

# StirFry Seminars & Consulting

May 2018

## **THE “PROBLEM” WITH STARBUCKS IS REALLY MORE ABOUT “OUR PROBLEM”**

When I first heard about the recent racial profiling of two black men at Starbucks, I was reminded of what James Baldwin once said, “America is one tough town.” The great illusion about Starbucks’ response (first, the CEO meeting with the two black men to offer a formal apology, and second, the closing down of all its stores so that 8,000 employees can participate in Racial Bias Training) is that many whites believe that this incident was wonderfully and sensitively dealt with. The truth be told, this is only the tip of the iceberg, not just in terms of this particular incident, but because what happened at Starbucks is really symptomatic of a much larger and historical “problem” facing this country, ever since its inception. Blacks came here as slaves. They weren’t even acknowledged as human beings, but rather as “products”. They were not considered worthy of having a birth certificate, education, or allowed to vote, buy a home or open their own businesses for a long time; even now, many of these basic rights are restricted by white supremacy.

Fast forward to today and not a day seems to go by without another shooting of black people at the hands of whites. Even our classrooms are not safe havens as black students are disproportionately violently arrested or suspended in record numbers for only minor infractions. There was even an incident recently where a 5-year old black child was handcuffed and taken to the police station. In my latest documentary film, *If These Halls Could Talk*, a white college student shared that many whites feel that blacks are “less than human.” When Serena and Venus Williams first came onto the tennis scene, a radio broadcaster said, “Look at those two...who would want to date those two apes?” Even former President Obama and his family has often been depicted as monkeys and apes in blogs and throughout the internet.

Unless we are willing to acknowledge that these depictions of blacks have seeped into the very psyche of our culture and institutions, affecting how we see and experience black children and adults, we will continue to be “dismayed” and “shocked”, but still ignorant and unwilling to see how whites are often given preferential treatment in comparison to folks of color in every facet of our country. As James Baldwin wrote: “Not everything that is faced can be changed. But nothing can be changed until it is faced.”

*Lee Mun Wah*

# CROSS-CULTURAL FACILITATION SKILLS

for Diversity Trainers, Educators & Therapists: 5-Day Intensive

Facilitated by Lee Mun Wah & Rainbow Markell • *All Welcome*

Two Sessions to choose from: **June 20-24** OR **July 25-29, 2018**

*Wednesday 2 pm-9 pm; Thurs-Sat: 8 am - 5 pm; Sunday 8 am-2 pm*

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

- Listen and respond from a Buddhist & Eastern Approach
- Notice the impact and intent of all our communications and actions
- Discover the importance of curiosity as a mediation tool
- Make use of non-verbal communications
- Use Mindful Techniques to de-escalate a conflict within minutes
- Ask 26 culturally-sensitive questions that create safety & trust

For More Information: 510.204.8840 ext. 103 or [www.stirfryseminars.com/BTC](http://www.stirfryseminars.com/BTC)

## Diversity Documentaries Available for Online Rental!

### DiversityTrainingFilms.com

StirFry Seminars & Consulting has made its acclaimed diversity documentary films available on-demand for individuals and students via digitally-streamed video at: [www.DiversityTrainingFilms.com](http://www.DiversityTrainingFilms.com). There, you can view 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.

If you would like to own a DVD copy of our diversity training films, you can purchase them on the StirFry Seminars & Consulting website at: [www.stirfryseminars.com/store](http://www.stirfryseminars.com/store).

## END OF ACADEMIC YEAR SALE

25% off all regularly-priced items  
by entering coupon code  
**SCHOOL2018**



upon online checkout at:  
[www.stirfryseminars.com/store](http://www.stirfryseminars.com/store)

**Hurry! Offer Expires 6/30/18**

## StirFry Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 9, 2018 Hartford, CT	Working with Diverse Groups Not Open to the Public
May 11, 2018 Atlanta, GA	The Path Towards Inclusion is Also About Exclusion Not Open to the Public
May 14, 2018 Wilkes-Barre, PA	Cultural Competency Training- Creating Community in a Diverse School Not Open to the Public
May 30-31, 2018 New Orleans, LA	Standing up for Social Justice on Campus in Times of Fear and Hatred and Creating a Culturally Competent and Responsive Campus Community • National Conference on Race & Ethnicity in American Higher Education (NCORE) • Open to the Public

For StirFry's complete Calendar of Upcoming Events, please visit [www.stirfryseminars.com/events](http://www.stirfryseminars.com/events)

Contact Us: 510.204.8840 Trainings, Films & Diversity Products, ext. 103 • [www.stirfryseminars.com](http://www.stirfryseminars.com) • [www.diversitytrainingfilms.com](http://www.diversitytrainingfilms.com)

\*\* Held at the Quan Yin Training Center, 2311 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Berkeley, CA