

## D.E.I. NEWS

JUNE 2020

COORDINATOR'S  
MESSAGE

We've made it to June - and the final edition of the DEI Newsletter of the 2019-2020 year. I hope that this newsletter has been at least somewhat useful and/or engaging for you and your family. If you have other ideas for things related to DEI for us going forward, please reach out. I'd love to talk.

This month we have an additional chance to recognize and celebrate the people in our community who are part of the LGBTQ+ community with Pride Month, and I think it is important to note that Pride started 50 years ago after the community was reacting to and protesting against targeted, hateful bias, discrimination, and violence from police. Amidst what is happening now across the country, I hope you can take time to reflect on and think critically about the structures and systems in our country to decide what you think should happen going forward.

I wish you all the best for this coming summer and the uncertain future we all face right now.

~Joslyn Hunscher-Young

## LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH

This month we celebrate and remember the contributions of people in the LGBTQ+ community. As a reminder, this acronym stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and others who may identify as non-conforming or non-binary in terms of sexual orientation and/or gender. We celebrate Pride this month in addition to LGBTQ+ History Month in October because the end of June commemorates the Stonewall Riots/Rebellion and people within the LGBTQ+ community have worked to recognize this event and the entire month with both memorials and celebrations.

Last year (2019) was the fiftieth anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall Riots/Rebellion, which was a tipping point of sorts in the long struggle of the LGBTQ+ community in fighting for their rights. The Gay Liberation or Gay Rights Movement had been growing throughout the 1960s and after this police raid of a gay bar called the Stonewall Inn in New York City, people quickly turned to more active protests as a form of demonstrating. Learn more about this significant event in many of the suggested resources below.

Although we all wish that we could be physically together in the building to have various celebrations and conversations together, we also hope that you'll find time in the coming month to explore and learn more together whether with your household or in virtual conversations beyond. There is always more to learn and continue our own growth, and these are only a few of many opportunities.

## LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES &amp; CONVERSATION STARTERS

If you're looking for more ways to learn and expand your understanding of LGBTQ+ Pride Month and/or history, consider these suggestions:

- **Listen to the Queer America podcast from Teaching Tolerance** ([www.tolerance.org/podcasts/queer-america](http://www.tolerance.org/podcasts/queer-america)). Reflect and discuss what you learned and why it may not often be taught in schools.
- **Watch some (or all) of the PBS offerings that connect with Pride Month** (<http://www.pbs.org/specials/lgbt-pride-month>). Consider whose stories we often hear, whose voices are underrepresented, and why that might be the case.
- **Explore the virtual Stonewall monument** (<https://stonewallforever.org>). Reflect and discuss how oppressed communities have been working and continue to push for progress that supports, protects, and honors them as people.

"YOUR LIVES MATTER. YOUR VOICES MATTER. YOUR STORIES MATTER."

~ Laverne Cox



## FURTHER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Although many of us are likely looking forward to a "summer break" in a few weeks, we know that the summer of 2020 will likely be different than what many of us expected. In hopes that you and your families are all able to stay safe, well, and engaged over the few months we are not in school, here are a few more suggestions of resources to continue learning about different diversity, equity, and inclusion related topics:

- The **Embrace Race** website (<https://www.embracerace.org>) has lots of suggested articles, webinars, and resources geared towards families looking to help "raise a brave generation" ready to deal with racism and discrimination.
- **Project Humanities at Arizona State University** (<https://projecthumanities.asu.edu/perils-and-perks-of-privilege>) has a variety of resources and personal checklists to help us understand privilege related to various identities we hold.
- The various tests from **Project Implicit at Harvard University** (<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/education.html>) about our own implicit associations and biases are useful in developing our own reflection on what biases we may hold and where we can and should try to learn more.
- **Teen Vogue** (<https://www.teenvogue.com/news-politics>) has a number of articles related to various issues and ideas surrounding diversity and justice that can be engaging and helpful for all of us to learn from and consider different perspectives, especially those of youth leaders.



## WAYS TO TAKE ACTION

There is so much happening in our world right now, and we are all dealing with unprecedented events and challenges - and there are still so many of us who are looking for ways to take action in support of justice while still keeping ourselves and our families safe and healthy. With that in mind, here are a few suggestions of ways you could try to take action from your home right now:

- Learn more about the **Fair & Equal Michigan campaign** (and consider adding your virtual signature), which is trying to get a citizen's bill passed to ensure that members of the LGBTQ+ community would be protected under our state civil rights act: <https://fairandequalmichigan.com/why-now>.
- Consider some of these suggested ways to **support movements for justice** that you care about and want to help without necessarily having to be protesting in the streets: <https://tinyurl.com/y79trrp4>
- Explore the Opportunity Index and other suggestions of ways to get involved in the **One Community** initiative within Washtenaw County: [www.opportunitywashtenaw.org](http://www.opportunitywashtenaw.org). Consider reaching out to the Racial Equity Officer for our County, Alize Asberry Payne, ([asberrypayne@washtenaw.org](mailto:asberrypayne@washtenaw.org)).
- Continue to be (or encourage others to be) an active, engaged voter. We have an **election on August 4** and this primary election for state and local officials is key in terms of impacting our daily lives. Learn more at <https://tinyurl.com/yc7fajhg>.

## CELEBRATIONS

Although we have not had a chance to update these since last fall, here are the posters:

<https://tinyurl.com/y2yorkl6>  
and playlist:

<https://tinyurl.com/y3dazsm7>  
that we enjoyed during LGBT+ History month in October.

## EVENTS

As with the last newsletter, here are suggestions of virtual events and/or activities to engage with during Pride Month - this month and going forward this summer.

### Ypsi Area Rainbow Decorating (YARD) Project

- June 1 - Your Yard & Neighborhood!
- Learn more through the Facebook Group: <https://tinyurl.com/y9vdytdw>

### Virtual Ypsi Pride

- June 5, 5:00 pm
- Learn more about the virtual ways to engage with the traditions of Ypsi Pride via their Facebook Group: <https://tinyurl.com/yagqg9pq>

### Lavender Talks: LGBTQ Immigrants, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers

- June 11, 3:00 pm (EST)
- Learn more about this live-streamed talk co-hosted by San Francisco Pride at <https://tinyurl.com/y7ufav3w>

### Global Pride 2020

- June 27, To Be Determined
- Learn more about this initiative for a virtual global celebration of LGBT+ Pride at <http://www.globalpride2020.org>

### Virtual Ann Arbor Pride

- August 1, 11:00 AM
- Learn more about how this future Ann Arbor Pride event will unfold virtually at <https://www.annarborpride.com>

## RESOURCES

The following resources were used in the creation of this newsletter:

- <https://tinyurl.com/y7jbxmra>  
**Images**
- <https://tinyurl.com/yaklu627>
- <https://tinyurl.com/y8nqaaul>
- <https://tinyurl.com/y7eeuq5w>