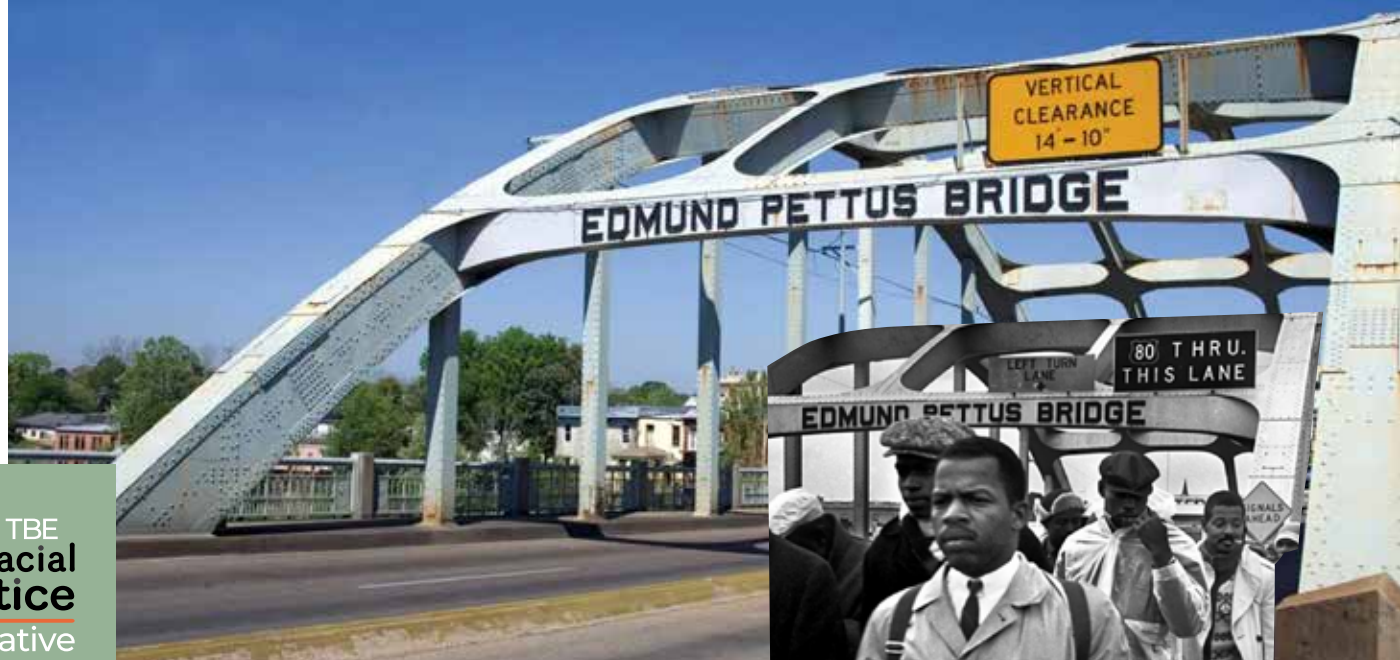


# The History & Accomplishments of the Racial Justice Initiative's Nine Years

## An Evening of Celebration and Honoring Our Tzedek Champions

6 JUNE 2025



**JUSTICE, JUSTICE YOU SHALL PURSUE • DEUTERONOMY 16:20 • צדק צדק תרדף**

*The **Racial Justice Initiative** (RJI) was formed in 2016 to provide opportunities to deepen our understanding of how racism impacts our economic, social, and justice systems, and how we can work together to address these racial inequities.*

We come together tonight to reflect and appreciate all that we have collectively learned and accomplished and to celebrate our **330+ congregants** who work tirelessly to **help achieve racial equity in today's world**. Together we embarked on a journey to understand the impact of racism on us personally as well as on our society, and then to work communally to address racial inequities. Here is a summary of all we have experienced in nine years together in pursuit of a more just and equitable world.



Civil Rights Journey November 2019

### Movies and Discussion

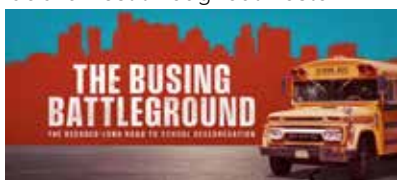


- **13th**: The film takes a look at how People of Color historically have been treated in the US prison system.
- **Birth of a Movement**: How William M. Trotter, editor of an independent Black newspaper, *The Boston Guardian*, helped launch protest in 1915 to ban D.W. Griffin's film *Birth of A Nation*.
- **Just Mercy**: A powerful true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a clarion call to fix our broken system of justice.
- **Rikers: An American Jail**: A riveting documentary from Bill Moyers, brings you face to face with men and women who have endured incarceration at Rikers Island.



- **The Barber of Little Rock**: The work of Arlo Washington, an African-American barber who founded a nonprofit community bank dedicated to providing economic opportunities for the community that mainstream banks will not offer.
- **This Ain't Normal**: A profile of the stories of gang involved youth and young adults in the high impact crime neighborhoods of inner city Boston, the street workers and social workers tasked with helping transform their lives, and the organizations attempting to provide the bridges to opportunity.

- **The Busing Battleground**: Court-mandated social integration unleashes racial unrest throughout Boston in the 1970s as Black and white students are bussed together.



### Collections • Drives • Walks

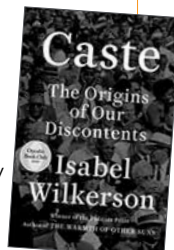
- William Monroe Trotter Elementary School
- Annual Holiday Gift Collections
- Emergency Clothing Drive for Newly Arrived
- Hat/Mitten Collection
- Hunger Doesn't Take a Summer Vacation
- Winter Walk
- Let My People Read
- Back to School Backpacks
- Home furnishings for J4H's Brie's House
- Mother's Day Walk for Peace



### ON OUR NIGHTSTAND

#### Community Book Readings and Discussions

- *Caste: The Origins of our Discontent*
- *The Color of Law*
- *Death of an American Jewish Community*
- *Diary of a Black Messiah*
- *James*
- *Redemption: MLK Jr's Last 31 Hours*
- *Rising Out of Hatred*
- *So You Want to Talk About Race*
- *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story*
- *The Includers*
- *When Getting Along is Not Enough*
- *White Fragility*





Field Trips and Journeys

- Civil Rights Journeys (5)
- Holiday Shopping at Nubian Square Black Market
- Tours of Old Jewish Boston (2)
- Jewish in the Heart of the Nation (and African American history)



Classes and Trainings

- 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge
- Active Bystander Training
- Black Lives Matter with JCRC
- Jews in the Civil Rights Movement Classes (3)



Experiential Arts Programs

- A Virtual Tour of MAZON's Hunger Museum
- Afro-Semitic Experience MLK Program
- Deeply Rooted: Faith in Reproductive Justice (Brandeis)
- Faces of Homelessness — Sukkot Display
- Humanity is Not a Spectator Sport (Beacon Gallery)
- Maurice “Pops” Peterson: “Four Freedoms”
- Partakers Jazz for Justice
- Praying with Our Feet: Lapidus & Myles concert
- Prison Exhibit (Brandeis)
- Race and Song: A Musical Conversation with Alastair Mooock and Reggie Harris
- South Carolina Poem Potter (MFA)
- William Monroe Trotter Music Program
- Witnessing Humanity: The Art of John Wilson (MFA)



Advocacy Actions

- City of Boston Wins (\$50M Mildred Haley Apartments; \$2.7M Office of Returning Citizens)
- Clemency for William Allen (MCAN)
- Criminal Justice Reform Legislative Action (GBIO)
- Every Voice, Every Vote/Voter Freedom (JALSA, Reclaim Our Vote, RAC)
- Free School Meals (Project Bread)
- Housing Justice Campaign (\$2.2B Housing Bond Bill; increase of \$21M in FY 25 public housing budget—GBIO)
- In-District Legislative Meetings
- What a Difference a DA Makes (ACLU)



TBE Collaborations

- Adult Book Club
- Adult Social Action (CASA)
- Annual MLK Celebrations
- Ending Hunger Initiative
- Fall Harvest Festival
- Family Connections Tikkun Olam Programs
- Green Team
- SEA Change
- Sisterhood
- TBE Congregants for Reproductive Justice
- TBE Congregants to Prevent Gun Violence
- TBE Table



MLK DAY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

Relationships and Partners

- Building a Better Wellesley
- Circle of Hope
- Citizens Housing and Planning Association
- Commonwealth Kitchen
- Community Purchasing Alliance of MA
- Communities for Restorative Justice
- Greater Grove Hall Main Streets: Mentoring Murals public arts display; Black Women Lead Banner Project
- Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action
- Jewish Community Relations Council
- Join for Justice
- Justice 4 Housing
- Louis D. Brown Peace Institute
- MA Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence
- Partakers College Behind Bars & PEP Program
- RAC-MA (Religious Action Center)
- URJ's Religious Action Center
- William Monroe Trotter Elementary School
- Winter Walk



Commemorations

- Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Activities (7)
- Juneteenth and the Continuing March to Freedom
- Say Their Names: An Evening of Remembrance and a Prayer of Hope

RJI Explored Discussion Topics • 2017-2025

- Food is Medicine with Dr. Lauren Fiechter (March 2025)
- Exclusionary by Design: Zip Code is Destiny ( December 2024)
- Becoming An Ally and DEI Champion with Colette Phillips (September 2024)
- Jazz for Justice: Partakers (June 2024)
- The Barber of Little Rock with Ian Cohen (June 2024)
- Eyewitness Testimonials of BPS Desegregation and Busing (March 2024)
- Black Jewish Relations: Then and Now with Rabbi Jonah Pesner (February 2024)
- The Federal Criminal Justice System with Josh Levy (December 2023)
- Tea Time with Senators Creem and Rausch (October 2023)
- A Virtual Tour of MAZON's Hunger Museum (October 2023)
- Prison to College Pipeline (October 2023)
- A Conversation on What's Happening in America (October 2023)
- Celebrating RJI's 7 Years & Inaugural Tzedek Champions (June 2023)

- “We are the ones we have been waiting for” with Rev John Vaughn (April 2023)
- After Incarceration: What's Next (March 2023)
- Disparities in Black Maternal Health (October 2022)
- Returning Citizens: Barriers and Opportunities (June 2022)
- Black Women: Witness Barriers (March 2022)
- Black Women Lead Banner Project (March 2022)
- Feeding Body and Soul (February 2022)
- Demystifying Homelessness (January 2022)
- Does Your Town Have Room for Me (December 2021)
- William Monroe Trotter's Legacy (October 2021)
- Race and Song: A Musical Experience (June 2021)
- The Refounding of GBIO (March 2021)
- What the Racial Wealth Gap Looks Like Today (December 2020)
- Place Matters: The Legacy of Housing Discrimination (December 2020)

- Discovering Grove Hall: Partnerships and Possibilities (September 2020)
- When Getting Along is Not Enough (June 2020)
- Unequal Impact of COVID-19 (April 2020)
- Reparations (March 2020)
- Working to Make Quality Education a Reality for All Our Children (December 2019)
- Communities for Restorative Justice (October 2019)
- A Better Chance (June 2019)
- Learning from Each Other: A Conversation with Andy Tarsy on Economic Justice (March 2019)
- Education and Mentoring Behind Bars (December 2018)
- What a Difference a DA Makes (October 2018)
- How the Jewish Community Got Block Busted and Redlined (May 2018)
- Fair Housing: How did we get like this and What can we do about it? (March 2018)
- Unlocking Potential: The Impact of Education Behind Bars (December 2017)
- Where RJI Has Been—Year 1— and Where We're Going—Year 2 (October 2017)

