

# **Resources for Quakers Working for Racial Justice**

February 2008

In 2006 Dwight Lopes (New Haven Monthly Meeting), Donna McDaniel (Framingham Friends Meeting), and John Meyer (Pendle Hill, Friends Meeting of Washington) compiled a list of resources to support the ongoing work for racial justice and equality within the Religious Society of Friends. As a companion piece to the January 2008 issue of *Spark*, a NYYM publication whose theme is Conversations on Racism, NYYM staffers Walter Naegle and Helen Garay Toppins updated and expanded the list which is below and will be posted on the NYYM website. If anyone would like to suggest additions to this resource listing, please e-mail Walter or Helen at [www.office@nyym.org](mailto:www.office@nyym.org).

## **I. YEARLY MEETINGS**

### **BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING**

Working Group on Racism among Friends

<http://www.bym-rsf.org/quakers/committees/racism.shtml> contains articles by members on work that is being done at the Yearly and Monthly Meeting levels.

Report on the Listening Project on Diversity and Outreach, July 2003 at [http://www.bym-rsf.org/quakers/committees/listening\\_project\\_on\\_diversity.htm](http://www.bym-rsf.org/quakers/committees/listening_project_on_diversity.htm)

### **NEW ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING**

#### **NEYM MINISTRY & COUNSEL WORKING PARTY ON RACISM**

Working Party's Mission Statement

Letter to Friends 2002 (Letter regarding racism to all NEYM Monthly Meetings)

Outline of comments on Quakers and race by Andrea Ayvazian at New England Yearly Meeting of Friends, August 2002. Notes by Donna McDaniel.

“Fit for Freedom”—quotations, resources, and historical material, compiled by Donna McDaniel and Vanessa Julye from their research

[http://neym.org/ministryandcounsel/racism/freedom\\_not\\_friendship.html](http://neym.org/ministryandcounsel/racism/freedom_not_friendship.html)

Monthly postcards on “Countering Racism and White Privilege.” The NEYM Working Party and Framingham Friends Meeting mail monthly postcards to a contact in each monthly meeting. The cards, mailed now for two years, make suggestions for countering racism, websites, articles, books, videos and other resources for the meeting to use to further discussion. These are available by writing [music1@charter.net](mailto:music1@charter.net).

A poster kit with queries on white privilege. Find a way to post or display these queries for your own meeting. Request from [music1@charter.net](mailto:music1@charter.net).

New England Yearly Meeting Working Party on Racism. Includes bibliography and selected readings.  
<http://neym.org/ministryandcounsel/racism/index.html>

Bibliographies:

“Where Do I Start?” (short bibliography):  
[http://neym.org/ministryandcounsel/racism/where\\_do\\_i\\_start.html](http://neym.org/ministryandcounsel/racism/where_do_i_start.html)

Annotated Bibliography by the Working Party on Racism, NEYM  
<http://neym.org/ministryandcounsel/racism/bibliography.html>

### NEYM RACIAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE COMMITTEE

This committee publishes the newsletter, the *Freedom and Justice Crier*, twice a year. It is available online at <http://neym.org/prejudiceandpoverty/index.html>. You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader. This committee has funds they are making available for African-American scholarships. Contact [JamesFloVarner@aol.com](mailto:JamesFloVarner@aol.com) or [dlopes@snet.net](mailto:dlopes@snet.net).

### NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING

#### TASK GROUP ON RACISM IN NYYM

Contact person: Bowen Alpern, c/o NYYM, 15 Rutherford Place, New York, NY 10003

This newly created subcommittee of Ministry Coordinating Committee is in the process of formulating its mission and plans.

#### BLACK CONCERNS COMMITTEE

See article on: <http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/spring02/10.html>

#### WHITE FRIENDS WORKING to END RACISM

Contact person: Elizabeth Gordon, RR1 Box 348, Kingsley, PA 18826  
Tel: 570-289-0876  
[elizag@epix.net](mailto:elizag@epix.net)

#### **Mission statement and goals:**

Out of our concern for human love and justice, we join in the mission of putting a stop to racism. As prime beneficiaries of a system that has oppressed people of color for over half a millennium we take it as our central and core responsibility to stop racism. As members of the Religious Society of Friends, we must be faithful to our two testimonies of Peace and Equality

that demand we discern where racism exists in ourselves and our society, and that we bring it to an end.

**Goals:**

1. To offer those in the group emotional and practical support as we work on our racism.
2. To be a catalyst for change in NYYM.
3. To act as allies both to people of color and to white people outside of this group.

We have named ourselves “White Friends Working to End Racism.” Not everyone understands that white people need, at times, to gather amongst themselves to carry forward the work against racism. This strikes some Friends as a racist practice in itself. There are many good reasons for this occasional separation, a few of which are listed below. The crucial difference between our actions and racist segregation is our commitment to building connections with all people, not building walls of separation.

**Some of the reasons for working together as white people are:**

- People of color, at times, have asked or told us to.
- To the extent that racism is a white creation, whites must come up with solutions.
- Currently, society most commonly hears people of color speaking against racism. We need a clearly identified white anti-racist voice.
- An apology from white people to people of color would obviously have to be written and delivered by white people.
- White people need to learn, recognize and undo racism without always depending on the input of people of color. This requires us to mature spiritually, to see our flaws, and to put ourselves in the place of others.
- As members of the oppressor group, white people are deeply hurt emotionally by racism. Working on this issue from our perspective moves all of our lives forward.
- We need to share our own stories with each other so that we will be ready to listen to stories about racism from people of color without interrupting them with our own.

We have considered at length how to structure our group, and how to position it within the NYYM community. We are arranging for a committee of Friends of color to provide clearness and accountability. As an informal spirit-led group, we do not seek, at this time, to be recognized as a committee or task group.

**SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN YEARLY MEETING AND ASSOCIATION**

Atlanta Monthly Meeting

“Atlanta Meeting Looks at Racism” by Bert Skellie and Adelaide Solomon-Jordan:

<http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/winter99/sayma.html>

## II. QUAKER ORGANIZATIONS

### **AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE (AFSC)**

Go to [www.afsc.org/issues/issuesindex.htm](http://www.afsc.org/issues/issuesindex.htm) for a veritable treasure house of articles on race, economic injustice, the criminal system, immigration, and more. Find the topics and start clicking. The articles are in current and past issues of AFSC's *Peacework*. Just a few titles to entice: "Whites Swim in Racial Prejudice," "Seeing the Color Line in the Quest for Peace," "Some Thoughts for White Activists," and dozens more.

Find out about AFSC New England's **Urban Youth Program** at [www.afsc.org/newengland/urbanyouth.htm](http://www.afsc.org/newengland/urbanyouth.htm).

### **FELLOWSHIP OF FRIENDS OF AFRICAN DESCENT**

Website: <http://www.fellowshipoffriendsof african descent.org/>

### **FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE**

Committee for Ministry on Racism

<http://www.fgcquaker.org/cmrf/>

This website describes the work of CMR and offers many resources.

See especially articles on racism on:

<http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/winter99/index.html>

"The Role of White Quakers in Ending Racism." Friends Journal. Oct. 2003

<http://www.friendsjournal.org/role-white-quakers-ending-racism>

"Friends, Race and Racism." FGC Connections. Autumn 2007

<http://www.fgcquaker.org/fgconnections>

For books: <http://www.quakerbooks.org>.

### **FRIENDS UNITED MEETING**

*Quaker Life* archives include several articles on issues of race, including a special May 2002 issue on the topic. See [www.fum.org/QL/issues](http://www.fum.org/QL/issues). For May 2002 add /0205/index/htm after the word "issues."

### **PENDLE HILL**

A Quaker Studies center in Wallingford, PA, Pendle Hill presented a lecture series on Racial Justice during 2002-2003. Transcripts of the lectures can be downloaded from their website. Click on "Resource Center" and then on "Lectures, Reports and Forum Archive" and scroll down to the 2002-2003 series. [www.pendlehill.org](http://www.pendlehill.org)

### III. OTHER ORGANIZATIONS FOUNDED BY QUAKERS

#### CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF WHITE AMERICAN CULTURE

Founded by Quaker Jeff Hitchcock, author of *Lifting the White Veil*.

Webiste: [www.euroamerican.org](http://www.euroamerican.org) lists many resources.

The Center for the Study of White American Culture (the Center) supports cultural exploration and self-discovery among white Americans. It encourages a dialogue among all racial and cultural groups concerning the role of white American culture in the larger American society. The Center operates on the premise that *knowledge of one's own racial background and culture is essential when learning how to relate to people of other racial and cultural groups*. We believe the task of building genuine and authentic relationships across racial and cultural lines is crucial to the future well-being of America.

Toward these ends the Center actively encourages participation by white Americans and Americans of color, women and men, alike. The Center maintains that the views of both insiders and outsiders contribute to understanding a culture. The Center also acknowledges that gender, class and ethnic differences are intertwined with racial ones, and must be explored as part of a complete study of racial and cultural difference. An on-line project of the Center is [www.wacan.org](http://www.wacan.org), The White Anti-racist Community Action Network (WACAN), a protected space where white anti-racists and their supporters can network to work for a racially just society.

### IV. VIDEOS

**PBS programs. Ordering info on the websites. Some also available for viewing online.**

“African American Lives“ *NEW THIS YEAR*. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. on PBS with Oprah Winfrey, Whoopi Goldberg, Quincy Jones, and others who trace their lineage through family history and DNA to discover some surprises but most interestingly how “inextricably intertwined” we all are. <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/aalives>. (Gates has also written a book of the same title with 800 biographies.)

African American World; History, Arts & Culture, Race & Society, Profiles.  
<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/aaworld>

“Africans in America: America's Journey through Slavery” takes on tough questions in a four-part documentary series which debuted in October, 1998.  
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia>

“America Beyond the Color Line With Henry Louis Gates, Jr.” a PBS special. Segments about experiences of African Americans from various parts of the country and of different economic classes.  
[http://www.pbs.org/previews/colorline\\_gates/](http://www.pbs.org/previews/colorline_gates/)

“Beyond Brown: Pursuing the Promise”—a PBS special. On May 17, 1954 in its decision in *Brown v Board of Education* the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the doctrine of “separate but equal,” ending legal segregation in American education. Fifty years later how close is America to fulfilling the promise of Brown?  
<http://www.pbs.org/beyondbrown/>

“Race: the Power of an Illusion.” Especially powerful PBS series.  
[http://www.pbs.org/race/000\\_general/000\\_00-home.htm](http://www.pbs.org/race/000_general/000_00-home.htm)

“Wonders of the African World” with Henry Louis Gates on PBS. Join Henry Louis Gates, Jr. as he takes you on a journey to discover a wealth of African history and culture <http://www.pbs.org/wonders/>

## V. OTHER WEBSITES

### QUAKER-RELATED

Fit for Freedom --- Not for Friendship. <http://www.fgcquakers.org/fit-for-freedom>

A website exploring the issues discussed in a forthcoming book with the same title. Authors Donna McDaniel and Vanessa Julye explore the historical and complex relationship between Friends and African-Americans. The site also recommends other resources and features profiles of several African-American Quakers.

The Ministry of Vanessa Julye (NEYM Keynote Speaker 2004)  
<http://www.quaker.org/vanessajulye/>

### ON REPARATIONS

**About.com:** Articles, opinions and points-of-view on the issue of paying reparations to U.S. descendants of African slaves (note: no www in address)  
<http://racereactions.about.com/cs/reparations/>

**African Americans and Reparations: A Selected Bibliography.** Compiled by Dorothy Ann Washington, Librarian Purdue University, Black Cultural Center. Go to the Purdue website and then search the remaining words below.  
<http://www.purdue.edu/bcc/library/repbib.htm>

**Black Voices:** Interesting collection of news and commentary  
<http://www.blackvoices.com>

**Rep. John Conyers'** web site  
[http://www.house.gov/conyers/news\\_reparations.htm](http://www.house.gov/conyers/news_reparations.htm)

**National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America**  
<http://www.ncobra.org/comm.htm>

**Reparations Central:** Clearinghouse of information relating to the issue of reparations for people of African Descent. [www.reparationscentral.com](http://www.reparationscentral.com)

## ON ENSLAVEMENT

**Slavery in New Hampshire; Slavery in Connecticut:** How Did American Slavery Begin?

<http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/history/series/hw/slavery/internet.htm>; and a Yale tercentennial brochure, published in 2001, summarizes Yale's relation to slavery:

<http://yaleslavery.org>

**Slavery in New York:** The New York Historical Society's months-long and outstanding exhibit attracted unanticipated crowds of visitors. Visit the exhibit from the comfort of your computer:

[www.slaveryinnewyork.org](http://www.slaveryinnewyork.org).

**Slavery in Rhode Island:** Six-part series on slavery in Rhode Island, *Providence Journal*:

[www.projo.com/slavery](http://www.projo.com/slavery).

## GENERAL

**Janus Adams.** Award-winning journalist, historian, producer, publisher, Janus Adams is the author of three books and creator of the milestone BackPax children's book-and-audio series.

<http://www.janusadams.com>

**The African American Registry®**—an encyclopedia of African American History. Easy access to important dates, events, people.

<http://www.aaregistry.com/>

**Africana: Gateway to the Black World**

<http://www.africana.com/>

**American Library Association:** A bibliography of children's books that celebrate the diversity found in communities in the United States. Of particular interest will be the recipients of the Coretta Scott King Award, which can be found by going to the Awards page of the website.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/alscresources/booklists/booklists.htm>

**Anti-Racist Alliance.** Dedicated to organizing for action. Interesting and useful online web-based curriculum on whiteness.

<http://www.antiracistalliance.com/newwhitenesspage.htm>

**Black Facts Online:** An online searchable database of Black History Facts. Sign up to receive a fact a day!

<http://www.blackfacts.com/about.asp>

**Color Lines:** magazine from the Applied Research Center. Race, culture, action: the latest on Katrina, for example.

<http://www.colorlines.com>

**Creative Reponse to Conflict.** Innovators in the field of Conflict Resolution.

<http://www.crc-global.org>

**Crossroads - Anti-Racism Organizing & Training.** <http://www.crossroadsantiracism.org>

**Erase Racism** identifies institutional racism and promotes strategies to eliminate it in housing, education, healthcare, and economic development policies and practices.

<http://www.eraseracismny.org/>

**Free the Slaves** is a non-profit organization working to end slavery worldwide.

<http://www.freetheslaves.net>

**Institute on Race and Ethnicity:** A great wealth of links about race

<http://www.uwm.edu/dept/ire/resource/>

**Dr. Joy DeGruy-Leary**, African American psychologist and lecturer. Excellent tapes on the effects of enslavement to the present day. CDs and audiotapes available.

[http://www.posttraumaticslavesyndrome.com/h\\_index.html](http://www.posttraumaticslavesyndrome.com/h_index.html)

**The Gilder Lehrman Center** for the Study of Slavery, Resistance and Abolition, a part of the [Yale Center for International and Area Studies](#), is dedicated to the investigation and dissemination of information concerning all aspects of the Atlantic slave system and its destruction. Continuing research. Lectures. Publications.

<http://www.yale.edu/glc>

**Dr. Manning Marable** is a leading African American academic and lecturer. Click on “works” to see his books and especially on “columns,” his frequent writings. “<http://www.manningmarable.net/>

**Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Bigotry and Human Rights** at Simmons College includes archives of newsletters on multidiversity and the books the center names each year as “outstanding.”

[www.myerscenter.org](http://www.myerscenter.org).

**NAACP.** The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) works for political, educational, social and economic equality of minority groups and citizens, to remove racial discrimination; to enact and enforce federal, state, and local laws securing civil rights; to educate people on their constitutional rights and to take all lawful action to further those principles.

<http://www.naacp.org>

**National Congress of Black Women** (NCBW), formerly The National Political Congress of Black Women, was founded August 2, 1984 in Washington, D.C. when the Honorable C. DeLores Tucker called a group of 35 African American women leaders of diverse groups to organize for greater involvement in the political process.

<http://www.npcbw.org/>

**National Council of Negro Women.** Advocacy organization for women of African descent. NCNW addresses issues of human welfare and rights through public education, community service and advocacy. <http://www.ncnw.org>

**National Women’s History Project.** Founded in 1980 with a mission to recognize and celebrate the diverse and historic accomplishments of women by providing information and educational materials and programs. <http://www.nwhp.org>

**People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond.** <http://www.pisab.org> Offers training, workshops, and resources for anti-racism work.

**Recovering Racists Network:** Support for people working against racism. Information about ongoing projects.  
<http://www.sumnermckenzie.com/rrnet/>

**Tolerance.org** is a principal online destination for people interested in dismantling bigotry and creating, in hate's stead, communities that value diversity. One of the program's of the Southern Poverty Law Center. Publishers of free materials for schools.  
<http://www.tolerance.org/about/index.html>

**University of Florida African Studies Quarterly.** Articles, book reviews, emphasis on Africa.  
<http://web.africa.ufl.edu/>

**University of Dayton—Race, Racism and the Law Speaking Truth to Power!!**  
<http://academic.udayton.edu/race>

**Tim Wise.** A nationally known writer, educator and trainer on anti-racism work. His website contains his essays and other resources helpful in this work. <http://www.timwise.org>