

DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY

MINI-NEWSLETTER: SPECIAL HOLIDAY NUMBER DECEMBER 24, 2010

For all the Friends of Dialogue on Diversity



The Holiday Fair and Children's Gift Collection for 2010, celebrated on December 10th, was hosted by the Josephine Butler Parks Center in the Adams Morgan section of Washington, D.C. The Center is an imposing, classic Washington mansion atop Meridian Hill, north of the city center, and not far from the neighborhoods that many of the city's immigrants and economically disadvantaged households call home. The Center itself, built early in the last century, has been home to more than one foreign embassy in its long history, and is now the headquarters of some dozen community service organizations, among them the Holiday Fair co-sponsor Latino Federation of Greater Washington. At the center of the festal day's agenda, Santa Claus, his jolly bantering self, asked the children, most of these in the five to six years of age range, about their young careers, and responded in turn to their queries about Santa's own very special, very intriguing mission.

The purpose of the Holiday Fair is, on the one hand, to bring together the friends of Dialogue on Diversity, together with supporting firms and organizations that have afforded valuable assistance in the Dialogue's programs through the year, to join in the festive atmosphere of the holiday season. Most important, though, is the work of gathering and delivering gifts for the children of economically stressed and otherwise disadvantaged households. The country is still suffering from the economic slowdown that has strained the already meager resources of countless immigrant and other economically disadvantaged families to the breaking point – often any provisions for gifts and celebrations for the children are out of the question. Of the gifts we collect many are distributed to the children who have themselves come to the Holiday Fair as part of representative groups of client families served by our lineup of collaborating community organizations, while the larger number of gifts are given by these organizations themselves during the holidays soon to follow – forming the mainstay of their own Christmas or Three Kings parties.

Thanks are due for the success of this year's Fair to the Latino Federation of Greater Washington and to the Vida Senior Center as co-sponsors for 2010, and to a score of other collaborating organizations. Finally to the cheerful and tireless corps of individual helpers and supporters, among them those invisible angels whose gifts of \$50 and \$100 produced the impetus driving the acquisition of toys that make the Fair meaningful and real.

YOUR RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE DIALOGUE

Newsletter readers and all Friends of Dialogue on Diversity are invited, once again for 2011, to bring their skills and resources to the cause through a formal partnership in the organization. Each member lends a much valued hand in advancing the program of the Dialogue. It is an enterprise of exploration and advocacy in the cause of creativity-from-diversity, the principle that animates Dialogue on Diversity's cycle of programs throughout. This principle, on a macro scale, is a chief source as well of the restless innovative energy that has powered U.S. society in its train of estimable achievements, and may be relied on, in turn, to press the campaign to dismantle its many harsh and destructive flaws. We hope you will be a part of the movement, giving voice to the variety of analyses and inquiries that are part of a reasoned and constructive discourse on the workings of an advanced and energized society. The Dialogue's internet site (www.dialogueondiversity.org) offers a description of the several membership classes, along with a form for your registration as a member.

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