

StirFry Seminars & Consulting

March 2017

KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE

By Lee Mun Wah

James Baldwin once said that America was one tough town. I would like us to stay with that thought for a while, because I strongly believe that one of the great luxuries and delusions of white privilege is to point to Donald Trump as the designated IP (identified patient), while missing a very important fact: discrimination was alive and well long *before* Donald Trump. What we are hearing now has been common knowledge to so many disenfranchised groups all over this country. Sometimes I wonder: when white lives are impacted, is that when something becomes important?

The question today is the same as what it was for the past 500 years: Are we *willing* to change and become inclusive or will we become more polarized and at war with each other and with those who are different from ourselves?

At this moment in our history, it is a dangerous precipice that we are moving towards. And even though it is a relief because we can now talk more openly about what divides and threatens us, it is also dangerous because these types of hateful and fearful policies and practices lead to the deaths, deportment and incarceration of some of our most vulnerable friends, loved ones and minority communities. As one INS spokesperson recently shouted out, *"Now we can deport whoever and whenever we want!"*

So, from a non-violent and Buddhist mindful perspective, what can we each do or say in such turbulent and divisive times? Towards the end of his political career, Richard M. Nixon once asked a young Latino busboy in the White House kitchen, *"Who are you going to vote for?"* The young man shared that he was voting for the other guy (John F. Kennedy). Nixon smiled and asked why and the young man responded, *"Because he makes me feel good about myself and others."*

How simple and yet, so poignantly significant if we are ever to bring this country together again. You see, I think that what that this young man was saying is that he felt 'seen and inspired' to not only embrace his potential, but also to aspire to help others, too, to reach their dreams and hopes. That is what this country needs and what each of us must aspire to do with everyone we meet; with those we love and with those we have been taught to fear.



MASTERING DIVERSITY TRAINING & FACILITATION

APRIL 21-23, 2017

FRIDAY 2PM-9PM; SATURDAY 8AM-6PM; SUNDAY 8AM-2PM

Facilitators: Lee Mun Wah & Rainbow Markell

With all that is happening in our country right now, this training has never been more needed. In this workshop, we will learn a myriad of mindful facilitation techniques to prevent polarizing dialogues from happening within our classrooms and workplace meetings, as well as how to ensure that everyone feels heard and understood from a place of compassion and curiosity. We will teach how to de-escalate a conflict within minutes and also how to create a more intimate and inclusive environment where differences are valued, embraced and integrated. This is one of our most popular trainings, so register as soon as possible. Attendance is limited to 22 participants only.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 510.204.8840 EXT. 103
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SPRING SALE

Get 25% off, for a limited time, on all regularly-priced diversity training materials
(including Lee Mun Wah's newest film
If These Halls Could Talk)!

Enter coupon code **NEWS25** upon online checkout at www.stirfryseminars.com/store.

** Some restrictions apply • Expires June 15, 2017*

StirFry Calendar of Upcoming Events

March 14, 2017 Williamsburg, VA	Walking Each Other Home- The Art of Creating Community & Connection Not Open to the Public
March 15, 2017 Washington, DC	Responding to a Discriminatory Incident at School at the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education (NADOHE) Conference Open to the Public
March 16, 2017 Baltimore, MD	The World is All Around Us Not Open to the Public
March 16, 2017 Baltimore, MD	A Cross Gender/Race Conversation Not Open to the Public
March 24-25, 2017 Moravia, IA	Diversity Conversations in the Agricultural Sciences Not Open to the Public
March 28, 2017 Oakland, CA	Creating Community in a Diverse School Environment Not Open to the Public

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

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