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# Diversity Awareness Partnership

## December 2011

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### In this Newsletter:

- \* Our NEW Address

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- \* 2012 Calendar of Religious Observances now available

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- \* Give Respect - Get Respect Youth Program Field Trip to the St. Louis Holocaust Museum

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- \* 2011 Annual Diversity Dinner a Success!

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- \* 2012 Annual Diversity Summit - May 1

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- \* Thank You, Ameren!

### About Us

The Diversity Awareness Partnership is a 501-c(3) non-profit organization dedicated to promoting diversity in the St. Louis region around issues of race, religion, disability, and sexual orientation and gender identity. We achieve our mission through youth programs, diversity training, community forums and diversity publications.

[www.dapstl.org](http://www.dapstl.org)

### Address

815 Olive Street, Suite 23  
St. Louis, MO 63101

### Office Hours

9am - 5pm, M-F

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## We have a New Address!

After 10 years of work in the community, our programs and initiatives have expanded, and so has our office space! Still located in the historic Old Post Office building in downtown St. Louis, our office has moved down the hall on the MID level, also Webster University's Downtown Campus, to Suite 23. The two offices, sharing one address and located just across the hall from each other, are a very generous in-kind donation by Webster University, one of the Diversity Awareness Partnership's four founding sponsors.

Along with our offices, we received new phones. You can still reach the Diversity Awareness Partnership by calling our original office number, 314-436-7628, but please make note of our new direct lines. To reach Reena Hajat Carroll, Executive Director, please call 314-246-3141. To reach Abby Raesly, Communications and Outreach Manager, or other staff members, please call 314-246-3142.

The Diversity Awareness Partnership's new address is 815 Olive Street, **Suite 23**, St. Louis, MO 63101. Thank you, Webster University, for your gift!

## Get Your New Calendar of Religious Observances!

Did you know that the St. Louis community celebrates over 250 different religious holidays? We are only a matter of days away from 2012, and our 2012 Calendar of Religious Observances is available!

The Calendar of Religious Observances, also known as the Interfaith Calendar, is distributed annually and features more than 250 observances celebrated across more than 8 major religions, which is accompanied by a glossary that describes the unique significance of each holiday.

Take one with you to meetings, keep it in your office, bring it to your class, or just have it at home. Please use this calendar for yourself, or to encourage others, to acknowledge and respect friends', neighbors', employees' and co-workers' holidays. We can provide both electronic and hard copies of the calendar. Click [HERE](#) to download the 2012 Interfaith Calendar, and contact Abby Raesly, Communications and Outreach Manager, [araesly@dapstl.org](mailto:araesly@dapstl.org), for one or more hard copies.

The 2012 Calendar of Religious Observances is sponsored by *Wells Fargo Advisors, Pulaski Bank, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Quest Management Consultants, Jewish Federation of St. Louis, The Hindu Temple of St. Louis, Islamic Foundation of St. Louis, Incarnate Word Foundation, and Living Insights Center.*

**O:** 314-436-7628  
**F:** 314-621-9232

## **Give Respect – Get Respect Youth Program Field Trip to the St. Louis Holocaust Museum & Learning Center**

Our Give Respect – Get Respect program participants explored religious diversity on their field trip to the St. Louis Holocaust Museum & Learning Center on November 30. This specific field trip, our third and typically most memorable of five sessions, combines a film, tour of the museum, and testimonials provided by a Holocaust survivor to effectively convey the damage of intolerance and value of speaking against oppression.

**[Make a Donation](#)**  
**to the Diversity Awareness Partnership**

Established in 2002, the Give Respect – Get Respect Youth Program, a collaborative initiative between the Diversity Awareness Partnership and Edward Jones, brings 25 schools across the St. Louis metro area together with Edward Jones Associates to explore race, religion, disability, and sexual orientation and gender identity. The comprehensive curriculum and interactive structure allow the participants to work collectively to bring their knowledge, experience and enthusiasm back to their respective schools and workplaces through tangible actions and projects. For more information about the Give Respect – Get Respect Youth Program visit <http://www.dapstl.org/giverespectgetrespect.html>.

### **2011 Annual Diversity Dinner Pictures**



### **2011 Annual Diversity Dinner a Success!**

Every year, we look forward to bringing our corporate and community leaders together to celebrate diversity and inclusion at our Annual Diversity Dinner. The evening fundraiser, featuring dinner under the stars with cultural entertainment, a star show and a silent auction in the Saint Louis Science Center James S. McDonnell Planetarium, makes the majority of our year-long initiatives possible.



This year, the Annual Diversity Dinner presented performances by the Marching Hornets under direction of Ryan Maclin, of Harris Stowe State University, Ashleyliane Dance Company, Spoken Word Artist and Bryan Cave Attourney, Cheryl Walker, and St. Louis Dancing Classrooms. As 2011 marks our 10th anniversary, the 2011 Annual Diversity Dinner was held in honor of our four founding sponsors: the St. Louis Cardinals, St. Louis Rams, Edward Jones and Webster University.



**[View more pictures!](#)**

Thank you to everyone involved in making the 2011 Annual Diversity Dinner & 10th Anniversary Celebration a success, and to those of you that attended on October 27. We are looking forward to the 2012 programs and initiatives that have been made possible thanks to you! Save the date for the 2012 Annual Diversity Dinner on November 8, 2012!

### **Luke Visconti CEO of DiversityInc to Present at our 2012 Annual Diversity Summit in May**

On May 1, 2012, we are welcoming Luke Visconti to present, "Talent Pool: How St. Louis can be more Competitive in a Diverse Global Market," at the



Edward Jones Headquarters. Visconti, CEO of DiversityInc and popular for his article, “Ask the White Guy,” will speak to human resource, corporate, legal, non-profit, healthcare and government employees representing all levels of the St. Louis workforce. Registration will open on January 9, 2012. To stay updated about the 2012 Annual Diversity Summit visit <http://www.dapstl.org/summit.html>. Learn more about Luke Visconti and DiversityInc [here](#).

## Thank you, Ameren!

Ameren, headquartered in St. Louis, became a supporter of the Diversity Awareness Partnership in 2005 and has since demonstrated a genuine effort to cultivate inclusivity not only within their company but in the entire St. Louis region.

At the Diversity Awareness Partnership, we are proud to work with Ameren and in fact, our organization would simply not be the same without them. Ameren has reached out to the Diversity Awareness Partnership to provide diversity and inclusion training to more than 600 employees in 6 locations. Their engagement has also enhanced our organization’s efficiency and impact in the St. Louis community by hosting our Board of Director’s meetings, where the majority of decision making and strategic planning takes place.



**Steve Parks,**  
Managing Supervisor of  
Diversity at Ameren and  
Diversity Awareness  
Partnership Board President

One of the Diversity Awareness Partnership’s most instrumental attributes is Ameren’s presence on our Board of Directors. Steve Parks, Managing Supervisor of Diversity at Ameren, is our Board President, and his commitment and dedication to the organization are contagious. Parks has attended countless Diversity Awareness Partnership events ranging from the Annual Diversity Dinner to happy hour fundraisers. He has also represented the organization at various events in the community.

“My few years of service on the board of the Diversity Awareness Partnership have greatly increased my awareness of the need for such an organization in our community,” Steve Parks shared. “At the same time, it has allowed me to establish relationships with the amazing and talented people of this organization who make the onerous challenge of accomplishing its mission seem quite achievable.”

Ameren also contributes sponsorship every year, and in 2008, Ameren’s annual gift helped pioneer the Annual Diversity Dinner, which has become one of our most significant fundraisers and a much-anticipated celebration for the St. Louis community. Ameren is also enthusiastic about our new Annual Diversity Summit initiative. Ameren contributed to last year’s St. Louis Legal Diversity Summit and has committed to sponsoring the upcoming 2012 Annual Diversity Summit on May 1, 2012 featuring Luke Visconti of DiversityInc.

Within their company, Ameren addresses diversity proactively by hosting a day dedicated to diversity and promoting affinity groups. Ameren recently held a diversity panel called “Let’s Talk Diversity,” which featured the

Diversity Awareness Partnership's Executive Director, Reena Hajat Carroll, MSW.

"At Ameren, we believe that by helping to improve the lives and develop the talents of others, we will improve the quality of our communities. To that end, Ameren donates millions annually to programs in education, services for the youth and elderly, social services and civic and cultural organizations. As an employee, I espouse the same belief and have been fortunate enough to represent Ameren in supporting the Diversity Awareness Partnership in their efforts to promote diversity in the St. Louis region around issues of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and disability."— Steve Parks, Managing Supervisor of Diversity at Ameren