

Anti-Racist resources for the Shaar Shalom community

This list of resources is compiled by Dr. Yolana Wassersug. It is far from being an exhaustive list. Contact Yolana (ywassersug@gmail.com) if you know of other great resources, or if you want to talk about the items she chose to highlight.

1. BOOKS

There are many exceptional works of non-fiction about race, more than I can possibly recommend here. Some to get you started:

How to be an Anti-Racist by Ibram X. Kendi

So You Want to Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo

The Skin We're In by Desmond Cole

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates

If you're more inclined towards fiction than non-fiction, Lawrence Hill's wonderful novels such as ***The Book of Negroes*** and ***The Illegal*** are worth exploring. Teju Cole's novel ***Open City*** is a poetic reflection on the feeling of being an outsider and the complex concept of "home". You can't go wrong with reading the books of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie which are often funny, frank, and feminist—my favourite of her books is ***Americanah***. All of the books recommended above can be purchased from local and independent bookstores or found at the public library.

Are you looking for something that families can read together? ***Let's Talk about Race*** by Julius Lester z"l uses language and illustrations that are appropriate for young children to encourage families to begin speaking about race and tolerance. [Watch a video](#) of Lester narrating his book and see the beautiful illustrations for yourself! The organization Be'Chol Lachon created this [interactive worksheet](#) for kids to help them engage directly with Lester's book and its ideas. Explore more recommendations of [books for children](#) on their website.

If you don't want to read anything long, read Twitter! The website kveller.com shared [this list](#) of Jews of Colour who have prominent profiles on social media accounts. Following these Jewish thinkers, writers, and activists on Twitter or Instagram is a simple way to get a wider range of Jewish voices in your life.

2. FILM AND AUDIO

The Simon Wiesenthal Centre hosted a discussion on June 8th 2020 about strategies for Black and Jewish people to come together in this time of crisis. [Watch a recording of the discussion.](#)

The podcast [Jew Too](#) is hosted by Reconstructionist Rabbi Emily Cohen. In the podcast, Rabbi Cohen explores the growing diversity of Jewish communities. Episode 15 is a great one to listen to: [“But You Don’t Look Jewish: Race in Jewish Space.”](#)

The 2017 film [Black Cop](#) was produced right here in Halifax, and features many talented local artists, including director/writer Corey Bowles. This film is violent (i.e. not for families). It provides an unnerving and unflinching take on race and policing. You can watch it on CBC’s website.

3. WAYS TO GIVE TZEDAKAH

[The Jewish Multiracial Network](#) and [Be’chol Lashon](#) are both organizations that seek to support Jews from diverse backgrounds. There are useful resources on both of their websites, and information about how to donate to support their work.

You can donate to the [Canadian Civil Liberties Association](#) to support their advocacy work, protecting the rights and freedoms of all Canadians – especially those from marginalized groups. The [American Civil Liberties Union](#) does similar work in the United States. You can give to these organizations once, or become a monthly donor to provide sustaining support.

Here in Nova Scotia, many smaller non-profit organizations are in need of your help. These include (but are not limited to) the [Black Cultural Centre/Society of Nova Scotia](#), the [Delmore Buddy Daye Learning Institute](#), [Hope Blooms](#), and the [Birchtown Black Loyalist Heritage Centre](#). You can also [give money to this grassroots campaign](#) which puts funds directly in the hands of those who need it most urgently: Black community members in Nova Scotia who have been impacted by unexpected costs of basic needs such as food, childcare, and rent.

As our province opens up and restrictions related to COVID start to loosen, you can also choose to support [black-owned businesses](#).