

The Journey

THE WINCHESTER MULTICULTURAL NETWORK NEWSLETTER

*Sometimes it falls upon a generation to be great.
You can be that great generation. Let your greatness blossom.*

Nelson Mandela



WINCHESTER
MULTICULTURAL
NETWORK

We Educate, Advocate and Respond.

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Looking Ahead

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The Places We Live: Theater in Conversation – Track 2 to WIT 2014

Sunday, January 19, 2014

2:15–4:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room, Winchester Public Library
80 Washington St.

As part of **Winchester In Transition (WIT) 2014**, “**The Places We Live**” will explore the access to housing in Winchester for seniors desiring to downsize, yet stay in town; moderate and middle income households who would like to live in Winchester, younger people looking for their first home, those who wish to rent, and persons having a disability. Individual stories concerning housing desires and challenges will be played back through improvisational acting performed by True Story Theatre. A panel of residents and housing specialists will describe opportunities available through the on-going Winchester Town Center Smart Growth Planning Initiative and the experience of neighboring communities in providing housing across a range of needs.

What is your experience in finding housing in Winchester?
Please join us and share your story.

Please note that this will be the third year for a Winchester In Transition (WIT) community conference. This year will be a bit different, with a series of three Sunday afternoon conversations culminating with a final gathering, WIT 2014, on Sunday April 6. At WIT 2014 we'll strive to capture the essence of the three conversations under the theme of “Access in Action.”

Watch for information on Track 3 to WIT 2014, “Inclusion For All”, March 23, 2014 from 2:15-4:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room, Winchester Public Library.

Celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday: A Sing-a-long with Paul Benzaquin

Monday, January 20, 2014

3–5 p.m. in Metcalf Hall, Winchester Unitarian Church, Mystic Valley Parkway entrance

This year the Multicultural Network's annual celebration of Dr. King's birthday will include a sing-a-long with musician and teacher Paul Benzaquin. Paul has been a song leader for over thirty years, and has performed with Pete Seeger, Pat Humphries, and many other folk musicians devoted to social justice. With a devotion to bringing music to young people, Paul currently teaches music at Nashoba Brooks School in Concord; he also taught at San Francisco Friends School, Shady Hill School in Cambridge, MA, and at public schools in New York City. Paul plans to bring songs of celebration and inspiration to commemorate the life and work of Martin Luther King. Don't miss this enjoyable afternoon for all ages, with displays of children's artwork, craft activities, books for sale from Book Ends, and refreshments.

Black History Month Celebration

Be on the lookout for details about this year's Black History Month program, which is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, February 9. The program in the works is an exciting one—a documentary film entitled *All of Me: The Life and Times of Winfred Rembert*. Rembert grew up in Cuthbert, Georgia and spent most of his childhood working in the cotton and peanut fields. He attended school intermittently, but his real passion was drawing. Having been thrown in jail for attending a civil rights demonstration, Rembert eventually escaped, only to be imprisoned again and survive an attempted lynching. Rembert served seven years on a Georgia chain gang and at some point was exposed to leather as an art medium. In 1995, he began to carve, tool, and then dye pictures on leather. Learning about this artist will broaden our knowledge of African-Americans in the art world. The program, presented in collaboration with St. Mary's Peace and Justice Committee, will be free and open to anyone.

Shen Yun is coming to Citi Wang Theater on February 28–March 2, 2014

Through the universal language of music and dance, **Shen Yun** weaves a wondrous tapestry of heavenly realms, ancient legends, and modern heroic tales, taking you on a journey through 5,000 years of Chinese culture. Its stunning beauty and tremendous energy leave audiences uplifted and inspired. A Shen Yun performance features the world's foremost classically trained dancers, a unique orchestra blending East and West, and dazzling animated backdrops—together creating one spectacular performance. For tickets, call 888-974-3698 or go online: tickets.shenyun.com

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

It's not too early to register (office@wmcn.org) for:

Deepening Our Multicultural Understanding—Our Annual Community Workshop

Saturday, March 15, 9 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Sanborn House, 15 High St., Winchester

Community workshops have been a cornerstone in the Network's more than 20 years of programming; over 300 people have come together to learn how to address issues of diversity in a respectful way. Addressing challenging topics such as race, religion, sexual orientation, class, and mental and physical abilities can be difficult, but the workshop will provide us with tools to stay in constructive dialogue and build collaborative relationships—all within a safe and structured environment. On March 15, participants have an opportunity to grow in both personal and institutional awareness as well as learn about the foundation on which the Network models its multicultural efforts.

This year's workshop will be facilitated by Amy Cipolla-Stickles, a consultant with a background in the VISIONS model for looking at multicultural issues of all kinds. Amy recently completed her Master's in International and Human Rights. She facilitated last year's workshop and co-facilitated the Network's board retreat this past fall with Chris Miller. We're so pleased that she has once again made room in her busy schedule to travel from California for this workshop.

Although donations to help defray workshop expenses are welcomed, the workshop is open to all, regardless of a person's financial means. We appreciate your commitment to attend.

Interfaith Service in Honor of Dr. King: Service of Light

Monday, January 20 at 7 p.m.
First Baptist Church, 90 Mt. Vernon St.

Winchester clergy will once again collaborate to present an **interfaith prayer service** honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This moving service, which will include music by the interfaith choir "Sounds of Grace," involves the extinguishing of candles, one by one, evoking King's powerful words "Only when it's dark enough can you see the stars." Then the candles will be lit again as passages are read from King's "Letter from the Birmingham Jail" and his "I Have a Dream Speech." All are welcome.

North Shore Black Women's Association Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Luncheon

Saturday, January 18 from 11a.m.-2 p.m.
Anthony's Restaurant, 105 Canal St., Malden.

The NSBWA invite you to their 21st annual luncheon, featuring Linda Dorsena Forry as keynote speaker. Please contact Marion Desmond for ticket information (781-729-2243)

LOOKING BACK & LOOKING FORWARD

Tracks to WIT 2014

In her welcoming remarks at "A Voice in Civic Life," the first "track" to WIT 2014, **Network Executive Director Kathy-Ann Hart** noted that "Winchester is becoming a more diverse place to live with latest Census data showing a decreasing White population and an increasing Asian, Mixed Race, and African-American population."

Our readers may be interested to know that a recent school department survey of languages spoken in Winchester homes included Italian, Cantonese, Mandarin Chinese, Arabic, Korean, Portuguese, Telugu, Urdu, Bulgarian, Greek, Haitian Creole, Spanish, Russian, Tamil, Danish, Hausa, Dinka, French, Vietnamese, Burmese, Albanian, Polish, German, Bengali, Hebrew, Romanian, Punjabi, Armenian, Hindi, Japanese, and Turkish. That's diversity for you!

Kathy-Ann went on to point out that "A Network conversation about how to get involved in the civic,

governmental life of the town is not just a good idea; it's an essential piece of speaking to the changing face of Winchester."

We are grateful to our panelists for sharing the stories of their journeys and for suggesting pathways so that others can make their voices heard: **State Representative Jason Lewis; School Committee member Susan Verdicchio; Jennifer Wilson, a member of the Board of Selectmen; and Wei Han, President of the Winchester School of Chinese Culture and the first Chinese-born resident to be elected a Town Meeting Member.**

The variety of the panelists' experiences pointed to the many ways we can be involved in our community institutions and schools, whether it's as a school volunteer, a volunteer in a political campaign, a youth sports team coach, a town committee, or being active in a community organization. While citizenship is a current requirement for serving as an elected official, there are communities who want to change that prerequisite for municipal elections. And, even if you aren't serving on a town board or committee, contacting the Town Meeting Member from your precinct is an important way to make your voice heard. The list of Town Meeting Members can be obtained from the Town Clerk's office at Town Hall.

We were thrilled to introduce **True Story Theater (TST)** to Winchester in this first of three "tracks" to WIT 2014. Their gifted actors were able to convey a range of feelings in brief but powerful vignettes. True Story engaged the audience in a unique and way. "I was really moved by True Story's performance," one person said. Another, referencing a story about school redistricting, said "I felt I had known something about the redistricting before, but having TST work their magic touched me much more deeply." We look forward to welcoming them back for "Track 2" on January 19.

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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Reflections on History

By Dotty Burstein

Some of us remember the black-and-white images on television that August day 50 years ago; others stood at the Lincoln Memorial to witness Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech. Known today as the March on Washington, the event was one of the largest political rallies for human rights in U. S. history. Although several large marches, organized around economic inequality and discriminatory hiring, had been planned during the 1940s, each march, in turn, was called off. In 1962, with a focus on joblessness, organizers Bayard Rustin and A. Phillip Randolph, both African-Americans who had been involved in planning the marches of the '40s, reached out to labor to support them in a call for public works programs that would employ African Americans. They envisioned this effort culminating in the October Emancipation March on Washington for Jobs. Joined by civil rights and religious organizations in 1963, the March was renamed the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Today, the March is credited with having helped to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and inspiring the marches from Selma to Montgomery that led to passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The peaceful March on Washington stood in stark contrast to the earlier "Children's Crusade", a march by children and adolescents in support of the campaign to desegregate Birmingham, Alabama. African American school children were recruited to protest Birmingham's policy of segregation. On May 2, 1963, more than a thousand students skipped class and gathered at the 6th Street Baptist Church to march to downtown Birmingham and talk with its mayor about segregation. They never made it to the mayor's office. Instead, these children, some as young as six, were arrested for parading without a permit. Many went to jail. When marchers returned the next day, they were knocked down by water from high-pressure fire hoses; they were hit with batons and frightened or bitten by police dogs. There is controversy embedded in this piece of history. Revisionist history tends to look upon the civil rights movement as a kind of sacred cow. Certainly, the Children's Crusade prompted President Kennedy's involvement in a way that he had avoided for political reasons. In June of '63, on

national TV, he unveiled plans to pursue a comprehensive civil rights bill in Congress, which resulted in the Civil Rights Act of 1964. On the other side, there had been on-going bombings in the South, the most horrific of which, the Birmingham church bombing in September, 1963, killed four African-American girls. One could argue that these tragedies involving children raised conscientiousness and led directly to the passage of the '64 Civil Rights Act. The lingering question is whether children were used as a means to an end, the kind of misuse that Malcolm X described as "putting children on the firing line."

On a New Donor Movement A Thank YOU to Our Donors

The effective altruism movement received a major boost in March, when a TED talk by ethicist Peter Singer introduced the concept to the public. The talk was viewed online more than 600,000 times. This past summer, conferences on the subject were held in Oakland, California. Effective altruism is a small but fast growing movement that's about "earning to give": taking a six-figure salary at a finance company, living on a fraction of it, and sending the rest to the Humane Society, for example.

The Network has likely been the beneficiary of many effective altruists at all income levels, folks who believe so much in the value of the Network's education, advocacy, and response to the multicultural, social justice needs of Winchester that they gave a sizable portion of their earnings to the Network.

In my first year, I have met with folks who give to the Network as a "natural outgrowth of their global multicultural efforts," because they believe in "supporting an organization that recognizes and appreciates that Winchester has a culture of people from all walks of life" and give "due to the fact that the Network has been a part of their lives forever."

Thank you to all who have shared your time, talent and treasure with us!

We look forward to your continued support!

In Peace,



Kathy-Ann Hart, *Executive Director*

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, 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.

Eastern Promises

As in his stellar *History of Violence*, director David Cronenberg focuses on the hundreds of shades of morality within a violent world. In London, a tightly knit Russian Mafia traffics in drugs and sex slaves. A clueless but well-meaning physician delivers the baby of one escaped Russian prostitute who dies in the birth, and she naively enters the Mafia realm, as a strange guardian angel attempts to protect her. Spellbinding script, pacing, and performances.

Kon Tiki

An enthralling depiction of Thor Hyerdall, the rare adventurer who, in spite of no one believing that he could be right, set out in 1947 with a small group to prove his revolutionary thesis that the Polynesian islands were first settled by Ancient Peruvians (5,000 miles to the East) on large balsawood rafts, and not by Asians (from the West) on large ships. A very realistic depiction of 101 days at sea with the drama, danger and humor one might expect but no Hollywood overkill. **F**

The Women on the Sixth Floor

A charming French comedy set in '60's Paris that contrasts a reserved and joyless middle-aged patrician couple with the vivacious Spanish domestics who live in the servants quarters on the 6th floor. The delightful Fabrice Lucchini is the fifth-generation stockbroker who "crosses the border" emotionally and socially as he discovers his better nature and changes the lives of those around him. **F**

Side Effects

A very clever and seductive story that interweaves the complexities of our legal system and the professional world of psychiatry. Jude Law is a successful, compassionate, and well-meaning psychiatrist whose new patient murders her husband and then blames the violence and her amnesia of the incident on her medication, prescribed by Law. Feeling his reputation collapse around him, Law begins to investigate further and attempt to change the fateful turn that his life has taken. **F**

le Petit Nicholas

I can't help it; I adore this film! Thanks to a cast of very talented boys and some of France's best known adult comedians, it just keeps getting funnier and funnier. Nicholas is the little hero, full of love for his parents and schoolmates. But he mishears his parents and thinks he is going to have a dreaded baby brother, who will take all their attention and make him share his room. He and his buddies form a secret society to raise money and have the baby kidnapped. **F**

Remembering Nelson Mandela

by Dotty Burstein

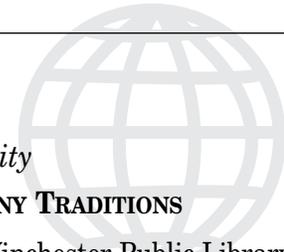
In the winter of 1990, I phoned a colleague for answers to questions about a project we had worked on that was now winding down. After a few rings, my colleague's voice came on the answering machine to explain that she wasn't home at the time; she and others were out celebrating the release of **Nelson Mandela** after 27 years of brutal treatment in a tiny jail cell in South Africa. Aware of the struggle of blacks living under apartheid, or 'apartness', I remembered that Mandela had led the opposition to decades of apartheid, even as some U.S. leaders had described him as a traitor and a terrorist. Yet Mandela was awarded the Noble Peace Prize in 1993. The following year his success as a leader for human dignity and freedom resulted in his being elected to the presidency of South Africa. During his years as president—1994 to 1999—Mandela focused on reconciliation and the elimination of poverty, inequality, and institutionalized racism. After his passing on December 6, Tata, or 'father' as he was lovingly known, was described by leaders throughout the world as standing among the giants of our time: Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Dali Lama.

***Few will have the greatness to bend history itself;
but each of us can work to change a small portion
of events, and in the total of all those acts will be
written the history of the generation.***

Robert Kennedy

International Connections

Welcoming international residents to our community



THURSDAY DROP-IN COFFEE

Brueggers Bagels
600 Main St., Winchester, btween 8:30–10 a.m.

Join us for a few minutes or an hour and a half.
The conversation is always fun and often unexpected.

THE LUNCH BUNCH

At noontime once a month sample the food at different ethnic restaurants in the area, meet new friends, and connect with old ones. Recently we have enjoyed the cuisines at a diverse sampling of venues, including Qingdao Garden Restaurant in Cambridge and Oya Cuban Cafe in Malden.

To receive notification, just e-mail office@wmcn.org and ask to be added to the Lunch Bunch list.

ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASSES

offer an opportunity for newcomers from other language backgrounds to practice their English language skills, learn more about our culture, and meet new friends. Typically, there are four classes at various times throughout each week in the Winchester Public Library. The next session of classes will begin in late January/early February.

For a complete listing of classes and/or to enroll in a class, contact www.englishatlarge.org.

ONE WINCHESTER, MANY TRADITIONS

A collaboration of the Winchester Public Library and the Multicultural Network. Look for information on the library bulletin board or on the Network website for their free special programs.

The International Film Series will take place at 6 p.m. on the first Monday of each month, January – April, 2014 in the large meeting room at the Winchester Public Library.

January 6 *The Intouchables*, Belgium, 112 mins
February 3 *Aftershock*, China, 134 mins
March 3 *Searching for Sugar Man*, UK, 86 mins
April 7 *A Touch of Spice*,* Greece, 108 mins.

*Sponsored by the Hellenic Club and the WMCN and will be facilitated by a representative from the Hellenic Club.

International Book Discussion: May 5, 2014, at the Winchester Public Library the international book group will discuss *The Cellist of Sarajevo*, by award-winning Canadian author Steven Galloway. This beautifully crafted and very readable book about a city under siege chronicles the lives of four Bosnian citizens following a bombing that kills 22 people in a bread queue in a quiet Sarajevo neighborhood. Galloway masterfully interweaves three weeks in the lives of the cellist, a baker, a sniper, and a man who travels regularly from his home to a brewery to collect water for his family and a neighbor. Inspired by a real event, this novel is suspenseful, touching, and very memorable.

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