

James Farmer Multicultural Center

Cultural Programming and Collaborations Report

Jewish Cultural Celebration – November 5 - 9

- This was the eighth annual Jewish Cultural Celebration co-sponsored by the Jewish Student Association and the JFMC. There were several programs throughout this celebration including a Jewish cultural dinner in the Top of the UC, a movie night, academic presentation on Holocaust Memorializations, the keynote event featuring Dr. Mark Naison, professor of history and African American studies at Fordham University, and a Shabbat dinner.

Native American Cultural Celebration – November 12– 16

- This celebration strove to address the various stereotypes that have been portrayed for indigenous peoples for the past few centuries and depict the diversity of indigenous cultures from the Americas. The theme was “Indigenous Peoples: An Ongoing Tradition.” Scheduled programs included a Native American dinner in the University Center, 4th floor, a film and discussion, a presentation on what it means to be an indigenous person, and an outstanding keynote performance featuring Uptown Boyz, an intertribal powwow drum group from Washington, DC.

Kwanzaa Celebration – November 29

- Kwanzaa is a weeklong celebration that takes place in the United States. It is observed from December 26 thru January 1. This year, the James Farmer Multicultural Center along with the Black Student Association, held Kwanzaa on Thursday, November 29, 2018. The purpose of Kwanzaa is to educate and entertain the members of the University of Mary Washington community about the culture of Kwanzaa. During the Kwanzaa event, attendees are informed about Kwanzaa’s seven principles, libations, and Zawadi (gift giving). Kwanzaa allows for an opportunity to focus on the importance of family and community.

Like previous years, Kwanzaa is geared to all members of the UMW community. This year we had a great attendance by students, faculty, and administration as well as community members from the surrounding areas. Each year the faculty, staff, and administration are invited to serve as an Elder in the program in order to foster a more diverse community and emphasize the importance of Kwanzaa’s culture. Their presence is an essential part of the program because it symbolizes the significance of Kwanzaa. The UMW Voices of Praise performed, along with other dancing and singing groups.

Academic Collaborations

- Co-sponsored program with Richard Larochelle and Adam Schwartz, adjunct instructors, UMW College of Business, for a presentation by Dr. Jessica Gordon Nembhard on “Collective Courage: A History of African-American Cooperative Economic Thought and Practice” on Thursday, November 1, 2018 at 6 p.m. in Chandler A/B.
- Program support with Dr. Jennifer Hansen-Glucklich, assistant professor of German in the department of Modern Languages and Literatures, for a presentation on “Holocaust Memorials,” on Wednesday, November 7, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. in the Colonnade Room, University Center.