

MULTICULTURAL RESOURCE CENTER

A collaborative project of Saint Paul Public Schools Office of Educational Equity and the East Metro Integration District

"The Problem Solver"
Nzila Fetiche from Congo



Summer 2007, Volume 3, Number 2.

Meaningful Memorials to Teach Reconciliation and Peace

What is a meaningful memorial? Many of us have taken family or other group excursions to Washington D.C. or South Dakota to snap photographs of the Washington Monument or Mount Rushmore. Most of us consider these kinds of ventures to be educational in nature, but what do they really teach? Do these memorials and monuments encourage critical thought about history and civic engagement, or do they merely recognize individuals who once had influence and power? Do they inspire young people to lead productive lives to improve the world around them, or are they tourist sites to check off at the end of a summer vacation?

This Memorial Day weekend, I had the opportunity to visit my hometown of Duluth, Minnesota. One overcast afternoon I decided to see for myself two memorials of which I had learned were produced long after I had moved away. The first site was the Clayton, Jackson, and McGhie Memorial in downtown Duluth on the corner of 1st Street and 2nd Avenue. The memorial is a somber, yet hopeful site that honors the lives of Elias Clayton, Elmer Jackson, and Isaac McGhie, three African American men who were lynched on that very corner on June 15, 1920. A cast metal likeness of each man surrounded by messages of sorrow and forgiveness make this memorial a poignant reminder never to forget wrongdoings of the past and to work earnestly toward apology, atonement and reconciliation.

The second memorial was the O'Hara Peace Bell next to Enger Tower along the Duluth hillside. The bell is a replica of an actual temple bell that was salvaged from a Japanese scrap metal site after World War II and then returned to the city of O'Hara, Japan by Duluth Mayor George D. Johnson in 1954. An inscription near the replica bell states that it was presented to the city of Duluth in the spirit of peace and friendship between two "sister cities" that happen to originate from countries once at bitter war with each other. More information about the O'Hara Peace Bell and the story of how Japanese temple bells found their way to the United States can be found at www.resonancefilm.com

Memorials such as these represent so much more than greatness of powerful leaders. They serve as reminders that the efforts of like-minded, everyday people produce enough power to cause irreparable pain, but also kindness and friendship. Authentically produced tributes such as the Clayton, Jackson, and McGhie Memorial and the O'Hara Peace Bell help me to imagine unique and lasting lessons in history, art, and civic responsibility. Luckily for us, these sites are practically in our own back yard.

Was it coincidence or serendipity that brought me to these memorials during Memorial Day weekend? I will never know, but what I do know is that my connection to Duluth is richer than before.

By Kirsten Novillo

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What's the buzz about the MRC...

Materials from the MRC have given some of our teachers a "starting" point in looking at diverse perspectives.

The MRC has really helped my students become inquirers and helped me promote multiple perspectives. I don't know what I would do without it!

Kids love seeing and touching actual artifacts. It helps us address more learning styles. Your objects, books, music, and resources are helping kids make connections to themselves, their peers and people and places they knew nothing about.

I have loved checking out the objects! It has been wonderful to have real objects to share with them to illustrate various cultures. The professional development resources (books from the MRC) have helped our school study group add strategies for working with urban learners.

Awesome resource!

MRC Staff Development for 2007-2008 School Year

During the 2007-2008 school year, the MRC will continue to offer monthly, evening staff development workshops and films focusing on a variety of issues. These classes are free to staff in Saint Paul Public Schools and other EMID-member districts. A light supper and CEUs will be available to participants. To register for workshops, complete a registration form (available on our website) and mail or fax to the MRC by the Friday before the workshop. Workshops will be held at the MRC. No formal registration is needed for film nights, but a quick RSVP by email or phone is much appreciated.

Be sure to view the MRC website in September for more information about upcoming films, workshops, and other staff development events at www.mrc.spps.org



Summer Browsing and Checkout Hours...Stop On By!

We have set aside specific times below for patron browsing and checkout during the summer. It is best to call before you come to ensure that someone will be available to assist you.

June 21st until August 11th

Mondays - Thursdays, 8:00 am-1:30 pm

The MRC will be closed on Fridays

The MRC will be closed July 4th – 6th

Check out our website for policies and procedures for reserving the MRC.

Welcome Back to the MRC, Jenny Eisele!

Jenny Eisele will be back in the coordinator's seat beginning mid-August. As many of you already know, Jenny and her husband, Mark, became proud parents of son Mikko in March. We expect that she will have many pictures and cute stories to share with teachers upon return...congratulations!

Check It Out...Resources on Learning About Social Justice Available at the Multicultural Resource Center

A Wreath for Emmett Till by Marilyn Nelson. A poem in memory of a boy whose death helped to spark the civil rights movement. Fourteen-year-old Emmett Louis Till was an African American lynched in 1955 for whistling at a white woman in Mississippi. Till's fate captured media attention when the men tried for his murder were acquitted.

Teaching Science for Social Justice by Angela Calabrese Barton. How might science education reflect the values of a socially just and democratic society? How do urban youth living in poverty construct science in their lives in ways that are enriching, empowering, and transformative? Using rigorous theory, this book illustrates how children's unique situations frame their constructions of science in compelling and challenging ways.

Walking the Color Line: The Art and Practice of Anti-Racist Teaching by Mark Perry. The author shows how racially mixed teaching faculties can model democratic ideals and how white teachers and administrators of color can effectively deal with their differences. According to the book's preface by William Ayers, "education is an arena of struggle as well as hope—struggle because it stirs in us the need to look at the world anew, to question what we have created, to wonder what is worthwhile for human beings to know and experience—and hope because we gesture toward the future..."

VHS--Affirming Diversity, Creating Multicultural Learning Communities by Dr. Sonia Nieto. Dr. Nieto explains how educators can create learning environments that truly affirm diversity and promote social justice for all.

The Power of Numbers: A Teacher's Guide to Mathematics in a Social Studies Context by Fred E. Gross, Patrick Morton, and Rachel A. Poliner. Imagine a math class where the students are fluently speaking the language of mathematics and not waiting for the teacher to tell them everything, where there are lively discussions about what techniques to use, what processes to try, and what the results mean.

My First White Friend: Confessions on Race, Love, and Forgiveness by Patricia Raybon. Renowned African American journalist Patricia Raybon comes face to face with her race-driven impulses in this book that is part journal, part memoir, and part social commentary.

VHS Two Towns of Jasper by the Independent Television Service. On June 7, 1998, in Jasper, Texas, James Byrd Jr., a black man, was chained to a pickup truck and dragged to his death by three white men. This film documents the reactions of the town's citizens and, along the way, uncovers a complex portrait of race, experience, and perspective.

Learning to Teach for Social Justice by Linda Darling-Hammond. According to James A. Banks, "this book is a singular contribution to the multicultural education literature because it is one of the first publications to describe the voices, perspectives, and experiences of students learning to become teachers in diverse classrooms."

Refusing Racism: White Allies and the Struggle for Civil Rights by Cynthia Stokes Brown. Why and how have whites joined people of color to fight against white supremacy in the United States? This book offers rich portraits of four white American activists who have dedicated their lives to the struggle for civil rights.

Linda Lantieri. Based on the Resolving Conflict Creatively Program, this book is a guide to teaching young people to empathize, mediate, negotiate, and create peace.

The Lynchings in Duluth by Michael Fedo. On the evening of June 15, 1920, in Duluth, Minnesota, three young black men, accused of the rape of a white woman, were pulled from their jail cells and lynched by a mob numbering in the thousands. Yet, today, the incident is nearly forgotten. According to the *Milwaukee Journal*, "this book conveys the horror of mob action—and the disturbing truth that it knows no region."

Browse our on-line catalog to discover more great resources for your classroom!

<http://mrc.spps.org/Catalog.html>

Multicultural Resource Center

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.mrc.spps.org



Saint Paul
Public Schools



About the Multicultural Resource Center...

Multicultural education is a progressive approach for transforming education that holistically critiques and addresses current shortcomings, failings, and discriminatory practices in education. It is grounded in ideals of social justice, education equity, and a dedication to facilitating educational experiences in which all students reach their full potential as learners and as socially aware and active beings, locally, nationally, and globally. Multicultural education acknowledges that schools are essential to laying the foundation for the transformation of society and the elimination of oppression and injustice. ~Paul Gorski (<http://www.edchange.org>)

The Multicultural Resource Center (MRC) facilitates access, for teachers, to the necessary tools to infuse learning experiences with Multicultural Education. The MRC is part library, part museum, mostly a place where educators can come to build their capacity in working with diverse students and find resources to support this new capacity.

The goal of the MRC is to promote the creation of equitable learning environments infused with multiple, authentic viewpoints that confront the norming of whiteness. Through curricular support, lending out materials to support such an environment, and providing modeling through class visits and staff development opportunities, social change will occur. Please explore our website to gain a better understanding of the MRC's various roles.

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From the Inter-district Partnership Coach...

The SPPS Interdistrict Classroom Partnership Office facilitates classroom collaborations with nine suburban districts that surround Saint Paul.

Be watchful of K-12 partnership requests via email from June through late fall.

If you are an EMID teacher interested in starting a new partnership during the 2007-08 school year, call (651) 487-7335 or email LINDA.LAMPRECHT@spps.org.

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