



# DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY

## CALENDAR OF 2010 PROGRAMS

The principal programs on tap in Dialogue on Diversity's 2010 schedule are described below. For the smaller, impromptu programs presented from time to time, friends of the Dialogue are notified through regular mailings, e-mail, and at the Web-site: [www.dialogueondiversity.org](http://www.dialogueondiversity.org). Check this Web-site for registration information and for updates and details on times and locations.

### INTERNET ISSUES SYMPOSIUM

#### *PROGRESS, PRIVACY, AND THE TECHNICAL TOOLBOX*

January 27, 2010 The Stuart R. Mott House, Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.

The advent of information technology – whose final dimensions and the depth of whose effects on industry, commerce, and our domestic existence continues to develop new and unexpected contours – presents, alongside the excitement of change and the enjoyment of evident benefits, an undertow of perils and perplexities. It is with the latter that the Internet Privacy program concerns itself. The date of the Symposium, January 28<sup>th</sup>, is not randomly chosen: it is the internationally observed Internet Data Privacy Day. It has come to be observed in the U.S. though the efforts of the Intel Corporation and a battery of other companies in the IT industries, reinforced by the interest of members of the Congress, governmental agency representatives, and public personalities. Speakers from non-profit organizations specialized to consideration of these problems, legislative figures, and technical experts will be part of the agenda, presenting informed discussion of the multiple aspects of the day's question. This year's is the second of what will doubtless become an established part in Dialogue on Diversity's annual cycle of public policy offerings. Among the sub-topics coming in for attention will be, on the one hand, the proliferation of social networking sites and the related currency of newfangled messaging and communications techniques – many constituting a temptation, especially for the very young, to disclose perhaps excessive information about themselves and their whereabouts. Again, the introduction of much more widespread medical IT will inevitably result in the accumulating of vastly greater volumes of personal information, all lodged in data banks which are to be designed, moreover, to afford instantaneous and plenary access to all these contents as an aid to diagnosis and treatments, often in emergency situations -- at once this capability, if it is not carefully confined to a narrow circle of medical personnel, could be the source of both embarrassment and more tangible harms. Still other facets of the internet problem – here a quandary generated by the very success of the medium – is the puzzle of capacity management in internet traffic, the pricing schemes for both readers and generators of content, and the social and economic effects of any pricing and tiered services mechanisms (in short, the continuing contentions over “net neutrality”).

### PUBLIC POLICY FORUM

#### *The Resilient Society: Viva the Human Capital y Very Good: The Testing of America Infrastructure*

March 10, 2010, Rayburn Gold Room, Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.

The 2010 edition of the always lively Public Policy Forum offers reflections on the state of legislative initiatives one year into the labors of a new Congress and new Administration. Some of the key topics necessarily are the achievements of the country's political apparatus, such as these may stand at Forum time, in the field of health care reform, and again in that of immigration. Still another heavy-lifting project confronting American society,

one crucially significant in the medium and long runs, is the perennial problem of creating and maintaining the quantum of human capital, the necessary instrument for sustaining the society's forward motion and its productivity, not to mention its wage levels relatively to those of other places on the globe. That is to say: education – here the task of fashioning a good – and equal – start for children of the inchoate “underclass” so that they stand an even chance with the offspring of the affluent – must be a prime subject of our concern. The Forum will direct a variety of analyses and factual scenarios, through the presentations of a range of speakers from varied points on the ideological spectrum, to each of these and other questions that stand at the center of a society's concern for its moral stance and its material future. The Forum, as a part of American civil society, and with its own special angle of vision, hopes to offer a modest contribution to a salutary critique of the country's capacity for useful civic initiative.

## HEALTH CARE SYMPOSIUM

*HEALTH CARE IN THE GOOD SOCIETY: HOW FAR HAVE WE NOW COME?*

May 12, 2010, National Education Association, Washington, D.C.

The Health Care program, an integral part of the public policy series of the Dialogue, deals with dual problems in the matter of health – first is the array of legal and economic arrangements surrounding the provision of health care, together with the social structures that induce healthful rather than unhealthy lifestyle practices. The other side of the larger subject of health in American society studies the scientific advances in the understanding of health, mental and bodily, and the medical procedures that can both ward off sickness and cure maladies that have advanced to an active state. Special attention must go to the large question of prevention, with aspects on the one hand in the legal/regulatory side of the question and at once in the swiftly advancing medical science that points to practices, screening techniques, and other tools designed for lowering the probability that illness will strike. A series of speakers will review the state of progress in treatment options and in the social effects of leading medical conditions, among these diabetes, cancer, various forms of dementia, and cardiovascular disease. It is clear that the symposium discussions are overshadowed this year by the cacophonies of the health care disputations that have raged over the last year and will presumably be echoing still at the time of the program.

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP/INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

*THE RESILIENT ECONOMY: PERENNIALS IN THE SMALL-ENTERPRISE GARDEN*

JULY 14, 2010, U.S. Capitol Visitors Center, Washington, D.C.

The programs of the 2010 cycle bring to the fore Dialogue on Diversity's emphasis on the innovative spirit and the newly enabled technological savvy of the generation that, having taken over the conventional wisdom in society and economics, has set about supplanting the old principles and techniques with a new set of their own. It is the enterprising spirit of women, always being renewed from within, and under the special impetus of the 19 - 39 age cohorts, that more and more has come to power economic development and innovation. It is indeed this spirit that offers the prospect of climbing out of the economic slump that the country has fallen into over the last two years. It is in large part through the skills and special expertise of women entrepreneurs, among them a robust contingent of enterprise founders and owners drawn from the broad ambit of cultures and ethnicities in American society, that the key to contemporary economic growth is to be sought.

The conference features a concise update on the year's IT innovations in both hardware and software, along with updates on the swiftly innovating realm of telecommunications devices. Again, it presents private- and public-sector supplier diversity executives with instruction on this growingly significant marketing mode, the process of gathering information on purchasing needs, the self assessment and formal certification as the preparation for gaining a spot in the stable of eligible small business vendors, and nailing down the sale by well calculated approaches to government and corporate procurement officers. Banking and management speakers present a midday seminar on Business Productivity: the Available Resources, with references to the perennial problems of access to capital, tips on sources of information and mentoring aid, and more. The agenda concludes with a Diversity Roundtable reviewing the experience of successful entrepreneurs and executives, each relaying telling insights into the special aptitudes and skills of America's Latino and other ethnic communities.

Dialogue on Diversity's series of conferences on the challenges and the promise of skilled entrepreneurship have brought into a sharp focus the smart deployment of management techniques, together with a winning agility in use of the latest instruments of information technology, now close to indispensable for contemporary enterprise operation. These are the twin keys to women's economic advancement and social empowerment. A series of workshops brings together experts from the academic world, business enterprise, public service, and the rapidly evolving technology industries, exploring the ways in which the increasingly refined armamentarium of technology and management techniques stand at the ready for adoption by women entrepreneurs. These tools for cutting-edge entrepreneurial operation, in the hands of adept business owners, become the instruments of success in the challenging interactions with the ever changing social and work environment. They open the way to new dimensions of achievement for ethnic women and their enterprises.

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP CONFERENCE – THE ISLAND ECONOMY

### *WEALTH, HEALTH, AND THE ENTREPRENEURIAL ETHOS*

September 30, 2010, Universidad del Este, Carolina (San Juan), Puerto Rico

The themes of the midsummer Washington Entrepreneurship Conference are present once more in this early fall symposium in San Juan, Puerto Rico, presented with the tropical nuances of the island locale. This program, first presented in 2009, is to be renewed in progressive yearly editions in collaboration with the Dialogue's host and Co-Sponsor, the Universidad del Este (University of the East – the school is situated in the eastern reaches of the San Juan metropolitan area). Puerto Rico is the economic powerhouse of the Caribbean, with extensive industrialization, much of this in the pharmaceutical industry, encouraged since the Second World War by U.S. tax and other policies. Its entrepreneurial sector is thriving, in spite of momentary stresses in the midst of the world-wide economic slowdown. Women occupy powerful posts in the public and private economic sectors; they are extensively represented in the lineup of symposium speakers, along with heads of business incubators, small business certifying agencies, and entrepreneurial mentoring organizations. Proceedings are conducted in both English and Spanish, with simultaneous translation available. Dialogue members and friends from the mainland States are among the hearers in attendance – it is an approximately four hours' trek by air from either Washington or New York – along with a range of women business owners and executives from the San Juan and nearby areas.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS COLLOQUIUM

*ATTENTION MUST BE PAID: REMEMBRANCE AND REMEDY*

OCTOBER 20, 2009, 2437 Fifteenth Street, N.W. Washington, D.C.

The elusive, often slighted social shame of domestic abuse, the infliction of mental anguish, punctuated often by outbreaks of violence, all in the sanctuary of the home, is the subject for an examination of the many facets of this persistent affliction of every class, ethnicity, and geographical region. The colloquium brings together experts from social service organizations, some dedicated to the needs of the Latino and other ethnic communities, others of Asian populations, joined with lawyers, psychologists, and writers. Among these, for example, are groups mentoring young persons in their teens experiencing the novel, and newly powerful, emotions of sexual attraction, which may find outlet in violence and cruelty as well as love. How may young persons most prudently face the shocks and perplexities of these situations? Again, how do abused spouses determine when to escape from the perils of an abusive domestic life in which they are locked, and how do they propose to fare, often with little financial expertise and business experience, cast on their own in a not always friendly city? In an informal conversation interested professionals, with experience on the firing line with their often poor and confused clients, together with persons concerned with the policy aspects of the questions, meet to share the special expertise of each and to consider the appropriate public policy moves to attack the bane of domestic abuse.

## HOLIDAY FAIR AND CHILDREN'S GIFT COLLECTION 2007

*HAPPY TIMES — BEST FRIENDS, THE FINEST OF SEASONS*

December 11, 2010, Washington, D.C.

Toys collected through the year by the many friends of Dialogue on Diversity, coming together from diverse businesses and professions, and reflecting the many cultural traditions flourishing among us, are assembled in this annual pre-holiday celebration. They will be distributed by a combine of community organizations during the festive seasons ahead. Held in early anticipation of the holidays, the Fair celebrates the festive times to come in this special season of the year, in the common enjoyment of carols, conversation, and a lunch, highlighted by dances and musical performances of children from the participating organizations. The day's by-word: a child's toy is the ticket of admission. The Dialogue has encouraged its members and friends, in Washington and around the country, to organize Holiday Fairs/Children's Gift Collections in their own cities and locales, offering at the most festive time of year some tangible token of our concern, however small, remembering the less enabled among the families, and especially the children, in each district.

VISIT OUR WEB SITE: [www.dialogueondiversity.org](http://www.dialogueondiversity.org)

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