



# Tzedek (Justice) is What Love Looks Like in Public

*What it means to be part of our Village*



# History of the Village

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Village at Ithaca began as a gathering of concerned community members, parents, caregivers and teachers who recognized the need for change on behalf of Black and Latinx children in the Ithaca area due to disparities in graduation rates, suspension rates, and other markers of academic and social success.

Founding members include Cal Walker, Karl Graham, Eldred Harris, Sean Eversley-Bradwell, Roberta Wallitt, and many others.

For more information on Ithaca's historical struggle for racial equity,, check out these resources:

<https://ecommons.cornell.edu/handle/1813/12818> (Dr. Eversley-Bradwell's Timeloop)

<https://sites.google.com/site/ithacaeilc/> (Equity and Inclusion Leadership Council)

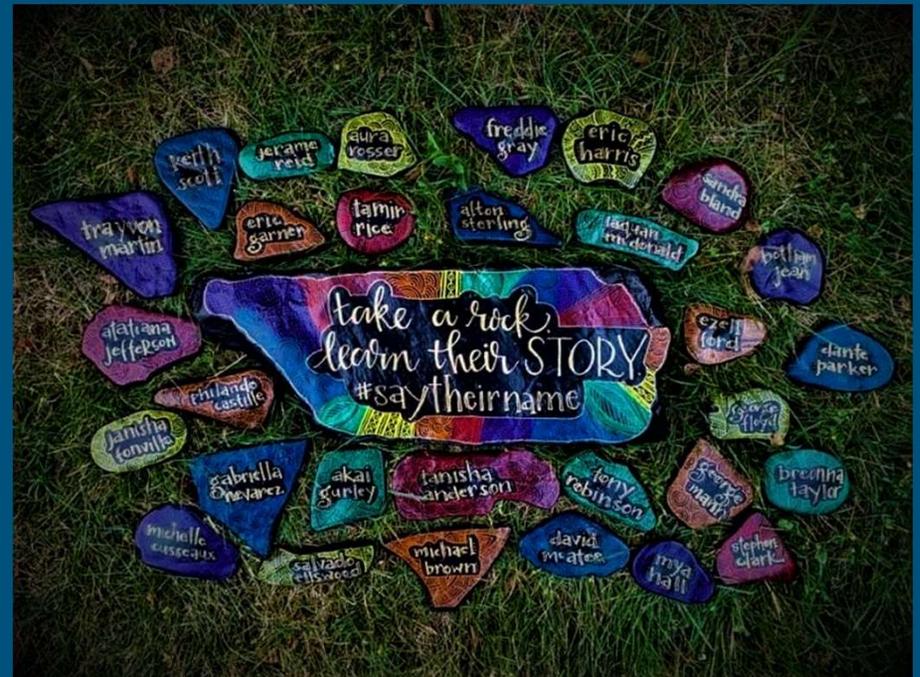
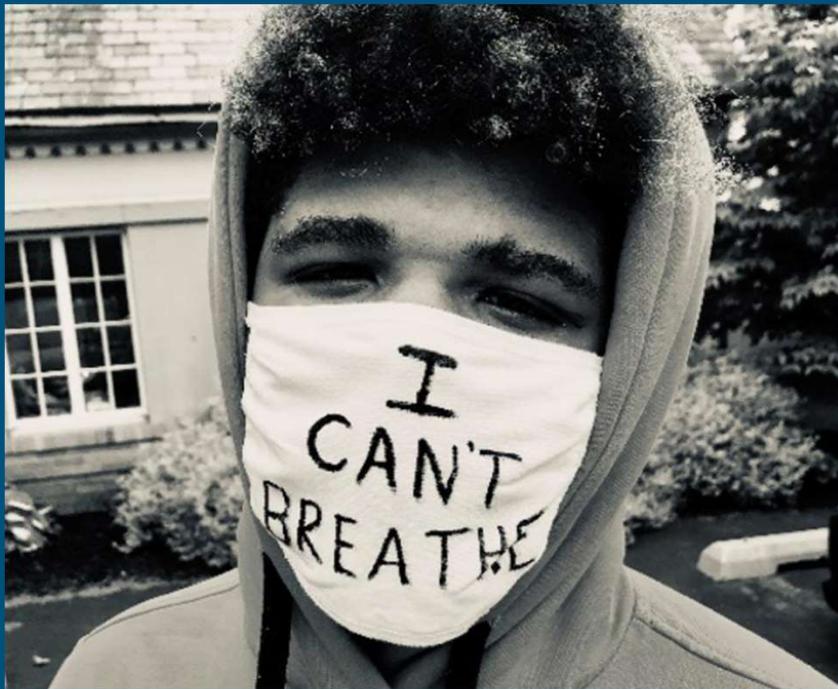
# History of Meryl

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- \*Temple Beth El
- \*Service is the rent we pay for being on this earth
- \*Cornell Law School (class of 2009)
- \*Foster/Adoptive Parent
- \*Attorneys for Children
- \*Village!



<https://ithaca.community/quarantine-forever/>



# Justice vs. Charity

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Why we do What we Do the Way we Do it

(Explained by smarter people than I)

*Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice.*

*-Nelson Mandela*

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*A true revolution of values will soon cause us to question the fairness and justice of many of our past and present policies. On the one hand we are called to play the Good Samaritan on life's roadside, but that will be only an initial act. One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho Road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life's highway. True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring.*

*-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

**If travelers are being assaulted on the Jericho Road, we should help bind their wounds, but also work to make the road a safe passageway.**

**Marian Wright Edelman**

*I sit on a man's back, choking him and making him carry me, and yet assure myself and others that I am very sorry for him and wish to ease his lot by all possible means—except by getting off his back.*

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- Leo Tolstoy

“Are you willing to give up your privilege? Philanthropy alone won't save the American dream.”

Darren Walker, President of the Ford Foundation

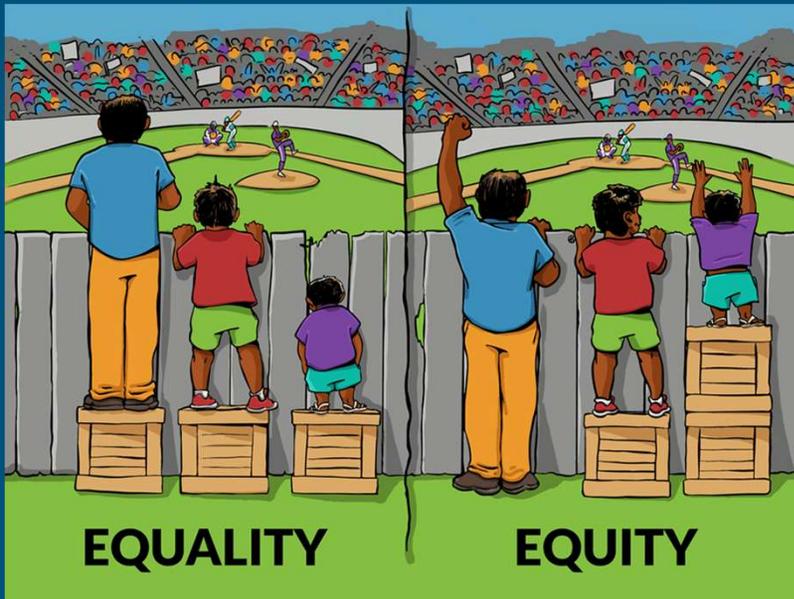
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/25/opinion/sunday/black-lives-matter-corporations.html>

**“If you consider yourself a woke white person, start at home. Get your cousins.... I need you to fight for my humanity.”**

**-Dena Simmons**

# What is Equity?

(What's Wrong with this picture?)



<https://medium.com/@eec/this-equity-picture-is-actually-white-supremacy-at-work-59f4ea700509>

# Current Village Programs & Initiatives

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Village School & Tutoring

# Current Village Programs

# & Initiatives

Community Collaborations:

Village Circus

Youth Employment



# Current Village Programs & Initiatives

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Stolen Joy Project

<https://villageatithaca.org/stolen-joy-project/>

[www.instagram.com/stolenjoyproject](http://www.instagram.com/stolenjoyproject)

# Current Village Programs and Initiatives

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Equity Report Card

Code of Conduct Advisory Council

Anti-racism Initiatives in Trumansburg and Newfield

<https://sites.google.com/icsd.k12.ny.us/erc/home>

# Current Village Programs & Initiatives

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Food Delivery & Household Distribution

Emergency Fund



# Okay, okay. What's next?

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learn to do good;  
seek justice,  
correct oppression -  
Isaiah 1:17

[I'm ready to join the Village!](#)



# I'm Ready to Join the Village

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I'm interested in:

- Donating to and/or fundraising for the Village
- Collecting and distributing household goods to families (possibly in conjunction with FUSIT)
- Organizing and/or providing transportation for Village students and families
- Organizing and/or providing childcare for Village families
- Providing food for Village events or for families in crisis
- Advocating for and/or providing Section 8 or other subsidized housing
- Advocating for equity in my workplace, school district, or other setting (please explain below)
- Other (please explain below)



Do the work.

Get your cousins.

Seek justice.

Tikkun Olam.

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