

**5TH ANNIVERSARY HANDY L. LINDSEY, JR. AWARD &
LECTURE ON INCLUSIVENESS IN PHILANTHROPY**

2007 Honoree & Lecturer:

ANNA ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

Presented by:



and



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2007
5:30 pm - 8:00 pm
DuSable Museum of African American History

LECTURE BY ANNA ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

Vice President of Global Corporate Citizenship, The Boeing Company

Introduced by:

AMINA J. DICKERSON

Senior Director of Corporate Community Involvement, Kraft Foods

Lecture presentation:

Good evening and thank you.

I am so humbled to be honored by this organization and to follow such illustrious honorees as Aurie and Cleo and Nick and Handy.

Nice company! And best of all - this will be a nice – and important – evening of conversation. Every opportunity like this is important and has the potential to be even more memorable. Not meaning ME – or me and Amina – I mean you and your conversations. Being here together is meaningful.

Handy started this conversation: “Real progress on the issue of inclusion requires the willingness of all of us to undertake a deliberate, difficult body of work that is about changing the way the field of philanthropy and our institutions function and make decisions, and who gets invited to the table to make them.”

“Being at the table.” Such a rich metaphor. There are all kinds of tables that we need to consider as we seek to affect this goal that Handy has put before us.

I was at the University of Georgia this week speaking to graduate students in the school of social work. No matter how erudite or academic a speech I may attempt, the first question I always get is, “What is your fondest memory of your grandmother?” So I may as well start with that!

It is – of being included. At her table.

My clear memory is of being a child

- at her home in the Hudson Valley
- no requirements during the day
- clean, dressed and present for dinner
- I was shy, under 12, and I watched and listened
- Her table each night was an amazing mix of foreign dignitaries, someone she'd met on the train, students, neighbors, politicians... and me
- And she was delighted with the conversation
- And she made sure it was continuous and that everyone participated

The topic could be serious or light but her delight was in the engagement of each person. That was beauty and happiness for her. I remember that and it has had an enormous influence on my life and world view.

In college, I was a student – an art major, at a school famed for engineering, economics, law and physics – but with a wonderful faculty of artists from the Oakland School. But as a freshman, I couldn't draw worth a lick. I was mortified. I had stacks of newsprint drawings – all terrible and ugly!

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So I went to summer school after that first year at Pasadena City College, a school famous for preparing students for real employment, and took Drawing 101. It changed my life.

That professor didn't teach me technique. He taught me how to SEE: to exercise my eyes to not even look at the paper, but to absorb the fullness of what I was looking at so that my brain comprehended and directed my hand. I was left-handed but actually learned to draw with both hands.

My brain changed what I could do because I disciplined myself to so thoroughly SEE.

And drawing became a path to beauty and delight.

What is the connection here? I believe that the animal that we are seeks constantly the most pleasant state for our being. We seek beauty, comfort, delight...

So for inclusion to become the norm we have to truly and personally find it beautiful. We have to find it delightful.

And that takes hard and deliberate work – it takes practice – it takes the discipline, it takes SEEing.

It takes both hosting that table, and being good guests at that table!

Each of us has both a table and the opportunity to join a table as a participant!

What Handy taught me was that life was about listening, caring, respecting, encouraging, teaching, sharing, and really seeing.

He – as so many of you have done- invited me to his table.

With no promise of reward, other than being included, being seen, being heard, being helped to see myself more clearly because of being able to be engaged.

So, as you can tell: a lecturer, I am not. And how would I dare to lecture you who are my teachers?

Thank you for embracing me and for inviting me to your table. Together we can and must do this – and finally, finally, it will be beautiful.

Anna Eleanor Roosevelt's Lecture was followed by a live conversation between Ms. Roosevelt and Amina Dickerson, followed by a Q & A with the audience.