

Diverse group at the March Forum

Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON)

Mary Beth Garcia, the Staff Attorney for Justice for Our Neighbors, JFON, was the first speaker at the Thursday evening forum. JFON is one of eleven sites chosen to be part of a pilot program by the United Methodist Committee On Relief. JFON has utilized over 400 community and church volunteers to assist individuals and families from more than 35 countries around the world. There are two offices in the DFW area that seek to provide quality immigration legal services, education to immigrants, and advocacy for human rights to those who are seeking a place of safety and productivity for themselves and their families – 8301 Bruton Rd. in Dallas and Polytech United Methodist Church in Ft. Worth.

Mary Beth stated that federal law regulates immigration. Most of the clients in the DFW area are from Mexico. There is no charge for the services offered by JFON thanks to the help of The United Methodist Church, a supporter of this program.

There are two types of candidates that the agency serves: (1) the non-immigrants whose stay is finite (tourists, students, those with special visas, and church workers); and (2) those who wish to stay permanently (the undocumented and those who have fled to the USA to seek asylum). JFON personnel are there to sort through the myriad of problems dealing with green cards, the immigration lottery, the diversity visa, and the special programs for Cubans, the Central American programs, and the Iraqi translators.

League of Latin America Citizens (LULAC)

The second speaker of the evening was **Richard Sambrano**, the National Civil Rights Commission Co-Chair, and Texas State Civil Rights Committee Chair of the League of United Latin American Citizens, LULAC. Richard has worked with Dallas Dispute, twelve years in education, and as Chief Mediator in governmental agencies, and in Conflict Resolution – all working toward Peace in a win-win situation. He lives in Farmers Branch and has been a mediator for the C-FB ISD. He stated, “A comprehensive immigration reform policy is very much needed in the US.” LULAC operates legally and works with referrals.

Peacemakers extend a special “Thanks” to Norma Matthews, Peacemakers Incorporated Board Member and contributing author of “Diverse March Forum.” She concluded, “I thought the Forum was interesting and informative. The presenters were excellent and so experienced that they held our attention the whole evening. Thank you to those who brought us this program.”



Mosaic Family Services

The third speaker was **Sulan Chang**, Case Manager of Mosaic Family Services, Inc. Mosaic provides domestic family counseling services to immigrant families. Sulan works as a case manager for domestic family violence clients, provides shelter, and operates a substance abuse program. They have a staff that can provide help in 25 languages. Mosaic served 559 clients last year. Many don't read or write in their own languages. Instructions need to be repeated over and over. The staff helps with housing, medical, health issues, transportation, and teaches the clients how to get themselves around using the public bus system. Problem issues are language barriers, lack of education, assimilating into US culture, CPS issues with children of a different cultural behavior, lack of job opportunities, lack of money, evictions (have to find sympathetic landlords), and role reversal where the children have to speak for the parents when they have learned a little English in school.



Carol Donovan is inviting members and non-members alike throughout the community to participate in the March Forum raffle.

Peacemakers gave away a free ticket to see Hilary Clinton and Kay Bailey Hutchinson speak at the "Stories from the Top" event at the Women's Museum.

room. Funds raised from the Luncheon and the Silent Auction will be used to benefit Peacemakers and the Castleberry Peace Institute.

International Day of Peace, annually celebrated on September 21st, is a global holiday on which individuals, communities, nations and governments highlight efforts to end conflict and promote peace. Established by a United Nations resolution in 1982 on the initiative of U.S. college professor Jeff Smith, "Peace Day" has grown to include millions of people around the world who participate in all kinds of events, large and small. For more information on this global event, go to www.internationaldayofpeace.org.

If you would like to help collect items and donations for the silent auction please contact us at Peacemakersinc@aol.com, with the subject line as "Silent Auction Volunteer."

1ST Annual Peacemakers Luncheon 9/21/09

On Monday, September 21, 2009, the International Day of Peace, Peacemakers Incorporated will host the First Annual Peacemakers Luncheon. The Luncheon will be held at the award winning Tower Club, atop Thanksgiving Tower (across the street from Thanks-Giving Square) at 1601 Elm Street in downtown Dallas. The keynote speaker is Jean Houston, co-founder of the Human Potential Movement, and author of 26 books, including the Manual of the Peacemaker. [For more information on Dr. Houston, go to www.jeanhouston.org.]

The member discount price for the Luncheon is \$75, which includes the meal, program, and free parking. For non-members, the cost of the Luncheon is \$100. However, it is never too late to get that \$25 discount by joining Peacemakers at www.PeacemakersIncorporated.org.

Prior to and during the beginning of the Luncheon, there will be a Silent Auction and Peace Fair, where companies and nonprofit organizations will host booths in the adjoining



News from the United Nations

Last month, the United Nations held the 53rd Session of the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women. The theme of this year's session, which was held on March 2-13, 2009, was "The Equal Sharing of Responsibilities between Women and Men, including caregiving in the Context of HIV/AIDS". The Commission adopted agreed conclusions, urging governments and the United Nations, to increase efforts to fully implement the 1995 Beijing Platform of Action, mainstream gender perspectives into all legislation and programs, and incorporate a gender-responsive budgeting process across all policy areas. At the next session of the Commission, scheduled in 2010, the Commission will review the progress of the implementation of these goals.