

Cambridge Human Rights Commission
51 Inman Street, 2nd floor
Cambridge, MA 02139
(617) 349-4396

2014 FAIR HOUSING MONTH WINNING POSTERS



First Prize
by Mekinsa Frith
Cambridge St. School



Second Prize
by Anahid Johnson
Amigos School



The Cambridge Human Rights Commission is a city law enforcement agency that investigates complaints of discrimination that occur in Cambridge – in housing, employment, education and public accommodations. Federal, State and local laws prohibit discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, gender, physical and mental status, disability, sexual orientation, religion, age, family status, military status, and source of income. If you feel like you have been discriminated against, we are here to help. Our offices are open Mondays 8:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., Tuesdays-Thursdays 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Fridays 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and our telephone number is 617-349-4396

Hablamos Español

The Cambridge Human Rights Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability. The CHRC will provide auxiliary aids and services, written materials in alternative formats, and reasonable modification in policies and procedures to persons with disabilities upon request. Our office is wheelchair accessible.

Newsletter Editor: Carmen S. Negrón



This newsletter made possible with grant funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

CAMBRIDGE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



DATELINE

Newsletter of the Cambridge Human Rights Commission



SUMMER 2014



Contents

From the desk of the Executive Director.....1

That's a First: A HUD Black History Fact....2

21st Annual Fair Housing Month Awards.....3

2014 Fair Housing Month Contest and Innovations in Fair Housing Award Winners.....4-5

Contact the Cambridge Human Rights Commission if you have been a victim of discrimination.....6

Meet Our New Commissioners.....7

2014 Winning Fair Housing Posters.....8



From the desk of the
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NANCY B. SCHLACTER



I would like to welcome five new Commissioners, who bring a wealth of experience in human rights work and great energy to the work of the Cambridge Human Rights Commission (CHRC). Commissioners and staff participated in Mediation Training and the Commissioners have assisted with outreach presentations about discrimination and the services of the CHRC to new immigrants and English language learners at the Community Learning Center. CHRC partnered with the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) in presenting a seminar on HUD's LGBT Equal Access Rule, which took place during April as part of Fair Housing Month. For a link to the seminar: <http://webcast.mit.edu/i/institute/2013-2014/cambridge/index.html>



Cambridge City Council

David P. Maher, *Mayor*
 Dennis A. Benzan, *Vice Mayor*
 Dennis J. Carlone
 Leland Cheung
 Craig Kelley
 Nadem A. Mazen
 Marc C. McGovern
 E. Denise Simmons
 Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.

City Executive Administrators

Richard C. Rossi, *City Manager*
 Lisa C. Peterson, *Deputy City Manager*

CHRC Staff

Nancy B. Schlacter
Executive Director
 Mariah Freark
Attorney Investigator
 Carmen S. Negrón
Office Manager/ Project Coordinator

CHRC Board of Commissioners

Bonita Cox, *Chair*
 Chanta Bhan
 Mercedes M. Evans
 Melissa Gonzalez-Brenes
 Kerry R. Gough
 Nicholas G. Leydon
 Kim T. Nghiem
 Harry Reyes Nieva
 Sabrina Selk
 Randa Shedid

February 4, 2014

That's a First: A HUD Black History Fact

Written by: *Shantae Goodloe*



Did you know that Robert Weaver, the first Secretary of HUD, was also sworn in as the first African-American to hold a cabinet-level position?

In fact, Weaver set the tone for HUD's work today and is known for a series of firsts: working toward passage of the 1961 low-income rental housing program, the first piece of legislation passed by President John F. Kennedy's administration; championing the 1968 Fair Housing laws to end discrimination; and connecting housing to jobs in what we now call sustainable communities.

As a result, HUD continues to ensure that people live in inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination. The Fair Housing Act, the law that makes it illegal to discriminate in the sale or rental of housing based on race/color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status and disability, was signed on April 11, 1968, days after Dr. King's assassination. And it was only the beginning of our work.

Today, HUD's Office of Fair Housing and its Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP) partner agencies receive over 9,000 complaints alleging some form of housing discrimination. HUD continues to investigate individual acts of housing discrimination, and to obtain appropriate relief for its victims. The Department has also increased its efforts to create strong, sustainable communities by connecting housing to jobs, fostering economic development, and helping to build a clean energy economy.

HUD recognizes that the work it does today has an incredible impact on the future of our nation and applauds Secretary Weaver for laying the foundation.

Shantae Goodloe is a Public Affairs Officer in HUD's Office of Public Affairs.

This information was adapted from the HUD News Release dated February, 2014. If you need further information you may contact Shantae Goodloe at 202-708-0685 or CHRC at 617-349-4396.



MEET OUR NEW COMMISSIONERS



Kerry R. Gough has been a resident of Cambridge since 2007. She holds a Masters degree in Counseling Psychology and works within the Cambridge and Somerville communities as an In-Home Therapist helping serve families with a variety of bio-psycho-social needs. Prior to her counseling career, Kerry worked as a business systems analyst for Harvard University's financial and human resources enterprise systems.



Nicholas Leydon, MPH, MBA is a fourth-generation Cantabrigian who now calls Cambridgeport home. As a healthcare consultant, Mr. Leydon directs federal, state and international healthcare implementation projects to improve care for populations. Prior to this work, Nicholas served as National Field Coordinator for Physicians for Human Rights, formerly based in Cambridge. In addition, Nicholas is a lecturer at Northeastern University and founder of The Next 26, a Boston-based organization dedicated to the survivors and first responders of the 2013 Marathon. Mr. Leydon is a graduate of Boston College (BA) and Boston University (MPH and MBA).



Kim T. Nghiem, PsyD, a child refugee from the Vietnam War, hails from Rochester, NY and has been a resident of Cambridge since 2004. Kim is Director of the Asian Mental Health Program at Cambridge Health Alliance, a Harvard Medical School Teaching Affiliate facility. She has a small private practice in Harvard Square. The diversity of residents and range of live music opportunities are what Kim loves most about living in Cambridge.



Harry Reyes Nieva, a 4+ year resident of Cambridge, is a Postgraduate Research Fellow at Harvard Medical School (HMS) and Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH), where he also currently serves as a Research Manager in the BWH Division of General Internal Medicine and Primary Care. Harry Reyes Nieva received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and History from Yale University and completed graduate coursework at the Harvard School of Public Health.



Sabrina Selk, a 7 year resident of Cambridge, holds both Masters and Doctorate degrees from the Harvard School of Public Health and works at Dana Farber. Dr. Selk has worked on a range of public health research studies, including recent work related to child abuse, PTSD and reproductive outcomes. Earlier work involved community-based needs assessments in Boston-Lowell-Worcester, with regard to unmet needs for health resources.

2014 FAIR HOUSING MONTH TOP POSTER CONTEST WINNERS



First Prize Poster
Mekinsa Frith
Cambridge St. Upper School



Second Prize Poster
Anahid Johnson
Amigos School

TOP PRIZE POSTER WINNERS

- | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 st | Mekinsa Frith | 5 th | Geneva Fischer |
| 2 nd | Anahid Johnson | 6 th | Adelaide Kelse |
| 3 rd | Eva Beram | 7 th | Clara Barry |
| 4 th | Nacie Loh | 8 th | Sabira Uddin |

INNOVATIONS IN FAIR HOUSING AWARD RECIPIENTS

This year's Innovations in Fair Housing awardees are Toni LaRosa, who has been the Property Manager at Caritas/Central House at the Cambridge YMCA for almost 10 years, and Judy Johnson, the Assistant Property Manager, who has worked there for 1 ½ years. They were nominated by a resident of Caritas/Central House.

Caritas/Central House is a 128-unit housing complex located within the Cambridge YMCA, in Central Square. Residents share bathrooms, kitchen areas and common space. Central House is an all-male substance-free residence, housing a very diverse population, where many races, ethnicities, religions, traditions and beliefs are represented. Central House provides an excellent opportunity for any resident who is committed to moving in the right direction. Residents are provided with affordable housing and are given the chance to establish a solid tenancy record.

2014 FAIR HOUSING MONTH HONORABLE MENTIONS

**"FAIR HOUSING OPENS DOORS
AND WELCOMES EVERYONE"**

Amigos 5th - Teacher –
Lydia Garcia
Anna Betancourt
Sophie Butler-Rahman
Zaira Dalton
Talia Fellman-Blau
Angell Muñoz-Morales

Amigos 6th -
Cannelle Henry
Jahsiah Hernandez-
Miller
Terra Johnson
Paloma Pellegrino

Amigos 7th
Nia Callender
Anastacia Polanco

Cambridge St. Upper
Teacher –
April Silbert
Mariah Goldsmith - 8th
Sarah Ikram – 6th
Jasmine LaRoche -8th
Summia Mahmud -8th
Kathlee Nietto -8th

Cambridge St. Upper
Teacher –Lynn
Brown
Na-Jaé Josephs - 8th
(essay)

Graham & Parks 5th
Teacher - Karen
Thompson
Melissa Altidor

G&P - 5th (continued)
Shira Ben-Anat
Mia Galante
Canaan Migbaru
Sofia Mrowka
Jordana Saintil
Libi Sultan
Sofia Villasmil
Amara Villalon

Putnam Upper -
Teacher - Jenny
Chung
Talia Farrell – 8th

Tobin 5th - Teacher -
Stacey DeSimone
Francine Blase (essay)
Katerina Ohanyan



**CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL THE
WINNERS**



HAVE YOU HEARD?

"I'M SORRY, BUT WE HAVE LEAD PAINT, SO WE CAN'T RENT TO FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 6."

"YOU DON'T SPEAK MUCH ENGLISH, AND I CAN'T RENT TO SOMEBODY I CAN'T COMMUNICATE WITH."

"I CAN'T RENT TO SOMEONE WITH A MENTAL DISABILITY BECAUSE IT WOULD MAKE OTHERS IN THE BUILDING FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE."

"SECTION 8 CERTIFICATES ARE TOO MUCH TROUBLE."

"WE HAVE A STRICT NO-PETS POLICY, SO WE CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO LIVE HERE WITH A GUIDE DOG."

In your housing search, has someone made a comment like those above? If so, they may have violated the Cambridge Fair Housing Ordinance and the Federal Fair Housing Act. If you believe you or someone you know has been discriminated against, contact the Cambridge Human Rights Commission to file a complaint. Our services are free and available to all, without regard to immigration status. You do not need a lawyer.

If your organization would like the Cambridge Human Rights Commission to make a presentation about laws that protect you from discrimination, please contact us and we will make arrangements to do so.

Discrimination happens when someone is treated differently because of his/her:



Gender



Sex



Sexual orientation



Race/color

National origin



Disability

Family status (children)



Religion



Military Status



Age



Source of income (Section 8)



Marital status



CAMBRIDGE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION'S 21ST ANNUAL FAIR HOUSING MONTH

The awards ceremony for the Cambridge Human Rights Commission's Annual Fair Housing Month Poster and Essay Contest was held on Wednesday, April 16, 2014 in the Sullivan Chamber at City Hall. Erika Tarantal, an anchor/reporter from WCVB-TV 5, was the Master of Ceremonies and Barbara Chandler, Senior Advisor on Civil Rights and Fair Housing for Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership, delivered the keynote address. Na-Jaé Josephs, an 8th grader from the Cambridge Street Upper School, read his essay on the theme "**Fair Housing Opens Doors And Welcomes Everyone.**" Thirty seven students were awarded prizes for their poster entries. Mekinsa Frith of the Cambridge Street Upper School was awarded first prize for her winning poster. Top prize winners were awarded gift cards donated by *Cambridge Savings Bank, East Cambridge Savings Bank and Cambridge Trust Co.* These banks have been donating for the last 21 years. All contest participants were given t-shirts generously donated by these banks. **Many thanks** to the banks and the following businesses for their support and generous donations: *Boston Duck Tours, MIT Credit Union, Cinderella's Restaurant, Harvard Coop, Lanes and Games, Izzy's Restaurant, J.P. Licks, Leo Organization (Dunkin Donuts), Life Alive Urban Oasis & Organic Café, Moksa Restaurant, Newbury Comics, P.F. Chang Bistro and S&S Restaurant.* **Thanks** also to teachers Lynn Brown, Jenny Chung, Stacey DeSimone, Lydia Garcia, Karen Thompson and April Silbert for encouraging their students to participate in the contest. This year we had 91 entries. And last, but not least, **thanks** to contest judges Mariah Freark, Carmen S. Negrón, Karen Preval, Nancy Schlacter and Jeffrey Sussman.



Keynote Speaker
BARBARA CHANDLER



Master of Ceremonies
ERIKA TARANTAL