

# Talking Points

## MULTICULTURAL CITIZENSHIP, ANTI-RACISM & ACCOUNTABILITY, RECONCILIATION & RESTORATION

### Cultural Calendar of Events

- January 14, 15-MLK Youth Leaders Weekend at Calvin College
- January 14-21st Annual MLK Celebration Service at New Hope Baptist Church, featuring MLK Community Mass Choir, 6pm
- January 15-Brenda Salter McNeil speaking at January Series on MLK day at Calvin College, 12:30-1:30pm
- January 15-Earl Jones from City Vision speaking about MLK in "Heroes of Faith" series at Chapel at Calvin, 10am
- January 15-March and Celebration at GVSU 1:45-3:00pm featuring the Voices of GVSU gospel choir and Lani Guinier, civil rights attorney
- January 15-Lani Guinier, civil rights attorney will also be speaking at GRCC at the Ford Fieldhouse at 6:30pm
- January 15-film, *White Man's Burden*, Bytwerk Theater, Calvin College, 8pm
- January 22-film, *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, Bytwerk Theater, 8pm
- January 16, 23, 30; February 6, 13, 20, 27 and March 6, 13, 20-Institute for Healing Racism meetings at Calvin College, 7:30-10:00am

### Our Beloved Community Celebrates MLK Day

...the end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is the creation of the Beloved Community. It is this type of spirit and this type of love that can transform opposers into friends. It is this type of understanding goodwill that will transform the deep gloom of the old age into the exuberant gladness of the new age. It is this love which will bring about miracles in the hearts of men." MLK

As we celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. King, it is important that we embrace the *FEN* principles of multicultural citizenship, anti-racism & accountability, and reconciliation & restoration, which he held as standards for his movement toward creating the beloved community that he dreamed of.

Indeed, it is our responsibility to King and others who

have sacrificed their freedom, comfort, and even their lives, to cause King's dream to become reality in our homes, in our communities, and on this campus. Dr. King's dream of a vibrant, multicultural nation standing together for justice, peace, and reconciliation has to be manifested through each of us in our daily lives.



Although Dr. King was one of the most prolific orators in history, he understood that his mastery of words would not be enough to bridge the

gaps between racially polarized people who did not know how to co-exist in peace. He knew that he had to do more than talk the talk, so he also walked the walk. The steps of a good person are ordered by the Lord, and King followed in the footsteps of the great reconciler Jesus Christ, laying down his life for the cause of justice.

Now, we too must decide what our role will be in accomplishing the dream. How will we contribute to causing Calvin to be the beloved community of King's dream, of our dreams, and of Christ's plan? We must go beyond talking the talk and execute the plan by walking the walk.

ROJ

### R&R Reading Group (Reconciliation & Restoration) Multicultural Affairs Spring Book Clubs

We are gearing up for our spring book clubs, and we are excited about the responses we have received. There is still room in both groups if you would like to be involved.

Join us for lunch and conversation about 1 or both of the books listed below. We will supply the books for the first 10 who indicate a desire to participate. There are still free books available.

One group will be reading *Dreams From My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance* written by Barack Obama, while the other group will be reading *White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son* written by Tim Wise.

If you are interested in signing up for one or both of these reading groups, email Razel, [roj2@calvin.edu](mailto:roj2@calvin.edu).

Both groups are meeting on Mondays and Tuesdays. Tuesdays will be repeat sessions of the preceding Monday meeting. It is not necessary to come to both in the same week, so choose either, even if it is a Monday on one week and a Tuesday on the next.

The group reading *Dreams From My Father* will meet in the Faculty Meeting Room from 12-1:30pm on the following dates:

Mon, Feb 12 or Tue, Feb 13  
Mon, Feb 26 or Tue, Feb 27  
Mon, Mar 12 or Tue, Mar 13

Mon, Mar 26 or Tue, Mar 27  
Mon, Apr 9 or Tue, Apr 10  
Mon, Apr 23 or Tue, Apr 24  
Mon, May 7 or Tue, May 8

The group reading *White Like Me* will meet in the Student Senate Meeting Room from 12-1:30pm on the following dates:

Mon, Feb 19 or Tue, Feb 20  
Mon, Mar 5 or Tue, Mar 6  
Mon, Apr 2 or Tue, Apr 3  
Mon, Apr 16 or Tue, Apr 17  
Mon, Apr 30 or Tue, May 1  
Mon, May 14 or Tue, May 15

Bring your lunch and look forward to great conversation!

# Remembering the Crossings



Join us in the Commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of the Abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. Throughout 2007, a variety of educational and enlightening events focusing on the trans-Atlantic slave trade and the legacy of slavery in Africa and the Americas will be presented throughout the city of Grand Rapids. Calvin College is pleased to partner as one of several program participants in this series of events. The official launch of the year-long program will take place

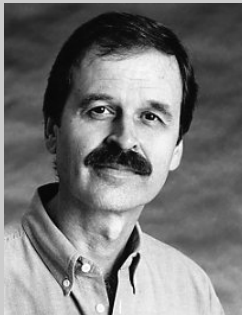
on Thursday, January 25th. The kickoff event will take place at Grand Valley State University's downtown Pew Campus in the Richard M. DeVos Center, Regency Room at 7pm with a lecture entitled, " 'Sankofa': Contemporary Ghana and the Historiography of the Slave Experience." This presentation will be given by Vice-Chancellor Reverend Professor Emmanuel Obeng of the University of Cape Coast.

Preceding the lecture, at 5pm, will

be hospitality and dinner. If you would like to attend, please respond to Meghan Wieten by January 15 at 616.331.2183 or email Megan at [wietenme@gvsu.edu](mailto:wietenme@gvsu.edu).

Other quickly approaching and on-going events include, an exhibit at the Gerald R. Ford Museum entitled, *Slavery on Trial: The Long Road to Freedom*. For a complete list of scheduled activities, visit the website: <http://www.gvsu.edu/abolition>.

## From Every Nation Symposium on Race, March 14-15



Allan G. Johnson, PhD

We are excited to announce the first ever *From Every Nation Symposium on Race*, sponsored by the dean for multicultural affairs, with support from the presidents' implementation team of the West Michigan College & University Presidents' Compact. The event will be held on Calvin's campus on March 14th and 15th.

Our inaugural speaker will be Dr. Allan Johnson, PhD, distinguished author, teacher, and public speaker who deals with issues of privilege, oppression, and social inequality. Some of his books include, *The Forest and the Trees: Sociology as Life*, *The Gender Knot: Unraveling Our Patriarchal Legacy*, as well as *Privilege, Power, and Difference*. Johnson has traveled the country speaking on social inequality and privilege. Johnson states that, "as a white male, I am especially concerned

with reaching men and whites who may feel so uncomfortable with issues of privilege that they won't even talk about them."

Day 2 will feature our keynote speaker Dr. Eduardo Bonilla-Silva who is a professor of sociology at Duke University. Bonilla-Silva is an acclaimed professor, speaker, sociologist, and author. Some of his writing includes, *Rethinking Racism: Toward a Structural Interpretation*, *White Supremacy and Racism in the Post-Civil Rights Era*, *Whiteout*, and *Racism Without Racists: Color-Blind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in the United States*. Bonilla-Silva talks about a "new" type of racism and explains the dilemma of racism in America in our time period is that racism does not look the same as it did fifty years ago. Bonilla-Silva says, "The

dilemma is this: How can you fight a monster that cannot clearly be seen? In the past a mirror of brutality was used as evidence of outward discrimination; but today, the images reflected are seemingly race-neutral."

We are expecting this conference to be challenging, eye-opening, and mind-changing, causing each attendee to examine ideas, notions, and hearts. We will look at the *FEN* principles from outside perspectives and continue to progress towards actualizing our goals and becoming the community we would like to be.

Be on the lookout for more information about this dynamic symposium coming up on March 14th and 15th.



Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, PhD