



DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY

Friends of Dialogue on Diversity

MINI-NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 21ST, 2008

Dialogue on Diversity winds up its program year with the annual *Holiday Fair and Children's Gift Collection*. This festive program is set for Saturday, December 13th, 11:00 – 3:00 . Site to be announced. Please consult the Dialogue's web site (www.dialogueondiversity.org). Your ticket of admission is a gift for a child. (Mark gifts for boy or girl and approximate age.) Gifts are distributed by participating community organizations serving economically disadvantaged households in the metropolitan area. Santa and other dignitaries to be on hand. Plan to join us for celebration of the seasons – many accents but a common joy.

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Jeanne Batalova of the Migration Policy Institute in Washington, a friend and recent speaker with Dialogue on Diversity (the immigration panel at the 2008 Public Policy Forum) is in the news (see, for example, WaPo 10/23) as coauthor of an attention-getting new monograph on the difficulties found by arriving migrants, highly trained and qualified in their countries of origin, in situating themselves with employment in the U.S. consonant with their high skill levels. See the horror stories of foreign medical professionals relegated to carrying off the used dishes at McD.'s. Migrants who have been present in the U.S. as students or otherwise before gaining Lawful Permanent Resident status and entering the labor market, and those especially who have a facility in writing and speaking English, find a faster path to full earning performance. Programs for systematically recognizing training and educational qualifications brought from foreign milieux (and for supplementary training as necessary to bring migrants' qualifications up to snuff by the standards of U.S. states) promise to expedite the migrants' adjustment to targeted professional slots. (Such programs, present in some degree in a number of countries, are now found in only the most rudimentary forms in the U.S.) Again, systematic mentoring and language instruction (both general and in the technical vocabulary specific to the targeted occupation) form the second pillar of a larger program that would make for a full utilization of skills, to the benefit of both the national community and the migrants themselves and their individual households. One problem mentioned tangentially by the authors is that the U.S. as a global magnet for

migrants of high skill (among other migrants) continues, as over the last two score years, to exact a “brain-drain” on a number of other countries -- countries which may be assumed to have paid in often scarce public funds for the education that has produced the migrants’ high professional qualifications. On the one hand, this presents a problem of justice so long as either the migrants themselves or the receiving country the (U.S.) does not compensate the educating countries; but, on the other hand, in the absence of such compensation countries apt to lose their brightest will have much diminished incentives to spend money on higher educational efforts among their own populations - - an effect pretty directly jeopardizing efforts to enhance health and well-being among peoples of the less highly developed regions of the earth.

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This October Mini-Newsletter brings you a reminder that less than two weeks remain before the 2008 election, one that has gathered exceptional interest, a fascination running across every social, geographic, ethnic, age, and wealth classification in American society. The Dialogue urges its readers to inform themselves carefully on those public policy questions that will be influenced by the electoral outcomes and, through votes cast on November 4th (or, for those in mail-in states and those casting absentee ballots, earlier still), to contribute their special voice to the chorus. With proverbial ‘bated breath your compatriots, and indeed eager onlookers in every corner of the globe, await your vote.

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Among Dialogue on Diversity’s essential concerns – bulking large in its agendas for the near score of years of its existence -- is the role of skilled, technologically enabled entrepreneurship in creating a base of economic viability for women of our hemisphere’s diverse cultural and ethnic communities. Besides our own forums and symposia we occasionally remind members and contacts of interesting and unusual programs presented in Washington on topics entrepreneurial by other organizations. Economist Alvaro Vargas Llosa (not to be confused with his more famous father, the celebrated Peruvian novelist, and once Peruvian presidential candidate, Mario Vargas Llosa, with whom he shares a basic free-market socio-economic outlook), former Bolivian president Jorge Quiroga (succeeded in 2005 by Evo Morales), noted for his policies of economic development through market institutions, and a panel of varied economic thinkers appear Thursday, November 13th, at the Mayflower Hotel for a program running from 12:00 to 5:00 pm. on the potential role of entrepreneurship as the key means for abolishing poverty in Latin America and other less commercially developed regions of the world. The program is organized by the Independent Institute. Persons interested in attending the program should call 800-927-8733. There is no fee to attend, but one can buy the sponsor’s newly published book of essays

(Lessons from the Poor: Triumph of the Entrepreneurial Spirit), to be signed by Mr. Vargas Llosa, its editor, at the conclusion of the day's program.

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Helping hands are needed in *Dialogue on Diversity's* growing panoply of activities. Interns and volunteers are being sought to lend assistance in administrative and creative tasks for our fundraising, membership, and program activities (Public Policy, Health, Entrepreneurship, and Honors projects). Persons interested in acting as interns or volunteers should get in touch by e-mail or by telephone (FfxVa: 703-631-0650). We will send a detailed description of the Dialogue projects on which you will work, and the skills and time commitments we are in need of. We would be delighted to welcome you aboard.

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HOLIDAY FAIR AND CHILDREN'S GIFT COLLECTION December 13, 2008, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Dialogue on Diversity
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