

# The Journey

THE WINCHESTER MULTICULTURAL NETWORK NEWSLETTER

*As human beings, our greatness lies not so much in being able to remake the world—that is the myth of the atomic age—as in being able to remake ourselves.*

Mohandas K. Gandhi



WINCHESTER  
MULTICULTURAL  
NETWORK

We Educate, Advocate and Respond.

## Winchester Multicultural Network 2010–2011 Board Members

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Lily Yamamoto

Fred Yen

### Looking Ahead

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

#### ***Shelter: Where Harvard Meets The Homeless*, AN EVENING WITH SCOTT SEIDER**

Tuesday, October 18, 7:30 p.m.

Jenks Center, 109 Skillings Road, Winchester

Winchester Reads presents author Scott Seider, who will discuss his book *Shelter: Where Harvard Meets the Homeless*. Seider is Assistant Professor of Education at Boston University School of Education. His book tells the story of the only student-run homeless shelter in the United States.

The book both inspires possibility—that this model can be replicated in other major cities—and stimulates thinking about the issues of homelessness. All of the royalties from Seider’s book are donated to the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter. Don’t miss this opportunity!

#### ***Good to a Fault*, AN EVENING WITH MARINA ENDICOTT**

Tuesday, November 1, 7:30 p.m.

McCall Middle School auditorium, 458 Main St., Winchester

Spend an evening with Canadian writer Marina Endicott as she discusses her book *Good to a Fault*. Endicott, who was an actor and director for many years before beginning her career as a fiction writer, won the Commonwealth Writers Prize for Best Book for this novel. The story begins when Clara, the central character, leaves to do an errand on her lunch break from a dull job, and her car collides with one occupied by a homeless family. The novel unfolds as the author rotates from one character’s point of view to another. Readers might not be able to put themselves in Clara’s shoes, but the story has elements that most of us can relate to. Come and hear what Marina Endicott has to say on November 1!

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

***Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible,***  
A FILM ABOUT CHALLENGING RACISM.

Sunday, November 6 from 3–5 p.m.  
Unitarian Church, 478 Main St., Winchester

The Multicultural Network and the Winchester Unitarian Society invite you to a screening of the film *Mirrors of Privilege*, featuring the experiences of white men and women who have worked to gain insight into what it means to challenge racism. As those of us who are white listen to the voices of Peggy McIntosh, Tim Wise, Joe Fahey, Marguerite Parks, Gary Howard, and others, we may be better able to understand our own experience around racism. All are welcome to this free program.

***International Pot Luck Supper***

Sunday, November 6 from 5:30–8 p.m.  
Chidley Hall, First Congregational Church,  
21 Church St., Winchester

The International Connections Committee invites you to its 12th Annual International Pot Luck Supper. Bring a dish of food from your culture to share and enjoy a delightful evening with Winchester neighbors from other countries. This event has become a Winchester tradition and is a wonderful way to celebrate Winchester's growing diversity. Call 781-729-7100 or email office@wmcn.org to sign up.

***From Despair to Possibility:*****WINCHESTER LIBRARY PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT**

December, 2011  
Winchester Public Library,  
80 Washington St., Winchester

In December 2011, Caroline Krantz, local photographer and member of the Multicultural Network, will present *From Despair to Possibility*, a photographic exhibit, at the Winchester Public Library. The exhibit will feature photos of the beautiful country of Sri Lanka, and the damage done to its people and countryside during the 30-year war in the North. Look for announcements about the opening reception in December.

***Winchester in Transition (WIT):***  
***A Conference About Community***

Saturday, February 11, 2012, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.  
Town Hall Auditorium, 71 Mt. Vernon St., Winchester

Mark your calendars and join the conversation! These are exciting times for Winchester! With so many cultural, economic, and environmental changes taking place, we have the chance to build a greater sense of community among all who live, work, study, worship, play, and conduct business in our town. The Multicultural Network is organizing this town-wide "summit" as the last major event of our 20th year. Check out the website, which will be up and running soon: [www.gettowit.org](http://www.gettowit.org).

## Network News!

by Sandy Thompson

At the September Multicultural Network board meeting, Gloria Legvold and Sahar Ahmed Awerbuch were voted in as new co-chairs of the board. Gloria and Sahar succeed Robin Smith, who has served as co-chair for the past four years, and me. After 20 years of helping to run the organization, I am excited to be working with such a capable team as we all collaborate to ensure a smooth transition to new leadership.

This is quite a milestone for me, as well as for Robin, who will continue to serve as School Impact Committee Chair. I will always be grateful to Robin for stepping up to co-chair the board in 2007. Her leadership has been a tremendous asset to WMCN and she has been a joy to work with. This next big step comes as a result of a strategic planning process the board embarked on last year with the Executive

Service Corps, and we have lots of work ahead as we continue to broaden and strengthen the work of the Network. It has been a joy and a privilege to serve in a leadership role during these past 20 years and I hope to be able to contribute in other ways in the years to come.

As always, you will be able to reach Gloria and Sahar as well as committee chairs, by calling our office (781-729-7100) or by emailing office@wmcn.org.

**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.

# 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, [library.minlib.net](http://library.minlib.net), and/or at stores. All foreign films are subtitled. Unless noted, no films are extremely violent or sexually explicit.

**F** stands for family film, but does not include young children unless otherwise noted..

### *Stone*

At times explosive and cunning, this small drama seduces you into the world of a parole-seeking redneck convict (Edward Norton), whose lascivious girlfriend becomes involved with his parole officer ( Robert DeNiro). Norton has never been better as a man who actually undergoes the most unlikely of changes in prison while potentially related external forces affect some unsettled lives in the community outside. This one is ripe for discussion. Extreme language.

### *Clone Returning Home*

A philosophical futuristic tale of duality, death and the transcendence of the soul. A Japanese astronaut agrees to participate in an experimental cloning program, and an unresolved childhood trauma affects his resulting story. A cinematography tour de force full of exquisite mesmerizing images and leaving much for discussion. **F**

### *The Fugitive Kind*

One of Sidney Lumet’s masterpieces and written by Tennessee Williams, with jaw-dropping performances from Marlon Brando, Anna Magnani, and Joanne Woodward. A small evil Southern backwater town takes its toll on an Italian immigrant shopkeeper and the angelic former bad boy drifter who resolves to change his ways and help her. Brando is understated and mesmerizing, a true magnetic force. **F**

### *Astropia (Dorks and Damsels)*

A quirky Icelandic comedy with its tongue firmly in cheek throughout. A female of the ‘blond bimbo’ persuasion suddenly must find work when her Ken Doll sugar daddy is arrested for tax evasion. Of all places, she ends up in a fantasy shop haunted by a community of loyal nerds. Surprising herself and everyone else, she shows an aptitude for selling role-playing games, and the shop prospers. When she joins the store’s hardcore group at their role-playing sessions, a delightful scenario unfolds. Great kooky fun for all ages. **F**

### *All Good Things*

The fantastic Ryan Gosling stars with Kirsten Dunst in this Faustian tale of the unloved hapless scion of a real estate empire who wants to be a hippie but is dragged back into the family business by his demonic father, perfectly played by Frank Langella. Based on one of the weirdest true stories imaginable, murders ensue as Gosling’s world becomes more and more bizarre. **F**

### *Coco and Igor*

Chanel and Stravinsky, two stylistic giants of early 20th century culture, who may or may not have had the tumultuous raw relationship depicted in this film. A cinematographer’s paradise, the complexities of complex people have rarely been so riveting.

### *You Don’t Know Jack*

Al Pacino shines in this docudrama that details the fierce intellect and determination behind Jack Kevorkian and his multi-decade commitment to helping terminally ill people die with dignity. **F**

### *Almost Peaceful*

Unique for the fact that it takes place immediately after WWII, this is a fascinating look at an intimate and loving group of French Jewish survivors who work side by side in a reinstated family tailoring business. As they adjust to life, some await lost family and remain shattered; some follow random paths of dissolution; some are able to blossom and rejoice. A heartwarming view into the meaning of family and community **F**

.....  
“... *I have learned that oppression and the intolerance of difference come in all shapes and sexes and colors and sexualities; and that among those of us who share the goals of liberation and a workable future for our children, there can be no hierarchies of oppression.*”

Audre Lorde

# A Difficult Conversation: Class Issues in a Classless Society

a commentary by Gloria Legvold

“Winchester Reads” *Good to a Fault* offers a conversation on a difficult topic—socio-economic issues that reflect on us as individuals and as a community. With houses that hold their value, outstanding MCAS scores, incomes well above the median, and a charming center of shops and restaurants, Winchester provides a comfortable environment. Yet, as in many affluent communities, there is an undertow, often barely apparent, that pulls against the surface calm. What is the experience of living in Winchester at a more tenuous level? *Good to a Fault* can create in us greater sensitivity and more compassionate attitudes.

In Marina Endicott’s novel, Clara Purdy has taken into her home a family living in their car. Clara is horrified by the directness of Lorraine Gage, the cancer-stricken mother of that homeless family, who says “You can’t stop thinking of us as low-class, you can’t stop.” Clara is filled with self-righteousness: “To be accused of prejudice, when she had worked so hard—how could Lorraine think so? She would, she would think so, with her trailer-park ignorance. Shocked, Clara smacked the thought away, but it was there. Less worthy. Less human.” That voice judging along class lines with its tone of superiority is present, conflicting with how Clara intends to live. There is reassurance, at least, in her self-awareness.

In one scene, Clara pulls away from Lorraine’s eldest daughter, Dolly, reaching toward her wrist. Dolly asks where she got the colorful beaded bracelet and asserts, “In the Saan store, I bet . . . I saw it there!” Clara tenses. “Shoddy goods—her mother’s voice rang in her ears.” In another scene, Clara notices Lorraine’s wedding ring “and an engagement ring, nestled close together as they were made to do . . . People’s Jewelers. Or Wal-Mart.” Back home in Winchester, McCall students find themselves grouped into the “Abercrombie Fitches” and the “Kohls.”

As Clara adjusts from living alone to providing for a homeless family, she wrestles with resigning from her job and balancing financial resources. “. . . had to transfer money from her savings . . . She hadn’t realized how much people eat, and the cost of clothes and diapers . . .” The Woburn Council of Social Concern’s Food Pantry has served 209 individuals from Winchester. Of that number, 50% are our elderly. Additionally, 186 students received eligibility for “free/reduced lunch” in the year ending June 2011. Others qualify but choose not to apply.

Another generation is represented in the children’s grandmother Mrs. Pell. Darwin, Lorraine’s brother, recognizes Pell’s need for human dignity despite her

difficult personality. Mrs. Pell wants her own bathroom and quiet solitude without responsibility. “You need a little privacy, a little independence at your age . . . you don’t want to be at somebody else’s beck and call. You need a place of your own.” Winchester has some 5,000 elderly residents; 300, undoubtedly a higher number, are identified as “fragile.” Some live at poverty level with no clear support system, have lost family and friends, and are depressed.

Enrolled in school, Dolly comes home and announces that she needs \$15 for tomorrow’s field trip, “or she would be the only person in school who didn’t get to go.” In our community who doesn’t “get to go”—to music lessons, on traveling soccer teams, onto a laptop computer, to a college consultant. With lost jobs and a tight economy the “who” quickly becomes a very personal recognition. Our schools have enrolled 10 to 12 students designated as “homeless” each of the past three years.

Near the end of the novel, responding to Clary’s resistance about her family’s relocation, Lorraine says, “Here’s the difference between us: you got taken to the dentist more and your mother filled your head with stuck-up shit about how great you are, and you got to live in the same house all your life. That’s most of it. You went to school for longer, and you worked in a clean office instead of cleaning the office. You have a better-looking face and better-looking clothes, and that gives you some feeling that you’re better than me.” Her comment swiftly lays out several class issues—access to dental care, stable family, home ownership, educational level, employment, job status, appearance.

What conscious or unconscious prejudices do we hold? In working toward an inclusive, just, and welcoming community, can we look at ourselves and each other with generosity of spirit and allay our rush to assumptions and judgment? “And if you think you’re the only person around here that can do the decent thing, you’re sadly mistaken, Miss Clary . . .”



## Winchester’s Human Rights Statement

(Adopted by the Board of Selectmen September 24, 2009)

Winchester is a community that is grounded in respect for every individual and therefore protects all residents, employees, business owners, students and visitors in the enjoyment and exercise of human and civil rights. It is town policy to ensure equal treatment and opportunity to all individuals regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, religion, ideology, socio-economic status, health, sexual orientation, age, military status, or disability.

## 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)*

- At last spring's En Ka Fair, families with special needs members were given special "smiley face" buttons that entitled them to move to the head of the line.
- Last year the Family Action Network sponsored a French-speaking playgroup.
- Last spring, following the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, Lincoln Elementary School students held a May Day celebration and learned to write a traditional form of Japanese poetry called Haiku.
- The Winchester Public Library offers its printed guides in Chinese, Russian, and Spanish. There are also many resources for those learning English and other languages.
- In September Winchester resident Ruba Gnanaratnam, photographer Caroline Hirschfeld and her husband Tom and Multicultural Network member Sandy Thompson attended a screening of the documentary "Sri Lanka's Killing Fields" hosted by Rep. Jason Lewis and Amnesty International.
- Anne Kostos, Winchester's new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) coordinator, started work in July and will be overseeing implementation of the town's ADA Transition Plan.
- The Winchester Public Library's recent newsletter highlighted the library's accessibility for those who have hearing deficit, a visual impairment, or are homebound.
- Photographer Barry Pell presented a program on India at the Jenks Center in September.
- On September 11 The Griffin Museum of Photography hosted photographer Dick Simon who spoke on issues of perception, stereotyping, histories, and concepts of "the other."
- Winchester's Interfaith Clergy Council hosted an interfaith service commemorating the tenth anniversary of the events of September 11, 2001.

## Changing of the Co-Chairs at WMCN



Photographs courtesy of Caroline Hirschfeld, photographer/member of the Network.

Above: *The Multicultural Network's new board co-chairs (l) **Gloria Legvold** and (r) **Sahar Ahmed Awerbuch** enjoy the evening's program at a special celebration of our 20th year while, to the right, **Sandy Thompson** is shown with a book capturing the Network's history and outgoing co-chair **Robin Smith** leads the audience in a quiz about the Network's history.*





# International Connections

Did you know that there are 35 different languages spoken in Winchester homes this year?

## ENGLISH CONVERSATION GROUPS

English conversation groups are offered Monday mornings, Wednesday evenings, and Saturday mornings during the school year with priority given to Winchester residents. To sign up to participate in a group, contact English-at-Large at 781-395-2374 or email learn@englishatlarge.org.

## INTERNATIONAL POT LUCK SUPPER

Sunday, November 6, 5:30-8:00 p.m.  
First Congregational Church, 21 Church St., Winchester

Share food from your country and enjoy a delightful evening. Call 781-729-7100 or email office@wmcn.org to sign up.

## THE LUNCH BUNCH

At noontime once a month we try different ethnic restaurants in the area. If you'd like to know the location of our next eating adventure, email office@wmcn.org and let us know your email address. We will put you on the list to be notified of these enjoyable eating experiences.

## INTERNATIONAL DROP-IN GATHERING

Thursdays, Ongoing from October to June  
10–11:30 a.m.  
Meeting Room, Winchester Public Library

Stop in, meet Winchester residents from other countries, and enjoy relaxed conversation in the spacious and inviting Meeting Room at the library. With thanks to Café Dolce on Main Street, who graciously hosted us for a number of years, we appreciate the Library's welcome as part of their many efforts to help newcomers and old-timers alike feel at home in our town.

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*Where, after all, do universal human rights begin?  
In small places, close to home—so close and so small  
that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world . . .  
Unless these rights have meaning there,  
they have little meaning anywhere.*

**Eleanor Roosevelt**

**One Winchester, Many Traditions, a Collaboration of the Winchester Public Library and the Multicultural Network**, offers these special programs at the Library:

## PLAY OR LEARN MAH-JONGG

October 17 and December 12 at 6:30 p.m.

## READ, MEET, EAT: AN INTERNATIONAL BOOK GROUP

November 14 and May 14 at 7:00 p.m.

## INTERNATIONAL FILM SERIES

January 8, February 13, March 12, April 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy a winter evening watching a film and discussing it with friends.

## MANGA WORKSHOPS

Watch for dates.

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## Brio Workshops

October 22 and 29, 9:30–12 noon  
Winchester Unitarian Church,  
478 Main St., Winchester

Brio is a nonprofit organization founded by Network board member Sahar Ahmed Awerbuch. Brio's "mission is to create and perform integrated theatre through the collaboration of artists with and without disabilities. We believe that all individuals have the ability to create and that there are diverse perspectives and ways to express creativity

Brio teaches awareness of disabilities and the infinite potential that is imaginable through integrative workshops, productions, educational programs and community outreach. We are committed to inspiring others through promoting and supporting integrated theatre on a local, national and international level."

For more information, go to [www.briotheater.org](http://www.briotheater.org).

# Class Issues and Books About Them

Hooks, Bell *Where We Stand: Class Matters*, Routledge, 2000. This book attempts to break the silence around the issue of class. While it explores the significance that race, income, housing, and even gender play in determining class, it also deals with the importance of learning to cross the boundaries of class in order to live without the barriers of "class hierarchy."

Lardner, James and Smith, David A. (editors) *Inequality Matters: The Growing Economic Divide in America and Its Poisonous Consequences*, The New Press, 2005. Thinkers like Bill Moyers, Barbara Ehrenreich, and Robert Kuttner have contributed to a book whose essays describe a phenomenon that "our (nation's) leaders have been working overtime to ignore: the growing concentration of wealth, income, and economic and political power." Beyond a description of society's ills, the essays also contain suggestions for arriving at "a more just and humane economy."

Leondar-Wright, Betsy *Class Matters*, New Society Publishers, 2005. The author shatters the persistent myth that we live in a classless society and offers remedies for "healing the wounds of class inequality in our society." As a longtime economic justice activist, Leondar-Wright broadens the conversation about class. She provides a vocabulary around issues of class that we can all share; discussing honestly the politics of class that often get in the way of forming alliances across class; and offering guidelines to help readers build bridges across class lines.

Lubrano, Alfred Limbo: *Blue Collar Roots, White Collar Dreams*, Wiley, 2004. The journalist Alfred Lubrano uses his personal story as well as the experiences of 100 interviewees to illustrate the oftentimes difficult role that class plays in the lives of people raised in blue-collar families and now working and living in a white collar world. These are the people whom Lubrano calls "Straddlers"—people of disparate backgrounds with the common characteristic of having been mobile across class—from working class to middle class.

Pittelman, Karen *Classified: How to Stop Hiding Your Privilege and Use It for Social Change*, Soft Skull Press, 2005. Oftentimes, young people of means become conflicted about their privilege. If they are viewed as being 'haves' in a world of 'have-nots', why should they risk being branded as the 'enemy' by revealing their 'status'? Yet, some of these very people are committed to social justice; they have the access and connections to make it a reality. With wisdom, humor, and thoughtful questioning, the author takes those with class privilege on a kind of journey with the goal of showing them how to be instrumental in bringing about social change.

# Recognition! by Sandy Thompson

On November 29, I will receive an award from Community Change Inc. (CCI) on behalf of the Multicultural Network. Community Change is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote racial justice and equity by challenging systemic racism and acting as a catalyst for anti-racist learning and action. The Community Change Antiracism Leadership Awards Celebration is an annual event that grew out of their Drylongso Awards Celebration which the organization has hosted since 1989. Established in 1989, the Drylongso Awards honor ordinary people doing extraordinary anti-racism work in Greater Boston. CCI will be giving three Lifetime Achievement Awards, an Emerging Leader Award, and several other Drylongso awards that evening.

The Drylongso Awards are inspired by the book *Drylongso: A Self-Portrait of Black America*. In that book, anthropologist John Langston Gwaltney details the daily struggles of drylongso, or ordinary African Americans fighting racism. Each Drylongso Awardee receives a framed copy of an Afro-Ethnograph that combines a photograph, "The Shackle" by Reginald L. Jackson, with a quotation from Bishop Desmond Tutu.

When Paul Marcus, Executive Director of Community Change, called to tell me about this award, he commented that CCI wants to work more closely with suburban communities like ours. This is an incredible honor for me and for the Multicultural Network and, in our 20th year, will serve to inspire and further energize us .

Please check out [www.communitychangeinc.org](http://www.communitychangeinc.org) to learn more about this important organization.

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***If civilization is to survive, we must cultivate the science of human relationships—the ability of all peoples, of all kinds, to live together, in the same world, at peace.***

**Franklin D. Roosevelt**



## The Journey

THE WINCHESTER MULTICULTURAL NETWORK NEWSLETTER

EDITORS: DOTTY BURSTEIN AND SANDY THOMPSON  
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: MINDY ARBO, GLORIA LEGVOLD  
GRAPHICS DESIGNER: LILY YAMAMOTO

*The Journey* is published four times a year and is one means that the Network uses to carry out our mission to inform, advocate, and respond.

**Winchester Multicultural Network**  
P.O. Box 346, Winchester MA 01890 • 781-729-7100 • [www.wmcn.org](http://www.wmcn.org)

## Understanding a Diversity of Religious Holidays

Winchester residents represent many religions and cultural backgrounds, and in the spirit of understanding across differences, we've asked two local residents to tell us about two important Muslim holidays, and Diwali, celebrated by many of our Indian neighbors.

Board member Seeme Moreira explains that Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr are two major religious holidays celebrated by Muslims around the world. Eid is an Arabic word meaning festivity and both Eids are joyous occasions for Muslims. Both Eids are observed on dates based on the lunar calendar and hence fall on different dates each year on the Gregorian calendar. This year Eid al-Fitr was observed on August 30th and Eid al-Adha will be observed on November 6th, approximately 70 days afterwards.

Celebrations of both Eids in this country typically entail observers participating in a morning prayer service followed by a sermon. The rest of the day consists of get-togethers and feasts with family and friends centering around meat dishes on Eid al-Adha, and sweet dishes on Eid al-Fitr. Although these holidays are celebrated for three consecutive days in the Muslim world, they are generally observed on the first day only in the United States.

**Eid al-Fitr** marks the end of Ramadan, the Islamic month of fasting. Fitr means "conclusion of the fast." Because of the strict guidelines of observing fasts, refraining from all food and liquids and all undesirable acts and practices during the month of Ramadan, this Eid is particularly joyous. It is a festive occasion where everyone dresses up

and many wear new clothes. Kids also receive "Eidi" (cash gift) from their elders.

**Eid al-Adha** is the "Festival of Sacrifice." It commemorates the willingness of Abraham to sacrifice his son Ishmael as an act of obedience to God. At the final moment, God replaced Abraham's son with a ram. In commemoration of this sacrifice, Muslims who can afford it sacrifice (or pay for the sacrifice of) a domestic animal such as a cow, sheep, goat, or camel. The meat is distributed among family and friends and the poor and needy in equal parts. This Eid is celebrated annually after the Hajj, or the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia.

**Diwali—Festival of Lights**—is a five-day festival that represents the start of the Hindu New Year. It honors the victory of good over evil, and brightness over darkness. It also marks the start of winter. Diwali is actually celebrated in honor of Lord Rama and his wife Sita returning to their kingdom of Ayodhya, following Rama and monkey god Hanuman's defeat of the demon King Ravana and rescue of Sita from his evil clutches. The festival's dates are determined by the cycle of the moon, and in 2010 Diwali started on November 3. The main festivities take place on the third day when Indian families in the U.S. gather with friends and family. Local resident Rita Kakkar adds that Diwali is also the beginning of the calendar year for business people. The Goddess of wealth, "Shri Laxmi," is celebrated too. "It's a combination of Christmas, New Year and Fourth of July for us," she says.

### Winchester Multicultural Network

P.O. Box 346  
Winchester, MA 01890

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