Group kicks off Season for Nonviolence

Jan 30, 2013 | 0 Comments

Temperatures in the 60s Wednesday made it feel like a new season had arrived — and in fact, one had.

Jan. 30 was the beginning of the 64-day Season for Nonviolence. The date marks the assassination of Mohandas Gandhi in 1948; Martin Luther King Jr. was killed 64 calendar days later on April 4, 1968.

In between is an international campaign to promote tolerance and communication in communities and within individuals.

“We're basically really asking people to step up in their own lives,” said Kit Miller, director of the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence on South Plymouth Avenue. “We sometimes think violence is something that happens in that neighborhood over there; we’re asking people to hold a mirror up to themselves.”

Written by
Justin Murphy
Staff writer

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Mayor Thomas Richards was among those celebrating the season kickoff Wednesday at the Liberty Pole. In the next two months, there will be an array of speeches, activities and conversations hosted by churches and peace groups across the county.

One local organizer, Rashid Muhammad, spent more than two decades in the military before returning home to Rochester. He saw firsthand how violence in all its forms can injure victims and perpetrators alike.

“The impact of violence has serious implications for the doer, not just the receiver,” he said.

With this week’s warm weather came a disturbing preview of the senseless shootings that plague Rochester in the summer. Even as the demonstrators listened to music and ate pizza at the Liberty Pole, Rochester police were investigating a shooting on Hudson Avenue.

That tragedy only underscores the need for action on the personal level, Miller said. “There’s a tremendous amount of distress out there and a lot of potential for conflict,” she said. “We’ve got a lot of work to do.”

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Robert Holmes, a philosophy professor at the University of Rochester and an expert on issues of peace and

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Written by Justin Murphy Staff writer
Jan. 30
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If you go
Robert Holmes, a philosophy professor at the University of Rochester and an expert on issues of peace and nonviolence, will give a lecture on “The Challenge of Non-Violence” at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Rochester Friends Meeting House, 84 Scio St.
For a full schedule of events, go to www.bethechangerochester.org.

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