

Annual Commemoration
of the
UN International Day for the
ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Wednesday March 23, 2011

starting 8:30 am

Kitchener City Hall Rotunda

within an atmosphere of

"MUTUAL RESPECT"

this year's theme is

Canadians of African Descent

the theme does not exclude addressing other issues and current concerns

Since we all live on Native/Aboriginal land we start with an elder prayer then . . .

- O'CANADA - a signature activity of Cross Cultures' is to have a male and female
- of several ethnic and linguistic backgrounds - say or sing a line in another
language (must be coordinated with me to avoid duplication) and then
EVERYONE joins in English - symbolism: whatever ancestry ... we call pledge
allegiance to Canada

and welcome dignitaries ...

10:00 - 11:00 am

GUEST SPEAKER: Rev Dr Clifford Blake

"Race vs the Human Genetic Tree"

The biggest stumbling to the elimination of racial discrimination is lack of knowledge about races. Hear some startling scientific facts that will push back the veils and create better understanding of each other.

1. Are humans divided by races. Is the term race a psychological and social construct - does it have any scientific basis?
2. Modern DNA research reconstructed where human populations originated and traced the path by which they spread throughout the world.
3. DNA?
4. Learn about a human genetic tree which researchers have constructed and its root and branches.
5. So what about skin colour and other differences in human appearance and traits?
6. Which ethnic group is at the root of the human genetic tree? The results of the research reveal this information.
7. How close are the root and branches of the human tree?

8. Some important questions for us:
a. What personal adjustments to our belief systems have to be made in order to absorb these findings?
b. How do these findings affect our understanding and respect for each other?

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student and other presentations

including slide show of several visits to Africa
by Cathy MacLellan

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there are several ways to participate:

- BOOTHS displaying projects

to share information about your organization, to raise awareness on certain issues and concerns, to recruit volunteers ...

(a form is available please contact me)

however SORRY we ask you to please NOT:

- 1) distribute material that may be controversial
- 2) sell goods on the premises because that entails obtaining a special license from the city

or . . .

- SPONSOR

take space in the event programme to inform of your organization and get the word out

(a form is available please contact me)

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N O O N C O N C E R T

... we prefer to unwind after a serious morning .. so we ask schools to contribute with artistic talents - song, music (individual and group), drama skits, monologues ... dance expressions, etc

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afternoon feature . . .

D E B A T E in Council Chambers

"How can we create a fair and just society?"

this discussion will be led by **Graham Baechler** (Sunnyside School)

* DOCUMENTARY

The Story of Human Rights

The purpose of Youth for Human Rights International is to teach youth about human rights, specifically the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and inspire them to become advocates for tolerance and peace. Their most recent resource for this objective is a short documentary called "The Story of Human Rights". This compelling documentary is currently being used by educators, police, human rights organizations and groups all across Canada and the world to educate children and adults on the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. "

The day continues

... and students and teachers are welcome to stay or return with family and friends

interactive DIALOGUE

3 -5 community sharing

5 -7 panel

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

* DEMOCRACY / HUMAN RIGHTS

.. as viewed by the west (is the European and North American model satisfactory), and in places such as Egypt and other countries of the Middle East for example where people are ready to sacrifice everything for their freedom to vote and speak and think

* POVERTY

* BUREAUCRACY

within a democracy and under dictatorships

* SENIORS

their value, wisdom and how we should nurture them

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Egypt's fifth Nobel for the youth of Tahrir Square

**Barack Obama:** We must educate our children to become like young Egyptian people.

**Britain's Prime Minister:** We must consider teaching the Egyptian revolution in schools.

**CNN:** For the first time, we see people make a revolution and then clean the streets afterwards.

Prime Minister of Italy: There is nothing new in Egypt. Egyptians are making history as usual.

Stoltenberg, Prime Minister of Norway: Today we are all Egyptians.

Austrian President Heinz Fischer: The people of Egypt, are the greatest people of earth; and they deserve a Nobel Prize for Peace

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# PEACE CONCERT

from **6 pm**

at the City of Kitchener ROTUNDA

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open to the entire community

artists

fans & friends

and

all those interested

PERFORMANCE

&

EXHIBITION

**all disciplines and ages
including**

music

solo . . . duets . . . bands . . . choir . . . dance . . . sing . . . drum . . . rap . . .

visual

painting . . . sketching . . . photography . . . 3D

literature

poetry . . . drama skits
comic monologue

*have a **booth** ... exhibit your work ... be part of the performance ...*

call Cross Cultures magazine at **519 748 9520**
*if you want to **present** and / or have a **BOOTH** for your organization & products . .*

I may not have covered everything ... but this is just an initial intro ... looking forward to hearing from you, for attendance, booths, participation and any other questions, please feel free to contact me (see signature info)

We are looking forward to the same high attendance from the schools for such a significant day that conveys a very important message for the future generations

If you have not previously been involved, please allow me to expand and introduce you to it - I would gladly come and meet with you at your earliest convenience.

You could also check our website for past years' programs to get an understanding of the day that Cross Cultures magazine and the City of Kitchener have been partnering to offer for so many years with the support of all school systems and multitudes of community organizations.

PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE

Since the actual day (March 21) coincides to be the first day back from March Break, we have re-scheduled to the following Wednesday to allow for schools to settle back into a routine.

Yours in peace

Gehan

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