



Take AAME

Newsletter of the Alberta Association for Multicultural

Winter 2015

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Message from President

**Message from the Co-Presidents
(Pamela Dos Ramos and Linda McKay-Panos)**

This year we elected two presidents. Events across the world and Alberta's role in assisting people who are affected by these events have stimulated us to work even harder at AAME's mission. Our board of directors is a volunteer working board. Our board members contribute greatly to the success of AAME. Our sole source of funding is working at Casinos and there have been several members and friends of AAME who help us work at these. We have a casino coming in May 2016. Thank you so much for your past and future support. We have been able to partner with several groups to support our multicultural education and anti-racism work. Below is a list of some of the endeavours we have supported in the past few months. We welcome new members and new board members who would like to get involved. Please visit our website at aamed.com for more information about us!



List of projects AAME supported in 2015

- Cheryl Mahaffey: Words in Three Dimension
- Inter-science Association Multicultural Environmental Camp
- Overture with the Arts: Black History Month Presentations in Alberta High Schools
- Multicultural Event held by New West Cricket Club
- Alberta Libraries for purchase of Multicultural Resources
- Calgary Bridge Foundation
- Movies that Matter "Little White Lie"



DIVERSITY REIGNS AT THE TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

by Nicholas Spillios

The Toronto Film Festival is a great place to preview a number of multicultural releases planned for the year. This year's range covered a number of key areas impacting on multiculturalism including global warming, Auschwitz, Malala, Iranian prejudice, how intolerance sometimes impedes scientific advancements, the Stonewall riots which spearheaded the LGBT movement and the experiences of Canadian troops in Afghanistan. Yes, it is an impressive list.

Son of Saul

In Auschwitz at the end of the second world war, Jewish - Hungarian Saul works as a member of the camp's unit which leads people into the gas chambers. On one occasion he retrieves from the chamber a young boy's body who is his son. He is determined to give him a proper burial as he searches for a rabbi in the camp. In the meantime, the Jews rise up and destroy the crematorium. Grand Prix at Cannes Film Festival.

Remember

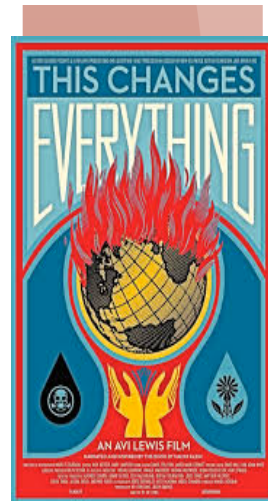
Christopher Plummer is Zev, a Jew who calls his wife's name when he awakes only to be reminded that he is suffering from memory loss. He really is bordering on dementia. His friend with whom he shared torture at a Nazi concentration camp and with whom he has become close to in the nursing home where they both live jots down instructions for him to follow. His task will be to find the Nazi officer who tortured them both at the camp where Jews were interred, tortured and killed in Germany during the war. He finds the officer but the result is not what he expected.

This Changes Everything

Naomi Klein narrates some of the highlights from her controversial best seller on global warming. A polemic against international capitalism, sequences in Alberta, Greece, India and Montana serve in placing the onus on us. Yes, the argument is one-sided but it does raise issues of high importance. People in the seven communities documented are shown as caring, responsive, and action directed. They illustrate that people do care and are not reticent in confronting big business to express their views. A must see for all including environment buffs.

He Named Me Malala

A documentary on the amazing girl who stood up against the Taliban. Interviews with Malala and her family bring her story vividly to life. The close relationship Malala had with her father who motivated her in acting as an activist for all female education is vividly portrayed. We learn more about Malala than her book revealed. It was her father who named her Malala gave her her name after a Pashtan heroine. Shot over 18 months, Malala in Birmingham must deal with her role as an activist encouraged by her father and finally receiving the Nobel Peace Prize.



Septembers of Shiraz

Focusses on the intolerance and prejudice which existed at the time of the Iranian Revolution. A Jewish jeweller is accused of being a spy for Israel but it is his affluent position and background which are being tried and he is arrested. While he is tortured and experiences unbelievable torment in captivity, his family plots his escape to Israel.

The Man Who Knew Infinity

A look back to high science and the repercussions of racism on the young Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan's whose ideas on the number theory and continued fractions revolutionized science at the turn of the century and later. Leaving India for Cambridge University in England, he is prevented from advancing his theories due to prejudice by staff and students in spite of the efforts of his mentor W.H. Hardy (Jeremy Irons) who carried on his work after his death.

Hyena Road

A Canadian film which focusses on the heroic efforts of Canadian troupes in Afghanistan. An American initiative is joined by the Canadians in increasing safe transport across the war-ravaged country.

Stonewall

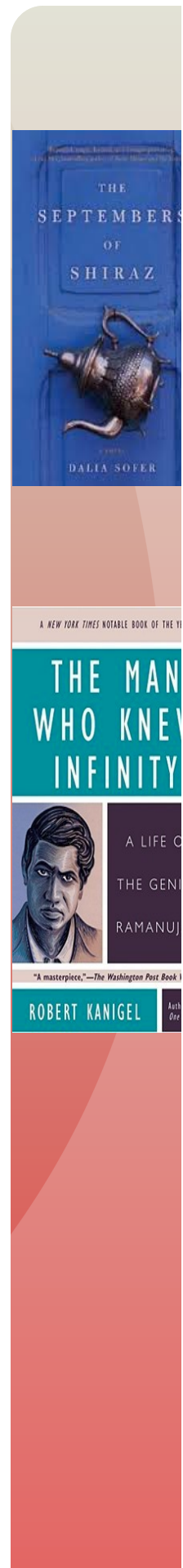
Takes us back to 1969's Stonewall's riots in New York which at the time was a centre of intolerance, prejudice, and violence. It was also the beginning of struggles by the gay community to establish LGBTQ rights and spearheaded the movement.

The White Knights

An expose on adoption - agency workers in war-torn Chad masquerade as NGO's called Move For Kids attempt to transport children back to French families rather than to a safe compound.

Where To Invade Next

Over the past few years, the U.S. has invaded several countries with drastic consequences. Michael Moore has made his reputation in provoking the government and people in authority. Here he visits several countries and discovers that ideas that the U.S. originated and failed to successfully implement have been picked up by other countries with great success.



WORDS IN 3 DIMENSIONS

WRITE / EDIT / PUBLISH

MAY 22-24
2015

AAME supports multicultural writers attending writing conference

By Cheryl Mahaffy

President, Get Publishing Communications Society

After a decade spent cycling around the world, Peter and Shahla Nygaard are devoting their time to writing a book about their daring journey. Peter Nygaard is a member of the Cree nation and Shahla holds Pakistani as well as British and Canadian citizenship. Being neophytes in the ways of getting published, they were eager to attend the May 2015 Words in 3 Dimensions conference in Edmonton to begin learning from professionals in the field. But with no income at the time, they couldn't afford the registration fee. Thanks to a \$500 donation from AAME, they and several other multicultural writers had all or most of their fees paid by the conference bursary fund.

"We are extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to meet people in the industry and ask the questions that we really needed answered," writes Shahla Nygaard in a reflection on the couple's conference experience. "We learned exactly what we need to do in order to get published, how to go about it and what to expect. Without the bursary, we would not have been able to attend and would still be totally ignorant."

The generous donation from AAME also helped make attendance affordable for wordsmiths of Filipino, Cree and Black heritage. Each carried home fresh ideas and new connections to propel the often solitary work of working with words.

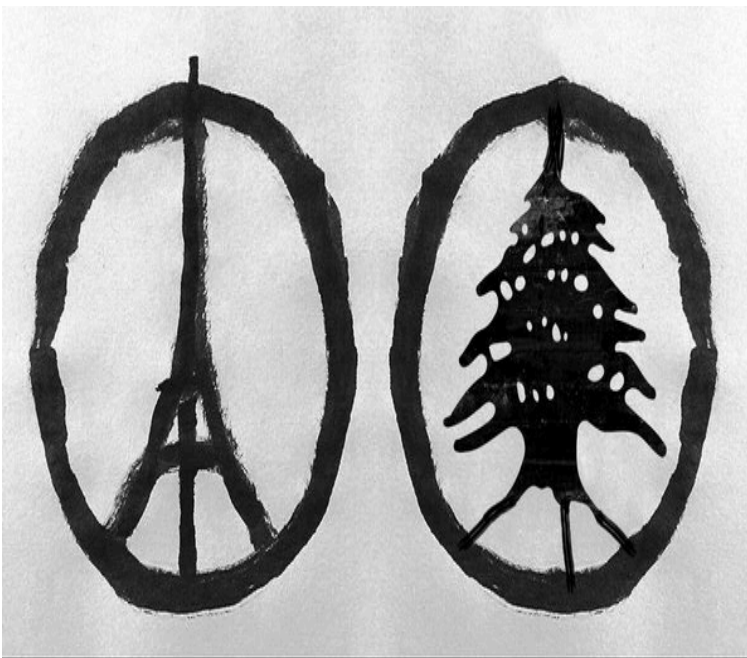
In all, the bursary fund received more than \$5,000 in donations ranging from \$25 to \$2,000. As a result, the bursary was able to support 29 writers and editors who otherwise would not have been able to attend Words in 3 Dimensions. The conference was co-hosted by the Get Publishing Communications Society, the Writers' Guild of Alberta and the Editors' Association of Canada.



2016 Multifaith Calendar: Gratitude



AAME is the southern Alberta distributor of the Multifaith Calendar. The calendar is the leading source of complete and accurate dates, times, and descriptions for 370 events (including over 180 religious and cultural occasions). Information from fourteen World Religions and faith groups is collected and updated annually. We are excited about the rich diversity of images throughout the Calendar, published in a full size (13" x 10") and colour format. To order please **phone or email us**. Proceeds used to help fund the initiatives of AAME.



Terrorism Worldwide

In the wake of violence in Paris, Lebanon, Mali, and Syria, it is more important than ever to engage in ongoing dialogue, education, and training in the areas of multiculturalism and anti-racism. By standing together and seeing diversity as our strength, we will continue to be a vibrant community of all peoples'

As a province and people we strive for a more inclusive society that respects and embraces diversity for the present and all future generations.

Contact: acirc@ucalgary.ca Website: www.aamed.org Phone: (403) 220-2505
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2016 Multifaith Calendar Order Form



'Imagine' by: Sravya Kakumanu (Calgary, AB)

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- Please email, mail or fax a copy of this order form
- Fill in blue area on form
- Calendars are shipped via Canada post. **Add shipping cost to order**
- Please phone to inquire about shipping rates on orders over 2
- Please send a cheque to AAME with your order form
- **Make cheques payable to: Alberta Association for Multicultural Education or "AAME"**

Thank you for your order!

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10-24 Calendars	2016 Multifaith Calendars		14.95	0.00
25-50 Calendars	2016 Multifaith Calendars		13.95	0.00
50+ Calendars	2016 Multifaith Calendars		12.95	0.00
			Subtotal	0.00
B Add Shipping				
1 Calendar	Shipping and Handling		3.76	
2 Calendar	Shipping and Handling		4.58	
2+ Calendars			As per quote	
			Total	0.00