

BOOKS

Blues Vision: African American Writing from Minnesota. This book is a collection of poetry by forty-three black writers who educate, inspire, and reveal the unabashed truth. By: Edited by Alexis Pate with coeditors Pamela R. Fletcher and J. Otis Powell

The Late Homecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir. In search of a place to call home, thousands of Hmong families made the journey from the war-torn jungles of Laos to the overcrowded refugee camps of Thailand and onward to America. By: Kao Kalia Yang

They Played for the Love of the Game: Untold Stories of Black Baseball in Minnesota. Author Frank M. White, Foreword by Dave Winfield

One Good Story, That One. This is a collection steeped in native oral tradition and shot through with Thomas King's special brand of wit and comic imagination. Author: Thomas King

The Road Back to Sweetgrass: A Novel. Set in northern Minnesota, this novel follows a trio of American Indian women, from the 1970s to the present, observing their lives intersect on the fictional Mozhay Point reservation. Author: Linda LeGarde Grover

Between the World and Me. In a series of essays, written as a letter to his son, Coates confronts the notion of race in America and how it has shaped American history, many times at the cost of black bodies and lives. Thoughtfully exploring personal and historical events, from his time at Howard University to the Civil War, the author poignantly asks and attempts to answer difficult questions that plague modern society. In this short memoir, the "Atlantic" writer explains that the tragic examples of Michael Brown, Trayvon Martin, and those killed in South Carolina are the results of a systematically constructed and maintained assault to black people--a structure that includes slavery, mass incarceration, and police brutality as part of its foundation. Author: Ta-Nehisi Coates.

The New Jim Crow. "The New Jim Crow" highlights the racial dimensions of the War on Drugs. It argues that federal drug policy unfairly targets communities of color, keeping millions of young, black men in a cycle of poverty and behind bars. The book begins by disproving claims that racism is dead. Those who believe that full equality has been achieved would do well to notice many African Americans' reality today. An extraordinary amount of blacks are still barred from voting because in nearly every state, as convicted felons cannot vote. Hundreds of thousands of African Americans have served time in prison because of drug convictions and are branded felons for life. Voting is also barred for those currently incarcerated. Alexander uncovers the system of mass incarceration: a system comprised of laws, rules, policies, and customs that control criminals both in and out of prison. Author: Michelle Alexander.

Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria: And Other Conversations About Race. Beverly Tatum Walk into any racially mixed high school and you will see Black, White, and Latino youth clustered in their own groups. Is this self-segregation a problem to address or a coping strategy? Beverly Daniel Tatum, a renowned authority on the psychology of racism, argues that straight talk about our racial identities is essential if we are serious about enabling communication across racial and ethnic divides. These topics have only

become more urgent as the national conversation about race is increasingly acrimonious. This fully revised edition is essential reading for anyone seeking to understand the dynamics of race in America.

A People's History of the United States. Howard Zinn With a new introduction by Anthony Arnove, this updated edition of the classic national bestseller reviews the book's thirty-five year history and demonstrates once again why it is a significant contribution to a complete and balanced understanding of American history. Known for its lively, clear prose as well as its scholarly research, A People's History of the United States is the only volume to tell America's story from the point of view of—and in the words of—America's women, factory workers, African-Americans, Native Americans, the working poor, and immigrant laborers. As historian Howard Zinn shows, many of our country's greatest battles—the fights for a fair wage, an eight-hour workday, child-labor laws, health and safety standards, universal suffrage, women's rights, racial equality—were carried out at the grassroots level, against bloody resistance.

NOW PLAYING IN THEATERS

Minnesota Cuban Film Festival- Film Society of Minneapolis/St. Paul
February 25-March 31, 2018- <http://mspfilm.org/>

MOVIES AND DOCUMENTARIES

Mickey Mouse Monopoly - Mickey Mouse Monopoly takes a close and critical look at the animated films produced by the Disney Company, and at the world these films create (in terms of the stories told about race, gender and class) and reaches disturbing conclusions about the values propagated under the guise of innocence and...

Race the Power of an Illusion – This is a series, goes back to first principles and asks the question, What is this thing called "race?" - a question so basic it is rarely raised. What we discovered is that most of our common assumptions about race - for instance, that the world's people can be divided biologically along racial lines - are wrong. Yet the consequences of racism are very real.

How do we make sense of these two seeming contradictions? Our hope is that this series can help us all navigate through our myths and misconceptions, and scrutinize some of the assumptions we take for granted. In that sense, the real subject of the film is not so much race but the viewer, or more precisely, the notions about race we all hold. The hope is to provide a series that helps clear away the biological underbrush and leave starkly visible the underlying social, economic, and political conditions that disproportionately channel advantages and opportunities to white people. Perhaps then we can shift the conversation from discussing diversity and respecting cultural difference to building a more just and equitable society.

ON DVD & BLUE-RAY

- Hidden Figures
- Fences
- Lion
- Moonlight
- Cesar Chavez
- Crash
- Remember the Titans
- Antwone Fischer
- Guess Who's Coming to Dinner
- The Help
- American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee

THEATER

Mixed Blood Theater- <http://www.mixedblood.com/onstage>

Safe At Home, March 7-March 12, 2017- Hosted at CHS field in St. Paul this play uses baseball to examine race and immigration in the U.S.

Vietgone, April 10-April 30, 2017- A play that uses a “mash up” of hip hop, comedy, martial arts, and comic book aesthetics to tell a love story of Qui Nguyen’s parents who are refugees from Vietnam.

Penumbra Theater- 270 N. Kent Street, St. Paul, MN 55102

REELTALK- Free film screenings followed by provocative discussions about the themes. Reservations required. <https://penumbratheatre.org/event/baddddd-sonia-sanchez/#1>

Girl Shakes Loose: A Powerful Coming of Age Musical April 18- May 15, 2017
<https://penumbratheatre.org/events>

PERSONAL INTERACTIONS

Quarterly Cross Cultural Conversations

Identify a partner who has a significantly different identity than yourself to have a quarterly conversation about the differences and similarities of your experiences at work and in community settings. Later in your meetings focus on sharing reflections on what you are learning about differences that make a difference.

Ask a colleague or friend to be your learning partner. Commit to going together to 3-4 panel discussions or forums that offer a different perspective and voice on current topics related. Think about different perspectives to include: Race/gender identity, Age/Nationality, Ability/Race/Sexual Orientation, and Religion/Socioeconomic class, etc.

WORKPLACE ACTIVITIES

Organize an event where a local theater group performs a production for your organization's employees with a facilitated discussion after the performance.

<http://pillsburyhouseandtheatre.org/breaking-ice/>

Participate in a committee or partner with Employee Resource groups to help plan events for your organization's employees to learn about topics related to Black History Month, Native American History Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, LGBTQ History, Women's History Month, etc.

Attend an evening or weekend event at the MN Humanities center. The Humanities center hosts history series, speaker series, and education classes that help bring together literature, historians, storytellers, and an audience to

<https://mnhum.org/community-conversations>

Community Conversations are your opportunity to join us for fun, challenging, fascinating events that help build thoughtful, literate, and engaged Minnesotans. How do we amplify and recognize authentic narratives of traditionally under-represented people? How do we engage in civil discourse about what unites us, not divides us? How do we feel inspired and energized by our shared humanity? We feel that Community Conversations and the humanities are a place to start.