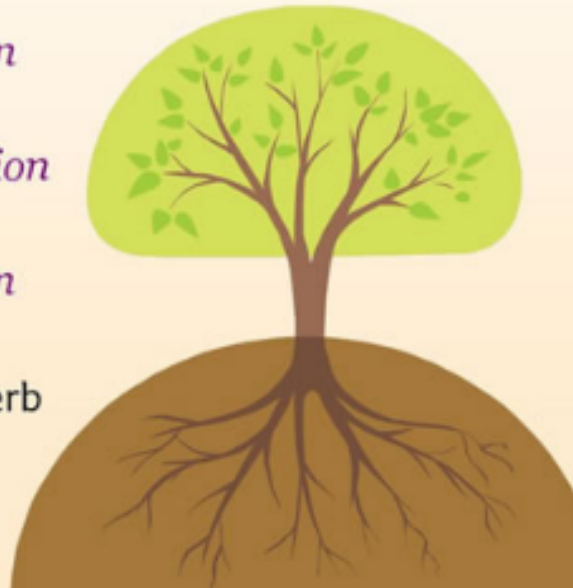


The Karen

*"The first generation
plants the seeds.
The second generation
gets the shade.
The third generation
gets the fruit."
—Karen proverb*



Jan 6-10:33 AM



- Originally from Karen State in Burma (Myanmar).
- Karen people in U.S. are refugees via refugee camps in Thailand
- In NY, concentrated in Rochester, Syracuse, Buffalo, and Utica

Jan 6-10:35 AM

Why Refugees?



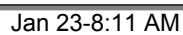
- Myanmar govt supports Burman majority, in a country of over 135 ethnic groups.
- Karen State wants independence. 1949 Karen National Liberation Army was the main force. Now there is also DKBA and other brigades.
- Harassment and violence by the Burmese army caused many Karen people to flee to Thailand.

Jan 23-8:05 AM



Karen state is along the border of Thailand.

Jan 31-8:04 PM



A vibrant photograph of a traditional village in Laos. The scene is dominated by a steep, verdant hillside covered in dense tropical forest, including palm trees and various broad-leafed plants. Scattered across the slope are numerous traditional houses with dark, steeply pitched thatched roofs. In the background, a massive, sheer limestone cliff rises vertically, its surface textured with greenery and shadows. The foreground shows the tops of some thatched roofs and lush green foliage, suggesting the viewer is looking down from an elevated position. The overall atmosphere is one of a remote, peaceful rural community nestled in a dramatic natural setting.



Jan 23-8:11 AM

Types of Students



- older, may have lived in Burma when they were very young. More aware of politics.
- born and grew up refugee camp. "From Thailand"
- born in U.S., second generation
- dual identity
- Variety of prior schooling

Jan 23-8:11 AM

Food



- rice
- fish
- bamboo
- rice noodle soup: kaw nah
- spicy!

-no huge dietary restrictions, although some vegetarians. Newcomers may not have had dairy before.

Jan 6-10:42 AM

Clothing

- women's skirt is folded
- men's skirt is tied in front
- unisex bags



- thanaka

Jan 6-11:46 AM

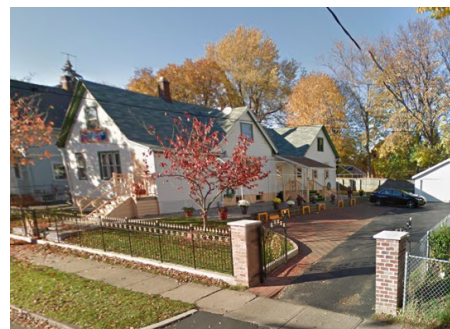
Beliefs

Christian



50-50

Buddhist



animistic beliefs



Jan 6-11:51 AM

Major Holidays

Karen New Year



January

Karen Wrist Tying



August

Jan 22-6:03 PM

Education

- Parent education - mix of Burmese, Karen or illiterate - make no assumptions
- school in refugee camps is in Karen & English
- Parents value education but may not know how to support/ be involved.

Jan 23-8:03 AM

Language

- Karen is tonal
- Thank you - Tablu
- Good Morning - Gwalagay
- Good Job - Gay Doh Ma
- Bad - Teh Gay Bah
- Yes - Mey
- No - Tha Mey Ba
- Bathroom - Da Ha Lo
- Water - Tee



Jan 23-10:59 AM

beetle nut - they tha



po thee da

Jan 6-11:53 AM