The Anti-racism Study Group online meeting notes 11/16/20

In attendance: Alice, Judith, Diane, Maureen, Beth, Ann and Jane (note taker)

11am: we agreed on the group’s name as show above.

 Next meeting 3 weeks, on Dec 7th at 11 AM.

Alice agreed to share additional You Tube links to Jeffrey Robinson talks, as we commented on how much we enjoyed them. He speaks for long stretches without notes. History we didn’t learn in school, such as the Tulsa massacre in 1921 and the history of the confederate flag, and the confederate statue in Arlington Cemetery with a mammy. We all commented on how much were learning and how good that feels.

Not everyone has started Ijeoma Oluo’s book, So You Want to Talk About Race. Jane mentioned it’s also on audiobook, available from Audible.com or perhaps for free with library membership online.

We agreed our study group is still open for more members including men.

Alice said Oluo wants people to speak up about race and racism. Ann said sometimes racism takes the form of micro aggressions like: you don’t look Italian or I don’t like Italians but I like you. We all talked about how our group is white women and Ocean County is mainly white. What happened to the black families? Alice mentioned Red Bank changed from black to Mexican. Perhaps we can partner with other groups occasionally.

Short discussion on active bystander video. Group protection and approval. If a black person thinks an issue/situation is about race, then it’s about race. It can be harder to interfere than simply staying quiet. Oluo wants us to speak up, even though we may make mistakes. We’ll learn and grow and improve.

Interesting to note that suffragists were also abolitionists. Check out Kirwan Institute at: kirwaninstitute.osu.edu -For their study of race and ethnicity. They have online events.

What to do when we hear someone say anti Chinese things- which is happening more often? Will we speak up?

AAUW used to support anti bullying using role playing sessions with Girl Scouts. Judith said racism is supported by people in power. The south had a successful economy with free labor and now receives more in federal tax dollars than they contribute.

Alice thought we could invite a statewide organization to join us.

There’s a museum in Red Bank which may be closed due to COVID, but let’s check it out, for a future tour.

Diane commented on the large number of Confederate monuments that were put in place well after the Civil War.

A short discussion on how many younger people don’t see race the way older people do. More blended families. Alice suggested a book by Henry Louis Gates Jr. called Stony the Road which is about reconstruction, white supremacy and Jim Crow laws.

Ann will send us a link to an article called My Body is a Monument from The NY Times this year.

A few of us signed up to hear the Berkeley Heights LWV webinar on 11/19.

We talked about COVID. Black and brown people affected worse than whites. Were any of us affected? A few spoke up. We need to be careful over Thanksgiving. This then led to people with dementia not able to get into facilities and it’s hard to find care givers willing to come to our homes.

 Alice suggested we prepare questions.

Jane mentioned she’d like to hear people’s thoughts on reparations. Slaveowners in England were given money for loss of property. But no money or land given to freed slaves. Japanese Americans who were interned were given reparations in 1988.

Films to watch on racism: Just Mercy on Amazon video about the large number of incarcerated black men and their need for good legal representation. Also: The Hate U Give can be rented on Amazon is about the killing of a black man by a police officer.

Judith asked if there are schools teaching courses on race, racism?