

The Journey

THE WINCHESTER MULTICULTURAL NETWORK NEWSLETTER

All over our country people have an impulse to help, to make our country safer and stronger. One of the best ways to help is to befriend newcomers. As we welcome refugees and teach them about us, we learn about them, and we develop wiser and more nuanced views of our world.

Mary Pipher from her book *The Middle of Everywhere*



WINCHESTER
MULTICULTURAL
NETWORK

We Educate, Advocate and Respond.

Winchester Multicultural Network 2015 Board Members

Kathy-Ann Hart,
Executive Director

Sahar Ahmed Awerbuch

Dennis Brett

Kai Chen

Phil Coonley

Nancy Dahm

Marianne DiBlasi

Eric Dupee

Margery Jackson

Gloria Legvold

Susan K. Lewis

Terry Marotta

Seeme Moreira

Kaye Nash

Marcia Russell

Robin Smith

John Suhrbier

Sandy Thompson

Hillary Turkewitz

Felicity Tuttle

Lily Yamamoto

Looking Ahead / Mark Your Calendar

Now More Important Than Ever!

Communicating Effectively in a Multicultural World

Annual Community Workshop

Saturday, April 11, 2015, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Sanborn House, 15 High St., Winchester

Communicating effectively in a multicultural world is the theme of the Multicultural Network's annual community workshop. Space is limited; so early registration is important.

With recent attention directed to tensions among law enforcement, the criminal justice system, and young Black men, it is more important than ever to learn to relate to others in our multicultural world.

Valerie Batts, PhD, will lead this year's workshop. We are privileged to have the founder of VISIONS, Inc. facilitate this workshop. She brings 40 years of experience facilitating multicultural learning opportunities, providing participants with the tools and skills that are so essential if we are to thrive in the diverse world in which we live.

Batts was instrumental in creating the VISIONS model for promoting awareness and communicating around multicultural issues of all kinds—a model that was adopted and has been used by the Multicultural Network since its founding in 1991.

The community workshop has been a cornerstone of Network programming for more than 20 years. To register, contact the Network office at 781-729-7100 or email office@wmcn.org. A registration fee of \$20 is requested, but otherwise the workshop is free, and includes snacks and lunch. As you arrive, coffee and bagels will be available.

More on Community Workshop >>

More on the Community Workshop

For roughly twenty years, the Winchester Multicultural Network has offered Community Workshops. Over that time, hundreds of people who live or work in Winchester have raised their consciousness regarding issues of multiculturalism through their participation.

On a recent trip to South America, I gained awareness as to the value of these Community Workshops. I learned Spanish in high school, but my Spanish vocabulary is minimal. I thought I knew how to ask for the check following a meal. Following one particular dinner, I tried to ask the server for the bill, but I had the wrong word. I thought I was saying, "I want the check." She kept hearing, "I want the rope! I want the rope!" We both tried to mask our frustration as we struggled to understand one another.

President Obama and others have called for a national conversation on race following the deaths of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown and Eric Garner. As incidents involving race keep making headlines, such as the racist chant performed by members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon at the University of Oklahoma, the need for such a conversation keeps becoming more and more apparent.

However, that conversation is being frustrated by a lack of a common vocabulary. For example, I keep hearing this phrase "reverse racism." By the most commonly accepted definition of racism, there is no such thing as reverse racism. Racism involves the power to enforce or institutionalize racial prejudice. People of color can be prejudiced, but they can't manipulate the systems and structures of society to enforce it. They can't make it difficult for white people to vote or to pass laws that target whites unfairly. Historically, only whites have had that kind of power.

In order to have a conversation about race, we need a common language. Given the depth of racial divide in America, any such conversation will require more than vague understandings and firmly held opinions. We need sophisticated analysis and informed reasoning. This is what the Community Workshop fosters. These events provide language and understanding for thinking critically about events in the world and our relationship to them.

What does racism actually look like? Why are the deaths of unarmed black men interpreted so differently in predominantly white and predominantly black communities? Perhaps, most importantly, participants in the Community Workshop are invited to self-reflect.

It's been said, "The longest journey a person can take is from the head to the heart." What messages about "the other" has each of us internalized? What attitudes and biases do we carry with us? What behavioral changes can we make to bring about justice and healing?

If I'm going to minimize frustration when I converse in Spanish, I need to take some time to learn the language. I believe the same is true in multicultural discourse. If you've thought about attending the Community Workshop and never followed through, this is the time. Participating in the Community Workshop on April 11 and learning how to communicate effectively in a multicultural world is *now more important than ever*.

For more information, visit the Winchester Multicultural Network website, wmcn.org.

The Rev. Eric Dupee
Dix Street, Winchester

Join Us For the EnKa Parade

Saturday, May 16 from 9:00–10:00 a.m.

Show your support for multiculturalism, diversity, and inclusion by walking with us in the EnKa Parade. Details regarding where to meet will be available closer to the EnKa Fair weekend.

Town Day

Saturday, June 6

Be sure to stop by our table at Town Day. Check our website for details the end of May.

Take a Stand Against Racism

For the past several years the Network has been participating in the YWCA's nationwide Stand Against Racism campaign, "designed to build community among those who work for racial justice and to raise awareness about the negative impact of institutional and structural racism."

As this newsletter goes to press, plans are underway for a program on Sunday, April 26. Watch for details!

Winchester in Transition (WIT) 2015

This year the Winchester Multicultural Network continues its Winchester In Transition (WIT) programming with a focus on immigration—and the recognition that we are all immigrants.

During the winter, the Network brought to Winchester three performances of *The Golden Door*, an original musical written by award-winning playwright Joyce Van Dyke. The play was performed by In Good Company, a theatrical ensemble of adults, teens, and children, committed to offering “engaging, original musical theater inspired by stories from American history and culture.”

On Friday, January 30, the Multicultural Network presented two performances of a student-friendly version of *The Golden Door* to Winchester's fourth grade students with the intention of enriching their curriculum unit on immigration. The performances were held at Lincoln School with students from the other elementary schools bussed to Lincoln. The Winchester School of Chinese Culture helped finance the transportation costs.

Network board member and Program Committee Chair Sahar Ahmed Awerbuch was at the school performances. “I thought it was great to show our fourth graders this story because it puts a face to the word immigrant which many times is looked at negatively. It becomes people's stories and real to children seeing the show. I also feel that the story resonates for children who are first-generation immigrants; they feel that their stories are acknowledged and that they belong here and are included, and, more importantly, they are not alone. I would have loved to see a play like that when I was nine years old. It would have made a huge difference, instead of me being put on a stage to talk about pyramids and what people eat in Egypt.” (Sahar's family came to Boston from Egypt)

On Sunday, March 15, the Network sponsored a full-length production of *The Golden Door*, performed in Chidley Hall at the First Congregational Church and enjoyed by an enthusiastic audience of approximately 150 people who represented many nationalities and cultures. The play, set in a third-generation Armenian grocery store in a transitioning Boston neighborhood, celebrates the heritage of diverse ethnic groups. It recognizes the difficulties that many folks experience when the faces of their neighbors change, and at the same time promotes respect and celebration of our similarities and differences. Traditional music from the Caribbean, Italy, Spain, Jamaica, China, Mexico

and Armenia, as well as traditional Chassidic music, was featured. The original song “Nobody's Just One Thing” rang particularly true to most in the audience. Following the play, Network board member Kai Chen and Network Executive Director Kathy-Ann Hart participated in a talk-back session with Norman Berman of In Good Company facilitating.

As a follow-up to *The Golden Door*, the Network invites you to...

Inclusion for All: A Community of Immigrants

An Afternoon of Theater and Conversation

Sunday, May 3, 2015, 2:30–4:30 p.m.

Large Meeting Room, Winchester Public Library,
80 Washington Street

In order for all of us to feel valued and respected in our community, **Inclusion for All** will focus on creating a welcoming environment for people from all cultural backgrounds. The improvisational **True Story Theater** will dramatize individual experiences to heighten understanding and empathy. Panelists will offer their personal and professional perspectives and strategies for enhancing inclusion. Please join us for this important conversation, which is free and open to all.

Note: if you have a story of your own immigration or the immigration of a family member or friend that you would like to share with us, please send it to office@wmcn.org. We'd be glad to consider including it in our next newsletter.

The Journey

THE WINCHESTER MULTICULTURAL NETWORK NEWSLETTER

EDITORS: DOTTY BURSTEIN AND SANDY THOMPSON

GRAPHICS DESIGNER: LILY YAMAMOTO

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

P.O. Box 346, Winchester MA 01890 • 781-729-7100 • www.wmcn.org

International Connections

The International Connections committee plans activities and events to foster community connections and to help international residents feel at home in Winchester. If you have a suggestion for a program, event, or activity that you would like to see presented or sponsored by International Connections, please email office@wmcn.org.

Drop-in Coffee

Thursday mornings, 8:30–10:00 a.m.
Brueggers Bagels, 600 Main St., Winchester

On Thursday mornings international residents—newcomers and longtime residents—gather for informal conversation. Stop in and join the conversation.

Friday Walks Around Horn Pond

Friday mornings at 8:30 a.m.

Meet at the Native American statue in the main parking lot at Horn Pond for a pleasant walk. Enjoy the exercise and conversation. All are welcome. We don't walk when it is raining.

The Lunch Bunch

If you'd like to sample food of different ethnic restaurants in the area, please email office@wmcn.org so we can let you know where and when the next lunch will be. Everyone is welcome.

One Winchester, Many Traditions (OWMT)

This popular international films series ran from November until April and will resume next winter.

English Conversation Classes

English at Large coordinates conversation groups for those for whom English is not their first language.

Contact: Erin Kreischer, Volunteer Coordinator at English at Large. Tel: 781-395-2374 or go to www.EnglishAtLarge.org

English At Large is always looking for volunteers to do one-on-one tutoring with individuals who want to learn English. Call EAL for information on training.

Parent to Parent presents ...

Parenting Without Panic: A Pocket Support Group For Parents of Children & Teens on the Autism Spectrum

A book discussion led by the author, **Brenda Dater**.

Tuesday, May 5, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

Winchester Public Library, Large Meeting Room,
80 Washington Street

Whether or not you are a parent or guardian of a child or teen on the autism spectrum, the practical strategies outlined in *Parenting Without Panic* by Brenda Dater can be useful for all families.

Have you ever wondered?

- How to foster resilience in your child?
- How to build compassion and flexibility among siblings?
- How to bring a little less chaos to your daily life?
- How to respond sensitively to your children about their own challenges and those of their friends and classmates?

Join Brenda as she shares real-life stories and practical tips that will help parents feel more confident and hopeful as they navigate daily parenting challenges. Brenda speaks from experience as a mother of a teen on the autism spectrum. As the Director of Child and Teen Services at AANE (Asperger/Autism Network), she teaches workshops, facilitates support groups, and provides consultations for parents, caregivers and professionals. Ms. Dater is a featured speaker in numerous communities.

To learn more about Dater and *Parenting Without Panic*, please visit www.brendadater.com. Copies of *Parenting Without Panic* will be for sale at the program and at BookEnds on Main Street in Winchester Center.

A Spring Message

from our **Executive Director Kathy-Ann Hart**

Since 1991, the Winchester Multicultural Network has been working in, and with, the Winchester community to promote the recognition, understanding, and appreciation of diversity; advocate for each and every person's civil rights; and confront intolerance.

Our programs such as this year's third Winchester In Transition (WIT) used the arts to raise awareness of immigration and its impact on a community. The annual Community Workshop creates space for individuals to safely and openly develop and practice inclusion skills; this year's workshop will focus on the role of White suburban communities in the #BlackLivesMatter movement, responding to the issues raised in Ferguson, NYC, and elsewhere by addressing the manner in which diversity-related issues are addressed in predominantly white suburban communities such as Winchester and our neighboring communities.

This year's Black History Month event, a partnership between the Network and St. Mary's Peace and Justice Committee, brought to the community Peniel Joseph for a thought-provoking discussion of Black history and civil rights in the United States and Jamele Adams for a riveting, inspiring "slam" poetry session.

Your generosity and support has brought us this far.

An additional \$7,500 this spring will enable us to do more for you and all of Winchester. **Please make your gift today and help us meet our \$7,500 spring goal to support inclusion/diversity projects in the community like:**

- The crafting and installation of a student-created, multicultural mural at the Lynch School.
- A one-day, high school student exchange program between Winchester High and a diverse Boston/Cambridge High School.
- Our WIT Golden Door performances and "Inclusion for All" program both focusing on immigration experiences.

Help advance our mission and advance inclusion in the Winchester community. Every dollar you donate supports the work that we do to educate about, advocate for and respond to diversity, inclusion and human rights in Winchester. Thank you for your support.

Peniel Joseph, Professor of History at Tufts University, is author, national commentator and leading authority of Black History in America.

Jamele Adams, Dean of Students at Brandeis University is a celebrated Spoken Word poet.



Peniel Joseph, in our joint Multicultural Network and St. Mary's Peace and Justice Committee Black History Month event, spoke on the historical context and modern day realities of institutional racism.



Multicultural themed mural at the Lynch Elementary School is a collaboration of students and artist-in-residence, Cynthia Fisher. Mural funded in part by the Winchester Multicultural Network.

10 Myths About Immigration

We have adapted this article from *Teaching Tolerance* (www.teachingtolerance.org). Number 39: Spring 2011

Myths about immigration and immigrants are common. Here are a few of the most frequently heard misconceptions along with information to help you separate fact from fear.

Myth 1: Most immigrants are here illegally.

With so much controversy around the issue of undocumented immigrants, it's easy to overlook the fact that most of the foreign-born living in the United States have followed the rules and have permission to be here. Of the more than 31 million foreign-born people living in the United States in 2009, about 20 million were either citizens or legal residents. Of those who did not have authorization to be here, about 45 percent entered the country legally and then let their papers expire.

Myth 2: It's just as easy to enter the country legally today as it was when my ancestors arrived.

Do you know when your ancestors immigrated and what the entry requirements were at that time? For about the first 100 years, the United States had an "open immigration system that allowed any able-bodied immigrant in," explains immigration historian David Reimers. The biggest obstacle would-be immigrants faced was getting here. Today there are many rules about who may enter the country and stay legally. Under current policy, many of your immigrant ancestors who arrived between 1790 and 1924 would not be allowed in today.

Myth 3: There's a way to enter the country legally for anyone who wants to get in line.

Do you know what the rules are to enter the country legally and stay here to work? The simple answer is that there is no "line" for most very poor people with few skills to stand in and gain permanent U.S. residency. Generally, gaining permission to live and work in the United States is limited to people who are (1) highly trained in a skill that is in short supply here, (2) escaping political persecution, or (3) joining close family already here.

Myth 4: My ancestors learned English, but today's immigrants refuse.

How long do you suppose it took for your ancestors to stop using their first language? "Earlier immigrant groups held onto their cultures fiercely," notes Reimers. "When the United States entered the First World War [in 1917], there were over 700 German-language newspapers. Yet, German immigration had peaked in the 1870s." While today's immigrants may speak their first language at home, two-thirds of those older than 5 speak English "well" or "very well" according to research by the independent, nonpartisan Migration Policy Institute. And the demand for adult ESL instruction in the United States far outstrips available classes.

Myth 5: Today's immigrants don't want to blend in and become "Americanized."

What does it mean to blend in to American society? In 2010, about 500,000 immigrants became naturalized citizens. They had to overcome obstacles like getting here, finding a job, overcoming language barriers, paying naturalization fees, dealing with a famously lethargic immigration bureaucracy and taking a written citizenship test. This is not the behavior of people who take becoming American lightly. The reality is that the typical pattern of assimilation in the United States has remained steady, says Reimers. "The first generation struggled with English and didn't learn it. The second was bilingual. And the third can't talk to their grandparents." If anything, the speed of assimilation is faster today than at any time in our past, mainly because of public education and mass media.

Myth 6: Immigrants take good jobs from Americans.

According to the Immigration Policy Center, a nonpartisan group, research indicates there is little connection between immigrant labor and unemployment rates of native-born workers. Here in the United States, two trends—better education and an aging population—have resulted in a decrease in the number of Americans willing or available to take low-paying jobs. Between 2000 and 2005, the supply of low-skilled American-born workers slipped by 1.8 million. To fill the void, employers often hire immigrant workers. One of the consequences, unfortunately, is that it is easier for unscrupulous employers to exploit this labor source and pay immigrants less, not provide benefits and ignore worker-safety laws. On an economic level, Americans benefit from relatively low prices on food and other goods produced by undocumented immigrant labor.

Myth 7: Undocumented immigrants bring crime.

Nationally, since 1994, the violent crime rate has declined 34 percent and the property crime rate has fallen 26 percent, even as the number of undocumented immigrants has doubled. According to the conservative Americas Majority Foundation, crime rates during the period 1999–2006 were lowest in states with the highest immigration growth rates. During that period the total crime rate fell 14 percent in the 19 top immigration states, compared to only 7 percent in the other 31. Truth is, foreign-born people in America—whether they are naturalized citizens, permanent residents or undocumented—are incarcerated at a much lower rate than native-born Americans, according to the National Institute of Corrections.

Myth 8: Undocumented immigrants don't pay taxes but still get benefits.

Undocumented immigrants pay taxes every time they buy gas, clothes or new appliances. They also contribute to property taxes—a main source of school funding—when they buy or rent a house, or rent an apartment. The Social Security Administration estimates that half to three-quarters of undocumented immigrants pay federal, state and local taxes, including \$6 billion to \$7 billion in Social Security taxes for benefits they will never get. They can receive schooling and emergency medical care, but not welfare or food stamps.

Continued on page 7

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

Miele

A very unusual and engaging story of a young idealistic Italian woman who works as a 'drug mule' procuring (illegal Mexican) euthanasia drugs. She is deceived by a cranky older client who later reveals that he is not physically ill but wishes to end his life. The young Italian woman suffers a crisis of conscience but slowly is drawn to the man, and it is their beliefs that will likely fuel debates among the viewers.

Laggies

Kiera Knightley appears in this surprisingly interesting story of a twenty-something seeking an adult path that eludes her. In a life-changing detour, she befriends some young teens in need of (non-parental) help. Sam Rockwell, always appealing, has the straight role of a struggling single father who falls for her. (F)

In Your Eyes

As adults, two lonely people in New Hampshire and New Mexico realize that they have had an uncanny visual and visceral connection since childhood. As they explore their newfound friendship, their lives change slowly and unalterably. A delightful surprise, with terrific acting, editing et al. (F)

Wolf Children

This currently famous Japanese animator has made an engrossing film that is not sci fi or urban-oriented. It takes place in the countryside, and the animation and story are equally sophisticated. Your kids will likely love it too! (F)

*In China They Eat Dogs**

If you have a ver-r-ry dry sense of humor, then you will likely be squealing with delight throughout this farce about a gang of bumbling thieves who take on the renovation of a back-country inn as camouflage from their criminal pursuers. The longer they stay, the more they reveal their true natures. (F)

*Like another great Danish film, *Flickering Lights*, this requires an inter-library loan to obtain from the Winchester Public Library.

Rare Exports

Sometimes there is just one image from a film, which you carry around in your head through the days afterward. In the case of *Rare Exports*, that image is one of a young boy in the countryside of Northern Finland. The boy, just woken up after a night's sleep, is crossing the snowy yard barefoot to find his dad, all the while wearing his jockey shorts, a pajama top, a ski hat with a hockey helmet on top, and carrying a teddy bear. I chuckle every time I think of it. *Rare Exports* is equally delightful as a Finnish tale about the scary origins of the original Santa Claus and one boy's fight to vanquish it from destroying his homeland. (F)

10 Myths About Immigration

Continued from page 6

Myth 9: The United States is being overrun by immigrants like never before.

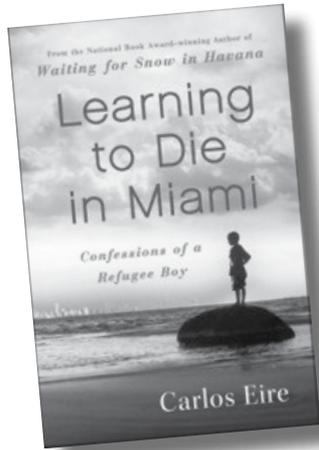
As a percentage of the U.S. population, the historic high actually came in 1900, when the foreign-born constituted nearly 20 percent of the population. Today, about 12 percent of the population is foreign-born. Since the start of the recession in 2008, the number of undocumented immigrants coming into the country has actually dropped. Many people also accuse immigrants of having "anchor babies"—children who allow the whole family to stay. According to the U.S. Constitution, a child born on U.S. soil is automatically an American citizen. That is true. But immigration judges will not keep immigrant parents in the United States just because their children are U.S. citizens. Between 1998 and 2007, the federal government deported about 108,000 foreign-born parents whose children had been born here. These children must wait until they are 21 before they can petition to allow their parents to join them in the United States. That process is long and difficult. In reality, there is no such thing as an "anchor baby."

Myth 10. Anyone who enters the country illegally is a criminal.

Is someone who jaywalks or who doesn't feed a parking meter a criminal? Only very serious misbehavior is generally considered "criminal" in our legal system. Violations of less serious laws are usually "civil" matters and are tried in civil courts. People accused of crimes are tried in criminal courts and can be imprisoned. Federal immigration law says that unlawful presence in the country is a civil offense and is, therefore, not a crime. The punishment is deportation. However, some states—like Arizona—are trying to criminalize an immigrant's mere presence.

Breaking News: Winchester Reads Selects *Learning to Die in Miami: Confessions of a Refugee Boy*

by Carlos Eire



The Winchester Reads committee has made its selection for this fall's community read, and you won't want to miss this absorbing memoir. Did you know about the Pedro Pan, or Peter Pan, airlift that brought 14,000 children from Cuba to the U.S. around 1962, just before and during the Castro revolution?

Eire, who was one of those 14,000, tells the story of his arrival in South Florida, at age 11, having "left behind my parents, my entire family, all of my possessions, and my native land..." The narrative of his assimilation to this new country, and the death of his Cuban self is incredibly absorbing.

Here are some of the moving lines from the preamble to the book:

*Fearing that we'd be enslaved,
Our parents sent us away, so many of us,
To a land across the turquoise sea.
Alone, all alone, we kids.
No mom, no dad,
No kin on the alien shore, beyond the horizon;
Willing, clueless fugitives.*

Carlos Eire will be speaking in Winchester on Tuesday, October 20. It's not too early to mark your calendars!

*Carlos Eire is professor of History at Yale and author of numerous books and two memoirs. *Waiting for Snow in Havana*, his first memoir, won the National Book Award.*

Thanks!

There is not enough space here to appreciate and thank all the individuals, organizations, and faith communities who support and engage in efforts to make our community safe and welcoming. This spring we want to highlight and thank the **Griffin Museum** for all it does to support building inclusive community!



Winchester Multicultural Network

2A Winchester Place, Winchester
P.O. Box 346, Winchester, MA 01890

Be sure the Network has your email address so we can notify you of our events and programs.

Just email office@wmcn.org.