Dear friends,

Last week as I watched the televised memorial for George Floyd and observed 8 minutes and 46 seconds of silence in his honor (the length of time George lay dying on the ground), I wept for the Black lives taken by violence in recent weeks, and for the generations upon generations of violence against Black communities in this country. At the same time, I experienced a deep sense of unity with the tens of thousands of people across the country who are rising to this occasion to act against racial injustice.

We at PiRI stand in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and with Black-led organizations in our region: Greater Rochester Black Agenda, The Avenue BlackBox Theater, Flower City Noire Collective, 540WMain, Inc., and Yoga 4 a Good Hood, among many others. We see you, we support you, and we thank you for your leadership.

See PiRI’s Statement Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis

If you are a white person like me, you may be asking, What can I do? At this historic moment, we need all white people to stand in solidarity against racism. If you are new to this movement, the good news is there are many resources out there to help you on your journey of becoming an anti-racist and white ally for racial justice. If you are an educator, you have an important role to play at this moment in history. Even as the school year comes to a close, we urge you to keep connected and keep offering support to your staff, students, and families. We have posted a number of resources especially for educators here:

See PiRI’s Guidance for School Districts on Responding to Recent Events and Racism in America

At this extraordinary time in history, as we are living through both a worldwide pandemic as well as a collective awakening to racial injustice, we as restorative practitioners can use our skills of community building and collaborative responses to harm to be a force for good. If we can be of support, please reach out to let us know.

We are in this together.

In solidarity and peace,

Shira May,

Executive Director

— Angela Davis

"You have to act as if it were possible to radically transform the world. And you have to do it all the time."
PiRI Virtual Annual Meeting Recap
May 20, 2020

We asked: How long have you been connected with PiRI and how have Restorative Practices enriched your life?

“Restorative Practices has changed the way I sit with people. The invitation to just be in relationship and not need to have the answers has been a gift. I am able to see and hear people more clearly because of it.”

“Restorative practices are helping me in my personal relationships and in my community work, by giving me tools to be present more fully and constructively.”

“20+ years in some fashion! Made me rethink conflict resolution in so many ways!”

“12 years of wonderful connection and learning. No way to put into words what learning these practices has meant to me personally and professionally”

“Restorative Practices has taught me how to help people be heard both in and out of school.”

JUNETEENTH
The celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States on June 19, 1865.

HOW TO CELEBRATE, DONATE & PARTICIPATE:

- ROC Virtual 5k Run/Walk—Register at https://www.itsyourrace.com/. $10/person. Donations will go to the construction of Rochester’s Civil Rights Heritage Park
- Black Lives Matter Rochester—To donate, Venmo blmroc
- Flower City Noire Collective—http://flowercitynoirecollective.org/
- 540 West Main—https://540westmain.org/
- The Avenue Blackbox Theatre—https://www.avenuetheatre.org/

Special Thanks to: The Boston based chamber choir, Voices 21C, Tasha Potter, Principal on Special Assignment for Equity and Family Engagement at Greece Central School District and Kristine Hill and Monty Hill from the Skarù·rę Tuscarora Indian Nation.

“12 years of wonderful connection and learning. No way to put into words what learning these practices has meant to me personally and professionally”
Overview of Restorative Justice and the Criminal Justice System

Monday, June 22, 2020
11:00am-12:30pm
Cost: $15

Zoom Virtual Meeting (pre-register to receive the Zoom link)
Presented by Jessica Able and Gail Ferraioli

Interested in ways that restorative justice can be applied in the criminal justice system? Join us for this virtual workshop to learn about the philosophy of restorative justice and how it looks in practice in the field. Topics include: restorative vs. retributive models of justice, practical applications, efficacy and what constitutes success, elements of a community conference, and the role of a restorative justice facilitator. This workshop is appropriate for criminal justice professionals, students, faculty, as well as the general public.

Registration required by June 18 at: www.pirirochester.org/events
The first ever Pride was a protest in New York City outside of the Stonewall Inn in 1969, lead by black transgender women. As Pride month begins, so does a call for action against police brutality and systemic racism in the United States. Because of the current pandemic, large gatherings have been put on pause, but it does not mean there aren’t ways to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community, and in particular, the roots of protesting everyday inequalities in our country.

**HOW TO VIRTUALLY CELEBRATE:**

1. **#PrideEverywhere**— The Trevor Project, a leading organization in suicide prevention for young LGBTQ+ communities, encourages social media users to hashtag Pride Everywhere to remind people that no matter where you are, have Pride in who you are.

2. **Project Pride**— The Smithsonian kicked off Pride Month with a digital time capsule celebrating the culture, heritage and history of the LGBTQ+ community. This encompasses musicians, allies and artists from across the globe. To watch, visit [https://www.si.edu/events/pride](https://www.si.edu/events/pride)

3. **Virtual Pride Events**—
   
   1. **Capital Pride Mobile:**
      
      June 13th, 10 AM. Watch live at the Capital Pride Website

   2. **Global Pride:**
      
      June 27th. 24-Hour Live Stream on the Global Pride Website

   3. **NYC Pride:**
      
      June 28th, 12 PM. Airs Nationally on ABC Live

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**VIRTUAL TALKING CIRCLE**

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**Monday—June 29, 2020**

To Register, visit [www.pirirochester.org](http://www.pirirochester.org)
M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence Launches Campaign to Keep the Peace

#NonviolenceNow2020 is a media campaign created by the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence, in response to the stress of the COVID-19 pandemic. The campaign hopes to promote solidarity in the Rochester community and highlight the power of choice during this prolonged crisis. Director Kit Miller says her group’s new campaign presents nonviolence as a solution for young people. The campaign takes on increased urgency as Rochester heals from street violence that occurred after community wide protests in support of justice for Black Lives.

For more information and to learn how to participate, visit:
https://rochesterbeacon.com/2020/06/02/the-importance-of-nonviolence-now/

In Loving Memory of

Wilma Campbell

A committed community activists for racial justice, nonviolence and within her faith community.

She will be missed dearly.

Left to right: Kay Pranis, Wilma Campbell
Our Calendar

JUNE 2020:

• June 12th, 19th & 23rd—Restorative Discipline Training—West Irondequoit Schools
• June 17th—Panel on “Equity and Access in pk-16+ Education within the Context of a Global Pandemic” for the National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME) of New York State—OPEN TO THE PUBLIC—VIRTUAL
• June 19th—JUNETEENTH
• June 17th, 18th & 30th—Restorative Discipline Training—Batavia Schools
• June 22nd—Overview of Restorative Justice and the Criminal Justice System—OPEN TO THE PUBLIC—VIRTUAL
• June 25th, 26th, 29th & July 1st—3 Day Community Building Circle Training—Our Lady of Mercy
• June 29th—Talking Circle—FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC—VIRTUAL

SAVE THE DATE:

• July 27th—Talking Circle—FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC—VIRTUAL

For more information and to register, visit our website at www.pirirochester.org and click Events or contact us at 585-473-0970 or office@pirirochester.org.

If you would like to volunteer as a Community Talking Circle co-facilitator, please contact Shira May at smay@pirirochester.org.

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is the monthly newsletter of Partners in Restorative Initiatives. A talking piece is used in circles to create a space for each person to speak and for others to listen.

Contributing writers: Shira May, Taylor Converse

Send mailing updates, corrections and submissions to: Partners in Restorative Initiatives 111 Hillside Avenue, Rochester, NY 14610 Archives at www.pirirochester.org

To remove your name from our mailing list, please email office@pirirochester.org
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