

FAIR HOUSING NEWS

Produced by the Fair Housing Center of West Michigan

Fair Housing: The Front Door to Opportunity

Fair Housing Center Plans 26th Annual Event for April 25, 2013

The Fair Housing Center of West Michigan is very pleased to announce that Carlotta Walls LaNier, the youngest member of the Little Rock Nine who integrated Little Rock Central High



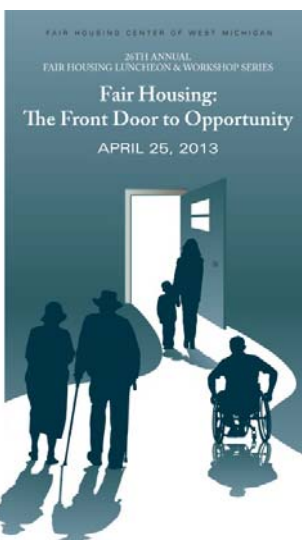
School in 1957, will be the keynote speaker for the 26th Annual Fair Housing Luncheon & Workshop Series on **Thursday, April 25, 2013** at the Crowne Plaza

Hotel. The theme for the event is *Fair Housing: The Front Door to Opportunity*, which highlights that where an individual or family lives affects how they live and what resources they have access to, including education. The FHCWM will again offer concurrent morning workshops from 8:45 a.m. until 11:45 a.m.; the Luncheon begins promptly at noon.

Mrs. LaNier will share her incredible story as well as her thoughts on the civil rights movement today. The Center highly recommends her memoir, *A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice at Little Rock High School*, to learn more. Her journey to the school's doors alone involved angry mobs, racist elected officials, and being escorted by the 101st Airborne. Despite having to sit out her junior year and take correspondence classes when Governor

Faubus closed the schools to prevent further integration, she returned to Central in 1959, one of two of the Little Rock Nine to return. She was the first African American female to participate in a graduation ceremony at Central on May 20, 1960. There are strong parallels between Mrs. LaNier's journey to justice and the fair housing movement. She and her fellow students led the United States in challenging attitudes and barriers.

The Center is planning three comprehensive and timely workshops that focus on the role that fair housing plays in creating and sustaining communities of opportunity. The first workshop, **Fair Housing & Education: The Keys to Sustainable Communities**, will provide information on work being done to create and maintain sustainable communities,



with a special emphasis on the role of housing choice and education as key elements to achieve vibrant, integrated communities. The panel will feature Deborah McKoy, the Executive Director for the Center for

Cities & Schools at UC Berkeley.

The second workshop, **Fair Housing for Seniors: The Threshold of**

Independence & Inclusion, focuses on fair housing issues relevant to seniors and the aging population. Professor Michael Seng, of The John Marshall Law School Fair Housing Legal Support Center & Clinic, will present on a handbook developed by the Fair Housing Legal Support Center entitled, "Fair Housing Rights of Senior with Disabilities: What Seniors and their Families Need to Know." He will be joined by a representative from a senior housing provider to talk about successful fair housing compliance best practices. This workshop is made possible through the support of the Kent County Senior Millage.

The third workshop, **Fair Housing & Bank Owned Properties: Maintaining Our Curb Appeal**, will focus on the work of the National Fair Housing Alliance and Fair Housing Centers such as the FHCWM in regards to discriminatory practices in the marketing and maintenance of REO properties and the significant resulting impact on neighborhoods and communities. Panelists include Shanna Smith (President & CEO—National Fair Housing Alliance), Peter Romer-Friedman (Associate—Cohen Milstein), a representative from Freddie Mac and Gabe Chapla (Test Coordinator—FHCWM).

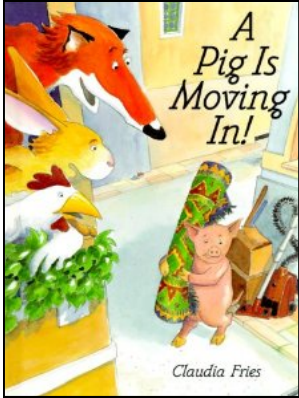
Inside this issue:

26th Annual Fair Housing Event	1
2013 Award Nominations.....	2
A Pig is Moving In!	2
New FHCWM Website.....	2
Local/National Fair Housing News	2
2012 FHCWM Members	3

...FHCWM Notes & News...

New 2nd Grade Fair Housing Curriculum: A Pig is Moving In!

Grant funding from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) has allowed the Center to further fair housing education through the creation of a curriculum on the importance of welcoming communities for 2nd grade classrooms. The Center debuted the curricula at GRPS' C.A.



Frost Elementary. The curriculum is based on the children's book, A Pig Is Moving In! by Claudia Fries. Some of the specific topics discussed included how to be welcoming, making assumptions about people who are different from us,

and the impact this has on ourselves, our neighborhoods, and our communities. The presentations included a reading of the book, a group discussion facilitated by Center staff, and an activity. Each student was given an apartment building on a large piece of paper and a sheet with four animals representing the characters in the book. Each student then colored, cut out, and "moved" the characters into their new homes. They even "moved" themselves in as a neighbor! Students then wrote answers to the prompt, "How can you be kind and welcoming to other people?" The evaluations from the teachers were positive and mentioned the importance of the students connecting the story to what they were learning in class about communities.

Visit Our New Website

The FHCWM is excited to announce the debut of our new website at www.fhcwm.org. This comprehensive and cohesive website was made possible through the generous support of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the expertise of our partners at the Grand Rapids Community Media Center and the former DVQ Studio. We sincerely hope that this website will be a meaningful resource and platform for the community, housing providers, home seekers, fair housing advocates and others seeking information about fair housing and equal housing opportunity.

National Fair Housing News

The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana has joined with the National Fair Housing Alliance and the HOPE Fair Housing Center in a federal lawsuit against Buckingham Realty and Development Corp. alleging discrimination against people with disabilities under the federal Fair Housing Act. The lawsuit is based on a joint investigation by the fair housing groups of four properties located in Kentucky, Illinois and Indiana. The design and construction accessibility requirements of the federal Fair Housing Act requires that apartment and condominium complexes contain seven basic accessibility features for people with disabilities. The lawsuit alleges that since at least 2001, the accused co-defendants have engaged in a continuous pattern or practice of discrimination against people with disabilities by designing and/or constructing multifamily dwellings, and common- and public-use areas, without the required accessibility features.

The lawsuit alleges that the inaccessible features include steps; excessive running slopes; primary entry doors with handles that require grasping and twisting; accessible parking without the required access aisle for people with mobility impairments to leave or enter their parked vehicles; curbs without curb cuts; doors that are too narrow; and kitchens and bathrooms with insufficient maneuvering space for wheelchair users at sinks and toilets.

Local Fair Housing News

The Fair Housing Center of West Michigan is currently investigating multiple cases of sexual harassment against landlords. In these cases, current and former tenants of the landlords in question alleged that their landlord had engaged in inappropriate conduct and/or made repeated inappropriate remarks. Such conduct included soliciting sexual favors to forgive late rental payments or to waive eviction proceedings, making aggressive advances including groping and kissing, and making repeated unwanted remarks about physical appearance or attributes.

Severe or pervasive sexual harassment by a landlord or other housing providers is considered discrimination on the basis of gender, and is illegal under fair housing laws. Please contact the Fair Housing Center if you or someone you know has had any similar experiences to those listed above.

2013 Fair Housing Awards: Nominations Needed

It's that time of year again! Please consider submitting a nomination for an individual or organization for a Fair Housing Award to be presented at the April 25th luncheon. Selection is based upon a demonstrated commitment to fair housing. Please fill out the enclosed nomination form and return it to the Center through mail, fax or email by **March 18, 2013**. You may submit more than one nomination. Thank you to all of you who nominated such worthy community members in 2012 for the Fair Housing Award. We really value your input!



Fair Housing Center of West Michigan

20 Hall Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

T: (616) 451-2980 or 1-866-389-FAIR
F: (616) 451-2657

FHCWM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Doretha Ardoin, President

Coldwell Banker AJS Schmidt

Tim Reimink, Vice President

Crowe Horwath

Valerie Best, Treasurer

Concrete Cutting & Breaking, Inc.

Sharon Smith, Secretary

Aquinas College

Michelle Behrenwald

Inspired Design

Dave Bulkowski

Disability Advocates of Kent County

Floriza Genautis

Management Business Solutions

Ira Hart

Consumers Energy

Dan Koorndyk

State Farm Insurance

Hon. Benjamin Logan

61st District Court

Patrick Lonergan

Fifth Third Bank

Fred Mackraz

The Mackraz Law Office

Suzanne Schulz

City of Grand Rapids

Dave Stellan

First Place Bank

Troy Zapolski

Land & Company

Thank You 2012 FHCWM Members

**THANK YOU SO MUCH
to all of our 2012
members!**

**Because of your generous
support, we met our 2012
Membership Goal of
raising \$10,000 for
FHCWM education and
outreach programs!**

Special Thanks to Our Supporting Members

• Choice One Bank

• Marilyn Titcher

Corporate Members

- Arbor Lake Association of Realtors
- Central Michigan Association of Realtors
- City of Grand Rapids Office of Diversity & Inclusion
- Compass Property Management
- Dyer-Ives Foundation
- EnviroSafe Inc.
- Founders Bank & Trust
- Goodrich Quality Theaters
- Grand Rapids Community Foundation
- Heartland Builders
- Home & Building Assoc. of Greater Grand Rapids
- Hope Network Foundation
- John R. Hunting & Associates
- Keller Williams Realty
- Lolu Audu Real Estate
- Macatawa Bank
- MCT & Company
- Red Oak Management
- Tazzia Lawn Care
- Tonya A Fedewa P.L.C.
- Bob Woodruff

Business Members

- Nancy Agrillo
- Allegan County Resource Development
- Bayberry Point Apartments
- BVW Property Management
- Creston Neighborhood

- Association
- Fishladder Inc.
- Fulton Street Farmers Market
- The Gordon Group
- Grand Rapids Housing Commission
- Grand Rapids Urban League
- Habitat for Humanity of Kent County
- Heritage Hill Association
- Heritage Homes, Inc.
- Home Repair Services
- Management Business Solution
- Michigan Association of Realtors
- Miller Real Estate
- Patriot Realty
- Phoenix Properties
- The Salvation Army Booth Family Services
- Amber Verburg
- Well House
- Rafael & Mindy Castanon
- Phil & Janeth Coray
- Ryan Cotton
- Kay Courtney
- Laurie & Crawford Craft
- Kim Cross
- Andrea Crumback
- Joe Czarnick
- David Czurak
- Al Dannenberg
- Regina Davis
- Mark & Lisa DeVries
- Jim & Roberta Dischinger-Smedes
- Daryl Domke
- Bob Dunn
- Joel & Erin Dye
- Kathie Feldpausch
- Daniel Grzywacz
- Barbara Haynes
- Gail Gunst Heffner & Kenneth Heffner
- Carol Hennessy
- Terri Land & Dan Hibma
- David & Susan Hoekema
- Mike & Mary Ellen Hogan
- Preston Hopson, Jr.
- Philip Hoskin
- Stu & Shannon Hunt
- Paul & Trudi Ippel
- Win & Kyle Irwin
- Paul & Elaine Isely
- Bart & Beth Jonker
- Mary Judnich
- Liz Keegan
- Ruth Kelly
- Ron & Bonnie Kopp
- Gwen Koster
- Mike & Diane Kroll
- Brandi Lee
- Timothy Lemanski
- Eric & Mary Libby
- Benjamin & Denice Logan
- Tom & Anne Logan
- Elizabeth Welch & Jerry Lykins
- Bill & Pam Manus
- David & Mary Mapes
- Harold Mast
- Brian Matzke
- Lesley Mayer
- BriAnne & Kyle McKee

Individual Members

- Gail Anderson
- T. J. Appel
- Peter Armstrong
- Mike & Hilary Arthur
- Stuart & Marti Atwater
- Clement & Lola Audu
- Jean Baird
- Sophie Baker
- Chris & Janice Barbee
- Glenn & Kathi Barkan
- Stan & Judy Barnes
- David Bee
- Michelle Behrenwald
- Kay Behrenwald
- Scott & Sue Benson
- Louis Berra
- Brian Bickford & Nancy Haynes
- Guy & Kim Bickford
- Bert & Janet Bleke
- Rosalynn Bliss
- Bev Boerman
- Roman & Connie Bohatch
- Martha Boks
- Bonnie Brameijer
- Susan Broman
- Jim & Kitty Buck
- Mary Bueche
- Cheryl McKinney
- Michael & Darrell Merren
- James & Mary Moore
- Hon. William Murphy
- John Muth
- Janet Nelson
- Don & Cathy Newton
- Joe & Marie Parzych
- H. Rhett & Jeralyn Pinsky
- Barbara Quinn-Corneil
- Maureen Quinn-Slade
- Rodney & Lindsey Reames
- Timothy Reimink
- Armand Robinson
- Tony & Carolyn Roussey
- Rebecca Rynbrandt
- Ryan & Sara Schmidt
- Teresa Schrimpf
- Jennifer Siegel-Ziegler
- Linda Smith
- Ned & Pat Smith
- Sharon Smith
- Steven & Ruth Stegeman
- Ruth Stevens & Thomas Stellard
- Bill & Judy Stelling
- Dave & Marcy Stelling
- Richard & Mary Stevens
- Kathleen Feeney and John Stuiwe
- Dennis & Deborah Sturtevant
- Greg & Audrey Sundstrom
- Jim & Lawren Susan
- Jim & Sue Swanlund
- Hattie Tinney Beenen
- Carol Townsend
- Paul & Patricia Troost
- Daniel Vanderspek
- James Vaughn
- Joseph Walker
- Karla Walker
- Shari Brown & Michael Walton
- Casey & Lucia White
- Mike & Mary Alice Williams
- Pat Williams

*Thank you to our 2012
Membership Co-Chairs, **Tom
Appel and Robert Upton!***

...FHCWM News & Events...

Community Book Discussion

In honor of Mrs. LaNier coming to speak at our event on April 25th, the Grand Rapids Public Library selected her memoir, [A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice at Little Rock High School](#), for a Community Book Discussion. Come to the Ryerson Auditorium of the Main Library at 7 pm on **Thursday, April 18** to hear from a panel of local educators, including Dr. Matthew Daley of GVSU, who will speak on segregation in schools.

FHCWM Staff Update

The Center is excited to welcome Megan Derks as our new Enforcement Assistant. Megan is also currently working as the Education & Outreach Program Intern while taking classes at Grand Valley State University.

Fair Housing Book Club

Upcoming discussions will feature [In the Shadow of the Banyan](#) by Veddeh Ratner and [Wonder](#) by R. J. Palacio. [In the Shadow of the Banyan](#) highlights the importance of home and identity in the midst of civil war in Cambodia; [Wonder](#) focuses on one community's struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance. The Book Clubs meet in both Grand Rapids and Holland. All meetings begin at 11:45 am. Locations: Holland at Herrick District Library in the small meeting room (300 S. River Ave); Grand Rapids at FHCWM (20 Hall SE). Bring a lunch & join us!

Fair Housing Trainings

The Fair Housing Center offers fair housing trainings, including Fair Housing & Advertising, Fair Housing Training for Rental Professionals and Fair Lending sessions. Costs vary depending on the type of training. Each training is 3 hours and includes a comprehensive packet of reference materials.

Some sessions are held at the FHCWM office; we can also come to your location. Call Liz Keegan at (616) 451-2980 to learn more or register.

Check our website home page for upcoming dates: www.fhcwm.org.

The FHCWM hosts two **tester trainings** each month. Testers are volunteers that play the role of a homeseeker and receive a stipend in return for their time and services. In order to accommodate differing schedules, one training will take place during business hours while the other will be held in the evening. For the specific training dates, to register, or any other questions contact Gabe Chapla at (616) 451-2980.

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Grand Rapids, MI
Permit No. 785

www.fhcwm.org
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FAIR HOUSING CENTER OF
WEST MICHIGAN
20 Hall Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

