

From Rabbi Paula: Resources to Learn About Racism

I've heard from many of our members that folks are looking for resources to learn about racism. Below you will find reading materials for adults and children. You will also find links for films. This list is just a beginning...

Reading Suggestions

1619 PROJECT

The 1619 Project is an ongoing initiative from The New York Times Magazine that began in August 2019, the 400th anniversary of the beginning of American slavery. It aims to reframe the country's history by placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of black Americans at the very center of our national narrative.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/08/14/magazine/1619-america-slavery.html>

EQUAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE

The Equal Justice Initiative is committed to ending mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the United States, to challenging racial and economic injustice, and to protecting basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society. <https://eji.org/about>

BOOKS

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates

The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander

White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo

The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead

How to Be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi

My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies
by Resmaa Menakem

How Jews Became White Folks and What That Says about Race by Karen Brodtkin

Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson

The Color of Love: The Story of A Mixed-Race Jewish Girl by Marra Gad

Some Watching Suggestions

Just Mercy - free on Netflix during the month of July

A powerful and thought provoking true story, *Just Mercy* follows young lawyer Bryan Stevenson (Jordan) and his history-making battle for justice. After graduating from Harvard, Bryan had his pick of lucrative jobs. Instead, he heads to Alabama to defend those wrongly condemned or who were not afforded proper representation, with the support of local advocate Eva Ansley (Larson). One of his first, and most incendiary, cases is that of Walter McMillian (Foxy), who, in 1987, was sentenced to die for the notorious murder of an 18-year-old girl, despite a preponderance of evidence proving his innocence and the fact that the only testimony against him came from a criminal with a motive to lie. In the years that follow, Bryan becomes embroiled in a labyrinth of legal and political maneuverings and overt and unabashed racism as he fights for Walter, and others like him, with the odds—and the system—stacked against them.

13th

Combining archival footage with testimony from activists and scholars, director Ava DuVernay's examination of the U.S. prison system looks at how the country's history of racial inequality drives the high rate of incarceration in America.

<https://youtu.be/krfcq5pF8u8>

Selma

Selma is a 2014 historical drama film directed by Ava DuVernay and written by Paul Webb. It is based on the 1965 Selma to Montgomery voting rights marches initiated and directed by James Bevel and led by Martin Luther King Jr., Hosea Williams, and John Lewis.

For Parents and Children

Wilma and Gus Gold along with Gabby Listky are leaders in an organization called "Educators for Peaceful Classrooms and Communities." This organization has many resources for children, parents and teachers. Our Simcha director, Lisa Mendez, is also participating in online trainings and posting resources for families with young children. You can find "Educators for Peaceful Classrooms and Communities" at:

<https://www.educatorsforpeacefulclassroomsandcommunities.org/anti-racism-resources/>