

Bids & Classified

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Wenjen

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— just learning about our differences and how to find commonalities is our best case scenario for how we will learn to get along on this planet. And the nice thing is that young kids are the most open to something different. They have no innate preconceived ideas.

KW: You have an MBA from UCLA, and started out as a designer/manufacturer in the fashion

“We are trying to get diversity, multicultural and inclusive books into the hands of kids who need them

industry. What made you decide to become a stay-at-home mom?

MW: I actually started a company out of college with two classmates that has grown into an international creative staffing company called Aquent. When my oldest was born, I was working full-time for Aquent and my husband and I panicked about day care for her. He decided to stay home to take care of her, having spent a year trying his luck as a profes-

sional golfer on the mini tours. When our second was born, he said that if he had to stay home with two kids, he would be forced to leave us, so we decided to switch places. He went back to work full-time in finance, and I stayed home with two kids. And then we had a third!

KW: And then, with three kids, how did you make the transition to a work-at-home-mom?

MW: I had to wait until my youngest was in preschool for half a day, five days a week, but I

how they worked or which blogging platform to use. I figured, if the most technically savvy people in Silicon Valley were using Wordpress, then that was the way to go. I started blogging seven years ago and I got hooked. It took me five years of basically working for free to finally earn income from blogging and, while it's not much money, it's satisfying in the same way as getting blood from a stone.

KW: Tell me a little about your plans for

ing, education, etcetera, get a free diversity book from us and they post their review on January 27th which is included in a linky

KW: How would you describe your mission?

MW: We are trying to get diversity, multicultural and inclusive books into the hands of kids who need them. We do this by raising awareness of the great books out there that perhaps are under the radar. We create content to help teachers and parents find the books they need, as well as activities to go along with them. We are also giving books away.

KW: How would you define success?

MW: Success is when the books published reflect the ethnic demographics of the United States.

KW: AALBC.com founder Troy Johnson asks: What was the last book you read?

MW: I just finished Rebecca Stead's book *Goodbye Stranger*. I can't stop thinking about it; it's that good. But what is really cool is that the newest book by Chris Grabenstein, *Mr. Lemoncello's Library Olympics*, uses the same riddle about two people pointing to two



Mia Wenjen, the creator of Multicultural Children's Book Day, is shown here with her daughters, Ali and Zoe vacationing in Italy.

doors. One goes to heaven, one to hell. One lies, one doesn't. Which door do you pick? How cool is that?

KW: What is your favorite dish to cook?

MW: I'm a soup/stew kind of cook. Give me anything that can bubble away in a pot. I just made Saveur's Hungarian Goulash that my family liked. I used smoked

paprika which was my twist.

KW: Ling-Ju Yen asks: What is your earliest childhood memory?

MW: I was the kid who was squirreled away with a book and an apple. I remember deciding to read every chapter book in my elementary school library because I couldn't find any "good" books

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and several cookbooks, and open restaurants in Manhattan, Washington, DC and out on Sag Harbor.

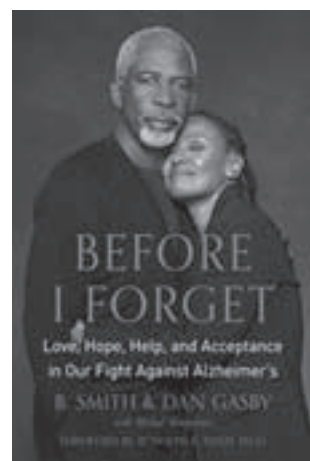
With the help of her husband, B. built such a formidable business empire that she became widely known as "The Black Martha Stewart."

Unfortunately, upon consulting a doctor a couple of years ago because of a nagging forgetfulness, she received the devastating diagnosis of early-onset Alzheimer's. Although she and Dan have since re-ordered their priorities, the two have steadfastly refused to allow the disease to either crush their spirits or diminish their love for each other.

As B. puts it, "I'm still myself. I just can't remember things as well as I once did."

In *Before I Forget*, she and Dan share their inspirational message of hope while issuing a rallying cry to the African American community which suffers from Alzheimer's at over twice the rate of whites.

The autobiography



primarily focuses on the last five years of B.'s life, although it does devote a few chapters to earlier periods, including her childhood in Pennsylvania.

However, the thrust of the book is to kickstart a frank conversation about Alzheimer's from recognizing the warning signs, to identifying its stages, to reciting lesson's learned thus far.

Above all, the memoir is a reaffirmation of a couple's undying love, as evidenced by Dan's waxing romantic with, "I am so grateful for the honor and pleasure of your company, and for the privilege of sharing your life."

this year's Multicultural Children's Book Day?

MW: We are so excited to be in the position to give away a ton of diversity books this year! We are giving away more than 600 books! Teachers can sign up for our Classroom Reading Challenge and we will send them a free hardcover book through our sponsor, Junior Library Guild. We hope to get 400 teachers signed up and we've extended the deadline to the end of their school year. Bloggers of any stripe, lifestyle, parent-

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1-20-16



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1-20-16

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University of Oregon Student Housing

Bids Due: Feb 17, 2016 @ 1pm

The project consists of new construction of academic spaces, residential units (500+ beds), administrative offices, and support spaces. The building has (4) levels of wood frame construction over (2) levels of concrete frame. Total building area is approximately 145,000 sf.

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(503) 222-4375
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Contact: Aaron Elliott

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1-20-16