



third annual
**NEEDHAM
DIVERSITY
SUMMIT**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2014 9:00AM TO 2:30PM Pollard Middle School

Needham Community Education is proud to be a partner in support of the third annual Needham Diversity Summit on October 18, 2014 from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM at Pollard Middle School. Now in its third year, the Summit brings together community leaders, friends, neighbors, and students for this event designed to explore, foster, strengthen, and celebrate Needham's diversity—of socioeconomic status, race, sexual orientation, gender, religion, ethnic identity, ability and age. The annual occasion aims to create a network of people committed to creating an equitable and welcoming town and to challenging Needham residents to think in new ways about our evolving community.

YOUR INVOLVEMENT IS IMPORTANT! REGISTER NOW!

Any individual, group, or organization (both formal and informal) who is interested in learning more and taking action to make Needham a more culturally proficient and welcoming community is encouraged to participate in the Needham Diversity Summit. Last year, over 125 community members attended the Summit to engage with their peers in conversations about diversity in Needham; this year we look forward to even greater participation. We hope to see you there!

Registrations can be faxed, mailed, or called in to the NCE office. There is no fee, but registration is required.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT...

Throughout the day participants will explore how to make diversity and equity key elements in our community. The program will include a keynote, speakers, and participatory workshops featuring:



Katani Sumner



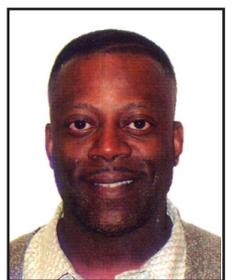
Erik Montplaisir



Shaira Medina



Christine Connelly



Michael D. O'Neal

REGISTER NOW! All are welcome!

Register with a group or "delegation" from your organization, or register as an individual.

To Register

Call Needham Community Education at 781/455/0400 x235

or

Register online at: www.needhamdiversitysummit.org



Erik Montplaisir is 26 years old and a Needham High School graduate. He has worked at Sudbury Farms for 10 years and is an after-school volunteer at the Needham Extended Day Program (NEDP). Erik had an arteriovenous malformation (AVM) bleed in the brain when he was 8 years old while vacationing in Florida. After waking from a 6 month coma, he was like an infant who needed to learn to do everything again, and he spent a year at the Franciscan Children’s Hospital & Rehabilitation Center in Brighton. Erik’s story of recovery was featured in the Needham Times in February 2014.

Katani Sumner is an educator in the Newton Public Schools as well as a sought after speaker/presenter and singer/songwriter. Well known as the “Inspirational MC” for the Gospel Brunch at the Original House of Blues’ Sunday Gospel Brunch, she also served in that role at the House of Blues-Fenway. Katani is currently a member of the House of Blues’ Schoolhouse Band where she is a singer/narrator for the History of the Blues presentations. Katani has a BA in Psychology and an MA in Education. Some of her proudest moments have been as a featured lead vocalist for the Boston Community Choir during the Gospel Night at the Pops performances. She recently released her first full-length CD project entitled appropriately, “Delayed Not Denied” available at www.cdbaby.com, on iTunes and Amazon.com.



Shaira Medina is a resident of Boston and a student at Needham High School along with her three brothers. She is in her junior year and has been in the Needham METCO program since kindergarten. Shaira enjoys writing music and expressing herself through music and art. She recently did a performance for the Museum of Fine Arts for Art in Activism. In a positive view, she believes that art is a language and that we can utilize it to communicate good messages in any form. While attending last year’s Needham Diversity Summit along with her mother, Shaira became acquainted with several Needham residents and learned more about the mission of the Summit. She is excited to discuss the challenges and issues that need to be addressed in order to benefit not just the Needham community but society as a whole.

Christine Connelly is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), an author of My First Red Sox Game (11-14), a father, a Lincoln Financial Group Advisor, the owner of Connelly CPA, and a member of the MA CPA Healthcare Committee. She is on the Board of Directors of BAGLY, the oldest and largest youth led LGBT organization in America. Previously she was a chef (at “The Manor on Golden Pond) and a nightclub owner of Uncle Sam’s on Nantasket Beach (venue for Aerosmith, Cheap Trick, The Ramones, Stephen Stills, Joe Cocker and others). Christine has served on numerous social, business and civic boards, and she was an incorporator of one of the largest Main Street Programs in America. She has been a 1st place Little League Batting Champion, played hockey and soccer at Boston College High School, and was a 1st place NCAA Champion ski racer for Northeastern University. Her Red Sox book is a one day memoir children’s picture book in haiku about a 7 year old who in her 1st year in Little League, at her 1st Red Sox game, caught a Mike Lowell foul ball.



Michael D. O’Neal has lived in Needham for 44 years. Michael attended the William D. Mitchell School, Pollard Junior High School, and Needham High School. He went on to attend college at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and later received a graduate fellowship to attend Howard University in Washington, D.C. Michael has appeared on CBS 60 Minutes, and he was selected by Ebony Magazine as one of 50 leaders of the future. Michael is a contributing editor of Black Men Speaking. He is also a recipient of the Needham High School’s George A. Dennett Distinguished Career Award. Michael is currently a Life Coach for his agency: THE BIGGER PICTURE.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Needham Diversity Committee