

StirFry Seminars & Consulting

March 2010

The World is All Around Us

Recently, I asked a group of human resource folks what they didn't know about diversity and to write it down. I then had them share their list with the group. Most of them had never known what their colleagues didn't know about diversity. One woman, Lisa, shared that she didn't know much about other religions. I then asked her which ones? She said, "I don't know." I then replied, "Then you will never take the time to learn. I think you do know. You only have to take the time to think about which ones." She thought for a moment and said, "Okay, I've always wanted to know about Buddhism."

I told her that she could learn about Buddhism from someone right here in the room. She and others looked intently around the room for about three minutes. No one had any idea who that person was. I then pointed out that there was an Asian man wearing a large wooden beaded bracelet. He was one of the general managers. He looked down and simply rolled his eyes. Many in the group said they noticed the bracelet, but didn't know it was Buddhist. The Asian man shared that he had worn his bracelet everyday for six years at this company and not one person had ever asked him about the significance of it or shown any hint of curiosity. I then had Lisa ask him what the bracelet symbolized. For the next twenty minutes he shared the incredible story about how the bracelet had been given to him by his grandfather and why he wore it as a practicing Buddhist. There were tears in his eyes as his story unfolded. He was crying because their noticing of the bracelet was also representative of seeing him for the first time, honoring his Buddhist heritage.



Photo by ISAF Public Affairs

When a company wants to know how to move into a global economy, they have only to look around them. Diversity is all around us, we have only to take the time to explore and to be curious. You see, curiosity is the gateway to empathy. It is also the gateway to a larger world outside our own.

Lee Mun Wah

Find Lee Mun Wah on Facebook!

Join our Facebook community of world citizens who care about diversity

StirFry Calendar

March 2, 2010 Savannah, GA	Closing the Achievement Gap through Cultural Competency National Youth-at-Risk Conference/Open to the Public
March 3, 2010 Dayton, OH	Dialogue on Race & Ethnicity and Diversity Competency Dialogue Not Open to the Public
March 6, 2010 Irvine, CA	Closing the Achievement Gap through Cultural Competency Equity & Human Rights Conference/Open to the Public
March 7, 2010 San Antonio, TX	Cultural Competency for Educational Leaders ASCD Conference/Open to the Public
March 8, 2010 Colorado Springs, CO	Cultural Competency for Leaders ASAE to the Center for Association Leadership Conference/Open to the Public
March 11, 2010 Berkeley, CA	Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression Series Not Open to the Public
March 12, 2010 San Jose, CA	If these Halls Could Talk & Cultural Competency for Educators California Association for Bilingual Education Conference/Open to the Public
March 17, 2010 Orlando, FL	Cultural Competency for Leaders International Mentoring Association (IMA) Conference/Open to the Public

*** Held at the Quan Yin Training Center, 2311 8th Street, Berkeley, CA*

For more information, registration and links to conference workshops, visit <http://www.stirfryseminars.com/events>

! SPECIAL PRODUCTS SALE !

25% off on all diversity films/products now through March 31, 2010.

Enter Coupon Code SALE25 on online CheckOut at www.stirfryseminars.com/store.

Closing the Achievement Gap through CULTURAL COMPETENCY

Facilitated by Lee Mun Wah

March 22-23, 2010

Monday and Tuesday 9 am-5 pm

Quan Yin Training Center

2311 8th Street, Berkeley, CA

In school districts all over this country, up to 50%-78% students do not graduate high school. That translates into over 171,000 students who "disappear" between 9th-12th grade or fail to meet graduation requirements by the time they are seniors. Leading those statistics, as many as 45% or more of African American and Latino males students do not graduate.

In this workshop we will explore some of the reasons for their lack of success as well as how we, as a society, our educational institutions, administration, faculty and staff are not only a part of the problem but how we can also be a part of the solution.

Through the use of personal stories, films, facilitation and listening techniques, we will take a look at what needs to be done and what kinds of programs and techniques have worked.

WRITING THERAPY

Facilitated by Genny Lim

April 24-25, 2010

Saturday & Sunday 9:30 am - 5:30 pm

Quan Yin Training Center

2311 8th Street, Berkeley, CA

This seminar focuses on writing as a form of meditational therapy. Many of us have gaps, blanks and pieces of memories locked within our subconscious. Oftentimes these memories remain inaccessible to us because of mental or emotional blocks, caused by trauma or disappointment. Through a gentle, guided probing into these long forgotten or emotionally difficult events or episodes in our lives, a more complete story of ourselves begins to be revealed to us as we channel them through writing. Writing as meditation provides you with your own inner map and tools to dive below the surface into the vast ocean of your mind to discover the hidden pearls that lie beneath. In a state of natural spontaneity, free of distraction, we train in being free of any holding back. Buddhists say that ultimately you are your own guru. "Be ye a lamp unto yourselves." Writing is the medium of the message.