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Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration starts with a Freedom March

To honor the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and to emphasize the struggle that still takes place in our society, more than fifty people came to the Fellowship House to reenact the historic march that Dr. King made from Selma to Birmingham in 1965.

Armed with signs and posters proclaiming the need for social justice, the group, representing numerous area houses of worship and other organizations, marched from Media Fellowship House to The First United Methodist Church of Media at State and Lemon Streets.



Area residents re-enact a march to honor Dr. King. (l-r) Dr. Joan Duval-Flynn, President of Media Area Unit NAACP; Rev. Larry V. Smoose, pastor of Reformation Lutheran Church; Thaddeus Adams; Robin Otto, MFH President; Jerry Duffy, MFH Executive Director; and Frank Daly, President of Media Borough Council.

“We wanted to give our young people the opportunity to experience what it was like to take part in such an event,” said Robin Otto, President of Media Fellowship House, “the march was a true demonstration of fellowship.”

Braving the cold winds, the group arrived at the church where the annual celebration took place. More than 150 people attended the event including Media Mayor Bob McMahon, Borough Council President Frank Daly, State Senator Dominic Pileggi, and U.S. Congressman Joseph Sestak who was one of the speakers.

In addition to the speakers, Hedgerow Theatre performed a touching depiction of the incident that sparked the founding of Media Fellowship House. Dressed in period costumes, the actors reenacted the incident that took place in a Media restaurant in 1943 when Marie Whitaker and her sister were refused service because they were African Americans. Dorothy Biddle James and Julia Fowler, who witnessed the discrimination, took the two African American women to another restaurant where they all ate lunch together.

“We are grateful for the hard work of Hedgerow Theatre,” said MFH Executive Director Jerry Duffy, “their portrayal of this sad incident really brought home the importance of this annual celebration.”

Led by Dr. Michael Campbell, the event concluded with the audience joining hands and singing “We Shall Overcome” while Jarred Manny accompanied on the trumpet. It certainly was a day to remember.

“we wanted to give our young people the opportunity to experience what it was like to take part in such an event...the march was a true demonstration of fellowship”
MFH President

ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER APRIL 9, 2008

Media Fellowship House will hold its annual meeting and dinner on Wednesday, April 9, 2008. It will be held in the Media Borough Community Center at 301 N. Jackson Street. This year's dinner, which will be pot-luck, will start at 6:00 P.M. and will be followed by a house business meeting at 7:00 P.M.

On the agenda for this year's meeting will be a vote by the Media Fellowship House members to amend the existing Bylaws to extend the terms for board officers from two terms to three terms.

In addition to the Bylaws amendment, Media Fellowship House will present awards to two very worthy recipients. The 2008 Marie Whitaker Humanitarian Award will be presented to Joyce Ellis for her long term service to many community organizations including Media Fellowship House while The 2008 Dorothy James Community Service Award will be presented to Penelope Reed and Hedgerow Theatre for their work in promoting diversity through the theatre.

The annual awards are named after two of Media Fellowship House's founders and are presented to individuals or organizations who are dedicated to promoting respect for cultural and religious diversity.

"This year we thought it would be a nice idea to have a pot-luck supper instead of the usual catered event," said Robin Otto, President of Media Fellowship, "it's another way for our members and friends to come together in fellowship."

Everyone is invited and encouraged to bring a dish to share but only dues paying members can vote at the meeting. For more information contact Jerry at the house at 610-565-0434.

Media Fellowship House Sponsors Trip to African American Museum for



Media Fellowship House was pleased to be able to celebrate Black History Month by sponsoring a trip to the African American Museum in Philadelphia. The group of more than twenty children and adults from The With Pen In Hand Family Writing Program made their way to the city on February 16 to take part in the museum's Family Fun Days.

"It was a great opportunity for Media Fellowship House and the writing program to partner in a rich, educational experience." said Jerry Duffy, Executive Director of Fellowship House.

The day's activities included a tour of the art gallery and photo exhibit, a presentation of the music and dance of Africa and the African Diaspora as well Gullah Grass Doll Making.

"The students and parents took part in the activities together," said Jerry "the trip was valuable in that it offered a chance for each of the families to share in the history of the African people."

*"I want
freedom
for the
full
expression
of my
personalit
y"*

*-Mahatma
Gandhi*

WRITING PROGRAM THRIVES AT MEDIA FELLOWSHIP HOUSE

The With Pens in Hands Family Writing Program, now the With Pen in Hand Family Writing Program now in its eighth year, continues to serve the community by helping families to improve their writing skills and to enjoy writing. Over fifteen families are being served during this 2007-08 year including mothers, fathers, guardians, grandparents and mentors. Children's ages range from 2 to eighteen and they have come from the Philadelphia area, Delaware County, Chester County, and the state of Delaware.



Saturday morning sessions are held from 9:30 to 12 noon at Media Fellowship House. The teachers, Dr. Jesselyn Etheredge, Mrs. Janice Ewing and Mrs. Joyce Ellis, who is also a computer specialist, keep the two and one half hour sessions productive and alive. We have had the services of Associate Director of the Pennsylvania Writing and Literature Project, Dr. Mary Buckelew and Pennsylvania Writing and Literature Project Fellow Ilene Hutchinson.

In addition to the trip to the African American Museum in Philadelphia during Black History Month, another trip is being planned for Longwood gardens. We know that many varied experiences give our writers something to write about.

We have expanded the program to include strategies for success on SAT and PSSA evaluations while our lessons on essay writing have a lively twist.

A sixteen year old who entered the program at age 9 is back to receive help with his high school essay and there are two students from Delaware County Community College who have come to get help with their writing.

The program was funded this year by the Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith Memorial Fund and PECO and is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Writing and Literature Project of West Chester University and Media Fellowship House, Inc. We will publish an anthology of participants' writings in the summer. Our budding writers include Zavier and Jordan White; Ayana, Amira and Priscilla Dunn; Lara Etheredge; Lance and Chandler Jenkins.

If you have any questions or would like to register for the remainder of the 2008 year, please call 610-565-4495, or 610-565-0434. We will offer a summer session and dates will be announced soon.

HOUSING PROGRAMS

Media Fellowship House's housing programs continue to offer assistance to our neighbors.

Homeownership First
Working together with Delaware County's Office of Housing and Community Development, last quarter Media Fellowship House provided education to more than 20 families who came to learn about the home buying process. Of those, 6 were able to purchase their own home right here in Delaware County.

HEMAP
There continues to be an increase in the number of homeowners who come to Media Fellowship House for assistance in preventing the loss of their homes to foreclosure. Last quarter, Media Fellowship House provided counseling to more than 60 homeowners who were in the foreclosure process.

With the support of Delaware County's Office of Housing and Community Development, we will be able to continue serving our neighbors with their housing needs well into the future.

Donate

Media Fellowship House could use your help to achieve our goals. Please consider making a contribution to the house or becoming a member.

Just complete the form on the other side of this page and return it to us at the house.

Your contribution will go a long way in helping us continue our more than sixty year tradition of service to our community.

“ We
make a
living by
what we
get, we
make a
life by
what we
give”

-Churchill



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 Through Programs for Social Change*

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Join Media Fellowship House

Yes! I'd like to join Media Fellowship House. Please enroll me at the following level:

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 _____ Family \$50 _____ Senior/Student \$10

Please accept my donation in the amount of \$_____ to help Media Fellowship House

Continue their service to the community.

Name: _____

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Please make checks payable to "**Media Fellowship House**" and return with this form by mail. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Information is on file with the Pennsylvania Department of State and can be obtained by calling 800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.