

CATALYST

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES REGARDING RACIAL AND ETHNIC CONCERNS



Photos by Nancy Pierce and Dea Brayden



Greetings in the Spirit of Sankofa!

Sankofa, for the Akan people of Ghana, is a term that encourages us to consider the importance of reflecting on the past to better plan for the future. It is symbolized by the Adinkra symbol of a bird "looking back in order to look forward."

In this spirit, we welcome you to a new season of multicultural engagement, and invite you to take the time to look back and reflect on all that we have accomplished together over the past year—as well as to look ahead to our hopes, dreams, and commitments for this new year. We look forward to sharing this journey with you.

Sankofa symbol from adinkra.org

Doctrine of Discovery

“The Doctrine of Discovery—the legal justification for the colonization of the Americas and the subordination of aboriginal people—is a narrative unfamiliar to many, both in the United States and elsewhere in the Americas. Yet the Doctrine is so deeply embedded in American and Western culture that it hides in plain sight...the Doctrine of Discovery is key to understanding and reconstructing many of today’s public debates, particularly debates about immigration.”

—from the [“Discussion Guide for Considering the Report and Responsive Resolution from the UUA Board on the Doctrine of Discovery”](#)

As you are probably aware, delegates at Justice General Assembly took a historic stand and passed a resolution calling on Unitarian Universalists to study the **Doctrine of Discovery** and our own history, and to engage with a different narrative about our nation’s history and system of laws.

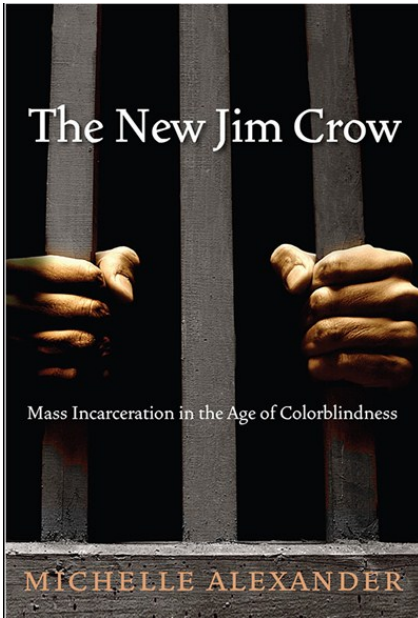
This **October 8th**, we invite you to engage with the history and ramifications of the Doctrine of Discovery by celebrating **Indigenous Peoples Day**. This holiday reimagines Columbus Day and changes a celebration of colonialism into an opportunity to reveal historical truths about the genocide and oppression of indigenous peoples in the Americas, to organize against current injustices, and to celebrate indigenous resistance.

For more details, resources, and ways to celebrate, visit uua.org/indigenouspeoplesday.



Photo by Nancy Pierce

UUA Common Read 2012-2013



We are delighted to share that the UUA Common Read for 2012-13 is *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander. In the book, Alexander, an attorney who is a civil rights advocate and litigator, asserts that crime-fighting policies and systems in the U.S., such as the "war on drugs" and the incarceration system, disproportionately and intentionally affect Americans of color.

The New Jim Crow is a stunning account that details the racial profiling, criminalization, and mass incarceration practices that have resulted in millions of African Americans locked behind bars and then relegated to a permanent second-class status—denied the very rights supposedly won in the Civil Rights Movement. It describes the multifaceted, lifelong discrimination and disenfranchisement that affect people who are branded “felon.”



Photo by Nancy Pierce

Dr. Alexander spoke to more than 500 people at Justice GA 2012 and outlined a program for ending “The New Jim Crow” through education, support and welcome, and advocacy and witness.

To view Dr. Alexander’s General Assembly workshop, to purchase a copy of *The New Jim Crow*, to download the Study Guide, and more, visit uua.org/thenewjimcrow.

Announcing: *The Welcoming Congregation Bulletin!*

We are delighted to announce the newest publication from Multicultural Ministries: ***The Welcoming Congregation Bulletin!*** This monthly newsletter will keep readers connected to the work of building a Beloved Community where all people can bring their full authentic selves.

Each issue will offer a tool to increase your welcome, an action to live it loud and proud, a story for inspiration, and news to share. To subscribe, email lgbtq@uua.org!

Dream with us. Strategize with us. Build community with us. Support us...Join us in this holy work.



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