

MINI-NEWSLETTER

FOR MARCH-APRIL, 2009

DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY

1629 K STREET, N.W., SUITE 300

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

TEL: [FEXVA] 703-631-0650, FAX:[FEXVA] 703-631-0617

E-MAIL: DIALOG.DIV@PRODIGY.NET, URL:

WWW.DIALOGUEONDIVERSITY.ORG

Friends of Dialogue on Diversity

Welcome to the March-April Mini-Newsletter from *Dialogue on Diversity*, which, bringing the best of Springtime greetings, with a preliminary report on the 2009 edition of the Dialogue's Health Care Symposium, held on Wednesday, May 13 at the National Education Association in Washington . . . These pages contain as well a report on the faces and insights of the Dialogue's fourteenth annual Public Policy Forum, presented at the Rayburn House Office Building's Gold Room on March 5, 2009. . . . And a birthday report on an excellent friend of Dialogue on Diversity

MINI-NEWSLETTER – MARCH 28TH, 2009

NOTES ON HEALTH CARE SYMPOSIUM, MAY 13, 2009

REPORT: PUBLIC POLICY FORUM

HITTING ONE'S STRIDE AT 95: SALUTE TO RUTH NADEL

HEALTH CARE SYMPOSIUM: NEWS ADVISORY, AGENDA, AND DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM PURPOSE

NEWS ADVISORY

DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY HEALTH CARE SYMPOSIUM 2009 SPOTLIGHTS HEALTH CARE REFORM DEBATES

Washington, D.C., May 15, 2009, — Dialogue on Diversity's 2009 Health Care Symposium *Affordability and Equity: An End of All Exploring? Or Just the Beginning?* held this year on May 13th at the National Education Association in Washington, again brought together women entrepreneurs and the policy-conscious public- and private-sector executives and staff to hear and critique the expertise of a distinguished array of health care specialists. "Reform in the basic structure of the U.S. health care system appears to be at last in the works," Dialogue president **Ma. Cristina Caballero** commented. "But even before the broad gauge reform, relief for small entrepreneurs appears in prospect as well, setting to rights the uneven taxation of health insurance for individuals and small business owners vis-a-vis the employees of larger firms. Our 2009 Symposium should serve as the wake-up call for our own target audience of ethnic small business owners and, we hope, a source of useful ideas and counsel for a broader circle of policy-oriented professional and business types."

The day's program features remarks at the midday session by **Rep. Grace Napolitano** of California's 38th District, who was honored with Dialogue on Diversity's Legacy Award for her powerful advocacy in the causes of health and education and for her championing of federal support of mental health programs. Rep Napolitano, who has sought, during her decade in the Congress, to muster support for early and meaningful interventions for young persons, among whom the possibility of suicide has come to be alarmingly frequent, for armed forces members returning from distant battle theaters seriously impaired by psychological impacts, and for others whose mental functioning has cost billions in lost economic productivity, and in disastrous human anguish for families, fellow workers, and communities.

After greetings by N.E.A.'s Latina Outreach director **M. Rita Jaramillo, Jerald Newberry**, heading up the newly conceived Health Information Network (HIN) of the mammoth teachers' organization, described efforts to bring freshly presented information on a gamut of health challenges, driving the message home to both teachers and, through them, to students at all levels in schools around the country. HIN brings into focus everything from nutrition to AIDS to stress and its concomitant violence – the principle holds that health and a stable environment are the best catalyst for the teacher-student learning interaction.

The Symposium centerpiece was a two hour session on health care reform – the proposals, the prospects, and the stubborn underlying economic structures that so far have resisted private and desultory public-sector efforts to tame them. Panelists, all close students of the medical care system, reflected the range of views -- among them **Nina Owcharenko** of the conservative Heritage Foundation, **Karen Davenport** of the Center for American Progress, and **Stan Dorn** of the Urban Institute (who likened the repeatedly dashed high hopes of the health care community for reform to the annual dismay of Charlie Brown when Lucy once again jerks the football to the side). **Tevi D. Troy**, former Assistant HHS Secretary, now at the Hudson Institute, offered a critical and carefully nuanced account of the potential outcome-improving role of a régime of widely adopted information technology in the universe of medical practice. **Melissa Bishop-Murphy** of Pfizer, brought a carefully articulated commentary on the health care problem from the key perspective of that leading pharmaceutical producer.

In other Symposium highlights **Susan Scanlan**, President of Women's Research and Education Institute (WREI), engaged a rapt lunchtime audience with the history of women's advances big

time in the Washington political milieu. She was present at the creation as the newly formed women's caucus came on the scene, regaling her hearers with such anecdotes as the novice Sen. Barbara Mikulsky marching into the NIH with her accountant in tow and demanding to "see the books". Ultimately made available, they disclosed an alarming want of attention to the most elementary women's health issues. **Dr. Elena Rios**, Founder and President of the National Hispanic Medical Association, appeared as featured speaker at the Symposium's midday session, laying out the case chapter and verse for the training and nurturing of a numerous and vital corps of Hispanic medical professionals.

Monica Villalta of Kaiser Permanente, **Dr. José Ruales** of the Pan American Health Organization, and the President of Latinos for National Health Insurance, **Dr. Jaime Torres**, sketched the travails of the hemisphere's minority populations, persuasively concluding with an indictment of the prevailing system of patchwork, gap-riddled, and otherwise insufficient insurance coverage, opting instead for a system resembling Medicare for all. For the Symposium's afternoon session former PAHO Deputy Director **Dr. Cristina Beato**, along with **Trina Frazier** of the American Kidney Fund, led a roundtable discussion, *Understanding, Prevention, and Remedy*, a review of principal current health threats to the American population.

Along with the Symposium host N.E.A., 2009 program sponsors included Kaiser Permanente, pharmaceutical giant Pfizer, and Southwest Airlines.

SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

➤ 9:30 Data, Cultural Competence, and Health Disparities in Access and Treatment

Monica Villalta, Kaiser Permanente: Language, Culture, Economics

Dr. José Ruales, Regional Advisor, Health Systems, PAHO

Dr. Jaime Torres, President, Latinos for National Health Insurance

➤ 10:30 am Health Care Reform – Single Payer? Reformed Private/Public Insurance Plan? Economics, Technology, and the Law: The Remarkable Pharmaceutical Industry

Nina Owcharenko, The Heritage Foundation

Melissa Bishop Murphy, Pfizer

Albert Collazo, PhRMA

Karen Davenport, Center for American Progress

Tevi D. Troy, Hudson Institute (former Deputy Secretary HHS)

12:30 pm Lunch Session Special Speaker: Rep. of Health and Human Services

Keynote speaker: **Hon. Grace Napolitano**, U.S. House of Representatives, California

Elena Rios, President, National Hispanic Medical Association

Susan Scanlan, President, National Council of Women's Organizations.

➤ 1:45 pm Small Business and Employees' Health Insurance – The Entrepreneur's Dilemma

David D. Ferreira, U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Stan Dorn, Urban Institute

Mayra Alvarez, Office of Sen. Richard Durbin

➤ 2:15 pm Confronting Society's Chief Health Concerns: Understanding, Prevention, and Remedy

Dr. Cristina Beato, former Deputy Director, Pan American Health Organization

Yanira Cruz, Ph.D., National Hispanic Council on Aging

Trina Frazier, American Kidney Fund

Rose Mary Padberg, RN, MA, National Cancer Institute, NIH

➤ 3:30 pm Conclusion and Final Remarks

Health Screening: Cost-Free On-Site Testing Facility

9:00 am – 2:00 pm: Testing for hypertension, kidney disease, diabetes, and related conditions

DESCRIPTION OF HEALTH CARE SYMPOSIUM 2009

Ancient folk wisdom has it that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Has modern America's legislative and bureaucratic imagination caught up with this venerable maxim? Will a new Administration and a fresh 111th Congress zero in on preventive care as a prime element in the health care mix? Cost analysis of preventive measures are thus an important focus of attention, as panelists explore the role of individual "life-style" practices as well as the directions of public health-care policy in putting in place an effective preventive care system.

The theme for the 2009 Symposium is the task of fashioning a new departure in health care for the American republic – a task that is very long overdue. The question is whether we are, happily, near the moment of achievement, at least in large part. Or is there a long, arduous road lying still ahead before an equitable and full panoply of health care instrumentalities is rendered accessible for each of the country's residents?

A history of increasingly rapid advances in medical science and technology through the second half of the twentieth century and to date, and at once a daunting array of ever more burdensome cost constraints, against a background of related government policies -- all are brought in review by speakers in this segment of the Symposium. Here attention gravitates to questions of the uninsured members of society, and their concentration in minority and other marginalized portions of the larger population -- it is these questions that are likely to be a centerpiece of renewed Congressional debate over the months ahead.

Medical treatment – and indeed preventive care – has come to be in great part a matter of scientific testing at the diagnostic stage teamed with treatments through pharmaceutical medications designed and engineered by cutting edge medical science and technology. The massive costs and the equally massive risks incurred in development of these medications has created a pharmaceutical industry relying on exploitation of patents permitting sale of these innovative drugs at relatively high prices – that is to say, at levels much above the costs of producing them once developed – in order to support the ongoing research and development expenses that are steadily bringing still newer generations of drugs to market. This process has regularly been a target for often ill-conceived attempts at regulation of the economics of the industry – the true aim of any soundly based regulation must be to provide for continuance of the vigorous competition among pharmaceutical manufacturers in the research/development phase, a supply of ample funding for the R and D work, with rich rewards to the efficient firms and their shareholders, this together with a means of furnishing the best of the new generations of drugs to needy classes of the population on an affordable basis and procuring, probably through some form of subsidies, directions of research focused on the most acute medical needs on a global basis. The economics is dauntingly complex, the design of regulation targeting an industry's structure is a delicate matter always imperiled by the specter of "unintended consequences", and along the way the acute social needs, both domestically and globally, continue to cry out for a newly achieved accessibility to the best in pharmaceuticals.

One particularly persistent problem, of especial concern to our diverse culture – a world of newcomers, of the economically disadvantaged, and of the communities ethnically or linguistically outside the existing mainstream – is that of the delivery of health care services in a language and in a psychological and social setting that may bring these benefits to all portions of the community in maximally effective ways. This is the perpetually rankling problem – that of so-called “cultural competence” – that persistently challenges effective health care delivery. It is one of the chief facets of the larger topic that the Symposium of 2009 seeks to bring into focus.



DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY HIGHLIGHTS ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN, EDUCATION, IT, AND IMMIGRATION IN 2009 PUBLIC POLICY FORUM

Dialogue on Diversity, gathering on Thursday, March 5 in the Rayburn Building’s beehive of Congressional activity, offered its lineup of top-flight panelists in a series of seminars on several salient policy areas.

The theme was sounded by Dialogue president Ma. Cristina Caballero, opening the morning session with a fast overview, hammering home the fiscal policy mantra that underlay all the varied policy discourse to come – stimulus by the rule of the three Ts – Timely, Targeted, and Temporary. – the magical incantation that is easier to say than to effect, as the Congress has sufficiently proved. She remarked: “The country is challenged – as we really do not need reminding – on a number of fronts in this unsettled year. From the economic slowdown and the fitful attempts to find remedies, to the still far from resolved predicaments of the immigrants, most from Latin countries, who are our economically hard-pressed neighbors and at once the targets of anti-immigrant sentiment in many quarters of domestic society. In the meantime the chronic deficiencies of the country’s education system present a new set of marching orders to our Latino and other diverse population groupings as we strive to set the youngest generation off on a better prepared basis than that of their parents.

The direction and shape of the internet, and telecommunications generally, was the subject of an opening two-hour panel. Brent Olson, AT&T’s resident expert on the crucially important nexus of technical transmission capabilities and the welter of regulatory and economic exigencies, discussed the much bruited concept of “net neutrality”, and sketched the emerging consensus on the mass of niche Internet applications that have to co-exist with ordinary e-mail traffic and informational flows – and the volume of costly investment, a daunting amount, that has to be brought to bear if the infrastructure is to afford the capacity needed to keep the exponentially growing aggregate internet traffic moving. There are, for one thing, many more users each year than the last, but the main factor is that they are sending video content, which is vastly more voluminous. Deven McGraw of the Center for Democracy and Technology outlined the delicate balancing act, crucial in medical information technology, between putting maximum medical information in the hands of providers in real time, and at once fending off potentially embarrassing or damaging information leakage to others; while Jules Polonetsky of the flagship privacy organization, Future of Privacy Forum, offered a run-down of the myriad privacy issues that arise when a novel medium, complex in itself, invades a multi-faceted social milieu such as that of contemporary America.

It fell to panelist Jim Harper of the Cato Institute to analyze the crucial questions of “interoperability”, the faculty for communicating information readily between my system and your system, A’s computer and B’s, C’s telephone and D’s, etc. without loss of data and in real time. It is this magical faculty, which is easier enjoyed than designed and constructed, that permits the profitable use of information technology in a

medical setting, in emergency police and fire situations, and in placing orders with one's couturier in Paris, antiquarian booksellers in Beirut, and other valuable exotica. This is most elegantly understood by broadening the scope of the inquiry and imagining the simplest of mechanical problems. By convention or regulation, when girders must be linked, the bolts and nuts employed are of a size common to bolts across the English speaking world, or, resp. the European world, with its bizarre (but consistent throughout the continent and much of the rest of the globe) array of metric sizes. Without this artificially devised uniformity of size and function each operator and each of his items of equipment would be an island, capable of performing only in its own immediate environment. If the discussion is transposed to the modern world of the computer and the internet, the case is not too far different, as each government agency and each fire or police department, and each medical office has grown and nurtured its own peculiar apparatus of electronic gadgetry, operating "in house" but unable to venture into alien territory—for example, to the fire station across the street or the hospital in the next town. Or the intelligence agency down the hall. The high capabilities of the modern world of IT are thus left tantalizingly out of reach. It costs money and – since there are frictions in the economic realm – much time, to develop standard, or uniform modes of linking the now radically disparate loci of computer operation. The internet has largely accomplished this for communications operators that use it. But the task with numerous public agencies and certain industries that, paradoxically, may have been the first on the bandwagon at the advent of IT, is a stubborn and lagging one (the later entrants simply stepped into the already standardized world of the contemporary internet). Mr. Harper, additionally, in response to a query, discussed the proposals for broadband extension, suggesting, quite provocatively, that no conclusions firmly set in concrete are called for, least of all by the government's channeling of investment solely toward current technology for broadband installation (as the new spending campaign just launched by the federal powerhouse may be attempting), but that a variety of innovative approaches, employing novel technologies, may well, if permitted to grow, afford more ample and rapid modes of transmission.

THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PANEL WAS ORGANIZED AND MODERATED BY DAVID HONIG, THE ABLE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MINORITY MEDIA AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL.

Perhaps the most trenchant insight of the Forum came with the midday session's Education Roundtable and in a special Keynote presentation by Prof. Leonard Greenhalgh of Dartmouth, both tying pre-school (ages 2-5) educational practice to the larger economic and societal outcomes over the next half century. Needed: a massive program of culture-literacy-social-health-care immersion experience for these very young children, often in the stark absence of just these forms of mental nurture, sound nutrition, and health care in their homes. Prof. Greenhalgh warned, driving home the point with closely reasoned economic argument, that it is this crucial lacuna in all previous educational efforts, a gap that ripples through the educational system, that is swiftly and inexorably producing a persisting, potentially restive underclass, and putting the U.S. out of the contest for economic success in a global age. The sources of possible economic vitality, moreover, lie chiefly with the persons likely to be left behind by the dismal education policies and practices of the present era, and among these are disproportionately women and the ethnic minorities – the Latino and African American communities, and a variety of others, since it is from the start-up companies, the small enterprises that are the characteristic business forms of these innovators, that the real initiatives historically powering American economic life have flowed. The titans of American industry as little as 30 years ago were U.S. Steel, RCA, and the like. Now these have shrunk or vanished, while Microsoft, leader of the new knowledge economy, now at the summit of the economic pyramid, was then a shed in Mr. Gates's back yard. Time puts down the mighty and lifts up the able who are in tune with the time.

Maria Neira, of the American Federation of Teachers, emphasized much the same: a crying need for extending efforts down the age scale to the era in human growth when kids' minds are word and idea sponges, their perceptions and their social and intellectual beginnings most malleable and sensitive; it is then that vacuity or plenitude in understanding, sound or destructive social attitudes are fixed. Kids from deprived household milieux have learned some 1,500 words by age three or 4, those from privileged,

highly educated households know more than double that. Finally, Ms. Neira pointed out, there may be something to the often heard slogan: you can't solve problems by throwing money at them. There is doubtless some truth to that –but not much. Problems cannot be solved without serious and large-scale investment in research, in ample salaries to draw the highly skilled in large numbers, and in schools with paint that is not peeling and roofs that do not leak. Enough said. Maria Tukeva, principal of the newly formed Capital Heights Educational Campus on the plateau running from Meridian Hill north in northwest Washington, has taken a neighborhood of immigrant children, from the poorest homes, those least acculturated to the rhythms of U.S. urban life, and produced 97% high school graduation rates and, harder yet to believe, similar on-to-college rates. She outlined the techniques and principles that have worked. Do not, she stressed, let up on the product-oriented press forward with all students for excellence. Do not fall into blaming the kids, their families, the city; press forward and don't look back. Teachers who are not willing to join in the spirit need not apply. Further reflections on the methods of education were found in the thoughtful remarks of Alma Morales Riojas, President of MANA, on the contributions that are made, through sometimes very highly formalized, sometimes quite informal initiatives launched by individuals and especially organizations mobilizing the concerned interventions of neighborhood groups and ethnically demarcated communities, such as those powering her own very active national network. Rep. Rubén Hinojosa of Texas, who chairs the House Subcommittee on Higher Education, Life-long Learning, and Competitiveness, described model schools with similar achievement stories in his State and around the country – rare, unfortunately, in their occurrence, but in fact powerful beacons showing to the hopeful the route to educational success. Thus the second half of the Forum program forcefully directed attention to two key goals: comprehensive and massive pre-school health and literacy interventions, and intensive progress-oriented teaching at the K-12 levels.

Dialogue on Diversity, as in past Public Policy Forums, zeroed in on its signature issue, the integration of immigrants into the Nation of Immigrants -- the national motto: E Pluribus Unum. The audience were reminded that President Roosevelt, early in his Administration, had opened certain remarks to the DAR convention: "Fellow Immigrants . . ." The reminder may well be the corrective that public discourse on this subject is repeatedly in need of. Tamar Jacoby, making her fourth appearance as a Dialogue on Diversity headliner on the immigration topic, and the source of much of the intellectual force behind the present immigration reform movement, reviewed the prospects for action by the Congress in the near future on any species of comprehensive immigration reform legislation, a bill, that is, that would realistically come to terms with the limboized, partially underground existence of the massive numbers of undocumented persons now settled into the U.S. economy, and providing, through legal admission rates, for varying, probably increasing, business demand for labor in time to come. The practical political question is whether the necessary fixation of public attention and legislative effort on the economic malaise removes from the political space all the oxygen that might otherwise support an immigration initiative, or whether such proposals might be seen as themselves conducive to revivifying the economy. The question is arguable in any of numerous directions. The important thing, Ms. Jacoby stressed, from the point of view of those inclined toward a comprehensive solution, is to keep the issue alive in public consciousness, with the hope that sooner rather than later it will emerge alive and well as a viable legislative project. William Ramos, who heads the Washington offices of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), reviewed some of the considerations bearing on the legislative temper, and was similarly inclined to continue discussion, at both municipal and state levels as well as the federal level, on the many political points of contact where a voice for reason and moderation might slow the occasional anti-immigrant enthusiasms of local politicians. After all, he points out, the electoral success of anti-immigrant campaigns has been meager. The general public, it appears, are not apt, even in a year of

economic stress, to be much roused by the Latino bashing that public figures at the fringes of the political spectrum had relied on.

The panel on the economic slowdown that is visiting a hail of acutely felt impacts on many, if not all, segments of American society, was the subject for another of the midday panels. Along with commentary by Prof. Greenhalgh, participants were Andrew Jakobovics, Associate Director for Housing and Economics at the Center for American Progress, and Timothy Sandos, President of the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals. Both laid a heavy emphasis on the ills of the housing industry and its associated financial and domestic markets. Mr. Sandos detailed the very distinct profile exhibited by certain ethnic communities, specifically the Spanish speaking, in the U.S. economic picture. These people are, in the first place, largely without credit histories, not that their credit is bad, but that they have historically shunned loan financing, relying instead on their own savings joined with monies informally acquired from a circle of friends and kinspersons – all, by the way, supposed to be the classic habits of old fashioned virtue. This very fact has invited somewhat unorthodox financing procedures when members of this population were drawn into the home-ownership picture over the last decade – the consequences of this movement, since in many cases it was carelessly carried out, are now evident. These populations, for all that, constitute a powerful force for recovery in the housing market – home-ownership, he argued, remains a valid and powerful ideal for the success of these ethnic communities. Mr. Jakobovics discussed the remedies for the flood of defaults now plaguing the markets in housing. The foreclosure device, from most points of view, amounts to a perverse and self-destructive means of dealing with default – the process is administratively costly, socially destructive, and almost surely conducive to loading up the banks with often ill-tended houses, a conglomeration of assets the bottom of whose value is dissolving beneath its new owners. The role of a reasonable governing authority in the premises is to give legal cover for the financial system to alter loan terms and work out deals – the best that can be cobbled together on short notice – for exacting at least some funds from the beleaguered borrowers. The housing situation, while the origin of woes, has come to be only a corner, and perhaps a minor one, in the totality of stresses affecting business, industry, and commerce around the globe.

The following notes are organized by reference to the presentations of each panel. Each section offers several conclusions or recommendations developed in questions and discussions among audience members and speakers.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Compile and organize health records by electronic technologies.
- Make more band width available (perhaps via power lines), with option to expand and upgrade installations.
- Incentivize investment and innovation/research-development to keep information infrastructure enabled to carry exponentially increased internet and telecommunications traffic
- Regularize privacy regulation for commercial uses; encourage consumers to read and act on privacy statements.
- Institute a position in government: Chief Privacy Officer [Privacy Czar]. This position could work toward developing techniques for safeguarding privacy while at the same time employing data in greater volume, depth, and speed to serve population.

ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN AND HOME OWNERSHIP

- Explore development of non-traditional credit model (e.g., use utility bill pay records in place of bank loan experience for Hispanic and other communities that traditionally have not used banks or long term credit).

- Develop means for preventing foreclosure proceedings on residential properties (prevent hardship for families, maintain integrity of neighborhoods and housing stock generally, steer banks away from loading up with inventory of badly “shopworn” properties. Refine and adequately broaden reach of programs now being put in place.
- Continue to develop means for establishing home ownership for minority and ethnic households, but with workable financing arrangements. Maintain home ownership as a cultural ideal and as a mean of anchoring persons with tangible wealth in a potentially unstable society.
- Improve educational systems and access, with special care for pre-school education/health care for children in economically/educationally/culturally disadvantaged areas of the larger society.
- Encourage entrepreneurial activity, as the seed bed from which historically the vital new firms and industries have their origin.
- Invest in supplier diversity programs, again to advance entrepreneurship in those ethnic and cultural divisions of the society in which small enterprises are most apt to spring into existence.

IMMIGRATION

- Comprehensive immigration reform should be kept on the agenda whether or not politically in the cards in the current short run. Revision of legal quotas to satisfy reasonable business demand, provision for regularizing status of persons now undocumented and existing “in the shadows”.
- Redirect enforcement actions pertaining to undocumented migrants to center on proceedings against abusive employers, not employees.
- An immigrant workforce, both highly skilled at the top end and largely unskilled at the bottom, is broadly and pervasively integrated into the U.S. economic system. It should be recognized as an element central to any mechanisms of economic recovery.

EDUCATION

- The Federal government should work with Governors and state education authorities to improve educational systems by state.
- Inaugurate reforms and school infrastructure development as part of cyclical fiscal stimulus plan.
- Massively enlarge pre-school educational/health care services (children 2-5 years). This will make or break U.S. economic effectiveness and the country’s global standing.
- Increase services (mentoring, support, tools) for teachers).
- Instill in both teachers and students a cultural expectation of greater achievement.

THE CELEBRANT AT 95 . . . RUTH NADEL AT TOP OF FORM

We are proud at Dialogue on Diversity of our foremost fan, Ms. Ruth Nadel, a venerable presence on the Washington scene, an august figure in the advancement of women’s dignity, prosperity, and empowerment in a society that did not allow women’s vote in 1914, when she was born, and has step by arduous step enlarged the circle of women’s rights and dignity in the nine decades since. We in turn are among Ms. Nadel’s hundreds of greatest fans. Some two hundred of them gathered February 20th in Washington to join her in celebration of her 95th birthday.

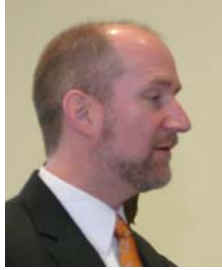
To recite the achievements piled high in the history of her career is to bring in review the progress of women’s rights and the flowering of their interests in the momentous currents of the century of liberation, the remarkable 20th! The tasks of course are far from finished, and

Ruth Nadel is at the top of her form still in this opening decade of the twenty first, still carrying the battle to the resistant forces of the sclerotic past.

Ms. Nadel has faithfully joined the Dialogue's programs, symposia, forums, and conferences, the honors evenings at the Hall of the Americas, and has had words of encouragement – generous and unfailing encouragement -- that are powerful tonic to us, as they are to all the cohorts of travelers following on the trails she has blazed.

Congratulations for a career that is hitting its stride in this exhilarating decade. We are trying to keep up!

FACES FROM THE 2009 PUBLIC POLICY FORUM



Mr. Harper



Mr. Honig and Ms. McGraw



Mr. Polonetsky



Mr. Olson



Prof. Greenhalgh



Mr. Sandos



Ms. Jacoby



Mr. Jakobovicz



Rep. Hinojosa



Ms. Neira



Ms. Tukeva



Mr. Harper, Ms. McGraw, Mr. Polonetsky, Mr. Honig, Ms. Caballero, Mr. Olson, Mr. Ramirez (MC), Ms. Stephanie McNeil Bates, AT&T