



REAL PEOPLE

can make a big difference



by **Robert L. Woodard**
The Wynnefield Barber

As a barber, I have the wonderful opportunity to meet many “Real People.” The difference that one person can make is truly outstanding. The human spirit identifies itself in conversations when two or more come together in dialogue. Sometimes, cultures differ, which may lead to misunderstandings. But don’t stop the discussion. Most differences find their way into a balanced conversation and a mutual understanding.

Barbershop Talk is an amazing tool that leads to some of the most challenging questions and concerns about cultural diversity. That is how *Barbershop Talk Human Family Day* became a reality. Our mission is to bring diverse cultures together through sharing our differences. Our Foundation helps us “Celebrate Human Life and Support Human Health.” By doing this, we become “Life Savers.”

In my barbershop, located at 5031 Diamond Street, many people have shared their personal health challenges with me. Barbers were the first doctors and surgeons. Because of that, I have asked many of my patrons, who just happen to be doctors, questions about their individual fields. My conversations with these “Real People” are quite fascinating.

Last year at our Human Family Day celebration, we had a doctor panel segment and the audience lined up to ask questions about their health. I started with my questions and many “Real People” followed with real concerns about their health-related issues. Through dialogue and conversation, we were truly enlightened.

The entertainment was outstanding. We even got the Mummies to perform at the Historical Union Baptist Church, where the late, great Civil Rights activist Mrs. Marian Anderson attended.

The spirit of bringing the Mummies into that building was one of the highlights of my life. These “Real People” took the time to show up and help us make history. Mr. Thom Loomis, President of the Woodland String Band, and I had a great conversation about race. He truly appreciated taking our Barbershop Talk “RACE Test” and it helped us both come to a greater understanding about how race is viewed in America today. The Mummies have now added other cultures to the parade and we all look forward to seeing their expansion to cultural diversity in the Mummies New Year’s Day Parade.

Barbershop Talk also made the international connection last year on the Democratic floor with the first female nominee for President of the United States of America. We were featured on Fusion’s “The Hillary Show” with Mr. Bassem Youssef of Egypt and Mr. Jorge Ramos of Mexico, two outstanding “Real People” as commentators making a big difference.

Ms. Katy Barkley, our 1ST New Jersey Ambassador, is doing a fantastic job managing our social media. Our Director and Coordinator, Ms. Tracey Payton Younger, has helped us by utilizing her wonderful administrative skills. The Union Baptist Church, their Pastor Donald West and my sister Teresa Pearsall, allow us to host our annual event at their Church. Many Senior Members, who have been “Real People” for a long time, are over 100 years in age. Those Elders were very proud of last year’s historical Human Family Day Celebration and for that reason, I think we did our job well by bringing all cultures together. I look forward to seeing all of you this year on April 30, 2017 at Union Baptist Church, 1910 Fitzwater Street. Visit our website www.BarbershopTalkHFD.org and take the “RACE Test”. **PRH**



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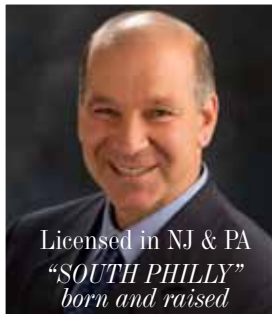
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