

The Tennessee Human Rights Commission
Metro Human Relations Commission
United Nations Association—USA Nashville Cordell Hull Chapter

With Partner Organizations

Present...



**INTERNATIONAL
HUMAN RIGHTS
DAY 2013**

Celebrating the 65th Anniversary of the
Universal Declaration of Human Rights
December 10, 2013
Howard Office Building

International Human Rights Day



On October 24, 1945, in the aftermath of World War II, the United Nations came into being as an intergovernmental organization, with the purpose of saving future generations from the devastation of international conflict.

United Nations representatives from all regions of the world formally adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 1948.

The Declaration was drafted by representatives of all regions of the world and encompassed all legal traditions. It is the most universal human rights document in existence, delineating the thirty fundamental rights that form the basis for a democratic society.

Following this historic act, the Assembly called upon all Member Countries to publicize the text of the Declaration and “to cause it to be disseminated, displayed, read and expounded principally in schools and other educational institutions, without distinction based on the political status of countries or territories.”

Today, the Declaration is a living document that has been accepted as a contract between a government and its people throughout the world. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, it is the most translated document in the world.

In Tennessee, the Human Rights Day celebration has become a time to reflect and look to the future. During the event, we will honor those who have given a lifetime of service to making human rights a reality as well as those who are picking up the torch and carrying it forward.

Program Agenda

Musical Selection—Joie Scott-Poster,
singing *History Repeats It's Pages*

Master of Ceremonies—Beverly Watts,
Executive Director, Tennessee Human Rights Commission

Opening Remarks—Tom Negri,
Interim Executive Director, Metro Human Relations Commission

Gubernatorial Proclamation presented by Stacey Garrett,
Chair, Tennessee Human Rights Commission

Metro Human Relations Commission Proclamation presented by
Mayor's Youth Council

Introduction to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights—
Mary Pat Silveira, Board Member,
United Nations Association Nashville Cordell-Hull Chapter

2013 Rising Human Rights Advocate Awardees

Stephanie Teatro
Gatluak Thach

Musical Selection—Desiree Grenier-Bertini

Panel Discussion—Human Rights Issues Today

Moderator: Dr. Oscar Miller, Tennessee State University
Panelists: Dr. Forrest Harris, American Baptist College
Tasha French Lemley, The Contributor
Pat Shea, YWCA of Middle Tennessee

2013 Human Rights Lifetime Achievement Awardees

Carrie Gentry
Elliott Ozment
Rev. James "Tex" Thomas

Closing Remarks—Beverly Watts, Executive Director,
Tennessee Human Rights Commission

Unity Prayer—Rev. Brian Fesler, Pastor, Church of Scientology

Musical Selection—Joie Scott-Poster, singing *The Other Side*

Master of Ceremonies Ms. Beverly Watts



Nashville native Beverly Watts was appointed the Executive Director of the Tennessee Human Rights Commission in July 2007. Prior to her current appointment, she has served as Special Advisor to the Chair at the U S Equal Employment Opportunity Commission responsible for state and local relations. She has more than 25 years of civil rights enforcement and education experience in the public and private sector.

Beverly is the recipient of numerous awards including the July 2005 Induction to the Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame. She is the recipient of the 2005 Louisville Metro MLK Freedom Award; 2003 Women Leading Kentucky Martha Layne Collins Leadership Award and the 2003 EEOC/FEPA Award for Innovative Outreach, to name a few.

Introduction to the Universal Declaration Ms. Mary Pat Silveira



Mary Pat Silveira retired in 2006 from a 30-year career with the United Nations. She began in the Center for Science and Technology for Development, then moved to Mozambique to coordinate the emergency response in the mid-80s. Mary Pat returned to New York to work in the Division for Sustainable Development, then moved to Kosovo in 1999 as acting Administrator for Mitrovica.

From there she went on to the UN Regional Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva. Her next move was to Nashville, Tennessee, where she served as President of the Cordell-Hull Chapter of the United Nations Association. Her term ended in 2012, but she remains a Board Member of the organization as well as an International Consultant.

Panel ~ Human Rights Issues Today



Panel Moderator ~ Dr. Oscar Miller has over nineteen years of experience in teaching subjects regarding race and ethnic relations. His research has addressed voter rights, disproportionate minority confinement, workplace culture and the effectiveness of government programs and organizations.



Dr. Forrest Harris became President of American Baptist College in 1999. Since that time, Dr. Harris has spearheaded transformative changes in the academic programs of the institution.



Tasha French Lemley is Founding Executive Director of The Contributor Newspaper. She currently serves as president on the board of directors of the North American Street Newspaper Association and is a new member of the Metro Human Relations Commission.



Patricia Glaser Shea is President & CEO of the YWCA of Nashville & Middle Tennessee. Ms. Shea has more than thirty years of experience in for-profit and nonprofit healthcare and human services organizations.

Musical Performers



Joie Scott-Poster is a number one international hit songwriter and a fabulous singer. Her songwriting credits include: *Not That Different* by Collin Raye, *I Wanna Be Rich* by Lucie Diamond and *Shoes* by Shania Twain.



Desiree Grenier-Bertini has been singing from an early age. She has performed with artists such as James Brown and Stacy Francis, and in 2002 appeared on *American Idol*. In 2005, she devoted her life to helping others by working with the Church of Scientology. Today she uses her musical talent to inspire and uplift the soul at church services and community events.

The Human Rights Awards

The Human Rights Advocate Award for Lifetime Achievement is given to individuals who have dedicated their life and career to the advancement of human rights. These people have made significant contributions to human rights in Tennessee, and recipients are recognized annually at the Tennessee celebration of International Human Rights Day. Introduced in 2011, the Rising Advocate Award is bestowed upon individuals early in their career who have already demonstrated a dedication and contribution to human rights. Past recipients of these prestigious awards can be found on the website www.nashvillehumanrights.org.

Rising Advocate Awardee ~ Stephanie Teatro



Stephanie Teatro joined the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC) in 2012 as the Policy and Civic Engagement Coordinator and became the Director of Advocacy in January of 2013. Prior to joining TIRRC, Stephanie was a union organizer where she helped public employees in Alaska, Florida, and Wisconsin. She spent two years working in solidarity with the people's movements in Northeast Thailand. Stephanie was also active in Jobs with Justice, the Washington Immigrant Rights Action Coalition, and El Comite Pro-Reforma Migratoria y Justicia Social.

Rising Advocate Awardee ~ Gatluak Ter Thach



Gatluak "Gat" Ter Thach is the founder, current president and CEO of the Nashville International Center for Empowerment (NICE). NICE is a nonprofit community-based organization that provides direct social services and educational programs for refugees and immigrants in Middle Tennessee. In addition to his role at NICE, Gat also serves on the board of directors for the Sudanese Human Rights Organization and Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition. Gat came to America, and to Nashville as a refugee from South Sudan in the late 1990s.

Lifetime Achievement Awardees



Ms. Carrie Gentry

Ms. Carrie Gentry was born in Sparta, Georgia and moved to Nashville in 1949. When the civil rights movement came to Nashville, she and her husband drove students from TSU to the sit-in protests in Nashville and they used their money to bail out student protestors who were arrested. She is active in the community with the Alive Hospice Ethics Committee and First Baptist Church Capitol Hill. She is also a Golden Life Member of the NAACP. Mrs. Gentry has been inducted into the TSU Hall of Fame and is the recipient of the Unsung Heroine Award, among others.



Mr. Elliott Ozment

Mr. Elliott Ozment is the Founder and Managing Attorney at Ozment Law. He served as a Legal Advisor to the Mexican Consulate in Atlanta, Georgia for immigration, civil rights, and civil matters arising in Tennessee. Mr. Ozment has been the Chair of the Immigration Law Committee of the Nashville Bar Association and is the legal counsel for the Nashville Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Ozment was recently recognized by the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild for his outstanding contributions to the field of immigrants' rights.



Rev. James "Tex" Thomas

The Rev. James "Tex" Thomas, pastor of Jefferson Street Missionary Baptist Church, is often referred to as the "Mayor of Jefferson Street" for his work on issues that affect North Nashville. Rev. Thomas came to Nashville in 1964 as a student at American Baptist Theological Seminary. While a student, he was active in marches and protests to end racial segregation.

Acknowledgements

Event Chair

Rev. Brian Fesler, *Church of Scientology*

Planning Committee Members

Susannah Berry, *Tennessee Human Rights Commission*

Julie Brinker, *Church of Scientology*

Mark Eatherly, *Metro Human Relations Commission*

Michael Goff, *United Nations Association, Nashville Cordell Hull Chapter*

Tom Negri, *Metro Human Relations Commission*

Brittany Paschall, *Mayor's Youth Council*

Beverly Watts, *Tennessee Human Rights Commission*

Hosting Venue

Howard Office Building

A/V Support

Brandon Gleason, *Church of Scientology*

Mayor's Youth Council

Thank you very much to the Mayor's Youth Council for participating in the event planning as well as during the program.

Student Artwork

Special acknowledgement is made to Art Instructor Ms. Jerri Simon (McGavock High School) for helping her students learn about human rights by submitting artwork for Human Rights Day.

Next Year

If your organization would like to participate in the planning for 2014, please contact the Chair at info@nashvillehumanrights.org.

More Information

Visit www.nashvillehumanrights.org, join our mailing list and see:

- The full Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Information about Human Rights Day
- Educational videos
- A resource **directory** of Tennessee human rights organizations
- A pdf version of this program
- **Links** to the organizations who exhibited this year
- Information about past events and award recipients
- And **much more!**