

April, 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.



Black Mothers and Babies of Color at Risk: It's not due to Economics

Photo by [Andrae Ricketts](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Monday, March 27, 7-8:30 PM
Marblehead Museum or on Zoom

In this session we'll explore how our healthcare system is failing women and their babies at an alarming rate and disproportionately so for women of color. The US has the highest rate of maternal mortality among developed nations. Black women are almost 3 times more likely to die during or after childbirth than their white counterparts. And black infants are 2.4 times more likely to die within the first year of life as white infants.

Growing research and high-profile cases, for example tennis superstar Serena Williams, demonstrate that black mothers struggle to be heard. We'll discuss some

of the factors impacting these women which cannot be explained by age, marital status, education, or class mobility. Our discussion will help us to better understand the reasons and what can be done to change outcomes. Register [here](#) for the Marblehead Museum or Zoom.

MRJT Conversations on Race welcomes diverse opinions expressed respectfully.

[Register](#)



Newburyport Community Iftar

Brought to you by the Newburyport Human Rights Commission

Iftar: Muslims fast each day from sunrise to sunset during the month of Ramadan. Iftar is the daily breaking of the fast.

Join local Muslims, new neighbors from Afghanistan, and friends from Newburyport for Iftar and a traditional meal to celebrate Ramadan 2023.

When: Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Where: High School Cafeteria (241 High St)

Time: 6:00 - 9:00 pm

Registration: <https://forms.gle/CpuujSbnaKKJJu2Z6>

Registration is appreciated to help with meal planning and preparation.

Covid

The celebration will be indoors. There are currently **no Covid restrictions** from the Newburyport Health Department.

Photos

Photography is discouraged to preserve the privacy and safety of our Afghan neighbors.

Breaking the Fast

We will “break fast” together at sundown (7:05 pm). Fast is traditionally broken with a date and a sugary beverage or water. A traditional meal will follow.

Newburyport Community Iftar

Brought to you by the Newburyport Human Rights Commission

Supporters –



Background Information

Ramadan: 9 questions about the Muslim holy month

<https://www.vox.com/2017/5/25/11851766/what-is-ramadan-muslim-islam-about>

Nadia's Ramadan (9 mins)

Short family-oriented video about Ramadan from a young girl's perspective. It is well suited to school age children and families.

<https://youtu.be/pxgnhOf67b8>

This is Ramadan (10 mins)

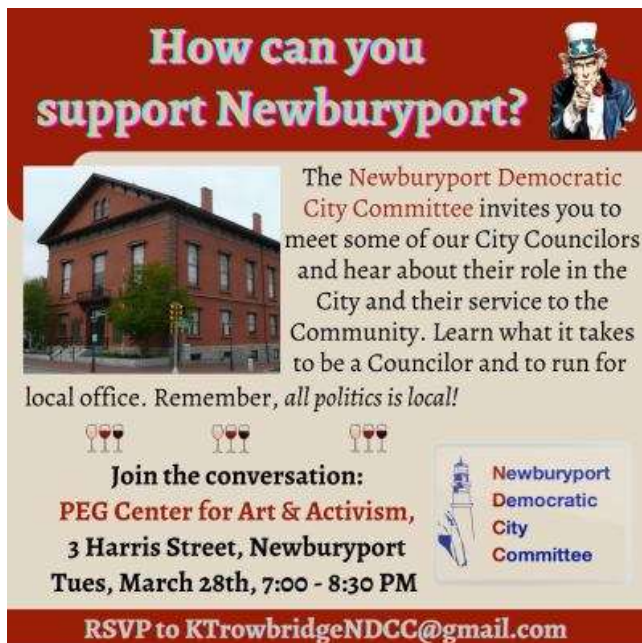
Another short video with a focus on Ramadan and fasting narrated by six individuals who share their experience from a religious and family perspective.


<https://youtu.be/ZT-UeMg37SI>


What it's like to be a Muslim in America (16 mins)


An informative, thought-provoking TED talk that highlights concerns about anti-Muslim speech and action.


https://youtu.be/wzkFoetp-_M



How can you support Newburyport? 

 The Newburyport Democratic City Committee invites you to meet some of our City Councilors and hear about their role in the City and their service to the Community. Learn what it takes to be a Councilor and to run for local office. Remember, *all politics is local!*

 **Join the conversation:**
PEG Center for Art & Activism,
3 Harris Street, Newburyport
Tues, March 28th, 7:00 - 8:30 PM



RSVP to KTrowbridgeNDCC@gmail.com

Are you thinking of running for political office?

On March 28, several current and retired Newburyport city councilors will share their experiences on the council and talk about what it takes to run for municipal office.

This event will be held at the **PEG Center for Art & Activism, 3 Harris St., Newburyport, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.** and is open to all. The committee contends the 2021 City Council elections were not competitive, so it encourages more residents to run in the fall election. Municipal elections are nonpartisan, so this is an opportunity for residents to attend, speak with councilors, and learn more about the work they do.

This informal event will feature a roundtable discussion on the role of city councilors and how to run for office followed by a question-and-answer session. The Newburyport Democratic City Committee and other local organizations have the resources available to coach candidates on how to run and guide them through the campaign process. Interested candidates can request access to those resources, which will be previewed at the event.

For information or to RSVP for this event, email Trowbridge at KTrowbridgeNDCC@gmail.com



Don't Touch My Hair: Status of the CROWN Act

Join us for the virtual panel Don't Touch My Hair: The Status of the CROWN Act at Her Dream Deferred 2023.

By The African American Policy Forum

Date and time

Tue, March 28, 2023, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM EDT

Location

Online

About this event

- **3 hours**
- **Mobile eTicket**

At the end of each March, in honor of Women's History Month and the UN's International Decade for People of African Descent, AAPF and other leading racial & gender justice organizations host a weeklong series of activities focused on elevating the crisis facing Black women and girls entitled Her Dream Deferred: A Week on the Status of Black Women.

AAPF invites you to join us for a panel discussion that will chart the politicization of Black women's hair as identity, a tool of resistance and celebration of Blackness and beauty. It will focus on the enactment of the CROWN Act and the ways in which Black women's hair and expression continues to be used as a conduit for discrimination, marginalization, violence and internalized self-hate. Through films, images and historical artifacts this panel will bring together leading advocates, artists and academics to root the conversation in the ways in which Black women can celebrate their hair while

resisting the misogynoir that implicates the ways in which we choose to wear our hair. Join us as we dive into a conversation of healing, unlearning and celebration of Black hair.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dont-touch-my-hair-status-of-the-crown-act-tickets-580718343197>

Indigenous Stories — Making Place, Placing Makers: Connecting History, Memory and Land by Indigenizing New Hampshire Public Library Local History Collections

Levenson Room, Portsmouth Public Library

175 Parrott Ave

Portsmouth, NH 03801

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

7:00pm - 8:30pm



Registration for this event will close on **March 28, 2023 @ 7:00pm.**

Details

Learn about the relationship between Indigenous representation in public library local history collections and the collective understanding of the land now known as New Hampshire. Findings demonstrate that New Hampshire public library's local history collections often lack recognition or an accurate representation of Abenaki histories, and, instead, hold a majority white authorship which relegates Abenaki peoples to a distant past, casting indigeneity in the light of myth and folklore. The harm of this relegation of Indigenous nations to antiquity perpetuates the genocide that began hundreds of years ago and prevents New Hampshire's non-Indigenous community members from engaging with the complex history of the land which they now occupy. The findings of our presenters, a settler educator, and a settler librarian, illuminate the need for collaboration between libraries, communities, and Indigenous peoples to provide all patrons access to a more accurate understanding of the state's history to create a more equitable and honest present.

More About the Presenters

Jed Crook has spent much of his career working at the intersection of social justice and education. He worked internationally with Protestant and Catholic youth from Northern Ireland as well as locally as the Assistant Supervisor and Resource Educator of the Adolescent Boys unit at the Nashua Children's Home. He studied the role of colonialism in K-12 science education at Keene State where he worked in the Office for Multicultural Student Support and Success. Jed currently works with the Organization of Refugee and Immigrant Success in

empowering refugees and new Americans through food sovereignty and small-scale agricultural entrepreneurship as well as independently through his own regenerative farming and landscaping business. We are deeply indebted to the Indigenous peoples and nations that participated in this research.

Lou Marie Judge is a librarian, musician, and printmaker who currently works at the West Springfield Public Library in the Adult Services Department. Besides working in public libraries, Lou has also been a research assistant at Harvard, a lecturer at Keene State College, a teacher, audio-visual archivist, and has spent time on the lecture circuit in Hungary. She holds a BA in Film Critical Studies, an MA in Film Theory, and a forthcoming MS in Library and Information Science. Her research interests include gender studies, social justice in LIS, techno feminism, and disability studies. We are deeply indebted to the Indigenous peoples and nations that participated in this research.

<https://portsmouthpl.librarycalendar.com/event/IS-Mar-2023>

Registration is required. This is a hybrid event offered in person and online via Zoom. If you plan to attend online, please register and login with the Zoom invitation that will be sent to your email. If you plan to attend in person, join us in the Levenson Room.

COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS VIRTUAL SERIES: RISE IN HATE ~ ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER PANEL

WHEN: March 29, 2023 @ 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

WHERE: virtual via Zoom

COST: Free

CONTACT: Amy Roderick, 978-948-2850, [Email](#)



Please join us for this next Courageous Conversation discussing the rise in hate impacting the Asian American Pacific Islander community. This program will only be offered online. [Register HERE](#), and a link for the Zoom event will be emailed to you.

Between March 2020 and March 2022, Stop AAPI Hate (stopaapihate.org), a national coalition that has documented incidents of anti-Asian discrimination during the pandemic, has received nearly 11,500 accounts of anti-Asian hate incidents. 340 of those incidents were reported in Massachusetts. While this wave of hate may be pandemic-driven, anti-Asian attitudes are not new in America. During the era of World War II and the internment of Japanese Americans, everyone from Dr. Seuss to Life magazine pushed anti-Japanese propaganda. Over time the hate was baked into American culture.

“America has a pattern of using Asian Americans as pawns. Historically, you can see it with the Immigration Act and then post-World War II, you see it with the myth of the model minority and the way it’s used to pit Asian Americans against Black Americans and Latinx Americans. Who benefits?”
– Michael Tom

The above description includes excerpts from an article by Jenee Osterheldt “There is no antiracist movement without fighting anti-Asian discrimination” Boston Globe, March 4, 2021 as well as data from the Stop AAPI Hate 2 Year Report.

Community Participants: Rep. Tram Nguyen; Anna Choi, Endicott College Professor of Religion; Andy Zhang, Andover Chinese School; Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, AAPI Commission

This program is a partnership with Courageous Conversations and Memorial Hall Library, Andover.

Confronting Genocide and Antisemitism - Identifying the Warning Signs

175 Parrott Ave -- **Levenson Room, Portsmouth Public Library**

Portsmouth , NH 03801

Thursday, March 30, 2023

6:00pm - 7:00pm

THE T. WILLIAM AND PATRICIA AYERS GLOBAL TIPPING POINTS SERIES
In Partnership with NH Fulbright Association

IDENTIFYING THE WARNING SIGNS

CONFRONTING GENOCIDE AND ANTISEMITISM

MARCH 30TH, 2023 | 6:00 PM
PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY
175 PARROTT AVE, PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801

DAVID LIVINGSTONE SMITH
UNE PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY

PRESENTED BY:

World Affairs Council of New Hampshire | FULBRIGHT New Hampshire | Lantos - Human Rights & Justice FOUNDATION | PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Details

“The history of man is the history of crimes, and history can repeat. So information is a defense. Through this we can build, we must build a defense against repetition.”
- *Simon Wiesenthal, Holocaust Survivor*

The past becomes prologue if societies do not learn the right lessons and take preventative action. With plenty of examples throughout history, the world has ample evidence of what leads to genocide in all of its forms, yet there are at least a dozen current genocide emergencies in the world today, as defined by Genocide Watch.

Join the NH Fulbright Association and the World Affairs Council of NH, in partnership with the Lantos Foundation and the Portsmouth Public Library, for an important discussion with Dr. David Livingstone Smith, Professor of Philosophy at the University of New England. Audience members will discuss the warning signs of an impending genocide and what can societies, communities, and individuals do to prevent the attempted eradication of a people. Discussions will also focus on the recent global rise of antisemitism, the dangers of communities denying genocides, and what the international community can do to amplify support for ending genocides.

About the Presenter

David Livingstone Smith received his Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of London, Kings College. He is the author of ten books and numerous articles. His book *Less Than Human: Why We Demean, Enslave and Exterminate Others* (2011) was awarded the Anisfield-Wolf award for nonfiction. He has given numerous presentations and public lectures in the US and Europe. David is an interdisciplinary scholar, whose work is cited not only by philosophers, but also historians, legal scholars, psychologists, anthropologists, and others. David has been interviewed and cited on numerous occasions in the national and international media and was a guest at the 2012 G20 economic summit, where he spoke about dehumanization and mass violence.

<https://portsmouthpl.librarycalendar.com/event/genocide>

Registration is required. This is a hybrid event and will be offered in person at the Portsmouth Public Library and online. Watch online via YouTube at <https://wacnh.org/>

This program is the first of three programs in the T. Williams and Patricia Ayers Global Tipping Point Series - Confronting Genocide and Antisemitism. The second and third programs will be held offsite. Learn more about the series at [The World Affairs Council website](#).



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!



Spill the Disabili-Tea: An Introduction to Disability Justice

With Alex Locust

Thursday, April 6, 2023 • 1pm PT • 2pm MT • 3pm CT • 4pm ET

What is disability justice and its relationship to racial justice? What's the difference between access and inclusion?

These and other complex questions will be explored in this virtual *Disabili-Tea* workshop with **Alex Locust**, a Black biracial, queer, disability justice educator, activist, and "Glamputee" who celebrates the harmony of his identities to help create the world we all want to see.

Armed with bombastic charm, whimsical humor, and a sharp wit, Alex synthesizes his lived and professional experiences to share his knowledge and insights on what it means to adopt a disability justice framework that builds community and empowers individuals with disabilities.

Program lasts 1 hour.

RSVP HERE

THE SCREENING ROOM

82 State Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

Tickets are available now for our next event,
LITTLE RICHARD: I AM EVERYTHING.



Director Lisa Cortés' film tells the story of the Black queer origins of rock n' roll, exploding the whitewashed canon of American pop music to reveal the innovator – the originator – Richard Penniman.

Join us on April 11th for this fabulous film and help raise funds for this year's PRIDE. \$5 from each ticket will serve as a donation to [Newburyport Pride](#), and at the event, enter to win a gift basket including a movie night for two at The Screening Room, an LP from [Dyno Records](#), a BluRay of *THE GIRL CAN'T HELP IT*, and more.

[Click Here for Info & Tickets](#)

Join the DEI Alliance for a screening of the documentary

YELLOW BRICK ROAD

A film about a group of actors with disabilities who prepare and perform a one night only performance of the Wizard of Oz.

Screening will be followed by a panel discussion with Newburyport locals; individuals with disabilities and partners in the arts community about their experience creating art together.



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

6:30 -8:30 PM

NOCK AUDITORIUM

**70 LOW STREET
NEWBURYPORT, MA**

Brought to you by:



THE SCREENING ROOM



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023 AT 6:30 PM – 8 PM

SAVE THE DATE: The Huddle Explores Patriotism with Ed Carson & Others

Folks, I will deliver a talk titled "Imagined Communities and the Distortion of Nationalist and Patriotic Identities due to Capitalism" on **Wednesday, April 26th, from 6:30-8pm in person and on Zoom at The PEG Center for Art and Activism, 3 Harris St. in Newburyport, MA.** Check out the Center's great work, and join us for a talk that will inspire, motivate, and unnerve you as we think about the global consciousness and conditioning of capitalism. I will post more in the future, but you can register for it here.

This event is in person at the PEG Center, by reservation at paula.estey@yahoo.com, and by Zoom, also by registration. More details to come! Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9171242000>



Save the Date: Confronting White Supremacy Symposium Saturday 5/20/23

With the ongoing waves of overt white supremacist and neo-Nazi organizing that's become increasingly visible (though certainly not "new") in New England over the past few years, CCI is working with friends/volunteers/comrades from Showing Up for Racial Justice Boston (SURJ) on a Spring symposium. **This event is designed to inform and prepare everyday people to find their role in what urgently needs to be a well-organized and community-based response to prevent the situation from worsening.**

More specifically, the goals for the symposium are to:

- **Help increase basic literacy and understanding amongst the general public around the white supremacist movement(s) organizing in New England communities**
- **Help attendees feel better prepared and empowered to take action**
- **Provide some basic training for challenging these movements (there is a role for everyone)**

A slate of speakers for the event is still being finalized, but a tentative date has been set for Saturday, May 20. **Please save the date and look for more information coming soon.**



Learn about the **Newburyport Black History Initiative** – it's inception, work and plans – true blast from the past!

(About 10) interpretive signs will explicitly center the achievements, experiences and stories of African Americans who lived and worked for varying periods of time in Newburyport from the pre-Revolutionary War period to the early 20th century... the focus of this particular initiative is facilitating seeing the world through the experiences of Black Americans. The signs will illuminate some of the community's history that has often been overlooked or forgotten by most, and inform both visitors' and Newburyport's collective understanding of its past...

<https://newburyportma.viewpointcloud.com/records/48171>

16 min. video about the project -- <https://vimeo.com/798519440>

BLACK GEMS
UNEARTHED

And with a wider lens, check out this treasure about black history in MA –

Jazz offers a plethora of short and engaging videos on a variety of topics.

<https://blackgemsunearthed.com/>

GUIDE TO ALLYSHIP

<https://guidetoallyship.com/>

Worth your 4 min. (some obscenities included) --
2018 Women of the World Poetry Slam - FreeQuency "Dear White People"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rk-jjnPSa3M>

Race Matters Episode 30: "White Anti-Racism" with Marian Levy

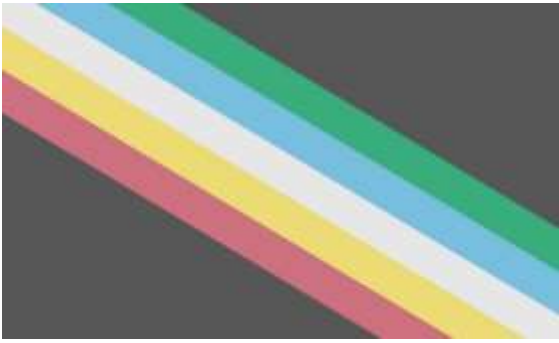
Discussion between Eddy Carson and Marian Levy deserves your listening time (55").

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FzlpQJLC-RM>



What is White Supremacy Culture? Treat yourself to a deep dive. And, be careful to not “weaponize” the characteristics that are offered in this perspective.

<https://www.whitesupremacyculture.info/>



The loss of an inspiring and pioneering light –

https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/05/obituaries/judy-heumann-dead.html?campaign_id=9&emc=edit_nn_20230306&instance_id=86975&nl=the-morning®i_id=119093886&segment_id=127013&te=1&user_id=9816c92b838f8288c67947a822e3dc07



Othering & Belonging Institute

Our Solidarity Talks: Kerry Washington & V (formerly Eve Ensler)

Join playwright and performer V (formerly Eve Ensler) with actress Kerry Washington for a conversation reflecting their relationship as activists and artists, as well as the importance – and challenge – of working across racial lines and standing up for each other.

Content warning: There is content in this video that may be emotionally triggering, particularly conversations around sexual and gender violence – 26 min.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kx6Mbs5NCZU>



The dehumanizing effect of dominant culture

March 8, 2023 by Shay

<https://blackgirlinmaine.com/maine/white-folks/the-dehumanizing-effect-of-dominant-culture/#more-17187>

Y'all ain't ready for realness—Feeling while Black

March 17, 2023 by Shay

<https://blackgirlinmaine.com/racial-and-cultural/yall-aint-ready-for-realness-feeling-while-black/>