



Our mission is to transform the understanding of race within and beyond our community, building towards a vision of racial equity through education and engagement.

Spring Newsletter

We are coming to the end of a busy winter season for TOUR. In March, our events included a walking tour of Harlem and the second in a series of Courageous Conversations dinners for Sacred Ground alums. The participants in our fourth Sacred Ground session are fully engaged in robust learning and discussions.

UPCOMING EVENTS- EXCITING NEWS!

Movie Series

Six Triple Eight- Tuesday, March 25 at 6:00 p.m. / DARIEN LIBRARY

TOUR is offering a special screening of the film ***Six Triple Eight***, written and directed by Tyler Perry, followed by a discussion led by **Dr. Sheila M. Kearney**, the niece of **CPT Mary Frances Kearney**, who was the "Chief of Mail & Commanding Officer of Company A", 6888th Central Postal Director Battalion. The film tells the story of the all-Black women's 6888th Battalion, which was tasked with processing mail to all military forces in Europe during World War II. Millions of letters and packages had piled up in hangars in Britain, and clearing the backlog had become a logistical nightmare. On top of that, they had to work in freezing, rat-infested conditions. Nevertheless, they accomplished the job and brought news from home for war-weary soldiers.

To attend, please register via this link: <https://www.darienlibrary.org/event/six-triple-eight-film-72019>

Lecture and Discussion

Cole Arthur Riley - Evening of May 5- Save the Date!

We are thrilled that the **Tink Neubert Lecture Series** is bringing spiritual leader and author **Cole Arthur Riley** to our campus for a lecture and discussion on May 5, 2025. Ms. Riley is the author of ***This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation and the Stories that Make Us*** and ***Black Liturgies: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Staying Human*** ("a stunning collection of letters, liturgies, and original poetry"). If you would like to prepare for the event, you might want to read her work prior to her visit, pop into the TOUR library in the parish office building to borrow one of her books, and/or participate in the TOUR-led book study that will follow. See below!

Book Studies

Black Liturgies; Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Staying Human

Thursday Evenings - May 15, 22, 29 and June 5 / 7:00 -8:00 p.m. / Taylor Room

John Wall and Jen Kepner will lead a study of Cole Arthur Riley's ***Black Liturgies; Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Staying Human***. As the author says, "*the heart of the liturgist is near to the heart of the poet. In the human experience, each is responsible not for teaching but for expressing - however inconclusive or raw that expression may be.*" Join us for a deep dive into some beautiful yet brutal truths about ourselves, our faith and our continuous call to action in the faith we share, with each other and those beyond our walls. We hope it will be a wonderful journey.

Maya Angelou's The Heart of a Woman (single session)

Friday May 9th /1:30 -3:00 p.m./Taylor Room

Dawn Stegelmann will lead a discussion of ***The Heart of a Woman*** in a single session on May 9. This is the fourth of seven autobiographies written by American poet, civil rights activist and writer Maya Angelou. In it, Angelou writes about the period between 1957 and 1962 when she raised her teenage son, became a published author, was active in the civil rights movement, and was romantically involved with a South African anti-apartheid fighter. ***The Heart of a Woman*** is filled with unforgettable vignettes of such renowned people as Billie Holiday and Malcolm X, but perhaps most importantly it chronicles the joys and the burdens of a black mother in America and how the son she has cherished so intensely grows to be a man. To sign up or ask questions, email dariendawn17@gmail.com.

Field Trips

We are organizing field trips for spring! Dates to be determined. We plan to visit the ***Amistad***, a ship transporting slaves in 1839. The ship's home port is Mystic, and it travels around the Sound to welcome visitors. We'll also go to ***Philipsburg Manor***, a former gristmill and trading complex in Sleepy Hollow, New York where many enslaved persons labored for the Philipsburg family. More details and dates/times to come!

Save the Date! Debbie Irving on September 27, 2025

TOUR is excited to announce that Debby Irving, author of ***Waking Up White: and Finding Myself in the Story of Race***, will be in Darien on the morning of **September 27** to make a presentation to the whole community. This event is offered by TOUR and is co-sponsored by the Darien Library, the Darien-Norwalk YWCA, and the United Church of Rowayton. For more information, contact Fran Principe: mfprincipe@yahoo.com

Community Offerings

21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge - Sponsored by Food Solutions New England

Each year, thousands of individuals and hundreds of officially participating organizations join in a shared journey of learning and charting a course of action to dismantle racism in our food system and our world. This year's challenge begins on April 7. Here is the link to sign up:

<https://foodsolutionsne.org/21-day-racial-equity-habit-building-challenge/>

Newsletter Updates

Check the on-line version of this newsletter on the St. Luke's Parish website. We will update it with news of TOUR and community events and other items of interest. Here is the link:

[Transforming Our Understanding of Race | Saint Luke's Parish](#)

TOUR is led with love by Anne Lynn, Beverly Kelsey, Dawn Stegelmann, Fran Principe, Hannah Pommersheim and Jennifer Boyd.

To learn more or to add or remove your name from our list: Contact jboyd@boydandassociates.com