

Voices



A newsletter published by The Maryland Multicultural Coalition,
State Chapter of the National Association for Multicultural Education



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From the President

by Deborah Misiag,
MMC/NAME President

Greetings to all

The Maryland Multicultural Coalition is off to a great start this fall. We have had two very successful evening events. We are planning our spring conference to be held in Howard County. We held one of our monthly board meetings at the Maryland Women's Heritage Center in Baltimore and got a tour of the building.

This newsletter is the last one that will be mailed in bulk to our members. We will be sending our Voices newsletter out via e-mail solely after this issue. We will however mail the newsletter to members that do not have email access if they have indicated that they wish to receive it via the mail. Superintendents of school systems will continue to receive a copy mailed to them.

I had the opportunity to attend the 20th Anniversary celebration of the National

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Parent engagement and academic achievement

How is parent engagement in the school community related to student achievement? That was the guiding question in the panel discussion held on the evening of November 9, 2010, at Chesapeake College in Queen Anne's County. The panel comprised five experts from various backgrounds who spoke about the importance of engaging parents in their children's schools and answered participants' questions about how to reach parents of minority students, particularly those who are not native English speakers.



Debbie Misiag, President of MMC, receiving the NAME Presidential Chapter Award in Las Vegas

The program was co-sponsored by Maryland NAME, Chesapeake College and the Maryland State Educators Association. The panel consisted of five local experts:

Janet Brown, Mid-Atlantic Equity Center; Dr. Wanda Grant, Parent Information and Resource Center (PIRC); John Landesman, Study Circles Coordinator, Montgomery County Public Schools; Sam Macer, Maryland PTA; and Elisa Montalvo, Howard County Public Schools, Hispanic Achievement Specialist. Pamela Harris moderated the discussion attended by an audience that included teachers, parents, principals, college students, and higher education staff from the Eastern Shore and Anne Arundel County.

The discussion centered on various ways of reaching and engaging parents with many excellent ideas being shared by audience members as well as panel members. "The biggest challenge is not language or culture, it's socioeconomic class," stated Elisa Montalvo. She explained that

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President...

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Association for Multicultural Education in Las Vegas in November. I had the honor of accepting, on the behalf of our state chapter, the NAME Presidential Chapter Award. We were recognized for our outstanding programming and for the resources and networking opportunities that we provide to our membership. The actual award was a wooden Sankofa bird which is derived from the Akan words SAN(return) and KO(go), FA(look, seek, and take). It symbolizes the West African quest for knowledge with the implication that the quest is based on critical examination, and intelligent, patient investigation. As we begin our 32nd year as an organization, this award is especially important to us. It is the first time this award has been given to a state chapter of NAME and it only affirms our efforts in working towards being a socially just and culturally responsive educational system, State and world.

I would like to take this time again to thank you for your membership and support this year. I wish each of you a happy holiday season and may 2011 be a one of much happiness, good health and love. We look forward to seeing you at our events this spring. □

FILM REVIEW

By Debbie Misiag

At the 2010 NAME conference thirteen films were showcased. I attended the showing of a film narrated by Maya Angelou entitled, "As Seen Through These Eyes," about the struggle of over 100 children and young adults during the holocaust. With weapons of chalk, pencils, shreds of paper and their imaginations, they fought off the horrors of war, imprisonment, work and the death camps. Through interviews with survivors and the artwork they created, this compelling true story documents the strength of the human spirit. This film was enjoyable and held the audience of over 40 people for the seventy minute film. This film is available on Amazon.com. The official website, www.asseenthroughtheseeyes.com contains a study guide, a list of awards this film has earned, a summary of this true account, and pictures of the artwork these children created in the camps during World War II. I highly recommend this film. It shows how art can tell the story that cannot easily be put into words. □

Upcoming events sponsored by EastEd

EastEd is sponsoring three events this winter that we would like to share with you. All events will be held at Georgetown Day School, 4200 Davenport St NW Washington, DC, 20016. To register or for more information: www.easted.org or 202-464-1996

Putting Race on The Table:

The Key to Moving Your Mission Forward with Enid Lee
February 2, 2011
9:30 am-2:30 pm
Registration is \$125.00

An Evening with Sonia Nieto:

April 1, 2011
7-9:30 pm
Multicultural Education: Myths and Realities

Workshop with Sonia Nieto

April 2, 2011
9:30-2:30 pm
Registration fee: \$125
Becoming Skilled Multicultural Educators

SAVE THE DATE

The 2010 annual spring conference will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2011, at Reservoir High School in Fulton, MD. The Howard County Public School System will co-sponsor this event. The theme for this year's conference will be "Know Me, Engage Me, Teach Me." The call for proposals will go out in December with registrations beginning in February. We look forward to seeing you in Howard County, so mark your calendars and save the date.

Voices

The newsletter of the
**MARYLAND
MULTICULTURAL COALITION**

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Celebrating a Maryland history unsung heroine

The Maryland Women's Heritage Center and the Friends of Anna Ella Carroll held events on November 20 in Cambridge, Maryland, honoring Marylander Anna Ella Carroll, part of the well-known Maryland Carroll family. She is



Women's Heritage Center Francie Glendening poses with the actress portraying Anna Ella Carroll in the film about her.

largely unrecognized in traditional textbooks but is a bona fide heroine who served as an important adviser to President Lincoln and an unofficial member of his cabinet. She was a strategic military adviser, planning the Tennessee River Campaign that contributed significantly to the end of the Civil War and the victories of Gen-

eral Grant. She was also largely responsible for assuring that Maryland remained in the Union prior to the beginning of the Civil War, when the state was considering seceding. Several historians believe that she was instrumental in formulating the Emancipation Proclamation. She advised President Lincoln to develop this policy, and freed her own slaves the day Lincoln was elected president.

Events to honor Anna Ella Carroll included a world premier in Cambridge of the showing of a film about her, "Lost River." More than 1000 people were in attendance. A ceremony was held during the day at her gravesite, where Brigadier General Wilma Vaught laid a wreath to honor her service to the U. S. Military.

A well-known historical portrait of Lincoln's cabinet in 1863 shows one empty chair with a woman's scarf on the seat, and historians believe that this seat represented Anna Ella Carroll's rightful place, since no woman was allowed to officially be in the cabinet. A noted Maryland artist, Laura Era, was commis-

Portrait of Lincoln's cabinet with empty chair.



Parent...

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schools in the U.S. are based on middle class ideas and assumptions and frequently that does not "click" with parents who are new to the country. Their culture may have different perceptions of time, behavior, the teacher's role, or the parent's role in the school community. "If they're not coming to the school, go out and meet them where they live, work or worship," was the advice many suggested.

The role parent and teacher expectations play in achievement was another topic of discussion. Parental expectations for children's achievement has the strongest relationship to measured achievement and ideas were offered for supporting parents in the formulation of high expectations and advocating for their children's education.

— Sharon Gooding

sioned to paint a representation of this portrait, adding Mrs. Carroll. This new painting was unveiled at the film premier. For more information about Anna Ella Carroll, link to the websites of the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame or the Friends of Anna Ella Carroll.

— Linda Shevitz

Tubman statue proposed for U.S. Capitol

Harriet Tubman, 1820–1912, considered one of America’s great heroes for her work in conducting the Underground Railroad, personally leading many slaves to freedom, is the subject of the Maryland Statue Project. The goal is to have a statue of Harriet Tubman placed in the National Statuary Hall. She would be the first African-American woman in the Hall as well as the first enslaved person.

As her statue would replace another statue already in the Hall, the Maryland government must pass a resolution expressing its intention to place a statue of Harriet Tubman in the Hall. It must also designate which of two statues already in the Hall from Maryland Tubman’s would replace. The two currently exhibited statues are those of Charles Carroll, the only Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence, and John Hanson, delegate to the Continental Congress, and president of Congress under the Articles of Confederation, 1781–1782.

For information on how you can help with this important effort, visit the Maryland Statue Project at www.equalvisibilityeverywhere.org/whatwedo/statuary-hall-project/-maryland-statue-project/. □

Egypt...

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land where Jesus was born, lived, died and was resurrected.” I was now going to be able to see the many places cited in the Bible that I had heard and read about practically all my life and now, for the first time, the Bible became real for me.

Every day of our travel, we were privileged to celebrate the Mass in some of the most sacred and picturesque places. Each night as I went to sleep, I kept thinking that this can’t get any better, and then the next day it did.

Early one morning, we traveled to the Dead Sea. This large salt lake is the lowest spot on earth, 1290 feet below sea level. Here I bathed and rubbed the mud from the sea all over my body and floated in this curiously oily water. Some people say that the Dead Sea has curative powers and many people have reported a physical cure as a result of bathing in it. Later, we continued south along the Dead

Sea, where we visited Qumran, the place where the Dead Sea scrolls were found in 1947. Later that day, we arrived at the Jordan River, the place where John the Baptist, baptized Jesus and the Holy Ghost appeared, saying these historic words, “This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased.” On the banks of the Jordan River, we all stood and renewed our baptismal vows. What an experience!

We began another day with a boat ride across the Sea of Galilee. Jesus spent most of his three-year public ministry in towns and villages around the Sea of Galilee. My imagination kicked in over time as I could actually envision Jesus ministering to the large numbers of sick people who came to him to be healed. Standing at the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus gave his Sermon on the Mount, was another out of body and mind experience.

Each day brought a new and glorious experience. Our next visit was to Cana where Jesus performed His first miracle. It was easy to picture Je-



Rita arguing with camel about which way to go, in front of a pyramid at Giza.

sus, Mary and the disciples at the wedding feast. "On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited to the marriage with his disciples." (John 2: 1-2). We visited the Church of the Wedding and here, in the Wedding Sanctuary, my husband John and I (married for fifty years), along with two other couples in the group had the privilege of renewing our wedding vows.

The time spent in Jerusalem was probably the most edifying of all. Our day in Jerusalem began at the top of the Mount of Olives with a magnificent view of the Temple Mount and the Old City. As we walked down the Mount of Olives, we stopped at Dominus Flevit, the place where Jesus wept over Jerusalem. On our way to the Garden of Gethsemane we saw the venerable olive tree that witnessed Jesus' solitary vigil before his crucifixion. Later that day we entered the little town of Bethlehem. "And Joseph also went into the city of David which is called Bethle-

hem to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife being great with child. And she brought forth her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn." (Luke 2: 4-7). Later that evening, we visited Shepherds' Field where I could vividly picture shepherds abiding in the fields keeping watch over their flocks by night... and an angel appearing bringing tidings of great joy about the birth of Jesus, a Savior.

Early one morning, long before daylight, we did the Via Dolorosa, "Way of Sorrows" or "Way of the Cross." We followed the path taken by Jesus from the judgment court, the praetorium, to Golgotha, the place of the Crucifixion, bearing the cross on his back. We took turns carrying the cross, retracing these steps and recalling Jesus' agony. As I carried the cross, I was truly overwhelmed. It was a very moving spiritual experience to be in the place where Jesus suffered on his last day on earth 2000

years ago. Following the stations, we arrived at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Here Jesus was buried and later resurrected. The tomb of Jesus, the holiest place in Christendom,



Father Coats and I outside the town of Capernaum.

lies in the center of the church. Here I cried as I touched the scarred rock (covered with marble).

While I have attempted to put on paper some of my most vivid memories, it is almost impossible to convey what the religious experience has meant to me. I have read and known about the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John most of my life. I now know that there was a fifth Gospel: visiting the Holy Land.

This truly was not a vacation; it was a Transformation.

— Rita Robinson



The Sphinx in the desert at Giza, Egypt.

Maryland Multicultural Coalition (MMC)

MARYLAND STATE CHAPTER, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION

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Personal Reflections

My Visit to Egypt and the Holy Land

On October 25, I embarked with thirty fellow Christians on a ten-day trip to Egypt and the Holy Land. We were thirty-one in number: three priests and twenty-eight lay persons. I have traveled extensively, to places such as Spain, England, China, West Africa, Alaska and South America, during my life, and have had some very memorable vacations. However, my trip to the Holy Land was unparalleled.

Egypt, of course, held my fascination. I was awed by the River Nile, the Pyramids of Giza, the Sphinx, the Sinai Desert, and many ancient places and things that I had read about

and now had the privilege of seeing up close and personal. When I crossed the border from Egypt to Israel (which is

another whole story in itself) I was immediately struck with the thought, "I am now walking on the

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The Pyramids.