

StirFry Seminars & Consulting

July 2019

WE KNOW WHO YOU ARE

One of the first things I observed about my college classes for my degree in Education was how many women there were and how few men. Another difference was how none of our case studies were about Asian children. It was just the beginning of a long line of invisibility regarding women and people of color that I would experience throughout most of my formal education. After a year and a half, when we were asked to choose our student teaching assignments, I was struck with how none of the other student teachers, except another white male student and myself, chose to work in predominately poor black areas. We kept wondering, did they know something we didn't?

Student teaching in Hunter's Point in San Francisco was an education that I would not soon forget, because it became the foundation of my community and student activism. I was shocked at the poor conditions - the broken glass, the shabbiness of the buildings and the scarcity of equipment and materials, as well as the overwhelming number of portables and a scarcity of white teachers. When I came on campus the children were enthralled with me. I think they had very few experiences with an Asian teacher, let alone much contact with other Asian children. I also think we connected because they could see in my eyes that I truly cared about them; that I wanted to get to know them, rather than just staring at them out of curiosity or looking away out of fear. I have always loved children, particularly those who were less well-off or labeled as inferior because of their aptitude or attitude - maybe because I saw myself in them when I was growing up - often feeling invisible and underestimated.

In time, I organized puppet shows and drama skits with the children. In a matter of weeks they started to blossom and were excited about coming to school again. Overnight, I became a celebrity amongst the kids. One thing, though, stood out in my mind from the first day, and that was how some of the children appeared. So many of them were embittered and disillusioned, some as young as eight years old. There was a 'hopelessness' in their eyes that deeply affected me. For many of these children, I think I was just a temporary emotional oasis - part real, part dream. They had decided long ago to never fully give their faith to anyone or anything because they had experienced too much betrayal and loss.



Teaching the young and innocent

One experience that I will never forget occurred about three months into my student teaching. I had a flat tire and was about to fix it when three adolescent students came upon my car. Two of them tried to rifle through my car for valuables and another tried to steal my tires as I chased them around my car. I was frustrated and angry at the same time. And then out of the evening air I heard someone yelling at the kids to leave me alone. Apparently one of the students ran to get some of the neighbors to help me. Soon, my car was surrounded by parents. The students, quickly realizing these adults knew their parents, ran away. One older gentleman who I remember because of his strong presence and reassuring smile, came up to me. I thanked him profusely and I introduced myself to him. He laughed, and said, "Oh, we know who you are. Our kids talk about you all the time. You're the one who loves our kids." I almost cried when I heard how he and the other parents felt about what I was doing for their kids. It made me feel proud to be a teacher. Little did I know that it was these experiences that would set the foundation for all the work I would do in the future.

Lee Mun Wah

*This is an excerpt from Lee Mun Wah's (forthcoming) book, **River of Jade**. When released, this book can be purchased on our website: www.stirfryseminars.com/store.*

MINDFUL FACILITATION CERTIFICATION

1-Year Training Program: June 2019-June 2020

The goal of the Mindful Facilitation Certification Program is to help participants learn the how to observe the intent and impact of all our communications as a way of de-escalating conflicts, noticing when there is a disconnect and how to reconnect, how to culturally listen and respond in a way that enhances and deepens our conversations and relationships with those who are different from ourselves. Participants will also learn how these mindful techniques are applicable in educational, corporate, governmental and therapeutic and social agency settings where diversity issues are a part their mission statement, but difficult to put into actual practice.

Still accepting applicants!

Register now: 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

Sept 27-29, 2019

Friday 2pm to 9pm; Saturday 8am to 6pm; Sunday 8am to 2pm
Quan Yin Training Center • 2311 8th Street, Berkeley, CA

There is so much that is unsaid in this country about race issues. In this retreat we will explore a variety of ways to have this dialogue on race and racism that will lead to a more intimate and honest conversation and relationship with each other. This retreat is about confronting some of the issues that keep us all from talking to one another about race/racism. It is also about discovering new ways to begin that conversation, how to create a bridge to talk about our differences, exploring what opens us up and what closes us down, and finally, 101 ways to become Culturally Competent in our relationships and workplaces.

For More Information: 510.204.8840 ext. 103

or www.stirfryseminars.com/BTC

WE'VE LOWERED OUR PRODUCT PRICES ACROSS THE BOARD!

All Store Items \$50 or Less!



Films \$50 (or less) and other
products \$25 (or less)

www.stirfryseminars.com/store

Questions? 510-204-8840 x 100

CROSS-CULTURAL FACILITATION SKILLS

for Diversity Trainers, Educators and Therapists:

5-Day Intensive

Facilitated by Lee Mun Wah/All Welcome

July 17-21, 2019

Wednesday 2 pm-9 pm;

Thurs-Sat: 8 am - 5 pm; Sunday 8 am-2 pm

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

Facilitating a group with many cross-cultural perspectives and experiences requires a keen understanding and knowledge of how cultural differences can impact group dynamics, relationships and their sense of safety.

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.

Participants will explore their perception and attitudes about diversity issues through the use of films, books, vignettes and personal stories.

For More Information: 510.204.8840 ext. 103
or www.stirfryseminars.com/BTC

DIVERSITYTRAININGFILMS.COM

Streaming rentals now available for extended rental periods:

24 hours • 72 hours • 1 week • 1 month • 6 months • 1 year

StirFry Seminars & Consulting makes its acclaimed diversity documentary films available on-demand for individuals and students via digitally-streamed video at:

www.DiversityTrainingFilms.com

Stream Director Lee Mun Wah's latest film, *If These Halls Could Talk* as well as *The Color of Fear*, *Last Chance for Eden* and *Stolen Ground*.

Your rental fee allows you to access each film for your chosen time period (24 hours, 72 hours, 1 week, 1 month, 6 months, 1 year). Please note StirFry Seminars' Copyright and Use Agreement prior to purchase.

Purchase DVD copies of our diversity training films at:

www.stirfryseminars.com/store