

StirFry Seminars & Consulting

February 2012

Today is January 31st, 2012, the anniversary of my mother's murder in 1985. It has been almost twenty-six years since her passing, but not a day goes by that I don't think about her or miss her deeply. The residue of that moment permeates almost every aspect of my work and my relationships. Whenever I think of events in my life, everything is either before her death or after. It has become an emotional marker for when my entire life took a dramatic turn into a life I could never have imagined or necessarily wanted.



Years after my mother's death, I was in Sacramento, California, doing a keynote address and sharing how my mother's death had affected me, when suddenly a woman got up and yelled, "Oh my god, that was my son who murdered your mother." I walked off the stage as both of us cried and hugged—I, for her son and she for my mother. It was as if destiny had brought us together to find some measure of forgiveness and understanding of the tragedy that had been thrust upon us.

When I returned back to work, the secretary in the principal's office told me that the man (Anthony) who killed my mother had attended our school fifteen years ago. He had been transferred to another school because he was caught gambling in the bathroom. He begged to stay at the school, but in those days the counselors didn't know how to work with young black boys and so they simply transferred him – passing him onto someone else to deal with. And so, like the movie, *Crash*, years later his life came crashing into our family's and all our lives were never the same again.

After all these many years, I have often wondered how my life, my mother's and Anthony's could have been changed if only someone had put their arm around Anthony and taken the time to truly get to know him; to truly care about him. In my dreams...always, a thousand "if's."

In retrospect, if she had not been murdered I would never have become a community therapist, filmmaker, diversity trainer or author. And so, I thank my mother for having given up her life so that I could find mine, and I thank Anthony for reminding us all that every child counts and needs to be loved and embraced for their uniqueness and for their struggle to be happy and whole.

So, on this day of your anniversary, Mom, each person I meet is precious and 'seen' by me. For, as the writer Marie Beyon Ray said, "We are not living in eternity. We have only this moment, sparkling like a star in our hand and melting like a snowflake. Let us make good use of ourselves before our time has passed."

Lee Mun Wah

Let's Get Real: Unlearning Racism (Overnight) Retreat

April 13-15, 2012 • Friday 2 pm until Sunday 2 pm
Quan Yin Training Center • 2311 8th Street, Berkeley, CA

Facilitated by Lee Mun Wah

Before we can truly become a multicultural nation, we must have a relationship based on respect and understanding, reflection and curiosity; where our differences and our similarities are embraced, valued and integrated into the very fabric of our workplaces, communities, schools and governmental institutions. It also means coming to an understanding that awareness and holidays are just the beginning.

What is required is an on-going dialogue and relationship with each other. I hope that you will join us in making this not only a better world for our children, but for ourselves—not by starting tomorrow, but by beginning that conversation today.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO REGISTER, PLEASE VISIT WWW.STIRFRYSEMINARS.COM/BTC



Get **25%** off for a limited time off of **all** regularly-priced diversity training materials (including Lee Mun Wah's latest documentary, *If These Halls Could Talk*, and new book, *Let's Get Real: What People of Color Can't Say & Whites Won't Ask About Racism!*). Enter coupon code **SALE25** upon online checkout at www.stirfryseminars.com/store.



Some restrictions apply. Expires March 15, 2012

StirFry Calendar of Events

February 17-19, 2012 ** Berkeley, CA	Mastering Diversity Training & Facilitation: Level One Open to the Public
February 20-21, 2012 Raleigh, NC	An Unfinished Conversation Not Open to the Public
February 23, 2012 Springfield, MO	An Unfinished Conversation Open to the Public
February 28, 2012 San Diego, CA	Let's Get Real About Racism American Probation & Parole Conference • Open to the Public
February 28, 2012 San Diego, CA	If These Halls Could Talk: Film Showing & Diversity Dialogue with Film Director, Lee Mun Wah Open to the Public
March 3, 2012 Cambridge, MA	An Unfinished Conversation Keynote 10th Annual Alumni of Color Conference, Harvard Graduate School of Education • Not Open to the Public
March 4, 2012 Irvine, CA	If These Halls Could Talk: Film Showing & Diversity Dialogue with Film Director, Lee Mun Wah California Teacher's Association (CTA) Equity & Human Rights Conference • Open to the Public
March 8, 2012 Sacramento, CA	Let's Get Real About Racism & If These Halls Could Talk: Film Preview & Diversity Dialogue California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE) Conference • Open to the Public

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

For StirFry's complete Calendar of Upcoming Events, please visit www.stirfryseminars.com/events

Contact Us: 510.204.8840 Trainings, Films & Diversity Products, ext. 101
www.stirfryseminars.com • www.diversitytrainingfilms.com