



THE

ACTIVIST

News and Events of Cultural Leadership - www.culturalleadership.org - Vol. 12 Spring 2013

Running a Race to End Racism - 2013

Over the course of two beautiful, sunny mornings, April 6 and 7, more than 40 people joined the Cultural Leadership team in a Race to End Racism. The race was part of the St. Louis Marathon and Family Fitness weekend. For the second year in a row, Cultural Leadership was selected as one of 25 nonprofit organizations to be a part of the weekend's GO! For A Cause, where runners raise awareness and funds for their charity organization.

Cultural Leadership team members ran, walked, and volunteered, wearing their "I'm Running a Race to End Racism" t-shirt, to help raise awareness and funds to support our mission to end racism, anti-Semitism, and other social injustices.

On Saturday morning, 25 parents, students, alumni and friends of Cultural Leadership ran and walked the 5K race in Forest Park. Evan Lehmann, Class 9, finished first among the team and 12th in his division!

At the start of the marathon events in downtown St. Louis on Sunday morning, Cultural Leadership had two

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marathoners, one four-person relay team and nine half-marathoners running. Cultural Leadership intern Gretchen DeMong led the way for the half-marathoners, with Board

Member Thomas Walker not far behind!

Holly Ingraham, Executive Director, spoke about the need for the Race to End Racism, "We live in a country where we are still separated by where we can live. We live in communities where we are still separated by the schools our children can attend. We're running a Race to End Racism because we are committed to ending this separation in our communities that leads to so many social injustices."



Joe Berendt, Maggie Harris (Program Director), Gus Cotten (Class 2), Tony Westbrook, Jr. (Class 1), and Phil Hunsberger (Facilitator) giddy from their walker's high after completing the 5K. Photo by Johnathan Lehmann, Parent Class 9.

The Race to End Racism has raised over \$10,500 toward our goal of \$15,000, and we aren't done yet! Help us reach our goal – you can donate to the Race to End Racism until May 15. Donate now by visiting our website or calling the Cultural Leadership office at 314-725-3222.

Thank you to our Lead Sponsor for the Race to End Racism, Cooperative Home Care, and to our corporate sponsors Cambium Creative, Canwell Group and CompuSmile.

Thank you to Everyone Who Supported the Race to End Racism



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Volunteers

Aigul Abdylidaeva (Intern)
Alex Harris (Class 9)
Crystal Harris (Parent Class 9)
Julius Powell (Parent Classes 6 & 8)

Half-Marathoners

Laura Marie Coverstone
Gretchen DeMong (Intern)
Lance Dillard
Becky Porter (Staff Member)
Michael Porter
Daniel Stobbe
Greg Stobbe (Parent Class 8)
Maria Stobbe (Parent Class 8)
Thomas Walker (Board Member)

Marathoners

Marie Vernaci
Monica Vernaci

Marathon Relay

Chris Cantu (Board Member)
Michael Cantu
Amanda Ehll
John Poeschl

5K Runners/Walkers

Joe Berendt
Gus Cotten (Class 2)
Daniel Davison (Parent Class 7)
Hannah Davison (Class 7)
Mara Davison
Janet Desloge
Nancy Desloge (Parent Class 2 and Board Member)

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Crystal Harris (Parent Class 9)
Maggie Harris (Staff Member)
Phil Hunsberger (Facilitator)
Holly Ingraham (Staff Member)
Evan Lehmann (Class 9)
Angela Lewis (Facilitator)
Samantha Lurie (Trip Leader)
Mary Ann McLaughlin (Parent Class 2 and Board Member)
Kristy Pfister
Tony Westbrook, Jr. (Class 1 and Staff Member)

When our students see a problem, they grab an ally, or two or three, roll up their sleeves, and get to work.

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From the Chair

The results are in! The goal of Cultural Leadership is to create “Trouble Makers of the Best Kind,” and based on a recent evaluation, we are meeting that goal. Over two thirds of our alumni from Classes 1 through 7 report they are involved in social change and justice through educational, career or work activities. They are making a difference in their careers and on their campuses working on education inequities, civil rights and discrimination, poverty alleviation, and many other areas.

Who is Cultural Leadership? It’s not just the 30 students in Class 9, or the 185 alumni from our previous eight classes. It’s all of the parents and family members who have been touched along the way, and the thousands of donors who are committed to ending discrimination in St. Louis and beyond.

How can you participate in Cultural Leadership? There are lots of ways that friends of Cultural Leadership can help. We need volunteers of all kinds, in the office, to assist with student recruitment, and to plan education and fundraising events. We have three great events planned for 2013: Night of

Jazz in August, our first ever Jewish-African American Trivia Night in October, and our “Troublemaker of the Best Kind” Award and Reception in November. We need the help of our supporters to make these events successful, and to raise the funds needed to keep our program affordable for all participants.

If you would like more information about our evaluation or want to volunteer to support our mission, please contact Holly Ingraham in the Cultural Leadership office.



Everyone says this, but I would be SO ignorant, SO directionless, and SO much less-inspired to advance social justice if I had not been in Cultural Leadership. Cultural Leadership is basically an enormous mirror that gets held up to students. It shows them what society is like and what they're capable of. To ignore the calling to fight for justice would be an active denial of what they have learned.

Cultural Leadership Alumnus

Cheryl Adelstein
Board Chair

Cultural Leadership exists to create a more just and equitable community by educating high school students to recognize and resolve issues of privilege and injustice through the lens of the African American and Jewish experience.

Our students develop leadership skills, build relationships, facilitate dialogues and create change in their circles of influence.



Notable News

Jonah Atchison (8) won an award from the Center for Racial Harmony for being a person who solves problems, promotes peace and justice, and is always willing and ready to help others.

Brittany Campbell (4) is interning in the state Senate and was nominated for an award for her involvement in the Columbia community on March 9th.

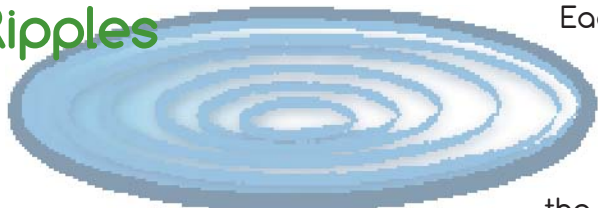
Augustus Cotten, Jr. (2) graduated from UMSL with a BA in Communications on December 15, 2012.

Scott Friedman (1) won the “Best Public Speaker” award at the ICC International Commercial Mediation Competition in Paris, France. Scott and his partner placed fourth out of 65 teams, making it to the semifinals of the competition.

Congratulations to **Melissa Garcia (3)** for being valedictorian at Fisk University. This fall, she will be attending SLU for her Master’s in Sociology.

Katie Harris (9) won the 1A State Dance Championship for Missouri with her dance team at Whitfield.

Ripples



Jacob Anderson-Little (9) and his student council at Central VPA started a weekly program called “If You Really Knew Me,” where students discuss issues around bullying and “everything else that people don’t feel comfortable talking to adults about.”

Michele Finkelstein (2) completed the Bike and Build challenge. During the challenge, Michele

Wynn Hawker-Boehnke (5) is on a semester abroad program in Jordan, splitting her time between studies, immersion, and interning at the Jordan Hashemite Fund for Human Development in the new Media and Communication Relations Department. Before leaving for Jordan, she was elected Vice-President of Nominations for Earlham’s student government. She also opened a new LGBTQ Resource Room for Earlham and the Richmond Community.



Wynn Hawker-Boehnke (5) in Jordan

Channing Hunter (7) won a gold medal in karate at the 2012 Pan-American Championship Games. He also won the Youth of the Year award from the Exchange Club of Belleville, and has also received \$550,000 in scholarship money from the universities that have accepted him.

Each time a person stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others... he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.

pedaled 3,930 miles (an average of 68.9 miles per day) and completed 9 build days with 9 different affordable housing organizations. This summer, the Providence-to-Seattle team logged 1,674 volunteer hours advocating for increased affordable housing in 58 host communities (plus countless pass-through towns) from Providence, RI to Seattle, WA and donated more than \$77,000.

Emalie Jacobs (4) and **Elliott Kleiman (3)** will return to St. Louis this fall as first-year teachers with Teach for America.

Aaron Johnson (5) was awarded the full-ride Thurgood Marshall Academic Fellowship to University of Missouri – Columbia for his Master’s in Public Affairs, with a concentration in public and non-profit management.

Maayan Simckes (1) is working with the Health Literacy Team at Casa de Salud for her practicum experience as she pursues her Master’s in Public Health at St. Louis University.

DeAnna Tipton (4) will graduate from Agnes Scott College in May and then take a global-awareness trip to Costa Rica, where she will learn about environmental, labor, and racial justice, as well as Costa Rican writers who wrote short stories about these issues. She will also intern in Washington D.C. this summer and has been accepted to the 2013-2014 Coro Fellows Program. She will be following in the footsteps of **Rachel Winston (1)** who completed the program in St. Louis.

Hannah Rosenthal (5) held a Soul Food Shabbat in November attended by more than 200 students. While Shabbat dinners at the Center for Jewish Life are typically well-attended, this was a more diverse group and 40 stayed for discussion. Building off of that energy, she facilitated a dialogue in February with 25 students for Black History Month.

Meet the Students of Class 9



Jacob Anderson-Little
Central VPA
Trinity Presbyterian



Paige Armstrong
Seckman



Emily Binger
Ladue
St. Michael St. George
Church



Leonard Blair
Metro
Pleasant Grove Baptist
Church



Stephanie Briggs
Cleveland NJROTC
New Bethlehem Christian
Baptist Church



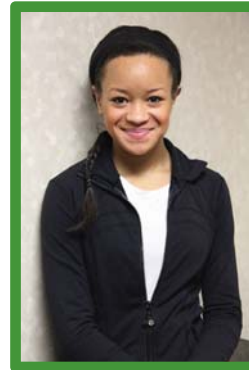
Khalil Harbin
Vashon



Eden Harir
Parkway West
B'nai Amoona



Alexandria Harris
St. Joseph's Academy
Friendly Temple & Greater
St. Paul



Katie Harris
Whitfield
Church on the Rock



Darrell Hopson
Hazelwood Central Westside
Missionary Baptist Church



Hoben Rehfeld
Crossroads
Shaare Zedek



Sep'Tisha Riley
Vashon



Josephine Roth
Ladue
CRC



Jason Rush
Kirkwood
All Saints Episcopal Church



William Sandiford
John Burroughs
Church of Christ

Thank You

Cultural Leadership thanks the following people for their generous donations of time, talent, and treasure.

Our Class 9 parents for providing meals and snacks for our students and each other during programs! Linda and Dan Anderson-Little, Kris and Kurt Bayless, Ruth Binger, Theresa and Leonard Blair, Sr., Marilyn Hinton, Lisa Broddon, Jim Broddon, Sharon and Brian Button, Amy Kanfer, Bob Bauer, Sandy Garriga, Shari and Gil Gross, Teisha Matthews, Elie and Galit Lev-Harir, Crystal Harris, Lemar Harris, Cecilia and Wilburt Harris, Lynda and Darrell Hopson, Peggy Duffield and Walt Kempf, Candace Lehmann, Jonathan Lehmann and Carolyn Brown, Connie Madden, Quentin and Shelly Palma-Madden, Tracy Latcher, Timothy Marshall, Christine Mudd and Mark Blum, Robert Mudd, Miggie Greenberg and Andrew Rehfeld, Samona Jones, Lisa and William Roth, Fred and Lorraine Goffe-Rush, Erika and Patrick Sandiford, Randi and David Schenberg, Donna and Langston Scott, Tamekia Smith and Jabbar Neal, Arica Foster, and Jade Jackson Dees.

Jessica Cornwell, Jonathan Karp, Samantha Lurie, and Phillip McMahan for chaperoning the January and April retreats.

Maayan Simckes (1) for taking such excellent pictures of our students in December and January.



All portraits of Class 9 students by Maayan Simckes (1)



Laurel Button
MICDS
United Hebrew



Joel Broddon
Parkway Central
United Hebrew



Sam Forrest
Ladue
CRC



Aaron Garriga
Ladue
Shaare Zedek/Traditional
Congregation



Isabella Gross
Whitfield
Shaare Emeth



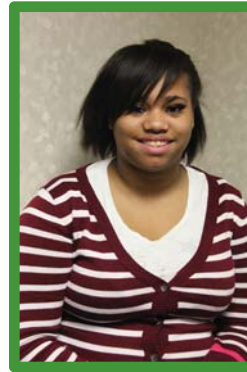
Gracie Kempf
Lindbergh
Catholic Student Center



Evan Lehmann
Parkway North
CRC



Ian Madden
Kirkwood
The Crossing



Tammara Marshall
Vashon
Faith Temple



Mary-Kate Mudd
Parkway North
Incarnate Word



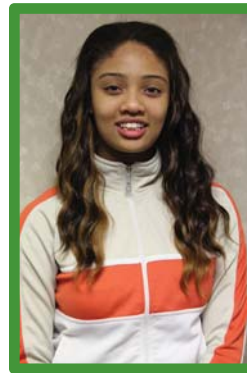
Ben Schenberg
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Celeste Scott
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Florissant Church of Christ



Mikal Smith
Cardinal Ritter
Peoples Community Christian
Church



Kyra Wallace
Maplewood
New Life Empowerment
Center



Briana Warren
Kirkwood
Faith Church of St. Louis

Our community partners for hosting our programs in their space: Urban League, Cardinal Ritter College Prep, Washington University in St. Louis, Central Reform Congregation, Congregation B'nai Amoona, and Joe Pereles on behalf of the Drury Hotels.

Our community partners who have invited us to speak and facilitate: Central Reform Congregation, Kirkwood Human Rights Commission, Westside Missionary Baptist Church, United Hebrew, Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, N. Kirkwood Middle School, JCRC Young Adult African American Jewish Dialogue Group, St. Louis Holocaust Survivors and Descendants Group.

Dr. Stefan Bradley and Dr. Katrina Thompson, both from Saint Louis University, for teaching us about African American history and culture. Rabbi Andy Kastner of St. Louis Hillel, Dr. David Oughton from Saint Louis University, and Rabbi Ari Kaiman from B'nai Amoona for teaching us about Jewish history and culture. WU-SLam for teaching us about slam poetry and identity.

Our alumni volunteers and interns: Gus Cotten (2), Elizabeth Darrell (8), Taylor Ingram (8), and Aaron Johnson (5).

Activism and Allyship

by Erin Wright, Class 8

Now that I have finally reached the end of my college search—the last couple of weeks before I make my official decision—I have the opportunity to reflect on how my vision for my future was shaped. It took a long time for me to discover my passion for social justice and human rights. Grown-ups begin asking children what they would like to be when they grow up very early on, perhaps because they have already learned for themselves how much thought goes into developing a dream. Once, when asked this question by my third grade teacher, I said I wanted to be an elementary school teacher. For the entirety of middle school, I wanted to be an author. For a very brief period in ninth grade, I wanted to be a translator living in Spain (before realizing that I am completely hopeless when it comes to the subjunctive tense). It wasn't until the summer before I started tenth grade that I began to figure out what I wanted to devote my life to.

I underwent a transformation after attending the St. Louis Gay Pride Parade that June. Even as the child of a gay parent, I had never given much thought to the LGBTQ community. It had only ever existed for me as an abstract entity. My world consisted of my family, my friends, and my school. As I marched, I witnessed the bravery and perseverance of the community, and recognized my own place in it. I realized how much still needed to be done for this amazing group of people to achieve full equality, to be recognized as human beings that deserve fair treatment and recognition for their relationships. Before, I had lived inside the snow globe of my own, tiny life. That limited world had been shattered, and I was glad that it had been. Afterwards, I began seeking out people with experiences different

from my own so that I could learn from them and discover ways that I help them gain a stronger voice in society.

I learned the power of multiple perspectives through my involvement in Cultural Leadership and other social justice programs. These programs brought together students from all different backgrounds to listen to each other's stories. As my peers described countless experiences with prejudice, intolerance, and outright discrimination, I realized to what an incredible extent characteristics like race, sex, religion, and socioeconomic class determine how an individual is treated and regarded in this society. I had been taking so many things for granted. African American students described being watched as they browsed gas station aisles. Muslims talked about the hurtful stereotypes held by many of their classmates. Transgender kids recounted tales of being beaten and thrown out of public bathrooms for "being in the wrong place". A few shared how their families had recently been evicted from their homes. Never in my life had I experienced anything like what they were describing, and it was all because of the family I had been born into. These were traits that I couldn't help, and nor could any of my friends, and yet they had been forced to struggle because of the systems of oppression that have been built up throughout history. I wanted everyone to be truly equal, and Cultural Leadership taught me that things can change through allyship.

It is important to emphasize that being an ally does not mean assuming you must become the voice of marginalized groups. Allyship means working with my peers to change stereotypes and battle inequality. It means that I will stand back and listen to their



voices. It means that I will come to terms with the identities I hold that give me privilege in society and become aware of the identities that make me a target for injustice. It means that I will work to make sure that all of these stories are heard by our leaders and those influencing culture. My purpose in life is to become an advocate for others as well as for myself. This fall, I will begin studying political science and public policy so that I can work with others to break down and reform the institutions that perpetuate injustice. But you don't have to make allyship your career to be an ally. Allyship can be as simple as standing up and speaking out when you hear someone use a derogatory term. It can be writing a Letter to the Editor for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. It can be showing up at a protest early in the morning to support a local GSA. It can be traveling down to the state capital to lobby for a day. It can be sitting at a different lunch table and having a conversation with someone vastly different from you. I believe that we are capable of changing the world, and I believe that we are most capable of enacting change when we work to understand each other's backgrounds and beliefs. The different paths we all are coming from matter when figuring out what path we would like to walk down together. It's time that we take those first steps.

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Ericka Zoll
Steven Zuckerman

*Cultural Leadership parents
**Cultural Leadership students

This list represents all donations made to Cultural Leadership from November 1, 2012 through April 12, 2013.

Tributes & Memorials

November 1, 2012- April 12, 2013

In honor of Cheryl Adelstein
Susan and James Dearing

In honor of Cheryl Adelstein
Sarah Taucher

In honor of Marlee Cox
Sherri and Robert Cox

In honor of Robert Gold's 60th birthday
Robert Schneider

In memory of Ethel Gould
Marie and Fred Kaplowitz

In honor of Michael Handshear
Harriet Summers

In memory of Ilene Joseph
Lisa Dorner and Chip Meyer

In memory of Ilene Joseph's birthday and tribute to Class 8
Amy and Rabbi Randy Fleisher

In memory of Ilene Joseph
Christine Glasier

In memory of Ilene Joseph
Jay Levin and Greg Roley

In memory of Ilene Joseph
Jeffrey St. Omer

In memory of Ilene Joseph
Elizabeth and Bradley Smith

In memory of Ilene Joseph
Michelle Weiss

In honor of Diane Levine
Lisa Orden Zarin and Larry Zarin

In honor of Steven Parks
Tiffany Parks





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Mentoring Program Connects Current Students to Alumni

by Aaron Johnson, Class 5, Mentoring Program Coordinator



Sean Scott (2) meets his mentee, Jason Rush (9), at the January Retreat.

The Cultural Leadership Mentoring Program started with Class 8 to help students become more engaged with Cultural Leadership. After piloting the mentoring program and refining the curriculum, Cultural Leadership adopted the program for all participants.

Class 9 students were introduced to their mentors at the January retreat. Since then, students have

contacted their mentors at least once a month and had at least one face-to-face meeting, though many students and mentors have exceeded these requirements. One mentor stated, "I enjoy talking to both of my mentees. We talk every Wednesday and text throughout the week. I mentored last year and feel like things are smoother this year. There's more accountability and structure."

So far, not one student from Class 9 has left Cultural Leadership. Not only does this program benefit the current students, it also engages alumni from all of the previous classes. Because the time commitment is flexible, mentoring is an easy way for alumni to stay engaged with Cultural Leadership. Any alumni interested in mentoring should contact the Cultural Leadership office.

Holiday Swap

Jewish students and their families attend Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday services with a Cultural Leadership host family, and non-Jewish families experience first- or second-night Passover Seders with Cultural Leadership Jewish families in their homes.



Above, Leonard Blair's family hosts Isabella Gross, Joel Broddon, and Khalil Harbin and their families for Easter Sunday service at their church, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church. Below, Evan Lehmann's family hosts Gracie Kempf's and Darrell Hopson's families for Passover Seder.

