



Unitarian Universalist Church at Washington Crossing

One Hundred Years of Faith, Hope, Love and Action, 1916 to 2016

CHURCHWIDE RACIAL JUSTICE PROJECT—JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016

As we move into the new year, we're excited about continuing UUCWC's journey of discovery and learning about systemic racism, white privilege and the destructive ramifications of these for our society at large.

The next few weeks have many opportunities for reflection and participation. January 18th is the Martin Luther King Day of Service and UUCWC members will be volunteering at HomeFront. January 16th is the kick-off for the Standing on the Side of Love's *Thirty Days of Love* initiative. There are book discussions about Ta-Nehisi Coates's extraordinary book, *Between the World and Me*, and a screening of a PBS documentary called *Banished* about a forgotten slice of American history, the racial cleansing of communities that became known as "sundown towns" as in "*Don't let the sun go down on you in (name your town) if you are black*". There are some outside activities you might be interested in and last, but definitely not least, the reflection groups will continue to provide thoughtful challenges and discussion.

So, please take the time to read this bulletin to see where you might connect with the project going forward.

BLACK LIVES MATTER

by UUCWC member David Thomas

Black Lives Matter	Have to live in fear
If All Lives Matter	Of police
Why do more Blacks	Of driving
Attend troubled schools	Of shopping, while black
Spend more time in prison	Many white people
For non-violent offenses	Have forgotten, ignored, or opposed
Live in poverty and its traumatizing effects	A simple truth
Have neighborhoods targeted	If All Lives Matter
Then blighted	Black Lives Matter
By the subprime mortgage mess	Too
Have voting rights challenged	

"Spirit in Practice" Reflection Groups

Gather in the monthly Racial Justice Reflection Groups. What they are:

A place to connect with yourself and with others in your group, in the experience and conversation of race.

A place to explore your own challenges, capacities and place.

A place to see more clearly where you stand, and in knowing this, to honor it, and perhaps to let go and move on

The January reflection groups will ask us what it means to be a people, or a person, of resistance.

This comes at the half way mark in our 2015/2016 Racial Justice Project and we will consider resistance alongside having an opportunity to process some of what has come up (emotionally, intellectually, communally, etc.) during the first half of the project.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, PLEASE EMAIL ARE@UUCWC.ORG

Martin Luther King Day of Service, Monday January 18, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The UUCWC community will be working at the HomeFront Main Office from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on January 18th. We will:

- Organize and shelve food donated to the HomeFront Food Pantry
- Sort and organize linens, clothing, etc. donated to HomeFront
- Assist with tasks in the Sewing Space, such as cutting fabric and organizing materials (9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)
- Other tasks as directed by HomeFront

You can volunteer as much time as you are able.

HomeFront's Main Office is located at 1880 Princeton Ave, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Ronnie Dobrowolski or sign-up on the Racial Justice Project Bulletin Board in the lobby.

Other HomeFront Volunteer Opportunities

(Facilitator: Ronnie Dobrowolski)

HomeFront's Sewing Space, Saturday January 9 & Saturday January 16, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The Sewing Space provides art therapy, skills training, income, pride and empowerment to mothers who are working to achieve self-sufficiency. Volunteers are needed to cut fabric for future projects, to organize materials and fabric, and provide other support and assistance as requested.

The Sewing Space is located in the HomeFront Main Office, 1880 Princeton Ave., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

Individual Volunteer Opportunities at the Family Campus in Ewing:

There are many volunteer opportunities for individuals 15 years and older which can be found on the UUCWC's RJP website page, on the lobby bulletin board and at <http://www.homefrontnj.org/polVolunteer.cfm>. If you are interested, contact HomeFront directly at 609-989-9417 or at getinvolved@homefrontnj.org.

- **Client Support – Front Desk (Age 20+)**
A personable volunteer willing to assist with customer service by helping with their daily operations at the front desk. They would like someone who is able to commit to at least one morning a week (9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.) or afternoon (1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.) on an ongoing basis. Tasks include answering the phone/directing calls and assisting with other administrative needs.
- **One on One Tutoring or Teach a Class for Adult Women**
Help tutor adult women at the Family Preservation Center for one hour increments on Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Assist with GED preparation, teach a class on Life Skills, etc. To volunteer for this tutoring opportunity, contact Liza Peck, (609) 883-750 ext.315, email Lizap@Homefrontnj.org

The RJP implementation team would be grateful if you could email them at racialjustice@uucwc.org and let them know if you volunteer for one of these individual opportunities. Thank you.

Movie Screening

(Facilitator: Jim Bicksler)

“Banished” - Friday, January 29, at 7:00 p.m. Pizza, beverages and snacks will be provided.

Please sign up on the Racial Justice bulletin board in the lobby or by email to racialjustice@uucwc.org.

“Banished”, a PBS documentary and winner of several awards, is about the rarely discussed history of racial cleansing in America when thousands of African Americans were driven from their homes and communities by violent, racist mobs.

The film places these events in the context of present day race relations by following three concrete cases where black and white citizens warily explore if there is common ground for reconciliation over these expulsions.

"In Forsyth County, Georgia, where a thousand black residents were expelled, the film explores the question of land fraudulently taken, and follows some descendants in their quest to uncover the real story of their family's land. In Pierce City, Missouri, a man has designed his own creative form of reparation—he wishes to disinter the remains of his great-grandfather, who was buried there before the banishment. And in Harrison, Arkansas, home to the headquarters of the Ku Klux Klan, a white community struggles with their town's legacy of hate.

By investigating this little-known chapter in American history, BANISHED also takes a contemporary look at the legacy of racial cleansing. Through conversations with current residents and the descendants of those who were driven out, the film contemplates questions of privilege, responsibility, denial, healing, reparations and identity.

What can be done to redress past injustices? What is the ongoing impact of the expulsions on families and communities today? In the stories of black families whose land and livelihood were stolen, the film illustrates the limits of the American legal system and the need for creative forms of repair. By introducing these families and the white communities who forced them out, BANISHED raises the question of responsibility for past wrongs and what is involved in righting them."

From Independent Lens website

"My grandmother used to tell us all about the old homestead that was up in Forsyth County, which was strange to us, because we always heard that there's no black people in Forsyth County. That's what we were always told. There used to be a saying that we even as young kids heard, 'Don't let the sun go down on you in Forsyth County.'" Charles Wiley

Book Discussions

(Facilitator: Bernice Husk)

We had suggested two books to read during December and January, *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates, and *On the Run: Fugitive Life in An American City* by Alice Goffman. Bernice Husk will be facilitating discussions on these books as follows:

Between the World and Me:

Monday, January 25, 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Monday, February 1, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

On the Run: Fugitive Life in An American City

Monday, February 29, 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Friday, March 4, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Snacks will be provided at all discussions.

If you haven't read these excellent books yet, you still have time! *Between the World and Me* is widely available (it recently won the National Book Award) and *On the Run* is available online at Amazon and Barnes & Noble. There are also copies of each book in the Journey Toward Wholeness Library.

Please sign-up for the discussions on the sheet in the lobby or email racialjustice@uucwc.org

DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE LIBRARY OF BOOKS FOR CHILDREN!

(Facilitator: Barbara Jensen)

Barbara Jensen has put together a great collection of books for children on issues of race and justice. The library is in the Crossings Room after the second service on Sunday and can be checked out for a period of time. In the back of each book there is paper with some starter questions to discuss with your child. There is also a place for the reader to share their experience of a book with the future readers. The selection will continue to expand as Barbara identifies more books.

Suggested Articles for January

(Facilitators: Mary Lou Dahms and Mary McKillip)

Links to the articles will be on the Racial Justice Project webpage, www.uucwc.org/faith-in-action/churchwide-racial-justice-project.

"Water Cooler Conversations"

To facilitate discussion, especially during Sunday coffee hours, we will be featuring one article each week, starting in the middle of January. Sunday's Crossings II will provide some basic info about the article along with link information. The link will then be included in the weekly church email, as well as on the UUCWC website and the UUCWC Community FaceBook page. The hope is that by the next Sunday, people will have read the article and will be open to discussion as it arises. This idea came from Barbara Jensen as a way to facilitate engagement by (a) people actually reading the articles and then (b) be willing to share their thoughts with others. Thank you, Barbara, for this idea.

White Fragility: Why it's so hard to talk to White people about racism. Dr. Robin DiAngelo, Goodmenproject.com
<http://goodmenproject.com/featured-content/white-fragility-why-its-so-hard-to-talk-to-white-people-about-racism-twlm/>

Of Lions and Men, Mourning Samuel Dubose and Cecil the Lion, Roxane Gay, New York Times
http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/01/opinion/of-lions-and-men-mourning-samuel-dubose-and-cecil-the-lion.html?_r=0

10 Things All White Folks Need to Consider about the Baltimore Uprising, Jamie Utt, Everydayfeminism.com
<http://everydayfeminism.com/2015/04/what-white-folks-need-to-know-about-baltimoreuprising/>

9 Photos of White People Rioting that Puts Ferguson into Perspective, Becca Stanic, Mic.com
<http://mic.com/articles/105198/9-photos-of-white-people-rioting-put-the-ferguson-demonstrations-in-perspective#.BUK2tP1SP>

Participation Opportunities for Restorative Justice

(Facilitators: Pris Gaver and Michelle Hunt)

"Houses of Healing" Correspondence Course:

This is a one-on-one correspondence program with a time requirement of 45-60 minutes per session (13 sessions), and is designed to be completed within 6 to 8 month. You would be set up with an inmate and would help them to do the course by mail. All mail from inmates is sent to the Lionheart Foundation and then forwarded to facilitators and vice versa. Training is provided including 4 hours of video, if wanted. **Several congregants have already registered to do this course with inmates and others are encouraged to consider doing this as well.**

"New Life in the Beloved Community"

This is an opportunity to help mentor an inmate being released from the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women in Clinton. The organizers are trying to build a statewide network of Community Mentor Teams (2-3 people per location) who would work with the women for at least 10 months as they transition back with their families and communities. Training and certification are provided.

Pris Gaver is the facilitator for the above opportunities and will gladly provide more information. However, please do not contact Pris directly but rather send an email to racialjustice@uucwc.org for forwarding to Pris.

UU Church of the Larger Fellowship Letter Writing Ministry:

Participants will engage in a letter correspondence with incarcerated people. One of UUCWC's congregants has been doing this for many years and six more congregants are now participating. CLF is always in need of more participants. Most CLF prisoner-members are brand-new to Unitarian Universalism. With no access to the web or UU Sunday services, they can only learn about Unitarian Universalism from the mailings sent by CLF and the letters they exchange with CLF staff and other UUs.

Michelle Hunt is the coordinator for this program and can provide more information. However, please do not contact Michelle directly but rather send an email to racialjustice@uucwc.org for forwarding to Michelle.

30 DAYS OF LOVE, January 16 to February 14, 2016

30 Days of Love is a project of Standing on the Side of Love, a public advocacy campaign that seeks to harness love's power to stop oppression and sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association. Kicking off on the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend and concluding on Valentine's Day, Unitarian Universalists will be honoring and observing Thirty Days of Love - a time for love, community, and prophetic action. From Saturday, January 16 through Sunday, February 14, 2016, people of faith and conscience will show up for *Black Lives Matter* and racial justice throughout the country as part of Thirty Days of Love.

At UUCWC, Rev. Kim will preach on *Thirty Days of Love* on January 17th, there will be weekly meditations on *Black Lives Matter* that will be disseminated to the congregation on the UUCWC Community Facebook page, and the Council for Faith in Action will bestow a Courageous Love Award. This award is for individuals or organizations that have exhibited courageous love and touched hearts. If you would like to nominate a person or organization (either within the congregation or in the community) for this award, please email racialjustice@uucwc.org no later than Monday, February 1st. For more information about the award, go to <http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/honor-courageous-love>.

OUTSIDE EVENTS

Princeton Theological Seminary, Thursday February 4th The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Lecture

"Classical Rhetoric and the Matter of Black Lives: a Reappraisal of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Homiletics"

Lecturer: Dr. Emily Greenwood, Professor of Classics, and Director of Undergraduate Studies, Yale University

Undoing Racism Workshops, Anti-Racist Alliance, New York City, February, March & April 2016

This workshop, mainly for social service and educational professionals but also available to others, is aimed at advancing institutional change for racial equity. Workshop participants will engage in a comprehensive exploration of how racism shapes American institutions, often without our conscious understanding that it is doing so. Applicants should be individuals in positions to take knowledge gained in the workshop back to their colleagues, institutions and wider communities. The goal is to foster local work groups that will continue the conversation and work toward institutional change.

The workshops are facilitated by [The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond](http://www.thepeopleinstitute.org), a national, multiracial, anti-racist network from New Orleans dedicated to ending racism and other forms of institutional oppression. Now in its 25th year, the Institute has provided training, consultation, and leadership development to more than 110,000 people in organizations nationally and internationally. The workshop stresses learning from history, developing leadership, maintaining accountability to communities of color, creating networks, undoing internalized oppression, and understanding the role of organizational gatekeeping in perpetuating racism.

The cost is \$350 per person, \$175 for students. If you are interested in attending one of the workshops, UUCWC is offering the possibility of some financial support to cover the costs. For more information about this please contact Rev. Kim Wildszweski at minister@uucwc.org. For more information, go to <http://www.antiracistalliance.com/ARA-training.html>. Sallie Dunner is attending the February workshop.

Did you know . . .

. . . that in 1844, Oregon, not yet a territory, was founded as a "white homeland" that banned slavery and excluded blacks — a tenet that transferred to the state constitution and allowed punishment of African-Americans who refused to leave. At statehood in 1859, Oregon's Constitution banned blacks from living or working in the state, owning property or voting. - *Mail Tribune, Oregon*

. . . that from Maine to California, thousands of communities kept out African Americans (or sometimes Chinese Americans, Jewish Americans, etc.) by force, law, or custom. These communities are sometimes called "sundown towns" because some of them posted signs at their city limits reading, typically, "Nigger, Don't Let The Sun Go Down On You In ____ ." Some towns are still all white on purpose. Their chilling stories have been joined more recently by the many elite (and some not so elite) suburbs like Grosse Pointe, MI, or Edina, MN, that have excluded nonwhites by "kinder gentler means". - *Sundown Towns: A Hidden Dimension of American Racism, James W. Loewen*

The Council for Faith in Action has overall responsibility for UUCWC's Racial Justice Project. If you have questions or concerns about the project, please contact Sallie Dunner, CFA Chair and project coordinator, racialjustice@uucwc.org

Racial Justice Project Calendar, January 10 through February 6, 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 10	11	12	13	14 Reflection Group 10:00 am to 12:00 pm	15	16 Start of 30 Days of Love
17	18 Martin Luther King Day of Service at HomeFront	19 RJP Meeting 7:00 pm. Crossings Room Open to all who are interested.	20	21	22	23
24	25 Coates Book Discussion 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Reflection Group 7:00 to 9:00 pm	26 Reflection Group 1:00 to 3:00 pm	27 Reflection Group 7:00 to 9:00 pm	28	29 Movie Screening, "Banished" 7:00 p.m.	30
31	February 1 Coates Book Discussion 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.	2 2016 Project Study Group Meeting 7:00 pm	3	4 The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Lecture, Princeton Theological Seminary, 7:00 p.m.	5	6