

our voice

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

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kathleen kennedy townsend featured at 30th leader luncheon

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the YWCA of Rockford Leader Luncheon. The event serves a dual purpose: a fundraiser for the organization and an opportunity to honor six local individuals and one Bright Future Scholarship recipient for their achievements and contributions to the community. The YWCA of Rockford is very proud to produce an event with such a rich history - thirty years of recognition to more than three hundred amazing local women.

Each year YWCA volunteers and staff work to find a keynote speaker that will inspire this group of hundreds of young professionals. With a speech theme of "Women: Taking Power Seriously", the former Lt. Governor of Maryland, Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, will undoubtedly motivate and inspire the attendees.

Ms. Kennedy Townsend is known as a victim's rights advocate, an author, professor, parent, wife, and is the eldest child of the late U.S. Senator and Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and Ethel Kennedy. (She is also the niece of recently deceased Senator Ted Kennedy and



Eunice Kennedy Shriver, founder of Special Olympics.)

As the first female Lt. Governor of Maryland, Ms. Kennedy Townsend was in charge of a multimillion dollar budget and had oversight of major cabinet departments, including Economic Development and Transportation, State Police, Public Safety and Correction, and Juvenile Justice. Prior to being elected Lt. Governor, Ms. Kennedy Townsend served as Deputy Assistant Attorney General of the United States. In that role, she led the planning to place 100,000

police officers into communities and ignited the Police Corps, a program to provide college scholarships to young people who pledge to work as police officers for four years after graduating.

Many thanks go out to Leader Luncheon event sponsor U.S. Bank, award sponsors ComEd and AMCORE Bank, Leaders in the Workplace sponsors OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center, SwedishAmerican Hospital, and Savant Capital Management. Also, our appreciation is extended to Mentor Sponsor Rockford Park District, Advocate Sponsors Coyle-Varland Insurance Agency, Schmeling Construction, Rockford Bank and Trust, Rock Valley Women's Health Center and all other supporters and friends. Special thanks to media sponsors Rockford Register Star, WREX TV and Cumulus Broadcasting.

We invite you to hear Ms. Kennedy Townsend speak at this special event. Online registration is available through February 19, 2010 at www.ywca.org/rockford. The event does sell out quickly, so please reserve now to guarantee your spot. If you have questions regarding registration or the event, please call 815.316.6126.

“where do we go from here” to continue dialogues on race issues

from the president



Where do we go from here? This is the question that came up most often at the end of the National Conversation on Race event held October 30, 2009. How do we continue the efforts to have effective dialogue on race issues and help our community? We were heartened to hear the desire you had to help make change happen.

At the YWCA of Rockford, we continue to challenge ourselves with what will be the most effective efforts to sustain the momentum. We believe it is important for you to know that we take this challenge seriously, and want you to hear about what we are doing to focus our efforts.

Recently we worked with Rockford College to engage students in its graduate studies program to conduct a study in our area. This study, Perceptions of Race, will give us the baseline we need to measure and compare to future assessments.

Key staff at the YWCA of Rockford have been credentialed to provide training, and begun to offer extensive sessions with several important community organizations. There are efforts underway to increase the number of trainers, so that many more can have the opportunity to learn and grow. In fact, Lee Mun Wah is scheduled to return to Rockford in May to train a select group to assist with facilitation.

We think it is important to start the conversation early. The YWCA of Rockford recently received a grant from Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Illinois for its “What’s Wrong With Different?” racial justice project. It is an interactive program for children in early elementary school; designed to impact a child’s perception on race and cultural differences.

Our racial justice committee is working to produce a series of public service announcements. These are intended to broaden the awareness in the community about racial issues, and hopefully will create opportunities for positive dialogue.

As excited as we are about the possibilities these programs bring to make true change, we know that it still comes back to us as individuals. So on behalf of the YWCA of Rockford and its board of directors, I ask you to consider not only where do we go from

here, but also where do I go from here? How do I help make change where I can?

There were several poignant comments from the Rockford Register Star’s editorial staff regarding their reflections from the National Conversation on Race. They included statements like “I must put myself in others’ shoes, and stand up for those who don’t have a voice” (Tom Lasley, general manager), and “Now is the time to reach out” (Doug Gass, managing editor). Never underestimate the power you have to influence others and create change. To help keep informed, there are future sessions that will be provided by the YWCA. Please watch for these on our website or become a Facebook fan of the YWCA of Rockford for notices.

Sincerely,

Karen Brown
President
YWCA Board of Directors

facebook!

Millions of people use Facebook every day—YWCA Rockford is there too. It’s another opportunity for us to have a voice. You can get more updates from us or share what we are all about with your friends, find us at: www.facebook.com/YWCARockford

ywca presents awards for volunteerism at the 119th annual meeting

Each year at its Annual Membership Meeting, the YWCA of Rockford presents its board-selected awards for members, volunteers and friends of the Association.

The Star Award is presented to exceptional volunteers or friends of the YWCA of Rockford; recipients are nominated by the YWCA Board of Directors.

The YWCA was pleased to award the 2009 Star Award to a current member of the board of directors who has been a member of the Executive Committee for the last three years. Rebecca Kopf has provided leadership and professional expertise to the Leader Luncheon for three straight years in the co-chair capacity, assisting the YWCA in raising nearly \$80,000. Many thanks to Rebecca for her commitment to the YWCA and her support in helping further the mission!

The 2009 Anna Ohalla Angel Award created by the 2005 Executive Committee and endorsed by the Board of Directors. The intent is that this annual award be selected by the



Rebecca Kopf (l) the 2009 Star Award recipient at the 119th Annual Membership Meeting, and Lynn Acker (r) the 2009 Anna Ohalla Angel Award winner.



sitting Executive Committee and bestowed on a friend of the YWCA who has gone above and beyond in furthering the mission of eliminating racism and empowering women; someone who personifies an Angel of the YWCA. Time, financial support, advocacy, and dedication to the mission are considering factors.

The 2009 recipient is Mr. Lynn Acker, who has been affiliated and volunteering with the YWCA for the past two years. Lynn is contracted to provide computer instruction to adult students taking Microsoft classes in the Puri Family Computer Lab. However, his interaction with the students

and the YWCA does not stop where his contract does. He goes above and beyond expectations by regularly spending hours of his time on off days and before and after classes making sure that students receive everything they need to be successful and that the lab computers are current and ready to go. He tutors those who come into

the lab to do homework or to just practice, encouraging and supporting their efforts. He is a cheerleader to each person using the lab, praising their work and pushing them to further their knowledge and demonstrate their expertise with Office Certification, all in an effort to help them gain valuable work-skills, thereby increasing their earning potential and promoting economic self sufficiency for all. Lynn Acker is a true friend to the YWCA and the community we serve.

If you are interested in volunteering your time and talent to the YWCA, please contact the office at 815.968.9681.

**ywca leader
luncheon 30:
women of achievement**

monday, march 1, 2010
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Giovanni's Restaurant &
Convention Center

**reservation
form**

february 19, 2010 deadline

We invite you to attend the 30th anniversary of leader luncheon, honoring women of achievement. This year we feature keynote speaker Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, first female Lt. Governor of Maryland and the daughter of Sen. Robert Kennedy.

This event sells out quickly! Please reserve early—reservation deadline is February 19, 2010. Shuttle buses will be available to & from Lowe's parking lot and Giovanni's.

Register online at www.ywca.org/rockford or mail completed form and payment to YWCA, Attn: Leader Luncheon Reservations, 4990 E. State St., Rockford, IL 61108.

If mailing your registration, please complete this form to reserve your seat and/or table. List the name of each individual attending and their meal choice. Please note special requirements on the box below.

Questions? Call 815.316.6126 or email info@ywca-rockford.org.

Name of Company/Individual making reservation:	Contact person name:
Address, City, State, Zip:	
Phone:	Contact person email address:
Special requirements. (eg., gluten-free meal, wheel-chair access.) Include name of person with request:	

Attendee Name	Meal Choice	
1. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Stuffed Pork	<input type="checkbox"/> Grilled Polenta w/Vegetables
2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Stuffed Pork	<input type="checkbox"/> Grilled Polenta w/Vegetables
3. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Stuffed Pork	<input type="checkbox"/> Grilled Polenta w/Vegetables
4. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Stuffed Pork	<input type="checkbox"/> Grilled Polenta w/Vegetables
5. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Stuffed Pork	<input type="checkbox"/> Grilled Polenta w/Vegetables
6. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Stuffed Pork	<input type="checkbox"/> Grilled Polenta w/Vegetables
7. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Stuffed Pork	<input type="checkbox"/> Grilled Polenta w/Vegetables
8. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Stuffed Pork	<input type="checkbox"/> Grilled Polenta w/Vegetables
9. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Stuffed Pork	<input type="checkbox"/> Grilled Polenta w/Vegetables
10. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Stuffed Pork	<input type="checkbox"/> Grilled Polenta w/Vegetables

_____ # at YWCA Member Rate/\$45 _____ # at Non-member Rate/\$50 Additional Gift Enclosed: \$ _____
Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Payment Method (circle one): Check Enclosed Visa MasterCard

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____

Company P.O. attached: # _____

If reserving for a group of individuals, please mail all checks together.
No telephone reservations will be accepted.

INTERNAL USE ONLY Table Assignment: _____
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eliminating racism empowering women **ywca**

ywca board of directors officers:

President: Karen Brown
Vice President: Rebecca Kopf
Treasurer: Amy Ott
Secretary: Paulina Sihakom

board:

Teddy Phillips
Susan Brazas
Darcy Bucholz
Judy Dempsey
Cheryl Floyd
Mary Ginther
Jessica L. Jones
Martha Logemann
Lori Lyons
Dawna Menke
Sidra Moses
Carol Ring
Deniese Senter
Phyllis Severin
Tamika Walker

staff:

Chief Executive Officer: Kris L. Kieper
Chief Financial Officer: Bev Giloy
Vice President of Child Care Solutions:
Crystal Scarborough
Coordinator, Fund Development &
Marketing: Nancy Baldwin

mission statement

The YWCA of Rockford is committed to the elimination of racism and the empowerment of women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

about membership

YWCA membership is all about women supporting women. It is an expression of support for the goals and work of the organization. Members of the YWCA of Rockford support the programs (such as Child Care Solutions and Single Parent Support Center) and events (such as the annual Leader Luncheon) of one of the oldest, continuously operated nonprofit organizations in the Rock River Valley. Please consider renewing your existing membership, joining as a new member, pledging a gift, or volunteering your service to the YWCA of Rockford.

ywca welcomes three new board members



Newly inducted Board Members (l-r) Tamika Walker, Sidra Moses and Deniese Senter.

The YWCA was pleased to induct three new board members at the 119th Annual Membership Meeting. The new members are:

Sidra Moses, who has experience as a volunteer in teaching conflict resolution skills to children in faith based settings. She also has volunteer experience with Rescue Release and Restore, a group that targets at risk youth and provides them with workshops teaching conflict resolution, personal development communication skills, etc. Sidra said she wanted to join the YWCA Board to “assist in breaking down misconceptions related to different cultures as well as assist in bridging the gap between races, classes, and sexism.”

Tamika Walker is an Assistant Public Defender for the Winnebago County Office of the Public Defender and is on the board of directors for Careers

Etc., president of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority and is a member of New Zion Baptist Church. Tamika feels Rockford is a community where advocacy is needed to move forward and progress towards the elimination of racism and the empowerment of women.

Deniese Senter is the founder of Dinah International Ministries and has a passion for helping hurting women and teens. She says that she “appreciates the fact that the YWCA is working hard to bridge the gap both racially and economically.”

In addition to the new members of the board, four members were reelected to an additional three year term: Karen Brown, Paulina Sihakom, Amy Ott, and Jessica Jones.

We appreciate the time and commitment shown by our board of directors and look forward to a successful 2010!

YWCA of Rockford

at the *PURI Women's Resource Center*
4990 East State Street
Rockford, IL 61108

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www.ywca.org/rockford

Membership Application

Date: _____ New Member ____ Renewal ____

This membership is for (circle one): Myself Gift

___ Membership gift in memory of:

Name of Honoree: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Choose your membership category: **eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca**

___ \$ 40 Supporting Member

___ \$100 Anna Ohalla Supporting Member

___ \$500 YWCA Life Member (may be pledged over 3 years)

Make checks payable to: YWCA of Rockford
4990 E. State Street, Rockford, IL 61008

Credit Card: ___ Visa ___ Mastercard

Card #: _____

Signature: _____

Matching gift: If your company participates in the matching gift program, please enclose your company gift form.

**ywca's nicholas conference center
ideal for daytime or evening rental**

Did you know that the YWCA's beautiful Nicholas Conference Center, built in 2000, is available for your daytime or evening business or social gatherings? It's not only the ideal site for weddings, showers and family reunions, but also for business conferences, seminars, training sessions, you name it!

Conveniently located near I-90 on the entrance road to Rockford College, the center boasts comfortable seating and tables for 108 or theater-style seating for 120, a catering kitchen, high speed wireless internet, A/V equipment, ample parking, and stunning views of the college campus and woods. It's one of the most affordable rental opportunities in Rockford, and best of all, your rental helps support the YWCA's programs for women and families right here in our community! For more information or to arrange a tour, please contact the Office Manager at 815.968.9681 x301.

