

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY I.D.E.A. COALITION

A County-wide coalition to promote Racial and Social Justice through Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access (I.D.E.A.)

The **mission** of the Chautauqua County I.D.E.A. Coalition is to make Chautauqua County a place where everyone belongs and has opportunities to thrive, especially those who have been historically marginalized.

January 2023 Newsletter

Updates from the I.D.E.A.

Project Director

"Moving Beyond the Past"



As those of the IDEA Coalition's Implementation Team interact with the various communities within our County, especially with the historically marginalized population, one of the concerns we have repeatedly heard is that "things will never change." The inference here is that nothing will change regarding such things as discrimination, inequity, social injustice, and institutional racism within the boundaries of our County. It is as if our past behaviors keep repeating themselves in the lives of people in our County. Or, to put it another way, we are stuck in the past. The question then becomes, how do we move beyond the past?

To move beyond our past behaviors, we first must realize that we are a people with a history. In other words, every group of people, regardless of race or ethnicity, has inherited the history of its previous generation. Thus, it does matter what side of history we have inherited at this point in life. What matters is that we have come to accept what history has given us.

Second, we must also realize that we are a people with a calling to make an impact to provide a history for the next generation that is better and more united than the one we inherited. In other words, we have not only inherited a past but also a calling to do something regarding this past that will impact the future generation for a better life. What we do with this "calling" will keep us in the past or propel us into a more united future. The question is, will we answer the call, and if so, how will we answer?

I have often said change is something that takes hard work and involves a united commitment from all sectors of our County. In so doing, all sectors of our County must realize and accept its part of history and answer the call to work in unity to provide a more united future for the next generation. The role of the IDEA Coalition's Steering Committee and Implementation Team is to provide an avenue or to be a vehicle (or a bridge) to help all sectors of our County to work together so that the next generation will not have to deal with the issues of discrimination, inequity, social injustice, and institutional racism.

We look forward to working with you as we all answer the call to make an impact of change in our County.



[I.D.E.A. Facebook Page](#)

IDEA Project Director
Leecroft Clarke

IDEA-Director@uwayscc.org
716-483-1561

Next I.D.E.A. Full Coalition Meeting - Thursday, February 16th 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.



Town Hall Meetings

The Coalition has chosen to focus its attention initially on issues specific to the Black/African American and Latino/Hispanic communities. The initial four community meetings are intended to engage those communities in open conversation to hear from them directly regarding their concerns and needs. Refreshments will be provided. Learnings from the community meetings will help determine and prioritize next steps toward the I.D.E.A. Coalition membership's ultimate goal of providing solutions to address identified barriers and concerns. Dates and locations are:

- [Black/African American Community Meeting, North County](#)
 - 6 p.m. Wednesday, January 18, at Dunkirk High School Cafeteria
- [Black/African American Community Meeting, South County](#)
 - 6 p.m. Thursday, January 26, at Samuel G. Love Elementary School
- [Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting, North County](#)
 - 6 p.m. Tuesday, February 28, at Dunkirk High School Cafeteria
- [Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting, South County](#)
 - 6 p.m. Thursday, March 2, at Samuel G. Love Elementary School

Please share the flyers provided for the Black/African American Engagement Meetings in the [North County](#) and the [South County](#).

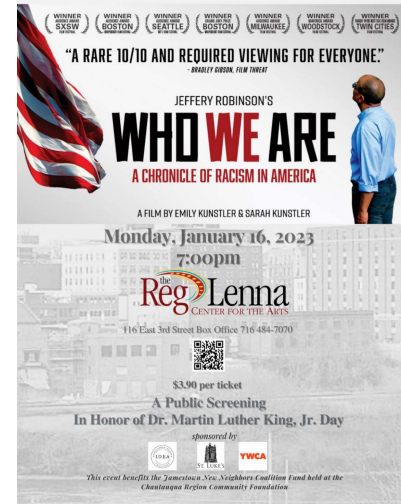
MLK Day Film Screening

"Who We Are" A Chronicle of Racism in America

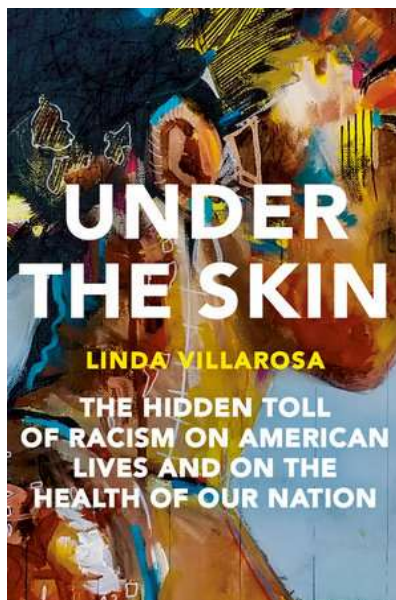
Film Screening @ Reg Lenna Center for the Arts

Join us for a screening of "Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America" on Martin Luther King Jr. Day (January 16) at 7 p.m. at the Reg Lenna Center For The Arts. Proceeds from the ticket sales benefit the New Neighbors Coalition of Jamestown fund held at Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, assisting in refugee resettlement in Jamestown. There will be a

discussion/debrief directly following the viewing. Buy tickets [here](#), call the ticket office at 716-484-7070, or buy them at the door.



Chautauqua County Book Read



“Under the Skin: The Hidden Toll of Racism on American Lives and on the Health of Our Nation” by Linda Villarosa

Chautauqua Institution and YWCA Jamestown are pleased to announce and welcome your active participation in the 2nd Annual **Chautauqua County Book Read**. They have selected “Under the Skin: The Hidden Toll of Racism on American Lives and on the Health of Our Nation” by Linda Villarosa as the book for 2023. The purpose of this shared book read is to engage Chautauqua County residents, businesses, nonprofits and organizations to help heal divides and propel participants to be engaged citizens working towards a more inclusive and just society.

For more information, and to learn how to be a partner organization in this effort, please send an email to chqbookread@ywcajamestown.com

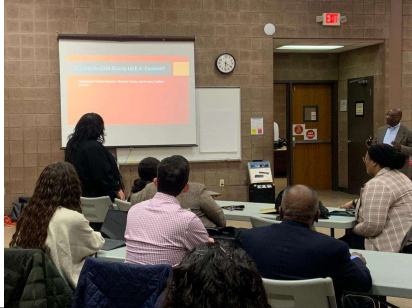
Registration will open on February 16th and there will be 8-10 book discussions (in-person and online) held April 17-28. Author, Linda Villaras will present a lecture on July 20 during Chautauqua County Day at Chautauqua Institution. This is a free day for all Chautauqua County Residents.

I.D.E.A. Progress

Latino Engagement Meeting

The IDEA Coalition hosted an open conversation with the Latino community on Tuesday, November 29th. Those in attendance were able to voice their concerns as a community member and be part of the change they wish to see in the community.

Click here for the Spanish version of [IDEA Coalition Membership and Structure](#) information page



Meet the IDEA Coalition Community Engagement Liaisons

Community Engagement Liaisons are community members who have the connections and trusted relationships with the communities directly impacted by the work of the Coalition. They are community bridge builders from historically marginalized populations who serve as trust brokers and accountability partners. They provide feedback and amplify the voices and concerns of their communities to drive the work of the IDEA Coalition.

Below are the Community Engagement Liaisons that represent the Black/African and Hispanic/Latino communities in the North and South County. Their contact information is below:



Patricia Graves
South County



Sandra Lewis
North County



Shiloh Rivera Martinez
North County

Black/African American Community

Patricia Graves, South County

- 917-548-7518
- janel.graves@gmail.com

Sandra Lewis, North County

- 716-672-9436
- sandrelica@yahoo.com

Hispanic/Latino Community

Shiloh Rivera Martinez, North County

- 718-200-3071
- 9knivesgraphix@gmail.com

Interested in being the South County Community Engagement Liaison?

- [Job description](#)
- Please contact idea-director@uwayscc.org

Events & Resources

Events

- Martin Luther King Jr. Service
 - Sunday, January 15th @ 4:00 p.m. at Emanuel Baptist Church, 53 23rd Street, Jamestown, NY 14701
- Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Luncheon
 - Monday January 16 11:45 a.m. Clarion Hotel 30 Lake Shore Drive East Dunkirk, NY 14048 (Registration closed)
- "Who We Are" Documentary
 - Monday, January 16th @ 7:00 p.m. at The Reg Lenna Center for the Arts
- Town Hall Meetings
 - [Black/African American Community Meeting, North County](#)
 - 6 p.m. Wednesday, January 18, at Dunkirk High School Cafeteria
 - [Black/African American Community Meeting, South County](#)
 - 6 p.m. Thursday, January 26, at Samuel G. Love Elementary School
 - [Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting, North County](#)
 - 6 p.m. Tuesday, February 28, at Dunkirk High School Cafeteria

- **Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting, South County**
 - 6 p.m. Thursday, March 2, at Samuel G. Love Elementary School
- [Lenses of Humanity Workshop with Dr. Kyle Reyes](#)
 - Thursday, February 16th 5:00 pm at Chautauqua Harbor Hotel
 - Register [here](#)

Resources

- **Organizational Racial Equity Self-Assessment Survey** to be used as a tool to assist organizations in assessing current IDEA efforts within their organization
- Learn more about Chautauqua County Equity data by visiting [National Equity Atlas](#)
- **YWCA DEI Trainings**

Current IDEA Members

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chautauqua Adult Day Services • Chautauqua County Office for the Aging • Chautauqua Institution • Chautauqua Opportunities Inc. • Chautauqua Region Community Foundation • Child Advocacy Program of Chautauqua County • Church Apostolic House of Prayer • City of Dunkirk • City of Jamestown • CREATE Project • Dunkirk City Schools • Jamestown Community College • Jamestown Police Department • Jamestown Public Schools • Kids at Promise | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M&T Bank • Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation • Prevention Works, Inc. • Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation, Inc. • Robert H. Jackson Center • Rotary Club of Jamestown, NY • Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union • The Chautauqua Center • The Resource Center • United Way of Northern Chautauqua County • United Way of Southern Chautauqua County • UPMC Chautauqua • YWCA Jamestown |
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Thank you to our funders



For more information about the I.D.E.A. Coalition [click here](#)



United Way of Southern Chautauqua County | 208 Pine Street, Jamestown, NY 14701

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