

375TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

Meg Gaudet; Chair
Rein Beeuwkes
Carol Bowen
Frank Cannon
Jennifer Clarke
Pam D'Ambrosio
Bill Dolan
Rick Frese
Nancy Haynes
Bob Lawson

Subcommittee Members

The Gala Ball: Marie Foley, Tracy Hoaglund, Bernie Jaros,
Barbara Kiezer, Sue Merlino, & Kara Stokes
The Youth Committee: Lisa Gutwillig, Tracy McIntyre and
Eileen Robichaud
Parade: Dave Brownell, Bonnie Kennedy, Rebecca Purcell
Tom Ruggles, Arthur Walker

In 2008, the Concord Board of Selectmen appointed a 375th Birthday Celebration Committee of eleven members. After several meetings the Committee presented celebration ideas for a hometown parade, a gala ball and fireworks. We created several subcommittees which were led by one or more of the members. The Parade was led by Bill Dolan; the Ball by Pam D'Ambrosio (and Marie Foley); Music by Bob Lawson; Fireworks by Rein Beeuwkes and Frank Cannon; Youth Involvement by Jennifer Clarke; publicity and web site by Carol Bowen, Rick Frese and Nancy Haynes; Fundraising efforts were led by Paula Doyle and Meg Gaudet, with assistance from Selectmen Liaison Greg Howes.

The Committee strived to have programs to include Concord's children -- from the "3 7 5" photo of the middle school 8th graders, to the coloring pages throughout Concord including the library, a birthday party at Barefoot Books, a Saturday Night Live Dance for middle school students, a Family Day & CCHS Baseball game, to a Ball for those over 21, a parade and fireworks for everyone and thanks to the Cleary's Vox Concordia the intellectual piece was fulfilled.

Family Fun Day occurred on a gorgeous Sunday - May 16th - at Emerson Field. Complete with kiddy rides, food vendors, a flea market and craft fair, the day ended with a great baseball game between the Concord Police and Fire personnel versus the Concord-Carlisle baseball team. Local businessman Joe Saia produced three com-

memorative anniversary wines and donated money from the sale of each bottle. On June 24, Concord Wine and Spirits hosted a wonderful wine tasting party at the National Park and we received money from that as well.



In its winning baseball game against Concord Fire and Police, CC learned that there are consequences to stealing home!

Throughout the planning process the Committee continued to seek sponsorship for the various festivities. The *Concord Journal* and CCTV were especially helpful covering planning, writing articles, commercials, reporting on events and fundraising. The Journal (Gatehouse media) approached us about creating a special edition with a Birthday insert which was distributed Town-wide. The insert had ads and we received 10% of advertising sales. It was the sale of tee shirts, wine, stainless steel water bottles, the flea market and baseball game, tickets to the Ball and youth dance, the business and private sponsorships for various aspects of the events and of course in-kind donations that made everything possible. Many thanks to our generous sponsors: the DiGiovanni Family, Cambridge Trust, TD Bank, Citizen's Bank, Primo Water Co., Howes Insurance Group, Emerson Hospital, Dunkin Donuts of Concord, Cambridge Savings Bank, Comcast, Kussin's Store and the Stop & Shop Co. All contributions; large and small were key.

We were very cognizant of the economic times and understood the Board's reservation to use tax money to fund something discretionary. But we believe even in tough times the community should come together

and celebrate our community. Sometimes we just need a reason to smile.

In the end our private fund raising effort was successful, although not without some challenges and some potential controversy. Our budget was estimated to be \$55,000. In the end our expenses were approximately \$90,000. The good news is we raised \$120,000 leaving a balance of approximately \$ 30,000.

We are pleased to report that the 375th Celebrations were as close to perfect as possible – the financing, the participation and even the weather. We would like to collectively thank the Board of Selectmen for their trust. We have formally requested that any money left over, after all our bills are paid, be placed into an account for another Town celebration such as Concord's 400th.

CONCORD-CARLISLE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Polly Attwood, Chair
Molly Carocci, Vice Chair
Kristin Allison, Clerk
Steve Zippin, Treasurer: (1/2010-9/2010)
Mary Sheppard, Treasurer (9/2010-present)
Liz Clayton, Newsletter Editor
Lorell Gifford, Webmaster

Formally established in 1979 as a 501c3, the Council has a membership of approximately 675 households in the Concord-Carlisle community, with an Executive Board that meets monthly.

Our first event of the year was the January Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration, held at the Sanborn School. It was comprised of performances by the Holy Tabernacle Women's Ministry Choir, the Willard Fifth Grade Chorus, Boston Children's Choir and the CCHS Step Club. These groups sang separately and then together, with the Holy Tabernacle Choir shaking the rafters of Sanborn Auditorium with their incredibly powerful and moving voices.

In April, the Council coordinated the 30th Annual Holocaust Memorial on behalf of the Concord Board of Selectmen. The program featured presentations by Dr. Martine Emme, daughter and granddaughter of Nazi officers and Dr. Robert Gerzon, son of Holocaust survivors. Rosalie Gerut, Cantor at Kerem Shalom, herself the daughter of survivors, has been a foremost

advocate in the group, 'One by One,' which seeks to bring the children of survivors together with the children of Nazi soldiers, in order to bring about acceptance and reconciliation. Approximately one hundred people attended the program at the Town House on Monument Square.

The Annual Picnic in the Park was our next activity, with a beanbag toss game for children (and some competitive adults) and lots of talking, music and the giving out of information about the Council and its activities. A lot of interest was shown in our work, especially our two new initiatives, the Abby Fund METCO Scholarship and the Drinking Gourd Project.

We spent part of the summer preparing for the 375th Birthday Parade. We contacted many of the groups in Town that work in areas of justice, equity and access, inviting them to join with us in the Parade by marching with their own groups and banner, but all wearing a white sash to make visible the number of organizations and volunteers who give their time and energy to those issues that make for a climate of freedom in our community. Many groups joined us – C4RJ, Open Table, Minuteman Arc, Concord Housing Foundation, METCO Family Friends Council, Drinking Gourd Project, Abby Fund members, Concord Prison Outreach and PFLAG. It was a wonderful way of expressing the Human Rights Council's motto of 'the climate of the community is the responsibility of the community' and showing how much energy there is in Concord for that purpose.

On December 6, the Council held the Annual Human Rights Day Breakfast at the Trinitarian Congregational Church on Walden St.