

Commission News

MARCH 2014

Volume 3 Issue 3

Governor's Annual Civil Rights Day Highlights

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• SPECIAL NOTES:

- April is National Autism Month
- April is National Stress Awareness Month
- April is National Fair Housing Month
- April is Flower Awareness Month
- April is National Health Awareness Month
- April is Alcohol Awareness Month

They say a picture is worth a thousand words and from the look of the photos from the Governor's 11th Annual Civil Rights Day, I would have to agree with that statement.

They came from near and far to celebrate the 24 individuals and two organizations honored at the 2014 Civil Rights Day; nearly two hundred strong, embarked on the Beni Kedem Shrine Temple, here in Charleston, WV for what proved to be a very successful event.

Chair Cummings, Chair of the WVHRC, was MC for the event, who kept the program moving flawlessly. The staff at Beni Kedem Temple, rolled out the red carpet and made sure everything that we needed was made available to us. Each of the program participants put forth a 110%

effort, from the singing of "America the Beautiful", by Pastor B. J. Roberts, to the medley of African American Spirituals sung by the Charleston Job Corp choir. The poetry, the violinist, the special tribute song in honor of Judge Phyllis and Dr. Hazo Carter, crowned the entire day with excitement, joy amid sadness and a sense of gratitude for having had the opportunity to be a part of an historical moment.

The vision to recognize local individuals for their contributions to the Civil Rights Movement during the 1950's and 60's began nearly 11 years ago.

These individuals seated here and others. These individuals are the unsung heroes and heroines who have worked quietly behind the scenes; barely noticed, yet their contributions have been of benefit to so many others across the cultural divides.

The day would not have been complete without the well-wishes and presence of the Honorable Governor Earl Ray Tomblin. We so much appreciate him breaking away from his busy schedule to personally greet each of the honorees and proclaim, February 27, 2014, Annual Civil Rights Day in the Mountain State.



"Happiness is the consequence of personal effort. You fight for it, strive for it, insist upon it, and sometimes even travel around the world looking for it. You have to participate relentlessly in the manifestations of your own blessings; and once you have achieved a state of happiness, you must never become lax about maintaining what you have fought so hard to gain. Helping your soul hold tight to its good attainments is essential to your soul survival and a testimony of your greatest reward."

— Elizabeth Gilbert, *Eat, Pray, Love*

ALL AROUND OUR TOWN!



April 12, 2014, 7:00 p.m.



Circus comes to town,
Amazing shows,
10:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Shen Yun, World's Classical Chinese Dancers - March 11-12, 7:30 p.m. Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences.

Tickets: \$50-\$150.00

For tickets or more information, contact Clay Center Box office online or call 304-561-3570.

Ringling Bros., Barnum & Bailey Circus ~ April 23, -27, 2014

The Greatest Show on Earth.

The company was started in 1919 when the circus, created by James Anthony Bailey and P. T. Barnum, was merged with the Ringling Brothers Circus.

The Ringling brothers purchased the Barnum & Bailey Circus

in 1907, but ran the circuses separately until they were finally merged in 1919. In 1957 John Ringling North changed the circus from using their own portable tents to using venues, such as sports stadiums that had the seating already in place. In 1967 Irvin Feld bought the circus, but in 1971 he sold it to Mattel, then bought it back in 1982. Despite its many ups & downs, the show has been a delight to audiences across this nation for many years and continues to be so to a sell out crowd everywhere it goes.

For ticket information, contact the Charleston Civic Center box office.



INSPIRATIONAL CORNER! "LESSONS FROM A NAIL"

A company was building a new building, and people came from everywhere to see the beauty of the building! Way up on the roof, a little nail heard the people praising everything about the lovely structure, except for the nails; so the nail became very upset.

"If I'm that insignificant, nobody will miss me;" so the nail released its hold on the shingles and slid down the roof to the ground.

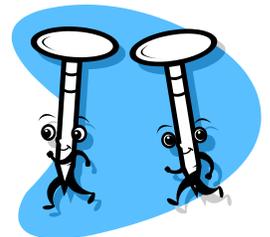
That night a violent rain descended upon the structure and the shingles that had no nail came loose and blew away in the storm.

The roof began to leak, the water streaked the walls and marred the beautiful murals inside.

Soon the plaster began to fall, and the carpet got wet and was stained something awful! The beautiful rooms were ruined by the water... all because **ONE** nail decided to *quit!*

While holding the shingle in place, even though that ONE nail wasn't visible, it was very needed and very necessary; to the overall structure of the building; but because it refused to stay in its place, it was now buried in the mud below and would soon be eaten up by rust from the water it had landed in, and became totally useless.

Moral: Always know and understand that your absence makes a huge difference!! **YOU** are important!!



"Freedom is never given; it is won."

A. Philip Randolph

“FAIR HOUSING IS YOUR RIGHT. USE IT!”

March marks Deaf History Month and HUD is reaching out to those who are deaf and/or hard of hearing. National Deaf History Month, March 13 to April 15, celebrates deaf history and promotes awareness and appreciation of deaf culture, heritage and American Sign Language to the general public. Recently, HUD’s Office of Fair Housing, the National Fair Housing Alliance, and the Disability Independence Group produced twelve new short fair housing videos that are now available in American Sign Language. The videos provide key information about fair housing and fair lending rights under the federal Fair Housing Act. Some of the topics include: “Your right to effective communication in buying or renting a home,” “How to complain about housing discrimination,” and “Fair housing and equal opportunity for the deaf.” In addition to the new videos, HUD also has videos on YouTube and Facebook educating deaf and hard-of-hearing consum-

ers about housing counseling services, and loan programs offered by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA).

The West Virginia Human Rights Commission along with the Office of the Governor, recently paid tribute to the WV Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, along with the Beni Kedem Shrine Temple and 24 other individuals, during its 11th Annual Civil Rights Day celebration. Pictured below and to the right is Monty Blakey, who accepted the award on behalf of the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.



In addition to supporting the Deaf Community in its

awareness of Deaf and Hearing challenges, the HRC also recognizes the challenges of all individuals identified under the guidelines of the WV Fair Housing Act. In their attempt to make affordable Fair Housing availa-



ble to all individuals, HUD is promoting its Voucher Assistance Program for assisting very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. Housing choice vouchers are administered locally by public housing agencies (PHAs).

Housing choice vouchers are administered locally by public housing agencies (PHAs). The PHAs receive federal funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to administer the voucher program. A family that is issued a housing voucher is responsible for finding a suitable housing unit of the family's choice where the owner agrees to rent under the program. This unit may include the family's present residence. Rental units must meet minimum standards of health and safety, as determined by the PHA. More information regarding the Housing Choice Voucher Program is available on the HUD website, www.HUD.gov



WV Fair Housing Poster Contest

The WV Human Rights Commission, in association with the WV Housing Development Fund is announcing its third annual Fair Housing Poster Contest. The attached document provides an overview of the contest as well as some suggestions for integrating the importance of Fair Housing into social studies lessons. Contest rules, including the contest theme, are included in the document. The contest is open to all students in grades 6 through 12. The 2013 winning posters can be viewed at <http://www.hrc.wv.gov/events/Pages/2013-Fair-Housing-Poster-Contest-Winners.aspx>. The deadline for entry submission is March 24, 2014. Please direct all questions to Tiffany Caldwell or Mary Poke at 304.558.2616.

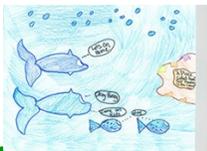


PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS ~ GOVERNOR'S 11TH ANNUAL CIVIL RIGHTS DAY AWARDS CEREMONY

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Pictured Right: (1) The Honorable Earl Ray Tomblin, (2) Rev. Donte Jackson, singing "Wind Beneath My Wings" (3) Michael Payton, Executive Director, Ohio Civil Rights Commission. (4) Joan Bowning, Richard Walker, Brian King, MOECD (5) Jerry Fowler, Esq. Arlie Hubbard, Esq. WV Office of the Attorney General, Civil Rights Division



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GOVERNOR'S 11TH ANNUAL CIVIL



The 11th Annual Governor's Civil Rights Day, honors individuals for their various charitable efforts, civic offerings, generosity and support to all West Virginians. This event and others of its kind is an attempt to show gratitude to the men and women and their families whose hard work, struggles and perseverance have not been in vain. It is unfortunate that all of those deserving recognition may not be recognized during this same event however, the West Virginia Human Rights Commission is pleased to have been a part of honoring those who represented countless others during this event.

Big thank you to friends and former co-workers who helped to ensure the program was a success: Dr. Carolyn Stuart, Executive Director of the Governor's Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs; Esther Hupp, Housing Coordinator, Take Me Home WV; Malva Carey; Mary Mason; Jackie Lawson; Wilma Dixon; Standley Greene; Que Stephens; David Cartwright; WVHRC staff and a host of others without which we would not have been able to do what we did.

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL !!



Alasha Al-Qudwah, Violinist



Mr. George Smith,
Beni Kedem Shrine Temple



Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
honoring Soror, Phyllis Carter



2014 Governor's Annual Civil Rights Day Honorees



Honorees Left - Right: Eddie Belcher, Jamie Alley,
Rev. E.A. Heyliger, The Honorable Sharon Mullins

WVHRC

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 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Please visit our website for more information and updates.

Web address: www.hrc.wv.org



**Walk-ins
 welcome!**



**We are a neutral
 agency!!**



WVHRC Staff: "You know what they say about all work and no play."
 Mixing the enjoyment of St. Patrick's Day with work!

April 2014

April is National Fair Housing Month

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Palm Sunday	14	15 Passover	16	17	18 Good Friday	19
20 Easter 	21	22 Earth Day	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			