

HUMAN RELATIONS NEWS

Quarterly Newsletter of the **LOUISIANA COUNCIL ON HUMAN RELATIONS**
 incorporating **THE BATON ROUGE COUNCIL ON HUMAN RELATIONS NEWSLETTER**

Apr/May/June 2006

SPEAKING OUT FOR A BETTER LOUISIANA SINCE 1964

Vol. 42 No. 3

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2006 ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN B.R.

The annual meeting of the Louisiana Council on Human Relations was held on Sat., June 3rd in the Common Room of the University Presbyterian Church on Dalrymple Dr. in Baton Rouge. The topic of the meeting was "Important Aspects of Disaster Evacuation Plans to Include the Elderly and the Indigent." Last year, when Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit the Gulf Coast, the shameful lack of inclusion of the most needy and vulnerable was very apparent, and resulted in serious deprivation and loss of life. With another hurricane season about just starting, it was most appropriate to focus on this issue.

With barely a month to prepare, and in the brief time allotted, it was not possible to address the full range of issues comprehensively. However, the committee deserves much credit for the interesting and engaging program they were able to carry off. Particular thanks is due to Dr. James Cross, who skillfully distilled gleanings from the internet on the current status of Emergency Preparedness Planning.

It was noted that there is a troublesome confusion and friction between competing political jurisdictions. A prominent example of this is Mayor-President Kip Holden of East Baton Rouge Parish clashing with Mayor Ray Nagin of New Orleans, as the N.O. Plan designates Baton Rouge as an evacuation destination, without addressing the enormous burden that is placed on Baton Rouge finances and infrastructure by such a plan.

Guest speakers were two employees of F.E.M.A. assigned to this area. They delineated the investment of their agency in providing assistance to those affected. However, such aid is based upon certain qualifying criteria and a precise process of application must be adhered to. They were very clear that their agency's mission is supplemental to what has been determined and provided on the state level, and they coordinate with the existing helping agencies which have been contracted or authorized by the state. Only certain losses can be compensated, and then only up to a certain dollar amount. The dedication of these employees was admirable, but the F.E.M.A. agency seems to only provide a piecemeal approach to disasters, which certainly in the case of Katrina (and also Rita, to a lesser degree), had severe national social, economic, and environmental impact.

We continued our discussions while we lunched on an assortment of delicious sandwiches and soft drinks. Afterward, a brief business meeting was conducted. The main item of business was the election of board members. No board members had submitted

a resignation. While some of those whose terms were expiring have been deterred from attending regularly, it was felt that we wouldn't want to hurt anyone's feelings by removing them from the board, so they all were re-elected unanimously. They were Bernard and Rose Mae Broussard of Franklin, and William Kellner, Anthony Navarre, and Barbara Conner of Lafayette.

Several nominations had been made for new members of the board. Two had declined, but Gregory Richard of Lafayette and Roosevelt Stevenson of Baton Rouge were elected.

The presentation of the Oliver-Sigur Award was made. (see the next page for a separate article). Board members were reminded that the next Board Meeting would be held on July 24th, hosted by Elnur Musa in Baton Rouge. Ms. Marjorie Green, President of the Baton Rouge Council, graciously thanked all those who came to the meeting and contributed to its success, and bade us have a safe journey home.



OLIVER-SIGUR AWARDS GIVEN

At the Spring Meeting of the Board two outstanding citizens of Louisiana were selected for the Oliver-Sigur Award. They were Dennis Paul Williams of St. Martinville and Bill Quigley of New Orleans.

Prior to the Presentation of the award, LCHR Secretary, Dr. Pat Rickels, reviewed the history of the award. She read the tribute of Lorna Bourg, a past recipient, to Dr. James Oliver and Msgr. Alexander Sigur. Both of these men were prominent on the campus of what was U.S.L.(now U.L.L.) when racial integration was proceeding. Their leadership in university administration, at the Catholic Student Center, and in the community at large, was crucial in bringing about a more racially integrated and just society. Both of them were involved in the early days of L.C.H.R. and Dr. Oliver served as President for many years.

Since the award was initiated in 2002 it has been presented to Ms. Lorna Bourg of Southern Mutual Help Assn. of New Iberia, for her work on housing for the rural poor, and to Sen. Don Cravins, Sr. for his efforts on behalf of juvenile justice. In 2003, recipients were Judge Jules Edwards for his advocacy on behalf of the Drug Court Program, and Prof. Burk Foster, for his opposition to the Death Penalty. In 2004, Ms. Wilma Subra, environmental chemist, was honored for her efforts to expose the use of chemicals which endanger the health of workers and rural residents; and novelist Ernest J. Gaines, for his literary genius that has given voice to the lives of rural

African-Americans. The 2005 recipients were Ms. J’Nelle Chargois, radio station manager, for her work on behalf of racial equity and the needs of disadvantaged children; and Sr. Helen Prejean, for her ministry to Death Row inmates and to end the death penalty.

In this, the fifth year of the Oliver-Sigur Award, the recipients were Dennis Paul Williams and Bill Quigley. This was not the first time that Dennis Paul Williams had been nominated for the Oliver-Sigur Award. He has been a cultural ambassador and bridge-builder in his community of St. Martinville, and far beyond. He is an acclaimed visual artist, who produces canvases of unparalleled beauty and mystery. He also is a guitarist in a renowned Zydeco band. Certainly, he has distinguished himself as an artistic standard-bearer of Louisiana’s Creole culture. He has given back to his community in many ways, including serving on the City Council.

Mr. Williams is a handsome man who always wears a trademark French beret, as does Ernest J. Gaines, the previous recipient who was similarly awarded for humanistic, cultural, and artistic contributions. We were very pleased that Mr. Williams could be with us to receive his award in person.

Mr. Quigley, unfortunately, was not present at the meeting to receive his award. There was difficulty in reaching him, but not long after, he was located and graciously accepted the award, which was mailed to him. Mr. Quigley was nominated by several mem-

bers, as he has had a long and illustrious career as an attorney and professor at the Loyola University School of Law. He has directed his practice toward the legal needs of the poor and oppressed, and advocacy on behalf of social justice, peace, and human rights. He has represented war protesters, prisoners, and slum-dwellers, and what’s more, he often wins on their behalf. He ran a quixotic campaign for Supreme Court justice several years ago. Although heavily outspent, he was able to bring his passion for justice to a wider forum. Trapped with his wife during Hurricane Katrina in a dysfunctional hospital, he has since been outspoken in pointing up the racial and class inequities laid bare by that catastrophe.

Notes on Board Activity

The spring meeting of the board was held on April 22 at the home of Doris and Overton White in the St. Landry community of Plaisance. As well as setting the date of the annual meeting and choosing the recipients of the Oliver-Sigur Award, a good portion of the meeting was devoted to discussing LCHR’s relationship with Equity!Now Baton Rouge. A couple of years ago this fledgling organization with goals similar to LCHR’s sought LCHR’s assistance as a 501©(3) organization which would serve as a conduit for Equity!Now Baton Rouge’s grant from the Casey Family Foundation. This foundation, a very large and reputable foundation, which had terminated its program in Baton Rouge, was still willing to provide funding to start up a new independent venture there. Periodic reports had to be passed by LCHR to the Case Foundation, but there was difficulty in getting cooperation from Equity!Now. Richard Haymaker, liaison between LCHR and Equity!Now, has been

Board Notes, cont.

IMMIGRATION: The Changing Face of Freedom

working with LCHR President Joe Dennis in order to rectify the situation.

The Board was treated once again to the delicious chicken gumbo, baked sweet potatoes, and home-made cobbler of Doris White

The Board's next meeting was held only two months later in Baton Rouge, hosted by Mr. Elnur Musa in his Parkview subdivision home.

We had news from Richard Haymaker about the Equity! Now Baton Rouge situation.

The President had died in January, the Secretary could not be located, and the Treasurer had moved to Wisconsin. The Vice-President, the Rev Jeff Day, assumed the position of Acting President, and he seemed to be conducting the business needed to fulfill the obligations of Equity!Now. Haymaker and Day were able to get the cooperation of the bank where Equity!Now's funds were deposited, and they confirmed that the money from the Casey Foundation grant remains in Equity!Now's account.

Hopefully, a full accounting of the grant money spent on Equity!Now's activities can be given to the Casey Foundation, enabling LCHR to terminate its relationship with Equity!Now. Of course, unspent funds would have to be remitted to the Casey Foundation.

Board members were treated to a delicious North African style repast of grilled chicken drumsticks and beef kebob with salads, casserole and bread.

The above is the title of an article in the most recent issue of *The Times of Acadiana*. It explored the attitudes of Acadiana residents toward the issue of immigration. There seems to be a considerable anxiety prevalent toward immigration and immigrants. Nearly 55% supported the building of a fence between the U.S. and Mexico, and 41% supported the building of a fence between the U.S. and Canada. Although not a scientific survey, the poll indicates a high level of unease about immigration, probably mixed with fears of another terrorist attack on American soil. About 45% reported they were uncomfortable with the idea of immigrants moving into the area and 48% believe immigrants decrease property values, and don't want them moving into their neighborhoods.

Short of the mass expulsion, which rabid right-wing, Klan, and Neo-Nazi elements have been clam-



oring for, immigrants from Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean are here to stay in all of our Louisiana urban areas, and many rural communities as well.

Most of the people interviewed admitted that immigrants were needed for the economy. Employers in many sectors report that it is hard to find people who will take, work hard at, and keep certain jobs.

There is much righteous anger that the immigrants are law-breakers and must be punished for breaching our borders. *The Times of Acadiana* article put a human face on the story of the immigrant, interviewing a woman, Nanci Aguillon, a native of Mexico, who was illegal, but now has papers to work. Now married and a mother of three, she had to live in fear of arrest at any time by the I.N.S. Her crime was simply that the only way she could support herself and other family was to cross the border. The old stereotype of the "lazy Mexican" has been proven false over and over. These people have even risked their lives to be able to work in this country. Their story is a continuation of the story of all Ameri-

cans, who (with the exception of the American Indian, who were always here, and African-Americans, who were forcibly taken here) are descendants of immigrants.

These ancestors also were fleeing desperate conditions in their countries of birth, and were seeking a land of liberty and opportunity. A country that is surrounded by walls cannot be a country of freedom and opportunity, and such walls will have to be vaster than the Great Wall of China, to have any appreciable effect.

Nanci Aguillon says "This is a blessed nation under God's hand. God said 'love your neighbor'. I would like the people to respect us and love us...I would like the people to know we're here to help us, but we're also here to help this country."

Any country will need to exercise some control over its borders. However, the beacon of freedom that the Statue of Liberty represents becomes a hollow symbol unless we are receptive to what immigrants have to offer and are welcoming to them.

NEW IBERIA

The pastor of St. Peter's Catholic Church in New Iberia, Fr. Charles Langlois, is helping promote peace and justice in this lovely, but rather staid and conservative community. With a tradition of devotional Catholicism, Fr. Langlois has been gently prodding the New Iberia community toward social concerns, encouraging involvement with programs for the homeless and poor, interfaith cooperation, and peace. For the past four years a large Interfaith Service was held on the Fourth of July at St. Peter's Church, in cooperation with the New Iberia Ministerial Alliance and the Louisiana Interchurch Conference. The service brings together representatives of the various faiths in the community to celebrate our blessings to worship and live in freedom.

Efforts are now underway to revive a parish group of Pax Christi, a Catholic-oriented movement for peace and justice. In cooperation with the Pax Christi groups in Lafayette and Charenton, a Peace Service will be held on August 6th, the 61st anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. It will be an ecumenical-style prayer service, held outdoors in the New Iberia City Park on the north bank of Bayou Teche. Following the service, participants will float "peace lanterns" on the bayou. These lanterns are a tradition from Japan of remembering the dead and of the need to eliminate all nuclear weapons from the face of the earth. For further information contact Joe McCarty (337)988-6564 Tommy Vilcan (337)365-6942

NEW ORLEANS AND THE MRGO

A "hurricane highway" blamed for flooding southeast La. during Hurricane Katrina will likely become the subject of an intense debate in the coming months as commerce is pitted against the environment and public safety. The U.S. Corps of Engineers is expected to receive more than \$3 million in federal money to study whether the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet should be closed to ships. MRGO was built in the 1960's as a shortcut between the industrialized eastern portion of New Orleans, and the Gulf

LAFAYETTE

The Lafayette Parish School Board voted 7-2 along racial lines against sending a resolution to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, asked that a Black History class be made a requirement for graduation. Resident Jeffery Landry spoke in favor of the resolution as a means to improve the self-image of minority students in the Parish School system.

The Superintendent of Schools, Dr. James Easton, felt that the American history text in use in the system was a very good one and contended that black history should be taught within American history and not as a separate course.

Another citizen quoted, Forrest Chaisson, felt that black history is needed for black children to understand their past and considered it a matter of fairness. "One group gets nine months and the another gets 28 days," he contended, alluding to the concentration on Black History in the short month of February.

A retired teacher, Marion Punch, felt that teachers are trying to give students accurate historical representations of various groups and help students to feel part of the big picture, rather than separated from the whole. (from *The Advertiser* 6/22 and 6/25)

(from *The Advertiser*, 6-29-06)

The program initiated by J'Nelle Chargois, the Heritage School of the Arts has received more prominent coverage in *The Advertiser*. Nearly 150 children have been active in the Summer School of the Arts currently being offered, which will culminate in a public performance on Aug. 2nd. J'Nelle is manager of KJCB radio station and prominent in the NAACP on the local and state level. She also is a member of the LCHR Board. The program started 6 years ago with the Heritage Band, intended for lower-income children whose families could not afford to participate in high school band programs. It now has expanded to a full summer session including vocal and instrumental instruction and chorus.

CHARENTON

The dangers faced by returning veterans of the Iraq war from the radioactive contamination as become a topic of concern for Fr. Bill Crumley, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in this small town in St. Mary Parish, which is home to the Chitimacha Indian Tribal grounds and the Cypress Bayou Casino.

In these rural communities, where job opportunities are diminishing outside of the Casino, many young people are signing on with the military and being shipped to Iraq. Some return with unexplained illnesses and cognitive problems. Answers are not forthcoming from the V.A. and other government agencies. Fr. Bill has been raising awareness of the likelihood that the depleted-uranium weaponry used in the Iraq War has not only been lethal to Iraqis under bombardment by U.S. weapons but the dust and residues, once spread about, are sickening and even killing our own troops. He has been producing programs about this on the local cable free-access channel, distributing DVD's, and trying to get responses from politicians. It is feared that the radioactive nature of these contaminants may pass on harm to immediate family and to offspring.

One of the resources he has turned to has been Wilma Subra, a chemist who understands the effects of environmental toxins and pollutants on people's lives. She confirmed that depleted-uranium exposure would have likely produce birth defects, psychological and personality changes, and economic distress. It would be very difficult to diagnose by conventionally-trained physicians. Fr. Bill may be reached at (337) 923-4281.



of Mexico. At 76 miles, it is longer than the Panama Canal. Since construction, it has turned into a monster, according to scientists, eating away at the freshwater marsh and swamp forests that once thrived below New Orleans. As the channel widened, it became a conduit for storm surge. MRGO is particularly hated by residents and politicians in St. Bernard Parish, which was severely flooded. Still, shipping interests are throwing roadblocks to any closure. (*The Advertiser* 6-12-06)

BATON ROUGE HUMAN RELATIONS NEWS

Vol. 41 Newsletter of the Baton Rouge Council for Human Relations

No. 3

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BRCHR BUSINESS MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting was held on June 3rd, immediately following the LCHR Annual Meeting, chaired by President Marjorie A. Green. Treasurer Dan Yannitell reported that fiscal year 2005-06 income was \$1,237, expenses \$1,393, and end-of-the-year balance \$610. The newly constituted Board is listed in the the sidebar to the left. Elected were President, Marjorie Green; Vice-President, Glorious Wright; Secretary, Joyce Robinson; Membership Secretary, Richard Haymaker, who is Immediate Past-President. Elected to the Board of Directors were Patricia Niquille, Diana Dorroh, and Cynthia Manson.

President Green distributed copies of her annual President's Report, which will be made available on the website www.brchr.org. She announced that the Baton Rouge Council is co-sponsoring with the Working Interfaith Network and the national Coalition of Black Women, a June 20th meeting at Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church in Scotlandville on community policing. The meeting is directed toward Scotlandville and North Baton Rouge churches. Police Chief Jeff LeDuff and Col. Greg Phares of the Sheriff's Office were to speak.

The Program Committee plans a Fall Forum in October or November.

Members Speak Out

Drs. Eva Beham and Diola Bagayoko, both of Southern University, were mentioned in a Baton Rouge newspaper story of the search for a new president of the Southern University System. Baham is a member of the LCHR Board and President of the S.U. Faculty Senate. She presented a resolution of the Senate calling on the Board to follow the Search Committee's published criteria for the new S.U. System president. Bagayoko, a member of the BRCHR Board, and Distinguished Professor of Physics, pointed out that one of the candidates for the S.U. System presidency, while System vice-president, received a Ph.D. from Southern University. Few high-caliber universities permit high-ranking administrators and faculty to earn a degree at the university which is, at the same time, their employer.



YWCA May Receive Funds for Racial and Social Justice Center

The local Young Women's Christian Association, supported by the BRCHR and other social justice groups, has applied for a grant from the Babcock Foundation. In May the foundation sent a representative to Baton Rouge for an on-site visit. If the Y gets the funding, it plans to get started later this year in developing programming for this exciting project.

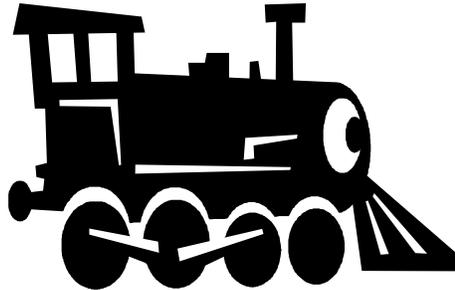
PRESCOTT MIDDLE

Prescott Middle School, a public school located in one of Baton Rouge's poverty areas, has ranked low in good things for a long time. However, the school seems to be turning around after a chaotic start this school year. More than a dozen teachers left the school, and dozens of unruly students were expelled.

What happened? The school brought in an unlikely partner: Southern University Professor Diola Bagayoko and his Timbuktu Institute, a program which prepares low-income teenagers for college. Dr. Bagayoko helped to greatly increase parental involvement and to supply needed teacher training. An example of the improvement of this school has been in English proficiency; 79% of 8th graders passed this year compared with 64% last year. Good work, Dr. Diola and Prescott students!!

ISTROUMA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

This spring the Baton Rouge Council on Human Relations presented its annual cash awards to students at its adopted school, Istrouma Senior High School. The school is located on Winbourne Ave. in a low-income area of Baton Rouge. The awards recognized the following students: Terry Brown, Jr., for academic excellence; Christopher Sananikone, academic improvement and attendance; and Tanisha Christy, for perfect attendance. The Baton Rouge Council is proud to honor these fine young students, and hopes that the recognition and encouragement we have provided is a prelude of much more to come, as they continue to develop academically and socially.



VIRTLE JONES HONORED BY BOY SCOUTS

Ms. Virtle Jones is a beloved and long-time member of the BRCHR and Wesley United Methodist Church. On April 23rd the Church's Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troops presented Ms. Jones with the 2006 Twelve Points Award, in recognition of her many years of service to family, church and community. Such service has included involvement with BRCHR of which she was the 1991-92 President.

THELMA TACNEAU RETURNS TO B.R.

Ms. Thelma Tacneau, a long-time member of the the BRCHR, who was formerly on the Board of Directors, returned to Baton Rouge in May, to accept a tribute for her work in Education. Ms. Thelma taught at Buchanan Elementary for many years. She is remembered fondly by many of her students. Mrs. Velta Cross, wife of LCHR Board member Dr. James Cross, fondly recalls the gown Ms. Tacneau gave her, so she could participate in a debutante cotillion. Richard and Holly Haymaker's daughter visited with her in Northhampton, MA. Both Ms. Thelma and her sister, Earline Cary Williams, now reside in Massachusetts. *The Advocate* carried a fine photo of them both of them on their recent visit.

C.A.H.S.D. FACES BUDGET CUTS

The Capital Area Human Services District's Executive Director, Dr. Jan Kasofsky, recently sent a letter to Marjorie Green, President of BRCHR, asking for help in reversing the Louisiana state legislature's \$3.3 million cut from the agency's FY 2007 budget. Dr. Kasofsky pointed out that her district has received national recognition in the form of an award for Excellence in Community Crisis Response from the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare. Marjorie Green represents the BRCHR on the Advisory Board of the agency, which provides a comprehensive program of various mental health and substance abuse services.

WOODLAND SPEAKS

Dr. Phil Woodland, past president of the Baton Rouge Human Relations Council and a retired Methodist minister, represented the Council at the Annual Outdoor Good Friday Stations of the Cross on April 14th. This event is sponsored by St. Joseph's Cathedral in cooperation with Catholic Community Services. The Stations are a Lenten Devotion recalling the Passion of Christ on the way to Calvary. In this case, the 14 stations are spread through a section of the downtown to spotlight the social evils suffered by God's children daily in Baton Rouge. Dr. Phil read from the excellent statement of the U.S. Catholic Bishops on Racism. This is the fourth year that the BRCHR has participated in this community event.

Robinson & Haymaker Recognized

At a May 5 luncheon, Patricia Turner Robinson and Holley Galland Haymaker, members of the BRCHR, were honored as Volunteer Activists. Robinson is chairwoman of the Baton Rouge chapter of City At Peace, and president of the B. R. Capital City Rotary Club. Since retiring from her position as community relations director for Blue Cross/Blue Shield of LA, she has served on boards of a number of organizations, including the YWCA, March of Dimes, and Violence Prevention Association of Louisiana.

Holly Galland Haymaker is a physician. She moved to Baton Rouge in 1971 and began working at Earl K. Long Med. Center. She has, for many years, been active as a volunteer in Planned Parenthood, providing services to indigent women, and as a member of the LA Health Care Commission and other health-related groups. With her husband, Richard, she co-founded LA Ceasefire, a group opposed to gun violence.

HOLOCAUST DISCUSSED

On April 25th, there was a Holocaust commemoration at L.S.U. Approximately 50 students participated in a question-and-answer forum with Rabbi

Charles Isbell, the Director of L.S.U.'s Jewish Studies program. Rabbi Isbell has written many articles on the Holocaust. He commented that the day, Yom HaShoah, is set aside to honor Jewish and other victims of the Holocaust—a time when Jews meet with people of other faiths to discuss what happened, so that nothing like it happens again.

A crowd came to L.S.U.'s Free Speech Plaza on April 25th, for a discussion led by Hillel, a Jewish student organization. The group focused on similarities between the Holocaust and the recent genocidal actions in the Darfur region of the Sudan. Rabbi Barry Weinstein, of Temple B'nai Israel, who has taught a course on the Holocaust at L.S.U. from 1991 to 2005, connected the Holocaust, not only to Darfur, but to actions in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. At 6:30 p.m. the annual Holocaust Memorial Service was held in Baton Rouge at Temple Beth Shalom.

A letter to the editor of *The Reveille*, dated April 27th, by Robert Payne, Chairman of LSU's Philosophy and Religious Studies Dept., stated that this fall his department will offer a special topics course in the history of anti-Semitism. He pointed out that various departments have offered a number of special topics courses in Holocaust studies, such as the Holocaust in Literature.

Black and Jewish Students

Little noticed this spring, but significant in Jewish-Black relations, was the fellowship of 33 students from the University of Southern California, who came to Baton Rouge during spring-break vacation, to work on Habitat for Humanity houses being built on Fountain Ave. Building homes together drew Jewish and Black students together, claimed Gina Clayton, USC senior, and a national NAACP Board Member. Jason Goldman, who is Jewish, said he didn't really know any African-American students on campus. Black and Jewish students tended to eat and socialize in their own enclaves. However, here in Baton Rouge, the students together attended a Jewish Sabbath service, and a Sunday service at Shiloh Baptist Church. They gathered after each days events to discuss culture, religion, and racial and religious stereotypes. They learned how Jews were among those who established the NAACP in 1909, and that a high proportion of southern civil-rights lawyers were Jewish. They learned that Black newspapers were among the first in the U.S. to attack Nazism in the 1930's and 40's.

Obituary Corner

Two long-time members of the Baton Rouge Council passed away this Spring. **Ms. Lesby Solete Banks** died at the age of **96**. She had taught at Southern University for 18 years and at McKinley High School for 24 years. She spent her entire life devoted to the education of the young and helping others.

Ms. Melba Stewart Simmons was **87** at the time of her death. She was a graduate of Southern University, where she received her bachelor's and master's degrees. A choir director for many years at Mt. Zion First Baptist Church, she served as BRCHR Board of Directors Chair in 1976-77.

YWCA Racial Justice Program

Racial Justice Awards were present on May 5th to social worker Nancy Miller and to Swine Palace Productions, a theater group at LSU. The awards recognize exceptional contributions toward elimination of racism.

Roberta Madden and Maxine Crump of the YWCA addressed a men's group at Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church in Scotlandville on May 31st. They described the YWCA's Dialogue on Race program, which originated with Living Room Dialogues in 1968. Women met in each others homes to discuss racial prejudice. Now the program is for both men and women and covers institutional racism. Nearly 1,000 persons have participated. Nine such dialogues were held last year. There is a \$20 fee. for more information call (225)215-1326.

Rev. Charles Smith Honored

The Pastor of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, Rev. Charles T. Smith, was the 3rd recipient of the Rev. Mary E. Moody Lifetime Achievement Award for involvement in the redevelopment of Mid-City B.R. His church has been very involved in community social uplift on all levels.

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