

## BECOME A PARTNER IN CREATING SOCIAL CHANGE

When you give to Crossroads Fund, your gift is pooled with others and becomes a significant resource to foster social change in Chicago and beyond. Here are some ways you can give to Crossroads Fund:

👉 **ATTEND OUR ANNUAL BENEFIT** – and bring friends!

👉 **WRITE A CHECK** and return it in the enclosed remittance envelope. Find out if your employer matches contributions – that is an easy way to make your gift go much further.

👉 **BECOME A SUSTAINER** and have your contribution deducted from your credit card monthly or quarterly. As a sustainer, you can take pride in knowing that you are one of our most reliable sources of support.

👉 **CONTRIBUTE ONLINE** via our secure service. It's quick, convenient and safe – just log on to [www.crossroadsfund.org](http://www.crossroadsfund.org)

👉 **HONOR OR REMEMBER SOMEONE SPECIAL** with a gift in their name.

👉 **CO-HOST A HOUSE PARTY** and help us spread the word about the good work of Crossroads Fund to your colleagues, friends and family.

👉 **REMEMBER CROSSROADS FUND IN YOUR WILL, INSURANCE OR RETIREMENT PLAN** all three are easy ways to have a lasting impact for social justice.

👉 **OPEN A DONOR ADVISED FUND** and partner with us to have an impact on social justice issues.

👉 **ESTABLISH A CHARITABLE TRUST** to benefit Crossroads Fund, and reduce your tax burden.

**For more information, please contact Sheila O'Donnell, Development Director, at 773.227.7676 or [sheila@crossroadsfund.org](mailto:sheila@crossroadsfund.org).**



### THANK YOU CROSSROADS FUND VISIONARIES

These dedicated individuals have included Crossroads Fund in their will or estate plan, ensuring the long-term strength and stability of the fund and leaving a legacy of their values and vision.

Anonymous (4)  
Bill Barclay & Peg Strobel  
Henry T. Chandler, Jr.  
Ferd Eggan \*  
Neena Hemmady  
Barbara Kemmis  
Bob Weissbourd  
Iris Young \*

For more information, please contact Jeanne Kracher, Executive Director, at 773.227.7676 or [jeanne@crossroadsfund.org](mailto:jeanne@crossroadsfund.org)

\* in memory

# At The CROSSROADS

volume 4 number 1 Fall 2008

## CROSSROADS FUND REMEMBERS DON ERICKSON WITH A POLITICAL SKETCH COMEDY EVENT



Members of the Comedy Troup, GayCo.

In 2007, the Synapses Foundation dissolved and gave its assets, a little more than \$1 million, to an endowment fund at Crossroads Fund. The founder of Synapses, Don Erickson, had a great sense of humor and a deep belief that we should be ready to laugh at ourselves – and at the state of the world!

In memory of Don, and with support from the Synapses Fund at Crossroads Fund, we are proud to present veteran Chicago sketch comedy groups Schadenfreude and GayCo Productions as they bring together some of Chicago's premiere comedy performers to present their take on the current election season and the issues facing our great nation on this, the 40th anniversary of the Laff-Riot® 1968 Democratic Convention.

Together, Schadenfreude and GayCo Productions will present two nights of stand-up, sketch comedy, music and magic that will remind you that there is still room to laugh through all of your tears.

Formed in 1997, Schadenfreude has performed at countless venues around the world over the past decade, including the Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf, Lollapalooza (2006), the Second City, the Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre (LA), HERE (NYC) and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. The ensemble has headlined numerous sold-out venues at annual Chicago Improv Festivals (CIF) and was awarded CIF's Festival Highlight Award in 2002. Schadenfreude has also reached across numerous mediums including a weekly show on Chicago Public Radio (2003-05), film, even cell phone downloads via Sprint PCS. They've completed two screenplays, *Alderman* and *Phudie Mart*. Schadenfreude is currently working with WTTW (Channel 11) to write and perform a new weekly comedy program called "IL-Informed". Schadenfreude is Kate James, Justin Kaufmann, Sandy Marshall, Stephen Schmidt and Adam Witt. More information at [www.schadenfreude.net](http://www.schadenfreude.net).

Born at the famed Second City in 1996, GayCo Productions advances the gay agenda through hilarious, intelligent sketch



Members of the Comedy Troup, Schadenfreude. Left to right: Sandy Marshall, Kate James, Adam Witt, Justin Kaufmann, Stephen Schmidt.

comedy where gay is the given not the punch line. GayCo performs affordable, high quality shows at the Center on Halsted's Hoover-Leppen Theatre in Chicago and tours throughout the U.S. and in Canada and Amsterdam. In Los Angeles, GayCo has partnered with Three Dollar Bill Productions to produce award-winning comedic short films based on the GayCo Comedy Archives.

### JOIN US FOR A POLITICAL SKETCH COMEDY FESTIVAL THIS COUNTRY'S F\$CKED!

... At the Lakeshore Theater, 3175 N. Broadway in Chicago, on October 18 and 25, 2008 at 8:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and are available by calling (773) 472-3492 or by visiting [www.lakeshoretheater.com](http://www.lakeshoretheater.com).

**Join Crossroads Fund for a special opening night celebration! Bring this newsletter to the 8 p.m. show on October 18 and you will be invited to meet the cast and enjoy wine and conversation immediately following the performance.**

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CROSSROADS FUND

change, not charity

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Chicago, IL 60647-1245  
[www.crossroadsfund.org](http://www.crossroadsfund.org)



# LOYOLA UNIVERSITY HONORS JEANNE KRACHER

## ABOUT CROSSROADS FUND

Crossroads Fund supports community organizations working on issues of social and economic justice in the Chicago area. A public foundation, Crossroads Fund pools the resources of individuals, foundations and businesses, building a broad base of support for grassroots organizations working for social change.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CROSSROADS FUND is a member of the Funding Exchange (FEX), a national network of locally-based community foundations committed to supporting grassroots groups that address critical issues in their regions. [www.fex.org](http://www.fex.org).



Crossroads Fund board and staff members came out to honor Jeanne. Left to right: Timothy Jones-Yelvington, Jane Kimondo, Chris Long, Harry Chandler (seated), Sheila O'Donnell, Tom Wilson, Jeanne Kracher, Barbara Kemmis, K. Sujata and Tricia Hendricks. Photo by Robert Dowey.



Jeanne Kracher and Louis Delgado. Photo by Robert Dowey.

On June 18, 2008, the Nonprofit Management and Philanthropy Sector Program and the School of Social Work at Loyola University, Chicago, honored Crossroads Fund Executive Director, Jeanne Kracher, with the 2008 Louis T. Delgado Social Justice in Philanthropy Award.

Congratulations Jeanne! And thank you for your vision and commitment to social justice – we are so proud of you!



Crossroads Fund supporters, including 2008 honoree Cathy Cohen (third from left) at Seeds of Change 2008. Photo by Misty Winter.

## SAVE THE DATE FOR SEEDS OF CHANGE 2009

Friday, March 13, 2009 • 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Chicago Cultural Center • 77 East Randolph Street, Chicago

It's right around the corner!

Chicago's premier party for social justice – you won't want to miss it!

## LISA FITTKO INTERN MOVES INTO PERMANENT POSITION

We are pleased to announce that Timothy Jones-Yelvington, our 2008 Lisa Fittko Intern, joined us in September as the full-time Program Associate. Congratulations Tim!

# CROSSROADS FUND GATHERINGS

## WHAT IMPACT DOES THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN HAVE ON ORGANIZING IN COMMUNITIES OF COLOR?



Left to right: Eric Tellez, Deborah Harrington and Alden Loury enjoy thought provoking conversation at the event.

On Sunday, June 22, 2008, Deborah Harrington co-hosted a house party with Crossroads Fund board members Linda Harlan and Lisa Pickens. Over twenty friends and donors of Crossroads Fund gathered for a discussion about the short- and long-term impact of the Presidential campaign on organizing in communities of color beyond the current election cycle. The discussion was led by James Thindwa from Jobs With Justice and Rami Nashashibi from Inner City Muslim Action Network and moderated by Lisa Pickens. The group engaged in a lively conversation, addressing such questions as, are there residual benefits from registering people to vote? Is there an opportunity or plan to build on the momentum of the electoral process?

Rami raised the issue of how complicated it can be for Arab-Americans and other groups to assess

their support for candidates who may publicly try to distance themselves from communities that are seen as "controversial." He spoke of the election as an opportunity to work across issues and identities to create a broad agenda for change. James raised the idea that grassroots groups must put together a campaign to hold the new president accountable over the first one hundred days of the new administration. All in all, the conversation was thought-provoking and energizing during a year that will prove critical to our future. We thank Deborah Harrington for graciously hosting us in her lovely home.

If you are interested in putting a group together for a discussion and house party to benefit Crossroads Fund, please contact Sheila O'Donnell, Development Director, at 773.227.7676 or e-mail [sheila@crossroadsfund.org](mailto:sheila@crossroadsfund.org).

## SECOND ANNUAL MINI GOLF OUTING



Left to right: Gilberto Villaseñor, Kyle Schafer, Catherine Clepper, Rachel Wallis and Alana Reyes-Mir enjoying a few rounds of mini golf.



Todd Simmer and Charles Drennan served on the host committee for the event.

Around 75 miniature golf enthusiasts attended *Mini Golf: Big Change*, our second annual miniature golf outing, on Wednesday, August 13, 2008, at the Diversey Mini Golf Course in Lincoln Park. This fun event included a round of miniature golf, exciting Crossroads Fund trivia, food and fantastic prizes for top golfers. Best of all, the outing raised over \$2,000 to benefit social change grantmaking at Crossroads Fund. Thank you to everyone who supported *Mini Golf: Big Change*!