



# MCA Connects

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Cheryl Kimberling

## 60 Years of Relationship Building

### 60th Anniversary of MCA

For the past 60 years the Multicultural Alliance has provided programming and educational forums that address the opportunities and challenges of living in a pluralistic society. Our goal is to promote inclusive communities, eliminate bias, bigotry, and oppression and encourage understanding and equality through shared experiences and educational programming. The changes in our country since the founding of our organization have been almost revolutionary, but we know there is still a need to promote understanding and respect among all. We are so proud to review our 60 years of programming that includes Camp CommUNITY (formerly Anytown Texas), Interfaith Dialogues, Seminary Interfaith Retreat, Trios, community partnerships and workshops. We invite those like minded-individuals to join, and help expand and intensify our ongoing local mission.

### 30 Years of Camp

We celebrated 30 years of Camp CommUNITY/Anytown, TX on August 14 at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History. Past Delegates, Leadership, and their families reminisced and celebrated the success of camp. As part of the celebration, we paused to remember those in our camp family who are no longer with us. We ended the day by revealing the top "Circle Sing Songs" as voted by past Delegates and Camp Leadership. We sang the number one song: *Lean On Me*. Thanks to all who helped celebrate the power of camp!



30 Year Camp Reunion

We invite you to visit our website and Facebook page to see various events that commemorate our 60 years of celebrating diversity, promoting understanding, and creating inclusive communities. Here's to another 60 years of MCA and at least 30 years of Camp CommUNITY.



Cheryl Kimberling, PhD  
President

## 60th Anniversary Annual Awards Dinner



Rabbi Ralph Mecklenburger

Since 1952 the Multicultural Alliance Annual Awards Dinner has recognized community leaders and organizations who live and work in a manner aligned with our mission. The distinguished honorees display excellence in the promotion of diversity and inclusion. On April 28, 2011, as we celebrated our 60th year, we honored Rabbi Ralph Mecklenburger. Rabbi Mecklenburger joined a stellar group of past honorees. In selecting him, the Board of Directors felt that no one bridged the past, present, and future of the Multicultural Alliance like Rabbi Mecklenburger. Rabbi has been active in the Multicultural Alliance since his arrival in Fort Worth. Former NCCJ Executive Director, Emily Trantham, received the Life Time Achievement Award. Board member, Paul Jung, served as Dinner Chair.



Paul Jung

Emily Trantham

### Interfaith Seminary Retreat

**“It was great to be in dialogue with other seminarians of different faiths and to realize we have similar experiences. I really loved how we created a safe environment to be able to ask the questions we have always wanted to ask but felt embarrassed to. This experience was definitely an enriching one.”**

– 2011 Seminarian

Forty-four students and faculty attended the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Seminarian Interfaith Retreat this past January. The theme, “Hospitality: Abraham Welcoming the Angels”, was explored from three Abrahamic faith traditions. Students from seminaries in Texas, Connecticut, and California gained a greater appreciation, understanding and knowledge of their own faith and a deeper appreciation, understanding and knowledge of the faith path of others. The students identified common ground and differences in religious ideology and personal practice, and built a community of clergy who have become treasured colleagues.



2011 Seminary Retreat Participants

### Spring 2011 Interfaith Dialogue

During the month of May, MCA program staff facilitated an Interfaith Dialogue series. The group met every Tuesday for five weeks and participants came from Muslim, Christian, and Jewish traditions. Over the five weeks the group learned more about three Abrahamic religions through sharing personal stories, examining difficult texts, and discussing cultural norms and traditions. While each person in the group learned more about the three religions, the greatest gift was the new relationships which formed. Participants reported that they broke down stereotypes and learned how to better approach someone of a different religion. The group enjoyed their time together so much that they have decided to continue meeting.

**“There are very few experiences that turn into memories - that is, experiences that we carry with us and hold on to throughout life. This is one!”**

– Spring 2011 Interfaith Dialogue participant

#### **New Interfaith Dialogue for People of any Faith– 6 week series—Fall 2011**

Wednesdays, 7:00p.m.- 9:00p.m.  
 October 26, November 2, 9, 16, 30 and December 7  
 - meeting at various locations in Northeast Tarrant County

Interested in participating or have questions? Contact Cheryl Kimberling at 817-332-3271 or [ckimberling@mcatexas.com](mailto:ckimberling@mcatexas.com)

### Camp CommUNITY



2011 Camp CommUNITY Delegates


In June the Multicultural Alliance held the 30th Camp CommUNITY. Thanks to the 19 dedicated and experienced volunteer staff, 49 students representing 23 area high schools became part of the life-changing camp legacy. This year the camp included 29 high school juniors and 20 seniors. This youth diversity leadership program is a five-day residential camp for entering 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade high school students. The students focus on leadership development through heightened awareness, building friendships, promoting positive social change and developing valuable relationships as they explore commonalities and differences. We ask that you consider recommending a student to attend Camp CommUNITY 2012. Please contact us for more information about recommending a participant or sponsoring a student to attend.

“It feels good to know that adults believe teenagers can change what’s wrong in the world.”

– 2011 Camp CommUNITY Delegate

### Videos

As part of our 60th Year, we created videos.

Go to  and search for MCAtexas.

“I came looking for a friend and I am leaving with a family.”

– 2011 Camp CommUNITY Delegate



### Movies That Matter

The Multicultural Alliance is proud to join the City of Fort Worth as a community partner in promoting a new initiative sponsored by the Human Relations Commission. The quarterly film series is designed to give the community an opportunity to open our hearts and minds through the *Movies That Matter* series. The human rights film series debuted in June at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth. The response was outstanding and a second showing was added. Cheryl Kimberling, president of the Multicultural Alliance, said, “the *Movies That Matter* partnership is a natural fit with the organization’s mission.”

Please visit the Movies that Matter Facebook page:  
<http://www.facebook.com/FortWorthMoviesThatMatter>

### Leadership Fort Worth: Leading Edge

MCA partnered with Leadership Fort Worth (LFW) in March as part of their focus on “The Changing Face of Fort Worth” in their Leading Edge program for young professionals. Outcomes from the session were outstanding. Almost all of the participants reported that they increased their knowledge as a result of the session. As the demographics of Fort Worth continue to shift, LFW wants to make sure the next generation of leaders understand the community value of including all perspectives at the table. Jan Titsworth of LFW remarked, “the experience is one that cannot be replaced, and it opened the eyes of all of our participants... Each individual was asked to challenge themselves by broadening their perspective about another culture in our community.” MCA will again provide this session for the 2012 Leading Edge class.



Adena Cytron-Walker  
Program Director

# In Memoriam

## 9-11 Community Gatherings

### Good Shepherd Catholic Community

Over 300 people from the Colleyville area joined together to make the memories of those who died on 9-11 a blessing. The event included people reflecting on when they learned about 9-11, a candlelight memorial and prayer. Table conversations enabled everyone to acknowledge the loss of humanity on 9/11, while providing the sense of hope for the future. The Multicultural Alliance is proud to be one of the many partners and planners of this event. Visit [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search for “Sept 11 Community Gathering kdrdallas” to view reflections from the event. Pictured: The large candles symbolize the Twin Towers, the medium candles represent AA Flight 77 and UA Flight 93, and the small candles reflect the impact on us and our community.



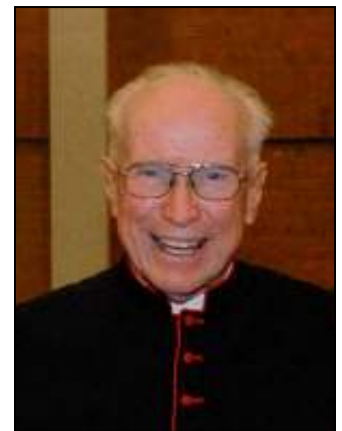
Candlelight Memorial

### The Fort Worth Museum of Science and History

The Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, along with the support and participation of community leaders and the City of Fort Worth, hosted a public ceremony on the morning of September 11, 2011 to pay tribute to the first responders, to those who lost their lives, and to the enduring American spirit. The Multicultural Alliance was an early partner in the planning process of this program. The Museum opened a new exhibit, titled *9/11 Tribute*, featuring the largest artifact in Texas from the World Trade Center. Guests can view the beam, the full-façade panel that once supported the three floors (101-103) located two stories above the center of the impact zone of the North Tower, as a permanent exhibit at the museum.

### Monsignor Charles King

It is with a sad heart that we share the passing of Monsignor Charles B. King. He passed away June 1, after more than 50 years of active priestly ministry. He was connected to the Multicultural Alliance for many years through his participation in the Interfaith Seminary Retreat. This past retreat he facilitated a small group session and even decided to get in some putting practice. Janet Davis, a Seminary Retreat faculty member described Monsignor King as “wonderful at guiding the discussion, drawing out the participants in a safe forum, and adding in his perspectives as a Roman Catholic, in a non-intrusive, helpful manner. He was both honest and charming—he showed us the example of how to be reflective about one’s own tradition and institutions while being open and interested in others.” In April, he honored us not only with his participation in the MCA 60th Anniversary Videos and prayer, but also with his physical presence at the Multicultural Alliance Annual Awards Dinner. We are grateful for the life and dedication of Monsignor King.



Monsignor King



**The mission of the Multicultural Alliance is to promote inclusion, diversity and understanding and work toward eliminating bias, bigotry and oppression in our community.**