

## Internalize Oneness

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### Quotation

"Either the United States will destroy ignorance or ignorance will destroy the United States."

—W.E.B. DuBois,  
1868-1963

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Houston Community College System seeks to provide equal educational opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

## Director's Column

### *Rise in hate groups can instill fear with the killing of a person's soul*

By Cherry Steinwender

"There is nothing to fear but fear itself." These words spoken by Franklin D. Roosevelt may have rung true at his time, but today I am not so sure. Daily news headlines feed the fear and that fear is real.

The headlines tell us, "They are coming for us," so we need to keep our eyes open to which group will they come for next. One of the reasons hate groups survive and get larger is that too many of us fail to take them seriously as a real threat. Now, they are exploding in numbers.

Actor Samuel L. Jackson said, "People know about the Klan and the overt racism, but the killing of one's soul little by little, day after day, is a lot worse than someone coming in your house and lynching you."

The number of hate groups rose by 14 percent in 2015, the Southern Poverty Law Center reports. That number is enough to instill

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Cherry Steinwender and other Center members attended a book event with author Deepa Iyer (left) in Austin. Iyer includes information about Cherry and the Center in the book.

— Photo by Joyce Baier Steensrud

## Internalize Oneness

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## Dialogue

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### MISSION STATEMENT

To facilitate the healing of racism through education and dialogue in a safe and supportive environment, in order to empower individuals and transform communities.

Have you gotten around to filling out your membership for 2016? If not, please take the time to do so. The work must go on!

Has your address changed? If it has, please notify us so your Center correspondence can be timely delivered!

Also, send us your e-mail address to receive your Dialogue newsletter in your email in-box.

# Director's Column

## *Rise in hate groups can instill fear and kill the soul*

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fear and send chills down the spine, but the real fear comes from other headlines.

### Headlines from the News:

Talking about racism isn't dividing the country, by German Lopez on March 2, 2016, VOX Policy & Politics.

FBI director acknowledges "hard truths" about racial bias in policing, By Sari Horwitz February 12, 2015 Washington Post.

Why the Roots of Police Violence Lead Back to Segregated Schools, by veteran journalist and former White House correspondent for Politico, Joseph Williams, Feb. 22, 2016.

Racial slurs found inside the apartment of black college student on campus of Texas A&M Corpus Christi, TX, March 24, 2015 at 2:24 p.m.

Here's yet Another Sober Reminder we're Not Living in a Post-Racial World, Emily Cohn, Huffpost Business, March, 25, 2015.

White America's ignorant bliss: Why so many "good" white people are completely oblivious, by Tim Wise, AlterNet.

"All Indians Are Dead?" At Least that's What Most Schools Teach Children, by Alysa Landry, Indian Country, November 17, 2014.

Does race shape Americans' passion for guns? by John Blake, CNN, October 12, 2015.

The School-To-Prison Pipeline

Can Start Even Before Kindergarten, Mother Points Out, Huffpost, July 28, 2014

Anti-Latino Racism: SPLC Report on Discrimination, July 29, 2014.

Army says diversity training sent wrong signal, USA TODAY, April 3, 2015.

Killing Souls...Little by Little, by Kathbray, February 16, 2016.

Flint's structural racism: This is why providing poisoned water to the city's citizens seemed like a reasonable idea. Racism's skeptics will continue to deny the effects of racism in Flint. But it's imperative we confront it, by Kemi Fuentes-George.

Girl's henna tattoo outrages Seabrook mom, by Dana Thompson, December 24, 2015

Brown Student Newspaper Is Sorry For Op-Ed Offensive To Native Americans, Native Americans' ancestors were slaughtered, but they should be thankful anyway, the op-ed suggested. October 7, 2015.

A Sikh American resident from the Chicago suburbs was brutally assaulted, by Richard Cizik, September 15, 2015.

Houston cops shoot unarmed black patient in hospital—and then charge him with assault, by Katie Halper, Rawstory, September 9, 2015.

While these headlines are only a small sampling, they can tell us that we really need to open or keep our eyes to the fact that racism is still alive. To know this fact is important, but what we do

with that knowledge is the real test. We cannot give in to fear.



FDR in 1933

That might be easier said than done, so we need to seek out people who will reliably examine the nature of our country.

Franklin D. Roosevelt made his famous speech about fear in his first inaugural address. He was facing a country in the midst of the Depression, trying to rally the spirits of its citizens.

He said, "This is preeminently the time to speak the truth, the whole truth, frankly and boldly. Nor need we shrink from honestly facing conditions in our country today. This great nation will endure as it has endured, will revive and will prosper." In the midst of these stirring words, he told the nation to face its problems without paralyzing fear. He said, "Let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself—nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance. In every dark hour of our national life a leadership of frankness and vigor has met with that

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# Director's Column

## *Rise in hate groups can instill fear with the killing of a person's soul*

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understanding and support of the people themselves which is essential to victory."

The fears that persist about racism in American have not kept the Center for the Healing of Racism from doing what we do best. It hasn't kept use from holding dialogues so people can express their fears, find their voices, find ways to overcome their fears and recover the energy necessary to aid this nation.

### Center Programs and Activities in Recent Months:

Opening the Breadbasket Workshop. Glover Elementary school in Fort Bend County. 271 students participated, December 15, 2015.

Identity at Work: Grappling with Bias in the Workplace: Education and Achievement. Panel discussion at College of the Mainland.

Bobbette Trice (Center Board member) served as one of the

panelists at Human Library, Kingwood College. Center members participated.

Micro-Aggression workshop. Presented for 25 residents at Knowles Temenso Place Apartments, February 25.

"Racism is a Disease" workshop. At the School of the Woods. High school students took part in this workshop during their Health week. January 6.

"Race: the Power of an Illusion" workshop. Westbury United Methodist Church, January 23.

Opening the Breadbasket Workshop. Spector/Warren Fellows at Holocaust Museum, Houston, January 13.

Opening the Breadbasket Workshop. Montessori Country Day School. Pre-school students at three campuses participated, January 20.

"International Holocaust Remembrance Day." Holocaust Museum. Attended by members



### Several Opening the Breadbasket Workshops were held

of the Center, January 27.

Dialogue: Racism. Attended by 43 people. Jan. 30-Feb. 6.

Islamophobia. Dominican Center. The Center in partnership with the Houston Peace and Justice Center. February 7.

*We Too Sing America*, by Deepa Iyer. Austin, Texas. Five Center members attended. Cherry Steinwender was interviewed for the book and you can read her words in this book. Deepa presented a signed copy to Cherry. (See Let's Review for information about the book). February 20.

Black History month celebration. Center's office. February 23

Dialogue on Grace by Cressandra Thibodeaux. 14 Pews. Several Center members attended. Cherry Steinwender and the Center were mentioned in the script of the play. February 27.

Living Library. Center's Office. March 5.

International Day to End Racial Discrimination. March 21.

Dialogue: Racism. Spring will begin its eight weeks session March 29.

## Subscribe to Center's Facebook page for news, to share ideas, page links

The Center for the Healing of Racism Facebook page is very active, featuring news of Center events and many articles about racism, anti-racism work by groups and individuals, notification of books, videos, movies and television shows.

Please subscribe. Access the Center's page through your Facebook account.

The Center welcomes ideas and page links that would be appropriate for posting on the Center's page. Send a message via Facebook.



# Let's Review

## *South Asians urged to reject white bribe, be ally to people of color*

By Barbara Hacker

There's an axiom that says you can't judge a book by its cover, but in the case of Deepa Iyer's, *We Too Sing America*, that may not be true.

The simple but compelling graphics on the cover lead the viewer into the subtitle, South Asian, Arab, Muslim and Sikh Immigrants Shape Our Multicultural Future.

Part of Dialogue: Racism has always been encouraging participants to get to know segments of our American family with which they may not be familiar, and this book will help them to do that.

As a child immigrant, a lawyer, and a Civil Rights

activist, Iyer is well-qualified both personally and professionally to introduce the communities she discusses. She is well versed in the peculiarities of American immigration policy that historically blocked those communities from citizenship as well as the prejudice,



hatred and violence that has faced them, particularly post 9/11.

Especially valuable is her understanding of white privilege and the primacy of racism against African Americans.

She understands and explains clearly the relative positions of various groups on the "racial

ladder," with whites on the top, blacks on the bottom, and others some place in the middle.

She explains how immigrant groups in the middle often internalize anti-black racist attitudes in the process of becoming Americanized.

She rightly understands how white America has used a "bribe" of inclusion to some groups which she calls "creeping whiteness" and access to some privileges.

She urges South Asians especially not to accept the bribe and to become allies to all people of color in dismantling racism.

Her book is essential reading for all engaged in that effort.

## Television series, movie, address issues of race

There are a number of series on television that address the issue of race. Most of them are on cable, but PBS also provides a number of programs on race in dramatic and documentary formats.

*Hate in America*, from the files of the Southern Poverty Law Center with Morris Dees is being aired on the Investigation Discovery channel. You can watch the first episode, "The Klan on Trial", at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hZRWMSckUFI> The next episode is set to air in June.

*Underground*, a 10-episode series on WGN focuses on a group of slaves at a Georgia plantation who begin a 600 mile pre-Civil War trek to freedom via the Underground Railroad. Watch the trailer: <http://is.gd/5stel>

"WGN announced it has



Slaves flee along railroad tracks in WGN's *Underground*

ordered a pilot based on the comic series *Scalped*, a title from DC Comics' Vertigo imprint. *Scalped* is set on a fictional Oglala Lakota reservation and follows Dashiell "Dash" Bad Horse as he returns home after a 15-year absence to find "The Rez" sitting in the shadow of a brand new casino and overrun by drugs and organized crime. In SlashFilm's report on the pilot,

the series was compared to *The Wire*, and described the primary antagonist, Chief Lincoln Red Crow, as "especially fascinating" and "one of the most complicated and sympathetic comic book villains ever conceived." WGN is, according to The Hollywood Reporter, "eyeing an all Native American cast" for the show. <http://is.gd/x2kHyG>

Season 1 of "Mercy Street", on PBS, recently concluded, but there will be a Season 2. It is inspired by real people and events, it goes beyond the front lines of the Civil War and into the chaotic world of the Mansion House Hospital in Union-occupied Alexandria, Virginia. Watch it online at <http://www.pbs.org/show/mercy-street/>

*Where to Invade Next*, a film by Michael Moore, deals with race, economics, education, employment, health, gender equality and women in government and corporations, criminal justice, the drug war...in Europe. He shows what he thinks are good ideas from each country that could be transplanted to America to make life more just, more comfortable, and more humane.

<http://is.gd/TRU2rR>

# Feedback to the Center

*Letters show gratitude, pride in discussing multiculturalism*

## "A lifelong lesson"

Greetings Ms. Steinwender! Thanks so much for taking time to host the "Breadbasket" workshop at Glover Elementary school.

The teachers raved about the presentation! Our resident substitute teacher said, "The presentation was excellent. I learned many things myself that I will share with others."

Our music teacher remarked, "The Breadbasket Workshop was an interactive presentation that provided a valuable, lifelong lesson for our students."

The Gym teachers commented, "The workshop provided a wonderful discussion on the topic of multiculturalism. The students were engaged and the bread was a great analogy that students can relate to."

## "Awesome!"

Dialogue Racism: AWESOME fall session last night. HOT in temperature and HOT in energy.

Love,  
**Prentiss**

## "Sharing insights"

I'm just reaching out to say thank you so much again for having me, and for allowing me to take so much of your time! Talking to you was Inspiring and eye-opening, not just with regards to my project but personally as well. I am so blessed and grateful to have your advice with my project and that you shared your experiences and insight with me and I can't wait to help out with hanging the frames in August! I hope you have a wonderful month and a wonderful time in Chicago.

Thank you so much again and take care! See you soon!

Love,  
**Madison**



## Elementary school students were engaged

### "Talking to residents"

Thank you so much for coming and talking to our residents today. You did an amazing job and we all really enjoyed it!

Best Regards, **Christine Dudney**, LMSW/Case Manager at Knowles-Temenos Place Apartments.

### "Great tips to take home"

Cherry, I hope my thank-you notes have reached you by now, but I'd be remiss if I didn't thank you all again for contributing to the panel. I'm incredibly grateful to each of you, and if there is anything I can do for any of you, please don't hesitate to reach out.

I just received an email from the conference organizers letting me know that the feedback from students was very positive. Overall, students gave excellent ratings to the workshop presenters. The panelists had amazing insight into bias in the workplace and I had some great tips to take home with me.

I'm personally thrilled that it

was a valuable experience for the students. Thank you once again for participating!

Kind regards,  
**Eirill Alvilde Falck, CNP**

### "A great place for me"

The mission of the Center for the Healing of Racism is "to facilitate the healing of racism through education and dialogue in a safe and supportive environment in order to em-

power individuals and transform communities." CFHR gave me a place to have my emotions validated and my voice heard and appreciated. Cherry Steinwender (whom I lovingly call Cherry) has taken me under her wing and allowed me to see her speak in public forums and take part in some of her speaking engagements discussing internalized racism and shadeism.

Cherry and I have had many hours of talking about our backgrounds, she being a beautiful mocha-colored woman having grown up in the South and me a light-skinned woman

having grown up in the North. Cherry's ability to understand and feel my pain has given me solace for my spirit; her many hugs and words of encouragement and validation are helping me heal from my past. Cherry and CFHR also provided me with my first speaking engagement at a community college. Although I knew I had a story, it was only after meeting Cherry that I knew it mattered and that I had a right to have my voice heard. Through shadowing Cherry, I have met young people who have heard my story and were finally able to voice their stories.

Cherry has also asked me to take part in the Living Library program where I will be a living book titled "Unidentifiable" that can be "checked out" by a person who wants to know about my story. To say that it is an honor for Cherry to ask me to represent her and CFHR as a speaker and a Living Book is a great understatement; it is a life changing opportunity for growth and healing. For the first time I feel validated and justified in my own skin. For me, Cherry's tutelage, hugs, and words of wisdom represent for me the love and acceptance I have so deeply sought from my people as a child, adolescent, young adult and, at times, grown woman.

**Bobbette Trice**

## INTERNALIZE ONENESS

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## SUBMISSIONS

Newsletter submissions are due the first week of the month before publication. Articles are accepted via e-mail and may be edited for brevity or clarity. Send submissions to the Center's e-mail address.

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### IALOGUE:RACISM SERIES

The Dialogue: Racism series is held in a supportive and honest setting. Information is provided at each session, followed by an opportunity for voluntary sharing. Facilitators say participants leave with a new understanding of racism, what they can do about it, and a sense of community with others of different backgrounds and life experiences.



Tiffany Dimaano, left, shared with the Center that she has won the Miss Northwest Houston title. She says she is very motivated to promote her platform and the Center for the Healing of Racism. She expressed her thanks to Cherry Steinwender and the Center for inspiring her to promote an important cause and to help others gain a different perspective. She will compete in the Miss Texas Competition held in Richardson, Texas [on June 25th-July 2nd](#). The Miss Texas Competition is part of the Miss America Organization - the largest scholarship provider for women. For more information, visit [www.misstexas.org](http://www.misstexas.org). Center members can follow Miss Dimaano on her Facebook page, "Miss Northwest Houston 2016" to keep up with her year of service.

**CENTER FOR  
THE HEALING OF RACISM**

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