

March, 2023

Occasionally we are asked "what is the Anti-Racism Affinity Group of Greater Newburyport?" and "can I join?" We are a small group that has been meeting since May, 2017 to support, discuss, and learn about systemic racism and intersectional issues generally, as well as mentor others beginning their journeys of anti-racism.

We support and challenge one another in our own education through books, movies, articles, podcasts, workshops, etc., and look at ways to share these ideas and information with the community, with individuals, and with others who wish to begin their own learning pods.

We stand in solidarity with all those working to end racism, inequality, war and imperialism, while also supporting efforts to build power in working class communities of color. Collective and individual liberation for all!

This is our Facebook page, [Anti-Racism Affinity Group of Greater Newburyport](#)

Please feel free to share this email, or give others my email address (mentalchatter@yahoo.com) so they can get on the (blind carbon copy) mailing list. This newsletter began in Feb., 2021.

PLEASE SUBMIT ANY POTENTIAL ADDITIONS BY THE 25th of EACH MONTH.



Why is a change needed?

The imagery of the Massachusetts Flag and Seal – a white hand holding a Colonial sword over the head of an Indigenous person, above a Latin motto that translates: “She Seeks by the Sword a Quiet Peace under Liberty” – is seen by many as a symbol of violence against Indigenous people, and a memorial to the violent colonization of their homelands. Finally, Native

leaders of the area are being consulted about a new design for a flag and seal that may better express the ideals of peace, justice, and equality for all the people who now call the Commonwealth their home.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Do you live or work in the city of Newburyport? The City Council is being asked to make a resolution, to be sent to the state, in support of the work of the Special Commission Relative to the Seal and Motto of the Commonwealth. The Commission is being asked to recommend changes to the current flag and seal of Massachusetts, that may better reflect our aspirations for harmonious and respectful relations between all people who now call Massachusetts home.

Please support this resolution at any or all of the following meetings:

Monday, 2/27 at 7pm, the resolution will be introduced and input is welcome. It is then sent to the General Government Committee.

Zoom details for City Council Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81299990548>

Or One tap mobile: US: +19292056099,81299990548# Or Telephone US: +1 929 205 6099

Webinar ID: 812 9999 0548

Monday, 3/6 at 5:30 pm, the General Government Committee will meet and discuss and input is welcome. <https://www.cityofnewburyport.com/general-government/events/330691>

Monday, 3/13 at 7pm, the General Government Committee votes the resolution out of committee and brings to the entire Council for a vote and, obviously, input is welcome at this time too. <https://www.cityofnewburyport.com/city-council/events/324381>



March 2023

Exploring the Heart of Cross-Racial Conversation

March 5 @ 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Portsmouth Public Library, Livingston Room, 175 Parrott Ave
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Since the end of WWII, the perceived success of Asian Americans – who have been wrongly portrayed as a monolithic group – has led white apologists to cast this group as the “model minority.” The lack of cross-racial conversations keeps people isolated in their own racial groups at the expense of personal, professional, and societal growth.

This panel will explore what happens when racialized groups begin to dialogue. Panelists will discuss the myth of the model minority, what happens when language is used as a social construct to divide, and what happens when the American racial hierarchy forces one to choose a particular identity or culture over another. How can we speak openly and honestly in cross-racial conversations?

Panelists: Samuel Hyun, Public Speaker, and Dir. of Federal Relations for the City of Boston

Arnold Mikolo, (TBC) Manchester, NH

Andres Meija, Dir. of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice, Exeter Region Coop. School District (SAU 16)

Moderator: Tina Kim Philibotte, Ph.D. candidate and Chief Equity Officer, Manchester School District

[Find out more >>](#)

“Youth to Power”: Black Female Activists

March 12 @ 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Temple Israel, 200 State Street

Portsmouth, NH 03801 + [Google Map](#)



Black Women have been leaders in this country for centuries as abolitionists, voting rights advocates, college founders, civil rights defenders, labor leaders, entrepreneurs, and more. Often, their work to overcome race and gender stereotypes has been seen as unusual or magical, serving to minimize their labor and talent.

This closing discussion will feature a group of young BIPOC women exploring where we are culturally as a state and where we want to be heading. Panelists will share how their activism is shaping their worldview and hopes for the future.

Presenters: Ronelle Tshiela, Franklin Pierce School of Law, UNH. Founding member Manchester Black Lives Matter Rekha Mahadevan, Berwick Academy, Class of 2023. Member of Seacoast NAACP youth group Saniya Bolton, Exeter High School, Class of 2024. Seacoast Black Lives Matter organizer, and climate change equity activist.

Moderator: Funmi Oyekunle, Coor., CONNECT Program, UNH [Find out more >>](#)



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“Courageous Conversations” Part of a virtual series on the rise in hate, where it stems from, and the personal impacts. Specifically, “Courageous Conversations” will focus on hate toward Black and brown people, the LGBTQ community, the Jewish community, Asian Americans and immigrants.



Throughout the past several years, there has been a resurgence in antisemitism, from the open embrace of white supremacist ideologies to celebrities, politicians and insidious behaviors that appear across the political spectrum. Among the harmful effects have been increased levels of fear and isolation as Jewish communities throughout the United States, and the world at large, grapple with this age-old hatred in new ways. This event, moderated by state Sen. Barry Finegold, aims to explore the Jewish experience as it is impacted by hate, sharing ways that the recent upswing in antisemitism has affected communities.

The conversation will be expanded to discuss what each person can do in a bold conversation about allyship, education and ways to unite against hatred, bigotry and intolerance. Community participants include Rabbi Max Chaiken, Temple Emanuel of Andover; Cantor Vera Broekhuysen, Temple Emanu-El of Haverhill; Peggy Shukur, interim regional director of Anti-Defamation League New England. This program is a partnership with Courageous Conversations and Memorial Hall Library, Andover. Sign up to watch from home at www.rowleylibrary.org/calendar. You will receive an email with the Zoom link.



Longfellow House-Washington's HQ National Historic Site Present 'Past & Present Here Unite' (VIRTUAL)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8
12:00—1:00 PM
Virtual Program
Newburyport Public Library



Enjoy a virtual lunchtime lecture from the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site in Cambridge, entitled "Past and Present Here Unite: An Introduction to Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters NHS." What does a home reveal about its occupants, and about our shared history? The Vassall-Craigie-Longfellow House bears witness to the history of slavery in New England and the early free Black community of Cambridge, and George Washington's development as a leader. In the 19th century, it became the home of famed poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and a hub of literary and artistic life. More recently, the house reveals a rich history of the historic preservation movement. Learn more about this unique public resource, reopening for the season in May 2023. Led by Longfellow House Public Programs Manager Emily Levine.

This is a Zoom lecture. Register [HERE](#) or call 978-465-4428 x242 to register. This is a collaboration with the Tewksbury Public Library and other Massachusetts libraries.

Boston African American National Historic Site Presents '**Explore The Black Heritage Trail**' (VIRTUAL)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

12:00—1:00 PM

Virtual Program

Newburyport Public Library



Enjoy a virtual lunchtime lecture from the Boston African American National Historic Site, entitled "**Explore the Black Heritage Trail.**" The Black Heritage Trail showcases residences and community buildings associated with a Black community that thrived on, and near, the north slope of Beacon Hill before, during, and after the American Civil War. Throughout that time, this community struggled and organized for equal rights and access to equal education. Community members championed the movement to abolish slavery and even housed freedom seekers on their journey along the Underground Railroad. Led by National Park Ranger Shawn Quigley.

This is a Zoom lecture. Register [HERE](#) or call 978-465-4428 x242 to register. This is a collaboration with the Tewksbury Public Library and other Massachusetts libraries.

Register VIA Zoom with the link above.



The Newburyport Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Alliance and The Screening Room will be showing the film *Yellow Brick Road* at the **Nock Middle School, on Wed., 3/22, 6:30-8:30 pm in order to increase disability awareness.** A group of disabled actors prepares and performs a one night only performance of the *Wizard of Oz*. We plan to have a panel discussion following the film.



A Tribute to an Artist, Friend, and Courageous Human Being

Come join us for a slide presentation of a selection of Fran Dalton's Photographs and "Stories to Share" with Anna Smulowitz and Friends.

An historic and arts event to benefit the Newburyport Arts Collective: A Tribute to Fran Dalton at the **Firehouse March 23, 7 pm**. Fran was a local photographer who was tremendously beloved for her support of all types of artists in Newburyport. Her prolific photos captured people in Newburyport both before the city was saved from the wrecking balls and as it was restored after. Another aspect of her life was that she came out as a transgender woman during the 1980's. She had originally planned to move to a place where no one knew her, but decided instead to stay among her artist friends in Newburyport to serve as a positive representation for the LGBTQ+ community at a time when they were largely ostracized. The event will include a slide show, sale of her photography book put

together by her friends, a panel of local and well known people who will tell stories about her life, and refreshments.

https://www.firehouse.org/event/fran-dalton-remembered/?fbclid=IwAR3JN1ynzhxPB4EZnBwc97wiR4jf_00FILTEDSX6QigQ9_ZmDacnQ9JbqcY

Refreshments to follow.

All ticket sales (\$20) will benefit the Newburyport Arts Collective (NAC)
This event is part of HerStory Month produced by The Actors Studio



Saturday, April 1 | 7:00 PM | Southern New Hampshire University

LOCATION:

SNHU

Robert Frost Hall

2500 N River Rd, Manchester, NH 03106

TIME & PRICE:

7 PM TO 10 PM | \$25

What Is Celebrate HER!?!

Celebrate HER is a night to truly appreciate and honor the women in our shared community and culture.

The mission of ART NABE is to cultivate the local creative community with an emphasis on illuminating the talent of those traditionally underrepresented. And who is more underrepresented than HER!?!

It's no secret that women run the world and on Saturday, April 1, 2023, we have partnered with SNHU for a local performing artists showcase cultivated with acts who are using their voices to appreciate women on stage.

From 7 pm to 10 pm SNHU's Robert Frost Hall – Walker Auditorium will illuminate and

immerse an audience of students, faculty, and community members in an experience of sounds from R&B, Hip-Hop, Rap, and Afrobeats genres.

Come join us in the 'NABE'orhood to Celebrate HER!

Check out this article in a brand new magazine that's worth your time & subscription!

HAMMER&HOPE



AFTER THE UPRISING, WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

DERECKA PURNELL **OLÚFÈMI O. TÁÍWÒ**
KEEANGA-YAMAHTTA TAYLOR

A discussion of the legacy of the 2020 protests, the growing threat from the right, and building movements.

[HTTPS://HAMMERANDHOPE.ORG/ARTICLE/ISSUE-1-ARTICLE-5](https://hammerandhope.org/article/issue-1-article-5)



Sailing to Freedom: Maritime Dimensions of the Underground Railroad

You can view the event on demand on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@PortMediaNewburyport/streams>

This was a presentation by Dr. Timothy Walker, UMass Dartmouth -- Sailing to Freedom will highlight little-known stories and describe the less-understood maritime side of the Underground Railroad, including the impact of African Americans' paid and unpaid waterfront labor. This talk will reconsider and contextualize how escapes were managed along the East Coast, moving from the Carolinas, Virginia, and Maryland to safe harbor in northern cities such as Philadelphia, New York, New Bedford, and Boston. While scholarship on the Underground Railroad has focused almost exclusively on overland escape routes from the antebellum South, this new research expands our understanding of how freedom was achieved by sea and what the journey looked like for many African Americans.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RMypdz9epvU>

Interested in getting an **update on the Afghan families** who are being supported by various churches in Nbpt. and W. Newbury? Go here for a recent article, <https://newburyportnews-cnhi.newsmemory.com?selDate=20230202&goTo=A01&artid=6>

Or listen to/watch **Morning Show with Mary Jacobsen - February 2nd, 2023 - Update on Afghan Families** –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4rnoFaPpRc>



Black cops, white minds

January 29, 2023 by Shay

<https://blackgirlinmaine.com/racial-and-cultural/black-cops-white-minds/>

Why Black folks die so young: Sometimes it's all about the cash

February 25, 2023 by Shay

<https://blackgirlinmaine.com/health/why-black-folks-die-so-young-sometimes-its-all-about-the-cash/>

Courtesy of Network for Social Justice:



The MA Indigenous Legislative Agenda is a coalition of organizations working to pass Indigenous-centered legislation in Massachusetts. One of the bills, seeking a redesign of the state flag and seal, passed in 2021. The five bills below were introduced in the 2021-2022 MA legislative session, but unfortunately none of them was brought to the floor for a vote despite the thousands of letters of support sent to state reps and senators. We have refiled the following five bills - and we need your help to get them co-sponsored. Please email your legislators today about co-sponsoring one of these 5 bills:

1. **An Act prohibiting the use of Native American mascots by public schools in the Commonwealth (HD.3026/SD.857; Fluker Oakley/Comerford)**. This bill would task the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education with establishing regulations to prohibit Native American mascots in MA public schools, of which 38 continue to use Native

American mascots. Decades of social science research shows that Native American mascots are harmful to both Native American and non-Native youth, and perpetuate stereotypes. The National Congress of American Indians and over 115 tribal, government, education, professional, civil rights, and religious organizations in the United States have recognized the negative health impacts of Native American mascots and called for their elimination.

2. An Act establishing an Indigenous Peoples Day (HD.468/SD.268; Barber/Comerford). This bill replaces Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day in the Massachusetts General Laws. Changing the 2nd Monday in October to Indigenous People's Day acknowledges the harmful impact of celebrating Columbus as a hero. Historical accounts prove that wherever they went, Columbus and his men murdered and enslaved Indigenous People. The repercussions continue to be keenly felt even now. Indigenous Peoples Day replaces something negative with something positive - an increased awareness of Indigenous Peoples and a celebration of Indigenous resilience and survival, in MA as well as throughout the Americas. Please contact info@IndigenousPeoplesDayMA.org directly for more information about celebrating the day and how to pass Indigenous Peoples Day resolutions.

3. An Act relative to celebrating and teaching Native American cultures and history (HD.2237/SD.387; Lewis/Rausch). This bill addresses the lack of Indigenous curriculum in Massachusetts public schools. Schoolchildren rarely learn about the Native American history of the region nor about the contemporary Indigenous peoples who live here, including the Massachusett, Nipmuc, Aquinnah Wampanoag, Mashpee Wampanoag, and other bands of the Wampanoag as well as Native people in Massachusetts enrolled in tribal nations throughout the US and Canada. The goal is to develop a curriculum by working with tribal nations in-state and ensure that all children in the schools attain cultural competency in understanding Native history, cultures and current issues.

4. An Act providing for the creation of a permanent commission relative to the education of American Indian and Alaska Native residents of the Commonwealth (HD.932/ SD.1826; Miranda/Comerford, Montañó). As a State Education Agency, the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education must engage in timely and meaningful consultation with stakeholders. Representatives of Indian tribes located in the state are explicitly identified as stakeholders.

5. An Act to protect Native American Heritage (HD.1611/SD.1410; Rogers/Biele, Collins). This would ensure that Native American funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony (those of cultural, traditional or historical importance to their heritage) held in governmental, municipal or non-profit collections are not sold for profit. Law enforcement efforts to preserve heritage and to deter trafficking of these objects currently rely on Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA). NAGPRA currently only applies to publicly funded entities that receive federal funding.

Consider supporting the Healthy Youth Act,

<https://educateus.salsalabs.org/MAcosponsordrive/index.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eid=990e028c-16c3-45f0-86e0-67669c4a7b1e>