

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*

As the weather turns colder and we find warmth in the traditions of autumn, I would like to thank you for being a member of our organization. This is our 31st year as an organization and we have much to be thankful for. Our membership is going, we have a full executive board, our state conferences are among the most attended of any state chapter of NAME and we continue to provide an avenue for networking and resources.

As Hispanic Heritage month comes to a close and the month of October will be the commemorative month for National German, Polish, Italian and Filipino American History Month. In addition, this is LGBT History Month and Disability Awareness Month and Diversity Month.

On October 4th, we held our first free evening event in Prince George's County. Frederick Gooding was our speaker on the topic of race in the media. 25 people at-

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Jill Moss Greenberg named a "Woman who has changed the State of Maryland"

M*aryland Life Magazine* (August/September 2010) featured "Legendary Ladies—10 Women Who Have Changed the Face of Maryland," and Jill Moss Greenberg is one of the ten women honored. She is former Executive Director of the National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME) and an active member of the Maryland state chapter of NAME. Currently she is Executive Director of the Maryland



Jill Moss Greenberg, left, named one of ten "Women who have changed the face of Maryland," is recognized by Linda Shevitz at the opening of the Maryland Women's Heritage Center.

Women's Heritage Center, is an outgrowth of the Maryland Women's History Project, which she initiated 30 years ago.

The magazine article notes: "Since her teens, Ms. Greenberg has been instrumental in resolving social injustices and educational inequities...To this day, her passion remains focused on "decreasing discrimination and conflict and bringing people together to develop solutions through understanding and mutual respect."

Among Jill's many contributions over the years have been serving on the Maryland Advisory Committee to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, providing outreach as the Maryland State Department of Education's Race Equity Specialist, where she established the Black History at Your Doorstep Project, and implementing programs as a multicultural education specialist at the Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium. She has been a

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Opening of Maryland Women's Heritage Center

— By Linda Shevitz

The Maryland Women's Heritage Center, the only comprehensive state-based center of its kind in the nation, has opened its start-up site at 39 West Lexington Street in Baltimore. The Center serves as the home of the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame, a display on Maryland's "Unsung Heroines," who sustain our families, organizations, and communities, and a Maryland Women Lead the Way timeline highlighting the rich contributions of Maryland women of diverse backgrounds from around the state. The current timeline theme focuses on Generations for Justice, women's roles in the civil rights and women's rights movements.

The Heritage Center also provides a meeting place for groups to address issues impacting on women and families. It is an outgrowth of the Maryland Women's History Project, begun in 1980 by the Maryland Commission for Women and Maryland State Department of Education. The Project provided annual informational resource kits about Maryland historical and contemporary women from diverse backgrounds and areas of interest to all public schools and libraries in the state.

The opening celebration welcomed 200 guests, and featured welcoming remarks by First Lady Catherine Curran O'Malley, Former First Lady Frances Hughes Glendening, who serves as President of the Heritage Center, and Helen Holton, Chair of the Maryland Commission for Women, and Jill Moss Greenberg, Executive Director of the Center and former Executive Director of the National Association for Multicultural Education Shoshana Cardin, Honorary Development Chair, emceed the event, and Linda Shevitz, Pro-

gram Chair of the Center and Board member of Maryland NAME, provided leadership in coordinating the opening.

Serving as historical "performers" at the opening, four women portrayed notable Maryland women. These included leading suffragist Edith Houghton Hooker (Julia Kurzava) who held a suffrage rally in 1910 on the street corner where the Heritage Center is now located, environmentalist Rachel Carson (Kate Campbell Stevenson), an unnamed slave woman who journeyed on the Underground Railroad with Harriet Tubman (Shindana Cooper), and Mary Young Pickersgill (Ellie Elgin) businesswoman who made the Star-Spangled Banner flag during the War of 1812.

The Maryland Women's Heritage Center is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information or to volunteer to become involved, visit the website at www.mdwomen-heritagecenter.org, email Jill Moss Greenberg at mwhcjill@comcast.net or call 410-767-0675. □

Media Literacy 101: How media images impact the classroom

On October 4, 2010, the Maryland Multicultural Coalition in collaboration with the Maryland State Education Association (MSEA) and Prince George's County Education Association (PGCEA) sponsored an event entitled "Media Literacy 101: How Media Images Impact the Classroom." This presentation addressed the correlation between racial stereotypes and their impact on student performance in the classroom. Audience members were provided practical analytical techniques to parse out the complex web of historical, institutional and financial factors that influence the portrayal of race in mainstream movies. Specifically, Mr. Frederick W. Gooding, Jr. shared the analytical framework, six archetypes and patterns which

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Voices

The newsletter of the
**MARYLAND
MULTICULTURAL COALITION**

Deborah Misiag
President

Tom Owen
Editor

For questions or suggestions,
or to submit articles,
call 410-272-1085, or email
towen01@comcast.net

Experiencing Israel: **A new and ancient land**

In May, 2010, my husband Steve and I spent two weeks visiting sets of friends in Israel who were born there, and whom we met decades ago. Their parents had immigrated from Poland, Russia, Iraq, England, and Turkey. We had last been in Israel 18 years ago, and were amazed at the changes, both the new archeological discoveries and new buildings, museums, businesses, and sites that have been and continue to be constructed. One fascinating example was walking from the always-bustling market places in the ancient streets of old Jerusalem to the new modern Jerusalem Mall.

Israel is clearly an ancient, while new, land—as the site of so much biblical and religious history, but also as a state that was only declared as a nation in modern times in 1948. Jerusalem, with some 3000 years of history, is the home of some of the world's major religious sites

of three major religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. A visitor not only learns a great deal about the history that happened in the city, but also

Jersey, with a population about the same as Maryland. In Jerusalem we visited several museums, including Yad Vashem, which provides a moving tribute to the six million Jews who were killed in the Holocaust, and to the individuals and groups who risked their lives as “rescuers.”

Passing through the sur-



Oasis near the Dead Sea.

cannot help but “feel” the history when walking on such hallowed land.

Our journeys took us to many parts of the country, which is about the size of New

rounding beautiful Judean Hills we went on to the historic desert Roman Empire's hilltop fortress of Masada. It was at Masada that after the Romans had conquered and destroyed Jerusalem in 70 A.D. a group of more than 900 members of a Jewish sect escaped to the top of Masada and withstood a Roman army onslaught for more than a year. When about to be captured, rather than become slaves to the Romans, the group committed suicide.

We traveled to the Dead Sea, the lowest point on the planet, and saw nomadic Bedouin villages and Arab towns. Our travels also took us North to the serene Sea of Galilee, with its many sites related to



Eilat, Israel, looking over the Red Sea to Jordan

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President...

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tended this event from several counties including Caroline, Howard, Prince George's, and Montgomery. We are planning a second event on the eastern shore on November 9th from 7-9:00 p.m. at the Chesapeake College Education Bldg. 1st Floor, located at 1000 Wye Mills Blvd., Wye Mills, Maryland 21679. The topic of this event is *Parent and Family Engagement in Closing the Achievement Gap*. This event will be in a panel format with leading experts in the field of family engagement. Please RSVP to me at dmisiag@yahoo.com no later than November 2nd if you would like to attend this function. Both of these events were planned for by two of our board members, Sharon Gooding and Debra Nixon. Their leadership and planning these events is appreciated.

We are in the process of going green by sending our newsletter electronically by December of 2010. I have sent an e-mail message to all members in late September for those members for whom I have an e-mail address. If you did not receive this email, please send me an e-mail and I will add your address to the mailing list. We will use the e-mail addresses in the future for our newsletter, to advertise upcoming events and to contact you regarding the state conference. Sending the newsletter out electronically will be cost effective for our organization as well as better for the environment. If you do not have e-mail access, please drop me a note at 6201 Twenty Year Chase, Columbia, Maryland 21045 and we will be sure to put a copy in the mail for


you.

The executive board held its annual retreat this past June and developed several goals for the next two years. I would like to share them with you.

1. Increase the membership of MMC from 80 to 100 paid members.
2. Hold small evening events around the state.
3. Recruit members from counties that are not represented. We currently have members in only half of the Maryland counties.
4. Collaborate with other organizations, equity officials in school systems and assistant superintendents.
5. Ensure that the executive board consists of members from a diverse background.

We hope that you will help us meet our goals for the next two years.

We currently have a blog that you can visit with information about conferences, past newsletters, links to other organizations and photos from past conferences. We hope you will take a few minutes to visit the site at <http://Mdmc@edu-blogs.org>. Feel free to contact me at either my email address or my home address with questions, ideas and feedback. I look forward to hearing from you.

Look for information in our next newsletter regarding events in the spring and the annual conference. If your membership has lapsed, be sure to go to www.nameorg.org and complete a membership form. Be sure to indicate Maryland as your state affiliation. Thank you again for your support. 

Israel...

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the preaching of Jesus, and to the northern borders near Lebanon and Syria. We explored sea caves on the Mediterranean, and viewed the wine country and olive tree farms of the Golan Heights.

Traveling along the Mediterranean we visited Israel's most populous city, the bustling modern city of Tel Aviv, with its rich cultural life and art and music centers, and the connecting town of Jaffa. Jaffa is a fishing center and ancient city from which legend says Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Again, we were struck by the connections between the old and the new. We also visited Haifa, a port and hilly city reminiscent of San Francisco. Haifa has a large mix of Arab and Jewish citizens and is the international center of the Bahai religion and its famous temple and world heritage gardens.

In the southernmost beach resort city of Eilat, the middle of the Red Sea is the border between Israel and its neighbor Jordan. We looked across from Eilat to the city of Aqaba, Jordan. Our friend's brother was the former Israeli ambassador to Jordan and we learned ways that the two countries, who once had no diplomatic relations, now share water resources and cooperatively address issues such as the environment and health care. Viewing the two similar cities reinforced the hope and possibilities for peace and cooperation in the area. We crossed into Jordan and toured the remarkable ruins and tombs of the ancient

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Media...

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are embedded in our media images. Gooding challenged the audience to think critically about the common character patterns and their impact on the perceptions that may influence both classroom expectations and academic achievement. The audience and Mr. Gooding engaged in a rich discussion about this very important topic.

Mr. Frederick W. Gooding, Jr., is member of the National Speakers Association and travels across the country to conduct workshops and presentation. For more information, please visit www.minorityreporter.com. Beye forewarned! You will never see movies the same way again!

Our next event will be on November 9th at Chesapeake College. A panel of local experts will convene to discuss "Parent and Family Engagement in Closing the Achievement Gap." The event is FREE but please register by November 2, 2010 to Deborah Misiag at dmisiag@yahoo.com. □

Israel...

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2000 year-old city of Petra.

There is a strong desire for peace in Israel and a sense of daily living without fear, even as the very complicated historical conflicts in the Middle East continue. There are still threats of terrorism and individuals and families are mandated to have "safe" rooms in new housing, with reinforced bomb-resistant areas and sealed areas to protect against biological attacks. The yearning is for true peace, for SHALOM, the Hebrew word that means peace, and is also

One Nation — Working Together

In October a multicultural nationwide rally "One Nation—Working Together" was held at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC, focusing on Jobs, Justice, and Equality. More than 170,000 individuals participated in the event, sponsored by numerous groups, including the NAACP, Leadership Conference for Civil Rights, immigrant rights groups, religious affiliated organizations, and labor union organizations from across the nation. Speakers included national leaders Marion Wright Edelman and Ben Jealous, NAACP President, as well as diverse representatives

of many religions and cultures. Participants were encouraged to work together for justice in employment, in the workplace,



and in communities, and to vote and be responsible for getting others to vote in the upcoming elections to make their voices heard.

For more information contact www.OneNationWorkingTogether.org. □



used as a greeting and a farewell.

We said a fond "Shalom Chaverim! L'hitraot" ("Good-bye friends..til we meet again!") and returned to the United States after a moving,

inspirational, learning and growing experiences in a land of many cultures and heritages—a new and ancient land.

— Linda Shevitz

France...

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Museum of the Middle Ages, and the Orangerie, which features a number of Monet's huge water lily paintings. We walked around the central part of the city a good bit, visiting the Luxembourg Gardens, Notre Dame Cathedral and the Ile St. Louis, the little island just behind Notre Dame. The latter is a very quiet neighborhood with some nice crepes places and other good restaurants, as well as a few nice small hotels. But mostly it is residential.

After leaving our hotel to board our ship, the MS Bizet, we stayed in Paris two more days, while those folks who had not come to Paris early as we did, joined us. We had the opportunity to have dinner in the restaurant on the Eiffel Tower, and then to spend some time on the observation tower. Our first stop along the Seine was in Conflans, from which we visited the Monet Gardens in Giverny, which was one of our favorites from each trip. What a profusion of flowers, trees and plants! It is a must see for anyone visiting that part of France. We also walked around the nearby town of Vernon, and later in the evening had the opportunity to listen to a variety of concerts in the town center. We chose to listen to Norman chants in the church.

We slowly made our way down the Seine over the next eight days, going through six locks as the river meanders through the countryside toward the sea (We were never far from Paris; it took only about four hours to return by bus from Honfleur to Paris as

the end of the trip!).

Les Andeley was one those small but delightful towns we visited briefly. It was highlighted by a rugged climb up to the ruins of the Gaillard Castle, a fortification built by Richard the Lionhearted in 1193, at that time the King of England and France. That evening we were in Rouen, a much larger city whose cathedral was made famous by Monet's many paintings. Rouen is also famous for being the place where Joan of Arc was burned at the stake for dressing in men's clothing – not a nice way to treat a girl who only dressed that way while fighting to free the French from the English!

While in Rouen, we took an optional trip to the St. Wandrille Benedictine Abbey in nearby Fontenelle. The abbey was founded in 646 by the monk Wandrille, and existed until the French Revolution in 1791,

we stopped in Caudebec de Cour, chiefly as a point of departure by bus to the beautiful cliffs of Etretat, a seaside town not far from Le Havre, and to the headquarters of the Benedictine liqueur company (based on a medicinal elixir made by a Benedictine abbey many years earlier) located in Fecamp, also on the coast near Le Havre.

The final port destination, at the mouth of the Seine, was Honfleur. The name is from a Viking word, meaning estuary, where it is situated. It is a beautiful old town with many interesting houses and a very good art museum, named for Eugene Boudin, a native of Honfleur. And the moules de frites, or mussels and fries, in a white wine sauce, made the trip worthwhile in itself.

From Honfleur we traveled by bus to see the highpoints of the cruise, the battlefields of



The American cemetery in Normandy.

when it was pretty much destroyed and made into a factory. The order returned to the area in 1894, but had to flee to Belgium in 1901, not returning to the original area until 1931. Today, there are thirty-seven monks living and working in Wandrille.

Continuing down the Seine,

Normandy, including Omaha Beach with its 300-foot cliffs. Visiting this site provides a much greater appreciation for the tremendous sacrifice so many men made on D-Day. We visited other sites along the D-Day invasion front, including the remnants of the floating docks

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS **for the** **BULLYING AND HARASSMENT** **CONFERENCE**

Theme:

***Above and Beyond Bullying:
Who are the youth being targeted?***

November 17, 2010

Church at Severn Run, Severn, MD

Sponsored by the Maryland State Department of Education

Contact: Richard Scott: (410) 767-0288; e-mail rscott@msde.state.md.us

Contact: Alicia Mezu: (410) 767-0353; e-mail amezu@msde.state.md.us

France...

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constructed by the Allies, and conceived by Winston Churchill, which made the success of the invasion possible. Another impressive site is the American Cemetery nearby, where we participated in a ceremony paying tribute to 9,300 of the Americans who died in the battle of Normandy and are buried there (many of the men killed there have been returned to the U.S.). Part of the ceremony included recognizing the handful of World War II vets who were traveling with us. It was quite moving. We concluded the tribute as each of our group placed a rose on one of the grave markers as we walked through the cemetery.

On our last day in Norman-

dy, we visited the Peace Memorial museum in Caen, which is a very impressive center for exhibits and artifacts from not only the D-Day invasion but from events prior to D-Day and also to events immediately after the war. It is a beautiful museum, with a peace garden outside, and provided a fitting conclusion to our trip.

We returned to Paris by bus, spending our last night in a hotel near the airport. We traveled with Grand Circle, and believe this was one of the best tours we have made. All aspects of the trip were quite satisfactory. We saw some very beautiful parts of the countryside, and met some very nice people along the way.

— Tom Owen

Greenberg...

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leader in founding the Women's Center and Referral Service and the Women's Action Coalition of Prince George's County, and has been influential in the passage of the Maryland Equal Rights Amendment, Americans with Disabilities Act, and Title IX, the federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in public education.

As an educator, activist, and leader in honoring diversity in all areas of life in families, schools, organizations, and communities, Jill Moss Greenberg has been inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame. She continues to be a mentor and role model for many and has truly had a major impact in Maryland!

— Linda Shevitz

Maryland Multicultural Coalition (MMC)

MARYLAND STATE CHAPTER, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION
c/o Debbie Misiag, President
6201 Twenty Year Chase
Columbia MD 21045

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FRANCE REVISITED

by Tom Owen

The thing we remembered most about France after our first visit in 1999 was how much we wanted to go back again. And we were not disappointed. Other than the country being on the Euro, everything was just the same. Paris was just as charming and the countryside just as beautiful as we remembered it. This time we were mainly on a ship cruise on the Seine, from Paris to Honfleur, in Normandy; on our first visit we were on a bus tour. The cruise is definitely better in many respects. First of all, there is much less packing and unpacking this way. Secondly, it is a much more leisurely trip. Although there are many optional side trips along the way, one can

simply stay on the ship and relax on the sun deck, or walk around the local towns. The third thing is the food. Meals in the ship's dining room were outstanding every day, three

times a day

Our first five days we spent in Paris, visiting several art museums, including two we had not seen the first time there, the Cluny *see "France" on page 6*



Notre Dame Cathedral and Deportation Museum from Isle St. Louis.