

DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY – AUTUMN 2008 HONORS RECEPTION

A SEASON OF ELECTIONS, CAMPAIGNS and CAMPAIGNS and CAMPAIGNS and CAMPAIGNS

- Our reception guests are urged to complete their registration for this Fall's elections,
- . . . or, as the case may be, to ensure that their existing voter's registration is duly updated. If you are already registered make sure that your address is given correctly on the voting records – this can usually be checked by internet.
- For your convenience stacks of the registration forms for our nearby jurisdictions – the District of Columbia, Virginia, and Maryland -- are placed at the table near the spiral stairway. Instructions are included for mailing the filled-in form to the correct address for your election authority.
- NOTE: Virginia requires submission of one item of identifying documentation along with the form (a broad range of documents will suffice -- see instructions).
- NOTE: IMPORTANT -- Haste is the order of the day: registration deadlines are upon us. All materials must be put in the mail over this week-end.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ELECTIONS AND YOUR PARTICIPATION

- Popular elections cannot fine-tune public policy, but they offer an ultimate protection against *abusive government* or *seriously destructive directions of policy*. They are the mechanism that *ultimately secures representative government*.
- If you *care* about the directions of public policy, and if you are *informed on the values and the arguments* underlying the questions of policy, then you are part of that *protecting* and *securing* electorate.
- While the political world solemnly assures us every four years that that year's election is the most important of our lifetime, not to say of all history, this year's does appear to be a remarkably interesting and spirited contest, conducted in an era of more than usual stress and pain in the republic. The endless campaign, to be sure, may grow tiresome; therefore: *read everything, turn down the volume on the radio ads* (so that you may enter the voting booth with sanity intact), and reflect that it will all be much quieter in *only four short weeks*.
- Our name is Dialogue on Diversity, and we approve the above message.