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OCCJ Trialogue to explore racial unrest

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Posted: Saturday, January 31, 2015 12:00 am

By **BILL SHERMAN** World Religion Writer | **4** comments

Recent racial unrest across America will be addressed in a series of three public forums over the next three Sundays at the annual Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice [Interfaith Trialogue series](#).

OCCJ President Jayme Cox announced earlier that the theme — Race, Ethnicity, Religion, Culture: Searching for Compassion — was selected because of racial disturbances that have broken out in Ferguson, Missouri, and across the nation.

OCCJ program coordinator Moises Echeverria said Oklahomans need to see how the response of the faith community has reduced racial tensions here, and to explore what more can be done.

The free public forums will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Sundays.

Feb. 1: "A Changing City," Peace Academy, 4620 S. Irvington Ave. Shifting demographics bring diversity and richness to the Tulsa community.

Speakers: Jan Figart, associate director, Community Service Council; Sandra Rana, Islamic Society of Tulsa; the Rev. David Wiggs, senior minister, Boston Avenue United Methodist Church.

Feb. 8: "A Divided Tulsa," Temple Israel, 2004 E. 22nd Place. Changes can make people afraid and defensive around those they don't know.

Facilitator Hannibal B. Johnson, attorney, author. Speakers: Jocelyn Payne, executive director, John Hope Franklin Center for Reconciliation; David Blatt, executive director, Oklahoma Policy Institute; Twan Jones, community advocate, NAACP-Tulsa.

Feb. 15: "Moving Forward with Compassion," Boston Avenue United Methodist Church, 1301 S. Boston Ave. Is there a way for these differences to be respected and for a community to come together?

Speakers: Imam John Ederer, Islamic Society of Tulsa; Kirt Hartzler, Union Public Schools

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superintendent; Andrea Walker, Human Rights Commission member.

OCCJ has sponsored the Trialogue series for more than 30 years, bringing together people of various faiths to discuss current issues.

The Tulsa Library Trust's Alfred E. Aaronson Lecture Series Endowment helps fund the event. The endowment began in 1969 when Alfred E. Aaronson retired from the Tulsa City-County Library Commission, the Gilcrease Museum Board and the Tulsa Community Relations Commission. Funds collected in his honor were dedicated to bringing authorities to the community to address various topics.

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William Dusenberry posted at 12:42 pm on Sat, Jan 31, 2015.



Posts: 2224

The OCCJ refuses to do anything about the most despised minority group in the USA.

Freethinkers (those who draw their own conclusions, about reality, rather than blindly accept 2500-year old Bible myths, written by "no one knows") are discriminated against; denied jobs; fired from jobs; not hired in the first place, shunned from their families, and friends) are not included in the OCCJ mandate; because if the OCCJ were to do so, most of its other beneficiaries, would quit the OCCJ.

Freethinkers (as a group) have the highest IQ's; highest SAT scores; lowest school drop out rates; the lowest crime rates; the highest average salaries; and the lowest divorce rate.

So, the OCCJ discriminates against the most-productive group in the USA.

Ironic, isn't it?

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Gordon Mills posted at 8:39 am on Sat, Jan 31, 2015.



Posts: 355

The insane pursuit of diversity and multiculturalism is a mental disease principally suffered by the liberals and lefties.

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William Dusenberry posted at 12:33 pm on Sat, Jan 31, 2015.



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Mr Mills:

Until about 20-years ago, the APA (American Psychiatric Association) classified extreme religiosity (fundamentalism) as a mental disorder.

Public rage (generated by fundamentalist ministers) pressured the APA to remove this classification.

Your expressed hatred towards multiculturalism and liberalism, suggests that you might be an anti-intellectual, racist, bigot.

Did your psychiatrist ever speak with you about this?

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Dean Jenkins posted at 4:51 pm on Sat, Jan 31, 2015.



Posts: 378

Yes Gordie it must be tough for you to understand why people from diverse backgrounds would try to get along. That's a common problem among the under educated.

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