

DEIJ Book List On DEIJ Bookshelf at Grace

Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race – Debby Irving

For twenty-five years, Debby Irving sensed inexplicable racial tensions in her personal and professional relationships. As a colleague and neighbor, she worried about offending people she dearly wanted to befriend. As an arts administrator, she didn't understand why her diversity efforts lacked traction. As a teacher, she found her best efforts to reach out to students and families of color left her wondering what she was missing. Then, in 2009, one "aha!" moment launched an adventure of discovery and insight that drastically shifted her worldview and upended her life plan. In Waking Up White, Irving tells her often cringe-worthy story with such openness that readers will turn every page rooting for her-and ultimately for all of us.

How to Be an Anti-Racist – Ibram X. Kendi *New York Times Best Seller

Antiracism is a transformative concept that reorients and reenergizes the conversation about racism—and, even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. At its core, racism is a powerful system that creates false hierarchies of human value; its warped logic extends beyond race, from the way we regard people of different ethnicities or skin colors to the way we treat people of different sexes, gender identities, and body types. Racism intersects with class and culture and geography and even changes the way we see and value ourselves. In How to Be an Antiracist, Kendi takes readers through a widening circle of antiracist ideas—from the most basic concepts to visionary possibilities—that will help readers see all forms of racism clearly, understand their poisonous consequences, and work to oppose them in our systems and in ourselves.

Kendi weaves an electrifying combination of ethics, history, law, and science with his own personal story of awakening to antiracism. This is an essential work for anyone who wants to go beyond the awareness of racism to the next step: contributing to the formation of a just and equitable society.

Roots to Power: A Manual for Grassroots Organizing (Third Edition) – Lee Staples

The third edition of the manual for community organizers tells readers how to most effectively implement community action for social change, clearly laying out grassroots organizing principles, methods, and best practices.

Written for those who want to improve their own lives or the lives of others, this thoroughly revised how-to manual presents techniques groups can use to organize successfully in pursuit of their dreams. The book combines time-tested, universal principles and methods with cutting-edge material addressing new opportunities and challenges. It covers basic concepts and best practices and offers step-by-step guidelines on things an organizer needs to know, such as how to identify issues, formulate strategies, set goals, recruit participants, and much more.

The work focuses on six organizing arenas: turf/geography, faith-based, issue, identity, shared experience, and work-related. It offers new or expanded material addressing community development, use of social media, internal organizational dynamics, electoral organizing, evaluation/assessment, and prevention of burnout for key leaders. There are also nuts-and-bolts articles by experts who address topics such as action research, lobbying, legal tactics, and grassroots fundraising. Numerous case examples, charts, worksheets, and small group exercises enrich the discussion and bring the material to life.

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Democracy in Retrograde: How to Make Changes Big and Small in Our Country and in Our Lives – Sami Sage and Emily Amick * New York Times Best Seller

In today's political climate, it's hard not to get discouraged. Isolated, doom scrolling, lacking a sense of purpose or community...it's easy to become overwhelmed by the dire state of American democracy and do nothing, because why try when the odds are never in our favor?

At this fragile moment in history, Emily Amick, lawyer and former counsel to Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, alongside New York Times bestselling author and Betches Media cofounder Sami Sage, want to reframe civic engagement as a form of self-care: an assertion of one's values and self-respect. This book is not just about voting, but about claiming your singular place in your country and community.

Including real stories of regular people who have made a difference along with helpful exercises and quizzes, Democracy in Retrograde is a choose-your-own-adventure map to civic engagement that will help you:

- *Define your values and passions*
- *Understand how the system works, so it's easier to know how to change it*
- *Match your personality, skills, resources, and interests, to meaningful actions within your community*
- *Implement changes (big and small) that matter*
- *Build a civic life that's sustainable and authentic to you, whether you have only a few minutes to spare or are ready to make a lifetime commitment*

Democracy in Retrograde will help you learn about much more than just political action. This book will provide a new lens through which to see yourself: a new and powerful light which bridges the personal and the political. In the words of Joan Baez, action is the antidote to despair, and with this helpful guide, even if Mercury is in retrograde, our democracy doesn't have to be.

The Colorful Image of God: A White Christian's Guide to Doing Better – Katherine B. Martin

In The Colorful Image of God, Katherine B. Martin, a White woman who has spent most of her career working in social justice, shares her spiritual awakening to race and racism that started more than a decade ago. Combining vulnerable anecdotes with academic and historical teaching, she highlights the disconnect between the Christian belief of imago Dei and the injustices that Black people, and other People of Color, face today. By normalizing bias through personal stories, Katherine gently calls other White Christians into what can be intimidating conversations in order to inspire them to play a bigger role in uprooting racial injustice. In her words, "I want our love for God, rooted in his great love for us, to propel us to fight for the rights of others like our very lives depend on it."

"As our nation continues to wrestle with issues of race, justice and equity, new voices are needed to enhance and deepen the conversation. Rooted in a Christian world-view, Katherine's Colorful Image of God offers a personal, practical and hopeful perspective to equip readers in becoming agents of transformation, reconciliation and lasting societal change."

-Bruce Main, President/Founder, UrbanPromise Ministries

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Organizing for Social Change – Midwest Academy Manual for Activists (Third Edition) – Kimberly Bobo

Now in its fourth edition, here is the comprehensive manual for grassroots organizers working for social, racial, environmental and economic justice at the local, state and national levels. Since 1973 the Midwest Academy has trained more than 30,000 activists in progressive organizations, unions, and faith-based groups. This Midwest Academy Manual for Activists is central to its training programs and seminars, and it provides an invaluable reference source for organizers throughout their careers. Also included are anecdotes about a wide variety of real organizations working on issues concerning labor, the environment, health care, racism, immigration, peace, religion, energy, public campaign financing and more. Whatever the progressive cause, this is the manual that can help guide organizers and ensure that they continue to reach their goals with efficiency and dignity. USE IT AND ORGANIZE!

Confronting Whiteness: A Spiritual Journey of Reflection, Conversation, and Transformation (Participant's Guide) – W. Benjamin Boswell

Conceived and designed for use at the congregational level, Confronting Whiteness presents a new posture for people of faith and the church in understanding and confronting the realities of racism today. Each chapter encourages and deepens spiritual formation for anti-racism and anti-racist work. Readers will encounter personal postures and gestures, such as the practices of contemplation and confession, and how these can be re-formed to address and eradicate racist tropes and habits, to expose and undermine the power of Whiteness. Confronting Whiteness is a meaningful resource for White-dominant churches, schools, and organizations to learn, practice, and grow in the Way of Jesus.

Dear America: Notes of an Undocumented Citizen - Jose Antonio Vargas

Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist Jose Antonio Vargas, called “the most famous undocumented immigrant in America,” tackles one of the defining issues of our time in this explosive and deeply personal call to arms. Book rating 4.32

“This is not a book about the politics of immigration. This book—at its core—is not about immigration at all. This book is about homelessness, not in a traditional sense, but in the unsettled, unmoored psychological state that undocumented immigrants like myself find ourselves in. This book is about lying and being forced to lie to get by; about passing as an American and as a contributing citizen; about families, keeping them together, and having to make new ones when you can’t. This book is about constantly hiding from the government and, in the process, hiding from ourselves. This book is about what it means to not have a home.

After 25 years of living illegally in a country that does not consider me one of its own, this book is the closest thing I have to freedom.” --JAV

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The Color of Law - Richard Rothstein

Book Rating by Shortform Readers: 4.8 (145 reviews)

Widely acclaimed upon its publication in 2017, *The Color of Law* demonstrates that racial residential segregation—the fact that some neighborhoods are almost exclusively African American while others are almost exclusively white—is **the result of explicit government policy** rather than personal choice and random chance. From the conclusion of the Civil War through to the present day, federal, state, and local governments have enacted laws to **confine African Americans to particular areas** and prevent them from moving into others. These policies have had a profound and lasting impact on African Americans, affecting their educational and job opportunities, economic well-being, and physical health.

The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row - Anthony Ray Hinton with Lara Love Hardin

Book rating 4.6

The Sun Does Shine is a powerful memoir detailing the harrowing experience of an innocent man spending nearly 30 years on death row in Alabama. Despite facing a corrupt and racist justice system, Hinton maintained hope, faith, and compassion throughout his ordeal. The narrative explores themes of injustice, racial bias, perseverance, and the impact of the death penalty on individuals' lives.

Hinton's writing style in **The Sun Does Shine** is described as compelling and emotional, evoking a range of feelings from sadness and anger to hope and inspiration. It sheds light on the flaws in the judicial system, the strength of the human spirit, and the importance of faith and forgiveness in the face of adversity.

The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration - Isabel Wilkerson

Book rating 4.48

In this beautifully written masterwork, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Isabel Wilkerson presents a definitive and dramatic account of one of the great untold stories of American history: the Great Migration of six million Black citizens who fled the South for the North and West in search of a better life, from World War I to 1970.

Wilkerson tells this interwoven story through the lives of three unforgettable protagonists: Ida Mae Gladney, a sharecropper's wife, who in 1937 fled Mississippi for Chicago; sharp and quick-tempered George Starling, who in 1945 fled Florida for Harlem, and Robert Foster, a surgeon who left Louisiana in 1953 in hopes of making it in California.

Wilkerson brilliantly captures their first treacherous cross-country journeys by car and train and their new lives in colonies in the New World. **The Warmth of Other Suns** is a bold, remarkable, and riveting work, a superb account of an “unrecognized immigration” within our own land. Through the breadth of its narrative, the beauty of the writing, the depth of its research, and the fullness of the people and lives portrayed herein, this book is a modern classic.

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Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption - Bryan Stevenson

Book rating 4.8

Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn't commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinksmanship—and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever.

Just Mercy is at once an unforgettable account of an idealistic, gifted young lawyer's coming of age, a moving window into the lives of those he has defended, and an inspiring argument for compassion in the pursuit of true justice.

Children's Books

The Rainbow Tree – Jed Dearybury

Reading Age 2-12 years old

No one knows where it came from, it's just always been there. The Rainbow Tree was beloved by all who saw it. Its beauty shone all around. Until one day, something changed...

The Rainbow Tree is a story of love and community in the face of adversity. The only way to overcome the hardships that we face is by remembering what is behind, acknowledging what is now, and moving forward with the lessons we learned along the way. In this beautiful tale of love overcoming hate, the community picks up the pieces in the midst of tragedy, only to be embraced by more love than they ever knew.

The Amazing Generation: Your Guide to Fun and Freedom in a Screen-Filled World – Jonathan Haidt, Catherine Price *New York Times Best Seller

Reading Age 9-12 years old

Jonathan Haidt's blockbuster book, The Anxious Generation, has sparked a global conversation about the effects of smartphones and social media on young people's development, and has inspired millions of parents, teachers, and leaders to take action. Now, Haidt and Catherine Price, author of the bestselling How to Break Up with Your Phone, have teamed up to create a new book that speaks directly to kids. Their goal? To empower young people to stand up for themselves by choosing a life not dominated by screens and social media.

Whether or not kids already have smartphones or social media accounts, this engaging guide is packed with surprising facts, a graphic novel, interactive challenges, secrets that tech leaders don't want kids to know, and real-life anecdotes from young adults who regret getting smartphones at a young age and want to help the next generation avoid making the same mistakes.

But this isn't just a book about what not to do. It's a bold, optimistic, and practical guide to growing into your

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most authentic, confident, and adventurous self. Readers won't just discover how to avoid becoming the next Anxious Generation. They'll learn how to become amazing.

More Recess Please – Kevin Patton Sr

The story is about a child's request for more time to play, it also incorporates a message of friendship, courage and diversity among students. Recess and play in general is a universal language in which all children are fluent. It is not a reward. It is fundamental to their physical, social and emotional development. Through play- especially outdoor play-children release stored up energy, often referred to in classroom as "getting out the wiggles," so they can better sit and focus when needed. Movement doesn't just benefit the wiggly body; it also stimulates the brain, fostering creativity, problem solving and critical thinking. The story illustrates the importance of play and being brave!

The I AM Affirmation Journal – Kevin Patton Sr

When you say, "I am," it is usually followed by a descriptive word you assign to your identity. It's a proclamation of how you feel about yourself, even though you were made in the image of God, the Great I Am. Do your I am statements reflect the true image in which you were created? With affirmations, activities, and achievements, this journal will help you connect your I am statement to the true person God created you to be. I AM that I Am is how God identified Himself to Moses in Exodus 3:14. God is the I AM. Since we are created in God's image, the presence of I AM is within us. It is the power of who we truly are. Your I AM statements are not just a reflection of who you believe you are, but who God is within you. Use this journal to agree with God and speak your I AM, your identity, so it liberates rather than limits you.

The Superpower of I AM – Kevin Patton Sr

Since humanity is created in the image and likeness of God, I believe that every person has a fragment of the "I Am" within them. The problem is that many times what we allow to follow our own "I am" statements does not reflect the work God wants to do in our lives. If God is within us, then not only should who we are should reflect who he is, but it also stands to reason we are also holy ground.

Understanding the holy ground that we now occupy, this book is written with the intent to help the littlest among us start out with a strong understanding of the power and good that should follow their own "I am".

We can see an example of this through the life of Jesus and the I am statements he made. Here are just a few:

I am the light of the world.

I am the door.

I am the good shepherd.

I am the Resurrection and the life

God is the supreme I AM in the universe and each individual is a part of that I AM.

I and the Father are one is the truth that Jesus taught and lived. The Super Power of the I Am helps kids understand a very important fact, that their superpower in this world will be obtained by the understanding and the application of the correct use of the I Am statements. Joel 3:10 "Let the weak say I AM strong" (Know thyself, I and the Father are one which equals Conscious union with the father and allowing God's Will to be done through our individual consciousness). The correct use of the I AM statement is how we align with GOD.

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Luke 15:31 And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine.

Is God a Nigger? Checkmate – Kevin Patton Sr

The book follows the golden thread running through the teachings of Jesus and others who understood that life is a spiritual journey. The book talks about fulfilling the love laws left by Jesus which is to love God with your heart, mind, body, and soul and love yourself with the same principles and love your neighbor as yourself with the very same principles. The book examines how the concept of Nigger has created illusions and falsehood that continue to stain the consciousness of today's youth. The book breaks down an important point that we all have the father within us that Jesus talked about and that we can build from this,

Momma, Where is God? – Kevin Patton Sr

The book shares the eternal truth that God is the presence of life behind all things. As stated in Isaiah 45:5-6, "I am the Lord and there is none else, there is no other God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me, so that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting, people may know there is none besides me. I am the Lord and there is no other."

I Am More Than You Can See – Kevin Patton Sr (Missing and no checkout info)

The book discusses the importance of going beyond the skin color and seeing love in ourselves and others. To love and be loved. To be a light in the world. The book talks about the importance of allowing God to work through us and be the light through us. To treat others the way we want to be treated. The book teaches kids the importance of being nice and treating others with respect. To remind kids that they have the almighty God within them.