

# The Journey

THE WINCHESTER MULTICULTURAL NETWORK NEWSLETTER

*It's important for kids to realize that the achievements of the past will only last if they are active participants in the struggle for justice and equality.*

Barbara Henry, *Ruby Bridges' First Grade teacher* (from the *Boston Globe* magazine, June 29, 2014)



WINCHESTER  
MULTICULTURAL  
NETWORK

We Educate, Advocate and Respond.

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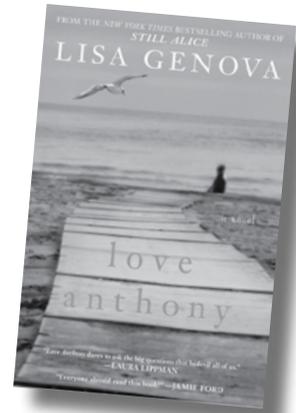
Felicity Tuttle

Lily Yamamoto

Looking Ahead / Mark Your Calendar

## Love Anthony by Lisa Genova

*Love Anthony* by New York Times bestselling author Lisa Genova has been chosen by the Winchester Reads committee as this year's Community Read. The novel is the story of a mother, grieving the death of her eight-year-old autistic son, and the friendship that develops between her and a woman writing her first book. Set on Nantucket, the story is beautifully told and gives us insights into autism and what it can be like to be the parent of an autistic child.



The choice of this book ties in with Winchester's now-yearly "Light it Up Blue" event in April, which is part of a global initiative to help raise awareness about autism. **Please mark your calendars and plan to learn more about autism, first at the panel discussion on October 2nd, then by coming to hear Lisa Genova, and finally by attending the library's screening of a documentary about children on the autism spectrum coming together to perform a musical.**

## How Does Autism Affect Me?— a panel discussion

Thursday, October 2, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

Jenks Center, 109 Skillings Road, Winchester

So many of us are touched in some way by autism. We have someone on the spectrum in our family, in our neighborhood, or in our faith community. Come and expand your understanding of this increasingly common neuro-development disorder. Speakers include Dr. Margaret Bauman, a pioneer in the study of autism; Cathy Boyle, president of Autism Housing Pathways; Captain Bill Cannata, educator of first responders in rescuing individuals with autism, and Anne Kostos, ADA Coordinator for the Town of Winchester. The panel will be facilitated by Sahar Ahmed Awerbuch, founder of Brio Integrated Theatre and a Multicultural Network Board member.

Looking Ahead/Mark Your Calendar

## An Evening With Lisa Genova

Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.  
McCall Middle School, 458 Main St., Winchester

Don't miss this opportunity to hear Lisa Genova, author of *Still Alice*, *Left Neglected*, and *Love Anthony*. According to the publisher's website, Genova graduated as valedictorian from Bates College with a degree in biopsychology and did her PhD work in neuroscience at Harvard University. Today she travels worldwide speaking about Alzheimer's disease, traumatic brain injury, and autism. The author has appeared on The Dr. Oz Show, The Diane Rehm Show, CNN, Chronicle, Fox News, and Canada AM and is featured in the Emmy award-winning documentary film *To Not Fade Away*.

Copies of *Love Anthony* are available at BookEnds as well as at the Winchester Public Library.

## Film Screening: *Autism: The Musical*

Sunday, October 26, 2014 at 2:30 p.m.  
Meeting Room, Winchester Public Library,  
80 Washington St., Winchester

This documentary follows five autistic children who are brought together to create and perform a musical production. If you google the title, you will see several other films about autism listed. There is a wealth of reading and watching that can help expand our knowledge and understanding of autism.

The bookmark created for Winchester Reads lists the books *Thinking in Pictures* by Temple Grandin and *Life, Animated* by Ron Suskind as well as *Rules for Young Readers Ages 8-2* by Cynthia Lord. An article by Katharine Whittemore in the June 8, 2014 issue of the *Boston Globe* recommends several others: *The Reason I Jump: The Inner Voice of a Thirteen-year-old Boy with Autism* by Naoki Higashida; *Look Me In The Eye: My Life with Asperger's* by John Elder Robison; *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, a novel by Mark Haddon; *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion; and *Born on a Blue Day: Inside the Extraordinary Mind of an Autistic Savant* by Daniel Tammet. Whittemore points out that "there's a spectrum of ways to view the spectrum. As they say in autism circles: 'If you've met one person with autism—you've met one person with autism.'" We hope you'll attend the programs listed above and read and watch even more!

## English at Large

English At Large is a Woburn-based nonprofit organization that offers free, practical, and accessible English language instruction to refugee and immigrant adults in 21 Boston-area communities. EAL's mission is to enable adults to develop the basic English skills they need to attain economic self-sufficiency and to become fully engaged in their communities.

In 1970, Lexington resident Mildred Gilman (deceased, 2011) founded the Eastern Massachusetts Literacy Council, now English At Large, as a volunteer-based organization, which has served more than 10,000 local adult learners. Supported by a small professional staff, hundreds of trained EAL volunteers deliver five programs: one-to-one and small-group English tutoring geared to an individual learner's needs; group conversation practice; basic English literacy instruction; citizenship classes; and online learning. All programs are free of charge.

EAL volunteers, who come from varied backgrounds and share a commitment to learner success, receive training and ongoing support. Volunteers are always needed, particularly for one-to-one tutoring, but also for conversation group facilitation and general office support.

EAL learners come from around the world; through EAL, they gain the skills and knowledge to acquire citizenship, find work, or enjoy reading a book in English to a grandchild. Adult learners typically wait from six months to two years for a tutor. Within the EAL service area, approximately 250 adult learners are currently waiting to be matched with tutors.

English At Large learners live or work in the following communities:

Acton	Carlisle	Reading
Arlington	Concord	Stoneham
Bedford	Lexington	Wakefield
Belmont	Lincoln	Waltham
Burlington	Littleton	Wilmington
Billerica	Medford	Winchester
Boxborough	N. Reading	Woburn

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*Winchester Reads, now in its 13th year of inviting everyone in town to read and discuss a book, is a collaboration of the Winchester Multicultural Network, Winchester Public Schools, BookEnds, the Friends of the Winchester Public Library, and many enthusiastic volunteers. Support comes from the John and Mary Murphy Education Foundation.*

**FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KATHY-ANN HART  
(adapted from her remarks at our 2014 annual meeting)**

The past year has been a time for reflecting on what it means to advance the Network's mission: to promote the recognition, understanding, and appreciation of diversity, to advocate for each and every person's civil rights, and to confront intolerance. What I have found truly amazing is that the Network has consistently advanced this mission each year of its 22-year existence by reaching into the community through programs that connect with those who are newly arrived in Winchester from other countries; by speaking truth to power through the work of the Response Committee; by broadening the lens of what Winchester defines as human rights; by taking a stand against racism; by providing a forum for creating and discussing what it means to have a Winchester that's in transition; and by advocating for accessibility throughout town.

As Executive Director, my goal has been to harness this energy and grow the organization—to help make it internally stronger and externally wider. To further this goal:

- We had the blessing of a Challenge Grant provided to us by a long-time supporter of the Network, and, since January, we have received the funds we needed to match the challenge through contributions from many of you. Thank you!
- We are especially grateful to One World Boston, whose grant will fund the Network's management, and in the next few weeks we expect to announce another major grant.
- We are fine-tuning operations as far as how we Network staff and board members educate ourselves about the ever-changing face of multiculturalism.
- We committed to the launch of the School Impact Committee's brochure of religious holidays for the Winchester Public Schools. This brochure should add appreciation of the religious diversity in the schools and recommend ways to accommodate young learners as they as they celebrate their religious holidays. (see separate article in this newsletter)
- Our International Connections Committee re-energized the International Potluck with an intimate gathering of folks from two English Conversation Groups.
- Our Program Committee is hard at work planning for the coming months.

I feel truly honored to be a part of this organization. I look forward to more opportunities to educate, advocate, and respond to the multicultural needs of the Winchester community, and I know the journey this next year will be even better than the one before.

## News from the School Impact Committee of the Multicultural Network

The School Impact Committee spent much of last year working on a brochure entitled *Accommodating our Religious Holiday Observances: A Learning Tool*. Distributed in teachers' mailboxes just before the start of the school year, it was created jointly by the School Impact Committee and the School Administration and briefly summarizes key holidays of many religious and ethnic observances. The brochure's introduction states, "As a town deeply committed to upholding our human rights statement, and a school community which strives for a culture of openness and inclusivity, our desire to support neighbors, students, faculty, employers and employees of different religious faiths, requires education, respect, and accommodation."

For a pdf of the brochure, please go to our website [www.wmcn.org](http://www.wmcn.org) or contact the office at 781-729-7100 or email [office@wmcn.org](mailto:office@wmcn.org).

## Did You Know That . . . ?

- Immigrants started 28% of all new U.S. businesses in 2011, employing one in ten U.S. workers?
- Google, Procter & Gamble, Pfizer, and eBay are among the companies founded by immigrants?
- If current trends continue, one in three African-American males born today can expect to spend time in prison during his lifetime? (Thomas P. Bonczar, *Prevalence of Imprisonment in the U.S. Population*, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2003.)
- Among people with a disability who are 16 or older, 72% are not in the labor force, and 21% of all disabled people 16 and older are living below the poverty level? (U.S. Census Bureau)
- Land ownership and other wealth differences at the time of emancipation in the U.S. "likely explains the majority of modern wealth differences" between blacks and whites today. (Daria Roithmayr, *Reproducing Racism: How Everyday Choices Lock in White Advantage*, NY University Press, 2014, p. 62)

## International Connections

The International Connections Committee plans activities and events to foster community connections and to help international residents feel welcomed in Winchester.

### Drop-in Coffee

On Thursday mornings, 8:30-10:00 a.m. international residents—newcomers and longtime residents—gather for coffee and informal conversation at Brueggers Bagels, 600 Main St. Anyone is welcome to stop in and join the conversation.

### Conversation Groups

English at Large coordinates conversation groups for those for whom English is not their first language and are interested in improving their conversation skills. Groups are held at the Winchester Public Library on:

Tuesdays from 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Wednesdays from 7:00–8:30 pm.

Fridays from 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Saturdays from 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Contact: Erin Kreischer, *Volunteer Coordinator at English At Large*. Tel: 781.395.2374 Fax: 781.395.3281

The office is at 800 West Cummings Park, Suite 5550, Woburn, MA 0180 [www.EnglishAtLarge.org](http://www.EnglishAtLarge.org)

### Friday Walks Around Horn Pond

On Friday mornings at 9:00 a.m. meet at the Native American statue at the main parking lot at Horn Pond for a pleasant walk. We walk when the temperature is above 20 degrees and it is not raining.

### The Lunch Bunch

If you'd like to join us to sample food at different ethnic restaurants in the area, please email [office@wmcn.org](mailto:office@wmcn.org) so we can let you know where and when the next lunch will be.

### One Winchester, Many Traditions

The popular international film series will continue for the 2014–2015 year starting in November.

Screenings are the first Monday of the month from November to April at 6:00 p.m. in the large meeting room at the Winchester Public Library. Check the library's website ([www.winpublib.org](http://www.winpublib.org)) for titles.

One Winchester, Many Traditions is a project of the Winchester Public Library in collaboration with the Multicultural Network, funded by the John and Mary Murphy Educational Foundation. Our purpose is to welcome residents from other countries and to celebrate all of our town's varied cultural heritages.

## You can earn money for the Multicultural Network!

### Goodsearch.com and Goodshop

Here's an easy way to contribute to the Network: just download Goodsearch.com, list the Multicultural Network as your designated charity, and use it as your browser. Goodsearch will donate a penny every time you do a search. And to earn even more money, do all your internet shopping through Goodshop!

Just follow the directions on the website and if you are purchasing from any of the stores listed, a percentage will come to the Network.

## The Journey

THE WINCHESTER MULTICULTURAL NETWORK NEWSLETTER

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

**Winchester Multicultural Network**

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## 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** = family film, but does not include young children unless otherwise noted.

### *Bless Me, Ultima*

In 1940's rural N.M., a young Latino boy witnesses the evils and good of his community while guided by his healer grandmother. She teaches him his natural place in nature and a moral philosophy within that. **F**

### *The Intouchables*

This somewhat Hollywoodish buddy tale is France's top grossing film of all time. Based on a true story, the leads are a stunningly wealthy and handsome French adventurer who is paralyzed in a hang gliding accident, and the unsuppressable Senegalese immigrant he hires to care for him. Reminiscent of *Down and Out in Beverly Hills* and its predecessor, *Boudou Saved from Drowning*, it is a delightful take on making the best of tragedy, and the joy that comes from helping others.

### *Nobody Else But You*

In a grey misty snowbound area on the French-Swiss border, a visiting crime novelist finds himself drawn into the death of a local beauty and 'reborn Marilyn Monroe' with whom he has some unknown bond. Aided by a wannabe detective local, his life is increasingly threatened as he discovers more and more parallels between the lives of the woman and MM. Never boring, but without the stress and noise of Hollywood equivalents, this is a quiet intriguing mystery well worth your time.

### *The Widow of St. Pierre*

Rarely has a historical romance been this rapturous. In the early 19th century., a dashing Army captain and his lovely wife are posted to a remote French island colony off the eastern coast of Canada. Strangers in a strange land, they are bound together by a loyal and loving passion for each other as well as a fierce passion for moral justice. Life complicates in unexpected ways when they attempt to help rehabilitate a convict, and come face to face with the hypocrisy, jealousy, and pettiness that dominates the small community around them.

### *Moonrise Kingdom*

The latest in the kooky oeuvre of Wes Anderson, this comical film is equally odd and mesmerizing as it focuses on a young boy scout misfit who runs away with the daughter of an eccentric island-summering family and sets up life on a remote harbor while the quirky disparate adults attempt to find them. Bruce Willis as you have never seen him before! **F**

### *Border Café*

Like many of the best Irani films, this one is slow and subtle, requiring that you watch carefully so as not to miss the true story that reveals itself through the eyes of the women, the women who are expected to stay silent and to obey. The sympathetic lead in this film is a recent widow with young children, who chooses to challenge her controlling in-laws by re-opening her husband's truck stop, with a success that threatens many. Well written, absorbing, and believable. **F**

### *In The House*

Intriguing, funny, and a bit creepy, the contemporary Parisian tale of a jaded high school Literature teacher who succumbs to the wiles of a gifted student writer and becomes his mentor and 'voyeuristic accomplice' as the imaginative but lonely boy succeeds in wheedling his way into the envied family life of an upper-class fellow student. **F**

### *Starbuck*

A well-liked but hapless 40 year old screw-up takes on the challenge of living responsibly after he learns that he is the (unintentional) father of 500+ kids, since his money-earning sperm donations were mishandled by the sperm bank who received them 20 years before. Well acted, fun, touching; it actually does feel like real life. **F**

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***In a nation of millions and a world of billions,  
the individual is still  
the first and basic agent of change.***

Lyndon B. Johnson

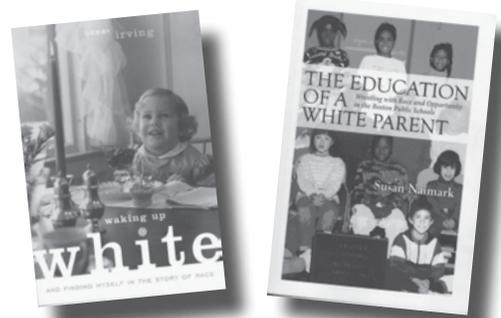
## Ferguson and Waking Up White by Sandy Thompson

The death of Michael Brown this past summer in Ferguson, Missouri continues to be a focus of the national news. Although related news stories may no longer be making the front pages of our newspapers, I hope that each of us will use this tragedy to refocus attention on the ways in which racism plays out in our lives, whether we are aware of it or not. As Community Change Executive Director Shay Stewart-Bouley recently wrote in an email, “Ferguson is neither an aberration nor a coincidence, but rather an example of what happens when we refuse to acknowledge the very real impact of systemic racism and how it continues to exist and thrive.” For many of us, it is hard to acknowledge that kind of racism because we don’t see it or understand how it affects all of us—white people as well as people of color.

Last April, marking the YWCA’s Take A Stand Against Racism, the Network invited Debby Irving, author of *Waking Up White*, and Susan Naimark, author of *The Education of a White Parent*, to speak about their experiences around racism. These two women have documented their own journeys as they became aware of the racism embedded in our culture and institutions. Debby’s story has particular relevance, since she grew up in Winchester.

If you identify as white, I invite you to read Irving’s book and reflect on the questions she poses at the end of each chapter. I think she opens doors for all of us—and invites us to step through those doors to new understandings and

awarenesses. Let’s read the book and compare notes with our neighbors and friends, book groups, carpool groups, and faith groups. In doing so, maybe each of us can take a small step towards addressing the racism that was the underlying cause of Michael Brown’s death.




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## Our New Website

As this newsletter goes to press, we are preparing to launch our newly-designed website: [www.wmcn.org](http://www.wmcn.org).

Log on, catch up on the latest news, and make sure we have your email address. Just click on “Staying in Touch,” and enter your email address in the box provided.

We won’t bombard you with daily emails, but will let you know when we have a program or activity coming up.

## Winchester Multicultural Network

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