



Fall of 2016

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Carroll Citizens

for

Racial Equality



Photographed (Front Row): Virginia Harrison, Jasmine Harvey, Dr. Richard Smith, Jean Lewis, and Polly Welliver

(Back Row): Mary Jackson Clark, Gary Honeman, and Pam Zappardino

Our Vision Statement: *Helping to raise the level of understand and sharing of the diverse culture that we enjoy in Carroll County.*

Our Mission Statement: *The mission of Carroll Citizens for Racial Equality (CCRE) is to promote racial equality and improve understanding in Carroll County through community networking, public education at the grassroots level, and positive opportunities for disclosure.*

CCRE Annual Spring Conference

On May 6th, CCRE sponsored its annual community Conference entitled “Poverty in Carroll County.” The event, attended by approximately 60 people, included an interactive Poverty Simulation – participants were divided into groups of five to problem solve and experience life with limited choices and income that included caring for children, paying rent, transportation and other basic needs. The difficult choices and ensuing conversations were challenging and enlightening. Following the simulation, a keynote address was delivered by Dr. Richard Smith, Alumni and Sociology Professor from McDaniel College. Dr. Smith shared his background growing up in poverty as an African American, having an opportunity to attend McDaniel College and later earning his PhD. Dr. Smith spoke to the “micro” and “macro” implications of racism in America. There was a follow up audience discussion about similarities and differences between urban and rural poverty. The Conference concluded with a panel discussion composed of different social service agency representatives that provide resources and support to our most marginalized citizens – many of whom struggle with co-occurring disorders related to mental health, addictions, developmental disabilities and traumatic brain injury. Panelists include the following representatives and agencies: Dan Falls and Kathy Barrett - Carroll County Public Schools; Brenda Meadows – The Shepherd’s Staff; Angela Gustus – Human Service Programs of Carroll County; Karen Bernard – Carroll County Department of Social Services; Christina Kuntz – Carroll County Public Library

Article submitted by Gary Honeman



Richard posing with the CCRE banner





Each November, the world honors the International Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR), which was inspired by the murder on Nov. 28th, 1998 of Rita Hester. Now in its 17th year, TDOR marks a day in late November when communities around the globe commemorate transgender people who died during the past year due to anti-trans violence or prejudice because of actual or perceived gender identity or expression. The Transgender Day of Remembrance allows us to publicly mourn and honor the lives of those who might otherwise be forgotten. This event allows us to express love and respect and to raise awareness of the threat of violence faced by gender variant people and the persistence of prejudice felt by the transgender community. Hence, it is so important that we boldly, and publicly honor those we have lost to anti-trans violence and hate, and speak out against violence anywhere we see it. On November 20, 2016, Carroll County PFLAG, Cedarhurst Unitarian Universalists and St. Paul's United Church of Christ held a brief service of music, readings, words from our transgender community, and candle lighting at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 17 Bond Street Westminster MD., to honor those we have lost this year. If you weren't able to attend the service on 11/20/2016, please consider doing so next year. In the meantime, continue to work for transgender rights.

Article submitted by Joy Fisher, President of PFLAG Westminster-Carroll County Chapter

To learn more about International Transgender Day of Remembrance visit: <https://tdor.info/> and learn more about the issues visit: <http://www.glsen.org/node/7025> and <https://www.pflag.org/blog/transgenderdayremembrance>



A Community Listening Session on Race

On Sunday, October 23, about 60 people from throughout Carroll County gathered at St. Paul's United Church of Christ to share their experiences with race. CCRE was well-represented among attendees and provided many of the small group facilitators who brought the program to life.

Participants were invited to begin the afternoon by thinking about their own Racial Autobiographies that helped them reflect on their experiences with race in various phases of life. Participants were encouraged to continue work on the Racial Autobiographies beyond the limited time permitted during the community gathering. Then, in small groups, each participant had a chance to share something of their personal stories while others simply listened. This was intentionally not a time of dialogue or debate, but instead an opportunity for each person to tell their story and for others to listen.

The hope for the event was to provide a way for participants to get behind, beyond, and around "issues" that often get in the way of simply appreciating the experiences of others relative to race. The underlying assumption is that hearing the stories of others allows multiple points of empathy and connection that can form a foundation for the work of racial justice in which we are all engaged. Every voice matters and every story forms part of our collective story. Having opportunities to share stories adds depth and richness to all we can do together.

The community event ended with a time to reflect all together on the whole experience, on things learned in the process, on what it felt like to be heard and to hear others. As I walked from small group to small group and participated in the closing large group conversation, I was moved by the level of investment in the process across the board, by moments of new insight and tenderness that strengthened relationships between old friends and strangers alike.

After the formal session, many participants shared a wonderful dinner and continued the spirit of fellowship that permeated the day. Proceeds from the dinner will benefit CCRE and the local NAACP Chapter.

The Listening Session followed a presentation on White Privilege that took place at St. Paul's in October, 2015. We will continue to explore together what we might do next in this ongoing journey toward racial justice and racial harmony. It is truly heartening to know that a strong core group exists to carry this work forward. Thanks to all who are part of this vital work!

COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSION ON RACE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23
3-5 PM

A facilitated forum for people to share and hear personal experiences related to race.

Followed by Dinner to Benefit Carroll Citizens for Racial Equality and Westminster/Carroll County NAACP

Dinner Menu

Cost - \$15 per person includes:
Waldorf & Gathered Greens Salad with Berry Vinaigrette
& Stuffing with Cranberry Glaze
Roast Chicken
Baked Ham
Parried Potatoes
Roasted Fall Vegetables
Sweet Potato Biscuits, Corn Bread & Butter
Autumn Fruit Cobbler with Topping

Vegetarian, gluten free & food allergies can be accommodated with advance notice.

RSVP for the dinner by emailing office@stpauls-ucc.org.

Parking is available in:
St. Paul's UCC parking lot off Green Street
The 88&T parking lot next door
The city parking garage a block away

Including: Racial Autobiographies, sharing of stories in small groups, and learning together.

Everyone has a story about race, for better, worse, both...

This Listening Session will provide a chance to understand one another better and find ways forward together.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
17 Bond Street
Westminster, MD 21157

www.stpauls-ucc.org
410-848-5975

NATIONAL MUSEUM *of* AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY & CULTURE

A seven-minute meeting and searching on two open browsers on my laptop as well as my iPhone are the only reason we got six tickets to the opening weekend of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture. Tickets were being released to the public that Monday morning at 9 AM—the time I'm usually in the Government Affairs staff meeting. I have no recollection of anything that happened in the meeting that morning, but my coworker asking me why I kept refreshing my phone's web browser. The meeting only lasted seven minutes and I, the first one to leave, frantically returned to my desk, calling my brother-in-law, sister and others to see if they could log onto to try and get tickets. Of course, no one answered, but I was able to get six tickets at 8:00 AM on Sunday, September 24, 2016.

Opening weekend had arrived as my parents, sister, brother-in-law and niece met on the corner of 14th Street and Constitution Avenue ready to enter. While the line to get in was a block long, we patiently waited along with hundreds for other to witness and experience history—our history. Side by side, people took pictures of

*Article
Submitted by
Dr. Marty
Kuchma of St.
Paul's United
Church of
Christ*

the building as well as selfies with the Washington monument backdrop. Strangers shared tales on their trek to get to Washington, Dc, and how they got their tickets for this momentous occasion.

The National Museum of African-American History and Culture is a contradiction in itself. Unlike the other Smithsonian Museums, its golden ornate exterior is bold in contrast to the marble Washington Marble and White House. It is hard to see the buildings windows from the outside and because of this, we expected to enter a dark, closed-off building. To our surprise, it is deceptively bright and open on the inside.

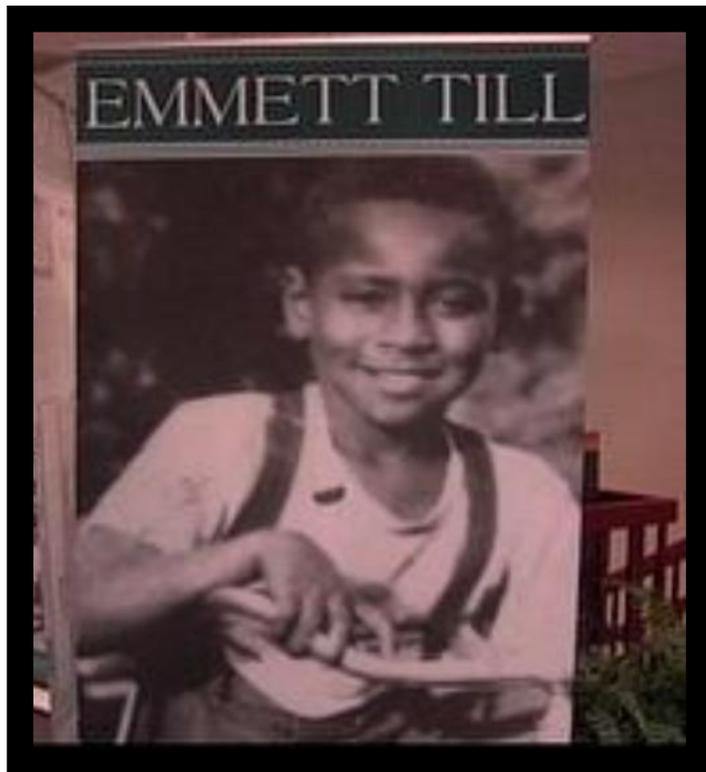
Hundreds of people took the elevator and stairs down a level entering the museum. Our tour began three levels down, starting with the 1800's and the history of the slave trade. As you are funneled through a dark walkway with exhibits and the left and right side and low ceiling, the atmosphere is designed to replicate that of a slave trade ship. Remnants of slave ships and stories of the human cruelty are balanced by features on educated slaves, cultural and religious influences, and tales of slave rebellions. As I walked, though I was excited, I became saddened and angered by the thought that this building was for me-about me-and contained things that I had never been taught in school.

As you walk through the museum and back up to the ground level, you see the prominent figures in African-American history- Harriet Tubman, Nate Turner, Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcom X, Medgar Evers, Rose Parks, and Emmitt Till-intertwined with the lesser known and nary taught figures. The signs "Whites Only" separated lunch counters and train cars, along with

Rev.

Emmitt Till's casket, are just a few highlights of the Civil Rights Movement. The brutality was palpable as videos of fire hoses being turned on non-violent protestors played and new clippings of lynching's could be read.

Up to the next level, Oprah Winfrey's couch, afros, and the influence for hip-hop epitomized the power of people who just two levels down felt powerless. The three lower levels of the museum were emotionally draining, but recording stations allowed people to share their stories, experiences, and a contemplative gallery which offered a quiet place for reflection.



The top two levels of the museum were a shining light in our five-hour tour. MC Hammer's Hammer pants, video screen playing Michael Jackson moon walking during Motown 25 for the first time and Chuck Berry's convertible highlighted an entire floor dedicated to the musical influences of African-Americans—from classical music and opera to R&B, pop and hip-hop. Images of Hattie McDaniel and Sidney Poitier, fliers and costumes from plays and, images from groundbreaking television shows... African-American sports stars and figures from every sport...literary accomplishments... our influence on fashion and hair styles and hair care products.

The National Museum of African-American History and Culture is about us but isn't only for us. It's for everyone...and that is the best part.

Article submitted by Tiane Harrison





Cornell Brooks Visits



McDaniel College

The Retirement of

Ms. Pat Levroney

National NAACP president Cornell William Brooks spoke at McDaniel College on “Unless Black Lives Matter, All Lives Can’t Matter” on Oct. 24 at 7:15 p.m. in Baker Memorial Chapel. A Methodist minister, Brooks has served as the president and CEO of the NAACP since 2014. As the 18th president of the NAACP, he has united groups as diverse as the AFL-CIO, Sierra Club and National LGBTQ Task Force. He also led a 40-day march from Selma, Ala., to Washington, D.C., to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act to bring attention to issues, including economic inequality, education reform, and criminal justice reform and voting rights. He previously served as president and CEO of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice. A graduate of Yale Law School, he has also worked as a civil rights attorney and a social justice advocate.

Visit <http://www.naacp.org/cornell-william-brooks/> for more information.

Pat Levroney and Virginia Harrison

Ms. Pat Levroney, long standing member of CCRE, retired recently from Carroll County Public Schools. Pat was the Minority Achievement Director in recent years following a distinguished teaching career. Pat was instrumental in hosting the CCRE Annual Conferences at the Board of Education Conference Center. Pat has been a great civil rights promoter and leader in Carroll County in her professional work, pastoral care, teaching at the College level, and consulting to civic groups and organizations. We wish her the very best as she continues her social and personal goals in retirement. Thanks for everything Pat and all the best!

Article submitted by Gary Honeman





About us and How to Donate

Carroll Citizens for Racial Equality is a small, all volunteer organization.

We pro-mote equality within our community and provide public programming that will in-crease understanding among diverse groups of people. We depend on donations from you who support our work in order to continue these efforts.

Please make a donation now at our page on the Community Foundation of Carroll County's web-site at

http://www.carrollcommunityfoundation.org/funds.asp?fund_id=107

Together we can make a difference for everyone in Carroll County.

Donation Ballot

Name: _____

Date: _____

Donation Amount: _____

Comments: _____