



Regional Youth Intern Summer Showcase

Serving as a catalyst for change, we develop, organize and empower individuals and communities to advance equity and opportunity for all.



September 2017 | Newsletter
www.miroundtable.org

IN SUPPORT OF THE DREAMERS

In 2012 when DACA (a version of 2001 DREAM Act) was imposed by executive order, it was intended to stop the approximate 800,000 millennials who came to this country as infants and children from being deported because their parents entered this country illegally. This executive order was issued because previous proposed legislation to protect these children from deportation had not been acted upon by Congress.

DACA was never intended to be a permanent solution to any portion of America’s immigration policies and laws; it was a temporary measure to protect a specific class of immigrant – the Dreamers. It was only intended to allow these children – now young adult workers and students to stay in this country without fear of deportation until new immigration policies and laws could be enacted by Congress that would protect this specific class of immigrants.

It is undisputed that the Dreamers were in the most part infants and small children brought to this country by their parents and did not commit the willful act of entering this country illegally.

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Making the places we work and live become places where all people are welcome and treated fairly.

From the desk of the CEO



As we send this newsletter to you, our Jewish neighbors are preparing for the solemn high holy day of Yom Kippur, and our Hindu neighbors are celebrating Navaratri. Roundtable Board members Bobby Siporin and Padma Kuppa offer us the following reflections:

Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement for the Jewish people, asks us to hold space for our sins and not shy away from them. We fast for the day, and attempt to understand how our transgressions have impacted those around us. After reflecting, we are tasked with taking action, and making peace where possible. All of us can engage in this type of reflection. This past year, our country has at times seemed impossibly divisive and harsh towards those most vulnerable. We are reminded on days like Yom Kippur that change needs to happen internally before it can be expected from others. (Bobby Siporin)

The festival is of Navaratri also called Dassara, and ends with Vijayadasami. There are multiple stories and celebrations among Indian and diaspora Hindus - one is the nine night celebration of the feminine divine, with these three most popularly worshiped manifestations: Goddess Durga representing the Mother Goddess and Shakti (Divine Energy); Goddess Saraswati representing knowledge, speech and the arts; and Goddess Lakshmi, representing good health, wealth and prosperity. Many fasts and rituals are associated with Navaratri, especially for women. Another story centers on the Hindu god Rama, and Vijayadasami marks his victory over the demon king Ravana symbolizing the triumph of good over evil. (Padma Kuppa)

Since our June newsletter we have had our share of human relations and racial justice challenges, some of which the Roundtable has been called upon to help address. Major events included the tragic death of fifteen-year-old Damon Grimes by a Michigan State Trooper, the call for “death to all Muslims” by the Kalkaska Village President (see my separate reflection), the death of Heidi Heyer in Charlottesville, VA, the reference by Mayor Duggan that there is only one Detroit, President Trump rescinding the DACA (see Public Policy committee statement), Kid Rock’s concerts at our new Little Caesar’s Arena and eleven year-old Stone Cheney being physically abused when he didn’t stand for the pledge of allegiance at his Farmington Hills Middle School.

A big part of the work of the Roundtable is understanding how our history played a role in shaping both inequity and how it compromised individuals thinking about and engaging the “racial and religious other.” When a young black man is killed by a white police officer, when some of the residents of the city feel unheard, and when symbols of our unreconciled racial history, e.g., confederate flag is brought before us, it is a time for us to stop and listen, whether you are the mayor, the governor or an

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IN SUPPORT OF THE DREAMERS

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For the most part this is the only country they know. Many of the Dreamers do not even speak the language of their country of origin. The Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion believes that we should not deport this valuable resource due to how they arrived in this country, but keep them in America because it makes us a better country.

By supporting the efforts of the Dreamers to stay in America, the Michigan Roundtable is not opining on the legality of DACA or future immigration policies and laws. We are not a political organization. The Michigan Roundtable is a humanitarian organization that is all about diversity, inclusion and equity. As such, we support keeping the Dreamers in America because it promotes America's 250-year old credo of equality and respect for America's diversity and inclusion. We believe it is time to let Congress know that Michiganders support legislation to allow the Dreamers to stay in the United States and work towards American citizenship.

We are grateful to our Public Policy Committee for writing this statement, calling us to let Congress know that we support legislation to allow our neighbors known as "Dreamers" to stay in the United States and work towards American Citizenship. We know from our history that immigrants have been otherized and racialized for years, in part giving rise to the Roundtable's beginnings over 76-years ago. The broader issue of immigration reform is complicated calling for conversation to understand the different points of view on this matter. Beyond convening conversation, we are committed to helping organizations and communities to make sure all our neighbors are welcomed and treated fairly.

Youth Interns Participate in Annual Neighborhood Festival Backpack Giveaway

The Michigan Roundtable as an organization has been challenging itself for over the last five or six years to go deeper in our work of social justice and racial healing within



YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

Kamerin Winston

As an intern, coming back as a staff member with the Michigan Roundtable was a dream. This summer that dream became a reality. When I was an intern in the 2014-2015 cohort, I remember admiring the alumni staff. I wanted to



gain their knowledge, wisdom, and experience, and have the opportunity to share my knowledge, wisdom, and experience with interns who were following in my footsteps. After I completed the internship program, I moved to Atlanta, Georgia to pursue my undergraduate education at the illustrious Spelman College.

Living in Atlanta, I watched the city of Detroit succumb to gentrification. I knew I couldn't just watch, so I made it a point to spend my summers in the city. Following my freshman year, I worked as an intern with the community relations and corporate philanthropy team at Quicken Loans. This summer made my dream a reality. I was hired as alumni support staff with the Michigan Roundtable, and I was charged with the task of senior intern development. This summer has been challenging, stressful, and interesting but in a good way. I was able to share with the interns all of my knowledge and wisdom. I hope that I was as impactful on their development as the alumni staff was in mines.

the community, more importantly the neighborhoods. Out of this challenge presented itself the opportunity of building a partnership with Yusef Bunchy Shakur and the work he is doing in his neighborhood through the annual Neighborhood Festival Backpack Giveaway; through the neighborhood initiative of Restoring The Neighbor Back To The Hood. For the last couple of years we have supported this initiative by distributing funds that helped purchase backpacks as well as show our mobile exhibit in a house that Yusef is rehabbing by turning the house into a neighborhood museum. But what we are most excited about is this neighborhood partnership has allowed for our summer interns to gain invaluable experience of helping to prepare for this massive event by helping to do the pre-work and volunteering on the day of the event. This year the interns were given the opportunity to take on a greater role by supervising volunteers, working the registration table, manage work stations and game sites for the youth and help distribute backpacks.

THE KALKASKA JOURNEY

Earlier this summer, the Village President of Kalkaska called for “death to all Muslims” and made hateful remarks about black and gay people. While we began listening to our Muslim neighbors, we also engaged in conference calls with the people of Kalkaska who wanted to make their town more welcoming. During these conversations, we realized the governor had not denounced this hateful rhetoric and so we went on to spend three weeks encouraging him to do so. I encourage you to read the statement we wrote along with our partners at the ACLU, Anti-Defamation League, NAACP, Jewish Community Relations Council/American Jewish Committee, Interfaith Leadership Council of



Metropolitan Detroit and WISDOM (Women’s Interfaith Solutions for Dialogue in Metro Detroit), which you can find by visiting our website at www.miroundtable.org and clicking on the “Letter of Request” banner on our homepage.

Also included is an interview I conducted on WKAR television’s “Off the Record” program, which is also available on our website.

On September 15th, I moderated a community conversation, participated in by over 100 people at the Kalkaska United Methodist Church. They came to learn about their neighbors who practice a different religion, and to lift up the value of diversity and inclusion for their beloved town. In terms of Islamophobia, we began this effort with three goals, and then added a fourth. Goal 1: Make sure the hate directed toward Muslims was rebuked and our Muslim neighbors learned of the profound respect many of us have for their religion--- along with deep regard for them as our neighbors. Goal 2: Message to folks who are bystanders or neutral to seriously consider becoming allies. Goal 3: Message to those bullies who would do harm to our Muslim neighbors that there are many Michiganders who care about these people they hate. Goal 4: Reach out and listen to those who are expressing hate to give them an opportunity to know their Muslim neighbors, and develop relationships with them allowing them to know they too are cared for.

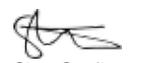
Lessons Learned:

Lesson 1: We need to be intentional in fighting the gravitational pull toward homogenous leadership teams resulting from our long history of segregation, and develop teams of diverse people and points of view, allowing us to see an issue from a range of vantage points.

Lesson 2: If we are not feeling the pain and fears of our neighbors who are experiencing hate, we are not likely to act in a way that helps reduce that pain.

Lesson 3: Simply not being racist is not enough from our leaders or neighbors at a time when people are being threatened and killed because of their race or religion. Neutrality is a very, very low bar, which allows bullies to engage, and hate to be perpetrated.

How are people doing in your community? Your workplace? Let us know if we might be able to assist you in asking and answering these questions. Our organization was birthed seventy-six years ago, so we have a rich history in this work, but we also continue to learn new lessons almost daily.



Steve Spreitzer
President & CEO

From the desk of the CEO

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ordinary resident of the state. When we listen to those harmed by prejudice and hateful words, we have an opportunity to not just understand the other's concerns, but feel them to a degree that leads us to a deeper connection and action to make sure all people are treated fairly.

To help us better hear the concerns of our neighbors, we have been hosting our First Friday Forum series for the past five years (plans for regional conversations on a week night other than Friday are being discussed). We will host a forum on October 6th to hear and discuss the concerns of people in Detroit's underdeveloped neighborhoods. More information is available in this newsletter...

This past July we welcomed fifteen new junior youth interns, who with the August graduation of our senior youth interns, have become official Regional Youth Interns. We have some exceptional young people now being paid to learn how to be leaders in the work for inclusion and racial justice. I hope you get a chance to meet them at our upcoming events.

We are excited to announce a partnership with CBS TV 62/CW 50 to explore the history of racism in Michigan, with the first of four Street Beat programs will air on Saturday morning, October 28th at 9 a.m. and feature Fay Givens of American Indian Services and Betty McGowan Givens, a professor at EMU speaking of the Native American experience and present-day challenges.

We hope to see you at our 70th Annual Humanitarian Tribute luncheon on Nov. 8 ([link](#)) where we will bestow our Humanitarian Award upon John Carter of JP Morgan Chase and Dr. Yahya Basha, Founder of Basha Diagnostics. New Detroit will receive the William Beckham Community Service Award and Dr. Glenda Price is our distinguished past board member.

We also welcome the following five new board members as we begin our Fiscal Year this month: Caroline Chambers, Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion, Comerica Bank, Harold Love, retired MI State Police Captain and President, Harold Love & Associates Behavioral Health, Bobby Siporin, Financial Manager Coach Southwest Economic Solutions, Tricia Snyder, Senior Director, Human Resources and Labor Relations, Blue Cross Blue Shield of MI, Angela Thompkins, Director, Talent Acquisition, Diversity and Inclusion, Consumers Energy. For complete list of our board members, visit our website at www.miroundtable.org.

Finally, I want to introduce you to April Ellison, our new Director of Fund Development. April has had a distinguished career, including at the American Lung Association, Michigan State University School of Law and Illitch Business School at Wayne State University. We are most grateful for April's lived passion for the work of the Roundtable and look forward to her help to make the Detroit area and beyond a place where all people are welcome and treated fairly.



Steve Spreitzer
President & CEO

HUMANITARIAN SOCIETY

Here are some images from our Humanitarian Society Reception held this past September 13th at the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills. It's an annual opportunity extended to our donors to meet new, current and past board members and learn more about our work.



BIG CITY FILMS PARTNERSHIP

People often ask me what is the difference between the documentary “12th and Clairmount” and our documentary “Summer '67,” and the answer is always the same, The Michigan Roundtable.

Two years ago when Big City Films started working on this project we knew we wanted to partner with an organization that was making a difference in the community, because documentaries come and go but the themes explored in the film Summer '67 are always being dealt with. The Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion became that partner, taking the documentary from just a broadcast project to a film embraced by Metro Detroit, with screenings and discussions in churches, movie theaters, community centers, museums, schools, block parties and even an abandon home. They’ve transformed this film, from documentary to a timely community engagement platform for racial discussion. Through our partnership, I continue to be excited about the documentary’s value as a community tool and its place as a key educational instrument in Metro Detroit schools. There is no question in my mind, that Big City Films and the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion has proven to be a dynamic and impactful combination.

Michigan Roundtable & Cinema Detroit community partnership brings you “REEL Talk”

The community partnership between Cinema Detroit and Michigan Roundtable grew out of the opportunity to expand the First Friday Forums, which has become a monthly community conversation staple over the last five years.

Exploring the idea of how we could diversify our approach to bring a wider range of people together to talk about race, religion, power and privilege led us to the doorsteps of Cinema Detroit. After knocking on the door and them letting us in to pitch our idea of using their space to use film as a vehicle to engage people, they simply responded by saying “we have been desiring to do something like this for the community!” Our first featured film we showed together was the documentary “12th & Clairmount” and the second was the movie “Detroit”. Both had a packed house and the community conversations were electrifying. We were excited to be showing the documentary “Whose Streets” on Sep 26, 2017. This documentary chronicles the youth activism that emerged in the streets of Ferguson after the bloody murder of Mike Brown by the Ferguson police. Mike Brown's death became the battle cry for his generation as the same way Emmet Till's did for his generation over 50 years ago. The activism of the young people of Ferguson helped fuel the movement Black Lives Matter. **The next “REEL Talk” will be Tuesday, October 24th at 7 PM where we will be screening and discussing the film Summer ‘67.**

For more information on future “REEL Talk” screenings and discussions contact Stacey Stevens or Yusef Shakur at 313-870-1500 x107

MICHIGAN ROUNDTABLE & CINEMA DETROIT PRESENTS ...

REEL TALK

Documentary Screening & Discussion

CINEMA DETROIT | 4126 THIRD ST. DET., MI 48201 | 6pm-9pm Street & Lot Parking

TUESDAY, SEPT. 26TH, 2017

FEATURED FILM FOR DISCUSSION

WHOSE STREETS?

ADMISSION FEE: \$5 DONATION TO SUPPORT OUR YOUTH INTERNSHIP

www.miroundtable.org

YOU MUST RSVP | FOR MORE INFO & TO RSVP
313-870-1500 or ALEE@miroundtable.org

27th ANNUAL HOLY STROKES GOLF CLASSIC

Presented by



A gigantic "THANK YOU" goes out to all the golfers and sponsors who supported the golf outing this year, filling all 64 foursomes, making it our most successful outing ever!!!

REGIONAL YOUTH INTERN Summer Showcase Images - August 9, 2017



70th Annual Humanitarian Tribute

The Michigan Roundtable Humanitarian Tribute celebrates two distinct leaders, a past member of our board of directors and one community organization who are engaged in the work the Roundtable has been doing for the past seventy-six years to bring diverse people and communities together to listen to each other, learn new information and skills and determine ways to move forward. Their tireless efforts help to make sure the places where we work, learn and live become places where all people are welcomed and treated fairly.

Wednesday | November 8, 2017
12 O'clock Noon

at the

MGM Grand Detroit Hotel
1777 Third Street
Detroit, MI 48226

Master of Ceremonies

Rhonda Walker

WDIV-TV Detroit

For more information on how to purchase tickets and for sponsorship opportunities, contact Steve Spreitzer at 313-870-1500 ext. 102 or email at sspreitzer@miroundtable.org



John C. Carter

*Managing Director, Michigan Middle Market, Commercial Banking
JP Morgan Chase*



Dr. Yahya M. Basha

Founder and President, Basha Diagnostics



Dr. Glenda D. Price

Past President, Detroit Public Schools Foundation

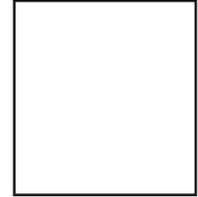


New Detroit, Inc

Shirley R. Stancato
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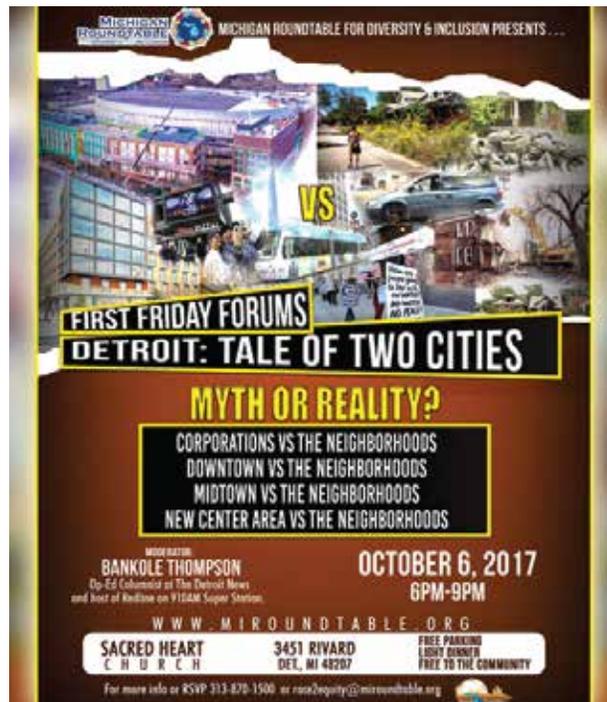
Serving as a catalyst for change, we develop, organize, and empower individuals and communities to advance equity and opportunity for all.

UPCOMING EVENTS

First Friday Forum
Friday | October 6, 2017

Humanitarian Tribute
Wednesday | November 8, 2017

REEL Talk
Tuesday | October 24, 2017



For more information on any of our events or programs, please call our office or email us at walk2gether@miroundtable.org

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