

MAP NEWSLETTER

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To Take Off My Rosy Lens

Written by Alysha Chadderdon



My recent participation in the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce's FACING RACISM, a two-day training session, was intended to be a "refresher" course for me because I had participated in the 10-week, Institute for Healing Racism series several years earlier. What I did not foresee was how much I needed to go through this program again. The implications of the training were much deeper than I ever anticipated they would be. Race is a reality that impacts me whether I realize it or not. In addition, the responsibility that I have to be aware of this and confront the injustices, particularly as a white person, is a continued revelation that was deeply imbedded in me and continues to sink its way deeper into my soul.

Taking this training gave me the opportunity to pause with other members of the community. It was a catalyst for me to take off the rosy lens of oblivious privilege, daring me to truly and honestly examine my life and work and the consequences of my ignorance and inaction. The suggestions are staggering; this is scary territory. But I haven't felt this alive and this honest for a long time. This is hard work, but who ever said the truth was easy to face?

I recommend this training for every single staff person, faculty member, administrator, student, alumni, and board member, regardless of their race or experience, position or degree. To sacrifice a few days, a few hours, and a few dollars for this training is a very small price to pay for this investment in your life and work.

2008 Institute for Healing Racism

The Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce is currently seeking hosts and participants for the 2008 Institute for Healing Racism series and the FACING RACISM sessions. To learn more about the program and to view the schedule, visit <http://www.grandrapids.org/diversity/ihr/>.



Member Spotlight



[Grand Rapids Ballet Company](#)

We asked some of our MAP members to share their favorite holiday activities or events and this is what they had to say...

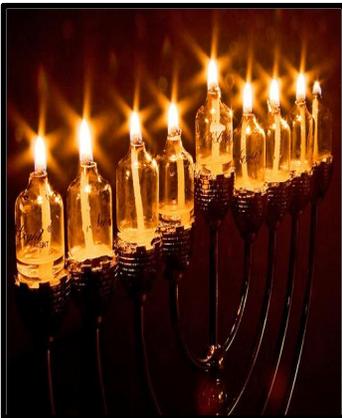
“I love to host holiday parties at my home. And I also enjoy taking my children to see the holiday production of the Nutcracker in Grand Rapids.” - Shontea Jenkins, Howmet Corporation

“Besides preparing our house for family to visit, it would be philanthropy. Being able to give time or whatever is needed to assist someone in need.” - Bob Cooper, S.C.O.R.E.

***Interested in helping those in need this holiday season? If so, here are some organizations you can contact: [The Well House](#), [Mel Trotter Ministries](#), [Goodwill Industries](#) and [Degage Ministries](#),**

Diversity Factoids

December is a great time of year to celebrate diverse cultures. Here are some winter holidays that are celebrated around the world.



- ❖ **Hanukkah** begins on December 4 at sundown. It last for eight days and nights. This holiday celebrates the triumphs—both religious and military—of ancient Jewish heroes.
- ❖ **Bodhi Day** is traditionally celebrated on December 8. This holiday commemorates the day that the historical Buddha, Shakyamuni or Siddhartha Gotama, experienced enlightenment.
- ❖ **Las Posadas** is a traditional Mexican celebration that takes place every evening from December 16 to 24. This celebration commemorates Mary and Joseph's cold and difficult journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of shelter.
- ❖ **Eid al-Adha** is the most important feast of the Muslim calendar. Eid al-Adha celebrates the completion of the *hajj* (pilgrimage) rites at Mina, Saudi Arabia, but is celebrated by Muslims throughout the world. Eid Al-Adha begins on the 10th of Dhu'l-Hijja, the last month of the Islamic calendar, and lasts for three days.

- ❖ **Christmas** is celebrated on December 25 by Christians around the world, as well as by non-Christians. It is a time of year when people celebrate the birth of Jesus, exchange gifts and decorate trees.
- ❖ **Kwanzaa** is celebrated from December 26 to January 1. This African-American and Pan-African holiday is celebrated by millions. Kwanzaa consists of seven days of celebration, featuring activities such as candle lighting, pouring of libations, and gift giving.



MAP Council Member Application Deadline has been Extended!

Those interested in serving as a MAP Council member must submit their applications by the extended deadline of December 11. Applications are available [online](#).

Job Posting

Social Workers, [Catholic Charities West](#)

Social Workers with diverse faiths, cultural sensitivity and/or Spanish-speaking are encouraged to apply: barbarap@cssgr.org or Barbara P., Catholic Charities West Michigan-HR, 40 Jefferson, SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

Kick Off the 2008 Year with a MAP Mixer



Join us for a evening of fun and camaraderie at the January 8th MAP social mixer. Get a sneak preview of the exciting programs and events happening in 2008. Visit the [MAP](#) website for location details and remember to invite your friends!

Upcoming Grand Rapids Chamber Events



Here's what's happening this month at the Chamber:

An Evening with the House & Senate Committee Chairs

The *Friends of West Michigan Business*, the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce Political Action Committee (PAC), will be hosting the biennial fundraiser, "An Evening with Michigan House and Senate Committee Chairs." The event will be held on December 3rd at Eve on the 4th Floor of The B.O.B. and will consist of a Reception from 6:00 until 7:30 p.m.

Chairpersons from both the House and Senate Standing Committees and Appropriation Subcommittees, are expected to attend, creating a unique forum for West Michigan businesses, non-profits, educational institutions, and governmental agencies to build relationships, voice concerns, and get to know key decision makers.

Don't miss this opportunity to network with legislative leaders from throughout Michigan. Our event is expected to be one of the largest and most publicized ever, with over 200 business, community, and governmental leaders attending. Find out [more](#).

Business After Hours at the New GRAM

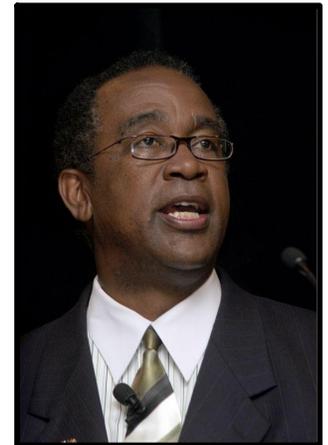
MAP members are invited to attend the Chamber's Business After Hours on December 17 at the Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM). The GRAM and the Grand Rapids Symphony will be co-hosting this event.

You will get a chance to mingle with elected officials and other Chamber members, tour the museum and hear the Symphony musicians perform.

Register as a MAP member and it will be displayed on your nametag. Find out [more](#).

Diversity Training – Craig Clayton Creating Your Diversity Management Plan

Craig Clayton, Founder and Chairperson of the Spartacus Group, is making a return appearance to Grand Rapids to assist Chamber members in developing a diversity management plan. Clayton was the keynote speaker at the Grand Rapids Chamber's Diversity Visionary Award dinner held this past March. This half-day workshop will provide attendees with tools to develop a customized diversity ROI model for their organization and present a business case for diversity management to executives.



Join us on Wednesday, December 19 at 8:00 am at the Amway Grand Plaza hotel. For additional information, please contact Meshia Williams at 616.771.0306. Find out [more](#).

Community Happenings

Check out what's happening this month in Grand Rapids:

Six Annual: Three Fires Native Art Show

Enjoy Native American food, painting beadwork, pottery, silver jewelry, a free raffle, silent auction and more! This fun event will be held on December 1 from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm at the Burnips Township Hall located on the corner of 142nd avenue and A-37 (30th street).



Christmas and Holiday Traditions Around the World

Experience Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park at one of its most magical times of the year by enjoying the wonderful Christmas & Holiday Traditions exhibit. This exhibit displays over 40 international trees and celebrates the many different cultures and customs from around the world. More than 300,000 lights will be featured in both indoor and outdoor displays. Find out [more](#).

Holiday Hop Shopping Event on Wealthy and Cherry Streets.

Come join Cherry Street and Wealthy Street on December 6 from 4:00 until 10:00 pm as they celebrate the holidays! Shops will be filled with the sounds of holiday carolers and the smells of holiday treats. Enjoy trolley rides, prizes and more.

All Souls Community Church 4th Annual Silent Auction

Experience an evening of great food and fun at the All Souls Community Church 4th Annual Silent Auction. This exciting event will be held on Thursday, December 6 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at San Chez Third Floor Bistro to benefit the Grand Rapids Chamber's Institute for Healing Racism program. There will be more than 100 silent auction items. Find out [more](#).

Festival of the Lights

Festival of Lights at Calvary Church is a musical drama that surrounds you with over 200,000 lights. This outstanding production will bring you into the spirit of the season with a 150-voice choir, 50-piece orchestra, and an amazingly talented cast. Find out [more](#).



Would you like to view additional events or publicize your event? Visit the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce [online](#) Community Calendar.

This service is FREE, so it's a great way to get the word out to the business community, as well as the community at large.



Tell Us What You Think!

This summer MAP held focus groups to help determine what services are most desired and needed to help retain and support professionals in the Grand Rapids community. Thank you to everyone that has contributed!

However, additional information is needed. A survey will be emailed to you, please take 10-minutes to participate in this on-line survey. Results will be shared in the first quarter of 2008. Your participation will help ensure that MAP's services and events are on-target and are appealing to a large group of people.

Join MAP

Are you interested in joining the Multiracial Association of Professionals (MAP)? Don't wait any longer, join MAP today! [Register online](#) or contact Latricia Trice at 616.771.0332 or trichel@grandrapids.org.

Click [here](#) for additional information about the MAP program.