

# Barrio de Langley Park

A Neighborhood Planning Newsletter Published by Action Langley Park  
Issue #233, 19 March 2012

## SCHOOLS & YOUTH

### Teachers' Morale Low

It is hardly surprising that the widespread national criticism of teachers has some impact on ... teachers. A national survey indicates that their morale is at its lowest over the past twenty years.



Is our country trying to commit suicide? We need good teachers in a good mood with reasonable pay to teach our children and grandchildren. Maybe we could get away with not-very-good-pay if the teachers were honored and respected by people at the local and national levels, and teachers were encouraged to be creative rather than to teach in order to get certain scores on tests (with low scores perhaps leading to firing). But in the current situation, many of our better college students are less interested in entering the teaching profession except as a last option during our employment recession, and many who enter leave within a few years.

Teaching is not an easy profession unless, sometimes, the class is made up of top honors students. Respect can in part overcome the difficulties.

Yes, let's have good teachers: at our elementary schools and secondary schools. And the secret to that, other than good training and good supervising principals, is to make the profession respected and to pay professional teachers well.

### Minor Drop, Major Cut

For the first time in a decade, less than 75% of Hyattsville Elementary School's 512 students applied for (and are eligible for) Title I support—that's the Federal program designed to help in various ways the school children of low-income families, including free or reduced price school meals and extra school personnel. But that very important help will soon end at the school because only 73.4% of the families applied for the program in time—below the cutoff requirement that 75% of the students come from low-income families in order to qualify for Title I support. That's  $73.4/75=98\%$ , that is, a shortfall of 2% will harm 73.4%—376!—of the school's children. So \$200,000 will be lost to the school, and 376 children in the school will be disadvantaged. Bureaucratic evil!

The \$200,000 funded the staff for the school's special reading program, and it also funded parent liaison (now called "bilingual community outreach specialist") Cecilia Penate who has done this very important job at the school for eleven years. Yes, budgets are tight at the Federal level all the way down to the local school. But it does seem cruel to defund the special reading and liaison positions given the vital importance of reading and connecting parents with their children's school. Hey, Superintendent Bill Hite: can't you do something to help out?

*"Schools" continued on Page 3*

## IT'S SPRINGTIME!

(Where did winter go?)

What is special about springtime? The flowers bloom, the birds return, and children run around in the parks with soccer balls or baseball mitts while the adults return the snow shovels to the shelves and take out the lawn mowers.

Action Langley Park has its Spring meeting—this year on March 22 at 7 p.m. at the Langley Park Community Center, and one of the agenda items is the springtime Langley Park Day that, in 2012, takes place on Sunday, May 6, starting at noon also at (in and around!) the Langley Park



Community Center. The meeting is open to everyone interested in freedom, equity, and a better quality of life for all. The festival is open to anyone who enjoys music and dance and health screenings and food vendors and children's art and games and more!

For information about either event, send an email to [actionlangleypark@yahoo.com](mailto:actionlangleypark@yahoo.com).

## Langley Park Day 2012 May 6, noon to 4 p.m.

At the Langley Park Community Center  
(1500 Merrimac Drive, Langley Park 20783)

This annual festival will include music and dance performances; a health fair featuring screenings, consultations, and information; children's art and other activities; food vendors;



and information about area organizations and agencies.



Circle the date on your calendar now! For site information, call 301 445-

4508; for participation information, email [actionlangleypark@yahoo.com](mailto:actionlangleypark@yahoo.com).

The Action Langley Park open meeting scheduled for March 22 (7 p.m. at the Community Center) will include the festival on the agenda.



# IMMIGRATION NEWS

## Here and Abroad

### NO TO "SECURE COMMUNITIES"

There is a publication called *Government Security News*, and it has an interesting article on Secure Communities (9 March 2012), a portion of which follows.



In light of Justice Department investigations of civil rights violations at some local police departments in the last few months, a coalition of immigration rights groups has asked an FBI policy advisory board to eliminate the controversial Secure Communities biometric identification program. ...

The groups said the FBI's APB Working Groups meetings coming up in August as should consider the Arizona and Connecticut investigations in deciding how to proceed with the program. [The civil rights groups] have been calling for the repeal or reform of Secure Communities program saying it damages public safety, community policing and unfairly targets non-criminal aliens. The letter again stated those same concerns, emphasizing that some state and local governments have chosen not to participate in the program and that repealing the program 'would prevent the implementation of the program in jurisdictions with a documented pattern of civil rights abuses.'

The groups noted Secure Communities has been sharply criticized by the governors and state legislators of Illinois, New York, and Massachusetts; local officials from numerous cities and counties, including the District of Columbia, Los Angeles, Chicago, and San Francisco.

By most accounts, the Secure Communities program does more harm than good. Is catching a few marijuana dealers worth destroying thousands of families?

### ANTI-IMMIGRANT POLITICS

#### Appeals to the Fearful

As he campaigns for reelection, France's Nicolas Sarkozy is calling for better protection of Europe's borders. He is also campaigning for a "Buy European Act". "I want a Europe that protects its citizens. I no longer want this savage competition. I say no to a Europe that opens up its markets when others don't. Such behavior does not mean accepting free trade, it means accepting being a Europe that is a sieve."

Sounds like "Loyal Frenchmen; let's keep those damned North Africans out of our beloved France. Their women hide themselves and they don't even speak correct French!" Clearly, appealing to the conservative right is not confined to the current campaigning in the USA. Maybe the result will be more moderates elected to legislatures in France and the USA. If so, that would mean more negotiating rather than ideological speechmaking—a clear plus.

# JAIL 'EM FOR DREAMING

We are all waiting for the change in Federal deportation policy to kick in. There seems to be a modest change, but there are also too many cases of DREAMers being handled by those who follow the pre-change policies and practices—or their own fears.

### Jorge Steven Acuña

Jorge Steven and parents Blanca and Jorge Sr., came to the United States in 2001 to escape the political violence in their home country, Colombia. Moving first to Florida then to Montgomery County, Maryland, they adopted to their new community buying a home, working multiple jobs to support the family, and getting active in their church, St. Rose of Lima in Gaithersburg. Jorge Steven started his education at the grade school level in the United States, graduated with a 3.8 GPA from Northwest High School in Germantown, and started his studies at Montgomery College last year, making the Dean's List. Jorge Steven's dream is to go to Johns Hopkins and become a surgeon.

When the Acuñas came to the United States, they applied for asylum. Despite the tens of thousands they spent on representation, their case reportedly did not receive adequate legal attention from their attorney—he was later disbarred. Asylum was denied and ICE officials picked the family up, putting the star student in leg irons for transport to the Snow Hill Detention Center.

A sad story. But maybe not. Days later, family was granted a one-year reprieve from deportation. Maybe with another appeal and a competent lawyer, the USA will have another star surgeon—Jorge Steven—in its midst.

### Jessica Hyejin Lee and Tania Chairez

Two undocumented young people in DreamActivist Pennsylvania, Ms. Lee and Ms. Chairez (pictured), were arrested by the Philadelphia Police after ICE refused to respond to their demand: Release Miguel Orellana from detention. The two women spent a night and two days in custody, and are now out on bail. Was the jailing for being undocumented or for their free speech supporting Orellans?



Miguel, a Dreamer, has been detained in York Detention Center in Pennsylvania for about eight months. He was born in El Salvador, but had been living in Allentown, Pennsylvania for the past 16 years. Now 25, he has a four year old son with his fiancée, Jessica, who just gave birth to their second baby, Isaac.

And of course there are many similar, sad stories.

**STATE DELEGATE DOYLE NIEMANN HAS SCHOLARSHIPS!!** Delegate Niemann writes: "One of the best things about being in the Maryland General Assembly is that we have the opportunity to award small scholarships to residents of District 47 so that they can attend college, university, trade or vocational school. I am now accepting scholarship applications for the 2012-13 school year. These are small scholarship, but they can help with books and other expenses. To receive a scholarship, you must live in the 47th District and you must plan on attending a college, university, vocational or trade school that is located in the State of Maryland. To get an application, please go to my website, [www.doyleniemann.com](http://www.doyleniemann.com). You will find a link on the home page to more information on the program and an application form that you can download. Complete the downloaded form and return it to me in my office in Annapolis, along with any other requested information."



## Where Are the Children?

A local newspaper reported that school officials are concerned about the decline in the number of pupils in the county's public school system. The dip is about 10% over the past nine years. What's up? Are people rushing to private schools? Or rushing to other systems? A mystery? Well, no. It's the number of school-age children in the county that has fallen, and therefore the number of children in school. The children in the 5 to 14 age bracket was 100,405 in 2000 and 123,828 in 2010, a dip of about 11%. Fewer children = fewer children in school. But it may be that families with children are less likely to stay in or move into the county than those without children. After all, the total county population from 2000 to 2010 increased by just under 8%. So the challenge remains: improve county schools and then let the world know about the improvements. That isn't easy, but it can be done unless there's another economic downturn.

## All the Way from Kansas

A few weeks ago, a handful of the members of a Kansas church arrived at Northwestern High School, after their cross-country trek, to demonstrate against the so called lack of discrimination against gays and lesbians at the school. One demonstrator: "It's our duty to prevent kids going to hell." One of the signs is reproduced here.



This is the same church whose members have been demonstrating at the funerals of members of the military. So the church members demonstrated here for awhile, students and others on the other side of the street counter-demonstrated, and it all ended about two hours after it began.

From Langley Park: Take your signs. Go back to Kansas—or crawl back into your hole!!! We don't want our schools to have to divert energies dealing with filth.

## Youth Unemployment

The latest unemployment figures, for February 2012, put the workforce figure at 8.3%. But for teenagers in the 16-19 age bracket, it is 23.8% (participation-in-the-workforce-rate = 33.6%); the Latino/a figure is 27.5% (participation rate = 29.2%). So the young Latinos and Latinas have a comparatively low participation rate and, among those who do participate, a high unemployment rate. These young people must have a high level of pessimism about the future, and perhaps that is linked to the high dropout rate. Somehow, schoolwork has to be seen as the foundation of opportunity. Then we have to provide the young people with that needed schoolwork—plus lots of mentoring and tutoring. Our future as adults is in part dependent on this upcoming generation.

## Northwestern HS: Walkout & Reaction

Below is a portion of the report published online at <http://thefightback.org>. We are sure that there are many sides of the story (remember Rashomon!); this is one of them. Other observers are welcome to comment.

"I will not discuss the suspensions in this forum," Northwestern High School Principal Edgar Batenga said Monday evening at a town hall at the Hyattsville school. Batenga gave five-day suspensions to four students, and possibly shorter suspensions to others, for their alleged role in organizing an attempted walkout on March 1, which was billed as a National Day of Action to Defend Public Education.

A flier entitled "The Students Are Angry!" listed some of the students' concerns which led to their walkout: unsanitary conditions and food; large class sizes, commonly with 40-plus students; poor teacher pay and treatment, especially regarding the deportation of Filipino teachers; underfunded programs such as band and ESOL; and an overall environment where "students have pretty much no say in educational policies."

The attempted walkout ...was met by force as administrators and police blocked doors and prevented students from leaving the school, according to numerous student accounts. ..."

## Northwestern HS Enhanced

Seventy Northwestern High School students are enrolled in the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research program, "Gains in the Education of Mathematics and Sciences." It's Northwestern's first year to participate in the semester-long programs that enhance the curricula, bringing equipment and staffing to the school twice a week. The current foci are classifying organisms and the scientific kingdoms of life; last semester, the foci were anatomy and physical adaptations. Lucky Northwestern!

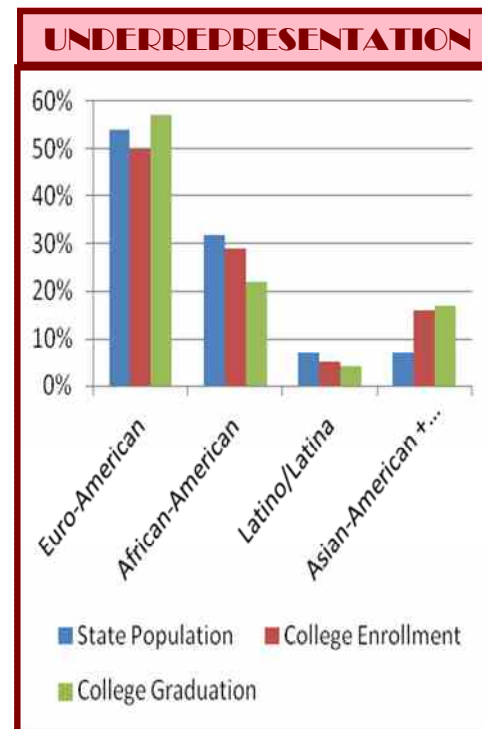
## Are Some Groups Underrepresented?

There's a lot of talk about "underrepresentation," that is, an area's (e.g., state) percentage of the total population for a certain group is larger than that group's percentages in, say, top corporate positions or top professors, etc. And the answer is, yes! There is "over" and "under" representation. Consider the graphic, below.

The big question is: what has caused the over and underrepresentation. Considering the dropout rates in secondary schools plus the information in the graphic, there is no one point in a lifetime when something positive or negative happens. Rather, there is a slow but sure slide away from opportunity. Why is that? Some people would argue that the answer is prejudice. If that is a factor, it is not the only one. A family's economic needs

probably account for some of the slippage, perhaps single parenting creates a negative overload, and the quality of peers in school and the neighborhood should also be considered. But yes, there are some schools that are not administered well, including the management of less-than-a-dequate teachers.

What does seem to be clear is that underrepresentation



sensation may have lots of root causes. And it's also clear that our society must get to work on this issue from the cradle on up.

## LOW-SKILLED IMMIGRANTS

### Good or Bad for the USA?

*The Politics of Skill* (2012) is a new report from the Immigration Policy Center. It addresses the debate about favoring the well-educated or skilled over the less well-educated. Do we favor the former, and downgrade the latter (including as linked with family reunification)?

Not only do "high-skilled" and "low-skilled" immigrants receive vastly different analyses in immigration studies, but they are often treated differently in immigration policy and public opinion. Although a large majority of visas in the United States are granted for family reunification purposes, some highly skilled immigrants may be able to obtain visas based on the specialized knowledge they can furnish the economy. In contrast, immigrants considered low skilled, while occasionally able to obtain temporary work visas in narrow segments of the economy, are excluded from long-term work visa programs. As a result, many come to the United States without authorization. They have been subjected to intensive workplace raids and historically high levels of subsequent deportation under both the Bush and Obama administrations. Debate over future immigration policy reform often pivots on the question of skill contribution. Most current proposals favor expanding immigration opportunities for those immigrants with high levels of formal education.

This Perspectives challenges the assumption that skill is primarily derived from formal schooling and classroom education. Instead, authors Natasha Iskander and Nichola Lowe focus on the tacit skills of newly-arrived Latino immigrant workers in the construction industry, many of whom continue to innovate new construction techniques and carve new pathways for training immigrant co-workers and new labor market entrants. By acknowledging and highlighting the expertise of these immigrants, the authors hope future immigration policy will reflect the real value of these immigrants—as skilled workers who revitalize laggard industries in this country, saving vital U.S. jobs and businesses along the way.

We find that Latino immigrant workers in both labor market settings continue to develop skills while at their U.S. jobsites. They explore and even innovate new construction techniques and carve out new pathways for training immigrant co-workers and new labor market entrants. However, contrary to what labor market theories might predict, these improved skills and strategies for learning often remain invisible. As a result, Latino construction workers remain confined to the category of "low-skilled," and suffer the political and economic consequences that this status implies. Moreover, because the innovations that Latino workers make are undervalued or obscured, employing firms and the larger regional economies in which they participate lose out on this important source of learning, upgrading, and growth.

Source: [http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/docs/lowe\\_-\\_politics\\_of\\_skill\\_031512.pdf](http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/docs/lowe_-_politics_of_skill_031512.pdf)



## ET ALIA

### Silicon Valley

A group of Silicon Valley technology leaders, impatient with attempts to rewrite immigration laws, is funding efforts to help undocumented young people attend college, find jobs, and stay in the country despite their illegal status. "We think Congress's inaction...is devastating for these students and tragic for the country," said Ms. Powell Jobs (widow of Steve Jobs), who was one of the first in the tech community to champion the Dream Act by lobbying her congresswoman and writing an op-ed piece supporting the legislation. Makes one think: What are we doing?

### H.R. 347

From the American Civil Liberties Union: "Recent days have seen significant concern about an unassuming bill with an unassuming name: the Federal Restricted Buildings and Grounds Improvement Act of 2011. The bill, H.R. 347, has been variously described as making the First Amendment illegal or criminalizing the Occupy protests. The truth is more mundane, but the issues raised are still of major significance for the First Amendment."

The ACLU article is at <http://www.aclu.org/blog/free-speech/how-big-deal-hr-347-criminalizing-protest-bill>.

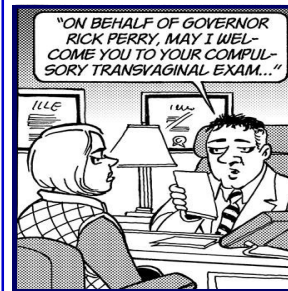
### Live Longer!

Life Expectancy in Macau is 84.43 years! That's more than six years more than life expectancy in the USA. Macau can attribute its high life expectancy, in part, to its strong economy—especially its large gambling tourist business. But here may be the main reason its residents live so long: 70% of the money generated on the casino floor is reportedly invested by the Macau government in public healthcare. Maybe PG County should boost its budget portion for health—and include a clinic in the Langley Park Community Center using the space to be abandoned (we hope!) by regional Park and Planning administrators. They can shuffle papers elsewhere.

Or perhaps people can move to Macau!

### Assault on Privacy

The State of Texas as well as several other states (but maybe not including Virginia because the fury of the proposed legislation forced the VP-seeking Governor to back off) have passed legislation that forces pregnant women who seek to terminate the pregnancy (including those victim of rape or incest, and including those whose life is threatened by some predictable danger) to be vaginally penetrated by an instrument even if they object. And the doctor must ignore the "don't do it" plea of the patient. Gary Trudeau, the *Doonesbury* cartoonist, developed a cartoon strip focusing on the Texas decision—and the state's governor, Rick Perry. One panel is reproduced here. The "medical" assault fits the formal definition of rape.



### Hate Groups

The Southern Poverty Law Center, an important organization in the fight against extremism and extremists, identifies the following hate groups in our area:

- In the District of Columbia: "Defend DC"
- In Maryland: "Help Save Maryland"

One of Help Save Maryland's regular targets is CASA de Maryland. Why? Because, according to a statement on the organization's web site, "CASA's agenda undermines our communities, economic well-being and families." Well, it certainly undermines the psychological wellbeing of members of hate groups.

**Fanny Lopez-Martinez:** "If they keep saying that I am a criminal in this society, I will continue to prove them wrong. I am a valuable human being, an Army wife, and a graduate student. I define myself." (Undocumented Master's degree student at University of Chicago)

# LOCAL LOG

## The Real Estate Market

Between 2007 and 2012, the January median home sales price in Prince George's County fell from \$330,000 to \$162,000. A decline of half the value of county homes. Half!

Recently? Data for the housing and condo sales from January through September of 2011 are now available. Comparing this period last year to the year before, prices continued to fall. The drop over the year for the county was -14%, and for



the 20783 zip code area it was -13%. The steepest declines in the county were in Eagle Harbor and Clinton.

The chart (left) shows the declines over the past year. The average sale price in the 20783 area was \$162,000, about \$27,000 below the county figure. Perhaps

the decline is continuing.

Among the houses and condos currently or recently listed are these by price: \$39,000; \$79,900 (these two are condos); \$85,000; \$144,009; \$147,869; \$153,003; \$169,900; \$176,236; \$212,093; and \$230,000. The figures are the asking prices, and the "sample" is very non-random. But it seems to suggest a continuing soft market.



There's a house on Riggs Road in Langley Park that sold in 2006 for \$410,000. Two years later, the sale price was \$303,295. The current value is about half of that. The Langley Park area has been hit hard. But indeed, the county has

been hit hard. Foreclosures are rampant.

## Jobs First Act

Last year, the Prince George's County Council passed a "Jobs First Act," legislation designed to give county-located job-seekers and businesses preferences. The Jobs First Act will, among other components:

- \*Require companies doing business with Prince George's County to make their best efforts to ensure that a majority of their workers are county residents.

- \*Give businesses based in Prince George's County greater preferences when the county government procures goods and services.

- \*Give minority-owned contractors greater preferences when the county government procures goods and services.

- \* Encourage the use of community benefit agreements for developments receiving \$3 million or more in public assistance. (A Community Benefits Agreement is a contract signed by community groups and a real estate developer that requires the developer to provide specific amenities and/or mitigations to the local neighborhood or area).

- \* Authorize the use of Labor Peace Agreements for developments receiving \$1 million or more in public assistance.

In PG County, the word "minority" could be ambiguous. Because the county is majority African-American, does that mean that preferences are given to Native Americans, Latino/as, Asians, and even Euro-Americans? (We can make a good guess.) As for residence, is there an amount of time specified—after all, it is possible to move hastily into a county-located one room living space just to claim the local bonus.

## Purple Line

Transportation funds from the Federal government and the state are needed to make the construction of the Purple Line a fiscal possibility. Yes, there are disputes about the alignment, but they are almost trivial compared with the billion-plus dollars needed to make the line a reality.

To come up with Maryland's portion of the cost, an increase in the gas tax is almost certainly a necessity. But who wants more tax on the already \$4+ cost of a gallon of gasoline? Alas, construction projects have to be funded, and if the projects are important for the area's economy, then a few cents more is a necessity even if it is far from popular. (And it tends to be regressive.)

Throughout the United States—including Maryland, there are urgent transportation needs: to build new facilities or to repair them. And the work is expensive.

Our Senator, Victor Ramirez, supports the construction of the Purple Line. But of course funding is an issue: "It's a concern and a priority for me whether it comes from a gas tax or not. We still have a few weeks left in the session and we need to make sure we don't end that without addressing the issue of funding for the Purple Line."

## Money

**County Money:** The county money situation is only fair. In FY2008, the county's general fund revenues were \$2.57 billion. For FY 2013, the estimate is \$2.66 billion. That's less than a 1% increase, and yet inflation over that period is just over 9%. So the real money in 2007 dollars is less now than it was six years ago.

But the county budget proposal has been issued, and there are some increases—although workers' pay is frozen. County Executive Baker: "We are relying on everyone in government to do more with less."

Among the goals (visions) in the budget statement are these: "Provide safe neighborhoods" (but what about keeping viable and vital neighborhoods safe from bulldozers, such as threaten thousands of affordable apartment homes in the Langley Park area) and "Assist those in need" (but the county has withdrawn health services from the area, so reinstating a local county clinic would be assisting residents in need).

**PGCPS Money:** Maryland will soon receive more federal funds to help the state's least accomplished (using test scores, etc.) schools—that probably means Baltimore City schools and PG County schools. The amount will be about \$6,700,000. Let's hope that PGCPS gets a high percentage of the 6.7. Maybe with some "extra" money, the schools will again have the necessary parent liaison staffers to connect parents with school personnel. School officials: Parent involvement in the education of their children is very important, and for many families, parent liaisons are needed to enhance the connection.

From the PGCPS web site: "The Prince George's County Public Schools FY2013 budget will focus resources on the maintenance of core services and programs that directly impact teaching and learning. The budget will also support our primary goals of ensuring that students have the tools for academic success ...." Having people who work with challenged children—and their parents—would seem to be a core service impacting learning.

**More Money:** Where can the county find more money? Various studies have shown that casinos produce modest economic gains but may divert spending from surrounding businesses such as restaurants and movie theaters. Some problem gamblers gamble away money that is needed for necessities. Are casinos a regressive "tax" that takes the most money from those who can least afford it? What about Oakland's program: allowing medical marijuana dispensaries and taxing them? Last year, that netted \$1.4 million!

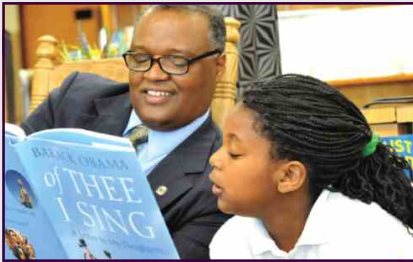


## County Wants Readers!

Prince George's County's Rushern Baker (pictured) and other leaders and agencies are encouraging local residents to read more—or if necessary, to learn to read. For children, reading in school is not enough. For adults, reading for one's pleasure and reading with members of the family and/or friends should be the goal.

But shouldn't reading and learning to read better be the responsibility of the school? No! Of course, teachers working with young people to improve reading is essential. But if reading (or any other subject) is limited to the thirty or so hours a week in school—a bit over 1,000 hours during the school year, that is not enough. Reading has to become part of one's way of life. For that to happen, it must also become part of one's family's way of life. (Instead of a horror film, how about a good short story at home?)

But what if adults in the family don't read regularly or even can't read because their childhood was disrupted? Then there is a wonderful opportunity for a school child and the adult(s) to learn together. So thanks to Rushern Baker and all the others who contribute to this program.



## NATIVE AMERICAN?

### IF NOT, THEN IMMIGRANT OR DESCENDENT

Irish-American novelist Peter Behrens has some sharp thinking in a *New York Times* (17 March 2012) essay. We should think of our own histories before condemning those who are our "others."

It's embarrassing to listen to prosperous 21st-century Americans with Irish surnames lavish on Mexican or Central American immigrants the same slurs — "dark," "dirty," "violent," "ignorant" — once slapped on our own, possibly shoeless, forebears. The Irish were seen as unclean, immoral and dangerously in thrall to a bizarre religion. They were said to be peculiarly prone to violence. As caricatured by illustrators like Thomas Nast in magazines like *Harper's Weekly*, "Paddy Irishman," low of brow and massive of jaw, was more ape than human, fists trailing on the ground when they weren't cocked and ready for brawling.

Soon it was another people's turn. During the 1890s, when hundreds of thousands of French-Canadians were quitting rocky farms in Quebec for jobs in New England textile towns, *The New York Times* wrote, "It is next to impossible to penetrate this mass of protected and secluded humanity with modern ideas or to induce them to interest themselves in democratic institutions and methods of government."

It was bad enough to be invaded by unmoderns. But the real danger was in the numbers, because, as *The Times* went on, "No other people, except the Indians, are so persistent in repeating themselves. Where they halt they stay, and where they stay they multiply and cover the earth."

Full disclosure: the BLP editor is the son of an Irishman who came to the USA as a teenager.

## WHAT AND WHEN

Here we list upcoming ALP activities and other events that come to our attention. Have an event to list? If so, send information well in advance to [actionlangley-park@yahoo.com](mailto:actionlangley-park@yahoo.com).

**Now until May 5—A Thousand and One Faces of Mexico:** Masks from the Collection of Ruth D. Lechuga. At the Mexican Cultural Institute, 2829 16 St., DC. Open Monday -Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Some of the masks are pictured above.

**March 22—Action Langley Park** meets at 7 p.m. at the Langley Park Community Center. Be there! We may have some very special guests. Agenda items are always welcome. Send them in!

**March 29 and 30—The Politics of Birthright Citizenship.** A conference at the University of Maryland. See BLP 232 for details, or call 301 406-4266.

**March 31—Bunny Eggstravaganza** from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., featuring the Blue Sky Puppet Theatre. (See photo.) Fee for residents: \$2.



**April 2 - 6—Spring Break Camp**, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Arts, crafts, games, sports, swimming, and more. Ages 5-12. Cost for county residents: \$100, but there's a sliding scale.

**April 21—Maryland Day**, 9 a.m.- 6 p.m. at the University of Maryland in College Park. Lots to see and do!! And it's all free. Bring high school students so that they become more comfortable being on a university campus.

**April 21—Free Community Dinner & Food Distribution** at St. Michael and All Angels Church, 8501 New Hampshire Ave. in upper Langley Park. From 5 to 6:30 p.m. This is a regular event on the third Saturday of the month. For information, call 301 434-4646.

**April 26—Art and the Purple Line**, an art event at The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Arts Center, 930 King Street on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus of Montgomery College. Time TBA. It won't all be purple on purple!

**April 28-29—Science and Engineering Festival:** "Our mission is to re-invigorate the interest of our nation's youth in science, technology, engineering and math by presenting the most compelling, exciting, educational and entertaining science gatherings in the USA." It's free! In DC. Details are available at: <http://www.usasciencefestival.org>.

**May 3, 4, 5—Physics is Phun**, in the physics department, University of Maryland: Great Physics Demonstrations. From 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Information: 301 405.5994. Get young people to these events! Interest them in science! (Science really is fun—and phun.)

**May 6—Langley Park Day 2012** from noon to 4 p.m. at the Langley Park Community Center. There will be music and dance performances; a major health fair; food and craft vendors; children's art and game activities; face painting, and more. On Cinco de Mayo weekend!! If you'd like to contribute to this event, including interpretation, face painting, clowning, giving advice as a nurse, etc., please contact



ALP at [actionlangley-park@yahoo.com](mailto:actionlangley-park@yahoo.com).