

**AT HOME: BOOK OF THE MONTH**

The December book of the month selections are now on our [Webpage](#), along with discussion questions. This month's theme is International Human Rights. Featured titles are:

- **K/1<sup>st</sup> Grades:** [We Are All Born Free: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Pictures](#) by Amnesty International
- **2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Grades:** [I Have the Right to Be a Child](#) by Alain Serres
- **4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grades:** [Malala: A Brave Girl from Pakistan and Iqbal: A Brave Boy From Pakistan](#) by Jeanette Winter

If you would like to buy any of these books for home or classrooms to be "checked out" by students, books can be purchased on our Amazon [Wish List](#). Or, if you have these books to lend to classrooms, please drop them with our Parent Coordinator, Karen Herskowitz. Books can also be placed on hold at BPL.

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**D&I OVER THE HOLIDAYS**

Here are some ideas to expand your view over the holidays. [Volunteer](#). Giving back is a big part of what the holidays mean. Head uptown to the MONH for the [2018 Kwanzaa Festival of African and African-American heritage](#).

Check out [Circus Abyssinia: Ethiopian Dreams](#) at the New Victory Theater. [The NYC Winter Lantern Festival](#) is 40 LED light installations alongside Chinese dances and art.

Looking for gift ideas? Let's think about the messages they send. Take a look at our list of diverse books for [Adults](#) and [Kids](#), and [We Need Diverse Books](#) for even more. And try these [Women Owned Shops](#) and support female small business owners.

Our PS39 families speak many different languages. Happy Holidays to all of them, with a little help from Google Translate:

Arabic: اجازة سعيدة Chinese: 节日快乐 Finnish: Hyvää joulua French: Joyeuses fêtes German: Schöne Ferien Japanese: ハッピーホリデー Korean: 해피 홀리데이 Norwegian: Gledelig ferier Portuguese: Boas festas Spanish: Felices vacaciones Urdu: خوش



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**STORY OF A NAME**

**MS. CALHOUN**

I am a twin. My parents were very excited. To add to their excitement, they learned that I would be a fraternal twin to a boy. A boy and a girl. Yay! They knew they wanted our names to match. My dad was eager to have a son and a daughter. but had always thought about names for a boy, never for a girl. He figured when they had a son, that son would be named after him, and be James III. However, my mom wasn't too keen on that, so my dad got creative. He had an idea to write his name backwards. "Semaj." He loved it. But, they had to come up with a name that was similar, so they played with the spelling again. Semara! I must say, I love my name! It's pretty unique. I've never met anyone with the same name. I've heard the biblical version: Samaria, and the Latino version, Xiomara. Neither are pronounced or spelled the same way. It's so unique that many people have trouble pronouncing it and it was hardly ever said correctly when I was in school. Names are important and this is the story of mine. 😊

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**DEFINING A TERM**

**Cultural Competence:** /'kəlCH(ə)rəl/ 'kämpədəns/ **The ability to interact effectively with people of different cultures. Comprised of four components: (a) Awareness of one's own cultural worldview, (b) Attitude towards cultural differences, (c) Knowledge of different cultural practices and worldviews, and (d) Cross-cultural skills. Developing cultural competence gives an ability to understand, communicate with, and effectively interact with people across cultures.**

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**WORTH FOLLOWING**

Our Twitter account worth following is: @[ShaunKing](#), a Brooklyn based activist, husband, father and journalist. He writes for the Daily Kos, The Intercept, and The Daily News.

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**FEATURED MEDIA**

Head to Kings Theatre for some Holiday entertainment, Check out [Cirque Dreams Holidayze](#) and [The Hip Hop Nutcracker](#)

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**DIALOGUE & DRINKS**

Our reading group meets again on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:30pm @ [Commonwealth](#). This month, we will be reading [Hunger](#) by Elise Blackwell. *Committee member Chiwoniso Kaitano will be facilitating.* RSVP to [diversity@ps39.org](mailto:diversity@ps39.org)