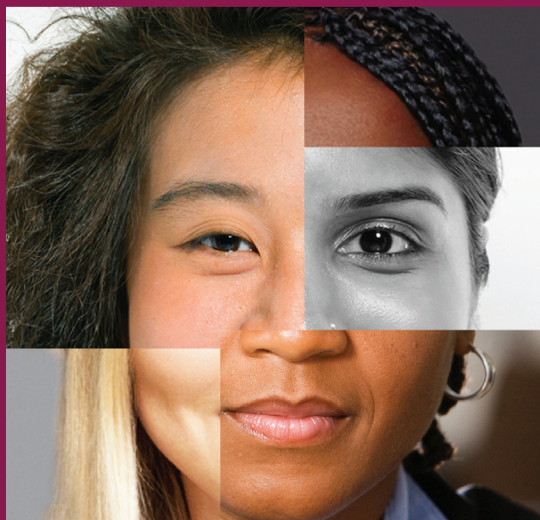


IN SKOKIE & NILES TOWNSHIP  
*presents*

COMING TOGETHER



## VOICES OF RACE

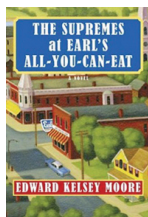
**Book Selections and Events**  
**January - April 2015**  
**[comingtogether.in](http://comingtogether.in)**



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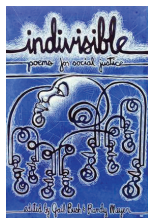
## HIGHLIGHTED BOOKS

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### *The Supremes at Earl's All-You-Can-Eat*

By **Edward Kelsey Moore**. Odette, Clarice, and Barbara Jean have seen their friendship endure through bullies, love affairs and great tragedies. But can they survive a tumultuous year when they are forced to face their past mistakes? This humorous and touching book sheds light on what it was like to live through the Civil Rights era and how those struggles continue to shape communities and lives today.



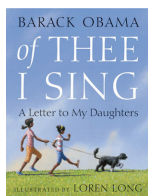
### *Indivisible: Poems for Social Justice*

**Gail Bush** and **Randy Meyer**, Editors. This thought-provoking anthology of over 50 poems showcases a variety of voices, voices that are in the pursuit of a more just society. The poems are divided into five sections leading the reader on a path of discovery, examination and, hopefully, action. Celebrated poets such as Langston Hughes and lesser known poets contribute to this compact collection of inspiring poems.



### *Black, White, Other: In Search of Nina Armstrong*

By **Joan Steinau Lester**. Nina, a biracial teen, feels her life turn to struggle as her parents get divorced. Now everything in her life feels like a stark push-and-pull between black and white, with the tensions in her family and in her community echoing her own hurt, confusion, and search for identity. Nina spends more and more time learning about her great-great-grandmother, who escaped from slavery, in the hopes that her ancestor's story might hold a key to figuring out her own life.



### *Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters*

By **Barack Obama**. This beautifully-illustrated book expounds the idea that all children share many of the same qualities as the minds that have most influenced America: courage (like Jackie Robinson); imagination (like Albert Einstein); and creative vision (like Georgia O'Keefe). In this touching letter to his own children, President Obama celebrates the potential of every child.



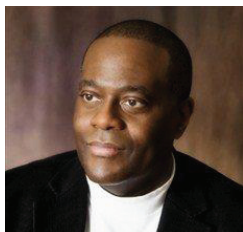
### *Xander's Panda Party*

By **Linda Sue Park**. When Xander begins planning his party, he knows he wants to invite all of his fellow bears. He runs into a problem, though, when some animals who are not bears are interested in attending, too. As Xander discovers that he can be friends and have fun with animals—even those different from him—his party turns into something truly sensational.

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## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

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**Edward Kelsey Moore** is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling novel *The Supremes At Earl's All-You-Can-Eat*, which was published by Alfred A. Knopf in 2013. It was awarded the 2014 First Novelist Award by the Black Caucus of the American Library Association and was chosen as a 2013 Barnes and Noble Discover Great

New Writers selection. Moore's essays and short fiction have appeared in the *New York Times*, on Chicago Public Radio, and Minnesota Public Radio, and in literary magazines. Moore is also the recipient of a 2014 Illinois Arts Council Award. In addition to his writing, he maintains a career as a professional cellist.

**Joan Steinau Lester** is an award-winning commentator, columnist, and author of four critically acclaimed books. After receiving her doctorate in multicultural education, Dr. Lester became the executive director of the Equity Institute for sixteen years. This national nonprofit firm pioneered the diversity wave of the '80s and '90s. She continues as a member of its successor, the Equity Consulting Group. *Black, White, Other: The Search for Nina Armstrong* is her first novel which garnered praise from critics including *Publishers Weekly*, *VOYA*, and *Booklist*. Dr. Lester currently lives in Northern California and enjoys the full-time writing life she long envisioned.



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## MASTER OF CEREMONIES

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Emmy award-winning Journalist **Pamela Jones** serves as a general assignment reporter for CBS 2 Chicago. She joined CBS 2 Chicago from CLTV where she had worked as a reporter since 2005. Prior



to that, she served as an anchor and reporter at KETV in Omaha, NE, and for KMIZ in Columbia, MO. While earning her master's degree, she worked as a national correspondent for Medill News Service in Washington, DC. She served as a reporter and producer for WPNB/WTOM in Traverse City, MI. She started her career as a field producer at KSDK in St. Louis, MO. A graduate of Northwestern

University with a B.S. in Journalism and a M.S. in Journalism, Jones is fluent in Spanish.

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## WELCOME LETTERS

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Dear Skokie and Niles Township Community:

I'm delighted to welcome you to the sixth year of **Coming Together in Skokie & Niles Township: Voices of Race**.

As we know, Skokie and Niles Township are known for their diversity. Residents from countries around the world live here together in peace and harmony. This year the **Coming Together in Skokie & Niles Township** Committee has chosen to delve deeper than national roots. It will be looking into race and how its definition affects us in our lives today. The selection of books for adults and students of all ages will address race and will stimulate conversations throughout our community—in our schools, libraries, and local stores. In today's challenging social climate, it is more important than ever to gain understanding of each other, and through that understanding to develop compassion for each other and build a stronger community.

Finally, I wish to express my gratitude to the **Coming Together in Skokie & Niles Township** Committee for continuing this most worthwhile initiative that provides the entire community with an opportunity for enrichment, enlightenment, and appreciation.

Sincerely,

George Van Dusen, Mayor  
Village of Skokie

## Dear Neighbors:

You might ask why we chose “Voices of Race” for the theme of this year’s **Coming Together in Skokie & Niles Township** programs. One impetus was the excellent national touring exhibit, “RACE: Are We So Different?”, which is being shown at the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center in Skokie through January 25. The exhibit is co-presented by the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center and the YWCA Evanston/North Shore. It offers a comprehensive look at the concept of race and provides a valuable opportunity for all of us to better understand what race means to us and how it impacts life in our communities.

Members of the **Coming Together in Skokie & Niles Township** Committee believe that this exhibit offers a unique opportunity to take a closer look at race in our own neighborhoods. We are a tremendously diverse community; our residents hail from many different countries and speak more than 90 different languages and dialects.

In past years we have highlighted one culture for an intense six-week study. We have featured and celebrated the following cultures: Indian, Filipino, Assyrian, Greek, and Korean. In each instance, we chose books for all levels of our population, from primary school through adults, and discussed the literature in reading groups in libraries, places of worship, businesses, and schools. Author visits provided enriching cultural experiences where we learned about history, economics, language, traditions, and the long journey from country of origin to our community.

This year we will continue to explore the diverse cultures of our community by listening to each other: the voices of race in Niles Township. By using shared definitions of race, we encourage neighbors to engage with each other and learn how racism affects us all.

Skokie has long been a leader in sensitivity to race and cultural issues. The Village of Skokie was the first municipality in the State of Illinois to adopt a fair housing ordinance. The law, passed in 1968, prohibited discrimination by owners and realtors in the sale, rental, lease or financing of homes and apartments because of race, religion, color, national origin, or ancestry. Skokie garnered international headlines in 1977, when the American Nazi Party sought a permit to march in Skokie and the village resisted its efforts; the case went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. Controversy roiled for more than a decade about use of an Indian mascot at Niles West, with the school ultimately changing its mascot to the Niles West Wolves in 2000. That same year the Ku Klux Klan held a “White Pride Rally” in the village. While a handful of people attended that event, at the same time, the Niles West High School auditorium was packed with thousands of community members who held a Unity Rally.

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With each passing year, Niles Township becomes more diverse demographically. (The name “Skokie” itself comes from the Potawatomi word for “swamp” or “marsh.” The Potawatomi, an Algonquin-speaking tribe of native Americans, were the area’s original inhabitants.)

This year’s Coming Together program offers a wide range of activities throughout all of Niles Township, including Skokie, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove and Niles. Our opening event takes place at the Illinois Holocaust Museum on January 11, 2015, and we will hold a series of events culminating in the community-wide Stand Against Racism on April 24.

This booklet is your guide to this year’s Coming Together activities, which focus on issues of race, ethnicity, identity and how we see ourselves. Additional information can be found on the website: [comingtogether.in](http://comingtogether.in).

Talking about race is often uncomfortable and can even be difficult. Oftentimes, in the United States of America, discussions of race focus on binary notions of “black versus white” or English-speaking as opposed to Spanish-speaking. Here in Niles Township, defining and talking about race is even more complex, because of our community’s incredible ethnic and cultural diversity.

We each have a different interpretation of what race is, based on our individual ethnic and cultural background, in addition to our own personal life experiences. For example, whereas in some national discussions of race, “brown” is used as shorthand for people of Latino or Hispanic background, what is a “brown” person in Niles Township? The term can be used to describe individuals of Filipino, Pakistani, or Indian heritage or someone of Guatemalan, Cuban, or Malaysian descent, to offer just a few possibilities. So in this case, does “brown” really mean anything?

And yet, despite how difficult it is to talk about race, we believe that encouraging honest conversations about it is necessary in order to have a community whose members are respectful of each other.

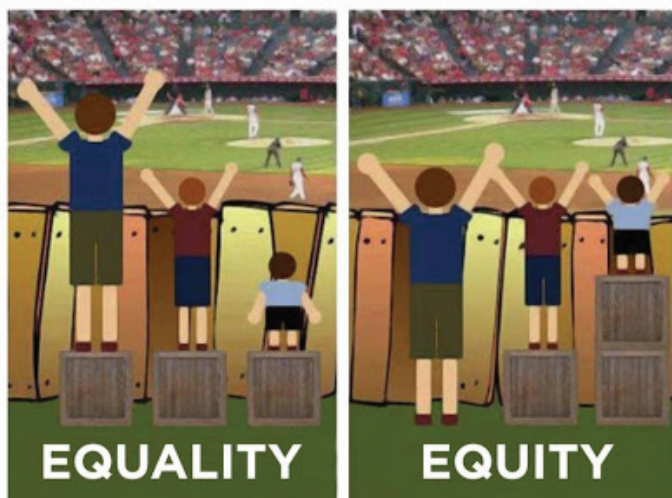
Families of all different races, faiths, countries, and backgrounds continue to move to Niles Township because it is a place where all people can live, work, and learn together. We invite you to learn more about each other by taking part in this year’s Coming Together activities, and we look forward to engaging with you in these important discussions.

**The Coming Together in Skokie & Niles Township Committee**

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## DEFINITIONS

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The source for definitions found at: <http://www.lgbtracialequity.org/tools/glossary.cfm>

Race	There is no agreed-upon definition of race. One working definition is: a social idea that places people into distinct groups based on physical characteristics, including the color of their skin.
Ethnicity	A social construct that places people into smaller social groups based upon characteristics such as shared sense of group membership, values, behavioral patterns, language, political and economic interests, history and ancestral geographical base.
Nationality	The state or fact of being a citizen of a particular nation.
Diversity	Variety. The wide range of national, ethnic, racial and other backgrounds of citizens. In the United States, we frequently apply this term to immigrants and many different social groupings.
Equality	Treating everyone the same.
Equity	Fairness. Justice.
Prejudice	A preconceived idea, usually unfavorable.

The previous terms present a basic vocabulary for our discussions. The following terms are a subset of racism:

Internalized Racism	Private, internal prejudicial thoughts and beliefs. This can involve negative stereotypes about one's own race or other racial groups.
Interpersonal Racism	Internal racist thoughts/beliefs turning into public actions of racial prejudice, hate, bias and bigotry between individuals. For example, members of one race choosing to deliberately cause mental and/or physical harm to someone from another race.
Institutional Racism	Racism within institutions initiating discriminatory treatment, unfair policies and practices, and inequitable opportunities and impacts based on race. For example, a school system that concentrates students of color in remedial classes while placing white students in advanced placement classes.
Structural Racism	A structurally racist framework identifying aspects of our history and culture that have allowed the privilege associated with whiteness and the disadvantage of color to endure and adapt over time. An example is the impact of slavery on the "racial wealth divide" (where whites have many times the wealth of people of color), resulting from generations of discrimination and racial inequality.
Racial Equity	Exercising "Race Consciousness" rather than "Race Neutrality or Colorblindness." Many advocates for race neutrality (colorblindness) omit race from the consideration of policies, which impacts both the problem and the solution to a problem. What ultimately is lost in the discussion is whether racial disparities are even occurring.
White Privilege	Many students of race equate the term privilege with white privilege. This is not something that white people do intentionally. Rather, it frequently is an unconscious advantage or perk given to those who have white skin, but is not experienced by a person of color. This may affect interpersonal relations or shape institutional practice.



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## BOOK DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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### Questions for *The Supremes at Earl's All-You-Can-Eat*

1. Earl's All-You-Can-Eat is the first black-owned restaurant in Plainview, IN. What role does place play in the novel and how does the diner shape the lives of the main characters?
2. The Supremes grew up in tumultuous times. How was each one of them affected by the major social changes for African Americans, as well as for women, that occurred over the course of their lives?
3. The chapters alternate between Odette's voice and an omniscient third-person narrator. What is the effect of this in storytelling? Why does Moore choose Odette as a narrator rather than Clarice or Barbara Jean?
4. Odette was born in a sycamore tree. Barbara Jean was born on the wrong side of the tracks. Clarice was the first black baby to be born in an all-white hospital. How do these circumstances of each birth shape their choices and their interactions as adults?
5. When things get tough for the Supremes, they often see the funny side of the worst moments. In what instances do the Supremes use humor to help them survive?
6. Odette, Clarice, and Barbara Jean are best friends, but they're quite different. What is a defining moment in each of their lives?
7. What qualities make the friendship among the three women so extraordinary? In what ways do they help one another?
8. Ghosts appear throughout the novel. Why do you think the author added these unconventional characters to his story? How do the ghosts enhance your understanding of the characters?
9. Whether alive or dead (or a ghost), the mothers of the Supremes play a major role in their daughters' lives. As the Supremes grow older, how do their mothers continue to exert an influence on their adult lives?
10. How are the men who love the Supremes—James, Richmond, Lester, and Chick—good matches for the Supremes?
11. What changes do you see in all the Supremes throughout the book? What do you think the future holds for them, their loved ones, and their town?

Questions courtesy of the publisher: <http://www.edwardkelseymoore.com/book-club-questions-for-the-supremes-at-earls.html>

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## BOOK DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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*Indivisible: Poems for Social Justice*  
Book Group Discussion Guide by Maureen Smith

1. The introduction states, “The poem has the ability to personalize the ideal, to make it tangible in a way that a speech or news report cannot.” Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not? How might another art form express the ideal and make it more or less personalized? To which poems did you have the most personal response? Why?
2. Many of the poems in the first two chapters express anger and frustration. The poems in the final sections seek resolution and resolve. What was the experience of reading these collected voices? Which aspect best reflects your America? Do you relate to social justice on an intellectual or emotional level?
3. Select a favorite poem and read it aloud. Do you continue to understand the meaning of the poem and your personal response more with each rereading? How does hearing a poem affect its meaning? Discuss why it is a favorite of yours — is it for its meaning or its aesthetic beauty?
4. Consider the chapter titles—“liberty was misquoted,” “we are all getting burned,” “giving secrets away,” “the signals we give,” and “the next thing to happen.” Do these suggest a progression? How do the poems in each chapter relate to the titles?
5. The editors frame the anthology as a “journey.” What did you experience along the way? Were certain parts of the journey more or less difficult? Why? Do you end up in a new or different place than when and where you began?
6. The poets use many different devices to convey their message—irony, humor, imagery, repetition. What techniques are the most effective for you? For example, compare and contrast the economy of words and style between “Immigrants” and “The News You Don’t Get at Home.” How similar is the message? Is one more effective or does each style suit the topic?
7. Some of the poems present a vignette. Re-read “Indian Movie, New Jersey,” “Windshield,” and “Being a Good American.” What feelings do these moments evoke for the writer? For you as the reader? Do the closing lines suggest resolution? Why or why not?
8. The last poem in the collection ends with the following stanza—“How you stand here is important. How you listen for the next thing to happen. How you breathe.” What do these words mean? What does this suggest about the connection between individuals and social justice?

### VOICES OF RACE OPENING CEREMONY & RACE: ARE WE SO DIFFERENT? EXHIBIT TOUR



Sunday, January 11, 2015

12 - 1:30 p.m. Opening Program and Reception  
Exhibit tour until 5 p.m.

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center  
9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, IL

#### Master of Ceremonies, Pam Jones, CBS 2 Chicago

Join us for our Opening Ceremony featuring poetry, song, an original theater piece created by teens and adults in our community, and more, as well as a chance to view the RACE: Are We So Different? Exhibit.

**All events are open to the general public. Some events require advance registration, and they are noted in the program descriptions.**

#### Event Locations:

- American Legion Memorial Civic Center of Morton Grove, 6140 Dempster Street, Morton Grove
- Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood Street, Skokie
- Holiday Inn Chicago North Shore, 5300 West Touhy, Skokie
- Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie
- Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 West Pratt Avenue, Lincolnwood
- Meatheads, 6734 N. Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood
- Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Avenue, Morton Grove
- Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Avenue, Evanston
- Niles North High School, 9800 Lawler Avenue, Skokie
- Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton Street, Niles
- Niles West High School, 5701 Oakton Street, Skokie
- Niles Township Schools' ELL Parent Center, 9440 Kenton Avenue, Skokie
- North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie
- Oakton Community College, Des Plaines Campus, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines
- Oakton Community College, Skokie Campus, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie
- Skokie Heritage Museum, 8031 Floral Avenue, Skokie
- Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton Street, Skokie
- Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street, Skokie
- Super Cup Coffee Shop, 8509 Fernald Avenue, Morton Grove
- Sweetie Pies Bakery, 8042 Lincoln Avenue, Skokie
- Weber Leisure Center, 9300 Weber Park Place, Skokie

**Visit the Coming Together website at [comingtogether.in](http://comingtogether.in)**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### COMING TOGETHER EVENTS



PERFORMANCES



INTERACTIVE  
WORKSHOPS



FILMS



KIDS/FAMILY



BOOKS/AUTHORS



LECTURES



### **What's Your Story: Stories of Race Project**

Two generations come together to share stories of race from multiple perspectives. Students and senior citizens have worked together to develop this evocative theater piece. A community initiative between the Levy Senior Center in Evanston and D219.

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

4 p.m.

Niles North High School, Black Box Theatre



### **Panda-monium**

During this special storytime event centered around the book *Xander's Panda Party* by **Linda Sue Park**, your child will create an animal mask of their choosing, stomp and clomp in an animal parade, and participate in other fun animal activities. For ages 2-5 with caregiver.

Wednesday, January 14

At: 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Morton Grove Public Library



### **Skokie's Journey Toward Cultural Diversity**

Take a journey from Skokie's first settlers through cultural changes and conflicts in the 1960s and 1970s to Skokie's Festival of Cultures, currently celebrating 25 years of diversity.

January 16 - May 30, 2015

Visit [skokieparks.org/skokie-heritage-museum](http://skokieparks.org/skokie-heritage-museum) for hours

Skokie Heritage Museum



### **Film: *Dark Girls***

A documentary exploring the deep-seated biases and attitudes about skin color - particularly in dark skinned women, both outside and within the Black American culture (IMDb).

Thursday, January 15

10:30 a.m.

Lincolnwood Public Library



**Film: *The Hundred-Foot Journey***

The Kadam family leaves India for France, where they open a restaurant directly across the road from Madame Mallory's Michelin-starred eatery. Rated PG.

Thursday, January 15

2 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Morton Grove Public Library



**Film: *Skokie: Invaded But Not Conquered***

A predominantly Jewish suburb is forced to confront its deepest fears about American rights and freedom when a neo-Nazi group attempts to select it as the location for their next rally. Produced by the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center.

Sunday, January 18

2 p.m.

Morton Grove Public Library



***Dar He: The Story of Emmett Till***

Making its Chicago premiere, this drama chronicles the lynching, beating and death, trial and acquittal, and then the unbelievable public confession afterwards of the men accused of Emmett Till's murder. This original historical one-man drama was written by **Mike Wiley**, who also performs all of the roles with transcendent characterization and historical accuracy. This event is supported by the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts Foundation. *Contains sensitive subject matter.*



Sunday, January 18

2 p.m. \$10, Available at [NorthShoreCenter.org](http://NorthShoreCenter.org) or (847) 673-6300

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts



**Slam Poetry: Are We So Different?**

Write. Speak. Create. Join an artist from **Chicago Slam Works**, a spoken word performance and teaching group, to learn about slam poetry and poets' abilities to tell moving personal stories. Participants will spend an hour and a half learning about and crafting their own slam poems, and all creations will be recorded at the end of the event.

Monday, January 19

10 a.m. for 4th and 5th grade, 1 p.m. for 6th through 8th grade

3:30 p.m. for 9th through 12th grade

Skokie Public Library

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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### 9th Annual Diverse Communities United, Realizing King's Dream Today

This event is focused on providing youth with an opportunity to celebrate **Dr. King's** vision and many of the civil rights/positive change leaders of our community and world. Youth from Skokie and Evanston's Y.O.U. services will express their interpretation of King's vision.

Monday, January 19

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Music Institute of Chicago, Evanston



### A Courageous Conversation with Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White and Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen

**Jesse White** recalls working alongside of the Reverend Martin Luther King and experiencing racism during his minor league baseball days in a conversation with **Mayor Van Dusen**. Conversation will be followed by an audience Q&A.



Monday, January 19

6 p.m.

Skokie Public Library



### Film and Discussion: *The Help*

Skeeter turns her friends' lives, and a small Mississippi town, upside down when she interviews the black women who have spent their lives taking care of prominent white families. PG-13.

Tuesday, January 20

11:30 a.m.

Morton Grove Public Library



**A Walk in My Shoes** are community events hosted by the Y.O.U. Spartans, held at our beloved local coffee shops in collaboration with **Coming Together in Skokie & Niles Township**. The purpose is to help our community members have a better understanding of each other through storytelling. Join us for community conversations about the topic of race. The goal is to create a community and understanding through positive conversations around the topics of race. Events: January 21, February 17 and March 24.



### **A Walk in My Shoes: presented by the Y.O.U. Spartans**

At the first of three events, we will be led in our conversation by guest author **Torri Stuckey**. He will discuss the impact of his book *Impoverished State of Mind, Thinking Outside of Da Block* that focuses on his life. A self-empowering book for teenagers and young adults living in urban poverty, its premise is that being impoverished is more than just socioeconomic status; it is a state of mind. Beyond the absence of money and all other necessities, this mindset is the reason why many who live in poverty struggle to rise above it. The book attempts to provide readers with knowledge and understanding of the broader world around them, which will further shape their perspective on life and result in better decision making.



Wednesday, January 21

6 p.m.

Sweetie Pies Bakery, Skokie



### **Film: *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?***

Matt and Christina Drayton are a couple whose attitudes are challenged when their daughter brings home a fiancé who is black.

Thursday, January 22

1 p.m.

Lincolnwood Public Library



### **How to Integrate a Public School**

The integration of America's public schools has been an ongoing process that didn't start (or end) with Brown vs. Board of Education. Join **Bennett Johnson**, former head of the Evanston NAACP and co-founder of the first black-owned publishing company in the U.S. (Path Press Inc.), as he shares his experience as an activist working to desegregate schools in Evanston.

Thursday, January 22

7 p.m.

Skokie Public Library

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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### ***The Long March to Montgomery by Susan Van Dusen***

Writer **Susan Van Dusen** reads excerpts of “The Long March to Montgomery,” a story about her own experiences 50 years ago as she marched for civil rights in Montgomery, Alabama.

Sunday, January 25

1:30 p.m.

Skokie Heritage Museum



### **Film: *Cesar Chavez***

The story of the famed civil rights leader and labor organizer, torn between his duties as a husband and father and his commitment to securing a living wage for farm workers.

Tuesday, January 27

11:30 a.m.

Morton Grove Public Library



### **Off the Record: Race Representations in the Media**

Acts of violence are reported in the media in differing ways, particularly in relation to the communities being reported upon. The many forms of media have radically altered our access to information.

Join media scholar **Suzanne McBride**, journalist **Mark Jacob**, media literacy advocate **Peter Adams**, and documentary producer **Pemon Rami** for a panel discussion of the ways the news media affect our understanding of race relations in contemporary society.

Thursday, January 29

7 p.m.

Skokie Public Library



### **Film: *The Hundred-Foot Journey***

The Kadam family leaves India for France, where they open a restaurant directly across the road from Madame Mallory’s Michelin-starred eatery. Rated PG.

Friday, January 30

1 p.m.

Lincolnwood Public Library



### ***Unveiled, a One-Woman Show by Rohina Malik***

Racism. Hate Crimes. Love. Islam. Culture. Language. Life. Five Muslim women in a post-9/11 world serve tea and uncover what lies beneath the veil in this compelling one-woman show by talented writer-actress **Rohina Malik**. Performance will be followed by a Q&A with the audience, as well as a book signing with Ms. Malik.

Friday, January 30

6 p.m.

Skokie Public Library





**Film and discussion: *Skokie: Invaded But Not Conquered*, followed by discussion with Buzz Alpert**

In 1977, Skokie was shaken to its core when a small group of neo-Nazis tried to march there. This attracted national and international attention, leading to landmark legal cases. It set the stage for a clear-cut conflict between the organization's First Amendment rights and Skokie residents' right to live free of intimidation. The film, produced by the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, made extensive use of archival footage and contemporary interviews to reveal how a debate over First Amendment rights inspired Holocaust survivors to create the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center.

Sunday, February 1  
2 p.m.  
Lincolnwood Public Library



**Join the Conversation: How Do We Talk About Race in Skokie?**

The Skokie Human Relations Commission is hosting a series of conversations on the topic of race. Community conversations will be facilitated by Eileen Hogan Heineman, Director of Racial Justice Programs, Evanston/North Shore YWCA.

Monday, February 2  
7 p.m.  
Weber Leisure Center, Skokie



**Film: *Men of Honor***

The courageous story of an African American sailor who dared to dream of becoming a U.S. Navy Master Diver. Rated R.

Tuesday, February 3  
11:30 a.m.  
Morton Grove Public Library



**The Cultural Construction of "Race": New Ways of Understanding a Misunderstood Concept**

By addressing historical and contemporary manifestations of "race," this presentation shows implications from relevant anthropological research that undermine the way most of us perceive the concept. By understanding the concept at this deeper level, we can more effectively engage with the social problems our society faces in the realm of race relations. Presented by **Evin Rodkey**, Anthropologist, University of Illinois at Chicago.

Tuesday, February 3  
4 p.m.  
Oakton Community College, Des Plaines Campus, Rm 1606

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### **Book Talk: RACE: Are We So Different?**

This book talk will feature books that examine the subject of racial identity and race relations in the United States. Fiction and nonfiction titles will be featured.

Wednesday, February 4

1 p.m.

American Legion Memorial Civic Center of Morton Grove



### **Book Discussion & Author Visit:**

#### ***The Supremes at Earl's All-You-Can-Eat***

Join author **Edward Kelsey Moore** as we discuss *The Supremes at Earl's All-You-Can-Eat*. Odette, Clarice, and Barbara Jean have seen their friendship endure through bullies, love affairs, and great tragedies. But can they survive a tumultuous year when they are forced to face their past mistakes? This humorous and touching book sheds light on what it was like to live through the Civil Rights era and how those struggles continue to shape communities and lives today.



Wednesday, February 4

7 p.m.

Skokie Public Library



### **Family Storytime: All About Differences**

Join us to share stories, songs, and other activities that celebrate all the ways people are different and unique.

Wednesday, February 4

7 p.m.

Skokie Public Library



### **Film: *Snow Falling on Cedars***

A Japanese-American fisherman may have killed his neighbor Carl at sea. Set in the 1950s, post-war anti-Japanese sentiments are running high, and race figures in the trial. Rated PG-13.

Thursday, February 5

10:30 a.m.

Lincolnwood Public Library



### **Presentation and Discussion: “Slavery and the Meaning of Race in American History”**

**Dr. Sherwin Bryant**, PhD, Director of the Center for African American History at Northwestern University, will discuss the history of slavery in the Americas and current events pertaining to race.

Thursday, February 5  
7 p.m.  
Morton Grove Public Library



### **My Country ‘Tis of Me**

Bring the whole family to this daylong event and celebrate what makes you special and unique! Every hour on the hour, a staff member reads the book *Of Thee I Sing* by **Barack Obama**. After listening to the story, help build our community quilt by creating a paper square about what makes you special and putting it up on our wall. The quilt will be built throughout the day and will remain on display until the end of February.

Saturday, February 7  
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Morton Grove Public Library



### **Film: *12 Years a Slave***

The harrowing account of a black man, born free in New York State, who was drugged, kidnapped, and sold into slavery in 1841. Last year’s Best Picture winner is also a poignant, tragic film to emphasize this year’s Coming Together theme of Voices of Race. Rated R.

Saturday, February 7  
2 p.m.  
Niles Public Library



### **Book Discussion: *The Supremes at Earl’s All-You-Can-Eat***

Monday, February 9  
11 a.m.  
Lincolnwood Public Library



### **Film: *Belle***

Dido Elizabeth Belle, an 18th century English woman of mixed race falls in love with an idealistic young lawyer, and together they help to end slavery in England. Rated PG.

Tuesday, February 10  
11:30 a.m.  
Morton Grove Public Library



### **Moving Targets: Lives and Legacies of Emmett Till, Trayvon Martin and Mike Brown**

Keep your hands out of your pockets. Speak in a non-aggressive tone. Announce your movements. Although many people try to sell the idea of a post-racial America, the lives of African-American males are at risk every day. Oakton Community College professor **Angelyn Anderson** will examine the history of race relations in America, why black lives matter, and how community dialogue will help address this crisis.

Wednesday, February 11

7 p.m.

Skokie Public Library



### **Film: *Bridge to the Sun***

The true story of a young woman subjected to suspicion and animosity for her marriage to a Japanese diplomat during World War II.

Thursday, February 12

1 p.m.

Lincolnwood Public Library



### **Pieces of Skokie**

Skokie is made up of many different neighborhoods, families and individuals. Use all sorts of art materials to color in your own piece of the puzzle that is Skokie, then combine your piece with others to create one massive image for our community.

Thursday, February 12

4:30 p.m.

Skokie Public Library



### **When the Nazis and Ku Klux Klan Came to Skokie**

Lessons learned: Skokie Mayor **George Van Dusen** and Illinois NAACP Director **George Mitchell** lead a panel discussing how the Village of Skokie reacted to the Nazi and Klan threatened marches. Features a clip from a new documentary, *Surviving Skokie* by former Skokian **Eric Adler**, with rare footage of the Chicago Nazi Party.

Thursday, February 12

7:30 p.m.

Skokie Village Hall



### ***The MLK Project: The Fight for Civil Rights***

*The MLK Project* is a one-woman show that follows a Chicago student's personal transformation through studying the Civil Rights movement. Alaya uses her fists as an outlet for anger, but after interviewing local heroes of the Movement, she discovers she can put "anger into action" and that her power is in her voice and her hip hop, not violence. Weaving together real interviews, poetry, hip hop, history and multi-media, the performance features stories of both celebrated and unsung Chicago-based civil rights activists. Written by **Yolanda Androzzo**.

Friday, February 13  
7 p.m.  
Skokie Public Library



### **A Walk in My Shoes: Presented by the Lincolnwood Chamber of Commerce's Women in Motion and Y.O.U.**

A reading of "The Long March" by writer **Susan Van Dusen**, a story about her own experiences 50 years ago as she marched for civil rights in Montgomery, AL. Sponsored by the Lincolnwood Chamber of Commerce, Women in Motion. Requires registration, lunch event, \$15. Register at [lincolnwoodchamber.org](http://lincolnwoodchamber.org).

Tuesday, February 17  
11:30 a.m.  
Meatheads, Lincolnwood



### **Book Discussion and Author Visit**

Join author **Edward Kelsey Moore** to discuss *The Supremes at Earl's All-You-Can-Eat*. Odette, Clarice, and Barbara Jean have seen their friendship endure through bullies, love affairs, and great tragedies.

But can they survive a tumultuous year when they are forced to face their past mistakes? This humorous and touching book sheds light on what it was like to live through the Civil Rights era and how those struggles continue to shape communities and lives today.



Wednesday, February 18  
10 a.m.  
Skokie Public Library

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### **This Is Me**

We all have stories that explain who we are and how we came to be. These stories are rooted in the place and people that defined home for us, shaping how we experience and see the world. Join “The Moth” Story Slam Grand Champion **Lily Be** for a raucous, lively evening talking about the connections between definitions, both inside and out, of who we are.

Thursday, February 19

6:30 p.m.

Skokie Public Library



### **Author Visit: Meet & Greet with Joan Steinau Lester**

A visit with **Joan Steinau Lester**, the author of *Black, White, Other: In Search of Nina Armstrong*.



Thursday, February 19

6 p.m.

Niles Township Schools' ELL Parent Center



### **Student Art Exhibit / Student Poetry Club**

Artwork by students and creative works about race will be on display at Oakton Community College's Skokie and Des Plaines campuses from February 20 through May 15.



### **Book Discussion: *The Supremes at Earl's All-You-Can-Eat***

Friday, February 20

10 a.m.

American Legion Memorial Civic Center of Morton Grove



### **Film: *Get on Up***

A chronicle of James Brown's rise from extreme poverty to become one of the most influential musicians in history. Rated PG-13.

Friday, February 20

1 p.m.

Lincolnwood Public Library



### **A Day in My Life: An Intergenerational Program**

Children are invited to bring a beloved adult—parent, grandparent, aunt or uncle, neighbor, or another caregiver—to the library to share stories from their lives. Children and caregivers will talk about what it was like to be a child at some other time compared to childhood today, and pairs will create books to capture these stories. Light refreshments will be served.

Sunday, February 22

1:30 p.m.

Skokie Public Library



### **Food for Thought**

Join us for an evening of local food and organic conversation. While breaking bread with neighbors and leaders you'll share stories, ideas, and brainstorm how we can address race and racism in our community.

Wednesday, February 25

6 p.m.

Skokie Public Library



### **Film: *Skin***

Based on the true story of a black girl who was born to two white Afrikaner parents in South Africa during the apartheid era. Rated PG-13.

Thursday, February 26

10:30 a.m.

Lincolnwood Public Library



### **An Evening of Cultural Experience at Oakton Community College**

Oakton Community College student clubs and the college community will present a free evening of creative expression, featuring poetry, music, dance, and storytelling at the Skokie campus. Refreshments served. Call (847) 376-7632 or (847) 635-1474 for more information.

Thursday, February 26

5 p.m.

Oakton Community College, Skokie Campus, P103-104

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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### **Film and Discussion: *Charlie Chan at the Opera***

Film screening and discussion of issues of race in films moderated by author and film historian **Doug Deuchler**. A dangerous amnesiac escapes from an asylum, hides in an opera house, and is suspected of getting revenge on those who tried to murder him 13 years ago.



Saturday, February 28

2 p.m.

Morton Grove Public Library



### **Pandapalooza Party! (ages 3-7)**

Party with Xander Panda and find out why no one should be left out of a party! Bring your favorite (stuffed) pal, listen to Xander's story, eat pan(da)cakes, make panda crafts and cha-cha to panda music. This special event is in honor of Coming Together in Skokie/Niles Township and World Wildlife Day!

Tuesday, March 3

1:30 p.m.

Niles Public Library



### **Make a Statement (grades 5 - 8)**

Get ready to be on your feet creating games, images, and performance pieces that make a statement about who we are! Imagination Theater leads this hands-on workshop where participants will explore complex daily issues and uncover the different points of view that define their community.

Thursday, March 5

7 p.m.

Lincolnwood Public Library



### ***Hairspray*, the Broadway musical by Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan**

In 1960s Baltimore, overweight Tracy Turnblad is looking for love and civil rights reform—but mostly, she's looking for a chance to dance on TV! Romance, infectious tunes, delightful production numbers, and of course, big hair!

Thursday, March 5 - Free Community Performance at 10 a.m.

Saturday, March 7 at 2 p.m. & 7 p.m. Call the Box Office for Tickets (847) 626-2122

Niles North High School





### **Book Talk with Editor of *Indivisible***

**Gail Bush**, editor of *Indivisible: Poems for Social Justice*, will speak to students.

Thursday, March 5  
10:30 a.m.  
Niles North High School



### **Join the Conversation: How Do We Talk About Race in Skokie?**

The Skokie Human Relations Commission is hosting a series of conversations on the topic of race. Community conversations will be facilitated by **Eileen Hogan Heineman**, Director of Racial Justice Programs, Evanston/North Shore YWCA.

Monday, March 9  
7 p.m.  
Devonshire Cultural Center



### **Book Discussion: *The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream***

Three young men made a promise that they would all become doctors and stick it out through the long, difficult journey. Today, Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt are still friends—and doctors.

Thursday, March 12  
11:30 a.m.  
Oakton Community College, Skokie Campus, Room A 145



### **A Walk in My Shoes, presented by the Y.O.U. Spartans**

Support our youth in an open mic forum of storytelling and shared experiences. Join us at Super Cup Coffee Shop and enjoy a cup and sweet treat, while building a positive community.

Tuesday, March 24  
6 p.m.  
Super Cup Coffee Shop, Morton Grove



### **What Are You Going to Do About Racism?**

A discussion led by the past **Coming Together in Skokie & Niles Township** participants—Indian, Filipino, Assyrian, Greek and Korean communities.

Tuesday, March 31  
7 p.m.  
Holiday Inn Chicago North Shore, Skokie



### **Race: The Power of an Illusion - Film Series & Discussion**

A 3 part film series and discussion of the documentary series *Race: The Power of an Illusion*. This film series, sponsored by the Anti-Racism Team of Oakton Community College, will explore questions related to the legitimacy of race as a biological concept, the historical, socio-political, as well as the economic impact of race in the U.S.

*The Difference Between Us*, Part 1 of 3 part film series.

Thursday, March 26

6:30 p.m.

Oakton Community College, Skokie Campus, A145-152

*The Story We Tell*, Part 2 of 3 part film series

Thursday, April 2

6:30 p.m.

Oakton Community College, Skokie Campus, A145-152

*The House We Live In*, Part 3 of 3 part film series

Thursday, April 9

6:30 p.m.

Oakton Community College, Skokie Campus, Room A145-152



### **Poetry Scavenger Hunt**

Selections from *Indivisible: Poems for Social Justice* will be posted around the Niles Public Library for patrons to discover. Find them all for a small prize. Visit any Adult or Teen service desk to get started. Pick your favorite to take home, in a convenient pocket-size. Niles Public Library-Kidspace will also be hosting a poetry scavenger hunt with a special twist in honor of Coming Together.

April 1 - 30

Niles Public Library



### **Hidden Memory: An American Story**

Morton Grove resident **Anne Shimojima** shares the experiences of her family in an incarceration camp during World War II.

Saturday, April 11

2 p.m.

Morton Grove Public Library



### **Stand Against Racism**

Stand Against Racism™ is a movement of the YWCA that aims to eliminate racism by raising awareness through its annual event. On April 24, individuals and groups will participate in a public stand throughout Evanston and Niles Township. For more information, **visit [comingtogether.in](http://comingtogether.in)**.

Friday, April 24

Noon

Locations throughout Evanston & Niles Township



### **Luck of the Irish**

Welcome to a suburban backyard in a neighborhood that has struggled with welcoming various races and ethnicities through the decades. The action of this play toggles back and forth through the generations from the 1950s to the 21st century, revealing a riveting tale and a unique peek into human behavior.

Saturday, May 2, 8 p.m.

Sunday, May 3, 2 p.m.

Oakton Community College, Des Plaines campus

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## SUGGESTED READINGS

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Suggestions for additional reading. Check your local library for available copies.

### **Fiction**

*Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie  
*Queen Sugar* by Natalie Baszile  
*Before You Suffocate Your Own Fool Self* by Danielle Evans  
*Like Trees, Walking* by Ravi Howard  
*The Secret Of Magic* by Deborah Johnson  
*Pym* by Mat Johnson  
*The Twelve Tribes Of Hattie* by Ayana Mathis  
*Wench* by Dolan Perkins-Valdez  
*Mixed : An Anthology Of Short Fiction On The Multiracial Experience*  
Edited by Chandra Prasad  
*Southland* by Nina Revoyr  
*You Are Free: Stories* by Danzy Senna  
*The Taste Of Salt* by Martha Southgate  
*White Teeth* by Zadie Smith  
*What We've Lost Is Nothing* by Rachel Louise Snyder  
*Saint Monkey* by Jacinda Townsend  
*Sag Harbor* by Colson Whitehead

### **Nonfiction**

*Blindspot: Hidden Biases Of Good People* by Mahzarin R. Banaji  
and Anthony G. Greenwald  
*The Pact: Three Young Men Make A Promise And Fulfill A Dream*  
by Samson Davis, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt  
*RACE: Are We So Different?* by Alan H. Goodman, Yolanda T. Moses,  
Joseph L. Jones  
*The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates* by Wes Moore  
*Everyday Antiracism: Getting Real About Race In School* Edited by Mica Pollock  
*Searching For Zion* by Emily Raboteau  
*Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, And Big Business Re-Create Race In The*  
*Twenty-First Century* by Dorothy Roberts  
*Whistling Vivaldi : And Other Clues To How Stereotypes Affect Us*  
by Claude M. Steele  
“Why Are All The Black Kids Sitting Together In The Cafeteria?”: And Other  
*Conversations About Race* by Beverly Daniel Tatum

### **Youth**

*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie  
*Call Me By My Name* by John Ed Bradley  
*Bird* by Crystal Chan  
*The Mighty Miss Malone* by Christopher Paul Curtis  
*Ball Don't Lie* by Matt de la Peña  
*My Basmati Bat Mitzvah* by Paula J. Freedman  
*The Thing About Luck* by Cynthia Kadohata  
*Jump into the Sky* by Shelley Pearsall  
*Cassie's Word Quilt* by Faith Ringgold

*Imprisoned: The Betrayal of Japanese Americans During World War II*

by Martin W. Sandler

*Lies We Tell Ourselves* by Robin Talley

*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor

*One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia

*The Garden of My Imaan* by Farhana Zia

***For younger children***

*One Green Apple* by Eve Bunting

*The Story of Ruby Bridges* by Robert Coles

*Snow in Jerusalem* by Deborah da Costa

*Chocolate Me!* by Taye Diggs

*Whoever You Are* by Mem Fox

*The Colors of Us* by Karen Katz

*Dancing in the Wings* by Kadir Nelson

*I Have a Dream* by Kadir Nelson

*It's Okay to Be Different* by Todd Parr

*My Mother's Sari* by Sandhya Rao

*Shades of People* by Shelley Rotner and Sheila M. Kelly

*The Skin You Live In* by Michael Tyler

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Affinity  
Assyrian Community  
Evanston/North Shore, NAACP  
Evanston/North Shore YWCA  
Filipino Community  
Golf School District 67  
Greek Community  
Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center  
Indian Community of Niles Township  
Insight Church  
Korean Community  
Lincolnwood Chamber of Commerce  
Lincolnwood Public Library  
Morton Grove Community Relations Commission  
Morton Grove Public Library  
Morton Grove School District 70  
New Trier High School District 203  
Niles Elementary School District 71  
Niles Public Library  
Niles Township High School District 219  
Niles Township Schools' ELL Parent Center  
North Shore Center for the Performing Arts  
Northwestern University  
Shorefront  
Skokie Business Community  
Skokie Human Relations Commission  
Skokie Park District  
Skokie Public Library  
Oakton Community College  
Skokie School District 68  
Skokie School District 69  
Skokie School District 73  
Skokie School District 73.5  
Village of Skokie  
Youth Organizations Umbrella, Inc. (Y.O.U.)

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## HISTORY OF COMING TOGETHER IN SKOKIE

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Coming Together in Skokie began in 2010 as a program to interact with different cultures in the community by building knowledge, awareness, and appreciation of the diverse residents in the community.



2010: Culture: Indian

Book: • *Motherland* by Vineeta Vijayaraghavan

2011: Culture: Filipino

Books: • *When the Rainbow Goddess Wept* by Cecilia Manguerra Brainard  
• *Growing up Filipino: Stories for Young Adults* Collected and Edited by Cecilia Manguerra Brainard  
• *Willie Wins* by Almira Astudillo Gilles  
• *Lakas and the Manilatown Fish: Si Lakas at ang Isdang Manilatown* by Anthony D. Robles  
• *Tall Story* by Candy Gourlay

2012: Culture: Assyrian

Books: • *Gilgamesh: A New Rendering in English Verse* by David Ferry  
• *Home Is Beyond the Mountains* by Celia Barker Lottridge  
• *Children of War: Voices of Iraqi Refugees* by Deborah Ellis  
• *Sahra=Moon*, Written and Illustrated by Romil and Victor Benyamino

2013: Culture: Greek

Books: • *The Green Shore* by Natalie Bakopoulos  
• *War Games* by Audrey Couloubis and Akila Couloubis  
• *Marianthe's Story: Painted Words and Spoken Memories* by Alik

2014: Culture: Korean

Books: • *Everything Asian* by Sung J. Woo  
• *Kimchi & Calamari* by Rose Kent  
• *Rabbit and the Dragon King: Based on a Korean Folk Tale* by Daniel San Souci and Eujin Kim Neilan



We are pleased to offer this program in conjunction with the  
RACE: Are We So Different? Exhibition, co-presented by the  
YWCA Evanston/North Shore and the  
Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center.