

StirFry Seminars & Consulting

May 2012

I Am George Zimmerman (...and so are you)

When I first heard about what had happened to Trayvon Martin, my first thought was....oh no, here we go again. A black man will be seen as the perpetrator, not the victim. In the subsequent days and months, not only was this proven to be true once again, but this time with a unique twist—he was wearing a “hoodie.” Which of course, to many meant that he was “a black man up to no good.” Even Geraldo Rivera jumped in with his usual armchair hindsight to paternally suggest that all young black boys needed to check their hoodies at the door before they left home, because they were just “asking for it” from all the perverted crazies out there. Of course, Mr. Rivera, like many talk hosts, conveniently left out any mention of “racism” or “whites” as possible motives to such “profiling.”

But, there is another aspect that has been overlooked by the media, and it's that blacks are negatively profiled with or without a hood. Ever since I was a child, it has been pounded into me on a daily basis by my father (who was told by whites), by my teachers, by what I saw and didn't see on television, in movies, and even by my cousins - that blacks were dangerous, robbers, crime-prone, sexual, sexist, violent, angry, unintelligent, lazy, homeless and on welfare. At a recent diversity conference, a group of whites shared that their first thought of blacks was that they were “dangerous.” So, why are we surprised that George Zimmerman saw Trayvon Martin as a “threat” and acted on those fears? We have all been acculturated to see black men in a negative, fearful light. Yes, including you.

The real work is for each of us to **notice** and to **acknowledge** how these stereotypes affect how we see blacks and others so we can stop blaming them for our pre-conceived notions and racist perceptions. It's time we take responsibility by talking about the impact of “white privilege” and to challenge the media and our institutions that perpetuate such daily negative portrayals. When we can look at ourselves and those around us and say, “I am George Zimmerman and so are you,” only then can we truly begin to heal as individuals, as a community and as a nation. In the words of Mahatma Gandhi:

“We are but a mirror of the world. All the tendencies present in the outer world are to be found in the world of our body. If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change.”



Contact Us: 510.204.8840 Trainings, Films & Diversity Products, ext. 101

www.stirfryseminars.com • www.diversitytrainingfilms.com

Cross-Cultural Facilitation Techniques

5-day Intensive for Diversity Trainers

Facilitated by Lee Mun Wah

June 20-24, 2012 (Wednesday-Saturday: 9am-5pm, Sunday: 9am-2pm)
 Quan Yin Training Center • 2311 8th Street, Berkeley, CA

In this unique training, Lee Mun Wah will guide each participant through a series of exercises and mindful techniques that will enhance their understanding of the impact of culture on relationships, conflictual cultural situations, as well as how to develop a deeper and more authentic sense of community and openness within diverse groups.

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

StirFry Sale of the Month

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 (Teacher's Edition)*, 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 June 15, 2012

On Demand Digital Streaming Rentals of StirFry Films!!

For the first time, StirFry Seminars and Consulting is making their films available on line/on demand for students/individuals via digitally streamed video at www.diversitytrainingfilms.com. There, you can view director, Lee Mun Wah's new film *If These Halls Could Talk (Teacher's Edition)*, as well as *The Color of Fear*, *Last Chance for Eden* and *Stolen Ground*. Your rental fee allows you access to each film for a 24-hour period. Please note StirFry Seminars' Copyright and Use Agreement prior to purchase. (If instead, you prefer to own a dvd copy of our diversity training films, you can purchase them on the Stirfry Seminars & Consulting website at www.stirfryseminars.com.)

For questions, contact us at: products@stirfryseminars.com or call 510-204-8840 x100. www.diversitytrainingfilms.com

StirFry Calendar of Events

May 6, 2012 Brattleboro, VT	TEDxSIT presentation Not Open to the Public
May 7, 2012 Brattleboro, VT	Cultural Competency for Educational Leaders & If These Halls Could Talk: Film Showing & Diversity Dialogue Workshop/Not Open to the Public, Film Showing/Open to the Public
May 14, 2012 Mountain View, CA	A Cross Gender/Race Conversation Not Open to the Public
May 17, 2012 Alameda, CA	The Color of Fear: Film Showing & Diversity Dialogue Open to the Public
May 18, 2012 Berkeley, CA	If These Halls Could Talk: Film Showing & Diversity Dialogue with Film Director, Lee Mun Wah Open to the Public
May 23, 2012 Charlotte, NC	Diversity Forum Event TBA
May 24, 2012 Arlington, VA	Keynote • Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Striving for Excellence in Leadership, Diversity & Inclusion Conference • Not 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

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