



## Between The Lines Newsletter

Monthly Update From Challenging Racism

### Cocktails & Connections

December 3rd, 2023

Busboys & Poets Shirlington

5:00 - 7:00pm



Join us for a chance to engage with our Anti-Racism community, collectively reflect on the events of the past year, and explore our path forward in challenging racism together. This is a time for fellowship, connection, and an opportunity to preview the work of Challenging Racism for 2024.

[Reserve My Ticket](#)

## A Message from the Executive Director

"I hope this message finds you well. Recently, I had the privilege of sharing lunch with a dear friend, and our conversation took an unexpected turn, becoming our sole focus. As we delved into the complexities of the world, including the ongoing conflict in the Gaza Strip and the unsettling rise of hatred on our college campuses and in our local communities, it became abundantly clear that our shared responsibility to humanity demanded our immediate attention. In times of global turmoil, it is increasingly crucial for us to reflect on our interconnectedness, acknowledge the heaviness in our hearts, and recognize the collective care for each other required to navigate these challenges. The recent tragic events in the Gaza Strip, marked by acts of terrorism from groups like Hamas, have once again underscored the urgency for unity, empathy, and actionable change. As we prepare to welcome home college-age children and family members for Thanksgiving, let us carry the weight of the many innocent families affected by loss and devastation into our conversations around the dinner table. This holiday season offers us a unique opportunity to extend the spirit of gratitude beyond our immediate circles and into the wider world.

At the heart of this call is the firm understanding that being anti-racist goes beyond mere rhetoric; it is a commitment to actively opposing discrimination in all its forms. We must recognize the correlation between Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, and the broader spectrum of racism. These biases not only divide us but also fuel the fires of hatred that lead to tragic events like those unfolding in the Gaza Strip.

Challenging racism is undoubtedly a daunting task. It demands unwavering resilience in the face of adversity and a willingness to confront our own biases. The work can be hard, exhausting, and may cause deep fatigue, but we must persevere. It is through our collective efforts that we can dismantle the foundations of hatred and terrorism. To denounce hate and terrorism effectively, we must take tangible steps forward. This involves educating ourselves and our community about the root causes of discrimination, fostering open and honest dialogues, and actively supporting initiatives that promote inclusivity and understanding.

Let us turn this Thanksgiving into more than just a time of feasting and gratitude within our homes. Together, as a community, let's make it a time of reflection, empathy, and tangible action that resonates far beyond our dinner tables."

In solidarity for humanity,



Moe  
Monique Bryant, Executive Director

**Quote of the Month**

"To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity."

Nelson Mandela

## In The Community

Freedom Fund Banquet

(NAACP-Arlington Chapter)

Ms. Sanders-Townsend's message resonated deeply, emphasizing the essence of being a "Radical Revolutionary" — standing in the gap, unafraid to challenge both adversaries and allies alike.



# Beyond Boundaries Book Club

## Quarterly Book Club

We've been listening to your feedback, and we're thrilled to announce the return of our Quarterly Book Club. We understand the importance of fostering a community dedicated to understanding and challenging systemic and historical racist practices. This book club is more than just a reading group; it's a space where we can come together to share perspectives, learn from each other, and grow collectively. Join us each quarter to read a thought provoking book, chosen and reviewed by our dedicated supporters and volunteers.

This Quarter – *The Second Founding* by Eric Foner. Chosen and reviewed by our wonderful volunteer Margot de Ferranti.

[Read the Review](#)

## What's Coming Up – Fall 2023

### Volunteers Needed – Communications!

Join the Challenging Racism Communications Committee! It is a great way to help us achieve our mission to empower and inspire people to disrupt racism one compassionate conversation at a time. Committees meet once a month and you can jump right in and work on something meaningful.

Native American  
Heritage Month

International  
Day of  
Tolerance 11/16



**Donate**

---

## **Challenging Racism**

3100 Clarendon Blvd.

Suite 200

Arlington, VA 22201

You received this email because you signed up on our website or made a purchase from us.

[Unsubscribe](#)

