

## Jones Center News Digest, Issue 3

The Nathaniel R. Jones Center is committed to participating in and furthering conversations and activities that seek to shine light on and work to eliminate the racism, sexism, heterosexism, and other inequalities so rampant in our local, national, and global communities. We believe sharing information that highlights the intersectional nature of historical and present-day inequities matters, and makes a difference in advancing our shared goals for social change. Review our statement: [In Struggle and Solidarity](#).

### Alert!

Watch: [Jammin' for Justice](#) live-stream concert fundraiser for the Jones Center – Saturday, August 15 at 3:00 p.m. ET. See [Details](#).

### Introducing our Social Justice Fellows

We are proud to (re)introduce our 2020-2021 cohort of SJ Fellows. These distinguished, talented JD students serve as ambassadors of the Jones Center as they help with the Jones Center's programming and events throughout the academic year, participate in research projects sponsored by the Center, and otherwise travel their paths as social justice scholars, leaders, and activists.

#### Class of 2021

Caitlin Cliff-Perbix  
Maggie Kane  
Sol Kersey  
Niara Stitt

#### Class of 2022

Morgan Mitchell  
Anisha Rakhra  
Janelle Thompson

#### Class of 2023

Ashley Nkadi  
Inma Sumaita

### Bill Morelli Endowment Fund

The Jones Center is so grateful to Bill Morelli for his support and commitment to the work of the Center through his gift of \$200,000 to establish the Bill Morelli Endowment Fund. His generosity comes at a time when honest dialogue and thoughtful and informed action are urgently needed--as the late Congressman John Lewis put it--to make "good trouble" that will bring justice to those who, despite their continuous struggles, have been too long without it. Thank you to Bill and his wife Cindy for "answering the call"!

### History Matters

Filmmaker Dawn Porter's new documentary, *John Lewis: Good Trouble*, premiered just a few weeks before Congressman John Lewis (D-Ga.) passed away of pancreatic cancer at age 80 on July 17, 2020. The film pays tribute to the legendary civil rights activist, known later as the "conscience of Congress," through interviews and archival footage, and is now available for streaming on demand. You can also learn more the late Rep. Lewis through the 2017 PBS documentary, *John Lewis: Get in the Way*.

**Watch:** [John Lewis: Good Trouble](#) (Magnolia Pictures, 2020)

**Watch:** [John Lewis: Get in the Way](#) (PBS, 2017)

We are honored to count documentarian [Dawn Porter](#), who made *Good Trouble*, as a friend and former guest of the Jones Center. In 2016, Ms. Porter was invited to a Center screening of her documentary, *Trapped*, which aired on PBS's *Independent Lens*, about state Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers (TRAP) laws that significantly limit the ability of women to obtain legal abortions. After the screening, Ms. Porter spoke on a panel about the implications of [Whole Women's Health v. Hellerstedt](#), decided by the Supreme Court earlier in 2016, in which the Court struck down a Texas TRAP law, one of the most restrictive of its kind. Like *Good Trouble*, the award-winning documentary *Trapped* is also available for streaming.

**Watch:** [Trapped](#) (PBS, 2016)

## Community Matters

Inequities of federal coronavirus relief efforts are brought to light in a recent study from the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center at Howard University School of Law, Law for Black Lives-DC, and the Criminal Justice Policy Program at Harvard Law School. The Jones Center is part of a nationwide consortium (along with Howard's Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center) and has signed on to this report.

**Read:** [The Contradiction of Colorblind COVID-19 Relief: Black America in the Age of the Pandemic](#)

During the summer, a small group of rising ninth graders, led by Ben Cecilio, a student at Sycamore High School in suburban Cincinnati, reached out to let us know that, to do their part in supporting the Movement for Black Lives, they were organizing a "student-led fundraiser to benefit the Nathaniel R. Jones Center for Race, Gender, and Social Justice." The fundraiser, called **Jammin' for Justice, will live-stream on Saturday, August 15 at 3:00 p.m. ET**, and feature musical performances by students from Sycamore and Princeton High Schools as well as brief interviews with Social Justice Fellow Caitlin Cliff-Perbix ('21) and Center co-directors Emily Houh and Kristin Kalsem. *Share this event and tune in on the Jammin' for Justice YouTube channel on August 15. Join others in raising funds and, as importantly, in celebrating these wonderful young people who are "answering the call". Judge Jones would be so proud!*

**Watch:** [Jammin' for Justice](#) live-stream concert fundraiser – Saturday, August 15 at 3:00 p.m. ET.

## Perspective Matters

Volume 2019-Issue 1 of the *Freedom Center Journal*, features a foreword by the late Honorable Nathaniel R. Jones.

**Read:** [Freedom Center Journal](#)

A ray of hope emanating from despair? Are we in the midst of a real reckoning with racism?

**Read:** ["Is This the Beginning of the End of American Racism?"](#), by Ibram X. Kendi

An article in *The New Yorker* examines conceptual groupings and their impact on people's complex combinations of race, gender, and class.

**Read:** ["The Perils of 'People of Color'"](#), by E. Tammy Kim

A book review in *The New York Times* highlights poet-laureate and Pulitzer prizewinner Natasha Trethewey's *Memorial Drive: A Daughter's Memoir*, a moving tale of domestic abuse and murder and race in the American South.

**Read:** ["'Memorial Drive' Powerfully Recalls a Southern Childhood and a Mother's Murder"](#), by Dwight Garner

A timely editorial celebrates the life of the late Congressman John Lewis.

**Read:** ["Opinion: Honor John Lewis by getting into good trouble"](#), by Stephanie J. Jones

A long-time journalist who has reported extensively on far-right extremists in the U.S., offers an in-depth look at the protests in Portland.

**Read:** ["What You Need to Know about the Battle of Portland"](#), by Robert Evans

## Jones Center Programming Updates

We are proud to be hosting the ABA's Traveling Exhibit on the Nineteenth Amendment, October 1—16, 2020. We are also making plans to co-sponsor programming with CCM around its production of Zora Neale Hurston's "Spunk," in November 2020. Stay tuned for more information.

### **In Struggle and Solidarity—Statement of the Nathaniel R. Jones Center for Race, Gender, and Social Justice**

Once again, our nation's history—a history borne of conquest, chattel slavery, and exclusion—is erupting into our explosive present. Covid-19, when it finally hit our shores, flagrantly exposed with undeniable clarity the deep structural inequalities created and perpetuated by state and federal policies that have purported to lift up and support all Americans, and the deeply embedded racial biases regularly employed to blame "others" for the failures of our own systems. And now, once again, recent police killings of several unarmed Black and Brown citizens like Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and Breonna Taylor—among so many others—have moved those who suffer most severely the consequences of systemic inequality to action. Once again, our nation is being called on to account for and reckon with our past and our present so that we can finally halt the seemingly endless cycle—a cycle that we've been caught in since our beginnings—of superficial and narrow commitments to "equality" that have led only to more entrenched racial, gender, sex, and class inequality – and as a result, to more despair-fueled anger and necessary struggle.

Our Center—named after the late Nathaniel R. Jones, an iconic civil rights leader and a federal court of appeals judge in the latter part of his career—is committed to helping our students and others to, as Judge Jones put it, "answer the call" – the call to face head-on the complicated and violent past and present that have brought us to this point. We pledge our continued support for and engagement in the struggle toward real equality and liberation—in whatever ways we can—and always in solidarity.

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