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Waite Park Voice

Waite Park Neighborhood Newsletter

Volume 3 • Issue 1

January/February, 1997

From The Council....

Greetings!

I hope you all had very happy, safe holidays and everybody got what they wanted for Christmas. I still haven't gotten that pony I've wanted since I was in 3rd grade but, like baseball, there's always next year.

First off, let me take a moment to greet our new Park Director, Shannon McDonough. Shannon comes to us from Creekview Park and we're very happy to have him join us. If you haven't already, stop by and welcome him to the Waite Park Community.

We owe a big "thank you" to the members of the NRP Steering Committee. The Full Plan Town Meeting in December was, in my opinion, a terrific success. The NRP committee members put a lot of effort and time into this. It was pleasing to see that work rewarded by a good turn out and a positive "first step" on the way to improving our community through NRP.

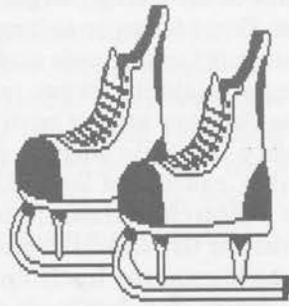
Remember, elections for the Waite Park Community Council position of President and Secretary will be held at the March meeting. If you are interested in either position, please come to the January and February meetings for more information. I have it from a very good source that the president's seat will definitely be up for grabs.

My personal thanks to everyone who puts this newsletter together. All of them work very hard to make sure all the important information and activities in our community are put together in a very clear, accessible and timely way. It is hard work, takes a lot of time, and they should be congratulated for not only doing it so well, but for taking the time to keep doing it. Thanks!

See you all at the skating party January 18!

Take care.

Jeff Grapevine, WPC Council President



Skating Party

Saturday January 18, 4-7 pm

At the Waite Park

Warming House & Ice Rink

Bonfire (bring firewood - no lumber)

Refreshments Provided

Volunteering and NRP

by N. P. Heille

What is an NRP volunteer?

Each family and home is independent; yet, connected. NRP is volunteers located throughout the neighborhood. NRP is volunteers located in each block. NRP is neighbors sharing with one another. NRP is neighbors greeting new volunteers, easing their passage through the gates to their first neighborhood volunteer effort. NRP is neighbors encouraging questions and feedback. NRP is neighbors acting as a bridge between the City and its bureaucracy. NRP is neighbors learning about opportunities for neighborhood improvement done in Minneapolis, as well as, the Metropolitan area, State, and nationally. NRP is acceptance and cooperation amongst the people of the Waite Park Community. That's what an NRP volunteer is.

What is the vision of an NRP volunteer?

NRP volunteers are encouraging more neighbors to consider volunteering for NRP. The idea is to coordinate more neighborhood volunteers to support the NRP program and to communicate the Waite Park Community's needs to the City of Minneapolis and its bureaucracy. Each volunteer is

autonomous, yet linked to the whole. Hopefully, anyone who wants to volunteer will be part of the NRP program. Ideally, NRP volunteerism will grow and continue in place for future neighbors to use and develop, as time goes on. It is hoped that every NRP volunteer will do some outreach to their neighbors in the Waite Park Community. That's the vision of an NRP volunteer; not only reaching those who come to them, but, also, calling out to those neighbors that are not NRP volunteers, asking them, to be an NRP volunteer.

So?

Consider joining with other NRP volunteers. It's when many people bring their own gifts and skills to the community, their neighbors, that the work is made easy. Being an NRP volunteer is as much a mind-set, as it is doing the work at hand. So, why not volunteer to help Waite Park's NRP efforts? Come to one of the Waite Park Community NRP meetings. You will leave with a better understanding of what we can do together.



New Year's Resolution: Six Months to Develop an Action Plan

The Waite Park NRP Action Plan Kick-Off on December 7, 1996 was attended by thirty or so neighbors who wanted to get involved in shaping the future in our neighborhood. We tentatively decided that these are the top priorities for Waite Park's \$750,000 NRP Action Plan:

1) Community service and education through lifelong learning support. It is important to attract, reward and retain volunteers who improve the neighborhood and school by providing programming or relationship-building opportunities for all generations. This could involve activities such as a parent's club, after-school and summer programs, conflict resolution, communication training, adult mentoring and youth input into neighborhood decisions.

One resident called after a recent snowstorm and wanted to know if NRP money could be used to purchase snow removal equipment that could be used by youth groups for fundraising activities. Possible partners in planning this kind of activity might involve local service groups such as the Lions or Knights of Columbus, churches, schools, Senior Resources, National Youth Leadership Council (AmeriCorps) and the Commonweal Currency Exchange Network (CCEN). CCEN is a new program endorsed by both Minneapolis NRP and the Hennepin County Board. They keep track of service needs, individual community service hours and provide a cash discount with local merchants or at the Mall of America.

2) Streets, traffic and safety continue to be a concern. Speeding cars on Johnson between the Quarry and Apache shopping districts, on Central Avenue and residential streets and alleys, is an example of a problem that NRP funds could reduce. Other ideas suggested, comparing the number of cars in Waite Park with the number of garages or other parking spaces. Identifying dark areas and looking at lighting options, increasing

community-watch reporting levels and locating broken bottles, break-in areas and crash sites also need attention.

3) Housing will remain a major focus. Maintenance needs and educational resources for homeowners will continue to be a large target for NRP funds. Remodeling or enlarging to meet changing family needs and senior housing availability are two parts of the issue. Another area is environmental safety hazards such as carbon monoxide, radon and lead paint. We have a research position funded by the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs at the Humphrey Institute for assessing current housing stock and future needs for life-cycle housing. We need someone to supervise this college student.

4) Cooperative efforts with other neighborhoods - Action steps needed: We decided it would help to clarify and document the values guiding NRP efforts in Waite Park. These could be spread through communication channels and outreach efforts to address diversity and to respond to the demographic changes that are happening in Waite Park and Minneapolis. We also need to look at long term considerations for community life and involvement after NRP funding ends and the role of neighborhood organizations in the future.

The NRP Steering committee will create a six month contract with a consultant to help focus our activities and make the Action Plan happen by June 1, 1997. Recognizing that person-to-person contacts are the most important way to increase involvement, block clubs and social contacts are the most likely ways to generate broader participation. Other means of communication include the new U.S. West Business Voice Messaging Service for separate options on NRP subcommittees, special editions of the Waite Park newsletter and Internet - Freenet distribution of meeting minutes and actions through our home page.

Principal Ray Aponte got an A+ for his guided tour of the building after the December 7 Town Meeting. There is a lively spirit in the facility even without the students, staff and teachers present. The school and commu-

nity council will co-sponsor a community circle group in early 1997 to discuss: "How does racial and economic segregation of housing affect educational achievement and life opportunities?"

THE NEXT WAITE PARK NRP STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE TUESDAYS, JANUARY 14 AND FEBRUARY 10 AT 7 P.M. AT THE WAITE PARK COMMUNITY CENTER: 1810 34th AVENUE NORTHEAST.

Call 782-1082 for recorded information on other NRP meeting times. or to leave a message with your comments and ideas.

Ray Lewis

Northeast REPS Report

Happy New Year from Northeast Reps.

There are many things happening in Northeast Minneapolis in 1997 and Northeast Reps is going to find out about many of them. Representatives from all neighborhoods are expected and all Northeast citizens are welcome at our monthly meetings. Call Northeast Reps Voice Mail at 257-7243 for meeting locations. Happenings to look forward to in 1997 are: the Art-A-Whirl, the opening of the Quarry Center, the opening of the Northeast Ice Arena and Celebrate Northeast. The New Year will also bring continuing issues for Northeast including: NRP plans in the neighborhoods, the river, bike paths, housing and schools. This year will also include discussion of building a Northeast Community Center.

The agenda for the January 22 meeting at Audubon Park will have representatives from Art-A-Whirl telling us about early plans of the 1997 event which will take place on May 16, 17 & 18 in Northeast Minneapolis Galleries and Studios. They will share their plans to see how the Reps and Art-A-Whirl can work together to make this another Northeast success.

On the agenda for the February meeting will be the Northeast Housing Resource Center with Rosemary Fagrelus, center coordinator, as our guest.

See you on January 22 at Audubon Park.

Rosemary Heille

POINTS OF INFORMATION

1) We now have the more reliable VOICE MAIL SERVICE at the center replacing the old answering machine. It has its own phone line and the community computer no longer interferes with its operation. Call 782-1082 to access the service; after a voice acknowledgement of a completed connection, ("you have reached 782-1082"), state your message. This service allows for longer, more detailed messages (a maximum of about 4 minutes). We hope this service eliminates the problems previously experienced. We are also looking forward to more timely responses to the messages.

2) The local mail carriers wish to thank those residents who have shovelled short cuts from house to house. Their daily trips are made much easier and the mail delivery is more prompt. The Newsletter delivery people thank you also.

3) Election for two council offices (President and Secretary) will be held

IT REALLY WORKS

The "letter to the editors" attests to the fact that the NRP rebate program is really working. There are other Waite Park residents who have or are completing the preliminary process in home improvement and are expecting the 15% rebate. It is important to remember that there are certain steps required before payment is made. The new regulations have greatly simplified the process. The Northeast Resource Center is extremely helpful in clarifying the procedures.

Rita Deyo can also attest to the reality of the rebate, as she has received her check of 15% for having installed a "real" driveway using NRP directives.

during the March 5 council meeting. Nominations are open until voting time. Any Waite Park resident who attends council meetings is eligible to hold an office. The NRP, school and park activities, and other neighborhood issues reflect the importance of community participation at regular council meetings. Plan to attend this election meeting and future meetings to exercise your concerns, opinions, your rights and responsibilities as a Waite Park resident. The By-Laws of the council are also being considered for review and possible revision.

4) Gardens seem a natural place to build change in the community. As a step toward a more positive tomorrow the 1997 Greening Conference (hosted by the Minnesota Park and Recreation Association) will meet February 22, 1997 at the Hennepin Technical College in Brooklyn Park from 8:30 to 5:00. The Minnesota Arboretum, Hennepin Technical College, State Horticultural Society, Department of Natural Resources, and the Department of Transportation are also collaborating in this conference. Sessions include "Plants as Therapy," neighborhood gardens, roadside (or curbside) plantings and other cooperative gardening projects. Su-

san Price, author of *Minnesota Gardens - An Illustrated History*, will be the keynote speaker. For more information contact 920-6906 or 1-800-862-3659.

5) The community center has **Calendars!** In our last issue, we enclosed a flyer giving details about the 1997 Park and Recreation calendar. Unbeknown to many people, the calendars are conveniently available right here within walking distance. A sample copy shows beautiful antique pictures of our city parks. Ask at the community center counter to see it and buy one right on the spot! Half of the price (\$10.00) goes to the park board and half goes to our neighborhood, so it is a great investment too.

6) WANTED: Cartoonists and Jokers! Here's a chance to publish your amateur creations, favorite jokes and reach the whole neighborhood of nearly 2500 houses all at once! Drawings are usually easily reproduced on our community scanner and most good jokes are repeatable. Drop off or mail your copy at the Community Center. Attention: Waite Park Voice, 1810 34th Ave N.E., Mpls, MN 55418.

1997 Waite Park Voice Deadlines & Council Main Events - Mark your Calendars

Jan. 18 - Skating party
 March 8 - Story Deadline for March 22 Delivery
 March 29 - BUNNY BRUNCH
 May 10 - Story Deadline for May 24 Delivery
 May 29 - SPRING CARNIVAL
 July 5 - Story Deadline for July 19 Delivery
 August 23 - Story Deadline for September 6 Delivery
 September 14 - FALL FESTIVAL
 October 31 - HALLOWEEN PARTY
 November 1 - Story Deadline for November 15 Delivery
 December 27 - Story Deadline for January 10, 1998 Delivery



CRIME PREVENTION

1996 was a good year for Waite Park! Community Crime Prevention/SAFE addressed less than ten specific address complaints from block club leaders and/or block residents this year. The complaints ranged from chronic party houses to unkept yards. CCP/SAFE has also responded to precinct officers' complaints of addresses with repeat calls for service. All problems have resulted in positive outcomes!

The one area that needs improvement in Waite Park, however, is block clubs. Although Waite Park does have many block clubs, we are looking for block clubs in key areas, such as around the school, the neighborhood community center and off Central Avenue. If you are interested in organizing your block or apartment building to prevent crime in your area, contact KAREN THIEDE at CCP/SAFE at 673-2797. **We are holding block leader training throughout the year, the first occurs on January 7 and 14. This two-part session**

takes place from 7:00 to 9:00 each night and will be held at Logan Park (Broadway & Monroe). Come join us and get 1997 off to a SAFE start! If you can't make the January training another pair of sessions will be held February 4 and 11 (Tuesdays), 7:00 to 9:00 at Fairview Park, 619 29th Ave N.

There have been no new Waite Park block clubs formed since September of 1996. Also, there have not been any new McGruff houses. We are going to target establishing more McGruff houses for 1997, as well as getting those unorganized blocks together and active. At last count Waite Park has only eight (8) McGruff houses. The November crime stat map as well as other information is posted on the community bulletin board. Feel free to call with your concerns.

Karen Thiede, Crime Prevention Specialist (673-2797).

Our CCP/SAFE Officer is Judy Smith at 673-2794.

WAITE PARK VOICE EDITORIAL STAFF & CONTRIBUTORS

VOL 3; NO 1:

Jeff Grapevine	Fran Guminga
Rita Deyo	Becky Mellentin
Ray Aponte	Doug Davis
Ray Lewis	Rosemary Heille
Karen Thiede	Nick Heille
Ginny Plumb	Thane Lewis
Ken Nelson	

Layout and Formatting by Sara Bratsch. Stories and/or contributions for future issues welcome. Send to the Waite Park Community Center or E-Mail to sbratsch@Mpls.k12.mn.us.

Thanks to the collators, telephoner Beth Siegler, deliverers, block leaders and all other helpers that make this effort possible.



WAITE PARK COMMUNITY CALENDAR

All activities not otherwise specified meet at Waite Park Community Center

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Place</u>
Tue., Jan. 14.....	7 pm.....	Winter Concert by Waite park School Students	
Tue. Jan. 14.....	7 pm.....	NRP Meeting - all neighbors welcome	
Thur., Jan. 16.....	7 pm.....	Conceptual River Corridor Plan Presentation - Auditorium	
Sat., Jan. 18.....	4-7 pm.....	Skating Party & Bonfire - Warming House & Rink	
Wed., Jan. 22.....	7 pm.....	NE Reps Meeting - Audubon Park, 29th & Buchanan	
Wed., Feb. 5.....	6:30 pm.....	Waite Park Community Council Meeting	
Thur., Feb. 6.....	7 pm.....	Talent Show by Waite Park Students	
Sat., Feb. 8.....	9:45 am - Noon.....	Home Security Workshop - School Auditorium	
Tues. Feb. 11.....	7 pm.....	NRP Committees	
Sat. Feb. 22.....	8:30 am - 5 pm.....	1997 Greening Conference - Henn. Tech. College, Brooklyn Center, call 920-6906	
Wed., Feb. 26.....	6:30 pm.....	NE Reps - call 257-7243 for place	
Wed. - Mar. 5.....	6:30 pm.....	Waite Park Community Council	
Sat., Mar. 8.....		Newsletter Story Deadline - bring to Center	
Tue., Mar. 11.....	7 pm.....	NRP Committees	
Sat., Mar. 22.....		Newsletter Delivery Starts - Call 781-2670	
Wed. Mar. 26.....	7 pm.....	NE Reps, call 257-7243 for place	
Sat., Mar. 29.....	10 am - Noon.....	Bunny Brunch - Preregistration: call 370-4959	



Check the Community Center Bulletin Board or the Northeaster for further information & announcements.

Waite Park Voice

Waite Park Neighborhood Newsletter

Volume 3 • Issue 2

March/April, 1997

From The Council...

Greetings!

As you know, Wednesday, March 5, the Waite Park Community Council elected a new president. This is my last "official" letter. Before I introduce the new president, I'd like to take a moment to tell you how proud I have been to represent this community. Waite Park is a wonderful place to live and the people here are good neighbors and friends. I have been lucky to have served with such a marvelous organization as the Waite Park Community Council. Their dedication, hard work, knowledge and friendship made my job a lot easier. I can never thank them enough.

Now I do have one more thing before I tell you about our new president. It's an old drum, but I'm going to beat it one more time. **WE NEED YOUR HELP.** There are many wonderful, exciting opportunities before the citizens of Waite Park (as opposed to the problems some communities are faced with) but they will not develop on their own. The Council and its subcommittees need all the help they can get to grab those opportunities and make the most of them. **WE NEED YOU.** There are a handful of people who have been working literally countless hours and it's time they got a break. They have lives and families too, and it's time they got to enjoy the fruits of their hard work. If you want Waite Park to keep improving, to remain a decent place to live and raise kids, it's time to come to a meeting and pitch in. It's as simple as that.

It is my great pleasure to introduce the new Waite Park Community Council President, Jill Davis. A lot of you know Jill; she's a longtime member of the Council. Jill is a lifelong resident of Waite Park. She is also responsible for getting more than a few of us involved with the Council. Also welcome to Becky Mellentin, the newly elected secretary.

Jeff Grapevine
Outgoing WPCC President



BUNNY BRUNCH

SAT., MARCH 29,
10 a.m. - noon

Pancake & sausage breakfast with juice and coffee

Registration required - call 370-4959

*Featuring a visit from N.E. children's royalty
Egg hunt & prizes*

NRP UPDATE

By Ray Lewis

Look for articles in this edition of the Voice about current community programs based on last year's NRP activities. These include the home improvement program, the crime and safety programs and the community school/park equipment and program upgrades.

The three subcommittees have been meeting over the winter developing ideas for the Waite Park Neighborhood Revitalization Action Plan which will spend approximately \$750,000. It's not too late for you to get involved. On Saturday, May 31 we will be holding a town meeting in the morning at the Community Center so we can listen to your comments on what is being planned by the Community and Education, Streets and Safety and the Housing groups. We would also like to invite you to a tailgate party afterwards -bring your grills and a dish to share for about six people. We will try to convince the Community Council to purchase brats, hot dogs and buns. In addition, we will try to put together a volunteer fair/forum in the early afternoon and invite various organizations to talk about services they provide and

opportunities they offer for volunteers.

The school and community council are also looking for individuals interested in participating in a Community Circle Collaborative which is a multi-sector coalition of over 20 Twin Cities organizations. A small group of 8-15 people is being recruited to meet 2 to 3 times in March and April to discuss "Beyond Busing: A Metrowide Dialogue on the Challenges of Education and Housing Segregation?" Call Ray Lewis at 788-4040 if you would like more information or a copy of the discussion guide.

Patty Hillmeyer will be attending the April 8th NRP meeting and Mayor Sayles-Belton will be attending the April 2nd Community Council meeting. In addition, the Minneapolis Center for Neighborhoods will be focusing on neighborhood capacity in their 1997 State of the Neighborhoods Address. Basic questions that should be addressed include: What are their expectations of neighborhoods and how has this changed over time? What resources and technical assistance to neighborhoods are needed and available to help meet those expectations? Are people willing to get involved in the work of the community, and if so, how can this be arranged to best fit the needs of both the individual and the neighborhood? We should also be able to describe our expectations of their organization for neighborhoods.

Finally, welcome to Chris Gams, who was chosen as the contractor to help Waite Park prepare the NRP Action Plan. Chris has been involved in the Audubon and Windom Park NRP process and will help bring a wider perspective of what is happening in our neighboring neighborhoods.

THE NEXT WAITE PARK NRP STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING IS APRIL 8 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE WAITE PARK COMMUNITY CENTER. 1810 34th AVE. NE.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

By Rita Deyo

Do you have tasks that need doing, or are you between ages 11 and 18? There is a program sponsored by CCP/SAFE that brings these two groups together. And the youth earn CASH in the process. This program is the Youth Employment Service (YES). The objective is to give the "kids" in the neighborhood a chance to be helpful and the adults a chance to know the youth.

The program has a definite format. The young workers register with the Youth Employment Service. Each worker is assigned an adult volunteer mentor who accompanies the youth to an interview and later checks on the quality of the work. However, the youth is interviewed by the prospective employer and the pay scale is negotiated by the resident and the worker. The local community manages the program so that it answers the needs of its citizens.

The program has been in effect, successfully, in Southeast Minneapolis for five years and in the Longfellow area for four years. One reason for its success is that the "kids" are known in the community. Other reasons are that the youth have responsibilities to the community and they have money they've earned themselves.

According to Baron Lewis (673-2944), YES contact person, these successes have reduced unfavorable incidences involving neighborhood youth. They also encourage initiation and development of the service in other areas of the city.

The NRP Community and Education Committee has invited Jeff Nachbar from Southeast Minneapolis to tell how this program is working there. Come with your questions to the Waite Park Community Center, Thurs. March 27, 7:30 p.m.



COMPUTER ROOM REMODELING

The community computer room has received a real face lift with NRP funds. The original darkroom had cabinets, sink, and floor covering removed. Walls now have a fresh coat of paint and a large bulletin board was installed. Neutral easy on the eyes and on the feet carpeting absorbs noises. The new computer desk is designed for user comfort. Storage space holds computer manuals, supplies, disc and information files. Computer monitor, scanner, printer and phone easily fit on the station's desk and there is space to spare.

January and February remodeling necessitated interrupting computer access and the E-mail connection. Unfortunately the E-mail access described in the January Waite Park Voice could not be utilized. We apologize for any inconvenience the remodeling may have caused. It seems we no sooner offer the community a service than some activity (hopefully helpful or an improvement) interferes. We believe everything is now in working order.

To access the E-mail service call 782-1082. Thanks for your forbearance; let us hear from you.

NRP POLICY BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

By Gary Arntsen

Judy Schwartau and Steve Capistrant are Waite Park's new Neighborhood Representatives on the NRP Policy Board. Schwartau (Lowry Hill East) is the at-large Rep and Candyce C Anderson (Longfellow) is her alternate. Capistrant (Windom) is the Protection Rep and Nick Kakos (East Calhoun) is the alternate. Also elected at the NRP Policy Board election on January 22nd were Rep Raghavan Iyer (Whittier) and Diana Hawkins as the Redirection Rep and alternate and Gretchen Nicholls (Loring Park) and Sheila Lefavor (Webber-Camden) as

Northeast REPS Report

Northeast Reps met on February 26 at 7 p.m. at Windom Park Rosemary Fargelius, coordinator of the Northeast Home Ownership Resource Center, talked about programs that they offer to people who own or want to buy a house in Northeast Minneapolis.

The March meeting will be at Waite Park Community Center on Wednesday, March 26 at 7 p.m. Ray Lewis will talk about neighborhood information on the internet.

Other topics that Reps are following are: Art-a-Whirl, Celebrate Northeast and the development happening Northeast.

Art-a-Whirl is coming up on May 16, 17 and 18 in studios all over Northeast. Artists are a growth industry in Northeast with all kinds of art being created. There are set design, sculpture, furniture making, neon design, fabric design, commercial artists, and painters of many kinds. Call the Art-a-Whirl hotline at 257-7396 to volunteer.

Celebrate Northeast is again asking neighborhoods to be a part of the Eastside Parade. Contact Lorrie Stromme or leave a message on the Northeast Reps voice mail at 257-7396 to help with planning.

Developments we are watching include; the Quarry Center, the Salvation Army purchase of the Legion Post at 2727 Central, the Community Task Force and changes at the Canadian Pacific Shoreham yards.

Rosemary Heille
Northeast Reps

the Revitalization Rep and alternate.

The Waite Park Community Council discussed the at-large and protection candidates at its January 8th meeting.

In addition to the four neighborhood Reps, the 19-member Policy Board includes ten elected officials and five people from designated interests (minorities, labor, business, United Way, and foundations.) The Policy Board is the governing body of the NRP. At its February meeting, the Policy Board elected School Board Member Ann Berget as its President and thanked Mayor Sharon Sayles-Belton for her two years of service as Policy Board President.



Notes From the Principal's Desk

What's Happening at Waite Park Community School

Boy this winter has been a long one, hasn't it? We have been busy though, building a great "Community School" with loads of involvement from parents, family and the community. We are thrilled to have newly-appointed Janise Holter, Parent Liaison. She is an exceptional person and parent of two children attending Waite Park. Her task is to assist in developing a stronger parent and community presence at Waite Park School. Welcome Janise!

In January, the Winter Concert showcased approximately 100 students from the Band and Orchestra program. We were all so proud of them with their wonderful new band and orchestra instruments! A special thanks to the NRP and Waite Park Community for supporting the fine arts program!

In February, we celebrated even more talented students with the Annual Spaghetti Dinner, Talent Show and Book Fair. We served an estimated 400+ people, and afterward the Auditorium was packed with a standing-room-only crowd. The Book Fair brought in over \$1,000 to purchase new books for our Media Center. African American Parent Involvement Day and Take Your Child to School Day on February 10 provided an opportunity for parents to visit the classroom and watch a short student program about African American history in education. Lillian Friedberg presented a short program about the significance of drums in the African American culture and gave a short performance.

Spring will bring more opportunities for community involvement through many more events. We are in the planning process for Circle of Peace on May 2nd. It is a city-wide event to bring awareness and action to the problem of violence in the community. We hope to focus on two dif-

ferent aspects of peace. They are: getting along with others, conflict resolution, respect for ourselves and others and, understanding and respecting other cultures and their heritage. At 1:15 PM, we plan to have all students, staff, and community members join hands around the school - singing a song and reciting a peace pledge. If you want more information about this or would like to help out, feel free to give us a call.

Events coming up:

April 22 - Earth Day - The Student Council is sponsoring an alumnium can drive during this week. All proceeds will go for flowers to beautify Waite Park. Start saving your cans, as this will be a community event.

May 2 - Circle of Peace

May 12-16 - School Spirit Week

May 23 - Track and Field Day

May 29 - Spring Carnival This will be our last and biggest event of the year. We hope to have a great community turnout and raise lots of money for programs for next year. The Parent-Teacher-Community Organization will need help with this event in many ways. If you are interested contact Janise Holter - Parent Liaison



Minnesota Opera Operaventure Program

This special program for children grades 2-5 will be offered at Waite Park this summer starting June 9, Monday through Thursday, 3 weeks, 9-12 a.m. Class is taught by Jeanette Andersen, Music Specialist for Minneapolis Public Schools.

Mona Lyn Reise, Composer
Carolyn Goelze, Stage Director
Matt LeFebvre, Set/Costume Designer

Tuition is \$38.00. Class is limited to 40 students. To register, call continuing education, Ginny Plumb, at Waite Park School; 627-3077.

From the Desks of Ginny & Shannon

This has been a busy and exciting winter quarter at the park and Community School. The weather has definitely been a topic of conversation.

In spite of the cold we have had families participating in our Tuesday activities, Parent/Tot gym, Pottery and Spanish classes. Special thanks to those of you who registered and participated in these family classes.

Many of the adult classes were well received, especially Ballroom Dance. There were classes to learn Polka, Waltz and other dances. Kevin Erickson, the dance instructor, will probably "Waltz Across Texas" to warmer weather if spring doesn't come soon. After the *Accurate Communication* class taught by Jerry Andersen, participants are listening to and respecting one another. We will offer this class again in spring, May 5 & 12, be sure to sign up early.

We are offering the usual spring classes: T-Ball, Four Pitch, Softball and Baseball registration. A couple new offerings are *Latin Dance* and *Great Decisions* (a foreign policy discussion class). The topics for the monthly *HEALTH WELLNESS TALKS* held the fourth Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. are: *Handy Gadgets*, March 25; *Low Vision, There is Hope*, April 22; and *Wills, Trusts, and Other Estate Planning Tools*, May 20.

We're so busy we sometimes forget there is strength in numbers. So with parents and community members working with us - our efforts do make a difference.

There are many things to do in the park this spring - new and repeat classes, special events and just meeting neighbors and having fun. We look forward to seeing you at the Bunny Brunch.

We welcome your calls if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions
Ginny, School Coordinator - 627-3077
Shannon, Park Coordinator - 370-4959

FIREARMS SAFETY TRAINING

Certified instructors lead this class for guys and gals, 12 years of age and up. ADULTS WELCOME! Class includes films, lectures, readings, a field trip to the firing range on Saturday, May 17, and a certificate upon completion of testing. Class will be 6 Tuesdays beginning April 8 from 6:30 to 9 p.m., cost is \$7.00 (includes certificate and field trip bus.) You may register at the first class or at Waite Park. Questions can be addressed to Ginny at 627-3077. Class is limited. Class is held at: V.F.W. Russell Gayord Post #159, 4080 West Broadway, Robbinsdale, MN

HOUSING SPRING KICK-OFF NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PROGRAM HOUSING UPDATE

By Cheryl Miller

Spring is quickly approaching, with thoughts of gardening, vacation and even house maintenance. Perhaps you are thinking of replacing the shingles on your roof, resurfacing your driveway, or remodeling your kitchen. As you think about improvements, consider taking advantage of the Neighborhood Revitalization Housing Program for Waite Park.

This program offers you a 15% rebate up to a \$1500 maximum on improvements made to your home and is free to all Waite Park residential property owners. You may have heard about how hard the program is to use. We have listened to all the concerns and suggestions from those who have used the program have made some improvements to the plan.

First, we changed the program to a 15% rebate. If the average home improvement project is \$5000, using the 15% rebate rate, the homeowner receives \$750 upon completion of the project.

Second, funding for the project may now come from any source. This includes a savings or checking account, loans from your bank, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) loans, or even the money you have squirreled away in the coffee can in your cupboard. In this way you may choose the financing option best suited for your needs.

Third, your concerns about availability was passed on to Northeast Resource Center. The Resource Center

has extended their hours as following: Monday through Thursday 9-5:30, and 10-2 every 2nd and 4th Saturday. The Resource Center is willing to make appointments to fit your schedule including evenings and weekends.

Finally, in order to address your concerns, Northeast Resource Center has redesigned the contractor's bid package to make it more user-friendly. We hope that the simplified program will be easier to apply for and use.

Over the last few months we have seen a rise in the number of applications being processed. Since the beginning of this program, we have had over \$92,000 of improvements made within our neighborhood, with \$14,000 in rebates being sent. Some of the improvements include driveway resurfacing, roof repair, electrical upgrades, landscaping and regrading to prevent water seepage, tiling and sump pump installations, a newly remodeled kitchen, new trim for a house, 24 new windows and other improvements. However we still have over \$200,000 left in the home improvement project.

To use these funds we are beginning this spring with a Home Improvement Kickoff. This kickoff is intended to raise awareness and attract homeowners to the program. We will be placing an ad in the *Northeast* and sending out a postcard to all Waite Park residential property owners. Look for an information booth at all upcoming community events. Applications are available both at the Waite Park Community Center and Northeast Resource Center. So pick up an application and begin planning today!

Big Friend, Little Friend

Big friend, little friend, Symbiotic chums,
one might whistle up a tune, while the other hums,
Symbiosis, is the mostes' tie that friends can own,
keeps a creature busy, 'cus the creatures not alone.

Now Oxpecker's a symbiont, a funny kind of bird,
who hangs around the animals, especially when they herd.
I mean, this guy, he really hangs, right on his buddy's skin,
and pecks the bugs that bother, from his buddy's tail to chin.

The cleaner shrimp's another one who needs a certain friend,
and so, he's got the gobid fish, whose special needs he'll tend.
And, in return, the gobid fish will help him 'round the bay,
because the shrimp can't see, you know, and thus can't find his way

Remora is a daring fish, who often hooks a ride,
upon a shark and, don't you know, he never lands inside!
He hitchhikes with his suction cup and cleans the shark's rough skin,
removing all the parasites; he does it with a grin.

The shark, in turn protects this cleaner, carries him around,
the other fish steer clear, they know the shark is out-of-bounds.
And all of these are sybionts, a most unusual word,
three fish, a shrimp, an animal, and last, a funny bird.

By Jerry Andersen

LIFE-STYLES: LIVING SINGLE

By Rita Deyo

Either by choice or circumstances people find themselves living particular life-styles. There is married, with or without children, in one or two income families, stay at home Moms, single parents, empty nesters, shared companionship, retirees, and those living alone.

Walk up and down any street, in any city, anywhere, and you will find someone or many who live alone. They are men or women, renters or owners, younger or not so young, financially well situated or those working hard to maintain their independence. They shop; they vote; they entertain; they work, travel, and visit with their families, friends and neighbors. They care for their homes as well as everyone else. They do things and amass stuff.

The person who lives alone may spend a little more time in the company of pets, the radio, stereo, or television. They may sometimes feel more isolated, apart from the mainstream, a little lonely. But living single allows uninterrupted time to develop hobbies and talents, write letters or novels, be creative. There's time to take long showers and afternoon naps, stay up late or sleep in. They cook what they like, eat at odd hours, or vacuum at three o'clock in the morning and they have complete control of the remote.

They also must pay all the bills, balance checkbooks, make all appointments, take care of the car, the leaks in the roof. They can't share the responsibilities of everyday routines. Sometimes this would be very welcome.

Some love the privacy, the independence, the freedom. Some are waiting to share their lives. Some are recovering or recovered partners. They are the "Everyman" of history, the 20th century, the nineties, the future. All are the "you and me" at some period in our lives.

Have you ever noticed....
New snow is photographed.
Old snow just melts.

The Waite Park Garden Gate

by Gary Scott

While calendars say it is March 20, it's tough to look outside and see light flurries or freezing rain and not feel anxious for warmer weather. Gentle breezes are just around the corner (or at least down the block and around the corner). Since it is still a tad too early to venture outside with a garden fork, now is an excellent time to begin planning for the growing season.

Consider your garden spaces and what types of plantings you are going to want. Sometimes, the best way to visualize and decide just what to plant comes in seed catalogues. If you are at a loss to know where to find vendors, pick up any issue of a garden magazine and generally you will find multitudes of ads offering free full-colored catalogues.

While browsing through your information, consider your sources. To avoid disappointment, one should have certain expectations from a seed company. You should see both the common names of plants and botanical references as well as germination rates and soil requirements. Height and growing requirements for our region of the country (ZONE 3) are considered crucial information. Check the guarantee information just in case there are problems with your order.

When obtaining seed stock or live plant stock through mail order always inspect your order immediately. Look for missing seed packets, seed packets that are not packed for 1997, or live plants that have not shipped well. Report these problems to your vendor right away for replacement or refund. Do not accept live plants that look near death or appear to have disease problems. You may risk spreading unwanted problems in your existing garden.

If you usually just go to the garden center to get all your plants. Fine. Make a shopping list of things you would like to purchase before heading out. Use your seed catalogues as a reference for desired plant varieties. Ask specific questions of greenhouse staff before you spend your money. Do not buy plants that are yellowing, drooping, too large for their containers or in a clearance area.

There are virtually hundreds of plant alternatives should your choice fall short of expectations. You may want to try something a little different this year. Rotate crops to avoid having the same bedding plants year after year. Branch out into biennials such as Canterbury Bells, Foxglove, Sweet William or many more. Although these plants will not generally bloom the first year, your patience will be rewarded come next spring. Once established, most biennials will reseed themselves in the same area from year to year.

Warm summer evenings are coming, and are enhanced when you plant flowers for their fragrance. Some outstanding evening fragrance flowers are most

kinds of Nicotiana, Four O'Clocks, Moon Flower Vine, and any kind of Phlox. All are enchanting flowers, and any time you can get them in white, do so. White flowers in the evening glow in your landscape.

There are currently 47 kinds of sunflowers available. I have endeavored to track most of them down and plant them for the birds. Last year, I had a flock of Goldfinches regularly visiting for lunch. Sunflowers are a beautiful cut flower, and some of the larger-head types are great for roasting and eating. In my garden, sunflowers stalks are left up all winter to be picked clean when the going gets tough in the bird world.

Looking for long-lasting cut flowers? You may want to try some "everlasting" flowers such as Statice, Strawflower, Globe Amaranth or Celosia. Most of these plants thrive in hot, dry conditions with little to no care. They will produce many flowers for you to cut, hang upside down in the basement, and dry. Flowers that will last through the winter to remind you of the beauty of Summer.

Even if your garden space is limited, think about planting some annual vines. A fence, post, group of sticks, or a trellis can support lovely morning glories, scarlet runner beans or hyacinth bean vines. If you are a hummingbird lover, seek out seeds for hummingbird vine. It will produce red tubular-shaped flowers that the hummingbirds will indeed visit. Any type of vine you select will add a dimension of height to your garden; perhaps cover an unsightly fence or deck support, and make you wish you had planted more.

If you have more time, and want to grow real show-stoppers, look into Dahlias. They need to be staked, tied and tended much like tomatoes, but will blossom with florist-quality flowers. Huge, perfect blossoms in many available colors. I have always enjoyed these beauties and frequently cut armloads of flowers. In the fall, lift the tubers from the ground and store them in a cool, dry place until planting time next spring. Many Dahlias can be split in the Spring, bringing you more plants year after year.

Cannas are also a good, dramatic selection for the garden. Dwarf varieties come in yellows, reds, pinks and related color variations. These plants produce exotic, tropical-looking leaves in an erect form that is both wind and disease resistant. Much like Dahlias, you'll have to lift the tubers in the fall for storage. Don't be surprised at how large the little bunch of root you planted last spring has become enormous. Again, a plant that will reproduce for your pleasure.

About this time, you're probably thinking you don't have the space to experiment with all the types of plants you'd like to have. Most of our lots in Waite Park are small, so why not use the boulevard? I've found that tending gardens on my boulevard is more pleasurable and productive than mowing and watering grass that struggles from year to year.

If you are looking for a challenge this year, and want to show off your efforts, you may want to enter the City of Minne-

apolis, "Blooming Boulevard" contest. Sponsored each year by the City's Committee on Urban Environment, the contest is open to all Minneapolis residents who have a well tended (maintained and weeded), visible boulevard garden. Nominations for gardens are taken in June to early July and gardeners are encouraged to focus on annual and perennial flowers. A pamphlet outlining program specifics can be obtained by contacting Kellie Jones from the City of Minneapolis Planning offices at 673-3014.

I am encouraging all gardeners to select and apply a generous ground mulch after planting is done. I recommend composted peat applied about 2" deep throughout the garden in the beginning of June. Not only will you be improving your soil, you will be suppressing the germination of thousands of weed seeds and help your garden's topsoil retain moisture. Compacted hay bales are available at the nursery and are easy to transport; applied periodically throughout the growing season you will cut the time you spend weeding in half. Although a good Cypress mulch will also perform these functions, it can be more difficult to work with. It also attracts wasps when first applied.

By the end of this month, you may be able to begin some yard and garden cleanup. Keep in mind that your yard waste should NOT be raked into the streets. Not only does this practice clog much-needed storm sewers, but the decomposing materials release nutrients, especially phosphorus, which run into our rivers, lakes and streams. Water quality is a responsibility for us all. By following the rules, the City of Minneapolis is able to easily remove your waste to a county composting site. This way, nothing goes to waste and gardeners all over the city can good, nutrient-rich compost! Contact the City for more information regarding compost pickup sites. Waite Park residents can expect pick up service of your yard and garden waste the week of April 14, 1997.

Although you may be anxious, be sure to wait until a good time to begin planting. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture states that our last hard frost happens around May 11th. A good rule to remember is that most seeds will not germinate until the soil has warmed to at least 65F. If setting live plants out to harden-off, be sure to either haul them indoors, or provide protection should the temperature suddenly drop.

Yard and garden projects will improve the looks and value of your Waite Park home as well as provide hours of enjoyment for you, your family, and your neighbors throughout Waite Park!

Gary Scott, a professional gardener, who lives in Waite Park and operates a full-service gardening company, *Gary Scott Gardens*, from his home. When not out working on garden projects, he volunteers to plan, plant and tend the garden bed surrounding the sign that marks Waite Park. If you see him there working, be sure to stop for some garden talk and/or advice.

Native Wildlife Track Recognition:

by Janice Storebo

When taking a walk after a fresh snow, you can discover footprints belonging to several species of animals. A little studying begins to show you the difference between a print from a raccoon and a red fox. If you are walking in the country near a wooded area, you may even discover prints from a white-tailed deer. Correctly identifying wildlife through their footprints is an enjoyable skill. Wildlife identification skills are developed by studying an animal's physical characteristics, coloration and tracks. Here I will talk about tracks only. Large and small mammals' feet are either hoofed or padded with toes. I will refer to these two characteristics.

No matter what your outdoor activities are, you may have the opportunity to observe wildlife in its natural habitat. Watching and identifying these creatures is rewarding.

Raccoon: Populations have increased in the metropolitan area during the past years. We have seen these creatures deftly sneaking through our yards and nosing in the garbage cans for a meal. Their front feet leave a print much like a human hand with fingers spread. There is a pad in an inverted horseshoe shape in the middle with five finger digits ending with claws. The rear feet have five long close together thin toes ending with claws. The rectangular pad is similar to a child's footprint. The track pattern will be one front and one rear together.

Red Fox: At least one red fox had been spotted at Columbia Golf Course last spring. They are extremely adaptable and will thrive under a variety of conditions. Red foxes often hunt in grassy fields or along fence lines. Their front foot has a very shallow middle pad, with four foot pads and nails. The hind print has a fatter middle pad with four toe pads closer together. Track patterns are single footprints one after another, about 11-15 inches apart.

Timber Wolf & Coyote: Of the same canine family, their prints are very similar, except for size. The front and hind prints have a round pad with four pads radiating from it. The front footprint is larger. The front and rear prints appear together, with approximately 26 inches distance. Timber wolf tracks are about the size of a large dog (i.e. German Shepherd), and twice the size of a coyote. Coyote tracks are oval in shape and toenail marks, when present, tend to hook inward. Their nail marks are not as

deep as that of the timber wolf.

Striped Skunk: This animal thrives in semi-open country with a mix of small woodlots, brush patches, pastures, old buildings and farm yards. The skunk walks with the entire lower surface of the foot on the ground. Front toenails are relatively long, with the front and back track together and approximately 4-6 inches apart as they walk.

Beaver: An aquatic animal, the beaver has large, webbed hind feet. The second claw on the hind foot is split lengthwise and is used like a comb for grooming and to coat the fur with oil from its large oil glands. The front foot has a middle pad with five toes. In the track pattern you will find front and back together, with about 4 inches between each set.

White-Tailed Deer: This species has a long two-sided hoof, with two small prints at the rear. They are approximately 22 inches. They can inhabit woodlands and grasslands as well as suburban areas.

The next time you walk outdoors, take a look around for prints and see if you can make any identifications.



Growing Up in Liberty Heights, Part 2

By Doug Davis

Even the twenty families who had dared to settle in the extreme northeast corner of Minneapolis on the rugged red clay hills of Liberty Heights benefited from the business boom of the late 1920s. All of the fathers and their adult children easily found jobs. With fatter pay envelopes, they began to fix up their houses, beautify their yards, and acquire ordinary conveniences like telephones, radios and refrigerators.

The 1929 Stock Market Crash and the Great Depression which followed stifled this thirst for urbanization. In the next few years, all except two of the family breadwinners lost their jobs. Not yet available to these households or to any of the forty-five million unemployed in the nation were such "safety nets" as AFDC, General Assistance or unemployment compensation. So the Davises and other Liberty Heights families quickly became

untiring and ingenious survivalists.

My older brother, Fred, became the chief gardener, using every square foot possible of our quarter acre lot for growing vegetables which were canned or stored in a root cellar for use in the winter months. Brother Jim and I tended the chickens, rabbits and one pig which provided meat for our table. Jim and I also became the fuel-gatherers, cutting chunks of peat from the dried-up swamp at 36th and McKinley, picking coal tossed off the train by sympathetic firemen on the Soo Line tracks and scouring the entire area for tree limbs, stray lumber or any burnable pieces of wood.

Nature was just as cruel as the economy to the handful of families in Liberty Heights. Winters were bitter cold with record lows for many days in 1934, 1935 and 1936. So severe was the drought the backyard wells dried up and Silver Lake evaporated into a small pond. But there were compensations.

Several unemployed fathers set up backyard businesses. In successive days we could watch one of them make soap, another construct furniture and yet another produce gray iron castings. And, of course, we listened to their stories about their involvement in unions and strikes, their journeys as immigrants from Norway or Germany and their heroic deeds in World War I.

Lacking either cash or the opportunity to seek amusement outside their homes, family members entertained each other. Some homes with lots of children became informal "drop-in" centers where there were always homemade cookies, games of checkers and the opportunity for endless chitchat.

A sense of community developed. Whenever they could, and without fanfare or the expectation of reward, families helped and supported each other. The mothers didn't just swap recipes, they taught each other essential skills such as making clothing or preserving food. And the men did not hesitate to ask for help in projects requiring group effort.

New Deal programs like the Works Progress Administration, Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Youth Corp. put the breadwinners back to work, converted Liberty Heights once more into a cash flow economy and re-awakened an urge for upward mobility.

Not even one of the twenty families disintegrated under the pressures of poverty brought on by The Great Depression. And nearly all of their children who survived the Terrible Thirties in Liberty Heights continue to live in the Waite Park Neighborhood.

Minneapolis's First Housing Project: Hi-Lo

By Eric Gilbertson

In the summer of 1949, the Minneapolis Housing and Redevelopment Authority began to acquire all the lots of land in the Hi-Lo section of Waite Park. Bounded by Thirty-Second and Thirty-Seventh Avenues, Central Avenue and Pierce Street, the uneven topography of this area resisted development. Steep hills separated by low swampy valleys gave the area its name.

The land had been platted in the 1880s, but only a handful of homes were built, and more than half of the lots had reverted to the state of Minnesota for unpaid taxes. Between 1920 and 1950, Minneapolis estimated \$600,000 in property taxes had been lost because of the lack of development in Hi-Lo. The city planned to cut down the hills and fill in the low spots to create level, dry, ground perfectly suited for construction. They hoped that the additional tax revenue created by this new development would pay for the cost of buying out the occupied lots and flattening the ground. Mayor Hoyer asked the federal government for money, but Congress was still writing the rules for housing grants. Rather than wait several years, the Mayor decided to push the project ahead without federal help.

New houses were sorely needed in Minneapolis in the years immediately after World War II. Some veterans and their families were housed in Quonset huts and trailers as a temporary solution. A large group of these huts was built on 37th Avenue, east of Central, where the Hi-Lo Motel now stands. These buildings housed several families each, and were a fire hazard. Quickly constructed, these buildings lacked even fire exits. The deaths of a young mother and her three children when they were trapped in a burning hut spotlighted the poor living conditions and spurred the search for permanent housing. Families lived in this 'temporary' housing for six years. By the spring of 1951 the housing shortage eased, in part due to the re-mobilization of the military for the Korean War, and the huts were demolished.

The neighbors of Hi-Lo shaped the development plans. Local resident groups insisted that the new land be used for single family housing, rather than apartment buildings or public housing. A compromise was reached where no apartments were zoned in, but a handful of duplexes were allowed. The City of Columbia Heights asked that the new development not include commercial space that would compete with their downtown; in the end only two lots along Central were zoned for commercial use.

The Minneapolis City Council approved the Hi-Lo redevelopment plan in March of 1950, and by July of 1951 the newly flattened lots were auctioned. Minimum bid was \$600, and the lots sold rapidly. The city spent \$100,000 to purchase and reshape Hi-Lo, and received about \$75,000 from reselling the lots. By 1954 the area was paying \$25,000 more in property taxes than before the redevelopment, so the project paid for itself in only one year.

Ira Corneillier Still Just a Kid

By Connie Stauffer

Ira is a kid who never wanted to grow up. At 77 years of age, twenty-three years spent in retirement, he remembers himself at four years old telling his mother "Mom, look how many times I've dressed myself. I'm growing up too fast."

Childhood at 3258 Polk Ave offered him opportunities for play: jumping toboggans, racing down iced tracks at Columbia Park in the winters and in the summers playing baseball in open fields with the 33rd avenue gang and exploring the Van Auken swamp (Pierce & 34th). In those days gardens and open space abounded in the community.

His own children growing up on Taylor were active in football and baseball at Edison High and ski jumping with the Minneapolis Ski Club. In 1960 he and his wife Grace bought the "Cabin Up North." The Cabin gave them a place to plant their garden, fish for crappie, and enjoy their family.

Since losing Grace his companion of 51 years two years ago, solitude and dealing with some health problems have aged a little this ageless boy. But don't call him a senior; he is just a kid who prefers to stay young.

Northeast Rental Property Owners Group

By Mark Halfmann

Rental property is a very important component to the make up of the city's residential properties. It provides housing to a wide array of people for whom owning their own home is not practical. Rental property can also be a real detriment to a neighborhood when neglected by landlords or abused by renters. Realizing the critical nature of these properties to a neighborhood, the Northeast Rental Properties Owners group was formed. For two years, its members have met quarterly discussing issues related to owning apartments, duplexes and single family homes for rent. The group also brings in outside sources to talk on topics interesting to landlords. The guests for the last meeting discussed how to correctly and legally screen potential renters. On March 27, the group will meet at the Northeast Library from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. The guest speaker, Linda Galant, a housing court referee, will give her perspective on the court processes. At the next meeting, still to be scheduled, a lawyer from the housing court will present a counter perspective. Any Northeast rental property owner is encouraged to attend these seminars at no cost.

The Multi-Housing NE Coalition, another rental association, is a group of rental property owners who have collectively joined the Minnesota Multi-Housing (MMH). MMH is a lobby group which provides its members with information on current and future rental property laws. By monitoring legislation in the works, MMH can organize its members to affect the formation of laws. For more information on the Minnesota Multi Housing and NE Coalition contact Charlene at 788-8790.

Alley Speed Humps

Prior to installment of the two sets north of the tracks and west of Johnson last fall, cars cutting through on residential alleys were reaching speeds of 20-25 mph in obvious violation of the 10 mph speed limit.

Afterwards, one of the residents, Don Risk, said speeds were down to 5-10 mph and there was an obvious curtailment of traffic numbers as well. In many cases residents themselves were inadvertently speeding. Those interested can call Mr. Risk at 789-2821 to get the necessary forms for the petitions and for information about removal, installation and storage. To view the speed humps in action, drive by after April 1.

CRIME PREVENTION

We will be sponsoring one more Home Security Workshop at which Waite Park residents will receive a \$50 voucher for purchase and installation of home safety equipment. However, when we went to print the date was not set. It will be on another Saturday morning, so watch the Community Bulletin Board and the *Northeast*. Also, all Waite Park residents who schedule a home security audit with the CCP/SAFE team are eligible to receive the \$50 voucher. Call Crime Prevention Specialist Karen Thiede at 673-2797 or Officer Judy Smith at 673-2794 for information.

Block Apartment Leader Training, Tuesdays, May 13 & 20, 7-9 p.m., Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Ave. SE.

Personal Safety Workshop, Wed., May 7, 7-9 p.m., Edison High School, 700 22nd Ave. NE.



WAITE PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

1810-34 Ave NE, Mpls., MN 55418
Recreation Center (612) 370-4959
Community Education 627-3077
School Office Phone: 627-3073
Waite Park Voice Mail 782-1082
E-Mail Address: Waiteprk@mtn.org

COUNCIL OFFICERS

Jill Davis President
Rita Deyo Vice President
Lori Neeb Treasurer
Becky Mellentin Secretary

The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of all members of the Waite Park Community Council (WPCC).

The Waite Park neighborhood newsletter is a publication sponsored by the WPCC, MCDA and NRP. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Printed on 50% recycled paper.
Soy Ink. Please Recycle.



WAITE PARK VOICE EDITORIAL STAFF & CONTRIBUTORS

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Jeff Grapevine	Rita Deyo
Becky Mellentin	Ray Aponte
Doug Davis	Ray Lewis
Rosemary Heille	Jerry Andersen
Karen Thiede	Cheryl Miller
Ginny Plumb	Gary Arntsen
Shannon McDonough	
Gary Scott	Connie Stauffer
Mark Halfmann	Jan Storebo
Eric Gilbertson	Don Risk

Layout and Formatting by Sara Bratsch. Stories and/or contributions for future issues welcome. Send to the Waite Park Community Center.

Thanks to the collators, telephoner Beth Siegler, deliverers, block leaders and all other helpers that make this effort possible.



WAITE PARK COMMUNITY CALENDAR

All activities not otherwise specified meet at Waite Park Community Center

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Place</u>
Mar. 24-28	All Week	School Spring Recess	
Wed. Mar. 26	7 p.m.	N.E. Reps - at Waite Park - public welcome	
Thurs. Mar. 27	7:30 p.m.	NRP Community/Education committee - all neighbors welcome	
Sat., Mar. 29	10-12 noon	<u>Bunny Brunch</u> - preregistration call 370-4959	
Wed., Apr. 2	6:30 p.m.	Waite Park Community Council - <i>with the mayor</i> - all neighbors welcome - school auditorium	
Sun, Apr. 6	2 a.m.	Daylight Savings Time begins	
Tue., Apr. 8	7 p.m.	NRP Committee - All neighbors welcome	
Tue. Apr. 22	All Day	Earth Day	
Wed., Apr. 23	7 p.m.	NE Reps - call 257-7243 for place	
Wed., May 7	6:30 p.m.	Waite Park Community Council - all neighbors welcome	
Sat., May 10		Newsletter story deadline	
Tue., May 13	7 p.m.	NRP Committee - all neighbors welcome	
Fri., May 16 - Sun., May 18		Art-a-Whirl, a Northeast-wide festival. Call 257-7396	
Sat. May 17	All day	Mississippi River Fest & Cleanup. Info. call 379-3814 or 781-1191	
Sat., May 24		Newsletter delivery begins	
Wed., May 28	7 p.m.	NE Reps, Call 257-7243 for place	
Thur., May 29	5-8 p.m.	<u>Waite Park Spring Carnival</u>	
Sat. May 31	10-2:30 p.m.	Waite Park NRP Twn Meeting, Potluck, Tailgate Lunch, and Volunteer Fair - mark your calendar!!!	

Check the Community Center Bulletin Board or the Northeast for further information & announcements.

Community Calendar for March



Both events will be held in Hoversten Chapel, Foss Center at Augsburg College, 22nd and Riverside Aves. For more information, call 330-1180.

BRIAN COYLE COMMUNITY CENTER EVENTS

- Wednesday, March 12, 3:30-5:30 p.m. **Coyle Center Career Day.**
 - Wednesday-Thursday, March 19-20, 3:30-6:00 p.m. **Coyle Center Youth Employment Workshops.**
 - Saturday, March 22, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. **Coyle Peewee Girls Basketball Tourney.**
- All events at 420 15th Av. S. For more information, call 338-5282.

MISCELLANY

- Tuesdays, 5:15-6:15 p.m. **Toastmasters Club.** Learn to speak more effectively. Sponsored by Window Components, 2648 34th Av. S. Free and open to the public. 724-0098.
- Plant a tree** for energy conservation! Seward and Cedar-Riverside residents may be eligible to participate in tree planting through the UNITREE program. Trees must be planted to conserve energy, shading either east- or west-facing windows. For more information, call Tree Trust at 920-9326.

PLEASE SEND YOUR CALENDAR ITEMS TO:

The Seward Profile
2600 E. Franklin Av.
Minneapolis, MN 55406
Fax: 729-3510

Deadline is the 20th of each month. Priority listing given to community and neighborhood events and events that are free or low-cost.

The Profile thanks Aspen Medical Group for their generous sponsorship of the Community Calendar.

SEWARD/MATTHEWS CENTER EVENTS

- March 10-21, **Matthews Park Baseball/Softball Registration** for ages 5-14. Fundamentals, Pee Wee, Cub, Midget, and Junior levels.
- Mondays 3-5 p.m., Reading and Recreation, Grades 1-3.**
- Wednesdays, 10-11 a.m. (no class Wednesday, March 26) Indoor Playtime,** for Parents/caregivers and their children ages 0-6.
- Thursdays 3-5 p.m. Learning for Life, A New Urban Scouts Program.** Boys and girls 2nd-4th grades.
- Fridays 3:15-4:15 p.m. Ceramics,** ages 6-12. \$13/child.
- Friday, March 14, 6-9 p.m. Friday Night at the Movies!** Ages 6-10 Come for a light dinner and a movie! Preregistration is required. \$2.00/child.

WEST BANK EVENTS

- Sunday March 2-Saturday March 8. Diversity Week 1997,** at Augsburg College. Call 330-1114 for more information.
- Tuesday, March 11, 8-9 a.m. Peace Breakfast at St. Martin's Table.** A chance for activists from different communities to network, share stories, and get to know each other. 2001 Riverside Av. 321-9787.
- Ongoing: Book Drive. Central Village-The Way To Grow** is soliciting new and used children's books. Books will be provided to families that need them. Donated children's books in good condition can be brought to the Central Village office on the second floor of the Cedar Riverside People's Center at 2000 South 5th St. 305-1284.

- April 3-4, Ethics Seminar at Augsburg College.** The ways in which limited global resources and a growing world population tug and pull on each other will be explored at the 15th Annual Augsburg Seminar in Applied Ethics. Talks listed below:
- Thursday, April 3, 7:30 p.m.** Kathryn Wolford, president of Lutheran World Relief will give a lecture entitled "As I Have Changed, I Have Changed the World Around Me."
- Friday, April 4, 10 a.m.** James Martin-Schramm of Luther College will speak on "Population Perils: Exploding Myths and Diffusing Bombs."

Community Circles come to Seward

ay, March 19, 7-9 p.m. Matthews Center will be a Community Circle, a process to discuss the "How does racial and segregation of housing educational achievements opportunities?"

Community Circles will be throughout the metropoli- The dialogues will bring people from all walks of circle will have 5-15 and be as economically, ethnically, and geographically diverse as possible.

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We'd like to do another story in May or June when the first circle are completed. Please keep us in mind if you have any info. Also at some point we'd like to get some photos that Tom

Council Candidates from wards 2, 8, 9, 11, and 12 at CWA Hall, 3521 E. Lake St.

Saturday March 15, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Beautiful Landscape Fair. Displays and presentations on cost-effective and ecologically-sound landscaping ideas and maintenance. Hillcrest Park Center, 1978 Ford Parkway, St. Paul. Free. 872-3299.

Wednesday, March 19, Community Circle Dialogue. Limited to 15 participants. You must preregister. Call Scott Bol, 721-6320. See description above.

HEALTH

Friday, March 21, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Low Vision: There is Hope. Kate Grathwol of the Phillips Eye Institute will discuss how to live with eye diseases and what can be done to help you see better. East Lake Community Library, 2727 E. Lake St. \$1.00/session. To register, call 627-2565.

FAMILIES & EDUCATION

Tuesday, March 11 & 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Increase Hunger Awareness. Empty Bowls, an international community service project that fights hunger, will work with students to create bowls. Later in the year, friends and other guests are invited for a simple meal of soup and bread, in exchange for donations to local hunger organizations. Matthews Center, 2318 29th Av. S. Call 721-6320 to preregister.

Wednesday, March 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Computer Lab Access and Training. Neighbors and community members are encouraged to make use of Seward's Macintosh computers. Matthews Community Center, 2318 29th Av. S. 721-6320.

This Community Calendar Is Sponsored By **ASPEN** Medical Group

Care You Want In A Neighborhood You Know

We have 12 clinic locations, including:
East Lake Street Clinic, 3024 Snelling Ave. S., Minneapolis, 728-1800

Community Calendar for March

SPECIAL EVENTS

Saturday, March 8, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. South Minneapolis Housing & Home Improvement Fair. South High School, 3131 19th Av. S.

Tuesday, March 11, 9 a.m.-noon. Early Childhood Parent Rally Day at the State Capitol. The day's theme of "Strengthening Families, Strengthening Community" will involve parents and young children from school districts across the state. The Rotunda rally begins at 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, March 12, 7:30 p.m. Candidates Forum for City Council Candidates from wards 2, 8, 9, 11, and 12 at CWA Hall, 3521 E. Lake St.

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Community Circles come to Seward

Wednesday, March 19, 7-9 p.m. Seward/Matthews Center will be the site of a Community Circle, a dialogue process to discuss the question; "How does racial and economic segregation of housing affect educational achievements and life opportunities?"

Many Community Circles will be formed throughout the metropolitan area. The dialogues will bring together people from all walks of life. Each circle will have 5-15 participants and be as economically, racially, ethnically, politically, and geographically diverse as possible.

Scott Bol, Community Education coordinator for Seward, said, "These dialogues are important for raising our level of understanding and to better understand our values and concerns behind our

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SEWARD/MATTHEWS CENTER EVENTS

March 10-21, Matthews Park Baseball/Softball Registration for ages 5-14.

Fundamentals, Pee Wee, Cub, Midget, and Junior levels.

Mondays 3-5 p.m., Reading and Recreation, Grades 1-3.

Wednesdays, 10-11 a.m. (no class Wednesday, March 26) Indoor Playtime, for Parents/caregivers and their children ages 0-6.

Thursdays 3-5 p.m. Learning for Life, A New Urban Scouts Program. Boys and girls 2nd-4th grades.

Fridays 3:15-4:15 p.m. Ceramics, ages 6-12. \$13/child.

Friday, March 14, 6-9 p.m. Friday Night at the Movies! Ages 6-10 Come for a light dinner and a movie! Preregistration is required. \$2.00/child.

WEST BANK EVENTS

Sunday March 2-Saturday March 8. Diversity Week 1997, at Augsburg College. Call 330-1114 for more information.

Tuesday, March 11, 8-9 a.m. Peace Breakfast at St. Martin's Table. A chance for activists from different communities to network, share stories, and get to know each other. 2001 Riverside Av. 321-9787.

Ongoing: Book Drive. Central Village-The Way To Grow is soliciting new and used children's books. Books will be provided to families that need them. Donated children's books in good condition can be brought to the Central Village office on the second floor of the Cedar Riverside People's Center at 2000 South 5th St. 305-1284.

April 3-4, Ethics Seminar at Augsburg College. The ways in which limited global resources and a growing world population tug and pull on each other will be explored at the 15th Annual Augsburg Seminar in Applied Ethics. Talks listed below:

Thursday, April 3, 7:30 p.m. Kathryn Wolford, president of Lutheran World Relief will give a lecture entitled "As I Have Changed, I Have Changed the World Around Me."

Friday, April 4, 10 a.m. James Martin-Schramm of Luther College will speak on "Population Perils: Exploding Myths and Diffusing Bombs."



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Both events will be held in Hoversten Chapel, Foss Center at Augsburg College, 22nd and Riverside Aves. For more information, call 330-1180.

BRIAN COYLE COMMUNITY CENTER EVENTS

Wednesday, March 12, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Coyle Center Career Day.

Wednesday-Thursday, March 19-20, 3:30-6:00 p.m. Coyle Center Youth Employment Workshops.

Saturday, March 22, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Coyle Peewee Girls Basketball Tourney.

All events at 420 15th Av. S. For more information, call 338-5282.

MISCELLANY

Tuesdays, 5:15-6:15 p.m. Toastmasters Club. Learn to speak more effectively. Sponsored by Window Components, 2648 34th Av. S. Free and open to the public. 724-0098.

Plant a tree for energy conservation! Seward and Cedar-Riverside residents may be eligible to participate in tree planting through the UNITREE program. Trees must be planted to conserve energy, shading either east- or west-facing windows. For more information, call Tree Trust at 920-9326.

PLEASE SEND YOUR CALENDAR ITEMS TO:

The Seward Profile
2600 E. Franklin Av.
Minneapolis, MN 55406
Fax: 729-3510

Deadline is the 20th of each month. Priority listing given to community and neighborhood events and events that are free or low-cost.

The Profile thanks Aspen Medical Group for their generous sponsorship of the Community Calendar.

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Beyond Busing

A Metrowide Dialogue on the Challenges of Education and Housing Segregation

News from the
Community
Circle Project

Update #1

February, 1997

Community Circle Dialogue, 'Beyond Busing,' kicks-off December 10, now moves to next stage

The Community Circle Collaborative officially "kicked off" December 10, 1996 with an inspiring event that filled the St. Louis Park City Council chambers with more than 100 people. This "Call to Action" to potential Sponsors drew representatives from a wide variety of organizations—including churches, advocacy groups, academia, and public agencies—as well as individual citizens who learned of the event through a supportive editorial in the *Star Tribune*.

After a warm greeting from St. Louis Park Mayor Gail Dorfman, the morning began with speeches by former St. Paul Mayor George Latimer and education expert Dr. Josie Johnson, both of whom exhorted the group to sponsor *Community*



Circles as a way of "moving our community."

"We must learn to *listen* to each other," emphasized Dr. Johnson.

The next two speakers—Curt Johnson, chair of the Metropolitan Council, and Yusef Mgeni, President of the Urban Coalition—went into detail about why

our region needs to confront and link the issues of housing and education.

"Our metro area faces serious challenges in growing to meet its housing and education needs," Mr. Johnson explained. "Its ability to do so equitably is hampered by fear and ignorance."

Mr. Mgeni's presentation, telling the story of urban communities that are increasingly isolated and poor, also spoke to the need for renewed dialogue, understanding, and hope.

Following these presentations, individuals representing the State Legislature, an outer-ring suburban church, an inner-ring suburban school, a nonprofit housing developer, the media, and the Minneapolis mayor's office all described why they plan to participate in a *Community Circle*.

They urged their peers to join them in sponsoring and supporting the dialogues. The event concluded with an explanation of the "nuts and bolts" of sponsoring or convening a *Community Circle*. Participants learned how *Community Circles* work, the "charge" to be given to the circles, and the project's timetable.

As the event concluded, many new Sponsors submitted their "Pledge of Participation" and began the important work of organizing a *Community Circle*.

To new Sponsors and others who attended the kick-off, "thank you!"

Copies of the "Sponsor Packets" handed out at the kick-off are available.

In addition, a summary video of the event, produced by Minneapolis Telecommunications Network, will be available. For additional information, contact coordinator Dick Little at 871-8980 (fax: 871-8984).

A Word from the Project Coordinator...

We are pleased to issue our first newsletter to participating and potential partners of the *Community Circles Collaborative*. This is the first formal update since the Kick-Off Forum in December. Since the Kick-Off, many new participants have volunteered to serve as facilitators, sponsors, resource partners and discussion participants. We welcome your ideas as the project proceeds.

This newsletter is intended to give you the information you need to proceed with your part in this metrowide dialogue project. Articles cover the upcoming facilitator training sessions, highlights of the forthcoming *Discussion Guide*, a timeline of activities, and news from project sponsors. We still need to receive pledges of participation. Sponsors also should identify facilitators who they want invited to the facilitator training.

Please contact us if you still have questions or if you need additional information. We look forward to supporting you in implementing what may prove to be the Twin Cities region's most ambitious citizen dialogue to date.

Dick Little, Coordinator

Community Circle Collaborative/Education and Housing Equity Project
122 West Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55404

Phone: (612) 871-8980 Fax: (612) 871-8984

Community Matters

A publication sponsored by the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation and the Saint Paul Coalition for Community Development for involved citizens and civic leaders working together to strengthen Saint Paul and its neighborhoods.

October-December, 1997 • Vol. 4, No. 4

Race And Community

"I don't think we're dealing at all well with race as an issue in the Twin Cities. Everything's fairly veiled and still couched in purely economic terms like 'affordable housing' and 'life-cycle housing.'"

— Rich Nymoen

Human Rights Specialist

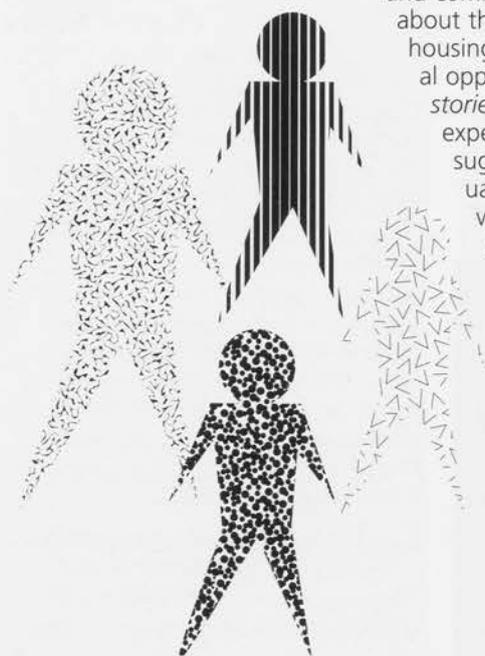
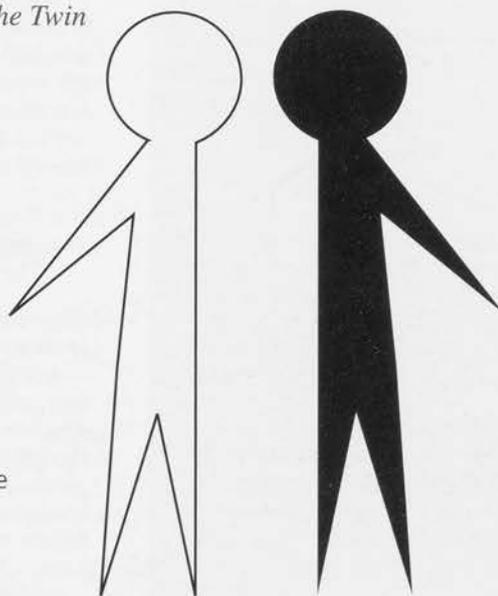
Saint Paul Department of Human Rights

People often seem to have a hard time talking about issues of race. We tend to tiptoe around the topic, always walking on eggshells, afraid of causing disruption and alienating others.

In this issue of *Community Matters*, we offer several perspectives on race and community. We look at data about the relationship of race to housing, income, and educational opportunity; we sample stories of people's personal experience with race; and we suggest actions that individuals and organizations can take to deal with the dynamics of race constructively.

We also briefly examine if "race" is even a valid concept, look at some local initiatives dealing with racial dynamics, and provide a list of resources and materials on this topic.

We don't expect everyone to agree with or like what we present. But by contributing to the discussion, we hope it will continue in other community venues.



Also in this issue:

Race and Community.....	1-10
Personal Stories and Views	2-24
Resources	11
Saint Paul Neighborhood News	13-22
Trainings, Workshops, Conferences and Forums..	23-24

continued on next page

Is "race" a valid concept?

"The root and reality of racism grows out of the very false concept of 'race.' We do not seem to realize how recent this concept of race is. It has not been much more than three centuries that the term 'race' itself entered the English language The error in 'race thinking' is that we are taught to believe that there is an intrinsic link between biology and what is essentially social."

— Mahmoud El-Kati, Professor of History, Macalester College. From *The Myth of "Race"/The Reality of Racism: A Critical Essay*.

Michael Omi, Professor of Ethnic Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, has noted: "...most scientists feel that racial classifications are meaningless and unscientific. Professor Kenneth Kennedy of Cornell University is quoted as saying: 'In the social sense, race is a reality. In the scientific sense, it is not.'"¹¹

Omi discusses several problems with the notion of race, especially as it is codified in current census categories. Just two examples: the categories are based on the need of agencies to have objective data about the very subjective notion of one's identity; and categories, such as "Asian American," that

continued on next page

Personal stories and views: Lost in translation

"There was an incident in Golden valley, where a car with a Hmong family was in an accident. None of them spoke English, and the woman driving called some relatives to come and translate for her. The police wouldn't let her relatives get close to the scene, saying 'This is not your case, you don't deal with this.' And they kept telling the police: We are here to interpret for her because she doesn't speak English. There was a scuffle and then the policeman arrested both of them for interfering."

— Lee Pao Xiong, former Director of the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans

Separate Worlds?

by David Hennessey

Editor's Note: Community Matters gathered information from several organizations for this article. They are listed in the Sources of Documentation box on page 6. For ease of reading, citation numbers are given in the text for all documented statements.

"In the prophetic words of the Kerner Commission (President Lyndon Johnson's Commission on Civil Disorders) twenty-five years ago, the Twin Cities metro region is increasingly divided into two separate and unequal worlds — a relatively well-off, primarily white, primarily suburban world and a low-income, inner city world, that includes large numbers of people of color."

Profiles of Change: Communities of Color in the Twin Cities Area, The Urban Coalition, 1993

"Our children's success as adults — in their work, careers, and family life — will clearly depend on how well they can interact with people of very different backgrounds. There's no way that this nation is going to avoid growing diversity. This is not a homogenous nation; it never has been."

Lupe Serrano
West Side resident

How much do racial dynamics affect the economic and social health of

communities in the Twin Cities area? To what extent are we really separated along racial, ethnic and cultural lines in the places we live and the incomes we earn? And how much will these dynamics affect the communities our children will inherit?

The answer to these questions have both personal and public dimensions. Housing patterns, income differences and the way people relate to each other across cultures have profound implications for individuals, families and communities. The future of our entire region depends to a large extent on our ability to understand and deal with these issues.

Let's start with the hard data. Several studies we looked at show the Twin Cities area is highly segregated by race. In some ways, the studies suggest, this is one of the most segregated areas in the country.

Demographic changes

The Twin Cities area is still relatively "White" compared to the rest of the country, but that is changing noticeably.

As of 1990 (the latest official census figures available), the 11-county Twin Cities region remained "one of the 'Whitest' major metropolitan areas in the United States ... (with) the lowest percentage of racial minority population ... among the 25 largest (urban) areas."⁴

However, the Twin Cities' racial and ethnic mix is changing. "Between 1980 and 1990, the combined population of communities of color in the metro area nearly doubled. The Asian population grew by 167 percent and the African American population increased by 79 percent."²

Such change is dramatically reflected in the student population of the Minneapolis and Saint Paul public schools. In both districts during the

continued on next page

"Race"?

continued from page 2

lump together whole continents of cultures, languages and historic differences are of questionable use.

Some people point out that dividing groups by "race," is a convenient way for the culture in power to control those groups.

"I tell funders that too many times we have to go after 'Indian money,' or 'Asian money,' or 'Hispanic money,'" said Collin Weesaw, Education Specialist at Wilder Forest. "That just keeps us more segregated. We all have the same problems but have to chase after separate pots of money."

Shem Shakir, Executive Director of the Frogtown Action Alliance also notes how much Americans segregate groups by perceived racial or ethnic differences. "Only in America do we do that," he said. "I believe we do it to keep the different ethnic tribes divided. We need to get away from the 'race issue' and simply address things as citizens."

Is "race" a valid concept? Perhaps the Metropolitan Council answered that best in introductory remarks to a publication on demographic trends in minority populations:

"...racial analysis is in itself a racist activity. It groups people by race and compares overall statistics that generalize characteristics for the group as a whole. The purposes may be worthwhile, but categorizing, generalizing and analyzing people perpetuates viewing them not as individuals, but as members of a group, possessing characteristics one believes to apply to that group.

"What makes race a 'reality' is that people often act on what they believe are racial distinctions.... Data by race would not merit much attention if it weren't for the legacy of racism...."⁴

—DH

school year 1980-81, 28.8 percent of the 72,777 students enrolled were students of color. By 1996-97, the combined enrollment in both cities had shot to 91,744, and well over half of the students — 61.3 percent — were from minority groups. (Figures based on pre-kindergarten through grade 12 and supplied by the Minnesota Department of Children Families and Learning.)

Clearly, then, our region is becoming more diverse. What challenges do we face as a result, especially in regard to housing, income and educational opportunities?

Poverty, income and race

In the Twin Cities, people of color have the highest poverty rates of the country's 25 largest urban areas. Also, the rate of concentrated poverty here is growing much faster than the national average. We have a high income gap between Whites and people of color, much of which cannot be explained by variables such as the relative age, education, or language fluency of workers.

Poverty. In our two central cities, over 43 percent of the people of color live in poverty, the highest rate of the largest 25 metro areas in the nation. This contrasts with only 11 percent of Whites in the central cities living in poverty.¹

In the Twin Cities region as a whole, over 34 percent of people of color are living at or under the poverty level, the country's third highest ranking.¹

By comparison, the poverty rate for Whites in the region ranks 19th in the nation.³

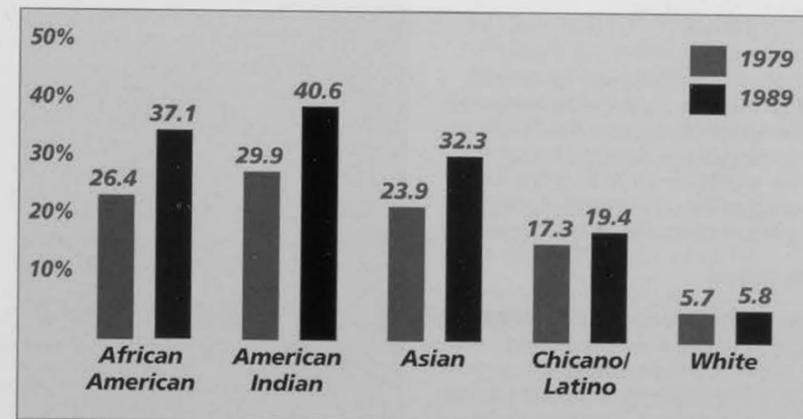
Concentrated poverty. Perhaps even more serious are local trends toward "concentrated poverty," defined as neighborhoods where 40 percent or more of the residents are living at or below the poverty level. This is serious because families living in poor neighborhoods are even more isolated from economic, educational and social opportunities than poor families living in neighborhoods that are more economically stable.

Concentrated poverty is growing much faster in our region than in the country as a whole. Nationally in the past few decades, "the number of census tracts with concentrated poverty has more than doubled. (But) in the Twin Cities, the growth has increased nearly five times," from seven poverty census tracts in 1970 to 33 in 1990.¹

In other words, our region is seeing poor neighborhoods created at more than twice the already alarming national rate. Further, as of 1990, all of the Twin City census tracts with concentrated poverty were in the two central cities, and over half of the people living there were African American.¹

Income gap. The 1990 median household income in the Twin Cities area for Whites was \$38,000 compared to \$18,700 for Native Americans and \$19,300 for African

continued on next page



Percent of persons living below the poverty level in the seven-county metro area, 1979-1989.

Number of Census Tracts with 40% or more residents in poverty

	United States	Twin Cities
1970	1,177	7
1980	1,767	11
1990	2,726	33

Americans.³ Twin City Whites earned over three percent more in 1990 than the national median White income. Meanwhile, people of color here earned *significantly less* than the national median income for their racial/ethnic classifications: African Americans earned 11 percent less than African Americans nationally; Asian Americans earned 78 percent less than Asian Americans nationally; and Hispanics earned 56 percent less than their counterparts nationally. (Comparative data not available for Native Americans.)³

But how much of the income gap between Whites and people of color can be attributed to racial discrimination? To be sure, factors other than race can contribute to differences in earnings. The Urban Coalition and the Roy Wilkins Center for Human Rights and Social Justice compared average (not median) 1989 incomes of workers throughout Minnesota across gender, race and ethnic categories and then corrected for 11 separate variables other than race (age, education, English language fluency, head of family, highest degree received, immigration, industry wages, metro area residence, occupation wages, recent arrival in state, and total hours worked).

Among their conclusions: the non-racial variables "account for only 25 percent of the wage gap between the earnings of the average White worker and the average worker of color. In other words, up to 75% of that wage gap could be due to discriminatory treatment of workers based on race."⁶

Education

Some observers say that the effects of poverty, especially concentrated poverty, show up in low school achievement. They believe that this is the root of many problems facing inner-city

schools, and that calls to simply "improve the schools" miss the point.

The Institute on Race and Poverty at the University of Minnesota Law School contends that a student benefits from attending a school with "high parental involvement," *even if* that particular student's own parents are not very involved in school. Similarly, the student will suffer academically in a school where the overall parental involvement is low, *even if* the student's own parents are very involved.

Further, "the most important factor for parental involvement is not the proximity to the school but the socioeconomic status of the family." Thus, "...schools with highly concentrated poverty tend to depress the achievement of the students."⁷ As noted above, in 1990, all of the census tracts with such concentrated poverty were located in Minneapolis and Saint Paul.

Dick Little, Executive Director of the Education and Housing Equity Project and Coordinator of the Community Circle Collaborative, believes that this — more than any other factor — explains what he sees as high failure rates in inner city schools. "The issue isn't the performance of schools — tinkering around with things that will make a school better-managed is frankly missing the issue. The issue is what's happening among our lower-

income, racially isolated minorities living in concentrated areas of poverty in Minneapolis. That's what's bringing the scores down. People want to look at school performance, not at what we've done in our society to create this huge performance problem."

Others say the picture is more complicated than that. "I'm not sure poverty has as much to do with parental involvement as a combination of poverty and other factors," said Yusef Mgeni, President of the Urban Coalition. "In my experience, student and parental engagement in the educational process are the largest determinant of student achievement."

But he also indicated that a lack of parental involvement comes primarily from three factors. Two of them — lack of private transportation and a marginal educational background of parents — may be related to poverty. The most pressing, however, is how effectively schools involve low-income parents. "Parents have generally been brought into the loop only when their children were failing or had done something wrong, which can be perceived as adversarial and also both intimidating and mystifying. They haven't consistently been invited in as full partners up front."

Mgeni also said that schools remain segregated at the program level. "The

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**Personal stories and views:
Burning sage**

"Only rarely do I experience racial prejudice, but my daughter went through a blatant incident at the University of Minnesota. We burn sage (as part of spiritual observances). So she was doing that at the U and her roommate, who was from Edina or something, gave her a hard time. I've always told my daughter to keep an open mind, so I said: 'Sit down and talk with her — I know you can work this out.' But her roommate eventually accused her of smoking marijuana when all she was doing was praying and burning sage. The other girl was drinking one night and they got into a physical fight. I had to go there at 1:00 a.m. to straighten it out, and I heard the other girl saying (derogatory) things about our nationality. I did take her to court and signed a complaint, but her father was a lawyer and we kind of bumped heads. I suppose I could have brought a case, but I didn't want to — I'm not that kind of person. My daughter and I talk about that incident all the time, and she told me one thing she learned from it: you can't trust everybody in the cities."

— Francis Hart, Elders Program Director,
Earthstar Project Inc.

Change in student enrollment from 1980-81 to 1990-91 Minneapolis and Saint Paul school districts

Grade PreK-12	American Indian	Asian	Hispanic	Black	White	Total	Minority % (number)
St. Paul 1980-81	492	2,234	1,674	3,854	23,889	32,143	25.68% (8,254)
Mpls 1980-81	2,239	1,707	544	8,240	27,904	40,634	31.33% (12,730)
St. Paul/Mpls. 1980-81	2,731	3,941	2,218	12,094	51,793	72,777	28.83% (20,984)
St. Paul 1990-91	585	7,028	2,072	5,909	20,338	35,932	47.97 (15,594)
Mpls 1990-91	2,844	4,219	848	13,333	19,806	41,050	51.75 (21,244)
St. Paul/Mpls. 1990-91	3,429	11,247	2,920	19,242	40,144	76,982	47.85% (36,838)

Source: Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning

other political reality is that even though school districts and school buildings are desegregated, many of the students are 'resegregated' within individual buildings on a program-by-program basis" he said. "And the resegregation tends to occur on the basis of class, race and gender. Low income students and students of color tend to be steered away from math, the sciences and college or vocational prep classes. And female students tend to be steered to softer, entry level options and alternatives."

"In looking at what needs to be impacted to help families support their children's education, it's everything," said Mary K. Boyd, Director of Achievement Plus. "If a family doesn't have the basics — shelter, food, clothing — how can parents be supportive of children and how can children be ready to learn?"

She said that Achievement Plus — a brand new partnership between the Saint Paul Public Schools, City of Saint Paul, Ramsey County, State of Minnesota, the Wilder Foundation and Saint Paul neighborhoods — will seek to bring people together across economic, social, educational and racial lines by focusing on the schools as the center of community life.

"The facility we call a school doesn't have to close at 3:00 p.m. every day," Boyd said. "It can be inviting to families in other ways so the parents can

feel it is their community center." She noted that students are not all making the "gains necessary to prepare them as citizens and that's scary. The solutions may be different for different stakeholders, but basic to all solutions is having the child at the core, the family supporting the child, and the community supporting the family."

Housing patterns

Though living in many parts of the region, people of color live primarily in Minneapolis and Saint Paul and often face home-buying and renting barriers that Whites do not.

To be sure, people of color do have more choices about where to live than they once did. Over the past 30 years, the proportion of people of color living in the suburbs has increased. "The most dramatic growth has been in the African American community. By 1990, 24 percent of metro area African Americans lived in the suburbs compared to only three percent in 1960."²

Still, "only 25 percent of Whites now live in Minneapolis and Saint Paul, compared to 76 percent of African Americans."²

The Institute on Race and Poverty says the continued concentration of people of color in certain areas is partially the result of government-sponsored segregation.

"In 1933, the federal government established the Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC)... The HOLC systematically undervalued racially or ethnically diverse central city neighborhoods Federal authorities consequently induced the channeling of mortgage funds away from central city communities of color and almost exclusively toward white, outlying neighborhoods."¹

Nancy Denton, Professor of Sociology at the State University of New York, Albany, and co-author of the book *American Apartheid* states that such policies continued in following decades as Whites migrated to the suburbs:

"After World War II, the federal government financed the move to the suburbs. It built highways, it gave loans. It would not, however, give loans in center cities. No blacks were allowed to live in the suburbs, and no blacks were allowed to get mortgages in the cities. So, not only did the cities decline, but the African-American population was concentrated in these cities; and this was a deliberate thing."¹⁰

Lending and housing discrimination are now illegal, but such discrimination can and still does occur. As late as 1995, in settling the *Hollman v. Cisneros* lawsuit in Minneapolis, "federal, state, and local govern-

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mental agencies acknowledged that they had administered housing policy to concentrate low income populations within (a few segregated Minneapolis) neighborhoods."¹

Though the laws have changed, many say, the reality has changed little. "You're talking about billions and billions of dollars essentially invested in housing segregation over about four decades," said Rich Nymoen, Human Rights Specialist at the Saint Paul Department of Human Rights and a participant in Community Circle Collaborative discussions about these issues. He notes that such a large investment in segregated infrastructure created an inertia that is still hard to overcome.

Evidence of housing discrimination

Two recent tests in Minneapolis and Saint Paul reveal racial discrimination in rental housing. The Minnesota Fair Housing Center conducts audits of specific geographic areas. The audit is similar to the "mystery shopper" method often used to test store performance in the retail industry. Trained testers present themselves to prospec-

tive landlords as having households, job classifications, debt loads and incomes that are identical to other testers who apply for housing to the same landlords. "The testers are identical in every controllable way except for the factor tested, for example, race."⁸

Using this method, a 1997 test of rental housing in Saint Paul's Highland neighborhood concluded that 50 percent of the time, testers "received differential treatment as a consequence of race."⁸ A similar test in 1996 of rental housing in the Northeast and Southwest communities of Minneapolis showed differences in treatment based on race nearly 56 percent of the time.⁹

A 1996 report from the city of Minneapolis notes the results of at least two other studies showing racial discrimination in local housing. It reports findings from an ACORN (Association of Community Organization for Reform Now) study of mortgage loans in 23 cities from 1990 through 1992. "Results from the Minneapolis-Saint Paul study show racial disparities in mortgage lending

continue to occur. In 1992 the seven lenders examined rejected African American applicants 26 percent of the time, Hispanic applicants 9 percent of the time and Whites four percent of the time." The Minneapolis report also cites a 1993 study by Sam Myers of the University of Minnesota, which found that in the Twin Cities metro area, "almost 70 percent of the disparity between loan rejection rates of Whites and people of color was due to ... discrimination."⁷

Challenges and opportunities

With the Twin Cities population becoming more racially and culturally mixed, some observers say we must deal more openly and honestly with racial dynamics now. This will not only avoid future problems, it will prepare our children for a more diverse world.

Dick Little sees such change as an opportunity to avoid the mistakes of other metropolitan areas. "What can we as a metro area do about changing demographics that Detroit and Newark didn't do?" he asked. "Are we destined to have the same dispar-

continued on page 22

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- ⁴ *Minority Population Distribution Trends In The Twin Cities Metropolitan Area*, Metropolitan Council, October, 1993. 612-291-6359.
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Action: dealing with matters of race in your community

What can individuals, organizations and communities do to deal constructively with racial issues and attitudes in the Twin Cities region? Here are several suggestions that came up in discussions that *Community Matters* had with 29 people.

Find concrete projects to work on.

Many people emphasized that discussions of race, culture or ethnicity are best done in the context of a tangible, common goal.

"One of the primary ways we form relations is along race lines," said Mike Anderson, Executive Director of the East Side Neighborhood Development Company (ESNDC). "Trust can only be built through personal relationships. You have to create activities and events that bring people together (across racial lines) to develop trust. That means concrete projects."

For example, last summer ESNDC sponsored a block home improvement project on Cook Avenue, and used volunteers. "It was fun to see these elderly Hmong ladies who were helping paint garages alongside people from a synagogue in Minnetonka and others from the neighborhood," Anderson said.

"What we've done is form block clubs where people get to know each other in non-threatening ways," said Saint Paul City Councilmember Jerry Blakey about activities in Ward One. "You need to allow time for people to get to know each other. One of the biggest problems is people coming to community meetings with ready-made positions, and they don't know the other people they're dealing with. Then they get locked into their positions."

Vigitt Ramchandani, Senior Consultant at the Wilder Foundation, says that

there are two basic ways for disparate groups to work together: unite against a common enemy or unite around a common vision. Finding a common enemy can work for the short-term, "but it doesn't sustain itself," he said. "Once the 'enemy' is beaten, the groups start fighting again. Politics shows countless examples of this." By contrast, a common vision, such as a concrete community improvement project, is more likely to build trust for a longer time.

Use arts and stories as an avenue for exploring issues of race.

"If people in a neighborhood are interested in talking about issues of race, I think it might be useful to have an ongoing reading group using bibliographies well-laced with fiction," suggests Bart Schneider, Editor of the *Hungry Mind Review*. "And it may help to have a trained facilitator to make everybody feel welcome at the table. Because I think this is potentially very combustible material, and it's fairly brave to explore it with people you may not know that well."

Exploring racial dynamics with virtual strangers is an experience the Wilder Foundation's Lupe Serrano has had. She recalls a time when she sat in a room with three other women of color she didn't know. Each was from a different racial and ethnic background, and they'd been brought together by a mutual friend in hopes of helping improve cross-racial dialogue. They did not have a facilitator.

At first, she admits, it was a bit awkward. "We sat there talking about if we really wanted to do this, but in the end we were talking about ourselves and finding the common threads that linked us." They eventually broadened their experience, bringing together 60 women of color from four cultures for two days.

"We shared our histories, our personal struggles, and stereotypes we had of each other, which was really taking a

Personal stories and views: Healing differences

"In the Hmong ways, we believe in certain traditional (healing) practices that don't have to invade the body. In one case I dealt with, a child's mosquito bite became infected."

The hospital was going to operate and said they might have to amputate later. Of course the parents would not allow that. They believed in using (Hmong) traditional medicine. So they took their child out of the hospital, and the infection went away. But in the meantime, the hospital got a court order against the parents and took the child away from them. The parents obtained a second opinion from a doctor who said no further treatment was necessary because the infection was getting better.

I encourage (inter-cultural) education for hospitals and doctors. And actually most of the time, if the Hmong practice doesn't cure, at least it doesn't do any harm. So I encourage doctors to allow Hmong to do certain practices that don't do any harm to anybody — let them do a ritual and perhaps put water on top of the infected area. At the same time, I encourage letting Western medicine treat the patient according its methods."

— William Yang, Executive Director, Hmong-American Partnership

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big risk. But it was about trust and about us as women of color. And it was wonderful." They called the gathering "Minding Our Own Business," and—in keeping with the spirit of that title—wrote a report which they kept private, agreeing to share it only with each other.

Sharing personal stories across racial backgrounds will soon take place consciously on Saint Paul's East Side. "We're starting something called 'Better Together,'" said ESND's Mike Anderson, "We'll pull together about 15 people from different racial groups—all committed to a multi-cultural neighborhood—just to share informal stories. It's based on a concept of 'learning our cultural centers,' and it's meant to begin forming a web of personal relationships."

Plug into community discussions. Another kind of organized dialogue is also taking place across the region. Last spring, 25 small groups of five to 15 people each completed the first round of "Choices for Community," billed as a "regional conversation about the challenges of education, housing and segregation in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area." (See page 21)

"The idea is to bring people together across boundaries and backgrounds" to discuss the impacts of racial attitudes on living patterns, according to Dick Little, Executive Director of the Education and Housing Equity Project and Coordinator of the Community Circle Collaborative. "We want to promote more urban-suburban dialogue and more multi-cultural interaction."

Key components of the process include focusing the discussions on concrete issues and using trained facilitators. "We start with issues most people can commonly identify with (housing and education opportunities) and we move toward discussing an issue that tends to divide us (race)," Little said. "And the facilitator is critical. This is based on a discussion model called National Issues Forums where people are able to move from personal, raw opinions toward collective, informed judgment."

Golden Valley's Mayor Mary Anderson participated in one of the

groups and was especially interested in the project's central concept of dialogue as opposed to debate or discussion. In a debate, she explained, "you come in with a position and do whatever you can to defend it. In a discussion, you are willing to listen to someone else's opinion, but are still in the mode of thinking your approach is right. But in a dialogue, you see if other opinions can either be incorporated into yours or perhaps combined to find a third truth. It's very important in this process not to be judgmental—just because you don't agree with another position doesn't mean it's not valid. And that is not always easy."

Partner with groups of other cultures in what they want to do. An influx of new residents into an neighborhood may cause confusion or resentment among long-time residents, especially if the newcomers are different racially or ethnically. In those cases, observers say, it's important to build bridges. But how?

"First, pay attention to changes, going on in the neighborhood," said Sam Grant, who runs Ujima Creations Consulting. "Often people are in denial (about change) for a long time. Then, if you have bridge builders, let them play a pro-active welcoming role." He said it is especially important "to identify culturally specific issues" that are important to the new community and support them.

Mike Anderson echoed that advice. "Those of us in the dominant culture," he said, "when we try to develop partnerships (with new groups), often come in and say: 'Here, come join us in our endeavor!' The more fruitful approach is going to the new community and saying: 'We will partner with you on what you want to do.'"

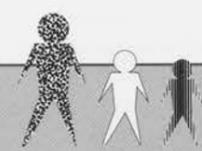
That way, the focus of the partnership is driven by a culturally specific organization rather than a mainstream group. That builds trust, Anderson said, and can lead to including members of the new community on more traditional, mainstream boards in the neighborhood.

"Taking initiative and stepping forward to help someone else is a big part of acknowledging and appreciating difference," said Ramchandani. "It means setting aside your own agenda for the sake of good will. But you can't wait—you have to do it if you are interested in building community."

Use housing audits to assess potential discrimination. "Housing is probably the single most important factor to having a racial mix in a neighborhood," said City Councilmember Jerry Blakey. "You need housing that's decent and affordable."

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**Personal stories and views:
Social isolation**



"I've had my burn-out phase (learning how to live among Minnesotans). There were times when I felt like I was sitting in a room for months—I'd just go to work and come home. And there were only a few of us (black women) in an environment, so you feel very isolated. Then you have the Minnesota cultural issue that people don't readily invite you to their homes the way they may in the south or east.

So when newcomers (of whatever race) move here I tell them: 'You might spend 20 or 30 percent more of your time alone than in major urban areas back east,' and that's pretty true. I think especially for communities of color who have that collective behavioral style—you're just left floating out here.

And I think the isolation breeds paranoia and you gravitate towards other folks like you. You spend a lot of thinking: 'What is wrong with me?' You have to get over that."

— Stacey Mills, Principal, The Mills Group and a Minnesota resident for eight years

**Personal stories and views:
Condo sale in Ramsey Hill**



"I live in a Ramsey Hill condo with six owners. It's had some turnover, and we never have any trouble selling to people. A couple of moves ago, I came out of my unit and met the Realtor talking with the person selling their condo. I said: 'By the way, I think you need to know that we will welcome any person who wants the condo who can pay their mortgage. In fact, we would welcome people of color.' She replied: 'Oh, I'm so glad you told me that.' Now, she couldn't ask about it, because that's against the law, but I'm sure it was a given in her mind that those condos were white only. And that was not lost on me."

— Betty Pat Leach, Toward Tomorrow Together

But how can one know if a neighborhood is really offering decent, affordable housing to all qualified potential buyers?

"Instead of assuming anything," said Sam Grant, "contact the Minnesota Fair Housing Center to do a fair housing audit. Then do an assessment of housing policy in that community. Is the policy written or implicit?" He noted that in both real estate and rental markets, agents and landlords can often make unilateral decisions that—intentionally or unintentionally—have the effect of excluding certain groups of people from a neighborhood.

But some say that merely avoiding exclusion is not enough: neighborhoods need to actively promote inclusion. Rich Nymoen, at the Saint Paul Department of Human Rights, participated in a Community Circle discussion group on issues of segregation and housing. One of his group's conclusions: "Neighborhoods need to take a proactive stand and say, 'We deliberately want people who are different from us to live here. That is a good thing that we want to promote.'"

In low-income neighborhoods, look for ways to build local assets. Race and poverty are often intertwined, and some people favor strategies that encourage local residents to build their own assets.

"Take the Phillips neighborhood in Minneapolis," said Sam Grant. "As opposed to attracting more middle-income people to move here, I'd rather help the people who are here build their asset base: to become

homeowners." That, he said, helps the residents and the neighborhood as a whole, but it avoids "gentrification"—where newly arrived middle-income homeowners displace the people who call the area their home.

To help people in Phillips build their assets, the Wendell Phillips Community Development Federal Credit Union is starting a pilot project. Offering individual development accounts (IDAs), the credit union hopes to help 50 people in the coming year build long-term savings toward a specific goal such as buying a home or starting a business.

Right now, they are using a four-to-one matching grant: for every dollar a customer puts in, the credit union adds four dollars. So, people who can save as much as \$1,000 will have that amount raised to \$5,000—enough for a down payment on a home or the beginnings of a micro business.

Saint Paul's Frogtown has also been building assets for local residents in a different way. Shem Shakir of the Frogtown Action Alliance, praises the micro entrepreneur program available through his organization with help from the Neighborhood Development Center. "In the last three years of micro entrepreneur classes, we (the Action Alliance) graduated 70 students," he said. "Thirty-six of them are in business today, creating 115 jobs. That's success."

But building local assets doesn't necessarily mean a neighborhood should ignore attracting some middle income homeowners, according to Mike Anderson. "Attracting the middle class into a neighborhood is fine," he

said, "but only if it's part of a larger strategy, not a strategy in itself."

Undertake diversity or anti-racism training. Two points here: first, "diversity training" is not necessarily the same as "counter-racism" or "dismantling racism" training. Secondly, neither kind of training does much good if it's just a one-time workshop. People must make it a long-term commitment.

Some point out that diversity training does not really change any race-based power structures, and thus does little good or even more harm than good.

"The word 'diversity' is a buzz word because it's more palatable than 'racism,'" said Nadine R.H. Addington, Co-Associate of Naja Associates and Co-Director of the TCC of Minnesota, Greater Minneapolis and Saint Paul Area Councils of Churches. "Racism is a power dynamic in our society that disempowers people of color. Diversity is more about how to get along with people from other cultures. That's not necessarily dealing with racism. You just add some color to your table, but you don't change the system, the power dynamics, or the decision-making processes."

She said that her organization's education and training focuses on changing systems, examining how racism both disempowers some people and provides privilege to others, and how we are all socialized to be racists and victims of racism. She emphasizes that many White people readily see how racism hurts people of color but have a very difficult time recognizing how it benefits White and light-skinned people.

Sam L. Myers, Jr., Roy Wilkins Professor of Human Relations and Social Justice at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, says that too often talk of "diversity" avoids the underlying issue of racism. In his recent article entitled "Why Diversity is a Smoke Screen for Affirmative Action" (in the journal *Change*, July/August, 1997) he writes:

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Personal stories and views:
Questions of identity



"I'm one who is still getting used to and comfortable with notion of seeing myself as a person of color. I had struggled because I was looking for a 'camp' so to speak. So I joined the 'conscious-immigrant' camp. I am an immigrant — I came here about 18 years ago — and began to see myself that way. I never saw myself as White but am one who, for one reason or another, didn't find difficulty in assimilating. The person-of-color mantle only arose in about the last five years, and I began realizing I was being put in that camp. I resisted it only to discover that in some cases it fit.

I felt that way, and it was OK and to a point I began feeling OK about claiming my person of colorhood. But I wasn't rising to it as the be-all of my identity."

— Vigit Ramchandani, Senior Consultant, Wilder Foundation

"There is a trend in some places toward the creation of dialogues, sensitivity training, and cultural awareness: Can we all just get along? These initiatives play on the guilt of liberals who are offended by old-style racist words and deeds . . . These initiatives . . . do little to narrow the gap in earnings, to improve home ownership, to eliminate guns and violence from our inner-city neighborhoods, or to redistribute educational opportunities. In short, diversity training is all talk and no play."

Some people we talked to did not make this distinction between diversity and anti-racism training. But many did caution against looking to any kind of race-issues training as a quick fix.

"Put a person in a diversity seminar with some consultant and you expect to change 26 years of behavior in an eight-hour course?" asked Tyrone Terrill, Director of the Saint Paul Department of Human Rights. "No consultant is that good. It can't be a one-day discussion; it's got to be ongoing to a point where we can be comfortable enough with one another to want to have the discussion."

"In our culture we want fast answers, the quick fix," said Doroth Mayer of Change Architects. "Any organizational change doesn't happen over night."

Seek out the elders for advice. When asked what she would suggest to communities wanting to deal with issues of race, Francis Hart, Elders

Program Director, Earthstar Project, Inc. replied simply: "I would go to the elders and ask. The way I was brought up, these are elder issues and that is their role. I have many diverse friends, we all talk of these things, and one thing we agree on is if we don't use our elders for their experience and their culture, we are not going to know where we all came from. That especially applies to our youth."

Encourage community leadership. Many people we talked to emphasized the importance of strong community leadership in facing these issues, and several cited local examples.

"I think in the Minneapolis Public School system, we're beginning to see some strong leaders," said Stacey Mills, Principal of The Mills Group. "And I love working with the community groups in Saint Paul (because of their leadership). I'm talking about the Frogtown Action Alliance especially."

"The West Side (of Saint Paul) has conditions that are just as challenging as some other neighborhoods that are economically depressed," said Gabriel Strong, Executive Director of Ain Dah Yung. "But for some reason there is a spirit of community there that I think needs examining — in its policing, its beautification, its youth development."

Lee Pao Xiong, former Executive Director of the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans, pointed to an

incident in Eau Claire. "There had been a racial incident in the area involving a Hmong and a European American student," he said. To deal with the incident community leaders used a simple, time-honored method to bring people together. "They pulled people together around food. They had an open house, talked about issues, formed committees. Eventually, they began teaching diversity in the classrooms."

Wilder Foundation Senior Consultant, Lupe Serrano notes that effective leadership can only happen if all major segments of the local community feel represented. "Diverse leadership acting collectively is harder for any segment of the population to ignore," she said. "If you have allied folks of diverse cultures taking a position on an issue, then definitely people need to pay attention." ●

—DH

• Resources •

Videos

America in Black and White
Moderated by Ted Koppel
True Colors
Ending Racism
Free Indeed

These videos are available from the Tri-Council Coordinating Commission of the Minnesota Council of Churches at 871-0229 or the Region 3 Office at 649-0621.

Training Materials

Introduction to Southeast Asian Cultures
An overview of histories and cultures of the Cambodian, Hmong, Lao, and Vietnamese peoples.

Working Across Cultures
Knowledge and skills for multi-cultural work settings.

These presentations/workshops are offered by Community Services Group, Wilder Foundation. Call Somly Sitthisay at 659-6017 or Yorn Yan at 642-2051 for more information.

• Resources •

Editor's Note: This list is not meant to be comprehensive. It is a compilation of materials that we used to put together the Fall 1997 issue of Community Matters.

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• Work in Progress •

Saint Paul Neighborhood News

What Does the Business Community Need to Do to Address the Issue of Race ?

Ken Bellanger, Northland Native American Products



I see corporate America downsizing and doing away with more and more jobs. Small business is the growing part of our community.

There are lots of people out there with good ideas from many backgrounds but their success depends on the support they can get to develop their ideas. Investment in these entrepreneurial ideas takes more than money, it's working at renewing communities. I think that people of color need to focus on developing their own businesses in their own communities.

Eric Watson, The St. Paul Companies

A key value at The St. Paul Companies is to foster an environment of diversity, where all employees can contribute to their fullest. It's a moral imperative; it's a business imperative. In embracing diversity, we are positioned to hire and retain the best people, meet our customers' needs, and to effectively grow our business.



Alberto Monserrate, La Oportunidad, Inc.



to support minority business ownership by mentoring minority entrepreneurs and by using minority-owned businesses as vendors.

I think it is very important for business to recruit and retain employees of color but what is even more important is for the business community

Nancy Briggs, North End Medical Center



It is part of our mission to provide access to low-cost health care to all people in our community and to support culturally appropriate and sensitive

activities that address these needs. I think the business community needs to better understand and accept the cultures, values, and beliefs of the diverse residents that we serve.

George Jacobson, MEDA (Metropolitan Economic Development Association)

The business community needs to more creatively and aggressively pursue the establishment of working partnerships with small, minority-owned businesses. Minority enterprise development can serve as a significant vehicle for the attainment of socio-economic opportunities through increased wealth, prosperity and employment.



Intersecting Rhythms: An African-American and Jewish Cultural Dialogue

A six week arts series to promote understanding and bridge differences between the African-American and Jewish communities will be presented by four leading Twin Cities organizations during January and February, 1998. The series opens January 11 with a keynote speech by Julian Bond at the O'Shaughnessy Auditorium on the College of St. Catherine campus, and continues with a photography exhibit doc-

umenting a mixed culture neighborhood; an intercultural art and sculpture exhibit; a new theatrical work featuring Black and Jewish youth; a new theater/dance work based on traditions and friendship; an African-American and Jewish Film Festival; and a final concert and dance party. Events will take place at the St. Paul Jewish Community Center, Intermedia Arts, and several schools around the Twin Cities.

Sponsors for the series include Intermedia Arts, Jewish Community Action, the Twin Cities Black Film Project, and the St. Paul JCC and is funded by Intermedia Arts, United Arts, The Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, and other private funding sources.

For more information about the series or a complete schedule of events, call Kevin Olson at 698-0751 or Pamela Ellis at 874-2815. ●

• Work in Progress •

Saint Paul Neighborhood News

Racial and Cultural Equity in St. Paul Schools: Lessons Learned

by Ruth Anne Olson, former Co-Director of Supporting Diversity in Schools



Achieving racial and cultural equity in the schools depends on the building of respectful problem-solving relationships among a diversity of parents, community leaders and school staff accountable for a common vision. That is the primary lesson learned by participants of the Supporting Diversity in Schools (SDS) program.

SDS was a \$2.6 million program administered by The Saint Paul Foundation and funded by The Saint Paul Foundation, F.R. Bigelow Foundation, The Bush Foundation, Cowles Media Foundation, General Mills Foundation, John S. and James L. McKnight Foundations, Mardag Foundation, The St. Paul Companies, Inc., and individual donors. It was implemented in Saint Paul between 1989 and 1997 with in-kind support from the Saint Paul Public Schools and the International Institute of Minnesota. Based on the experience and advice from students, parents and educators, the program design responded to the dramatic increase in the drop-out and failure rate by students of color in the Saint Paul School District.

SDS developed strong partnerships with individual elementary schools, community organizations and parents

of color. Each partnership, with financial support and technical assistance from SDS, designed goals, activities, and an evaluation process that met its own needs for racial and cultural equity. SDS also maintained an extensive program of educational activities for the greater Saint Paul community. Four SDS partnerships completed their expected four-to-five-year life spans; four others terminated prior to maturity.

The importance of vision evolved as a fundamental lesson of SDS. SDS' vision grew from the individual and collective experiences and the personal stories of parents, community leaders and school staff. Participants gained an understanding of both the uniqueness and the common threads of their experiences.

SDS participants also learned that effective education depends on bringing together voices that reflect the diversity of students in a school. It is sobering to realize that many students in Saint Paul can spend an entire 12-year school career without ever having a teacher who shares their history or culture. Addressing this problem requires that diverse community voices play a more active role in defining problems and shaping solutions.

Finally, SDS participants painfully learned the difference between school improvement and system reform. The program did succeed within individual schools. Partnerships began a transformation in curriculum inclusive of all students in the schools. Parents who had never been involved in their children's schools became partners in shaping the environment and culture of the school buildings. Professionals and lay people developed the trust and respect needed to allow people to talk about sensitive and tough issues

of good parenting, good teaching and community support.

But on a system-wide level, SDS failed. A system-wide commitment to a vision of racial equity did not materialize and in the absence of enforceable policies from the district, each school became dependent on individual principals' interest and convictions. What was built, nurtured and successful under one principal could be prohibited or ignored by the next. Trust and respect erode quickly without system-wide accountability and commitment to equity.

The 1997-98 school year has brought a flurry of community pressure and activity to improve the school experience of students of color in the Twin Cities. The successes and accomplishments of SDS contain positive lessons; its oversights and mistakes do not need to be repeated. The lessons learned by its participants can be an important contribution to new efforts for successful K-12 education in Saint Paul. ●

SDS' final report, "Lessons Learned: A Synthesis of Lessons from a Community and Its Schools" is available by calling Cathy Olson at the The Saint Paul Foundation, 224-5463. Ruth Anne Olson is currently an educational consultant.

Send your neighborhood news and other contributions to:

**Barb Rose,
Community Matters
919 Lafond Avenue,
Saint Paul, MN 55104
Fax: 642-2088**

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Saint Paul Neighborhood News

A Personal and Collective Journey in Race

A book review by jon powell

The book, *Race: An Anthology In The First Person* is the result of editor Bart Schneider realizing that people do want to discuss race in a significant and transformative way. From the hundreds of responses to a questionnaire on race published in the Hungry Mind Review, he offers a collection of experiences delivered in the first person voice by writers who have reflected deeply on race. The 18 essays differ greatly in perspective, content, and style, but they all provide readers with opportunities to remember, empathize, and speculate on his or her own personal and collective journey regarding race.

A small book, only 242 pages, it is large in content and capacity to move as the writers share with us vivid descriptions of personally meaningful moments as well as their thoughts on what happened to them. The knowledge they share is seldom in the public domain, for our obsession with race is often expressed through race aversion and our public discourse avoids many of the more disturbing issues.

This book includes an excerpt from an essay by Michael Dorris that questions the connection between "mixed blood" and identity, an analysis by Audré Lorde on women's anger in response to racism, and a piece by Bharati Mukherjee on the experience of becoming American. In addition, Ira Glasser revisits civil rights; Louis Rodrique writes about his experience with gangs; Henry Louis Gates, Jr., talks to his daughters about growing up black and I share my thoughts about the million man march.

The essays in this book provide the reader with the opportunity to become part of a community taking the time to think and write about their experiences of race that are at once simple and profound: simple in essence, rich in meaning. The reader can talk back, reflect or move and can choose to do this personally, politically or spiritually. The stories are there for reflection and for adoption, to become seeds of thought.

This book is engaging and enjoyable to read, but not easy. With these writers, readers will venture down paths to places that hold the reality of others and of one self. Perhaps these are places we have agreed to forget, and places that we at some time wish did not exist. This book is more than a collection of individuals' perspectives; it is about our community, about our nation. The book suggests that there are important differences and competing voices at times, yet we are still part of one song. The readers will ultimately see that the writers, like all of us, are connected in complex ways that sometimes lack reciprocity, and may even be dysfunctional; but none of us are, or can be, completely free of each other. This is our blessing and our curse. This is our life. ●

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jon powell is the Executive Director of the Institute on Race and Poverty at the University of Minnesota Law School and is currently co-editing a book with Jim Hilbert: *Untying the Double Bind: Moving Beyond Housing and School Segregation with Jim Hilbert*. Recently, he was appointed the 1997 Julius E. Davis Professor in Law in recognition of excellence in teaching, research and scholarship.

The Hungry Mind race questionnaire

Reprinted with Permission From The Hungry Mind Review

The following is a list of simple and not-quite-so-simple questions on the subject of race in America.

1. How was race explained to you as a child? Was it explained to you at all?
2. What messages did your parents communicate to you about race issues?
3. How does this differ from the way you communicate with your children about race?
4. What are your most basic fears about race?
5. What is your race?
6. How important is race to your sense of self?
7. In what ways do you organize your identity and resources around race? How consciously does race affect your choice of where to live, shop, or send your children to school?
8. What would be the ideal percentage breakdown for you between people of your race and of others in a neighborhood in which you lived? What is the actual percentage breakdown in your neighborhood? What would be the "tipping point," the point at which the racial balance became uncomfortable enough to make you want to leave the neighborhood?
9. How do you account for the fact that the distribution of wealth among whites, blacks and Native Americans is nearly the same now as it was in 1866, as slavery formally came to an end?

continued on next page

• Work in Progress •

Saint Paul Neighborhood News

Multicultural Health Care Issues Network Formed

Eric Hove, Health Care Consumer Protection Alliance

Minnesota has long been a national leader in health care policy but increasing problems with the health care delivery system and quality of care throughout the state are evident. Health care consumers consistently wind up on the short end of the stick as health care plans emphasize and implement cost containment strategies. Although individuals from every ethnic and income group are facing these issues, some populations face more barriers to appropriate health care than others.

The Health Care Consumer Protection Alliance (made up of seventy provider and consumer groups) with the Urban Coalition co-sponsored a dialogue on September 25 to begin confronting the problems underserved populations have in obtaining quality health care. Representatives from community groups included the Minneapolis Indian Women's Resource Center, the Center for Cross Cultural Health, the West Side Family Education Center, the Exodus Program, the Neighborhood Health Care Network, and the Courage Center.

Communication and language difficulties, time constraints, access to transportation, and prejudice were identified as the major systemic barriers to culturally competent health care. The discussion resulted in many possible

solutions including requiring standards for interpreters and cultural competency training for all health care providers. The Center for Cross Cultural Health is currently developing a set of standards for culturally competent health care. Other recommendations include scheduling more time for non-English speaking patients and allowing patients to see a non-network provider at no additional cost to circumvent language and cultural barriers.

The dialogue concluded with plans for the future. Increasing public awareness through the local media is an immediate priority. Holding neighborhood based focus groups to receive input from residents about their experiences with the health care system and to increase the support needed to remedy the problems that exist will be an important next step. Consumer satisfaction surveys will be developed to identify what people need for a quality health care experience. A mobilized effort to pressure clinics, health plans, hospitals, and professional associations will be required to change current practices. Lastly, legislative lobbying will be necessary. A network of several community organizations is being developed to coordinate these efforts. For more information, call the Health Care Consumer Protection Alliance at 874-4288. ●

The Hungry Mind race questionnaire continued

10. Is affirmative action an appropriate way of redressing racial inequities in this country?
11. Should whites in America think of themselves as a race?
12. How have your views about race and your own position in the racial scheme of things changed in the last ten years?
13. How did the O.J. Simpson case affect your sense of the American racial landscape?
14. What do you see as the dangers or positive effects of ethnocentricity, such as Eurocentricity or Afrocentricity?
15. What does the old concept of America as a melting pot mean to you?
16. What considerations should affect our immigration policies? Do you think we should place an equal quota on the immigration of Croats, Haitians, Canadians, Mexicans, Russians, Chinese, Somalians, Swedes, Palestinians?
17. What are your hopes and fears for a multiracial America?
18. What questions would you add to this list? ●

Personal stories and views: Fear of difference and loss of power

"It's such a highly emotional issue when the racial or cultural make-up of a neighborhood starts changing. It's all about fear of difference and loss of power. For me, it's a tremendously enriching experience. It develops and broadens your perspectives, so it's wonderful and at the same time extremely painful.

It becomes more and more part of your life and you have to always struggle. It's always breeding questions and challenges about who you are and why you do what you do. I don't care what race you are. As you enter into knowing people of different cultures and races, it's very difficult but also very rewarding."

— Lupe Serrano, Senior Consultant, Wilder Foundation



• Work in Progress •

Saint Paul Neighborhood News



Theater As A Diversity Training Tool

Theater can be a powerful educational tool that can touch and move an audience in unexpected ways and provoke an immediate emotional response. Several local theater companies have developed productions, available to community and business organizations, that use the stage and theater to help people learn about and respect the diversity of cultural perspectives in our communities. They further explore the value of how this diversity can enrich their lives.

Celebrating Diversity is a play produced by Illusion Theater that is designed to celebrate cultural differences and challenge attitudes of racism and homophobia and issues related to poverty, sexual harassment and preference, HIV/AIDS and single parenting. The play aims to increase the awareness that everyone in a specific workplace or community has differences and that learning about these differences can be a beginning to accepting and respecting them. The vignettes and songs are introduced by a moderator who also moderates a discussion at the end of the performance. The show may be tailored to reflect a particular community or workplace. Call Dwight Callaway at 339-4944 for more information.

Undesirable Elements is another creation of the Illusion Theater. In collaboration with theater artist, Ping Chong, it is an attempt to bridge the many cultures living in Minnesota and to allow audiences to feel and experience being on the fringe of mainstream society through personal stories, poems, and dance. The play features residents of Minnesota who come from eight different cultural backgrounds: a young Hmong woman from Laos, an African American man who was born in Ken-

tucky, a recently emigrated Russian Jewish woman, a woman from the Ojibwe tribe, a man from Puerto Rico, a woman from Turkey, and a recent Somali immigrant. The "characters" share their early memories, family, and some experiences of being treated as an outsider while weaving the story of becoming a part of a new community. A post-performance discussion with the cast is available. Call Dwight Callaway at 339-4944 for more information.

At Penumbra Theater, several educational programs and workshops for high-school-age students explore interracial issues and personal experiences. The **Active Theater Program** is a simulation that re-enacts the scene of a violent crime and portrays how family members and the victim of the crime interact with hospital staff and law enforcement officers. The simulation is followed by a moderated discussion. For more information, call Cindy at 224-4601, ext. 250.

Mixed Blood Theater's EnterTRaining program is a continuation of the the-

ater's commitment to art, entertainment, education, and social change. It uses live theater, music, dance, comedy, and drama to clarify issues of race, culture, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation and more. After the performances, a follow-up discussion is conducted to explore the play's message and individual reactions. Playwright Syl Jones collaborates with Mixed Blood founder, Jack Reuler; they have created over 30 scripts for the EnterTRaining program. **Jack and Jill Variations** was developed for the staff of school districts through a grant from the Bremer Foundation. It focuses on poverty and other barriers to academic achievement. **Presumed Guilty** addresses discrimination and bias in the legal profession. **Ring of Fire**, a country-western musical, was commissioned by the Allina Foundation and the Park Nicollet Medical Foundation to explore the cycles of violence and domestic abuse. For more information, call Judy Bartle at 338-4509. ●



Personal stories and views:

MN Nice and MN prejudice

"When I moved to Minnesota four years ago, it was interesting that all I ever heard was this 'Minnesota Nice' thing. But what has been eye-opening is that nobody really talks about Minnesota racism and Minnesota prejudice. And it's amazing I feel that because you can buy (a home) in Woodbury and live in nice homes, but it's still as if that whole threat of racism creeps its ugly face into everything. And that's probably to me where the sadness comes in. We have to keep talking about these issues because unless you have dialogue, people will be just very complacent that everything's OK. And it isn't, it really and truly isn't. We say what we feel people want to hear but then we just kind of stop there. That's what I mean when we talk of 'Minnesota Nice.' But on the flip side of that, I have to say that I've had a lot of opportunities in Minnesota."

— Beverly Bennett Roberts, Director,
Eisenmenger Learning Centers

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Saint Paul Neighborhood News

MetroTown: Helping Students Find Answers to Big Questions in Their Lives and Our Community

By Marcy Shapiro, Executive Director, The National Conference

Dedicated to helping children recognize human diversity by breaking down barriers that all-too often separate people from different cultural backgrounds, The National Conference (formerly The National Conference of Christians and Jews) created MetroTown, an educational program for middle and high school students. The program brings together students from Twin Cities inner-city, suburban and rural Minnesota schools to deal with vital problems such as racism, bigotry, violence, sexism, homelessness, and the lack of citizen involvement.

By a variety of methods including workshops, classroom activities, art projects, and service learning opportunities, students are able to share ideas, opinions, and concepts both with students whose experiences are similar to their own and with students who have had very different experiences. Sample activities include:

- a student congress where students learn how political groups influence and shape our national agenda;
- a student exchange between inner



Source: The National Conference

city students and small town students;

- a world games simulation where students learn how negotiating for valuable resources against the background of cultural diversity affects the world economy;
- a series of workshops on the effects of racism;
- a series of visits to other schools

and talking about tough social issues through group discussions.

Students from St. Paul have been active participants in the student congress for many years. This past year, Highland and Harding high school students participated in our initial sponsorship of the world game for MetroTown students.

Direction is set by the participants: students, teachers and community members. Participants evaluate the program as it evolves. Many have said that MetroTown provides a place to get together to talk and make change, to work things out, learn how to change things, express opinions, and where people are encouraged to take risks and can teach each other. Others say MetroTown is a safe place where respect, honesty, trust and wisdom are honored and a place where they feel they can ask questions about things without feeling stupid.

For additional information, please contact Linda Fancher, The National Conference MetroTown Coordinator at 643-3150 or 333-5365. ●



Source: The National Conference

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Saint Paul Neighborhood News

Hamline University Students Explore Commitment to Their Community

By Stephen Kellert and Dan McGrath, Hamline University

In mid-September, Hamline University began a month-long effort called Commitment to Community to address issues of diversity and community both on the college campus and in the Greater Twin Cities. Initiated by students and planned over the summer, the program both engaged and entertained students as active members of the community and

explored the themes of acceptance, appreciation, and activism.

Hamline University recruits students from throughout the upper Midwest. For



many, college is the first exposure to the diversity of a major metropolitan area. Many of the students come from tight knit communities and latch on to familiar social connections on campus, creating insulated and disengaged groups of students.

Last spring, some concerned students realized that the disen-

gaged student body exhibited a lack of understanding and acceptance of diversity and that a vision forging connections between students needed to be developed. Grant Anderson, a recent Hamline graduate, and Dan McGrath, the

College's student congress Vice-President, approached the University Dean of Students, Marilyn Deppe, with a blueprint for what evolved into the Commitment to Community program. Hoping to move beyond a simple tolerance of one another, they shared a vision of a month long program where all students would be welcomed to listen, learn and participate in a campaign dedicated to bring the campus together to explore the many facets of diversity.

On September 15, the Commitment to Community celebration began as Dr. Cornel West from Harvard University spoke to an audience of over 1200 at Hamline United Methodist Church. West succeeded in challenging everyone while condemning no one. Later in September, a community forum entitled, "Let's Talk Race: A Campus and Community Dialogue" featured Mayor Norm Coleman and neighborhood activists.

Commitment to Community takes a first step toward confronting some of the underlying issues affecting the heart of who we are and how we connect with each other. The program is more than an attempt to preach the values of diversity; it is about helping Hamline University sustain a vision for community that affirms the power to effect change and embrace the diversity of the community. ●



Source: Hamline University

Personal stories and views:

Communication styles

"I think there's lot of Caucasian people who have difficulties with African Americans in particular simply because of volume and not because of what they're saying. We have at our church joint worship services with African Americans and part of the reaction to the (Black) pastor who first spoke at our church was that some people didn't like him because they thought he was mad or angry. I didn't read that at all, but I think it was a way of preaching that's loud and raises the voice. It's a cultural difference."

— Reverend Tim Johnson, Cherokee Park United Church

• Work in Progress •

Saint Paul Neighborhood News



The Women's Resource Gathering

Building community involves developing leadership which needs to be nurtured, and supported. Within the community, women of color are often called upon to provide leadership to their communities both within organizations and as volunteers. Their roles include working on committees, assisting in facilitation, training, nego-

tiating, mediating, consulting, advising, or in coaching others. The opportunity to come together as a group isn't available for most of these women even though they are often working on similar issues. The feeling of isolation and a lack of support and resources inspired the Women's Resource Gathering. It was created to provide the opportunity for women of color to come together to find professional and community support.

At the "gatherings," a variety of topics such as the challenges of working within their own communities, the success of working together cross-culturally, and finding the balance between community and personal life are explored. Lively discussion and good conversation are promised. For more information contact Lupe Serrano at 642-4060. ●

Personal stories and views:

Neighborhood Healing Ceremony Renews Personal Commitment

A large group of individuals from Wilder Foundation and other human service community organizations have been getting together to talk about issues related to racism. Recently, forty of us participated in an all-day "healing ceremony" designed to fight racism in our institutions and the Frogtown community.

As part of my participation in that ceremony, I shared an incident of overt racism that my family experienced. It happened in front of a small convenience store where, leaving our four young children in the car, my wife and I went in to pick up a video. While we were in the store, a carload of teenagers pulled up next to our car, shouted racial epithets and obscene language at our children, and made fun of their Asian features. When we returned to the car, the teens sped off, leaving behind four very frightened, shook-up kids and two extremely angry parents.

While that experience gave our family a first hand, painful understanding of how it feels to be discriminated against, it also presented us with an opportunity to talk about the reality of racism with our children. Once we calmed down, we explained that the cruel actions were due to the meanness, ignorance, and poor self esteem of the teenagers. It was extremely hard to have to admit to them that they will probably run into other racists in the future.

I remember my anger. I remember feeling powerless. These feelings made me understand a little better what many people of color have had to tolerate for so long. But how could I cope with that feeling of powerlessness? I recalled the words of Ghandi and at least in part, I found the answer: "Each of us must be the change of what we want to see in the world..."

Ghandi suggest that real, lasting change comes from within; through simple, do-able actions. It is these small, incremental and personal actions to address racism that will eventually lead to changing attitudes, values, and behaviors. I have personally committed myself to:

- Not tolerate any subtle or overt racist behavior
- Expose my family to more multi-cultural experiences
- Broaden the cultural diversity of the Wilder organization.

This commitment has significantly impacted my life. My friends now know where I stand on racial issues. My family has had life-shaping experiences through immersion in positive cross-cultural activities. And I am constantly aware of creating a workplace that better reflects the racial diversity of our community.

— Tom Kingston, President, Amherst H. Wilder Foundation

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Saint Paul Neighborhood News

Just Stop It Means Zero Tolerance for Violence



"By any means necessary"
—Malcolm X
Didn't mean....
Homicide, Child Abuse, Domestic Abuse, Racism, Silence
Just Stop It
NBC/CMI(612) 224-3836

In the summer of 1995, Reverend Devin Miller and four other members of the Black Ministerial Alliance decided that the African American churches in the Summit University neighborhood needed to get more involved in preventing violence and violent crime in the neighborhood. Crime rates were up, residents feared for their safety, race relat-



**"Non-Violence
is the way of the
Courageous"**
—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Just Stop It
NBC/CMI (612) 224-3836

ed incidents had increased, and the community was suffering from a sense of hopelessness. "We had been talking about it and preaching about it but we weren't really doing anything about it," explained Devin Miller. "We needed to

get out on the street and let people know that someone was looking out for them and that we would not tolerate or accept any violence in our community."

The Just Stop It campaign began with daily peace walks around the neighborhood and has since sponsored street revivals and the development of training and educational resources. Just Stop It has also become an increasingly important source for mobilizing community

support and resources.

The peace walks around the neighborhood still provide an anchor for the group's activities, but in the summer of '96 the burning of local churches and the driveby shooting of a young girl from Minneapolis, Davisha Gillam, forced the campaign to take on a larger supportive role in fighting the threats of crime and violence. These events mobilized the faith community in Summit University around the issue of violence and the Just Stop It campaign took on the major coordinating effort. "People didn't know how to channel their grief. We knew we could help."

In 1997, the focus of the Just Stop It campaign is sustaining the simplicity of its message and promoting the systematic end to violence in St. Paul. Along with Ramsey County's Initiative For Violence Free Families and Communities, the campaign creates a constant message that focuses on preventing and eradicating criminal violence and racism. Bumper stickers, posters, and buttons have been distributed at community festivals and will continue with the Martin Luther King birthday events and an upcoming celebration devoted to the spirit of Malcolm X. For more information, call Reverend Devin Miller at 224-3836. ●

Personal stories and views:

More painful than the Klan

"I always lived in a very protected community — Mexicano — until I moved to Dothin Alabama for six years. Dothin is the headquarters for the Ku Klux Klan. And they are very proud of that. But I'll tell you, I've never been more hurt than in this state.

"I mean, I don't have a Spanish accent and people always assume over the phone that I am not Latina. And when they see my name, they don't have a clue. And the minute I walk in the door, it's like people don't know what to do with me. I get that feeling almost all the time. You close the door and you never know what they're saying about you. It's always that winking when you shut the door and when you walk into the room — I don't know how much more I can put up with it.

"I almost liked it better in Alabama when they just told you flat out: 'I don't like you, and this is what I think about your people.' I mean, it was so blatant, and that was never hurtful.

But here, I feel like asking: 'What can I do to change me?' And I've never done that before in my life. But still I like living here. Don't ask me why.

"So what is it? What makes you kind of teeter-totter between thinking this 'Minnesota nice' is not really nice, and thinking this is the best place you'll ever live?"

— Isabel Chanslor

• Work in Progress •

Saint Paul Neighborhood News

Choices for Community: A Regional Conversation on Housing, Schools and Race

By Dick Little, Executive Director, Education and Housing Equity Project

During the first half of 1997, over 500 citizens from 35 different communities participated in public discussions focused on the challenges of school achievement, racial equity and housing segregation in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. These discussions included locally sponsored 'community circles', a metropolitan citizens' forum held at Macalester College in May, and town meetings held in Minneapolis and St. Paul schools in September.

The Community Circle Collaborative process reflects a conscientious effort to recapture the benefits of a town-hall forum while also insuring all voices are heard.

The Community Circle Collaborative is a metro-wide dialogue project that engages citizens from all walks of life, in deliberative discussions about the future of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. A partnership between the Education and Housing Equity Project and dozens of other regional and community-based organizations, the Collaborative has sponsored community circles charged with discussing two central questions:

- **What are the impacts of existing patterns of residential, economic and racial segregation on the educational achievement and life opportunities of Twin Cities area children and families?**
- **What can or should we do, as individuals and as a community, to enhance educational success and housing and economic opportunities for all children in the Twin Cities area?**

In the spring of 1997, citizens met as many as five or six times to deliberate



Source: EHEP

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- Issues related to regional growth and equity, such as public and private investment in development, employment, social relations (e.g., media stereotypes and crime) and services (e.g., transit)
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For more information or copies of the EHEP report or discussion guide call the Education and Housing Equity Project at 612/871-2519, or e-mail: micah@mtn.org. ●

• Bulletin Board •

• Trainings, Workshops, Conferences and Forums •

Neighborhoods: Some Assembly Required III

Saturday, January 31, 1998
8:45 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Arlington High School
(West of Rice Street on Nebraska) • \$15 includes lunch

Neighborhood Awards

Presented during lunch - 12:00 - 1:15 p.m.

Workshops and panel discussions include housing, crime, and violence, transit, race and poverty, jobs and economic development.

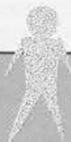
For more information, call your district council office or
Debi Krause at 659-6030.

Personal stories and views:

More than Black and White

Often when race and diversity are discussed, they are framed only in terms of the "black and white" issues in our society. In a recent interview with the media, I became aware how significantly skin color can get you in the door and how when you begin to speak from your personal experiences, people may be shocked and unprepared for what you have to say. In employment practices, education, and housing, prejudice and racism is rampant and crosses many boundaries. Pluralism is so much more. I challenge myself and the groups I work with to examine our surroundings and to define pluralism by identifying that which is missing. I ask: "How inclusive is this process, and how much more would we enrich the discussion by inclusion of that which is missing?"

— Michael P. Garcia, Senior Consultant, Wilder Foundation



Community Matters

is published jointly by The Wilder Foundation and The Saint Paul Coalition for Community Development, with contributions from 3M Corporation, The Saint Paul Foundation, The St. Paul Companies, The McKnight Foundation, and F.R. Bigelow Foundation.

Our aim is to increase understanding about issues affecting the vitality of Saint Paul, to report on resources available to formal and informal leaders throughout the City, and to build connections among those working to strengthen our communities.

Editor:

Barbara Rose

Contributing Writers:

David Hennessey, Marcy Shapiro, Steve Keller, Dan McGrath, May Kao Yangblongsua, Jon Powell, Tom Kingston, Eric Hove, Ruth Anne Olson and Dick Little.

Design & Production:

RSC Graphics

To submit information for publication or to get on our mailing list, please call Barb Rose at 659-6031, or Fax to: 642-2088.

With special thanks all those who shared their time and personal stories for this issue.



Amherst H.
Wilder Foundation

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Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104

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Beyond Busing

A Metrowide Dialogue on the Challenges of Education and Housing Segregation

News from the
Community
Circle Project

Update #1

February, 1997

Community Circle Dialogue, 'Beyond Busing,' kicks-off December 10, now moves to next stage

The Community Circle Collaborative officially "kicked off" December 10, 1996 with an inspiring event that filled the St. Louis Park City Council chambers with more than 100 people. This "Call to Action" to potential Sponsors drew representatives from a wide variety of organizations—including churches, advocacy groups, academia, and public agencies—as well as individual citizens who learned of the event through a supportive editorial in the *Star Tribune*.

After a warm greeting from St. Louis Park Mayor Gail Dorfman, the morning began with speeches by former St. Paul Mayor George Latimer and education expert Dr. Josie Johnson, both of whom exhorted the group to sponsor *Community*



Circles as a way of "moving our community."

"We must learn to *listen* to each other," emphasized Dr. Johnson.

The next two speakers—Curt Johnson, chair of the Metropolitan Council, and Yusef Mgeni, President of the Urban Coalition—went into detail about why

our region needs to confront and link the issues of housing and education.

"Our metro area faces serious challenges in growing to meet its housing and education needs," Mr. Johnson explained. "Its ability to do so equitably is hampered by fear and ignorance."

Mr. Mgeni's presentation, telling the story of urban communities that are increasingly isolated and poor, also spoke to the need for renewed dialogue, understanding, and hope.

Following these presentations, individuals representing the State Legislature, an outer-ring suburban church, an inner-ring suburban school, a nonprofit housing developer, the media, and the Minneapolis mayor's office all described why they plan to participate in a *Community Circle*.

They urged their peers to join them in sponsoring and supporting the dialogues. The event concluded with an explanation of the "nuts and bolts" of sponsoring or convening a *Community Circle*. Participants learned how *Community Circles* work, the "charge" to be given to the circles, and the project's timetable.

As the event concluded, many new Sponsors submitted their "Pledge of Participation" and began the important work of organizing a *Community Circle*.

To new Sponsors and others who attended the kick-off, "thank you!"

Copies of the "Sponsor Packets" handed out at the kick-off are available.

In addition, a summary video of the event, produced by Minneapolis Telecommunications Network, will be available. For additional information, contact coordinator Dick Little at 871-8980 (fax: 871-8984).

A Word from the Project Coordinator...

We are pleased to issue our first newsletter to participating and potential partners of the *Community Circles Collaborative*. This is the first formal update since the Kick-Off Forum in December. Since the Kick-Off, many new participants have volunteered to serve as facilitators, sponsors, resource partners and discussion participants. We welcome your ideas as the project proceeds.

This newsletter is intended to give you the information you need to proceed with your part in this metrowide dialogue project. Articles cover the upcoming facilitator training sessions, highlights of the forthcoming *Discussion Guide*, a timeline of activities, and news from project sponsors. We still need to receive pledges of participation. Sponsors also should identify facilitators who they want invited to the facilitator training.

Please contact us if you still have questions or if you need additional information. We look forward to supporting you in implementing what may prove to be the Twin Cities region's most ambitious citizen dialogue to date.

Dick Little, Coordinator

Community Circle Collaborative/Education and Housing Equity Project
122 West Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55404

Phone: (612) 871-8980 Fax: (612) 871-8984

Training

Facilitator Training Dates Set for February 15 and also February 20

Two *Community Circle* Facilitator Training Sessions have been scheduled to prepare facilitators for leading *Community Circles* during the months of March and April.

Trainings will take place on Saturday February 15, 1997 from 8:30 AM-12:30 PM and Thursday February 20, 1997 from 6:00-9:30 PM.

Both sessions will take place in the Marshall Room of the Christenson Center on the campus of Augsburg College. People who will be facilitating community circles are strongly urged to attend one of these sessions.

See insert for additional details, map, and registration form.

For more information contact Bruce Vandal at the Minnesota Minority Education Partnership, Inc. Phone: (612) 330-1509. e-mail: vandal@augsborg.edu

This newsletter is published by the *Community Circle Collaborative* to update sponsors, participants, facilitators and other interested parties.

For additional information, or to get on the mailing list, contact:

Dick Little, Coordinator
Education and Housing Equity Project
122 West Franklin Avenue, Suite 320
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Phone: (612) 871-8980

Fax: (612) 871-8984

Newsletter Production:

Steve Share/
Community Media Services

Discussion Guide: Sneak Preview

The *Community Circle Discussion Guide*, now in the final stages of preparation, will offer a framework for thinking and deliberating on the issues of segregation.

Modeled after the format that the National Issues Forum uses in their discussion guides, the *Discussion Guide* will begin with a Forward that will explain the purpose of the project and "the charge" that is to be presented to the *Community Circles*.

All Circles or discussion groups will be discussing these two questions:

■ *What are the impacts of existing patterns of job and residential segregation on educational achievements and life opportunities for families and children in the Twin Cities area?*

■ *What can or what should we, as individuals and as a community, do to enhance the educational, economic and life opportunities for all children?*

Next, the *Discussion Guide* will present an introduction to the issues of housing and education and highlight why and how these issues are connected.

In the final sections, the *Discussion Guide* will present three different, but not mutually exclusive perspectives on

The Community Circle Discussion Guide



A Resource Guide for 'Beyond Busing: a Metrowide Dialogue on the Challenges of Education and Housing Segregation'

dealing with the problems of economic and racial segregation. These "policy alternatives" will serve as a beginning point for the public deliberation by each *Community Circle* discussion group.

The three "choices" are tentatively described as: 1) "Enrichment: Helping to Build

Existing Communities;" 2) "Personal Responsibility: a Return to Traditional Community Values;" 3) "Mobility: Creating More Choices."

The booklet will describe each option in terms of its diagnosis of the problem, prescribed programs to pursue, why this course of action merits support, and what its critics say.

The guide will conclude with a bibliography of additional sources and readings.

If you can recommend materials for use in this project and in the study guide, please contact Kristi Greenwalt, principal writer for the *Community Circle Discussion Guide*, via e-mail: kgreenwalt@hhh.umn.edu

Or, write or fax: Kristi Greenwalt
c/o Education and Housing Equity Project, 122 W. Franklin Ave., Suite 320, Minneapolis, MN 55404. Fax number: 871-8984.

Some of the Partners who originally helped to organize the "Beyond Busing" Community Circle Dialogue include:

The Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing, The Minneapolis Initiative Against Racism, The Minneapolis Public Schools, The Minneapolis Telecommunications Network, The Minnesota Council of Churches Anti-Racism Initiative, The Minnesota Fair Housing Center, The Minnesota Minority Education Partnership, The Minnesota Public Radio Civic Journalism Project, Twin Cities Free-Net, The University of Minnesota Law School's Institute on Race and Poverty, The Urban Coalition.

National Partners include:

The Kettering Foundation/National Issues Forum, The Study Circles Resource Center.

Beyond Busing:

A Metrowide Dialogue on the Challenges of Education and Housing Segregation

Facilitator Training

Saturday, February 15, 1997

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Marshall Room, Christenson Center, Augsburg College
OR

Thursday, February 20, 1997

6:00 - 9:30 PM

Marshall Room, Christenson Center, Augsburg College

The Beyond Busing Facilitator Training is for individuals that will be facilitating one of the many community circles that will be taking place across the metro area this March and April. Facilitators can be representatives of organizations that will be sponsoring a community circle or citizens that would like to participate in the Beyond Busing project by leading a group.

Facilitator Training Registration Form

Please complete the following registration and return it by February 12th to:

Bruce Vandal

Minnesota Minority Education Partnership, Inc.

2211 Riverside Ave. S.

Minneapolis, MN 55454

Phone (612) 330-1509 / Fax (612) 330-1510 / E-mail Vandal@Augsburg.edu

Name _____ Phone _____ Fax _____ e-mail _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Sponsoring Organization (if applicable): _____

Check which session you will attend: _____ Sat. February 15th _____ Thurs. February 20th

Please Check All Apply:

- I am representing a sponsor organization and have a group that I will be facilitating.
- I would like to facilitate a group, please assign me to a group that needs a facilitator.
- I consider myself an experienced group facilitator.
- I would be interested in attending a second training session where I can practice my facilitation skills.

BEYOND BUSING
COMMUNITY CIRCLE TRAINING WORKSHOP
FOR CONVENORS AND FACILITATORS
February 20, 1997
Marshall Room, Christenson Center, Augsburg College

I. Introduction

- A. Introduction to the Project - Dick Little
 - 1. What is the "charge" of each community circle?
 - 2. Responsibilities of being a convenor/facilitator
- B. Facilitator Conferencing Service offered by Twin Cities Freenet - Nolan Venkatrathnam
- C. Introduction to the 'Community Circle Discussion Model' - Bruce Vandel
 - 1. Overview of the differences between Dialogue and Debate, between deliberative discussion and unfocused discussion
 - 2. Developing Ground Rules - small group exercise & large group debriefing

II. Issue Framing and Analysis

- A. Introduction to the issues and review of the Discussion Guide & Worksheet critiquing policy options - Darcy Seaver and Kristy Greenwalt
- B. Issue Analysis Process - Roy Taylor

III. Deliberation

- A. Deliberation Process & Techniques - Roy Taylor
- B. Cross Cultural Communication - Karima Bushnell

Break

- C. Role Play - small group exercise & debriefing with large group

IV. Public Voice

- A. Developing "Public Voice" - Roy Taylor
- B. Model Group Demonstration - followed by questions and discussion

V. Action Steps

"How does my participation make a difference?" An exploration of possible action outcomes - Jim McDonough

• Work in Progress •

Saint Paul Neighborhood News

Choices for Community: A Regional Conversation on Housing, Schools and Race

By Dick Little, Executive Director, Education and Housing Equity Project

During the first half of 1997, over 500 citizens from 35 different communities participated in public discussions focused on the challenges of school achievement, racial equity and housing segregation in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. These discussions included locally sponsored 'community circles', a metropolitan citizens' forum held at Macalester College in May, and town meetings held in Minneapolis and St. Paul schools in September.

The Community Circle Collaborative process reflects a conscientious effort to recapture the benefits of a town-hall forum while also insuring all voices are heard.

The Community Circle Collaborative is a metro-wide dialogue project that engages citizens from all walks of life, in deliberative discussions about the future of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. A partnership between the Education and Housing Equity Project and dozens of other regional and community-based organizations, the Collaborative has sponsored community circles charged with discussing two central questions:

- **What are the impacts of existing patterns of residential, economic and racial segregation on the educational achievement and life opportunities of Twin Cities area children and families?**
- **What can or should we do, as individuals and as a community, to enhance educational success and housing and economic opportunities for all children in the Twin Cities area?**

In the spring of 1997, citizens met as many as five or six times to deliberate



Source: EHEP

these issues. With the help of foundation funding and trained facilitators, the community circles identified issues related to housing and educational equity that fell into four distinct groups. Running through all of these groups were questions of individual and institutional racism. These included:

- Issues related to regional growth and equity, such as public and private investment in development, employment, social relations (e.g., media stereotypes and crime) and services (e.g., transit)
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"You can't learn if you are hungry."

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Opportunities for Civic Involvement

R E S O U R C E G U I D E

March 1997

The Minneapolis Foundation

A200 Foshay Tower
821 Marquette Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55402

612.339.7343
telephone

612.672.3846
fax

612.672.3870
fax on demand

The *United Way of Minneapolis Volunteer Center* provides a computerized clearinghouse of more than 5,000 volunteer opportunities in nonprofit organizations in the Twin Cities area. Information referral specialists are on duty from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For information contact:

United Way of Minneapolis Volunteer Center
404 South 8th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404
340-7621; in St. Paul call 644-2044

The *Minneapolis Urban League* is a multi-service organization that promotes equal opportunities for African Americans and other minorities in employment, education, housing and health, and that works towards healthy race relations throughout our community. The League sponsors candidate forums, voter registration drives and a range of Get Out the Vote activities.

The Minneapolis Urban League North Office
2000 Plymouth Avenue North
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55411
302-3100

REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Some of the major issues our community now faces are regional. If these interest you, there are ample opportunities for involvement in organizations dealing with regional issues and in metropolitan government. Examples include:

The *Alliance for Metropolitan Stability* is a coalition of 15 religious, civil rights, housing and environmental groups dedicated to increasing citizen participation in regional issues including deconcentration of poverty, affordable housing, desegregation and transportation. For more information contact:

Alliance for Metropolitan Stability
2105 1st Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404
870-3443

The *Community Circles Project* uses small discussion groups around the metropolitan area to discuss the question "How does racial and economic segregation of housing affect educational achievement and life opportunities of Twin Cities families and children?" Each "community circle" is convened by a local sponsor group and is moderated by a trained facilitator using a prepared discussion guide. An additional goal is to produce a set of practical

recommendations for actions that individuals, organizations and policy makers can take with respect to difficult issues facing our communities. Interested sponsors and group participants are welcome. New groups will be starting in April and May. Community Circles is a partnership of many organizations, coordinated by the Education and Housing Equity Project.

The Community Circles Project
c/o Education and Housing Equity Project
122 West Franklin Avenue, Suite 320
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404
871-8980

The *Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing (MICA)* is a coalition of nearly 100 Protestant, Catholic and Jewish congregations dedicated to the belief that every Minnesotan should have decent, safe and affordable housing. One of MICA's current major initiatives is the Common Ground-Suburban Housing Initiative aimed at creating urban-suburban alliances around the issue of affordable housing. For more information contact:

Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing (MICA)
122 West Franklin Avenue, Suite 320
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404
871-8980

The *Citizens League* promotes the public interest in Minnesota by involving citizens in identifying and framing critical public policy choices, forging recommendations and advocating their adoption. Current projects include mind opener breakfasts and the development of a legislative network. For more information contact:

Citizens League
708 South 3rd Street, Suite 500
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415
338-0791

The *Metropolitan Council* coordinates regional planning and guides development in our seven-county area. It operates some regional services, establishes policies and provides planning, technical assistance to area communities for airports, regional parks, transportation, sewers, air/water quality, land use and affordable housing. Residents of the seven-county region can become involved in one of six different advisory committees to the Council dealing with: 1) accessible transportation for people with disabilities, 2) parks and open space, 3) affordable housing, 4) transportation and transit, 5) land use

LOCAL OFFICIALS GUIDE

GOVERNING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES: A FOCUS ON RACE AND ETHNIC RELATIONS

GOVERNING



COMMUNITIES

A Focus on Race and Ethnic Relations



National League of Cities

Region Explores Segregation in Housing, Education

Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota

As an idea, regionalism is on the rise. Books by David Rusk and William Dodge helped touch off the debate; now mayors, urban planners, and economists around the country have joined in. Race relations, segregation in housing and in education are central themes in the debate.

Minneapolis Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton is helping her community take the discussion one giant step further. "Coming Together: A Regional Conversation Addressing the Challenges of Education, Housing and Segregation," which got under way in December 1996, has involved roughly five hundred Twin Cities residents — in more than forty-five groups — in discussions about regionalism and race.

The program is sponsored by the Community Circles Collaborative, a partnership of more than twenty organizations that includes the Minneapolis Public Schools and Minnesota Public Radio. "Coming Together" is coordinated by the Education and Housing Equity Project, with funding from the Otto Bremer and Bush Foundations and in-kind support from the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs.

The Collaborative recruited more than one hundred other organizations, including churches and synagogues, school districts, housing agencies, human rights commissions, cities, neighborhood groups, block clubs, and other community-based groups and civic groups which, in turn, recruit and convene participants.

Municipal support for this program is significant. The mayors of a number of Twin Cities suburbs are acting as partners — convening participants, hosting forums and workshops, and speaking at kickoff events. The Minneapolis School Board helped prepare the discussion materials, provides facilitator training, and is sponsoring study circles. The city's Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) provides video coverage of the program to air on Minneapolis cable television. NRP also assists with facilitator training.

"We need to develop a regional civics that is not about governmental entities," says William Barnes, co-author of *The U. S. Common Market*. "It's about citizens, community groups, businesses, and government agencies coming together to act in the common interest of the region. If we are to prosper, all leaders need to become civic entrepreneurs." By engaging the citizens of her city in honest, productive dialogue about some crucial, controversial regional issues, Mayor Sayles Belton has already proven herself as a civic entrepreneur.

Contact: Dick Little, Community Circle Collaborative, 612-871-8980; Minneapolis Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton, 612-673-2100.

Study Circles on Race Relations Connect Talk With Action

Study Circle Program Examples

President Clinton's call for constructive dialogue on the difficult issue of race relations is already being answered. Over the last several years, study circle organizers in communities around the country have involved thousands of citizens in discussion and action on race.

In study circles—small-group, democratic, highly participatory discussions—people of all backgrounds and views exchange ideas and grapple with critical public issues. As citizens participate in community-wide study circle programs, they form new interracial networks, gain a deeper understanding of others' perspectives and concerns, discover common ground, and gain a greater desire and ability to take action—as individuals, as members of small groups, as members of large organizations in the community, and as voters.

Study circles create more than just talk. An evaluation of a program in the Cleveland area, where 700 citizens have participated, showed that people changed their attitudes about race as a result of their study circle experiences. In Lima, Ohio, where over 2,000 citizens have taken part, participants have done everything from building new playgrounds to winning minority representation on a regional development board. In the week after the O.J. Simpson verdict, study circles took place at over 100 sites in Los Angeles, allowing people to address a tense situation in a civil and productive way.

Cleveland—More than 700 people have been involved in "Honest Conversations," sponsored by the National Conference in the communities of Shaker Heights, Beachwood, Euclid, and North Olmsted. An evaluation conducted by researchers from Case Western Reserve University showed that participants changed some of their attitudes about race as a result of the process. Contact: Sandi Holmes, (216) 752-3000.

Wilmington/New Castle County, Del.—Almost 500 people are participating in a study circle program which began on Martin Luther King Day 1997. The DuPont Company has pledged \$15,000 to fund this program, which was initiated by the YWCA. The Mayor, County Executive, and Delaware Attorney General are members of the coalition formed for this effort, along with a host of other community organizations and businesses. Contact: Ruth Sokolowski, (302) 658-7161.

Springfield, Ohio—A study circle program, initiated by the city in 1993, is supported by a coalition which includes ecumenical associations, local universities, county government, the school system, and the public library. It has involved 1,570 citizens so far, including students who co-facilitate study circles in the city's high schools. Contact: Selena Singletary, (937) 324-7380.

Los Angeles—Hundreds of people participated in a Day of Dialogue at over 100 sites around the city only two weeks after the Simpson verdict. Sponsored and organized by the Los Angeles City Council and the Office of the City Attorney, community institutions from all sectors invited participants to talk about race relations. Since that time, successive rounds of study circles have focused on affirmative action and crime and violence. Contact: Carolyn Webb de Macias, (213) 485-7682.

Lima, Ohio—The Mayor's office, the

Ohio State University at Lima, and the interracial Clergy Task Force initiated a community-wide study circle program in 1993. Since then, more than 2,000 citizens have been involved in study circles on race relations, and also on the issue of violence. A Violence Prevention Center has been formed and a Study Circle Council has been created to coordinate the study circles and funnel input and ideas from citizens to city government. Contact: Ron Haganan, (419) 221-5282.

Minneapolis/St. Paul—Roughly 500 people are currently participating in study circles as part of the Choices for Community project. Backed by a cross-sector collaboration of more than 30 organizations, the program is involving people in dialogue on the challenge of racial segregation in housing and education. Participants attended a "citizen's summit" on these issues this summer. Contact: Dick Little, (612) 871-8980.

"Study circles are making dramatic progress on race relations in cities all over the country," says former Senator Bill Bradley.

In Tampa, Florida, over 500 people have been involved in study circles on race relations; almost 500 have taken part in a program in Wilmington, Delaware; and in Springfield, Ohio, 1,570 residents have participated, including several hundred high school students.

Study circles aren't limited to race issues. Many communities are using them to get people involved in issues like crime and violence, education, criminal justice, and youth concerns. A program on education in tiny Orford, New Hampshire, helped that town address the financial difficulties of its high school.

A program on crime in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, helped the police department implement a new community policing strate-

gy. In Oklahoma, a state-wide study circle program involving over 1,000 citizens enabled the state legislature to pass sweeping changes in the corrections system. At present, there are full-scale study circle programs underway in 36 communities across the country. Another 65 communities are in the process of planning such programs.

While each of these programs is unique and locally-driven, study circle organizers receive

free assistance and materials from the Study Circles Resource Center, which also works to connect this growing national network. SCRC is a project of the Topsfield Foundation, a nonprofit, nonpartisan private foundation working to "advance deliberative democracy and improve the quality of public life in the United States."

Details: Sarah Campbell, (860) 928-2616; fax, (860) 928-3713; e-mail, scrc@neca.com. ■

NLC Report Urges "Talk" About Racism

by Bill Barnes

"The racial tension in my community is palpable but we can't get anyone to talk about it."

That's what one city official said in a NLC focus group last year; others, from all over the nation, agreed. A new NLC publication, "Talking is the First Step," says that dialogue is critical to creating effective governance in racially and ethnically diverse communities.

"The challenge today," said NLC Executive Director Donald J. Borut, "is to cross boundaries, to acknowledge differences and bridge them, to engage and not to back off."

That is what this pamphlet is about."

More than 2,200 NLC member elected officials will receive the booklet this week.

The ten page pamphlet offers "talking points," acknowledges barriers and difficulties, and lists resources for moving forward. It says that local elected officials have unique and crucial roles to play, even if they are not "comfortable."

One official quoted in the pamphlet said "Elected officials must acknowledge that conflict exists; set the agenda; identify opportunities that we have to open up dialogue; and be willing to discuss racism."

"Talking is the First Step"

is the latest in an array of resources on diversity available to local officials. Next month, NLC will publish a 200-page guidebook, "Governing in a Diverse Community," that contains essays by city officials and scholars as well as descriptions of promising local initiatives. Training sessions and workshops on diversity also will be conducted at Congress of Cities in Philadelphia. NLC's work on this topic began in 1991 with the publication of "Diversity and Governance," a Futures Report adopted after a year of study by the NLC Advisory Council.

According to the most recent NLC opinion survey, municipal elected officials are

dissatisfied with the current level of discourse surrounding race/ethnic relations and racism.

Two-thirds (66 percent) of municipal elected officials say that their public discussions about race/ethnic relations and racism have been useful and constructive "never or almost never" or only "occasionally"—signifying a deep dissatisfaction with the current discourse surrounding race.

They also note that these discussions occur infrequently. Three-out-of-four (77 percent) say they are "never or almost never" or only "occasionally" involved in public discussions about race/ethnic relations or racism.

These city and town leaders say that when the issues of race/ethnic relations and racism do come up, it is usually as a part of other discussions on such "hot button" topics as crime and public safety, police community relations, or housing and community development.

In the 1996 focus groups, a broad mix of elected and appointed city and town officials said that "it's hard to talk publicly about race, ethnicity, and racism." ■

Additional copies of "Talking is the First Step" are available at no cost from NLC by contacting Lorraine Glosier: (fax) 202-626-3043 or (e-mail) glosier@nlc.org.

NEWSLETTER

'Re-build the City' plans summer work weeks with MICAH support in St. Paul's East Side neighborhood

Homes along a two-block stretch of Cook Avenue in St. Paul's East Side will get a facelift this summer, thanks to a developing collaboration between MICAH, local congregations, East Side Neighborhood Development Company (ESNDC), and the District 5 Planning Council.

A total of \$45,000 is available to the project from both charitable and public sources. MICAH is providing \$25,000 from our Jubilee Fund and the City of St. Paul STAR program is providing \$20,000.

Along with neighborhood congregations, ESNDC will deploy volunteers to help make exterior improvements to homes in this target area during two designated "work weeks" this summer.

The work weeks will run July 13-20

and August 14-24 and will help launch "Rebuild the City: the Ezra Nehemiah Project."

"This new initiative aims to involve East Side congregations more directly in neighborhood improvement efforts," said Mike Anderson, MICAH's former executive director, now executive director at ESNDC. Avodah B'Yachad/Service Together will recruit metro-wide volunteers from the Jewish community (see page 3).

"It's an opportunity to involve a lot of people in doing something for the community," said Chuck Eversman, an ESNDC board member who also is the pastor at Peace United Church of Christ. "Hopefully, the work will give people a chance to meet one another and to join

together in a common effort."

Along Cook Avenue, the project hopes to upgrade the exterior of 15-20 homes. Up to \$2,000 per home will be available for materials. Homeowners who receive assistance must contribute up to 20 hours in sweat equity towards completion of the work, working alongside congregational and community volunteers.

"We're interested in good housing as well as the spiritual side of things," noted Vern Anderson, Senior Pastor of Arlington Hills Lutheran Church, the host of planning meetings for the work weeks.

For more information about "Rebuild the City: the Ezra Nehemiah Project," contact ESNDC at 771-1152 or MICAH at 871-8980. Volunteers will be needed!



MICAH will spin-off homeless family programs, bids 'farewell' to John Ruffin

John Ruffin, who helped MICAH launch the Metropolitan Homeless Family Initiative, leaves MICAH's staff as the programs he helped build move to the St. Paul Area Council of Churches. We salute John and the many churches and volunteers who contributed to the success of this service! See page 2.

Community Circles meet in metro-wide dialogue

Representing study groups from Stillwater and Bayport on the east, to Minnetonka on the west, and from Eagan and Apple Valley on the south, to Champlin on the north, participants in the Community Circle project met at Weyerhaeuser Chapel at St. Paul's Macalester College May 29 for an evening's discussion about the challenges of education, housing and racial segregation.

The evening drew a multi-racial crowd of 122 people, including both Community Circle participants and invited guests. George Latimer, former mayor of St. Paul, and Vivian Jenkins Nelsen, director of INTER-RACE, moderated the event.

"I think we had a very good discussion about segregation and about race," said Community Circle coordinator Dick Little. "That was a breakthrough." Little added: "there was honesty that evening. We got past Minnesota Nice."

MICAH is a sponsor of the Community Circle project, which seeks to bring a diversity of metro residents together to examine the impacts of segregation on housing and children and to propose solutions.

The project has published a study guide which examines the scope of the problem and outlines policy options.

A second round of Community Circle study groups will begin this fall, building on the lessons learned this spring

To participate, or to get more information, contact Dick Little, executive director of the Education and Housing Equity Project: 871-8980.

COMMUNITY CIRCLE COLLABORATIVE

EVENT ALERT !!!

National Leadership Summit "Race Relations and America's Schools" A National and Twin Cities Event Not to be Missed !!!

Where: Richard R. Green Central Park Middle School
3416 - 4th Avenue South
Minneapolis
(Please enter from parking lot at 3rd Avenue and 35th Street)

Central High School
275 North Lexington Parkway
St. Paul

When: Saturday, September 27, 1997
9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Schedule: Teleconference and Local Events

9:30 a.m. The Days that Changed Little Rock and America in September, 1957

10:30 a.m. Downlink of Roundtable Discussion with national education experts

12:00 noon Local Town Meeting: Bringing the historical perspective home
(facilitated discussions in cooperation with the Community Circle Collaborative)

2:30 p.m. National Town Meeting: *In Search of America's Promise*

4:30 p.m. Closing remarks and reflections—John Hope Franklin/ Sanford Cloud Jr.

(Please see enclosed brochure for further details)

Why:

The National Conference has *very recently* received a major national grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to do a four year initiative of leadership summits that look at four major societal institutions (education, the economy and workplace, governance and public policy, and the faith community) and their role in building an inclusive nation.

The first year of this effort begins with a summit and town meeting to explore *Race Relations and America's Public Education System*. This summit is taking place as part of the 40th anniversary commemoration of the desegregation of Little Rock's Central High School. This anniversary will serve as a point of departure for national and local conversations about the historic and future role of public education in moving America's young people to effective participation in a multicultural nation.

Partners and participants in the Twin Cities' Community Circles which have addressed the challenges of schools, housing and segregation are strongly encouraged to attend and participate in this event.

(For further information contact Dick Little or Jim McDonough, or one of the other local co-sponsors)

Education and Housing Equity Project
122 West Franklin Avenue South, Suite 320
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404
(612) 871-8980 / fax (612) 871-8984

• Work in Progress •

Saint Paul Neighborhood News

Choices for Community: A Regional Conversation on Housing, Schools and Race

By Dick Little, Executive Director, Education and Housing Equity Project

During the first half of 1997, over 500 citizens from 35 different communities participated in public discussions focused on the challenges of school achievement, racial equity and housing segregation in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. These discussions included locally sponsored 'community circles', a metropolitan citizens' forum held at Macalester College in May, and town meetings held in Minneapolis and St. Paul schools in September.

The Community Circle Collaborative process reflects a conscientious effort to recapture the benefits of a town-hall forum while also insuring all voices are heard.

The Community Circle Collaborative is a metro-wide dialogue project that engages citizens from all walks of life, in deliberative discussions about the future of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. A partnership between the Education and Housing Equity Project and dozens of other regional and community-based organizations, the Collaborative has sponsored community circles charged with discussing two central questions:

- **What are the impacts of existing patterns of residential, economic and racial segregation on the educational achievement and life opportunities of Twin Cities area children and families?**
- **What can or should we do, as individuals and as a community, to enhance educational success and housing and economic opportunities for all children in the Twin Cities area?**

In the spring of 1997, citizens met as many as five or six times to deliberate



Source: EHEP

these issues. With the help of foundation funding and trained facilitators, the community circles identified issues related to housing and educational equity that fell into four distinct groups. Running through all of these groups were questions of individual and institutional racism. These included:

- Issues related to regional growth and equity, such as public and private investment in development, employment, social relations (e.g., media stereotypes and crime) and services (e.g., transit)
- Systemic issues related to housing and neighborhood quality, social isolation and segregation (e.g., transience, concentrations of poverty, and exclusionary regulations)
- Systemic issues related to education — those that focus on the school as an educational institution — and those that focus on the school as a member of the larger community
- Issues related to individuals, such as substance abuse, lack of self-esteem, dysfunctional families, prejudice and discrimination.

Some of the findings are best expressed in the words of community circle and forum participants:

"We are in deep denial. We believe we aren't like Detroit, but we are; it's just happening more slowly here."

"It's important to get the advantaged to understand how they're affected by [the] plight of low-income minorities."

"Describing the problem of the inner city as a result of abstract 'racism' is not helpful because fighting 'racism' seems a futile exercise."

"Suburbanites like to have the benefits of the city but do not like to pay for them."

"More affluent neighborhoods [have] essentially accepted socioeconomic redlining"

"You can't learn if you are hungry."

Recommendations for action may be found in EHEP's report on the first round of the Community Circle Collaborative initiative, available by the end of the year. A second round of discussions is planned for 1998, which will culminate with a Citizens' Summit co-sponsored by the Collaborative, the Minnesota Meeting and Minnesota Public Radio's Civic Journalism Initiative. Conclusions will then be shared with public, private and non-profit sector leaders.

For more information or copies of the EHEP report or discussion guide call the Education and Housing Equity Project at 612/871-2519, or e-mail: micah@mtn.org. ●

You are invited to join
CommonBond Communities
and
the Oak Terrace Resident Association
in a

Community Circle Dialogue

This will be a metro-wide dialogue on the challenges
of education and housing segregation.

The subject of the dialogue will be:

"How does racial and economic segregation of
housing affect educational achievement and life
opportunities of Twin Cities families and children?"

An Introduction to Community Circle will be held

Wednesday, May 7th, 1997

From

3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

at

Oak Terrace
1171 Hadley Avenue N.
Oakdale, MN 55128

R.S.V.P.

by April 28th
to Maire McMahan
at 290-6238 (voicemail)



RAMSEY



INTERNATIONAL FINE ARTS CENTER

NEWSLETTER

March 18, 1997

1 WEST 49TH STREET • MINNEAPOLIS • MINNESOTA 55409-2587 • TELEPHONE 626-9425

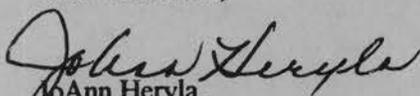
Dear Ramsey Families,

It is hard to believe that spring break is upon us! School will not be in session March 24-28 and will resume at 8:40 a.m. on Monday, March 31.

Our Ramsey Girls and Boys basketball teams made it into the championship rounds last week. The teams play as part of an after-school league sponsored by the Police Athletics League. Congratulations to these young people for their accomplishments. Special thanks to their coaches Richard Briscoe and Donald McKinnon for time and effort on this project.

An upper school Math Night has been set for April 22 at 7 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to update 6-8 grade parents on emerging standards and the upper school math program. Paul Dillenberger, Minneapolis Public Schools math consultant, will join us for the evening. Please circle your calendar and plan to attend.

Until next week,


Ann Heryla,

Principal

Yearbooks

Last year many people who ordered a yearbook did not get one because they didn't order one. Don't let that happen to you! To order a book, put a check for \$7.50 (payable to Ramsey PTO) in an envelope marked with your child's name and room number. Put "Attn: Yearbook" on it and turn it into the main office at Ramsey. Orders are due **FRIDAY, MARCH 21**. Yearbooks will be delivered in May. Call Sandra Ecklein at 626-9425.

BRANDON ROWE HEADS TO STATE GEOGRAPHY CONTEST

Eighth-grader Brandon Rowe has earned a spot in Ramsey history! He's the first Ramsey student ever to qualify as a state finalist in the National Geography Bee. (He's also the only students from Minneapolis Public Schools to qualify!). He and 102 other students from around the state will compete April 4 at Macalester College. The state winner goes onto the national contest in Washington, D.C.

ART WORK BY RAMSEY STUDENTS ON DISPLAY AT GALLERY

Ramsey art teacher Denny Sponsler's students are exhibiting art works and installations about the wonder of human flight. The exhibit runs April 3 through April 20 at the Intermedia Arts Gallery, 28th and Lyndale Avenue South. This is a very interesting exhibit that you will want to see!

A reception for students, family and friends will be 6-9 p.m. on April 18. "Blue Dog Balance," a performance in connection with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra will take place at 7 p.m. on April 17.

Several other Ramsey upper school faculty have done class lessons that relate and contribute to this exhibit, especially Julianna James' Spanish students and Toni McKinnon's math classes.





BASKETBALL WRAP UP

Congratulations to both the boys and girls teams who had a great season under the great coaching skills of Richard Briscoe and Donald McKinnon (husband to our very own great Pie Lady and Upper School math teacher at Ramsey, Toni McKinnon). Both teams made it to the finals this year!!

SPRING SPORTS

Richard Briscoe announces two new spring programs which will start afterschool on Tuesday, April 15.

* Coed Baseball

*Track



A wonderful Pi Day

Pi Day on March 14 was a great success. Thanks to all the staff, students and families who participated and brought in pies.

Special thanks to: Richard Briscoe, Dianna Pederson and Mrs. RoseMarie Cook.

READ-A-THON UPDATE

* Read-a-thon prizes will be handed out this week (probably on Wednesday or Thursday)

* Read-a-thon pledges are still coming in. We hope the final total will be over \$7,500.

ATTENTION: PARENTS OF 6TH AND 7TH GRADE STUDENTS

Graduation planning has started! If you are a 7th grade parent and are interested in serving on this committee, please contact co-chairs Vivian Hayes at 872-3902 or Kathy Steinberger at 724-7164.

Also, we need 6th grade parents to chair the graduation committee for 1998. Participating in this year's graduation will guarantee you all the training necessary for next year. Graduation is traditionally hosted by 7th grade parents -- let's continue that tradition. Sorry we can't offer a

trip this year to the first volunteer, however you'll be in the company of outstanding 7th grade parents!

Graduation dates: June 5th - corsage making the evening before.

Ramsey featured in Tangletown neighborhood newsletter

A very nice story on Ramsey School is in March 1997 issue of the Tangletown Neighborhood News. Ramsey parent René Block wrote the article to introduce the school to the neighborhood in which it is located. She discusses the history of the school and describes current programs and activities. The article is posted on the "Ramsey News" bulletin board outside the health office.

WOMEN'S HISTORY EXHIBIT

An informative exhibit on women throughout history was created in the display case outside the main school office by Carol Perron-Murray, a parent of 4th and 7th graders, in conjunction with Women's History Month. Thanks, Carol!

EIGHTH-GRADE PLAY REHEARSALS BEGIN

Rehearsals for the eighth-grade play will begin at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, April 2, in the auditorium. All eighth-graders are invited to come -- there will be no formal auditions. This year's directors are Maggie Cosgrove, Erica Burton, Brett Otterson and Dan Stengle. The year's play is a take-off on the Wizard of Oz written by Ramsey students.

STUDENT PHOTOS

Photographs of students that were taken today by Lifetouch will be coming home with your child at a later date. You can decide if you want to buy them or return them to school.





A SIGN OF SPRING: RAMSEY PLANT SALE IS COMING!

The annual Ramsey plant sale is just around the corner! Information will be coming home with students after spring break.

RAMSEY GROUP WILL JOIN METRO DISCUSSION ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING

Ramsey School will be sponsoring a Community Circle discussion group that will join in a metro-wide dialogue on the challenges of education and housing segregation. The group will also focus on these issues as they specifically relate to Ramsey.

It is hoped that a diverse group with 5-15 participants can be formed at Ramsey. The group will be moderated by a trained facilitator using a specifically-prepared discussion guide.

Two main questions will be tackled:

** What are the impacts of existing patterns of job and residential segregation on educational achievements and life opportunities for families and children in the Twin Cities area?*

** What can or what should we, as individuals and as a community, do to enhance the educational, economic and life opportunities for all children?*

If you are interested in joining the Ramsey group, please call Bill McElligott at 721-8849.

DANCE CLASSES AT RAMSEY

Anne Marie Carlson Drake, a Ramsey parent who is director of the Highland School of Ballen, is offering two new classes at Ramsey:

Introduction to Creative Dance:

This class will explore creative movement, musical and postural awareness, exploration and expansion of locomotor movements and elements of folk dance. Grades K-1, \$24. 3 to 4 p.m., for six Wednesdays (April 9, 16, 23, 30, May 7 & 14) [Meet in Dance Studio].

Introduction to Ballet:

A structured, physiologically aware approach to classical ballet which enhances musicality, improves coordination and concentration and can be an aid in correction postural problems. Grade 2-5, \$24, 3 to 4 p.m. for six Mondays (April 7, 14, 21, 28, May 5, 12). [Meet in Dance Studio].

BOXES ARE NEEDED FOR ART/SCIENCE/MATH PROJECT

Round boxes (like oatmeal containers, film containers, medicine bottles) and shoe boxes are needed right away for a collaborative art/science/math project that involves Ramsey, Barton and Marcy Schools. **Please bring boxes to Room 313, Ms. McKinnon's room.**

Boxes will be used for an exhibit at Intermedia Arts Gallery April 2-20 involving aerospace technology and an international space station.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, March 19:

* Band concert 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 20:

* Band tour - all day

Friday, March 21:

* Kindergarten to Minnesota Historical Society

Monday, March 24 - March 28:

* Spring Break - NO SCHOOL

Monday, April 7:

*Mixed Blood Theatre production: "According to Coyote", 9 a.m., School Auditorium

Tuesday, April 8:

* All fifth grade classes to the Minnesota History Center and State Capitol, 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 9:

*First Grade Potluck 6:30 p.m.



Ramsey Foundation Update

The Ramsey Foundation Board met February 4 for its regular monthly meeting. Cheryl Paschke from the district office and a representative from the South High School Foundation were present at the meeting and gave suggestions regarding fund raising and grant writing. The Board also decided at the meeting to continue the Plant Sale as the annual spring fundraiser. Our goal will be to build this event as one of our three major fundraisers for the year, along with the Wrapping Paper Sale and the Read-a-thon.

This year's Read-a-thon was a great success both in terms of stimulating reading and providing support to Ramsey. Ruth Dunn and Richard Briscoe are to be thanked for their hard work in organizing this year's event. This has really become a Ramsey tradition!

The Board would like to express its thanks to one of our Ramsey parents, Andy Horstman, for his help over the past two years in the establishment of the Ramsey Foundation as a legal entity. Andy is an attorney with the firm of Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi in Minneapolis, and he and one of his associates, Mr. Greg Klint, donated their time in drawing up and filing the documents necessary to establish the Foundation.

I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of the other members of the Foundation Board over the past several months as we have worked to get the Foundation going. Current Board members are:

Susan Gonzalez
Dick Little (Secretary)
Brian Perkins
Ann Sweeney
Tom Wells

Dorothy Kennedy
Steve Norlin-Weaver
Sue Summitt (Treasurer)
Jennifer Vaillancourt
Bruce Redmon (President)

The Foundation would welcome assistance or suggestions from Ramsey parents regarding operation of the Foundation. Parents with expertise or interest in the areas of grant writing, operation of non-profit organizations, fund raising, or investments would be especially helpful.

Foundation Board meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at the school. The next meeting is April 1 at 3:15 pm.

— Submitted by Bruce Redmon



RAMSEY

INTERNATIONAL FINE ARTS CENTER

NEWSLETTER

1 WEST 49TH STREET • MINNEAPOLIS • MINNESOTA 55409-2587 • TELEPHONE 627-2540

Tuesday, September 23, 1997



*Ramsey International Fine Arts Center
One West 49th Street
Minneapolis, MN*

Parents are invited to attend our
OPEN HOUSE

Estimados padres de familia
están cordialmente invitados
a visitar las clases de sus hijo/s

Thursday, September 25, 1997
Jueves, el 25 de Septiembre
6:30 - 8:00pm

Calendar of Events . . .

SEPTEMBER

- Sept. 25: **OPEN HOUSE** 6:30-8:00pm
Sept. 25: Book Fair 6:30-8:00pm
Sept. 27: Community Circle National
Leadership Summit
Richard Green Middle School
9:30am - 5:00pm
Sept. 29: Innisbrook orders due
Sept. 30: Grade 6 parent-staff meeting
Auditorium 6:30pm

OCTOBER

- Oct. 6: Grade 7/8 parent-staff meeting
Auditorium 6:30pm
Oct. 7: **PICTURE DAY**
Oct. 15: **PARENT CONFERENCES (Gr. 1-8)**
NO SCHOOL
Oct. 16-17: **TEACHERS CONVENTION**
NO SCHOOL
Oct. 20: **PARENT CONFERENCES (K)**
Oct. 24-25: Choir to St. Cloud

All School News . . .

BOOK CLUB LEADER WANTED

Parents: If you are interested in books and want to lead an after school book club, this announcement is for you.

A volunteer is needed to lead 3rd and 4th graders in an after school book club. It is bound to be great fun and a wonderful learning opportunity. Please contact Cindy at 627-2552 if you are interested.

INNISBROOK

Only six days left to sell Innisbrook products. All forms and money is due on September 29

BOOK FAIR, BUY YOUR BOOKS NOW . . .

This year the Ramsey Book Fair will take place at the Open House, September 25. There will be a large selection of books available for sale in the Media Center. Research has shown that students who own their own books do better in reading and in school. Help your student off to a **great** start to the year by buying him/her a new book! This will be the only book fair held this year at Ramsey.

TWIN CITIES' COMMUNITY CIRCLES INVITE YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN A NATIONAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT, "Race Relations and America's Schools"

Many local co-sponsors, Communities of Color Institute, Urban Coalition, MN Minority Education Partnership, Community Circle Collaborative and Education/Housing Equity Project, invite you to participate in a national summit/town meeting to explore Race Relations and America's Public Education System. This summit is taking place as part of the 40th anniversary commemoration of the desegregation of Little Rock's Central High School. This anniversary will serve as a point of departure for national and local conversations about the historic and future roll of public education in moving America's young people to effective participation in a multicultural nation. This conference will take place Saturday, September 27 (9:30-5:00), at Richard Green Central Park Middle School; 3416 - 4th Av S.

INNISBROOK

If every student at Ramsey sold \$120 worth of Innisbrook, we would reach our goal of **\$60,000**

RAMSEY THEATER UPDATE

This year Ramsey School will be producing three large scale productions! Last year a class of 7th graders wrote the play that they are now producing as 8th graders! Much of the work is being done during an elective class, but all 8th graders are encouraged to join us after school starting October 9. The performance dates for the 8th grade play are November 13 and 14.

The Ramsey Musical will take a different format this year. We will have a partnership between the MN Opera and several Specialist classes. Professionals will come from the Opera to help the students take an idea, write the music and the libretto, construct the set and produce the opera! This will be done with a lower school grade that is still to be determined.

Our third production will be a play for upper school students. This play is being written by Leilani Kell, our Ramsey Health Assistant. The play will fit with the Ramsey theme of human rights by being a play that explores the topic of child labor.

SECOND GRADERS TO COLLECT GENERAL MILLS "BIG BOX TOP\$"

PASS IT ON!!!!

The second grade team is collecting General Mills "Big G Box Top for Education" labels to raise money for field trips and curriculum supplies. Please look for and save the "Big G" label on General Mills cereal and snack products that your family enjoys. You can give labels you collect to any second grade teacher. Thanks for your help!!

INNISBROOK

Did you know that a roll of wrapping paper from Innisbrook is 21 feet long? Most wrap that you buy in a store is only 3-7 feet long! What a deal!!!

Parents *make the difference!*

Growing Up

How Can You Be Sure to Raise a Respectful Child?



Following these easy steps can help parents raise respectful children:

- **Talk with your child** about respect. Point out that everyone has rights and needs that should be respected.
- **Clearly state expectations.** Tell your child you expect him to be courteous to others—regardless of race, creed, social status or any other reason.
- **Set limits on criticism** of people. You might say, "You can be angry with your brother, but you can't scream in his face. To respect him, you listen to his side of the story."

- **Teach reasons behind manners.** Explain how not leaving the table until everyone is finished, or not talking when another is talking, shows respect for other people.
- **Question put-downs.** If your child makes fun of someone, don't scold. Ask how he would feel if someone made fun of him.
- **Point out disrespect.** On TV or in conversations, talk about incidents where people are prejudiced, insensitive and unfair.
- **Acknowledge respectful actions.** Note what happens when your child or someone else considers another's feelings.

Source: Barbara Mathias and Mary Ann French, *40 Ways To Raise a Nonracist Child*, 1996 (HarperCollins Publishers, Inc., 10 East 53rd St., New York, NY 10022).



Parent Quiz

Are You Helping Your Child Resolve Conflicts Peacefully?

Children need to learn to resolve conflicts without fighting. Here's a quiz to see how you're doing.

Give yourself five points for something you usually do, zero points for something you never do, or any score in between.

- ___ 1. **I tell my child to think** before she acts.
- ___ 2. **My child knows** that physical violence is never allowed.
- ___ 3. **I encourage my child** to see other people's point of view.
- ___ 4. **We role play conflicts.** My child tries different ways of dealing with the problems.
- ___ 5. **After a conflict is over,** I ask my child, "What could you have done differently?"

How did you score?

Above 20 means you're doing a great job of helping your child solve conflicts peacefully. A score of 15 to 19 is average. Below 14 means your child needs a little support in dealing with conflicts.

COMMUNITY CIRCLE COLLABORATIVE

EVENT ALERT !!!

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