

Justice Ministry Bibliography

Email Meredith if you'd like an electronic version of this, or if you have suggestions to add to this list!

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Books

Highlighted books are available in the Kemper Library

The Light We Give ~ How Sikh Wisdom Can Transform Your Life, by Simran Jeet Singh.

An inspiring approach to a happier, more fulfilling life through Sikh teachings on love and service.

As a boy growing up in South Texas, Simran Jeet Singh and his brothers confronted racism daily: at school, in their neighborhood, playing sports, and later in college and beyond. Despite the prejudice and hate he faced, this self-described "turban-wearing, brown-skinned, beard-loving Sikh" refused to give in to negativity. Instead, Singh delved deep into the Sikh teachings that he grew up with and embraced the lessons to seek the good in every person and situation and to find positive ways to direct his energy. These Sikh tenets of love and service to others have empowered him to forge a life of connection and a commitment to justice that have made him a national figure in the areas of equity, inclusion, and social justice.

The Light We Give lays out how we can learn to integrate ethical living to achieve personal happiness and a happier life. It speaks to those who are inspired to take on positive change but don't know where to begin. To those who crave the chance to be empathetic but are afraid of looking vulnerable. To those who seek the courage to confront hatred with love and compassion. Singh reaches beyond his comfort zone to practice this deeper form of living and explores how everyone can learn the insights and skills that have kept him engaged and led him to commit to activism without becoming consumed by anger, self-pity, or burnout.

Part memoir, part spiritual journey, *The Light We Give* is a transformative book of hope that shows how each of us can turn away from fear and uncertainty and move toward renewal and positive change.

See No Stranger ~ A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love, by Valerie Kaur.

How do we love in a time of rage? How do we fix a broken world while not breaking ourselves? Valerie Kaur—renowned Sikh activist, filmmaker, and civil rights lawyer—describes revolutionary love as the call of our time, a radical, joyful practice that extends in three directions: to others, to our opponents, and to ourselves. It enjoins us to see no stranger but instead look at others and

say: *You are part of me I do not yet know*. Starting from that place of wonder, the world begins to change: It is a practice that can transform a relationship, a community, a culture, even a nation.

Kaur takes readers through her own riveting journey—as a brown girl growing up in California farmland finding her place in the world; as a young adult galvanized by the murders of Sikhs after 9/11; as a law student fighting injustices in American prisons and on Guantánamo Bay; as an activist working with communities recovering from xenophobic attacks; and as a woman trying to heal from her own experiences with police violence and sexual assault. Drawing from the wisdom of sages, scientists, and activists, Kaur reclaims love as an active, public, and revolutionary force that creates new possibilities for ourselves, our communities, and our world. See *No Stranger* helps us imagine new ways of being with each other—and with ourselves—so that together we can begin to build the world we want to see.

Check out the Revolutionary Love Website here: [The Revolutionary Love Project](#)
- [Valarie Kaur](#)

People Get Ready: Twelve Jesus-Haunted Misfits, Malcontents, and Dreamers in Pursuit of Justice

Meet twelve activists whose faith transformed twentieth-century America.

In a political climate where Christianity is increasingly seen as reactionary, *People Get Ready* offers a revolutionary alternative. Narrated by some of the most galvanizing voices of the current moment, this collection of succinct and evocative biographies tells the stories of twelve modern apostles who lived the gospel mission and unsettles what we think we know about Christianity's role in American politics.

Evicted - Poverty and Profit In the American City, by Matthew Desmond

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE • ONE OF TIME'S TEN BEST NONFICTION BOOKS OF THE DECADE • ONE OF THE NEW YORK TIMES'S 100 BEST BOOKS OF THE 21ST CENTURY

One of the most acclaimed books of our time, this modern classic “has set a new standard for reporting on poverty” (Barbara Ehrenreich, *The New York Times Book Review*).

In *Evicted*, Princeton sociologist and MacArthur “Genius” Matthew Desmond follows eight families in Milwaukee as they each struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Hailed as “wrenching and revelatory” (*The Nation*), “vivid and unsettling” (*New York Review of Books*), *Evicted* transforms our understanding of poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of twenty-first-century America’s most devastating problems. Its unforgettable scenes of hope and loss remind us of the centrality of home, without which nothing else is possible.

Braiding Sweetgrass, Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants by Robin Wall Kimmerer, is a 2013 nonfiction book by Potawatomi professor Robin Wall Kimmerer, about the role of Indigenous knowledge as an alternative or complementary approach to Western mainstream scientific methodologies. *Braiding Sweetgrass* explores reciprocal relationships between humans and the land, with a focus on the role of plants and botany in both Native American and Western traditions.

This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation, and the Stories That Make Us, by Cole Arthur Riley. In her stunning debut, the creator of *Black Liturgies* weaves stories from three generations of her family alongside contemplative reflections to discover the “necessary rituals” that connect us with our belonging, dignity, and liberation.

The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together, by Heather McGhee. One of today’s most insightful and influential thinkers offers a powerful exploration of inequality and the lesson that generations of Americans have failed to learn: Racism has a cost for everyone—not just for people of color.

Call Us What We Carry By Amanda Gorman (the poet who read her poem so engagingly at Biden’s inauguration – that poem is included in this book)

The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates by Wes Moore. *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER • The “compassionate” (*People*), “startling” (*Baltimore Sun*), “moving” (*Chicago Tribune*) true story of two kids with the same name from the city: One went on to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated combat veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader. The other is serving a life sentence in prison.

Horse by Geraldine Brooks A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: from these strands, a Pulitzer Prize winner braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across American history.

Lies My Teacher Told Me, by James Loewen. What started out as a survey of the twelve leading American history textbooks has ended up being what the *San Francisco Chronicle* calls “an extremely convincing plea for truth in education.” In *Lies My Teacher Told Me*, James W. Loewen brings history alive in all its complexity and ambiguity. Beginning with pre-Columbian history and ranging over characters and events as diverse as Reconstruction, Helen Keller, the first Thanksgiving, the My Lai massacre, 9/11, and the Iraq War, Loewen offers an eye-opening critique of existing textbooks, and a wonderful retelling of American history as it should—and could—be taught to American students.

Take My Hand, by Dolen Perkins-Valdez. Inspired by true events that rocked the nation, a searing and compassionate new novel about a Black nurse in post-

segregation Alabama who blows the whistle on a terrible injustice done to her patients, from the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Wench*.

Killers of Dream, by Lillian Smith. Published to wide controversy, it became the source (acknowledged or unacknowledged) of much of our thinking about race relations and was for many a catalyst for the civil rights movement. It remains the most courageous, insightful, and eloquent critique of the pre-1960s South.

"I began to see racism and its rituals of segregation as a symptom of a grave illness," Smith wrote. "When people think more of their skin color than of their souls, something has happened to them." Today, readers are rediscovering in Smith's writings a forceful analysis of the dynamics of racism, as well as her prophetic understanding of the connections between racial and sexual oppression.

Tattoos on the Heart, by Father Gregory Boyle. Beginning in the 1980s, **Father Gregory Boyle** began to preach from the Dolores Mission church, located in one of the poorest parts of the city of Los Angeles. Boyle, a Jesuit by training, witnessed the extent of the gang violence in his new community. Teenagers and even little children were killed every week, and there was an overall mood of hopelessness. Boyle decided that he would use his religious training to address these terrifying problems. He reformed the rules of the church and made a point of welcoming all people, gang members or not, to Mass. He also founded a school program for gang members who'd been kicked out of their ordinary schools. Finally, with the help of the powerful philanthropist **Ray Stark**, he founded a nonprofit called Homeboy Industries. This company was designed to provide employment, tattoo removal, psychiatric counseling, and other services for ex-gang members looking to change their lives.

Boyle's memoir is structured around the dozens of young people with whom he's interacted over the years. Each chapter discusses different gang members and ex-gang members Boyle meets, and the moral lessons Boyle learns from them.

The Way of Abundance: Economic Justice in Scripture and Society, by Edith Rassel In *The Way of Abundance*, economist and minister Edith Rasell examines Old and New Testament teachings on economic justice in the context of the ancient economic systems and circumstances they addressed. The book concludes with specific public policy proposals and personal practices that would move contemporary society closer to the Bible's economic vision.

This Is How It Always Is, by Laurie Frankel (2018). It's a novel, but it opens one's eyes to what the idea of being born into the "wrong" body means, without being preachy (apologies to the Preachers!) or strident. It's a lovely and well told tale about a difficult subject. It is fiction, but the author is a parent of a transgender child.

Why are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? And other conversations about Race by Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum (see also Ted Talk referenced below)

The Future We Choose by Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac (both key figures forging the 2016 Paris Climate agreement) - very 'can do'.

Saving Us by climate scientist Katharine (with an a) Hayhoe, released Sept 2021, I heard her both on On Being and at the Bridging the Divides conference I participated in, in September 2021.

See No Stranger: A memoir and manifesto of Revolution, Valarie Kaur. Beautiful perspective from a Sikh woman about putting ourselves in the others shoes. View her Ted Talk here: <https://valariekaur.com/ted-valarie-kaur/>

Beyond Guilt Trips: Mindful Travel in An Unequal World, by Anu Taranth

Every year, hundreds of thousands of young people pack their bags to study or volunteer abroad. Well-intentioned and curious Westerners--brought up to believe that international travel broadens our horizons--travel to low-income countries to learn about people and cultures different from their own. While travel abroad can provide much-needed perspective, it can also be deeply unsettling, confusing, and discomforting. Travelers can find themselves unsure about how to think or speak about the differences in race or culture they find, even though these differences might have fueled their desire to travel in the first place.

In *Beyond Guilt Trips: Mindful Travel in an Unequal World*, storyteller Anu Taranath begins at home, unpacking our baggage about who we are, where we come from, and how much we have. She takes us on a journey through engaging personal travel stories and thought-provoking questions, providing us with tools to grapple with our discomfort and navigate differences with accountability and connection. Yes, travel! But be mindful. Be present.

American Dirt, by Jeanine Cummins. Helps understand what prompts some people to flee their country to the US.

A Few Red Drops: The Chicago Race Riot of 1919 by Claire Hartfield

The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration by Isabel Wilkerson

Caste by Isabel Wilkerson. Wilkerson's personal experiences are interwoven with a powerful history of slavery, Reconstruction interrupted, Jim Crow laws, Civil Rights efforts, and the resulting ills, social, political, health, mental health. She shows the similarity and interrelationship of caste systems at work in India, the US, and Nazi Germany. Her metaphors are powerful in helping us to see in a new way.

Raising White Kids: Bringing Up Children In a Racially Unjust America by Jennifer Harvey (see podcast below)

I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness by Austin Channing Brown

Stamped by Jason Reynolds

How to Be an Anti-Racist by Ibrim X Kendi

The 1619 Project by Nikole Hannah-Jones and the NYT. *The New York Times Magazine*'s award-winning "1619 Project" issue reframed our understanding of American history by placing slavery and its continuing legacy at the center of our national narrative. This new book substantially expands on that work, weaving together eighteen essays that explore the legacy of slavery in present-day America with thirty-six poems and works of fiction that illuminate key moments of oppression, struggle, and resistance.

A Most Beautiful Thing: The True Story of America's First All-Black High School Rowing Team by Arshay Cooper (took place at an inner-city Chicago high school and gives a real view of violence in the neighborhood) Also a documentary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cxWhdwpFCgQ>

God and the Gay Christian, by Matthew Vines. Unique in its affirmation of both an orthodox faith and sexual diversity, *God and the Gay Christian* is likely to spark heated debate, sincere soul searching, even widespread cultural change. Not only is it a compelling interpretation of key biblical texts about same-sex relations, it is also the story of a young man navigating relationships with his family, his hometown church and the Christian church at large as he expresses what it means to be a faithful gay Christian.

Transforming by Austen Hartke. In this updated and expanded edition you'll find new terminology that reflects the changing language of gender; up-to-date statistics on trans communities, and new materials for congregational study, preaching, and pastoral care. With a new forward by Jamie and Rebekah Bruesehoff on the experience of Christian affirmation for trans youth, and a new afterward with a conversation on pastoral care with Dr. Susannah Cornwall, the new edition of

Transforming is a must-have for those interested in the experiences of transgender Christians.

The Bible's Yes to Same Sex Marriage by Mark Achtemeier. In the early 2000's, Mark Achtemeier embarked on a personal journey with the Bible that led him from being a conservative, evangelical opponent of gay rights to an outspoken activist for gay marriage and a fully inclusive church. In *The Bible's Yes to Same-Sex Marriage*, Achtemeier shares what led to his change of heart: the problems with excluding groups of people and the insights into the Bible's message that led him to recognize the fullness of God's love and support for LGBT persons. Readers will discover how reading snippets of Scripture out of context has led to false and misleading interpretations of the Bible's message for gay people. Achtemeier shows how a careful reading of the whole Scripture reveals God's good news about love, marriage, and sexuality for gay and straight people alike.

Embracing the Journey: A Christian Parent's Journey to Loving Your LGBTQ Child by Greg and Lynn McDonald. Greg and Lynn McDonald had never interacted with members of the LGBTQ+ community other than a casual acquaintance until they discovered that their son was gay—and without resources or support, they had no idea how to handle this discovery. At first, they tried to “fix” him, to no avail. But even in the earliest days of their journey, the McDonalds clung to two absolutes: they would love God, and they would love their son.

This book follows the McDonald family's journey over the next twenty years, from grief to a place of gratitude and acceptance that led the McDonalds' to start one of the first Christian ministries for parents of LGBTQ+ children. Based on their experience from coaching hundreds of struggling Christian parents and helping thousands more, they offer tools for understanding your emotional patterns and spiritual challenges. They also help you experience a deeper relationship with God while handling difficult or unexpected situations that are out of your control. You will discover tested principles, patterns, and spiritual lessons that can change the way we all see our families and help Christians at large think through Christ-like ways to respond to the LGBTQ community.

Written in an unvarnished, honest, reassuring, and relatable voice, this is a practical guide for parents and a blueprint to learning to love God, the people He created, and the church, even when they seem to be at odds.

Broken Horses by Brandi Carlile. Evocative and piercingly honest, *Broken Horses* is at once an examination of faith through the eyes of a person rejected by the church's basic tenets and a meditation on the moments and lyrics that have shaped the life of a creative mind, a brilliant artist, and a genuine empath on a mission to give back.

Know My Name, by Chanel Miller. Universally acclaimed, rapturously reviewed, and an instant *New York Times* bestseller, Chanel Miller's breathtaking memoir "gives readers the privilege of knowing her not just as Emily Doe, but as Chanel Miller the writer, the artist, the survivor, the fighter." (*The Wrap*). Her story of trauma and

transcendence illuminates a culture biased to protect perpetrators, indicting a criminal justice system designed to fail the most vulnerable, and, ultimately, shining with the courage required to move through suffering and live a full and beautiful life.

Books Available in our Youth Room Library

1. Stamped by Jason Reynolds & Ibram X. Kendi
2. Stamped From the Beginning by Ibram X. Kendi
3. Separate is Never Equal by Duncan Tonatiuh (childrens/picture book)
4. We Too Sing America by Deepa Iyer
5. Little Legends: Exceptional Men in Black History by Vashti Harrison (childrens)
6. Black Enough: Stories of Being Young & Black in America, edited by Ibi Zoboi (17 authors)
7. Toxic Charity by Robert D. Lupton
8. Raising White Kids: Bringing up Children in a Racially Unjust America by Jennifer Harvey
9. The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America by Richard Rothstein
10. Reclaiming Your Community: You Don't Have to Move Out of Your Neighborhood to Live in a Better One by Majora Carter
11. All Boys Aren't Blue by George M. Johnson
12. The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander
13. When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor...or Yourself by Setev Corbett & Brian Fikkert
14. One Person, No Vote: How Not All Voters are Treated Equally by Crol Anderson with Tonya Bolden
15. White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism by Robin Diangelo

Articles

Skipped History Satirist Ben Tumin speaks to leading historians about the overlooked and under-examined events, movements, and people that shaped American history. https://open.substack.com/pub/skippedhistory/p/the-singular-and-emblematic-history-8f3?r=2u3ti&utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=email

[Black, Jewish Leaders: We Are Standing Together to Fight Bigotry in America](#) (USA Today, Sept. 2020)

[Breaking the Building Blocks of Hate: A Case Study of Minecraft Servers](#) (ADL Report, July 2022)

[What 3 Jewish Organizations Are Doing about Antisemitism](#) (Schusterman.org, Oct. 2022)

Remembering Oak Creek (the deadly assault on a Sikh community in 2021 and the action they've taken since) [Remember Oak Creek](#)

A Letter to my Black daughter after the fall of Roe [A letter to my Black daughter after the fall of Roe v. Wade's abortion rights protections](#) (christiancentury.org)

Resources

Loyola Stands Against Gun Violence <https://standagainstgunviolence.org/>

Terminology for Discussing Gender. <https://www.luriechildrens.org/en/specialties-conditions/gender-development-program/resources/terminology-for-discussing-gender/>

Human Rights Campaign. [Allies - Human Rights Campaign \(hrc.org\)](#)

Transmission Ministry Collective. [Home - Transmission Ministry Collective](#)

Beloved Arise. Beloved Arise is a movement dedicated to LGBTQIA+ youth of faith. We build relationships, offer support, and inspire youth to embrace life to the fullest. [Beloved Arise](#)

What does the Bible say about homosexuality, same-sex attraction, & being Transgender? [LGBTQ-Affirming Scripture | St. Hugh Episcopal | Elgin, IL \(sthugh.net\)](#)

Speaking Up Without Tearing Down. [Speaking Up Without Tearing Down | Learning for Justice](#)

Podcasts

How White Parents Can Talk to their Kids about Race with Jennifer Harvey

<https://www.npr.org/2020/06/03/869071246/how-white-parents-can-talk-to-their-kids-about-race>

Talking Race with Young Children

<https://www.npr.org/2019/04/24/716700866/talking-race-with-young-children>

Videos/Films/Movies/TV Series

[Conspiracy to Massacre: Antisemitism in America](#) (25 minutes, June 2020) - Fault Lines examines rising levels of violence and threats against Jewish Americans and the anti-Semitic conspiracy theories that often animate these attacks.

[Antisemitism Explained](#) by Anne Frank House (6 minutes, Sept. 2019) - A timeline of Jewish persecution

[Documenting Hate: New American Nazis](#) (53 minutes, Nov. 2020) - Frontline

[Exploring Hate: How Antisemitism Fuels White Nationalism](#) (6 minutes, Oct. 2021) - PBS News Hour

13th ~ Netflix The title of Ava DuVernay's extraordinary and galvanizing documentary 13TH refers to the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, which reads "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States." The progression from that second qualifying clause to the horrors of mass criminalization and the sprawling American prison industry is laid out by DuVernay with bracing lucidity. With a potent mixture of archival footage and testimony from a dazzling array of activists, politicians, historians, and formerly incarcerated women and men, DuVernay creates a work of grand historical synthesis.

Just Mercy ~ (Also, a book) A powerful and thought-provoking true story that follows young lawyer Bryan Stevenson and his history-making battle for justice.

Nonviolent Communication Projects, each is 40 min long:

Words that Liberate based on The Freedom Project in Oregon and Washington

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nmPYRgi8VFg>

Women Daring Peace

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4yK-wVSomQU>

Is My Skin Brown Because I Drink Chocolate Milk – Ted Talk with Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum

<https://tedx.stanford.edu/lineup/beverly-daniel-tatum>

FIRSTHAND: Segregation tackles one of Chicago's most enduring facts of life, doing what research studies, facts, and figures about the racial divide in Chicago cannot do: it shows how segregation and its inequities impact everyday life in Chicago. The 15 stories and 6 talks together reveal the social, economic, and political causes and costs of segregation, the promises and perils of integration, the difference between imposed segregation and self-segregation, and the inspiring efforts to dismantle and disrupt the inequities and divisions that flow from segregation.

The purpose of the *FIRSTHAND* project is to put a human face on issues facing Chicago and bring to life important stories from personal, firsthand perspectives.

<https://interactive.wttw.com/firsthand/segregation>

[Links to Other Resources](#)

Helpful guide for healthy conversations: [General-Facilitation-Tips.pdf \(onetable.org\)](#)

Anti-Racism Resources:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BRIF2_zhNe86SGgHa6-VIBO-QgirlTwCTugSfKie5Fs/edit

[Music](#)

A Beautiful Noise Alicia Keys, Brandi Carlile - (Official Video)

https://youtu.be/_yU1x-p_OdY

Glory John Legend, Common https://youtu.be/HUZOKvYcx_o

[Outings](#)

My Block. My Hood. My City. <https://www.formyblock.org/>

Batter & Berries <https://batterandberries.com/>

Brown Sugar Bakery <https://www.brownsugarbakerychicago.com/>

The Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center

https://www.ilholocaustmuseum.org/?gclid=Cj0KCOiAkNiMBhCxARIsAIDDKNVRrsz6LYDMHa0tMu_3eyX5EIS2GR-kOkF37QyEzxn1iiGRWFwVssEaAj9pEALw_wcB

The DuSable Museum of African American History

<https://www.dusablemuseum.org/>

American Indian Center <http://aicchicago.org/>

Mitchel Museum of the American Indian <https://mitchellmuseum.org/>

The National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture <https://nmprac.org/>

National Museum of Mexican Art <https://nationalmuseumofmexicanart.org/>

International Latino Cultural Center of Chicago <http://latinoculturalcenter.org/>

Chinese-American Museum of Chicago www.ccamuseum.org

Other Lists

[Anti-racism resources for white people \(google.com\)](#)

Other Resources

The CommUNITY Diversity Group of LaGrange: [| CommUNITY Diversity Group of La Grange, IL](#) Explore their website and sign up for the emails, including announcements regarding their series of “Uncomfortable Conversations.”