

Coalition Chronicles

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A newsletter of
End Domestic Abuse WI
Volume 38, Issue 2

Have you ever longed to be part of a community of advocates who are engaged in learning about social justice, activism, and anti-oppression while also staying committed to self-care? With this issue of the Coalition Chronicles, we invite you to be part of creating that community! Every few years, End Domestic Abuse WI gathers some “staff picks” that focus directly or indirectly on our work to end gender violence. This issue includes our selection of books, podcasts, movies, or videos that we think our advocacy community might enjoy. Each selection says a bit about why the individual chose to highlight it for this issue. In our staff picks, we hope you will find inspiration, restoration, and a few things that spark your personal fire to continue to do the work of ending gender violence. We also hope that you will be inspired to share one of your favorites with the community! Enjoy the read.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Betty Sager".

Staff Picks

Editor's note: For this edition of the Coalition Chronicles, we asked staff to share a favorite media selection that was directly or indirectly related to the work that we do to end gender-based violence.

Suggestions for the type of content included:

- Explore the complexities of gender-based violence
- Intersections of oppression that sustain and maintain violence
- A timely resource to address a current problem or issue you are seeing in your work
- A classic...if something from years ago still feels relevant, share it!
- Self-care
- Prevention

The guidelines:

- Choose no more than 3 items.
- Identify the category of media (book, movie, magazine or journal article, music, radio/podcast, public talk, Youtube video, etc.).
- Share a brief description of each selection, and tell us why you chose it.

We hope you enjoy our selections, and consider sharing one of your own!

– Colleen

1

Edith and Eddie

Category: Film

This short film tells a story about Edith (95) and Eddie (96), a loving, interracial couple and their life together. Their story takes a nightmarish turn as Edith's daughters feud over what was best for their mother, who had been diagnosed with mild dementia. Edith and Eddie were in danger of being torn apart. With the daughters unable to reach an agreement, a court appointed a legal guardian for Edith, someone she had never met. Stripped of her own decision making, Edith was now a ward of the state. Things quickly take a dramatic turn as Edith and Eddie's lives are abruptly disrupted, their wishes entirely disregarded.

Court-appointed guardians can exploit the people they are supposed to protect, benefitting from their institutionalization because the guardians are paid from the elders' estate with very little oversight and accountability. These cases are life-altering, as well as emotionally and financially depleting, yet most people remain unaware of the potential for guardianship abuse until it happens to them. This is one of those stories.

[Link to view the trailer and learn more about the film](#)



**Juanita Davis
Associate Director,
National Clearinghouse
on Abuse in Later Life**

– Juanita

2

Sister Outsider: Essays & Speeches by Audre Lorde

Category: collection of essays/book/e-book

Audre Lorde's poignant analysis from her perspective as a Black lesbian poet is articulated from multiple angles in this collection of her essays and speeches. I am inspired by the work of Audre Lorde because I sometimes struggle with articulating my perspective with complex issues and she was so good at it!

One paper included in this piece that particularly resonated with me is called The Transformation of Silence into Language and Action, which is from 1977 but still highly relevant today. In this speech, in reference to how she was feeling to be speaking about the topic, she states, "**And of course I am afraid, because the transformation of silence into language and action is an act of self-revelation, and that always seems fraught with danger.**" She pointedly concludes the speech by saying "...while we wait in silence for that final luxury of fearlessness, the weight of that silence will choke us. The fact that we are here and that I speak these words is an attempt to break that silence and bridge some of those differences between us, for it is not difference which immobilizes us, but silence. And there are so many silences to be broken."

[Link to more information at the publisher's website.](#)

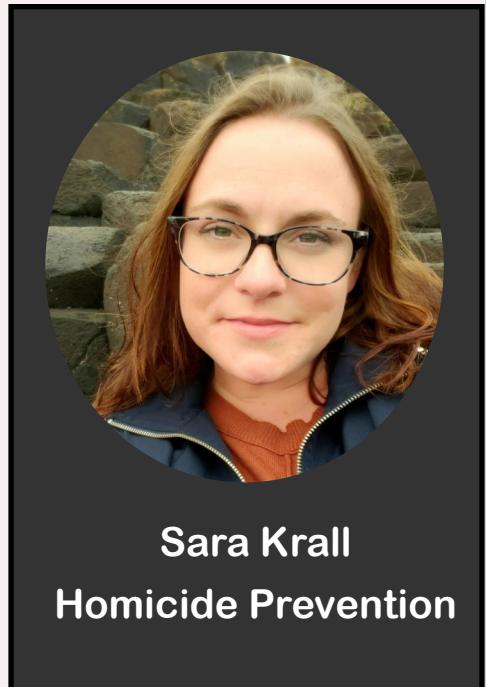
– Sara

3

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Global Study on Homicide: Gender-related killing of women and girls

Category: Online Publication (July 2019)

This newly released report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime outlines some of the circumstances surrounding gender-related killings of women and girls globally. While not my most uplifting read lately, it did prove to be quite interesting. The report includes a discussion about honor and dowry-related killings, killing of women during times of armed conflict, killing of female sex workers, and of course, familial or intimate partner-related homicides, to name just a few. Of particular interest to our work, the study found that **of the 87,000 women killed across the globe in 2017, 58% were killed by intimate partners or family members, which equates to 137 women across the world being killed by a member of their own family every day.** It was thought-provoking to read about the intersecting issues of oppression that are evident in all forms of gender-related killings of women and girls, and it reinforced for me that this particular issue has deep roots that are, in many places, steeped in misogynistic cultural norms and practices.



**Sara Krall
Homicide Prevention**

[Link to Report](#)

– Sara

4

No More Heroes: Grassroots Challenges to the Savior Mentality

by Jordan Flaherty

Category: Book

This book discusses how the savior mentality gets in the way of progress and how to address the actual problem instead of the symptoms to make sustainable change so the individuals we serve are the benefactors of the efforts put forth.



Monique Minkens
Program Capacity &
Support Coordinator

In order for clients to attain liberation, we will have to uncenter ourselves and listen to individuals from the communities we serve.

This book shares how to bring about real, systemic change. Author Jordan Flaherty's website includes the summary, "How can we build a better world? And why do so many people with privilege end up making things worse when they try to help? It's called the savior mentality, and Jordan Flaherty finds it in FBI informants, anti-sex-work crusaders, Teach For America corps members, and out-of-touch journalists. *No More Heroes* celebrates grassroots challenges to these saviors and highlights movements focused on real, systemic change from the Arab Spring to Black Lives Matter."

[Link to Jordan Flaherty's website for more information and an excerpt from the book.](#)

– Monique

5

Burnout:

The Secret to Solving the Stress Cycle

By Emily Nagoski, PhD, and
Amelia Nagoski, DMA

Category: Book

I love this book as it gave great ideas on how to support staff through burnout and vicarious trauma. It prompted me to consider how to talk about burnout with staff and practices that could be implemented during shift changes, discussing work and also considering self-care of the advocate.

The publisher's summary describes how "[w]hat's expected of women and what it's really like to be a woman in today's world are two very different things—and women exhaust themselves trying to close the gap between them. How can you "love your body" when every magazine cover has ten diet tips for becoming "your best self"? How do you "lean in" at work when you're already operating at 110 percent and aren't recognized for it? How can you live happily and healthily in a sexist world that is constantly telling you you're too fat, too needy, too noisy, and too selfish?"

Find the complete summary at

[Penguin Random House Canada.](#)

– Monique

6

The 1619 Project

Category: online project;
audio series/podcast

**Elise Buchbinder,
Education &
Communications
Coordinator**

The 1619 Project “is a major initiative from The New York Times observing the 400th anniversary of the beginning of American slavery. It aims to reframe the country’s history, understanding 1619 as our true founding, and placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of black Americans at the very center of the story we tell ourselves about who we are.”

Alongside this project is “1619,” a New York Times audio series, available on most podcast apps (including [Apple Podcasts](#)).

I selected this project because critically examining racial justice is essential to both my work and personal life. This project’s writing, visuals, and content are emotionally and intellectually engaging, and the project covers a variety of topics ranging from medicine and health, to prisons and capitalism, to poetry and music.

The project’s presentation makes the necessary (un)/(re)learning process about our country’s history approachable, and allows me to more clearly understand how racial justice must be a part of every anti-oppression effort. The podcast/audio series especially appeals to me because I can listen as I’m driving, cooking, cleaning, or exercising, which allows me to easily incorporate it into my everyday activities.

— Elise

7

Pleasure Activism: The Politics of Feeling Good

by adrienne maree brown

Category: Book

For me, this book is an important reminder that while fighting multiple forms of state violence can be exhausting, there is hope and joy to be found in social justice work. The author, through a series of stand alone chapters, makes the case that **the pursuit of pleasure will help us heal from oppression and achieve true liberation.** I have recommended this book to so many and the conversations that it has elicited have been boundless, healing and transformative.

Description from publisher: How do we make social justice the most pleasurable human experience? How can we awaken within ourselves desires that make it impossible to settle for anything less than a fulfilling life? Author and editor adrienne maree brown finds the answer in something

she calls “pleasure activism,” a politics of healing and happiness that explodes the dour myth that changing the world is just another form of work. Drawing on the black feminist tradition, she challenges us to rethink the ground rules of activism. Her mindset-altering essays are interwoven with conversations and insights from other feminist thinkers, including Audre Lorde, Joan Morgan, Cara Page, Sonya Renee Taylor, and Alexis Pauline Gumbs. Together they cover a wide array of subjects—from sex work to climate change, from race and gender to sex and drugs—building new narratives about how politics can feel good and how what feels good always has a complex politics of its own.

— Jenna

[Link to more information about this book.](#)



**Jenna Gormal
Public Policy Coordinator**

8

All My Friends are Zeros: My Secret to Overcoming Adverse Childhood Experiences

by Jessica Nicely

Category: Book



Kathryn Chapman
Director of Education & Membership

physical violence, emotional abuse, and neglect. This is a story of resiliency, strength, and overcoming adversity with the help of her extended family and beloved friends who scored zero on the Adverse Childhood Experiences Score (ACES) test.

I admire her ability to stay positive and forgiving to those who hurt her and her determined spirit to help others. **This is a good book for professionals who work with victims and for survivors who may gain insight in Jessica's ability to overcome the trauma of her adverse childhood experiences.** Included in the book is the ACES test that readers can take to calculate their score. Knowing your score may help to make sense of your childhood, your behaviors, and your relationships.

— Kathryn

9

Rising Strong: How the Ability to Reset Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead

by Brené Brown, PhD,
LMSW

Category: Book

This book is one of my favorites. In this book, Brené Brown talks about the progression of her work in the books preceding this one: 1. *The Gifts of Imperfection* – Be you; 2. *Daring Greatly* – Be all in; and this one, *Rising Strong* – Fall, Get up. Try Again.

In *Rising Strong*, she talks about being vulnerable, which she defines as “the willingness to show up and be seen with no guarantee of outcome – is the only path to more love, belonging, creativity, and joy.” Not an easy thing to do to be vulnerable. **Being brave also means that we will “stumble and fall” which is inevitable but it is the process of rising in the face of adversity that is where our strength lies.** In her book, Brené talks about “The process of regaining our footing in the midst of struggle is where our courage is tested and our values are forged.” As hard as it is, getting up and overcoming after we fail is how we “cultivate wholeheartedness.”

— Kathryn

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Why is this Happening? with Chris Hayes

Category: Podcast

In each episode of the *Why is this Happening?* podcast, journalist Chris Hayes takes a deep dive into an hour-long conversation on a burning issue with an expert in the field. These are important and complicated topics discussed by important and complicated people. Of special note are the episodes “Women, Rage, and Power” with Rebecca Traister (episode 53), “Thick Descriptions” with Tressie McMillan Cottom (episode 32), and “Building a Movement” with Rev. Dr. William Barber II (episode 8). **In an age when news is flattened into a tweet, this podcast explores nuance and embraces complexity in a way that leaves the listener feeling fascinated and fulfilled.**

— Abby



Abby Swetz

Policy and Systems Analyst

[Link to the list of episodes.](#)

11

How to Be an Antiracist

By Ibram X. Kendi

Category: book, article, interview

Colleen Cox, Education & Training Coordinator

Ibram X. Kendi, author and contributing editor for the Atlantic, has given numerous interviews promoting his recently published book, [How to Be an Antiracist](#). His writing and interviews are easily found online, so even if you don't have a chance to read the book, you can listen to a podcast or read an article that more easily fits into a busy schedule. I particularly appreciated his [February interview](#) on the daily news show [Democracy Now](#) in which he shares how his personal experience with cancer compelled him to work on the book. **The central idea Kendi returns to again and again is simply that “[a] racist or antiracist is not who we are, but what we are doing in the moment”** which he expands upon in this quote from a [December 2018 opinion piece](#) he wrote in the Guardian:

There is no such thing as a “not-racist” policy, idea, or person. Just an old-fashioned racist in a newfound denial. All policies, ideas and people are either being racist or antiracist. Racist policies yield racial inequity; antiracist policies yield racial equity. Racist ideas suggest racial hierarchy, antiracist ideas suggest racial equality. A racist is supporting racist policy or expressing a racist idea. An antiracist is supporting antiracist policy or expressing an antiracist idea. A racist or antiracist is not who we are, but what we are doing in the moment.

— Colleen

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Dear Queer White People

Category: Online magazine column

Dear Queer White People is a featured article in [Our Lives magazine](#).

I have really appreciated this analysis of the intersection of race, gender, and sexuality. It provides opportunities for reflection for queer white people, like me, to analyze how we uphold systems of oppression. These systems of oppression, like white supremacy, that breed racism and xenophobia, can be attributed to part of the reason there has been an increase in hate violence in the LGBTQ community. **When we recognize the oppressive systems that benefit us; we can then find ways of to decrease the amount of harm we do to LGBTQ folx, QTPOC, and people of color.**



Cody Warner

LGBTQ & Youth Program
Director

- [**Dear Queer White People**](#) Dr. Sami Schalk kicked off the new series of columns in November 2018 that aim to address some of the pressing and oftentimes thornier questions about the intersection of race and queerness in America.
- [**Dear Queer White People: Cultural Appropriation**](#) In the second installment of the new advice column aimed at answering questions to help white LGBTQ people become more knowledgeable comrades to queer and trans people of color, Dr. Sami Schalk tackles cultural appropriation in language.
- [**Dear Queer White People: Combating Microaggressions**](#) What are microaggressions, anyway, and why are they harmful especially to people with intersecting minority identities? Guest writer Sarah Stouffer-Lerch offers insight and tips.
- [**Dear Queer White People: Taking Up Space**](#) Dr. Sami Schalk looks at how white folks take up space in social settings, and QTPOC-specific spaces in particular.

— Cody

13

Shades of Change:

A guide for domestic violence and sexual assault service providers working with lesbian, gay, bisexual, & transgender people of color

Category: Guide/Toolkit

This guide is a publication of [In Our Own Voices](#). It offers an overview of assessment and practices that are currently utilized at In Our Own Voices in preventing, responding to, and healing the impact of domestic violence and sexual assault within the LGBTQ POC community. The framework and resources provided in this guide are especially relevant to service organizations, community-based organizations, and individuals who want to increase their capacity to provide culturally responsive intervention and prevention services.

14

Deep Diversity: Overcoming Us Vs Them

By Shakil Choudhury

Category: Book, website

"What if our interactions with those different than us are strongly influenced by things happening below the radar of awareness, hidden even from ourselves? Deep Diversity explores this question and argues that "Us-versus-Them" is an unfortunate but normal part of the human experience due to reasons of both nature and nurture—and this is especially true regarding issues of race."



Diara Parker
Director of Policy & Systems Change

Deep Diversity provides readers with concrete strategies and resources they can explore to create a more inclusive and equitable organizational culture.

— Diara

In August 2019, directors of local programs were invited to join a group read and discussion of Shakil Choudhury's ***Deep Diversity: Overcoming Us Vs Them***. It's a relatively easy read and only 170 pages long. It was really informative and full of ideas for how to integrate diversity into our lives and organization. **There was zero blame or shame, just a lot of really useful information about how race and gender oppression work and how we can personally make small shifts within ourselves to move towards a better world.**



Patti Seger
Executive Director

To begin discussion, participants reflected on the following questions: What was your most important take-away from reading Deep Diversity? What is one thing that you think you can do to make a shift within your program, or in your own life? Was there something you didn't like and why? What did you love most about reading this book?

Whether or not you read the book, you may be intrigued by the series of articles entitled *The Hole in Racial Justice, parts 1-3*. Links to each article are below:

[A Love Letter](#)

[The Master's Tools Won't Build the Bridge](#)

[Alloys of Social Justice](#)

— Patti

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Category: Books

I have two small children, so most of my reading is of picture books. These are a few of our current favorites that address social justice issues.

— Megan

16

Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress
by Christine Baldacchino, pictures by
Isabelle Malenfant

This is a book about Morris' love for a beautiful dress, the obstacles he encounters at school for wearing it, and how he handles the situation.

[Link to learn more about the book and see inside.](#)



17

Drum Dream Girl
by Margarita Engle, pictures by Rafael Lopez

This beautiful picture book was inspired by the story of Millo Castro Zaldarriaga, a Chinese-African-Cuban girl who broke gender barriers in Cuba to become a drummer.

[Link to the illustrator's website to learn more and see inside.](#)

18

Lillian's Right to Vote: A Celebration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965
by Jonah Winter, pictures by Shane Evans

Lillian, a 100-year-old African American woman, reminisces about her family's turbulent experiences trying to exercise their right to vote over the years.

[Link to learn about this and similar books for children.](#)

19

Brené Brown on Empathy

Category: Video

Empathy is a vulnerable response and is very different from sympathy. What makes something better is connection.

[This short video reminds us of that.](#)

— Julie



Julie Fisher

Director of Resource
Development



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THANK YOU!

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