

The **BOISI CENTER** *for* RELIGION *and* AMERICAN PUBLIC LIFE

Co-sponsored by the Lynch School of Education

How Young is Too Young?

Teaching About Religion in Public Schools

Linda K. Wertheimer

November 11, 2015 • 4:30 P.M. • Champion 139 • Boston College



When Should The Lessons Begin

- »» Different approaches – Modesto, Calif.; Wellesley, MA; and Wichita, KS

High school? Modesto says yes.





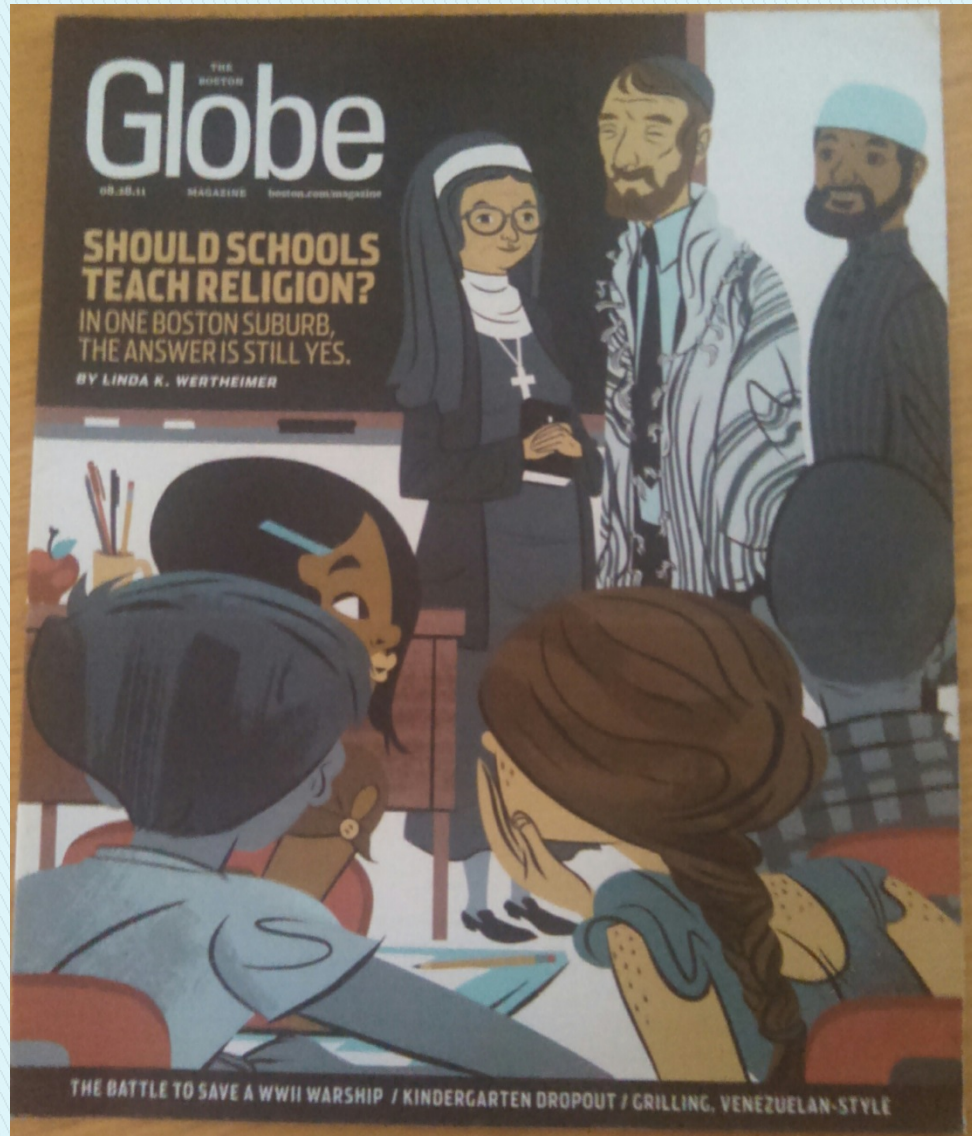
Modesto high school teacher Sherry McIntyre in her classroom



Former Modesto schools
Superintendent Jim Enochs:

“Schools could not make little saints and tolerant people of all of their students because parents had them too much of the time... What schools could do was soften some of the differences among children.” – interview with author, 2013

Dateline: Wellesley, Mass. Sixth Grade is Best





Wellesley teacher Jonathan
Rabinowitz



Wellesley Middle School field trip
to Wayland mosque in 2013

Dateline: Wichita, KS. How about first grade?



What is religion?



Simple Lessons



Challenges: Educating vs. celebrating





Confronting Parents' & Others' Concerns

- No religion in the home. Will this upset my child? Cause discomfort?
- How can you teach Hinduism? We teach our son there is only one God.
- How can teachers manage young kids' comments?
- Elementary teachers don't know much about religions other than their own.
- Will my child want to adopt a different religion or any religion?



Can Starting Younger Make a Difference?



Find out more about Faith Ed., the book, at www.fairedbook.com. @lindakwert on Twitter

Upcoming Events



13th Annual Meeting, Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light

What Actions Are Needed to Answer Pope Francis' Call?

Wednesday, November 11, 2015

St. Ignatius Church • 7:00 - 9:00 PM



Gustavo Gutierrez, O.P.

My Faith Story within the Story of Liberation Theology

Monday, November 16, 2015

Heights Room, Corcoran Commons • 4:30 - 6:00 PM