



THE RIGHTS STUFF

April 2003

**BONNER COUNTY
HUMAN
TASK
FORCE
RIGHTS**

THE RIGHTS STUFF is published—occasionally—by the BONNER COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS TASK FORCE. Helping with this issue were: Hal Hargreaves, Gretchen Hellar, Brenda Hammond, Gary Payton, & Christine Holbert

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Those of you who have been following the Education Committee and its work with the Lake Pend Orielle School District to adopt a program of conflict resolution, will be interested to know that progress, while slow, has been steady. Task Force representatives, Monica Beaudoin, Janet Sturdevant, and Hal Hargreaves presented our proposal to the district counselors. The pitch was to establish a comprehensive program at all levels of the district. Counselors offered not only their ideas but also their assistance. Their work and presence will aid in the selection of a consultant—as members of the screening committee. And they will serve on the questionnaire committee, to aid in its composition and analysis. Charles Glock, a noted sociologist has expressed interest in advising and executing the questionnaire, so we are well endowed with expertise.

Mark Berryhill has been an enthusiastic and helpful resource in the conversations to date. He coined a phrase for the project: a Joint Effort. This is a fine way to look at all the negotiations coming to fruition. Janet and Monica have added their energies and knowledge and with them, we have come a long way. This is just the barest of beginnings, however; there is so much more to do to insure that the district and the community support our schools and foster understanding and peaceful relations throughout this region. We should be gratified and hopeful for the progress and the challenges.

Hal H. Hargreaves, *President*

FHRAA BOARD MEMBERS

The Foundation for Human Rights Action and Advocacy (FHRAA), a newly incorporated 501(C)(3) organization, whose purpose is to promote human rights education is seeking two board members for a 2 to 4 year term. Applicants will have the following qualifications: 1) willingness to commit 2 to 4 hours monthly to foundation business; 2) willingness to participate in one fundraising event per year; 3) willingness to hold an

office at some time during the board term; and 4) membership in the Bonner County Human Rights Task Force. For an application, please write to FHRAA Box 157, 106 N. 4th Ave Sandpoint, Idaho. Or phone Marian at 208.265.4155. Upon our receipt of the completed application you will be invited to a meeting without obligation to join.

2003 BCHRTF ANNUAL MEETING

It's time once again for Task Force members to gather together, review events of the past year, elect Board members, and talk about projects and direction for the year to come.

The Bonner County Human Rights Task Force Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Hall. A meeting open to the public will follow at 7 p.m.

At the Annual meeting, President Hal Hargreaves will give an overview of events, issues, and projects from the past year. Candidates for Board positions will be presented, and members will be asked for their votes as well as suggestions for policy, programs, and events.

The topic of the public meeting will be "Conflict Resolution." There will be an update on the Task Force attempt to bring a conflict resolution program to the public schools, followed by an interactive study of the mediation process. Those in attendance will participate in role-playing to address conflict situations based upon current community issues.

This initial focus on the process of conflict resolution will kick off a lecture series on conflict studies in the international, national, and domestic arenas. Details of the first lecture, planned for May, will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

We hope that many members will plan to attend. For those who are not able to come, a proxy voting form is provided. Be sure to return that form by mail, or fax to 255-1841. You may also call the Task Force number—263-0275—and leave a message assigning your proxy vote to a current Board Member.

DEMOCRACY FORUM

As always, the task force likes to feature information about events sponsored by other groups related to human rights issues and concerns. A new group in town—The Bonner County Democratic Club—is beginning a series of lunchtime events called *The Democracy Forum*. The first program will be held April 22nd at Jalapeno's restaurant at noon. The featured speaker will be Gary Payton who will talk about "Maintaining Community during Times of Conflict." Given the wide range of controversial issues with which we must deal ranging from the war in Iraq, the proposed by-pass, the issue of government spending and program cuts, environmental issues, and globalization issues, the topic of this first meeting is very apropos and important.

Watch for upcoming press releases about this event and plan to spend your lunch hour once a month to learn about significant issues facing our community, our nation, and the world.

CLARK FORK HIGH SCHOOL ART PROJECT

With the crisis in educational funding most public schools have had to cut back on elective arts programs. The Pend Oreille Arts Council (POAC) and the North Idaho Arts Center (NIAC) received seed money from the Idaho Commission on the Arts under a program entitled *Building Bridges*. One purpose of this program was to provide impetus for organizations to work together to develop innovative arts programs in the community.

Zabrielle Whitton, using funds from this program, developed a glass blowing class for Clark Fork High School students. She approached the Task Force with an idea to develop an arts project that incorporated a human rights theme. Building bridges between the arts organizations and the Task Force appealed to the Task Force Board and the board unanimously agreed to provide \$300 to support this program.

The theme of the project was the Universal Declaration of Human Rights expressed through blown glass. Each student received a copy of the UDHR, was asked to choose a specific article in the document, encouraged to think about its message, and to translate their thoughts into an arts project. The finished projects will be displayed not only in the high school but also at community venues.

The Task Force was glad to have the opportunity to introduce this important document to the students, to encourage arts in the public schools, and to develop meaningful relationships with local arts organizations.

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE!

If you can not attend the Annual meeting, please help by giving your proxy to someone who will be there or mail it to the Task Force Office: Bonner County Human Rights Task Force, 212 North Fourth Avenue · Suite 189, Sandpoint, Idaho 83864

Proxy Voting Form

I hereby authorize _____ to vote my proxy at the Bonner County Human Rights Task Force Annual meeting on Wednesday, 23 April 2003.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

BRENDA HAMMOND RECEIVES ID HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

She is a neighbor. She is a friend. She is a leader. And now her sustained contributions to the work of human rights is recognized across the state of Idaho. On April 10th, Brenda Hammond (our current Vice President and our former President and Secretary) was honored for her high impact contributions to human rights in Idaho and for the foundation of faith which motivates her work. In a ceremony at Boise State University, Brenda's decade of work in Bonner County was recognized as part of the annual Kessler-Kenner "Extraordinary Witness" Lecture Series. The event was cosponsored by the Idaho Human Rights Education Center, Boise State University, The Interfaith Alliance, Ahaveth Beth-Israel Synagogue, The Islamic Center of Boise, First Presbyterian Church, and the Association of Idaho Cities.

Since the announcement of the award in March, Brenda's work has been highlighted in two in-depth articles in the *Daily Bee* and in *The Spokesman-Review*. In her own humble way, she has deflected attention from her key leadership role and has lifted up the work of all the members of the Bonner County Human Rights Task Force for the teamwork needed to weave human dignity into the fabric of community life.

Prior to her departure for Boise, Brenda was the guest of honor at a Sandpoint celebration bringing together friends, current and former Board members, and community leaders. Brenda Hammond's example is a beacon for each of us to follow. May her work and our work together continue with renewed commitment and energy.

THANK YOU, EARTH BEAT

The Bonner County Human Rights Task Force wants to thank the Earth Beat Dance and Drummer group for presenting an outstanding and informative performance at Sandpoint Middle School in conjunction with Black History Month. They volunteered their time and their talent to present an enjoyable experience in musical diversity. Thanks, again.

FHRAA FUNDRAISER

Those of you who were not able to attend the joint FHRAA (Foundation for Human Rights Action and Advocacy) and North Idaho Chorale (NIC) event missed a glorious time. To those of you who did—wasn't it wonderful! The Bonner County Human Rights Task Force wishes to thank all of those who worked so hard to provide this wonderful musical experience for our community. The proceeds of the event will be split between NIC and FHRAA. FHRAA, of course, will use its share of the funds to further human rights education in our community.



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