

StirFry Seminars & Consulting

January 2019

As we enter into a new year, we often look back from where we have come. This is an excerpt from my life story, River of Jade, coming out this year. I offer it to you as a gift to see the possibilities in us all. Make this year one of healing and caring. So, that together we will bring back the Dream that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wished for us all.

Project Goof-Off

During the time I was taking an art class required of all student teachers, the art instructor would often come around to my desk and remark, "Very good." Finally, I told her one day, "You know, I could be an art teacher, too, if that was all I had to say." She was shocked and amused. Her retort was, "Well, if you think that's all it takes...why don't you do it?" Being young and quick to react to a challenge, I did exactly that. I bought fifty pounds of clay and asked the Chinese Presbyterian Church in Oakland, where I had gone as a child, if I could use their courtyard on Saturdays. To my surprise, the minister Frank Mar, agreed.

During the first weekend, I just sat there in the courtyard sculpting figures of all kinds. Slowly, the Chinese children in the neighborhood began to gather around me asking if they could have some clay to play with, too. In a matter of two weekends, I had over twenty children making all sorts of clay figures and laughing so loud you could hear us a block away. Eventually, I started a program which the kids affectionately named "Project Goof-Off" because they alone could decide the kinds of art they wanted to create and if they wanted...they could just goof-off. As Project Goof-Off slowly expanded I eventually offered drama and art on Sunday afternoons and a teen group on Friday nights for those who were twelve years and older. As time passed, I soon became the church's Youth Director for the next three years.

During my tenure there at the church, I also taught a Sunday School class. One day, I asked the children where they thought God lived. Seems logical, right? They gave the usual standard answers like heaven and in the church. I then told them to go around and ask the church members where they thought God lived. Within hours the church was abuzz and intrigued by this one question the children were asking. Some of the answers were wild and funny. One of the children even told me he had looked in the phone book and found a person named Jesus and wondered if he should call him!

The next Sunday I brought a box into class and told them that this was where God lived. They went out of their minds trying to guess what was in the box. Even the kids in the other classes joined in on the discussion as everyone tried to guess what was in the box. Soon, all the parents and deacons in the church were offering their guesses, too. Everyone was curious and perplexed by what could possibly be in the box. The truth is, I didn't know, either! I had no idea that this exercise would create such a furor. I started to become a little anxious about everyone expecting me to come up with something really profound. Two hours before my class the following Sunday, I still had no answer. As I was shaving, the answer came to me - a mirror. When I opened the box and showed them the mirror, they all smiled and looked at each other tenderly and laughed. I told them that a part of God lived in all of us—we had only to look and to appreciate what we saw in ourselves and in each other. I did not know it then, but this belief that we each had something to offer would someday become the foundation and goal of all my work.

Lee Mun Wah





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To register: www.stirfryseminars.com/certification

Questions? Schedule a time to speak with Lee Mun Wah, StirFry Seminars' Executive Director and Certificate Facilitator Today! Contact 510-204-8840 x 103 for appointment availability.

LET'S GET REAL:

Unlearning Racism and Internalized Racism

Facilitated by Lee Mun Wah & Rainbow Markell



February 22-24, 2019

**Friday 2pm to 9pm; Saturday 8am to 6pm;
Sunday 8am to 2pm**

Quan Yin Training Center
2311 8th Street, Berkeley, CA

For More Information: 510.204.8840 ext. 103
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STIRFRY CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

January 15-16, 2019 Ft. Collins, CO	Diversity Communications Training, Cultural Competency for Educators Not Open to the Public
February 2, 2019 San Jose, CA	Standing Up for Social Justice on Campus in Times of Fear & Hatred Good Teaching NORTH Conference- CTA Open to the Public
February 4, 2019 San Mateo, CA	The Art of Mindfully Communicating with those Different than Ourselves Not Open to the Public
February 6, 2019 Piscataway, NJ	Honoring Our Differences in a Diverse & Changing World Open to the Public
February 11-15, 2019 Washington, DC	Cross Cultural Facilitation Skills, Cross Cultural Conversations, Creating Community in a Diverse Academic Environment Not Open to the Public
February 17, 2019 Boston, MA	Responding to a Discriminatory Incident on Campus, The World Is All Around Us Not Open to the Public
February 22, 2019 ** Berkeley, CA	Let's Get Real- Unlearning Racism and Internalized Racism Open to the Public

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

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

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