



Embracing Unity: Racial Healing In The Midst of Chaos

Presented By: Dr. Rita Anita Linger, PhD, CPC, CMBP Executive Director, Recovery Communities of North Carolina Senior Faculty and Supervision, The Center for Mind-Body Medicine



Opening Meditation: "Soft Belly" Breathing





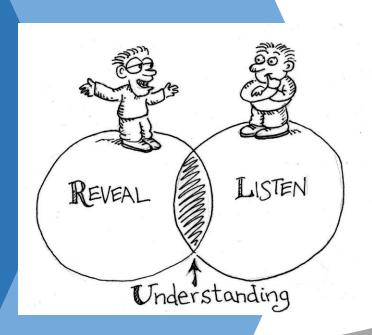
Desired Outcomes

Participants will have deepened their understanding of the importance of self-awareness and:

A shared understanding of how Mind-body skills can support sustainable/meaning ful dialogue and change and remind us of habits/ways of being that support each other and an inclusive EID culture

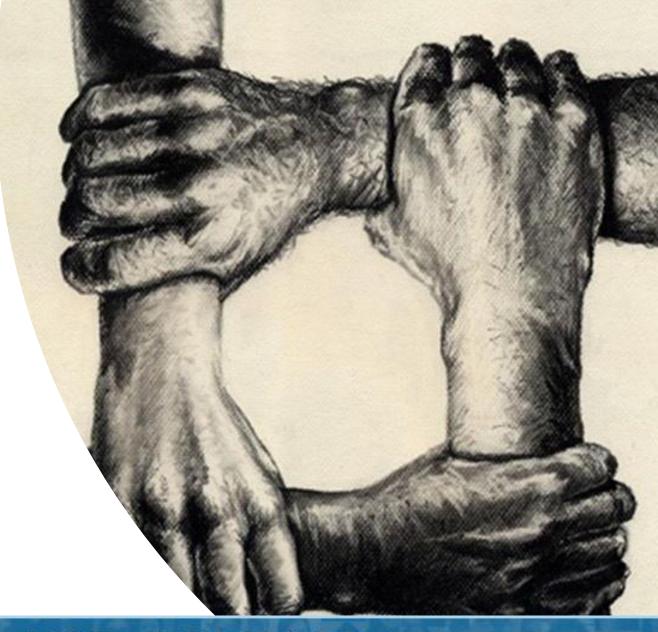
Awareness of shared analysis, concepts and common language, so we understand what we mean when we speak about EID concepts.

A shared understanding of what microaggressions are and how they can be hurtful and create unintended consequences.



The importance of Unity

"Like a sculptor, if necessary, carve a friend out of stone.
Realize that your inner sight is blind and try to see a treasure in everyone." - Rumi

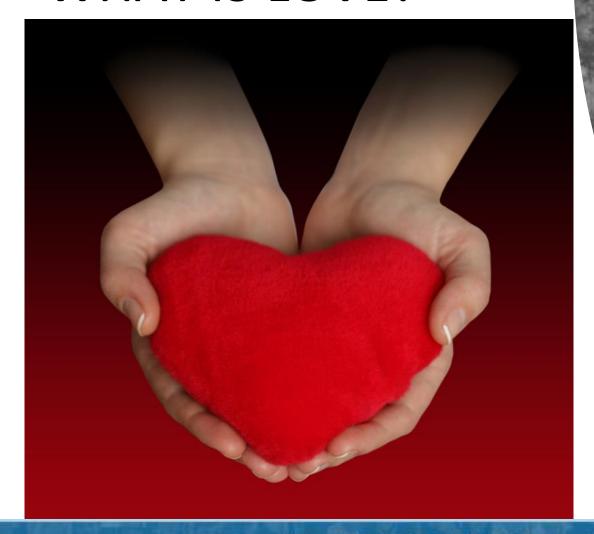


STARTING WITH THE END IN MIND...





WHAT IS LOVE?



Love does not consist of gazing at each other, but in looking together in the same direction. Saint-Exupery

WHAT IS NECESSARY TO CHANGE A PERSON IS TO CHANGE HIS AWARENESS OF HIMSELF.

Abraham Maslow

PICTURE QUOTES . com





"When we have made self-love a part of our lives, self-awareness becomes easier. Self-love gives us a baseline of positive and graceful thinking towards our own selves as individuals. This attitude gives us the courage to recognize our flaws and take the steps needed to improve upon them." - Leah Bury

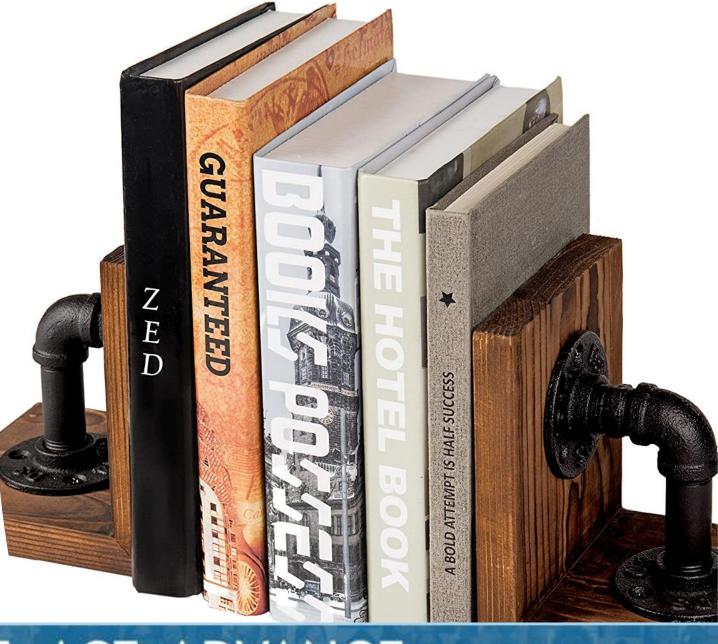


Breathing is the most fundamental of our body's physical processes and our most intimate companion—yet most of us give it little to no thought. However, once fully acknowledged and harnessed, the power of the breath is unlimited. It can ease stress and anxiety, boost energy and stamina, enhance self-confidence, sharpen the ability to focus, strengthen the quality of voice, and even relieve pain.

BREATHING....BOOK ENDS

"We come into the world with a breath, and we leave the same way."

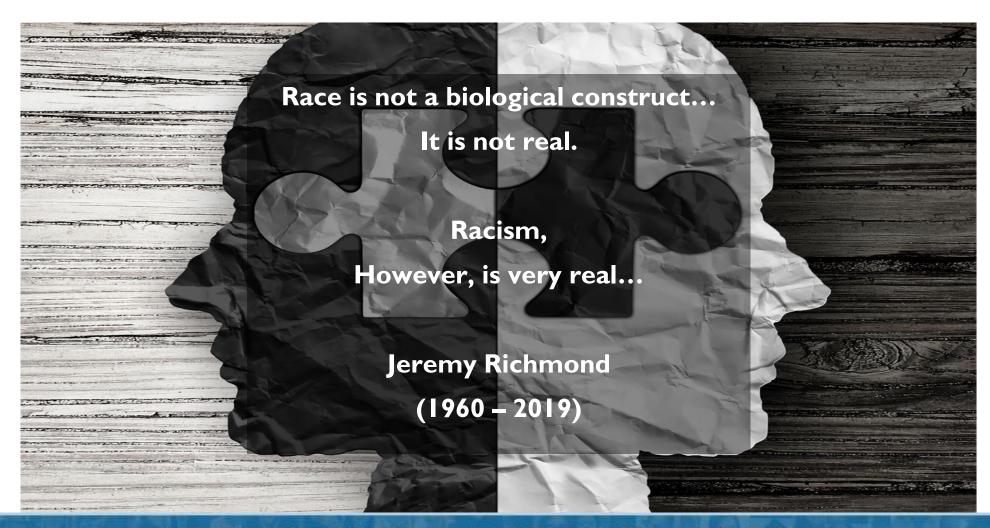
- Dr. Rita Anita Linger



Be Open and Non-Judgemental of What's Coming Up for You!

- 1. What's difficult?
- 2. What's challenging?
- 3. What's rewarding?
- 4. What enables us?

RACE AND THE U.S.



"Race is....

a social construct, without biological meaning. Originally used to differentiate who was white and who was not.

"CULTURE is....

Customs, arts, social institutions and achievements of particular social groups or people.

"ETHNICITY is....

often based on shared ancestry, language and traditions...

"PREJUDICE is....

The emotional commitment to ignorance...."

Adrienne Banfield-Jones quotes to her daughter Jada Pinkett-Smith

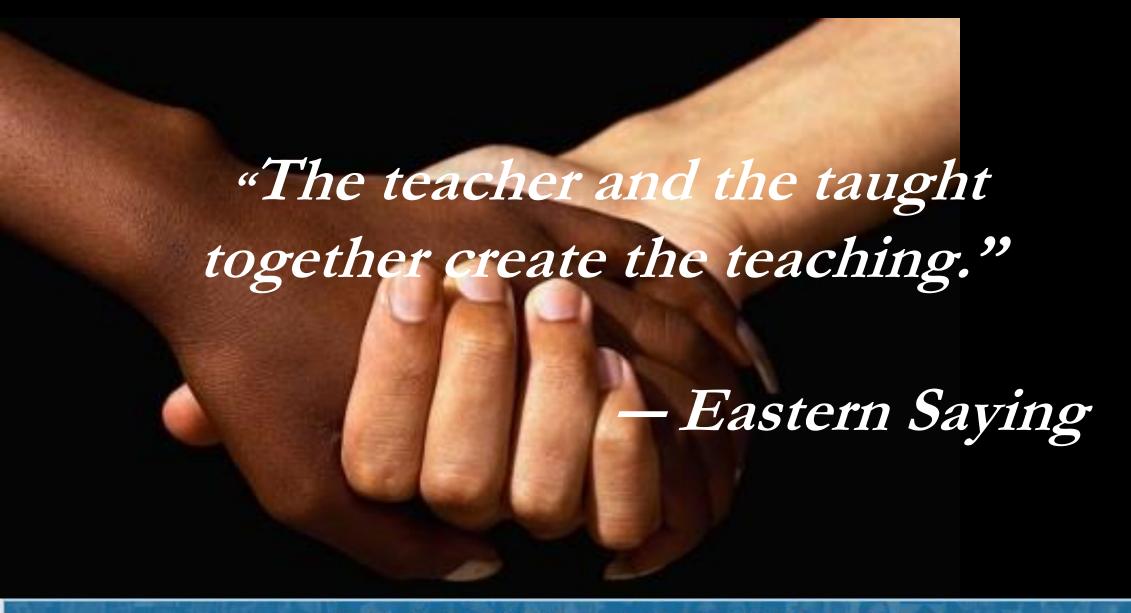
"In the American caste system, the signal of rank is what we call race, the division of humans on the basis of their appearance. In America, race is the primary tool and the visible decoy, the front man, for caste. Race does the heavy lifting for a caste system that demands a means of human division. If we have been trained to see humans in the language of race, then caste is the underlying grammar that we encode as children, as when learning our mother tongue."

— Isabelle Wilkerson



"That is what learning is.
You suddenly understand
something you've understood
all your life, but in a new
way."

— Doris Lessing



Why Now?

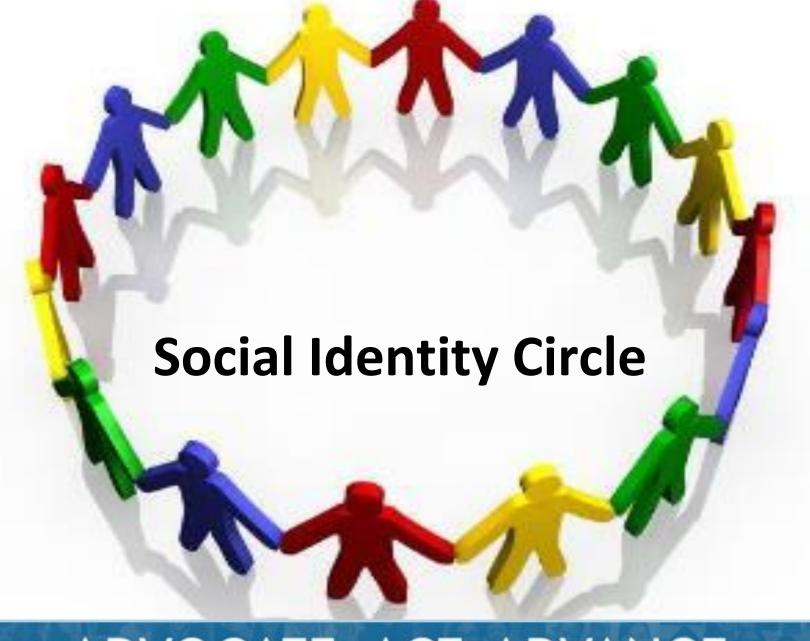
- African-Americans and Indigenous peoples in the U. S. have a higher mortality rate for multiple chronic illnesses, including heart disease, cancer, diabetes, obesity, and HIV than other ethnic group...including COVID
- Stress contributes to chronic illness....
- Racism and oppression are stressors....
- · We can live...



"In America, nearly all of us, regardless of our background or skin color, carry trauma in our bodies around the myth of race."

- Resmaa Menakem

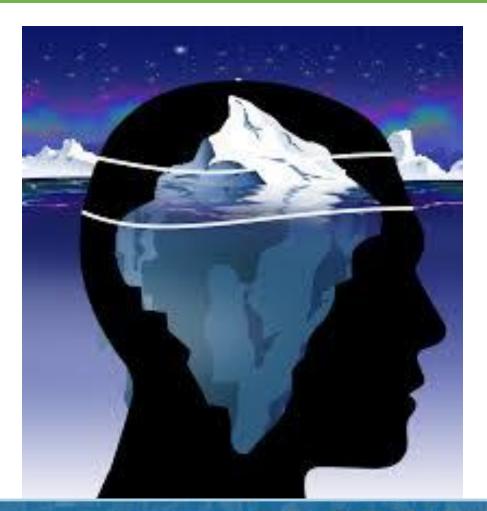




Social Identity Wheel



Unconscious Bias/Implicit Association



Attitudes or stereotypes that affect

our understanding and decisions without our conscious awareness, consent, or agreement

Types of Biases

 Affinity Bias: perceive you have something in common with them... school, town, neighborhood

4. Conformity Bias: Group Think

Halo Bias: if we like one thing about someone we think everything about them is good Anchoring Bias: over-reliance on the first piece of data you hear

 Confirmation Bias: looking for evidence to support our judgments

6. There are many more....google it @

Unconscious Networks



Sorting it Out

I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulatcly uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg.

The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid, aoccdrnig to a rsreaerech at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it dseno't mtaetr in waht oerdr the ltteres in a wrod are.

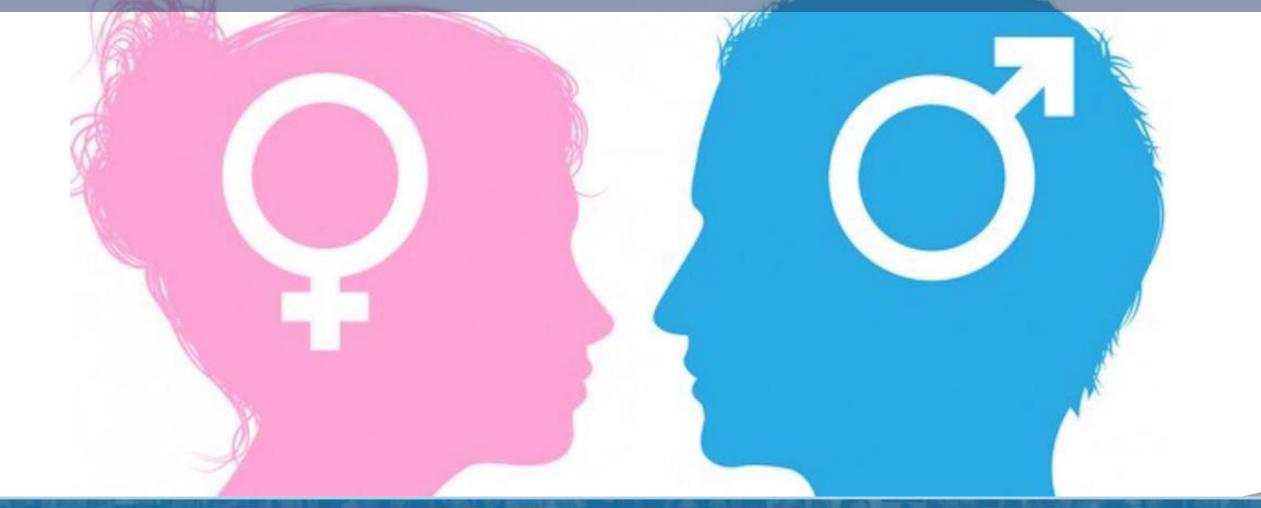
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Source: Harry Collins, Tacit and Explicit Knowledge



What do you see?

Implicit Associations



Only 14.5% of men in America can claim to have this attribute; yet nearly 60% of Fortune 500 company CEOs do.

What is it?

- 1. An IQ of over 150.
- 2. A standing height of over six foot.
- 3. A college degree.

The Tall Book by Arianne Cohen

14.5% of American men stand over six foot tall; yet 60% of Fortune 500 company CEOs are blessed with such height. One study concludes that every inch of additional height relates to a corresponding annual salary gap of £500 in favour of the tall.

Biases reinforce inequity: example.



http://kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/research/understanding-implicit-bias/

criminal sentencing and Afrocentric features bias:

refers to negative judgments and beliefs that many people hold regarding individuals who possess Afrocentric features such as dark skin, a wide nose, and full lips.

Researchers found that when controlling for numerous factors (e.g., seriousness of the primary offense, number of prior offenses, etc.), individuals with the most prominent Afrocentric features received longer sentences than their less Afrocentrically-featured counterparts.

This phenomenon was observed intra-racially in both imprisoned Black and White male samples.

More about Unconscious Bias?

 Brain is designed to be biased, have assessments, judgment.
 Survival mechanism, instinctual biologically and is socialized

 Encompass both favorable and unfavorable assessments

- Are activated involuntarily and without an individual's awareness or intentional control
- Different from known biases that individuals may choose to conceal for the purposes of social and/or political correctness
- Biases are not accessible through introspection

Diversity: dimensions of difference and identity that exist in all groups



Why Diversity isn't Enough

Diversity can...

- Create opportunities for sharper, more creative, strategic thinking
- Increase the likelihood that programs, services and initiatives will be relevant to constituents
- Demonstrate commitment to creating equal opportunities

Diversity doesn't necessarily...

- Guarantee cultural competency/humility
- Alter the dynamics of oppression or change the systems that create injustices
- Ensure inclusion, fair operations, or real opportunities within an organization
- Lead to equitable outcomes for the organization's constituents

PROCESS

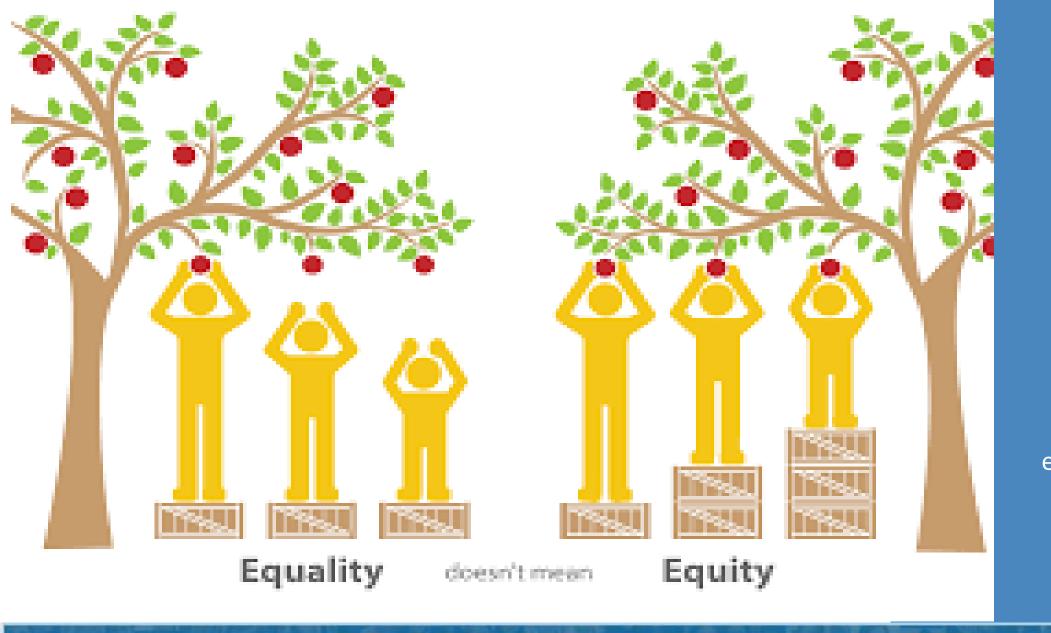
all groups have access to the resources and opportunities necessary to improve the quality of their lives

+

OUTCOMES

differences in life
outcomes cannot
be predicted
on the basis of race,
class, or other
dimensions of
identity





Equity

Equity is not giving everyone the same thing,

equity is giving each person what they need to succeed

Levels of Oppression

Source: Race Forward

MACRO LEVEL

INSTITUTIONAL



STRUCTURAL



MICRO LEVEL

INTERNALIZED



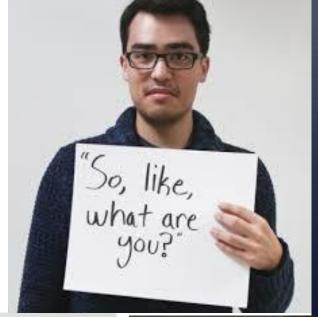
INTERPERSONAL



Microaggressions

Brief and commonplace, unconscious or conscious verbal, behavioral, environmental indignities/slights that communicate hostile, derogatory or negative feelings, assumptions, beliefs about another/others based on differing dimensions of diversity

MICROAGGRESSIONS



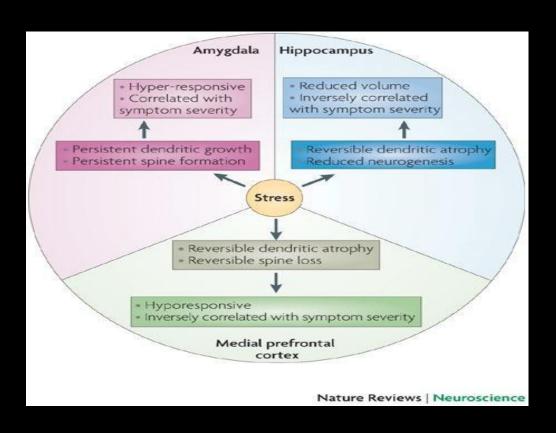








Chronic stress changes the way the brain works, especially the limbic system.

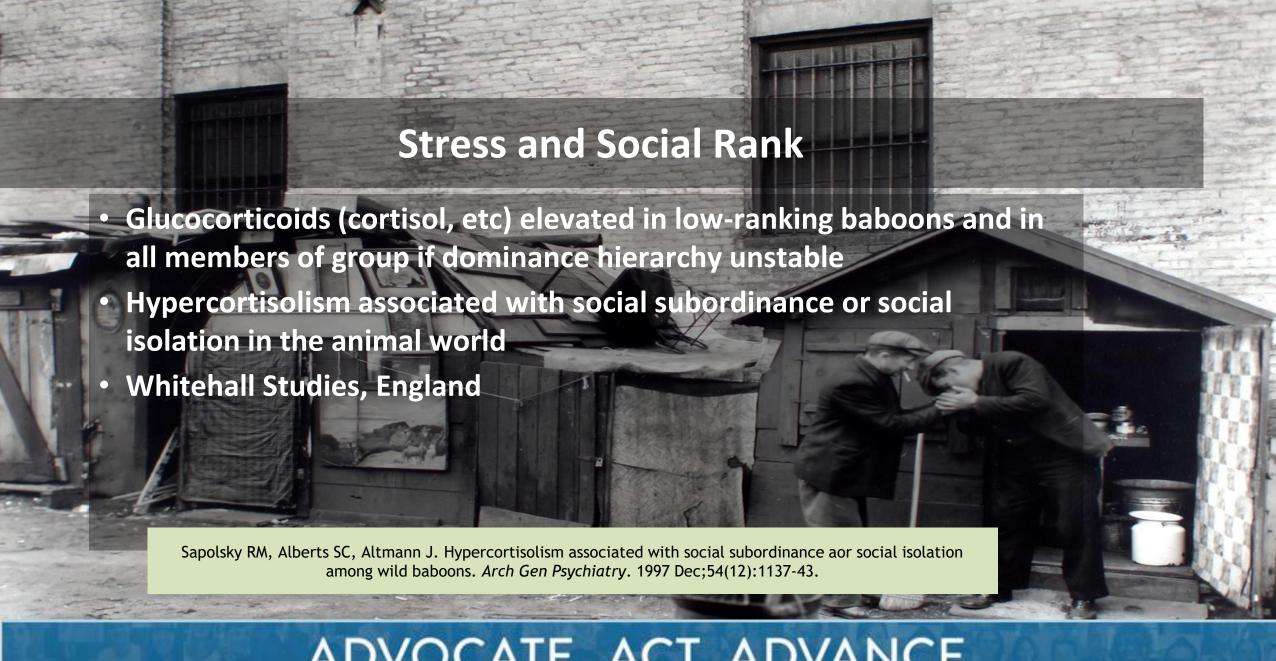


Chronic/excess Stress Influences the Onset and Course of Virtually All Illness

Coronary Heart Disease	Gastrointestinal Dysfunction
Progression of HIV/AIDS	Headaches
Recurrence of Herpes	Premature Death
Asthma	Eczema
Common Cold	Anxiety and related disorder
Acute Clinical Incidents such as Cardiac arythmia, sudden Death	Cancer
Depression	Sleep-related ailment
Obesity	PTSD
Diabetes	Alzheimer's and cognitive decline
Pain and Chronic Pain	Cellular Aging

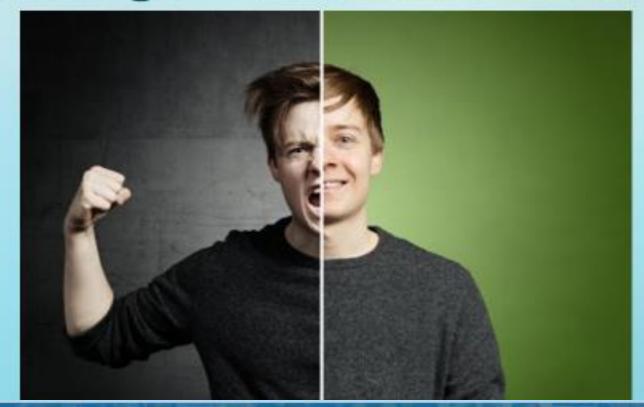
Source: Institute of Medicine

©The Center for Mind-Body Medicine



Making the Shifts

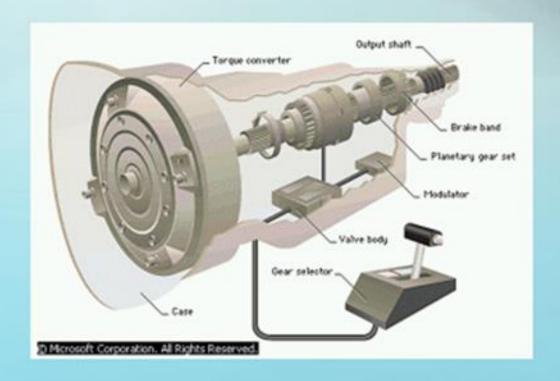
How do we get from here to there?



Autonomic Nervous System Branches

Sympathetic and Parasympathetic





Perception, Awareness, Emotions and Self-Regulation in Caring for Others

"What we know about perception is that it can be thought of as an "attitude" and its understanding is based on what is thought and observed. It is usually based on the senses and similar in concept with awareness, sensitivity, opinion, insight, and acuity. Thus, it appears that perceptions are somewhat filtered through the emotional history and experiences of the individual including the process of mental heuristics" (Linger, 2014).



Perception, Awareness, Emotions and Regulation In Healing Self and Helping Others

Managing emotions is:

less about controlling emotions

more to do with REPLACING control with WILLINGNESS so that one can "feel better, as opposed to feel better".

Willingness to be open to emotions as they arise promotes:

acceptance of uninvited experiences, including any unwanted internal events.

Perception, Awareness, Emotions and Regulation In Self-Care and Caring for Others

"I have found personally and through my work with human subjects, including professionals and clients, that there is great value in becoming comfortable with the state of discomfort. When that state is achieved perceptions begin to shift and emotions can be effectively regulated" (Linger, 2014).



What Do We Do About It?



"Anything and everything can become our teacher of the moment, reminding us of the possibility of being fully present: the gentle caress of air on our skin, the play of light, the look on someone's face, a passing contraction in the body, a fleeting thought in the mind. Anything. Everything. If it is met in awareness." (Kabat-Zinn, 2012)

Mind Body Skill Practice can Help Develop Qualities of Acceptance and Compassion

- Acceptance and compassion can help us to experience ourselves, clients and situations as they truly are, and to remain non critical.
- We learn that much of what we see as reality are just events of the mind
- Seeing myself through lenses of acceptance and compassion helps me see others that way
- Stress is decreased when acceptance and compassion are present



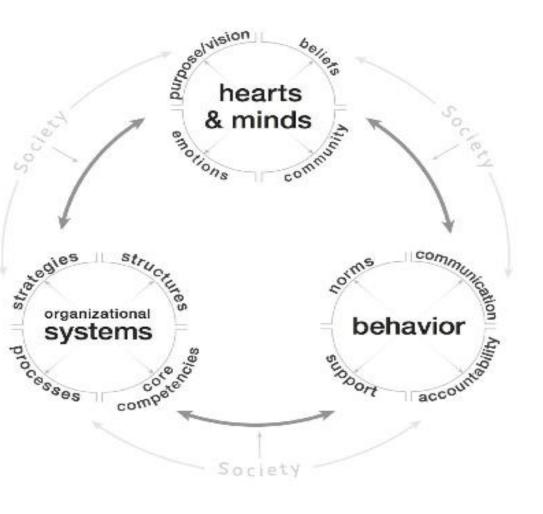
ACCOUNTABILITY





THE WHEEL OF CHANGE for organizations

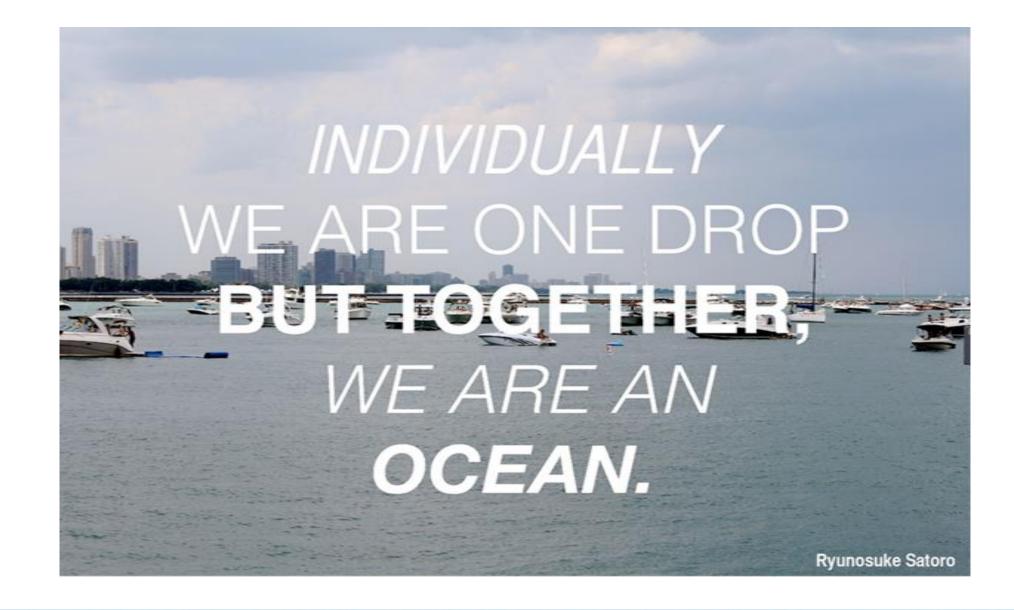
To create real change within an organization, we must work in an integrated way with the three major domains that comprise every organizational system:

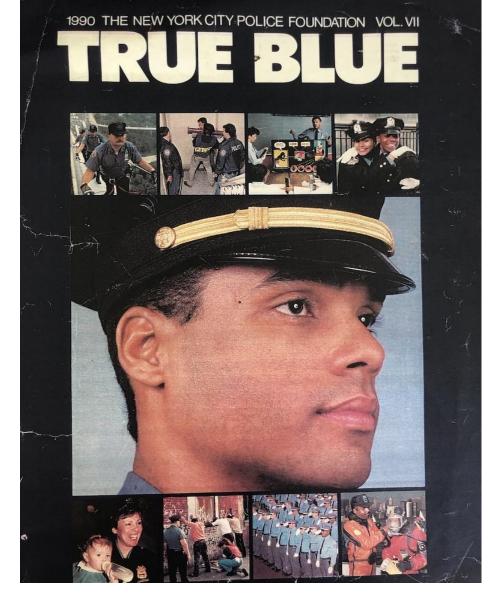


Robert Gass

Social Transformation Project

www.stproject.org







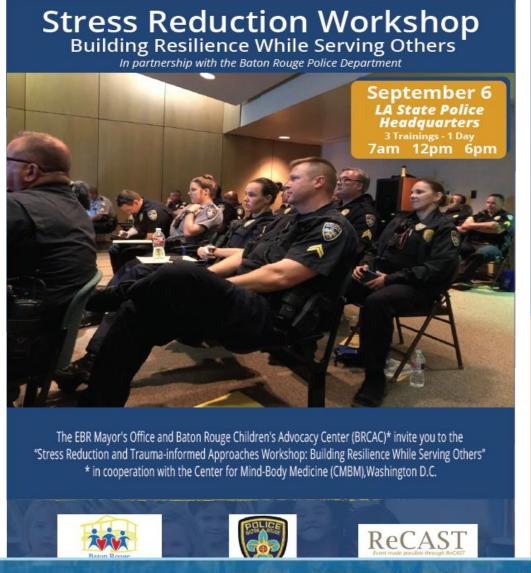
Thaddeus Gamory, from Bronx New York, residing Broward County Florida

- N.Y.P.D. Lieutenant Retired
- N.Y. State Police Instructor
- N.Y.P.D. Police Academy, Chair Social Sciences Department
- B.A. Public & Government Administration
- Member National Organization Black Law Enforcement Professionals
- Certified NYC Public School Mentor
- CUNY School of Law DNF
- Florida Atlantic University Graduate Program - DNF
- Substitute Teacher Broward Schools

- Faculty, Center for Mind Body Medicine
- President SWIMS Foundation
- Diversity in Aquatics Director of Community Engagement & Partnerships
- Head Coach Diversity in Aquatics Masters Swim and Triathlon Club
- Coach
 - USA Triathlon,
 - US Masters Swimming
 - USA Swimming,
 - USA Track & Field
 - USA Cycling
- Red Cross Lifeguard
- High School Swim Coach
- Racial Equity Organizer in Broward County

- Law Enforcement stands in a position to be an important catalyst for growth and a vanguard for racial paradigm transformation & social justice.
- Breath: Bridge 2 Law Enforcement & Community.
- Being a Mindful Officer, stressors inside & out.
- Historic Racial Dynamic of Law Enforcement.
- Breathing & Mindfulness skills in everyday life.
- Awareness of Power of Breath: Fast Belly Rise.
- Breath & Fine motor skills & nondominant hand.

Resiliency in Communities After Stress and Trauma 2019









Toni Bankston, LCSW, BACS Baton Rouge, LA, USA



Licensed Clinical Social Worker New Orleans, LA, USA



Chad Dingman, LCSW Spartanburg, SC, USA



Claire Wheeler, MD, PhD Portland, OR, USA



New York City Police Department Lieutenant (retired)

Traumatic events across our city effect the emotional and physical health, social functioning and overall well-being of the entire community. Responding to community-wide trauma also brings about additional stress and requires important knowledge and skills for caregivers. This workshop is designed to give you an introduction to evidence-based tools of self-care that you can use to deal effectively with your own stress as well as CMBM's comprehensive program for healing individual and population wide trauma.

WORKSHOP INCLUDES:

- Explore the connection between traumatic events and responding to traumatic events and emotional, physical, and social distress and dysfunction
- Practice evidence-based mind-body techniques to relieve stress, heal trauma, and enhance health and well-being
- Identify and practice trauma-informed response strategies in assisting communities impacted by community wide trauma

Refreshments will be provided

Louisiana State Police Headquarters 7919 Independence Blvd

Please RSVP to Jennifer@batonrougecac.org or call (225) 343-1984



ADVOCATE, ACT, ADVANCE,

As a Law Enforcement Officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception; the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all men to liberty, equality and justice.



Law Center alumnus creates digital campaign promoting social justice, June 12, 2020"Yes, I am a black man," said LaFonta, "I will not apologize for the color of my skin. My skin should not be a crime."



ADVOCATE. ACT. ADVANCE.

Taking a Stand in Baton Rouge is a photograph of **leshia Evans** "I wasn't afraid. I took a stand in Baton Rouge because enough is enough"



A black boy from the South Bronx, NYC

A dad

A swim coach

A community member

A social justice advocate

A community organizer

A racial equity, restorative justice activists

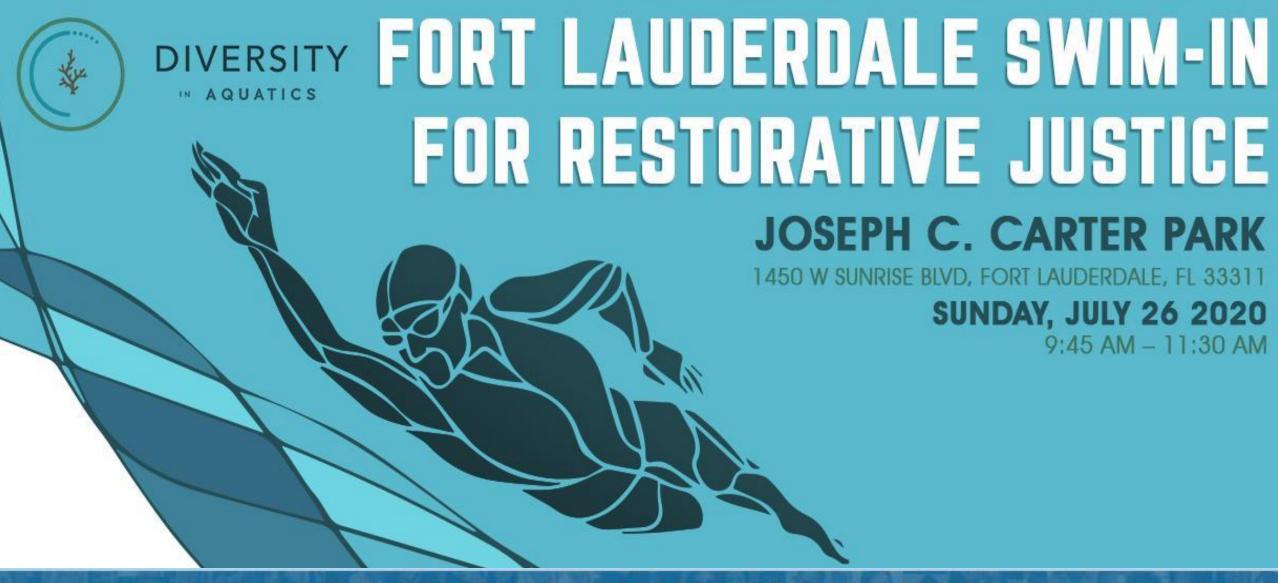
A retired police lieutenant

A mind body skills practitioner

I have experienced for myself that mindfulness and self care practices were essential to my ability to manage and perform optimally during significant stretches of my time in the NYPD (when I stopped practicing, I dropped off and checked out emotionally). Having a daily practice, was how I had the social emotional maturity and capacity to start mentoring at risk black and brown youth in NYC.

When I arrived in South Florida, I continued to find ways to a mentor for youth, initially as a substitute teacher, then swim coach, then triathlon coach, then as a training consultant under the Healthy Youth Transition program for the Urban League. It was then that I fully appreciate secondary/vicarious trauma and the havoc it was having on my mind & body as well as my personal, professional relationships.

Practicing mindfulness as self care and job readiness, are essential for community and police transformation. Law Enforcement Officers equipped with tools for daily internal self care, will more likely seek and achieve optimal performance solutions to conflicts. Acting courageously, based upon truth, justice and equity; looking for the best possible outcomes available for the members of community they serve; for themselves and their family; and the police organization and profession.











#FORTLAUDERDALESWIMMINGWHILEBLACK #SWIMMINGWHILEBLACK #NOCAPHANDSUP #BLACKLIVESMATTER



FORT LAUDERDALE SWIM-IN FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

JOSEPH C. CARTER PARK

1450 W SUNRISE BLVD, FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33311

SUNDAY, JULY 26 2020 10 AM - 12 PM

10:00 - Introductions, Keynotes & Call To Action

11:30 - Swim - In / Sit - In

12:00 - Closing Remarks

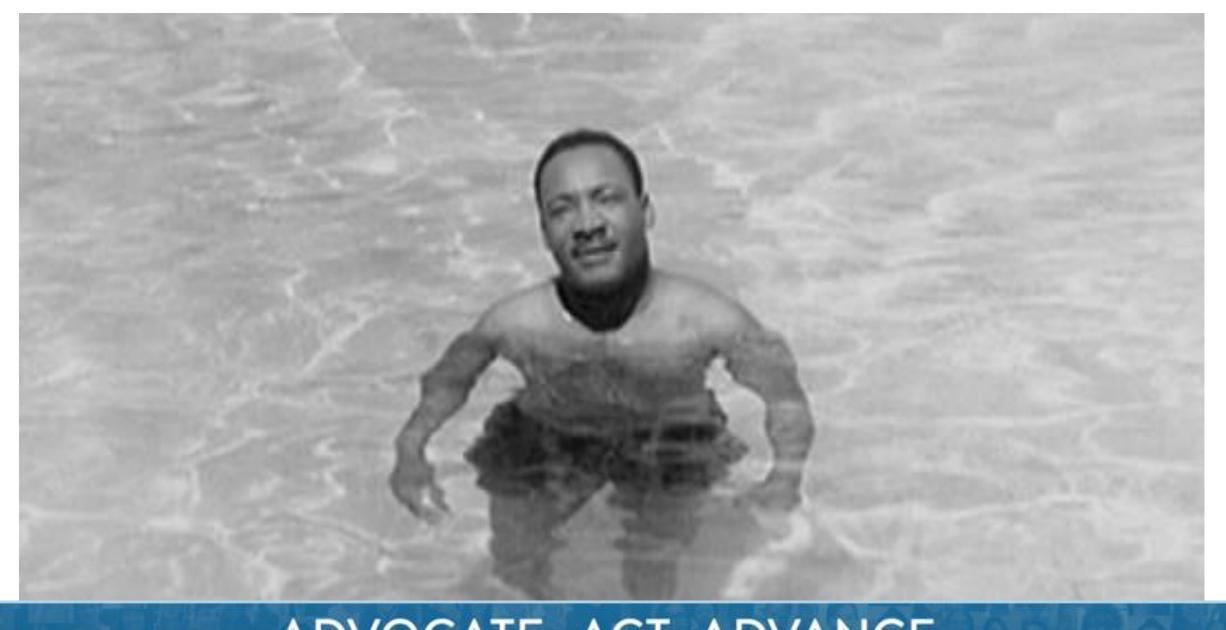
Participants are required to wear masks and safely social distance during the protest.

Feel free to bring your own signs!

CAN'T JOIN US IN PERSON...JOIN US ONLINE

- 1 Create a post using your social media and the hashtags below to show support
- 2 Connect with us via FB/IG Live to access the live event
- 3 Become a member of Diversity In Aquatics and our US Masters Swim







ADVOCATE. ACT. ADVANCE.



Lack of Control Over Life Events: Learned Helplessness

Animals and humans who cannot control life events (eg. unpredicted electric shocks, noise, etc. in experience) lose interest in life, have difficulty in learning, and look depressed.

Martin Seligman "Helplessness: On Depression, Development, and Death." 1992.



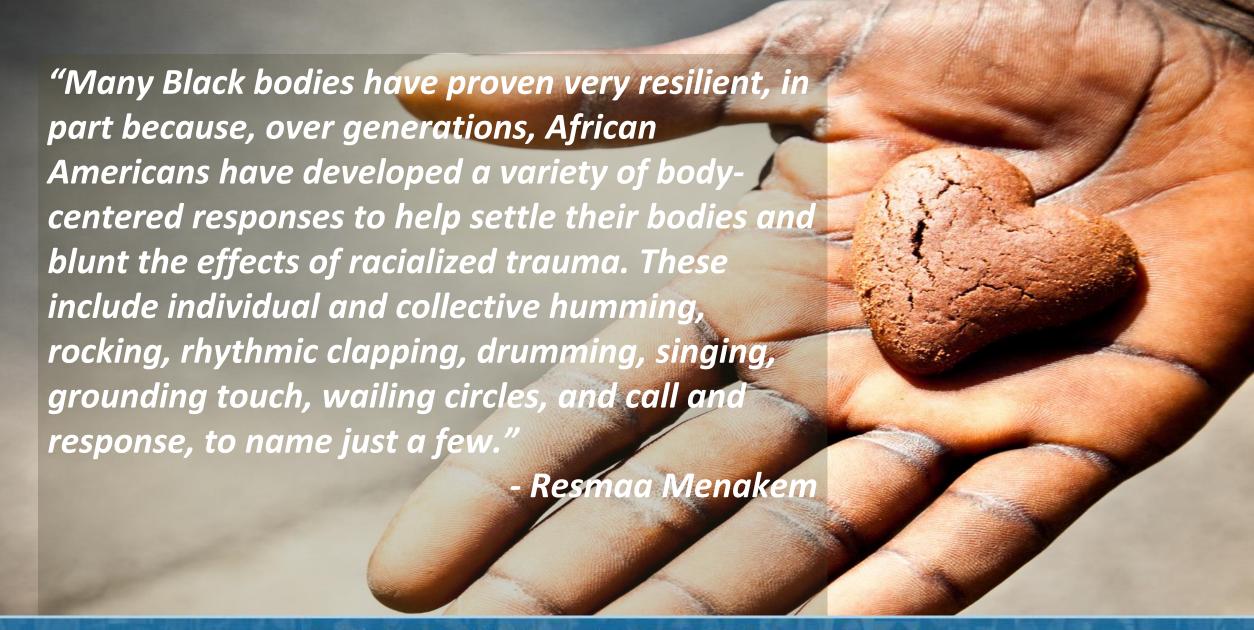
"The smoke in Oakland has hands" - Leila Mottley, age 18

"Throughout high school and middle school, I was bullied very, very severely and writing was the one way I coped. And it helped me see that

I was worth more."

— Alora





Healing Is...

- a lifelong journey towards wholeness
- remembering what has been forgotten about connection, unity and interdependence among all things living and non-living
- embracing what is most feared
- opening what has been closed, softening what has hardened into obstruction
- entering into the transcendent, timeless moment when one experiences the divine
- · creativity and passion and love
- seeking and expressing self in its fullness, its light and shadow, its male and female
- learning to trust life

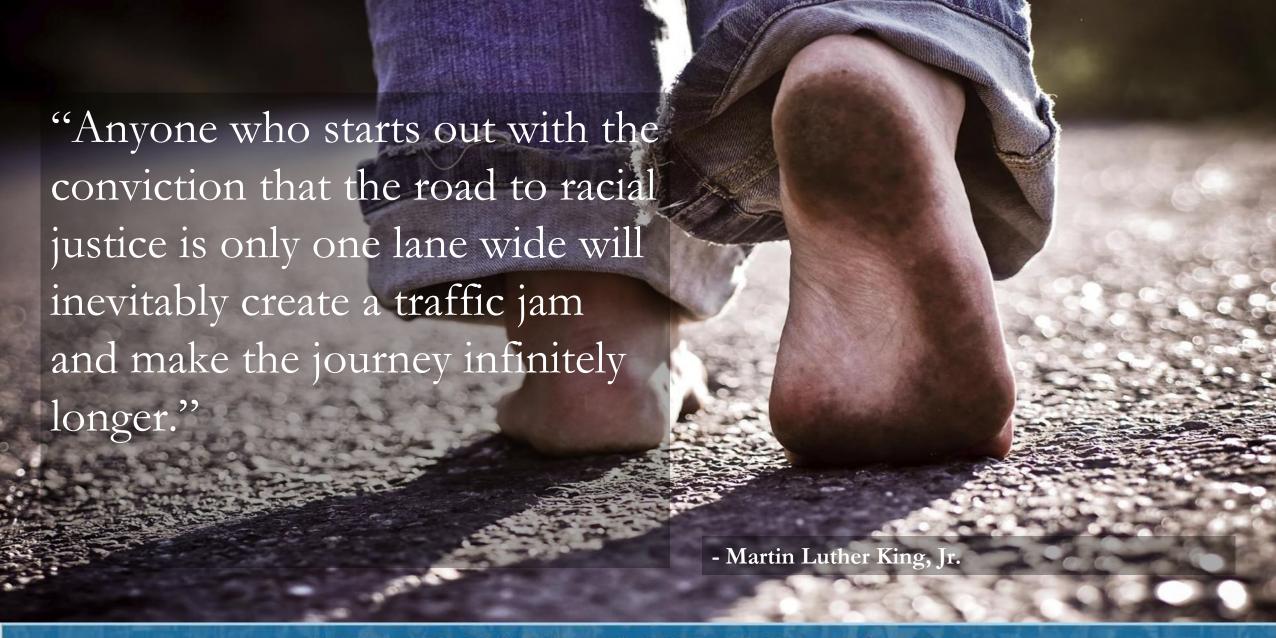
• (Achterberg, 1990)

Curiosity Creates Connection

- What do you need right now?
- What else do you need to say or do?
- How can I support you?
- Can you tell me more?
- What does that mean to you?







"You have to get over the fear of facing the worst in yourself. You should instead fear unexamined racism. Fear the thought that right now, you could be contributing to the oppression of others and you don't know it. But do not fear those who bring that oppression to light. Do not fear the opportunity to do better."

· - Ijeoma Oluo







