

## Cause to Celebrate

*By Hap Hansen*

From an arithmetic standpoint, I did some research about the world's population. Arithmetically, how have we fared over the years in comparison to other countries? Most of us living in Windsor Gardens do pretty well. Not necessarily meaning wealthy, but meaning that we are either working full or part-time, or we are retired, living reasonably well on Social Security, pensions and/or investments. Not so with most of the rest of the world. Those living in Asia, Africa, India and many other under-developed nations are living in poverty when compared to those of us in America. If we reduced the earth's population arithmetically to a village of just 100 people and assumed that all existing human ratios would remain the same, here's what the village would look like:

- 55 would be Asians, 21 Europeans, 14 North or South Americans, 8 Africans.
- 52 would be male, 48 would be female.
- 70 would be non-white, 30 would be white.
- 89 would be heterosexual, 11 would be homosexual.
- 6 would possess 59% of the world's wealth and most would be American.
- 80 would live in sub-standard housing.
- 70 would be illiterate and would not understand reading, writing and arithmetic.
- 50 would suffer from malnutrition.
- 1 would have a college education.
- 1 would own a computer.

Quoting from the information in my research, "Whether this caricature of the world's population is wisdom or fiction, it nevertheless dramatically draws attention to current inequities which need to be addressed if we are ever to have a peaceful and sustainable world." Drawing an analogy to our community of Windsor Gardens, if we mirrored the world's population, most of us would live in sub-standard housing and would be unable to read. Half of us would suffer from malnutrition. Only one percent of us would have a college education and likewise, only one of us would own a computer. Seventy percent of us would be non-white and non-Christian and more than half of us would be Asian. How would we get along under such a scenario? Would we squabble and argue and fight over religious, financial and territorial differences as most nations do, or would we find a way to live in peace and harmony? I think we would find a way to get along with all others. Why can't we do that in the real world? We have an enormous cause to celebrate because we live in the United States and in Windsor Gardens. Enjoy the day.