

**ARCHIVE OF BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS
PART 4 - JANUARY 2024 – DECEMBER 2024**

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on behalf of the Racial Justice Team Planning Group



BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Term by Term, January 3, 2024

Maybe you're familiar with the term "micro-aggression" which describes, according to Wikipedia, "commonplace verbal, behavioral or environmental slights, whether intentional or unintentional, that communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative attitudes toward stigmatized or culturally marginalized groups."

Many of us have experienced someone making a comment that feels offensive, but people in marginalized groups face these microaggressions on a daily basis and they take their toll.

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Quote by Quote, January 10, 2024

"We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." —MLK, Jr

In a few days, we will be honoring The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. His dreams of justice led to non-violent protests and positive change in many areas—segregation, voting rights, housing, poverty, working conditions, anti-war. His successes included, too, the work, cooperation, and leadership of many women and men less celebrated than he.

And the work remains unfinished, ongoing, and vital for humankind. We are a part of that inescapable mutuality, our destinies linked. A community acting in love. Today.

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Quote by Quote, January 18, 2024

"In order to empathize with someone's experience, you must be willing to believe them as they see it, not how you imagine the experience to be." Brene Brown

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Quote by Quote, January 25, 2024

"When we identify where our privilege intersects with somebody else's oppression, we'll find our opportunities to make real change." *Ijeoma Oluo*

Oluo is the author of the New York Times bestseller *So You Want to Talk About Race*. Her newest book, *Be A Revolution: How Every Day People are Changing the World-and Now You Can Too!*, is coming out at the end of this month.

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Microvalidation by Microvalidation, February 1, 2024

In our recent Connecting Conversations we explored, together, microaggressions and their grievous harm. A possible counter strategy to their cumulative burden is small, affirming declarations.

In a 2023 Harvard Business Review article, authors Roberts, Grayson, and Rosser presented several microvalidations to incorporate into interactions. Each can begin subtly to move a marginalized "outsider" into a sense of inclusion as an "insider." Here, very briefly, are a few:

- Acknowledge presence—show respect with a warm smile and greeting, make eye contact, and put your phone away. And, when appropriate in public settings, do use titles such as Dr., Prof., Rev. For Black and brown groups, and women, these are hard-earned titles in our nation's recent history.
- Validate identity—try hard not to minimize, reinterpret, or dismiss the many identities each person carries including marital status and preferred pronouns. Refrain from anglicizing a name difficult to pronounce or correcting a history that does not comport with one's own experience.
- Voice appreciation for everyone's contribution—in real time, directly share the significance of team building, continuity, work tasks, including dissent. Remember humans tend toward recognizing those who remind us of ourselves.
- Hold people to high standards—simply, do not praise someone based on a negative stereotype or one that embodies low expectations. Appreciating a woman for her "caring qualities" of leadership rather than her superb technical skills can land as

stereotypical, a microaggression rather than a validation. Instead recognize accomplishment and support potential.

Yes, microvalidations can be another small step on our transformative journey.

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Learning by Learning, February 8, 2024

More than a century after the 13th Amendment abolished slavery, President Gerald Ford recognized February as BLACK HISTORY MONTH in 1976. This declaration was long coming, with many earlier manifestations such as the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) in 1926 sponsoring Negro History Week on the second week in February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.

So, today or this week or this month as Ford had urged “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every endeavor throughout our history.” Spend a few minutes to discover an unknown fact about Black achievement and history. And, please do send your discovery on for me to compile so we can all share the

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Resource by Resource, February 15, 2024

If you like your information in manageable amounts, try subscribing to the Anti-Racism Daily (www.the-ard.com) newsletter.

Black History Month is a great time to expand your understanding of racism in all its forms. A recent article discussed discrimination in housing appraisals and another explained why we capitalize B in Black when referring to Black people.

Each issue has interesting information, action steps you can take, and more. Give it a try.

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Flag by Flag, February 22, 2024

Our Winchester Unitarian Society proudly flies three flags to underscore our shared UU values. Perhaps you have seen the Pan-African flag with its broad horizontal bars of red, black, and green, giving a voice to the Black diaspora spread across the world far too often against their will, including right here in our United States.

Each bar carries rich symbolism:

- Red for the blood that unites all people of Black African ancestry and was shed for liberation
- Black for the people whose existence as a nation, although not a nation state, is affirmed by the existence of this flag
- Green for the vibrant and abundant natural wealth of Africa, the Motherland.

What flags do you see flying in our neighborhoods? Be curious: Have a listening and learning conversation, if possible; then check out the flag’s history and symbolism. Yet another intergenerational exploration?learning. Thank you!

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Book by Book, February 29, 2024

The Racial Justice Team's Planning Group hosted a discussion of the word "privilege" last Sunday, with another one scheduled on zoom. The focus is on Peggy McIntosh's ground-breaking article in 1988: "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack." Take a few minutes to google the article and think about how many of the points she makes hit home if you identify as white, and if not, what is your experience?

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Wise Words from Women, March 7, 2024

During March Women's History Month here are words from our past First Ladies:

"Do what you can to show you care about other people, and you will make our world a better place." —FIRST LADY ROSALYN CARTER

"If you dig deep enough, through all the mud of politics and polarization, eventually you hit something hard and true: a foundation of values and aspirations that bind us together as Americans. That's something to build on."—FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

"Where after all do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home— so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere."—FIRST LADY ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Transformation By Transformation, March 14, 2024

Winchester UU's March theme is "Transformation," which neatly converges with our butterflies logo. Butterflies provide a metaphor for individual change and ultimately for societal change. Imaginal cells hold transformative, potential power driving the metamorphosis of a caterpillar into a butterfly, although there is no visible similarity between the two creatures.

What if we too hold imaginal cells that embolden us to evolve into beings dedicated to creating worldwide community—connected, interdependent, compassionate, cooperative, peaceful?

Some part of our caterpillar-stage selves may first resist this process, regarding it as an attack—an alien virus—and raise defenses to resist "woke," "cancel culture," "virtue signaling," the threat to our comfortable position.

And, if we take a long breath, pause, are curious, listening, and absorbing new experiences, we each might spread delicate wings and all take flight together. Imagine that!

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Term By Term, March 21, 2024

In the midst of Women's Herstory Month, it's a good time to highlight legal scholar and civil rights advocate Kimberle Crenshaw who coined the term "intersectionality" in 1989. Her own definition: "Intersectionality is a metaphor for understanding the ways that multiple forms of inequality or disadvantage sometimes compound themselves and create obstacles that often are not understood among conventional ways of thinking."

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Feminist by Feminist, March 28, 2024

In celebration of Women's Herstory Month, renowned feminist figures like Gloria Steinem (who recently turned 90!) are often spotlighted. As a white woman, Steinem brought an inclusive lens to the work, believing that race, gender, age, and ethnicity must be addressed together. In addition to well-known white feminists, it's also important to recognize the remarkable contributions of lesser-known but equally impactful Black women such as Barbara Smith, Audre Lorde, Lorraine Hansberry, Frances Beal, and Anna Julia Cooper. These extraordinary individuals made significant strides within the feminist movement, leaving behind a lasting legacy of empowerment and advocacy.

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Through Truth Telling, April 4, 2024

Perhaps many of us carry within a wounded child, carefully guarded. In the following paragraph from her book *All about Love: New Visions*, bell hooks (1950-2021) illuminates this child: "...the wounded child inside many males is a boy who, when he first spoke his truths, was silenced by paternal sadism, by a patriarchal world that did not want him to claim his true feelings. The wounded child inside many females is a girl who was taught from early childhood that she must become something other than herself, deny her true feelings, in order to attract and please others. When men and women punish each other for truth telling, we reinforce the notion that lies are better. To be loving we willingly hear the other's truth, and most important, we affirm the value of truth telling. Lies may make people feel better, but they do not help them to know love."

May we feel safe within our Winchester UU congregation to be gentle and generous truth tellers of our experiences of history, systems, community, and each other.

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Month By Month, April 11, 2024

In 2022 President Joe Biden issued a proclamation designating April as Arab-American Heritage Month, a culmination of many years of work by volunteers in the Arab-American community. It is an opportunity to highlight the numerous contributions to our culture by United States citizens from 22 diverse Arabic-speaking countries. Moreover, it is an occasion to

confront the bias, discrimination, and violence endured by many of the 3.5 million Americans of Arab descent, particularly in the aftermath of 9/11.

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Term by Term, April 18, 2024

The Racial Justice Team Planning Group is tackling a challenging term—Cultural Appropriation—for its last Connecting Conversation this church year. Is it cultural appreciation or cultural appropriation when we wear a Japanese kimono or a piece of jewelry we bought in Egypt? Is it cultural appreciation or appropriation when a football cheering squad dresses up as Indians (Native Americans) and performs fake war dances? This is not an easy subject and is one that deserves our attention, learning, and conversation.

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Image by Image, April 25, 2024

For centuries European artists have portrayed Jesus of Nazareth as a man who mirrors their own ethnicity. Is this an example of cultural appropriation? A recent NPR article features an historic 150 year old Rhode Island stained glass window with dark-skinned Galilean Jesus interacting with sisters Mary and Martha, but as equals (see Luke 10:38-42 parable).

Created by the Harry E. Sharp Studio of N.Y., “The Black Gospel” was commissioned by Mary P. Carr to honor her two aunts, both of whom had married into slave trading families. Was she attempting to honor women of conscience, however flawed and ineffective their efforts? In the 19th century powerful themes swirled around race, Rhode Island’s role in the slave trade, abolitionism, women’s place in society, the controversial American Colonization Society, the Compromise of 1877.

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Question by Question, May 2, 2024

These days, as bombs fall literally and figuratively, we may find ourselves hearing unexpected, startling comments from a colleague, friend, or family member.

How can we remain in dialogue, in relationship?

The National Museum of African American History and Culture advises a “Questioning Frame of Mind.” Seek clarity: Tell me more about ___?

Offer an alternative perspective: Have you ever considered ___?

Speak your truth: I don’t see it the way you do. I see it as ___.

Find common ground: We don’t agree on ___ but we can agree on ___.

Give yourself the time and space you need: Could we revisit the conversation about ___ tomorrow?

Set boundaries: Please do not say ___ again to me or around me.

Here is the link to explore: <http://nmaahc.si.edu/learn/talking-about-race/topics/being-antiracist>

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Book by Book, May 10, 2024

This month we celebrate Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders Heritage Month. In the preface to historian Ronald Takaki's book *Strangers From A Different Shore*, Takaki writes: "...the history of Asian Americans offers an important lesson. In the telling and retelling of their stories, these immigrants and their descendants contribute to the creating of a larger memory of who we are as Americans. They reassure us that we can be ethnically diverse and still one people, restlessly and hopefully striving toward 'a more perfect union.'"

I was privileged to hear Ronald Takaki many years ago when he spoke at a professional development day for the Winchester Public Schools.

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Quote by Quote, May 16, 2024

With a thank you to Liz Scott for sending on this quotation, so relevant in these moments: "Now more than ever, the illusions of division threaten our very existence. We all know the truth: More connects us than separates us. But in times of crisis the wise build bridges, while the foolish build barriers. We must find a way to look after one another, as if we were one single tribe." — T'Challa (Chadwick Boseman) in "Black Panther"

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Learning by Learning, May 23, 2024

As we come to the end of Asian-American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Month, it's important to be reminded of the Chinese Exclusion Act. This legislation, enacted in 1882, was fueled by anti-immigrant sentiment and originally prohibited Chinese immigration for ten years. The law was renewed many times until it was relaxed in 1943, and the 1965 Immigration Act finally allowed significant Chinese immigration.

The Chinese Exclusion Act is a poignant illustration of a law that set a tone of institutionalized racism that has had long-term consequences for our country. Understanding the ways in which racism has been written into laws and policies is fundamental to fostering beloved community.

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Quotation by Quotation, May 30, 2024

Recently Massachusetts celebrated being the first state to legalize same-sex marriage 20 years ago in the *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health* opinion.

Our Winchester UU Society is a "radically inclusive" Welcoming Congregation. We publicly express our support with banners, inside and outside our building.

Boston columnist Renee Graham noted that a part of then Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Margaret Marshall's majority opinion has become a part of wedding ceremonies, an unusual role for a court opinion.

"Civil marriage is at once a deeply personal commitment to another human being and a highly public celebration of the ideals of mutuality, companionship, intimacy, fidelity, and family. ... Because it fulfills yearnings for security, safe haven, and connection that express our common humanity, civil marriage is an esteemed institution, and the decision whether and whom to marry is among life's momentous acts of self-definition."

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Quotation by Quotation, June 6, 2024

"Prejudice is a burden which confuses the past, threatens the future, and renders the present inaccessible."

-Maya Angelou

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Quotation by Quotation, June 13, 2024

"We need every single one of us -- those who revolt, those who restore, and those who dream and create the futures we're committed to. Let's refuse to be bamboozled or fascinated by the ongoing and seemingly relentless ugliness of oppression. Let's insist on remembering that we are all kin, and that repairing the world is both our birthright and our responsibility. We can and will do this. I know, for I have seen the future, and it includes all of us." - Akaya Windwood

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Holiday by Holiday, July 18,2024

Perhaps now we have a chance to catch our breath, after the flurry of graduations, end-of-year meetings, and celebrating holidays as we settle into a summer schedule.

We may have missed an important recognition of our history, the celebration of Juneteenth, marking our nation's second Independence Day. This holiday, June 19, has long been celebrated by the African American community and is much less widely known to others.

"In the westernmost Confederate state of Texas enslaved people would not be free until much later. Freedom finally came on June 19, 1865, when Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas. The army announced that the more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state were free by executive decree. This day came to be known as 'Juneteenth' by the newly freed people in Texas." —National Museum of African American History and Culture

It is a difficult legacy and one resilient lesson is never giving up hope in the most uncertain of times.

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Welcome by Welcome, August 1, 2024

With political attitudes affecting discussions of our communities' newly arrived neighbors, we invite you to view MIRA's affirming, joyous video, "Massachusetts has the #CourageToWelcome."

MIRA, the MA Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, promotes the human rights and successful integration of immigrants and refugees through its programs.

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Through Connecting, Civil Conversations, August 15, 2024

Consider using these prompts to address conversations criticizing the legitimacy of a non-white person or a woman in a position of power:

- What about this person's professional background and experience should de-legitimize them for this role?
- What type of characteristics did you envision for this role? What was that rooted in?
- Who benefits by challenging this person's credibility? What is their criticism rooted in?
- Would you feel differently about this person's professional background and experience if they identified as a different gender? Or had a different racial/ethnic background?
- How would you feel if someone told you that you only got this position because you were [insert identity here]?
- How does [this person's] lived experience bring a unique perspective to this role?

(Source: Anti-Racism Daily website)

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Reflection by Reflection, August 29, 2024

Some may remember Fred Small, one of Winchester Unitarian Society's many excellent ministerial interns during our years of service as a UU teaching congregation.

The following is an excerpt from The Reverend Small's inviting, prescient sermon delivered in December 2009, "Building the World We Dream About," at First Parish in Cambridge.

... if we take the leap into the river of diversity, we could become what sociologist Michael Emerson calls "Sixth Americans,"... people who live in a world rich in daily interactions with people not like themselves. They cultivate relationships with those of different backgrounds and cultures and become conversant and increasingly comfortable in those relationships. And they seek out religious communities in which these relationships thrive, thereby enriching their lives and nourishing their souls...Let's stop wishing for Beloved Community and start dreaming it, planning it, seeing it, living it, until we wake up one astonishing morning to find the dream come true.

Small, an environmental activist, is a designer of the Green Sanctuary Movement, part of WUS programming. Also, please do check out his songwriting and concerts on the Internet.

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Civil Right after Civil Right, September 5, 2024

104 years after the 19th Amendment was certified, women not only have the power to exercise their right to vote but to run for office, and even run for president.

While we honor this achievement, we must also uplift the often overlooked contributions of Black women in the suffrage movement. Black women were at the forefront of the movement to demand their place in the democratic process and faced both gender and racial discrimination. Despite these challenges, they persisted, knowing that the right to vote was essential to the pursuit of equity and justice.

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Farm by Farm, September 12, 2024

What does farming have to do with addressing racism? Take a look at *Farming While Black* by Leah Penniman or (and I highly recommend this) view one or two of her YouTube videos. This inspiring Black woman founded *Soul Fire Farm* near Albany in New York State to “end racism and injustice in the food system.”

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Stanza by Stanza, September 19, 2024

This past Sunday, Winchester Unitarian Society voices — in the Sanctuary and via livestream—were united in singing a favorite hymn, “Wake Now, My Sensés.” One verse speaks directly to our goal of justice and equity in all our interactions, at all levels:

*Wake, now, my conscience,
with justice thy guide.*

Join with all people whose rights are denied.

Take not for granted a privileged place.

God’s love embraces the whole human race.

(Hymn #298, words J.S. Mickelson, traditional Irish melody, harmony Carlton R. Young)

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, with Justice and Inclusion, September 26, 2024

“If justice is what love looks like in public, then inclusion is what love looks like among groups.”
By Rev. Dr. Matthew Johnson from the Soul Matters packet for September
Rev. Dr. Matthew Johnson (He/Him/His) was called as the Senior Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Rockford, Illinois, in 2008.

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Quotation by Quotation, October 3, 2024

As our Jewish friends move into October with its observations of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we share the words of Nobel Laureate and Holocaust survivor, Elie Wiesel: *Indifference, to me, is the epitome of evil. The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference.* - Elie Wiesel, quoted in US News and World Report, Oct. 27, 1986

Take a moment to see and recognize each other, to smile and say hello. Who knows the effect of a small kindness for a fellow human.

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Quotation by Quotation, October 10, 2024

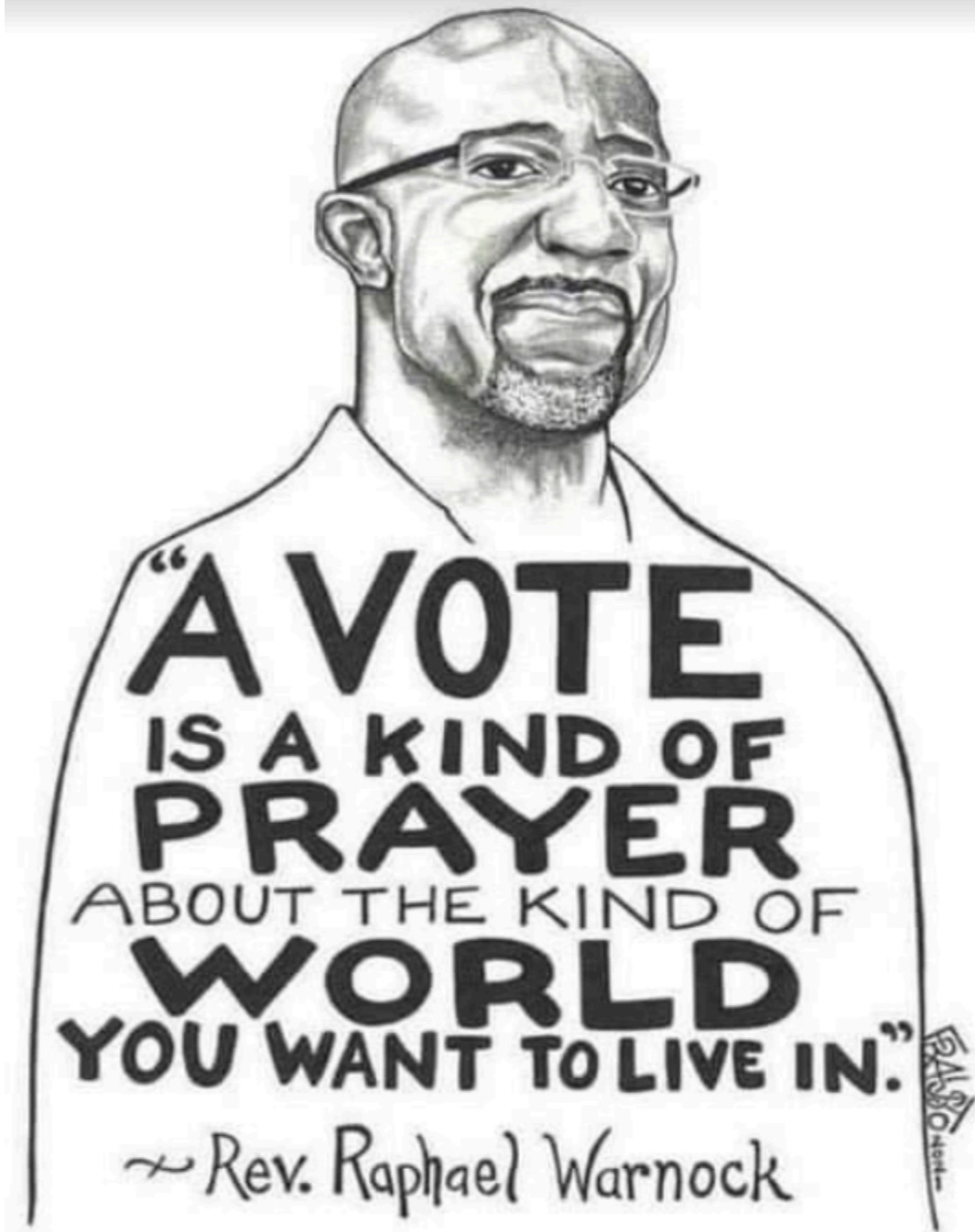
Let's take a moment to recognize and celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month which runs from September 15 through October 15.

United States Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, a graduate of Yale Law School and appointed by President Obama, became the first Latina and the third woman to serve on the Court. Sotomayor was born into a Puerto Rican family who had emigrated during World War II. She grew up in Bronx public housing. Her father was a factory worker with a third-grade education. Sotomayor writes, "I do know one thing about me. I do not measure myself by others' expectations or let others define my worth. It is important for all of us to appreciate where we come from and how that history has really shaped us in ways that we might not understand." She declares, "The Latina in me is an ember that blazes forever."

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Quotation by Quotation, October 18, 2024

"...If we see only the worst, it destroys our capacity to do something. If we remember those times and places—and there are so many—where people have behaved magnificently, this gives us the energy to act, and at least the possibility of sending this spinning top of a world in a different direction. And if we do act, in however small a way, we don't have to wait for some grand utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory."

Howard Zinn in *The Optimism of Uncertainty*



Senior Pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, spiritual home of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Story by Story, November 7, 2024

November is Native American and Indigenous Heritage Month. The Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness writes this in an email calling attention to their “21 Days of Learning”

“When we talk about racial justice, too often the focus is on Black and white experiences. But there’s another powerful story—one of indigenous people across North and South America, whose histories, cultures, and perspectives offer invaluable insight into the impacts of colonization and the resilience of indigenous communities today. From the moment European settlers arrived, indigenous people faced a fierce campaign to take their lands, erase their histories, and disrupt their way of life.”

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Story by Story, November 14, 2024

November is Native American Heritage Month.

Claudia Fox Tree (Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness) and Debby Irving invite us to participate in their 21-day Challenge—a learning opportunity. Just go to debbyirving.com and click on “21-Day Challenges” and you’ll see “Indigenous Challenge.” There are 21 different topics, and resources galore! Even if you don’t commit to 21 days, challenge yourself to learn some new things about Indigenous culture and history.

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Resource by Resource, November 21, 2024

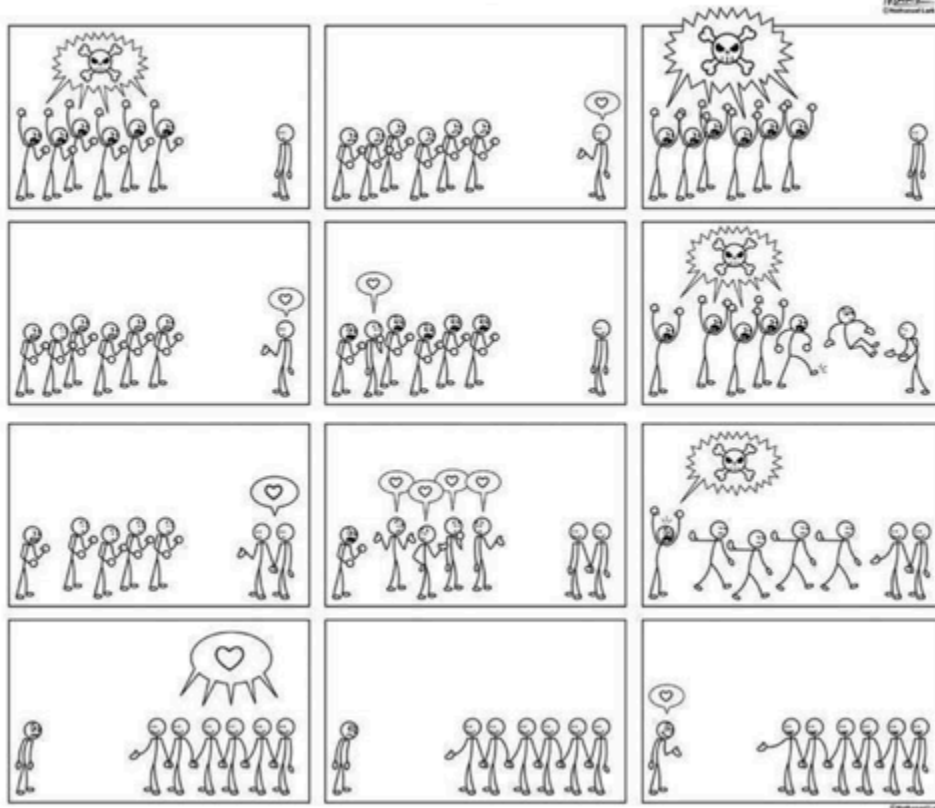
With Thanksgiving on the horizon, take a few minutes to peruse some the resources that tell us a more authentic story about how the holiday was originated and the many inaccuracies that have been perpetuated.

Go to [“Thanksgiving” in the “21 Day Indigenous Challenge.”](#) on DebbyIrving.com.

Did you know that Lincoln established the holiday in 1863 as a way to bring the country together? It can be uncomfortable to read some of our favorite myths debunked, but that doesn’t stop us from taking stock this holiday of the many things for which we can be grateful.

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Ally by Ally thru love, December 5, 2024

How To Change The World



BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Poem by Poem, December 12, 2024

Nikki Giovanni, celebrated African-American poet, died on December 9th (born in 1943). The following poem had just been published on December 9th in the New Yorker magazine. Her family legacy mirrors our nation's disquieting history and her strength.

THE STERLING SILVER MIRROR

No matter how the wind and the stars carried the news

The slaves knew

Sherman was coming

All they had to do was wait:

As they sang the Spiritual "Why can't I Wait on the Lord?"

They had the patience to know He may not come

When you call Him

But He always comes on time

My great great grandmother was a slave holding inside

Her the first of our family to be born

Free

Sherman came burning the hate

And greed freeing my ancestors

My great great grandmother who had never seen her own face

Carried her free baby and a sterling silver hand mirror away

Cornelia whom we called MamaDear was the first

To be born free

MamaDear married Watson and birthed

Three sons and a daughter

MamaDear gave her youngest son the sterling silver mirror

When he graduated from Fisk University

We forget the enslaved had no way of knowing

What they looked like except through the eyes of those who loved them

The men had no shoes to wear other than their feet became leather

Both were precious

Grandpapa had shoes and the mirror

Some in the family say

The mirror was stolen

But how can you steal when you were

When I left my parents' home I was the youngest daughter I took only

Two things:

A diamond pendant Sister Althea gave me for eighth grade graduation

And The Sterling Silver Hand Mirror

I am 81 years old: I have both still

—Nikki Giovanni

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Date by Date, December 19, 2024

Important dates to celebrate in December:

- December 10, 1964 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. receives the Nobel Peace prize. At 35 years old he was the youngest recipient of the prize at that time.
- December 19, 1875 - The founder of Black History Month, Carter G. Woodson is born.
- December 26, 1966: The first celebration of Kwanzaa is observed.

