

SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB
THE VILLAGE @ INCLUSIVE OTTAWA COUNTY
(4950 32nd Ave - Suite A, Hudsonville, MI)

Every third Wednesday of the month @ 6pm

I'm excited to share that we are hosting a Social Justice book club at The Village, the community center of Inclusive Ottawa County. We will focus on elevating marginalized voices and creating a space for learning and meaningful conversations. Each month, we'll explore a different theme, diving into books, podcasts, and documentaries that highlight issues impacting marginalized communities and inspire action.

This is about more than reading—it's about building community, amplifying stories that need to be heard, and committing to the work of justice and equity. Don't worry about reading all of the titles listed, pick what works for you - even if that's a podcast or documentary instead!

Some of the themes we'll focus on include:

- **Black history and racial justice**
- **Women's history and gender equality**
- **Environmental justice**
- **Immigration and global justice**
- **LGBTQ+ rights and pride**
- **Indigenous voices**
- **Economic inequalities**
- **Education and equity**
- **Criminal justice reform**
- **Disability justice**

The goal is to create awareness, deepen our understanding, and spark conversations that can lead to real change. Together, we can learn how to better support and advocate for those whose voices have too often been silenced.

If this resonates with you, I'd love for you to join. You don't have to be an expert or even read everything on the list—just come as you are, ready to listen, share, and grow.

Let's do this work together. Let's build something that matters.

Sign up for the Social Justice Book Club using this form: <https://forms.gle/w5aM8Y97BRtE2t1w8>

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FEBRUARY: BLACK HISTORY & RACIAL JUSTICE
Wednesday, February 19th at 6:00pm

Book Title Suggestions:

- ☐ *The Black Friend: On Being a Better White Person* by: Fredrick Joseph
- ☐ *So You Want to Talk About Race* by: Ijeoma Oluo
- ☐ *How to Be an Antiracist* by: Ibram X Kendi
- ☐ *A City Within A City* by: Todd Robinson
- ☐ *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* by: Isabel Wilkerson
- ☐ *Between the World and Me* by: Ta-Nehisi Coates

Discussion Points:

- ☐ What new terms have you learned from the book you chose?
- ☐ How has historical racial injustice shaped present-day inequalities?
- ☐ What resonated with you most about the personal stories in the book?
- ☐ How can we engage in difficult conversations about race in our personal lives?

Additional Resources:

- ☐ Podcasts
 - ☐ *Pod Save the People*
Hosted by DeRay Mckesson, this podcast focuses on social justice, race, and activism, featuring interviews with thought leaders and discussions on how race impacts societal structures and our daily lives.
 - ☐ *The Black Joy Mixtape*
This podcast celebrates Black culture and examines the complex experiences of Black individuals through joyful, nuanced conversations about race, identity, and social issues.
 - ☐ *Intersectionality Matters!*
Hosted by Kimberlé Crenshaw, one of the creators of the concept of intersectionality, this podcast explores race, gender, and other intersecting social identities, while diving into how systems of power and oppression shape individuals' lives.
- ☐ Documentaries
 - ☐ *Whose Streets?* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Hulu)
 - ☐ *I Am Not Your Negro* (Amazon Prime, YouTube)
 - ☐ *The Black Power Mixtape 1967-1975* (Amazon Prime, Apple TV)
- ☐ Movies
 - ☐ *Selma* (Amazon Prime, Hulu)

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- ☐ *The Hate U Give* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Hulu)
- ☐ *The Pursuit of Happyness* (Amazon Prime, Netflix, YouTube)
- ☐ *The Butler* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Hulu)
- ☐ *A Raisin in the Sun* (YouTube)

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MARCH: WOMEN'S HISTORY & GENDER EQUALITY

Wednesday, March 19th at 6:00pm

Book Title Suggestions:

- ☐ *Hood Feminism: Notes From the Women that a Movement Forgot* by: Mikki Kendall
- ☐ *How To Raise A Feminist Son* by: Sonora Jha
- ☐ *Invisible Women* by Caroline Criado Perez
- ☐ *Cassandra Speaks: When Women Are the Storytellers, the Human Story Changes* by: Elizabeth Lesser
- ☐ *Ain't I A Woman: Black Women and Feminism* by: bell hooks

Discussion Points:

- ☐ What new terms have you learned from the book you chose?
- ☐ How do gender-based inequalities manifest globally and locally?
- ☐ Which stories or data surprised you the most?

Additional Resources:

- ☐ Podcasts
 - ☐ *The Guilty Feminist*
Hosted by Deborah Frances-White, this podcast blends comedy with discussions on feminism, offering a mix of personal stories and expert interviews on gender equality, race, and more.
 - ☐ *Feminist Frequency Radio*
Hosted by Anita Sarkeesian, this podcast explores feminist perspectives on pop culture, media representation, and gender in gaming and entertainment.
 - ☐ *Gender Reveal*
Hosted by Tuck Woodstock, this podcast focuses on all things related to gender, including trans issues, intersectionality, and how gender is represented in media and society.
 - ☐ *Code Switch*
A podcast from NPR that examines the intersections of race, ethnicity, and culture. While not exclusively about gender, it provides excellent insight into how identity, race, and gender often overlap.
- ☐ Documentaries
 - ☐ *13th* (Netflix)
 - ☐ *Miss Representation* (Amazon Prime, YouTube)
 - ☐ *He Named Me Malala* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Disney +)
 - ☐ *RBG* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Hulu)
- ☐ Movies
 - ☐ *The Color Purple* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Netflix)
 - ☐ *Mona Lisa Smile* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Hulu)
 - ☐ *9 to 5* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Apple TV)

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APRIL: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Wednesday, April 16th at 6:00pm

Book Title Suggestions:

- ☐ *All We Can Save* by: Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and Katharine K. Wilkinson
- ☐ *This Changes Everything* by: Naomi Klein
- ☐ *The Climate Book* by: Greta Thunberg
- ☐ *The Death and Life of the Great Lakes* by: Dan Egan
- ☐ *The Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail* by: Jason De León

Discussion Points:

- ☐ What new terms have you learned from the book you chose?
- ☐ How do climate issues intersect with social justice issues?

Additional Resources:

- ☐ Podcasts
 - ☐ *The Climate Reality Project Podcast*
Hosted by climate activist Al Gore, this podcast explores the science behind climate change, its impacts, and the actions individuals and communities can take to fight back. It also highlights voices of global leaders working on environmental justice.
 - ☐ *The 10th Generation Podcast*
Hosted by young environmental justice advocates, this podcast focuses on the ways younger generations are engaging with climate justice, exploring topics like activism, policy, and the intersection of race, class, and environmental issues.
 - ☐ *Climate One*
This podcast brings together thought leaders, policymakers, and activists to discuss how climate change intersects with social justice, economics, and public policy. It focuses on solutions and how society can act now to mitigate climate crisis impacts.
 - ☐ *How to Save a Planet*
Hosted by journalist Alex Blumberg and climate scientist Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson, this podcast focuses on finding actionable solutions to the climate crisis and talks to experts on how to scale up efforts to fight climate change and address its social and environmental justice implications.
- ☐ Documentaries
 - ☐ *The True Cost* (Netflix)
 - ☐ *Seaspiracy* (Netflix)
 - ☐ *An Inconvenient Truth* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Apple TV)
 - ☐ *The Take* (Amazon Prime, YouTube)
- ☐ Movies

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- ☐ *Before the Flood* (Disney +)
- ☐ *Erin Brockovich* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Hulu)

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MAY: IMMIGRATION AND GLOBAL JUSTICE

Wednesday, May 21st at 6:00pm

Book Title Suggestions:

- ☐ *The Undocumented Americans* by: Karla Cornejo Villavicencio
- ☐ *Enrique's Journey* by: Sonia Nazario
- ☐ *The Refugees* by: Viet Thahn Nguyen
- ☐ *City of Thorns: Nine Lives in the World's Largest Refugee Camp* by: Ben Rawlence
- ☐ *American Like Me* by: America Ferrera
- ☐ *The Distance Between Us* by: Reyna Grande

Discussion Points:

- ☐ What new terms have you learned from the book you chose?
- ☐ What underlying systems or structures contribute to the issue discussed?
- ☐ What role do you think individuals, communities, or governments should play in addressing immigration?

Additional Resources:

- ☐ Podcasts
 - ☐ *The Migrant Kitchen*
This podcast dives into the stories of immigrant chefs, their journeys to the U.S., and the ways food culture intersects with migration and identity. It's a unique way to explore the personal experiences of immigrants through the lens of food and culture.
 - ☐ *Latino USA*
Hosted by Maria Hinojosa, this podcast focuses on the Latino experience in the United States, including issues related to immigration, cultural identity, and justice. It often features stories of individuals navigating the challenges of immigration and belonging in America.
 - ☐ *Immigration Nation (Podcast tied to the Netflix documentary)*
This podcast expands on the themes explored in the Immigration Nation documentary series, discussing the real-life struggles of immigrants and the injustices within the U.S. immigration system. It brings light to personal narratives and systemic flaws.
- ☐ Documentaries
 - ☐ *Immigration Nation* (Netflix)
 - ☐ *The Visitor* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Apple TV)
 - ☐ *The Two Escobars* (Netflix)
- ☐ Movies
 - ☐ *The Book of Life* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Netflix)
 - ☐ *The Kite Runner* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Apple TV)

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☐ *Sin Nombre* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Apple TV)

☐ *A Better Life* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Apple TV)

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JUNE: LGTBQ+ RIGHTS AND PRIDE

Wednesday, June 18th at 6:00pm

Book Title Suggestions:

- ☐ Untamed by: Glennon Doyle
- ☐ Queer (In)Justice by: Mogul, Ritchie, and Whitlock
- ☐ The Miseducation of Cameron Post by: Emily M. Danforth
- ☐ Gender Queer by: Maia Kobabe
- ☐ This Book is Gay by: Juno Dawson
- ☐ Families Like Mine by: Abigail Garner
- ☐ Stonewall: The Definitive Story of the LGBTQ Uprising That Changed America by: Martin Duberman

Discussion Points:

- ☐ What new terms have you learned from the book you chose?
- ☐ How does identity intersect with societal expectations?
- ☐ What does allyship for LGBTQ+ communities look like?

Additional Resources:

- ☐ Podcasts
 - ☐ LGBTQ&A
Hosted by Jeffrey Masters, this podcast features interviews with prominent LGBTQ+ figures and explores issues like identity, activism, and representation. It's a great resource for understanding diverse perspectives within the LGBTQ+ community..
 - ☐ The Gender Knot
Hosted by a team of trans and non-binary activists, this podcast delves into gender identity, exploring everything from trans rights to societal expectations of masculinity and femininity.
 - ☐ Making Gay History
This podcast highlights the untold stories of LGBTQ+ history, featuring interviews with activists, artists, and everyday people who have shaped the movement for LGBTQ+ rights. It provides both historical context and contemporary insight into the community.
- ☐ Documentaries
 - ☐ Disclosure (Netflix)
 - ☐ The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson (Netflix)
 - ☐ A Secret Love (Netflix)
- ☐ Movies
 - ☐ Moonlight (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Apple TV)
 - ☐ The Danish Girl (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Apple TV)

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- ☐ *Love, Simon* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Hulu)
- ☐ *Milk* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Apple TV)

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JULY: INDIGENOUS VOICES
Wednesday, July 16th at 6:00pm

Book Title Suggestions:

- ☐ *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* by: Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz
- ☐ *There There* by: Tommy Orange
- ☐ *As Long as Grass Grows* by: Dina Gilio-Whitaker
- ☐ *Braiding Sweetgrass* by:
- ☐ *This Land is Their Land* by: David Silverman
- ☐ *Killers of the Flower Moon* by: David Grann

Discussion Points:

- ☐ What new terms have you learned from the book you chose?
- ☐ What surprised you about Indigenous history?
- ☐ What does true sovereignty look like for Indigenous communities?

Additional Resources:

- ☐ Podcasts
 - ☐ *All My Relations*
Hosted by Matika Wilbur (a photographer and activist) and Adrienne Keene (a Native academic and writer), this podcast explores Indigenous identity, history, and sovereignty, featuring conversations with Indigenous thinkers and activists. It dives into a variety of topics including cultural reclamation, activism, and modern-day struggles.
 - ☐ *Unreserved*
Hosted by Rosanna Deerchild, Unreserved explores contemporary Indigenous culture and issues. It brings forward stories from Indigenous artists, community leaders, and activists, often focusing on resilience, identity, and cultural revitalization.
 - ☐ *The Red Nation Podcast*
This podcast is created by The Red Nation, an Indigenous-led political organization. It covers a wide range of topics related to decolonization, Indigenous rights, environmental justice, and the historical context of settler colonialism. It's a great resource for understanding how past histories shape present struggles.
- ☐ Documentaries
 - ☐ *Reel Injun* (Amazon Prime, YouTube)
 - ☐ *Blood Memory* (Amazon Prime, YouTube)
 - ☐ *Incident at Oglala* (Amazon Prime, YouTube)
- ☐ Movies
 - ☐ *Smoke Signals* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Apple TV)

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- ☐ *The Business of Fancy Dancing* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Apple TV)
- ☐ *Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Apple TV)
- ☐ *The New World* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Apple TV)

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AUGUST: ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

Wednesday, August 20th at 6:00pm

Book Title Suggestions:

- ☐ Evicted by: Matthew Desmond
- ☐ Nickel and Dime by: Barbara Ehrenreich
- ☐ The Divide by: Matt Taibbi
- ☐ Maid by: Stephanie Land
- ☐ There Are No Children Here: The Story Of Two Boys Growing Up in the Other America by: Alex Kotlowitz

Discussion Points:

- ☐ How does housing inequality perpetuate poverty?
- ☐ What local, state, and/or federal policies could address economic disparities?
- ☐ What's the difference between a living wage and minimum wage?

Additional Resources:

- ☐ Podcasts
 - ☐ The Cut on Tuesdays
This podcast explores various social issues, including economic inequality, through storytelling and interviews. Episodes often delve into personal experiences of financial struggles, systemic inequality, and the challenges of achieving economic mobility.
 - ☐ The Indicator from Planet Money
A quick and engaging podcast that provides bite-sized insights into economics. It often covers topics like poverty, the wage gap, and how economic systems impact people's lives. The Indicator is a great resource for understanding complex economic issues in simple terms.
 - ☐ Inequality.org Podcast
Produced by the Institute for Policy Studies, this podcast focuses on the deepening divide between the rich and the poor, offering analysis on economic inequality and social justice. It includes interviews with activists, scholars, and policymakers who discuss how to address the growing wealth gap.
- ☐ Documentaries
 - ☐ The True Cost (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Netflix)
 - ☐ Living on One Dollar (Amazon Prime, YouTube)
 - ☐ Inside Job (Amazon Prime, YouTube)
- ☐ Movies
 - ☐ Slumdog Millionaire (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Disney +)
 - ☐ The Florida Project (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Hulu)
 - ☐ Sorry We Missed You (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Apple TV)

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SEPTEMBER: EDUCATION AND EQUITY

Wednesday, September 17th at 6:00pm

Book Title Suggestions:

- ☐ *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools* by: Monique W. Morris
- ☐ *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together In the Cafeteria?* by: Beverly Daniel Tatum
- ☐ *Caste* by: Isabel Wilkerson
- ☐ *Free Lunch* by: Rex Ogle
- ☐ *I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up For Education and Was Shot by the Taliban* by: Malala Yousafzai
- ☐ *Savage Inequalities* by: Jonathon Kozol

Discussion Points:

- ☐ How does bias affect education and discipline within schools?
- ☐ What would a truly equitable education system look like in terms of curriculum, resources, and support?
- ☐ How does funding inequality between schools in wealthy and underprivileged communities perpetuate disparities in education?

Additional Resources:

- ☐ Podcasts
 - ☐ *The 1619 Project Podcast*
Produced by The New York Times, this podcast expands on the 1619 Project and explores the legacy of slavery in the United States. Episodes often touch on education and how the systems designed to educate have been shaped by racism and inequality over time.
 - ☐ *Teaching While Black*
This podcast focuses on the experiences of Black educators in the U.S., touching on challenges related to systemic racism, biases in the classroom, and the unique perspectives Black educators bring to discussions on equity and inclusion.
 - ☐ *The EdSurge Podcast*
The EdSurge Podcast discusses various topics related to education, with many episodes focused on equity and inclusion. It addresses the ways technology, policy, and societal influences can either perpetuate or help reduce educational disparities.
- ☐ Documentaries
 - ☐ *Waiting for Superman* (Amazon Prime, YouTube)
 - ☐ *Teach Us All* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Netflix)
 - ☐ *Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution* (Netflix)
 - ☐ *Forget me Not* (Amazon Prime, YouTube)
- ☐ Movies

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- ☐ *Freedom Writers* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Hulu)
- ☐ *Precious* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Apple TV)
- ☐ *The Great Debaters* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Hulu)

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OCTOBER: CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Wednesday, October 15th at 6:00pm

Book Title Suggestions:

- ☐ *Just Mercy* by: Bryan Stevenson
- ☐ *The Condemnation of Blackness* by: Khalil Gibran Muhammad
- ☐ *The Sun Does Shine* by: Anthony Ray Hinton
- ☐ *Locked In* by: John F. Pfaff
- ☐ *The New Jim Crow* by: Michelle Alexander

Discussion Points:

- ☐ What does this book reveal about the flaws in the justice system?
- ☐ What role does the media play in shaping public perceptions of criminal justice, particularly with regard to race and innocence?
- ☐ How do systemic racism and class disparities shape the experiences of those who are caught up in the criminal justice system?

Additional Resources:

- ☐ Podcasts
 - ☐ *The Innocence Project*
This podcast, produced by The Innocence Project, shares stories of individuals wrongfully convicted of crimes. It highlights issues with the justice system, including racial bias, the use of DNA evidence, and systemic failures.
 - ☐ *Justice in America*
Hosted by two criminal justice reform advocates, this podcast explores systemic injustices in the U.S. criminal justice system, focusing on the impact of laws and policies on marginalized communities. It covers issues such as police brutality, mass incarceration, and more.
 - ☐ *Ear Hustle*
Produced by incarcerated individuals at San Quentin State Prison, Ear Hustle offers a unique, firsthand perspective on the U.S. prison system, its injustices, and the human experiences within it.
- ☐ Documentaries
 - ☐ *The Central Park Five* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, PBS)
 - ☐ *When They See Us* (Netflix)
 - ☐ *The Force* (Amazon Prime, YouTube)
 - ☐ *The Farm: Angola, USA* (Amazon Prime, YouTube)
- ☐ Movies
 - ☐ *Just Mercy* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Apple TV)
 - ☐ *The Hurricane* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Apple TV)
 - ☐ *American History X* (Amazon Prime, YouTube)

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☐ *The Trial of the Chicago 7* (Netflix)

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NOVEMBER: DISABILITY JUSTICE
Wednesday, November 19th at 6:00pm

Book Title Suggestions:

- ☐ *Being Heumann* by: Judith Heumann
- ☐ *Disability Visibility* by: Ali Wong
- ☐ *Care Work* by: Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha

Discussion Points:

- ☐ What role does representation play in creating more inclusive communities?
- ☐ How can media and public spaces better reflect the experiences and needs of disabled people?
- ☐ What are some immediate actions individuals can take to promote disability justice in their communities, workplaces, and schools?

Additional Resources:

- ☐ Podcasts
 - ☐ *Disability Visibility Podcast*
This podcast features conversations about disability culture, justice, and advocacy, highlighting the voices of disabled people across various fields and experiences. It is an excellent companion to *Disability Visibility* and provides first hand perspectives on disability justice.
 - ☐ *Respect the Bumps*
This podcast covers issues of disability justice, particularly with a focus on care work, community-building, and how marginalized communities intersect with disability activism. It's directly relevant to *Care Work*
 - ☐ *Power of Streets*
This podcast delves into how the design of our physical environment impacts accessibility for people with disabilities, offering a broader understanding of how urban and social spaces can be more inclusive for all.
 - ☐ *The Longest Struggle*
A podcast from the Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund, focusing on the history of disability rights movements, highlighting solidarity, and offering insights into the ongoing fight for inclusion and justice.
- ☐ Documentaries
 - ☐ *The Rebound* (Amazon Prime, YouTube)
 - ☐ *Lives Worth Living* (PBS)
 - ☐ *King Gimp* (Amazon Prime, YouTube)
- ☐ Movies
 - ☐ *The Theory of Everything* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Netflix)
 - ☐ *Wonder* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Netflix)
 - ☐ *I Am Sam* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Apple TV)

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DECEMBER: HOPE AND SOLIDARITY
Wednesday, December 17th at 6:00pm

Book Title Suggestions:

- ☐ *We Are Not Here to Be Bystanders* by: Linda Sarsour
- ☐ *Hope in the Dark* by: Rebecca Solnit
- ☐ *Together* by: Vivek H. Murthy

Discussion Points:

- ☐ What does “being a bystander” mean to you? How can we move from passive observation to active participation in social justice efforts?
- ☐ How can hope be maintained in the face of setbacks or discouragement?
- ☐ How can we ensure that the voices of marginalized communities are centered in movements for change, and not just used for the sake of broadening a movement’s appeal?

Additional Resources:

- ☐ Podcasts
 - ☐ *The Ezra Klein Show*
Ezra Klein's podcast regularly features discussions on activism, politics, social justice movements, and how to create positive change in society. It often touches on topics related to building solidarity, finding hope, and engaging in activism.
 - ☐ *The Activist's Toolkit*
This podcast provides practical advice and inspiration for those involved in activism and social justice work, offering concrete tools to build movements, find hope, and foster solidarity across causes.
 - ☐ *The Solidarity Movement*
This podcast focuses on the ways different communities can build solidarity and work together for justice, exploring various movements and the role of solidarity in achieving collective goals.
- ☐ Documentaries
 - ☐ *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, HBO Max)
 - ☐ *American Factory* (Netflix)
 - ☐ *Rising Phoenix* (Netflix)
- ☐ Movies
 - ☐ *12 Years A Slave* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Hulu)
 - ☐ *A Beautiful Mind* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Hulu)
 - ☐ *Hidden Figures* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Disney +)
 - ☐ *The Help* (Amazon Prime, YouTube, Netflix)