

## Black History Month events celebrated on the Northside of Pittsburgh

African-American heritage is taking front and center stage at Community House Presbyterian Church during the month of February. The first installment of the acclaimed PBS series, *Race: The Power of an Illusion* had a repeat screening on Sunday, February 10. Still basking in the glow of the Kwanzaa celebration on February 3, we celebrated the Emancipation of Slaves in the United States at our **Juneteenth** celebration on February 10 as well. February 17 will be a grand and fun worship services what with everyone wearing their favorite showy hat to celebrate **Crown Sunday**. February 24 will bring a tasty way to celebrate Black History month at CHPC with our traditional culinary trip south of the Mason-Dixon line and **Soul Food Sunday**. And finally, the second episode of *Race: The Power of an Illusion* will be screened on Wednesday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m. (See **Race: The Power of an Illusion Episodes II and III**) Dessert and coffee will be served at the discussion time that follows.

Plan to attend and bring a friend to all of these worthy events.

In addition to the CHPC events, The Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church at 416 West North Avenue ([www.alleghenyuu.org](http://www.alleghenyuu.org)) is hosting valuable events about our Black heritage.

**Saturday, Feb 16-** 2pm- I Was A Slave - Local singers and storytellers, Loretta Reed and Loraine Phillips will tell the story of a young African girl stripped from her homeland and sold into slavery. This FREE live performance promises to be both entertaining & informative for children and adults.

**Sunday, Feb 17-** noon – Getting to Know You – A Workshop about Race. Led by Dr Avis Ellis -- 7:30 p.m. Screening of part one of a local filmmakers work about the East Liberty Neighborhood titled East of Liberty. \$5.

**Friday Feb 22-** 7:30 p.m. Pittsburgh North Anti- Racism Coalition celebrates Black History Month at the North Hills YWCA for more details call 412-471-0155

**Saturday, Feb 23** – 2pm Racial Justice Gallery Tour. Members of the AUUC Racial Justice Ministry will lead a tour of the August Wilson Gallery in downtown as well as visits to other local galleries. We will take the bus from AUUC – leaving promptly at 2pm. (admissions are free to the galleries)

**Sunday, Feb 24-** noon- Screening of Part I of Race: The Power of an Illusion – (if you missed our two screenings, this is your chance to see it)

### News from the Session of the Community House Presbyterian Church

Session members are looking forward to a presentation to be made by Claudia Detwiler. Claudia is making the best of her retirement by focusing on the health care crisis in the United States. She is scheduled to present her paper about the health care crisis and the Single Payer Health Care plan at the Session meeting on February 19. Look for a discussion of Claudia's presentation in upcoming issues of Unity News.

Unity News is now distributed through email. If you have a friend or family member you think would be interested in receiving this monthly publication, please give their email address to Jen Saffron at [jensaffron@comcast.net](mailto:jensaffron@comcast.net)

Do you have an idea or article you'd like to see published in our newsletter? Please send your idea or completed article to Bobbi Donovan at [bobbilee@comcast.net](mailto:bobbilee@comcast.net). Please put "For (month) newsletter" in the subject line to facilitate sorting. Please submit your ideas before the end of the month for publication in the following month's Unity News. Thanks!

**C**ommunity House was proud to screen Episode I of our series on race in America. We are equally pleased to offer the remaining two episodes on the last Wednesdays of February and March.

Race: The Power of an Illusion -- Episodes II and III

sode also discusses some of the ordinary social institutions that quietly channel wealth and opportunity so that white people benefit from a racist system without personally being racist.

**Episode II: "The Story We Tell," (Wed., Feb. 27)** provides the historical context for race in North America, including the 19<sup>th</sup> century science that legitimated it, when and how the idea of race got started and why it took hold. It's an eye-opening explanation of how America's need to defend slavery in the face of a radical new belief in freedom and equality led to a full-blown ideology of white supremacy. The film shows how definitions of race excluded not only Black people, but anyone who stood in the way of American expansion.

Darlene Durrwachter Rushing welcomes this opportunity to open discuss this important subject matter. Says Darlene, "We need to get over our fear of talking about race with one another. We need to have more 'user-friendly' scientific and historical information on race. We need access to current research on inequalities in our region. And lastly, we need to be forgiving of each other for the blunders that may occur when we're talking about the explosive subject of race in America. The real problem isn't that we are not talking about race correctly – the problem is that we're not talking about race at all."

**Episode III "The House We Live In," (Wed., March 26):** spotlights how our social institutions 'make' and maintain races by providing different groups vastly different life chances even today, 40 years after the Civil Rights Act. Who defines race? You will see how the court system was involved in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to determine who was "white", and how they employed contradictory logic to maintain the color line. This epi-

Please join us as we continue our discussion of race the last Wednesdays of February and March beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Each evening will feature a post-viewing discussion, followed by coffee and dessert. The events are appropriate for children age 10 up. Free childcare is available for children under age 10 on both evenings.

**On the minds and hearts of our members**

**D**o you have time to inspire a child? The kids at our neighborhood Jefferson Recreation Center are looking for a few good leaders!

Columbus School, just a few blocks from Community House.

They are interested in having adults teach them whatever special skill they have, or in learn along with adults as others lead the group.

Generally there would be about 6-10 kids in a group with an average age between 5-10.

While the schedule is flexible, the best times for the classes are Monday and Tuesday evenings between 5 and 8 pm. Classes are held at the Jefferson Recreation Center, located at 605 Redknapp Street. This is near

Allegheny Unitarian may be able to help with the cost of project supplies if needed.

Contact Jay @ the Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Racial Justice Ministry 412 390 2263 or email [poliziani@goodwillpitt.org](mailto:poliziani@goodwillpitt.org).

**A Prayer for the New Year**

Dear God: During this midwinter, help us prepare our hearts, minds, and homes for the coming year, for our new hopes and aspirations. God, grant us new openings in our lives so that we can take the necessary action to become the very people we wish to be. Help us to break old patterns, apathy, and negativity and instead move towards moral courage. Help us enlarge our vision, beginning with the humility to accept who we are now, and move forward to tomorrow's transformation. Sharpen our listening and our willing spirits so that we can respond effectively to you. Finally, let's keep in mind the tenets of patience, kindness, tolerance, and love.

What's coming up at Community House?	DATE	PRESIDER	CHOIR
<b>Race: The Power of Illusion - the fourth Wed., Feb. and March.</b>	February 13	Derwin and Darlene	yes
<b>New Member dinners - three consecutive Weds. continuing through Feb13.</b>	20		yes
<b>Black History Month every Sunday in Feb.</b>	27	Race Special Event	no
	March 5	Gay Task Force	yes