Featuring 5th and 6th Grade Students at
Clara Barton Open School
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Honoring

Aviva Breen
Aydaru Abshir Mahamud
Connie Edberg

Leo Sonderegger
Ruhel Islam

Presented By: Carrie Proetz, Katrina Belding, Matthew Linman, Mary Austin, Rebecca Glass 5th and 6th Grade Classrooms.

Date: Thursday April 11, 2013
Place: Clara Barton Open School
Time: 7pm-8pm
Clara Barton Open School EWCS Program

Welcoming-Patrick Duffy

Elders’ Procession

Honoring Aviva Breen
   *Life Goes Up*
   Carrie Proetz’ 5th/6th Grade Class

Honoring Aydaru Abshir Mahamud
   *Forgiveness*
   Matt Linderman’s 5th/6th Grade Class

Honoring Leo Sonderegger
   *Write it Down*
   Becky Glass’ 5th/6th Grade Class

Honoring Connie Edberg
   *Living to Be Who I Am*
   Mary Austin’s 5th/6th Grade Class

Honoring Ruhel Islam
   *Be The Change*
   Katrina Belding’s 5th/6th Grade Class
Aviva Breen

My name is Aviva Green. I was born in Chicago. I had a sister three years older than me. Neither of my parents were born in the United States, one was born in Russia and one was born in Poland. They only spoke another language when they didn’t want us to know what they were talking about and then they would speak another language, which we didn’t know, which was called Yiddish.

I went to the University of Illinois to a branch that was in Chicago and we were able to pay for it. I had an uncle who had no children and he wasn’t married, and he paid for my college for two years. I wanted to study journalism because I wanted to write for a newspaper, but that was a five-year program and my mother said I couldn’t ask him to pay for five years so I became a teacher.

When I had been working as a teacher up in Duluth, some people wanted to start an open school. It is very hard to know what to do, and every time we didn’t know what to do we would say, “Let’s ask Harold Frederick” he is a friend of ours and he was a lawyer, “he’ll know everything”. I wanted to know everything and I thought being a lawyer would be the way to do it. So I went to law school and my life took one of the bigger changes.

I went to work for legal services, which was a program with lawyers for people who couldn’t afford lawyers. I learned a lot about the lives of people who struggled and had a lot of difficulties because of the fact that they didn’t have enough money.

While I was doing that job I went to the legislature a lot. I represented people who were poor and tried to change some laws at the legislature that didn’t help them very much.

After I had been doing that a number of years, an opportunity came to actually work for the legislature. I worked for an office called the commission on the economic status of women. In 1995, I had an opportunity to go to China for a meeting of women from around the world. It was called the United Nations fourth world conference on women.

I traveled to a place called Nepal, one of the poorest countries in the world. Their public education is not free. My organization started a school there. The school is now thirteen years old. There are 380 students in it. They are the poorest children in Nepal so they are children whose parents don’t even have the money for the few things you have to pay for in public school.

Words of Wisdom: Some of my words are that life is very unpredictable. You don’t know what is going to happen. Sometimes the things that happen that you don’t expect are wonderful, and sometimes they are not very wonderful. Whichever they are, you get through them. You have people around you who love you and care about you and will help you. Sometimes you are the one helping someone else get through tough times. You can do that in a lot of ways. Sometimes it is with words; sometimes it is with a hug or just being there. Life goes up and down.
Life Goes Up
(Honoring Aviva Breen)

(Chorus)
Life goes up, Life goes down
Put your feet on solid ground.
Life is something, unpredictable
The unexpected can be wonderful

Grew up in a house of many languages.
   Movie magazines with my sister.
My father passed away, I was fifteen.
   Family means a lot to me.
Became a teacher four children at home
   I wanted to change the world
Thought being a lawyer would be the way to go
   I used the law to help the poor.

Took action, Changed the law
Women's rights, Fair to all

Legislation, 20 years, Bigger Change

(Chorus)
Knew a friend going to a UN Con-fer-ence
Met in China with women from around the world.
   Traveled the world as a volunteer.
Helped stop violence for women and change the law.
   Education brought me to Nepal.
Built a school for the poorest children there.
   Being a grandma is the best part of my life.
   It's a gift seeing who they become.

Opportunities, Come Along
Take a Risk, Be Strong

Work hard, Do your best
Shine at something, Be a good friend

Help with words, Help with action
Make a difference

(Chorus)

Words and Lyrics by Anthony Galloway
with Carrie Proet’z 5th/6th Grade Class

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My name is Aydaru Mahamud. I was born on October 28th, 1969. I was born in a town called Howlwadaag, Somalia. I am the oldest of 7 kids. I have a very loving family. My father would bring supplies to our house and my mother would cook the food. The time I loved was eating with my family and mom telling stories about how to go through life. I learned what to do and what not to do.

I started school at the age of 6. I went to school till 5th grade then skipped 6th grade and went to high school. I liked high school because I liked learning and I liked getting better and improving. Classes got harder and harder and you had to pass a test to go on to the next class. I always passed the tests.

After high school I went to college to study being a doctor, and that’s when the civil war of Somalia started. To survive the war my family had to flee Somalia. My father and I went to Kenya and the rest of my family went to Ethiopia. I didn’t know the language or the land, the people or anything. It was very hard to live where no one understands you. One time, a police officer said in Swahili, “Don’t step on me.” If I didn’t respond correctly he would know that I am not from Kenya, and put me in jail. Eventually I learned Swahili and got a job as a money exchanger.

When I moved from Kenya to Minnesota I noticed a lot of differences; like the trees were different; they were bare, like they were dead, and there was snow and ice everywhere. Also, people here swim in the lakes and not in the ocean like I did back home. I got a job working as a machine operator at a factory.

I had to go through the difficulty of this job to pay bills until I got a job I liked. Now I work with little kids. I’m teaching them and I’m happy with this job. I’m happy and love my family; my wife and four children. I will continue on my journey and continue to keep trying my best. Someday, when peace returns to Somalia I hope to return to see the place I grew up as a child.

**Words of Wisdom:** Family is a very important part of life. They helped me get through difficulties, and made me the person I am today. They sent me to school, which gave me the opportunity to get an education, and find a job. My father pushed me to always try my best, no matter how hard things got and ask lots of questions. My family also taught me to forgive. You cannot go through life without love, and forgiveness. If you do, all that will be left is hate. You should always help each other; focus on your education, follow the rules. These are things that are important for you, for your parents, for teachers, for everyone.
Forgiveness
(Honoring Aydaru Abshir Mahamud)

Forgiveness. Forgiveness

In times of trouble
the first thing, you're gonna save, is your life
The family, divided, had to flee to all sides
Djibuti, Ethiopia, Kenya, we fled
Not knowing, where we're going, we could only, look ahead

Not knowing, how to get back,
Because we don't, know the land
It's not my country, it's not my language
it's so hard, to understand
We meet the soldiers, policeman, who ask us to reply
To their questions, to their answers, we do our best to survive

Forgiveness. Forgiveness

As a stranger, in a strange land, down streets, we don't know
with trees, standing naked, covered up, with snow
From Kenya, to Minnesota, where the water, turns to ice
we never knew that, in my country, where the weather's, always nice

With an ocean, filled with sunshine, filled with fish, filled with friends
to be honest, to be patient, to forgive, until the end
Why do people, kill people, over religion, politics
Why do people, hurt children, with harsh words, with a whip

Forgiveness. Forgiveness

We should love one another more than we love gold
My mother told me, through stories, when I was, not to old
I want to go back, to my country, when, the war does cease
To a land, filled with plenty, in a world, filled with peace

Like a child, filled with freedom, without fear, never scared
Like I’m feeling, at this moment, with so much, love to share
With forgiveness, every problem, is,9 a lesson learned
Forgiveness is the answer, to every question heard,

 Forgiveness. Forgiveness

Words & Music by Larry Long
with Matt Linman’s 5th & 6th Grade Classroom,
Barton Open School, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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Leo Sonderegger

My name is Leo Sonderegger. I was born in New York City; it was a long time ago; it was in 1913. That was early in the 20th century and now we are in the 21st century.

I can tell you about my first family. My sister and I and my mother and father, we had our Christmas celebration with exchange of gifts and so on in a way that they did in Switzerland; they would have it on Christmas Eve. So instead of waking up on Christmas morning and rushing out to see what kind of presents Santa Clause had brought, we had our Christmas on Christmas Eve.

We did have a battery radio, but not much radio even. When I was a boy, I think I was about 12 years old when I went to a store and got a little kit that they had to make a radio. In that sense, life was very different. Now you have all kinds of devices. You probably know about personal computers, you know about cell phones, and IPODS and all that; think how we had none of that.

It was very nice and we had a tree with candles instead of tree lights We had candles and we had to be careful, so that the candles would not catch the tree on fire. It was very beautiful and simple.

After I went away, I went to school and finally went to the University in Lincoln, Nebraska, a smaller city, but it was the capitol. Then I grew up and I got married to a girl who was from a little town in Nebraska called York. It was about sixty miles from the town of Lincoln. I almost considered it, the greatest piece of luck in my whole life.

I understood that WWII was necessary. It was probably the only necessary war we’ve had, because Hitler and the Nazis were trying to conquer the world and they had to be opposed. I understood that but by the time the war came, I had become what people called a pacifist, meaning that you don’t want any war, me and my wife Marion as well. According to the law at that time, if you stated that as a matter of conscience you could not bring yourself to pick up arms and kill people; you became what they called at that time a C.O; a conscientious objector.

Well At first, I worked on the Star. I was a reporter. I remember one thing I wrote was a series of articles about censorship in the United States. At that time it turned out that paperback books that were sold all over the United States, on shelves and in stores and so on were being censored originally by the county attorney of a county that encompasses the city of Detroit in Michigan. So I wrote about that, and that brought about some changes in the publishing business. After about sixty years of being in the newspaper business, I decided to write things I wanted to write, stories, essays, novels and things like that. That is what I have been doing since then.

Words of Wisdom: A wonderful young president that we had who among other things had said once in a speech “Don’t ask what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country”. You should think of what you can do for your country, to help the country and everybody in the country. In the course of those years, I wrote millions of words of opinion that I thought were important for people to know about. I don’t know what affect they really had. I knew that a lot of the little papers did not carry editorials about civil liberties and things like that. Maybe writing about what I thought about the events in and around my life can help guide others.
(Chorus)
Everyday we see history (Write it down!)
The world changes so fast (Write it down!)
If you wanna’ find peace in the world (Write it down!) (3X)
What need is there for war? (Write it down)

Born in New York with no need for toys
Built a radio that sometimes made noise
Now we have iPads and everything
Write it down!

WWII was needed, drafted against my will
Wanted to help, but not to kill
Got to stay home thanks to my writing skills
Write it down!

Being a reporter made me feel alive
Censorship, St. Lawrence Seaway
Articles nationwide
Some of my biggest accomplishments
Before I turned eighty-five
Write it down! Write it down! Write it down! Right Now! (2X)

(Chorus)
Prohibition outlawed booze, no booze!
First, - Man on the Moon, on the moon!
JFK died too soon
Write it down!

Writing editorials was right for me---
History and civil liberties,
But the best was getting my love to marry me
Write it down!

Its Important to impact the people closest to you
To find words of wisdom in the life you choose
Like the walking stick a loved one made for you
Write it down!

(Chorus)
Write it down! Write it down! Write it down! Write it down!

Words and music by Anthony Galloway
with Becky Glass’ 5th grade class
Barton Open School, Minneapolis, Minnesota

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My name is Connie Edberg. I was born on the Leach Lake Indian reservation. I am sixty-six years old now. Back in 1953 we were removed from our birth family and sent out to live with two other families, until I landed in a town called Bakus. This was before 1973 when there was a law called the Indian Child Welfare Act, which states that there can be no children removed from their birth family, unless the tribe knows about it. It was a common practice before the law was past.

My family name is Goggleye and somehow that name connotes fish. I’m from a clan called the suckerfish clan. I hated that name growing up because I had to wear glasses. I hated that name and guess what the kids attached to that? They would call me four eyes, goggle eyes.

The importance of being around other native people has been really good for me, because when I was growing up, there were not a lot of Ojibwas around; there were no other Indians around. So what reflected back to me were not other Ojibwa people. So for me it was enlightening at creating a sense of self-awareness. I am Ojibwa. I am an Ojibwa woman.

I became a teacher at Anderson School on 28th and 10th Avenue. I was the Media Specialist there. I loved the school, the Principal, the people I taught with. I think if I look back those were the happiest teaching days. They didn’t have a Media Center, so I helped put that Media Center together. There were a lot of Native kids there. I liked the kids that were part of my Media Class. On a scale of one to ten, I would say a ten.

My greatest achievement was pulling through a really serious accident. Dying, and then living again. I remember when it happened, but I didn’t remember anything after that, because they had to resuscitate me. When I was in that little block of time I remember I had a wonderful profound dream. I guess I was sleeping, maybe I was going into the other world, but I had a really beautiful dream. I have had really beautiful dreams after that. It had to have something to do with my will to live, or the idea that the Creator wasn’t done with me yet; because then I would not have experienced having five grandchildren. And they are very important to me.

**Words of Wisdom:** I’m just a person in the world. I don’t perceive myself to be some important special kind of person. I’m not a big name in Hollywood, or my block, or my building; Just a real honest person. Be as caring as you can be for your family. I love my family. Know there is a reason for us to be here. There’s a reason, we don’t know sometimes, but there is a reason. You don’t know why you’re dealt the hand you’re given, so I would just say, “Be kind.”
Living to Be Who I Am  
(Honoring Connie Edberg)

(Chorus)  
I'm just a person on the earth  
No telling what hand you'll be dealt at birth  
Mother, grandmother, Ojibwa woman  
Dying to live - living to be who I am

(Chorus)  
Born in Leech Lake to the suckerfish clan  
Last name Goggleye, made school tough  
Mom had TB, removed from my homeland  
Mother had few options to stop those adoptions  
Raised by a family in Backus,  
Finally a place to stay  
Adap-table to any sit-ua-tion,  
Small town USA

(Bridge)  
Drunk driver almost took my life  
Dying and living again  
Creator wasn't done with me yet  
Gave me my five grandchildren  
Not a big name in Hollywood  
Just a real honest person  
Sharing and caring that comes from within  
you are here, and there's a reason

To be who you are  
To know where you're going  
and know where you've been  
My will to live (2x)

(Chorus)  
Living to be who I am  
Living to be who I am  
Living to be who I am

Words and Lyrics by Anthony Galloway with Mary Austin’s 5th/6th Grade Class  
Barton Open School, Minneapolis, Minnesota

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My name is Ruhel Islam. I was born in Bangladesh, India, which is a country about half the size of America, on October 1, 1976. I grew up with my seven siblings, five sisters and two brothers.

Our school started under a tree which is why that is the logo for our restaurant. They built the school slowly, which went up to primary school. We learned many things like English and math. The English was Bengali English so it was hard to learn.

My father was a farmer and I started working by raising chickens. I started with 2 and that grew to 2000. After school it was farming, gardening and raising chickens. I loved it! I learned self-sufficiency.

I came to America with my brother in 1996 when I was 20 years old. My uncle was the minister of finance and planning in Bangladesh and he told us that we needed to go to America because it was better and it was easier to do business here.

The main reason I came to Minneapolis was for the education and health. It’s the right atmosphere. We are sister cities; City of Lakes and City of Lakes and Rivers.

The government in Bangladesh was not fair and corrupt. There was a hierarchy and you did what they wanted you to do, not what you want. There is more freedom and justice here in America. But in the end Bangladesh is a beautiful country.

My restaurant’s slogan is “dedicated to bring peace by pleasing the palates.” I work with the community to bring people together. Everybody counts and everybody matters. We work with different groups to make this happen. I believe in self-sufficiency and am helping my community to do this.

Mahatma Gandhi was a great influence in my life. He was a great leader and he stood for peace and non-violence. My grandfather met him and I thought it was important to keep his dream alive and practice it here. I am Islamic which is a peaceful way of life. It’s working together and coming together, the same belief as Gandhi.

**Words of Wisdom:** “Be the change you want to see in the world” is my favorite Gandhi quote. You need to have a dream, believe in the dream. Be patient, build a non-violent world, work together and you can achieve your dream.
My name is Ruhel Islam  
I was born in Bangladesh  
In a country almost smaller 
Than Minneapolis  

With a population half the size of America 
It felt just like heaven 
When I first came here  

If you have a good dream to dream 
A dream free from fear 
America, America 
America land of dreams 
America you and me  

My dream is for the people 
To come together now 
To be self-sufficient 
To stand on sacred ground  

Just like Brother Martin, Mahatma Gandhi 
To be non-violent 
To put an end to war 
To live in peace, to live in love 
Who could ask for more 

Then to make this world better 
So all on earth may live 
To dream a dream! To come true! 
To be the change! Me and you! 

Be the change!  

If you see somebody walking down the street 
Give a helping had to everybody you meet 
Open up the door and bring them in  
The whole wide world can be your friend 

Be the change!  

All you got to do is take the path 
It can make you weezey that’s a fact 
But to help somebody when they’re feeling bad 
Is to help yourself! It will make you glad! 

Be the change! 

Man yelling at a woman about her seat 
Said, “you better move or you’ll get beat” 
She held her ground and stayed right there 
She wasn’t about to go no where 

Be the change!  

It don’t matter if you’re short or tall 
Let’s stand together, one and all 
Heal the sick, feed the poor 
That’s what we’re all here for 

Be the change! 

You can help! Don’t be afraid! 
Be it a tornado or a hurricane 

Because after all, we’re sisters and brothers 
Even though we come from different mothers! 

Be the change! 

If we all stick together 
We can change ghe world forever 
Things don’t need to stay the same 
If we all decide to be the change 

Be the change! 

Be the power! Just believe! 
Imagine how the world would be 
Just believe! Just believe! Just believe! 

Be the change!  

So let’s all, just take charge 
Together we can all go far 
Change the world for the better 
Stand up! Stand together 
Just believe! Just believe! 

Be the change!  

I fought over a piece of cake 
My brother and I wanted to take 
So cut it in half, so we could share 
To show my brother I really care 

Be the change! 

Cruelty, violence, war and fighting 
It strikes hard, just like lightning 
Everyone needs a helping hand 
So give them one! Be their friend! 

Be the change! 

Be the change you want to see 
Everyone can help, both you and me 
Come together, no matter what age 
Believe it or not, we can be the change! 

Be the change! 

Words & Music by Larry Long 
with Katrina Belding’s 5th & 6th Grade Classroom, 
Barton Open School, Minneapolis, Minnesota. 
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Larry Long, called "a true American Troubadour" by author Studs Terkel, has made his life work the celebration of American stories and heroes. In a curriculum called Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song™, he has brought these heroes to the classroom to share their oral history with our younger generation. A Smithsonian Folkways recording artist, Larry has sung at major festivals, concerts and events throughout the U.S. and internationally. Long is a recipient of the prestigious Bush Artists Fellowship, the Pope John XXIII Award and In The Spirit of Crazy Horse Award for his work in forgotten communities. ([www.larrylong.org](http://www.larrylong.org))

Founded out of demand for Long’s work across the country, Community Celebration of Place is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that uses oral history, music and art to strengthen communities and foster reconciliation. For more information visit [www.communitycelebration.org](http://www.communitycelebration.org).

Anthony Galloway currently serves as the student learning program specialist at the West Metro Education Program. He has been involved in the arts community as an African Storyteller with the Arts Us organization and a youth mentor through the “Save Our Sons” organization. Currently he is a dancer with Legacy Lives Entertainments Michael Jackson Show. He continues to be an advocate for both arts education and multicultural youth expressions having recently been published in the book, “More Courageous Conversations About Race,” alongside Patrick Duffy, Creator of the Anti-Racist student leadership program Dare 2 Be Real.

Mission
We exist to ensure that all students learn. We support their growth into knowledgeable, skilled and confident citizens capable of succeeding in their work, personal and family lives into the 21st century.

Vision
Every child college ready

Our Promise
Minneapolis Public Schools promises an inspirational education experience in a safe, welcoming environment for all diverse learners to acquire the tools and skills necessary to confidently engage in the global community.

West Metro Education Program’s mission is to build our collective capacity to achieve educational excellence and racial equity. We will serve our 100,000+ students and staff through regional leadership, collaboration, commitment, and mutual support.

More info coming soon.....