



DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY

HOLIDAY FAIR: TEXT FOR CAPITAL WIRE

GIFTS OF THE SEASON: MANY ACCENTS AND A COMMON HEARTH

Washington, D.C. (Capital Wire PR) November 24, 2008 -- Dialogue on Diversity's twelfth annual Holiday Fair and Children's Gift Collection brings to a festive finish the Dialogue's 2008 program year. The Fair is set for Saturday, December 13 at the Carlos Rosario International Center, 1100 Harvard Street in Northwest Washington (guests at the Holiday Fair may park at the school's large lot just off Harvard Street, near Thirteenth Street). Throughout the holiday time just ahead, participating community organizations will distribute to the many households they serve the gifts that our Dialogue, its broadening circle of friends, and many generous firms in the metropolitan area have contributed. Among those sponsoring firms are *Kaiser Permanente*, the *Carlos Rosario Center* itself, and the *Washington Hispanic*.

The program begins at 11:00 a.m. with songs of the season and introductions of guests and the children who represent the circle of collaborating community organizations. Lunch, song and dance performances by the children, the arrival of Santa Claus, and the division of gifts among the participating community groups follow.

The Holiday Fair's 2008 site is the home of the remarkable Carlos Rosario International Charter School, founded and nurtured over more than a score of years by Sonia Gutierrez (who is, by the by, a Dialogue on Diversity director and a recipient of the Dialogue's Leadership Award earlier this year). Ms. Gutierrez, as host for the festive occasion, will be on hand to welcome the guests. Sonia Gutierrez took on the new school's management from its inception and has built the resulting institution, now a model for adult education throughout the country. Her unfailingly gentle manner cloaks steely resolution and a tireless striving for the good of the communities the school serves. The school has been a beacon to two generations of young adult arrivals from around the globe, from Latin America, Ethiopia and other parts of Africa, the Pacific islands, the Middle East, and elsewhere. It is a fittingly excellent setting for the hardworking newcomers to the country who constitute the bulk of its students.

Ma. Cristina Caballero, Dialogue on Diversity's President, emphasizes the unique opportunity the Holiday Fair offers, once more this year, as the Dialogue's members and friends are called on to have a direct outreach into the communities of need in the city. She urges all members and others interested in Dialogue on Diversity's work to join the festivities with a suitable toy, a book, artist's equipment, or other gift for the children, wrapping and marking each for boy or girl, and noting the approximate age -- from four to fourteen. A second, or third, gift will be immensely appreciated, as will a contribution (tax-deductible) of cash for additional gifts (send any contributions, marked: Children's Gifts, to Dialogue on Diversity, 1629 K St., N.W., Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20006).

Our distributing organizations number the children in their client households in the hundreds. Readers are invited to have a role in meeting this need by joining in the 2008 Holiday Fair. Consult the Dialogue's Web-site (www.dialogueondiversity.org) for up-dates, details, and registration. Telephone: 703-631-0650.

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Dialogue on Diversity is a 501(c)(3) Organization. Contributions are tax-deductible.