

ABOUT HRHRC

Through the work of the Human Rights and Human Relations Commission, Richmond was declared a HUMAN RIGHTS CITY in 2009, becoming one of the first Human Rights Cities in the United States. The Richmond City Council unanimously passed a resolution adopting the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights as guiding principles. Our city government embraces the principles of equality, social pluralism and the recognition of human dignity.



City of Richmond
Human Rights and
Human Relations Commission

Human Rights Day Celebration and Awards Reception

*1st Annual Human Rights Awards for
achievements in the implementation of
the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*



December 9, 2013

Richmond City Council Chambers
440 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA 94804

City of Pride, Purpose & Human Rights

Special Thanks to:

Judges Panel:

Elaine Merriweather, Chair
Jerry Yoshita, Community Activist
Robin Poindexter, Deputy Fire Marshall
Jerome Smith, Poet
Dr. Sylvia Greenwood, Principal of Lovonya DeJean Middle School
Kris Welch, KPFA
Pastor Tad Cooper
Contra Costa College Culinary Arts Department
HRHRC Education Committee Members

**All contributors and participants who made this
celebration such a tremendous success.**

HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION (HRHRC)

City of Richmond, California
440 Civic Center Plaza Suite 200
Richmond, CA 94804
P: (510) 620-5576

Program

Theme: Education, Image & Justice

Reception

Catered by Contra Costa College Culinary Arts Department

Musical interlude

*Katlin Freeman, Saxophone
Eric Diaz, Guitar*

Students of East Bay Center of the Performing Arts

Opening of Ceremony and Introduction of Commissioners

Vivien Feyer

Chair of Human Rights & Human Relations Commission

Introduction of Mistress of Ceremonies

Kris Welch, KPFA Radio Host

*Commissioner Dr. Betty Burrus-Wright
Chair of HRHRC Education Committee*

Pledge of Allegiance

*Tyrius D. Ammons
Student, Walter T. Helms Middle School*

Corrine Sain works with "creative love" to transform the lives of her community, of the North Richmond Neighborhood House. Her love has driven out the darkness of the injustice of a criminal system that targets for incarceration people of color and communities of color; the darkness of the injustice of financial schemes that destroy housing and target our seniors and our families; the darkness of the injustice of corporate polluters that threaten the lives of the children and the seniors of her neighborhood. Forty-one years ago, Ms. Sain embraced the challenges facing her North Richmond community poverty, violence, and racism, with the same determination and resolve as she does today.

Betty Reid Soskin

The years weave a fabric held together by the love, courage, truth, persistence, and an innate wisdom of the moment, not in the past nor in some future time. Betty Reid Soskin is now resonating her truth, our truth, the same truth that has driven women like Winnie Mandela, Barbara Jordan, Golda Meir, Mother Theresa, and Shirley Chisholm; the same truth that demands we walk with her today, we walk with her everyday. Each time the many visitors to Richmond's Rosie the Riveter National Park hear her soulful narrative of the crucible, the birth place of the contemporary civil rights movement, a light is seen and a never ending journey is begun. The power of the ageless truth and the boundless love found in the presence of Betty Reid Soskin, of Richmond, California makes this the first Human Rights Award of 2013 an honor to bestow. Our gratitude and our love will always be with you.

City of Pride, Purpose & Human Rights

Annie M. King-Meredith has been a consummate volunteer and community resource for the past decade in the City of Richmond. Most notably, she has developed and implemented a unique training program, often a no charge, for all ages to learn mathematic concepts through art. Ms. King-Meredith has held weekly sessions at Verde Elementary School, Building Blocks for Kids, and for students at the Nevin Center in the Iron Triangle neighborhood. In addition to her artistic talent, she has been involved in numerous community services. She has voluntarily led, helped organize and raised funds for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day March for the past 3 years. Ms. King-Meredith also volunteers as a Board member on several organizations, including the North Richmond Municipal Advisory Council, the Community Housing Development Corporation, the North Richmond Network, and Healthy Richmond.

Jordan Simmons has tirelessly given back to his community not only through the arts programs with which he has been involved, but also through his leadership of numerous other projects in Richmond, particularly in the Iron Triangle/ downtown community. In 1985, he was appointed as the East Bay Center's Artistic Director, a position which he has now held for 28 years. During his tenure, the Center and the Richmond community have faced numerous challenges, which Jordan Simmons has distinguished himself in resolving. The Center has helped change Richmond through various expanded arts and music programs. Mr. Simmons has inspired and changed the lives of thousands of people through rigorous artistic training, school-based outreach, and performances of traditional and original work.

Yvonne Nair has shown the light of "creative love," transforming the lives of Richmond's homeless community. Through Saffron Strand, she brings the light of truth and love to the darkness of joblessness, of profiling, of hunger, of exposure to the cold, rain, wind; to the darkness of the injustices experienced in our homeless community, she brings a transformative love. In Saffron Strand, the homeless have built a community that reflects a winning practice which creates: Conferences to expose problems and solutions; an all-night memorial vigil on Civic Center Plaza; outreach to business, governmental agencies, non-profits to bring an end to conditions that threaten and inflict pain and violence.

Program

Prayer

Pastor Tad Cooper

Welcome

Jovanka Beckles
Councilmember

Music

Song "I Believe I Can Fly"
April Wright-Hickerson,
accompanied by Wills Hickerson Jr.

Keynote Address

Dr. Sylvia Greenwood
Principal, Lovonya DeJean Middle School

Presentation of Awards

Jovanka Beckles, Kris Welch and Vivien Feyer

Music

"We Are the World"
April Wright-Hickerson

Closing remarks

Commissioner Dr. Betty Burrus-Wright

Recipients of the 2012-2013 Human Rights Awards

HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDEES

Summer Brenner is the author of an original novel entitled "Richmond Tales, Lost Secrets of the Iron Triangle" about life growing up in the Iron Triangle. In 2009, she distributed over 4,000 copies of her book free of charge to fourth and fifth graders for summer reading. In 2010, her book was awarded an Historic Preservation award from the City of Richmond. She has worked on projects at Gompers High School, Richmond High and Kennedy High, inspiring young people to write poetry and photography. For the last three years, a Richmond Tales Literacy and Health Festival has been held annually, using themes from the book Richmond Tales.

Dora Robinson, a third generation resident of Richmond who grew up in the Iron Triangle, has made a tremendous impact on the Richmond community. She is the Executive Director of Urban Tilth. Dora played a key role in organizing Richmond's first food policy council, which helped establish guidelines for growing and distributing food. Dora Robinson, through Urban Tilth, coordinated 10 farms and gardens and provides technical assistance to 7 community and school gardens across Richmond and San Pablo. Dora's work has helped to design and implement projects to educate the public about healthy foods. Dora envisioned and led the creation of the Richmond Food shed Collaborative, which empowers teens to take leadership in creating a local food shed on public lands throughout Richmond.

EDUCATION:

*Summer Brenner
Dora Robinson*

IMAGE:

*Annie M. King-Meredith
Jordan Simmons*

JUSTICE:

*Yvonne Nair
Corrine Sain*

SPECIAL AWARD:

Betty Reid Soskin

Honorable Mention:

<i>DeVone Boggan</i>	<i>Eli Williams</i>
<i>Tana Monteiro</i>	<i>Robin Wilson</i>
<i>Stacie Plummer</i>	<i>Office of Neighborhood Safety</i>
<i>Cheryl Sudduth</i>	<i>Safe Return Project</i>
<i>Kathleen Sullivan</i>	