

My name is Debbie Alsebai and I am one of the cofounders and leaders of “Courageous Conversations towards Racial Justice”. I was called to this work after reading “Just Mercy” by Bryan Stevenson and then “Waking Up White” by Debby Irving. I was stuck by what I did not know and how I walk differently in this world than many of my good friends and neighbors. I also knew if I was blind sighted so many other folks are as well. This put me on the path to trying to make a difference in my community which in turn has enriched my life that much more with the connections/friendships I have made. “Courageous Conversations towards Racial Justice” was started over 2 years ago by local houses of worship and citizens groups in and around Milton. We hold “conversations” each month on different days so we can accommodate different folks, month to month. Sometimes we meet at local houses of worship, or community spaces like Cunningham Hall, The Senior Center and The Milton Public Library. We often show provoking movies or Ted Talks to spark conversations. We have held potlucks, music nights with jazz bands, steel drums and choirs. We have organized groups to go the theater shows in and around Boston and even brought the the play “Thurgood” to Milton High School for students during the day and adults at night. We have had conversations on the wealth gap, policing, the Boston Globe spotlight series on local racism, white privilege, biases, crime, education, etc.

On Monday, November 19 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM we are bringing Debby Irving, the author of “Waking Up White”, to Milton High School. We are encouraging everyone to attend, especially folks that represent or work in our wonderfully diverse town of Milton, so we all can better understand some of the many issues of working towards racial justice. The topic of the conversation will be “I’m a Good Person, Isn’t That Enough?”. In her book and conversations author Debby Irving talks about history we were not taught, explains white privilege, and ways to work with diversity in a more inclusive and effective way. Milton is a diverse community surrounded by other diverse communities and there is so much we can learn from each other. Just like the new Milton Mattapan bike path creates bridges between our neighborhoods, “Courageous Conversations towards Racial Justice” helps make personal connections/bridges as well. I encourage everyone to clear their calendar’s for 11/19 from 6 PM to 9 PM and help us welcome Debby Irving to Milton. Come to see how she can help lead us to create relationships in and around Milton. If you would like to prepare for the Conversation read “Waking Up White” and feel free to reach out to me to discuss it at alsebai@verizon.net or 617-821-9460.

Thank you to Celebrate Milton for making this event possible through funding. For more info on Courageous Conversations, such as our Partnership, Mission, and Theory of Change, visit our site info at: <https://bit.ly/2QJmjd2>

Together we will make our corner of the world and even better place for all,

Debbie Alsebai (-: