

## **“RACE: The Power of an Illusion” Video & Discussion Series**

Following up on the excellent reception of the video “The Wilderness Journey” about the challenges associated with the black empowerment movement within the Unitarian Universalist Association, UUCW will host the three-part PBS documentary series “Race: The Power of an Illusion” that explores where the idea of “race” comes from. Join us in this important series of videos and discussion with members and friends of UUCW and the wider community as we strive toward a more just society.



### **Times/Dates:**

**7:00 – 9:00 pm April 1st – Episode 1: The Difference Between Us** - “examines how recent scientific discoveries have toppled the concept of biological race. The program follows a dozen diverse students who sequence and compare their own DNA. They discover, to their surprise, that their closest genetic matches are as likely to be with people from other “races” as their own. The episode helps us understand why it doesn’t make scientific or genetic sense to sort people into biological races, as it dismantles our most basic myths about race, including natural superiority and inferiority.”\*

**7:00 – 9:00 pm April 15th – Episode 2: The Story We Tell** – “uncovers the roots of the race concept, including the 19th-century science that legitimated it and the hold it has gained over our minds. It’s an eye-opening tale of how America’s need to defend slavery in the face of a radical new belief in freedom and equality led to a full-blown ideology of white supremacy. Noting the experience of Cherokee Indians, the U.S. war against Mexico and annexation of the Philippines, the film shows how definitions of race excluded from humanity not only Black people, but anyone who stood in the way of American expansion. The program traces the transformation of tentative suspicions about difference into a “common-sense” wisdom that people used to explain everything from individual behavior to the fate of whole societies, an idea of race that persists to this day.”\*

**7:00 – 9:00 pm April 29th – Episode 3: The House We Live In** - “focuses not on individual behaviors and attitudes, but on how our institutions shape and create race, giving different groups vastly unequal life chances. Who defines race? In the early 20th century, the courts were called upon to determine who was white, employing contradictory logic to maintain the color line. After World War II, government policies and subsidies helped create segregated suburbs where Italians, Jews and other not-quite-white European ethnics were able to reap the full advantages of whiteness. The episode reveals some of the ordinary social institutions that quietly channel wealth and opportunity, so that white people benefit from a racist system without personally being racist. It concludes by looking at why we can’t just get rid of race.”\*

**This series is open to anyone interested in exploring the issue of race and racism in a safe environment in where diverse people and points of view are respected and where open-hearted and open-minded discussion of our differences is encouraged.**

Light refreshments will be provided. For more information on this program please contact Beau Rivers ([brivers@uucworchester.org](mailto:brivers@uucworchester.org)) or Rev. Aaron Payson ([minister@uucworchester.org](mailto:minister@uucworchester.org)).

### **Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester**

90 Holden Street Worcester, MA

508-853-1942 / [www.uucworchester.org](http://www.uucworchester.org)

*UUCW is LGBTQI welcoming and a barrier-free environment.*

*To request accommodations contact [office@uucworchester.org](mailto:office@uucworchester.org)*

*\*From the discussion guide published with the video series.*