

REVISED DRAFT March 30, 2007
Submitted to LETTERS, Enquirer Editorial Page

BRIDGES for a Just Community is deeply concerned about the rise of more blatant activities by hate groups in our community, who previously were satisfied by dropping literature at the doorstep and are now feeling emboldened enough to openly demonstrate their intolerance and hatred of others. The recent outbursts by hate groups at the presentations by a distinguished Holocaust scholar at Xavier University and the Freedom Center are deplorable. Any attempt to promote hatred of Jews, immigrants, Israel, Muslims or anyone is to be publicly condemned. These attempts to promote fear and intimidate people are anti-American.

Our community's health depends upon peaceful dialogue that strengthens respect for everyone in our community. We acknowledge and appreciate the right to disagree; however, a basic decorum of fairness and civility must apply. BRIDGES for a Just Community (formerly NCCJ) has a 75-year history of helping major faith groups improve their mutual understanding and regard toward each other. Through increased dialogue and public awareness, BRIDGES has been a civic role model for embracing controversial issues in a spirit of mutual admiration.

As individuals, we cannot stand silent while any hate or other group seeks to intimidate a particular sector of our community. The principles of honesty, fairness and non-violence must prevail. We urge all to work even harder to accomplish these values.

**--Dr. Mitchel D. Livingston
Chair, BRIDGES for a Just Community Board of Directors**