

Where, When, How Much

Future Leaders Network Summer Retreat/1994 will take place August 12-21 at Fellowship Farm in Pottstown, Pa.

The full cost of the retreat is \$350/person. Those who can pay the full cost are encouraged to do so, or to pay 1/2 or 3/4 of it. Those young people who need assistance in raising money will be helped to raise it. For example, we print up raffle tickets with special prizes, and young people sell them to friends, family and neighbors to raise money for the retreat.

Scholarships are available for those who need them. If you need a scholarship check off the box below.

The retreat center where this is being held is accessible for people with disabilities.

Coupon

Return to: FLN, P.O. Box 170610, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11217, 718-643-9603, or 215-472-4024

Name _____

Age _____

Address _____

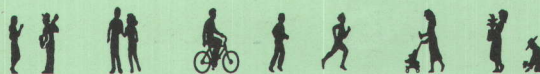
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (with area code) _____

School grade _____

To receive application, return this portion by June 1, earlier if possible.

☐ Check here if scholarship information and aid are requested.



YOUTH WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD MORE HUMANE RELATIONSHIPS

**Come and Join Us
at the 7th Annual
Future Leaders Network
Summer Retreat**

AUGUST 12-AUGUST 21, 1994

*To bring together teenagers who have
a common commitment to learning,
to teaching, and to action to improve
our country and our world!*



Why We Need This Kind of Retreat

As we go through the 1990's, young people are coming together to work for change. More and more of us are showing that we **do** care about the ways in which people in this society treat one another and relate to each other. The question Rodney King asked, "Can't we all just get along?," is a real question. It's not a joke!

We are concerned about the future of our communities, our country and the world. We are affected by adult family members who can't find jobs. We are troubled by the number of homeless people we see. We are worried about the possibility of friends we know being sent to another war in the future or nuclear war wiping out all future. We're angry at the on-going racist and sexist discrimination and the harassment and even killing of innocent people because of the color of their skin.

It is our view that unemployment, homelessness, war, racial intolerance, and discrimination because of gender, disabilities, or any other reason should not be a reality. Therefore, we are attempting to build relationships of **equality** between all people.

At the same time we recognize that our environment and our health are two basic, crucial areas that will affect our future. For instance, we're very concerned with the threat that new and complex problems like AIDS pose to our lives.

Purpose of the Retreat

The retreat will bring together young people, from ages 13 to 20 (with a few exceptions) who are active around these and other issues or who want to become active. It will be held at an accessible location. We will share our experiences and learn new ways to work for change.

The retreat will include teenagers from a broad range of cultural and racial backgrounds and abilities. We will learn about each other in many ways. We will learn how to build more humane and loving relationships with other people. We will learn about the society and world in which we live. We will learn leadership skills so that we will have the confidence to lead other young people in a new and potentially exciting direction.

What We Will Do

- Share experiences we have had within our cultures and, in some cases, as activists for change
- Make up and perform original skits on issues of relevance to our lives, like racism and sexism
- Learn more facts about issues we are concerned with, like AIDS, homelessness, war and peace, education, etc.
- Organize and put on a talent show
- Elect our own youth government to work with the adult counselors in the running of the retreat
- Learn how to better speak in public
- Learn about disability rights issues
- Experience music and dance presenta-

tions by people from different cultural backgrounds. Recent retreats have featured African dance, Native American drummers, a youth rap group, and freedom singer Matt Jones.

- Learn how to write articles, edit and put together a newsletter
- Take hikes through the surrounding fields and woods where the retreat is being held, learning about the environment and ecological issues
- Participate in--and maybe lead--debates, panel discussions and workshops
- Learn about who really rules this society and how they do it
- Use the basketball, tennis or volleyball courts
- Learn how to organize and chair a meeting, including how to do outreach, set up an agenda, make the meeting be successful, and accomplish something positive
- Think together with others and present ideas about how we would create our own new society if we had the power to do so

At the end of the nine days at camp, we'll talk about how we as young people can have the largest impact for change in our communities and in the country. We'll make plans for staying in touch and getting together over the course of the year, and possibly agree upon projects we could all work on.

"CAN'T WE ALL JUST GET ALONG?"

—RODNEY KING

Jo Ann Benoit, Brooklyn, N.Y.: "You may think you're the only one who cares about a certain subject or are the only one affected by or facing a problem. . . Think again and come join us and experience the contrary."



Jason Dov Danielson, Boston, Ma.: "The FLN Youth Retreat was the empowering experience which I needed. As I began to feel that I was a part of this powerful group of youth, I sensed a wonderful surge of truth. I was with friends working toward a common goal. I was doing what I believed in, and was saying what I believe in."



Mecca Williams, Petersburg, Va.: "There's another side, a side where it's all things beautiful, people with different shades of earth tone colors and cultures. Full of life and stories to tell. You know where? Future Leaders Network!"



Crystal Montoya, Albuquerque, N.M.: "I met a lot of new people and learned about their cultures. I learned about how different all the cities and states were from mine. I also learned how we can change our community and make it better for my family to live in."



Carson Harkrader, Durham, N.C.: "The amazing thing about this retreat is that we all know that we are the future leaders of the world and with each other's support we can struggle to end the violence that attacks us in our society. Knowing this, every person has reached inside themselves to find their own strength, to hold their own meaning, and to learn how to love themselves and then to love each other."



Abdullah A. Payton, Jersey City, N.J.: "My first day of camp was deep. I was sitting in a room being educated about the many labels that contribute to this violent society, while



simultaneously giving my views and being open-minded to several other views that were being stated. That's deep!"

Jeffrey Mouldin, Anguilla, Ms.: "Before I came to this camp my life had been dull and crazy. I used to be in all kinds of things with my friends. The camp has transformed me into a person who can care for all."



Lai Har Cheung, Philadelphia, Pa.: "Being a leader today is hard, but it starts by empowering ourselves, then others. When you take time to help your sister, brother, friend, you are a leader."



FIRST DAY OF CAMP (A POEM)

by Aisha Nelson, Philadelphia, Pa.

When I arrived
I was excited
Everyone's friendliness
Made me feel so invited.
I ran to my room
And before my eyes
Were three new roommates
To my surprise.
We talked all night
About things in common
From the start
There was a bonding.
It made me look forward
To what was to be
We can make a change
As I now can see!!

Resource People at Past Retreats

These are some of the people and groups who have come to past retreats or get-togethers. Many of them will be present at this year's retreat, plus some

additional resource people.

Matt Jones, civil rights movement freedom singer

Shafik Abu-Tahir, New African Voices Alliance community leader

Tania Falbo, construction worker with Tradeswomen of Philadelphia

Julia Lopez, poet and performance artist

Asian Americans United, Philadelphia, Pa.

Leona Smith, national leader of the homeless **BEBASHI**, (Blacks Educating Blacks About Sexual Health Issues)

Mike Charney, Cleveland Teachers Union

Afro-One Dance Troupe, Willingboro, N.J.

Native American Drummers

Veronica Begay, Vernon Day and Wendell Yazzie, the Dine Nation

Los Pleneros de Batey, Puerto Rican musical-historical group

Esperanza Martell, conflict resolution trainer

Ted Glick, coordinator, National Committee for Independent Political Action

Dell Jones, Committee for Pan-Africanist Development

Wadud Ahmad, poet

Oni McMullen and Hana Sabree, The AND Alliance

Eugene McKenzie, Veer Grassroot Services

Ernece Kelly, teacher and writer

Sponsorship

The original sponsors for the retreat were the National Committee for Independent Political Action and New African Voices Alliance. Other sponsors include: Community Awareness Network, Philadelphia, Pa.; Veer Grassroot Services, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Youth Network of N.J.; Young and Old United Through Heritage, Acoma, N.M.; and Asian Americans United, Philadelphia, Pa.