A Community Bridge.

At my practicum where I serve as a school social worker I often find myself thinking about how closely connected schools are to the community and the families of the kiddos we serve. Schools are a BIG bridge for families in need of all types of services.

So, as you enter your classroom, I want to provide a few on-line and local resources to help you get to know your school's neighborhood better. To learn about its socio-economic diversity please visit: http://www.richblockspoorblocks.com/. You can also learn more from talking with Omaha’s Neighborhood Center or by visiting http://www.unomaha.edu/ncenter/. –Hanna

For a listing of Black History Month celebrations and programs, please look at our Upcoming Community Events page.

Please email ideas for future topics or upcoming events to Hanna Wanzenried-Solberg, TED GA, at hwanzenried@unomaha.edu or by dropping off submissions to Roskens Hall 308B. Our Lens is a COE Diversity Committee sponsored project.
Professional Development: 
Curriculum, Resources & Events

Ruth Marimo: Freedom of an Illegal Immigrant: February 20th, 2013 - 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM - MBSC Nebraska Room. Ms. Marimo, African lesbian author of “Freedom of an Illegal Immigrant: The Untold Story of My Search for a Place in the World” shares her own experiences of being a person of African nationality who deals with her struggles of racism, sexism, and coming out in a very anti-gay cultural society. She will also talk about the stance of LGBTQ immigrants in this country based on the stories of people she has met since writing the book. Q&A and book signing follows her talk. Food will be provided. Sponsored by American Multicultural Students, Maverick Diversity Coalition, Sociology Club, and Student Organizations and Leadership Programs.

Urban Education (January Issue): 
http://uex.sagepub.com/content/current

Suggested Deaf Education Books:
• Educating Deaf Children Bilingually by Shawn Mahshie
• Deaf Heritage by Jack Gannon

Teaching Tolerance: Protest Music in the Classroom
Protest songs prick our collective conscience. Students connect to this music form in real and powerful ways. Learn how this art form can be used in your classroom as your students explore social justice movements by visiting:  
http://tinyurl.com/ag29w7f

Teaching Tolerance: Racial Disparities Jigsaw Mini Unit Lesson Plan
Students will explore structural aspects of racism and connect historical racism with contemporary social problems while applying critical reasoning and group interaction skills. Link: http://tinyurl.com/baklaqp

ADL's Campus Leaders Mission to Israel: This international travel experience is scheduled to take place August 5-15, 2013; it provides an opportunity for student leaders to receive an up-close and personal perspective on Israel. Qualified applicants must be college freshmen, sophomores, or juniors who are leaders on their college/university campus through political involvement, student activism, and/or editors of the campus newspaper. Fifteen to twenty students from around the country will be selected to participate. The Campus Leaders Mission Fact Sheet and Application can be accessed on-line at www.adl.org/campusmission. The application deadline is March 15, 2013.

Free Minds, Free People Conference: The national Free Minds, Free People conference is accepting registrations. The conference will be in Chicago on July 11-14, 2013. This is a gathering of teachers, high school and college students, researchers, parents and community activists developing education that leads to a more just society. For more information visit: http://www.fmfp.org/

“Almost always, the creative dedicated minority has made the world better.”
~ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Upcoming Community Events

The following list is by no means complete. It is our hope that you use these as suggestions for places to visit and events to participate in and then branch out on your own to find other local programs.

Dance Nebraska 2013: DN is a night filled with music and dancing to raise money for Autism Action Partnership, which serves individuals with autism and their families. The program will take place on Friday, February 15, 2013 from 7:30pm to 1:00am at the Ralston Arena. For more information visit: www.dancene.org.

Omaha Public Library: The public is invited to watch Black History Month movies at 1:00pm every Saturday during the month of February at the South Omaha Library located at 2808 Q Street.

Love's Jazz Presents Blue Mondays: The public is invited to learn about the history of North Omaha music (blues, jazz, big band and R&B) every Monday during the month of February from 6:00-9:00 pm at the Jazz and Arts Center. For more information visit: http://lovesjazzartcenter.org/.

African American Inventions Exhibit: This innovative exhibit led by the LJAC Curating Team reflects selected inventions and innovations by African Americans who have made significant contributions to science, technology, health and every life and even inventions that have helped shape our modern-day society. It will be shown at the Jazz and Arts Center from February 19-April 20, 2013.

The Powerbroker, a Free Screening: In partnership with the Urban League of Nebraska, Cox Communications and NP Dodge, Film Streams presents a free screening and talk back of the film, The Powerbroker. One night only! Thursday, February 21, 7pm. The Powerbroker tells the story of Whitney Young, the inside man of the black revolution. Tickets are FREE and can be reserved in advance by emailing Molly Welsh here or visiting the box office prior to February 21. A limited number of seats are available, so making reservations in advance is highly recommended.

13th Annual African American History Challenge: The 100BMO is hosting the 13th annual African-American History Challenge on, February 23, 2013 from 4:00-6:00pm at Central High School. The competition is open to the public and involves all area middle and high schools. Please come show your support!

ADL Educator Breakfast: Security and Education - Cultivating Community Partnerships on Tuesday, Feb. 26th, from 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. at the Jewish Community Center Auditorium (333 S 132nd Street). For a detailed list of who will be talking and for further information, email Jessica Gall at JGall@adl.org. To sign up for this interesting discussion, please go to: http://adledbreakfast22013.eventbrite.com/.

Pray the Devil Back to Hell, a Special Screening: In partnership with The Werner Institute, Film Streams presents a screening and talk back of the film Pray the Devil Back to Hell. One night only! Wednesday, February 27, 7pm. This film chronicles the remarkable story of the courageous Liberian women who came together to end a bloody civil war and bring peace to their shattered country.

Empowerment Network Community Meeting
The monthly community meeting will take place on Saturday, March 9, 2013 – starting at 8:45 am. It will take...
Upcoming Community Events Continued...

Interfaith Architecture
Tour: “Made in America: The Architectural Styles of American-born Religions.” Project Interfaith’s architecture tour will be held on Sunday, March 10, 2013 from 1:30 – 5:00 pm (Check in begins at 1:00 pm). Featured sites: First Unitarian Church of Omaha and the Mormon Trail Center. To register, please visit: http://projectinterfaith.org/page/current-programs

El Museo Latino:
Currently, the museum has four exhibits on display, including Graphics of Latin America, The Art of Puebla, and History of Latinos in Omaha: 1900 to Present. To learn more about these exhibits and museum times, please visit: http://www.elmuseolatino.org/exhibits.html

A Raisin in the Sun: SNAP!
Productions will present a staged reading of this ground-breaking work on Tuesday, March 12, 7:30pm – 9:00pm at the SNAP/Shelterbelt Theatre, 3225 California Street. A Raisin in the Sun tells the story of the Youngers, a black family in 1950s Southside Chicago, and their quest for a piece of the American Dream. Admission is free but seating is limited, so reservations are recommended. Call (402) 341-2757 to reserve your seat today!

I plan on attending:
________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________

I plan on asking my friend(s),
__________ to attend with me.

The Extravaganza: Kids will watch and learn mime skills and participate in other fun activities. The event will take place on March 15 -March 16, 2013 at Karen Western Elementary School; the event will start at 4:00 pm on the 15th and end at 1:00 pm on the 16th. This event is open to area 3rd-6th graders with a hearing loss. Registrations are due by March 4th. You may direct your questions to Maggie Nunez – mnunez@esu3.org

place at the North High School Viking Center (4410 N. 36th Street). For more information visit: http://empoweromaha.com/2010/node/2
UNO Criss Library Multicultural Books

Young Adult Literature:
All the Right Stuff by Walter Dean Myers. The summer after his absentee father is killed in a random shooting, Paul volunteers at a Harlem soup kitchen where he listens to lessons about "the social contract" from an elderly African American man, and mentors a seventeen-year-old unwed mother who wants to make it to college on a basketball scholarship (Description via Worldcat).

Illegal by Bettina Restrepo. Nora, a fifteen-year-old Mexican girl, faces the challenges of being an illegal immigrant in Texas when she and her mother cross the border in search of Nora’s father (Description via Worldcat).

Children’s Literature:
We’ve got a Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children’s March by Cynthia Levinson. This book discusses the events of the 4,000 African American students who marched to jail to secure their freedom in May 1963 (Description via Worldcat).

A New Year’s Reunion by Yu Li-Qiong and illustrated by Zhu Cheng-Liang. Little Maomao's father works in faraway places and comes home just once a year, for Chinese New Year. At first Maomao barely recognizes him, but before long the family is happily making sticky rice balls, listening to firecrackers, and watching the dragon dance in the streets below. Papa gets a haircut, makes repairs to the house, and hides a lucky coin for Maomao to find. Which she does! But all too soon it is time for Papa to go away again (Description via Worldcat).

Need more resources for your classroom or school project? Please contact, Melissa Cast-Brede, Research Services Unit/Education & Psychology Liaison at mcast@unomaha.edu.

Reflection: Food for Thought

How can you employ what you’ve read in this newsletter to your teaching practice or role as a learner?

What will Culturally Responsive Teaching (CRT) look like for you over the coming months?