

To:  
Albany UU's

From:  
Inclusivity Team

As a measure to address white supremacy (universally present and/or experienced by virtue of our culture and history) in ourselves, our interactions, and our congregation, the Inclusivity Team is collaborating with Gemma Halfi<sup>i</sup> to provide a book discussion learning group to explore the ideas presented in the book *Caste: The origins of our discontents*,<sup>ii</sup> by Isabel Wilkerson.

This group is being offered on Zoom to the whole congregation. Break-out rooms will be utilized for small-group break-out discussions. Space is limited to a total of 20 people.

Please sign up only if you can plan to be at all three meetings of the group.

There is a suggested donation of \$30, but no individual donation is required, and money should not be a prohibitive factor in anyone's participation. All donors and amounts are confidential. At Gemma's request, funds that would normally be allocated for her payment will be directed to the YWCA of the Greater Capital Region.<sup>iii</sup> Participation in this program is not required for submission of a donation to support this program and the YWCA of the Greater Capital Region.

The group will meet as follows, on Zoom:

Tuesdays, a lunch and learn format, noon-1:00

8/3

8/10

8/17

On each date, there will be discussed approximately a third of the book, in order.

Register with Patience Pechette, Church Administrator Assistant: [office@albanyuu.org](mailto:office@albanyuu.org). Specify your name and "Caste discussion group."

The Inclusivity Team is hoping that the recommended donation (\$100 per session; \$300 for 3 meetings) could come from a combination of funds from personal donations

and the budgets of the Inclusivity Team. All donations, including in excess of \$300, will be forwarded to the YWCA of the Greater Capital Region.

Individual donations can be made in the following way:

- 1) Send your check, with “Caste discussion group” on the memo line, to the church: Albany UU; 405 Washington Avenue; Albany, NY 12206. Mail is being processed while the building is closed.
- 2) Online donations cannot be processed at this time.

For more information, contact Anne Marie Haber ([amhaber@aol.com](mailto:amhaber@aol.com) or home landline: 518.274.5541. If you leave a message, be sure to leave a phone number).

Thank you, in advance, for your support and participation in this program!

### The Inclusivity Team

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<sup>i</sup> Gemma Halfi is the Assistant Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Emma Willard School. She directs social justice programming there, and she facilitates and enables community outreach activities that link relevant and meaningful experiences to the students' academic curriculum.

<sup>ii</sup> At the time of this writing, there are 71 hard copies, 7 CD audiobooks, 13 downloadable audiobooks, and 16 downloadable e-books in the Upper Hudson Library System. If they are all in circulation, submit a request today. For purchase, there are hard copies available at Market Block Books in Troy (518.328.0045) and digital audiobooks at Audible.

<sup>iii</sup> The YWCA of the Greater Capital Region has as its mission **To Eliminate Racism and Empower Women**. They provide housing for women and children living in profound poverty, community food programs, and education programs, among other services. Their current executive director, Starletta Smith, and their former executive director, Daquetta Jones, are both women of color. There are women of color in all levels of the organization. If you'd like to read more about the YWCA of the Greater Capital Region, you can click here:

<https://www.ywca-gcr.org/>