



Register  
Sign In



82 °F Greenwich, CT  
Scattered Clouds

Sunday, May 02, 2010  
Traffic | Weather  
Customer Care | e-Edition

- Home News Sports Business Entertainment Obituaries Opinion Living Blogs Classifieds Jobs Homes Rentals Cars Index
- Regional National World Politics Science and Technology

### Town leaders join YWCA in 'stand against racism'

Lisa Chamoff, Staff Writer  
Published: 09:27 p.m., Monday, April 26, 2010

Search

Greenwich Time Web Search by Yahoo!  
Advanced Search »

VIEW: LARGER | HIDE

1 of 4

PREV NEXT



Voices of Inspiration, the Choir of First Baptist Church sings at the YWCA's Stand Against Racism Day, at Greenwich Town Hall meeting room on Monday, April 26, 2010. The singers, from left: Carol Mitchell, Dorothy Vickers, Daniel Hickman, Tim Bassford, Gracie Smith, James Gordon, Charlene Hickman, and Ruby Durant, directed by Dan Williams, right. Photo: Helen Neafsey / Greenwich Time | Buy This Photo

Get Greenwich Time delivered

**EVEREADY**  
TRANSPORTATION  
Executive Car Service

**For All Your Transportation Needs**  
We Deliver the Highest Quality Service at the Most Competitive Prices!

Click or Call to Find learn more

#### MORE NEWS GALLERIES



Failed Times Square car bomb



Crying Sumo competition



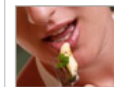
Crouch quadruplets going to Yale



#### NEW ARTICLES FROM HowLIFEWORKS



[Why Most Shampoos Are a Waste of Money](#)



[How to Convince Your Brain to Stop Over-Eating](#)



[How to Make Your PC as Fast as the Day You Bought It](#)

Comments (1) 0 tweets [Share](#)

Larger | Smaller tweet

Printable Version tweet

Font

It was a day for awareness Monday, as various community groups joined the YWCA of Greenwich at Town Hall in one of its core missions -- eliminating racism.

The YWCA's "Stand Against Racism" initiative is being carried out by more than 75 other YWCAs across the country, and Greenwich marked it Monday with declarations from town leaders.

"There are still some people who believe that only some of us are created equal," said Adrienne Singer, the YWCA of Greenwich's president. "There are still some people who believe that hatred is a tool for progress."

#### MORE NEWS



#### FROM OUR HOMEPAGE



**Building new Bridges: Nursery school settles into renovated North Mianus Community Center**



**Town celebrates Arbor Day by setting out to recover from March storm**



**3 injured in two-car crash on Route 1**

The YWCA effort is a response to the rapid rise in hate groups -- a 54 percent increase in the last eight years, Singer said.

U.S. Rep. [Jim Himes](#) said state residents may have become complacent, despite the facts that Connecticut is where African captives from the Amistad slave ship won their freedom, and is one of the few states that allow same-sex couples to marry.

"Just when you are tempted to feel that sense of complacency, just when you're tempted to look back on your history and say, 'We do OK here' -- that it's not our problem, it's Alabama's problem, or Wyoming's problem -- that's the moment when you need a day like this," Himes said.

A number of town organizations, including the Boys & Girls Club of Greenwich and the United Way of Greenwich, have also signed on to the initiative. The town's schools marked the day in various ways, including through pledges, designing posters and participating in discussions.

Superintendent of Schools [Sidney Freund](#) said people must be vigilant to ensure that those responsible for education view all children equally.

"They must set the highest standards for all children, regardless of their gender, their race, their color or their creed," Freund said. "You have my pledge that this is my ideal, and it's my vision for our public schools."

First Selectman Peter Tesei said the strength of the Greenwich community is its diversity, and its various cultural and religious groups and events.

"I believe that we must continue to acknowledge this and celebrate this, and expand it across the various segments of society -- not just in ethnicity or race, but in terms of sexual orientation and other differences that we have, and embrace them as a strength and make sure people are tolerant and respectful," Tesei said.

Selectman [Drew Marzullo](#), the first openly gay individual to hold townwide office in Greenwich, said before the start of the event that he was encouraged by the progress the town has made, particularly at the high school.

"When I was a student in the '80s, there was no such thing as a gay/lesbian alliance to join, let alone a group that would acknowledge that students were dealing with racism within their learning environments," Marzullo said. "Now, the high school has over 15 clubs devoted to diversity or racism awareness, and I am hopeful that we are raising a new generation that does not discriminate against their peers on the basis of their differences."

The event included a performance by the choir of Greenwich's predominantly black [First Baptist Church](#).

Gracie Smith, who sings in the choir and has been a member of the church for 40 years, said the fact that the church and choir welcome people from all races and backgrounds helps encourage understanding.

The Rev. [Thomas Nins](#), pastor of First Baptist Church, said the YWCA's initiative was a good step.

"I thought it was a significant day in that it brought so many aspects of the community together around a common cause," he said. "I think that the best thing that we can do to take a stand against racism is to begin in our own lives ..."

**VIDEO: Failed car bomb in NYC**



**Brunswick Lacrosse falls to Westminster**



**Blumenthal urges review of rest -stop deal; DOT quickly says it's fine**

#### LATEST NEWS

**Greenwich to celebrate 370th anniversary of town's settlement with Founders Day bash**08:14 p.m.

**In the face of doubters, Simmons' Senate campaign projecting optimism in buildup to GOP convention**09:49 p.m.

**Winds, equipment failures cause power outages in Greenwich**09:48 p.m.

**Byram pharmacist sentenced to 14 months in federal prison**08:41 p.m.

**Greenwich attorney OK'd as Connecticut's U.S. attorney**08:38 p.m.

... reach one person at a time, then we can effectively impact our community and make it a better, safer, healthier place."

Staff Writer [Lisa Chamoff](#) can be reached at [lisa.chamoff@scni.com](mailto:lisa.chamoff@scni.com) or 203-625-4439.

 [Printable Version](#)
0 [tweet](#)
[Share](#)

---

Please Register or Sign In to add your comment.

**Echo 1 Items**



**ChrisCT**

Admittedly an honorable cause ...but who is advocating the other side of the coin, preventing the rampant criminal behavior in the black community that leads to racism? 😞 Nobody wants to talk about that issue, much less do anything about it.

5 days ago, 8:49:58 AM – Flag

**Discountadvances.com - Official Site**  
 Cheaper, Better, Faster. Secure Cash.  
 DiscountAdvances

**Top Online School Degrees**  
 Earn Your Degree from a Top School Online! Study at Home  
 CollegeDegreeNetw

**Ads by Yahoo!**

**GREENWICH TIME**

- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Living](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Blogs](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Jobs](#)

**Cars**

- [Homes](#)
- [Rentals](#)

**SERVICES & INFO**

- [Customer Care](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Advertise With Us](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Terms of Service](#)
- [Hearst Corporation](#)

**HOW TO**

- [Get More Hair Volume](#)
- [Virtual Makeover](#)
- [Try Virtual Hairstyles](#)
- [Find Haircut Ideas](#)
- [Get Wavy Hair](#)
- [Get Rid of Blackheads](#)
- [Teen Hairstyles](#)
- [Beauty Tips](#)
- [Going Green Tips](#)
- [How to Stop Hair Loss](#)
- [Get Longer Lashes](#)

**BEST**

- [Hair Color](#)
- [Soup Recipes](#)
- [Best Eye Cream](#)
- [iPod Docking Stations](#)
- [Twilight Trivia](#)
- [Twilight Quizzes](#)
- [Best Haircuts Ever](#)
- [New Beauty Products](#)
- [Fragrances for Women](#)
- [Best Toning Exercises](#)
- [Paint Colors](#)

**BEAUTY**

- [Get Celebrity Hairstyles](#)
- [Best Beauty Trends](#)
- [Medium Length Hair](#)
- [Cover Under Eye Circles](#)
- [Treat Damaged Hair](#)
- [Best Anti-Aging Cream](#)
- [Half-Up Hairstyle](#)
- [Best Beauty Products](#)
- [Fast & Easy Hairstyles](#)
- [Best Health Secrets](#)
- [Eye Makeup Tips](#)

**FOOD & HEALTH**

- [Pasta Salad Recipes](#)
- [Amazing Soup Diet](#)
- [Low Calorie Recipes](#)
- [Best Diet Plan](#)
- [Mixed Drinks Recipes](#)
- [Best Sandwiches](#)
- [Rachael Ray Recipes](#)
- [Coupons for Groceries](#)
- [Chicken Breast Recipes](#)
- [Cake Recipes](#)
- [Grilled Chicken Recipes](#)

© 2010 Hearst Communications Inc.

