

## Two Speakers on the topic of Refugees

Monday April 26th 4:30-6:30 PM

2-hours toward relicensure available

### 1st Presentation: What Educators Need to Know About Refugees

by Mirjana Bijelic Olujic, LCSW

Coordinator of International KidSuccess

Jewish Family Services

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Photo: Rich Wildau  
Nairobi, Kenya

### Assisting Refugee Students: Addressing Trauma, Adjustment and Cultural Issues

This training will address key factors affecting refugee students' success in school. Adjustment process, cultural considerations, impact and signs of trauma and mental health needs of students will be discussed and *strategies for how to address them will be presented.*

**Mirjana B. Olujic, LCSW**, Coordinator of International KidSuccess Program (IKS) of Jewish Family Service will facilitate the training. IKS is a school based counseling program for refugee students.

### 2nd Presentation: A Look into the Culture of the Karen

#### People of Burma by Drucie Bathin, B.S.

Community Educator

Spring Institute

[dbathin@springinstitute.org](mailto:dbathin@springinstitute.org)

This presentation will focus on the refugee experience of the Karen people of Burma and the challenges Karen students have in assimilating in the US. Ms Bathin will also discuss strategies teachers can use with Karen students, which take into consideration important aspects of their culture.

**Drucie Bathin** was born in the Pan-An District, Karen State of Burma. She worked as a teacher and human rights worker until exiled in 1999. Ms Bathin then came to the US where she has remained active in advocating for human rights for the Karen people. She presently teaches at the Spring Institute and works with other resettlement programs in Colorado.



**Where:** Educational Services Center 4, Conference Room C 11th & Peoria Aurora, CO

**When:** Monday, April 26, 2010 4:30-6:30 PM Free Admission

**Who:** All APS Educators including: classroom teachers, para-professionals, ELA consultants, psychologists, special education teachers, front office staff, family liaisons, teacher leaders & coaches, and principals.

**Why:** The rising enrollment of refugees into American schools has increased the need to share important cultural information with teachers and other professionals.

## Resources

1. ***Spring Institute's list of publications for working with refugee and immigrant children and adults.***

Free to download and print.

<http://www.springinstitute.org/?action=publications> Includes:

Refugee Children with Low Literacy Skills or Interrupted Education, Refugee Children (24 pages)

What Non-Readers or Beginning Readers Need to Know (37 pages)

The Bantu in our midst: A Resource for ELT Classrooms (66 pages)

The Hmong in our midst: A Resource for ELT Classrooms (63 pages)

Working with Pre-Literate And Non-Literate Learners

Tips for Teachers During Times of Trauma (7 pages)

Somali Youth Report (16 pages)

Scans Plans: Active Listening Listen, Repeat, Do, multilevel (2 pages)

HOT TOPIC 1 - Why is my teacher talking so much?

Cultural Adjustment, Mental Health, and ESL (56 pages)

2. ***Articles with information for Teachers***

Refugee Students in American Classrooms:

[https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=http://www.doe.in.gov/lmmp/pdf/refugee\\_students\\_in\\_american\\_classrooms.pdf](https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=http://www.doe.in.gov/lmmp/pdf/refugee_students_in_american_classrooms.pdf)

**What is a refugee?**

<http://www.brycs.org/aboutRefugees/refugee101.cfm>

3. ***Books:***

\* Creating Emotionally Safe Schools: A Guide for Educators and Parents

by Jay Bluestein

\* Learning a New Land: Immigrant Students in American Society

by Carola Suarez-Orozco, Marcelo M. Suarez-Orozco, Irina Todorova

3. ***Information about International KidSuccess***

<http://www.brycs.org/promisingpractices/program.cfm?ID=63>

4. ***Refugee Data:***

<http://www.cal.org/co/refugee/statistics/index.html>

5. ***Pamphlet for Refugee Families:***

<http://www.cal.org/co/publications/welcome.html> (Pamphlet available in: Amharic, Nepali, Russian, Somali, Swahili, Tigrigna, Kirkundi, Arabic, English, Farsi, Karen.)

Kirkundi, Arabic, English, Farsi, Karen.