

Community Happenings

All events take place at the COA Goldin Center, 2320 W. Burleigh Street, unless otherwise noted *in italics*

April: COA Community Fun Night: April 15, 5-7 p.m.
Friends of Moody Park (Moody Park Pavilion): April 21, 4 p.m.
Community Clean-up (Moody Park): April 23, 9:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m.
Amani Police and Resident Listening Circle (where): April 23 12-3 p.m.
Amani United (COA): April 26, 4:30 p.m.

May: Bloom and Groom (at DCW): May 21, 10a.m-3p.m.
Amani United (at COA): May 24, 4:30p.m.
Parent Empowerment Conference (COA): May 28, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Free and Open to the Public, Lunch, Resources, Raffles, Workshops and More! Childcare is available. For more information please contact Tynetta Oliver at 414-449-1757
Amani Police and Resident Listening Circle (where): May 28 12-3pm.
MPS & COA Closed in observance of Memorial Day: May 30th

Gill Family Resource Center Hours (COA)
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 12:30 p.m to 3.30 p.m.
Thursday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Employment Readiness (COA)
Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Friday, by appointment

UPCOMING ELECTIONS

August 9th, Fall (Partisan) Primary
Primaries for U.S. Congress and Wisconsin Legislature

November 8th, Fall General Election
Elections of the U.S. president, Wisconsin, and
Federal representatives

Get Ready for Summer in Amani!

Summer Camp

At COA's Camp Helen Brachman in central Wisconsin, kids have a great time with sports, canoeing, fishing, swimming, arts, campfires, and lots of new friends. Join us for:

- 2-week sessions running from June 26-July 8, July 10-22, and July 24-August 5 for youth ages 8-17,
- 1-week session from August 7-12 for ages 8-15 (this session starts after MPS summer school ends).
- Job skills and work experience for youth 17 and older who can apply for a 4-week Youth Worker Program, and paid positions for 18 year-olds as part of the summer staff.

Summer Day Camp

Registration is now open for COA in-city summer day camp at the Goldin Center (and Riverwest Center). Youth stay busy all summer long with great recreational programs and field trips.

Scholarship applications for all programs are available at the Goldin Center and Riverwest Center; call [414-263-8383](tel:414-263-8383) or visit COA's website at coa-yfc.org/wp/camp/ for more information!



Community Gardens in Moody Park

The Moody Park Community Garden will offer raised garden beds for neighborhood residents and their families to rent for the growing season. Residents will have the opportunity to receive FREE vegetable starter plants and/or seeds when signing up for a garden plot early.

The gardening season will begin with a short series of three free gardening classes taught by Master Gardeners to prepare residents with everything they need to know to about raising a healthy garden with a minimal investment of time.

Please contact Ryan Schone to register for classes or learn more about the community garden:
ryan.schone@ces.uwex.edu or [414-256-4653](tel:414-256-4653)

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Amani United

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Racial Equity Forum is a Call to Action

By Monica Bastardo, MU Trinity Fellow, Dominican Center

Nearly 200 residents participated in a panel on the topic of race at the Dominican Center's Racial Equity Forum on February 3rd. A diverse group of panelists shared historical, academic, statistical and personal perspectives on the topic of race, led by moderator Angela Russell of CUNA Mutual Group in Madison. Her presentation, "Taking on Racial Equity", defined equity and how various forms of bias can inhibit one's ability to act equitably. Russell said "Equity is just and fair inclusion into a society in



which all, including all racial and ethnic groups, can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential. Equity gives all people a just and fair shot in life, despite historic patterns of exclusion." Russell taught how to identify bias and encouraged attendees to have a healthy curiosity for learning about others as a necessary foundation for dismantling the systems and structures of inequity in homes, work places and the community.

Following Russell's presentation, other panelists and the audience brought important perspectives to the conversation and reflected on the troubling issue of racial equity. Panelists included Dennis Walton, an Amani resident and Outreach Coordinator for the Fatherhood Initiative; Dr. Veronica Gunn, of Children's Hospital of Wisconsin; Susan Lloyd, of the Zilber Family Foundation; Deanna Singh, of the Burke Foundation; and Patricia Rogers, of the Dominican Center. The room bustled with ideas and energy for action.

The forum sparked determination for action that can create a more equitable world. Katie Sanders noted "I have been in a lot of conversations about race relations/racial equity, and none have been so productive and inspiring. After the session last week, I really felt like I could make a difference...It's often difficult for me to leave conversations like that feeling good about the world, but last week's forum was able to show me some hope, and helped me see that I can make a difference. And I will."

Another attendee, COA's Sasha Fernandez said "It was an informative discussion and the choice of panelists was key to a powerful highlight of the awareness that is needed. Their professional and personal perspective was steadfast and engaging...I believe we are definitely on the right path to help empower and engage people of color. Systemic oppression does not have to be the reality that our younger generations face. In the great words of Deanna Singh, 'Let us focus on our assets, re-brand our city, take action!'"

For additional information on the event, related resources and photos from the day please visit <http://www.dominican-center.org/foster-social-change.html>

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Someone You Should Know: Ms. Pat Bridges By Angela Green

Ms. Bridges is the Co-Director of NOVA School located within COA's Goldin Center, and was raised right here in the Amani neighborhood. For the past nine years she's worked at NOVA, based on her belief that youth can and will be instrumental in creating positive change and building a brighter future. Prior to coming to NOVA, Ms. Bridges worked for the Department of Corrections for twenty years as a Parole Agent, Youth Counselor, and Corrections Officer. She received her Bachelor's degree in Community Education from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, her Master's degree in Family Studies from Concordia University, and is a graduate of Rufus King High School.



Patricia Bridges choose to change her career path because she wanted to be part of the change by helping give young people the tools and education to stay out of the system and become the leaders their community needs. She has witnessed devastating changes in Amani throughout her life, but is optimistic about the future and looking forward to a continued revitalization of the Amani community. Ms. Bridges philosophy is that the growth in Amani will positively affect the entire City of Milwaukee. In the future, she hopes to see the youth become more and more involved in the community and capable of making it better from within. Ms. Bridges is an inspiration who is dedicating her life to the principle that empowered youth can lead real, positive changes that impacts tomorrow.

Ms. Bridges is an educator, advocate, and leader in the Amani community. She goes above and beyond on a daily basis to ensure that our children receive the best. She's someone you should know.

"Portal" to Create Conversations on Criminal Justice



What is that big gold container next to the COA Goldin Center? It's part of a global project designed to create new perspectives through face-to-face video conversations between people who may never have met. The portal in Milwaukee will connect you with a resident in New Jersey for a video conversations. The project is a collaboration between artist and creator/organizer of the portal program, Amar Bakshi, and major research

universities including Yale and Rutgers. Amar Bakshi's organization Shared Studios states "Our hope is to create a safe space for meaningful dialogues on how people understand their safety, the police, and the system of laws they live within."

Bakshi went on to say "Shared Studios is honored and excited to be partnering with COA Youth & Family Centers, The Milwaukee Fatherhood Initiative and Pepp Nation, among a number of other local groups, to bring the Portal to the Amani community and the broader Milwaukee public. We're particularly happy to be working alongside so many dynamic community leaders and organizations who ultimately will program the Portal for domestic dialogues on safety and justice, and global dialogues on a wide range of issues."

Beginning on Wednesday, April 20, dialogues about criminal justice will take place from 1-5 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Every twenty minutes a different individual (must be 18 or older) will enter the portal and discuss a subject such as "When you think of Ferguson, what comes to mind? Or "How would you describe your neighborhood and your relationship with local police to a stranger?" Learn more and sign up for your spot at sharedstudios.com/milwaukee-portal.html

Our Story: A Celebration of Amani, Black Culture and History



History through the Arts Program

This February the Goldin Center came alive with artistic expressions of Amani, black history, and heritage. About 120 members of our community joined together to celebrate, perform, and share their stories. Beloved community leader Dr. Carter of Carter's Pharmacy gave the opening oration and touched the audience with his message of strength against adversity—a theme that carried throughout the night.

Performers included talented, inspired youth from COA and NOVA school, professional musicians such as King Kamonzi and Anjamou Butler, community leaders such as Patricia Bridges and County Supervisor Supreme Moore, the Amani Storytellers, and many others. Moments like the memories shared by the 'Goldin Girls' and an unveiling of a new painting of President Barack Obama for the Goldin Center by Amani United's own Quon Caston truly made it a night to remember.

COA's Tynetta Oliver emceed the night and said afterward "Tonight was so joyful and meaningful. We're going to make this a tradition – we need to!"



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SHARED AND PERFORMED!