

Sunday Sisters

In the aftermath of George Floyd's death and the national awakening to the need for greater understanding of racism in America, Naomi McDougall Jones invited other members of the Grove to join her in the "Great Unlearn" project. Launched by Rachel Carglye, the Great Unlearn is a self-paced learning community to explore how our society has been shaped from the eyes of white people. It offers online resources to groups of people interested in having "the discussion."

Ten bold Grovers stepped forward to join Naomi for a 10-week, weekly discussion of race, racism, white supremacy and topics that are just plain HARD to face. Each week, 2 participants lead the group through a discussion of key issues. Those weekly leaders post links online to articles, books, videos, etc. that relate to each week's discussion. Some of the recent topics have included:

What is systemic racism and how is it manifested?

How do I contribute to racism and how do I benefit from a white-oriented view of the world?

How do I speak out against racism?

Shortly after we commenced our discussions, we realized that we needed to name our experience. Our work is deeply personal, powerful, painful and needed a bit of respect. We dubbed ourselves the "Sunday Sisters." I have found it to be an extraordinary experience, as have the others.

I was initially concerned that the Sunday Sisters did not have Black women members. Then I realized that this work cannot rely upon their input. If they were involved, we may simply turn to them as the "experts" in racism and ask them to tell us what to do. This group bares our soul each week and struggles with the reality of racism. We've all come to see that progress demands that we each do this work - and not ask Black people to do that work for us.

As difficult as our discussions have been, we have found joy in exploring our history together. We delight in sending links to great articles or youtube videos. We share the shame of racism but love the process of unlearning together.