



DCoR Resource Guide

(put together by the facilitators of Dialogue Circles on Race)

Expanding one's understanding of racial inequality in America cannot come from one single book or documentary. It takes a concerted, long-term effort to fill in the gaps that we all have in the fields of history, economics, politics, sociology, psychology, and popular culture - which are all interrelated when it comes to understanding the many divisive issues our country faces today. These are just a few of the myriad resources available in this space. Some will resonate, some will not - this is not a one-size-fits all list. The goal is to keep digging, keep learning and keep talking.

Let's consider this guide a 'living document' that will continue to get updated as more content becomes available and as facilitators continue to personally connect with more resources.

Although everyone has their own entry point into this journey, we thought it might be helpful to identify resources as 'beginner' (*) and 'advanced' (**).

(If you come across a broken link, please let us know: summitantiracismcommittee@gmail.com. Thank you.)

Reading Resources

Non-Fiction



- * ***Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race*** – by [Debbie Irving](#) – a great starting point for white people to examine their understanding of race in America, questioning much of what they know of American history and challenging their own role in the status quo
- * ***White Fragility*** – by [Dr. Robin DiAngelo](#) – a popular and eye-opening read for white people, particularly helpful in recognizing and overcoming defensiveness in racial interactions and conversations
- ** ***How to be an Anti-Racist*** – by [Dr. Ibram X. Kendi](#) – part memoir, part history but all clear on the idea that it is not enough to simply not be racist, but that we must become anti-racist if we want to help shift our country towards a more equitable society
- * ***The Black Friend: On Being a Better White Person*** - [Frederick Joseph](#) - “I really liked how the author shares a lot of experiences from his childhood and life.” - Julie Murphy
- ** ***Caste: The Origins of our Discontents*** - by [Isabel Wilkerson](#) - though this is Wilkerson’s second book, it’s worth reading first as it sets out to explain the foundational concept of American racism and gives us a new language to use when discussing our society
- * ***The Warmth of Other Suns*** – by Isabel Wilkerson - winner of the Pulitzer Prize, this is an absorbing and wonderful nonfiction narrative about the Great Migration of Black Americans moving from the South to northern and western cities, highlighting three stories as examples
- * ***So You Want to Talk About Race*** – by [Ijeoma Oluo](#) – a blunt and honest assessment of what it’s like to exist as a Black woman in America
- * ***Eloquent Rage*** – by [Dr. Brittany Cooper](#) – a professor at Rutgers, Dr. Cooper writes with the raw exasperation of being a Black woman in our society and refreshingly, does not mince words
- * ***Hood Feminism*** - [Mikki Kendall](#) - this is an excellent book about what is important for white feminism to address. There is a lot about intersectionality and also how poverty, gun control, sexualizing Black girls, and food security all are feminist issues. - Julie Murphy
- * ***How to be Less Stupid About Race*** – [Dr. Crystal Fleming](#) – helpful for people who want to learn how to talk about racism and avoid some of the minefields
- ** ***Between the World and Me*** – [Ta-Nehisi Coates](#) – goes right for the gut, a must read; based on the concept of James Baldwin’s letter to his nephew; “This was my entry point into learning more, actually more like a shove through the doors. It gripped me and slapped me across the face with its clarity and emotion. I realized how little I knew of the Black experience in America and how much I would never know, but that I had to try and fill in the gaps.” - Ellen Wolff
- ** ***The Souls of Black Folk*** – [W.E.B. Du Bois](#) – beautiful but challenging with its older style of writing, demands undivided concentration but is well worth the work
- ** ***The Sum of Us*** - [Heather McGhee](#) - a great book on how our country has stymied its own progress and kept the majority of our population from thriving all because of racism
- ** ***Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria*** – [Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum](#) – written several decades ago but has an excellent updated version, a lot of psychology/sociology



** *Dying of Whiteness* – [Dr. Jonathan Metz](#) – how entrenched racist ideas in the white population end up harming white people themselves by preventing progress that helps everyone

** *A Colony in a Nation* – Chris Hayes – yep, the MSNBC guy, it’s an excellent book about militarized policing, among other things

Historical

* *How the South Won the Civil War* – [Dr. Heather Cox Richardson](#) – while not solely about racial history, it is a fabulous book that provides a clear throughline of the American paradox from before the Founding to today; provides broad themes to our history; also check out her popular daily newsletter on current news events and her podcast “Now & Then”

* *Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All* – [Dr. Martha S. Jones](#), excellent, in-depth history of the many Black women who organized and pushed for greater access to voting and social rights

* *The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny and the Fight for Civil Rights* - [Steve Sheinkin](#) - Excellent historic story of racism in the US Navy in the 1930s. 50 Black men were convicted of treason because of racism. The Audio book is fabulous. This is American history that everyone should know. - Julie Murphy

** *Stamped From the Beginning* – [Dr. Ibram X. Kendi](#) – a very thorough and comprehensive book on the origins of racist ideas throughout the world but mostly America (note: there is now a version aimed at teens that he co-wrote with Jason Reynolds)

** *How the Word is Passed* - [Dr. Clint Smith](#) - using several historical places as examples, Dr. Smith examines how each location tackles its history as it relates to slavery; difficult but very necessary; beautifully written, lyrical in its prose, descriptive and contemplative

Memoirs & Biographies:

* *Becoming* – [Michelle Obama](#) - deep and thoughtful (and often funny!) memoir from the former First Lady; it weaves stories of the Great Migration into her upbringing in Chicago

* *In the Shadow of Statues* – Mitch Landrieu (former mayor of New Orleans)

* *The Color of Water* - [James McBride](#) - a memoir about his mother and her incredible life

** *Begin Again* – [Dr. Eddie S. Glaude](#)’s excellent overview of the work of James Baldwin

** *The Sword and the Shield* - [Dr. Peniel Joseph](#) - an excellent overview of the lives of MalcolmX and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - how they intersected and how they carved their own paths

** *Heavy* – [Kiese Laymon](#) - this is a very raw and personal memoir



- ** ***When They Call You a Terrorist*** – [Patrice Khan-Cullors](#) (one of the 3 founders of BLM) - a personal story about her brother's struggles, life in LA and the founding of Black Lives Matter
- ** ***I'm Still Here*** – [Austin Channing Brown](#) - a personal narrative about surviving in America as a Black woman rooted in the Christian faith
- ** ***Until I Am Free*** - [Dr. Keisha N. Blain](#) - a new biography of Fanny Lou Hamer, a Civil Rights activist from Mississippi

Humor

- * ***Born A Crime*** – [Trevor Noah](#) - do yourself a favor and listen to this book rather than reading it; though he writes about his childhood in South Africa, his experience with racism is easily translatable to the United States
- * ***You Can't Touch My Hair*** – [Phoebe Robinson](#) – this actor/comedian writes about her experiences with racism and sexism
- * ***You'll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey: Crazy Stories About Racism*** – Amber Ruffin & Lacey Lamar - through humor, these two sisters provide an endless list of racist situations; lots of great examples of microaggressions

Fiction

- * ***American Spy*** – [Lauren Wilkinson](#) - a debut novel about a Black woman CIA agent
- * ***Americanah*** – [Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie](#) - a captivating story about a Nigerian woman living in America, dealing with racism, trying to find her place between two worlds
- * ***The Black Kids*** - [Christina Hammonds](#) - "Good fiction book; set in LA in the early 90s it touches on race and socioeconomic factors of a Black family in an affluent suburb and the impact of the trial of the police officers who beat Rodney King." - Christine Hippe
- * ***The Hate U Give*** - [Angie Thomas](#) - young adult novel
- * ***Sing, Unburied, Sing*** - [Jesmyn Ward](#) - "Ward is so great at writing about how trauma plays out in generations of Black families in the South." - Julie Murphy
- * ***Deacon King Kong*** - [James McBride](#) - "Takes place in a housing project in Brooklyn in the 1960s and is a great story." - Julie Murphy
- ** ***Underground Railroad*** – [Colson Whitehead](#)
- ** ***The Nickel Boys*** - Colson Whitehead - "hard to read because it was based on true events but it was good" - Christine Hippe
- ** ***The Water Dancer*** – Ta-Nehisi Coates
- ** ***Beloved*** – [Toni Morrison](#)



Poetry & Essays

[“Let America Be America Again”](#) - Langston Hughes

[“Still I Rise”](#) - Maya Angelou

[Poetry Foundation](#)’s Black History Month celebration

** *Four Hundred Souls* – edited by [Dr. Keisha Blain](#) and Dr. Ibram X. Kendi

** *The Fire This Time* – [Jesmyn Ward](#) – a collection of writings and poems by black authors

Plays & Short Stories

“A Raisin in the Sun” – [Lorraine Hansberry](#)

“Big, Black, Good Man” - [Richard Wright](#) - “gets to the essential nature of internalized racism and otherness in an unexpected way” - Claas Ehlers

Speeches & Letters

[Letter from a Birmingham Jail](#) - MLK, Jr.

[What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?](#) – Frederick Douglass

Listening Resources

Podcasts

* **Scene On Radio** – “Season 2: Seeing White” and “Season 4: The Land That Never Has Been Yet” - truly one of the clearest, smartest, most thoughtful collections of episodes to present our current situation through the lens of history and broad themes

* **1619 Project** – six episodes based on *The New York Times Magazine* endeavor

* **Code Switch** – from NPR

* [Black History in Two Minutes](#) - from Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

** **Intersectionality Matters** – from Dr. Kimberlé Crenshaw, professor of law at UCLA



- * **Divided by Design: A Podcast by E Pluribus Unum** – from Mitch Landrieu, former mayor of New Orleans; link to his organization of the same name: <https://www.unumfund.org/>
- * **NPR's Throughline** – takes a topic and draws a throughline from origins to present; episodes are on different topics so scroll through to find ones you're most interested in
- * **Oprah's Book Club series** on Isabel Wilkerson's *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents*
- ** **Dreams of Black Wall Street** by Nia Clark – deeply researched history about the Tulsa Massacre of 1921
- * **BBC Sounds, Episode 3:** “the fate and fortunes of Black Americans under the New Deal”
- ** **Race and Democracy** – from The University of Texas at Austin, Center for the Study of Race and Democracy – hosted by its Founding Director Dr. Peniel Joseph
- ** **Seizing Freedom** - hosted by Kidada Williams; using original sources, she tells stories about how Black people used their agency to fight for freedom during and after the Civil War
- ** **Teaching Hard History** – Dr. Hassan Kwame Jeffries (why, yes, he IS the brother of NY Representative Hakeem Jeffries) puts together episodes about specific Black icons and moments in history aiming to help teachers present them to students
- * **Renegades** - Springsteen/Obama conversations - on Spotify - first two episodes discuss race
- * **Nice White Parents** - relates to gentrification and inequities in schools - Christine Hippe
- ** **Unfinished: Deep South** - a 10 part investigative series on trying to obtain justice for Isadore Banks, a wealthy Black man in Arkansas who was murdered and believed to be lynched in 1954. There is a lot of discussion on race, class and systems. - Christine Hippe
- * **The Ezra Klein Show** - interview on 7/31/21 with Nikole Hannah-Jones and Ta-Nehisi Coates - this [episode](#) is excellent and truly encapsulates the struggle of how we present our history.
- * **Into America with Trymaine Lee** - a podcast about being Black in America
- * **How to Citizen** - comedian, writer and activist Baratunde Thurston turns the word “citizen” into a verb and gives some great ideas on what being a citizen means; podcast and website
- * **History is US** - a six part series from Princeton scholar, author and MSNBC contributor Eddie S. Glaude exploring where we are as a country and how race plays a role in that
- * **The Sum of Us** - based on her book of the same name, Heather McGhee delves deeper into the issues she writes about in the book; you can listen on Spotify but also on any podcast app
- * **The Happiness Lab** - overall a terrific podcast on happiness, from Dr. Laurie Santos, a psychology professor at Yale; these episodes are on the topic of Sikhism, its teachings and how we're all interconnected

Free Courses

- * [Open Yale Courses](#) - two courses (at least) to consider listening to are Prof. Jonathan Holloway's [African American History: From Emancipation to the Present \(2010\)](#) and Prof. David Blight's [The Civil War and Reconstruction Era, 1845-1877](#)



Viewing Resources

Movies

- * “One Night In Miami” - directed by Regina King, streaming on Amazon Prime, an on-going conversation between Malcolm X, Cassius Clay (later Muhammad Ali), Sam Cooke and Jim Brown
- * “Selma” – about MLK, directed by Ava DuVernay
- * “Hidden Figures” - about Black women working at NASA in the 1960s
- * “Malcolm X” – by Spike Lee
- * “Do the Right Thing” - by Spike Lee
- * “Boyz n the Hood” - John Singleton’s 1991 breakout feature
- * “Glory” - based on a [true story](#) about an all-Black army regiment that fought in the Civil War

Documentaries

- * “13th” – Ava Duvernay, Netflix
- * “I Am Not Your Negro” – about James Baldwin (also watch any of his interviews on YouTube, you won’t regret it, he has a rare clarifying voice that always gets to the core of any subject)
- * “What Happened, Miss Simone” – about jazz singer Nine Simone
- * “And Still I Rise” – about Maya Angelou
- * “John Lewis: Good Trouble” - rent it on Amazon Prime
- * “Race – The Power of An Illusion” – PBS but you have to buy the videos (\$5)– well worth it
- * Anything by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.:
 - PBS’s 6-part series – “The African-Americans: Many Rivers to Cross” (2013)
 - Black America “Since MLK: And Still I Rise” (PBS, 2016)
 - Reconstruction: “America After the Civil War” (PBS, 2019)
 - “The Black Church: This is Our Story, This is Our Song” (PBS, 2021)
- * “The Long Shadow” – PBS – Frances Causey, director
- * “Slavery and the Making of America” – PBS
- * “Amend” – Netflix – about the 14th Amendment, six episode series



- * “Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Historically Black Colleges & Universities” (PBS)
- * “How it Feels to be Free” – PBS American Masters - Black women entertainers
- * [One Thousand Years of Slavery](#) - Smithsonian Channel series produced by Angela Bassett and Courtney B. Vance
- * [“Making Black America”](#) - the latest from Henry Louis Gates, Jr. on PBS but you can also find episodes on YouTube; it focuses on the networks and associations that Black Americans have created and relied upon.

TV Shows & YouTube Channels

- * “Black-ish” (ABC) - about a Black family living in Los Angeles, trying to navigate generational, class and racial divides while also balancing relationship, child-rearing and career obligations and often providing a mini American history lesson on race in the process; eight seasons
- * “Abbott Elementary” (ABC) - a truly excellent sitcom about a public elementary school in Philadelphia
- ** “Harlem” Amazon Prime - about four young Black women living in Harlem
- ** “Dear White People” Netflix - college students sometimes struggling w/identity
- ** “Key & Peele” - sketch comedy on HULU (show was formerly on Comedy Central)
- * [“Crash Course Black American History”](#) - YouTube video series hosted by Dr. Clint Smith

Online Resources

Websites

- [Blackpast](#) - a very thorough site that explores history of African-Americans as well as all people of African ancestry around the world
- [Black Perspectives](#) - “is the leading online platform for public scholarship on global Black thought, history, and culture”; it is published by the African American Intellectual History Society (AAIHS)
- [Unerased: Black Women Speak](#) - uplifting Black women’s voices and telling their stories
- [Black History Month](#) - not just events for BHM, but many other resources here
- [ThoughtCo-African American History](#) - a large collection of articles on historical movements
- [History Makers](#) a digital repository for the Black American experience
- [Because of Them We Can](#) great website that celebrates the accomplishments and successes of Black Americans
- [History.com](#) History Channel’s section on Black History



[The Griot](#) - “the largest Black newsroom in America” whose “mandate is to focus on news and events which have a pronounced impact on a Black global audience”

[America](#) as told by Black Teens

[Profiles in Perseverance](#) (CNN)

[Biography: Black History](#) - a chance to dive deeper into the biographies of many Black Americans

Projects

[Lost Friends Database](#) - advertisements that appeared in the Southwestern Christian Advocate between 1879 and 1896 seeking information about loved ones who were formerly enslaved

[Slave Voyages](#) a thoroughly researched database of the Trans-Atlantic and Intra-American slave trade

[Slave Ships Animation](#) - almost four centuries worth of slave ship trips across the Atlantic

[Congressional Enslavers](#) - Washington Post’s database of Congressional enslavers

[Inheritance](#) - Project from The Atlantic Magazine about “American history, Black life and the resilience of memory”

[Teaching Reconstruction](#) - in partnership with the [Zinn Education Project’s Teach](#)

[Reconstruction Campaign](#), this website has great resources about the Reconstruction Era

*[NPR Black Stories/Black Truths](#) - a compilation of podcasts, videos, articles

Museums

[National Museum of African American History & Culture](#) - Washington, D.C.

[National Center for Civil & Human Rights](#) - Atlanta, GA

[The National Memorial for Peace & Justice](#) - Montgomery, AL

[The Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Incarceration](#) - Montgomery, AL

[African American Museum in Philadelphia](#) - Philadelphia, PA

[Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture](#) - NYC, NY

[International Civil Rights Center & Museum](#) - Greensboro, NC, on the site of the Woolworth Sit-in protest

Efforts at Reckoning with the Past



[The Lemon Project](#) - The Lemon Project: A Journey of Reconciliation aims to understand and bring to light the history of The College of William & Mary (Williamsburg, VA) and its involvement with enslavement and the Jim Crow Era.

[Hard Histories at Johns Hopkins](#) - project run by Martha S. Jones, author of Vanguard

[Baltimore Sun](#) - February 2022

[Georgetown Slavery Archive](#) - from Georgetown University

[Harvard and the Legacy of Slavery](#) - Harvard's report published in April, 2022

Organization Resources

Many Dialogue Circles participants (including those who have not felt moved to “action” previously), once they have completed the Dialogue Circles, ask about organizations they can look to for leadership. Below is a list of organizations that focus on racial equity. Most have a sign-up on their website that allows you to stay current on their activities and initiatives. The first list includes the names of national organizations while the second list focuses on groups whose primary focus is on New Jersey.

National Organizations

[EJI](#) - Equal Justice Initiative - organization founded by Bryan Stevenson in 1989

[NAACP](#) - founded in 1909 by a multi-racial group of activists such as W.E.B. Du Bois, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Mary White Ovington, Mary Church Terrell among others. There is both the national organization and many chapters throughout NJ and the U.S.

[Legal Defense Fund](#) - born out of the NAACP, this organization was once led by Thurgood Marshall and is “America’s premier legal organization fighting for racial justice”

[DEMOS](#) - a think tank that “powers the movement for a just, inclusive, multiracial democracy”.

[AAPF](#) - African American Policy Forum - founded by Kimberlè Crenshaw

[AAIHS](#) - African American Intellectual History Society

[Southern Poverty Law Center](#) - keeps a close eye on hate groups across the country

[Faith in Action](#) - a national organizing network that works to dismantle systems of injustice that are fueled by hatred and racism.

[Diving With a Purpose](#) - organization of scuba divers who search for sunken slave ships

[Standing Up for Racial Justice](#) - an organization aimed at white people who want to be allies



[Western States Center](#) - The Western States Center envisions inclusive democratic movements and societies rooted in justice and equity. Led by Eric K. Ward, who is one of the leading American voices able to explain white supremacy movements in the U.S.

*[American Tennis Association](#) - organized in 1916 to give Black tennis players an alternative to the USTA which barred them from tennis competitions

New Jersey Organizations

[NJ Institute for Social Justice](#) - Institute for Social Justice (Newark, NJ)

[Social Justice Matters](#) - Scotch Plains/Fanwood community group

[MLK Jr. Association](#) - Westfield, NJ - a community-based organization that has been operating for racial justice and equity for more than 30 years.

[Salvation & Social Justice](#) - Founding director is Rev. Dr. Charles Boyer. SandSJ is a non-partisan Black faith-rooted organization that believes liberation should precede legislation and prophetic vision should precede public policy.

[Faith in NJ](#) - A multi-faith and multi-racial network of faith leaders and faith communities working to advance social and economic justice at the local, state and federal level.

[Center for the Study of White American Culture](#) - An anti-racist, multiracial group of people who want to live in a society which has achieved racial justice and equity.

[Eleven+](#) - founded by a previous participant of Dialogue Circles on Race, this non-profit seeks to help even the playing field for students from underserved communities by helping them gain access to internships and work experience.

Miscellaneous Resources

The Arts

Music:

[“Lift Every Voice and Sing”](#) - often called the “Black National Anthem” from the poem by NAACP leader James Weldon Johnson

[“Mississippi Goddam”](#) – Nina Simone, written after the murder of Civil Rights activist Medgar Evers in Mississippi and the bombing of the 16th St Baptist Church in Birmingham, AL in 1963

[“Strange Fruit”](#) – Billie Holiday, based on poem by [Abel Meeropol](#) after he saw a photo of a lynching

[“Young, Gifted and Black”](#) – Nina Simone

[“A Change is Gonna Come”](#) - Sam Cooke



Photography:

[Ghosts of Segregation](#) - images of the legacy of segregation

[Black Women Photographers](#)

[Diversify Photo](#)

[George Floyd Protest](#)

[Gordon Parks Foundation](#)

Opportunities for Self-Reflection

Me and White Supremacy - [Layla Saad](#)

My Grandmother's Hands - [Resmaa Menakem](#) - "It has been deeply transforming. I think the Dialogue Circles does an amazing job of changing our minds. I've learned that my body is also significantly important, especially in shaping my implicit bias, working on white fragility, and truly being partners with people of color. I definitely recommend doing it slowly and taking the time to integrate the body practices." - Emilie Boggis

Links to Other Resource Lists

[Racial Equity Tools](#) - excellent source of more resources plus an in-depth glossary of terms (thank you, Pauline D. for finding this one!)

[Charleston Syllabus](#) - a list of readings that can be used to spur conversations about racial violence in America, put together after the Mother Emanuel tragedy in Charleston, SC

[Washington Post: Racism in America](#)

[Ibram Kendi's Anti-Racist Reading List](#) - title says it all (thank you Michelle F.)

[Cross Cultural Solidarity Project](#) - Click on the 'Resources' tab in upper right corner, there is a plethora of categories and link to books and articles on different topics; thanks, J.B.!

[21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge](#) - even without the challenge, there are many good resources listed here (thank you, C.F.)

[The Connection](#) - a community wellness center in Summit serving neighboring towns; this page has book/podcast and other recommendations plus a list of independent bookstores to buy from; a link at the bottom of the page has a more in-depth reading list (thank you Marcia B.)

Short-Term Exhibits/Events/Projects