



MILWAUKEE ETHNIC NEWS

PUBLISHED BY URBAN ANTHROPOLOGY INC.

MARCH/APRIL 2014

A gathering for racial repair & reconciliation

About Milwaukee Ethnic News

Milwaukee Ethnic News is published bimonthly by Urban Anthropology Inc. and is managed by volunteer anthropologists. The purpose of the newsletter is to offer ethnic organizations and individuals opportunities to share news and information about their cultures. The newsletter does not receive funds from any external source.



Series to dramatize cultural history



(Continued on Page 2)

Celebration of late Dr. Cameron's 100th birthday brings out the community

Hundreds of residents from Milwaukee and beyond turned out on Sunday, February 23, 2014 to honor Dr. James Cameron, founder of America's Black Holocaust Museum (ABHM), and to discuss ways that Milwaukee can repair its racial divide.

Topics

Reggie Jackson, president of ABHM, discussed the ways that the museum has re-

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Racial repair conference

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emerged as a virtual museum since the original museum on North Avenue closed in 2008. Professor Robert Smith shared his insight on how various eras of the black freedom movement helped to shape Dr. Cameron's intellectual leanings. And genealogy practitioners, Sharon Morgan (African American female) and Tom DeWolf (European American male) gave an intriguing testimonial on a geographic and emotional journey they took to investigate their families' history in American slavery. They also introduced the audience to the fascinating new science of epigenetics.

Want to know more about epigenetics?

Read "Epigenetics and Inheritance" on page 4

Participants at the conference were assigned seats randomly and engaged in group discussions about race relations. They were asked to draw pictures of what racial reconciliation would look like in Milwaukee, and how this might come to pass.

Sponsors

The lead collaborators in the racial conference were American's Black Holocaust Museum, UW-M's Cultures and Communities Program, and Milwaukee Public Libraries. Among the co-sponsors were Alverno College, Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare, MICAH, Milwaukee Urban League, and NAACP's Young Adult Committee—Milwaukee Branch. Wisconsin Humanities Council funded the project.

Theatre series on culture

(Continued from Page 1)

Following two successful plays on ethnic history in Milwaukee, Urban Anthropology Inc. has decided to make the project an annual one.

Plays based on UrbAn's research

Since its founding in 1998, Urban Anthropology (UrbAn) has conducted research on Milwaukee's ethnic groups and historic neighborhoods. This research has resulted in 15 documentaries, 11 journal articles, and two books, *Milwaukee's Old South Side* by Jill Florence Lackey and Rick Petrie, and *American Ethnic Practices in the Twenty-first Century: The Milwaukee Study* by Jill Florence Lackey.

The research has given UrbAn a wealth of information on Milwaukee culture—some information that has not been accessible anywhere else.

First plays

UrbAn's first two plays were performed at the Basilica of St. Josaphat. The first, *The March to Kosciuszko*, gave a fictionalized account of Polish and African American families facing potential confrontation during the fair housing marches. The second, *The Follow Up*, dealt with the ethnic communities that were razed during the eras of freeway building and urban renewal.

Initially, Urban Anthropology Inc. only planned to produce two plays. It was the oral and written responses from audience members that convinced UrbAn that this might be a good genre for disseminating information collected from the organization's local research. One audience member sent the following email:

This is the second play I've seen produced by you. Both times I learned stuff I never knew before. And both times I had to go to the Internet when I got home to try and learn more. Please do this again.



Cast of *The March to Kosciuszko*

Future efforts

The next play, scheduled for February, 2015, is called *The Squirrel Lady Statue and Other South Side Mysteries*. It deals with the theft of the Belle Austin Jacobs statue in Kosciuszko Park and the south side mystery man, Tata Rybe. Future play topics include the Kashubes of Jones Island and the early Irish in the Third Ward.

New publisher focuses on ethnic Milwaukee

Presents opportunities for local writers



Milwaukee Ethnic Collection of Arts and Humanities (MECAH Publishing) recently opened in Milwaukee. Its goals are to:

- Interest readers in the cultural diversity of Milwaukee and its surrounding communities.
- Produce products that fit one or more of these arts and humanities: history, anthropology/archaeology, folk art, art history, museums, literature (including poetry and fiction), language, architecture, and religion.
- Target the products to lay audiences of all ages (e.g., non academic).

Products that relate to urban centers of southeast Wisconsin and highlight cultural diversity will be considered, and can include any of the following:

- Nonfiction books (e.g., small museums in southeastern Wisconsin, the history of Pentecostal churches in Milwaukee).
- Fiction books (e.g., a mystery set in Milwaukee, a book for young people with a local immigration theme).
- Documentaries (e.g., the Irish of southeastern Wisconsin; a reproduction of a play with a Milwaukee theme).

MECAH Publishing

Milwaukee Ethnic Collection of Arts and Humanities

MECAHMilwaukee.com

Children in Culture soon to be released

Book will tell stories of Milwaukee ethnic children of various eras



A work written for children and about children will soon be released by MECAH Publishing.

Children in Culture is a fully-illustrated book written for students grades 4 through 8. The stories describe life in various cultural groups during salient periods of history in Southeastern Wisconsin. A study guide is available, as the stories teach students about ethnicity in general and ethnic groups in particular. Stories include:

- Life in Great Lakes prehistory
- Current Hmong culture
- A Polish/Mexican exchange in the 1970s
- African American/Jewish life in Bronzeville in the 1940s
- Growing up German
- Urban Indian playtime (Oneida)

To preorder this volume, contact Jackie Freeman at infoMECAHMilwaukee@Gmail.com

Epigenetics may explain why African Americans continue to experience pain over enslaved pasts, why descendants of holocaust survivors still feel the anguish, or how traumatic oral traditions are "remembered" by indigenous people.

Epigenetics and inheritance

(Article below reprinted from Learn.genetics, the Genetics Science Learning Center)

We used to think that a new embryo's epigenome was completely erased and rebuilt from scratch. But this isn't completely true. Some epigenetic tags remain in place as genetic information passes from generation to generation, a process called epigenetic inheritance.

Epigenetic inheritance is an unconventional finding. It goes against the idea that inheritance happens only through the DNA code that passes from parent to offspring. It means that a parent's experiences, in the form of epigenetic tags, can be passed down to future generations.

As unconventional as it may be, there is little doubt that epigenetic inheritance is real. In fact, it explains some strange patterns of inheritance geneticists have been puzzling over for decades.



Overcoming the reprogramming barrier

Most complex organisms develop from specialized reproductive cells (eggs and sperm in animals). Two reproductive cells meet, then they grow and divide to form every type of cell in the adult organism. In order for this process to occur, the epigenome must be erased through a process called "reprogramming."

Reprogramming is important because eggs and sperm develop from specialized cells with stable gene expression profiles. In other words, their genetic information is marked with epigenetic tags. Be-

fore the new organism can grow into a healthy embryo, the epigenetic tags must be erased.

At certain times during development (the timing varies among species), specialized cellular machinery scours the genome and erases its epigenetic tags in order to return the cells to a genetic "blank slate." Yet, for a small minority of genes, epigenetic tags make it through this process and pass unchanged from parent to offspring.

An international hike

Twenty-one ILC students took part in a Winter Wonder Hike at Neighborhood House Center in Dodge, Wisconsin. Many experienced their first real winter in the US.



White sand?

One student was curious about the snow: "We don't have snow in our country, but sand!" Finding animal tracks and sledding and hiking in the snow made for a full day. This was followed by time to share lunch and warm cold toes near a roaring fire.

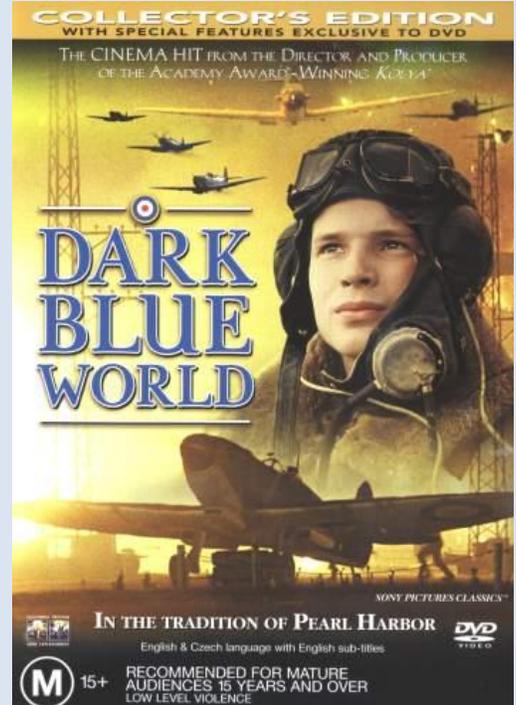
ADVERTISEMENT

Tour the Old South Side Settlement Museum



Learn about the families and ethnic groups that settled this neighborhood by touring an historic house and its settlement rooms.

To reserve a group tour, call (414) 271-9417. The museum is located at 707 W. Lincoln Avenue.



**FREE FILM PRESENTED BY
MILWAUKEE SOKOL
SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 1:30PM
NORWAY HOUSE
7507 W. Oklahoma Ave**

During World War II, 2,422 Czech and Slovak pilots served in the RAF. This drama portrays two Czech pilots set against the backdrop of the Battle of Britain. Directed by Jan Sverak with screenplay by Zdenek Sverak—the same father/son team that produced the Oscar winning *Kolya*.

The film is 1 hour and 52 minutes, in English with Czech subtitles. Rated R.

Invitation to join

The KRAKOW POLISH DANCERS of MILWAUKEE COUNTY invite guys and gals age 9 and up to join our award winning company. We rehearse weekly on Wednesday evenings from 6:45-8:30pm on the Southside of Milwaukee. Contact for more information: Annette M. Kuliowski at 414-521-5750.

Winter/spring events by ...

af Alliance Française de Milwaukee

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**Our spring session runs the week of March 30 through
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\$150 members
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before March 21st!



New class for 1 - 4 year olds!

Because they are so popular, we have expanded our Les Tout-Petits Amis class options! This amazing class is a chance for toddlers and young children to hear, learn, sing, and play *en français*. Provide your little one with exposure to the French language, tapping his or her natural curiosity and stimulating intellectual, motor and social skills. Seats are limited to 8 children per class, so **enroll** today!

40A--Mondays, 9:45-10:30
40B--Mondays, 10:45-11:30
40C--(new time!) Thursdays, 4:30-5:15



A new touring exhibit, ***JEWS WHO ROCK: 60 Years of Rock-N-Roll***, will open on Sunday, April 27, 2014 at the Jewish Museum Milwaukee, 1360 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee. The exhibit will be on view through August 10, 2014. Gallery hours are Monday-Thurs 10am-4pm, Friday 10am-2pm, and Sunday 12pm-4pm.

To plan your visit and view special events visit www.jewishmuseummilwaukee.org

How many personalities throughout popular music history are of Jewish heritage or strongly influenced by those who are? The answer is, almost too many to count.

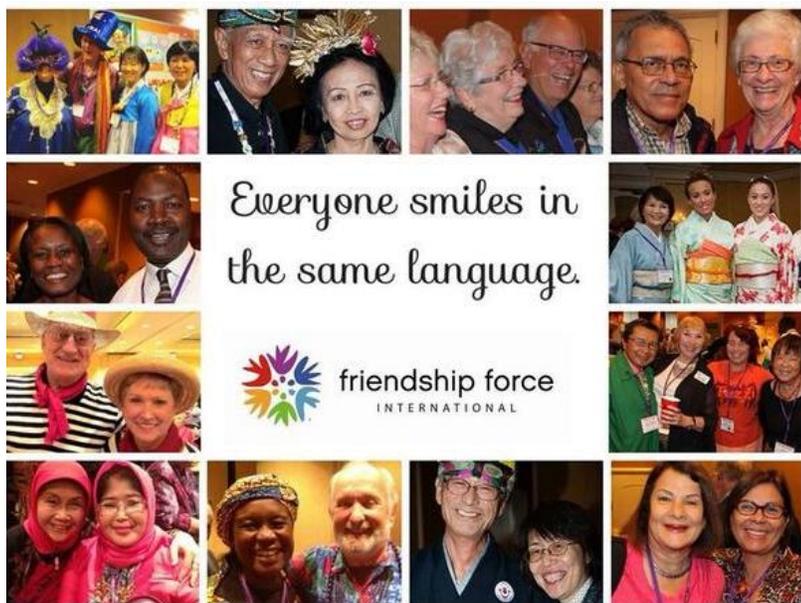
Storytelling and songwriting is a musical tradition that has always been strong amongst Jewish musicians. America's popular music history was practically written by the Jews, beginning with Irving Berlin and continuing with George S. Kaufman, George Gershwin and hundreds of others.

Most of us, when asked to name them, usually respond with the bigger-than-life entertainers such as Bob Dylan, Billy Joel, Gene Simmons and Bette Midler. But, more surprising, is the diversity and range of musical styles expressed within the genres of rock and pop by Jewish musicians.

JEWS WHO ROCK: 60 Years of Rock-N-Roll examines the Jewish influences in rock and roll and popular music through photographs, artifacts and biographical panels that represent a sampling of the countless singers, songwriters, musicians, concert promoters and record company executives influential both in front and behind the scenes through today's up and coming musicians such as hip-hop artist Drake and singer/songwriter Pink.

The 2013 Friendship Force World Conference

The 2013 World Conference in New Orleans, USA, was the largest Friendship Force gathering in history, with over 700 people in attendance, representing 33 countries



The conference opened with a new video to welcome everyone to a weekend of learning, sharing, and friendship in the “Big Easy.” James Morikawa of FF Hiroshima, on behalf of last year’s conference committee, handed over the official FFI Conference Cup to FF Baton Rouge, our wonderful hosts.

CEO address

President and CEO of Friendship Force International Joy DiBenedetto greeted all and made her first public address to the members. She emphasized the significance of the Friendship Force stories that each has to tell, and how spreading those stories using traditional and social media can draw people in to the mission, helping to build a bright Friendship Force future.

Cultural presentations and workshops

FF Baton Rouge pulled everyone right into the local culture with a powerful performance by the group Heritage, which sings the African American spirituals that have been sung in this region for over a century. Other cultural opportunities during the conference included New Orleans-style cooking classes and a Cajun dance workshop.

Almost 30 workshop sessions were offered about FFI’s global goals and the innovative strategies taking shape in other clubs around

the world. Topics including club growth, engaging the next generation, “dinner party diplomacy,” social media and storytelling/photography were especially popular.

Sunday night’s gala banquet was a true Mardi Gras-style celebration, complete with gumbo and other savory dishes, a live jazz band, costumed performers, dancing, lots of laughs and even a parade King and Queen. Afterward, the band led all on a parade through the French Quarter. Everyone had a great time dancing with the music and tossing beads to the spectators who stopped to watch.

On Monday morning, the Baton Rouge club had arranged a musical presentation by two renowned jazz musicians, Don Vappie and Ed Peterse. They played songs that demonstrated the historic connections between jazz and Creole folk music.

Excellence in Volunteerism and Leadership

At each World Conference, FFI recognizes two clubs and two volunteers for achieving excellence in such areas as exchange programs, public relations, service and specific achievements. The 2013 Outstanding Volunteers were Bobbie Mulholland of FF Adelaide, Australia, and Peter Peiffer of FF Central North Carolina, USA.

The 2013 Outstanding Clubs were FF Sunshine Coast, Australia, and (jointly) the Friendship Force clubs of Omaha, Lincoln, KS and OK, who collaborated on a four-part global exchange. FFI also presented three additional awards.

In the category of “explore,” the award was given to Dave and Pat Meyer of FF No. IL; in the category of “understand,” the award went to Bob Langford of FF Dallas; and in the category of “serve,” the award went to Yasushi Kinugasa of FF Koriyama and Tom and Jean Ledwidge of FF Sunshine Coast.

Looking to next year’s conference

Former Board Chair Alan Milne invited all to the next world conference in Auckland, New Zealand, before Ann Errington officially closed the 2013 conference by leading the singing of “Let There Be Peace on Earth.”

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Subscriptions

The newsletter is emailed to anyone wishing to receive it. People subscribing themselves and their friends went from 48 in June, 2012 to over 1,000 today. If you wish your email or that of a friend to be added to the subscriber list, send the email addresses to JFLanthropologist@sbcglobal.net.

Submitting stories

Milwaukee Ethnic News is interested in stories from individuals, businesses, and organizations that have an ethnic appeal. These can be stories about an immigrant family, special ethnic events, or ethnic issues that need to be aired as guest editorials. Stories that show interethnic cooperation are most welcome.

Stories must be between 100 and 400 words. Some editing will be done to match our style guidelines and spatial constraints. We will write the stories for you if you simply send us a list of the information that you want included. A photo of less than 2 MBs is always required for a story to be published. Please do not refer us to websites to collect information or photos. If we write your story from the general information you send, we do not send proofs for approval.

Stories are always due on the 25th of the month preceding a publication month. At times later submissions may be allowed (ask first). Publication months are July, September, November, January, March, and May. Please send your stories to JFLanthropologist@sbcglobal.net.

Editorials

Milwaukee Ethnic News occasionally prints editorials that deal with controversial topics on ethnic topics. Guest editorials are also welcome, but need prior approval to be published.



707 W. Lincoln Ave. Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53215, (414) 271-9417
Email RickPetrie@gmail.com

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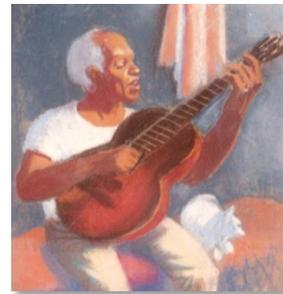
ETHNIC DOCUMENTARIES FROM URBAN ANTHROPOLOGY INC.

The Kashubes of Jones Island: The People That Nobody Knew

Story of a fishing community that once thrived in the middle of an urban center, and then disappeared.

Urban Indians and the Culture of Collective Action

The cultural practices and local contributions of North American Indians in Milwaukee.



African Americans and the Cul- ture of Con- tribution

The fall of Bronzeville and contributions of African Americans in Milwaukee.

The Amazing Adaptation of the Urban Hmong

When thousands of Hmong came to the United States, they made an incredible adaptation to a complex society, while keeping their own cultural practices alive.

The Varieties of Latino Ex- perience

This documentary focuses on the diversity (as well as similarities) among various Latino groups in Milwaukee.



The Cultural Roots of Milwaukee's Socialist Movement

How German cultural practices helped solidify the Socialist Movement in Milwaukee.

DVDs are \$25.00 each. All are based on studies done by cultural anthropologists. To order go to www.urban-anthropology.org/Paypalorders.html