

The Journey

THE WINCHESTER MULTICULTURAL NETWORK NEWSLETTER

Where prejudice exists, it always discolors our thoughts.

Mark Twain

The Journey is now posted on our website: www.wmcn.org. If you would prefer to access it from the web, just email us at office@wmcn.org and we'll notify you when a new one is published.



WINCHESTER
MULTICULTURAL
NETWORK

We Educate, Advocate and Respond.

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WINCHESTER MULTICULTURAL NETWORK

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Looking Ahead

INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS

Open House at the Winchester Public Library

Saturday, September 29 between 10:00 a.m. and noon

International residents are invited to find out what kinds of activities are available this fall and to sign up for interest groups including: English Conversation; Walk in the Fells; Walk Around Horn Pond; a dining-around group; a movie and discussion group; and our annual International Pot Luck Supper.

Understanding Your Child's Experience in an American School with Dr. Anne Copeland

Monday, October 1, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

in the Meeting Room of the Winchester Public Library

Dr. Anne Copeland, founder of the Interchange Institute and editor of the Newcomers Almanac, will help international parents understand how American schools work. She'll answer common questions such as "Why does my child's teacher write 'great' on the top of papers that have mistakes?" and "Why does the school hold fund-raising events or ask for parents to help in the classroom?" Dr. Copeland will help parents understand the core values underlying these, and other, educational practices in the United States. Using examples, parents' essays, international comparative data, and plenty of time for questions, she will explore how American teachers, like teachers everywhere, prepare students for success in their educational system and culture at large.

ALSO UPCOMING IN WINCHESTER

Sol Gittleman Speaks About His New Book

Thursday, October 11, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.
at the Winchester Public Library

Tufts Professor Sol Gittleman will speak about his recently published baseball book *Reynolds, Raschi and Lopat*. His topic will cover a time between 1949 and 1953 when baseball was only beginning to confront issues of race and ethnicity; yet the three veteran pitchers of the title, despite differences in background and ethnicity, became lifelong friends.

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International Connections

Are you new to Winchester from another country? Would you like to make new friends and learn about other cultures? Check out the programs and activities listed below. Come to the Open House on September 29 and bring a friend!

**Saturday, September 29 between 10:00 a.m. and noon
OPEN HOUSE AT THE WINCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY.**

International residents are invited to find out what kinds of activities are available this fall and to sign up for interest groups. (See page 1).

**Monday, October 1, 7:00–8:30 p.m.
in the Meeting Room of the Winchester Public Library
UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD'S EXPERIENCE IN AN AMERICAN
SCHOOL WITH DR. ANNE COPELAND**

Dr. Anne Copeland, founder of the Interchange Institute and editor of the Newcomers Almanac, will help international parents understand how American schools work. (See page 1).

ENGLISH CONVERSATION GROUPS

English conversation groups are offered Monday or Tuesday mornings or Wednesday evenings, with priority given to Winchester residents. Come to the Open House at the Winchester Public Library on September 29 any time between 10:00 a.m. and noon to sign up. For questions or more information call Liz Sayre at 781-729-9242 or email office@wmcn.org.

Date to be announced

**INTERNATIONAL FAMILIES: SUPPORTING OUR
"THIRD CULTURE KIDS"**

This will be an informative evening with Tina Quick, Consultant for International Families in Transition.

Saturday morning, October 13, 10:00 a.m.

FAMILY WALK IN THE FELLS

The Middlesex Fells Reservation is a beautiful wooded area with lovely trails. Meet Christa Bennett at the first parking area on South Border Road from Winchester Center. The walk will last an hour or two, depending on the group. Call Christa at 781-729-7047 for more information and to sign up.

Saturday, October 20, at 2:00 p.m.

WALK AROUND HORN POND

Enjoy a leisurely walk around Horn Pond. Meet in the parking lot off Pond Street in Woburn. Call Christa Bennett at 781-729-7047 or email office@wmcn.org for more information and to sign up.

Sunday, November 4, 5:00–8:00 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL POT LUCK SUPPER

Our annual pot luck supper will be held at the First Congregational Church, 21 Church Street. Share food from your country and enjoy a delightful evening. Call Nancy Dahm at 781-729-9387 to sign up or email office@wmcn.org

**Ongoing: Thursday mornings between 8:30 a.m. and
10:00 a.m., Café Dolce, 831 Main St., Winchester
DROP-IN COFFEE**

Stop in and enjoy informal coffee and conversation Thursday mornings September through June.

Winchester High School Students Share China Experiences

October 25 at 7:00 in the High School Social Studies Open Area

Winchester High School students who traveled to China this summer with both Pathways to China and the Dandelion Project will offer an evening of community sharing.

Come and hear their firsthand experiences and the impact their travels had on them. All are welcome.

Latino-Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15 to October 15 has been designated Hispanic Heritage Month—a time to celebrate and recognize persons who are descendants of a family from Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. According to one of several websites, the term "Hispanic" refers to people who come from a country where Spanish is spoken. Because of their Latin American origins, Hispanic Americans are also called Latino(a)s. It is important to remember that this term represents peoples from many different nationalities and cultures.

Foster Homes Needed

Lutheran Community Services (LCS), the only social service agency in the Northeast that assists refugee minors—children and teenagers—by providing foster care, is looking for foster homes for unaccompanied minor (age 17 or younger). Since 1980 LCS has helped teens from Vietnam, Cambodia, Haiti, and Central America. Their most recent arrivals are from Sudan, China, Liberia, and Somalia. LCS supports applicants who wish to become mentors or foster parents by doing a home study, providing orientation and training, and hosting meetings with experienced foster parents. Call Karen Santella at 781-997-0872 for more information.

Winchester as a Multicultural Community . . . a sampling

- This past year Superintendent of Schools Jim Marini established the Respect for Human Differences Committee. Chaired by Muraco principal Rosalie Tashjian, this committee made recommendations to the School Committee regarding policies around religious holidays.
- Zareen Karani Araoz of Managing Across Cultures, a cross-cultural international management consulting and training firm, presented a program, "Working Globally," at the Winchester Public Library in June.
- In June, a group of McCall teachers volunteered to participate in a training led by Kim Westheimer, designed to help them create a supportive atmosphere for gay and lesbian students and to reduce homophobic name-calling. Westheimer formerly directed the Safe Schools Program for Gay and Lesbian Students at the Massachusetts Dept. of Education and is the coauthor of the book *When The Drama Club Is Not Enough: Lessons from the Safe Schools Program for Gay and Lesbian Students*.
- In April, Winchester High School's gay-straight Alliance, Spectrum, sponsored a "Day of Dialogue" designed to shed light on issues of sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Vinson-Owen students raised money last year to build a road to a village in northern Bali. The project was spearheaded by third grade teacher Kelly Brodeur who has traveled to Bali for the past six summers.
- The Multicultural Issues Group (MCI) capped off their year with a field trip to Lowell to see a Cambodian Rock Opera as well as an in-school field trip on the crisis in Palestine/Israel led by a local organization called Jewish Voices for Peace. A few MCI members are taking part in the Pathways To China Program.
- Winchester High School social studies department Head Marge Harvey took 11 students to the Dandelion School in Beijing for a week to teach English. The group lived at the school, which was established for migrant workers. Each W.H.S. student raised \$100 which was given to the school to be used for tuition aid for Chinese students who cannot afford the \$80/semester fee.
- Winchester Jumelage held its "Spring Taste of France" dinner in June. Three interns from St. Germain-en-Laye visited Winchester over the summer. The Winchester Jumelage was founded in 1990 and continues to provide a variety of cultural exchanges with our French sister city.
- A new French Club for those who speak French at the intermediate or advanced level has started to meet weekly at the Jenks Center.
- The Winchester Rotary Club organized a collection of used soccer uniforms and balls that was sent to youth in four villages in Tanzania.
- A summer workshop for children at The Winchester Public Library focused on stories about music from around the world.

Organizations as Resources and Inspirations

From time to time we will list organizations that are doing important work in the Boston area and beyond. They are resources for learning about multiculturalism, building skills, and increasing your own understanding of a wide range of issues.

VISIONS, Inc. (www.visions-inc.org)

The following information is from the VISIONS website, but we want to make special note of the fact that VISIONS has a special place in the heart of the Multicultural Network. In fact, the Network really took root when several of our founders participated in a VISIONS' four-day workshop. Over the years several of the consultants at VISIONS have mentored us, and provided encouragement, training, and inspiration. We encourage anyone who can possibly spare the time to participate in one of their four-day workshops for which financial aid is available. In addition, the Network offers a community workshop each year in March that uses the VISIONS model for discussing multicultural issues of all kinds.

"VISIONS Inc. is a nonprofit enterprise that provides training and consultation to organizations, communities and individuals seeking to achieve greater effectiveness in a multicultural setting. The unique, research-based VISIONS training model helps overcome barriers to communication, relationship-building and organizational development caused by cultural misunderstandings and apprehensions.

VISIONS helps to maximize the positive aspects of cultural diversity and engage in a multicultural organizational development process that addresses personal, interpersonal, institutional and cultural needs."

Public Conversations Project (PCP) (www.publicconversations.org)

PCP is an organization, based in Watertown, that "promotes constructive conversations and relationships among people who have differing values, world views, and perspectives about divisive public issues." Currently PCP offers two published guides: *Fostering Dialogue Across Divide* and *Constructive Conversations About the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*. These guides can be purchased from Café Press or downloaded from PCP's Website. Most importantly, PCP provides training. Upcoming workshops include "Inquiry as Intervention: Crafting Questions with Purpose and Impact" on September 10 in Watertown, and "Staying Grounded When on the Spot: A Skill-Building Workshop for Facilitators" September 14 and 15 in Watertown. Planned for October is "The Power of Dialogue," and for November, "Everyday Dialogue." Check out the website for details.

Book Reviews



A Stronger Kinship

by Anna-Lisa Cox, (Boston, Little, Brown and Co.), 2006.

Stories of justice and equality between races are rare indeed. Yet here is the extraordinary saga of a small town—Covert, Michigan—whose people undertook what even today would seem impossible. More remarkable still, the community decided that it would create “a different America” in the 1860s! Not surprisingly, the people of Covert had to keep secrets and break laws in order for their plan—integration of schools and churches, the right to intermarry, and the right to share equally in their community’s power and wealth—to work.

Using diaries, oral histories, and other recently discovered documents, the author, Anna-Lisa Cox, has described “a vision for what our nation might be” by telling the inspiring stories of Covert’s residents. There was William Conner, for example, who became Michigan’s first black justice of the peace and a wealthy landowner. Annis Pompey, the owner of Covert’s only cider mill, and her husband Washington, a black Civil War veteran, organized annual Emancipation Festivals in Covert. By 1870, the schools in Covert were completely integrated and remained so even after the Plessy v. Ferguson decision in 1896, which legalized segregation and opened the way for both social and institutional racism.

Astoundingly, the little frontier town of Covert made one decision after another to maintain its status as a fully integrated community, even in the 1930s during a period of heightened intolerance of racial and ethnic differences. How is it that one community—“a place where ordinary black and white Americans treated each other as equals and as friends”—could continue to exist in this otherwise hostile atmosphere? The author, a bit of a historical detective and a social anthropologist by training, has an interesting hypothesis: The people who settled the town of Covert in the 1860s were not originally from the Midwest; they were aware of more of the world than what lay within their county line. These settlers, from all regions of the country, were well acquainted with the devastating effects of racial prejudice and were therefore seeking opportunities to live a better life. They were idealists, yes, but not naïve, and, amazingly, they were able to transmit a culture of equality through the generations and to new residents as well.

Today, the story of Covert offers “a haven for hope” to all of us. As a very human community, Covert’s residents were not color-blind. In fact, they recognized that it was impossible to ignore difference. Believing as they did in the ideals of equality and justice, they chose instead to embrace and celebrate difference.

Reviewed by Dotty Burstein

No matter how open-minded or accepting we believe ourselves to be, and no matter how good a job we think we are doing when it comes to raising tolerant children, this fact remains: We all carry prejudice and bias.

From *Beyond the Golden Rule: A Parent’s Guide to Preventing and Responding to Prejudice.*

Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know—and Doesn’t

by Stephen Prothero

Can you name the four Gospels or a sacred text of Hinduism? Do you know the name of the holy book of Islam? Can you name the Ten Commandments or the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism? These are some of the questions Stephen Prothero includes when he quizzes his Boston University students to determine their level of religious literacy—or illiteracy. Take the quiz yourself (in Chapter One) and test your own knowledge of the world’s religions.

From Prothero’s own teaching experience and from research, he concludes that “Today religious illiteracy is at least as pervasive as cultural illiteracy, and certainly more dangerous. Religious illiteracy is more dangerous because religion is the most volatile constituent of culture, because religion has been, in addition to one of the greatest forces for good in world history, one of the greatest forces of evil.” Although “getting past religious ignorance is not the panacea some advocates of interreligious dialogue imagine it to be,” the author says that “some of the bloodletting in such places as Waco and Afghanistan and Iraq might have been avoided if we had understood a bit better our own religious traditions, and those of others.”

I consider this book a good investment for your home library, but if you do nothing but read the introductory chapter and peruse the “Dictionary of Religious Literacy” Prothero includes in Chapter Six, you will be more knowledgeable about the importance of understanding the place religion has in our own and others’ cultures and you may become an advocate, as Prothero has, for educating about religion in our schools.

Reviewed by Sandy Thompson

Continued from page 1

ALSO UPCOMING IN WINCHESTER

Winchester’s Third Annual Interfaith Discussion Group

“From Yom Kippur to Easter: Sin, Repentance, and Forgiveness”

Members of St Mary’s Church, Parish of the Epiphany, and Temple Shir Tikvah will gather together to learn about and share their similar and diverse views on concepts and experiences that are at the heart of these three religious traditions. The group will meet monthly, beginning at the Jewish High Holidays and ending close to the time of Easter. This is a wonderful chance to learn more deeply about Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant beliefs.

Please note that the program is open to everyone, whether Winchester resident or not. Dates of the meetings will be: September 10, October 1, November 5, December 3, January 7, February 4, March 3. Locations TBD.

Recommended Multicultural Films by Mindy Arbo

Email: filmophile@comcast.net for more suggestions or to add your own. These films are available through The Winchester Public Library and its Minuteman Library Inter-library Loans, <http://library.minlib.net> and/or Video Horizons. All foreign films are subtitled. Unless noted, no films are extremely violent or sexually explicit.

F = great for families

Go to www.imdb.com for further film info.

Beautiful People

At the height of the Bosnian war, Croatian and Serbian refugees in London become entangled with each other and various British families with which they interact. While very sobering at times, this delightful complex film is filled with very funny scenarios and ironic hopeful solutions.

Whale Rider **F**

In contemporary New Zealand, a feisty teenage Maori girl rails against the sexism of Maori traditions and family and embraces her destiny to become the spiritual leader of her clan.

Get on the Bus

Spike Lee's brilliant look into the lives, motivations, and interactions of a busload of individual Black American males who are traveling on a bus from New York City to Washington D.C. to participate in the 1986 Million Man March.

Ushpizi

A wonderful wry comedy set in a Hassidic community in Jerusalem. The film depicts the loving and spiritual devotion of an unfortunate childless couple and focuses on the real meaning of the Torah Succoth edict to welcome strangers into your home, with all the disasters and blessings that can follow.

Long Life, Happiness and Prosperity **F**

A young Chinese American girl seeks to matchmaker for her overworked widow mother. As she delves deeper into the world of Chinese medicine and magic, the stakes get higher and so does the laughter.

Secret of Roan Inish **F**

A modern fairytale set on the west coast of Ireland. A plucky young girl goes to live with her maternal grandparents by the sea. As she attempts to help her family overcome a past tragedy, her efforts bring about magical developments. Seals play a major role.

The Quiet American

In this adaptation of Graham Greene's novel, Michael Caine gives a brilliant mesmerizing performance as an aging foreign correspondent in his adopted home of Vietnam. The film is set at a time pivotal in the country's history, when the calm, slow Colonial ways erupt into the revolutionary violence of a new age.

Wondrous Oblivion **F**

A cricket-obsessed immigrant Jewish boy is introduced to the sport and coached by recent Jamaican immigrant Delroy Lindo in 1960's London. As neighborhood racism festers against the black family, the Jewish boy and his family must choose their loyalty.

American History X

A wrenchingly honest portrayal of two open-minded 'good boys' who become hate-filled skinheads. A 'must-see' for anyone who really wants to understand how such a development is possible—by seeing the day-by-day experiences and environment that can cause such a change. The incomparable Edward Norton plays the older 'mentor' brother who slowly comes to see the light and then devotes himself to saving his younger sibling. Truly unforgettable. (Suggestion: fast-forward through the violence.)

Recommended for Parents

Beyond the Golden Rule

Teaching tolerance has a new publication: *Beyond the Golden Rule: A Parent's Guide to Preventing and Responding to Prejudice*. The paperback book, just over 50 pages, is divided into sections based on age groups: The Pre-School Years, Elementary and Preteen, and Teen Years. The last two sections focus on "Reflecting Upon Our Own Biases" and "Talking to Kids About Prejudice." Beautifully illustrated, it "is designed to help you teach your children to honor the differences in themselves and in others—and to reject prejudice and intolerance." Parents share personal stories and psychologists, educators, and parenting experts offer advice. The book is a gem—a must read for all parents. You can order a copy from the website www.tolerance.org. Go to the bottom of the home page and look for the headline: "New Handbook for Parents Available." The book is \$5/copy (less for multiple copies) or you can download it free from the website.

Operation Respect

An article in the August 16 issue of *The Boston Globe* about folksinger Peter Yarrow called our attention to "Operation Respect," a non-profit organization he founded in 1999. Operation Respect's website states its mission: "To assure each child and youth a respectful, safe and compassionate climate of learning where their academic, social and emotional development can take place free of bullying, ridicule and violence."

Parents should peruse the website, www.operationrespect.org and click on "Parent's Place" for suggestions on "practical things to remember that will help your children grow up ridicule-free."

There is also a section on the site for kids and another titled "Educator's Ave."

Winchester Reads *Three Cups of Tea*

Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin

Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin is the book chosen for Winchester's sixth annual Community Read. Several related events are planned prior to the author's speaking in Winchester on Monday, February 25, 2008. The book tells the story of how Mortenson became lost after a failed mountain-climbing attempt and wandered into an impoverished village in northern Pakistan where the villagers nursed him back to health. As he recovered, Mortenson became aware

that the children of the village had no regular teacher or school. He vowed to return and build a school. After many struggles, Mortenson was able to fulfill his promise, and in the ensuing 12 years, he managed to raise the money and complete work on 55 schools, despite harrowing experiences and hazardous travels. Read this inspiring adventure story. Then attend the programs planned to enhance our understanding of Pakistan and its culture.

Perspectives on Islam

Tuesday November 13 at 7:30 p.m. Unitarian Church, 478 Main St., Winchester

The Winchester Reads committee has planned an informative evening which will feature a panel discussion. The panel will include Jessica Masse, Interfaith Coordinator of the Islamic

Society of Boston, and Sahar Ahmed, Winchester resident and parent. Don't miss this important event, the first of several planned to complement your reading of *Three Cups of Tea*.

Mystic Valley Area NAACP

Our local branch of the NAACP includes Arlington, Everett, Malden, Medford, Winchester, and Woburn. The group meets the last Thursday of the month and welcomes newcomers and visitors. The phone number is 781-643-1606. You can reach them via email: info@mva-naacp.org. The web address is www.mva-naacp.org

The program on Thursday, Sept. 27, honors the 30th anniversary of the branch and reflects on the accomplishments and challenges of the past 30 years. "Where were we thirty years ago and where are we now in terms of ending racism and insuring the civil rights of all people?" The meeting begins at 7:30 PM and will be held at the West Medford Baptist Church, at the corner of Boston and Harvard Aves.

The Multicultural Network is looking for a volunteer to video major Network events for WinCam. WinCam will tailor training to your availability and interest level and guarantees that it will be fast and easy! Being able to broadcast some of our programs on WinCam community TV reaches many people who can't attend in person. It's a great opportunity! Call Don Cronin or Julia Ripa at 781-721-2050 for more information, and thanks.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

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Winchester Multicultural Network

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