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MFH President the evening

2005 ART OF THE MEAL GALA A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS

The second annual Art of the Meal Gala proved to be a tremendous success with friends from all over Delaware County coming out to show their support for Media Fellowship House and The Community Arts Center. This year's event was held at Chaddsford Winery and contained all the elements of a grand celebration.

Food vendors outlined the perimeter of the enormous white tent and offered the guests a variety of delicacies from cultures as diverse as France and China while strategically placed wine bars served a number of blends from Chaddsford Winery's vast cellar. Desserts from some of the areas finest bakeries were enjoyed by all, while Widener University's Hotel and Restaurant Management students added an additional touch of class by passing hors d'oeuvres throughout the evening.



QVC host and Media native, Jayne Brown addressed the crowd during the live auction with MFH President Robin Otto

This year's Art of the Meal Gala was particularly exciting as it was kicked off with an art competition. Artists from all over the Delaware Valley took part in a wine label design competition with the top three winning artists receiving a monetary prize and the top two winning wine labels being used on bottles of Chaddsford Winery's commemorative red and white wines. "All of the entries were beautiful," said acclaimed artist George Rothacker of Rothacker Advertising and Design who was one of the judges of the artwork entries, "The decision process was very difficult as we received entries from so many talented artists, but we think we made the right choices." The top twenty wine labels were framed and offered as items during the evening's silent auction with the artist receiving half of the proceeds.

A live auction complemented the silent auction with items such as Diamond earrings and a Pearl necklace being donated by SKASS Estate Jewelry, a wine and cheese party for eight being donated by Chaddsford Winery and "Good Eats", an original acrylic on canvas donated by George Rothacker. Jayne Brown, of QVC, returned this year as the events emcee and did a marvelous job handling the excited crowd during the live auction bidding process.

"We were able to partner with another community nonprofit organization, The Community Arts Center," said Robin Otto, chairperson of the organizing committee and President of Media Fellowship House. "Both organizations have served our community for many years and I'm happy that the evening was such a success for both of us."

The evening netted almost seven thousand dollars for both Media Fellowship House and The Community Arts Center. It was an amazing night for everyone involved.

*“Our lives
begin to
end the
day we
become
silent
about
things
that
matter”*

*-Dr. Martin
Luther King,
Jr.*

DR. KING'S NEPHEW SPEAKS AT THE 17TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION

Arturo Bagley, the nephew of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the son of Coretta Scott King's sister, was Media Fellowship House's featured speaker and narrator at our 17th Annual birthday celebration to honor the slain civil rights leader.

Bagley recounted several personal stories about his uncle's teachings to the large audience as well as how they have inspired him to promote the acceptance of cultural and ethnic differences.

This year's program, which was again held at The First United Methodist Church of Media, was chaired by Dr. Cecelia Evans, a Media Fellowship House board member, and filled with many youthful participants. Media Gospel Youth Choir started the program with Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing and later sang Oh Freedom, while Steppin' for Christ performed to Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round and Elijah Rock. Several area students read excerpts from Dr. King's speeches while Christopher Nelson and Virginia Grundy sang solos of Dr. King's most beloved songs to the audience.



Mr. Arturo Bagley

An added treat was a dramatic vignette paying tribute to Rosa Parks, recounting her arrest for refusing to give up her bus seat to a white man. "This year was about the young people," said Dr. Evans, "we wanted to pass on the history and make sure that those who come after us keep working to fulfill Dr. King's dream."

Bagley, who received his law degree from Yale Law School as well as a Masters in U.S. History from The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, teaches at Lincoln University and lives in Cheyney. He stated "the King holiday is not for one man alone...he is a representative of the thousands who sacrificed for the civil rights movement...he represents equality and tolerance."

The 17th Annual Dr. King Celebration was attended by a capacity crowd and continues to honor a man who was one of the world's greatest champions of human dignity.

GLORIA STANCIL RECEIVES AWARD FOR BEING A TOP COUNSELOR IN 2005

Gloria Stancil, Media Fellowship House's Senior Housing Counselor, received an award from the Homeownership Counseling Association of Delaware Valley. The award recognized Gloria's achievements in helping more than thirty low to moderate income families in Delaware County attain the dream of homeownership in 2005.

"I love what I do" said Gloria, "the feeling I get when a person sitting across from me at the settlement table realizes

that they are new homeowners is worth all of the effort that goes into the process."

Gloria counsels low to moderate income families who want to take part in the Delaware County Homeownership First Program.

Pictured left to right are Ruth Gaskins, chairperson of the Heroes in Housing selection committee, Gloria Stancil and Allison Hughes, Executive Director of the Homeownership Counseling Association

of Delaware Valley.

Congratulations Gloria!!



ROSA PARKS HONORED AT MEDIA FELLOWSHIP HOUSE

On December 1, 2005, the 50th anniversary of the day she refused to give up her seat to a white man, Media Fellowship House celebrated the life of Rosa Parks.

A woman of great courage, her act of civil disobedience in 1955 was the origin of the modern day civil rights movement and helped launch a young preacher named Martin Luther King into national prominence.

The evening, entitled Songs of the Movement-A Tribute to Rosa Parks, brought a crowd that filled Media Fellowship House to capacity. Various musicians came out to honor

this brave woman who passed away just a few months earlier.

The emcee for the evening, board member Kurt Grotz, started the tribute with an original song he wrote for Rosa. Dr. Cecelia Evans addressed the crowd about the connection between Rosa and Dr. King and Dr. Joan Flynn, MFH board member and President of Media NAACP, briefly highlighted the life of Rosa while also acknowledging the lasting global impact that her actions produced.

The evening was closed with the reading, by Executive Director Jerry Duffy, of a procla-



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mation, signed by Mayor Bob McMahon, declaring December 1, 2005 Rosa Parks Day in the Borough of Media.

HOUSING PROGRAMS STILL GOING

Media Fellowship House's housing programs continue to grow at an amazing rate. Since 2001, The Delaware County Homeownership First Program, which offers up to \$5,000 for low to moderate income families has grown by more than 200%. In 2005 alone, more than 130 families came to MFH for pre pur-

chase counseling while 40 families actually purchased a new home. "This is a wonderful program that involves a lot of dedicated people." stated Jerry Duffy, Executive Director of MFH. "Without the ongoing support of John Pickett, Dave Collins and the staff at Delaware County's Office of Housing and Community Develop-

ment, we never could have achieved the level of success that we have."

The HEMAP program is also a program that is essential to the lives of Delaware County residents. In 2005, MFH counseled more than 100 people who needed help preventing the foreclosure of their homes.

WELCOME BACK CHERYL & WELCOME ABOARD MIKE

We are pleased to announce that Cheryl Coghlan has returned to Media Fellowship House as an Administrative Assistant. In 2004, Cheryl came to us as a part time volunteer and performed many of the administrative tasks that were necessary for the MFH office. After leaving Fellowship House to accept a full time position with another firm, she decided to return

when the Administrative Assistant position became available in November of 2005.

We'd also like to welcome Mike Santarpio to the Fellowship House. Mike comes to us from COSA and works part time in the office. He's been an enormous help to us all and we are very grateful to have him.



Welcome aboard Mike!

Memories of our lives, of our works and our deeds will continue in others.

-Rosa Parks



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*BUILDING A COMMUNITY FREE OF INJUSTICE THROUGH
PROGRAMS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE*

COMING IN FEBRUARY

When:
February 22, 2006
7PM
at
Media Fellowship House

*Refreshments will
be served*

Please join us in February for our Black History Month Celebration. We are pleased to announce that Sam Lemon will be coming to Media Fellowship House to present the fascinating story of his ancestors. Starting with their escape from slavery from the plantations of Virginia to their arrival in Media in the 1860s, where they were sheltered by local Quakers Isaac and Elizabeth Smedley Yarnall, Sam will detail their struggles and ultimately their successes, including living in what is now known as The Minshall House as well as giving birth to Delaware County's first African American Attorney, William Henry Ridley, esq.

Sam will also discuss the Native American side of his heritage detailing related historical and multi-cultural issues of the past, Native American history/culture and the Native American connection with African Americans.

Through the use of vintage photographs as well as historical documents and books, Sam will bring us back to the days when horses and carriages could be seen making their way through Media and when runaway slaves would risk their lives to be free.

We are also pleased to welcome the students from *With Pens In Hands Family Writing Program* who will compose and present biographies of some of the world's famous Black historical figures. Representations of these and other famous historical figures are in Media Fellowship House's antique doll collection, which will be on display for everyone to view.

Sam Lemon is the Community Relations Specialist for Rose Tree Media School District. He holds a Bachelor's degree in English from St. Joseph's University, and a Master's degree in Instructional Media from West Chester University. He is currently a doctoral candidate in the Educational Leadership Division, of the Graduate School of Education, of the University of Pennsylvania. His area of specialization is Education, Culture, and Society.



Sam Lemon