

VOICES

of Central PA

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Center faces budget cuts

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Sestak, senate candidate

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climate change

Tribute to Black History
Locals reminisce on life in
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February 2010

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February 2010

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Loss, celebration, challenge for 2010

Our year begins with losses, celebrations and challenges. Locally, this community has suffered a blow with the sudden death of Rick Madore, dentist and State College School Board president. He worked hard to bring people together, and I fear it took its toll on him in the most tragic way. Our condolences go out to his family. On our Opinion pages we offer his words from a few months ago, an illustration of the burden he carried with such grace and good will.

Nationally, we lost a treasure when historian Howard Zinn also died suddenly. He was 87, and his death was not as much of a shock as was Madore's, and his body of work will live on and serve democracy for many years to come. We will miss his straight talk and illuminating views.

We celebrate too, the new year and the promise it holds. This month, as we do every month, Voices celebrates Black History with more community participation than ever. We

from the desk of managing editor

Suzan Erem

hope you'll enjoy the voices in this issue and come to Penn State for some great events the Black Caucus has put together for Feb. 15 through Feb. 20.

We're excited too about our new advisory council which has begun meeting, as well as our plans for our next Fun!Raiser March 22. Once again, India Pavilion is providing generous support for our annual event and we know it'll be a great time. We hope to be announcing a new award at the event, celebrating the values of our community. Stay tuned!

I want to thank you, our readers, for the support you've shown in recent months as well. We've just begun our first major organized effort to reach you through the mail and tell you our story, and you've responded overwhelmingly. We've never received so many and such major donations. We are thanking you with one of our largest issues ever, 36 pages, to show you that your support means Voices can grow.

But our challenges remain great. In our community, the debate over excessive alcohol use is more lively than ever. While establishment voices stress how much we have in

common, always a good place to start, there are many competing interests working in the background that may hinder our progress.

We hope to have provided some insights into that with our cover story, but we know the work is not done and we have only scratched the surface of the issue. Please write to us and offer new and different ways to shed light on the reasons that solutions elude us.

Voices is about you. Write and let us know what you think, good, bad and ugly. We can take it, and we'll print it too! This year I believe we will reach new heights with our newspaper and Web site. You've given me hope, something that has been in short supply lately. Thank you, and applaud yourselves for bringing Voices into its seventeenth year!

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