



# MANY VOICES - ONE COMMUNITY COMMUNITY DIALOGUE ON RACE & RACISM

April 22, 2008

Volume 6

Lynchburg City Council's vision includes the statement that "Lynchburg acknowledges and values its rich cultural, ethnic, racial, and religious diversity while promoting a respectful and cohesive community." It is in the spirit of that vision statement that the City of Lynchburg is embarking on a community dialogue about race and racism.

## Another Opportunity for Involvement

### Leadership Lynchburg37

*Leadership Lynchburg* is the region's **leadership laboratory** where you can practice and learn team building, conflict resolution, effective public speaking, and leadership best practices. It is also a program where real community issues are discussed, building a spirit of community trusteeship.

With a 30- year history and strong reputation, the program is administered by the Lynchburg Regional Chamber of Commerce and has a network of over 800 graduates.

*Leadership Lynchburg* has three main focuses:  
**FOCUS, CONNECT & to GROW**

**FOCUS** on your personal and professional goals while practicing leadership skills you want to enhance.

**CONNECT** with over 30 other "up and coming" leaders as well as influential regional decision makers.

**GROW** in knowledge about the region, about critical issues in our community, and as a person.

#### The Approach

A team environment is used, bringing together diverse participants to address pressing community issues while utilizing valuable leadership skills.

#### The Schedule

The class meets together once a month, for 9 months, beginning in September. The curriculum includes two retreats, an adventure course, and 9 sessions designed to foster personal and professional growth. Teams meet in between sessions, addressing community issues and discussing and presenting possible solutions.

Applications for the 37<sup>th</sup> Class are now being accepted and all the details can be found at the Leadership Lynchburg tab at the Chamber's website ([www.Lynchburgchamber.org](http://www.Lynchburgchamber.org)) or by calling Christine Kennedy at 845-5966.

## Tune in to NPR

Gloria Preston, Bob Gillette, Anthony Andrews, and Leslie

King were interviewed last week by Libby Fitzgerald for an hour-long radio show, Evening Edition. The participants were able to give a very informative and first-hand account about the Community Dialogue on Race and



Racism. We encourage you all to tune in and listen. Evening Edition will air Tuesday, April 22, 7:30 p.m. on WVTf, 89.1 on the dial. It will rebroadcast on Radio IQ, 89.5 on the dial, on Saturday and Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The show will be posted on-line by April 24 at [www.WVTf.org](http://www.WVTf.org), click on News and Public Affairs, go to Evening Edition.

## Health Care Exhibit

The Health Career Center at Centra Virginia Baptist Hospital has a new exhibit about the history of African American Health Professionals. It showcases many people who worked hard to provide health care in Lynchburg and other areas despite racial obstacles. It is a wonderful testimony to the spirit of the human heart. The Health Career Center is located on the third floor of VBH, and is free and open to the public from 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, and at other times by request. For more information, contact Kim Price at 200-4729.

## Action Forum – A Success

There was a lot of positive feedback and good media coverage of the Action Forum with about 550 people attended making it a positive impact for our community. Many had the opportunity to participate in a mini-study circle and there was a buzz of discussion due to reunions and reconnections among study circle participants. About 190 individuals signed up for additional participation through Action Groups. On Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup> the report out debrief brought together 250-300 people. [Click Here for Action Forum Results](#)

## Special Celebration



In appreciation for all of the hard work and effort of the facilitators and the working group there will be a special celebration to say "Thank You"!

What? Facilitator Celebration & Picnic  
When? April 24, 5-7 pm  
Where? The Aviary – Miller Park  
Who? Facilitators & Working Group

For more information, please visit these links at the website:  
[Many Voices - One Community Timeline](#) | [Committees/Contact Info](#)

## News

### Community Dialogue Action Forum Results

Posted Date: 4/16/2008

# MANY VOICES - ONE COMMUNITY



## COMMUNITY DIALOGUE ON RACE & RACISM

[Click here to read the TOP 10 Action Ideas selected by vote from the Action Forum](#)

[Click here to read ALL the Action Ideas submitted by the 42 Study Circles](#)

# Action Forum Results

## Top 10 Action Ideas

(Top 10 vote getters from the Action Forum)

1. Lynchburg City Schools should develop and implement a user friendly, pre-school thru 12th grade curriculum approach to promote awareness and acceptance of cultural diversity, including school forums, anti-racist and anti-bias curriculum that develops a sense of social and individual responsibility and take home exercises.
2. Establish a community foundation to guarantee college tuition to all Lynchburg City High School graduates at any college or university in Lynchburg.
3. Create partnerships with schools and industry to provide apprentice programs for vocational/technical jobs to fill the gap of what is currently available to kids in school and what is needed for kids who drop out and need to learn a trade. Set up in City community centers.
4. Community-wide and longer-term relationship of paired churches, perhaps organized by interested clergy and lay leaders, focused on volunteers from both congregations joining to work on or start a community outreach project they would accomplish and sustain together, getting to know each other as individuals in the process.
5. Create a "Lynchburg Freedom Trail," pinpointing important events of the segregation of Lynchburg's black community, highlighting the public pool history, and locations where substantial civil rights activities took place (the pharmacy, The Unitarian Church, etc.).
6. Establish multicultural leadership group of faith based communities to develop joint projects with the goals being: 1. to break down racism within own communities, 2. to develop relationships, 3. to open communication.
7. Grow Your Own – create a lunch program where police and other business and trades people will eat lunch in school cafeterias on a regular basis to build police/community relations and to encourage students to consider law enforcement careers.
8. Create a community based body or group to stay focused on issues of race and racism to hold the community accountable for implementing action items from the study circle process.
9. Lynchburg City to develop and implement monthly family empowerment workshops in various locations covering such topics as finance, health, employment, education, self respect, and interpersonal relationships.

10. Improve Police/Community Relations and Trust: Encourage Lynchburg Police Department to establish a police force that is representative of Lynchburg demographics, that is actively participating in neighborhoods and communities, that is sensitive to issues of diversity, that is committed to the individuals, families, neighborhoods, and communities they are serving as they learn and develop their own roles as assets and resources.

[Click here to view...](#)

[All ACTION IDEAS submitted by the 42 Study Circles](#)

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