

Jones Center News Digest, Issue 7

January 2021

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](#).

This issue highlights critical viewpoints and information about two historical events from January 2021: the January 6 insurrection at the Capitol and the January 20 inauguration of President Joe Biden and Vice-

History Matters

The New York Times recently surveyed 22 writers, asking them what books President Biden should read at this particular moment in American history. Annette Gordon-Reed recommended *Black Reconstruction in America 1860-1880* (1935) by W.E.B. Du Bois. As she explains, "The book recounts the efforts to remake American society in the wake of the Civil War operating on the premise that African Americans are equal citizens of the United States. Du Bois wrote to counteract historians and others who had portrayed the effort as doomed by Black inferiority. He demonstrates that the successes of interracial government were deliberately sabotaged by white supremacists who preferred to maintain a racial hierarchy rather than move into a future grounded in equal citizenship among all Americans."

Read: [Black Reconstruction in America 1860-1880](#) by W.E.B. Du Bois.

Conflict journalist Robert Evans and hip-hop artist Propaganda co-host a new podcast called "Behind the Insurrections," in which they examine the rise of fascism, beginning with Mussolini's March on Rome, and also "unpack the evolution, successes and failures of antifascists in Italy, Germany, and Spain."

Listen: ["Behind the Insurrections"](#) Podcast

In their 2017 book, *Chocolate City: A History of Race and Democracy in the Nation's Capital*, historians Chris Myers Asch and George Derek Musgrove relate the "tumultuous, four-century story of race and democracy" in Washington, DC. *Chocolate City* was named a Best American History book of 2017 by Kirkus Reviews and should be (re-)read now by anyone who wants to better understand why the January 6 insurrection happened and how it fits into the trajectory of American history.

Read: [Chocolate City: A History of Race and Democracy](#), by Chris Myers Asch and George Derek Musgrove

Community Matters

Reporter Emmanuel Felton of *This American Life* talked with several Black Capitol Police officers in the days after the attack on the Capitol on January 6, to uncover what it was like to face off with a mostly white mob.

Listen: [Cops and Mobbers \(thisamericanlife.org\)](#) by Emmanuel Felton

What happened in Washington, DC, on January 6 could have happened soon thereafter right here in Ohio. Recently released FBI reports indicate that those accused of planning the Capitol attack were planning on hitting state capitols next -- including the statehouse in Columbus.

Read & Listen: ["FBI: Some Capitol Insurrectionists Hoped to Target Columbus Next"](#) on local NPR station WXXU's Cincinnati Edition

Perspective Matters

WBUR *Here and Now* writers [Tonya Mosley](#) and [Samantha Raphelson](#) examined the remarkable differences in how pro-Trump extremists were treated by police during the insurrection at the Capitol compared to how Black

Lives Matter protesters were treated during demonstrations. This reading was discussed during the Jones Center's Urgent Conversations student event on January 25.

Read: ["This is America: The Stark Contrast Between Police Response to Capital Mob and BLM Protestors"](#) by Tonya Mosley and Samantha Raphelson

In "Freedom to Assemble, In Two Acts" Rachel Chason and Samantha Schmidt of the *Washington Post* illustrated the stark contrasts between the events of June 1 (Black Lives Matter protests against the killing of George Floyd) and January 6 (Insurrection of the Capitol) through a chronological timeline and compelling images. This reading was also discussed during the Jones Center's Urgent Conversations student event on January 25.

Read: ["The Freedom to Assemble, In Two Acts"](#) by Rachel Chason and Samantha Schmidt

Hosted by Amna Nawaz, *PBS NewsHour* and Student Reporting Labs aired a special broadcast, *"We the Young People..."* which highlighted the impact of young voters and the change they want to see from the new White House administration. The broadcast premiered ahead of the inauguration of President Joe Biden.

Watch: [We the Young People](#)

Upcoming Events

Watch your email for updates and Zoom invites. Join us!

Monday, 2/8, 7:00 PM	Welcome Back/Social Hour on Zoom. Join us for a "Go Local!" show & tell.
Monday, 2/15, 7:00 PM	Urgent Conversations on Zoom—"Bad Medicine and Racial Disparities in Health Care Systems"
Friday, 2/26, 12:15 PM	"Making a Difference While Making a Buck" Panel Discussion about Public Interest Jobs
Monday, 3/6, 7:00 PM	Urgent Conversations on Zoom
Thursday, 4/1, 7:00 PM	Urgent Conversations on Zoom
Thursday, 4/8, 9:00 AM	Morelli Virtual Conference: "Belonging and Difference: Interdisciplinary Perspectives"

Read, Watch, and Listen More

Visit the Jones Center website to browse the News Digest Archives, our Social Justice Blog, and more.

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.