

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**



**Congratulations to the 2008  
Community & Justice Award Honorees!**

*Change will not come if we wait  
for some other person or some other time.  
We are the ones we've been waiting for.  
We are the change that we seek.*

President Elect Barack Obama



Senator Jack Reed and RICJ Board member Arthur Robbins



Honorees Keith W. Stokes, Steven J. Issa, flanked by event co-chairs Amica Mutual Insurance Company CEO Bob DiMuccio and Providence Journal publisher Howard Sutton.



Herman Rose, Charlotte Penn, Don Keefer (seated), RICJ Board Member David Winoker (standing middle background)

**BANK CEO AND CHAMBER EXECUTIVE HONORED  
AT 55<sup>TH</sup> COMMUNITY AND JUSTICE AWARDS**

**S**teven J. Issa and Keith W. Stokes were honored at the 55<sup>th</sup> annual Community & Justice Award for their contributions to creating a state that values all its members.

The state's business, government and advocacy communities gathered to pay tribute to two of Rhode Island "entrepreneurs making a difference", who through their commitment to education and community service exemplify RICJ's mission.

Sovereign Bank Vice President and RICJ Advisor, Michael Lee presented Mr. Issa, a Central Falls native and Community College of Rhode Island and Bryant University graduate and now Sovereign Bank CEO, with the humanitarian award. Because of his own experiences, Mr. Issa has worked to promote community college as a valuable stepping stone for Rhode Island's youth.

Senate Majority Leader, Teresa Paiva Weed presented the award to Mr. Stokes, born and raised on Aquidneck Island and now director of the Newport Chamber of Commerce and noted historian on the lives of Rhode Island's colonial African-Americans. Mr. Stokes has also spoken out to promote a strong message of inclusiveness and fairness as our State addresses issues of immigration.

These RI native sons were selected because they embody RICJ's mission in their philanthropy and service, and their leadership on community issues. "The presence of so many representatives from the business and non-profit community paying tribute to these two "Entrepreneurs making a difference" demonstrates the importance of RICJ's mission of creating a more fair and inclusive world", says Executive Director, Dr. Toby Ayers.

United States Senator Jack Reed, Governor Carcieri and former Community and Justice Award honoree John Warren, president of Washington Trust bank, were among the guests on hand to congratulate the 2008 Community and Justice honorees.

An unprecedented twelve restaurants donated food representing the seven continents of the world. Guests enjoyed the food and the jazz music from the Paul Williams Trio. Donating restaurants included Ada's Creations, Blaze East Side, Cold Stone Creamery, Cuban Revolution, Elea's, El Meson, Jeanton's Down Home Cookin', Fu Ming, La Casona Restaurant and Bakery, Pakarang Thai, Tina's Caribbean Restaurant, and Union Station Brewery.

The diverse cuisine was served under colorful banners representing the seven continents, courtesy of the artistic talents of Cranston West High School art teacher Valerie Bruzzi's advanced art class.

*RICJ extends a heartfelt  
"thank you"  
to our many generous donors and to our event sponsors,  
listed on page 2.*



YAC members Mike Fonseca, Harry Stewart and Chantel Crum outside the Touro Synagogue with Keith and Teresa Stokes

**YAC VISIT CITY BY THE SEA'S  
HISTORIC LANDMARK**

**M**embers of RICJ's Youth Action Council participated in the historic Newport Touro Synagogue's 61st Annual George Washington Letter Reading Celebration. Touro Synagogue Board member and noted Newport Historian, Keith Stokes extended an invitation to the youth and RICJ's Nanda Shewmangal. The historic Washington letter, written "To the Hebrew Congregation in Newport", emphasized that our government "gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance."

2008 is the 350th anniversary of the Jewish migration to America. President Kennedy referred to Touro as "not only the oldest Synagogue in America but also one of the oldest symbols of liberty". YAC members were in awe of the building's history and its massive size. Following the celebration, the group ventured out to see Newport and Easton Beach. Our thanks to the Touro Synagogue Foundation for including us!

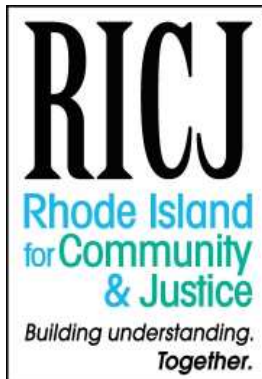
**Save The Date**



Metcalf Diversity in the Media Awards  
Thursday, May 14, 2009  
8:00am  
The Temple Restaurant, Providence

Community & Justice Awards  
**RICJ's Annual Fundraiser**  
Thursday, October 15, 2009  
5:30pm  
Rhode Island Convention Center, Rotunda

For more information or to RSVP, contact Ann Clanton at 401-467-1717, ext. 101, or email: aclanton@etal.uri.edu



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## MARK YOUR CALENDER FOR 2008 AND 2009 UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov. 14: Traces of the Trade Screening for City Year, 9 a.m., URI-Providence Campus, Paff Auditorium
- Nov. 19: Civil Rights Roundtable Retreat, 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., John Hope Settlement House
- Dec. 4: LFAF Class Reunion, 5:30 p.m., Ada's Creations Restaurant, Providence
- Dec. 10: Juvenile Justice Law Enforcement/Courts/Educators meeting, 8:30 a.m., CCRI Warwick
- Jan. 15: Civil Rights Roundtable/Dr. King Policy Forum, 5:30p.m., Providence Black Repertory Theater
- Jan. 23-25: 2009 LFAF Class Overnight Retreat, Camp Canonicus
- Feb.7-May 2: 2009 LFAF class Saturday sessions, bi-weekly, 9 a.m.—2 p.m., various locations
- May 14: Metcalf Diversity in The Media Awards, 8 a.m., The Temple Restaurant, Providence
- May 15: 2009 LFAF Graduation Ceremony, 5:30 p.m., Rhode Island Statehouse
- Jun. 20-27: Project RESPECT summer youth leadership institute, Camp Aldersgate
- Sept. 11: 9-11 Remembrance at the Wall of Hope at Water Place Park
- Oct. 15: Community & Justice Awards Gala, RICJ Annual Fundraiser, 5:30 p.m. RICC Rotunda

### Ongoing Activities:

- Youth Action Council meetings, twice monthly.
- Wall of Hope empowerment project with Social Venture Partners & People's School
- Police/Community/Youth Dialogues on Juvenile Justice and Bias Free Policing
- RI Civil Rights Roundtable meetings (Last Thursday of each month at 8:30am)
- RI Faiths & Communities Together, interfaith unity activities
- Workplace Diversity Consulting

## HELP RICJ CONTINUE OUR WORK!

RICJ is #6268 on your United Way Pledge Sheet

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# Thank You to Our Community and Justice Awards Sponsors

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Dr. Toby Ayers

## In-Kind Partnership Sponsors



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Thank you for other gifts to: CCRI • Herman Rose • Salmanson Properties • CB Richard Ellis



Guests included Howard Sutton, John Warren Marilyn Winoker, Michael Lee & David Winoker



Cranston High West artists Megan Levesque, Sherry Tsang, Jillian Sagudo



Honorees Issa and Stokes



LFAF Alum Noshina Kalid, Farah Naz & daughters, Gloria Hincapie, T. Ayers, Rose Albert & A. Robbins

With **International Volunteers Day** on December 5, it's only fitting that we say "Thank You" to our RICJ volunteers. Planning the Community and Justice Awards is an daunting task that takes many helping hands. RICJ was fortunate to have the assistance of our Event Committee members *Co-Chairs Arthur Robbins and David Winoker, Lucie Burdick, Viviana Knowles, Michael Lee, Paula Pais, Sam Palmisano, Darlene Reza Rossi, and Robert Ward, Jr.* and an Honorary Host Committee comprised of local luminaries and Co-Chaired by *Howard Sutton and Robert DiMuccio.*

Cranston West High School students *Megan Levesque and Sherry Tsang*, University of Rhode Island freshman *Almata Johnson* and Amica Insurance Company employees *Odalía Massie, Paula Paquette and Carol Rendine* were among core volunteers assembled the day of the event, that also included RICJ's intern *Ken Amoroggi* and RICJ volunteers *Deana Brown and Eduardo Gomez.*

## LEADERSHIP FOR A FUTURE 2009

### LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD LEADERS

**R**ICJ's *Leadership for A Future* is gearing up for the 2009 class with a recruitment effort amongst local non-profits, community and trade groups, and businesses that care about building community. LFAF is a collaborative program run as a partnership between RICJ and the *Institute for Labor Studies and Research*.

RICJ is on the hunt for emerging and established leaders with 3 to 5 years experience in active involvement in the community, and an abiding interest in building long term relationships and strengthening ties among individuals from Rhode Island's diverse communities. Beginning with an overnight retreat at Camp Canonicus and followed by Saturday training sessions, the LFAF Institute runs from January 23 through May 15, 2009.

RICJ spoke with LFAF 2008 class alumni Alexandra Corona and Yakim Parker. A liaison between CCRI's REACH program and the Department of Human Services, Alexandra credits the Leadership for A Future program with connecting her with others who share her passion for the community. Corona says she felt a real connection to the program and its participants. Yakim Parker echoes Corona's sentiments, with praise for LFAF in particular for the professional and personal contacts that have emerged. After meeting LFAF classmates from the RI Minority Contractors Association who taught him to play golf, he says, "My golfing game hasn't improved but I am having a good time with my new golfing buddies".

Applications may be obtained by contacting RICJ's Nanda Shewmangel who co-directs the program. The deadline is January 10.



Yakim Parker and fellow LFAF classmate, and partner Patricia LaSalle, Class of 2008.

Alexandra Corona en route to the Labor and Studies Museum in Woonsocket



HELP RICJ RECRUIT  
NEW & EMERGING LEADERS  
FOR THE

**LEADERSHIP FOR A FUTURE  
CLASS OF 2009**

Contact Nanda Shewmangel at 467-1717 x 103 or  
nandas@etal.uri.edu

## ADVOCATING FOR JUSTICE

**E**stablished to create a needed, open dialogue on juvenile justice and bias free policing, RICJ's DMC Advisory Group of the *Juvenile Justice Project* is comprised of law enforcement and court professionals, community advocates and youth. Following twice monthly meetings in summer and early fall to examine the disproportionate number of minority juveniles arrested and in the court system, the advisory group is reaching out to police chiefs, school resource officers, other justice system and educational professionals to help us address these critical issues of juvenile justice in Rhode Island.

To that end, the advisory group invited representatives from key agencies including the Attorney General's and Public Defenders' office, RI Police Chiefs Association and RI Department of Education to a forum to strategize on ways to implement changes to improve the justice system.

Forum participants will receive an overview of the RI study by Dorinda Richetelli of Spectrum Associates, showing Black and Hispanic juveniles more likely to be arrested, transferred to adult court, and placed in detention or the Training School.

Scheduled for December 10, 9 a.m.-1p.m. at the Community College of Rhode Island—Knight Warwick campus, planners of the forum are expecting the diverse group to help lay a foundation for major changes in how minority youth are treated by Rhode Island's law enforcement and court systems.

Dr. Ayers testifying, with  
Advocacy Panel member Tish  
DiPrete, Urban League



**T**he Rhode Island Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights convened a public briefing in September to gather information from public safety officials, government officials, and community advocates on the issue of racial profiling in Rhode Island.

RICJ Executive Director, Dr. Toby Ayers and fellow advocacy panelists and Civil Rights Roundtable members *Ramon Martinez* and *Tish DiPrete* stressed to Advisory members the need for legislation to restrict selected police practices and to identify officers inappropriately stopping or searching minority drivers. "*It's absolutely essential to collect data. You're never going to see whether change occurs unless you keep collecting data*". Several members of the RI Police Chiefs Association participated including High Sheriff *Gary Dias*.

The State Advisory Committee will compile the testimony provided for a report to be presented to the Civil Rights Commission.