



April 4, 2021

Dear Allies in Race Amity,

This letter is a personal sharing and ask for your help.

As we enter the second decade of our work at the National Center for Race Amity (NCRA), we take pride in our accomplishments over the past eleven years. Our productivity, some of which is reported below, would not be possible without the dedicated staff, steadfast volunteers, and the financial support of individuals, foundations, and corporations. The activities in which NCRA has engaged impact the public discourse on race and advance amity as a powerful tool in advancing racial healing, access and equity, which is yet another testimony to the observation of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice." That framework uplifts us and provides continuous enthusiasm about our work and certitude for our future at the National Center for Race Amity.

Over the past eleven years NCRA has developed the many programs, conferences and educational materials in support of its mission to influence the public discourse on race. This mission centers on moving the discourse from the blame/grievance/rejection cycle to a cycle of amity/conciliation/access/equity/social justice. This process includes educational opportunities for developing relationships that help us all become the better in us. Among some of the notable activities since our founding are

- Resumption of the National Race Amity Conference which NCRA has hosted the past 11 years.
- Instituting the National Center for Race Amity Medal of Honor (MOH) presented annually to local, national, and international individuals who personify race amity in service to others. Among MOH recipients are Dolores Huerta, Ireland President Michael Higgins, Xernona Clayton, Ken Burns, Patricia Locke (Posthumously), Governor William F. Winter, Janet Langhart Cohen, Don Mullan, William E. Cohen, Viola Liuzzo (Posthumously), Deval Patrick, Howard Ross, Tim Wise, Cherry Steinwinder, Beverly Morgan Welch, and others.
- Organizing workshops to assist lay people in organizing local Race Amity Day (Annually 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in June) activities at the local and state levels. Well over 100 communities have organized annual local race amity events;
- Race Amity Day has been recognized at the state level by Massachusetts and South Carolina. Massachusetts established Race Amity Day as an official state day the US Senate passed a unanimous Resolution establishing, Sunday, June 16, 2016 as Race Amity Day. NCRA is presently working to have an act of Congress to establish the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in June as National Race Amity Day.
- While located at Wheelock College in Boston from 2011 to 2018, NCRA organized and hosted the Metro Boston Race Amity Day Festival on the Rose Kennedy Greenway. Beginning in 2011 on a sleet and rain filled Sunday with under 100 in attendance, the event grew annually and attracted just under 4,000 attendees in 2018.
- Commissioned the Middle School Theater Project with its DVD, curriculum, and play script, *Xernona and The Grand Dragon X*. The play, available to middle schools, centers on the incredible

friendship developed between Civil Rights Movement activist Xernona Clayton and Calvin Craig, Grand Dragon of the Georgia Ku Klux Klan.

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# NATIONAL CENTER FOR RACE AMITY



- In collaboration with WHS Media Productions LLC consulted on the one hour documentary, *An American Story: Race Amity and The Other Tradition* which distributed nationally on public television in 2018.
- Acquired underwriting and created a middle school curriculum guide for the documentary *An American Story: Race Amity and The Other Tradition* and distributed it to all 582 middle schools in Massachusetts. The educational program is available to requesting schools in other states for a small fee.
- Organized and hosted a virtual 2020 Race Amity Day Celebration event which attracted nearly 20,000 viewers on the You Tube Channel and Face Book Live Streaming.

In May of this year, it will have been 100 years since the first bold national event centered on race amity as a means of bridging the racial divide and advancing access, equity and social justice. The first ***Convention for Amity Between the Colored and White Races*** was held in Washington, D. C. May 19-21, 1921. In 2010, the National Center for was founded with the mission of influencing the public discourse on race by educating and acquainting the populace with the moral and spiritual power that amity offers to nurture the good in us and to advance access, equity and social justice. In 2011, ninety years after that seminal *Convention for Amity Between the Colored and White Races*, the National Center for Race Amity pledged to annually convene a National Race Amity Conference. That commitment is being kept as we plan for the eleventh continuous year of the conference. The national conference is an annual learning and sharing experience with academic and artistic presentations by leaders of thought, activists, artists, students, athletes, business professionals, educators and others. It serves as nurturing oasis and retreat for those who seek to support work to move our nation towards E Pluribus Unum. We heartily invite you register for this unique, uplifting experience occurring May 21-23, 2021. **Registration for the virtual Centenary Celebration National Race Amity Conference will be open on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>.**

I began this letter by saying it is a personal sharing and an ask for your help. Personally, I am compelled by faith to pursue service to the promotion of the scientific and spiritual truths that we are one human family. I feel deeply that service to others is a gift to attaining the best in us. While sharing the work at the National Center for Race Amity and my personal view on the importance of this work, I ask your generous, tax deductible, annual financial support by donating to the National Center for Amity. This request begins a concerted effort by the NCRA Board of Directors to secure a solid financial base to realize our immediate and long-term plans as we enter the second decade of operations. Please make your donation at <https://raceamity.org/donate/#donate> or send to

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In loving Amity with gratitude for your support,

*Smitty*

William H. "Smitty" Smith, Ed. D.

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