



# ICSJ Activist

*Newsletter of Illinois Counselors for Social Justice,  
a Division of the Illinois Counseling Association*

**VOL. 1, NO. 1**

**MARCH, 2004**

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## **PUTTING THE "ME" IN SOCIAL JUSTICE DR. TONI TOLLERUD, ICSJ PRESIDENT-ELECT**

If someone were to say to you, "Are you an advocate for social justice?" what initial thoughts and feelings would go through your mind or your body? I do not know how you might respond, but I can tell you a little bit about some of my reactions. Sometimes I get nervous, and I wonder what the questioner is asking this for or I worry about how my answer will be interpreted. Sometimes I feel anxious because I know there is so much to be done in this arena. Sometimes I feel angry because life and world is not fair. Sometimes I feel shame because I know I don't do enough! Sometimes I want to run and hide because I know I can't add one more task to my plate, even if it is in the name of justice. And then, every once in a while, I feel proud because I am able to take a stand or be an advocate at just the right moment when I believe that what I have to say or do will make a difference.

For me, that moment is now...right now as I am writing this message to you. I am experiencing all those emotions I de-

scribed above right now, all at the same time. I wonder what you think and feel as you read this. However, I am poised and prepared to take this chance to speak to you and to challenge you (and myself at the same time) to move forward and take on a more intentional role as an advocate for social justice. What a fascinating word...to be intentional! Where can I begin? How can I be intentional without making something commonplace?

The professional counselors in Illinois have so much to be proud of. We have licensure, a strong counseling association, good leadership, and are politically savvy and connected. But we also have differences that sometimes make our work more complicated. The concept of social justice, however, is one that permeates and connects all counselors in a common cause. To be a professional counselor who advocates for social justice means we want to and are dedicated to treating people fairly. Sounds simple! But in reality, it is a really hard task.

When I teach counseling skills and strategies, the first step I take with students is a self-assessment. In this self-assessment, each person is asked to review as honestly as he or she can, personal values, biases,

Continued on Page 4

## **THE STRUGGLE TO BELIEVE IN MYSELF KATIE LINDSKOG, CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Have you ever met someone whom if you told them you were a member of a Social Justice organization, would likely roll their eyes, chuckle, or perceive you as being "naïvely noble?" In my experience, it has not always been easy to be proud of fighting for Social Justice issues when many in my close circle have viewed such a cause as unrealistic. I've often felt the need to second guess or downplay doing the right thing out of criticisms for being too idealistic. It is sometimes frustrating when people make comments like, "Are you still trying to save the world?" or "Look at Mother Teresa," when they've learned of little things I've done in an attempt to make a difference. It's diffi-

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**HOW MUCH IS "ENOUGH?"**  
**CHER N. IGELMAN, SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY**

I consider cultural awareness to be a journey – one I have traveled unknowingly my entire life which became an intentional journey during my masters program in counseling. After the completion of my psychology degree and with limited job prospects in the helping professions, I found myself working for the state in the social work field. It was during this experience that I had the opportunity to work with culturally and ethnically diverse families (traditional and non-traditional), many coming from a low socioeconomic perspective.

Although I embrace my Jewish and Native American heritage, I admit that I am not actively a part of either culture and have always known white privilege. My dad's parents were immigrants from Germany and very eager to fit in with "American culture". My maternal great grandmother, pure Blackfoot, died when I was very young. This diversity was not celebrated in my family, it was not shared. My own cultural identity formation was relatively void of this richness.

It became evident in my work with culturally diverse clients that I just didn't "get it". It was such an unfortunate experience because I cared so much and was so committed to the profession, my work, and most of all, the consumers that I served. "Why aren't we connecting?", "Why aren't my interventions helping?" – I'd ask myself. I had been brought up in a home to respect differences. I wasn't a racist. Wasn't that enough? Of course, that answer is "no, it isn't enough."

I now teach a course in multicultural counseling for future school counselors. It's frustrating to encounter students who have decided they know "enough" about cultural differ-

ences and how these differences influence the counseling relationship.

It's exciting to see those that realize there is still so much to understand about themselves and others and that there will be some things we can never fully understand. I'm grateful for the lessons I learn from my students, colleagues, and community through the sharing of different perspectives and experiences. I realize that my journey continues and that the dialogue of culture and diversity must continue.

In the process of teaching the multicultural course, we cover a variety of topics ranging from identity development to cultural awareness, knowledge, and skills. Inevitably, a student will ask, "How much training is enough?" Recognizing the work that meaningful awareness requires and how the best of intentions do not replace true cultural competency, I have to reply, "It's never enough. This work has no end." 0



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**“Each time someone stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, they send forth a ripple of hope.”**

**–Robert F. Kennedy**

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**CHALLENGING CLASSISM AND ANTI-DEMOCRATIC PRACTICES GLOBALLY AND LOCALLY**  
**TOD SLOAN, CSJ E-ACTION GROUP LEADER**

Globalization has become a catch-all term for any process that is happening at a global level, such as flows of products, information, and people. In this general sense, globalization has been going on since the spice trade and has enriched cultures and languages. Those who are concerned about contemporary forms of globalization have something much more dangerous in mind, however. We are concerned about the growing ability of transnational corporations to control lifestyles and societies through their power to provide employment, products, and services according to their own 'free trade' rules rather than being subject to the deliberation of citizens regarding the nature of the good life and the good society. Corporate globalization has become a catch-all term for any process that is happening at a global level, such as flows of products, information, and people. In this general sense, globalization has been going on since the spice trade and has enriched cultures and languages. Those who are concerned about contemporary forms of globalization have something much more dangerous in mind, however. We are concerned about the growing ability of transnational corporations to control lifestyles and societies through their power to provide employment, products, and services according to their own 'free trade' rules rather than being subject to the deliberation of citizens regarding the nature of the good life and the good society. Corporate globalization, as this process is known, tends to strip nations of their ability to determine what happens within their borders and subjects the well-being of local economies and the environment to the decisions of individuals who may live on the other side of the planet. While some poor countries experience economic growth in certain sectors as a result of transnational business, others are subjected to sudden layoffs and plant closings as corporations relocate in search of lower labor costs and as international currency markets rise and fall. This has led to the widening of the gap between the world's affluent and poor societies over the last quarter century. Particularly in the case of the United States, it can be said that to the extent that the fates of elected officials are tied to the success of the US-based multinationals in the global economy, even matters of war and peace are decided much more by corporate leaders and their news media than by representatives of the people pursuing rational foreign policy. The case of Iraq is a perfect example.

Since the World Trade Organization protests in Seattle in 1999, the movement against corporate globalization has been quite visible. Even though the attacks of September 11 and subsequent military operations have been in the forefront recently, the movement has been working to

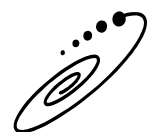
make the case that the best defense against further attacks is to challenge corporate control of the sort that pushed the US into cozy arrangements with Saudi dictators and to work for democracy, fair trade, and poverty eradication. Forging links between the peace movement and the movement for 'globalization from below' is critical for both movements at this point.

Why should we as counselors care about this complex geopolitical process? The answer is simple. A surprising number of the issues we confront at the local level these days is linked to the effects of classism and anti-democratic practices flowing directly from corporate capitalist influence on government and the economy both nationally and internationally. Federal support for school and community counseling services is cut while the defense budget increases and taxes on the wealthy are slashed. Immigrant families and migrant workers find hostile receptions in neighborhoods where factories were closed after jobs moved to India, Mexico, and China. Depression and substance abuse related to unemployment are direct consequences of 'outsourcing' related to corporate globalization. School children are anxious because their parents have been called up from the reserves to go to Iraq to defend U.S. corporate oil interests.

These are just a few of the more obvious examples of points where the lives of our clients, as well as our own, are interwoven with corporate globalization and its effects. If we are not working to transform the political situation that permits corporate power over national, regional, and local decisions, we are simply asking for more shredded lives and empty consumerism in the place of community and individual well-being.

**Get involved!** To discuss the specific ways in which counselors can link their local work to the movement against globalization, an email discussion group (listserv) has been established by CSJ. It is called "Challenging Classism and Anti-Democratic Practices (Globalization, Privatization, Media Bias, and Militarism)". To join, please send your name and email address to [sloan@psysr.org](mailto:sloan@psysr.org) and you will be subscribed.

Tod Sloan is co-coordinator of Psychologists for Social Responsibility ([www.psysr.org](http://www.psysr.org)), author of *Life Choices: Understanding Dilemmas and Decisions* and *Damaged Life: The Crisis of the Modern Psyche*, and editor of *Critical Psychology: Voices for Change* (see [www.criticalpsych.org](http://www.criticalpsych.org)). O



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## Putting the “Me” (continued from page 1)

beliefs, and assumptions. By becoming more self-aware, I am hopeful that counselors in training begin to challenge aspects of the self that stand in the way of treating people fairly. This self-awareness can be a transforming event.

So as I advocate in this moment for the cause of social justice, I challenge you to your own self-assessment. Just how do you feel about social justice? Ask my opening question of yourself again, and this time really listen to your answer. Are you willing to look at yourself and to challenge the “status quo” of our society, our community, our school or agency, and our own ways of thinking?

Being a social justice advocate, however, doesn’t mean giving up your day job to march in protest, or writing a best-selling book, or changing life in drastic ways. It does mean changing life in the hardest ways, in the everyday actions and thoughts that make us who we are. I have found it easy to carry a banner in a gay pride parade, but hard to confront a colleague who uses “fag” to put down another person. It is easy to give money for social causes, but hard to give a weekend to work with the homeless in my community.

I know for me, this is where I must start. If I am to be a leader in social justice who wants to make a difference, then I must be willing to take that challenge each day in my own boring, everyday thoughts and actions. It means the first step must begin with ME! It means I must be open to every one of those feelings mentioned above. It means that to hopefully make a difference I must be willing to take a risk....and in that action to risk failing as well as succeeding. How have I treated people this day? How have I promoted social justice in my writing, my decisions, my words, and my deeds? If, at the end of the day I have calculated more successes than failures, then it has probably been a good day. May you have a good day today. 0

**HOOTIN' FOR JUSTICE**  
**KIM SNOW,**  
**ICSJ COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER**

A targeted effort of ICSJ is to build coalitions with like-minded folk in order to create a climate of cooperation and change in society. One example of such effort is the recent collaboration with the Social Justice Group of the Chicago School of Professional Psychology (CSOPP). We had representatives attending and speaking at their ***"Social Justice" Hootenanny*** - This was an arrangement of music, performances and group sing-along about oppression and social change. This joint venture allowed members of both groups to share materials, common ideas, and to come together for the interest of social justice and oppression. About 60 students, faculty, local musicians, Old Town School of Folk Music students, and first-time performers lead songs concerning social justice-related themes (discrimination, oppression, government-



***KIM SNOW AND HER FAMILY***

sanctioned violence, etc.) and shared with participants why the songs were important to them or how it changed their point of view. The hootenanny was held from 7:30-11:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 21st, at The Mutiny (a no-frills, budget-friendly neighborhood bar at 2428 North Western, just north of Fullerton, in Chicago). We would like to thank Janna Hennings and Dr. Gary Wells for inviting us and for hosting this event. We look forward to further collaboration with the CSOPP Social Justice Group and other like-minded groups, as well as collaborative efforts with other Divisions of ICA.

We strongly encourage you to contact the leadership of ICSJ with news of the activities and efforts in which you are engaged as we would love to join in when we can and hope to encourage other members and like-minded people to become involved. 0

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**“IF YOU HAVE SOME POWER;  
DISTRIBUTE IT.  
IF YOU HAVE SOME FREEDOM;  
OFFER IT.”**

-TONI FREELAND

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Struggle (continued from page 1)

cult for me to respond to such remarks when I think that anyone is capable of doing the right thing if they are in the right mindset.

In an attempt to avoid sarcastic deprecation, I've often found myself "doing the walk without the talk," but it's not always easy to do alone. When I began working toward my degree as a school counselor, I never imagined the vast array of opportunities I would have in working to overcome injustices. I also never considered finding such passionate and like-minded individuals fighting the same battles. While I can continue with my own personal fight, I value the strength found in others who share a vision for change so great that it energizes and drives those in their presence. In the midst of those close to me who choose to live comfortably with maintaining the status quo and the disparities that accompany it, it is the like-minded counselors and counselors-in-training who validate my struggle to continue working for change. 0

### **ILLINOIS COUNSELORS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE MISSION STATEMENT**

**Illinois Counselors for Social Justice (ICSJ) is a community of counselors and other professionals who recognize that many of the issues and concerns we address in our work result from societal injustice and oppression.**

**ICSJ is committed to:**

- Actively promoting individual and collective responsibility and eradication of oppressive systems of power and privilege.
- Developing and implementing social action strategies through collaborative alliances with other ICA entities, community organizations, and the community-at-large.
- Developing and disseminating scholarly information about the impact of sociopolitical and economic fairness on counseling and human development.
- Creating an active support network for counselors and others engaged in social justice activities.
- Providing professional development to enhance counselor competency in social and political advocacy.
- Acting as a resource and clearinghouse for individuals and groups involved in social justice work that affects the clientele of counselors and their context.
- Functioning as a state division of Counselors for Social Justice, a new division of ACA.

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**INFUSING THE GOALS OF THE DIVISION INTO PEDAGOGICAL PRACTICE**  
**CYRUS MARCELLUS ELLIS, GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY**

Of all the components of the Multicultural Counseling Competencies, I must admit that the dimension of helping students understand the worldview of culturally different clients is the most challenging and the most rewarding for me as a Counselor Educator.

The approach I use to assist students arrive at a place where they have an opportunity to examine their ability to see life through the lens of others involves sound humanistic principles and the power of systematic study. I begin by bringing to light the knowledge competencies involving the impact of race and culture on vocation, family, and education as well as the socio-political issues that effect racial and ethnic people through the use of a 50-item annotated bibliography (in APA style) of cultural, ethnic and racial peer-reviewed articles, data-based books and documentaries.

The process of building the bibliography begins with a clearly defined constructs of race and culture. Students participate in a lively discussion concerning the various forms that culture and race can assume in our multicultural society. The emphasis and aim of the exercise is to move the student beyond her or his comfort zone. Following the *counseling and research process*, students are introduced to authors and topics that exist within the realm of the human condition but are seldom given the appropriate amount of study. Students are encouraged to look for work that describes issues of health disparities among the minorities and the poor, women's issues in relationships, work and society, class issues in education, terminal illness, acculturation, racism and oppression. As the students

review this information they are asked to right an APA style abstract (separate from any abstract provided by the authors) commenting on the content of each item. Each student adds to their abstract particular areas that they find interesting and informative.

Although this is a time consuming task for the professor and student alike, the worth of this exercise is priceless. The joy of the exercise is not necessarily in the finished product, rather, it is in the constant dialogue between student and professor that takes place over the time of the assignment.

The assignment is introduced in the third week of the semester and the joy of engaging students weekly to review their choices as well as how they construct and write their abstracts opens up wonderful opportunities to teach and mentor!

There are many roads that lead all of us to the same goal of training culturally competent counselors. As the professor brings a part of who he or she is in process to meet students where they are in their struggles, the result is commonly a great amount of growth and development. Whatever we can bring to the pedagogical table that helps us to update and improve upon our efforts to better train the next generation of counselors and counselor educators—I am for it! 0

**"The emphasis and aim of the exercise is to move the student beyond her or his comfort zone..."**



Morgan Crystina Ellis & Her Father  
Born February 4, 2004

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**"CHARACTER CANNOT BE DEVELOPED IN EASE AND QUIET. ONLY THROUGH EXPERIENCE OF TRIAL AND SUFFERING CAN THE SOUL BE STRENGTHENED, AMBITION INSPIRED, AND SUCCESS ACHIEVED."**

**- HELEN KELLER**

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE ICSJ PRESIDENT

I am so very pleased to finally address the complete membership of ICSJ. You may not realize it, but each of you are a part of something original and even momentous in the world of counseling. Counselors for Social Justice (CSJ) was formed just a few years ago here in our very own state, launching the front edge of counseling into action. The state with the most membership in CSJ is Illinois, followed closely by New York. Stuart Chen-Hayes, who was raised in Park Forest, Illinois, is a counselor Educator in the Bronx and the current president of CSJ, not to mention a Past President of ICA.

I strongly believe that we need to look towards a model of counseling that integrates empowerment, prevention, and advocacy over a model that focuses primarily on remediation of problems. If we only wait for the problems to come to us we are doing little more than what I call "Dixie Cup Counseling." (insert an image of a person

running back and forth to put out fires with nothing more than a paper cup that she or he fills with water between each "splish")

Let us begin a dialogue and work together to pay closer heed to the cultural and contextual issues that affect our clients on a daily basis. I am honored to be numbered amongst you and love to learn and grow with you. Please feel invited to contact any and all members of the ICSJ Leadership. Invite us to join you in your efforts and activities. We are excited you are with us and look forward greatly to brighter and more effective days ahead!

Warm Regards,  
**Hugh C. Crethar, ICSJ President**



## MESSAGE FROM THE CSJ PRESIDENT

Hi everyone. I hope you are well and highly motivated to keep doing more good social justice work as counselors, counselor educators, and graduate students in Illinois and across the planet! Congrats to the latest ICSJ member to join the CSJ leadership team, Kim Snow, who is filling out the graduate student slot vacated by Chicago-based John Cebuhar. Healing energies to John and thanks to him for all of his efforts. Congratulations are also in order to Hugh Crethar, who becomes the new CSJ communications rep. on July 1 (and kudos to Chicagoan Judy Lewis on her two years as communications rep for CSJ). It must be in the water in Illinois—first ICSJ, then leadership on challenging the death penalty, then Mayor Daley says he's for gay marriage...you all have great timing, Illinois!

So, let's act on the future...CSJ is finalizing plans for a social justice counseling journal. We'd love to have your voices present in that work.

And prior to that, please join us for the CSJ Day of Action in Kansas City, MO, April 2 at the ACA annual conference ([www.counselorsforsocialjustice.org](http://www.counselorsforsocialjustice.org)). We will have a variety of powerful presentations. On April 3, we will have our annual awards ceremony, where we will debut the CSJ 'ohana awards (bringing honor to the family, a Hawaiian tradition), and the new CSJ Mary Smith Arnold Anti-Oppression Award in honor of one of the founding mothers of CSJ and anti-oppression work. We will also have a new march for equity and the second annual candlelit vigil for antiviolenace that evening. Finally, the CSJ booth will be open with your favorite bumper stickers and buttons from Syracuse Cultural Workers.

I wish you all a great year and thanks so much to each of you for your collective inspiration and leadership as we forge new vistas in counseling and advocacy for social justice.

I invite your comments, suggestions, and questions any time via email

**Stuart Chen-Hayes**  
Born and raised in Park Forest, IL  
[stuartc@lehman.cuny.edu](mailto:stuartc@lehman.cuny.edu)

## PONDERING ABOUT MLK AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

MICHAEL D'ANDREA, UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII



MAHEALANI, JUDY & MICHAEL

The period of time leading into celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday and legacy is my favorite time of year. Each year at this time, I find myself pausing to think about what is happening in our

world, country, and state from a social justice perspective and reflecting on what I might do to continue to address the issues the Dr. King said we all must as moral-spiritual beings.

I was on sabbatical last semester and spent time doing some formal studying of Dr. King's life, philosophy, and legacy (as I have at different points in my life). The focused time and attention on his work and philosophy have heightened my awareness of the links that exist between what Dr. King referred to as the "triplets of racism, militarism, and economic exploitation...and... the necessity of forging a revolution of values in our world today."

Dr. King's work is so relevant for the challenges our nation and state face today in general and the importance of thinking about and responding to the War in Iraq in particular that it is uncanny. His philosophy and life's accomplishments are also extremely relevant for the overall mission of the University of Hawaii, the College of Education, and our national and state public school system.

As Dr. King's birthday celebration approaches, I find myself playing and replaying the speech that he gave at Riverside Church in New York in 1967. In this speech he clearly details why he is against the War in Vietnam. As I listen and relisten to this speech it helps clarify why I am against the War in Iraq and why I continue to have faith in and work towards a society that is free of racism, militarism, and economic injustice.... a society that places more emphasis and spending on public education instead of military empowerment.

I would recommend listening to a copy of MLK's speech about war and peace to any colleague as it has much

relevance for our work as faculty members and administrators in higher education as well as our roles as citizens in a democratic society. The fact that our country is now spending more money to fund the War in Iraq than it is in providing fiscal support for public education makes Dr. King's message about peace, justice, militarism, racism, and economic exploitation very relevant for us as professional educators and people who value peace in the world.

The fact that such money is being diverted to a war that is based on faulty and distorted information... a war that is not making our nation safer... a war that is alienating us from much of the rest of the international community... money that could be channeled

*"...I continue to have faith in and work towards a society that is free of racism, militarism, and economic injustice..."*

to support programs for social uplift in general and public education in particular makes Dr. King's message very relevant for us today.

The fact that such money could be used to address the seriously decayed public education system in Hawaii and the crisis that our state is currently facing in education makes Dr. King's 1967 message very relevant to all of us in Hawaii today.

I think that upon listening to Dr. King's speech you will better understand why I think it would be useful for us to take time to reflect on his message and why it is important to follow his suggestions in helping to build a better country and a better world. It is a speech that soothes the soul, clears one's mind about what's happening now, and inspires the heart in ways that might further strengthen your courage to act upon your social-political-moral convictions as a professional educator.

I look forward to working with those of you who are committed to standing up and articulating the need to help realize Dr. King's dream of a better world in the work we do as professional educators and citizens of this state and country in the coming months. 0

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE FOR CSJ AT ACA

## CSJ BOARD/STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING

Thursday, April 1, 3:30-5:30 PM

Westin Hotel Presidents Room, Floor: Ballroom Level

Chair: Stuart Chen-Hayes, Lehman College - CUNY, Bronx, NY

## CSJ MARCH FOR EQUITY SIGN AND BANNER PREPARATION

Thursday, April 1; 5:30-6 PM

Westin Hotel Presidents Room, Floor: Ballroom Level

Chair: Stuart Chen-Hayes, Lehman College - CUNY, Bronx, NY

## CSJ DAY OF ACTION: FRIDAY, APRIL 2

10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Hyatt Regency Chouteau B Room

Chair: Stuart Chen-Hayes, Lehman College - CUNY, Bronx, NY

## 10:30 AM-12:00 Noon - ACA ADVOCACY COMPETENCIES AND MULTICULTURALISM: TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN

Panel: Hugh Crethar, Judy Lewis, Patricia Arredondo & Darryl Plunkett.

## LUNCH BREAK

### 1:00-2:30 PM - COUNSELORS RESISTING CLASSISM: CHALLENGING ANTIDEMOCRATIC MILITARISM, GLOBALIZATION, PRIVATIZATION, AND CORPORATE MEDIA BIAS

Chair: Stuart Chen-Hayes, Lehman College/City U. of NY, Bronx, NY.

### 2:30-3:30 PM - COUNSELORS & EDUCATORS TRANSFORMING SCHOOL COUNSELING THROUGH CLOSING ACHIEVEMENT AND OPPORTUNITY GAPS

Chair: Jamey Cheek, Texas Women's University, Denton, TX.

### 3:30-4:30 PM - COUNSELORS & EDUCATORS CHALLENGING "MANGLED" /MANAGED CARE

Chairs: Sandy Lopez-Baez, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA; Azara Santiago-Rivera, SUNY-Albany, Albany, NY

### 4:30-5:30 PM - GRADUATE STUDENTS AND COUNSELOR EDUCATORS CREATING EQUITY & ADVOCACY IN COUNSELOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS: A CSJ TOWN HALL MEETING

Chair: Kristin Talka, SUNY-Albany, Albany, NY

## CSJ AWARDS/'OHANA HONORS CEREMONY

Saturday, April 3: 7:00 - 7:45 PM

Hyatt Regency Crown Center Hotel

Fremont, Floor: Two

Chair: Stuart Chen-Hayes, Lehman College - CUNY, Bronx, NY

## CSJ MARCH FOR EQUITY!

Saturday, April 3: 8:00 - 8:30 PM

Meet in Hyatt Hotel Lobby at 7:45

March to outdoor fountains between the Westin & Hyatt from the Hyatt Lobby

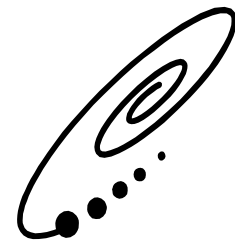
Chair: Stuart Chen-Hayes, Lehman College - CUNY, Bronx, NY

## CSJ SILENT CANDELIT VIGIL FOR PEACE, NONVIOLENCE, & NO WAR

Saturday, April 3: 8:30 – 9:00 PM

Outdoor fountains between the Westin & Hyatt hotels

Chair: Stuart Chen-Hayes, Lehman College - CUNY, Bronx, NY



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## ATTENTION, SCHOOL COUNSELORS!

CSJ has recently initiated the Transforming School Counseling to Close Achievement & Opportunity Gaps (TSCCAOG) email group. This listserv gives us an opportunity to discuss issues centered on the Transforming School Counseling Initiative, a movement that places the role of the school counselor as a key player in students' academic performance. As an advocate and agent of change, the school counselor maintains an ethical responsibility to empower students to overcome institutionalized barriers that hinder them from personal-social growth, as well as educational and career success. They are leaders in school policy revision, and work against procedures that aim to maintain the status quo. The transformed role places school counselors in a position to address the existence of achievement gaps for students of color and those that at an economic disadvantage. If you are interested in addressing these issues and have thoughts to offer, please email me at [kate78@terra.com](mailto:kate78@terra.com). For more information on the Transforming School Counseling Initiative, please visit: [www.edtrust.org](http://www.edtrust.org).

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***"IF A MAN WALKS IN THE WOODS FOR LOVE OF THEM HALF OF EACH DAY, HE IS IN DANGER OF BEING REGARDED AS A LOAFER, BUT IF HE SPENDS HIS DAYS AS A SPECULATOR, SHEARING OFF THOSE WOODS AND MAKING THE EARTH BALD BEFORE HER TIME, HE IS DEEMED AN INDUSTRIOUS AND ENTERPRISING CITIZEN,"***

***- HENRY DAVID THOREAU***

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### *A Note from the Editor*

Hello everyone! You are looking at our first efforts towards a newsletter for ICSJ, the newest division of ICA. We hope that the newsletter will serve as a way for us to get to know each other better, inspire each other, and join forces in areas of shared passion. Please know that the Activist is not intended to be used only by "leadership" within ICSJ. We hope that each of you will take opportunity to write in and be an active part of our growth and learning. It is also my hope that at some point in time, one of you will volunteer to help me with this newsletter. I am OK with making final copy at this point, but could certainly use help collecting up articles, quotes, poems, etc. I do hope that someone will also step up to take the role of editor of the newsletter at some point. Yes, it is a labor of love, or even an "thankless task" as one of my mentors tells me, but it really is fun and does make a difference. Besides, if you are editor, all you have to write is one little paragraph per edition! Please feel invited to send me your articles or volunteer in any way you like. My email is [h-crethar@govst.edu](mailto:h-crethar@govst.edu), and my phone number is 708-534-4844.

Hugh C. Crethar  
ICSJ Activist Editor and ICSJ President

Newsletter of Illinois Counselors for Social Justice,  
a Division of the Illinois Counseling Association

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