

September, 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 25<sup>th</sup> of EACH MONTH.**

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Thursday, September 7

## **Transformational Conversations with Debby Irving**

Part of the [Conversation Skills](#) collection

**Learn to bravely engage even on tough topics, moving from fear to curiosity in order to have authentic, productive conversations.**

By **Comadre Speakers Collaborative**

**Date and time** Thursday, September 7 · 7 - 9pm EDT

**Location** Online

**Refund Policy**

Contact the organizer to request a refund.  
Eventbrite's fee is nonrefundable.

**About this event**

- **2 hours**
- **Mobile eTicket**

**Learn to move from blame and disconnection to understanding and connection.**

## Do you relate to these sentiments?

1. How can I be sure I'm not saying the wrong thing?
2. Uncle Joe has become so impossible to talk to, I can't even be in the same room with him anymore!
3. I wanted to say something and I couldn't find the words. I am so mad at myself.
4. Dang! I wish I hadn't said anything. Things are worse than before.
5. I want to have a conversation with my racist/clueless/offensive friend and I don't even know where to start.

Because dominant white culture encourages us to avoid conflict, many of us raised in it have not fully developed the insight, skill, and emotional stamina necessary to broach and navigate differences of perspective and opinion, especially when harm to a member of a marginalized group is part of the mix. After all, we're taught not to even see race, let alone talk about it! Too often these unskilled conversations are completely avoided or broached only to go from bad to worse, leaving people in divided camps teeming with assumption and anger that further divides us and wreaks havoc on our relationships and communities.

There is a different way. In contrast to the social norms of whiteness are norms and skills designed to develop the authenticity and courage necessary to deeply understand one another in ways that forge connection and develop resilience. These are also ways of being that nurture and grow us personally and collectively.

This interactive workshop will explore how to embed new, transformational norms into our personal and institutional practices.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/transformational-conversations-with-debby-irving-registration-632898615797?fbclid=IwAR3MyCswHSBujpMswDZRwwU3VEOiBCOZ9B2EHhdvJZ4Pv54qFRLbw1rCswY>

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Handcrafted pieces, Art, Apparel, Baked goods, Music, Networking, & More!

**Annual Merrimack Valley Black & Brown Owned Fall Market**

Friends, Family, Small Businesses,

**SEPTEMBER 9TH**  
15 CENTRAL ST | NORTH READING, MA

MARKET OPEN  
11AM - 3PM



## WAMPANOAG HERITAGE DAY

*Sponsored by the Massachusetts Archaeological Society*

A CELEBRATION OF INDIGENOUS CULTURE, ARTS AND FOOD  
OF THIS LAND'S ORIGINAL PEOPLE



**Sunday, September 17, 2023**

11:00 - 3:00 PM

Robbins Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology  
17 Jackson Street, Middleboro, MA



**Free Admission**

**Special Presentation 2:00 PM - Neesh La Singers and  
Dancers Children's Performance group**

**Join  
Us**

*Make a Wampum Pendant with  
Darius Coombs*

*Make a corn husk doll with Toodie  
Coombs*

*Enjoy homemade chowder*

*Native Art for sale: wampum,  
beadwork, paintings, musical CD's  
and much more*

*Museum tours and presentation  
of stone tools that are 1000's  
of years old*

For more info: 508-947-9005, [www.massarchaeology.org](http://www.massarchaeology.org), and @MassArcheology



Housing, housing, housing – our housing “crisis” is obvious -- for people in poverty, + those who earn low and reasonable incomes. Governor Maura Healey has recently declared a State of Emergency to address the state’s overburdened shelter system as a result of the recent influx of immigrant families who are fleeing unrest and violence from Venezuela and Haiti. Besides volunteering or donating to local Food Pantries, there’s a LOT you can do to help agencies trying to address this dire need:

- Donate money, your volunteer time, or in-kind goods to places like the YWCA of Greater Newburyport, <https://www.ywcanewburyport.org/affordable-housing/>
- or Pettengill House, <https://www.pettengillhouse.org/home.aspx>
- or Habitat for Humanity, <https://www.essexcountyhabitat.org/learn-about-habitat/> (visit to purchase, volunteer, or donate to their ReStore in Lawrence)

- If you are a property owner willing to house people currently experiencing homelessness, contact Emmaus or Community Teamwork.
- or Emmaus House, <https://emmausinc.org/get-involved/>
- or Daybreak Shelter, <https://psychologicalcenter.com/our-programs/daybreak-shelter/>
- or Lazarus House, <https://lazarushouse.org/>
- or Community Teamworks, <https://www.commteam.org/get-involved/help-respond-to-the-ma-state-of-emergency/#contacts-closed>

The last 4 agencies also provide shelters, longer-term housing, and supportive services to individuals and families.

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## **Affordable Homeownership Opportunity for First-Time Homebuyers**

POSTED ON: AUGUST 10, 2023 - 9:34AM

**8B Colby Farm Lane, Newburyport, MA**

**New Construction - (1) 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath Unit Price \$319,100**



Available to Eligible First-Time Homebuyers (exceptions apply)

**Maximum Household Income:**

1 person \$82,950  
2 person \$94,800  
3 person \$106,650  
4 person \$118,450  
5 person \$127,950  
6 person \$137,450

**Maximum Household Assets:** \$75,000 (other restrictions apply)

**Public Information Meeting via Zoom:**

**Wednesday, September 13, 2023 @ 6 pm**

Meeting ID: 852 6774 8706, Passcode: 224059

**Affordable Housing Lottery via Zoom:**

**Thursday, October 12, 2023 @ 6 pm**

Meeting ID: 837 0888 9452, Passcode: 938717

**Application Deadline: October 6, 2023**

**Applications Available From and Must Be Returned To:**

By mail or email: Kristen Costa, L.A. Associates (978) 758-0197 [kriscosta@laassoc.com](mailto:kriscosta@laassoc.com)

**Applications Also Available At:**

Newburyport City Hall, 60 Pleasant St. (978) 465-4400

Public Library, 94 State St. (978) 465-4428

Download at: [www.laassoc.com](http://www.laassoc.com) or [www.mymasshome.org](http://www.mymasshome.org)

<https://www.cityofnewburyport.com/affordable-housing-trust/news/affordable-homeownership-opportunity-for-first-time-homebuyers-0>

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YWCA Greater Newburyport is now accepting

applications for two-bedroom apartments at the

**Residences at Salisbury Square in Salisbury, MA.**

Heat and hot water included.

Two Bedroom Apartments

Monthly Rent: \$1,067

Income Restrictions Apply

Household Size Minimum income Maximum Income

4 person household \$44,501/year

\$3,708/month

\$74,000/year

\$6,167/month

3 person household \$40,051/year

\$3,338/month

\$66,800/year

\$5,567/month

2 person household \$35,601/year

\$2,967/month

\$59,400/year

\$4,950/month

Applications are available from YWCA Greater Newburyport, 13 Market Street, Newburyport, MA 01950 M-F 6:30 AM – 7:00 PM, or by calling (978) 465-9922.



Or at <https://www.ywcanewburyport.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/YWCA-PreApplication-May-2023.pdf>

Units are available on a first come first served basis.

Return applications to the YWCA Greater Newburyport, 13 Market Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

Residences at Salisbury Square

7 Park and 29 Elm St

Salisbury, MA 01952



# Indigenous Peoples Day Observance

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 10AM • 2023  
WATERFRONT PARK, NEWBURYPORT, MA**

**RAINDATE: SUN, OCT. 8**

**A FREE, FAMILY-FRIENDLY, OUTDOOR GATHERING TO  
CELEBRATE CONTEMPORARY  
INDIGENOUS CULTURAL ARTS & DIVERSITY**

**TO HONOR** our region's Indigenous Abenaki & Wabanaki nations, and all Native Peoples.

**TO SUPPORT** recognition of Indigenous Peoples Day at the city, state, and national level.

**Call for Indigenous & community partners, sponsors, volunteers  
& participants to support this non-profit event.**

**Contact IMAGINE STUDIOS for more info. • (978) 834-0367**

**[Kristine@imaginestudios.org](mailto:Kristine@imaginestudios.org)**

BIRCHBARK FEATHER ART: SIERRA HENRIES

## Statewide Survey to Change the Flag and Seal of Massachusetts!



Dear Massachusetts Resident,

We are inviting you to join us in designing a new seal and motto for Massachusetts.

On behalf of the Special Commission Relative to the Seal and Motto of the Commonwealth, we asked the Center for Survey Research at the University of Massachusetts Boston (CSR) to work with us and help us learn how residents view the seal and motto and to gather public input that represents the diversity of communities and perspectives in the Commonwealth.

Please use the link below to find a survey that asks about your familiarity with the current seal and motto of the Commonwealth and your input on the new design.

**How can I help?** Complete the survey and let us know what you think! It should take less than 10 minutes of your time. You can either:

Follow this link: <https://bit.ly/StateSealSurvey>

or

Copy and paste the URL below into your internet browser:

[https://umassboston.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cLQTE29dnADwfAy](https://umassboston.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cLQTE29dnADwfAy)

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<https://www.mvbbvoices.org/events>

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Interested in learning more about the history of Black people in Newburyport?

## Early Black History Talks with Ghlee Woodworth and Susan Harvey (from July 29, 2023)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w5jAlw-hJMY>

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This is a really useful variety of trainings available for those interested, offered on a sliding scale. I fully recommend this group.



### DC PEACE TEAM

They offer:

#### Training

Let us know if you have a group or organization that would like an in-person or online [training](#), whether that's a one-time training or to set up a regular schedule of training sessions.

#### Community Safety Unit: [New Data Report](#) (Jan.-Apr. 2023)

See our latest data report on our empathy connections, de-escalations, and individuals transforming through our work at Columbia Heights Plaza.

#### ***Upcoming DCPT Training:***

Sat., 9/9, 10 am-12:00pm *Online*

#### **Bystander Intervention: Tools to Steady Ourselves as We Reach Out to Others**

Details and [Registration here.](#)

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Sat., 9/30, 9:30-12:30 *Online*

#### **Introduction to Restorative Justice**

[Register Now](#)

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## **When justice is immediate: A riverfront rumble**

August 8, 2023 by Shay

<https://blackgirlinmaine.com/current-events/when-justice-is-immediate-a-riverfront-rumble/>

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## **About that Montgomery brawl...**

August 12, 2023 by Samuel James

<https://blackgirlinmaine.com/current-events/about-that-montgomery-brawl/>

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## **This is not a drill, anti-racists—it's time!**

August 15, 2023 by Shay

<https://blackgirlinmaine.com/activism/this-is-not-a-drill-anti-racists-its-time/>

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## **When white allies cause harm**

August 22, 2023 by Shay

<https://blackgirlinmaine.com/racial-and-cultural/when-white-allies-cause-harm/>

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Useful tool about how to look at building belonging in communities --

<https://belonging.berkeley.edu/belongingdesignprinciples?emci=07bfaa71-753c-ee11-a3f1-00224832eb73&emdi=df58124-0f3d-ee11-a3f1-00224832eb73&ceid=10683940>