

**Interfaith Housing Center
of the Northern Suburbs**

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We Need You!

Be a fair housing tester.

Testers receive training and a modest stipend for posing as home or apartment seekers. Contact Allison Forker at 847-501-4352, ext. 402 or allison@interfaithhousingcenter.org.

Do you live in Evanston, Glenview, Highwood, or Skokie?

We will be holding free fair housing advocate training sessions in each of these communities. Contact Alicia at 847-501-5784, ext. 407 or alicia@interfaithhousingcenter.org to register.

Are you or is someone you know with extra space in their homes looking for help with expenses, companionship, or with household chores?

Homesharing may be the answer. Contact Jacqueline Grossmann at 847-501-5732, ext. 401 or jackie@interfaithhousingcenter.org.

Volunteer time in our office.

Contact Nancy at 847-501-2895, ext. 403 or by e-mail at nancy@interfaithhousingcenter.org.

Invite Interfaith board or staff to speak to your organization or congregation.

Or send a delegate to our meetings. Contact us at 847-501-5760 or ihcns@interfaithhousingcenter.org.

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JUST HOUSING

Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs **Spring 2007**

Interfaith Awarded \$374,000 from HUD for Fair Housing Enforcement and Education

The Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs has been awarded two grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), one for \$274,248 to help expose and eliminate housing discrimination and the other for \$100,000 to promote fair housing education and outreach initiatives.

Taken together, the two grants, funded through HUD's Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP), are the largest Interfaith has received in its 35-year history of advocating for fair and affordable housing in the northern suburbs. According to HUD, Interfaith is one of just two midwest private fair housing agencies to receive two FHIP grants. Interfaith will use the grants to investigate allegations of housing discrimination, audit the sales, rental, lending, and senior housing markets, educate the public and the housing industry about their rights and responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act, and work to promote equal housing opportunities.

"Housing discrimination strikes at the heart of the American dream and contradicts the core American values of freedom and opportunity," U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) said. "This grant will help remove the barriers that deny minorities, people with disabilities, and others access to housing. I am pleased

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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.



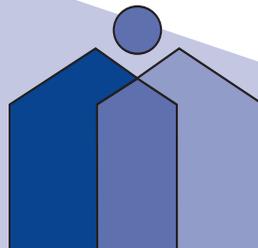
Over 200 attended the King Day event January 15, 1007 at the Winnetka Woman's Club.

Winnetka panel on Dr. King's 1965 visit: North Shore Summer Project and Open Housing Movement Remembered

Chicago's northern suburbs marked Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day by celebrating the civil rights leader's historic 1965 speech to 10,000 people gathered on the Winnetka Village Green in support of the North Shore Summer Project (NSSP), an open housing initiative spearheaded by area residents determined to end the widespread real estate industry practice of steering blacks, Jews, Asians and other minorities away from communities and neighborhoods designated for white Christians only.

In his electrifying speech on the Village Green, Dr.

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Director's Letter:

Get Involved in Local Government!

Do you want to make a real difference for affordable housing in your community? In stopping teardowns of moderately priced housing and the displacement of your long-time neighbors? In making it clear that your suburb welcomes diversity and is vigilant against discrimination in housing?

In my thirteen years at the Interfaith Housing Center, I have found that the most effective way to promote fair and affordable housing in your community is by organizing your neighbors to influence your local Village Board or City Council to take action. Interfaith has traditionally focused on the grassroots organizing and advocacy side to this equation.

But the other side is essential and that's a receptive group of aldermen and trustees, and committed, practical visionaries on housing, planning, zoning, and human/community relations commissions. To paraphrase Uncle Sam, "we need you" in local government!

It works. In Wilmette, several individuals who organized Citizens Action League for Mallinckrodt (CALM) in 2001 in an ultimately successful effort to save the 17-acre Mallinckrodt campus subsequently ran for office. Today, three of the seven trustees on the Village Board (Joanne Aggens, Jim Griffith, and Lali Watt), inspired by their CALM experiences, have since shaped affordable housing and environmental policy in the suburb.

Delores Holmes and Cheryl Wollin (Evanston aldermen), Rev. Bob Burkhart, Central United Methodist Church (Skokie Human Relations Commission), Rick Krier (Morton Grove Village President), and Nan Parson (Park Ridge Fair Housing Commission) are just a few other recent examples of activists-turned-political actors. Betsy Lassar, a long-time resident and advocate for fair and affordable housing in Highland Park, eventually co-chaired the Highland Park Housing Commission and led that suburb's ground-

breaking broad-based affordable housing initiatives, including a mandatory affordable housing set-aside, an affordable housing trust fund financed by a teardown tax, and even the creation of a community land trust to develop and hold affordable housing in perpetuity.

What is the consequence of not getting involved? No action on the issues you care about. You may have a grassroots constituency for affordable housing but debate is stalled without sympathizers on the City Council or Village Board.

I hope I have convinced you to join a commission or even to run for office. Call your Village or City Hall for an application to join a board. Every community is looking for volunteer commissioners. I challenge each and every one of you reading this newsletter to do so and let me know at gail@interfaithhousing-center.org or at (847) 501-5762, ext. 406.

Remember to make fair and affordable housing an issue for your local candidates to address. And vote!

Gail Schechter

Sign up for leadership training for fair & affordable housing



Park Ridge 'Fair Housing Advocate' trainees are pictured here at the conclusion of the third and final training session on March 19th, focused on what Park Ridge residents and municipal officials can do to create and preserve affordable housing. Allen Rodriguez, Senior Vice President of Charter One Bank, a primary sponsor of this training series, is pictured second from left.

Are you looking for an opportunity to learn more about what you can do to make your community more diverse?

The Interfaith Housing Center is offering Fair Housing Advocate Training sessions, free of charge, to motivated individuals in four northern suburbs. These workshops are underwritten by grants from HUD's Fair

Housing Initiatives Program and Charter One Bank. We invite your participation!

These training sessions will take place in Evanston, Glenview, Highland Park, Park Ridge, and Skokie. Park Ridge training sessions took place in March, with participants who include local Fair Housing Commissioners, an active lay leader from a local congrega-

tion, and an aldermanic candidate concerned with teardowns.

If you live or work in these communities, we encourage you to participate and learn how to be actively involved in building an integrated and open community.

Interfaith is holding its training in three two-hour segments during week

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Fair Housing Briefs

Victory!

The Cook County Housing Authority (HACC) rescinded its application to HUD convert its 8 north and north-west suburban buildings (nearly 1,000 units) from mixed population to “senior-only” following pressure from Interfaith and other disability and fair housing advocates. Currently these buildings house 62 young disabled persons (6% of the total). Interfaith raised concerns with Lewis Jordan, director of HACC, that HACC did not adequately measure the impact this would have on adults with disabilities on its waiting list, essential to review in a region that already has a severe shortage of affordable housing. Mr. Jordan indicated that HACC would likely return to HUD with a new but limited redesignation proposal. Stay tuned for public hearings.

Winnetka eighth graders organize for Dr. King memorial

Following the January 2007 commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s 1965 open housing speech in Winnetka, 40 Washburne School 13- and 14-year old students decided to push for a plaque on the Winnetka Village Green. The speech drew an estimated 10,000, the largest crowd recorded on the Green. Interfaith director Gail Schechter gave a “teach-in” on fair housing and community organizing to Ms. Cecelia Gigiolio’s class in February. The class subsequently got letters of

support from the VFW, the Park District, and the Historical Society and made a presentation to the Village Board. This moves to a public hearing (date to be announced).

Security deposit returned

Assisted Latino family from Highland Park to receive their \$900 security deposit after being out of the apartment for a year and receiving an “all clear” certification from the landlord. The family, a married couple with a hearing-impaired child, now live in Highwood.

Rescue fraud

“Rescue fraud” is a new face of predatory lending. Put simply, rescue fraud brokers offer families facing foreclosure the opportunity to refinance their mortgage. But in fact, these are scammers who try to get homeowners to give them title to their house. Starting January 2007, the Mortgage Rescue Fraud Act protects Illinois consumers by requiring all obligations to be in writing, and for consulting agreements, all work to be completed before a fee can be collected. A violation of this Act constitutes an unlawful practice under the Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Practices Act, allowing for civil remedies and criminal penalties. For lease-buyback agreements, investors must verify that rental payments and repurchase prices are affordable to the homeowner and the homeowner must receive



Gail Schechter of Interfaith coaches students of Ms. Gigiolio’s 8th grade class at Carleton Washburne School in Winnetka in early February.

82% of the value of the home up front or the repurchase price must be limited to 125% of what was paid off up front. If the homeowners are forced to move, they must walk away with at least 82% of the value of the home. For more information, contact Jasmine Brewer at (847) 501-5760 or jasmine@interfaithhousingcenter.org.

Wanted: Fair Housing Testers

Interfaith is seeking adults of all races to become fair housing investigators, posing as home seekers and recording their treatment. Modest stipends paid. Contact Allison Forker, Testing Coordinator, to register for training at (847) 501-5760 or allison@interfaithhousingcenter.org.

La Ley de Vivienda Justa : ¿Que es ILEGAL?

Alguna vez le han dicho “No rentamos departamentos a familias con niños” o “Lo siento no rentamos a gente de su color” o “Porque no busca en el otro vecindario donde vive más gente como usted”.

Es ILEGAL discriminar en cualquier tipo de renta o venta de vivienda. La Ley de Vivienda Justa prohíbe la discriminación en la vivienda por:

- Raza
- Color
- Religión
- Edad
- Origen Nacional
- Sexo (Incluyendo acoso sexual)
- Estado Familiar
- Discapacidad
- Género
- Orientación Sexual
- Estado Civil
- Fuente de ingresos
- Descargo militar
- Ancestría

Es ILEGAL negarse a rentar o vender una vivienda, es ilegal establecer términos y condiciones diferentes; proporcionar diferentes servicios o negar falsamente la disponibilidad de la vivienda para inspección, venta o renta.

Si usted ha sufrido alguna de estas clases de discriminación mientras buscaba rentar o comprar una vivienda por favor llame a Interfaith Housing Center al 847-501-5760.

Home loss prevented: Evanston family saved

Rita Askew, a 25-year Evanston resident, almost lost her home when she could no longer make mortgage payments after her husband's leg fracture and stroke. Through its partnership with the National Training and Information Center (NTIC), Interfaith was able to successfully intercede with Citifinancial which had already started foreclosure proceedings on the house. The mortgage's original interest rate of 10.25% was lowered to 6%, dropping the Askews' payments from \$1,648 to \$1,117.

"I had been worrying and praying about this situation for months, and finally my prayers were answered. I just want to thank the people at Interfaith Housing Center for helping to keep me and my family in our home," said Ms. Askew after she signed the papers for her loan modification.



Rita Askew with her granddaughter

April is National Fair Housing Month

April is National Fair Housing Month! The Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs urges municipalities and real estate professionals of the North Shore to publicly renew their commitment to equal housing opportunities.

There are several ways that your community can promote fair housing activities in April. You can:

- Pass a Fair Housing Month Resolution
- Publicize local, county, state and national non-discrimination laws
- Analyze zoning, financing, real estate, advertising, and other local impediments to fair housing choice in your community and come up with a "fair housing action plan"
- Conduct a public forum to directly relate fair housing issues
- Support proposed legislation that increases opportunities for fair housing.

Interfaith can provide support through educational presentations on key housing issues of concern. Interfaith is also empowered to investigate fair housing complaints and file discrimination complaints with HUD, the Illinois Department of Human Rights, Cook County, or your municipality.

The federal Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in housing based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, and familial status. Illinois additionally protects individuals based on marital status, sexual orientation, age, and military discharge status. In Cook County, residents are also protected based on source of income and housing status.

If your community would like to participate in fair housing activities and have questions on what you can do, please contact Interfaith at (847) 501-5760 or jasmine@interfaithhousingcenter.org.

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Leadership Training

nights, with subject matter that:

- introduces fair housing laws, lawful advertising practices, and complaint reporting
- provides insight into the benefits of a diverse community, in which everyone is welcome and treated fairly
- gives participants concrete information on how to advocate in their community for fair and affordable housing

When participants complete all three sessions, they are given a Certificate of Completion. Please call Alicia De La Cruz at (847) 501-5760 or check our web site, www.interfaithhousingcenter.org for more information or to register.

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Open Housing Movement Remembered

King warned that “We must now learn to live together as brothers, or we will perish together as fools.”

The January 15, 2007 event at the Winnetka Women’s Club featured a panel discussion among civil rights and political figures who helped organize or observe King’s speech advocating for an end to discrimination, especially in housing. It was sponsored by the Winnetka Historical Society and the Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs which traces its roots to the North Shore Summer Project.

A standing-room-only crowd of 200 people listened to panelists reminisce about King’s appearance, which took place July 25, 1965 and was the first ever civil rights rally in an all-white suburb. Participants were:

- **Rich Samuels**, moderator, a correspondent for WTTW’s news program Chicago Tonight and producer of the documentary “Civil Rights on the North Shore: Bringing the Movement Home” in for WTTW
- **David James**, who attended King’s speech and in 1967 became the first African American to buy a home in Winnetka. James is one of the founders of Interfaith
- **Mary Powers**, a Winnetka organizer of the NSSP who helped organize the event
- **Marvin Miller**, a Wilmette resident who was also a member of the NSSP and, with his wife Rayna, one of the founders of Interfaith Housing Center
- **Bennett Johnson**, former long-serving chair of the Evanston-North Shore NAACP who was with Dr. King in Winnetka
- **Dean Cameron**, Winnetka Village Attorney in 1965 who navigated the legal system and processed the permits that allowed King to deliver the speech
- **Larry Howe**, Winnetka Village President in 1965



David James, who, in 1967, was the first African-American to purchase a home in Winnetka and a member of the North Shore Summer Project, shares a moment with Larry Howe, Village President of Winnetka at the time.

Reflecting on the present, panelists felt that since the advent of fair housing laws in 1968, the real estate industry has made steady progress in promoting each homeseeker’s full range of housing choices, although each northern suburb can continue to improve the atmosphere of inclusiveness.

Jean Cleland, long-time Wilmette resident and a member of the NSSP who was at the Village Green in 1965, shared her experience through a statement read by her son Carter. “Dr. King’s speech was unquestionably the high point of our activities... Certainly his presence affirmed the work of the North Shore Summer Project and encouraged us to continue our efforts and move toward federal legislation that would outlaw discrimination in housing.” She thanked “the many citizens of the northern suburbs who supported our efforts, and the Village of Winnetka for allowing a somewhat controversial gathering to take place on its Village Green.”

Prior to the event, Chicago Public Radio interviewed James and Powers. You can listen to the interview on the Internet at http://www.chicagopublicradio.org/audio_library/848_rajan07.asp#12.



Interfaith Board President Katie Seigenthaler touches base with panel moderate Rich Samuels before opening the event. At rear, panelist Bennett Johnson walks to his seat.

Photos Courtesy of David Schober, Winnetka Historical Society

Affordable Housing Advocacy Briefs

■ **Illinois Affordable Housing Week will be in November 2007.** This is a departure from prior years, in which this week was the second week of March. Please contact the Interfaith Housing Center if you would like assistance in housing an affordable housing educational event, prayer breakfast, legislative forum, or other action to mark the continued affordable housing crisis in our region.

■ Interfaith mobilized dozens of Wilmette residents to successfully advocate for an affordable housing set-aside at a new development to be located at the former Ford dealership site on **Green Bay Road in Wilmette.** Of the 57 condos to be developed, 15% (8 units) will be affordable under Wilmette's definition (100% of the Chicago area median income, or \$70,000 for a family of four). In addition, this development will be built as the first privately-funded deliberately energy-efficient and "green" building to meet Leadership in Energy and Design (LEED) certification standards in the area. Affordable housing is an integral part of Wilmette comprehensive plan.

■ Interfaith provided technical assistance to the **Wilmette Finance Committee** (Trustees Lali Watt (chair), Joanne Aggens, and Mari Terman) as it developed an **affordable housing survey of employees** who work throughout Wilmette and of **families with children with disabilities.** The Finance Committee is reviewing ways in which Wilmette's affordable housing plan can be implemented, including financing of initiatives. The Committee has already recommended that the Village establish a Community Land Trust to develop and hold affordable housing units in perpetuity.

■ **Wilmette Citizens for Affordable Housing**, a grassroots group Interfaith assisted when it was formed by the Peace & Justice Committee of St. Francis Xavier Church, disseminated



Ed Miller (right) and Marguerite Savard McKenna (second from left), both of Wilmette Citizens for Affordable Housing, and Maureen Barry, Wilmette Assistant Village Manager (left), meet with Highland Park IL Community Land Trust director Mary Ellen Tamasy to learn how Highland Park's CLT acquires and develops affordable housing, and identifies and trains prospective home buyers and renters. Wilmette is considering establishing a similarly structured CLT.

hundreds of surveys to businesses and families throughout the Village. More than 600 surveys were collected by the Village of Wilmette and these are in the process of being tallied by Northeastern Illinois University. To join Wilmette Citizens, contact Ed Miller at ed.miller@wilmetteaffordable-housing.org.

■ The **Winnetka Post Office** site offers an ideal opportunity for Winnetka to provide affordable housing units. With home prices averaging \$1.3 million, there is a need for affordable housing for cash-strapped seniors, single-parent households, teachers, municipal workers, or those suddenly experiencing financial setbacks and life changes including divorce, illness, or loss of a spouse. Together with the appropriate amount of green space, it is critical to include 20% of residential units as affordable in the \$200,000 range. E-mail the PO committee at POCommittee@winnetka.org or attend a meeting(s) the first Monday of the month: April 2, May 7, June 4 and July 2 to voice your support for affordable housing for Winnetkans at the PO site. Join **Winnetka Citizens for Affordable Housing** by contacting Gail Schechter at Interfaith at (847) 501-5760 or gail@interfaithhousingcenter.org.

■ Interfaith joined representatives from Lake County United and Hispanic Housing Development Corporation to meet with Dan Goodwin, Chief Executive Officer of Inland Real Estate regarding the sale of the 252-unit **Northshore Estates, Highwood** rental complex which it manages. Interfaith has been working since the summer of 2005 to prevent the sale to any entity that would displace the estimated 1,200 residents, mostly immigrants from Mexico who work and attend school locally. According to Goodwin, were it not for Interfaith and allied groups, the building would have already been sold to an upscale condo developer. No sale has yet been concluded.

■ **Housing Action Illinois** is celebrating its **20th anniversary** on **April 17 & 18** at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield. There will be workshops on housing counseling, housing development and management, advocacy and organizing, fair housing, homeless service, and non-profit management. **Donna Brazille**, chair of the Democratic National Committee's Voting Rights Institute, will be the keynote speaker. For more information or to register, contact Nate Hutch-

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Interfaith to partner with Shorefront

Under its new HUD Fair Housing Initiatives Program grant for Education and Outreach, Interfaith will be realizing a goal long on the organization's "wish list" -- to develop a high quality traveling exhibit on the history of the open housing movement on the North Shore.

Interfaith will be collaborating with Shorefront, a grassroots organization in Evanston dedicated to documenting, preserving, and exhibiting the history of the African American community on Chicago's North Shore. In addition to collecting and maintaining private papers, photos, and archives, Shorefront publishes a journal with photos and stories of African Americans and the institu-

tions they created in the area.

Shorefront will develop a pamphlet and a PowerPoint presentation to accompany the traveling exhibit and add a page to Interfaith's web site about this important history. For more information on Shorefront, visit

SHOREFRONT

www.shorefrontj.net. If you would like this display exhibited in your local village/city hall, library, or other well-traveled public area, please contact Interfaith at (847) 501-5760 or gail@interfaithhousingcenter.org.

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IT'S THE
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
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39TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAIR HOUSING ACT

HOUSING DISCRIMINATION HOTLINE
1.800.669.9777 (VOICE) 1.800.927.9275 (TTY)

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Affordable Housing Advocacy Briefs

erson at (312) 939-6074, ext. 201, or nate@housingactionil.org.

■ **Community land trusts** are increasingly viewed as an effective local solution for the development and provision of permanently affordable housing for-sale or rental housing, especially in a market climate in which the price of land has escalated beyond most incomes. The City of **Highland Park** created a CLT in 2003 as a not-for-profit entity. The Village of **Wilmette** is seeking to establish a similarly-styled CLT. Residents in **Evanston** established the Citizens' Lighthouse Community Land Trust, and last fall, a **Glencoe** Community Land Trust was incorporated. For more information on CLTs, check www.burlingtonassociates.com, a national technical assistant for the creation and maintenance of CLTs.

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Interfaith Awarded \$374,000 from HUD

to have taken an active role in supporting Interfaith's application to bring these important resources to our region. I am confident, as is HUD, that Interfaith Housing, with its long history of accomplishment, will put these funds to good use in our community."

Though 31% of African-Americans and 42% of Latinos in the Chicago area would choose to live in the suburbs, according to a survey of the Metro Chicago Information Center, the last census recorded that these groups comprise only about 10% of the population of the sixteen communities comprising Interfaith's service area. Furthermore, outside of Evanston, African-Americans remain only 1% of this total north suburban population.

Interfaith's service area comprises the following 16 communities: Highland, Highland Park, Deerfield, Glen-

coe, Northbrook, Winnetka, Northfield, Kenilworth, Wilmette, Glenview, Evanston, Skokie, Morton Grove, Niles, Lincolnwood and Park Ridge.

"Interfaith is extremely gratified that Jan Schakowsky and other area lawmakers worked on our behalf to secure these important grants," said Gail Schechter, Executive Director of Interfaith. "These funds not only provide us with the means to do critical fair housing enforcement and education work in our service area, they also validate the critical need to both enforce the law and actively promote communities that are open and welcoming to all."

For more information about the award, or if you or someone you know has experienced housing discrimination, please contact the Interfaith Housing Center or the Northern Suburbs at 847-501-5760.

“Does Re-Development Mean the End of Affordable Housing?”

Interfaith Housing Center Meeting Focuses on the Value of Diversity



Panelists seated are Edna Martinez, Kim Bobo, Jacky Grimshaw, and Janet Smith, with moderator Alicia De La Cruz standing.

The “bottom line” importance of diversity, rental housing, and living close to work was the subject of Interfaith’s 2006 Annual Meeting. Over fifty people attended this free event on October 22 at Am Shalom in Glencoe.

What makes for a healthy community? Last year, Interfaith worked with the Voorhees Center of the University of Illinois and Family Service of South Lake County to measure the impact of a potential condo conversion of Northshore Estates (NSE), a 252-unit rental complex housing mostly Mexican immigrants in Highwood. This study documented that a mixed housing stock and the ability to live, shop, work, and go to school locally has a positive economic and social benefit. The panel discussion was intended as an opportunity to discuss how north suburban communities can develop public policies and housing developments that leave no one behind.

The panelists were Edna Martinez, Resident of Northshore Estates, Highwood; Prof. Prof. Janet Smith, Co-Director, Voorhees Center of the University of Illinois at Chicago; Kim Bobo, Director, Interfaith Worker Justice; and Jacky Grimshaw, Coordinator of Transportation Programs, Center for Neighborhood Technology. Alicia De La Cruz of the Interfaith staff facilitated the discussion.

Together, the panelists provided a panorama of a healthy community in which a living wage and public transit are integral to the promotion of a non-discriminatory housing market and a diverse community. Martinez spoke of Highwood as her community and one in which she can work close to her daughter’s school. According to Grimshaw, the share of income spent on housing and transportation ranges from 54-70% for very low income households depending on their proximity to work. “Transportation costs should be

included in an affordable housing definition,” she said. Bobo suggested that communities negotiate affordable housing funding with unionized businesses that employ low-wage workers such as Jewel and Dominicks. In addition, congregations should use unionized labor and suburbs should require that “development itself should pay a living wage.”

Smith focused on the study she authored on the impact of a potential condo conversion of Northshore Estates on the housing, jobs, education, and consumer spending markets of Highwood. Overall, Highwood is losing rental housing at a rapid rate and the proportion of affordable units is likely to drop from 28% in 2000 to 18% in 2010 with a conversion of NSE. Moreover, Highwood could lose at minimum \$7.5 million from Highwood businesses dependent on NSE resident workers (primarily restaurants and construction). On average, the cost to replace a minimum-wage hourly worker is up to \$5,000. (The study is available at www.fssl.org under “U. of I. Impact Study”).

Katie Seigenthaler, President of the Interfaith Housing Center, concluded by saying that, “Interfaith believes that helping to create sustainable, diverse communities where individuals work and play close to home is a worthy goal for all people of faith and all nonprofit organizations concerned with social justice. We want to be a part of a sustainable solution by advancing an affordable housing agenda that also takes into account the many pieces of the puzzle that must fall into place in order for affordability to become the norm rather than the exception.”

Religious leaders break bread and share housing concerns

Fifteen north suburban rabbis, priests, ministers, a Baha'i member, and the president of the Evanston-based Buddhist Council of the Midwest came together for breakfast at Temple Jeremiah in Northfield on February 7th to discuss ways they can work with the Interfaith Housing Center to promote diverse and mixed-income housing. Led by Pastor Bob Burkhart of Central United Methodist Church (Skokie), these religious leaders expressed concerns ranging from, "This is the least diverse community I've ever lived in," to "Sticker shock is real" when it comes to housing costs. Several said that teardowns and condo conversions are driving out long-time residents. Fr. Bob Oldershaw of St. Nicholas (Evanston) added to Burkhart's comments on Skokie that "if you're condo alley, we're condo superhighway."

Jackie Grossmann of Interfaith made a presentation on the Homesharing Program as a solution for congregants who either need additional income or services to enable them to stay in their homes, or who are looking for low-cost housing in our area.

Rev. Clifford Wilson of Mt. Pisgah Church in a primarily African-American Evanston neighborhood said he thought these issues only existed in his community and was energized by the regional and racial commonalities.

The group brainstormed action steps including "standing together" in any community where low-income people are threatened, and having congregants regularly attend and speak out at local meetings on housing.

The group agreed to convene regularly. The next breakfast will be May 15. Contact Gail Schechter at (847) 501-5762, ext. 406, or gail@interfaithhousingcenter.org for more information.



Religious leaders at the Interfaith breakfast on February 7 included (from left to right): Rabbi Bruce Elder, Congregation Hakafa, Glencoe; Fr. Robert Heidenreich, Sacred Heart Church, Winnetka; Rev. James Roghair, First Congregational Church of Evanston; Betsy Hammond, Interfaith; Rev. Clifford Wilson and Linda Fitzpatrick, Mt. Pisgah Church, Evanston.

Attention Employers: Homesharing may be the answer

Are your employees worried about aging parents and often called upon to care for them? Is the surrounding housing market too expensive for your work force or lacking in flexible or affordable rental options?

For people employed five days a week in the northern suburbs, including commuters from out of state, Homesharing can offer reasonable rents in a home-like atmosphere for a fraction of hotel costs. Our staff carefully interviews individuals who would like to live near employment in affordable housing arrangements.

Homesharing is a creative housing option which can benefit homeowners or renters who are in need of additional income and who have an extra room in their home that they can rent. For seniors or those newly

divorced, Homesharing can offer income to help pay for housing costs, some to assist with light chores, or simple companionship.

Interfaith recently assisted a 50-year-old executive who has a home in Iowa and a job during the week in Highland Park. He welcomed the opportunity to rent a room from a 70-year-old widow who has a lovely home near his work. Rent is \$500 (utilities included). During the week the executive lives in a residential setting, near parks, the library and the Lake. He is able to have more income available to pay for his own mortgage and his child's education.

Please contact Jacqueline Grossmann at (847) 501-5732 or jackie@interfaithhousingcenter.org to learn more about Homesharing and schedule a presentation.

JustNews

The Board of Directors has welcomed a host of **new Board Directors**:

Arif Choudhury lives in Northbrook and is a member of the Islamic Cultural Center. He brings CPA expertise to the office of treasurer. He is also a featured storyteller at the annual Just-Stories festival at Society of the Divine Word in Techny (www.race-bridges.net/juststories). This year's festival is on April 14.

Paul Cohen is the senior rabbi at Temple Jeremiah in Northfield. He is on the board of the Ethics Committee of the North Shore Senior Center. He lives with his family in Deerfield.

Susan Connor has been a professor at the John Marshall Law School for 20 years and has directed students in their Fair Housing Legal Clinic, in addition to teaching housing law related classes. The Winnetka resident has authored articles on zoning and land use.

John Golden resides in Park Ridge and is a member of St. Paul of the Cross Church. He is a Senior Vice President at Charter One Bank; his department focuses on small business lending in low- and moderate- income markets.



Allison Forker

Betsy Hammond has over 20 years of sales and marketing experience and is a former executive director of Ruby Bridges Foundation, which promotes children's tolerance. She lives with her family in Winnetka and is on the board of the Winnetka Historical Society.

Fran Seidman lives in Evanston. She is a member of the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation. She is also a member of the Evanston Commission on Aging and is on the Evanston Citizens' Lighthouse Community Land Trust board.

Anne West a Wilmette resident, is a senior marketing executive who has worked in different cities around and even outside the country, including Boulder, Colorado; Raleigh, North Carolina; and Caracas, Venezuela, as well as our metropolitan area. She has her MBA from New York University and is fluent in Spanish.

We also want to thank **Mary Signatur**, who retired from the board last October, and **Betsy Landes**, who left in January 2007. Betsy, a Winnetka resident who also sits on the board of the Winnetka Historical Society, was the long-time chair of Interfaith's



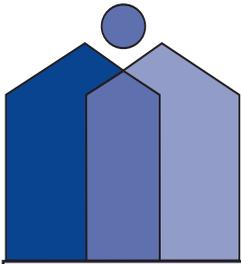
Jasmine Brewer

Fundraising Committee and organized the successful Sawbridge Studios holiday party and the King Day event (see page 1). We deeply appreciate all their hard work and commitment to Interfaith.

Interfaith also welcomes new staff members **Jasmine Brewer**, Fair Housing Advocate, and **Allison Forker**, Fair Housing Testing Coordinator. Jasmine, who lives in Chicago, is currently a master's degree student at UIC in urban planning. Allison, also a Chicago resident, is an attorney who formerly worked for the People's Law Office litigating police brutality cases and death penalty appeals. She is a graduate of John Marshall Law School.

We thank **Holly Berman** for beefing up Interfaith's fair housing testing capacity and providing a smooth transition for Allison. We bid farewell to **DeAngelo Bester**, who becomes a full-time anti-predatory lending organizer for the National Training and Information Center (NTIC), and to **Chris Smith**, former Development Director.

We are pleased to announce that **Margaret Feit Clarke** will be Interfaith's new Director of Communications & Advocacy beginning April 2. A Skokie resident, she has been the chairperson of the Peace & Justice Committee of St. Nicholas Parish in Evanston since 1997. She has been particularly effective in organizing volunteers on justice issues such as immigration, the death penalty, and community acceptance of Housing Choice/Section 8 Voucher holders, and has coordinated the monthly scheduling of seventy volunteers for Ten Thousand Villages.



INTERFAITH HOUSING CENTER OF THE NORTHERN SUBURBS

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Member Congregations

Baha'is of Evanston
Baha'is of Wilmette
Beth Emet The Free Synagogue, Evanston
Beth Hillel Bnai Emunah, Wilmette
Central United Methodist Church, Skokie
Christ Church, Winnetka
Church of St. Elisabeth, Glencoe
Congregation Beth Shalom, Northbrook
Congregation Hakafa, Glencoe
Faith Temple Church of God, Evanston
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 Unitarian Church, Deerfield
North Shore United Methodist Church,
Glencoe
North Suburban Synagogue Beth El,
Highland Park
Northbrook United Methodist Church
Northfield Community Church
Sacred Heart Parish, Winnetka
Second Baptist Church, Evanston
Society of the Divine Word, Techny

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church,
Wilmette
St. Catherine Laboure, Glenview
Sts. Faith, Hope & Charity Parish,
Winnetka
St. Francis Xavier Church, Wilmette
St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, Deerfield
St. James the Less Episcopal Church,
Northfield
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church,
Wilmette
St. Joseph's 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 Wilmette
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



www.cs-il.org

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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.