



News and Events of Cultural Leadership - www.culturalleadership.org - Vol. 13 Spring 2014

Introducing: Camp Cultural Leadership

We are excited to introduce our newest program, Camp Cultural Leadership.

Camp Cultural Leadership is a two-week summer camp for rising 7th, 8th, and 9th graders. Camp will be held at Brittany Woods Middle School in the University City School District. The camp introduces and reinforces social justice concepts and ties them to leadership skills, similar to our award-winning high-school program. Students will:

- increase cultural awareness through hands-on activities;
- take an overnight trip to Memphis to meet with people and see places important to civil rights, social justice and democracy;
- develop leadership skills.

Students will balance fun and learning through interactive games and simulations. Each day, students will focus on a significant leadership trait and an aspect of social justice. There will be movie and swim days, too!

For more information about camp, please contact Maggie Harris at mharris@culturalleadership.org or (314) 725-3222.



Applications are available for Camp Cultural Leadership. There will be two, two-week sessions: July 7-July 18 and July 21-August 1.

Camp runs Monday through Friday, 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. For an additional fee, before and after care will be available (8:30 am-5:00 pm). During camp, students will take a two day; one night trip.

There is a \$600 program fee to participate in Camp Cultural Leadership. This program fee will cover the costs for the two-week camp and the overnight trip. Limited financial aid will be available.

Content

Make a Change! Apply Now for Class 10!

We are accepting applications from *current 9th and 10th grade students* for Class 10 of Cultural Leadership. We have changed the program timing to begin in August and culminate with the Transformational Journey the following summer. Students will complete the program during their sophomore or junior years of high school.

Students must be curious, courageous, "change the world" type teens who want to learn about other people and how to make our current world into the wonderful one it could become. Applications are **due Friday, April 4**, though this deadline may be extended. They are available on our website or from our office.

www.culturalleadership.org

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mharris@culturalleadership.org

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From the Executive Director

Thank you for your commitment to Cultural Leadership. With your support in 2013, we trained 26 young leaders from 19 different high schools to Stand up, Speak out, and Take action against social injustices. I hope you'll take a look at the infographics in this issue that demonstrate the diversity of our students' backgrounds.

Class 9 students reached more than 2,000 people in St. Louis through speeches, facilitations, and action projects. In addition, they stood up and spoke out through editorials in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Sunday, April 6, 2013), on a PBS documentary, "March @ 50: Still Segregated," and they shared their School Swap experience nationally on Linda Ellerbee's Nick News, "Black, White, and Brown v. Board of Education: A Return to Segregated Schools?" You made this possible with your ongoing support and commitment to Cultural Leadership, and we are grateful.

2014 will be a transformational year for Cultural Leadership. With your support, we will educate and train our 10th class of students in our high school program and will launch a summer camp experience for middle school students. In all, we plan to educate and engage more than 100 students and parents in Cultural Leadership programs this year. None of this would be possible without you and 2,700 other donors that have contributed to Cultural Leadership since our inception.

2014 is also a historic year for our country. Sixty years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court issued the landmark 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, declaring segregation in public schools to be unconstitutional. Fifty years ago, thousands of civil rights activists from the North descended on the South as part of the 1964 Freedom Summer, eventually leading to the passage of the 1965 Civil Rights Act.

Yet, as we reflect, there is still much work to be done. We look forward to doing it with you - celebrating our 10th Anniversary at our Gala August 17 and at our annual Troublemaker of the Best Kind Award event in December. Thank you for your continued interest, commitment, and support.

*Holly Ingraham,
Executive Director*



Cultural Leadership exists to create a more just and equitable community by educating high school students to recognize and resolve issues of privilege and injustice through the lens of the African American and Jewish experience.

Our students develop leadership skills, build relationships, facilitate dialogues and create change in their circles of influence.

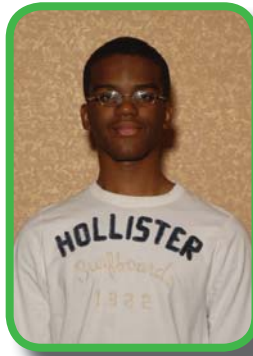


The Best Decision I Ever Made

by **Jonah Atchison (Class 8)**

The best decision I ever made was to apply to Cultural Leadership, an organization that selects a group of high school sophomores and juniors from the St. Louis/Metro-East area, and, through the lenses of the African-American and Jewish experiences, explores the issues supporting and hindering social justice. For one year, twenty-nine other students and I attended monthly programs and weekend retreats, where we learned the skills to tackle social justice issues and the need to respect others despite their differences.

During our three-week transformational journey, religion proved to be the most difficult aspect for me. Visiting a mosque in Washington, D.C., I, as a Christian, felt conflicted bowing, kneeling, and replying to the words the imam said. To me, it felt as though I was betraying principles instilled in me by my Christian faith. I was a respectful participant, but

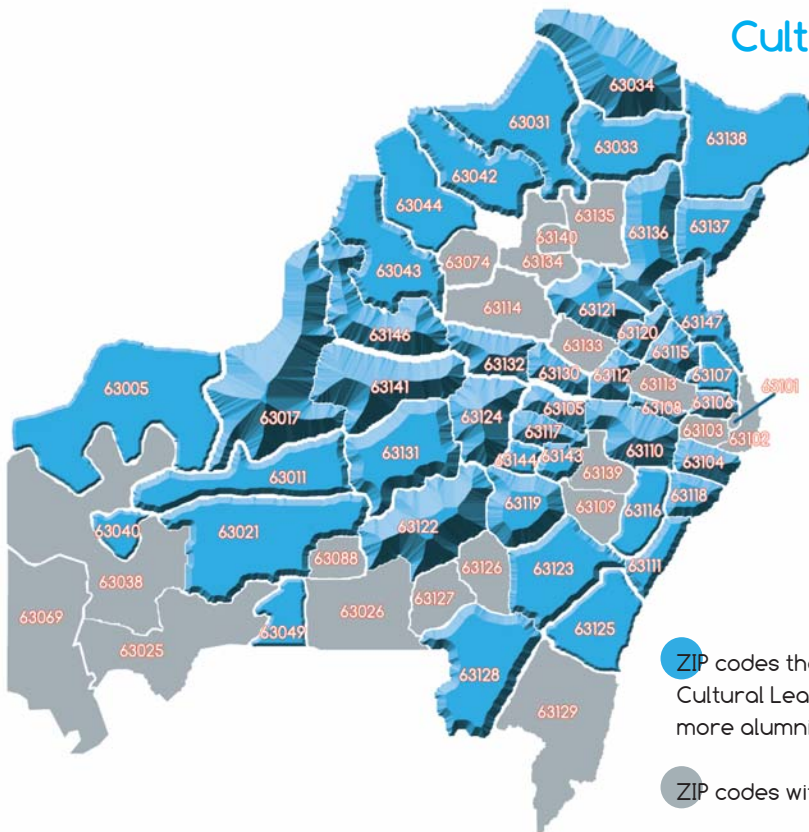


a greater portion of me inwardly rebelled: I wanted to leave the building right then and there. I managed, though, to finish the service, but I felt sick to my stomach. At the end of that day, as with each day's experience, we discussed our highs and lows. Two members of the class grew up in the Muslim community, and I did not want to offend them by revealing that the mosque was my low for the day. I had to make a decision: Be honest and risk offending others or hide my truth in order to be comfortable. I chose to live in my truth despite my personal qualms. I had to call upon previous Cultural Leadership instruction on how to phrase the discordant feelings I had so as not to condemn someone else's faith in the elevation of my own.

Remembering my instruction, I told the group about my struggle and, surprisingly, the Muslim students and most of my other classmates understood my discomfort. Because I voiced my opinion, a few students and a group leader approached me and confided that they, too, felt uncomfortable during the ceremony. Even though it was awkward, I was happy that I had the courage to express myself.

Cultural Leadership taught me that leaning into my discomfort is a way to identify something worth doing. I took away from that moment a great experience in another culture, but I also received a greater understanding and appreciation for my own culture and religion. The experience also taught me to share my thoughts in a respectful manner. The entire Cultural Leadership experience helped me respect diversity in and promote tolerance for all ethnicities, religious beliefs, and cultures, while still embracing my own identity.

Cultural Leadership in 'The Lou'



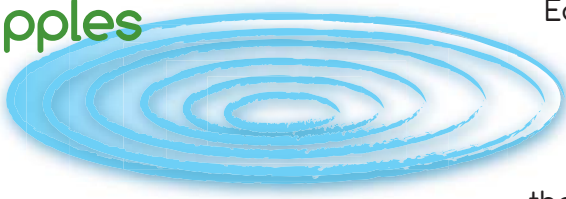
This map shows the 61 ZIP codes in the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County, elevated by number of alumni. Cultural Leadership has worked with students from 43 ZIP codes and an additional 10 ZIPs in the St. Louis region, including Illinois.

Do you live or know someone who lives in the gray zone? Refer or nominate a student today!

ZIP codes that have sent young men and women to Cultural Leadership. The "higher" the ZIP code region, the more alumni hail from there.

ZIP codes without any Cultural Leadership alumni.

Ripples



Each time a person stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others... he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.

Brian Barrett (8) is a National Merit semifinalist and the President and founder of Lindbergh High School's Gay-Straight Alliance.

Hannah Croft (8) was selected to be part of her college's student services organization that provides confidential crisis intervention, supportive counseling, advocacy and ongoing education to the Bard community on issues including sexual assault, sexual

harassment, and relationship violence.

Jen Golden (2) has been accepted to join Teach for America in New York City next year.

Aaron Johnson (5) works with Grass Roots Organizing Missouri (GRO MO). He's running their early voting campaign for Columbia, MO.

Gracie Kempf (9) started Consciousness Helps Encourage Equal Respect (CHEER) at Lindbergh High School. CHEER is a disability-awareness club sponsored by Kurt Warner to advocate disability awareness and acceptance of all people.

Nina Oberman (5) completed an internship with Physicians for Human Rights last summer.

Melinda Oliver (7) joined a feminist group at University of Missouri-Columbia, dialoguing about black feminism and race, class, and gender in America.

Hannah Rosenthal (5) accepted a new position on campus as Director of External Affairs for Princeton's Black Men's Awareness Group. She also interned in the Office for Civil

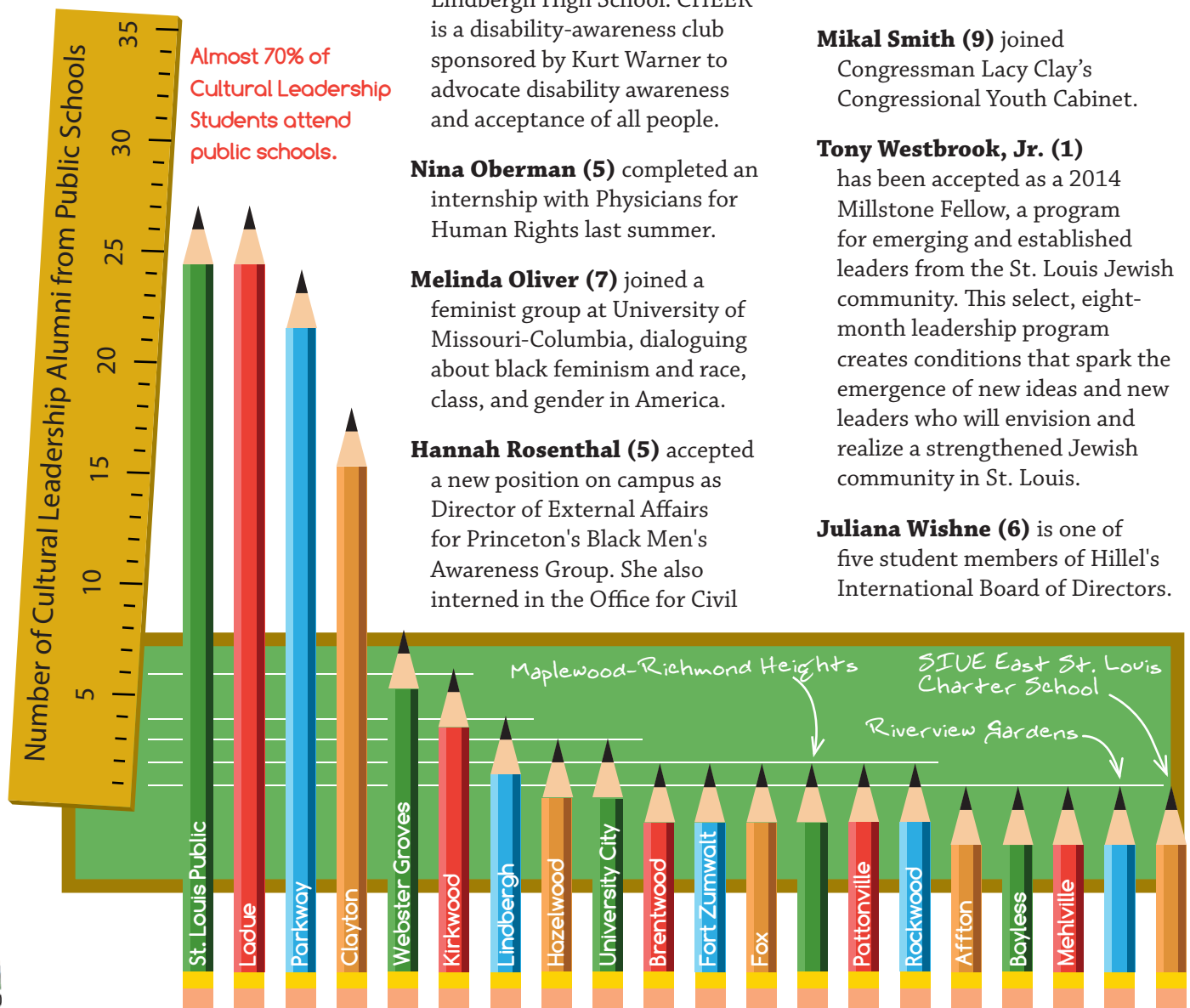
Rights at the U.S. Department of Education last summer.

Maayan Simckes (1) completed her Masters in Public Health at Saint Louis University this past spring and received a CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship in Portland, Oregon. She will spend the next two years as an epidemiologist at the Multnomah County Health Department, where she will focus on issues of injury and violence prevention and infectious disease.

Mikal Smith (9) joined Congressman Lacy Clay's Congressional Youth Cabinet.

Tony Westbrook, Jr. (1) has been accepted as a 2014 Millstone Fellow, a program for emerging and established leaders from the St. Louis Jewish community. This select, eight-month leadership program creates conditions that spark the emergence of new ideas and new leaders who will envision and realize a strengthened Jewish community in St. Louis.

Juliana Wishne (6) is one of five student members of Hillel's International Board of Directors.



Notable News

Dominique Bullock (2) is pursuing her Master of Arts in Teaching, Secondary Math, at Fontbonne University.

Aaron Bush (8) joined the National Society of Black Engineers and the Society of Hispanic Professionals in Engineering.

Laurel Button (9) won National Center for Women & Information Technology's National Award for Aspirations in Computing - 2,300 teenage girls applied.

Brittany Campbell (4) is serving a year with AmeriCorps in Austin, Texas with the program Communities in Schools. She is also applying to grad school for her Master's in Public Health and Masters of Social Work.

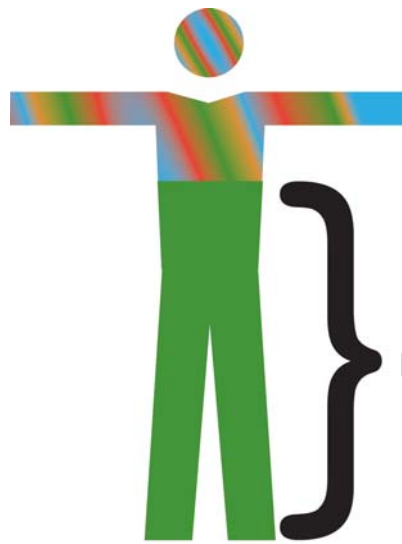
Cece Campbell (3) will graduate with her Master's degree in Theology at Saint Louis University this May.

Jeremy Cropf (2) is an Associate Producer at KCTS 9, the local PBS affiliate, in Seattle.

Scott Friedman (1) is an associate in the Houston office of Locke Lord LLP, practicing business litigation and dispute resolution.

Lauren Greene (2) graduated from Harris-Stowe State University last year as the Class of 2012's Valedictorian. She is attending graduate school in UMSL's Criminology and Criminal Justice Master's degree program.

Alyssa Hadzima (3) graduated with honors in December from UMSL with a marketing degree and a psychology minor. She has moved to Dallas to run social media, search engine



optimization, and online marketing for an international shipping company.

Brionna Jimerson (4) works at Dateline and lives in Crown Heights. She's becoming active in the Crown Heights Tenants Union.

Elliott Kleiman (3) is working for Kiosite, a tech startup based in Clayton. Specifically, he is working on talify.com, an innovative way for college students to apply for jobs.

Zoe Krause (6) just finished an internship with Provide, non-profit dedicated to increasing abortion access in the least accessible states.

Mary-Kate Mudd (9) was chosen by her principal, teachers, and counselors as Parkway North High School's Outstanding Student of the Year.

Rachel Platke (7) made the Dean's List at Meramec.

Hoben Rehfeld (9) started a non-profit record label called Great Areh Records for struggling musicians.

Cydney Ross (3) graduated from Duke University with her Master's in Management Studies. She is now following her passion and training as a

68% of our alumni have come from areas with less than 20% racial diversity. That means that for many of them, Cultural Leadership was the primary opportunity they had to meet, talk to, and form relationships with people different from themselves. We're tearing down walls and building bridges with the bricks.

Less than 20% Racial Diversity

professional athlete in New Jersey.

Sean Scott (2) became engaged and has moved to Seattle.

Maalik Shakoor (8) shot a movie this summer, Prom Date Blues, to be released this spring.

Dakin Sloss (3) is building his second company - Software Report - which helps small businesses choose the best cloud software.

Devin Spears (7) is running his start-up business, Dkthree, which sells jewelry and clothing, while getting a business major and music minor from Southeast Missouri State.

Elle Warshaw (1) is in school at Naropa University in Boulder, CO, majoring in Transpersonal Psychology. She will be graduating next December and then pursue a degree in either Naturopathic Medicine or a dual masters in Clinical Psych & Nutrition.

Eric Washington (5) is a junior at UMSL majoring in criminal justice. He is participating in the Advanced Leaders Program, Student Discrimination Panel, and the Student Life Advisory Panel.

Rachel Winston (1) is getting her Masters at UT Austin in Information Studies, focused on cultural records, archives, and preservation.

Ron Bronstein , Class 1

I am currently serving as a Foreign Relations non-commissioned officer in the **Israel** Defense Forces. I'm just finishing up my second year of service and am set to release in mid-August at my current rank of Sergeant. In brief, the position involves working and cultivating positive relations with militaries in countries around the world. While it's not obviously "change agent," it involves finding areas of commonality, building partnerships, and working cooperatively to solve shared problems. I am still reaching out, building bridges, and finding allies.

Ola Coker, Class 3

I have relocated to **Greensboro, North Carolina**. I am currently teaching biology at James B. Dudley High School, a Title I school. My school was the epicenter during the Civil Rights Movement as it was the first all-black school in the district. In the 1960's, students from North Carolina A&T (Dudley High graduates) were responsible for the sit-in at the Woolworth counter in Greensboro. Despite my school's rich history, it is evident that economic segregation is still prevalent. 98% of my students qualify for free or reduced lunch. The school is desperate for an increase in content mastery and literacy for their students. This entire process of employment has reminded me of Cultural Leadership. I remember looking at the education gap and the lack of consistency when it comes to race and economic status. Although I love what I do, I'm noticing that my students haven't been given as many opportunities to grow and explore intellectually as their white counterparts. My goal is to encourage my students to expand their dreams and take advantage of the only opportunity that is legally guaranteed to them!

Jillian Lynum, Class 4

I just moved to **Chicago** in August for grad school at the Adler School of Professional Psychology. I'll be here for the next five years pursuing my PsyD in clinical psychology with a concentration in child and adolescent psych. I love the program and the mission of the school - they remind me of Cultural Leadership. It feels amazing to be in a learning environment again where social justice is being promoted and it is acceptable. Most class discussions are based on being socially responsible practitioners.

Michael Nacleiro, Class 3

Cultural Leadership provided me with exceptional leadership and relationship-building skills that I use every day. These skills are difficult to learn, and are not necessarily something that you can pick up in high school or college without special practice. I draw upon my skills from Cultural Leadership every day as a teacher, and I'm better off from the experience.

Candice Nichols, Class 5

I spent last semester in **Ghana, Africa**, where I met many new and exciting people, including Jackie Quander, Operation Understanding, DC (Class 15) - the same time period I was in Cultural Leadership. Cultural Leadership has changed my life forever. I love my classmates more than I can say and way more than they will ever understand. I appreciate the lifetime friends and allies that are, quite literally, all over the world.

Nate Seeskin, Class 4

I interned last semester at the Metropolitan Policy Program at the **Brookings Institution** as a Development Intern. My experiences with Cultural Leadership and my interests in policy have inspired me to get directly involved with those leading the way in making positive change in our cities. I believe that cities are a great engine for change in the US through efforts pertaining to sustainability, health, and economic opportunity. Taking part in the Metropolitan Policy Program let me take my first steps into a career path where I can focus on these issues.

Ellie Warshaw, Class 1

I just returned from **Israel** August! After Birthright, I extended my trip for 16 days. I had a blast AND I met up with Ron Bronstein and went camping with him in the Negev. He brought his old Cultural Leadership trip journal and we read the whole thing and had some great laughs.

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Ven Phommaly for designing our
Camp Cultural Leadership
and Troublemaker of the Best
Kind Award event logos.

Barry Seeskin, Organizational
Measures, for facilitating
focus groups about our
program changes.

Our community partners for hosting
our programs in their space:
United Hebrew Congregation,
St. Louis Holocaust Museum and
Learning Center, Covenant House,
Clayton High School, Harris
Stowe State University, Central
Reform Congregation, SLU
School of Public Health and Social
Justice, Washington University
in St. Louis, and Joe Pereles on
behalf of the Drury Hotels.

Our community partners who
have invited us to speak and
facilitate: Central Reform
Congregation, Congregation
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for Social Justice Conference,
Pleasant Grove Baptist Church,
St. Joseph's Academy's Harmony
Group, St. Louis Holocaust
Survivors and Descendants
Group, United Hebrew.

The Class 9 families that
provided food for our student
and parent programs.

Our August retreat chaperones:
Jessica Cornwell, Phil Hunsberger,
Angela Lewis, Samantha Lurie,
and Phillip McMahan.

Galit and Elie Harir for hosting
all of our Class 9 students
in their family's sukkah.

Rabbi Susan Talve, Jamala Rodgers,
Sylvester Brown, Jr., and Lily
Kurland for participating
on our "Local Activists and
Change Agents" panel.

Jewish and Muslim Teen Dialogue
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Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Dr. Uri Dorchin, for leading a
workshop about the history of hip
hop and how it's used by Israeli
youth to create social change.

People's Community Action Corp.
for conducting a "Where does
the money go?" simulation
with Class 9 in July.

Our interns: Gabrielle Allan,
Gretchen DeMong, Chris
Hamm, and Jessica Lake.

Tributes & Memorials

April 13, 2013 through February 15, 2014

In honor of Jacob Anderson-Little
Dianne and Roger Anderson

In honor of Rabbi Randy Fleisher's 50th
birthday
Jessica Droeger
Jodie Kaplan
Scott Knapp
Stephanie and Brian Yaffee

In honor of Karen Kalish
Jeannette and Alan Nissenbaum

In honor of the birth of Leo Benjamin
Skor
Elise and Lee Bernstein

In honor of Ellie and Jake Warshaw
Lisa and Jay Ring

In memory of Ilene Joseph
Susan Byer
Dorothy Churchill
Marie and Leo Groenweghe
Jennifer and Tom Hillman
Michael Howe



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Watch Our Students On Nick News

Brown v. Board of Education Turns 60

Six Class 9 students were featured on the February 11th episode of *Nick News*, a news show for teens on Nickelodeon. With the 60th anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education* decision approaching (May 17, 1954), *Nick News* aired an episode called "Black, White and *Brown v. Board of Education*: A Return to Segregated Schools?" that discussed education equity throughout the United States. Aaron, Evan, Ian, Jacob, Khalil, and Stephanie discussed their school swap experiences and discussed their opinions and reflections on education equity along with other students from Louisiana and Washington D.C.

Cultural Leadership was contacted by Nick News after producers read Sep'Tisha and Ian's influential School Swap articles that were published in the Post-Dispatch last year (04/06/2013).

If you have not yet seen the *Nick News* video, visit Cultural Leadership's website to find the link to the episode.



Khalil Harbin, Evan Lehmann, Stephanie Briggs, Ian Madden, Jacob Anderson-Little, and Aaron Garriga appeared on Nick News February 11 to discuss their experiences and the legacy of *Brown v. Board of Education*.