

# AUGUST 2021 Newsletter from Challenging Racism

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To: porozco\_98@yahoo.com

Date: Monday, August 2, 2021, 08:00 AM EDT

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## AUGUST 2021 UPDATES NEWSLETTER



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## CHALLENGING RACISM HIGHLIGHTS

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### CHALLENGING RACISM'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN THE 2022 CLASS OF ARLINGTON LEADERSHIP

The Board of Directors of Challenging Racism would like to congratulate our Executive Director, Alicia Jones McLeod, for her selection as a member of the [2022 Class of Leadership Arlington](#)! This honor and opportunity is a clear recognition of the contributions she has already made and continues to make as a community leader in Arlington and beyond. Congratulations Alicia!

- Challenging Racism Board of Directors



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## CHALLENGING RACISM BOARD UPDATE

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The Board did not meet in July 2021 but will reconvene on August 17, 2021 at 7 PM. Please email [info@challengingracism.org](mailto:info@challengingracism.org) if you would like to attend our Board meeting. All are welcome.

Challenging Racism will be closing its fiscal year FYE21 this coming August 31. We would like to take this opportunity to say a big Thank You to all our donors and supporters. Because of you, CR is able to continue working on its mission to empower and inspire people to disrupt racism one compassionate conversation at a time. Truthfully, we could not do this without you; we, and those we serve, sincerely appreciate your generosity.

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## FACILITATORS UPDATE

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### **Save the Date - August 26**

We hope that you can join us on Zoom for a Facilitators Meeting and Check in, August 26, 6:30 to 8 pm. We will talk about current and upcoming projects, assess readiness and response to continued challenges, learn a bit about call in-call out, and have a bit of time to visit with each other. Look for an email closer to the time with a Zoom invitation.

### **Welcome to our new Facilitator - Graduates of *CR Learning to Lead* - Sumer 2021**

Tim Cotman and Shari Benites led a group of committed and gifted activists in the *Learning to Lead* Facilitator Class. The recent graduates are Amanda Lukoff, Whytni Kernodle, Jennifer Sauter-Price and Pilar Afshar. Congratulations to the graduates and welcome to the facilitation team!

### **Challenging Race Continued**

Just a reminder that CR Continued is a great space for real facilitation skill development, curriculum writing opportunities, and continued learning. Our next CR Continued meeting is August 10. If you are a current CR Facilitator or graduate of Learning to Lead who wants to be engaged, you can reply to this email to get more information about the upcoming meeting.

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# UPDATES FROM CR PROGRAMS

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## Racial Equity Training

### Arlington County Sheriff's Department

July, 2021

In July, Challenging Racism began the second engagement with the Arlington County Sheriff's Department. The meeting with Sheriff Beth Arthur and her leadership team launched the second part of the racial equity training began in October 2020.

The initial meeting included Challenging Racism's Executive Director, Alicia Jones McLeod, and facilitator and Board Member, Monique Brown, who led the discussion regarding racial equity.



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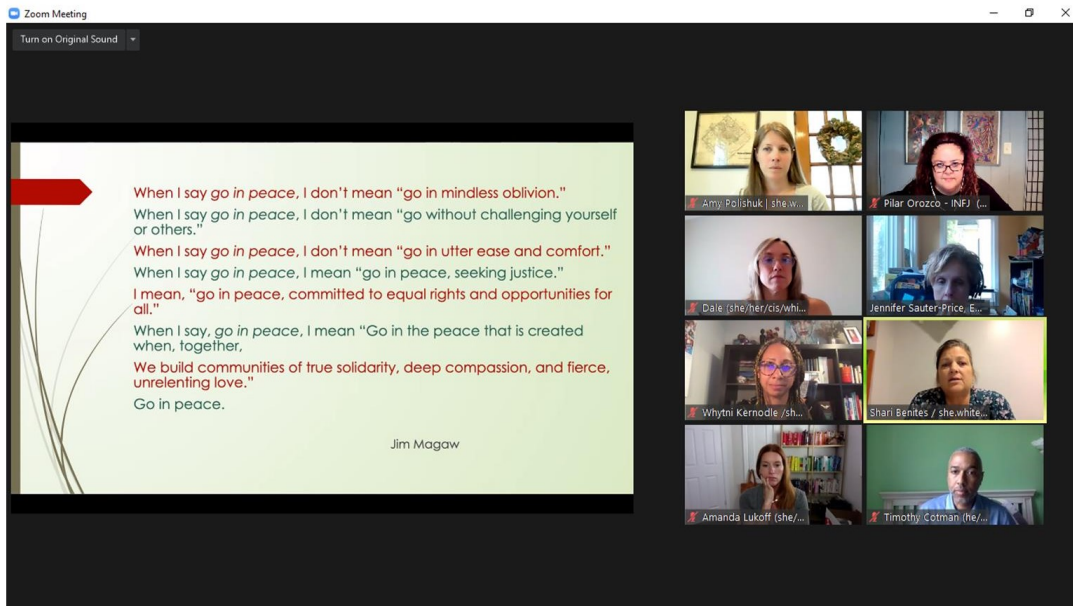
## Challenging Racism: Learning to Lead

Saturdays and Sundays 6/26-27, 7/10-11, 17-18

8:30 am - 12:30 pm

[Challenging Racism: Learning to Lead](#), an intense facilitation training program that provides the skills and training to facilitate any group where race or topics related to race are likely to arise, graduated its class of summer 2021 on July 18th.

Guided by facilitators Shari Benites, Tim Cotman, Dale Perry and Amy Polishuk, 4 new facilitators finished the program and are ready to join Challenging Racism's team. Congratulations Amanda, Jennifer, Whytni and Pilar!



## Housing Equity and Race: Fair Housing in the DMV Region

July 14, 22 and 31

Online, via Zoom

The [Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments](#), [Ochoa Urban Collaborative](#), and [Challenging Racism](#) partnered to present a series of three Community Dialog zoom sessions in July. Sessions were offered in English and in Spanish.

At issue is the question of how we expand accessible, affordable and equitable housing opportunities for residents in the DC Metro area. In an unprecedented collaboration, jurisdictions in Maryland, DC and Virginia are working together to develop [a regional fair housing plan](#). The Challenging Racism team: Dawn Kyser and Pat Hardin along with Judith Knight and Pilar Afshar led participants in conversations about the history of housing and race, and the intersectionality of housing, transportation, education, healthcare, and barriers to equitable housing.

CR Executive Director Alicia Jones McLeod provided the context for the conversations. We were joined by storytellers from across the region including Whytni Kernodle, president of Black Parents of Arlington. Participants received a handbook that included maps, definitions, and further resources for continued study. These conversations concluded with a call to action with a variety of opportunities to become more involved in fair housing advocacy.

Last year Challenging Racism partnered with Montgomery County in a series of urban planning and equity conversations to inform future conversations and effect change in planning for equitable housing.





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## CHALLENGING RACISM RECOMMENDS

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### Continuing to Normalize Conversations on Race

We are excited to introduce two segments from Arlington County's [Racial History Timeline](#). This timeline can be used by community members as a fundamental tool to highlight and understand the racial motivations in our history to move us closer to achieving racial equity. The timeline documents key historical events in Arlington County related to housing, education, community facilities, public safety, transportation, urban planning, public infrastructure, and more. This historical context has, and will continue to, create a foundation for the elimination, reduction, and prevention of disparities in county policies, practices, procedures, and community engagement.

As we continue to expand the timeline, we invite members of the community to share information, personal stories, and resources. It is our sincere hope that you will use the timeline, in conjunction with our other tools, to familiarize yourself with our work. We also invite feedback as you utilize the tools. Sharing your experience will help us refine the tools for future use. Information regarding opportunities to share your stories is forthcoming.



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### Housing Discrimination: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver (HBO)

[John Oliver](#) breaks down the long history of housing discrimination in the U.S., the damage it's done, and, crucially, what we can do about it.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### **CR Continued: Echo Chambers**

**Thursday September 23, 2021**

**6:30 - 8:30 pm**

**[Registration](#) is open now!**

Challenging Racism: Continued is presenting the program "Echo Chambers" on Thursday, Sept 23 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm.

The discussion will be centered in the article ["The Problem of Living in Echo Chambers"](#) published in [The Conversation](#) in 2019, and will focus on what echo chambers are and how they affect our thoughts and actions.

This program is free but [registration](#) is required.



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## Historically Speaking: Reflecting On The Work Of James Baldwin And Black Masculinity

Monday August 2, 2021

7:00 - 8:30 pm

African American History and Culture Museum

Virtual

[Registration](#) is open now!

During the mid-twentieth century, James Baldwin wrote extensively about the intersections of race, sexuality, gender, and class in the United States. Our panelists, Darnell Moore, Kiese Laymon, and Marlon Peterson will reflect the political, social, and literary lineage of James Baldwin, picking up where Baldwin left off in the contemporary discussion.

The memoirists will spotlight how James Baldwin influenced their writing and how their memoirs examine their race, sexuality, spirituality, and class to reshape their identity as Black men in America. NMAAHC curator Aaron Bryant will moderate the live discussion.

[Click here to place your order for \*No Ashes in the Fire: Coming of Age Black and Free in America\* by Darnell Moore, \*Bird Uncaged: An Abolitionist's Freedom Song\* by Marlon Peterson, and \*Heavy: An American Memoir\* by Kiese Laymon. \*No Ashes in the Fire: Coming of Age Black and Free in America\* by Darnell Moore, \*Bird Uncaged: An Abolitionist's Freedom Song\* by Marlon Peterson, and \*Heavy: An American Memoir\* by Kiese Laymon.](#)



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## Building Racial Understanding: A Four-Part Series Toward Systemic Change

Wednesday August 4, 2021

6:30 pm

Online via Zoom

Free but [registration](#) is required

Our presenters are a team of educators dedicated to the work of social justice, diversity and inclusion. They will guide our conversations to talk openly about several topics related to race and racism. Our hope is that by engaging in these subjects, we can all expand our capacity for racial understanding and learn to become agents of change.

### Part 1: White Privilege and the Power of Positive Assumptions

This presentation explores the definition of white privilege and how four types of racism - individual, institutional, cultural, and environmental - continue to hinder people of color in America.

For complete details on the series, click [here](#).

This event is free. [Registration](#) is required to receive the Zoom link.

A promotional poster for a four-part series. At the top is a row of ten small portrait photos of diverse people. Below this, the text reads 'WISSAHICKON VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS' followed by the main title 'BUILDING RACIAL UNDERSTANDING' in large, bold, black letters. Underneath is the subtitle 'A FOUR-PART SERIES TOWARD SYSTEMIC CHANGE'. The central part of the poster is a dark red rectangle containing four event details in white text, each accompanied by a small portrait photo. The events are: August 4 (White Privilege: The Power of Positive Assumptions), August 11 (The Whens, Wheres, Hows, and Whys of Being a White Ally), September 2021 (Implicit Bias and Microaggressions), and October 2021 (Empowering Kids: How to Talk to Children About Race and Racism). The bottom of the poster features another row of ten small portrait photos.

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## Black Broadway in Washington DC: A discussion with author, Briana A. Thomas

Thursday August 12, 2021

6:30 - 8:30 pm



Tabard Inn, Washington, DC

Free but [registration](#) is required

On Thursday, August 12th local author, Briana Thomas, honors Historic U Street, with her newest book entitled, "Black Broadway in Washington, D.C.!"

Before chain coffee shops and luxury high-rises, before even the beginning of desegregation and the 1968 riots. Washington's Greater U Street was known as Black Broadway. From the early 1900s into the 1950s, African Americans plagued by Jim Crow laws in other parts of town were free to own businesses here and built what was often described as a "city within a city."

Local author and journalist Briana A. Thomas narrates U Street's rich and unique history, from the early triumph of emancipation to the days of civil rights pioneer Mary Church Terrell and music giant Duke Ellington, through the recent struggles of gentrification.

Read more about the author and get more information [here](#).



### Leading for Change: Join LGW's Anti-Racist Leadership Series

LGW's commitment to creating racial equity continues with the third iteration of our impactful Anti-Racist Leadership Series. We are now offering new 101, 201, and 301 programs to build opportunities for anti-racism, racial reconciliation, advocacy, and activism in our organizations, communities, and society.

The series fosters a community of support and collaboration and provides trusted resources to participants. Sessions occur virtually once per month. 645 diverse, cross-sector leaders have participated in past programs, hailing from 266 different organizations, businesses, and government agencies.

Please join us today by registering at the links below. Sponsorship opportunities are available now for organizations and businesses seeking a key role in dismantling systemic racism and helping others create more inclusive work cultures.



**ANTI-RACIST LEADERSHIP SERIES 101:**  
**Taking Awareness into Action:**  
**Allyship, Advocacy and Activism**

LEADERSHIP  
GREATER WASHINGTON

*Series Begins January 25, 2022  
Registration is Open and  
Sponsorship Opportunities  
are Available Now*

This six-month program is designed to give us the opportunity to immerse ourselves in the topic of race, then use exposure to information, group interaction, and personal sharing to explore the way systemic racism impacts each, and all of us, and to take that awareness into action as leaders and allies.

REGISTER



**ANTI-RACIST LEADERSHIP SERIES 201:**  
**Further Explorations into Creating  
Anti-Racist Organizations**

LEADERSHIP  
GREATER WASHINGTON

Sponsored by:

Volunteers  
of America

TD Bank

The three-month 201 program is focused on organizational change. How can we design the cultures of our organizations to actively dismantle patterns of bias and race that have been deeply embedded in the system? Who do we need to be as leaders to take our organizations to the next level? Participants in this program should have completed the 101 series as a prerequisite. Exceptions can be granted based on interviews. The series begins on January 27, 2022.

REGISTER



**ANTI-RACIST LEADERSHIP SERIES 301:**  
**Building an Anti-Racist Organization**

LEADERSHIP  
GREATER WASHINGTON

Sponsored by:

Volunteers  
of America

During the three virtual meetings of this program, participants will first be given a model for assessing an organization, based on Howard Ross's book, "ReInventing Diversity: Transforming Organizational Community to Strengthen People, Purpose, and Performance" and then will assess their organization. Participants in this program should have completed the 201 series as a prerequisite. Exceptions can be granted based on interviews. The series begins on April 28, 2022.

REGISTER

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## INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING FOR CR

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Challenging Racism is looking for volunteers to join us as we design and implement a range of fundraising and outreach activities for the Executive Director and Board.

Volunteers help plan events, build partnerships, conduct outreach via social media, apply for grants, and design programs for organizations in need of our conversations.

All skills are needed and welcomed and volunteers can choose their areas of expertise to help with. Areas we currently need volunteer assistance with are:

- Grants writing
- Handling Press Releases & Public Relations
- Fundraising for 2021 including our 3rd Annual Running Against Racism Virtual Run/Walk, Giving Tuesday and many more
- Marketing and Squarespace knowledge to help with our Website
- IT & Database management to help with Google Drive

Please complete the form below and feel free to contact us at [volunteer@challengingracism.org](mailto:volunteer@challengingracism.org)

Volunteer Form



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If you want to support our mission, you can donate here. Thank you!

DONATE



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1101 Wilson Blvd, 6th Floor  
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