

# The National Federation for Just Communities of Western New York

The NFJC of WNY, inc. is a human relations organization dedicated to overcoming racism, bias, and discrimination by building understanding, respect, and trust through education, advocacy, and community involvement.

Throughout its 61 year history, the NFJC of WNY has pioneered programs in inter-religious dialogue, police-community relations, and intercultural-interracial understanding and respect.

The purpose of these workshops is to prepare young people for leadership today.

## The NFJC of WNY, Inc.

360 Delaware Ave., Suite 106

Buffalo, NY 14202

(716) 853-9596

[www.nfjcwny.org](http://www.nfjcwny.org)

Lana D. Benatovich      Lyn Leopold  
*President*                      *Executive Assistant*

Marc L. Rummenie      Susan Croglia  
*Program Director*      *Director, First Time/Last Time*

Rene Petties-Jones  
*Special Events & Development*

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Buffalo, New York 14202



## 34th Annual Youth Leadership Conference

### The Elephant in the Room: Discussing Diversity



The NFJC of WNY's Youth Leadership Conferences enable students to develop the knowledge and skills necessary for responsible and inclusive leadership.

**High School Conference: June 5, 2012**  
**Middle School Conference: June 7, 2012**  
**From 8:30 am—1:30 pm**

Medaille College  
18 Aggasiz Circle  
Buffalo, NY 14214  
(716) 880-2000

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**Paid**  
Buffalo, N.Y.  
Permit No. 3450



# The Elephant in the Room

## When and Why Things go Unsaid

We are all different - be it racially, ethnically, or in terms of our religion, gender, sexual orientation, or socio-economic level, to name but a few. These differences have often lead to division, but difference, in and of itself, is not bad. Difference can be a challenge, yes, but so, too, can it be an opportunity. Where there is ignorance, there is the opportunity for education. Where there is division, there is the opportunity for interaction. Where there is curiosity, there is the opportunity for dialogue and true, respectful communication.

However, meeting the challenge of difference and discussing those differences can be difficult; it requires honesty, openness, and a willingness to step outside the comfort zone of our own culture to engage with others who may be completely different from ourselves. This can be a daunting task, frightening, even threatening for some, but it must be done if we are to build a truly just and equitable community in WNY.

For over 60 years, the NFJC of WNY has endeavored to bridge the divides that exist in this region, and at the heart of our work is the belief that human interaction is the key to our success. We invite you to join us for these powerful and productive conferences, and to experience true and honest cross-cultural communication

**Teachers, please select 5-7 student leaders from your school and join us for this one day conference on discussing diversity. Students will learn from those who live diversity in their work and daily lives. They will engage with and hear the stories of this area's civic leaders, and they will work to develop the skills needed to address difference head on and succeed in a diverse and multicultural world.**

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DAY:

### Two Towns of Jasper -

A dialogue session around a video clip depicting the impact of differing perceptions of common events. This award winning film shows how racial/ethnic/cultural groups can react differently to the same incident, and the impact of those reactions on communication and relationships.

### Defeating Stereotypes -

Experiential activities in which students will examine common cultural stereotypes and then develop techniques for filtering them out of cross cultural interactions.

### Discussion Panel -

Diverse Leaders from across WNY will discuss their experiences with diversity issues and answer the students' questions. This discussion panel will be moderated by NFJC President Lana D. Benatovich, and will be done with an eye of how do we talk about and celebrate our differences.

## Conference Registration Form

Please Print

School \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Attendees: (5-7 Students maximum)

Teacher : \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if any student(s) or advisor(s) has special dietary needs:

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Need(s) \_\_\_\_\_

There is a of \$5 registration fee for each individual

Please make checks payable to: **NFJC/Youth Conference**

**Please fax (716.852.0046) or mail by 6/1/2012**

**Registration fee includes light breakfast & lunch**