



Talk, Listen, Learn...Enjoy.

What: Views and Brews—race relations in the Oshkosh of 2009 (no charge to attend)

Where: Becket's/the atrium of the City Center mall in downtown Oshkosh

When: Thursday, May 7. Doors and cash bar open at 6:30 p.m., facilitated conversation at 7:00, local jazz band KWT4 around 8:45

Why: To get all kinds of people from the Oshkosh community together to discuss important issues in a comfortable, laid-back setting

Who: Everyone is invited, sponsored by a new grassroots organization called Square One and Becket's restaurant

Further details below:

“Views and Brews” is a new community event designed to get all kinds of people from Oshkosh together to talk about a serious issue (Views), but in an informal way, and in a setting where they can drink coffee or beer (Brews). We'll have a few panelists to give their brief thoughts and then encourage people to ask questions and discuss. If successful, Views and Brews will be held on a regular basis (e.g. quarterly).

Views and Brews has been developed by a new, grassroots, community-based organization in Oshkosh called Square One, whose purpose is to develop programs that take concrete steps towards cultural integration, appreciation of diversity, and enhanced community vitality in this area. Along with Views and Brews, we're planning to start an “Oshkosh Home-away from-Home” program that pairs UWO students that might feel like fish out of water and be at risk for not staying here (e.g. minorities, international students, kids from very rural areas or in general far from home) with local folks who would be willing to have the students over for dinner on a regular basis, come to their events, etc. And it would also help build additional bridges between UWO and the rest of our community. Square One is hoping that the initial Views and Brews will bring out a diverse mix of local residents and be a nice opportunity to promote the Oshkosh Home-away from-Home program. Program organizers will be seeking feedback from attendees about future topics of discussion. The inaugural event is sponsored by Square One and Becket's restaurant, with support from the UWO Public Relations Club and Sociology Club.

Contact Paul Van Auken with questions: paulvanauken@yahoo.com