

Voices



A newsletter published by The Maryland Multicultural Coalition,
State Chapter of the National Association for Multicultural Education



Vol. XVII, No. 1

February 2011

From the President

by Deborah Misiag,
MMC/NAME President

What a snowy winter we have had thus far. This winter/spring will be a busy one for us. This newsletter is the first one available on our blog site — <http://mdmc.edublogs.org> as well as sent out to our membership via email and will not be mailed out to members. If you change your email address, please send me your email address so that we can update our records.

We are in full swing planning and preparing for our annual conference in Howard County, Maryland, at Reservoir High School located at 11550 Scaggsville Road, Fulton, Maryland, on April 9, 2011. In this newsletter you will find the conference registration form as well as nomination forms for Jack Epstein Award.

We are pleased to welcome a graduate student, Tanya Thomson, at George Washington who will be doing a portion of her internship with our organization this

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MD NAME leader Levroney honored by MSEA

Pat Levroney, Maryland NAME board member, was honored by the Maryland State Educators Association at its annual statewide Martin Luther King, Jr., Commemorative Breakfast and Minority Recognition Awards event in January.

The Outstanding Minority Recognition in Education award was presented to Pat with these words:

Patricia Levroney's history of

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Linda Shevitz presents the MSEA's Outstanding Minority Recognition to Pat Levroney, longtime member of MMC's executive committee, and current secretary.

Board member receives MLK Humanitarian Award



Cathy Price, MLK Humanitarian Award winner in Harford County, with Pat Kulow at the MSEA Outstanding Minority Recognition ceremony.

Every year Harford County Government and the Harford County Human Relations Commission honor local leaders with the Martin Luther King/ Joseph Bond Humanitarian Award at a breakfast held at Harford Community College. In addition to highlighting the many contributions of Martin Luther King, the event recognizes the legacy of a local civil rights leader, Joseph Bond. Mr Bond, now deceased, was

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Nominations sought for the 2011 Jack Epstein Award for contributions to multicultural education

The Maryland Multicultural Coalition/State Chapter of NAME presents the Jack Epstein Award for contributions to multicultural education each spring at its annual statewide conference. The award recognizes exemplary commitment to Education that is Multicultural in Maryland. Nominees may be educators or others who are dedicated to creating educational environments in which all people are valued equally and where all are inspired to work together in schools and communities. Outstanding examples of multicultural activities, programs or multiculturalism in an educational setting may also be nominated for recognition.

AWARD CRITERIA

Nominees may include (but need not be limited to) teachers, support personnel, volunteers, counselors, administrators, specialists, coordinators, directors, and community activists. Nominees may work in public or private organizations and must live or work in Maryland. Members of the MMC/NAME Executive Board may not be nominated.

Only one nominator is required for each nomination. Anyone may make a nomination, whether the nominator is a NAME member or not. All nomination forms must bear the signature of the person making the nomination along with his/her home address and day and evening phone numbers, and email address.

Completed nomination forms and supporting documents are to be mailed or delivered to the president of MMC/NAME. Details are found on the nomination form. Nominations must be postmarked or delivered no later than March 14, 2011. The final decision on awards to be presented will be made by the MMC/NAME Executive Board. The Executive Board may appoint a sub-committee to review nominations and make recommendations to the Board for a final decision.

The award will be in the form of a certificate from MMC/NAME, recognition at the MMC/NAME annual conference and in the pages of the MMC/NAME newsletter, *VOICES*. □

Important due dates for the Annual Conference

February 15, 2011Call for Proposals are due
February 15, 2011Vendor/exhibitor forms are due
March 14, 2011Jack Epstein Nominations are due
March 19, 2011Registrations are due for the conference
March 25, 2011Ballots are due from members for the elections
March 25, 2011 or beforeOn-line registrations for sessions are open for one week.

President...

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spring. We are excited to share our resources with her as she completes her internship.

We are honoring several of our members who have been recognized for the work they are doing in their communities and school systems. Pat Levrony of Carroll County and Cathy Price of Harford County have recently been recognized. See the articles in this issue of our newsletter for more information.

Our membership will be receiving the ballot for election of officers in a separate email within the next two weeks. The slate will be provided, however there is the option for write-in candidates. All ballots are due no later than March 25th. The results of the election will be announced at the annual conference. Only members may serve on the board and vote.

We look forward to seeing you at our conference in April.

Until then, thank you for your membership and for the work you do everyday to make it a better world for students and for our communities. □

Voices

The newsletter of the

**MARYLAND
MULTICULTURAL COALITION**

Deborah Misiag
President

Tom Owen
Editor

For questions or suggestions,
or to submit articles,
call 410-272-1085, or email
towen01@comcast.net

Recognition...

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involvement with issues related to public education, particularly minority student achievement, teacher preparation, and professional development makes her most worthy of being honored. Maya Angelou's poems give us the image of the caged bird singing a song of hope as it watches other birds soar freely. Pat has opened cages throughout her career to help educators and students soar to meet their potential. Like the bird's song of hope, she has been the voice of conscience in her school district, helping others be more open to hearing the needs and addressing programs that build awareness to improve minority achievement and family engagement.

Pat currently serves as the Carroll County Public Schools Minority Achievement Outreach Coordinator, represents the County on the State Education That Is Multicultural and Achievement Network, teaches a graduate course, "Managing Diversity", and facilitates the county teachers' seminar,

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New award announced by the Executive Board

By Debbie Misiag

The Maryland Multicultural Coalition is announcing a new award that will honor an individual who either lives or works in the state of Maryland for outstanding service and longevity of commitment to social justice and multicultural education. This award will be called the Legacy Award. The executive board will recommend and select individuals who are deserving of the award. The award will not be open for nominations from the membership like the Jack Epstein Award. The Legacy Award will not be an annual award, but will be awarded whenever appropriate to recognize such an individual. This award will be presented this year at our annual conference. So attend the conference to find out who are first recipient will be.

Harriet Tubman Statuary Hall Project

Harriet Tubman was one of

the all-time great American heroes. Born a slave on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, she became one of the most daring conductors of the Underground Railroad helping hundreds of slaves to freedom, never losing a single passenger.

Maryland is currently represented in Statuary Hall by Charles Carroll (1737-1832) and John Hanson (1715-1783). Both statues are eligible for replacement according to the rules established by Congress in 2000. This regulation states that a statue must be in place for at least 10 years before it can be considered for replacement. The state legislature must pass a resolution expressing its intention to place a different statue in the Hall.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can support Harriet Tubman's statue being placed at the Capitol Building, please visit: http://www.marylandnow.org/harriet_tubman_statue_project

Award...

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active in the NAACP, the Human Relations Commission, and countless other civic organizations. He reminded citizens to "always take a firm stand for your convictions and be resolved if you believe you are doing the right thing." His resolve increased and supported civil rights in the county.

On January 20 the honorees receiving the Humanitarian Award were Sheriff L. Jesse Bane, County Executive David

R. Craig, human rights advocate Celestine B. Morgan and former educator Cathy R. Price. Mrs. Price has been a long-time member on the Board of the Maryland Multicultural Coalition. She retired after 39 years in the Harford County Public Schools serving as a social studies/language arts teacher, middle school assistant principal, and supervisor in the office of Equity and Cultural Diversity. Since retirement she has continued her equity work. She is vice chair of the

Human Relations Commission and a member of the Superintendent's Cultural Proficiency Council. Last year, she and MMC President Deborah Misiag co-chaired the ETMA committee which wrote the Education That is Multicultural introductory three credit course being used in several Maryland counties. Mrs. Price has also been recognized as an education leader when she was recently inducted into the Harford County Educator Hall of Fame. □

Graduate student intern

By Tanya Thomson

Hello, my name is Tanya. I'm a graduate student at the George Washington University, where I am studying Education Leadership and Administration and am most grateful to MMC for welcoming me as an intern this semester.

I grew up in the Greater Toronto Area then, after earning a B.F.A. from Queen's University at Kingston in 2000, I began my career in education as a grade nine French teacher at a Jewish high school in Toronto. Two years later I received a Bachelor of Education from the University of Ottawa and returned to Toronto to teach French and Visual Art at the middle school level. In 2005, I moved to Quito, Ecuador to teach Visual Art. I spent three thoroughly enjoyable years in Quito, where I met my husband. We then moved to Atlanta for two years, and most recently have (sort of) settled in Takoma Park, MD.

Having grown up in a very ethnically and culturally diverse place — something I only began to appreciate after I moved away for university — and having taught and lived in several other less diverse cities, what I've learned is that there exists a need everywhere for greater intercultural awareness. I'm also a believer that each of us has a role in making this possible. As such, it's very exciting for me to have connected with MMC and I'm looking forward to learning, being challenged, contributing to, and continuing current dialogues on multicultural education. □

What Manner of Man *In Memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

By Linda Shevitz

January 1970

What manner of man was this molder of men,
this man of the cloth and the dove?
A man who saw hatred and anger and strife,
but a man overpowered by Love,

What manner of man was this shaper of souls?
Not scared, not savior, not saint
But a man who responded with strength from within,
A man of respect and restraint

A man who dared dream the impossible dream
That character, not race or creed,
Would one day determine our judgment of all,
the judgment of all truly freed.

A man who felt dignity, love and respect—
Not sword—were our most useful tools,
A man who urged live as a family we are
Or we shall all perish as fools.

A man held in awe for the burdens he bore,
Yet a man of the masses whose mantle he wore
Who felt that a person not willing to give
Their life for a cause was not yet fit to live.

A scholarly man of the pen and the book
Who consciously searched for the path that he took
A path of non-violence, yet violently strong
In urging resistance to right moral wrong.

A man who would shatter the chains of the past
That all might rejoice they were "free, free at last!"
By all those how hated – a man who was feared,
While by those who trusted – a man most revered.

An eloquent man who spoke simply and yet
Whose speech reached the heart and the mind
And sparked a response of such powerful force
That it seared the soul of Mankind.

What manner of man was this molder of men?
A man with a masterful plan
A man who was just for the length of his days,
And who was most of all, just a Man.



MARYLAND MULTICULTURAL COALITION



Chapter of the National Association for Multicultural Education

ANNUAL STATEWIDE MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Co-Sponsored by Howard County Public Schools Know Me, Engage Me, Teach Me

Includes: Keynote Speaker
Continental Breakfast and Lunch
Vendors/Exhibitors
Choice of more than 20 Breakout Sessions

Strands:

∞ Know Me

- Strategies for Creating a Positive School/Classroom Environment
- Building Cross Cultural Relationships
- Utilizing Multiple Intelligences and Learning Styles and Developmental Assets
- Presuming Competence of the Learner

∞ Engage Me

- Parent/Community Involvement
- Education that is Multicultural
- Selecting Materials of Instruction and Technology that Engages the Learner
- Strategies to Eliminate the Drop Out Rate

∞ Teach Me

- Preparing Students for the 21st Century
- College and Career Readiness for All Students
- Establishing High Expectations for All Students
- Strategies for Eliminating the Achievement Gap

Date: Saturday, April 9, 2011

Time: 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Place: Reservoir High School
11550 Scaggsville Road
Fulton, MD 20759

**For more information, contact: Bonnie Brownell at bandbbrownell@comcast.net
Or Debbie Misiag at deborah_misiag@hcpss.org.**

Maryland Multicultural Coalition/NAME
Annual Statewide Conference
April 9, 2011

Registration Form

Name _____

Phone _____ Email(required) _____

Address _____

Occupation/Title _____

School System/Organization _____

☐

Includes Continental Breakfast and Lunch

Check here if you would like a vegetarian lunch

Please check one:

_____ MMC/NAME member - \$35.00

_____ Non-member - \$45.00

_____ Groups of 10 or more - \$35.00 per person (Please submit a form for EACH person registering.)

_____ Undergraduate student - \$20.00

_____ High School student - \$10.00

_____ New NAME membership and conference - \$115.00

Include check payable to: **Maryland Multicultural Coalition/NAME**

Mail registration form and check to: Deborah Misiag
6201 Twenty Year Chase
Columbia, MD 21045

You must pre-register. Checks must be received by March 19, 2011. The conference is limited to 500 participants.

Unless you hear otherwise, you are registered for the conference. You will be notified to pre-register for your sessions by March 25th on-line. Please be sure to include an email address in order to register.

For additional information or to request an accommodation because of disability, please call Debbie Misiag at 410-313-5363 or email Deborah_misiag@hcpss.org .
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Nomination of _____

Maryland Multicultural Coalition/State Chapter of NAME
2011 JACK EPSTEIN AWARD
FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION
NOMINATION FORM

This application and all support materials will become the property of Maryland Multicultural Coalition. To be considered, this application must be postmarked or delivered by March 14, 2011.

Please type or print clearly.

1. NAME OF NOMINEE/NOMINATED PROJECT:

2. Business address: _____
street apt. #

_____ city state zip

3. Home address (if individual):

_____ street apt. #

_____ City state zip

4. Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____

PLEASE INCLUDE WITH THIS NOMINATION:

A letter of support explaining how the nominee meets the criteria (see attachment) for the award. (Additional letters of support may be included.)

A brief biographical sketch of the individual or overview of the program.

Materials from projects, newspaper clippings and other support material may be submitted. Support material should relate to the reasons the nominee is being nominated. Final decision on awards to be presented will be made by the MMC/NAME Executive Board. The Executive Board may solicit additional information if it is deemed necessary. The nomination form and support materials will become the property of MMC/NAME.

Nomination of _____

Please type or print clearly:

1. NOMINATED BY:

name

2. Business address: _____
street apt. #

city state zip

3. Home address (if individual):

street apt. #

city state zip

4. Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____

E-mail address _____

MAIL TO: Debbie Misiag, MMC/NAME President
6201 Twenty Year Chase
Columbia, MD 21045
deborah_misiag@hcpss.org

OR FAX TO: 410-313-7049

The Cost of the Freedom Riders

By Patricia Levroney

On January 5, 2011, I left my home in Westminster, MD, on a journey to the Deep South. This was the same journey the 1961 Freedom Riders took to integrate the interstate highways. My Freedom Rider's journey was sponsored by the Ira and Mary Zepp for Nonviolence and Peace Education in Westminster, MD. This journey was very emotional for me as the original Freedom Riders talked about meeting Bull Connor, being spit upon, and being locked up. I had an opportunity to travel with Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr., who was the co-founder of Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee; he was on the executive staff of Dr. King and an original Freedom Rider. He supplied first hand information about the experiences of the Freedom Riders.

My journey began at BWI-Marshall, Maryland to the terminal of Atlanta, Georgia. There I met my tour guide and the other individuals who would be taking this journey. Little did I know this particular tour was in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the "1961 Freedom Riders" which will be celebrated in May, 2011 in Jackson, Mississippi. First of all, I vaguely remember the Freedom Riders as a little girl growing up in Baltimore. I do remember the civil unrest of the south that was shown on my mother's and father's black and white TV.

The first stop was the historical 16th Street Baptist Church.

During the Civil Rights Movement, the church was used as a gathering spot to strategically plan the next steps for combating discrimination and unequal treatment of all disenfranchised people. I was able to understand first hand the impact the bomb had on the Birmingham Community. The bombing of the 16th Street Church took place on September 15, 1963, killing four young girls as they prepared for Sunday Services. The bombing of 1963, continues to have an impact on Birmingham's economic development.

While visiting the 16th Street Baptist Church, we were greeted by Dr. Catherine Burk who was an original Freedom Rider and in 1961 was a student at Tennessee State University. She was very happy to tell about her encounter with Bull Connor. One day she and others were arrested by Bull Connor, but they were released later that night. Bull Connor told John Lewis (now U.S. Representative) Dr. Bernard LaFayette, and Dr. Burke to get into his limousine. Dr. Burke stated that she refused and she was put in the limousine by police force. While they were driving, she said, "I told Bull how mean he was. I was not afraid of Bull Connor because I'd had enough." She continues to tell how Bull Connor let them out on a dark road at the Tennessee border and told them not to set foot again in Alabama. She said, "I told Bull Connor that we would be back in

Birmingham by high noon." This was an act of courage and determination which young people had in the 50s and 60s.

That afternoon, I left for the capital of Mississippi. When I arrived in Jackson, Mississippi, I had an opportunity to tour Medgar Evers' home. The home was quaint upper middle class, professional, rancher type house in the black community of Jackson. The Curator told the sequence of how Medgar was assassinated. He was in the trunk of his car getting materials for a rally the next day. The sniper used a high powered rifle to assassinate him from the other side of the road. The bullet went through Medgar's shoulder into the wall of the home, ricocheted off the wall onto the refrigerator into the watermelon that was on the kitchen counter and into the kitchen sink. The Curator said that if Mrs. Evers and the children were in the front room, they would have been assassinated as well. The next door neighbor's little girl witnessed the entire scene and started screaming. Her father scared off the sniper with his gun by shooting it in the air. The little girl had to leave Jackson because of the trauma of seeing the killing. The next door neighbor still lives in the same house today. In some ways, the death of Medgar Evers' assassination was a milestone in the hard-fought integration war that rocked America in the 1950s and 1960s.

Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman, and James Chaney were the three Civil Rights workers who were found dead in Philadelphia, Mississippi after being missing for two

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Riders...

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months. The memorials to these brave souls were very haunting and reflective of the turbulent times in the Deep South. The two memorials for these three brave young men can be found in Philadelphia, Mississippi and the other in Meridian, Mississippi, the hometown of James Chaney.

Montgomery, Alabama, holds a lot of history for the Civil Rights Movement. The city features the first parish of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks Museum, and the Civil Rights Memorial.

The final destination was Atlanta, Georgia. What a beautiful city! It is filled with so much history and culture. However, I was truly disappointed with my visit to the King Center. It was poorly maintained and under-resourced. I was truly embarrassed to see a national monument in such a disgraceful state. People from all over the

world come to this national shrine to honor Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and his loyal wife Dr. Coretta Scott King for their courage and determination in helping all people. How can the MLK Foundation not uphold their promise to maintain the dignity of these mighty warriors?

In closing, the Civil Rights Tour is a journey all Americans should experience. Why? The information that I learned is not

found in the standard history book. I learned information from primary artifacts. Although I knew why there were inequalities in education, the information that I learned from this journey made it more concrete for me. The journey brought to life why we must be diligent in teaching all students everyone's true history so they can make better decisions for themselves. □



Rita Robinson congratulates Pat on her award.

Recognition...

...continued from page 3

Education That Is Multicultural. Pat also co-chaired the 2007 National NAME conference, held in Baltimore.

At the awards event, Pat expressed her appreciation to her colleagues, friends, family and community members, noting that "nothing in education is done in isolation." She also talked about the impact of her recent experience in participating in the Freedom Riders Tour, tracing the route of earlier civil rights activists from Atlanta to Jackson, Mississippi. This journey affirmed her ongoing commitment to social justice and equity in education. □



Linda Shevitz and colleague at the MSEA event.