



THE ANTI-HATE AND ANTI-BIAS e-BULLETIN APRIL 2009

Volume 15

April 1, 2009.

LETTER TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

Greetings Friends!

Well, it looks as though we're finally moving more decisively into spring with consistently warmer temperatures, more greenery, and - after a brief show of snow at the end of March - April showers. Fear not, dear friends, the soggy weather simply means that we have plenty of May flowers to look forward to...or April flowers, for that matter, as LUSO Community Services will soon be offering a selection of spring flowers for sale to support literacy programs. So, if you're starting to work on your gardens, community garden plots, or window boxes and you'd like some beautiful annuals to brighten things up, please call us at (519) 452-1466 for more information about how you can get some gorgeous flowers while supporting great programs for children in our community!

On a similarly happy and encouraging note, have you noticed that the warmer weather seems to bring smiles with it? From libraries, to schools, to stores, and restaurants, the number of friendly smiles and greetings is increasing with every degree gained on the thermometer. It's a wonderful phenomenon. Spring is also an amazing thing as it encourages us to emerge from winter hibernation and take to the streets, trails, and paths in our city to embrace and enjoy warm-weather activities like rollerblading, running, bicycle rides, and hiking.

March was an extremely busy month and the Anti-Hate and Anti-Bias program was especially pleased to participate in our city's annual event to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (March 21st). More specifically, I was both honoured and delighted to have the opportunity to give the keynote speech for the event in my role as the Program Coordinator of the Anti-Hate and Anti-Bias Program at LUSO. This year, approximately 120 community members and service providers gathered at the Central Library's Wolf Performance Hall in recognition of this important day. To the delight of those assembled, Helen Hibbert started the evening with a beautiful rendition of our national anthem and Michelle Edwards emceed the evening with energy and grace. Those who participated in the evening's festivities were treated to video presentations about human rights, speakers including Mary Yanful (Community Gardens), dance performances by SALSA (the University of Western Ontario's Spanish & Latin American Student's Association), a ceremony for the London Baha'i Community Race Unity award, and an awards ceremony for the LUSO Community Services' annual anti-racism poster contest. The following students won first place for their incredible artwork in their respective age categories:

- Age 15-19: Vincy Kwong, Catholic Central High School (Grade 12)
- Age 10-14: Julia Peng, Jeanne Sauve Public School (Grade 8)
- Age 5-9: Simone Charlton, Jeanne Sauve Public School (Grade 4)

The Baha'i Community Race Unity Award honoured the talented women that form the London Intercommunity Health Centre's "Women of the World" group. At the reception following the event, participants were fortunate to sample a variety of foods prepared by the Women of the World group that included delicious dishes from a variety of regions, including Afghanistan.

This month, we are pleased to announce some great new developments here at the Anti-Hate and Anti-Bias Program. First, we're delighted to let you know that **information about the Hate Helpline is now available in Arabic, French, and Spanish**; we welcome you to e-mail us if you would like to arrange to access this information. Second, we are excited to let you know that the **e-Bulletin will now be offered in Greek** (on an occasional basis) thanks to the dedicated efforts of LUSO volunteers. If you would like to receive a copy of the e-Bulletin in Greek, please contact us and we'll make the necessary arrangements to ensure that you receive it. On a related note, if you wish to assist with e-Bulletin translation or know someone who might, we encourage you to

contact us at stophate@lusocentre.org to find out more about this great opportunity to contribute to our community's efforts to resist and eliminate hate, bias, and discrimination.

As for the month ahead, we continue to hope that you will undertake "Random Acts of Kindness" whenever possible (see the "Get Involved" section for an idea that you can put into action in April) and we look forward to hearing how you have incorporated random acts of kindness into your daily lives, faith groups, schools, community service agencies, or businesses...help us inspire others to act kindly by sharing your stories! **We also hope you will join us at our 3rd annual fundraiser for Literacy programming - Laughs for Literacy – an evening of stand up comedy that is sure to leave your laughing muscles begging for reprieve!**

Take good care of yourselves and each other,

Meredith Fraser
Anti-Hate and Anti-Bias Program Coordinator
LUSO Community Services
E-mail: stophate@lusocentre.org Phone: (519) 452-1466

GET INVOLVED:

Eliminate hate by creating kindness. This month, we challenge you to write a letter of appreciation to a librarian, teacher, mail carrier, custodian, coach, faith community leader, or business owner to thank them for their contributions to our community.

DID YOU KNOW?

In recognition of Refugee Rights Day and World Health Day:

Fact #1: This year will mark the 40th anniversary of Canada's commitment to uphold the 1951 convention relating to the status of refugees (the Refugee Convention). In celebration of this important milestone, the Canadian Council for Refugees has developed some great suggestions for actions that we can take to help ensure that refugee claimants are protected, included, and assured equal access to resources, opportunities, and rights. If you'd like to learn how you can help with these efforts, check out the Council's website at <http://www.ccrweb.ca/RRDay.htm>

Fact #2: The theme for this year's World Health Day centers on the safety of medical facilities and the preparedness of medical personnel who work with those affected by emergencies. Visit the World Health Organization's website to learn more about the significant impact of emergencies on individual and community health: <http://www.who.int/world-health-day/2009/en/index.html>

Sources: <http://www.ccrweb.ca/RRDay.htm>; <http://www.who.int/world-health-day/2009/en/index.html>

COMMUNITY EVENTS:

Please consult the following website for additional event listings: <http://info.london.on.ca/events.asp>

EVENT	DATE & TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT
Books Good Enough To Eat! Join in the fun at London's 2 nd annual fundraiser in celebration of Edible Book Day! Enjoy delicious treats, live music, and world-class edible art displays. Funds collected through ticket sales will support programming at the London Public Library. Tickets: \$25	Friday, April 3 6PM to 8PM	3 rd Floor Central Library 251 Dundas St.	For information/tickets: (519) 661-5122

EVENT	DATE & TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT
<p>3rd Annual Think Global Act Local Event</p> <p>This family-friendly event offers many great opportunities to learn more about environmentally responsible products, choices, and actions. Learn more about green initiatives in our community, enjoy an environmental show by Polka Dot Door's Cindy Cook, and take home some free goodies! Free!</p>	<p>Saturday, April 4 10AM to 4PM</p>	<p>White Oaks Mall 1105 Wellington Road South</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>Recreation and Leisure Fair for Older Adults</p> <p>The Recreation and Leisure Committee of the Seniors Community Association is proud to present this event, which focuses on fun things to do in our community. Free!</p>	<p>Saturday, April 4 10AM to 2:30PM</p>	<p>2nd Floor, Covent Garden Market 130 King St.</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>Bodhran Bashing 101: An Irish/Celtic Drumming Workshop</p> <p>If you'd like to learn more about the bodhran and experience the basics of Celtic drumming using a hands-on approach, this workshop is for you! No need to bring a drum as drums and pizza-box bohdrans will be provided by Robert McMaster, the course instructor. Advance registration required. Fee: \$45 (includes a booklet)</p>	<p>Saturday, April 4 1PM to 4PM</p>	<p>Landon Library 167 Wortley Road</p>	<p>For information/To register: (519) 438-3924</p>
<p>Japanese Bilingual Storytime</p> <p>Experience stories, songs, and rhymes in Japanese and English! This event is proudly presented by the Japanese Cultural Exchange of London and the Wesmount Branch of the London Public Library. Free!</p>	<p>Saturday, April 11 10:30AM to 11AM</p>	<p>Meeting Room C, Westmount Library 3200 Wonderland Rd. S.</p>	<p>For information: (519) 473-4708</p>
<p>Film Screening: Shake Hands With The Devil</p> <p>This event features a screening of the film "Shake Hands With The Devil," which chronicles Lieutenant-General Romeo Dallaire's efforts to stop the Rwandan genocide. Following the film, Dr. Susan Ray will speak about soldiers' experiences of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Free!</p>	<p>Tuesday, April 14 6:30PM to 9PM</p>	<p>Stevenson-Hunt A&B Central Library 251 Dundas St.</p>	<p>www.london.cmha.ca</p>

EVENT	DATE & TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT
<p>Internet Exploitation Session The Regional Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Treatment Centre is pleased to offer this information session featuring cyber-safety expert Rob Nickel, Detective Dale Howe, and Detective Constable Dale Schmidt of the London Police Service Cyber Crime Unit. Registration required by April 3. Fee: \$75 (includes lunch)</p>	<p>Friday, April 17 8AM to 4PM</p>	<p>Shuttleworth Auditorium St. Joseph's Hospital 268 Grosvenor St.</p>	<p>For information:</p>
<p>Laughs for Literacy LUSO Community Services Do you like to laugh? Do you support literacy? If so, get your smiling muscles ready for an evening of stand-up comedy that includes an appetizer buffet, silent auction, door prizes, and raffles! Support innovative literacy programs that benefit children and families in our community by participating in this hilarious annual event! Tickets: \$35/person or \$60/couple (\$40/person at the door)</p>	<p>Thursday, April 23 6:30PM</p>	<p>The Barking Frog 209 John St.</p>	<p>For information/tickets: (519) 452-1466</p>
<p>Kids First Day Enjoy a day of family-friendly activities that are taking place at over 60 locations across the city! Free!</p>	<p>Friday, April 24</p>	<p>Various</p>	<p>For information, schedules, and participating locations: www.investinginchildren.on.ca</p>
<p>The 18th Annual London Lesbian Film Festival Join fellow community members for this fantastic cinematic celebration that acknowledges women's experiences through film. Tickets: \$10/screening or \$25 for all three days (Please note that Saturday's screening is a women-only event)</p>	<p>Friday, April 24 to Sunday, April 26</p>	<p>Rainbow Cinemas Galleria Mall 355 Wellington St.</p>	<p>For information: www.lfff.ca For tickets: The Village Idiot 519) 434-9594 City Lights Bookshop (519) 679-8420 Gift of Art (519) 642-4095</p>
<p>EldercareExpo A consumer show focused on information, products, and services for elders and caregivers. Free!</p>	<p>Saturday, April 25 10AM to 5PM</p>	<p>Progress Building, Western Fair 316 Rectory St.</p>	<p>For information: www.eldercareexpo.ca or (519) 641-4242</p>
<p>Taste for Life It's never been easier to help raise funds in support of the AIDS Committee of London...all you need to do is out for dinner! Simply choose dining destination from the list of participating restaurants, gather your friends, colleagues, and family members, and enjoy a delicious meal out on April 29th; 25% of your bill will be donated to ACOL.</p>	<p>Wednesday, April 29 7PM</p>	<p>See www.atasteforlife.org for a list of participating restaurants/locations</p>	<p>For information: (519) 434-1601</p>

NOTEWORTHY DATES AND CELEBRATIONS:

April is Cancer Month (Canada); Dental Health Month (Canada); and Parkinson Awareness Month (Canada)

- April 1 is April Fools' Day (Canada, UK, USA); Kha B'Nissan (Assyria); Farvardin (Iran); Independence Day (Bosnia)
 - April 4 is Refugee Rights Day (Canada); Ch'ing Ming Festival (China, Taiwan)
 - April 6 is Chakri Day (Thailand)
 - April 7 is World Health Day (UN)
 - April 8 is International Roma/Romani Day
 - April 9 is Independence Day (Georgia)
 - April 13 is Baisakhi (Bangladesh); Songkran/New Year (Cambodia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand); Boun Pinai/New Year (Laos)
 - April 17 is Independence Day (Mauritius); Independence Day (Syria); International Hemophilia Day
 - April 18 is Independence Day (Zimbabwe); Matsu Festival (Taiwan)
 - April 20 is Sechseläuten (Switzerland)
 - April 21 is Kartini Day (Indonesia)
 - April 22 is Earth Day (International)
 - April 23 is Gathering of Nations Pow Wow (through April 25; Aboriginal); World Book and Copyright Day (UN); Canada Book Day (Canada); Language Day (Colombia)
 - April 24 is Martyr's Day (Armenia); Child to Work Day (USA)
 - April 25 is Anzac Day (Australia, New Zealand); Arbor Day (USA); Independence Day (Portugal)
 - April 28 is Yom HaZikaron/Memorial Day (Israel)
 - April 29 is Yom HaAtzma'ut/Independence Day (Israel); Midori No Hi (Japan)
 - April 30 is Koninginnedag (Netherlands); Walpurgis Night (Sweden); Memorial Day (Vietnam)
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- Important faith-related days in April:
 - April 3 Ram Navami (Hindu)
 - April 5 Palm Sunday (Christian)
 - April 6 Organization of the Church (Mormon)
 - April 9 Maundy Thursday (Christian); Jalal (2nd month, Bahá'í); Pesach/Passover (Jewish)
 - April 10 Good Friday (Christian)
 - April 12 Easter (Christian)
 - April 16 Holy Thursday (Coptic and Eastern Orthodox Christian)
 - April 17 Holy Friday (Coptic and Eastern Orthodox Christian)
 - April 19 Pascha/Easter (Coptic and Eastern Orthodox Christian)
 - April 20 Easter Monday (Coptic and Eastern Orthodox Christian)
 - April 21 Feast of Ridvan (through May 2, Bahá'í); Yom Ha Shoah (Jewish)
 - April 23 St. George's Day (Christian)
 - April 27 Akshaya Tritiya (Jain)
 - April 28 Jamál (3rd month, Bahá'í)
 - April 30 Gahambar Maidyozaem (through May 4, Zoroastrian)

Sources: *The United Nations*, http://www.unac.org/en/news_events/un_days/international_days.asp; *Interfaith Calendar*, <http://www.interfaithcalendar.org>

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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**If you or someone you know
has experienced prejudice
or hate, call the Hate Helpline for
confidential support and referrals.**

**HATE HELPLINE
519-951-1584**

If you are in danger please call 911 immediately.