



# City of Miami— Community Relations

Written & Edited by Natasha Colebrook-Williams, OCR

## Venezuelan Constitutional Referendum

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Teresa Zorrilla-Clark (to the left), 7 year member of the CRB, works to calm down an emotional voter at the Venezuelan Consulate on Brickell avenue after experiencing delays in the voting process.

On Sunday, December 2, 2007, over 6,000 Venezuelans in Florida voted in the Venezuelan Referendum. The proposed constitutional reform would have eliminated presidential term limits and ultimately change history. Voters expressed their position on the issue through demonstrations, song, and paraphernalia.

The City of Miami Community Relations Board along with the Goodwill Ambassadors were present at the Miami's Venezuelan Consulate to serve as mediators and to assist with crowd control while the poles were open. The Consulate in Miami serves Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina with approximately 15, 000 expatriate voters registered.

Emotions ran high among voters when voting was interrupted due to reports of a possible fire in the Brickell Avenue building. After evacuating the building and confirming that there was not a fire, but may have been an electrical problem, the voting resumed. The CRB and Goodwill Ambassadors were present the entire day working to ensure democracy and peace.

## United Nations Traveling Film Festival

The United Nations Association (UNA) of Greater Miami in collaboration with the City of Miami Community Relations Board, Temple Israel of Greater Miami, and the Human Services Coalition will host the 11th UNA Traveling Film Festival on Wednesday, January 30, 2008 and Thursday, January 31, 2008.

The documentaries will be screened at Temple Israel of Greater Miami, 137 NE 19th Street, in the Kahn Hall from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Admission is free.

The UNA traveling film festival is a national project of the United Nations Association of USA that involves the screening of documentaries by international filmmakers dealing with topics such as human rights, universal education among groups and individuals often separated by geography, and ethnicity and economic constraints.

The traveling film festival is a series of screenings sponsored by local chapters of the United Nations Associations with local organizations and are tailored to the interests of the community.



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**Community Relations Board Members**

**Haydee Wheeler**

Chair

Appointed by: Comm. Tomas Regalado

District 4

**Tonja Carter**

Secretary / Parliamentary

Appointed by: Comm. Michelle Spence-Jones

District 5

**Barbara K. Bisno**

Appointed by: Comm. Marc Sarnoff

District 2

**Mary Coombs**

Appointed by: Comm. Marc Sarnoff

District 2

**Helena Del Monte**

Appointed by: Comm. Joe Sanchez

District 3

**Natalie French**

Appointed by: Mayor M. Diaz

**Erie Rodriguez**

Appointed by: Mayor M. Diaz

**Roudy Thomas**

Appointed by: Mayor M. Diaz

**Jennifer Vasquez**

Appointed by: Comm. Tomas Regalado

District 4

**Marjorie Webber**

Appointed by: Comm. Michelle Spence-Jones

District 5

**Teresa Zorrilla-Clark**

Appointed by: Comm. Joe Sanchez

District 3

**Brenda Shapiro**

Ex-Officio

**Guarv Sen**

Honorary Student Member

MAST Academy

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## CRB Programs & Community Outreach Committee



The Programs & Community Outreach Committee's goal is to become knowledgeable about the City of Miami's neighborhoods, ethnic groups, social issues, and community leaders. In developing educational programs and special events that diminish community tension and improve inter-group relations, the committee has worked on housing concerns between Habitat for Humanity and residents of Overtown, and organized business fairs in Little Haiti and Little Havana.

Dream Act Forum at Maritime and Science Technology Academy moderated by CRB Honorary Student Member, Gaurav Sen

Academy. The DREAM Act is a legislation that allows states to determine who is eligible for in-state tuition at their public colleges and universities and provides clear paths to citizenship for immigrant students brought to this country as minors. Pursuit and completion of higher education is one path, and service in the military is another path.

The panelists included Dr. Alex Stepick, the Director of the Immigration and Ethnicity Institute and Professor of Anthropology & Sociology at Florida International University, Douglas A. Saballos, the President of the League of United American Citizens (L.U.L.A.C), and David W. Caulkett, the founder and Vice President of Floridians for Immigration Enforcement (FLIMEN.) The DREAM Act was first explained in depth to the students, then panelists in support and against the legislation was given an opportunity to present. After the presentation, students were allowed to pose questions, comments, and concerns. The forum was thought provoking and educational. Each student was given the contact information for their federal representatives.

The committee's most recent initiative was a forum on the DREAM Act presented to the students of MAST

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## Vacant Positions on the City of Miami Community Relations Board

The City of Miami Community Relations Board (CRB) is accepting applications from City of Miami residents who have an interest in serving on a voluntary board dedicated to finding ways to foster mutual understanding, tolerance, and respect among all economic, social, religious and ethnic groups within the city.

We are looking for residents of the City of Miami that are dedicated to the empowerment and advancement of the communities that make up the City of Miami and can devote a minimum of 10 hours a month.

CRB members are appointed by the City Commissioners and Mayor and serve in an advisory capacity with the responsibility to recommend educational and social programs, designed to eliminate discrimination in any form, and to improve community relations by enlisting the support of civic leaders and citizen groups.

For more information on how you can serve on the City of Miami Community Relations Board, please contact the Office of Community Relations at 305-416-1351 or via email [arojas@ci.miami.fl.us](mailto:arojas@ci.miami.fl.us).



## HotSpot Campaign



Goodwill Ambassador distributors Hotspot literature in Overtown

City of Miami Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones, joined by City Manager Pedro Hernandez, People United to Lead the Struggle for Equality (P.U.L.S.E), City administrators, and community leaders, reintroduced the HotSpot Campaign in Overtown. The campaign aims to empower residents to take back their neighborhoods by reporting illegal activities through the use of “HotSpot” cards, while remaining anonymous without the fear of retaliation from criminals. The service can also be used by residents to report illegal dumping. In the past, the campaign has resulted in hundreds of arrests and the confiscation of illegal drugs.

The HotSpot campaign was originally created by P.U.L.S.E, a non-profit organization. The HotSpot campaign is implemented

through District 5. For more information, please contact P.U.L.S.E at 305-576-7590.

## CRB Mission

*The City of Miami Community Relations Board’s mission is to foster mutual understanding, tolerance, and respect amongst the diverse population that resides in the City.*

## United Nations Traveling Film Festival

Schedule for the feature screenings is as follow:

**Wednesday , January 30th - Temple Israel of Greater Miami, 137 NE 19th Street - Wolfson Auditorium**

**Rosita 6:15 p.m.**

Rosita is a documentary, by award-winning filmmaker Barbara Attie and Janet Goldwater, that traces a young girl’s journey from innocent victim to unwitting victor. When a nine-year-old Nicaraguan girl becomes pregnant as a result of rape, her parents—illiterate compassions working in Costa Rica - seek a legal “therapeutic” abortion to save their only child’s life.

**Beyond the Call 7:45 p.m.**

Beyond the Call is a wonderful, heartfelt documentary about three older gentlemen who risk their lives in the name of adventure and altruism. It is a wakeup call for those of us content to believe that most charities are simply doing everything they can with the money we give them.

**Thursday, January 31st - Temple Israel of Greater Miami, 137 NE 19th Street - Wolfson Auditorium**

**God Sleeps in Rwanda 6:15 p.m.**

This film relates the stories of five women who survived the Rwandan genocide. The filmmakers wisely keep themselves out of the picture and instead let the women tell their stories in their own words. Their experiences were so horrific that it’s hard to watch without crying. Yet there’s nothing self-pitying in their words.

**True Whispers 7:45 p.m.**

This is a documentary about the people of the Navajo nation. It begins with how they were herded out of their land, interred, forced to sign a treaty that they will homogenize into the general population. Their children were forced into mainstream schools, penalized for speaking their native language and kept away from home. These brave men developed an unbreakable code, served on the front lines and were the major reason for triumph in the take over of Iwo Jima and the eventual end of the war.

For more information, please contact the Office of Community Relations at 305-416-1035 or via email at [ncolebrook-williams@miamigov.com](mailto:ncolebrook-williams@miamigov.com).

**CRB**

Community  
Relations  
Board



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION of the United States of America  
GREATER MIAMI

Temple Israel  
of Greater Miami



Human Services  
COALITION  
Connecting people to opportunity,  
purpose and action

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*Meeting dates and times are subject to change. For more information on upcoming meetings and/or events please call the Office of Community Relations at 305-416-1034.

*“Without a sense of caring,  
there can be no sense of  
community.”*

- Anthony J. D’ Angelo

### For Newsletter Inquiries or Letters to Editor Contact:

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#### Community Relations Board Meeting

1st Thursday of each month  
Miami Riverside Center  
444 SW 2nd Avenue, 10th Floor Conference Room  
Miami, Florida 33130  
6:00 PM

#### CRB Programs & Community Outreach Committee Meeting

2nd Tuesday of each month  
Miami Riverside Center  
444 SW 2nd Avenue, 10th Floor Conference Room  
Miami, Florida 33130  
7:00 PM

#### CRB Law Enforcement Committee Meeting

2nd Tuesday of each month  
Location to be announced  
6:00 P.M.

#### MLK Day of Service

Saturday, January 19, 2008  
Little Haiti Beautification Project

#### United Nations Traveling Film Festival (UNAFF)

Wednesday, January 30, 2008 and Thursday, January 31, 2008  
Temple Israel of Greater Miami  
137 NE 19th Street— Wolfson Auditorium  
Miami, Florida 33132  
6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

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## CRB Programs & Community Outreach Committee



Barbara Bisno, Vice Chair of the City of Miami Community Relations Board and Chair of the CRB Programs & Community Outreach Committee

Other upcoming events include MLK Day of Service on Saturday, January 19, 2008, the United Nations Traveling Film Festival from Wednesday, January 30 to Thursday, January 31, 2008, and free Mortgage Counseling at the Little Haiti NET Office to assist in preventing foreclosures.

MLK Day of Service is a series of community service projects throughout the Greater Miami area in commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.. The City of Miami Community Relations Board’s community project, in collaboration with the Office of Commissioner Spence-Jones, consists of the painting of homes in the Little Haiti area.

For more information on how you can get involved, please contact the Office of Community Relations at 305-416-1035.