>Gertrude Ulrich</u>   | <u>866-8171</u>                     | <u>7601 Aldrich Av. S. " "</u>   |
| 7. <u>Terry Robinson</u>  | <u>825-3779</u>                     | <u>19 E. 54th St. Mpls. 55419 (R. Field Schools)</u>                         |
| 8. <sup>Virginia</sup> <del>Virginia</del> <sup>Morris</sup> <del>Morris</del> <u>Kearney</u> | <u>869-5054</u>                     | <u>7100 Kearslet - Longfellow Park Johnson</u>                               |
| 9. <u>Jan Scott</u>   | <u>861-7811</u>                     | <u>6700 Portland Ave Richfield, MN 55423</u>                                 |
| 10. <u>Jim Prosser</u>  | <u>866-9705</u>                     | <u>6700 Portland</u>   |
| 11. <u>DICK LITTLE</u>  | <u>(612) 724-5662</u>               | <u>4909-29TH AVE. So MINNEAPOLIS MN 55417</u>                                |
| 12. <u>Michael Westholder</u>   | <u>(612) 896-4751</u>               | <u>Richfield Sun Center<br/>7831 East Bush Lake Rd Bloomington, MN 55439</u> |
| 13.   |                                     |  |
| 14.   |                                     |  |
| 15.   |                                     |  |
| 16.   |                                     |  |
| 17.   |                                     |  |
| 18.   |                                     |  |
| 19.   |                                     |  |
| 20.   |                                     |  |

Richfield Diversity Connection

Memo:

To: Dick Little

From: Camillo De Santis

Date: February 18, 1998

Re: Follow-Up on National Days of Dialogue  
on Race Relations

Stick, Enclosed are:

1. The attendance sign-in sheet for the meeting held Thursday, January 15, 1998 at the Richfield City Hall.
2. The evaluation forms. Twelve people were in attendance. Nine evaluation forms were completed.
3. An article on The Dialogue which appeared in the January 21, 1998 edition of the Richfield Sun Current.

As soon as I receive the photographs I'll send the ones you requested to you.

Thanks - "CS" 866-5171

NATIONAL DAYS OF DIALOGUE ON RACE RELATIONS  
EVALUATION FORM

Location of Dialogue Session Richfield City Hall

Please use the following scale to indicate your feelings about items 1-4:

Strongly Disagree  
1

Disagree  
2

Agree  
3

Strongly Agree  
4

1. I felt comfortable participating in the discussion. 4
2. The dialogue gave me new insight about how to improve race relations. 3
3. The dialogue was positive and maintained a respectful climate. 4
4. Overall, the dialogue was a valuable experience. 3+
5. What was the best thing that happened in your session? shared history -!
6. How could the dialogue have been improved? needed more time
7. Would you like to participate in future dialogue session?  Yes  No  
If yes, please provide: Name Dawn Baden  
Address 7321 11th Ave  
City, State & Zip Richfield OH 44223  
Daytime Telephone 612-215-0703
8. Additional Comments:

Please Return to National Days of Dialogue on Race Relations:  
1322 18<sup>th</sup> Street, NW #26, Washington, D.C. 20036

Thank you for your participation

## ACTION PRIORITIES

Listed below are a variety of actions that individuals and groups can take to increase understanding and cooperative action between people of different races and ethnic backgrounds. Look through the list, decide which 3-5 things you believe are most important and mark an X by each of them. If you think of something (or more than one thing) that isn't listed, write it in one of the blank space at the bottom and mark it as one of your priorities.

- 
- Initiate a public education campaign in the community that stresses the importance of understanding people of different races and cultures.
  - Encourage all schools in the community to promote open discussion of racial and ethnic issues.
  - Organize intentionally integrated community groups which get together for socializing and discussion of current issues.
  - Promote trainings for offices and businesses which help employees learn how to better work with people from different backgrounds.
  - Create multi-ethnic citizen groups that work together to fight crime.
  - Encourage partnerships between churches (or other groups with a similar purpose) that have members who are predominately of different races or ethnic backgrounds.
  - Organize neighborhood or community wide festivals which highlight the different races, cultures and ethnic groups in your city.
  - Create programs in which prominent business people and business groups make special efforts to train and employ minority youth.
  - Ask media representatives to join together to consider ways to improve their coverage of racial issues in the community.
  - Get the city government to promote and encourage dialogues on race relations in neighborhoods across the city.

(Other, please specify) *GLBT - issues too!*

Which of these suggestions would you be interested in helping to implement?

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**NATIONAL DAYS OF DIALOGUE ON RACE RELATIONS  
EVALUATION FORM**

Location of Dialogue Session Richfield, mn - City Hall

*Please use the following scale to indicate your feelings about items 1-4:*

<i>Strongly Disagree</i> 1	<i>Disagree</i> 2	<i>Agree</i> 3	<i>Strongly Agree</i> 4
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- 1. I felt comfortable participating in the discussion. 1
- 2. The dialogue gave me new insight about how to improve race relations. 1
- 3. The dialogue was positive and maintained a respectful climate. 3
- 4. Overall, the dialogue was a valuable experience. 3

5. What was the best thing that happened in your session? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. How could the dialogue have been improved? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Would you like to participate in future dialogue session? Yes No  
If yes, please provide: Name Roger A. Parks  
Address 7601 Thomas Ave S  
City, State & Zip Richfield MN 55423  
Daytime Telephone 612-861-6086

8. Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Please Return to National Days of Dialogue on Race Relations:  
1322 18<sup>th</sup> Street, NW #26, Washington, D.C. 20036*

*Thank you for your participation*

## ACTION PRIORITIES

Listed below are a variety of actions that individuals and groups can take to increase understanding and cooperative action between people of different races and ethnic backgrounds. Look through the list, decide which 3-5 things you believe are most important and mark an X by each of them. If you think of something (or more than one thing) that isn't listed, write it in one of the blank space at the bottom and mark it as one of your priorities.

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- Initiate a public education campaign in the community that stresses the importance of understanding people of different races and cultures.
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- Organize neighborhood or community wide festivals which highlight the different races, cultures and ethnic groups in your city.
- Create programs in which prominent business people and business groups make special efforts to train and employ minority youth.
- Ask media representatives to join together to consider ways to improve their coverage of racial issues in the community.
- Get the city government to promote and encourage dialogues on race relations in neighborhoods across the city.
- (Other, please specify)

Which of these suggestions would you be interested in helping to implement?

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NATIONAL DAYS OF DIALOGUE ON RACE RELATIONS  
EVALUATION FORM

Location of Dialogue Session Richfield, MN

Please use the following scale to indicate your feelings about items 1-4:

Strongly Disagree  
1

Disagree  
2

Agree  
3

Strongly Agree  
4

1. I felt comfortable participating in the discussion. 4
2. The dialogue gave me new insight about how to improve race relations. 3
3. The dialogue was positive and maintained a respectful climate. 4
4. Overall, the dialogue was a valuable experience. 4
5. What was the best thing that happened in your session? Insights gained from personal sharing
6. How could the dialogue have been improved? Diverse participants - we were all white.
7. Would you like to participate in future dialogue session?  Yes  No  
If yes, please provide: Name Barbara Devlin  
Address 7001 Harriet Ave. So.  
City, State & Zip Richfield, Md. 55423  
Daytime Telephone (612) 798-6010
8. Additional Comments: Periodic dialogues - but infuse into existing organizations - work place, civic organizations, Chamber of Commerce, ~~etc.~~ church, etc.

Please Return to National Days of Dialogue on Race Relations:  
1322 18<sup>th</sup> Street, NW #26, Washington, D.C. 20036

Thank you for your participation

## ACTION PRIORITIES

Listed below are a variety of actions that individuals and groups can take to increase understanding and cooperative action between people of different races and ethnic backgrounds. Look through the list, decide which 3-5 things you believe are most important and mark an X by each of them. If you think of something (or more than one thing) that isn't listed, write it in one of the blank space at the bottom and mark it as one of your priorities.

\_\_\_\_\_ Initiate a public education campaign in the community that stresses the importance of understanding people of different races and cultures.

①  Encourage all schools in the community to promote open discussion of racial and ethnic issues.

②  Organize intentionally integrated community groups which get together for socializing and discussion of current issues.

Promote trainings for offices and businesses which help employees learn how to better work with people from different backgrounds.

\_\_\_\_\_ Create multi-ethnic citizen groups that work together to fight crime.

\_\_\_\_\_ Encourage partnerships between churches (or other groups with a similar purpose) that have members who are predominately of different races or ethnic backgrounds.

\_\_\_\_\_ Organize neighborhood or community wide festivals which highlight the different races, cultures and ethnic groups in your city.

Create programs in which prominent business people and business groups make special efforts to train and employ minority youth.

\_\_\_\_\_ Ask media representatives to join together to consider ways to improve their coverage of racial issues in the community.

Get the city government to promote and encourage dialogues on race relations in neighborhoods across the city.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Other, please specify)

Which of these suggestions would you be interested in helping to implement?

# 1 & 2 above.

NATIONAL DAYS OF DIALOGUE ON RACE RELATIONS  
EVALUATION FORM

Location of Dialogue Session RICHFIELD, MN

Please use the following scale to indicate your feelings about items 1-4:

Strongly Disagree  
1

Disagree  
2

Agree  
3

Strongly Agree  
4

1. I felt comfortable participating in the discussion. 4
2. The dialogue gave me new insight about how to improve race relations. 4
3. The dialogue was positive and maintained a respectful climate. 4
4. Overall, the dialogue was a valuable experience. 4
5. What was the best thing that happened in your session? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. How could the dialogue have been improved? MORE DIVERSE  
group  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Would you like to participate in future dialogue session?  Yes  No  
If yes, please provide: Name JIM PROSSER  
Address 4700 PORTLAND  
City, State & Zip RICHFIELD MN 55423  
Daytime Telephone 612/861-9705

8. Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please Return to National Days of Dialogue on Race Relations:  
1322 18<sup>th</sup> Street, NW #26, Washington, D.C. 20036

Thank you for your participation

## ACTION PRIORITIES

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- Initiate a public education campaign in the community that stresses the importance of understanding people of different races and cultures.
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- Ask media representatives to join together to consider ways to improve their coverage of racial issues in the community.
- Get the city government to promote and encourage dialogues on race relations in neighborhoods across the city.
- (Other, please specify)
- 

Which of these suggestions would you be interested in helping to implement?

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NATIONAL DAYS OF DIALOGUE ON RACE RELATIONS  
EVALUATION FORM

Location of Dialogue Session \_\_\_\_\_

Please use the following scale to indicate your feelings about items 1-4:

Strongly Disagree  
1

Disagree  
2

Agree  
3

Strongly Agree  
4

1. I felt comfortable participating in the discussion. 4
2. The dialogue gave me new insight about how to improve race relations. 3
3. The dialogue was positive and maintained a respectful climate. 4
4. Overall, the dialogue was a valuable experience. 4

5. What was the best thing that happened in your session? \_\_\_\_\_

Heard others' experience  
Structure of Debate vs. Dialogue  
Participation by City manager, Police chief, School superintendent

6. How could the dialogue have been improved? \_\_\_\_\_

Smaller groups? paired discussion

7. Would you like to participate in future dialogue session?  Yes  No

If yes, please provide: Name Tony Sibac  
Address 690 S First Ave So.  
City, State & Zip RICHFIELD MN 55423  
Daytime Telephone 330-1946

8. Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please Return to National Days of Dialogue on Race Relations:  
1322 18<sup>th</sup> Street, NW #26, Washington, D.C. 20036

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- Ask media representatives to join together to consider ways to improve their coverage of racial issues in the community.
- Get the city government to promote and encourage dialogues on race relations in neighborhoods across the city.
- (Other, please specify)
- 

Which of these suggestions would you be interested in helping to implement?

*We are doing this at Augsburg College*

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NATIONAL DAYS OF DIALOGUE ON RACE RELATIONS  
EVALUATION FORM

Location of Dialogue Session Richfield MN City Council Chambers

Please use the following scale to indicate your feelings about items 1-4:

Strongly Disagree  
1

Disagree  
2

Agree  
~~3~~

Strongly Agree  
~~4~~

1. I felt comfortable participating in the discussion. 4
2. The dialogue gave me new insight about how to improve race relations. 3
3. The dialogue was positive and maintained a respectful climate. 4
4. Overall, the dialogue was a valuable experience. 3
5. What was the best thing that happened in your session? Opportunity to hear diverse experiences.

6. How could the dialogue have been improved? \_\_\_\_\_  
It was fine.

7. Would you like to participate in future dialogue session? X Yes    No  
If yes, please provide: Name Terry Robinson  
Address 19 E. 54th St.  
City, State & Zip Mpls MN  
Daytime Telephone 798-6025

8. Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
We need more of this.

Please Return to National Days of Dialogue on Race Relations:  
1322 18<sup>th</sup> Street, NW #26, Washington, D.C. 20036

Thank you for your participation

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- Get the city government to promote and encourage dialogues on race relations in neighborhoods across the city.
- (Other, please specify)
- 

Which of these suggestions would you be interested in helping to implement?

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- Ask media representatives to join together to consider ways to improve their coverage of racial issues in the community.
- Get the city government to promote and encourage dialogues on race relations in neighborhoods across the city.
- (Other, please specify)
- \_\_\_\_\_

Which of these suggestions would you be interested in helping to implement?

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NATIONAL DAYS OF DIALOGUE ON RACE RELATIONS  
EVALUATION FORM

Location of Dialogue Session Richfield City Hall

Please use the following scale to indicate your feelings about items 1-4:

Strongly Disagree  
1

Disagree  
2

Agree  
3

Strongly Agree  
4

1. I felt comfortable participating in the discussion. 4
2. The dialogue gave me new insight about how to improve race relations. 2
3. The dialogue was positive and maintained a respectful climate. 4
4. Overall, the dialogue was a valuable experience. 4

5. What was the best thing that happened in your session? sharing - openness

6. How could the dialogue have been improved? Would have been helpful to have minorities present. Minority persons were invited.

7. Would you like to participate in future dialogue session?  Yes  No  
If yes, please provide: Name Camillo DeSantis  
Address 2508 Newton Ave, S.  
City, State & Zip Richfield, MN 55423  
Daytime Telephone (612) 866-5171

8. Additional Comments: This needs to continue

Please Return to National Days of Dialogue on Race Relations:  
1322 18<sup>th</sup> Street, NW #26, Washington, D.C. 20036

Thank you for your participation

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---

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Ask media representatives to join together to consider ways to improve their coverage of racial issues in the community.

Get the city government to promote and encourage dialogues on race relations in neighborhoods across the city.

(Other, please specify)

Which of these suggestions would you be interested in helping to implement?

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NATIONAL DAYS OF DIALOGUE ON RACE RELATIONS  
EVALUATION FORM

Location of Dialogue Session Richfield

Please use the following scale to indicate your feelings about items 1-4:

Strongly Disagree  
1

Disagree  
2

Agree  
3

Strongly Agree  
4

1. I felt comfortable participating in the discussion.
2. The dialogue gave me new insight about how to improve race relations. \_\_\_\_\_ *I have been involved actively so many years, it would not be fair to*
3. The dialogue was positive and maintained a respectful climate.  *agrees with this*
4. Overall, the dialogue was a valuable experience. \_\_\_\_\_

5. What was the best thing that happened in your session? \_\_\_\_\_  
opportunity to meet new people

6. How could the dialogue have been improved? more people

7. Would you like to participate in future dialogue session?  Yes  No

If yes, please provide: Name Hesterude Ulrich  
Address 7601 Aldrich Av. SE  
City, State & Zip Richfield, MN 55423  
Daytime Telephone 866-8191

8. Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please Return to National Days of Dialogue on Race Relations:  
1322 18<sup>th</sup> Street, NW #26, Washington, D.C. 20036

Thank you for your participation

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---

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- Get the city government to promote and encourage dialogues on race relations in neighborhoods across the city.
- (Other, please specify)
- 

**Which of these suggestions would you be interested in helping to implement?**

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# Residents focus on Richfield's diversity at 'Dialogue on Race'

By Mike Westholder  
Minnesota Sun Publications

About a dozen people who live or work in Richfield explored race, diversity and the changing face of the city on the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday Thursday at City Hall.

Only people of Caucasian ancestry attended the discussion, which was sponsored by the Richfield Diversity Connection, Human Rights Commission, the Community Council and the public schools.

The dialogue was one of countless meetings conducted across the country in conjunction with the National Days of Dialogue on Race Relations.

Organizers hope the dialogues will not be a one-time event but develop into a national grassroots movement.

"The hope is that this becomes a movement," Camillo DeSantis, who helped organize the Richfield event, said.

DeSantis began the discussion by talking about how Richfield has grown in diversity.

About 15 to 20 years ago, Richfield was a homogeneous community, DeSantis said, but today 7 percent of the population is a race other than Caucasian. The Richfield public school enrollment is 75 percent Caucasian.

Richfield's diversity can be seen in the types of businesses that have opened in the city, DeSantis said. There are several Asian restaurants and two Hispanic ones, he said. The city has three Asian and two Hispanic markets.

"Five to 10 years ago, would you have imagined that?" DeSantis said. "I don't think so."

Richfield's challenge will be to integrate all residents into the community, said the Rev. Roger Parks, a member of the Human Rights Commission and pastor at Richfield United Methodist Church.

"We say Richfield is diverse, but is it diverse only in numbers?" Parks said.

Community events, local organizations, city commissions and youth sports need to reflect the city's diversity, as well, Parks said. For example, Richfield needs to strive to make all people feel welcome at community events, such as the Safety Camp, Parks said. In the past, the city's Safety Camps have not drawn children from black, Asian and Hispanic families, he said.

One way to be more inviting may be to print flyers about events in languages other than English, Parks suggested.

To encourage involvement by other ethnic groups, school and city leaders need to consider people's ethnic back-

grounds when inviting participation, school Superintendent Barbara Devlin said.

With many Asian and Hispanic families, it isn't enough to just publish an announcement inviting people to come to an event or join a committee, she said. In some cultures, people won't get involved unless they are personally invited to do so, Devlin said.

"We need to change our cultural style of reaching out," Devlin said. "You can't use the old methods."

Without a serious and successful effort, the city could see white flight, he said.

In many communities nationwide, white residents are comfortable with having a small minority population, said Dick Little, executive director of the Education and Housing Equity Project in Minneapolis. Once the number of minority residents reach a "tipping point," white residents begin moving out, Little said.

"I have a feeling that that could happen here," Parks said.

Another issue the group discussed was the stereotypes held by some in the white community.

A common stereotype heard in Richfield is that "three black kids walking down the street are a gang," City Manag-

er Jim Prosser said.

Another common misconception is that most of the city's crime occurs in apartments, Prosser said. As many crimes are being reported in apartments as single-family homes, he said. This perception has led to the erroneous view that Richfield could eliminate crime by bulldozing the city's apartments, Prosser said.

Another misconception is that the African American students in Richfield schools are mostly transfers from Minneapolis, Devlin said. Of about 4,400 students district-wide, about 300 transfer into Richfield from 19 different districts, Devlin said.

While stereotypes and prejudice persist in Richfield, there are some positive signs, Prosser said. In the latest city survey, most people said that Richfield's diversity is an asset to the community, he said.

Likewise, during homecoming week, the eight queen candidates represented the varying ethnic groups at the school, Devlin said.

"It made such a difference in participation in homecoming court activities," she said. "I saw Vietnamese and Cambodian students, all of which I hadn't seen in school activities before. We had a great mix of students."

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