

Temple Judea

RJI Newsletter

April 2021



במקום שאין אנשים, השתדל להיות איש

In a place where no one is acting human, strive to be human.

Pirkei Avot 2:5

CURRENT EVENTS

These bills in the House and Senate are currently under consideration by various committees. They are essential if we are to move forward with a more inclusive, democratic nation. Keep up the pressure. Call your Congresspeople to represent your view on these matters. (See contacts for elected officials near the end of this newsletter.)

H.R. 1 - For the People Act

To expand Americans' access to the ballot box, reduce the influence of big money in politics, strengthen ethics rules for public servants, and implement other anti-corruption measures for the purpose of fortifying our democracy, and for other purposes.

Why does this matter?

From the non-partisan law and policy institute [Brennan Center website](#): “The For the People Act would transform our democracy by making it fairer, stronger, and more inclusive.”

S.4263 - John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act

What is the difference between this and the For the People Act?

The For the People Act deals with a lot of the mechanics of election administration issues, while the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act relates specifically to racial discrimination in voting. It directly targets this issue by addressing the aspects of the historic 1965 Voting Rights Act that were struck down by the Supreme Court's *Shelby County v. Holder* decision in 2013. (Info from [Brennan Center](#).)

H.R. 51 - Washington, D.C. Admission Act

To provide for the admission of the State of Washington, D.C. into the Union.

Why does this matter?

The following statement can be attributed to Monica Hopkins, Executive Director, ACLU of the District of Columbia:

"The more than 712,000 people who call Washington, D.C., home are just like every other American. We work hard, not just as federal workers, but also as teachers, nurses, mechanics, grocery store clerks, members of the military, and small business owners. We raise families, go to church, volunteer in our communities, pay our taxes, and spend time with our neighbors. Residents of D.C. deserve the same rights and privileges as Americans living in every other U.S. state." "Denying full voting rights to D.C. residents, most of whom are Black or Brown, is rooted in racism and dates back to well-documented efforts to limit the power of the Black people after the Civil War. Not only are D.C. residents denied voting representation at the federal level, Congress' authority over the District's local laws and budgets also creates deep, and racially disproportionate harm to the District's criminal justice and public health systems. Granting Washington D.C. statehood is a necessary step in our nation's long journey towards racial justice and equality, and the only path to equal civil rights and full citizenship for D.C. residents."

SB 467 - Oil & Gas

RAC-CA has chosen this bill as the top priority in its Racial Justice campaign for 2021.

This state bill requires buffer zones between oil/gas drilling and neighborhoods, where toxins from drilling have negative health implications on communities that are majority People of Color, and will phase out dangerous drilling methods in California. There will be a campaign kick-off on May 5th with bill author Senator Scott Wiener as the keynote speaker. [Register here for the May 5 Campaign Kickoff and Forum.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

As part of our “Uncomfortable Conversations” series

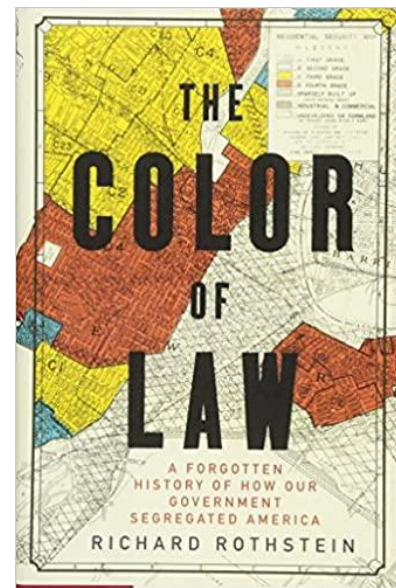
Uncomfortable Conversations meets approximately twice a month, on Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm. We convene with the intention of creating a community of conversation in our exploration of race and racism through offering a series of challenging and sometimes provocative films, books, magazine articles and other media. Each meeting is moderated by a member of our clergy. We hope that people will participate consistently as we learn together, and for those who cannot, please participate whenever you can.

The Color Of Law by Richard Rothstein

April 6 & April 20, 2021

7:30 - 9:00pm via Zoom ([REGISTER](#))

Our ongoing educational series continues with a two-part discussion of **Richard Rothstein's book, *The Color of Law***. Rothstein traces the forgotten history of governmental policy at all levels that created and sustained housing segregation. (Register for both via link above.)



RJI Panel Discussion

April 13, 2021

7 - 8:30pm via Zoom ([REGISTER](#))


The graphic features a blue and yellow background with a white speech bubble containing the title 'UNCOMFORTABLE CONVERSATIONS'. To the right is the logo for 'THE TEMPLE JUDEA RACIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE'. Below the title is the subtitle 'A PANEL CONVERSATION MODERATED BY RABBI ERIC ROSENSTEIN'. The main topic is 'UNPACKING LA'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM: PART 2 - POLICE REFORM BEYOND THE SLOGANS'. Three panelists are listed with their photos and titles: Connie Rice, Esq. (Founder: Advancement Project), Dr. Erroll Southers (USC Price School of Public Policy), and Chief Emada Tingerides (LAPD Deputy Chief). A registration link 'templejudea.com/rji' is provided for Tuesday, April 13 at 7pm. A 'Save the Date' for Part 3 is also included.


UNCOMFORTABLE CONVERSATIONS
A PANEL CONVERSATION
MODERATED BY RABBI ERIC ROSENSTEIN


THE TEMPLE JUDEA
RACIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE

**UNPACKING LA'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM:
PART 2 - POLICE REFORM BEYOND THE SLOGANS**

Panelists:


Connie Rice, Esq.
Founder: Advancement Project


Dr. Erroll Southers
USC Price School of Public Policy


Chief Emada Tingerides
LAPD Deputy Chief

For details and **ZOOM** registration - templejudea.com/rji
Tuesday, April 13 at 7pm

Save the Date for Part 3:
Criminal Justice in the 21st Century - Monday, May 24 at 7pm

The second in this series, “**Police Reform Beyond the Slogans**” examines current and future efforts toward police reform as we welcome three distinguished panelists: Chief Emada Tingirides (LAPD Deputy Chief), Errol Southers (USC Price School of Public Policy), and Connie Rice (civil rights lawyer and activist). (The final date of this series is on May 24.)

Forming Alliances

Jewbian Princess Workshops

What is Jewbian Princess? April Powers and Kiyomi Kowalski are Black, Jewish women on a mission to teach tolerance across the Jewish diaspora. Jewbian Princess (“JP”) tailors corporate level diversity, equity, and inclusion training for shuls that are invested in cultivating an inclusive atmosphere within their community.

www.JewbianPrincess.com

Or Ami Training Series |

Cultural Navigation

with



April Powers & Kiyomi Kowalski
co-founders, JewbianPrincess.com
and Or Ami Partners

In a world of increasing awareness of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), we seek to promote a commitment to DEI, expand our understanding, and avoid missteps. Join us for a high-level, in-depth training to prepare you for the world as it both is and is becoming.

**Four Wednesdays
7:00-8:30 pm**

April 14	Developing Empathy
May 19	Uncovering Unconscious Bias
June 9	Emotional Intelligence
July 14	Cultural Navigation

REGISTER BELOW

Sponsored by the Or Ami Center for Tikkun Olam

[Register for Or Ami Training Series HERE](#)

Additionally, Jewish Princess is offering a 4-part, deep-dive, “communal learning journey” called *Awakening to Race*. See flyer or click the link for details:

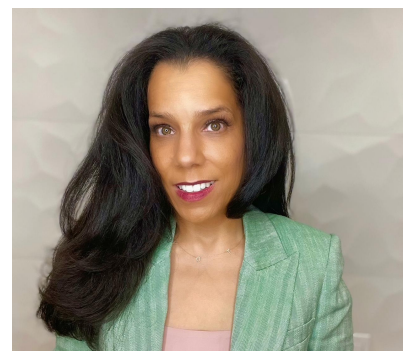


<https://www.vosla.org/form/Awaken-Race>

Kiyomi Kowalski, JD, is a mom, a Marine Corps veteran, an anti-racism educator, and a social justice advocate. Certified in Diversity and Inclusion by Cornell University, Kiyomi also serves the Jewish community as the creator and chair of the Valley Outreach Synagogue Social Justice Collective and the Anti-racism Task Force, she is also a member of Congregation Or Ami's Inclusion Team, Mosaic. www.KiyomiKowalski.com



April Powers- Chief Equity & Inclusion Officer for the Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators, April Powers is a bilingual, Bluish (Black & Jewish) citizen of the world. A proud Congregation Or Ami partner, she also trains various corporate clients on cultural navigation and inclusion through her DEI consulting practice. www.FirstImpressionRx.com.



EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

ProPublica's project "Statements about H.R. 1: For the People Act"

<https://projects.propublica.org/represent/bills/117/hr1/statements>

Two hundred and eleven members of Congress have made 365 statements about this bill (to date). This resource has organized them by the date they were made and by whom. ProPublica is a non-profit, independent newsroom whose investigative journalists' mission is to expose abuses of power and betrayals of the public trust by government, business, and other institutions, using the moral force of investigative journalism to spur reform through the sustained spotlighting of wrongdoing.



NPR's CodeSwitch

CodeSwitch is part of NPR - online and via podcast. CodeSwitch is a multi-racial, multi-generational team of journalists fascinated by the overlapping themes of race, ethnicity and culture, how they play out in our lives and communities, and how all of this is shifting.

Here's a story from March 24, 2021 about how to start conversations about anti-Asian racism with your family:

<https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2021/03/24/980942013/how-to-start-conversations-about-anti-asian-racism-with-your-family>

TAKE ACTION

RAC/CA - Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (national) & RAC-CA (state)

The Religious Action Center is moving forward to continue its racial justice work through the Reform Movement's Racial Justice Campaign. This campaign seeks to encourage our Movement to turn inwardly to examine and address our own behaviors, practices, and policies through the lens of racial equity, diversity, and inclusion (REDI) and outwardly to pursue targeted, strategic advocacy that could change laws and policies that impact our society.

Urge your members of Congress to support the bipartisan John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, which would help restore protections against these restrictive voting laws. Fill out your info at [this link](#) and they'll send a letter for you!

Urge your elected officials to support the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act. Click [here](#) to send a letter!

For more information about RAC, contact our rep, coordinator Ellen Israel.

About RAC: For nearly six decades, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC) has been a hub for Jewish social justice work. As a joint instrumentality of the Union for Reform Judaism and the Central Conference of American Rabbis, RAC represents the values of the largest and most diverse Jewish Movement in North America.

How to Help the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Community

Cnet has collected a list of resources, including educational tools, ways to report incidents, and contact info for organizations accepting donations. [HERE](#)

Asian Americans Advancing Justice/AAJC and **Hollaback!** have partnered to offer Bystander Intervention training to stop anti-Asian/American and xenophobic harassment. The one-hour, interactive training will teach you Hollaback!'s 5D's of bystander intervention methodology. You'll learn what to look for and the positive impact that bystander intervention has on individuals and communities. You'll learn five strategies for intervention and how to prioritize your own safety while intervening. There's time at the end for practice. [Registration and info link](#)

Take Action con't

Call your representatives - locally and nationally

U.S. Senators

Dianne Feinstein (310) 914-7300 / (202) 224-3841

Alex Padilla (202) 224-3553

U.S. Representatives

Brad Sherman (818) 501-9200

Tony Cardenas (818) 221-3718

CA State Legislators (senate and assembly)

Adrin Nazarian (CA ASM) 818-376-4246

Bob Hertzberg (CA SEN) 818-901-5588

City Council

Nithya Ramen (213) 473-7004

City Council: [City Council | City of Los Angeles \(lacity.org\)](http://lacity.org)

LA County Board of Supervisors: [1031546_BoardContactInformation.pdf \(lacounty.gov\)](#)

CA Assembly and Senate: [Find Address \(ca.gov\)](#)

Where to Donate

Here are some non-profits that support communities who could use a spotlight:

Click to be taken to their websites.

[Black Led Organizations](#)

[AAPI Los Angeles](#)

[Hope of the Valley](#)

[Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services](#)

[World Vision Coronavirus Emergency Relief](#)

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