

WOKE: A Conversation about Racial Justice



Margaret Rozga - Milwaukee's Struggle for Fair Housing: The History and the Poetry

Recently named Wisconsin Poet Laureate, Dr. Margaret Rozga is an emeritus professor of English at the University of Wisconsin Waukesha campus. She creates poetry from her ongoing concern for social justice issues. She volunteered to work on a 1965 voter registration campaign in rural Alabama. She participated in Milwaukee's fair housing marches and later married civil rights leader, Father James Groppi. Her book, *Two Hundred Nights and One Day*, tells the story of the 1967-68 Milwaukee fair housing struggle and was awarded a bronze medal in poetry in the 2009 Independent Publishers Book Awards. As part of the 50th anniversary honoring Milwaukee's fair housing marches, Dr. Rozga served as editor of a poetry chapbook anthology, *Where I Want to Live: Poems for Fair and Affordable Housing*.

Sunday, March 10, 3:00-4:30p.m., First Congregational Church, 131 N. Webster St, Port Washington



Bryan Johnson - The History and Worship Style of the African American Church

As Executive Director of Sacred Music at Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, Mr. Bryan Johnson researches, plans, consults, implements, and monitors the ministry of music for the church, supervises the performance of the music staff and musicians, and ensures the development of their musical skills and talents. He joined the Music Department of Trinity UCC in 1996. Over the years, he has been the Director of the Imani Ya Watume Choir, the Praise Team, and since 2011, the Sanctuary Choir. Mr. Johnson received a Bachelor of Arts from Chicago State University and a Master of Music Education from VanderCook College of Music. He has been married to his wonderful wife, Deacon Joi Buchanan-Johnson, for 23 years. His family has roots in Jamaica, Barbados, and Brazil.

Sunday, March 17, 6:00-7:30p.m., Parkside Community Church, 166 West Dekora Street, Saukville



Emilio de Torre - Our Youth, Our Future: Racial Disparities in the Criminal Justice System

As the Director of Community Engagement for the ACLU of Wisconsin, Mr. Emilio de Torre advances the organization's work on immigrants' rights, criminal justice, policing, youth rights, technology, and privacy issues through campaigns for policy change and legislation, community organizing, engagement, and public education. He also works to establish and cultivate collaborative relationships with community partners, coalitions, and stakeholders. Mr. de Torre believes that people are the experts on their own lives and can best represent and speak for themselves. "We must hold ourselves and our governments accountable to the highest standards. We must remain vigilant and work for the elevation of the human condition through justice, equity, transparency, and accountability. At the same time, we should prepare the next generations of leaders."

Sunday, March 24, 3:00-4:30p.m., First Congregational Church, 131 N. Webster St, Port Washington



Reggie Jackson - The Hidden Impacts of Segregation In Wisconsin: Why It Matters to Us All

Mr. Reggie Jackson is the head griot (docent) at America's Black Holocaust Museum, which was founded in Milwaukee by Dr. James Cameron, a lynching survivor. Mr. Jackson is also a trainer/consultant with Nurturing Diversity Partners through which he provides anti-bias, diversity, and inclusion training to communities, institutions, and individuals. His work helps institutions and individuals understand how our country's racial hierarchy developed historically, its impact on our lives today, and how we can realize America's promise for all citizens. "You have to learn and you have to unlearn. A lot of what we learn in school is not factually correct. Because of that people don't understand the depth of the institutional forces at play when it comes to race. Reconciliation cannot come before a shared understanding of the truth."

Sunday, March 31, 3:00-4:30p.m., First Congregational Church, 131 N. Webster St, Port Washington

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