

European American Lutheran Association **EALA**

To be a visible and nameable anti-racist witness for a cross-cultural church



WHITE SUPERIORITY SET ALREADY IN COLONIAL LAWS

Summer 2014

Inside this issue:

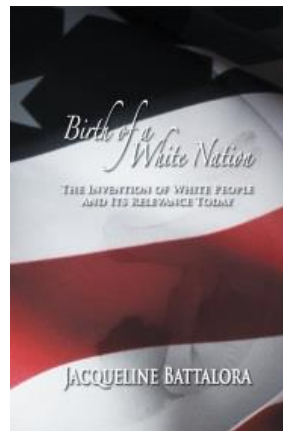
<i>White Superiority Set Already In Colonial Laws</i>	1
<i>3 Articles For Your Attention</i>	1
<i>Association of Asian and Pacific Islanders & EALA</i>	2
<i>Reflections from the Border</i>	2

Six Common Goals for ELCA Ethnic Associations:

- Listen to the non-affiliated to hear relevance.
- Implement ways to serve those under 35.
- Convene caucuses to hear how young adults would become engaged in church.
- Ethnic Associations assist ELCA in drawing clear map for cross-cultural church.
- Engage Associations in developing young adult leadership.
- Establish communications between synods and Associations.

The late March White Privilege Conference in Madison, WI (2,400 attended; 2015 in Louisville, KY March 11-15) had several Keynotes - whiteprivilegeconference.com. The first was “Birth of a White Nation” by Jacqueline Battalora, a lawyer and professor of sociology and criminal justice at Saint Xavier University, Chicago. In her keynote she set forth something, which many of us in the EALA, may not be aware, namely, that “white” is a legal social construct and not a biological reality. She indicated this was put in place through early colonial laws in Virginia and Maryland, before many of our ancestors arrived in the United States. It gave European descent people an

immediate privilege and set the stage for future laws to continue white superiority and the resulting privileges.



Battalora provided the historical documentation for this, which she also does in her 128 page book of the same title. *Birth of a White Nation*

includes a 24 page Acknowledgment and Introduction section where she shares some of her personal journey with this issue including this statement, “I was born a female and made a white girl”.

Of the book’s 5 chapters, the first three include much of what she shared in her keynote. Chapter 1 is entitled “White People: The Creation” which began in the 1600’s as a result of labor issues involving plantation workers before and after Bacon’s Rebellion (1676). The British male plantation owners, as colonial lawmakers, created laws with consequences related to skin color and free or bonded status for the laborers. ... [More Online](#)

3 ARTICLES FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Three recent publications relate well to the justice work of the EALA. The first is from the June edition of *The Atlantic*, “**The Case for Reparations**”, written by Ta-Nehisi Coates. The magazine cover lays it out: “250 years of slavery. 90 years of Jim Crow. 60 years of separate but equal. 35 years of state-sanctioned redlining. Until we reckon with the compounding moral debts of our ancestors, America will never be whole.” The article is online at [theatlantic.com](#) Coates was

also featured on the May 21 edition of “Moyer and Company” and can be viewed at [billmoyers.com](#)

The second article, “**How to Dismantle the ‘New Jim Crow’**” by Michelle Alexander is from the July edition of *Sojourners*, online at [sojo.net](#) Like the old Jim Crow, this one, resulting from the War Against Drugs, has created permanent second class citizens with a host of guaranteed future limitations because of imprisonment. Alexander states “There is no

more pressing human rights issue, no more spiritual crossroads, or threat to democracy, than the current penal crisis.”

The third is the emphasis of the July issue of *The Lutheran*, our official ELCA magazine, “**Economic and Income Inequality**”. Its articles include “Economic and Income Inequality: Beliefs Matter”, “The New Inequality: Our Lutheran Vocation” and “Golden Nets: Luther on Loving Your Neighbor”. See [thelutheran.org](#).

Association of Asian and Pacific Islanders and the EALA



Members of the European American Lutheran Association (EALA) Board of Directors are each assigned as a liaison to one of the other five ethnic associations of the ELCA. Here is a report by Mark Cerniglia about one of our sister association's April biennial gathering in California.

REPORT ON THE 12th ASSEMBLY OF AAPI - ELCA

The 12th Biennial Assembly of the Association of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was held at Christ Lutheran Church (a bilingual Chinese/English congregation) in Monterey Park, California, April 23-26. It was my privilege and pleasure to bring greetings from EALA. I had been to

the 10th Assembly in Chicago in 2010 and twice to the Asian Lutheran International Conference (ALIC) in Thailand, so I have developed some friendships with the leaders of AAPI. Indeed, the Rev. Dr. Fred Rajan said to me, "You have come to so many of our meetings, we need to make you an honorary Asian."

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"People have been educated and socialized to believe in certain racial characteristics and differences."

[Join the EALA as a registered partner, working for racial justice and inclusion!](#)

Reflections from the Border by Cathy Crimi

In May, as part of a divinity school class, "Traversing Our Nation's Wound: Immigration & US/Mexico Border", I traveled to Arizona and Mexico, immersed in border and immigration issues. I have to preface these reflections by my own personal identity as a child of God who continually works to embrace the commands I believe we are given in both the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible and the New Testament of Scripture to love our neighbor as ourselves, and to take loving care of the foreigner. My identity additionally includes being the daughter of an immigrant, so I have lived at least a glimpse of the impact of the treatment of immigrants on subsequent generations. Additionally, over the past

several years, I have listened to the stories and experiences of those who work in this country without appropriate documentation, and have been made aware of round-ups in recent years of migrant workers that have left crops rotting in fields with no US citizens filling the work force needs that were left vacant.

During our time in Tucson, AZ and Nogales, AZ and Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, we were hosted by Border Links, an organization in Tucson, AZ which raises awareness of border issues and who hopes to motivate people to become active citizens. We met with undocumented migrant workers both in the US (who had survived crossing the border and desert) and Mexico

(who were attempting to cross the border into the US), attended a vigil for Daniel Ruiz being held in detention (see his story at: http://azstarnet.com/news/opinion/editorial/article_0e229cb8-f5f4-57ba-91fc-c0399d730b4b.html), met with John Fife, the pastor who served at South Side Presbyterian Church when they began the Sanctuary Movement in Tucson, met with two individuals who had been in detention, one for about six months, the other for about three years, both of whom came to this country seeking political asylum. Additionally, we met with representatives from two maquilas (plants of foreign companies that assemble products) in Nogales ...

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