



Chain Reaction Day

Tuesday, January 21, 2020

Common Thread (Leaders Laura DeCapua, Xia Gillespie Anika Eastman)

This hands-on workshop promotes art as a vehicle for social change, as well as, creates an avenue for connections with new friends. Workshop participants, with colorful thread, will use peace-inspired patterns and cross stitch an individual block. Individual projects can be transformed into a larger scale “patch work” public art collaboration to share a message of solidarity. Participants will also listen to peace-inspired podcasts as they cross stitch.

Exploring our Hidden Biases (Leaders Peter North, Ben Rodis)

Participants will be introduced to Project Implicit, a program designed by Harvard that reveals unconscious biases that a person may have through tests. We will begin by explaining the project and our own experiences with it, then participants will take the test themselves. At the end of our time we will then reflect on the results from the Project and what means for us individually. ****Participants need to bring a computer to take the test****

Get Up, Stand Up (Leaders Mary Newman and Michael Livingston)

In this workshop we will listen to a wide range of “protest music”, from artists like Billie Holiday, to Bob Marley, to Lin-Manuel Miranda. We will discuss what makes a song a “protest song” and why music can be a powerful vehicle for social change.

I'm Dreaming of a White Wilderness: How race and class change perception and experience of Wilderness, Nature and Outdoor Education. (Leader Tulio Browning)

"Everyone loves being in Nature!" Perhaps. And our ideas of HOW to "be in Nature" may be narrower than we realize. Broaden your concept of "getting outdoors" and help break down barriers to inclusivity in this interactive workshop.

Legal Self Defense against Law Enforcement, ICE, and Border Patrol. (Leader Kira Kelley)

Exploring the Fourth, Fifth, and Tenth Amendments to the US Constitution and the most common ways that state and federal law enforcement officers violate your rights. Recognizing the historic and ongoing role that police have played in suppressing social change (from the Black Panthers to Black Lives Matter), exacerbating racial and socioeconomic divides through profiling and selective enforcement, and caving to pressure from federal immigration authorities to assist in an inhumane deportation scheme in violation of the democratic principles of the separation of powers and the anti-commandeering doctrine. This workshop will focus on role plays to help participants practice exercising their rights to remain silent, to refuse to consent to warrantless searches, and to safely pass through border patrol checkpoints such as those put up recently on I-89.

"The Privilege Cafe" (Leader Chris Lord)

The Privilege Café creates an interactive experience for students to examine/discuss privilege in society and its impact. Students dine in pairs, then in small groups, ordering from a "menu" to provide their table with a "meal" that would bring them the most potential success in life, with the least obstacles.

The Roles of African Americans in World War II, and the GI Bill following the war, especially the implications for our present racial difficulties. (Presenter: Toni Hover and Christa Wurm):

African Americans in World War II faced constant discrimination. At the same time they worked courageously to give support to the war effort. Using a variety of resources we present the voices of those who bravely stepped forward to fight the cause of freedom and justice while facing discrimination and bias on the home front. Post war these same individuals were mostly denied the benefits that white returning service members were able to access, including educational and housing benefits that were offered with the passing of the GI Bill. Discussions will be supported by a video presentation that illustrates the true implications of this piece of our country's history. This workshop gives us the challenge to understand our legacy of racial bias, and then consider positive responses towards racial harmony in our country and our communities.

Social Equity and Cultural Appropriateness in Rural America; An introduction of Social issues, icons and struggles facing marginalized populations within our communities in the face of change. (Leaders Art Hanchett and Pat Leno)

Communities are stronger when they are diverse, inclusive and equitable however are we there yet? Considering our local communities does race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, abilities play a major role in your communities? We will offer a snapshot into the lives of a few living in this area. Join us to learn, explore ideas and to understand perspectives of others.

What's the Big Deal? Understanding Cultural Appropriation & Racial Microaggressions (Leaders Fallon Abel and Marcy Innes)

White politicians wearing blackface at college parties. Kardashians criticized for wearing cornrows. People dressing up as a "sexy Indian" or "thug" for Halloween. White people singing the "n-word" along with their favorite songs. While these microaggressions may seem

insignificant, they are connected to larger ideologies and institutional practices that perpetuate racial inequity. Through activities and video clips, we will reflect on our own racial identity, discuss the often-blurry lines between cultural appreciation and appropriation, and devise strategies for speaking up when microaggressions occur.

The Work of the Equal Justice Initiative and Bryan Stevenson (Leaders: Toni Hover and Christa Wurm):

This workshop will focus on the work of Bryan Stevenson, the founder of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama. The discussion will focus on a variety of important issues in our country including our history of unfair targeting of African Americans in our justice system, the history of lynching, and will also focus on Dr. Stevenson's challenge that it is imperative that we examine those particular aspects of our history as we move forward in attempting to repair race relations in our country. We will also include videos that reflect Dr. Stevenson's discussion of positive identity formation and his call to action for change. This discussion is timely in that a new movie featuring Michael B Jordan and Jamie Foxx, also Brie Larson, is released this week in theaters. It is a dramatic telling of stories from Bryan Stevenson's autobiographical work, *Just Mercy*, and carries the same name.