

# VISUALIZE

## CREATING A HATE-FREE COMMUNITY

Volume 1, Issue 4

July 2001

### INTRODUCING NETWORK COORDINATOR

We are delighted to welcome Delorme McKee-Stovall to the Network for a Hate Free Community. She has joined us as the coordinator of the Network. Delorme has extensive work experience both in the private and public sector. She is well-versed in organizational development and has provided various managerial trainings in business operations and marketing strategies. Delorme has in depth knowledge of social and cultural diversity and has designed and conducted trainings in valuing diversity, mediation, and conflict resolution. She will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to this position and the Network will be enriched by her contributions. Welcome Delorme! She can be reached at 408-792-2304.

### Recovering Core American Values for Creation of a Hate-Free Community

**By Ashraf Zahedi, Chair, Network for a Hate-Free Community**

During the past few decades there has been steady progress toward recognition of social and cultural diversity and the expansion of the social and legal meaning of human rights. This progress owes much to humanistic thought, religious and secular, for placing values on "human dignity" and "human worth" and for promoting the ideal of equality of all. The United States' Constitution and its amendments have captured the ideal of equality of all. Respect for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness have become core American values. Though these values have not yet been fully incorporated into the American power structure, social institutions, and social relations, these values possess a great potential for fostering harmonious social relations.

As we move toward building an inclusive society, the significance of harmonious social relations becomes more apparent. An inclusive society is a society which embraces and values diversity with its wide range and multiple dimensions and benefits from the socio-cultural enrichment that diversity brings. This inclusiveness, however, may not always be appreciated by those advocating exclusivity and the "hierarchy of human worth" based on race, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, and the like. Belief in the hierarchy of human worth under certain social circumstances may lead to intolerance, expression of hatred, and hate violence. Expressed hatred and acts of violence are in sharp contrast with the respect for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness and certainly in violation of human dignity and human rights

In the light of this potential social threat, it is imperative that we revive the core American values, promote the universality of human worth and dignity, and make a commitment toward valuing diversity and protecting human rights. The Santa Clara County Network for a Hate Free Community is driven by this commitment and is inviting members of our community to join the Network and become part of our orchestrated efforts to incorporate these core American values into American social relations and to create a genuine hate free community.

**"The Network's Mission is to reach out,  
report, respond, repair and rebuild in an effort to  
prevent and take action against hate in our community"**

# SERVICE PROVIDER

## **The Jewish Community Relations Council**

### **By Norman Abrahams, DDS**

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater San Jose (JCRC) works to maintain and to strengthen the dignity, security, and integrity of Jewish life.

The JCRC initiates, coordinates, and implements programs designed to maintain the welfare of the Jewish and other communities at home and abroad. The Council promotes the quality and security of Jewish life through its committees on Issues, Education, Church-State, Legislation, Oppressed Jewry, Middle East, and Inter-group Relations. The improvement of inter-faith, inter-ethnic and inter-group relations is one of the Council's priorities. Dialogues are carried on with the African-American, Hispanic, Asian and Christian communities. Discussion with the media plays an important role in carrying out the JCRC mission.

Among the international concerns of the Council is the security of Jews in Israel, the former Soviet Union, Latin America, South Africa, Ethiopia, Syria and other countries throughout the world.

### **JCRC's STRUCTURE**

The JCRC is one of 117 Jewish Community Relations Councils in the country, which, in turn, are part of a national organization, the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA). The JCRC is also affiliated with the Sacramento-based Jewish Public Affairs Committee (JPAC), which represents California's Jewish communities before the state government.

The JCRC also has issue-oriented committees that include a broad spectrum of experts and interested lay people who analyze issues of importance and make action recommendations. Each committee has organizational and at-large representatives who deliberate about the direction of the organized Jewish community's advocacy and educational programs on crucial issues.

### **JCRC's APPROACH**

- To enter into coalitions with a broad spectrum of ethnic, labor, interfaith and other community groups with like-minded interests on specific issues.
- To develop relationships with the media, public schools, community leaders, and public officials to create a positive environment for communicating our concerns.
- To engage in educational efforts in the schools about issues of special concern to us, as well as about American democratic values and institutions that protect the individual rights of minority group members.
- To organize effective action campaigns ranging from contact with public officials to large public rallies.
- To work toward positions that permit the organized Jewish community to speak with a united voice.
- To serve as a clearinghouse to coordinate organizational advocacy and programming on issues so as to avoid unnecessary duplication and to strengthen the community's effectiveness.

For more information, call Janet Berg, at (408) 353-3033, extension 30.

# SERVICE PROVIDER AND LAW

## **Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR)**

**By Helal Omeira, *Council of American Islamic Relations***

The Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) has a number of regional offices across the United States and Canada. It is a grassroots membership organization with headquarters in Washington D.C. which the Muslim community established CAIR in 1994 to challenge the misrepresentation of Islam and Muslims in America. Through its work CAIR is committed to promoting a better understanding of Islam and Muslims in America. The belief among CAIR members is that this misrepresentation is most often the result of ignorance on the part of non-Muslims and reluctance on the part of Muslims to articulate our cause. CAIR has been able to score a number of success stories not to mention the real impact in influencing the national debate about Islam and Muslims in America.

CAIR is dedicated to promoting a better understanding of Islam and Muslims through the active involvement of Muslims in all arenas of public discourse. CAIR contributes an Islamic perspective on issues of importance and strives to empower the Muslim community through political and social activism in defending Muslim rights. Thus, CAIR mission is founded upon:

- Empowering Muslims in America
- Promoting understanding of Muslims
- Defending Muslim civil and human rights
- Being actively involved
- Contributing an Islamic perspective to society

CAIR's mission is, in part, to show that Muslims are a vital part of the broad American community. By working to a better understanding of Muslims in America, perhaps a greater tolerance not only for Muslims but for all people can be established.

### **How Does CAIR carry out its Mission?**

- Media Relations
- Conferences and Seminars
- Research
- Anti-Discrimination Work
- Training/Outreach
- Action Alerts
- Publications
- Lobbying
- Internships
- Inter-Faith Relations

For more information on CAIR or how to become involved, call CAIR – Northern California office at 408-986-9874 or email [CAIR\\_NCA@cair-california.org](mailto:CAIR_NCA@cair-california.org).

## **California Hate Crime Advisory Report**

**By Lt. Ken Ferguson,  
*City of San Jose Police  
Department***

The California State Dept. of Justice held a Hate Crime Advisory meeting on May 9, 2001. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and review a proposed computer data base which would allow local agencies to track, record, report and help investigate hate crimes. Essentially it is a network throughout the state which would allow one agency to access information submitted by another. There are specific formats which have to be followed along with the training in order that the information will serve a useful and retrievable purpose.

The Dept. of Justice will administer the program and key local agencies will serve as nodes throughout the state. The nodes will provide training to other agencies. This format will allow agencies to anticipate trends, look for suspects and search information looking for clues to help crimes occurring in our area. This is not a free system and will require funding from the state to support. This is why we sent a letter to the Attorney General asking that funding be made available to ensure this program succeeds. It should be noted that this will be a law enforcement tool, access will be restricted. Data entry will be made by Law Enforcement, we will also use this system to make our annual DOJ reporting for hate crimes.

**“None of us alone can save the nation or the world.  
But each can make a positive difference if we  
commit ourselves to do so.”** Cornell West, 1994

## EVENTS

### **Women's Equality Breakfast**

Thursday, August 23, 2001 at 7:30a.m.

Wyndham Hotel

1350 N. First St., San José

For more information, call (408) 792-2310

### **Human Relations Commission Meeting**

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6pm

Board of Supervisor's Chambers

70 W. Hedding, San José, CA.

### **Network for a Hate-Free Community Meeting**

Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 3pm

Call 792-2304 for meeting room location

## COMMUNITY RESPONSE COLUMN

If you have an opinion to discuss or an event to promote regarding creating a hate-free community or if you are interested in joining our Network please contact us at:

**SCC NETWORK FOR A HATE-FREE COMMUNITY**

**The Office of Human Relations**

**70 West Hedding, WW. LL.**

**San José, CA 95110**

**(408) 792-2304**

**email: [scchatefreecommunity@yahoo.com](mailto:scchatefreecommunity@yahoo.com)**

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