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Date: Friday, October 1, 2021, 04:00 PM EDT

SEPTEMBER 2021 UPDATES NEWSLETTER



CHALLENGING RACISM IN THE NEWS

KEEGAN THEATRE AIMS TO CONFOUND EXPECTATIONS WITH ITS SEASON OPENER 'GOOD PEOPLE'

[The Washington Post](#), Theatre & Dance, September 9, 2021

...the show offers an inversion of the usual race/class structure in America: Kate, the upper-middle-class doctor's daughter is Black; the other five characters are working-class White people. When Mike climbs the social ladder out of Southie, his old friends mock him as "lace-curtain Irish."

To help the audience process these issues, Keegan is partnering this season with [Challenging Racism](#), an Arlington-based organization trying to educate Americans about systemic racism. Facilitators from the group will moderate an Audience Talkback session after one show in each run of the theater's eight plays this season. Bringing the cast and production team together, the discussion will delve deeper into the concerns raised by the show. Moreover, representatives from Challenging Racism will visit rehearsals occasionally to help the cast and crew negotiate the same issues before the show even opens.

To read the full article from the Washington Post, click [here](#).



CHALLENGING RACISM BOARD UPDATE

The Challenging Racism Board met on Tuesday, September 21, 2021. The Board reviewed the Board survey that was taken in August. The survey responses will guide the Governance Committee in developing internal board training and a strategic planning retreat.

The next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, October 19, 2021.

UPDATES FROM CR PROGRAMS

Arlington Democrats: "Blue Families on Schools and School Segregation Issues"

Saturday August 28,
5:00 pm

On a hot late summer Challenging Racism facilitated a meeting of the Arlington Democrats' Blue Families group in a discussion about school segregation in Arlington. In a wide-ranging conversation that covered neighborhoods, gentrification, opportunity gaps and more, we looked at trends in Arlington Schools and upcoming redistricting issues. Monique Bryant, and Gail Perry led the conversations.



Challenging Racism: Continued

September 14, 2021
6:30 pm

CR Continued met on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, with the participation of Dawn Kyser, Judith Knight, Gail Perry, Pat Harden, Nancy Brown, Lauren Ford, and Amy Polishuk.

The group reviewed the presentation for Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 7:00 pm on "Echo Chambers" and a list of potential program topics that address the CR's program areas: education, criminal justice, housing, healthcare, and the wealth gap/finances. There is interest also in examining health, nutrition, and food desserts as well as Critical Race Theory, and book discussions on "The Color of Law", "The Sum of Us", and "Separated."

The group also shared information about the Keegan Theater project in which CR is working with the staff, cast, and directors of the theater's plays that are relevant to racism, its intersection with class, and other social issues. They have developed educational materials that examine the various nuances of the plays; these materials are included in every program. Three facilitators also will conduct "talk-backs" for audience members following specific performances. The first "talk-back" session follows the performance of "Good People" on Sunday, September 19, 2021 at 3:00 pm. The last performance of "Good People" is October 3rd. The next Keegan Theater production is "N" which will run from October 23 - November 20, 2021.



CR Continued: "Echo Chambers"

Thursday, September 23

6:30 - 8:30 pm

A Challenging Racism: Continued discussion on echo chambers was held September 23, and was facilitated by Nancy Brown, Gail Perry, and Michael Swisher. Echo chambers were defined and common examples in today's culture were identified, both in one's information sources as well as in personal networks.

Different patterns of thinking were discussed that can lead either to reinforcement of stereotypes, or to a curiosity to explore other views and experiences. Building on these concepts, the group discussed how these forces impact the perpetuation of stereotypes and present day racial inequities. Participants were challenged to consider the diversity of their current sources of information as well as their friend groups, as well as to speak into "misinformation" as they encounter it.

The lively discussion was filled with "food for thought" as well as spurring participants to action in their spheres of influence."



Arlington Free Clinic: "Privilege and Bias"

Monday, September 27

7:00 pm

Arlington Free Clinic invited Challenging Racism to lead its fall Board Retreat in a session about Privilege and Bias. Facilitators Michael Swisher and Pat Harden led a group of engaged and enthusiastic participants in discussion and reflection. Health and safety protocols were observed and participants wore masks while engaging in large and small group activities.



CHALLENGING RACISM RECOMMENDS

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.



UPCOMING EVENTS

CR Everyday For Teens: [MONA](#) (Mothers of North Arlington)

Thursday October 21, 2021

5:30 - 8:00 pm

[Registration](#) is open now!

CHALLENGING RACISM EVERY DAY. (FOR TEENS)

October 21, 2021 | 5:30-8pm | Virtual

This virtual session, [hosted by Challenging Racism](#), is designed **especially for teens (12-18 year olds)**. Parent or guardian participation is not necessary; the session is intended for teens to discuss and reflect issues of race directly with other teens. Registration is limited to the first 24 participants.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)

MONA MEMBERS: \$20 REGISTRATION FEE

NON-MEMBERS: \$30 REGISTRATION FEE



MONA

www.monamoms.org





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**

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

LEADERSHIP
GREATER WASHINGTON

A banner with an orange background. On the left, the text 'ANTI-RACIST LEADERSHIP SERIES 101: Taking Awareness into Action: Allyship, Advocacy and Activism' is written in bold, dark brown and orange fonts. Below the text is the Leadership Greater Washington logo. To the right of the text is the text 'Series Begins January 25, 2022 Registration is Open and Sponsorship Opportunities are Available Now' in a smaller, italicized font. On the far right is an illustration of five raised fists in various colors (brown, purple, pink, red, white) against an orange background.

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

A banner with a dark blue background. On the left, the text 'ANTI-RACIST LEADERSHIP SERIES 201: Further Explorations into Creating Anti-Racist Organizations' is written in bold, white and yellow fonts. Below the text is the Leadership Greater Washington logo. To the right of the text is the text 'Sponsored by: Volunteers of America®' and 'TD Bank'. On the far right is an illustration of five raised fists in various colors (brown, purple, pink, red, white) against a dark blue background.

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



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

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
1101 Wilson Blvd, 6th Floor
Arlington, VA 22209
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[View it in your browser](#)
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