

Give-Away Books for Session 4:

In celebration of Gay Pride Month:

1. [A Queer History of the United States for Young People](#) (ReVisioning American History for Young People), by Michael Bronski, adapted by Richie Chevat, 2019.

This book explores how LGBTQ people have always been a part of our national identity, contributing to the country and culture for over 400 years.

With engrossing narratives, letters, drawings, poems, and more, the book encourages readers, young and old, of all identities, to feel pride at the accomplishments of LGBTQ people throughout history and as a guide to the future.

Includes many examples, such as

- * Indigenous tribes who embraced same-sex relationships and a multiplicity of gender identities.
- * Emily Dickinson, brilliant nineteenth-century poet
- * Bayard Rustin, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s close friend, civil rights organizer, and an openly gay man.
- * And many more!

Author, Michael Bronski, is Professor of the Practice in Activism and Media in the Studies of Women, Gender and Sexuality at Harvard University.

Following books all recommended by our presenters!

2. [Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race](#), by Debby Irving, 2014.

For years, the author sensed inexplicable racial tensions in her personal and professional relationships. Then one "aha!" moment launched an adventure of discovery and insight that drastically shifted her worldview and upended her life plan.

Van Jones, Co-host, CNN Crossfire said of Debby's book, *"[It] opens a rare window on how white Americans are socialized. Irving's focus on the mechanics of racism operating in just one life -- her own -- may lead white readers to reconsider the roots of their own perspectives -- and their role in dismantling old myths. Readers of color will no doubt find the view through Irving's window fascinating, and telling."*

Debby Irving is an emerging voice in the national racial justice community. Irving works with other white people to transform confusion into curiosity and anxiety into action.

3. [Dying of Whiteness: How the Politics of Racial Resentment Is Killing America's Heartland](#), by Jonathan Metz, 2019.

Physician Jonathan M. Metz brilliantly illuminates the shocking ways that white supremacy, through backlash governance, kills white people, too. Interviewing a range of everyday Americans, he examined how racial resentment has fueled pro-gun laws, resistance to utilizing the Affordable Care Act, and cuts to schools and social services. The cost of these policies, he says, are increasing deaths by gun suicide, falling life expectancies, and rising dropout rates. White Americans, Metz argues, must reject the racial hierarchies that promise to aid them, but in fact lead them, and our nation to demise.

Dr. Metz is the Frederick B. Rentschler II professor of sociology and psychiatry at Vanderbilt University and director of its Center for Medicine, Health, and Society.

4. [Between the World and Me](#), by Ta-Nehisi Coates, 2015.

Hailed as the “the single best writer on the subject of race in the United States,” Ta-Nehisi Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation’s history and current crisis. Americans have built an empire on the idea of “race,” a falsehood that damages us all but falls most heavily on the bodies of black women and men—bodies exploited through slavery and segregation, and, today, threatened, locked up, and murdered out of all proportion. What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this fraught history and free ourselves from its burden?

Between the World and Me is Ta-Nehisi Coates’s attempt to answer these questions, written as a series of letters to his teenaged son.

Ta-Nehisi Coates is a national correspondent for *The Atlantic* and a MacArthur “Genius Grant” fellow.