



## Ghandi Will Kick Off Waterford's Diversity Conference

**September 26, 2003, Waterford, Mich.** – The Waterford School District, Oakland Community College (OCC), and the Charter Township of Waterford will present “**People Living, Learning, Growing Together**” Diversity Conference on Friday, October 24, 2003, 4:45 – 7:30 p.m. at Mott High School, 1151 Scott Lake Road, and Saturday, October 25, 2003, 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., at Oakland Community College, Highland Lakes Campus, 7350 Cooley Lake Road.

Issues of culture, ethnicity, race, age, and gender have become issues of great significance in the United States as a result of population shifts and the growing national awareness of differences. New skills and knowledge are required in such fields as workforce diversity, human resource management, education, and conflict resolution. This conference will provide a forum in which participants from all facets of the Waterford community, and neighboring communities, can come together to strengthen their knowledge and understanding of these very important diversity issues.

The conference begins with an Opening Night Gala Friday evening. Arun Gandhi, the grandson of India's legendary leader Mahatma Gandhi, will give the keynote address. Gandhi speaks all over the world about conflict preventions, anger management, diversity, relationship and community building. Growing up under the discriminatory apartheid laws of South Africa, Arun was beaten by “white” South Africans for being too black and by “black” South Africans for being too white. In his youth, Arun sought eye-for-an-eye justice. His parents worried about his intense feelings of anger and he was sent to live with his grandfather where he learned how to deal with his anger in a positive way.

Tony Award winner **Josh White, Jr.**, and renowned folk, blues, gospel, and jazz singer, will perform on Friday evening and give a keynote address on Saturday. Josh has performed on radio, television, Broadway, concert halls, and nightclubs around the world. Josh has been in numerous Broadway plays, more than 50 American television dramas, co-starred with his father in Great Britain in the Josh White Show, and has performed on the world's greatest stages including Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and Madison Square Garden.

**Rene Lichtman**, artist, educator, and Holocaust survivor, is the keynote speaker on Saturday. Rene, a Jewish child born in Paris, was raised by a Catholic family after his father died in combat when the Germans invaded France in 1940. He rarely saw his mother, who went into hiding in Paris. As a Jewish child in hiding, Rene had no social contact with other children -- no school, church, or outdoor activities. He will speak about his experience as a child and the life he has made for himself and his family today.

Cost for the Friday evening Opening Night Gala is \$35 for hor'dourves and keynote address. For those wishing

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to hear only the keynote address may do so at a cost of \$20. Saturday's conference is \$35 (cost for students and

senior citizens age 55 and over is \$12). Conference fee includes all sessions on Saturday, conference materials, continental breakfast, and lunch. For more information or to register for the event, call 666-6681.

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