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Center for the Healing of Racism

Internalize Oneness

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Protests against racism held worldwide



"If I were to remain
silent, I'd be guilty
of complicity."
Albert Einstein



"We had not bothered to measure what violence the State did to Black people in a country that once held Black people in chattel slavery... What we have been seeing on the streets of the United States is not just a reaction to policing: It's the past due notice of the unpaid debts owed to Black people for four centuries. When the laws of this nation were explicitly racist, it

was law enforcement's job to enforce racist laws. If there is no accounting for that past, we are probably going to fail this time, too."

— Phillip Atiba Goff
Center for Policing Equity
in New York

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Message From the Executive Director

The Center is busier than ever. 2020 was a year like no other, when the entire planet earth was touched and life was changed for all of us. We at the Center found ourselves on hold, finding new ways to keep our work going. We were so proud of ourselves for creating events for most of the year and posting on our website only to have to cancel all of them due to the COVID-19 Virus.

The fourth annual trip to Louisiana to visit the plantations, one of the highlights of the year, was an event we had to cancel, bringing sadness to all who had signed up and paid for their seat on the bus. Four members of the Center had registered for the four-day White Privilege Conference, which was another heart breaker due to the Covid-19.

Due to the COVID-19 virus and the ensuing shutdown of the city, the Center for the Healing of Racism has continued its work with organizations by hosting virtual workshops via Zoom. This became more urgent with the worldwide outcry over the killing of George Floyd on May 25, 2020. In spite of some who claimed there was no more racism in America or even those that said we were in a Post-Racial America due to the election of our first Black President, Barack Obama, the Center pressed forward. For the last 31 years, the Center has continued to name racism as a reflection of the country's racist past and present. Racism never disappeared, so we had to find a way to keep going and our saving grace was social media. We had to bite the bullet and learn how to use and navigate Zoom.

George Floyd's 6-year-old daughter, Gianna, is aware of the impact her father has had on America and the world and declares, "Daddy changed the world!" Out of the mouth of babes truer words were never spoken. I know that the death of George Floyd changed the Center for Healing Racism. The Center was unprepared for the explosion that happened next. We began to hear from organizations all over America, seeking workshops and looking to understand. We did not have to go out and try to get grants, the grants were coming to us. We were put on the map with more private and public groups contacting us for ways to assist in addressing and navigating the touchy conversation of RACISM. People in most levels of government, faith communities, education institutions and the private sector began to use the word



Cherry Steinwender

RACISM, calling it what it really is. Our sponsors and partners have grown, too.

Mr. Floyd's death propelled the largest worldwide protest. People of all ethnicities, faiths, and organizations took to the streets. White people took to the streets in larger numbers than any protest in our history. It was amazing to read the signs as I stood in front of Houston City Hall with other Center members Ana Eigler and Christine Harrison, along with 60,000 others. There were people holding signs we had become accustomed to seeing such as **NO JUSTICE NO PEACE**, or **BLACK LIVES MATTER**, but there were new signs of anger: **WHITE SILENCE IS VIOLENCE, I CAN'T BREATHE, END WHITE SUPREMACY, INDICT THE USA, AM I NEXT**. People were sending a message loud and clear to touch the soul of this country and the world.

In quietness I often play the WHAT IF game in my mind: What if we had not stayed the course?

What if we had changed our name and taken RACISM out to make some people comfortable?

What if we believed the media coverage reporting in 2009 that we are in a Post-Racial-America?

I am happy to say it was just a game but knew in my heart we would stay the course.

It is with great pride I say **IT IS OUR TIME NOW!** We readied this organization by not folding and by continuing to develop and present workshops on RACISM for all ages.

We want nothing less than helping people RISE like Maya Angelou, LEADING people to "Get In Good Trouble" like John Lewis, FREEING people from the slavery chains of racism, as Harriet Tubman said: "I freed a thousand slaves. I could have freed a thousand more if only they knew they were slaves," AIDING people to go high when others go low, like Michelle Obama. LEADING people to the mountain top like Dr Martin L. King and getting everyone to see: *"All life is interrelated. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality; tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. You can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be."*

We are grateful for every role you have played in the Center, for volunteering and for your financial support. It is due to your generosity that we have been able to continue to be a voice to educate others and aid in their healing.

Mission Statement

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

ADL Honors Cherry Steinwender With Award

From ADL Website

Posted in [Combating Hate](#), December 17, 2020

The Southwest Region of the ADL presented its Civil Rights Leader Award to the Center for the Healing of Racism Executive Director Cherry Steinwender on December 6 at its Sponsors' Preshow for ADL in Concert Against Hate.

Cherry and a small, diverse group of Houstonians founded the Center for the Healing of Racism in 1989, after their kitchen table discussions helped them realize that everybody is damaged by racism. The Center's 31 years have been marked by widespread participation in its banner program, Dialogue Racism, and its many other seminars, discussion groups and events designed to address racism and other forms of hate. Cherry also created the Center's Opening the Bread Basket program, which uses breads from all over the world to teach children that all people, despite looking different or being from different places, share some of the same qualities and all people are beautiful.

Pre-show participants lauded Cherry and her efforts



Ana Eigler, left, and Cherry Steinwender participated in the June 3, 2020 protest at Houston City Hall

to heal the damage caused by racism. ADL's Senior Vice President of Growth Frederic Bloch said: "Few can claim such a remarkable and compassionate resume, working tirelessly to educate, advocate and embody ADL's timeless mission to secure justice and fair treatment to all."

Al Tribble, himself a former recipient of the Civil Rights Leader Award spoke about why Cherry was receiving the award: "Her commitment to battling racism through education and dialogue is not only inspirational, but critical at this moment in our nation's history. Cherry Steinwender's unswerving dedication to securing fair and just treatment for all is why we are honoring her tonight."

And ADL Regional calliBoard Chair Nicole Nathan Gibson said of Cherry: "Cherry truly is remarkable, and we are so lucky to have her dedication and hard work impact our community. After the tragic, but all too common events exposing the depth and breadth of racism in the country this year, ADL is working even harder to build coalitions with leaders who have spent years understanding and fighting the corrosive and deadly effects of racism. We are so fortunate to have leaders like Cherry Steinwender in our region, with whom we can partner to continue fighting hate for good."

When she accepted the award, Steinwender was quick to credit others for helping her find her calling: "I would like to accept this award on behalf of all of the people holding me up all of these years: Jackie Cone Newberry, for never ever taking 'No' for an answer when she asked me to come along and do something about racism... My mother, who really taught me how to love. Even though she was dirt poor, the woman was rich in love, and I want to acknowledge my mother... Ruby King."

Steinwender also mentioned George Floyd, whose murder brought more attention to racism. "In accepting this award, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge George Floyd. George Floyd's little daughter said, 'My father will change the world.' And he did. He did. And he changed this organization, the Center for the Healing of Racism. Because of his death, people in this country are eager to learn about racism, and because we have racism in our name, we are being contacted almost daily to aid this country, in understanding the American brand of racism."

Southwest Regional Director Mark B. Toubin closed the program, congratulating Cherry and telling her, "We look forward to elevating your work, as well as partnering with the Center for Healing of Racism as we pursue our mutual goal of fighting hate." He also thanked the pre-show sponsors. "We continue to believe that hate will not prevail as long as those seeking justice remain prepared, present and resolute."

A Navajo and Latina Woman Speaks Out

By CAROL HARVEY

I am an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation and a Latina. I am an attorney. Currently, I just finished writing a book on *The Imperialism of the Doctrine of Discovery*, which I hope to get published soon. I am an occasional Indian-law lecturer at the University of Denver Law School, the University of Colorado—Denver Center and other locales.

Thank you for inviting me to share my story with you. In my cultures, we identify ourselves through our families. My dad is Navajo from Lukachukai, Arizona, in the northeast corner of the Navajo Nation, and my mom is Spanish from Coyote, in mountainous northern New Mexico.

Dialogue: Racism Series' Effect On Me

The messages I took from "Dialogue: Racism" are that racism is real, that I didn't cause it, that I don't need to be afraid of it, and that it is as important to understand it as it is to be an ally against it. I internalized its powerful message of self-acceptance on an equal footing with everyone else.

Cultural Racism

What is culture? Webster's dictionary defines "culture" as "the total pattern of human behavior and its products embodied in thought, speech, action and artifacts and dependent upon man's capacity for learning and transmitting knowledge to succeeding generations through the use of tools, language and a system of abstract thought."

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Vision Statement

Our vision is to build One America in the 21st century by connecting people through education and dialogue in a diverse world.

Core Beliefs

The human race is essentially one and racism is a learned behavior that can be unlearned.

I think of culture as a mosaic, a pattern of human behavior — what a people think as evidenced through their oral or written tradition, what they say, what they do, and what they produce. To me the most important part of culture is that it has a continuity, that it must be transmitted to succeeding generations or else it is altered or lost. That transmission occurs through tools, through language, and through thought.

If the tools or the language needed to transmit part of a culture are taken away or destroyed, the ability to transmit that part of a culture is disrupted or destroyed. I see culture as the fingerprint of a group. If the whorls on the finger are altered or completely erased, that fingerprint is completely changed or destroyed. We have heard of criminals doing this so that they can't be identified through their fingerprints. This can happen to a culture as well.

My Dad's Internalized Racism

I learned from my Dad who attended Chinle Boarding School, Fort Wingate and Santa Fe Indian High School, that whites were smarter and better.

My Internalized Racism

By the time I got to high school, I had learned his message well. It wasn't until I went through "Dialogue: Racism" that this internalized racism healed. I didn't even know what I had. I followed the recommendations of the Center; I began learning and writing about my individual and family history.

Culture and History

I also begin to learn about Navajo and Hispanic languages, culture and history, again getting to see a beauty that wasn't taught to me. I became more at ease with myself, more at home in my own skin, more centered in my own life.

Be Part of the Solution

The most important thing I learned along the way is to be part of the solution, to be focused on the solution — that is why my commitment to the Center is so important. Instead of asking "When God when?" and "Why God why?" and most importantly, "What about me?" I can focus my energy on sharing my history with others in a way that will hopefully have a positive effect.

I no longer feel hopeless or that the future will be no different than the past, and that it's just too hard to deal with. Instead, I am part of a fellowship committed to equality and social justice. I am looking to today and tomorrow and not mired in the past. I hope you will find the same opportunity.

ZOOM Workshops for Private Sector

- Houston Methodist Research Institute: A Look at our Racial Conditioning, Lucy McLaughlin and Lynda Cane-Barrett

- Cherry Steinwender gave the Keynote address for a one-day conference hosted by Women Cultivating Greatness — Diva's Day 2020

- “Hiding My Xenophobia Behind Social Media”: Zoom workshop for Lone Star College, facilitated by Dr. Stephen Cherry and Cherry Steinwender

- “Hiding My Xenophobia Behind Social Media”: Zoom workshop for Kingwood College, facilitated by Dr. Stephen Cherry and Cherry Steinwender

- “Racism in the Arts for Common Field” by Laura Gallier and Cherry Steinwender

- Big Brothers and Big Sisters Anti-Racist Panel Discussion by Cherry Steinwender

- Three bullying workshops for young children hosted by Victoria Christensen-Buckner Family Hope Center presented by Cherry Steinwender

- “A Look at our Racial Conditioning”: for Congregation of Sauk County Unitarian Church, by Cherry Steinwender and Chad Kalland

- “A Look at our Racial Conditioning”: The Community for Conscious Aging and The Jung Center, by Cherry Steinwender, Melissa Lewis, and Joyce Steenrud

- “A Look at our Racial Conditioning”: University of Colorado Medical Branch, by Laura Gallier and Cherry Steinwender

- “A Look at our Racial Conditioning”: Montrose Counseling Center board members, by Melissa Lewis Cherry Steinwender, and Christine Harrison

- Compassionate Houston and Compassion Week: Hosted by Interfaith Ministries of Houston for Center

members, facilitated by Cherry Steinwender, Anne Geyer, Marcy Jolosky, Melissa Lewis. We were asked to read one of the Compassion Charters.

- “A Look at our Racial Conditioning”: Institute of Contemporary Dance, facilitated by Christine Harrison and Cherry Steinwender

- Three workshops for United Against Human Trafficking, facilitated by Laura Gallier and Cherry Steinwender

“A Look at our Racial Conditioning”

“Do You Really Want to Talk About Racism?”

“Bending Long Years of Customs and Habits”

- Three for PIC NIC Coffee Creamer Group, facilitated by Lucy McLaughlin, Christine Harrison and Cherry Steinwender

“A Look at our Racial Conditioning”

“Do You Really Want to Talk About Racism?”

“Bending Long Years of Customs and Habits”

- Three for Sprinkles Cupcakes Upper Managers, facilitated by Christine Harrison, Chad Kalland, Christine Harrison and Cherry Steinwender

“A Look at our Racial Conditioning”

“Do You Really Want to Talk About Racism?”

“Bending Long Years of Customs and Habits”

- Three workshops for FOTO FEST, facilitated by Christine Harrison and Cherry Steinwender

“A Look At Our Racial Conditioning”

“Do You Really Want to Talk About Racism?”

“Bending Long Years of Customs and Habits”

- Three workshops for YMCA Houston, facilitated by Laura Gallier and Cherry Steinwender

“A Look at our Racial Conditioning”

“Do You Really Want to Talk About Racism?”

“Bending Long Years of Customs and Habits”

- Two workshops for The Robert Abbott Race Unity Institute in Brunswick, Georgia

“Running with Ahmaud: What it means to be Black in America,” facilitated by Laura Gallier and Cherry Steinwender

Center Workshops for General Public

The Center started 2020 with an ambitious schedule of workshops to be offered free to the public. In January and February, we conducted the following workshops live at the Center's training facility:

- Do You Really Want to Talk About Racism?
- Black History Month Film Screening: *Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North*
- Racism in Healthcare, in collaboration with LHI-Houston
- Dialogue: Racism

When public gatherings became discouraged to slow the spread of COVID-19, we were disappointed to cancel several in-house workshops as well as the Fifth Annual Dialogue on the Plantations, issuing refunds to about 70 guests who had signed up for the trip to Louisiana.

Refusing to be defeated by the global pandemic, as well as the threat of three hurricanes in our hometown of Houston, Texas, we quickly pivoted and conducted approximately 20 workshops using Zoom. More than 2,800 people registered to attend these workshops:

WORKSHOPS VIA ZOOM

Asian American and Pacific Islander Month Dialogue:
Calling on Allies to Stand Up!

I Can't Breathe – three workshops

Racism in Criminal Justice, in collaboration with Pure Justice – a series of three workshops

Racism in the Arts: A conversation with Harrison Guy

Racism in the Arts: A conversation with Harrison Guy, in collaboration with Rice University CERCL

The Violence of White Women's Safety, in collaboration with Confront White Womanhood

Racism in the War on Drugs, with Rice University Baker Institute and Texas Criminal Justice Coalition

The Skin I Am In: What it Means to be Black or Brown

America's Unholy Ghosts: The Racist Roots of our Faith and Politics, with author Joel Goza

Racism in Healthcare: Racism is a Public Health Crisis presented by Dr. Krenie Stowe

A Way Forward: Second Annual Conference

Hispanic Heritage Month Reading children's stories by Latin authors – learning for adults and children

Taking Time to Exhale: A workshop for healing

Native American Heritage Month presentation by Carol Harvey (Yaniza Kinlichini)

Did They Really Just Say That?

Healing Art Circle with Helen Spaw - monthly

Waking News monthly meeting where attendees discuss current news articles about racism

Ceremony for 2020 Juneteenth Ally Award Recipient: Kevin Locke of the Lakota nation, a visionary hoop dancer and traditional story teller.

Kevin Locke Receives Ally Award

The Center's 27th Annual Juneteenth/Ally Awards Luncheon was quite different in 2020 than in previous years. First of all, no luncheon. Members missed the great catering usually enjoyed from devoted and generous donor chefs, as well as the camaraderie that is always enjoyed in person.

Instead of meeting in person, we did the COVID twist and met on Zoom. That enabled us all to be there, albeit by tele-participation, and it was a really enjoyable afternoon! We all listened to Madison Trice present the history of Juneteenth, and heard a great Spoken Word presentation by performing artist Calvin King. Ally Award recipient Kevin Locke



Kevin Locke

(Tokeya Inajin—his Lakota name) spoke about his experiences as a cultural ambassador for his Lakota and Anishinaabe community, and the indigenous culture in general. He shared with us that his aim as an artist is “to encourage and inspire this younger generation to a global vision where they see themselves as integral and active participants.”

Marcy Jolosky, aka Sweet Mama Cotton, Center volunteer

In addition to meeting the Center's Board of Directors and hearing from our Executive Director, Cherry Steinwender, I was privileged to present some music via my Zoom livestream setup. I played one of my original songs, “PTKL” (“Patience, Tolerance, Kindliness and Love”) and also a great song by an Austin songwriter, Eliza Gilkyson, called “Peace in Our Hearts,” a modern-day protest march song! The Juneteenth/Ally Award Luncheon was a great success, and I think everyone is happy that they spent a couple of hours in June in celebration of our progress in healing racism.

Center at Middle School Resource Fair



Joyce Steenrud, left, and Marie Poussan staffed a booth January 21 at the Resource Fair for Parent University at Key Middle School in the Houston Independent School District

Center Celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month

This year the Center for the Healing of Racism celebrated National Hispanic Heritage Month in a brand new way. Given the constraints of Covid-19, we decided to hold our first book reading for children and youth via Zoom.

Cherry Steinwender worked with Ana Eigler and Anne Geyer, two long-time Center members, to identify children's books that were either written by Hispanic authors and/or dealt with topics relevant to young Hispanics. All told, we selected portions of seven different books that covered such topics as immigration, skin color, prejudice, government policies, civil rights advocacy and contributions to the world by Hispanic people.

The program was held Saturday, Oct. 24, 2020. Cherry moderated while Center members Sonya Sneed, Ana Eigler and Anne Geyer, community member Marna Marsh, her son Wren Marsh (a junior at Elsie High School) and Bela Abrego (an eighth-grader at Wharton Dual Language Academy) read from the books: *Island Born* by Junot Díaz; *Sulwe* by Lupita

Nyong'o and Vashti Harrison; *All the Colors We Are: The Story of How We Get Our Skin Color* by Katie Kissinger and Chris Bohnhoff; *Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Méndez & Her Family's Fight for Desegregation* by Duncan Tonatiuh; *Fearless Trailblazers: 11 Latinos Who Made U.S. History and Be Bold! 11 Latinas Who Made U.S. History* by Naibe Reynoso and Jone Leal; and *Lucía the Luchadora* by Cynthia Leonor Garza and Alyssa Bermúdez.

As is our custom, each reading was followed by a time for participants to share — if they so desired — any thoughts and feelings that came up for them during the readings. Since this was our first such event, participants were also asked to provide suggestions for improving future virtual events for children.

The Center looks forward to using this virtual "story circle" format for children and youth in the future. The pandemic isn't holding us back from our work to heal and educate about racism.

Media Coverage

Zoom Interviews for Media: Radio, TV, Newspapers, iPods and Magazines; Podcast with Erick Henderson at University of Houston

The following is the link to upload to the Center:

<https://www.facebook.com/kmsintercultural/videos/2939222996204774/>

Watch Cherry Steinwender TED talk here: <https://youtu.be/n2nKENGtB0>

Open Journal with Joal Goza interviewed by Duane Bradley for KPFT Radio 90.1. Interviewed three times with the program getting the highest ratings.

Asian-American panel Webinar, Cherry Steinwender, <https://youtu.be/VPMqLCJSjPM>

Cherry Steinwender interviewed by Diane Shaver for her Podcast

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5G3tB86F5k6JhvcHHMu3tg/videos>

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/624592/5748976>

<https://open.spotify.com/show/68ZWkqWP32A7GkgE9P4Aht>
www.transformationspodcast.com

Three interviews on KPFT Radio with Duane Bradley

Houston Chronicle article submitted by Anne Geyer, July 31, 2020

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/letters/article/Letters-Congress-should-fund-familial-relief-15446479.php>

FRESH ARTS with Reyes Ramirez, Programs Outreach Coordinator. Here's the link to the video:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=903744420137577&ref=external>

Steinwender interviewed by Kim Kimberly with Pangea Challenge

<http://pangeachallenge.org/2020/07/reflections-racism-conversation-steinwender-king/?fbclid=IwAR2o9Q4kAS2paTCArqw-27I01V6zdYMORdE29HQ14hhLYHXntuZa4ojqc9E#.Xw8G85cqwfB.facebook>

YouTube Link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvuWZ6MoFbY>

HOUSTON CHRONICLE: <https://www.houstonchronicle.com/life/article/Speaking-up-against-racism-speaks-volumes-15319893.php>

HOUSTON CHRONICLE:

"You can help end the spike in anti-Asian bias during the coronavirus pandemic" [Opinion] - [HoustonChronicle.com](https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/outlook/article/You-can-help-end-the-spike-in-anti-Asian-bias-15232113.php)

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/outlook/article/You-can-help-end-the-spike-in-anti-Asian-bias-15232113.php>

"Houston Matters" NPR Radio Show

NPR RADIO: <https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/shows/houston-matters/2020/06/05/375301/special-edition-preparations-for-george-floyds-houston-funeral-healing-racism-june-5-2020/>

Council on American-Islamic Relations, Houston Chapter: (CAIR): Cherry interviewed by Ambreen Hernandez | Communications and Program <https://youtu.be/hkYwIf6DL1U>

Coordinator - <https://youtu.be/hkYwIf6DL1U>

AARP: Magazine interview

<https://www.aarp.org/politics-society/history/info-2020/protestor-stories.html>

Media Coverage

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FOX 26 TV : Natasha Geigel | Reporter https://fox.zoom.us/rec/share/tPNUPprZ3VpOE6fxz2-cX_cGOYbVT6a8hnNM_KIMyEf0_O4fqz0qxM3utl7rbkuU?startTime=1591908882000c

BLM fundraiser for the Center produced by college student Mallory Keeler. Here is the link to the performance: <https://youtu.be/VzBkW7bpEg4>

Community Impact Newspaper by [Matt Dulin](#)

https://communityimpact.com/houston/heights-river-oaks-montrose/people/2020/06/14/if-you-cant-name-it-you-cant-do-anything-about-it-a-qa-with-the-executive-director-of-houstons-center-for-the-healing-of-racism/?fbclid=IwAR1vf_09YU9Pq8Nn5is7HjU7H9nw5gkIJgv1a2hueB5jjOIJTW_J84atM6Tw

Houston Chronicle June 7, 2020 interview with Cherry

“You can help end the spike in anti-Asian bias during the coronavirus pandemic” [Opinion], by Cherry Steinwender & Laura Gallier April 29, 2020-

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/outlook/article/You-can-help-end-the-spike-in-anti-Asian-bias-15232113.php>

On June 4, 2020, Cherry Steinwender was interviewed by the Houston Chronicle . . . “Silence is Violence: Why Speaking Up Against Racism Speaks Volumes.”

<https://bit.ly/3ryLseL>

In this episode of “Houston Matters,” host Ernie Manouse is joined by [Dallas Jones](#), co-host of Houston Public Media’s [Red, White & Blue](#). Jones is also one of the organizers of the George Floyd funeral services June 9 in Houston. [Cherry Steinwender](#) joined Manouse to discuss the impact of Floyd’s death in the context of our country’s historical experience of racism. Steinwender also addressed questions and comments from listeners.

Watch Cherry Steinwender explain the importance of “Juneteenth” on YouTube

<https://youtu.be/CJiVoHgDpQ0>

Community Reading of the Charter for Compassion

On Oct. 12, 2020, Anne Geyer, Marcy Jowasky, Melissa Lewis, and Cherry Steinwender each read one of the four compassion statements on a Zoom chat sponsored by Inter-Faith Ministries.

Center Partners and Sponsors

- Target Corporation
- Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
- Common Bond Bake House
- 8th Wonder Brewery & Distillery
- BHP Oil Company
- Emerson Charitable Trust
- Dominican Sisters of Houston
- ameriSOURCE
- [AIG Retirement Services](#)
- Thrivent Financial
- Pic-nik Coffee Creamer
- Emerson Automation Solutions
- Goodnight Hospitality Group
- Community Foundation of Brazoria County
- Shell Oil Company
- Fat Cat Creamery
- Sprinkles Cupcakes
- Starbucks coffee
- EDF trading
- Kendra Scott Jewelry Company
- The Benevity Community Impact Fund

Acknowledging My Bow

By KELLI McLOUD-SCHINGEN, M.A.

It wasn't long after I started my internship at the Center for the Healing of Racism in 2000 that I first heard Cherry say, "There is a Native American saying that goes, 'The arrow must always acknowledge the bow.' "

It was just one of the millions of lessons I learned from Cherry while I was a graduate intern there. She said something to the effect of it meaning that people need to pay homage to their roots or to those who taught them. I have NEVER done this work without somehow bringing the name of Cherry Steinwender into the rooms where I have facilitated Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Anti-racism, Healing Racism or Inclusive Leadership since I became a full-time Global Diversity and Inclusion Consultant in 2003.

Cherry would often joke and say, "Ok, Kelli, sit down, time for lesson two hundred and 26," or 500 or 762.

There was not a time that I didn't learn something new that was surprising to me as I had been doing some level of diversity work since 1989 and in my young professional hubris, I thought,

"Surely, I will offer more than I will learn." I could not have been more wrong. My time at the center humbled me, healed me, and set me on a path of true inclusion, recognizing the power of stories to connect across



cultural differences. Because that is really all that we are doing in "Dialogue: Racism" sessions — telling and listening to stories. Research shows that there is no more transformational learning than that of story. It has also reflected that hearts of audience members will align in a theatre while watching a play. Writers speak of "trance-formational listening" meaning that we are impacted in such a way that stories take us to a different place and time and we become a part of the narrative, thus feeling and experiencing the stories of others. Even the brilliant poet, Maya Angelou has said that, "I've learned that people will forget what you've said, people will forget what you did, but they will never forget how you made them feel." When we listen to the stories of others, it is impossible NOT to feel the pain of others and want to do what we can to make sure that they don't hurt again and, at the very least, that we will not do anything to hurt people in that way again. Because another lesson I learned from Cherry is that "Hurt People hurt people." That is the power and the lesson of "Dialogue: Racism."

So, now that nearly all of my work has gone online due to COVID19, I started a Facebook live series called "Stories of Inclusion" and the purpose was to interview people who do the work of inclusion from all over the world and ask them about their journey to be change agents. How did they get started? Who were their mentors? I knew that I couldn't start the series without interviewing one of the single greatest influencers of my work, Cherry Steinwender; so on June 30, 2020, I had the wonderful opportunity to talk to Cherry to get her story. If you have access to Facebook you can watch the interview here: <https://fb.watch/28TjEhbd9/> Not only was it great to give the viewers and listeners access to the brilliance that is Cherry, but it also reminded me that, even after almost 18 years, she still has so much to teach me. It was great to reconnect, catch up, learn of what the Center has been up to, and hear of the astronomical growth and requests for work, much of which is an unfortunate result of the murder of George Floyd in May of this year. As usual, Cherry made me laugh, tear up, but most importantly learn. She is a treasure and a joy and after all these years, I still refer to her as Cherry Momma. She is a friend, a mentor, an inspiration, and a joy to work with.

I am so happy to have had a chance to reconnect with Cherry. It was a highlight in an incredibly challenging year. The Center needs to get about the business of bottling up all that wisdom and skill because there never was before and there will never again be a Ms. Steinwender. As my co-intern, Aabha Davé Brown, would say, "We were very lucky to sit underneath the Cherry Tree." And my Bow will always be acknowledged in all I do and say.

Feedback About the Center's Work

Lucie

The Zoom session with Carol Harvey was enlightening and clarifying for me. The information she shared helped to correct the record and expose the lies in the history I was taught about Native Americans. As a life-long learner, I relish every opportunity to enhance my knowledge about the indigenous peoples of North America. It is even more valuable when that knowledge is shared by individuals within a given culture who know the facts and can delineate them in a way that "ordinary" folks with open minds and hearts can receive them. Carol Harvey is such a person and a very good teacher. I appreciate so much the opportunity to listen to and learn from her.

Thanks again for a wonderful session.

Brian

I'm not sure if you saw the email I submitted via your online form last week, but this donation was made possible through an online virtual Trivia Night game that my friend and I have been hosting. We started with the idea to raise some money to donate to the cooks and bartenders at Griff's Irish Pub who were out of work due to COVID-19 shutdowns. The audience wanted us to do it again and so we did, and since then we have grown our little community and raised funds each week with 100% of donations going to a variety of grassroots charities and causes — from individual families in need to building a community monarch butterfly garden in Riverside Terrace, and most recently, to the Center for Healing Racism.

We have found that something like trivia has been able to bring people together, and has provided us with stability in an unstable world, and a platform to use our privilege to do something good-- both monetarily and through the diversity and intentional use of the language, topics, and questions we ask to help break down some of the norms and systems of injustice that exist.

We are not perfect but aim to grow and use our opportunity through what has grown to be called "Do Something: Trivia for a Cause" to make our world a better place. We are proud to have been able to support your efforts and we are grateful for you and the work you and your team do each and every day. So thank you, too.

Tim McGregor

In the chaos of our current world, in the midst of the

pitched battle, I feel at home at the CFHR, surrounded by people I love and who love me back. What I feel was surprisingly stated for me today by a Celtic poet:

"The hunger to belong is at the heart of our nature. Cut off from others, we atrophy and turn in on ourselves. The sense of belonging is the natural balance of our lives. Mostly, we do not need to make an issue of belonging. When we belong, we take it for granted. There is some innocent childlike side to the human heart that is always deeply hurt when we are excluded. Belonging suggests warmth, understanding, and embrace. No one was created for isolation. When we become isolated, we are prone to being damaged; our minds lose their flexibility and natural kindness; we become vulnerable to fear and negativity. The sense of belonging keeps you in balance amidst the inner and outer immensities. The ancient and eternal values of human life truth, unity, goodness, justice, beauty, and love are all statements of true belonging; they are the also the secret intention and dream of human longing.

O'Donohue, John. *Eternal Echoes*. HarperCollins e-books. Kindle Edition.

Madelyn Strubelt, Director of Visitor & Volunteer Services Holocaust Museum Houston

OH CHERRY! I have received so much excellent feedback from our Docents and Volunteers. In fact, several remarked they wished we had more time and more breakout room experience! Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for providing us with your expertise and spirit. I will be contacting you in December to schedule additional sessions in February or March. Please let me know if you need any additional information from me.

A More Perfect Union, Poem by Sergio Henao

The struggle for power
Against discrimination
Ignorance and violence
Is our lifelong
Struggle

A More Perfect Union
Is the prize
But the death of our own
Selfish interests
Is the price

A More Perfect Union
For humankind
Because
Spiritual Lives Matter.

Feedback About the Center's Work

Kimberly

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your clarity and wisdom. Thank you for the insights and information you shared and for the loving and effective way you shared it, keeping it real and from the heart, just as you said. I am sure your words will impact all who hear them. May it make a meaningful difference, one person at a time.

Please count One Island Institute, Pangea Challenge and me as allies in the truest sense of commitment to achieving the mission of Healing Racism and Internalizing Oneness.

I will likewise count the Center as one of our featured organizations and happily promote your workshops and publications across our (and my) networks.

Thank you for sharing yourself and your Truth with us, and for sharing it with me.

Annie Tan

My name is Annie Tan, and I just spoke with Cherry on a panel tonight. I am a cousin of Vincent Chin. I wanted to send a message to Cherry, that I really enjoyed being on the panel with you and listening to you tonight during the "From Vincent Chin to George Floyd" panel that UCA put together. It is really important that we are continually seeking each other as allies in this work and that we are always driving for allyship. Your comment on Asian-owned nail salons and the divide that has been created led me to remember an article that my friend Tiffany wrote about the divide. Thank you for reminding the audience that we need to look at why we're not going to each other's neighborhoods. I hope I made clear to the audience around the segregation and historical institutions that have perpetuated this division. Thank you for your work, and for all your hope in us. All lives don't matter if Black lives don't matter.

Gilbert

On behalf of the Student National Dental Association, Colorado, I would like to express our deepest gratitude to you for a great workshop yesterday. Many students and faculty found the workshop very enriching and many more who weren't able to attend are asking for the recording just because of the great feedback from those who attended. I sincerely appreciate you both for doing this. This was much needed especially given our current racial climate.

Lizzy Leclaire, Partnership Specialist Big Brothers Big Sisters Lone Star

Dear Mrs. Steinwender,
Thank you so much for participating in our panel discussion yesterday. We know that you are extremely busy, and we appreciate you taking the time to share your insight and

perspective with our matches. Your participation helped lay important groundwork for initiating conversations about race and injustice with our mentors and mentees, and we are grateful for your help.

Pamela Brouker

I met Christopher Bear Beam first and then I met you through Bear. Bear had life in him, and passion. When I met you, I understood how he was so alive. He could go on through all the wounds he had because of you. It was because of you he lived. You healed Bear. You were a healing soul connection in his life, and you changed Bear. You put pieces of his life together and sewed up deep wounds in ways he needed. He was changed through the shared work at The Center For The Healing of Racism and your "Racism:Dialogue" workshops. And so was I healed. Bear and you lovingly brought me through, from my head to my heart, awareness of racism, and a love that sustains all of us to journey onward. (It is) A love that enables us to keep in the struggle, which he did through his physical transformation. Bear talked about you and continued in the learning process. You were ALWAYS in his heart. Now that his body is no longer with us, I know his heart will forever remain with the Center.

Professor Boyd, from a student

I simply wanted to contact you concerning the seminar on racism ("Dialogue Racism") that I attended for the last two weeks. It was simply a wonderful experience! I learned so much from the instructors, and it allowed me to see things about myself that I had never noticed. It also inspired me to reconfigure my attitude and feelings about other cultures. But, more importantly, it motivated me to "do" instead of "say"! Action is what is required to alter the vision of a better world absent of hate and racism. I now have a place to channel that energy. And I will definitely revisit the center. Thank you!!!

Lillian Hoang

I hope you're well. I just received my grade for my second entrepreneurship course project that featured your experience as Center for the Healing of Racism Executive, and I got a 100! I could not have done it without your help. Thank you so much for your wisdom and time. Also, if possible, could I briefly interview you again for my final entrepreneurship course project? I want to ask you questions like, "What needs to be done to make nonprofits acceptable to the general public?" We can conduct this interview in person, over the phone or through email. Whatever works best for you!

Feedback About the Center's Work

Shaul and Bobbie

I read with complete agreement your well-written and timely article in today's *Houston Chronicle* about the recent spike in anti-Asian prejudice due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is clear that the base of such hatred is ignorance fanned by the intentional bias of some of our elected leaders. Unfortunately, it is a dangerous combination that imperils the well-being of very loyal and patriotic citizens of our country. Their cultural, religious, economic and political contributions to the greatness of America are undeniable and laudable.

Thank you for bringing this issue to the attention of the public and along with your suggestions for how to minimize such prejudice. We will hopefully see a decrease in prejudice and an increase in respect.

Rose bushes have thorns

by Chad Kalland

I hear people say "during this time of uncertainty," and I wonder to myself — when has the future ever been certain? When have we known what was coming?

Here are some things that happened in my life in 2020 that I had no idea were coming:

- My father-in-law had a stroke and passed away in his home.
- My daughter's school was canceled, and my wife and I have become home educators.
- My business has seen a dramatic decrease in revenue, and I have been forced to furlough people whom I consider dear friends.

All of these are painful, life-altering events. Here are a few more things that happened:

After years of distrust and distance, my wife and her stepmother have begun building a relationship on the foundation of mutual respect and care.

I have watched my daughter learn how to use Zoom to connect with her cousin in Albania, who is now teaching her French and Spanish from across the globe.

I have seen employees reaching out to their co-workers to offer help with finances, childcare, lodging, etc.

The COVID-19 coronavirus is exposing some of the worst of our human instincts. In the richest country on earth, people are fighting each other over toilet paper and hand sanitizer. Anti-Asian racism is on the rise and people look for someone to blame for their fear. National leaders are refusing to accept any responsibility for the spread of the disease, while holding pep rallies disguised as press conferences every day.

It's also exposing some of what makes us great. Healthcare workers are risking their lives to care for

patients. Teachers are working from home to develop workplans for children they probably won't see again this year. The country is starting to recognize people who have been far too often taken for granted--sanitation workers, bus drivers, grocery store clerks, and cooks. In this time of social distancing, the fastest growing company specializes in providing space for online connection.

Sure, life is uncertain, and the COVID pandemic is causing pain and suffering all over the world. On the other hand, life is full of surprises, and the COVID pandemic is revealing how interconnected we are. It is showing us how the actions of one person can impact the lives of so many, how the carelessness of one infected person can wreak havoc on the lives of those close to them, and how the charity of one athlete may provide critical PPE to healthcare providers in their city, potentially saving countless lives.

I have always believed that the quality of my life is directly related to my perspective. During this time, and all others, I try to focus on the positive things in my life. More importantly, I try to focus on the positive things I CAN DO in my life. In the words of Abraham Lincoln, "We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or we can rejoice because thorn bushes have roses." Today I am rejoicing in the roses, and I invite you to join me in the garden.

Kenya R. Minott, MSW

I wanted to let you know that it was an honor to have Laura (Gallier) guest lecture to my class this past Wednesday.

I teach a graduate level social work course titled "Diversity and Leadership" for Baylor University. The context for this class includes use of anti-racist ideology and theory. Laura came and spoke about what it means to be an ally. Her use of self and sharing personal stories and also in bringing awareness to intersectionality resonated with each student. She did an amazing job — the students had plenty of questions — and the discussion could have easily continued if we had the time. I think they each left with more clarity around what it means to do this work and how anyone can be an ally to others. I was especially appreciative of her presence and energy as the white students needed to hear her story . . . and they expressed a feeling of being validated and supported after hearing her speak.

I just wanted to drop you an email to say I appreciate everything all of you are doing at the Center and your flexibility and accessibility in the spirit of collaboration!

Meet Center's New Board Members



Lynden Marshall

Lynden is an entrepreneur, extended reality specialist, and an executive producer who enjoys making the impossible possible and transforming creative ideas to real world reality. His companies, M&M Investments/Music District Inc., are production companies that have produced concerts, unique events, and musical discographies. In the past three years, he has contributed time to managing the Houston Community College's Extended Reality Lab & Studio, where the virtual reality production "VR (Virtual Reality) 4 Empathy" was developed. He made possible the Center's Virtual Reality experiences for the Way Forward conferences for the past two years.



Juliana Spinola, M.Sc.

Juliana has over 20 years of experience in the oil and gas industry in progressive roles of responsibility; with deep understanding of business operations, financials, products, processes and system technologies. She has expertise in Project and Tender management (over \$500Mi); Pricing and Product Strategy; Cost Engineering/Management; Local Content Development and Commercial Excellence. She was recognized for creating and implementing simpler fit-for-purpose processes, focusing on standardized, globalized and value-based solutions. She uses Data Science & Business Analytics software for decision making, moving organizations to Digital transformation.



Oian (Krystal) Sha

Krystal is an accountant who will bring her expertise to the Center's board as Treasurer. She earned a Bachelor of Management in Accounting with a cumulative Grade Point Average of 3.7, ranking in the top 6 percent. She was educated in Shenyang, China and the University of Pittsburgh Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business. She holds a Master of Science in Accounting, Liaoning University Business School. She received tax training on Internal Revenue Code and electronic filing software; completed VITA/TCE certification test; analyzed financial records; interviewed clients to fully understand taxpayers' financial status; and prepared income tax returns for low income families.



Ruba Ahmad, B.S.E.

Ruba is a first generation Palestinian American living in Houston, Texas. Her background is in Mechanical Engineering and Economics and she is currently working as a Business Developer in the Oil and Gas Industry. She is the co-chair of the Duke Houston Women's Forum and is actively involved with Dress for Success Houston as a First Impressions leader, where she is teaching interview and job readiness skills to women in the Houston and area community. Most of all, she is passionate about equality.



Judge Josefina Rendon

A 1976 graduate of the University of Houston Law Center, Judge Josefina Rendon is one of the first Hispanic female attorneys and judges in Houston. She has been a judge since 1983 when she became a Houston Municipal Judge and later a State District Judge as well as a visiting judge in Harris County's Justice of the Peace Courts.

The Center for the Healing of Racism Board of Directors is welcoming new board members Lynden Marshall, Juliana Spinola, Oian Sha, Ruba Ahmed and Josefina Rendon. They will succeed members Irvin Hanks, Carla Hawke, Micheal McMullen, and Tracy Nong.

The Board of Directors guides the Center through numerous educational programs while promoting the nobility of individuals of every age and background.

Unfortunately, much of the racism that limits the progress of society and individuals is not overt or intentional. The racism that wears down the hope and enthusiasm of millions of Americans, and impedes our development, is largely unintentional, unaware, and so

deeply internalized that we resist recognizing it in ourselves. Once we become aware of how stereotypes are infecting us and sickening our communities, we can turn to the Center as a place to openly talk about racial stereotypes and come to terms with the damage they do.

The Center offers effective educational programs, demystifying racism and any other "ism". It is THE place to turn for transformative information and programs that help recognize the damaging ideas stereotypes carry and to heal.

Participants are able to truly believe in and internalize the oneness of our human reality and are freed to act more openly and honestly. Attendees also develop a better understanding of life for those with different backgrounds.