



VFP Be The Change Book Club Group Purpose

The purpose of this group is to explore with others, via discussion of various books and other media, in a safe and open social space, the ways in which colonization, racism, gender bias and other biases show up in our lives and in our activism. Growing our awareness of how our words and actions affect and are related to the society we live in, and how our personal behaviors contribute to the culture of Veterans For Peace, allows us to be more accountable to ourselves and others, increases our individual agency. Learn more about yourself and others by coming together for meaningful discussions geared toward personal and organizational growth, in a mutually supportive atmosphere reflective of the VFP mission of “building a culture of peace.”

[Read the VFP Mission here.](#)

Summer 2025 Suggested Books

Down These mean Streets by Pici Thomas (Becky)

America America A new history of the New World by Greg Gandin

Black Bodies, White Gazes The continuing significance of race in America by George Yancy

Winter 2025 Suggested Books (see also Spring 2024 book suggestions)

- ❖ **Rev. William J. Barber**
White Poverty: How Exposing Myths About Race and Class Can Reconstruct American Democracy
<https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/white-poverty-how-exposing-myths-about-race-and-class-can-reconstruct-american-democracy/40001745/>
- ❖ **Hope for Cynics** by Jamil Zaki
A psychologist on the deleterious effects of cynicism and how faith in others is the key to building a better future
- ❖ **Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation**
by Kristin Du Mez

Books, Films, and Other Media

VFP Be The Change Book Club

If you are an interested ally or vet member of VFP and would like to join VFP Be The Change Book Club Working Group tomorrow please fill out our form here: <https://forms.gle/XHT9qPUkukev1CvC7>

Books We Have Read Together Since the Inception as a Working Group of VFP

- ❖ ***How To Be An Anti Racist*** by Ibram X Kendi
- ❖ ***All About Love*** by bell hooks
- ❖ ***Unconventional Combat: Intersectional Action in the Veterans' Peace Movement*** (Oxford Studies in Culture and Politics) by Michael A. Messner
- ❖ ***Me and White Supremacy*** by Layla Saad
- ❖ ***I Never Thought Of It That Way*** by Monica Guzman
- ❖ ***Abolitionist's Handbook: 12 Steps To Changing Yourself And The World*** by Patrisse Khan-Cullors
- ❖ ***Trans-communality: From the Politics of Conversion to the Ethics of Respect*** by John Brown Childs
- ❖ ***Restoring The World Kinship View: Indigenous Voices Introduce 28 Precepts for Re-Balancing Life On Planet Earth*** by Wahinkpe Topa (Four Arrows) and Darcia Narvaez PHD
- ❖ ***The Fire Next Time*** by James Baldwin
- ❖ ***White Fragility: Why It's So Hard For White People To Talk About Racism*** by Robin Diangelo
- ❖ **"Caste"** by Isabel Wilkerson <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1o-m8ty2-U8>

Spring 2024 book suggestions

- "Sand Talk. How Indigenous Thinking Can Save the World" by Tyson Yunkaporta.
- "The Fire Next Time" by James Baldwin (1963)
- "Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches by Audre Lorde" (2007)
- **"Emergent Strategy Shaping Change, Changing Worlds"** adrienne maree brown's first solo book, and it has become a movement bestseller since its release in 2017. It is a guidebook for getting in right relationship with change, using our own nature and that of creatures beyond human as our teachers.
- **"Caste"** by Isabel Wilkerson <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1o-m8ty2-U8>
- ***Loving Corrections*** <https://adriennemareebrown.net/project/loving-corrections/>
- ***The Love Songs of W.E.B. Du Bois*** By Honoree Jeffers
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nb-eVaTN27A> Fiction child abuse trigger warning
- ***The Warmth of Other Suns*** by Isabel Wilkerson
<https://www.zinnedproject.org/materials/warmth-of-other-suns>
- [The white face of American poverty](#)
- [Original Wisdom: Stories of an Ancient Way of Knowing](#) by Robert Wolf

Explores the lifestyle of indigenous peoples of the world who exist in complete harmony with the natural world and with each other.

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Other Recent Posts from BTC Participants:

Notes from “Transcommunality”

Greg’s own words are in Arial typeface.

P.62 **Constructive disputing**

...seek to integrate the elements from various, even competing, vantage points that are mutually assimilable....

...confronting difference is vital to development of mutual understanding: "Fear of painful confrontation often leads women and men active in feminist movements to avoid rigorous critical encounter, yet if we cannot engage dialectically in a committed, rigorous, humanizing manner we cannot hope to change the world"...[bell hooks]

...Of course, constructive disputing can degenerate into a disruptive conflict. Unmanaged, dispute can push even the most transcommunally inclined people toward fission rather than fusion. To avoid fundamentally disruptive conflict, it is vital that the constructive function of disputing be clear to everyone, that there be constant mutual respect shown for the distinctiveness and intensity of different positions, and that everyone be deeply invested in the potential of making some degree of mutual accommodation to these positions while being ready to transform them to some extent also. But such avoidance of corrosive conflict should not be confused with a suffocating imposition of artificial harmony demanded in the name of unity. ...

The above reminds me of...

→ Neil Theise in “Notes on Complexity” says, basically, that you need randomness [“chaos”, in non-scientific terms] in order to have a vital, flexible, robust system. [System is *anything* comprising multiple interacting parts—such as human organizations, GC] ...quenched disorder. (p.34) Too much randomness prevents self-organization; too little and the system [organization] behaves like an analog machine that has very little flexibility and no chance to grow.

So to me, this says that trying to enforce think-alike standards standards of purity kills an organization. If someone upsets us, gotta work with them, ¿no?

I like “quenched disorder”. Kind of humorous. A vibrant organization will be a little bit like a madcap comedy?

P.63 The **Necessity** of Interpersonal Relations.

Like, ya can’t sit at home theorizing—get together with the people.

P.64 Transcommunality’s emphasis on the maintenance of one’s core affiliations, be they cultural, organizational, religious, philosophical, etc., is simultaneous with an emphasis on the transformative impact that such interaction creates.

P.65 ...a society emphasizing coherence and diversity... [Seemingly *opposing, irreconcilable* traits. Can this be achieved?

Childs would say the Haudenosee achieved it.]

P. 66

In the Inuit autonomous land of Nunavut, Canada, community leader Mary Williams, who works with young people in trouble, says: "The Whites want a guilty person, in order to punish and enclose. What we find important, to the contrary among us Inuit, is the return to the harmony of the group that is vital for survival. This happens through dialogue, advice, reconciliation, and especially through reeducation about contact with nature. In any case through coercion in prison, the Whites construct criminals".

[Yep. American white culture wants to blame someone, and punish harshly, even though research shows this doesn’t help. See Tema Okun at the hugely-updated [white supremacy culture website](#).]

P.68

A transcommunal organization does not require that all its distinctive groupings be in direct contact at all times. Rather, each group, facing its own particular local circumstances, works from and develops its own specific, context-rooted way of being. The multiple groups at many different levels can also call on one another or the entire organization for assistance, advice, and support when necessary. At the moment of such a call, dormant relationships are reawakened, and the larger organization becomes visible.²

Valuing uncertainty and curiosity: Lessons from physicists for politics

<https://substack.com/redirect/2177f33a-939d-4f5b-90d5-a4f2faa8e45e?j=eyJ1IjoiNHJrNWUifQ.9ik9zOtwO1ePbAnv-H8B-qOpL0vlFgqDzVJ83rE5N5A>

Kathleen **Bus Riders Documentary** <https://mediaburn.org/video/bus-riders-union/>

A fellow legal observer and law student sent this to our Signal chat.
Wondering if we would like to talk about it in our group.

[TOWARD NAKBA AS A LEGAL CONCEPT - Columbia Law Review](#)

Larry Holman -

provoking further thought and practice following on the Guzmán book with these shares.. Here is another example of a respectful interpersonal conversation about a deeply personal subject.

Is a Civil "Is God Real?" Conversation Possible? – May 15, 2024

<https://deratethehate.com/episodes/is-a-civil-is-god-real-conversation-possible-dth-episode-211-with-guest-host-julian-adorney-and-guests-angel-eduardo-and-cassie-kimbriel>

Right Speech, Left Speech: Practicing meaningful dialogue in a time of polarization. – Summer, 2024

<https://tricycle.org/magazine/depolarization-politics-emma-varvaloucas/>

Respect in Communication – Skill that Connects People

And how a lack thereof hurts morale, productivity and much more ... By: Guillem Casòliva Cabana, PhD Updated on: February 20, 2024

<https://psyculator.com/blog/respect-in-communication-skill-that-brings-people-together/>

What Is Empathy? By Kendra Cherry, MEd Updated on February 22, 2023

Reviewed by Amy Morin, LCSW <https://www.verywellmind.com/what-is-empathy-2795562>

https://www.icloud.com/iclouddrive/0d92C1JHu3f8pG5uFD-4AKHzQ#Good_News

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Suggestions for Fall 2023 BTC Book to Read:

Put your recommendations here. Give a brief summary of the book and why this is a book we should read and how it pertains to our VFP Mission & VFP BTC working group purpose.

- (Becky) by John Brown Childs, who is mixed NativeAmerican/African descent. Childs is professor emeritus of Sociology at UC Santa Cruz, and similar to the book we just read, his book -- *Transcommunitality: From the Politics of Conversion to the Ethics of Respect* -- is a collaborative work; a conversation between him and the authors who write commentaries in response to his introductory section.
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Multimedia Resources Recommended by Book Club Members:

[Terence Keel](#)

tdkeel@ucla.edu <https://www.aclu.org/decarceralvisions> I am an Associate Professor at the University of California, Los Angeles jointly appointed in the Department of African American Studies and the [UCLA Institute for Society and Genetics](#) in the Division of Life Sciences. I am the author of the widely acclaimed *Divine Variations* and the founding director of the BioCritical Studies Lab: an interdisciplinary space that combines life science research, the best of data science, and the wisdom of the humanities to explain how discrimination, inequality, and resilience are embodied in humans.

My teaching, research, and community engagement are concerned with the social, political, and ethical conditions that produce and abolish injustice within our society.

<https://www.instagram.com/carceralecologies/>

Nick Shapiro

Please put your recommendations under the heading below. (I added some that were on our list from before and deleted them from the other list. These are ones I would be interested in reading.

Kathleen Hernandez 5-24-22

Definition of Racism: Racism is a marriage of racist policies and racist ideas that produces and normalizes racial inequities. A Racial policy is any measure (written and unwritten laws, rules, procedures, processes, regulations, and guidelines that govern people) that produces or sustains racial inequity between racial groups. Racist ideas suggest one racial group is inferior or superior to another racial group and argue that inferiorities and superiorities of racial groups explain racial inequities in society. Racial ideas justify racist policies and redirect the blame for racial inequities away from those policies and their makers and onto people. The central agents of racism (racist power) are racial policy and racist policy makers. The root problem of racism is not ignorance and hate. The root problem has always been the powerful economic, political, and cultural self-interest of racist power.

Summer Reading for Radicals

29 books with urgent lessons for organizers fighting the apocalypse

<https://jamesmumm.substack.com/p/organizers-summer-reading-list-part>

Four Arrows Recs 2023

The Indigenization Controversy For Whom and By Whom? Four Arrows *Fielding Graduate University*

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKewiDpbbgrtL8AhXbnWoFHWb-Bt0QFnoECCAQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fices.library.ubc.ca%2Findex.php%2Fcriticaled%2Farticle%2Fview%2F186438%2F185562&usg=AOvVaw1mZ_x6yPB8OpGGHN8CAcrg

Book and Film: Ojibwe author Richard Wagamese agreed to partner with two talented, award-winning non-Indigenous film-makers, Trish Dolman and Christine Haebler, to make the movie of his acclaimed book, *Indian Horse*.

Critical Resistance

[Our Communities, Our Solutions: An Organizer's Toolkit for Developing Campaigns to Abolish Policing – Critical Resistance](#)

<https://criticalresistance.org/resources/our-communities-our-solutions-an-organizers-toolkit-for-developing-campaigns-to-abolish-policing/>

the revolution starts at home : https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SWX5guxxKT5sO3e18LarMwpmCu9_2Riu/view?usp=sharing

love with accountability : https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SWX5guxxKT5sO3e18LarMwpmCu9_2Riu/view?usp=sharing

https://www.canva.com/design/DAE_xY8tWo0/3RpU_IefuYbLDwMZMaVM-g/edit

DREXEL UNIVERSITY Loretta J. Ross, The Civil Discourse (Season 2)

261 views Oct 27, 2021 Loretta J. Ross is a public intellectual, writer, activist, and Smith College professor. She has devoted her life to the fight for feminism and human equality. In this episode of "The Civil Discourse," Ross explains her work to "call in the call-out culture" by listening across difference to achieve civil discourse and a more effective cultural understanding.

Recorded June 24, 2021 through virtual conferencing during the COVID-19 pandemic (Philadelphia, PA, USA). This episode is a production of Marketing & Media, Pennoni Honors College, Drexel University.

For additional episodes of "The Civil Discourse," contact your PBS station or check local listings. For archives, upcoming episodes, and other online content, subscribe to this YouTube channel and also visit "The Drexel InterView" legacy series.

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=r2il2_t7tfw

Joanna Macy

<https://workthatreconnects.org/spiral/about-joanna/> Joanna Macy

Abolition

In Conversation: Patrisse Cullors and Angela Davis 1:25:48

Jan 28, 2022 In "An Abolitionist's Handbook," artist, author, and organizer Patrisse Cullors charts a framework for how everyday activists can effectively fight for an abolitionist present and future. Filled with relatable pedagogy on the history of abolition, a reimagining of what reparations look like for Black lives, and real-life anecdotes, "An Abolitionist's Handbook" offers a bold and humanistic approach to how to be a modern-day abolitionist. On January 27, 2022 Cullors virtually discussed her latest work with political activist, scholar, and philosopher Angela Davis. The program was moderated by LA County Library Director Skye Patrick.

Presented in partnership with LA County Library as part of their Trailblazers in Conversation series. The talk was preceded by the performance linked below by Versa-Style Dance Company, a non-profit organization and dance ensemble that consists of committed and conscientious artists representing the diversity and beautiful complexity of Los Angeles. They seek to empower underserved and marginalized groups worldwide through the movement and culture of Hip-Hop dance by creating groundbreaking concert dance works that represent messages of diversity, inclusion, and equity, both on stage and within our communities.

VIDEO OF DANCE PERFORMANCE:

<https://youtu.be/RUxvfJlIQ4Q>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qBRukP3gQM&t=1924s>

Imagining Abolition (Episode 1) 8:01 min <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lc-hovtcCjk> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lc-hovtcCjk&t=5s>

Jul 16, 2021 Watch to hear our former executive director Patrisse Cullors' vision of abolition, and how BLM was birthed from a passion to set us all free.

Imagining Abolition (Episode 2) : Shutting Down Jails and Building Up Movements 9:25 min

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OaLy7U8PvNo&t=57s>

Aug 23, 2021 In this episode, we see what it means for Black people to combat the impacts of a prison industrial complex meant to steal our dreams. Through organizing, we are rebuilding and reimagining our world -- a world where white supremacy and historically anti-Black systems no longer exist. A world where Black people have the necessary resources to thrive and push the boundaries on truly living. A world where Black Lives Matter.

To make this world a reality, we need to abolish the prison complex and tackle the systems built to tear down Black families. This is necessary for our future -- for the future of our Black children and their children and the ongoing generations to come. The work continues...

Imagining Abolition (Episode 3): The Abolitionist Pod 7:26min <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JDvVOI1kGek&t=2s>

Sep 10, 2021 Episode 3 centers our lives as human beings - before we are workers, students, organizers, activists...

Black people have witnessed and experienced death for centuries. Over the last year and a half, with COVID, we've experienced it at an even greater intensity. In this moment, we want to focus on food. Dirt. Nourishment.

Movement organizers spend so much of their life working on tearing oppressive systems down. But what does it mean to focus on visioning? On nurturing something to life? This summer, several Black artists, farmers, and visionaries got together

to envision that through an Abolitionist Pod - a pod containing hundreds of seeds, crops, plants. Enough to feed several hundred people for months - because this is what abolition is. Before abolition is about tearing systems down, it is about sustaining ourselves and each other as Black people.

"An abolitionist world would truly embody the kind of dignity, respect, and care and love we all deserve."

Roles We Play as Activists

<https://buildingmovement.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Ecosystem-Guide-April-2022.pdf>

In our lives and as part of movements and organizations, many of us play different roles in pursuit of equity, shared liberation, inclusion, and justice. And yet, we often get lost and confused, or we are newcomers to ongoing social change efforts and don't know where to start, or we are catalyzed into action in the midst of a crisis in our community.

This is a framework that can help individuals, networks, and organizations align and get in right relationship with social change values, individual roles, and the broader ecosystem. Download the map, accompanying materials, and more below.

Greg Corning:

5-24-22

Allyship Training #1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aHRMNjVK44E&list=PLa3WV8IXRsZV-KOZqmUMCTwc9s3V2nEzf&index=4>

Opening Plenary - Intersectional Action in The Veterans' Peace Movement: Rising To The Moment

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oE72EAKagwU&list=PLa3WV8IXRsZV-KOZqmUMCTwc9s3V2nEzf&index=7>

From Larry Holman, he/him to Everyone: 6-2-22

"If we could only change the nature of humanity and eliminate the greed, anger, and ignorance, a lot would improve. If we could only get people to cooperate more and compete less, a lot would improve. If we could only get people to love and respect more and hate and disrespect less, a lot would improve. If we can do none of these things, then perhaps humanity will become extinct." – Larry Dean Holman, son of C.W. Holman and E.E. Remmenga-Holman, 06/02/2022

"The purpose of relationship is not to have another who might complete you, but to have another with whom you might share your completeness." — Neale Donald Walsch

"All human actions are motivated at their deepest level by two emotions--fear or love. In truth there are only two emotions--only two words in the language of the soul.... Fear wraps our bodies in clothing, love allows us to stand naked. Fear clings to and clutches all that we have, love gives all that we have away. Fear holds close, love holds dear. Fear grasps, love lets go. Fear rankles, love soothes. Fear attacks, love amends." — Neale Donald Walsch, *Conversations with God: An Uncommon Dialogue*, Book

Greg Corning:

9/11/22

The Three Stories of Our Time: Business As Usual; The Great Unraveling; The Great Turning.

<https://workthatreconnects.org/spiral/the-great-turning/the-global-context/>The Work That Reconnects involves Coming From Gratitude; Honoring Our Pain for the World; Seeing with New/Ancient Eyes; Go Forth to Actions That Call Us. <https://workthatreconnects.org/spiral/>

From Larry Holman, Philadelphia, PA to Everyone: 9/11/22

"When someone works for less pay than she can live on — when, for example, she goes hungry so that you can eat more cheaply and conveniently — then she has made a great sacrifice for you, she has made you a gift of some part of her abilities, her health, and her life. The 'working poor,' as they are approvingly termed, are in fact the major philanthropists of our society. They neglect their own children so that the children of others will be cared for; they live in substandard housing so that other homes will be shiny and perfect; they endure privation so that inflation will be low and stock prices high. To be a member of the working poor is to be an anonymous donor, a nameless benefactor, to everyone else." — r.i.p. barbara Ehrenreich

From Larry Holman, Philadelphia, PA to Everyone:

Economics, Democracy, and Freedom: It's All One Argument. For their policies to succeed, Democrats need to tie their economic ideas to the broader ideals all Americans are taught to cherish.
<https://newrepublic.com/article/167607/economics-democracy-freedom-democrats-argument>

Spring - Summer 2022 Book Recommendations

1. **White Tears Brown Scars**
- 2.
3. **Other Suggestions:** ***Just as all VFP work doesn't have to go through chapter meetings. Literary discussion can and should also take place outside Zoom meetings. Everybody doesn't have to read a book for us to share literary discussion and concepts. Any time multiple people read the same piece of literature, there are a variety of ways to invite that understanding into our collective consciousness. A number of people have raised the idea of promoting performance art. We should put some flesh on that idea. (Ken) **(Speakers?), Articles and Videos and Books** separate or together TBD? Use articles and videos as a teaser to join. I (Kathleen) very much like the idea of discussions which for the culminating we are doing and also maybe short reads. And having **Paul Ortiz, Sally-Alice Thompson, Four Arrows VFP members come and talk to us after reading along with other authors, Poets, Artists** There is so much out there) I'm wondering if there is a way to have some funds to give stipends? Be The Change Book Club Raising? Who are we? Maybe read a whole book and then meet. Generation Gap, Patriarchy, Intersectionality (About Face). Are we a committee in VFP, working group? **We may want to put forth a workshop proposal for convention?**
4. *****Trans-Communnality: From the Politics of Conversion to the Ethics of Respect John Brown Child (Becky) (**maybe read articles and or introduction. Have a discussion.)** In this original and collaborative creation, John Brown-Childs offers unique insights into some of the central problems facing communities, social movements, and people who desire social change: how does one build a movement that can account for race, class and gender, and yet still operate across all of these lines? How can communities sustain themselves in truly social ways? And perhaps most important, how can we take the importance of community into account without forgoing the important distinctions that we all ascribe to ourselves as individuals? Borrowing from the Haudenosaunee, or Iroquois federation, Brown-Childs offers a way of thinking about communities as coalitions, ones that account for differences in the very act of coming together. Using the Iroquois as an example of transcommunality in action, he also offers specific outcomes that many people desire—racial justice and peace are two examples—as points of focus around which many disparate groups may organize, without ever subsuming questions of identity as an expense of organizing. In addition to Brown-Childs' own exegesis, twelve scholars and thinkers from all walks of life offer their own responses to his thinking, enriching the book as an illustration and example of transcommunality. In an age of fractured identities and a world that is moving toward a global community, Transcommunality offers a persuasive way of imagining the world where community and individual identity may not only coexist, but also depend upon the other to the benefit of both. [Becky's NOTE: The above title is an academic work, so would be challenging due to the academic tone of some of the essays, but still has some good nuggets. May be best to extract a few chapters for our consumption.....]
5. *****"Caste" by Isabel Wilkerson**, I haven't read it but it has been highly recommended to me by one of my fellow travelers: *Caste Guide Shortform Introduction* In *Caste*, Pulitzer Prize and National Humanities Medal winner Isabel Wilkerson explores America's unacknowledged caste system and how the concept of "caste" explains the country's legacy of discrimination better than the concepts of race and class alone. About the Author Isabel Wilkerson is an American journalist who previously served as Chicago Bureau Chief of The New York Times. In 1994, she became the first African-American woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for journalism; later, then-President Barack Obama awarded her the 2015 National Humanities Medal. <https://www.shortform.com/>
6. **White Supremacy Culture by Tema Okun** (www.dismantlingracism.org). I'd love to discuss it. Is it truly white supremacy culture she's outlining, or just white culture period? Is there a difference? https://www.dismantlingracism.org/uploads/4/3/5/7/43579015/white_supremacy_culture_-_still_here.pdf
7. **Derecka Purnell: Becoming Abolitionists** Verso, Nov 5, 2021 - **Social Science** - 320 pages In the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd and the resurgence of Black Lives Matter the call for the abolition of the police became a central demand for the movement. In this extraordinary, revelatory memoir, Derecka Purnell recounts her own path towards abolitionism. Her story starts in St. Louis, where she was often unhoused and experienced food insecurity, and where calling 911 was often the only option in a crisis. She describes her political awakening and activism through watching the aftermaths of events including Hurricane Katrina, the murder of Trayvon Martin and the uprising in her hometown of Ferguson following the death of Michael Brown.

Through Harvard Law School she comes to see that that solution can be found not just in the debate on better policing but the end of the policing itself. Through her own story she makes a powerful, passionate argument for rethinking a fair, equal society where there is no place for state violence and racial repression. Purnell confronts the history of police as a means to capture runaway slaves and uphold white supremacy, to the over-policing and murder of Black people in today's cities. She argues that the police are doing exactly what they were created to do and, in response, imagines new systems that work to address the root causes of violence instead. A revolutionary book about the hope for freedom, *Becoming Abolitionists* will inspire readers to imagine and create new communities that can guarantee safety, equality, and real justice for all.

8. **12 Steps to Changing Yourself and the World: An Abolitionist's by Patrice Cullors** Patrisse writes "Did you know that the Ecologist has ranked the U.S. military as one of the largest polluters in the world? Abolition is part of your fight. ...Our country funds war like it's trying to win a video game. We thrive on conflict, incarceration, crime and punishment, at home and abroad." ... "Abolitionist practice is also about establishing a system rooted in dignity and care for all people. A system that does not rely on punishment as accountability." Foreword: (by) Adrienne Maree Brown writes Patrisse Cullors wants you to know that abolition is vulnerable work, intimate, personal and non-negotiable work. Abolition is a series of choices and practices....Deeply personal choices can create a pattern of abolition. And in this moment, we are understanding, more deeply than ever, that each of us is called to the work of self and collective transformation for a future that abolition has helped to create. We can't get where we need to go if we aren't willing to be vulnerable, to make mistakes, to recognize inside ourselves the capacity to misstep, to act in anger and reaction, to lose touch with our good intentions. And then—and this is the most important part—to turn and face those missteps with humility and curiosity, allowing those difficult moments to become the skeletal structure for our integrity and dignity, for our political clarity. ... In *Abolitionist's Handbook* Patrisse builds a bridge from her story to our own, from our challenges to our hardest-won lessons, from our dysfunctional system to accessible practices we can all put into application for our collective abolitionist journey.
9. **The Sum of Us by Heather McGhee**
10. *****VFP's member The Red Road (CHANKU LUTA) by Four Arrows (Wahinkpe Topa) aka Don Jacobs** Linking Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives to Indigenous Worldview The diversity and inclusion movement in corporations and higher education has mostly fallen short of its authentic goals. This is because it relies upon the dominate worldview that created and creates the problems it attempts to address. Rediscovering and applying our original Indigenous worldview offers a remedy that can bring forth a deeper and broader respect for diversity, and a different way to understand and honor it. This book offers a transformative learning opportunity for preserving diverse environments at every level, one that may be a matter of human survival.
11. *****VFP's own Sally Alice-Thompson has written "Green-Eyed Woman"** an awesome short novel centered in the Native American community. It would be awesome to have her on Zoom or livestream to talk about her book, and rich life experiences of being a freedom fighter. (Ken)
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/14905304-green-eyed-woman>
12. **An African American and Latinx History of the United States** ***Dear VFP Comrades, I am a third-generation military veteran and a longtime member of Veterans for Peace, Gainesville, FL Chapter #14. I am writing to see if you would consider my recent book, I would be happy to join the session if so desired and talk about how my military experiences shaped the text. Here is a review from the *Los Angeles Review of Books*: <https://www.lareviewofbooks.org/article/beyond-peoples-history-on-paul-ortizs-african-american-and-latinx-history-of-the-united-states/> And here is a description of the book: <http://www.beacon.org/An-African-American-and-Latinx-History-of-the-United-States-P1284.aspx> The book is also available in an audio book version. Please let me know if you have any questions. In Solidarity, Paul Ortiz ortizprof@gmail.com An intersectional history of the shared struggle for African American and Latinx civil rights. Spanning more than two hundred years, *An African American and Latinx History of the United States* is a revolutionary, politically charged narrative history, arguing that the "Global South" was crucial to the development of America as we know it. Scholar and activist Paul Ortiz challenges the notion of westward progress as exalted by widely taught formulations like "manifest destiny" and "Jacksonian democracy," and shows how placing African American, Latinx, and Indigenous voices unapologetically front and center transforms US history into one of the working class organizing against imperialism. Drawing on rich narratives and primary source documents, Ortiz links racial segregation in the Southwest and the rise and violent fall of a powerful tradition of Mexican labor organizing in the twentieth century, to May 1, 2006, known as International Workers' Day, when migrant laborers—Chicana/os, Afrocubanos, and immigrants from every continent on earth—united in resistance on the first "Day Without Immigrants." As African American civil rights activists fought Jim Crow laws and Mexican labor organizers warred against the suffocating grip of capitalism, Black and Spanish-language newspapers, abolitionists, and Latin American revolutionaries coalesced around movements built between people from the United States and people from Central America and the Caribbean. In stark contrast to the resurgence of "America First" rhetoric, Black and Latinx intellectuals and organizers today have historically urged the United States to build bridges of solidarity with the nations of the Americas. Incisive and timely, this bottom-up history, told from the interconnected vantage points of Latinx and African Americans, reveals the radically different ways that people of the diaspora have addressed issues still plaguing the United

States today, and it offers a way forward in the continued struggle for universal civil rights.
<https://www.culinaryunion226.org/news/clips/body/efda256c26a001750c2c514402671850.pdf>

13. ***** **adrienne maree brown's *Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds*** Inspired by Octavia Butler's explorations of our human relationship to change, *Emergent Strategy* is radical self-help, society-help, and planet-help designed to shape the futures we want to live. Change is constant. The world is in a continual state of flux. It is a stream of ever-mutating, emergent patterns. Rather than steel ourselves against such change, this book invites us to feel, map, assess, and learn from the swirling patterns around us in order to better understand and influence them as they happen. This is a resolutely materialist "spirituality" based equally on science and science fiction, a visionary incantation to transform that which ultimately transforms us.

14. ******Community: The Structure of Belonging* 2nd Edition Peter Block (Becky)**

The expanded and revised edition of *Community* tackles the hysteric rise of isolation and fear in a digitally interconnected world. [NOTE from Becky: *I got so much out of the original, I would love to take up the updated edition of this book with you all.*]

As a response to the increasing violence in our culture, the widening ideological divides, and the growing gap in economic well-being, there is greater awareness that a deeper sense of community is desperately needed. But even as we acknowledge the need to build community, the dominant on-the-ground practices about how to engage people, civically and organizationally, remain essentially unchanged. We still believe community is built with better messaging, more persuasion, and social events for people to get to know each other better. All of which is naïve.

In this new edition, Block draws on a decade of putting these ideas into practice to emphasize what has worked and extract those thoughts that were nice but had no durability. He explores how technology, instead of bringing us together, has driven us into more isolation. New examples show that community building can be a more powerful way to address social problems than more traditional policies and programs. And encouragingly, Block insists this is really simple, once we decide it is essential. He offers a way of thinking that creates an opening for authentic communities to exist and details what each of us can do to make that happen.

15. ***Bell Hooks 2-part presentation: Cultural Criticism and Transformation (1997)* (Becky)**

About how we can be witnesses to the ways in which representations of culture work to shape culture and ultimately work to perpetuate systems of oppression. She models cultural criticism by exploring actual movies and news stories and performers in pop culture as examples.

END ~~~~~~END~~~~~END

- ***Border & Rule: Global Migration, Capitalism, and Rise of Racist Nationalism* Author (Recorded Talk - SOA) with Harsha Walia** Harsha Walia and Robin D.G. Kelley discuss (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRZNfkgSrXo>) the global migration crisis, racial capitalism, and the ascendant far-right. Join Harsha Walia and Robin D.G. Kelley for a discussion about racist border regimes, capitalism and migration, and the ascent of the far-right across the world, marking the release of Walia's *Border and Rule: Global Migration, Capitalism, and the Rise of Racist Nationalism*. In *Border and Rule*, one of North America's foremost thinkers and immigrant rights organizers delivers an unflinching examination of migration as a pillar of global governance and gendered racial class formation. Harsha Walia disrupts easy explanations for the migrant and refugee crises, instead showing them to be the inevitable outcomes of conquest, capitalist globalization, and climate change generating mass dispossession worldwide. *Border and Rule* explores a number of seemingly disparate global geographies with shared logics of border rule that displace, immobilize, criminalize, exploit, and expel migrants and refugees. With her keen ability to connect the dots, Walia demonstrates how borders divide the international working class and consolidate imperial, capitalist, ruling class, and racist nationalist rule. Ambitious in scope and internationalist in orientation, *Border and Rule* breaks through American exceptionalist and liberal responses to the migration crisis and cogently maps the lucrative connections between state violence, capitalism, and right-wing nationalism around the

world. US readers, purchase *Border and Rule* 30% off here:

<https://www.haymarketbooks.org/books/...>

- ***An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States. Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz.***

Stunning history. Big overviews and zillions of close-up details. She even goes into how European people became the brutal colonizers that we are. Never seen a historian make that connection before. EVERYONE needs to read this! It will not make you feel real good about your Euro-American ancestors - that's for sure.

- ***Accomplices Not Allies: Abolishing the Ally Industrial Complex.***

<https://www.indigenoussaction.org/accomplices-not-allies-abolishing-the-ally-industrial-complex/>

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- ***Anything*** at all written by James Baldwin
- ***Interrupting Bias: Calling Out vs. Calling In*** [Interrupting Bias: Calling Out vs. Calling In](#) [Calling Out: Remember, it is a powerful thing for the target of oppression to](#)
- ***Joyful Militancy: Building Thriving Resistance in Toxic Times*** by Nick Montgomery and carla bergmac - free download at: <https://theanarchistlibrary.org/library/joyful-militancy-bergman-montgomery> (Kathleen)
- ***The New Jim Crow***
- <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/54238294-white-feminism> **From John Ivens**

Seldom does a book have the impact of Michelle Alexander's The New Jim Crow. Since it was first published in 2010, it has been cited in judicial decisions and has been adopted in campus-wide and community-wide reads; it helped inspire the creation of the Marshall Project and the new \$100 million Art for Justice Fund; it has been the winner of numerous prizes, including the prestigious NAACP Image Award; and it has spent nearly 250 weeks on the New York Times bestseller list.

Most important of all, it has spawned a whole generation of criminal justice reform activists and organizations motivated by Michelle Alexander's unforgettable argument that "we have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it." As the Birmingham News proclaimed, it is "undoubtedly the most important book published in this century about the U.S."

Now, ten years after it was first published, The New Press is proud to issue a tenth-anniversary edition with a new preface by Michelle Alexander that discusses the impact the book has had and the state of the criminal justice reform movement today.

Protocols:

<https://whiteawake.org/themes-and-resources/self-education/workshops-and-study-groups/shared-agreements/>

July 22, 2021 Recommendations for Next Book to Read After *Unconventional Combat: Intersectional Action in the Veterans' Peace Movement* - Please Make Suggestions Here

- ***Against White Feminism: Notes on Disruption*** by Rafia Zakaria The bookstore is called Burning Books and Brown Russel works there. His contact is 716-570-5200 (texting works best for him as he gets a lot of emails he said but here is his email as well hobadoxa@me.com)
- ***How To Be An Antiracist***, by Ibram X. Kendi. My spouse has been part of a UU group that read it: she is 100% for this book (and a VFP member). I notice there are sites where one can download the book at no cost. Synopsis plus below. Vic

SYNOPSIS: Ibram X. Kendi's concept of antiracism reenergizes and reshapes the conversation about racial justice in America--but even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. In *How to be an*

Antiracist, Kendi asks us to think about what an antiracist society might look like, and how we can play an active role in building it. In this book, Kendi weaves together an electrifying combination of ethics, history, law, and science, bringing it all together with an engaging personal narrative of his own awakening to antiracism. How to Be an Antiracist is an essential work for anyone who wants to go beyond an awareness of racism to the next step: contributing to the formation of a truly just and equitable society.

{(^DOWNLOADED-PDF) How to Be an Antiracist [PDF EBOOK EPUB]Ebooks download How to Be an Antiracist ebook PDF Ebook How to Be an Antiracist Ebook[Download] [epub]^^ How to Be an Antiracist read online[DOWNLOADED IN @PDF] How to Be an Antiracist EPUB PDF[Download] [PDF] How to Be an Antiracist Free Download[DOWNLOADED IN @PDF] How to Be an Antiracist PDF[Free download [epub]]\$ How to Be an Antiracist EPUB\$[^R.E.A.D.^ How to Be an Antiracist [K.I.N.D.L.E]^#DOWNLOADED@PDF^# How to Be an Antiracist ZIP[DOWNLOADED] How to Be an Antiracist PDF eBook[^#DOWNLOADED@PDF^# How to Be an Antiracist PDF EBOOK EPUB KINDLE

Sites:

<https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/view/63122906/download-pdf-how-to-be-an-antiracist>

<https://sites.google.com/a/sumalih-cb731.firebaseio.com/ertrutyuytew/-pdf-download-how-to-be-an-antiracist-by-ibram-x-kendi>

- **Against White Feminism: Notes on Disruption by Rafia Zakaria** The book store is called **Burning Books and Brown Russel** works there. His contact is 716-570-5200 (texting works best for him as he gets a lot of emails he said but here is his email as well hobadoxa@me.com)
- **"Feeling White"**, by Cheryl Mattias (Roberto)
- **A race Is A Nice Think to Have** by Janet Helms. (Roberto)
- **Waging Peace, by David Hartsough**
- **Sociocracy Organizational structure in sociocracy**
- <https://www.sociocracyforall.org/organizational-structure-in-sociocracy/>
- Robert Sapolski **"Behave: The Biology of Humans at Our Best and Worst"(Nancy) Read on Own? Not a Group book.**
- [Building an international movement to abolish the prison industrial complex](#)
- [Time's Up Common Defense: An Open Letter on the Systemic Mistreatment of Womxn of Color Leaders in Social Justice Spaces](#) [Written collectively by the womxn veterans who've signed below](#)

*** Looking For A Volunteer that can further Organize these resources?

Becky wrote in 2020 "I just signed up for an organizational account at [Librarything.com](https://librarything.com). Nothing entered yet. The name is Veterans_For_Peace, the associated email is editor@____ ([veteransforpeace.org](mailto:editor@veteransforpeace.org)) and then you have to put in vets4peaceREADS to start using it. I figured we could experiment with the site to decide if it's the right tool for our community to keep track of recommended titles.....there is a limit of how many books can be listed, but it's in the thousands.

Another approach, rather than trying to list everything in one organizational account (the app is actually designed for library collections), is for each of us to open up a personal account and add in books we have in our libraries or that we want to read, and then connect to each other via a LibraryThing group (at least I think that's an option, going from a quick perusal). "

Multimedia Resources Recommended by Book Club Members:

(Everyone is welcome to add to this)

Recent: 2021 VFP Be The Change Book Club

Participants' Recommendations

People of Color Environmental Justice statement

<https://www.einet.org/ej/principles.pdf>

Summary Video: In July 2020, Movement Generation wrapped up a 4-session online course titled *Course Correction: Just Transition in the Age of COVID-19*. We covered a ton of material, featured stellar presenters from the MG family and network, and had over 4000 registered. Thank you for joining 📺 [Movement Generation's Course Correction Highlights](#)

Movement Generation: Session 1 of 4 of MG's "Course Correction: Just Transition In The Age of COVID-19". // "Cambio Del Rumbo: Una Transición Justa En La Era Del COVID-19" 📺 [MG's Course Correction : Session #1 // Cambio Del Rumbo : Sesión #1](#)

Movement Generation: Session 2 of 4 of MG's "Course Correction: Just Transition In The Age of COVID-19". // "Cambio Del Rumbo: Una Transición Justa En La Era Del COVID-19" 📺 [MG's Course Correction : Session #2 // Cambio Del Rumbo : Sesión #2](#)

Movement Generation: Session 3 of 4 of MG's online course: "Course Correction: Just Transition In The Age of COVID-19".
📺 [MG's Course Correction : Session #3 // Cambio Del Rumbo : Sesión #3](#)

Movement Generation: Session 4 of 4 of MG's "Course Correction: Just Transition In The Age of COVID-19". // "Cambio Del Rumbo: Una Transición Justa En La Era Del COVID-19" 📺 [MG's Course Correction : Session #4 // Cambio Del Rumbo : Sesión #4](#)

Hilarious Comedy from Movement Generation: [The North Pole](#)

More From Movement Generation

Do we have a right to be hopeful? With political and ecological fires raging all around, is it irresponsible to imagine a future world radically better than our own? A world without prisons? Of beautiful, green public housing? Of buried border walls? Of healed ecosystems? A world where governments fear the people instead of the other way around?

"A Message From the Future II: The Years of Repair" is an animated short film that dares to dream of a future in which 2020 is a historic turning point, where the lessons of the Covid-19 pandemic and global uprisings against racism drive us to build back a better society in which no one is sacrificed and everyone is essential.

A Message from the Future II: The Years of Repair

The film is a sequel to the 2019 Emmy-nominated short film "A Message From the Future" with Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, and features the art of Molly Crabapple, with the political storytelling of Naomi Klein, Avi Lewis, and Opal Tometi. The cast of narrators from around the world includes Tometi, Emma Thompson, Gael García Bernal, and the Nigerian poet and activist Nnimmo Bassey.

📺 [A Message from the Future II: The Years of Repair](#)

Produced with The Leap

Please visit their site at <https://theleap.org> and subscribe to their channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcaa...>

Watch Part 1 "A Message from the Future" with Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9uTH...>

Larry Holman's blog: [News from LDH](#)

When Fear Falls Away: The Story of A Sudden Awakening.

Jan Frazier

The book tells the story of the author's journey. It is not a "how-to" book. However, she has several books with teachings on awakened living. You can find her books used or on Amazon, but if you can afford it, why not support the teacher? Thanks. Greg C.

A Tradition of Violence: The History of Deputy Gangs in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department - Knock LA

<https://knock-la.com/tradition-of-violence-lasd-gang-history/>

DecolonizeU Pilot (About Face - Drop The MIC)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XuGmSJookAxzTI5HFYE2qSMP4gYx012r/view>

Overt and Covert Racism (Race & Religion) [Overt and Covert Racism — R-Squared](#)

Beyond "Us & Them" in a Complex World. (Community Rights US)

<https://communityrights.us/2021/02/26/beyond-us-them-in-a-complex-world/>

Films:

- **LA 92 - Official Film Trailer | National Geographic** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DcFuY_IPwh8
- Check out international movie database <https://www.imdb.com/>
- Privilege Walk (YouTube - difference where we are in society) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hD5f8GuNuGO>
- Anne Cruson University of Miami - History Myths and Lies and Half Truths of Language Use
- John McWhorter - The Great Courses Plus
- This Sporting Life
- Jean Michel - Basquiat Radiant Child (Roberto)
- One Night in Miami (Ken)
- Searching For Sugarman (Rodriguez: How a Detroit songwriter influenced the first resistance to apartheid - Trailer and can rent or buy to watch \$2.99) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QL5TffdQQ7g>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Searching_for_Sugar_Man
- Studio 17: The Lost reggae Tapes (An original, true story revealing the origins of Jamaican recorded music and the birth of Reggae.) <https://www.studio17movie.com/>

Recent Member Suggestions for Articles

- **Why DEI And Anti-Racism Work Needs To Decenter Whiteness** - While the sudden interest in DEI and anti-racism is encouraging, there must be a concerted effort to ensure that the diversity education that is being done doesn't center whiteness. Read in Forbes: <https://apple.news/AcQLaKJ39QZGic-SIJWodXq> (Judith)

2020 Suggestions

Adrienne Kinne

- Good suggestions - we definitely have a good list to work from.
- I would prefer we finish our current book and see where this conversation leads us before picking another book. Could be a useful exercise in patience :)

Kathleen Hernandez

- (Discovery Doctrine) *Five Hundred Years of Injustice: The Legacy of Fifteenth Century Religious Prejudice* by Steve Newcomb http://ili.nativeweb.org/sdrm_art.html
- *The Cost of Medical Bias When You're Sick, Black, and Female* <https://www.healthline.com/health/the-cost-of-medical-bias-when-youre-sick-black-and-female#1>
- *Implicit Racial/Ethnic Bias Among Health Care Professionals and Its Influence on Health Care Outcomes: A Systematic Review* <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4638275/>
- *8 Ways to Decolonize and Honor Native Peoples on Thanksgiving* <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/8-ways-decolonize-and-honor-native-peoples-thanksgiving?fbclid=IwAR2iTOXudILxBLAjbPQGWl5NmSaCXzvOwIPkt4voC-ADSBXo1Z3jqA-y0E>
- *The Possessive Investment in Whiteness: How White People Profit From Identity Politics* - **Read the Introduction to the Twentieth Anniversary Edition (pdf)**. George Lipsitz's classic book *The Possessive Investment in Whiteness* argues that public policy and private prejudice work together to create a possessive investment in whiteness that is responsible for the racialized hierarchies of our society. Whiteness has a cash value: it accounts for advantages that come to individuals through profits made from housing secured in discriminatory markets, through the unequal educational opportunities available to children of different races, through insider networks that channel employment opportunities to the friends and relatives of those who have profited most from past and present discrimination, and especially through intergenerational

transfers of inherited wealth that pass on the spoils of discrimination to succeeding generations. White Americans are encouraged to invest in whiteness, to remain true to an identity that provides them with structured advantages.

In this twentieth anniversary edition, Lipsitz provides a new introduction and updated statistics; as well as analyses of the enduring importance of Hurricane Katrina; the nature of anti-immigrant mobilizations; police assaults on Black women, the killings of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, and Freddie Gray; the legacy of Obama and the emergence of Trump; the Charleston Massacre and other hate crimes; and the ways in which white fear, white fragility, and white failure have become drivers of a new ethno-nationalism.

As vital as it was upon its original publication, the twentieth anniversary edition of *The Possessive Investment in Whiteness* is an unflinching but necessary look at white supremacy.

George Lipsitz is a Professor of Black Studies and Sociology at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His previous books include *How Racism Takes Place* and *A Life in the Struggle: Ivory Perry and the Culture of Opposition* (both Temple). Lipsitz serves as Chair of the boards of Directors of the African American Policy Forum and of the Woodstock Institute and is senior editor of the comparative and relational ethnic studies journal *KALFOU*.

- **George Floyd, Minneapolis Protests, Ahmaud Arbery & Amy Cooper | The Daily Social Distancing Show** Trevor Noah shares his thoughts on the killing of George Floyd, the protests in Minneapolis, the dominos of racial injustice and police brutality, and how the contract between society and black Americans has been broken time and time again. [#DailyShow](#) [#TrevorNoah](#) [#GeorgeFloyd](#) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4amCfVbA_c&feature=youtu.be
- Number one pick **When They Call You A Terrorist** is Patrisse Khan-Cullors and asha bandele's reflection on humanity. It is an empowering account of survival, strength and resilience and a call to action to change the culture that declares innocent Black life expendable. (Models solutions)
- *City of Inmates: Conquest, Rebellion, and the Rise of Human Caging in Los Angeles, 1771–1965* By **Kelly Lytle Hernández**

Los Angeles incarcerates more people than any other city in the United States, which imprisons more people than any other nation on Earth. This book explains how the City of Angels became the capital city of the world's leading incarcerator. Marshaling more than two centuries of evidence, historian Kelly Lytle Hernández unmasks how histories of native elimination, immigrant exclusion, and black disappearance drove the rise of incarceration in Los Angeles. In this telling, which spans from the Spanish colonial era to the outbreak of the 1965 Watts Rebellion, Hernández documents the persistent historical bond between the racial fantasies of conquest, namely its settler colonial form, and the eliminatory capacities of incarceration.

But *City of Inmates* is also a chronicle of resilience and rebellion, documenting how targeted peoples and communities have always fought back. They busted out of jail, forced Supreme Court rulings, advanced revolution across bars and borders, and, as in the summer of 1965, set fire to the belly of the city. With these acts those who fought the rise of incarceration in Los Angeles altered the course of history in the city, the borderlands, and beyond. This book recounts how the dynamics of conquest met deep reservoirs of rebellion as Los Angeles became the City of Inmates, the nation's carceral core. It is a story that is far from over. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q28Q5NGIASY&feature=youtu.be> also interesting 4 min. Interview with the writer. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7rUtpl47F3E> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kiiYxBycEH4> (1hour 4 min)

- *Reluctant Reformers: Racism And Social Movements In The United States* by Robert L. Allen. The book "...examines the effects of racism on seven major American reform movements..." https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_L._Allen <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/089692057700700412?icid=int.sj-full-text.similar-articles.2&>
- *Black and White Styles in Conflict* by Thomas Kochman <http://longleaf.net/wp/teaching-articles-resources/kochmans-black-white-styles-conflict>
- *From Movement Generation: Video Series The North Pole* [Episode 1: Endangered](#) (See the story and issue outline for each episode)
- *Four Arrows Don Trent VFP member has a book out as well The Red Road - Linking diversity and Inclusion Initiatives to Indigenous Worldview (A Volume In Counter-Hegemonic Democracy And Social Change)*

Patrick McCann

- Michelle Alexander's intro to her 10th anniversary edition of *The New Jim Crow* is excellent, as is the last
- Essay from Baldwin's *Notes of a Native Son* ("Stranger in the Village").

- An article that I found particularly impressive was one written by Max Rameau and Netfa Freeman entitled "Community Control Vs. Defunding the Police". There are multiple links to the article; here is one on Popular Resistance's website. <https://popularresistance.org/community-control-vs-defunding-the-police/>
- Weekly Stand Downs (every Wednesday at 5pm), which for months now has been highlighting younger veterans, veterans of color and female veterans. You can find the link to this on the VFP webpage, and it will take you to the Facebook livestream.
- We can do short articles. I recommend "Community Control Versus Defunding the Police" by Max Rameau and Netfa Freeman of Pan-Africanist Community Action - DC (and Black Alliance for Peace)
- "Stranger In The Village" from James Baldwin's Notes of a Native Son.

Greg Corning

- Any Joanna Macy book, and in particular "Active Hope". Dynamite. Radical re-shaping of our world! Anti-nuke activist since the 1970s. (One of her colleagues said Joanna "has spent decades walking into the dark to help us find the light".)
- "The Hanford Plaintiffs. Voices from the Fight for Atomic Justice" by Trisha Pritikin. A bit scholarly, except the author is one of the people seeking redress for radiation exposure.
- John McWhorter, a linguist at Columbia University, has a provocative series on his blog "It Bears Mentioning" about what he considers the phony anti-racism which actually harms Black people. Trigger warning: he hates Robin DiAngelo's White Fragility.
- Invisible Knapsack of White Privilege
https://nationalseedproject.org/images/documents/Knapsack_plus_Notes-Peggy_McIntosh.pdf

Becky Luening

- *The Black Race* by Ho Chi Minh and *Selected works on Systemic Racism* (Toronto: New Vietnam Publishing). Introduction by Dai Trang Nguyen and Edited by Luis Silva.
- Article: <https://communityrights.us/2021/02/26/beyond-us-them-in-a-complex-world/>
- Heather McGhee, *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together* (2021). "McGhee argues forcefully that racism hurts everybody and that the way forward is by building multi-racial collaborations and coalitions, resulting in a 'solidarity dividend.' McGhee is an expert in economic and social policy and is the former president of the inequality-focused think tank Demos. McGhee has drafted legislation, testified before Congress and contributed regularly to news shows such as NBC's Meet the Press. She currently chairs the board of Color of Change, the nation's largest online racial justice organization.
-

Ben Schrader

- bell hooks book *The Will to Change*. It is looking at the issue of masculinity and bell hooks being a Black female theorist definitely brings a intersectional approach, making it even better and more poignant. But I think that masculinity is a very important conversation to be examined especially within VFP.

Nancy Sindelar

- <https://thewhitepages.substack.com/>
- *Dying of Whiteness: How the Politics of Racial resentment is killing America's Heartland*, by Jonathan Metzl. <https://www.dyingofwhiteness.com/>
- First two seasons of "Serial" a high quality podcast. This year they are doing "Nice White Parents" about white adults who try to integrate a school, and things don't work out the way they anticipate. The podcast includes an introduction and 5 episodes of about an hour each, we could do it for 2 or 3 sessions. Here's the site: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/30/podcasts/nice-white-parents-serial.html>
- Terry Gross interviewed the podcast creator for her show last Monday. (<https://www.npr.org/2020/10/12/922092481/podcast-examines-how-nice-white-parents-become-obstacles-i-n-integrated-schools>)
- Tim Wise: a white anti racism activist, written several books and has a multitude of youtubes and podcasts out there.

Greg P (?)

- "Dying of Whiteness" It tells about racial prejudice from an academic point of view, so probably would be interesting and germane to the book club, but NOT really on topic, because it focuses on white midwesterners

who actually would rather die of a curable disease than vote to have public-funded health service - because then "those Mexicans" could get cheap/free health care! [Many interviewees literally told the author just that.] Can you believe how brainwashed we are?!

- Will we consider books focusing on Native Americans vis a vis white colonization? (Vine Deloria, Russel Means, etc.)

Edo Krasilovsky

- Marilynne Robinson, a writer who seems to me a good one to follow.
<https://www.nybooks.com/articles/2020/06/11/what-kind-of-country-do-we-want/>
- FROM WHAT IS TO WHAT IF by Rob Hopkins
- SURPLUS POWERLESSNESS by Michael Lerner
- A FOODIE'S GUIDE TO CAPITALISM and CAN WE FEED THE WORLD WITHOUT DESTROYING IT? both above books by Eric Holt-Gimenez
- GRASSROOTS RISING by Ronnie Cummins
- THE INTELLIGENT WOMAN'S GUIDE TO SOCIALISM, CPITALISM, SOVIETISM AND FASCISM by G. Bernrdd Shaw (1928)
- MOONRISE - THE POWER OF WOMEN LEADING FROM THE HEART edited by Nina Simons
- ORIGINAL INSTRUCTIONS, INDIGENOUS TEACHINGS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE edited by Melissa K. Nelson
- LAUGHER OF APHRODITE, REFLECTIONS ON A JOURNEY TO THE GODDESS by Carol P. Christ
- A LITTLE BOOK (81 pages) ON THE HUMAN SHADOW by Robert Bly

Vince Dijanich

- "How to be an Antiracist" by Ibram X Kendi, I haven't read this book yet, but BIPOC folks that I work with in another organization, **Sustaining all Life**, think highly and it's on my reading list
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Dave Logsdon

- "The Great Evil" by Chris Mato Numpa (Two Bear). Chris is a Lakota Elder and retired American Studies professor at Southwest State u in southern Minnesota. Chris digs deeply into Biblical roots of Colonial genocide over indigenous peoples. (Chris is a member in good standing with Chapter 27 (Army veteran)) Chris spoke at the St. Paul convention's opening plenary.

Brenton MacKinnon

- Agent Orange Roundup is written by a VFP member and combat vet - along with another Marine. Presented with short stories, poetry and dramatic painings by war veterans, it chronicles a six decades of chemical poisoning of combatants and civilians in two countries: ours and Vietnam. [New Book Exposes Epidemic in 'Agent Orange Roundup: Living with a Foot in Two Worlds'](#) Send2Press Newswire

Paul Lauter (he sent this to Garrett. Not sure if he is a VFP member). Would it be inappropriate for me to propose my new book,

- "Our Sixties" (see below) to the book club? NEW BOOK · OCTOBER 2020

"A gripping portrayal of a dramatic era from the unique perspective of a keen observer, astute analyst, and direct participant in all its complex stages. In the author's words, 'a book about the transformation of minds, my own and many others,' and of the country, with rich lessons for those taking up the struggle today." —Noam Chomsky *Our Sixties An Activist's History* by **Paul Lauter** (University of Rochester Press)

Paul Lauter examines the values, the exploits, the victories, the implications, and sometimes the failings, of the complicated "Movement" of the Sixties, using his wide-ranging experience as an activist and writer. In *Our Sixties*, Lauter writes about movement activities from the perspective of a full-time participant: 1964 Mississippi freedom schools; Students for a Democratic Society (SDS); the Morgan community school in Washington, DC, which he headed; a variety of anti-war, anti-draft actions; the New University Conference, a radical group of faculty and graduate students; The Feminist Press, which he helped found; and the United States Servicemen's Fund, an organization supporting anti-war GIs.

Lauter got fired, got busted, got published, and even got tenure. He honed his skills writing for the New York Review of Books among other magazines. As a teacher he created innovative courses ranging from "Revolutionary Literature" and "Contesting the Canon" to "The Sixties in Fiction, Poetry, and Film." He led the development of the groundbreaking Heath

Anthology of American Literature, which makes diversity of representation a priority and aims to reshape the American canon. He remains its general editor.

Our Sixties offers both a retrospective look at the social justice struggles of the Sixties and an account of how Lauter's participation in these struggles has shaped his life. Social history as well as personal chronicle, this account is for those who recall that turbulent decade as well as for those who seek to better understand its impact on American politics and society in our current era.

PAUL LAUTER is the A.K. & G.M. SMITH Professor of Literature Emeritus at Trinity College (Hartford). He was president of the American Studies Association and has won many awards, including the Modern Language Association's Francis March Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession of English Studies and the Working-Class Studies Association's Lifetime Achievement Award. Lauter was a ubiquitous figure of the 1960s, playing a significant role in the civil rights movements, anti-war groups, and the New Left.

Books Mentioned in 2020 VFP Convention and Beyond

- "Me and White Supremacy" by Layla Saad
- "The Will to Change: Men, Masculinity, & Love" by bell hooks
- "Wounds of War, the Psychological Aftermath of Combat in Vietnam" by Herbert Hendin & Ann Pollinger Haas, recommended by Suzanne Gordon of Save our VA.
- "Dark Money" by Jane Mayer. The hidden history of the billionaires behind . . . Recommended by Dr. Hugh Foy (SOVA)
- "The Village of Ben Suc" by Jonathan Schell. Life-changing book for Jane Fonda
- Two or three books with "Nonviolent Communication" in the title, by Marshall Rosenberg, recommended by someone on VFP board (Michael D.?, Pat McCann)
- "Speak Peace", recommended by someone on VFP Board - possibly "Speak Peace in a World of Conflict" by Marshall B. Rosenberg
- "Green Strategy, Path to Fundamental Transformation" by Marc Brodine - recommended in discussion of climate change
- "Destined for War, Can America and China Escape Thucydides's Trap?" by Graham Allison - recommended by Pat McCann (?)
- "Capitalism on a Ventilator" by Sara Flounders, coming out in September 2020.
<http://iacenter.org/2020/08/02/introduction-to-capitalism-on-a-ventilator-unfolding-crisis-drawing-conclusion/>
- Lu Xun, 1881-1936, Chinese Writer
- "This Changes Everything, Capitalism vs. the Climate" by Naomi Klein
- "The End of Ice, Bearing Witness and Finding Meaning in the Path of Climate Disruption" by Dahr Jamail

Other Previous Recommended Books, Articles / Resources:

- The Black Mesa Syndrome Interesting background on Black Mesa
<https://orionmagazine.org/article/the-black-mesa-syndrome/>
- RACE LITERACY QUIZ What Differences Make a Difference? Many recommend asking participants (alone or in pairs) to take this quiz prior to screening the series, for example, when they enter the room. Then choose four or five questions to review as a group activity. Pass out the answers after the screening.
<https://dev-distributeddesign.pantheon.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/2019-03/RACE%20LITERACY%20QUIZ%20rev-%20Questions%20and%20Answer%20Key.pdf>
- Race: The Power of an Illusion Documentary <https://mem.intervarsity.org/resources/race-power-illusion-documentary>
- Black Race and selected works by Ho Chi Minh on systemic racism by Nguyen Dai Trang. Here's an article about the book:
<https://vovworld.vn/en-US/news/book-introduces-ho-chi-minhs-selected-works-on-systemic-racism-955201.vov>
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Music, Film and Other Performing Arts Recommendations

- **Black Okies**

During the 1940s and 50s, between 30,000 and 40,000 black sharecroppers left the deep south and migrated to the rural Central Valley of California. While the saga of the white Dust Bowl Okies has been chronicled by everyone from John Steinbeck to Dorothea Lange, the story of the Black Okies has gone largely untold- until now.

Arriving in California a decade after the Dust Bowl, many black migrants were put out of work by mechanized farming almost as soon as they arrived. Stranded in squalid labor camps, they struggled for decades to bring water and other basic services to their unincorporated communities. Meanwhile, they lived in the shadow of the largest cotton plantation in history—the one created by J.G. Boswell after he lobbied the federal government to drain Tulare Lake and dam the four rivers that fed it. Filmed in 2004 and completed in 2015, this new documentary by Joel Pickford and Mark Arax gives the last surviving Black Okies a voice with which to tell their untold story.

https://vimeo.com/279773422?fbclid=IwAR1srg4Tt0XCP0_XcwoKtiCXmO4E1HKPMaXHdC8DYli797EfM1t21Q-MJo

- **Prayer to the Iyami by Patrisse Cullors (BLM)** <https://www.theartnewspaper.com/video/patrisse-cullors-prayer-to-the-iyami>
- **Imagining Abolition Episodes 1–3 (BLM YouTube):**
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lc-hovtcCik>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OaLy7U8PvNo>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JDvVOI1kGek&t=27s>
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- **Brittany Ramos DeBarros spoke about her experience standing up to the military industrial complex and her work with About Face's Drop the MIC campaign on Friday night. From the 2019 Veterans For Peace Convention. Brittany is a former Captain in the Army, she deployed to Afghanistan.** <https://spokaneveteransforpeace.org/2019-convention/> or https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1zJk1RogBk&feature=emb_logo

Websites / Magazines / Articles

- **California task force will consider paying reparations for slavery**
<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-09-30/california-task-force-reparations-slavery-gavin-newsom-shirley-weber>
- **Allensworth: California's First African-American Community** [Allensworth: California's First African-American Community](#) Although a small, dusty town where residents constantly battled heat and drought may seem an unlikely setting for a heroic effort at colony building and racial self-determination, this community of 'race pioneers, with its commitment to limiting the parameters of prejudice, served as a beacon of hope to blacks in the Golden State and across the nation. The community, Allensworth, belied the notion of African-American inferiority and, in so doing, generated excitement, hope and confidence. As soon as our race gets property in the form of real estate, of intelligence, of high Christian character, it will find that it is going to receive the recognition which it has not thus far received, said Colonel Allen Allensworth, the community's founder. This town and its founder deserve a kinder fate than relegation to a historical footnote.
- **The Six Types of Racist Bypassing Behaviors**
What is racist bypassing? It is the act of avoiding being held accountable for the ways in which your actions, beliefs, or practices uphold or perpetuate white supremacy. <https://www.instagram.com/p/B3IHWTxJ1FY/> *Where Change Started*
- **The Decolonize Issue: In Depth**
<https://www.yesmagazine.org/issue/decolonize/2018/04/03/white-allies-lets-be-honest-about-decolonization/>
- **Five Hundred Years of Injustice: The Legacy of Fifteenth Century Religious Prejudice**
by Steve Newcomb
When Christopher Columbus first set foot on the white sands of Guanahani island, he performed a ceremony to "take possession" of the land for the king and queen of Spain, acting under the international laws of Western Christendom. Although the story of Columbus' "discovery" has taken on mythological proportions in most of the Western world, few people are aware that his act of "possession" was based on a religious doctrine now known in history as the Doctrine of Discovery. Even fewer people realize that today - five centuries later - the United States government still uses this archaic Judeo-Christian doctrine to deny the rights of Native American Indians.

- PAUL LAUTER - OUR SIXTIES (AN ACTIVIST'S HISTORY)
- **Victor Henry** - Web site: [Prose Poems & Vietnam Poetry by Victor Henry](#). I write prose poems as well as poetry, many to left of center, many very political. And many short shorts, i.e., prose poems.
- ?? Member ?? Leona Stucky - *Fog of Faith*
- *Augie Machine* - Pike <https://www.augiemachine.com/> The story falls into the genre of military science fiction and has an overarching anti-war theme.
- **Doug Rawlings**
- **Mike Ferner**
- **Mike Messner ??**
- **others??**