

Convention begins developing support

Work continues at a slow but steady pace. The Steering Committee has added a fifth member, Lowell Thompson. Lowell has been involved with both the Center and the National Conference on Whiteness since the first conference in 1996. The committee's tasks are to 1) appoint members to the Advisory Council and Planning Committees, 2) confirm and authorize participation of student groups, 3) draft a statement of purpose, and 4) devise the broad structure and strategy leading up to the White Antiracist Leadership Conference in 2002.

The committee has drafted a statement of purpose in the form of a call to action (task 3 - see page 3) and developed a broad structure and strategy (task 4 - see page 4). In October we began to invite people to serve on the Advisory Council. At this time the following people have accepted appointments to the Council: Meek Groot, Jeff Hitchcock, Judith Katz, Paul Marcus, and Tim Wise. We anticipate several more people joining in the next two months.

The Steering Committee has begun work on a plan for drawing support from informal and formal organizations. These may include anything from study groups and collections of friends sharing a concern for white antiracist activism to established nonprofits, businesses, churches, educational institutions and governmental units, whether they be chapters, departments, subsidiaries, or entire organizations.

We are heartened by the receipt of donations earmarked for the convention. To date these contributions total \$225 and have come in one instance from a study group and in the other from a concerned member. We have not yet incurred any expenses to charge against the fund.

People hearing of our Convention plans continue to respond favorably. The extended timeframe

makes it seem distant and we are still working by word of mouth. But generating a buzz among people who support white antiracism is both timely and important to further development of the process. We encourage members to share the statement and plan on pages 3 and 4 with anyone they believe will be interested.

Book plans hopeful

In the last issue we reported that the Center's book, *Unraveling the White Cocoon*, had reached a difficult point. We were not willing to continue the publishing arrangement under which the first printing took place, but the publisher held all the publishing rights and was not willing to grant us new terms. Now the publisher has agreed verbally to return all the publishing rights to the author, Jeff Hitchcock, who in turn will assign the rights to the Center. We are now awaiting written confirmation of this action by the publisher. In the meantime, the book is out of print.

Once we have secured the publishing rights, the Center will self-publish a new edition rather than seek a new publisher. We already publish articles and learning guides, so entering the book publishing business is a logical next step. Furthermore, we anticipate serving a small but dedicated audience who would like to see more books in our area of expertise.

This will take time. Book publishing is much more complex than anything we've done before, and if not done well, it can be excessively costly. We have a steep learning curve to ascend. But the investment seems worthwhile.

As for the next edition of *Unraveling the White Cocoon*, look for availability around the summer of 2002. We'll keep you posted.

New reader/workbook on whiteness fills a need

At long last a practical reader/workbook on whiteness has appeared. And it comes from two members of the Center, Judy Helfand and Laurie B. Lippin, Ph.D. *Understanding Whiteness/ Unraveling Racism: Tools for the Journey* helps readers examine what it is to be white in the U.S., address fear and guilt as barriers to dismantling racism, and identify the small daily acts and larger organized movements that further the struggle for social justice and equality.

Not only does it include analytical essays, narratives, and poems from a variety of diverse perspectives, *Understanding Whiteness/ Unraveling Racism* offers numerous experiential exercises as learning aids. In the words of one author, "the readings and exercises are community field-tested and work beautifully. I'm using it to complement 3 other books for my [university] class and after the students get over the novelty of talking about 'the whiteness' book, which makes them giggle nervously, they find it helpful in a very personal way."

Understanding Whiteness/Unraveling Racism has been published to provide a resource to assist white folks in examining whiteness; to contribute to a whiteness studies curriculum; to advance learning on multiculturalism, racism, and white privilege; and ultimately to assist in the project of dismantling racism. Trainers, educators, HR professionals, and individuals will find the book appropriate for individual study, anti-racism workshops, and college level courses.

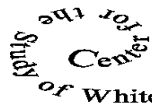
For more information, contact Judy Helfand, 707-833-1890 voice, 707-833-6236 fax, or email at judyhelfand@lippinassociates.com

Order from Thomson Learning Custom Publishing
1-800-355-9983

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New web design now online

Congratulations and our appreciation to Scott Barrett, our web designer, for the updated version of www.euroamerican.org that came online in September. Our daily visits continue to rise, now averaging over 200 visits per day.



Center for the Study of White American Culture, Inc.

The *Membership Newsletter* is a publication of the Center for the Study of White American Culture, Inc. sent exclusively to its members 4 times per year. The Center for the Study of White American Culture is a multiracial organization whose mission is to define and examine white United States culture and to address its role in, and impact on, the greater American culture.

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How to contact us

Center for Study
245 West 4th Avenue
Roselle, NJ 07203

Phone: (908) 241-5439, **Fax:** (908) 245-4972

Email: contact@euroamerican.org

Web site: <http://www.euroamerican.org>

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Members - new and renewing since last issue

Students

Judy Helfand

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

An Urgent Call to Antiracist Action

WE, white antiracist activists and our allies, are agitated and disturbed by the continued domination of the United States by white Euro-American culture. We challenge the continued centering of white values, the political formation of whiteness, and the continued marginalizing of people and communities of color. We no longer await and expect the formation of a multiracial democracy with patience and complacency. We believe Frederick Douglass spoke truthfully in saying "power concedes nothing without a demand." For this reason, and,

BECAUSE white people rarely engage in collective actions as a means to antiracist ends;

BECAUSE many white people have engaged in past and present collective actions to advance a program of white supremacy;

BECAUSE the antiracist efforts of white people are often invisible;

BECAUSE models still reinforce racism as a problem that people of color must solve alone;

BECAUSE there continues to be a basic and erroneous belief that whites have no stake in changing a racist society, and in fact will lose power, position and privilege if they do;

BECAUSE many white people have learned from, been educated by, and accepted the leadership of people of color in antiracist action;

BECAUSE many white people wish to eliminate white supremacy and bring forth a nation where power and access to resources are available to people of all racial backgrounds;

BECAUSE many white people believe and insist that the central values of our nation must become multiracial in character and people of all racial backgrounds must be substantially present in the highest seats of power;

BECAUSE many white people understand the proper work of white people engaged in antiracism is to act upon and change the nature of our institutions and our communities, and to work with other white people within our nation to persuade them of the truth and justice of our cause;

BECAUSE many white people historically and presently have worked for these ends, and many have dedicated their lives, both in ongoing deeds and in final consequence, so that a sacred history of struggle and a living cohort of elders in this cause now exists;

BECAUSE our white youth understand they have inherited a racial structure in our nation based on white supremacy and this demeans their relationship, moral standing, and common purpose with youth of color;

BECAUSE many people of color have befriended, protected and supported white people in their antiracist efforts;

BECAUSE many people of color have formed alliances with, guided, and encouraged antiracist efforts by white people;

BECAUSE many white people acknowledge the practice of white antiracism as one and only one part of the greater, more prolonged, more costly and more significant historic and present struggle by people of color for justice in our nation;

AND BECAUSE these efforts have left much still to be done,

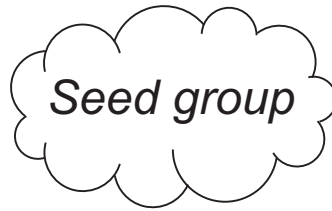
THEREFORE, let a call be made to all white antiracists and their allies to prepare and assemble in a great convention and associated events across the nation in the year 2003, in a manner and method accountable to a multiracial process, in order to raise our voices, proclaim our goals, bolster our leadership, and advance our actions directed to the immediate and lasting disempowerment of white supremacy, and the creation of a fully empowered multiracial society.

For more information, contact the **White Antiracist Convention Steering Committee**, c/o Center for the Study of White American Culture, 245 West 4th Avenue, Roselle, NJ 07203, Phone: 908.241.5439, Email: contact@euroamerican.org

White Antiracist Convention Planning process

Center's role

- financial support
- incubator



Seed group

FOCUS: Call to get word out
Enlist others
Locate structures for pre-conference
Education
Support local initiatives

Learning from
Our History

- Abolitionists
- Suffragists - Seneca Falls
- NAACP forming



Purpose: How to have
an IMPACT



Leadership Conference
November 15 & 16, 2002

Hosted by European Dissent
in New Orleans

- transfer process from Center
- create new governing body
- fiduciary responsibility
- create leadership group to facilitate convention

FOCUS: Planning / preparation
for convention



**WHITE ANTIRACIST
CONVENTION**

Possible Outcomes

- Visible statements
- Continuing work
- Visible signs of commitment to antiracism

2003