

# THE ADVOCATE

Dan Allen Center for Social Justice

## Dan Karslake in Tulsa...

### “Every Three Seconds”



Last December, the Dan Allen Center presented the internationally celebrated film about fighting hunger and poverty, “Every Three Seconds.” The film’s producer/director, Daniel Karslake traveled from his home in Berlin to speak at the Circle Cinema and engage in thought provoking discussion with the attendees. “Every Three Seconds” tells the unforgettable stories of five regular folks —a boy, a college student, a thirty something, and two seniors — whose lives went from ordinary to extraordinary based on one simple decision — to engage with the world in fighting hunger and poverty.

Keeping with the mission of The Dan Allen Center for Social Justice, to promote social justice through education, Daniel Karslake also visited and spoke at two local schools. He met with approximately 30 Central High School students that had been chosen by the school based on their leadership qualities. Discussion was brisk and lively with these students sharing ideas of how they want to make differences in social injustices.

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*The Advocate* is a publication of the Dan Allen Center for Social Justice. Earlier editions can be found on the Center’s website. Questions or comments can be directed to the editor.



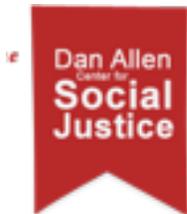
*(Every Three Seconds... from page 1)* Over lunch, more intimate discussion led to the exchange of emails with Mr. Karslake to encourage and further follow the path of these students. Then Daniel Karslake had a discussion with approximately 200 grade schoolers from Christa McAuliffe Elementary School. As Mr. Karslake sat on the edge of the stage, and the children were seated on the floor, magic came to life. These students had previously viewed the film and were currently working on a project to fill backpacks with food and needed supplies for the homeless. Their discussion and questions seemed far above their age level of understanding. One younger student ask Mr. Karslake if people were kind and respectful of each other in Berlin and another asked him if he had a million dollars, would he make another film or help the homeless. It was wonderful to experience the excitement that was in the air at both schools with discussion led by this gentleman who is making documentaries that address social justice issues. The Center provided Ann Patton’s book, “Dan’s War on Poverty,” to the schools’ libraries. Mr. Karslake finished his stay in Tulsa as the speaker of the Leadership Connection Series sponsored by Leadership Tulsa.

-Submitted by Kathy Rossman

***“Children love what they know... Children know what they are taught.”***

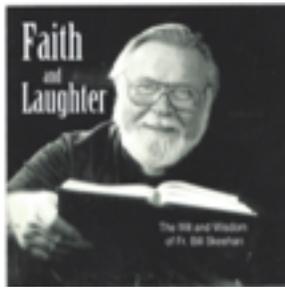
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### Dan Allen Center Collaborates with John Hope Franklin Center’s 2016 Symposium

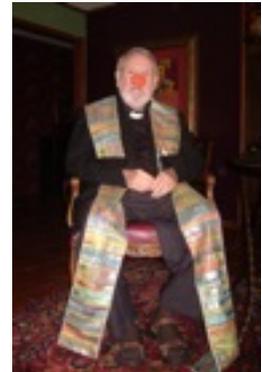


The John Hope Franklin Center for Reconciliation will sponsor a national symposium on May 25-27, 2016, in Tulsa focused on justice and reconciliation. The symposium will include noted local and national leaders in civil rights and social justice as well a series of workshops. The Center is currently involved with the planning for a workshop focused on social justice. Several of the Center Board will be involved. Over the past years, John Hope Franklin Symposiums have explored how our understanding of ourselves can prepare us for the serious work of reconciliation for racial injustices of the past. Scholars, practitioners, and community leaders have shared research and experiential perspectives. Past symposiums have served as a dialogue among those working to bridge societal divides. Speakers and participants have featured leaders in a variety of fields addressing the media, the American political system and the value of reconciliation. This year’s program is still in the planning stage but is expected to be exciting and insightful. The Center is encouraging all those interested in justice in our community to participate in the symposium.

## Now Available! Fr. Bill Skeehan Recordings



The Center has produced and made available “Faith and Laughter,” talks on social justice, spirituality, and activism, by Fr. Bill Skeehan, founding member of the Dan Allen Center and award winner of the Dan Allen Center’s Social Justice Award. His homilies are inspiration for those of all persuasions to become more involved in our communities. Father Bill worked with Dan Allen and his mission of bringing social justice to the Tulsa community. His dedication and inspiration have been manifested in the works of others following in his footsteps. He shared Dan’s unconventional approach to issues and unique sense of humor. The CD includes seven homilies between 1979 and 1982 along with music by Anthony De Mello. The CD is free with a \$20 donation to the Center. Contact any Board member or visit the Center’s website [www.danallencenter.org](http://www.danallencenter.org) to make a donation.



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## Dan Allen Center at the 2016 Martin Luther King Jr. Parade

The cold temperatures did not deter thousands participating in the 2016 Tulsa Martin Luther King Jr.



Day Parade. The Dan Allen Center supported the Oklahoma Policy Institute's contingent at the 2016 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade, Tulsa, OK. The community’s support and enthusiasm demonstrated the lasting impact by Dr. King on all peoples. Tulsa’s parade is Oklahoma’s largest, paying respects to the life and work of the great civil rights advocate and leader. Pictured are Center Board members Tony Clyde and Ed Rossman behind "ORG" on the sign.

***“The experience was, for all of us, like nothing else in our lives, before or since.”...It was a conversion experience - a conversion to justice.”***

Dan Allen’s and his companions’ experience in Selma, Alabama 1964, from ***Dan’s War on Poverty***.

## By the numbers

One of the greatest injustices in any society is the exclusion from participation in public policy making. Historically in the United States, governments, organizations and individuals have excluded large segments of the population from voting on the basis of race and gender. Later in the history of the country, voting regulations and laws functioned in the same way, using stringent voter eligibility requirements, requiring poll taxes, gerrymandering and imposing other exclusionary methods. Activists and enlightened decision makers have fought hard to do away with such barriers to democracy over the years. Yet, despite these efforts, only 39.9 percent of the eligible voters in Tulsa voted in the 2014 mid-term elections. As alarming is voter participation in the presidential election, in Oklahoma, in comparing the presidential elections of 1996 and 2012, the rate has declined by 11 percentage points. Fewer than half of all eligible Oklahomans voted for President in 2012.

Though there are a variety of reasons why people do not participate, frustration with the meaning of one's vote seems to be one key factor contributing to the current state of affairs. Those who do not support a candidate or position may view voting against a majority of voters as futile. However, non-participation plays out as an implicit endorsement of the election winners. In Oklahoma, decision makers take the way those Oklahomans who voted in the 2012 as a mandate for their legislative action or inaction. Great injustices can be perpetuated by a majority, if that majority does not respect the rights, beliefs, and values of those not in majority. Injustice thrives when voices are silent. Voting is a basic way voices are heard. Obviously, many of the voices of the Tulsa community have not been heard in the recent elections.



In keeping with the mission of the Dan Allen Center for Social Justice, the Center will help support efforts of other organizations to register voters in the Tulsa metropolitan area and to foster voter participation in the upcoming elections. It only takes 1 to make a difference. Get involved in voter registration drives and encourage participation.

-Submitted by Ed Rossman

### Information on Voting in Oklahoma

#### Oklahoma Election Board

[https://www.ok.gov/elections/Voter\\_Info/Register\\_to\\_Vote/index.html](https://www.ok.gov/elections/Voter_Info/Register_to_Vote/index.html)

#### League of Women Voters Tulsa Metro

<http://lwv.org/get-involved/local-leagues/oklahoma/lwv-metropolitan-tulsa>

## The Dan Allen Center for Social Justice....What We're About!



In the late 1960s, Dan Allen, a former Catholic priest, created Neighbor for Neighbor, an organization to help the poor and downtrodden of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Dan's tenacity helped to lead a crusade that banded together many people of good will – rich and poor, as well as many different races and religious persuasions. All these neighbors helped each other and created dramatic improvements in schools, nutrition, housing, legal services, medical care, and community understanding of poverty and injustice. Dan's service as the conscience of the community proved that working together, we can all bridge the

divides that separate us. Dan's work continues to inspire those fostering social justice today.

The Dan Allen Center for Social Justice promotes social justice through education, outreach, advocacy and demonstration of social justice. To achieve its mission, the Center creates awareness of social justice through the publishing of relevant materials, and providing education, service activity opportunities, and training on social justice. The Center also conducts outreach and educational events and demonstration projects in schools, churches and other venues, groups and organizations. The Center acknowledges achievement in social justice by providing awards to people and groups helping to create a better world with greater justice and equity for all. Check out this and past issues of *The Advocate* about the Center's activities.

The Center is an all-volunteer organization and its activities are funded by generous donations of people concerned about social justice in the Tulsa area. **Your donations are always welcome** and more information on doing so can be found on the Center's website or contacting the editor.

***“He charged the windmills of society’s indifference; he lanced the puffed up church on Sunday crowd”.***

From an article in the *Oklahoma Observer* about Dan Allen.