

JUST HOUSING

Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs Fall 2007

Interfaith Celebrates Its 35th Anniversary

The North Shore Interfaith Housing Council was launched on October 15, 1972 with a major conference organized by clergy, lay leaders, and the League of Women Voters entitled, "The Inclusive Community: Challenge to Church and Synagogue." Thirty-five years and a name change later, the Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs continues to be the area's premier grassroots voice for housing justice.

Please join us as we celebrate our fair housing, Homesharing, and affordable housing advocacy successes with a series of events over the coming year.

Our Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 14, is a free event that will reflect on the faith and moral underpinnings of our work. (See page 2)

We will also be holding educational forums during Illinois Affordable Housing Month in November, and National Fair Housing Month next April 2008.

At a celebratory event to be announced, we will be presenting our first "Fair Housing Advocate of the Year" award to honor, recognize and thank north suburban citizens who "walk the talk" to promote diversity in their own backyards. We invite you to write, call, or e-mail us with your nominations.

The mission of the Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs is to foster a housing market open to people of all ages and income levels, regardless of race, religion, family composition or any of the other legally protected classes.



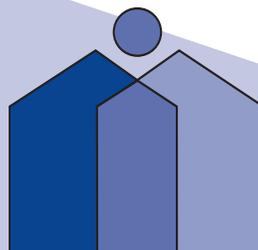
Top: Audience at dedication ceremony of the plaque commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 1965 speech at the Winnetka Village Green.
Bottom: Plaque prior to its installation.

"King's Corner" Dedicated on Winnetka Village Green

Local Youth Spearhead Monument to Commemorate 1965 Fair Housing Rally

Inspired by the King Day 2007 panel discussion sponsored by Interfaith and the Winnetka Historical Society, Washburne Junior High School social studies eighth graders and their teacher, Cecilia Gigiolio, successfully capped a six-month campaign to install a historic marker on the Winnetka Village Green on the 42nd anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s open housing speech at the site.

"These young citizens have made a lasting impact in their community and learned a great deal in the process," said Ms. Gigiolio prior to the July 24, 2007 dedication. "This event not only honors the historic speech of Dr. King and celebrates the achievements of these young people today; it also is



Interfaith's Annual Meeting Sunday, October 14

"Fair and Affordable Housing: What's Faith Got To Do With It?"

You are all welcome to Interfaith's annual meeting whose theme this year is "Fair and Affordable Housing: What's Faith Got To Do With It?" This free event takes place **Sunday, October 14th, from 3 to 5 p.m. at St. Philip's Lutheran Church, 1609 Pfingsten, in Glenview.**

Keynote speaker **Bernie Kleina** is the founding executive director of HOPE Fair Housing Center, Interfaith's counterpart organization in DuPage County. Mr. Kleina is one of the most respected fair housing advocates in the country. A former priest, he is also a profession-

al photographer who famously documented Dr. King's leadership in the Chicago Freedom Movement of 1965-66. Mr. Kleina is joined by **Merilyn Brown**, a minister, attorney, and member of HUD's fair housing staff who was propelled into civil rights after herself suffering race discrimination in Chicago. Her case was the first handled by the Chicago-based John Marshall Fair Housing Legal Clinic.

In addition, we will have an inter-religious group of leaders including **Rabbi Paul Cohen** of Temple Jeremiah to break down what this means for us

individually as advocates. In our day-to-day world, we may overlook the urgent moral underpinnings that make fair and affordable housing "the right thing to do." Is there a faith-based response to home foreclosures? What do our faiths tell us about affluent communities that try to shut out those who are not as wealthy?

This exciting forum is an opportunity for individuals of any faith to renew their passion for housing justice. Contact Interfaith at (847)501-5760 or margaret@interfaithhousingcenter.org to let us know you're attending!

35 Years Ago Today: Our Founding

By Rev. Paul S. Allen, Pastor Emeritus, Winnetka Congregational Church



Rev. Allen (right) with co-founder, the late John McDermott, in an undated photo.

It was 1972. The civil rights marches had accomplished their purpose. Legislation on the books made segregated housing because of race out of bounds in America. But there were still patterns of segregation – this time because of class and income. Teachers, police and store clerks who serve North Shore communities could not live in them. Some

citizens who had lived all their lives in those communities were unable to remain in old age, when resources declined. John McDermott, staff member of the Community Renewal Society, a Chicago agency long concerned for the common good, proposed that something be done, and I – then pastor of Winnetka Congregational Church – agreed.

So we conferred with North Shore clergy and together sent out a call to a general conference on "The Inclusive Community: Challenge to Church and Synagogue."

It touched a nerve. More than 200 representatives of Protestant, Catholic and Jewish congregations from Wilmette to Highland Park gather at North Shore Congregation Israel in Glencoe in October, heard presentations, embraced the vision of a truly democratic community open to all incomes, and determined to form a permanent organization.

The first priority was our own elderly. First Congregational of Wilmette helped housing to be built on

their property. One of the beneficiaries was a friend of mine who had devoted her life as a secretary at Winnetka Community House. She would have had to move far west – a thought she hated – if she had not been able to get a moderately-priced apartment in Gates Manor. Interfaith Housing took for its mandate educating the religious community and the whole North Shore about needs and about how citizens with ethical concerns could prepare the climate for more inclusivity. The organization really took off when the late Rayna Miller, with all her sweet-spirited activism, became director.

Today its services have spread and its concerns have altered to fit the changes between the 1970's and the 2000's. But the essential vision remains: To help everyone find appropriate housing in our North Shore towns, so that something of the variety and richness of America will not be lost, and so that the religious call to compassion for neighbors in need will be answered.

Addressing Housing Complaints

Between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007, Interfaith received 125 new housing complaints. Of these intakes, the majority (62%) involved landlord-tenant complaints, followed by predatory lending/foreclosure (22%) and housing discrimination (16%). Tenants, homeowners, and housing professionals alike look to Interfaith for advice, information, conflict resolution, and investigative support. Thanks to our supporters, Interfaith continues to be a housing justice leader in the northern suburbs.

Fair Housing Complaints FY 2007

Protected Class	Rental	Sales	Total
Race	4	4	8
National Origin	3		3
Disability	2		2
Familial Status	2		2
Sex	1		1
Religion	1		1
Source of Income	1		1
Marital Status	1		1
Total	15	4	19

Interfaith Warns: Don't Discourage Family Housing

In June 2007, the Villages of Glenview and Northbrook approved "Guiding Principles" for the redevelopment of the 41-acre Culligan International site that may have the effect of favoring housing that discriminates illegally against families with children. These Principles assert that "development will be evaluated on its ability to increase tax revenues with minimal impact on area schools." The Village Boards specifically "prohibit single-family detached housing" on the site.

This land, on Willow Road and I-294, was recently annexed to Glenview from unincorporated Cook County. In a letter to the Village Presidents, Interfaith stated, "We believe that your Villages must make some public statement making it clear that the Planning Principles should not be interpreted as discouraging housing for families with children and reinforcing your commitment to fully comply with Fair Housing laws."

These suburbs have also stated publicly that they will "strongly discourage" rental housing and will not require a set-aside of affordable units. Demand for housing by average wage workers, however, is burgeoning. The number of jobs in Glenview has more than doubled since 1979 to 21,000 but not the number of housing units, and prices have skyrocketed. The median income of the 800 teachers in Glenview and Northbrook is \$52,000, well below what would be required to purchase the average-priced \$700,000 home.

Interfaith is seeking to meet with Village leaders.

Working to Save Homes: Housing Successes

Northbrook

An elderly Russian immigrant couple walked into Interfaith's office in tears because they were told they had to move in a week. The Cook County Housing Authority (HACC), which has assisted them with rent payments through a Housing Choice/Section 8 Voucher for three years, decided that their household of two was too small for the two-bedroom apartment in which they lived, and notified the couple and their landlord that they would withdraw the voucher. The wife and husband, however, each suffer from multiple disabilities that medically require them to have separate bedrooms. "We have lived through Hitler, Stalin, and Chernobyl," the wife exclaimed, but not eviction. Within twenty-four hours, the situation was resolved. Interfaith urged HACC to maintain the reasonable accommodation required under the Fair Housing Act, and HACC in turn immediately renewed the voucher. Interfaith thanks HACC executive

director Lewis Jordan, HACC north suburban commissioner Karen Chavers, and State Rep. Beth Coulson for their help in saving this low-income couple's home. "We are so happy," said the couple the following day.

Lincolnwood

A recently divorced Indian mother of two children could no longer afford her home. Her income as an employee of St. Francis Hospital in Evanston, at \$2,400 per month, could not support the monthly mortgage of \$2,182. She was referred to Interfaith by Connections for the Homeless, which had helped her with some cash. After reviewing her loan documents and her financial position, Interfaith contacted First Bank & Trust in Evanston to assist her in refinancing her mortgage as she assumes the deed from her ex-husband. First Bank & Trust is a member of the Evanston Foreclosure Prevention Task Force convened by Interfaith.

Interfaith Organizes Foreclosure Prevention Seminars

Foreclosures in Illinois jumped 55 percent in 2006, up to 72,455, and are expected to rise even higher in 2007. In 2006, one in four loans was from sub-prime lender, and one in five of these is expected to end in foreclosure. If this statistic stands for Evanston, then approximately 140 homes are at risk, and more than 70% will be in the predominantly African-American west side, especially affecting long-time, elderly homeowners.

The Evanston Foreclosure Prevention Task Force, a coalition of Evanston community groups and social service providers, is addressing the crisis through community education and coordination of services.

It is estimated that every new foreclosure can cost stakeholders up to \$80,000 when considering the costs to homeowners, lenders, neighbors and local governments. By contrast, a prevented foreclosure only costs an estimated \$3,300.

The Task Force is holding two free seminars which will take place at **BooCoo**, Evanston's new Cultural

Center, at 1832 Church, Evanston. **Lending Options, Thursday, Sept. 13, 7- 9 pm**, will focus on the types of loans available and possible consequences of those loans. Speakers include representatives from Evanston First Bank & Trust and Clybourn Financial Services. On **Thursday, October 4, 7- 9 pm, Legal Perspectives of Home Preservation**, a legal expert and an Evanston resident who has experienced foreclosure will highlight the "red flags" of an unscrupulous loan.

In addition to Interfaith, this Task Force includes CEDA/Neighbors at Work, City of Evanston, Evanston Community Development Corporation, First Bank & Trust of Evanston, Evanston/Skokie Valley Senior Services and the Housing Authority of Cook County.

If you are interested in registering for the upcoming seminars, please contact Jasmine S. Brewer, Fair Housing Coordinator, (847) 501-5760 or jasmine@interfaithhousingcenter.org.

Volunteer Opportunities

Get Involved with Interfaith!

Become a Fair Housing Tester. Interfaith trains individuals from all walks of life to pose as home shoppers and document their experiences. In this way, we can ascertain whether people are treated unfairly when seeking housing. Interfaith pays a modest stipend for their important service.

Volunteer time in our office. We often need help with mailings, phone calls, and other projects.

Invite us to your organization or congregation to talk about building diverse communities.

Contact Interfaith at (847) 501-5760 to volunteer!

16 Evanstonians Complete Fair Housing Advocate Training



Participants included city staff and members of the Evanston Human Relations Commission, social workers, lawyers, lay leaders from local congregations, and a motivated woman with housing needs who saw Interfaith's flyer at the library. The three-part training, underwritten by a HUD Fair Housing Initiatives Program grant and the Charter One Foundation, covers fair housing rights and responsibilities, how to create and preserve a diverse and integrated community, and advocacy steps for affordable housing. A heartfelt thanks to Evanston Assistant City Manager, Rolanda Russell, for the co-sponsorship of the City of Evanston.

Housing Justice Workshops Coming to a Suburb Near You

Fair Housing Advocate Training

This three-part series has been scheduled for the **Glenview** community at the Glenview Community Church – Monday evenings, **September 17, 24, October 1st** – and for **Skokie** at the Skokie Public Library on Monday evenings, **October 15, 22 and 29th**. The 2007 series will conclude with **Highwood** in **November** (dates and place TBA). These free 3-part workshops, underwritten by HUD and the Charter One Foundation, are designed to teach interested residents about the laws that protect all of us from housing discrimination as renters, buyers and borrowers. Participants will gain insights into the current predatory lending crisis, recognizing and addressing discrimination, the benefits of living in a stable, integrated community, and affordable housing strategies. All attendees receive, at no cost, practical information and a binder of resources.

Fair Housing Rights and Responsibilities: A Teach-In for Religious Leaders

The Interfaith Housing Center and Prairie State Legal Services are conducting a free workshop specifically designed for religious leaders to learn about fair housing laws. Prairie State and Interfaith are the only two fair housing agencies in the state of Illinois to receive a HUD Education Grant. This training will take place on **Thursday, October 25, from 8-11 am at Christ United Methodist Church, 600 Deerfield Road in Deerfield**. Many thanks to Pastor Christian Coon providing the location.

To register for these trainings, contact Margaret at (847) 501-5760 or margaret@interfaithhousingcenter.org.

Condo associations & co-ops have every right to consider how you look... on paper.

Judging you by your race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability or family status instead of your qualifications is discrimination. And no matter how you look at it, it's against the law. You can fight back.

If you suspect unfair housing practices, contact HUD or your local Fair Housing Center. Everyone deserves a fair chance.



FAIR HOUSING IS THE LAW!

US Dept of Housing and Urban Development
1-800-669-9777
TDD 1-800-927-9275

History of Equal Housing in the Northern Suburbs



Learn about the historical struggle for housing justice in the northern suburbs. Interfaith, together with Shorefront, Inc., an Evanston-based archive of African-American history in the area, developed this exhibit which makes four stops in six communities thanks to a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Fair Housing Initiatives Program.

The exhibit will tour as follows: **Skokie Public Library** (July, August), **Winnetka Community House** (September), **Morton Grove Public Library** (October), **Evanston Public Library** (November), **Lincolnwood Public Library** (December), **Park Ridge Public Library** (April 2008).

For more information about this exhibit, please contact Margaret (847) 501-5760, or margaret@interfaithhousingcenter.org.

Homesharing: Meeting Housing Needs on the North Shore

The wide array of housing concerns in the region is reflected in Interfaith's Homesharing matches. Interfaith is tailoring its message to the different audiences, from seniors seeking to age at home, to workers looking for low rent housing on the cost-prohibitive North Shore, to newly divorced or widowed men and women who need extra income.

Interfaith now has a 6-minute DVD that features personal testimony from individuals who have successfully shared a home together. Both the "seeker" and the "provider" tell about the qualitative impact of Homesharing in their lives.

A poignant article in the *Chicago Tribune*, ("A father, a son, a friend and a promise," June 17, 2007) captures the life long friendships that often develop in shared housing relationships. This *Tribune* article along with the video and a recent *AARP Magazine*

story, can be found on Interfaith's website.

Consider hosting a Homesharing coffee that features the DVD and our Homesharing Coordinator Jacqueline Grossmann. The video (also on our website) is ideal for informing health providers, chaplains, senior groups, your local clergy, family members, or neighbors. Contact us at (847) 501-5732, x401, or jackie@interfaithhousingcenter.org.

What is Homesharing?

Interfaith facilitates matches for people with an extra bedroom with individuals seeking low-cost housing. Arrangements can involve sharing expenses (with monthly rents ranging from nominal to \$500), chores, or companionship. Interfaith's Homesharing Coordinator, Jackie Grossmann, interviews both parties and checks references. Interfaith offers this confidential service free of

charge. Interfaith has facilitated nearly 1,000 matches since 1985. Beyond having their housing needs met, Homesharers feel enriched by the experience:

"This Interfaith program is unique – it is meeting a need that nothing else meets. It builds community."

"I was homeless and living in my car when I met Jackie. I was holding down two part-time jobs, but without Jackie's help I would still be homeless."

"I am so amazed at how much I'm learning about human growth and resilience."

"The program has allowed me to stay in my home and still meet the mortgage payment each month. That's especially important to me because I've lived in this home longer than I've ever lived anywhere else, and I love the neighborhood."

Compartiendo el hogar... una situación en la que todos ganan

Ernesto desea comprar un condominio, desgraciadamente la renta y los servicios que tiene que pagar no le han permitido tener un ahorro. El Sr. Stewart tiene 86 años y desde que su hijo falleció ha tenido que vivir solo, lo que cada día se le va dificultando más. Ahora Ernesto ha comenzado a ahorrar para comprar un condominio desde que esta viviendo en la casa del Sr. Stewart a cambio de proporcionarle diversos servicios; Ernesto acompaña al Sr. Stewart a hacer las compras, limpia la casa y además se encarga del jardín.

Compartiendo el hogar es un pro-

grama que permite a la gente envejecer en su hogar facilitando uniones compatibles entre compañeros. Después de un proceso de entrevistas los interesados son presentados uno con otro por el personal de Interfaith. Los dueños de casa encuentran que este ingreso puede hacer una diferencia. Estos compañeros comparten algo más que las tareas domésticas y la conversación de sobremesa.

La Señora Jones y su hija de 15 años han vivido en su casa desde hace 12 años, al enviudar los ingresos disminuyeron considerablemente y la Sra. Jones esta a punto de perder su

casa. Después de pasar por algunas dificultades, Patty consiguió un nuevo trabajo, pero todavía no le alcanza para pagar la renta de un departamento. Con la renta que Patty le está pagando ahora la Sra. Jones podrá mantener su casa que por cierto, esta muy cerca del nuevo trabajo de Patty.

Los inquilinos encuentran que compartiendo el hogar es una opción de vivienda accesible, las rentas fluctúan entre los 400 y 500 dólares y nuestro servicio es gratuito. Para mayor información puede llamar a Jackie Grossmann al 847-501-5732.

Continued from page 1.

King's Corner

an opportunity to stress the importance of community service and commitment."

Dr. King was the galvanizing presence at the largest rally ever on the North Shore for fair and integrated, non-discriminatory housing, and the first ever civil rights rally in an all-white suburb. The 1965 rally, which attracted between 8,000 and 10,000 people, was organized by the grassroots North Shore Summer Project from which the Interfaith Housing Center descends. NSSP was determined to end the widespread real estate industry practice of steering blacks, Jews and other minorities away from communities and neighborhoods designated for white Christians only.

Community leaders on hand to help the students dedicate "King's Corner," as NSSP and Interfaith founder Jean Cleland called it in her speech, were Ms. Cleland, Mary Pow-

ers (who obtained the rally permit as chair of the now-defunct Winnetka Human Relations Committee), David James (present at the 1965 rally and who became, in 1967, the first African-American to purchase a home in Winnetka), Village President Edmund Woodbury, Washburne Principal Daniel Schwartz, President of the Illinois Association of Realtors Robert Zoretich, and architect of the monument Mark Marcus. Also on the Green in support were Pat Cantor,

New Trier Township Supervisor, and representatives from the offices of U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky, Cook County Commissioner Larry Suffredin, State Sen. Jeff Schoenberg, and State Rep. Julie Hamos.

Over 200 people spanning all generations were present, and recommitted themselves to the importance of, in the words spoken 42 years before by Dr. King, "learning to live together as brothers or perishing together as fools."



At the July 24, 2007 dedication, Washburne social studies teacher Cecilia Gigolio reunites her class.

Anti-Predatory Lending Legislation

With the ever increasing number of foreclosures nationally, Interfaith has participated in Illinois campaigns to prevent unscrupulous lending practices. Here are two important legislative successes:

House Bill 4050: Predatory Lending Database Pilot Program is designed to prevent fraudulent lending. The program mandates housing counseling to families with blemished credit who seek a mortgage or to refinance. A database is also being created to monitor the kinds of loans being offered to Chicagoans. This program, now in a limited number of Chicago neighborhoods with high levels of predatory loans, will cover all of Cook County in mid-2008.

Senate Bill 1167: Illinois Homeowner Protection Act. This new bill will prevent brokers and lenders from making loans without income documentation, and mandates full disclosure of all fees and changes to loan terms.

For more information contact Jasmine at (847) 501-5760 or jasmine@interfaithhousingcenter.org.

Donations are welcome

As a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, your contribution to Interfaith is fully tax deductible as allowed by law.

Please use the enclosed envelope to honor Interfaith on the occasion of our 35th anniversary.

Please make a secure donation through our web site, www.interfaithhousingcenter.org.

Consider a gift to Interfaith in honor of someone special in your life. At your request, we can let that individual know of this donation.

Give to Interfaith when you do your holiday shopping on the Internet! Interfaith is registered with **IGive.com**, which has hundreds of well-known participating vendors who donate a percentage of your purchase amount to the charity of your choice.

Chicago Community Trust Grant Program to Help Communities Integrate Immigrants

Recognizing the need to successfully integrate immigrants into the civic and economic fabric of their new homes in the United States, The Chicago Community Trust has announced 10 grants to local municipalities and agencies around the Chicago region. The grants are part of a three-year, \$1.5 million initiative.

Locally, the Trust made a grant of \$50,000 to the Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs to apply the methodology Interfaith helped to develop last year to measure the impact of immigrant renters on the suburban economy and overall quality of life of Highwood. Interfaith, in partnership with the Nathalie P. Voorhees Center for Neighborhood and Community Improvement (VC) at the University of Illinois-Chicago, seeks to: 1) identify the housing patterns and distribution of immigrant populations in

Evanston, Glenview (including the "Dearlove Triangle" unincorporated Cook County neighborhood), Lincolnwood, Skokie, Morton Grove, and Niles; 2) suggest affordable housing policies that can better meet the needs of immigrants; and 3) organize immigrant leadership to ensure they play an active role in development decisions that affect immigrants.

As immigrants increasingly bypass the City of Chicago, the suburbs have become the region's "new Ellis Island." Interfaith spent the last seven years tracking the consequences of this phenomenon in Highwood, a community whose Mexican population has grown to more than half the total population, although none hold elected office. About 80% of Latinos in Highwood are renters, and with upscale development pressures, the city administration has instituted ordinances and entertained develop-

ment proposals explicitly designed to diminish the rental stock. This not only has a major impact on Latinos, but also assumes that homeownership is more essential to the vitality of a community than are rental units.

"While debate continues about immigration reform on the federal level, locally, governments, not-for-profit organizations and civic groups must act on the day-to-day challenges of integrating immigrants into their communities," says Ngoan Le, vice president of program for The Chicago Community Trust. "This initiative supports community efforts to meet the needs of and tap into the strengths of these new residents."

Alicia De La Cruz, Interfaith's long-time fair housing and immigrant leadership coordinator, is the Project Director. For more information or to get involved in this timely project, contact Alicia at (847) 501-5760 or alicia@interfaithhousingcenter.org.

Illinois Affordable Housing Month Is November 2007

Affordable Housing Month is the perfect time for you to raise public awareness about the importance of affordable, accessible and fair housing and build momentum for future housing victories through organizing, advocacy and public education activities.

Take the HousingMatters.net Challenge!

The HousingMatters.net email-to-fax action alert system allows individuals throughout Illinois to quickly contact their public officials about housing issues. Visit www.housingmatters.net

to find out more. We are encouraging organizations and individuals in the northern suburbs to sign-up 10 new members during Affordable Housing Month. Housing Action Illinois, a coalition of which Interfaith is an active member, aims to get 1,000 new HousingMatters.net members through this challenge.

Other Ideas for Activities:

- Legislative/Community Breakfasts
- Getting Local Governments to do Affordable Housing Week Proclamations (sample proclamations are on Interfaith's web site)

- Community Forums and Congregational Outreach
- Tour or open house of affordable housing sites and/or areas of great housing need
- Housing Fair to let the public know about affordable housing resources
- Press outreach, such as letters to the editor and editorial board meetings

Contact Margaret Feit Clarke, margaret@interfaithhousingcenter.org or (847) 501-5760, for help in organizing a November affordable housing event.

“Just Do It!”: Building a Base for Affordable Housing

At Trinity United Methodist Church in Wilmette, on May 15, 2007, twenty-seven religious leaders gathered under Interfaith’s umbrella for inspiration and concrete steps to foster grassroots activism. What are the theological underpinnings for encouraging political action for open housing? What are the action opportunities in your community?

Father Bob Oldershaw, Pastor Emeritus of St. Nicholas Church,

Evanston, Wilmette Village Trustee Lali Watt, and leaders from “Wilmette Citizens for Affordable Housing” urged us to heed the moral call of our religious traditions, move outside of our comfort zones and “disturb our congregations” to promote housing justice for all. A copy of Fr. Oldershaw’s inspiring speech is available on Interfaith’s web site. Interfaith also provided “action sheets” with key housing issues and players in each northern suburb.



Top: Trustee Lali Watt addresses the group of clergy and religious leaders.

Bottom: Celia Muench and Ed Miller of St. Francis Xavier Church’s Peace & Justice Committee founded “Wilmette Citizens for Affordable Housing.” In front of them is Gail Schechter of Interfaith and Fr. Bob Oldershaw of St. Nicholas Church, Evanston.

Wilmette Assesses Worker Housing Needs

In April 2007, the Finance Committee of the Village of Wilmette released the results of a survey the Village conducted of both public and private employees to gauge interest in living in the Village among those earning under \$75,000. Of the nearly 1,000 surveys collected, about 400 expressed an interest in moving to Wilmette if they could afford to, evenly divided between rental and for-sale housing.

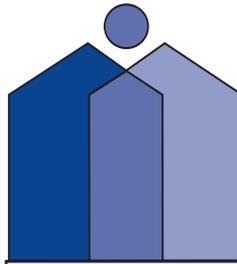
Wilmette Citizens for Affordable Housing, a grassroots group to which Interfaith has provided technical assistance, took responsibility for disseminating the surveys to the private employers. To get involved, call (847) 256-3093 or write to Ed Miller at ed.miller@wilmetteaffordablehousing.org.

Among several innovative financing methods that Wilmette is considering to capitalize an affordable housing trust fund is a Village “challenge grant” to the community to initiate a grassroots fundraising campaign. For a summary of the survey or to find out more about how to get involved in Wilmette’s affordable housing efforts, visit <http://www.wilmette.com/news/default.asp?Id=3>.



INTERFAITH HOUSING CENTER OF THE NORTHERN SUBURBS

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 E-mail: ihcns@interfaithhousingcenter.org
 Web: www.interfaithhousingcenter.org



Congratulations, Village of Skokie!

Skokie is a recipient along with Interfaith of a \$50,000 Immigrant Integration Initiatives grant from The Chicago Community Trust.

Rev. Robert Burkhart, Skokie Central United Methodist Church pastor for the past 20 years, retired from local church ministry on August 31, 2007. Rev. Burkhart was active in community and church mission activities throughout his 46 years of ministry. He was one of the founders of the Northern Illinois Hospice Association.

During his pastorate, Skokie Central joined Interfaith as a member congregation. He was a member of the Skokie Human Relations Commission and the Niles Township Clergy Forum, where he was chairperson for 2 years.



Pastor Burkhart worked on Habitat for Humanity projects, helped out with repacking foodstuffs for the Chicago Food pantry, and led a group from the church to the Midwest Distribution center. He continues supporting the work of Interfaith through his involvement on the Advisory and the Communications & Advocacy Committee.

Jasmine Brewer has been promoted to Fair Housing Coordinator. She is in charge of all intake and investigation of housing complaints. **Alicia De La Cruz** is now the Project Director of the Immigrant Integration Initiative and remains on the fair housing team that also includes **Allison Forker**, Testing Coordinator, and **Margaret Feit Clarke**, Director of Communications & Advocacy.

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Member Congregations

Am Shalom, Glencoe
 Baha'is of Evanston
 Beth Emeth the Free Synagogue, Evanston
 Beth Hillel Bnai Emunah, Wilmette
 Central United Methodist Church, Skokie
 Christ Church, Winnetka
 Church of St. Elisabeth, Glencoe
 Congregation Hakafa, Glencoe
 Episcopal Church of St. James the Less, Northfield
 First Congregational Church, U. C. C., Wilmette
 First Presbyterian Church, Wilmette
 Lakeside Congregation for Reform Judaism, Highland Park
 Lutheran Church of the Ascension, Northfield
 North Shore Congregation Israel, Glencoe
 North Shore Unitarian Church, Deerfield
 North Shore United Methodist, Glencoe
 North Suburban Synagogue Beth El, Highland Park
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 St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, Wilmette
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 Sts. Faith, Hope & Charity Parish, Winnetka
 St. Francis Xavier Church, Wilmette
 St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, Deerfield
 St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Wilmette
 St. Joseph Church, Wilmette
 St. Mary's Parish, Evanston
 St. Nicholas Church, Evanston
 St. Norbert Church, Northbrook
 St. Peter Community Church, Northbrook
 St. Philip the Apostle Church, Northfield
 Temple Beth Israel, Skokie
 Temple Jeremiah, Northfield
 Trinity United Church of Christ, Deerfield
 Trinity United Methodist Church, Wilmette
 Winnetka Congregational Church
 Winnetka Presbyterian Church

Member Organizations

Deerfield Community Relations Commission
 Highland Park Housing Commission
 Highland Park Illinois Community Land Trust
 Housing Opportunity Development Corp., Wilmette
 Housing Options, Evanston
 League of Women Voters of Deerfield
 League of Women Voters of Glencoe
 League of Women Voters of Winnetka-Northfield-Kenilworth
 Northbrook Community Relations Commission
 North Shore Senior Center, Northfield
 Reba Place Development Corp., Evanston
 Skokie Human Relations Commission
 WilPower, Inc., Northfield

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The Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in programs or activities in compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act; the U.S. Civil Rights Act; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act; the Age Discrimination Act; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act; and the U.S. and Illinois constitutions. If you feel that you have been discriminated against, you have the right to file a complaint with the Illinois Department of Aging. Call 1-800-252-8966 (voice and TDD) or contact the Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs at (847) 501-5760.

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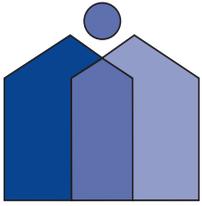
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35th Annual Meeting

*“Fair and Affordable Housing:
What’s Faith Got To Do With It?”*

Save the Date

Free event

*Sunday, October 14th, 3 to 5 p.m.
St. Philip’s Lutheran Church
1609 Pfingsten, Glenview*

Events AT A GLANCE

OCTOBER

Month of October

History of Equal Housing Exhibit,
Morton Grove Library

Thurs., October 4, 7–9pm

“Legal Perspectives on Home
Preservation” sponsored by Evanston
Foreclosure Prevention Task Force
BooCoo Cultural Center

Sunday, October 14, 3–5pm

Interfaith 2007 Annual Meeting
“Fair and Affordable Housing: What’s
Faith Got to Do With It?” at St. Philip’s
Lutheran Church, Glenview

Monday nights, October 15, 22, 29

6:30–8:30pm

Housing Justice Workshops
Skokie Fair Housing Advocate Training,
Skokie Public Library

Tuesday, October 16, 11:30–12:30

History of Equal Housing in the
Northern Suburbs.
Historian/artist Dino Robinson presents
and discusses the exhibit
Morton Grove Public Library

Wednesday, October 17, 7–9 pm

Fair housing training session for board
directors of homeowners’ associations
Winnetka Community House
620 Lincoln Ave.

Thursday, October 25, 8–11am

Prairie State Legal Services, Clergy
Breakfast and Fair Housing Workshop

NOVEMBER

Month of November

History of Equal Housing Exhibit
Evanston Public Library

Wednesday, November 14, 6–8 pm

Fair housing training session for board
directors of homeowners’ associations
First Bank & Trust in Evanston
820 Church St.

Wednesday nights, November 7, 14, 28

Housing Justice Workshops
Highwood Fair Housing Advocate
Training
Oak Terrace School