

From the Editor

By Linda Benson



As I dip into *MultiCultural Reivew* for my brief tenure as Interim Editor, I am struck by its worthiness among other review sources for busy librarians and educators, with timely and on-point material under the leadership of former editor Lyn Miller-Lachman. She leaves a legacy of recognizing alternative presses, producing reliable resource for reviews of diversity-oriented books and media, and for spot-on feature articles highlighting areas of concern and celebration in a multiethnic community.

Readers will find words of hope and a determination to examine commonalities in order to understand diversity in David Nurenburg's article on the exchange of American and Turkmen students of high school age. His "obsessive persistence" and commitment to his ideals paid off. The young adults learned that no matter how many miles or ideals or politics or economics separate them from their American counterparts, teens are the same. They come of age, love their families, seek meaning, endure life's bumps and bruises, and emerge from the process pretty much the same whether in Concord, Massachusetts, or Balkanabat, Turkmenistan. His piece will leave readers with hope, tasting success's sweet honey on their tongues, inspiring them to institute similar programs across the nation.

Hani Morgan's article on Arab students in American schools exposes the discrimination they have endured post-September 11. With stereotypes supported by dated curricular materials and by much literature for youth, it is no wonder that Arab Americans are daily faced with misunderstanding and bias. Educators and librarians must ensure that what is offered in media centers and classrooms accurately and effectively portrays Arabs to eliminate misconceptions and misinformation. Morgan provides a list of ten guidelines for selecting books on Arabs for children to avoid the misinformation and skewed viewpoints that are promulgated by the media and bad books.

Readers will be taken to the Sundance 2010 Festival in Christine McDonald's annual wrap up. McDonald notes that the Native and Indigenous Program produced several pieces that caught her attention and that of the festival organizers. Bird Runningwater, Associate Director of that program, points out the natural connection between Native peoples' storytelling and film, an intersection of expression that produced new and exciting work.

Jean F. Andrews and Lynne Lokensgard write about their carefully produced exhibit of Deaf art at the Dishman Art Museum at the Texas School for the Deaf, Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas. Although the images portrayed in her article are unfortunately in black and white, the work is rich with color and meaning. The exhibit fulfilled their intent to produce "not merely a university event but instead a symbol-filled, provocative, and contemporary window into the Deaf experience." Their effort helped to instill awareness, understanding, and appreciation about Deaf art while acknowledging the visual, stylistic, and formal elements.

The EMIE Bulletin continues Hayley Elece McEwing's examination of picturebooks as a way of expanding perception. Here she considers how picturebooks can be used to explore the concept of humanity as a whole—the idea of unity and the expression of commonalities. Readers will also find a call to attend the Annual Meeting of the American Library Association (ALA) in January 2011, where they will find many opportunities to engage in educational programs associated with the Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Roundtable of ALA.

Parting Words offers the advice of author Daniel A. Olivas, whose work expands his familiar world of Los Angeles and his portrayals of Chicano or Mexican characters to attempt an authentic representation of the Holocaust experience. It is his firm belief that through literature, we will learn to never repeat the sins of our past.

My work here is but a bridge to new leadership for MCR. The search for a full-time editor goes on. It is my fervent desire that someone equally qualified as Ms. Miller-Lachman will be found to fill her amazing shoes.—LB

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