



## Poet Nikki Giovanni to Be Keynote Speaker

### She Will Deliver "It's Time to Talk" on October 20, 2003

The magazine *Essence* has described her as "one of the most searing voices of the 1960s Black Power Movement." Her poetry has been described as intimate, edgy, and unapologetic, and she has long been known as the "princess of black poetry." Twenty years before the appearance of rap music, she made innovative recordings of her poems backed by some of the nation's most well-known gospel choirs. Writer Gloria Naylor has called her "one of our national treasures." Publications as diverse as *Mademoiselle*, *Ladies' Home Journal*, and *Ebony* have named her Woman of the Year. She is renowned poet, author, and activist Nikki Giovanni, this year's keynote speaker for the YWCA of Madison's 2nd Annual Race Relations Forum: It's Time to Talk Madison.

Giovanni, University Distinguished Professor of English at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, will deliver the address Monday, October 20th at 11:30 am, at Monona Terrace. The author of more than fourteen volumes of poetry, her honors include the NAACP Image Award for Literature (1998), the Langston Hughes Award for Distinguished Contributions to Arts and Letters (1996), and numerous honorary degrees.

### About Nikki Giovanni

Born Yolande Cornelia Giovanni Jr., in Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1943, Giovanni was raised in Ohio. In 1960, she entered Nashville's Fisk University, where she worked with the school's Writer's Workshop, edited the literary magazine, and helped reinstate Fisk's chapter of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.



Connections between literature and politics would be a focus of her work for decades to come. By the time Giovanni received her bachelor's degree (in history, with honors) in 1967, she was "firmly committed to the Civil Rights Movement and the concept of black power," according to the *Encyclopedia Britannica Guide to Black History*. That year, she became actively involved in the Black Arts movement, a loose coalition of African American intellectuals who wrote politically and artistically radical poems aimed at raising awareness of black rights and promoting the struggle for racial equality. After receiving her undergraduate degree,

Giovanni organized the Black Arts Festival in Cincinnati and then entered graduate school at the University of Pennsylvania. Her first three collections of poems, *Black Feeling* (1967), *Black Talk* (1968), and *Black Judgement* (1968) "secured [Giovanni's] reputation as one of the most accessible of the young writers whose poems encouraged black solidarity and revolution, and Giovanni soon became the most prominent woman writer of the Black Arts movement," wrote Lisa Clayton Robinson. She also became well known for her poetry readings, and *Truth Is on Its Way*, one of her recordings of her poetry set to music, became a best-seller in 1971. That year, she published *Gemini: An Extended Autobiographical Statement on My First Twenty-Five Years at Being a Black Poet*, a collection of autobiographical essays.

Beginning in the early 1970s, Giovanni's experiences as a single mother also influenced her poetry, and themes surrounding loneliness, unfulfilled hopes, and family issues infused her work, which became less political and more personal. *Spin a Soft Black Song* (1971), *Ego-Tripping* (1973), and *Vacation Time* (1980) are collections of poems that she wrote for children. In collections she wrote for adults during these years, such as *My House* (1972), *The Women and the Men* (1972), and *Cotton Candy on a Rainy Day* (1978), the poet focused

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# Third Street Happenings



## Third Street Picnic

Past and present residents, volunteers and staff of the Third Street program celebrated together this year at James Madison Park for the Third Street annual picnic. The highlight of the afternoon was a candy-filled piñata donated to the YWCA by a local Girl Scout troop.

Over sixty people joined in the fun of water balloons and lots of good food. It was a time to relax and connect with old friends and neighbors.

## 3rd Street Success

### A letter to the YWCA from a former 3rd Street resident

It was in 1999 when I escaped a marriage of abuse. My ex-husband was, and unfortunately still is, dependent on narcotics. At the time I heard of the 3rd Street program in Madison, Wis., our son was just a year and several months old. My son and I moved into a small one-bedroom on the 3rd floor of the YWCA. It was the first time I would live as head of the household.

Nancy Wrenn Bauch, the 3rd Street coordinator, initiated a conversation about my future soon after my arrival. Excited and scared, I told her of my dreams. Nancy pointed out my strengths, and how I could make up for my weaknesses. She offered her assistance and became my Yellow Pages of social and educational services; when I needed something or someone to help me out, Nancy had the right phone number or the right name.

3rd Street quickly became a place to call home for my son and me. With the security and affordable rent the program offers, it also became our safety net. In addition, the program offered a wide variety of self-empowering meetings and opportunities to accomplish goals and even sometimes dreams. I eventually moved into a two-bedroom, made good friends and neighbors, and started step by step,

with the help of Nancy, family, and a fantastic child care grant, to go after my own dreams.

That was four years ago. Today, I am a recent graduate of the University of Wisconsin–LaCrosse with a Bachelor's of Science in Psychology and Philosophy, with an Integrated Liberal Studies Certificate from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. I was on the Dean's list every semester at LaCrosse, graduated with highest honors, and am a Golden Key International Honors Society member.

I am a single mother whose son now knows the value of a quality education. My son saw me work and achieve my dream of graduating. Now that I have had the opportunity to graduate and attain a good job, my son will not have to live in poverty for the rest of his childhood.

I want to thank Nancy Wrenn Bauch, the 3rd Street Program, staff and volunteers at the YWCA of Madison, and the sponsors who contribute to the program. I am where I am today because of your support.

Deepest gratitude,  
Mary Thomas\*

*\*Name has been changed to protect confidentiality.*

# Upcoming Events

## Mark Your Calendars!

### Monday, October 20 Day of Eliminating Racism & Hate Crimes

To kick off the 8th annual Week



Without Violence, the YWCA will be holding its 2nd Annual Community Race Relations Forum: *It's Time to Talk*

Madison. The luncheon will be held from 11:30–1:30 at Monona Terrace. Renowned poet, author and activist Nikki Giovanni will be the featured keynote speaker. *It's Time to Talk* forums on race are a local version of a highly successful program created nearly six years ago in Seattle. The program will bring together people from the Madison community for an informal discussion aimed at broadening participants understanding of one another. This program will be offered on an ongoing basis as part of the YWCA's Racial Justice program. Additionally, the YWCA will honor Jonathan Gramling and the Breast Cancer Recovery Foundation with the 2003 YWCA Racial Justice Award.

### Tuesday, October 21 Day of Remembrance

Two new Path of Voices monuments will be dedicated at LaFollette and Memorial High Schools. The Path of Voices Program promotes non-violence by telling the story of people affected by violence.

The community may also pass by the YWCA on the square to see the Clothesline Project. The Clothesline Project honors women survivors as well as victims of intimate violence. Any woman who has experienced such violence, at any time in her life,

is encouraged to come forward and design a shirt. Victim's families and friends are also invited to participate. The Clothesline Project is a vehicle for people affected by violence to express their emotions by decorating a shirt. They then hang the shirt on a clothesline to be viewed by others as testimony to the problem of violence against women. Materials for creating your own shirt to add to the display will be available in the YWCA lobby.

### Wednesday, October 22 Confronting Violence Against Women

Wear a purple ribbon and show your support for victims of abuse. The International Purple Ribbon Campaign is a people-powered volunteer campaign dedicated to abuse awareness and support for victims. The purple ribbon symbolizes the injury and suffering of victims of violence in our homes, schools, neighborhoods, and society. Stop by the YWCA to pick up a purple ribbon for yourself or give us a call and help us distribute the ribbons in the community.

### Thursday, October 23 Making Our Schools & Community Safer

The 8th annual Poster and Essay Award Ceremony for 5th graders will be held at 6 PM in the auditorium at the Doyle Administration Building located at 545 W. Dayton. Students were asked to create a poster or essay promoting non-violence and their ideas to eliminate violence altogether. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners from each school will be awarded prizes handed out by the Madison Police Department. Wayne the Wizard will provide the pre-ceremony entertainment.

### Saturday, October 25 Replacing Violence with Sports Recreation & Fun

Madison School & Community Recreation (MSCR) teams up with the YWCA to create Swim Against the Tide of Violence. MSCR supports the concept of channeling negative energy into positive achievement. The community is invited to come out and enjoy an afternoon swim with friends and family. There will be free open swim, children's activities and information for families. All ages are welcome to participate. The YWCA will provide free water bottles to the first 100 people at each school who attend.

**East High School Pool, 1–4 PM**  
2222 East Washington Avenue  
**Memorial High School Pool, 6–8 PM**  
201 South Gammon Road

**If you have any questions about these events please feel free to contact the YWCA at 257-1436**



### Sponsor A Halloween Food Drive!

No tricks, just a gigantic countywide food drive open to all organizations. The Dane County Youth Resource Network invites Dane County youth to add a new twist to their Halloween celebration. Trick or

treat for canned goods in your neighborhood or sponsor a food drive at your school, church or business...call Girl Neighborhood Power, 241-1574, ext. 18 for promotional flyers, special trick or treat bags and more ideas!

# World YWCA Council 2003

## 1,000 Women from 100 Countries Creating a Vision, Developing Power and Leading Change

*Brisbane, Australia*

The World YWCA Council 2003 began on July 5 as 1,000 delegates and observers welcomed each other with grand expression of native dress, traditional greeting rituals, and world of music and dance. The opening ceremonies set the tone for recognizing the strength and power in our diversity and provided great inspiration for participants to “Create the vision,” “develop the power,” and “lead the change.” Our own Eileen Mershart, Executive Director of the YWCA of Madison, was in attendance representing the Great Lakes region of the YWCA of the USA.

The intentional involvement of young women was evident, and gaining the advantage of full participation among all attending was achieved by translation services at every session.

The growth of the World YWCA was boosted when, as a part of the opening ceremonies, the YWCAs of American Samoa, Angola, Benin, the democratic Republic of Congo, Georgia and Malawi became affiliated into the World YWCA movement by unanimous vote.

By the end of just the first day, all in attendance had several opportunities, from panel presentations to small multi-cultural group discussion, to learn and share many perspectives that

were considered over the course of the Council for inclusion in plans.

### **Women, Development and Peace in the 21st Century**

Noeleen Heyzer, director of UNIFEM and keynote speaker started her presentation by commenting on her view of the conference room floor, “I see a rainbow of color and a wave of change.” She then spoke of the many contexts affecting today’s YWCA work among individual women and girls and toward lasting social change, and presented strategies to meet current challenges.

Noeleen urged all to push firmly for greater investment in what has traditionally been the women’s view/human-based approach to achieve and sustain secure and safe communities.

Photos at right and facing page show the Opening Ceremonies of the World Council, with delegates from a few of the countries represented.

Bottom photo: Members of the Delegation from the Great Lakes Alliance at the Opening Ceremony, July 5, 2003: Christie Dailey, Evanston YWCA; Eileen Mershart, voting delegate representing the Great Lakes Alliance, YWCA of Madison; Jeni Shoub, YWCA of Kalamazoo, MI; Kathi Horton, Flint, MI; Madeline Gold, YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago; Carla Blinkhorn, YWCA of Grand Rapids, MI; and Audrey Peeples, (voting delegate and chair of the National Coordinating Board of the YWCA of the USA), YWCA of Chicago.



## New Leaders Elected at the World Council meeting, Strategic Plan Adopted

Monica Zetsche of Argentina was elected President of the World YWCA. Monica served as the World Vice President during the past two quadrenniums. In Argentina she is the Chair of the Board of Lopez Castro, SRL, a producer of goods for nutrition, mining, construction, nautical and home product industries. From Monica, "I am an electro-mechanical engineer, and enterprise manager, and a leader formed mainly within the YWCA, which is the best master (as a mentor) I could have ever had." Monica follows Jane Wolfe of the USA as President.

Doris Pagelkopf of the USA was re-elected to the World YWCA Executive Committee for the next quadrennium. Of the Committee's 18 members, an impressive 50% of those elected are young women under 30 years of age.

## 2004–2008 World YWCA Strategic Plan

The 2004–2008 World YWCA Strategic Plan has been adopted, with the recommendation that input and issues identified by World YWCA members (including the USA) developed in World YWCA regional meetings held July 8 be forwarded to the Executive Committee for further consideration and integration into the plan.

### Strategic goals are:

- **To achieve cultural, economic, political, religious and social justice** for all women and girls.
- **To use the collective power of the YWCA movement** to develop and sustain women's leadership and to promote women as decision makers.
- **To increase the effectiveness of the World YWCA** as a global women's movement with an informed and active membership at local, national, and international levels.

## Resolutions/Recommendations Passed by the Council

During the plenary session held July 10, resolutions and recommendations in the following areas were passed:

- **Participation of young women in the World YWCA** – to achieve a level of 25% of participation in all decision-making processes within the structural organizations of the World YWCA at the local, national, regional and world levels. (This commitment is already in the bylaws of the YWCA of the USA)
- **Reproductive Health and Sexuality** – to ensure extensive access to quality education, resources, information, discussion and counseling for women and girls regarding their reproductive health rights and sexuality.
- **Indigenous Women in the World YWCA** – to support efforts of those whose culture is wholly linked with the land and other natural geological sources in the work to redress injustices, especially in regard to land, language and their economic and political situations.
- **Resolutions were also approved covering human rights**, i.e. additional awareness raising efforts and ensuring protection for all

providing increased education, and advocating for the full implementation of the UN resolutions.

- **Relating to the World YWCA structure and Council meetings**, resolutions were passed that involve affiliation requirements and privileges for member YWCAs, setting up a task force to study the current governance structure and voting representation, adding Indigenous pre-council meeting and events, and, to continue the Round-the-World Breakfast program, to be held each World YWCA Day, April 24.

During the Open Forum to Explore Shared Values, Identity and Membership, more than 35 speakers from 30 countries offered their observations, hopes and recommendations in response to the following questions:

- Are we all still part of the same movement sharing a common vision and the same values?
- Is it necessary for the YWCA movement to have a consistent name and logo?
- How can the movement achieve a stronger identity and public visibility while respecting diversity?
- How do we move forward in this work over the next quadrennium?

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**Themes coming out of the comments offered included:**

- **Find a common identity** in the fact that we do similar work even though conditions differ.
- **Highly respect our diversity** and apply it as strength, but also conform to some common guidelines, obligations, and identity
- **Be inclusive of all**, regardless of religion.
- **Keep Christianity** as one of the pillars of our strength.
- The current logo may be too restrictive, but **keep the blue triangle** as at least one part of the logo that everyone shares.
- We must live our purpose – and we must walk our talk for what we show in practice is our identity. ■

Reception at Parliament House, Brisbane Australia: Eileen Mershart; Jane Wolf, outgoing President of the World YWCA who lives in Little Rock; The Minister of Queensland, Australia who hosted the reception for the delegates; Trudy Fuselier, Chair of the Southwest Delta Region of the YWCA.

Eileen Mershart; Monica Zetzschke from Argentina (the newly elected President of the World YWCA), and Jeni Shoub, Executive Director of the YWCA of Kalamazoo, Mich.



## Juneteenth Celebration 2003



Once again, the YWCA had an information booth in the Juneteenth Celebration at Penn Park on Saturday, June 14. Juneteenth is a celebration of heritage, culture and freedom, commemorating the freeing of the last African-American slaves on June 19, 1865, over two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed. Madison's festival offers alcohol-free and drug-free fun, vendors, exhibits, information, entertainment and food. The YWCA is a proud supporter of the event; board member Jackie Hunt (pictured) is on the planning committee.



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# Day of Caring

On Tuesday, Sept. 9, as part of the United Way's Day of Caring community-wide volunteer effort and campaign kick-off, hard-working volunteers gave their time to the YWCA by painting. The volunteers worked so productively, that we added and finished additional projects!

**We were lucky to have wonderful groups volunteering from:  
Gordon Flesch Company • Quarles and Brady • Rosenberry Society  
TDS Telecom • Zimbrick**



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## Soccer Team Chips In

The Madison West Boys Soccer team spent the afternoon at the YWCA cleaning, organizing and painting the food pantry for their annual community service project.



# 2003 Racial Justice Award

## This Year's Racial Justice Award will be Presented to Jonathan Gramling

In keeping with the YWCA's One Imperative, "to eliminate racism wherever it exists," we are proud to continue this annual tradition of honoring "ordinary people doing extraordinary work" in the area of racial justice.

On Monday, October 20, as part of the 2nd Annual YWCA Race Relations Forum, the YWCA will honor Jonathan Gramling and the Breast Cancer

Recovery Foundation with the 2003 Racial Justice Award for their efforts to create a more tolerant and diverse society. Mike McKinney, the 1999 Racial Justice Award winner and NBC15 news anchor, will present the awards.

Jonathan Gramling will be recognized for his unwavering commitment for racial equality as well as his work as editor of the *Madison Times*. Jonathan's work began in 1972 when he joined Project Self-Help and Awareness in addition to volunteering for the United Farm Workers of America. In 1975-77 he was one of only five white students who attended Alcorn University, a historically black university in Lorman, Miss., in an effort to try to feel how it was to be a minority. It was through this experience that Jonathan worked in a number of capacities striving for racial justice including positions with U.S. Congressman Evan Doss, Madison

Urban League and the NAACP. Today, as editor of the *Madison Times*, Jonathan is able to provide a forum where voices from minority communities, not normally entertained by mainstream media, may be printed and read.

Breast Cancer Recovery Foundation will be honored for its program Crossing Cultural Boundaries. The Breast Cancer Recovery Foundation (BCRF) has a mission of aiding women after breast cancer diagnosis with their physical, emotional and spiritual recovery. In 2000, the organization

launched Crossing Cultural Boundaries, a program designed to reach traditionally underserved populations. With African American women twice as likely as white women to die of breast cancer, BCRF programming includes outreach to improve early detection and treatment, accessibility to retreats, prevention education through African American hairstylists, culturally specific services and events featuring women of color role models with breast cancer to promote recovery while dispensing fears of breast cancer. BCRF helps all women understand that they are not alone and continues to actively include women of color in the sisterhood of breast cancer survivors.

The YWCA of Madison has given its Racial Justice Award since 1990. Its purpose is to recognize and honor individuals, corporations, and organizations that work toward the elimination of racism and creation of racial equity. ■

**In 1975-77 Jonathan Gramling was one of only five white students who attended Alcorn University, a historically black university in Lorman, Miss., in an effort to try to feel how it was to be a minority.**

## Unlearning Racism Workshop Offered

This workshop provides a forum for participants to discover conscious and unconscious ways that racism has affected their lives. This powerful program is experientially based and designed to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of differences. Participants explore perceptions and issues concerning race, conflict, and internalized racism. This four-hour workshop includes the viewing of the 90-minute film, *The Color of Fear*. The cost for this workshop is \$20.

**Our upcoming workshop schedule is as follows:**

■ **Monday, Sept. 29: 1-5 PM**  
YWCA of Madison, Vilas Room  
101 E. Mifflin St.

■ **Wed., Oct. 15: 8 AM-Noon**  
Location TBA

■ **Thursday, November 13**  
■ **Tuesday, December 2**  
Times and Locations TBA

**Call for more information:  
608-257-1436 or e-mail at  
jspotts@ywcamadison.org.**

*"The Elimination of Racism Wherever It Exists..." from the mission of the YWCA*

# YWCA Starts New Dialogue on Race

## “It’s Time to Talk” Project Brings People Together

At a breakfast held on August 19 with Madison community leaders and media, the YWCA introduced a new program to be launched in Madison this fall that urges people to talk openly about racism. The **“It’s Time to Talk Forums on Race,”** a local version of a program created nearly six years ago in Seattle, will bring together large and small groups for informal discussions aimed at broadening participants’ understanding of racism and how it’s experienced by people in our community. It will feature large luncheons with nationally known speakers and small dinners in local homes – all focusing on race and the issues surrounding it. Herman McKinney, creator of the “It’s Time to Talk” forums on race was present to introduce the program to attendees.

“It’s a very painful issue for all of us,” said YWCA Executive Director Eileen Merhart. “People are afraid of making a mistake, of saying something that reveals how imperfect we all are.”

The first session will be held on Monday, October 20, at Monona Terrace featuring renowned author, poet and activist Nikki Giovanni. The luncheon will be the second annual race relations forum the YWCA has sponsored. The cost to attend the interactive luncheon is \$65 per person. The registration deadline for the luncheon is Friday, October 10.

“It’s Time to Talk” programming will be offered as dinners in private homes beginning in Spring 2004. Dinners in private homes will provide an opportunity to bring people together who may be friends or acquaintances, see each other at work, in community groups, or civic organizations, and may have never discussed race issues. The YWCA will provide a host pack-

age for interested parties and facilitators for the discussion.

“It’s Time to Talk” will become the second branch of the local YWCA’s Racial Justice Initiative, which also includes intensive Unlearning Racism workshops that ask participants to accept personal responsibility toward eliminating racism. Adding “It’s Time to Talk” to the YWCA’s ongoing racial justice programming is ideal for people who may not be ready for the intensity of a workshop but are ready to start talking about the issue, Merhart said.

Herman McKinney, who heads a division of the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce aimed at reviving the area’s urban communities, created this program after he and a college friend met over lunch in the aftermath of the O.J. Simpson verdict. They realized that, although they had been friends for more than 30 years, they had never discussed racism. The depth of conversation surprised him, and so did the realization that he never discussed race with a close friend or even invited white friends to dinner at his home. If one casual discussion could have such an impact on him, he figured, maybe it could do the same for others. “It’s Time to Talk” grew out of the need to create opportunities for meaningful cross-cultural dialogue about racism.

“I’m really confident we’ll reach all

**Herman McKinney created this program after he and a college friend met over lunch in the aftermath of the O.J. Simpson verdict. They realized that, although they had been friends for more than 30 years, they had never discussed racism.**

spectrums of the community,” said McKinney. “The purpose of the program is to expand racial understanding through personal dialogue with members of other races, realizing that even in the most liberal cities, there’s subtle racism hiding beneath the surface.”

**For more information on the YWCA Racial Justice Initiative or to register for the “It’s Time to Talk” forum on October 20, contact Jessica Spotts at [jspotts@ywcamadison.org](mailto:jspotts@ywcamadison.org) or by phone at 257-1436.**

## Mark Your Calendar!

**The 2nd Annual YWCA Race Relations  
Community Forum & Racial Justice Awards  
“It’s Time to Talk”**

Tuesday, October 21, 2003  
Monona Terrace

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# Second Chance Apartment Project Update

## Madison Faith Communities and the Apartment Association of South Central Wisconsin Partner with Local Non-Profits to Help End Homelessness in Madison

The Second Chance Apartment Project began as a collaboration between the YWCA, Interfaith Hospitality Network, and local faith communities to provide affordable, supportive housing to families leaving homeless shelters. However, a new partner is helping to make this program more accessible to faith communities who are interested in getting involved. The Apartment Association of South Central Wisconsin is recruiting landlords to work with the program, provide discounted rent, and to provide donations to the program to help make Madison's housing affordable to these local congregations.

The Second Chance Apartment Project began about one year ago. In

this program, congregations sponsor a formerly homeless family for up to two years. During that time period, the family works intensively with mentors from their sponsoring congregation and with a case manager. All families in the program are carefully screened to ensure that they are motivated to make positive life changes over the next two years. The goal of the program is to break the cycle of homelessness for a few Madison families by giving them a real "second chance" to succeed.

In the course of one year, we have added five units of affordable housing to the Madison community. Two of the units in the program would not exist without generous donations made through members of the Apartment Association. Likewise, none of the units would exist without the thoughtful work and contributions made by the following congregations: Covenant Presbyterian, First Unitarian Society,

Temple Beth El, and Bethany United Methodist. Special appreciation is also due to current and former board members, Sally Miley and Gloria Green, without whose effort this project would not have been possible! We are currently working with a number of other congregations, and we anticipate have 15 units in operation by the end of 2004.

Homelessness is a community problem. The Second Chance Apartment Project brings together many members of our community from all different backgrounds to provide real solutions to families who have been unable to get ahead. By collaborating and working together, we are able to both raise awareness and achieve long-term results. ■

**For more information, contact Colleen Butler, YWCA Second Chance Coordinator at 257-1436, or e-mail [cbutler@ywcamadison.org](mailto:cbutler@ywcamadison.org).**

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## King's Dream Remembered

On the 40th anniversary of the civil rights March on Washington, Madison children and teens, dressed in red YWCA t-shirts, delivered a powerful rendition of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous "I Have A Dream" speech. Four of the children were from the YWCA homeless shelter.

A number of young people read portions of the emotional speech that galvanized the civil rights movement, ending in one voice on these lines King borrowed from a Negro spiritual: "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

Over 80 people gathered on the Square to "march" to the Madison Municipal Building in front of the Martin Luther King Jr. monument for the program. People wore badges and

carried signs with messages from the original march. The event was organized by the King Coalition, of which the YWCA of Madison is part.

Coalition co-chairman Ken Haynes recalled how King's message in 1963, a plea for a united call for civil rights for black Americans, "resonated throughout the nation with one voice."

Co-chairman Peter Muñoz said King's "powerful words, through the purity of children, represent a manifestation of Dr. King's vision in Madison."

Also performing were the Mt. Zion



Baptist Church Liturgical Dancers and the Call for Peace project Peacemaker "Unimix" dancers. Present at the ceremony were members of the Madison community who participated in the 1963 March on Washington. ■

# GNP at the YWCA

For over three years, the Atwood Community Center's Girl Neighborhood Power project has been running playgroups for our preschool residents of 3rd Street. It has been a fun and rewarding collaboration between two YWCA programs: GNP's middle and high school students and 3rd Street's toddlers and infants.



## YOU complete the Circle of Women™!



The YWCA of Madison is pleased to host its first Circle of Women event, designed to provide participants with the opportunity to learn about and network with women from diverse social, ethnic, economic, educational and cultural backgrounds. Funds raised by guests at the event will support the YWCA of Madison's training, counseling, employment, housing and anti-racism programs, which enrich the lives of Madison and Dane County women and families.

**Mark your calendar!**  
**Thursday, February 19, 2004**  
**Noon to 1:30 p.m.**  
**Alliant Energy Center**

Join us! Be a table captain, and fill a table of 10 with friends, family and colleagues. For more information, please call (608) 257-1436.

**2004 Co-chairs**  
**Amy Schiefelbein, Magic 98**  
**Lynn Sproule, Park Bank**



**anew**

**Magic 98**

## Join Us! YWCA of Madison Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Check Your Membership Support Level:

Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_  \$50  \$100  \$250  \$500

**Membership Support Amount: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed — Please make check payable to YWCA of Madison

Mastercard/VISA Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expires \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*Mail to: YWCA of Madison, 101 East Mifflin Street, Madison, WI 53703. Thank You!*

# TrANS Program – A 2-Way Win

Even with a slow start to the construction season, an uncertain economy and a scaling-back of some road construction projects, a number of TrANS graduates have gotten jobs in road construction. A total of 33 participants graduated from three different sessions of the TrANS program in 2003. The demographics and backgrounds of the graduates reflected the mix of gender and races the program was designed to meet on the job site. Graduates included single parents, grandparents, and young singles; previous work experiences included child care providers, certified nursing assistants, waitresses and bartenders, a school bus driver, OTR truckers, demolition and restoration workers, maintenance personnel and office assistants. Each participant had a desire to change careers and to do physically demanding, outdoor work.

TrANS is a 120-hour training program to give women and minority men the skills needed to get jobs in the road construction industry. After the training, graduates take jobs as laborers or flaggers with road construction contractors. Many of the jobs pay union-scale wages. It's a great way for people with little or no construction experience to be able to break into the traditionally male-dom-

inated industry.

Classes met four evenings per week and all day on Saturdays for five weeks. Participants learn job site safety, rough carpentry and cement-finishing skills, basic surveying, blue print reading, construction math, tool identification and use, rebar cutting and tying, scaffolding assembly, Commercial Drivers License test preparation and construction-site work ethics. In addition, participants are coached on interviewing and helped with their job search.

The program also benefits contractors by providing a pool of trained employees they can draw from to help them meet their diversity goals. In addition, contractors can get a \$5.00 "rebate" for every hour that TrANS graduates work on federally funded road projects. Funding for the program comes from the Wisconsin Department of Labor.

Applications are now being taken for the 2004 construction season. Applicants need to be 18 or older, have their own transportation and a good driving record, and at least sixth-grade reading and math skills. Classes will begin in late January.

**Call the YWCA Employment and Training Annex for an application, 608-255-3098**

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on relationships between black men and black women, family connections, and issues of identity and purpose. Giovanni returned to political concerns in *Those Who Ride the Night Winds* (1983), with dedications to black American heroes and heroines. Her tributes also extended as well to nonblacks, notably John Lennon, Billie Jean King, and Robert Kennedy. In the 1980s and 1990s, Giovanni published two additional books of essays, which revolve around personal and social issues.

The luncheon is scheduled from 11:30 AM–1:30 PM at Monona Terrace, and reservations are due Friday, October 10. Cost is \$65 per person. Please contact Jessica Spotts at 257-1436 or [jspotts@ywcamadison.org](mailto:jspotts@ywcamadison.org) for more information. ■

## **YWCA Board of Directors**

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