

MAY 2021 Updates Newsletter from Challenging Racism

From: Challenging Racism (mail@networkforgood.com)

To: porozco_98@yahoo.com

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MAY 2021 UPDATES NEWSLETTER



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS, MAY 18, 2021 MEETING

The Challenging Racism Board met on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 7 PM. The Board has moved to a consent agenda in order to give the Board more time on strategic issues for the organization. Also, the Board developed a committee to discuss COVID 19 reopening guidelines for public events, meetings and workshops.

The board also approved the slate of officers for 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Chair: Alicia Cackley

Vice-Chair: Michelle Marrero

Treasurer: Mark Nadel

Secretary: Tish Jenkins

Board nominations will be open from June 1 to June 30, 2021; if you are interested in serving as a member of the Board of Challenging Racism or if you would like to nominate someone you know, click on the button and fill out the Board Member Nomination Form.

[Board Nomination Form](#)

The next scheduled Board meeting is Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 7 PM.

UPDATES FROM CR PROGRAMS

Challenging Racism: Learning How **Thursdays from April 8 to June 17, 2021** **6:30 - 9:00 pm**

Challenging Racism: *Learning How through Stories and Conversations* is our core curriculum of eleven 2.5-hour sessions that are hands-on, active, challenging, and story-based with historical and current readings. The curriculum provides skill-building including structured-listening skills and difficult conversations.

Guided by facilitators Moe Brown, Leah Maderal and Judith Brown, 7 participants have worked already through 7 sessions covering topics that include Privilege & Systems of Privilege, Moving from Systemic to Individual Racism, Systems of Racism, Exploring Whiteness and Marginalization of the Other, and Stories of Life, Race and Racism: African American and Black People Stories.

In the following weeks the group will work on Life, Culture and Discrimination of Spanish Speaking Cultures, Native American & Indigenous People, and Asian American Stories.



Challenging Racism Continued: Monthly Meeting **Tuesday May 11, 6:00 pm**

CR Continued met on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 via Zoom with the participation of facilitators Dawn Kyser, Gail Perry, Judith Knight, Amy Polishuk, Lauren Ford, Dale Perry, Michael Swisher, Jane Osgood, and Nancy Brown. The group continues to work in the following projects:

Caste Book Discussion: This book discussion is scheduled for Thursday, June 24, 2021, from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Samantha Fletcher and Lauren Ford will serve as facilitators. There was discussion about adding some of Wilkerson’s recommendations for addressing the issue of caste in the United States, including a Truth and Reconciliation Commission as a model for communities.

“What White Men Need to Know: Basic Training for an Antiracist Life.” Continued facilitators have developed a draft framework for the development of this presentation, including videos and proposed activities. The proposed

presentation is still in the planning stage.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 8, 2021.



Running Against Racism VIRTUAL 5K Run / Walk 2021
May 15 - 22, 2021



Our first fundraiser of 2021 was a great success! With the support of 9 sponsors, 46 registered runners and 29 individual donors, we were able to raise over \$10,000 dollars in the course of one month. Because of these contributions, we will be able to continue offering our programs for an expanding community and make a substantial impact in our fight against racism.

Thanks to all who contributed with generous donations, spreading the word and volunteering their time to help Challenging Racism reach the goal of our 2021 Running Against Racism VIRTUAL 5K Run!

A special thanks to our Sponsors:



Jeanne Broyhill



Phil and Alicia Cackley

Patrick and Mary Hynes
Judy and Randy McKnight
John and Ellen Schelble
Brad and Diane Smith

And to our promotional sponsors:



UPCOMING EVENTS

Challenging Racism: Learning to Lead

Saturdays and Sundays, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

June 26/27 and July 10/11 and 17/18

Online via Zoom

[Registration](#) is open now!



LEARNING TO LEAD SUMMER 2021

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. The course provides direct work on how to create safe spaces for difficult conversations in any setting.

Facilitated by:

TIM COTMAN AND SHARI BENITES

SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS
JUNE 26/27 AND JULY 10/11, 17/18

8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

COST: \$2,500

A deposit of \$300 is required with application

More information:

www.challengingracism.org/learning-to-lead



Listening to Black Farmers

Wednesday June 2, 2021

6:00 - 7:00 pm on Zoom

Register [here](#)

Did you know farming can have links to social justice? Listen in as three Black farmers discuss their experiences as social justice advocates and land conservationists — including topics related to "getting land in Black hands" and how farming can connect the past and future

Please join this [free online panel presentation](#) presented by Mohonk Consultations. The panel members, their affiliations, and topics of discussion are:

- Alison Espinosa, of the Rootworker's Croft, on connecting the past & future of black farming
- Rhyston Mays, of Phillies Bridge Farm, on their personal journey to farming
- Shaniqua Bowden of the Kingston Land Trust, on getting land in black hands

Followed by a Q&A moderated by SUNY student Melissa Paniagua

The event will also include a presentation of the video produced by Al Jazeera entitled *Why are all the Black Farmers Vanishing?*



2021 IMPACT Racial Equity Forum

June 9 and 10, 2021

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

[ACT for Alexandria](#) is hosting their [2021 IMPACT Racial Equity Forum on June 9 and 10](#). The event will highlight the history of race and racism in Alexandria, increasing mobility from poverty, the leadership imperative around operationalizing diversity, equity and inclusion, and storytelling and narrative change for racial equity.

To register for IMPACT, [click here](#). The event is virtual so attendees can participate in the sessions that best align with their schedules and interests.



"Learning, connecting, and committing to an equitable Alexandria"

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING FOR CR

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

[Volunteer Form](#)



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

[DONATE](#)



Challenging Racism
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