

# The Journey

THE WINCHESTER MULTICULTURAL NETWORK NEWSLETTER

## *How am I making this a more equitable environment?*

Beverly Daniel Tatum from the documentary, *Race, the Power of an Illusion*

## *We all need to speak out against hate—whether it's in the national media or in our communities.*

From The Southern Poverty Law Center in response to acts of domestic terrorism....



We Educate, Advocate and Respond.

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### DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Looking Ahead

## Winchester Reads *Song Yet Sung* by James McBride

Many readers know James McBride's best-selling memoir, *The Color of Water*. *Song Yet Sung* is the author's second novel and is set on Maryland's Eastern Shore in the 1850s. Inspired by the story of Harriet Tubman, the novel is a real page-turner—full of action with a gripping plot. The Winchester Reads Committee has planned many wonderful events, including a talk by McBride on October 21.

## Harriet Tubman: Portrait of an American Hero

Monday, September 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Jenks Senior Center,  
109 Skillings Road

Winchester historian Kate Clifford Larson will share her biography of Harriet Tubman, *Bound for the Promised Land*. This important book comes out of Larson's research for her doctoral dissertation on the extraordinary life and leadership of Tubman, "one of the giants of American history, a fearless visionary who led scores of her fellow slaves to freedom on the Underground Railroad and battled courageously behind enemy lines during the Civil War." Larson was a finalist for the 2004 Lerner-Scott Dissertation Award from the Organization of American Historians for that year's best dissertation in Women's History. She is currently the consulting historian for the National Park Service's Harriet Tubman Special Resource Study and is a recognized expert in her field.

## Ellen Craft: Running 1,000 Miles to Freedom

Tuesday, October 6 at 7:00 p.m. at the Next Door Theater, 40 Cross St.

Marcia Estabrook, founder of Characters Educational Theater, will portray escaping slave Ellen Craft, a light-skinned Georgia slave who dressed herself as a man and boarded a train for Savannah with her husband William whom she posed as her slave. Estabrook tells the true story of this couple and their remarkable journey and subsequent life. The actor's historically accurate costume and knowledge of Craft's life and times have won her nominations for the Performer of the Year Award from National Young Audiences.

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DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR (continued from p.1)

## Create Your Own Show Way: A Family Craft Workshop

Sunday, October 18 at 2:30 p.m. in the Winchester Public Library's Meeting Room

Inspired by the Lynch School quilting project and *Show Way*, a picture book of one African American family's history, this workshop should be a fun and informative family activity for a fall weekend.

## Song Yet Sung—An Evening With James McBride

Wednesday, October 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the McCall Middle School Auditorium, 458 Main St.

Check out James McBride's engaging website: [www.jamesmcbride.com](http://www.jamesmcbride.com) to get a flavor for this multi-talented writer, musician, composer, producer, journalist and freelance writer. Born in 1957, McBride was the youngest of eight children whose African-American father died the year he was born. The oral history of his mother, a white Jewish woman, became the subject of the author's memoir, *The Color of Water*, a name McBride chose from a response to a childhood question, "What color is God?" Her answer: God is the color of water. Water doesn't have a color." The book was on the *New York Times* bestseller list for over two years and has been translated into 16 languages worldwide.

When he was in his twenties McBride was a staff writer for *The Boston Globe*, *People Magazine*, and the *Washington Post*. At thirty he quit his job at *The Washington Post* and devoted himself to music—playing the saxophone and composing.

*Miracle at St. Anna*, McBride's first novel, came out in 2002. His interest in the predominantly African-American 92nd Division of the U.S. Army led him to spend time in Italy where the story, about the friendship between a black American soldier and an Italian orphan child, is set during World War II.

Don't miss An Evening With James McBride!

## Including Samuel, with filmmaker Dan Habib

Tuesday, October 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the McCall Middle School Auditorium, 458 Main St.

Before his son was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, photojournalist Dan Habib rarely thought about the inclusion of people with disabilities. Now he thinks about inclusion every day. The 58-minute documentary, which Habib shot and produced over four years, chronicles his family's efforts to include Samuel in every aspect of their lives, and features four other families and their inclusion experiences. Interviews with teachers, parents, young people, and disability rights experts also appear in the film.

*Including Samuel* has been screened at universities, national conferences, and independent theaters around the country. Featured on NPR, and discussed in prominent newspapers such as *The Washington Post* and *The Boston Globe*, this award-winning film was screened and its topic of inclusion discussed during the Winchester School Department's recent Leadership Retreat.

Dan Habib has been Filmmaker in Residence at the Institute on Disability at the University of New Hampshire since April of 2008. Prior to going to the Institute he was the photography editor of *The Concord Monitor* and was named New Hampshire Photographer of the Year six times. His freelance work, including extensive documentary work in China, has appeared in numerous publications including *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Yankee*, *Life*, *Boston Magazine*, *Mother Jones* and *The New York Times*.

Be sure not to miss this film!

ALSO UPCOMING:

## Becoming a Trans Ally: A Workshop with Arlene Istar Lev

Saturday, November 7, 9:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.  
The Democracy Center, 45 Mt. Auburn St,  
Cambridge in the Harvard Sq. area

How can we be effective allies to people who are transgendered? While many of us have been advocating for the rights of our gay and lesbian friends, do we really understand what it means to be transgendered? Workshop leader Arlene Lev is the author of a number of books: *The Complete Lesbian and Gay Parenting Guide*; *Trans Forming Families: Real Stories About Transgendered Loved Ones*; *Parenting the Differently-Gendered Child*; *When a Transgender Spouse (or Partner) Comes Out*; and *Transgender Emergence: Therapeutic Guidelines for Working With Gender Variant People and Their Families*. Lev is also a social worker, family therapist, educator, and founder of Choices Counseling and Consulting ([www.choicesconsulting.com](http://www.choicesconsulting.com)) in Albany, New York. She is also on the adjunct faculties of S.U.N.Y. Albany School of Social Welfare and Vermont College of the Union Institute and University.

In an interview posted on the web, Lev asserts that "as difficult as the issues facing lesbian, gay, and bisexual people may be, they pale in comparison to the blatant oppression transgender and transsexual parents face."

Lev will help participants increase their awareness of "what we don't know we don't know" and enhance their openness to recognizing, understanding, and appreciating gender identity differences in themselves as well as in others.

The workshop is being planned by VISIONS consultants, members of the Multicultural Network, and others interested in increasing understanding of transgender issues.

## Winchester as a Multicultural Community—a Sampling

(We welcome contributions to this column. A sentence or two about a multicultural event or experience will help us spotlight the many wonderful ways in which Winchester is becoming more and more multicultural. Just email [office@wmcn.org](mailto:office@wmcn.org))

- Two Winchester residents, Gouri Banerjee and Afshan Kirmani, participated in a panel in June titled “Breaking Down Barriers: Working with Muslim, South Asian, and Portuguese Communities” sponsored by the Domestic Violence Roundtable and held in the Community Room in the Public Safety Building. Banerjee is the founder of Saheli, a resource for South Asian women, and Kirmani is a volunteer with Muslim Community Services.
- Caroline Hirschfeld’s photographic portraits, part of the series “Faces of Winchester,” continue to be on display in the lower entrance to the Winchester Public Library.
- Brio Integrated Theatre held two spring workshops and will be hosting monthly workshops starting this fall. A non-profit organization based in Winchester, Brio uses artistic expression to shatter prejudices and misconceptions about the disabled community in the arts. Brio was founded by Network board member Sahar Ahmed Awerbuch.
- *Killers of the Dream*, a non-fiction work about racism, violence, poverty and oppression by Lillian Smith, was on the summer reading list for high school students.
- The First Congregational Church’s Adult Education Commission has chosen Diana Eck’s book, *A New Religious America* for their Good Book discussion this fall. The Commission also recommends *The World’s Religions*.
- The Griffin Museum of Photography presented “Backstage at the Apollo” in the Atelier Gallery of the Stoneham Theater in August. During the summer the museum displayed “Miles To Go: Portraits of Senior Athletes” at the Aberjona River Gallery.
- During the Winchester School Department’s annual Leadership Retreat administrators and teacher leaders watched the film *Including Samuel* and discussed the topic of inclusion. Teachers will be invited to take part in a 3-credit after-school course to help them with inclusion strategies.

## “I’m on My Way to Freedom Land” By Dotty Burstein

I had expected something more from the listing: “Greensboro Lunch counter, 1960.” When I exited the elevator on 2 East of the Smithsonian’s American History Museum, all I could see was a spare, four-stool lunch counter set-up. A simple label indicated that the old turquoise- and peach-colored vinyl seats had come directly “from the site of an important civil rights protest.” Viewing the display in July of 2009, I found it hard to believe that segregation in public places was still legal on February 1, 1960, when “Four African-American college students deliberately sat down at (the) ‘whites only’ lunch counter at an F.W. Woolworth store in Greensboro, North Carolina.” When denied service and asked to leave, these courageous young men remained in their seats—the same four seats I was viewing now. Described as a “sit-in,” the protest continued over a period of six months, during which hundreds of other students as well as church and community members joined the effort.

The activism of these students ultimately led to the desegregation of the Greensboro lunch counter on July 25, 1960. “With their very bodies, they obstructed the wheels of injustice,” read the sign next to the counter. As I stood there in a kind of self-imposed return to the early sixties and considered what that time had meant for me, a white southerner, several sets of parents passed in and out of the display as they explained to their children what had happened during the Greensboro sit-in and the concurrent sit-ins across 54 cities in nine states. These nonviolent

protests had led Woolworth’s and other five-and-tens to desegregate their lunch counters. Moreover, the sit-ins had drawn national attention and placed college students and other young people in the forefront of the ongoing movement to challenge racial inequality across the nation. Years of struggle led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which outlawed segregation in public accommodations and employment.

The exhibit, which had appeared rather uninteresting and staid when I first approached, took a dramatic turn as a young African American man arrived on the set. He had come to ‘train’ us to participate in a sit-in. First, he cautioned, the men should wear only clip-on ties; women must avoid wearing pierced earrings. (If things should get violent, these details of attire could become important.) We must stay together, protect our heads from being beaten, and show no verbal or physical reaction. Our sit-in leader asked us to imagine how others might react to us as we protested in this peaceful way: angry stares, spitting, shouting, food being thrown at us. Regardless of these hardships, he urged us to stay focused and nonviolent. One way to stay focused, he said, is through singing, even when we are taken to jail. We must sing, “not to sound good but to give ourselves confidence” and feel as if we’re still together when we can no longer see each other in different jail cells. Our sit-in leader was teaching us the power of song! “I’m on my way to Freedom Land. If you don’t go, don’t hinder me.”



## BOOK REVIEWS

## The Life and Times of Harriet Tubman

(Reviewed by Dotty Burstein)

Historian and Winchester resident Kate Clifford Larson spent years meticulously researching the life and times of Harriet Tubman, and the results are both a good read and a rich portrait of this icon of American history. Indeed, Larson has captured the humanity of a visionary who used a network of slaves, free blacks, and whites to lead fugitives to freedom via the Underground Railroad. Yet after Tubman's death in 1913, many fictionalized accounts of her life began springing up. After all, Tubman had left no narrative of her own, and publishers and librarians in the age of Jim Crow showed little interest in the biography of a poor, illiterate black woman. By the late twenties and early thirties, her story had been reduced to "a simple account of a courageous mother figure rather than the story of an intelligent, crafty woman." Larson has generously agreed to read from her Tubman biography *Bound for the Promised Land* and describe the real woman, whom slaves and abolitionists often referred to as the Moses of her time, after the Biblical figure who led the Jewish people out of Egypt. (Please see notice about Larson's appearance at the Jenks Center on September 21.)

Catherine Clinton is the author of another recent and well-researched Tubman biography, which strives, successfully in this writer's opinion, to acquaint the reader with the flesh-and-blood Tubman and her remarkable life. *Harriet Tubman: The Road to Freedom* is more than a biography of Tubman; it expands outward from Tubman's individual story to a historical perspective of slavery and the antislavery movement that accompanied it in the years leading up to the Civil War. In Clinton's portrait of Tubman, the reader discovers a deeply religious woman who must rely on her intelligence, resourcefulness, and indomitable spirit to lead more than 300 slaves to freedom in 19 rescue trips via the Underground Railroad. That is where Tubman's story generally ends. However, Clinton continues to flesh out a life that was rich with other activity: Civil War nurse, scout, and spy for the Union Army in South Carolina; activist in the women's rights movement in New England and New York (she was introduced by suffragist Susan B. Anthony as "a living legend" at the 28th annual convention of the Women's Suffrage Association in 1904); and fund-raiser for African American schools and a home for elderly and poor black people.

## Race and Place—Part II

Following the successful screening and discussion of the documentary *Race, the Power of an Illusion* in the spring of 2008, the Network was fortunate to receive a grant from CHNA-15 (Community Health Network Alliance) which enabled us to bring the film to several groups in town. Angela Giudice facilitated the discussions.

More than 125 people—town government employees, library staff, and members of the banking and real estate communities—participated, thanks to thoughtful planning by group members. In addition, the planning group representing educators in our system initiated valuable dialogue about racial and cultural issues in Winchester. At a final wrap-up meeting in June, which involved the planning groups from all the sectors, there was enthusiasm across the board for continuing to bring the program to more individuals in the various town sectors, as well as more groups in the community.

The success of this year's project, perhaps the first of its kind to bring constructive discussion and learning around issues of race and racism to such a broad spectrum of the Winchester community, was due to outstanding collaboration within and among the groups involved.

If you are interested in showing the film or in learning more about the project, don't hesitate to get in touch with us through email ([office@wmcn.org](mailto:office@wmcn.org)) or by phone (781-729-7100).

## Guidelines for Life

by Sandy Thompson

Readers who have been to any of the Multicultural Network's community workshops or forums will be familiar with the VISIONS\* guidelines we use to foster dialogue and learning about multicultural issues. Since most of us have found these guidelines to be useful in all aspects of our lives, we thought it might be helpful to feature one now and then in *The Journey*.

The first guideline that we've chosen to feature is "Try On." It is often explained as an invitation to be open-minded and not quick to close down to other people's ideas or feelings. "Try on" encourages us to be curious about how it is that someone else might see the world differently.

Sometimes when I hear someone express a feeling about an experience he or she has had that I have trouble understanding or relating to, my first instinct is to say "I can't believe it," or "I'm sure so and so didn't mean it." Comments like that effectively discount the other person's feelings and experience and close me off to new learning in the process. When I am able to stay in the "try on" mode, I am a more compassionate and empathic listener and more able to build relationships across difference.

\*VISIONS, a multicultural consulting and training organization, has formed the basis of much of how we think about differences.

## Recommended Multicultural Films by Mindy Arbo

Go to [filmophile@comcast.net](mailto:filmophile@comcast.net) for more suggestions or to add your own.

Films are available through The Winchester Public Library and its Minuteman Library Inter-library Loans, <http://library.minlib.net>, and/or at stores. All foreign films are subtitled. Unless noted, no films are extremely violent or sexually explicit. **F** = great for families; age specific when noted. Go to [www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com) for further film information.

### *Cherry Blossoms*

The unusual story of a grieving German widower whose dull life completely changes when he decides to fulfill his vivacious dead wife's lifelong desire to visit Japan. Aided by a young pure-spirited Japanese waif, the widower sets out to explore and embrace the world in ways he had never known. With sobering thoughtfulness touched by humor, the director focuses on themes of ingrained misunderstanding and gulfs between parents and their children, the meaning of partnership and love in a lifelong marriage, aging, death, and ultimately, joy and affirmation. **F**

### *Last Orders*

An absorbing and touching look at the decades-long pub-centered friendship between five working class English WWII veterans and the shared weekend car journey they take to spread the ashes of one of their members. The very best of older British actors: Michael Caine, Bob Hoskins, Tom Courtenay and Helen Mirren, all give authentic and deeply nuanced performances that will sink into you and stay there.

### *West Bank Story*

Part of the 2006 Oscar-Nominated Short Films, this is an hysterical spoof of West Side Story. Set in Israel's West Bank, the story centers on a Palestinian and an Israeli whose love is thwarted by their respective warring Shwarma and Falafel shops. **F**

### *Milk*

One of the few seminal 'Landmark' films of our time. The always amazing Sean Penn gives an Oscar winning performance as the charismatic, determined, intensely energized Harvey Milk. Milk became the first elected openly gay political official in the U.S. The film is both an intimate portrait of a uniquely dynamic individual and of the many-colored gay world of late 20th century San Francisco and should be required viewing for all American high school students and their families. A completely absorbing and transformative experience.

### *The Bird People Of China*

Having heard of rich deposits of a rare stone in a remote region of contemporary China, two unlikely men—a corporate geologist and a mafia gofer—are sent by their bosses to explore the reports and establish trade relations with the native peoples. After a long, arduous journey, the visitors reach their destination and discover an isolated mountain culture whose spiritual life centers around the belief that men can fly. Completely out of their element—stressful, alienating urban lives—each man is drawn into this new world in unexpected ways. This is a charming, magical film. **F**

### *Le Grand Voyage*

In contemporary France an aging, stern, stoic Moroccan Muslim commands his selfish rebellious teenage son to drive him thousands of miles to the Hajj, the most important pilgrimage to Mecca. With realistic poignancy, the generational rift remains a constant throughout their journey, even growing as they encounter challenging roadblocks and strange fellow travellers along the way. The experience of seeing actual footage of the hajj is astonishing in its beauty and spiritual resonance.

### *Gran Torino*

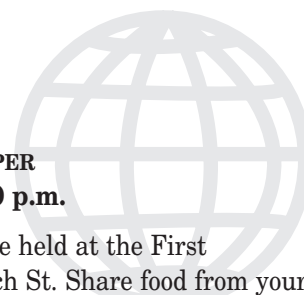
Clint Eastwood again hits home with an engrossing tale of a cantankerous loner—a racist retired auto worker who ultimately is able to learn, adjust and change when he begrudgingly begins to help the beleaguered Hmong family that lives next door. **F**

### *Adam's Apples*

A fascinating, often disturbing, and very funny parable about the struggle between Good and Evil. A rural Danish minister with a congregation of three can only see Good around him. An angry violent skinhead prisoner arrives to work at the church in exchange for early parole. The two men face off and things get weirder and weirder. A wonderland experience for those who enjoy cleverness, complexity and intellectual challenges in their movies.

# International Connections

Sign up for conversation groups and get information about fall activities



## **FARMER'S MARKET ON WINCHESTER COMMON Saturday, October 3, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**

Look for the table that the Network will be sharing with the Winchester Public Library. There you will meet members of International Connections, sign up for fall conversation groups, and get information about fall activities.

**ENGLISH CONVERSATION GROUPS** are offered at several different times during the week and participants must register ahead. Call English At Large for more information (781-395-2374). Winchester residents are welcome to call Liz Sayre at 781-729-9242.

## **FALL FOLIAGE HIKE IN THE FELLS Sunday, October 4 at 1:00 p.m.**

The Middlesex Fells Reservation is a beautiful wooded area with lovely trails. Meet members of International Connections at the Long Pond parking lot, the first parking area on South Border Road from Winchester Center. The hike will be about 1½ hours. Call Christa at 781-729-7047 for more information.

## **INTERNATIONAL POT LUCK SUPPER Sunday, November 8, 5:30-8:00 p.m.**

Our annual potluck supper will be held at the First Congregational Church, 21 Church St. Share food from your country and enjoy a delightful evening. Call the Network office at 781-729-7100 to sign up or email office@wmcn.org.

## **DROP-IN COFFEE Every Thursday from 8:30-10:00 a.m.**

Stop in at Café Dolce, downstairs at 831 Main St. any time between 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. and enjoy informal conversation with members of the International Connections group.

## **THE LUNCH BUNCH**

Once a month you are welcome to join us for lunch to sample the cuisine of a different culture. Be sure we have your email address so you can receive notices of where we will be meeting.

### ***Did you know that...***

The Winchester Public Library has added a new computer program called Mango Languages, which has unlimited remote access as well as twelve language options? With your library card you can access this program from home.

Would you like to get our newsletter online? Going online saves paper, printing, and mailing costs. Also, if we have your email, we can let you know of upcoming events sponsored or co-sponsored by the Network.

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