



# CMC News

**February 2015**

*President*  
Monica Regan

*Executive Director*  
Eugene Dumas

*Treasurer*  
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## *Message from the Director*

The Center for Multicultural Communities continues to work to help communities, organizations and governmental officials learn new ways to get rid of cultural and racial disharmony. Our most recent efforts have focused on ending discrimination and racism in housing.

On Jan. 28, Jim Wessendorf and I led a workshop on Affirmative Fair Housing. Attendees included governmental officials, community organizations, housing workers and others. Jim and I explained the advent of privileges for some and the denial of privileges for others. We also showed that whereas discrimination and racism used to be practiced because of skin color—despite laws to prohibit such—it is now focused on more than skin color. It appears in society within, for example, family structure, social class and various kinds of disabilities. We explained that affirmative fair housing for everyone could be a positive rather than a negative. The existence of such could open a new world of understanding and respect by all parties concerned.

On Feb. 4, Glen Barwegen and I conducted an interactive workshop on “Enhancing Cultural Competence.” Activities in this workshop showed how relationships can be educational and helpful when people increase their knowledge of cultures different from theirs. Participants were enthusiastic and we all came away from the workshop with increased understanding of diverse cultures. Increasing one’s knowledge of cultures other than our own can facilitate better relationships for all concerned and eliminates suspicions, stereotypes and disastrous confrontations.

We look forward to a lively discussion at our next interactive event, “Understanding Egyptian Culture” at Prairie State College.

*Eugene Dumas*

### **Fair Housing Workshops**

Part I of our latest workshop covered “Enhancing Cultural Competence”, and the series will end with Part II, “Understanding and Respecting Individual Differences.”



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## **Egyptian Culture Presentation**

Come on out, and bring your friends, to a presentation that highlights the rich legacy of Egyptian culture. The presentation will be held at Prairie State College's main campus in Chicago Heights on Wednesday, March 4 at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Center, Room 1318. Admission is free.

## **Pardon Our Dust**

The CMC website, [www.cmc-hrcs.org](http://www.cmc-hrcs.org), is undergoing a redesign. We are working to create a better experience for visitors to the site, and to harness evolving technology that will inform, inspire and invite others to join in our work, in discussions, and in special events. If you need to get or share information while the site is down, please contact us via email or a phone call during office hours.

## **Upcoming Events**

|             |                                |
|-------------|--------------------------------|
| March 4     | Understanding Egyptian Culture |
| Spring 2015 | CMC Community Celebration      |

## **A Quote to Remember**

"When we actively seek the broadest possible exposure and the widest diversity in experiences it not only makes us a better person, it also makes us better prepared and better equipped to redefine the game and reshape America. But it does not happen naturally because oftentimes we confine ourselves to our comfort zones."

– Randal Pinkett and Jeffrey Robinson  
*Black Faces in White Places*

## **An Open Invitation**

Come and join us as we work to promote cultural and racial harmony. You may do so with a tax deductible contribution.

Associate membership – \$20

Graduate membership – \$30 plus completion of a workshop

