

The Journey

THE WINCHESTER MULTICULTURAL NETWORK NEWSLETTER

There are many ways people react to and resist injustice: sometimes overtly by challenging laws in court, sometimes quietly by refusing to comply, sometimes by an act of kindness or empathy.

From an article in the magazine *Rethinking Schools*.

The article is about a lesson for 4th graders regarding the internment of Japanese Americans during WWII.



WINCHESTER
MULTICULTURAL
NETWORK

We Educate, Advocate and Respond.

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WINCHESTER MULTICULTURAL NETWORK

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DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Looking Ahead

An Evening with Andrew Bridge, Author of *Hope's Boy*

Thursday, October 21 at 7:00 p.m.

McCall Middle School Auditorium, 458 Main St

Winchester Reads* invites you to spend an evening with Andrew Bridge whose memoir, *Hope's Boy*, was the selection committee's choice for this fall's community read. Hope was Andrew's mother's name, but the word evokes broader meanings: longing, expectation, yearning. At the age of seven, Andrew was taken from his mentally ill mother and placed in a terrifying juvenile facility. Afterwards he was transferred to a foster home where he spent the rest of his childhood. His story is both sad and depressing, and uplifting. Luckily, Andrew loved school and excelled, eventually receiving a scholarship to Wesleyan. From there he went to Harvard Law School and since then has devoted his career to helping children whose circumstances are similar to those he endured.

According to the book's website, Andrew is founding director of New Village Charter School—one of the country's first charter schools to focus on the needs of children in foster care and in the delinquency system. In 2002 he became Managing Director of Child Welfare Reform at the Broad Foundation in Los Angeles which he has since left. After completing *Hope's Boy* he has been working on a second book, *The Children of Eufaula* which describes the past and present lives of the children he represented at the Eufaula Adolescent Center in southern Alabama early in his career.

Don't miss the opportunity to hear this inspiring man! The evening is free and all are invited.

* **Winchester Reads** is a collaboration of the Friends of the Winchester Public Library, the Winchester Public Schools, Book Ends, and the Multicultural Network. The program was started in 2002.

On Foster Care by Maria Solarez

In *Hope's Boy*, Andrew Bridge brings us a powerful story of resiliency, survival, and renewal. His story of life in foster care weaves a never-ending belief that his mother or a mother-like person will be there to care for him and love him. He "gets through" because he knows she loves him, in spite of her lifelong struggle with class oppression and mental illness. Amazingly, he never relinquishes his belief, even after being exposed to some of the worse examples of trauma that foster children can be exposed to. In the end, he finds a way to use this belief in deep maternal, unquestioning love to help others in the foster care system.

As we read in *Hope's Boy*, the work of caring for children in foster care comes with challenge and uncertainty. Children in foster care come from a place or time forgotten; having experienced neglect, abuse and even abandonment. They struggle with rules; suffer bonding and attachment disorders; need patience, kindness, and love; know early loss and grief; and tend to be minority children. Those who support foster care work include state and federal government agencies, as well as non-profits and volunteers.

A web survey of the various foster care programs and agencies includes the following:

Adoption.com: features blogs, forums, news articles and professional resources

Arvinpublications.com: contains publications for adoptive parents, articles about children in foster care, and resources for adoptees.

American Foster Care Resources: workshops, the *Foster Care Journal* and links to the National Foster Care Network.

Childwelfare.gov: the US Department of Health & Human Services Child Welfare Information Gateway: child abuse and neglect, out-of-home care, family-centered practice and state and national data.

Hope's Boy reminds us of children outside the mainstream, in the margins, who, through no fault of their own, lack the support and structure so many take for granted. Yet, as the title suggests, resiliency and adults who understand these children's struggles become the support that brings them out and through their lonely childhood.

Towards Building Up an Inclusive Community by Jesudas Athyal

Several years ago I worked as a researcher at a study center in New Jersey. Every Wednesday all the scholars there would gather together for lunch. That was also an occasion for sharing each other's areas of study. On the first day when I was there, the Secretary of the Center phoned me to find out if she should order a vegetarian lunch for me. I reminded her that not all Indians are Hindus or vegetarian. She graciously arranged for a regular lunch for me, but the next Wednesday the query was repeated. And even the week after that. Somehow, certain images of who an Indian is had got deeply ingrained in her mind. No doubt, Indians and other nationalities have similar stereotypical notions about "alien" cultures.

Following radical changes in the immigration policy of the United States, the last half a century has witnessed an unprecedented degree of migration, during which people from most parts of the world have come here, bringing with them their religions, cultures, and traditions. Apart from the traditional Anglo-Saxon communities, therefore, there is a truly world culture that is emerging today in this country. In New England itself, the Sri Lakshmi Hindu temple in Ashland, the Islamic Cultural Center in Roxbury and the

Sikh Gurdwara in Medford are all symbols of the pluralist community around us.

How do we come to terms with the multi-cultural society emerging in our midst? Do we assert the superiority of our own culture over the other "pagan cultures"? Do we become hostile and treat others as anti-social elements? Or do we just ignore them? The fact is that the new people in our midst provide a significant avenue for building up a just and an inclusive community. When we visited the Islamic Center in Roxbury recently, we heard thrilling accounts of how several Christians, including clergy persons and theologians—came to the Center's defense when there was severe opposition to the building of a mosque there. Indeed, our emerging pluralist context provides challenges as well as opportunities for us. Whether Asians or Americans, Hindus or Muslims or Christians, we are all called to a life together.

Jesudas Athyal is a resident of Winchester. He previously worked as a researcher at the Harvard University Pluralism Project where he was primarily associated with a study of the world religions in Boston with particular emphasis on the religious traditions of the recent immigrants.

Network Endorses Voting Against Repeal of the State Affordable Housing Law, Ballot Question No. 2

by John Suhrbier



For the past 40 years, Massachusetts has had a highly effective law in place that has resulted in important increases in housing that is affordable across a wide income spectrum. While viewed nationally as an excellent example of a model law, this November's ballot contains a citizen's petition, Ballot Question No. 2, that would repeal this effective and beneficial law. This is one of three petition questions that are on this fall's ballot, with the other two related to rolling back the sales tax rate and eliminating the sales tax on alcoholic beverages. The Board of the Winchester Multicultural Network has focused on the proposal to repeal the affordable housing law and voted unanimously to oppose this repeal by Voting No on Question No. 2.

In recommending a No Vote on Ballot Question No. 2, the Network joins a broad-based coalition of more than 1,500 organizations and individuals that includes elected and municipal officials; civic organizations; faith-based groups; environmental organizations; business interests; seniors, veterans, and the disabled; fair housing, civil rights, and human rights advocates; health and human services representatives; and community planners. Supporters of Voting No on 2 having a Winchester connection include State Representative Jason Lewis; State Senator Pat Jehlen; the Winchester Housing Partnership Board; Alan MacDonald, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Business Round Table; Allan Rodgers, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute and a Community Advisor to the Multicultural Network; Betsy Cregger, a current member of Winchester's Planning Board and a former Selectmen; and Mary McKenna of the Planning Board. The campaign to Vote No on 2 also has been

endorsed by the AARP and the League of Women Voters (LWV), and each of the three major candidates for governor.

Over the last decade, the State affordable Housing Law has been responsible for approximately 80% of the affordable homes built outside the Commonwealth's major cities. More than 58,000 market-rate homes and homes affordable to moderate and lower income households have been created, with almost half of the affordable housing units developed by non-profit housing groups such as Habitat For Humanity. This housing expands the choices for where people can choose to live, with seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, teachers and other municipal employees, nurses and medical assistants, retail employees, workers in the construction trades, and young people just entering the work force occupying these homes.

The availability of reasonably priced housing is critical to maintaining a strong Massachusetts economy, helping to attract businesses and encouraging them to expand by providing places for workers to live. Both the shortage and the cost of housing discourages businesses, and the employees they need, from choosing to locate in Massachusetts. The housing being developed under this law improves the opportunity for youth who have either grown up in Massachusetts or attended one of this state's many universities to stay here rather than to locate to another region.

Housing plans under the law are developed through a process of negotiation, similar to that utilized for other projects, both in Winchester and across the Commonwealth. A community retains local control of the development; priority is given to respecting local zoning and community plans.

The Multicultural Network encourages a No Vote for Question 2 on this November's ballot. The existing law, and its supporting guidelines, has been continuously refined over the years in response to changing needs and new developments. The Network feels this process of adaptation is preferable to full repeal. Additional information, including a listing of the members of the Vote No on 2 coalition, is available at the web site www.protectaffordablehousing.org, or from John Suhrbier at 781-729-4824 or jnsuhr@verizon.net.

I think we have to own the fears that we have of each other, and then, in some practical way, some daily way, figure out how to see people differently from the way we were brought up to.

— Alice Walker

Fall 2010 *Teaching Tolerance* magazine



Lift Every Voice: The NAACP and the Making of the Civil Rights Movement by Patricia Sullivan

(Reviewed by Dotty Burstein)

Lift Every Voice is a new acquisition available at the Winchester Public Library.

In this history of the struggle for civil rights in America, the author relies on the voices of those who fought racial barriers in both the North and the South to describe the events that dominated race relations throughout the 20th century. During the darkest moments of racial segregation, stories of courage and conviction are told through the voices of leaders like Ella Baker, Thurgood Marshall, Roy Wilkins, and Mary White Ovington. Their stories emerge from the early days of the 20th century, when a 42-year-old scholar left academia in Atlanta for New York City, where he and others forged a new political movement that resulted, against all odds, in the formation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, or the NAACP. That former professor, the first African American to earn a PhD at Harvard, was W.E.B. Du Bois. The NAACP's decades-long activism led to a post-war era of striving to defeat Jim Crow once and for all. The courageous efforts of several generations of African Americans, most of them "unknown and unheralded," resulted in legal victories like *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954 and the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This readable history "offers a timeless lesson on how people without access to the traditional levers of power can create change under seemingly impossible odds."

Did You Know That?

- W.E.B. Du Bois wanted to use the term Colored instead of Negro in the title 'National Association for the Advancement of Colored People' in order to "proclaim the Association's commitment to advance the interests of all dark-skinned people."
- Before the Civil War in the 1860s, the National Mall in Washington had been the most popular place to sell slaves.
- Two of the most important events in African-American history happened on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial: Marian Anderson's concert in 1939 and Martin Luther King, Jr.'s. "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963.
- While scrubbing floors and running errands for a Baltimore bordello, Eleanora Fagan, whom we know as Billie Holiday, discovered the music of jazz artists like Louis Armstrong and Bessie Smith before becoming famous for her own recordings of songs like "Strange Fruit", which Time named "the best song of the century" in 1999.

- By the time George Washington died in 1799, there were 316 slaves living at Mount Vernon.
- Isabella Baumfree, born the daughter of slaves in the 1790s, changed her name to Sojourner Truth in 1843 and became a traveling preacher and abolitionist who told crowds that "women deserve the same rights as men because they are equal in capability to men."
- More than half of the documented work force that built the Capitol and other federal buildings in Washington were slaves, who received rations and medical care but no money for their labor.

Dilemma :

Receive *The Journey* Online?

In the spirit of saving paper and postage and being more "green," many of us are getting *The Journey* online, along with many other publications we are interested in. However, several readers have commented that they find it more difficult to read the whole newsletter when it's online. If you are more inclined to read *The Journey* when it comes in the mail, feel free to stay with the "snail mail" version. We want you to read it! BUT we would still like to have your email address so that we can send you information about upcoming events. We promise not to bombard you daily (or even weekly). If we don't have your email address already, please email office@wmcn.org. And if you'd like to get the newsletter in the mail, don't hesitate to let us know. Thanks!

Sandy Thompson



Winchester's Human Rights Statement

(recently adopted by the Board of Selectmen)

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.

Stand Up to Harassment of LGBT Youth

Secretary of Education Arne Duncan in a statement from the White House on October 1, 2010:

“This week, we sadly lost two young men who took their own lives for one unacceptable reason: they were being bullied and harassed because they were openly gay or believed to be gay. These unnecessary tragedies come on the heels of at least three other young people taking their own lives because the trauma of being bullied and harassed for their actual or perceived sexual orientation was too much to bear.

This is a moment where everyone of us — parents, teachers, students, elected officials and all people of conscience — needs to stand up and speak out against intolerance in all its forms. Whether it’s students harassing other students because of ethnicity, disability or religion; or an adult, public official harassing the President of the University of Michigan student body because he is gay, it is time we as a country said enough. No more. This must stop.”

We have highlighted the second paragraph of this statement, quoted in an email from the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Educators Network (GLSEN), by putting it in bold. We must stand up to harassment—whether of a young person or an adult—of any individual simply because he or she is different in some way.

The GLSEN email urges us all to “ensure passage of the *Safe Schools Improvement Act and the Student Non-Discrimination Act*. We must make sure that the federal government collects data that allows us to track progress in this crucial fight. And we must ensure that all federal engagement with schools continues to reflect the fact that young LGBT lives matter.”

GLSEN lists the following important steps:

1. Call your Senators today and ask them to co-sponsor the Safe Schools Improvement Act, which will require schools nationwide to develop and implement inclusive student conduct policies, prevention strategies, and record and report upon incidents of bullying and harassment.
2. Please read, and share with friends and family, GLSEN’s National School Climate Survey. This enlightening document brings the current school environment for LGBT students to the forefront, calling attention to how anti-gay harassment negatively impacts all students.
3. Encourage your local schools to implement programs that support LGBT youth, and support them when they do. Schools that support LGBT students often face resistance. Let members of your local school committees know that you expect them to support and stand by all of their students.

We’ll add:

Familiarize yourself with organizations that support GLBT youth and adults such as the following:

GLSEN Boston (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network) strives to assure that each member of every school community is valued and respected regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. www.glsenboston.org

Greater Boston PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbian and Gays) offers help for LGBT youth, their families, and communities around the topic of sexual identity. PFLAG offers training and has worked with McCall Middle School and the Multicultural Network to promote safe environments for youth. www.gbpfllag.org

MTPG (Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition) is an important organization to know about. The MTPG has announced Transgender Awareness Week from November 13–20. “The week will be dedicated to educating the public about the transgender community and the pressing issues that are currently facing transgender people in Massachusetts.” It is designed to “eliminate unfair myths and negative stereotypes that exist about transgender people,” according to Gunnar Scott. Check out their web site for information on events and educational opportunities the organization has planned. www.mtpg.org

MassEquality.org is a grassroots organization working to achieve full equality for the LGBT community. MassEquality works to protect, promote and defend marriage equality and to advance lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights. Our premise is simple: we believe that every LGBT person deserves to be treated equally, to feel safe, and to be free from discrimination based on his or her sexual orientation or gender identity. www.massequality.org

Note: Is “gender identity” an unfamiliar term to you? According to Arlene Istar, the author of *Transgender Emergence*, “A person’s self-concept of their gender (regardless of their biological sex) is called their gender identity.”



“We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.”
— from an ancient Native American proverb



International Connections

THURSDAY MORNING DROP-IN COFFEE

Stop in at Café Dolce, 831 Main St any time between 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. for coffee and conversation.

INTERNATIONAL POT LUCK DINNER

Sunday, November 7 from 5:30–8:00 p.m.
Chidley Hall, First Congregational Church,
21 Church St., Winchester

On Sunday, November 7, the Winchester Multicultural Network and its International Connections Committee will sponsor our 11th annual International Potluck dinner. All Winchester residents with roots and/or interests in other cultures are welcome to attend this family-friendly event and bring a special dish of food to share. In addition to great food from many cultures, the evening will include entertainment, raffles, and games. As November approaches, look for flyers around town and announcements in our local papers.

CONVERSATION GROUPS SPONSORED BY ENGLISH AT LARGE

What are English At Large Conversation Groups?

Conversation Groups are groups of about 8 to 12 learners who meet weekly and practice their English speaking skills. The groups provide a perfect opportunity for learners to improve their speaking confidence and meet other people who are learning English. Topics usually covered in Conversation Groups include American culture and holidays, idioms, casual spoken English, and daily life situations (the bank, the post office, speaking with neighbors, etc.)

Conversation Groups facilitated by volunteers who would like to help non-native English speakers improve their conversational skills. Learners will not learn grammar in the Conversation Groups and will not spend long periods of time reading articles or writing essays.

Who can participate?

English At Large Conversation Groups are for people who are learning to speak English more fluently.

For Conversation Groups to be effective, it is important that learners already have an intermediate level of speaking ability before they join the group. If a learner can speak on the telephone without too much difficulty, her/his English speaking ability is probably good enough to join a conversation group. Each conversation group facilitator determines which learners can join her/his group.

Conversation Groups are very popular and learners may be placed on a waiting list.

How much do Conversation Groups cost?

They are free.

Where and when do Conversation Groups take place?

Conversations in Winchester take place at the Winchester Public Library at the following times:

- Monday mornings from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. from September 27 through December 13
- Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. from October 6 through December 8
- Saturday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon from September 25 through December 11

May I attend more than one Conversation Group at the same time?

It depends on the groups you'd like to attend. Some groups have long waiting lists; other groups do not. When you register, please choose one preferred group. On the registration page, there is a spot to list other groups that you'd like to attend if space is available.

How do I register?

The easiest way is to register online. Please visit the link below and fill in the requested information:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/conversationgroupsfall2010>

You may also call the English at Large office: 781-395-2374

How do I know whether I may attend the Conversation Group?

About two to three weeks after you register, a Conversation Group Facilitator will phone you. She/he will let you know if there is space in the group and will provide information about other logistics.

I've participated in a Conversation Group in the past. Do I need to register again?

Yes. All learners who would like to take part in the fall Conversation Groups must fill out the registration form.

What if I have other questions?

Please e-mail them to volunteer@englishatlarge.org

One Winchester, Many Traditions, 2010–11 Programs

ONE WINCHESTER, MANY TRADITIONS

is a project of the Library in conjunction with the Multicultural Network, and announces its programs for the upcoming year. These programs celebrate a variety of the many cultures represented among the residents of our town, and there are programs for all age groups. All programs take place at the Library and are free.

PLAY & LEARN! SPANISH FUN FOR PRESCHOOLERS

will take place on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. from October 6 – November 17. Esther Gomez will provide games, songs, dances and other active, playful activities to teach preschoolers ages 4–6 beginning Spanish. She will teach basic Spanish words and grammar through imitation, imagination and play. The class is limited to 15; please sign up in the Children's Room.

MAH-JONGG

To learn or to play will meet at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays, October 13 and 27.

Whether you're a rank beginner or a real expert, join us for a fun evening playing Mah-jongg! Please feel free to bring a mah-jongg set if you have one. This is a program for adults, but it will take place in the Library Children's Room.

READ, MEET, EAT

is our new international book club. It will meet twice during the year—on Tuesday, November 2 at 7 p.m. for discussion of *A Good Fall* by Ha Jin and on Tuesday, February 1 for *The Unknown Errors of Our Lives* by Chitra Divakaruni. Light snacks will be provided. Books will be available at the Circulation Desk at the Library approximately one month ahead of time—just ask for book club books. Anyone who has read the book is welcome to attend.

This will be the third year of our **INTERNATIONAL FILM SERIES** which takes place on the second Monday of the month, January through April, at 6:30 p.m.

This year's films will be:
Outsourced (India/US)
I Not Stupid (Singapore)
Viva Cuba (Spain) and
Red Cliff (China).

Later in the spring look for announcements of two additional programs—**LEARN TO DRAW ANIME/MANGA** for teens and preteens and **INTERNATIONAL FAMILY GAMES** for all—and we hope to see you in the Library!

One Winchester, Many Traditions is a project to welcome the town's residents from other countries and to celebrate the varied cultural heritages of all of Winchester's residents. Made possible by the generosity of the John and Mary Murphy Educational Foundation, One Winchester, Many Traditions is produced by the Winchester Public Library in conjunction with the Multicultural Network.

For further information:
check the library's website, www.winpublib.org,
or contact Janet Nelson, Community Services Librarian,
at jnelson@minlib.net or 781-721-7171 x 20.

Are You an Activist?

by Sandy Thompson

Do you think of yourself as an activist? I used to think you had to go to protest marches, appear at the State House, or make public speeches to qualify as an activist. But lately I realize that—especially in this day of internet access—it's so easy. Each of us can be an activist! In less than a minute you can sign an online petition to advocate for the rights of gay persons, immigrants, transgender people, and those with disabilities. You can read the newsletters that come across your computer screen and, with the click of your mouse, protest anti-Muslim movements, stand up against anti-Semitism, and fight against racist rhetoric on T.V. and radio.

Without stirring from your home you can donate to social justice causes—to organizations locally and around the world that promote the welfare of women and children, fight racism, and promote authentic dialogue across difference. Without leaving your desk, you can write a letter to the editor or send a friend information on a subject he or she may be misinformed about.

You can be an activist by confronting a racist joke, speaking up in a meeting about handicapped access, or pointing out assumptions that every family can afford the fees charged for school trips or club activities. It's not necessarily the people who make headlines that make a difference in our world. It's the small, daily and weekly acts of activism that do.

Recommended Multicultural Films by Mindy Arbo

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

Correction: In the Summer 2010 newsletter, the film review titled *Company Men* should have been titled *Confidences Trop Intimes*. It is included below.

Confidences Trop Intimes

A reserved, elegant, and deceptively milquetoast accountant is mistaken for a psychiatrist by a mysterious, beautiful and emotional woman. Mesmerized, he complicitly accepts the woman as a patient, in the meantime, seeking the advice of the neighbor psychiatrist for whom she mistook him. An unspoken co-dependence develops between him and her, with life-altering consequences.

Outsourced

A young, successful, but untraveled Midwestern telemarketing manager is sent to rural India to train the newly outsourced Indian team. Recommended to me by "Desi" friends (Indians living in the U.S.) this is an authentic look at the true culture clash experienced by all concerned. Full of quiet insight, but mostly a lot of fun! F

Arranged

In contemporary Brooklyn, a close bond develops between two devout young teachers, an Orthodox Jew and a Syrian-born Muslim, both of whom are figuring out how to remain in their beloved traditional faith cultures while being pro-active in directing their futures. A reflection of the producer's own experiences, this is an authentic and absorbing look into both these worlds. F

Freedom Writers

While this is a Hollywood film with the expected pacing and plot developments, it is ultimately a very realistic, well-acted, and moving piece about an idealistic but tough young teacher in a depressing California public high school. Unmoving in her faith in the potential of her alienated violence-surrounded students, she is determined to fight for their attention and loyalty as she gives them knowledge of what is possible, and the viability of hope when accompanied by commitment. Extra features include interviews with star Hilary Swank, the teacher she plays, and the actual students. F

Amreeka

A feisty educated Palestinian divorcee moves with her teenage son to greener pastures in Amreeka (Arabic for America), where she joins the crowded household of her sister and successful doctor brother-in-law. But the winds of nationalism springing from 9/11 blow forcefully into this small Midwestern town and the doctor's patients diminish as the creditors close in. Our heroine's positive energy is put to many a demeaning test, and we suffer along with her, always rooting for the happiness she deserves. F

Allegro

Sharing something of the bizarre otherworldly character of "Memento," this is a mesmerizing avant-garde Danish masterpiece about memory, denial, and redemption. A reclusive world-renowned concert pianist returns to the city of his former life and is confronted by strange forces who push him to a necessary awakening. Warrants repeated viewing and much discussion!

Winchester Multicultural Network

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