

ACR-GNY Roundtable Breakfast | September 2, 2021

ZOOM MEETING PUBLIC CHAT TRANSCRIPT

- 01:13:01 Janice Tudy-Jackson: Thank you, Julie and Maria!!
- 01:14:34 Michael Cassandra: I second Janice Trudy's gratefulness and add that these breakfasts have been a invaluable source of continuing education in ADR for me.
- 01:15:06 Niki Borofsky, JAMS | NYC & Paris: JOIN ACR-GNY! <https://acrgny.org/Membership>
- 01:15:22 Niki Borofsky, JAMS | NYC & Paris: Upcoming events: <https://acrgny.org/events>
- 01:16:17 Niki Borofsky, JAMS | NYC & Paris: Welcome to today's speaker, John Wood of Braver Angels | <https://braverangels.org/author/johnbetter-angels-org/>
- 01:17:33 K. Sweetness Jennings - Bronx: We need to be where we need to be.. I appreciate this moment of time
- 01:18:25 Niki Borofsky, JAMS | NYC & Paris: Welcome to everyone just joining. Apologies for any confusion with the meeting link. This meeting is being recorded, and the video and public chat transcript will be available by next week on the ACR-GNY website at: <https://acrgny.org/RTB-Videos>
- 01:18:45 K. Sweetness Jennings - Bronx: spiritual endurance .. I embrace those words..
- 01:22:01 Niki Borofsky, JAMS | NYC & Paris: We have enabled the "Live Transcript" functionality for this meeting. If you are having trouble with the audio, please click on the "cc" button at the bottom of your Zoom screen and select subtitles or full transcript.
- 01:24:38 Shakira A. Ali - Trenton, NJ: Amazing that your recall is bringing that morning back to my own consciousness.
- 01:26:39 Niki Borofsky, JAMS | NYC & Paris: Our speaker has to (literally) jet at 9:45. Please submit your questions via chat, and John will turn to answering them beginning around 9:35.
- 01:28:05 K. Sweetness Jennings - Bronx: A question in my mind has been "what needs to remain the same?"
- 01:28:25 Hyacinth Brooklyn New York: Yes. I remember buying an American flag and walking around with it . . .
- 01:29:15 Shakira A. Ali - Trenton, NJ: I said this privately, but I want to be transparent: For me, as an African American Muslim, 9/11 was DEVASTATING. I went into a deep, and

rather long depression. My first realization: America just got some New N(word).
(Arabs; Muslims)

- 01:33:41 Niki Borofsky, JAMS | NYC & Paris: Barak Obama's 2004 DNC Convention Speech:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eWynt87PaJ0>.
- 01:36:44 K. Sweetness Jennings - Bronx: interesting how one candidate was raised in politics,
and the other one was created to be in office to cause havoc
- 01:37:06 Niki Borofsky, JAMS | NYC & Paris: More about Braver Angels:
<https://braverangels.org/>
- 01:43:21 Susan Coleman, Hudson Valley: Have to sign off but thank you Maria as always for
bringing us together, John Wood for your work, hope to catch the rest of this in the
recording. Best to all.
- 01:43:34 K. Sweetness Jennings - Bronx: "there is nothing new under the Sun"
- 01:43:40 Helen Higginbotham - NJ: Christianity was the foundation of slavery... Hijacked
then or hijacked now?
- 01:44:48 Sabeeha Rehman, NYC: Powerful: Do you have people in your faith who don't represent
what you believe?
- 01:46:48 Susan Glatki - Massachusetts: to add on to what Sabeeha said exchange faith for race,
culture, political party, family... who do not represent what you believe
- 01:49:56 Karen Tibbals Washington NJ: It seems to me that slavery has existed in all
civilizations.
- 01:51:44 Helen Higginbotham - NJ: But Black folks have historically been more
"conservative" in terms of our lives and politics. The problem is that it has been hijacked
what it means to be "conservative" such that it has become synonymous with being
racist and/or a soldier in white supremacy.
- 01:52:01 Shakira A. Ali - Trenton, NJ: @Karen, the Slavery that was practiced here has
impacted the globe in a way that no other civilization could have imagined.
- 01:53:39 Helen Higginbotham - NJ: Thank you Shakira. You made my point. Karen, what you
are escaping is that Christianity, hell and damnation, was used as a tool to instill fear
and obedience in enslaved Black people.
- 01:53:57 Karen Tibbals Washington NJ: @Shakira Yes, it has. But it wasn't invented by
Christians.

- 01:55:21 K. Sweetness Jennings - Bronx: No matter what is in front of me I must believe the Universe has a greater agenda for me, for Us. A good me makes a great We and an awesome Us..
- 01:55:25 Lou Rigali Oakland: That may be right, but it is supported by a culture where a default behavior that also supports domination and not cooperation. That type of culture has brought us to the present day.
- 01:55:36 Helen Higginbotham - NJ: Then by who? Christians have to accept that as part of their history and while at it, should examine how use of religion continues to manipulate the masses. I learned in 1st year of study of Sociology that "religion is that which gives one purpose".
- 01:55:57 Shakira A. Ali - Trenton, NJ: nope. It wasn't. But its 'Christian' origins is not the problem. Mostly because that so called origin was a bastardized version of Christianity.
- 01:56:47 Bathabile Mthombeni (she/her): @Karen, I'm curious about why it matters to you that Christians didn't invent enslavement. What does that mean to you?
- 01:56:57 William Sparks: I am so grateful we hear a man of color speak as a conservative on this platform, he opposed Maxine Waters in her L.A. district. Going to Colorado Springs, the heart of religious and military conservatism is tough for any liberal in this country. John Wood is proof that we must not put individuals in categories in America, we are not a nation of collectives. So, in 2020, President Trump's percentage of support among men & women of color & Hispanics in FL significantly increased which belied all the prognosticators. No easy categorization. Kudos Mr. Wood!!
- 01:58:51 Karen Tibbals Washington NJ: I think the temptation to have other work for us as slaves is a part of our human condition, not a reflection of any particular point of view, but something we need to own as a universal temptation.
- 01:59:50 Niki Borofsky, JAMS | NYC & Paris: Braver Angels Podcast | <https://braverangels.org/podcast/>
- 02:00:20 Shakira A. Ali - Trenton, NJ: Personally, I think our REAL problem is greed and inequity. It was the causal factor for Slavery. It is now the causal factor for the fear that is driving large swathes of our country away from democracy and towards authoritarianism. It is the causal factor for our drive towards environmental destruction. And more.
- 02:00:47 Nicole Jenkins: Larry Elder is running in CA to replace Gavin Newsom and he is conservative and black, he's amazing. John has good company in CA, there is a growing conservative community.

- 02:01:43 Bathabile Mthombeni (she/her): @Karen, would you be responding to a suggestion (unspoken, perhaps) that enslaving people is an act that is unique to White people?
- 02:02:08 Shakira A. Ali - Trenton, NJ: My concern about Larry Elder is that he locked inside a deep mental model of internalized oppression. In other words, he doesn't seem to like black people.
- 02:04:33 Helen Higginbotham - NJ: I don't mind that Black folks are republican. I mind when they tow the republican line in spite of themselves, their history and how they fare in this country. They become the scapegoat, the face, the beard if you will, of white supremacy. That is my problem. Cross the track because for sure Black folks need a choice politically, but to join the party and not show up in the interest of Black and/or poor folks, is inexcusable.
- 02:05:03 Niki Borofsky, JAMS | NYC & Paris: Try the LAPP Technique: Listen to understand, not reload. Acknowledge what you heard. Pivot by assessing whether it is OK to offer your views. Offer your perspective (if the person has signaled a willingness to hear it). [From: <https://braverangels.org/how-we-can-reconcile-with-each-other-when-our-politics-are-so-polarized/>]
- 02:05:09 Karen Tibbals Washington NJ: The problem I see with saying slavery is more tied to one civilization is that it allows us to label the cause as a particular "bad" group and not own the temptation that all civilizations have fallen prey to.
- 02:06:46 Shakira A. Ali - Trenton, NJ: @Karen, how does that perspective help us to address the challenges wrought by African enslavement in the U.S.?
- 02:08:24 Niki Borofsky, JAMS | NYC & Paris: What is a Red/Blue workshop? | <https://braverangels.org/what-we-do/red-blue-workshops/>
- 02:08:46 Bathabile Mthombeni (she/her): @Karen, yes, it can be very difficult to specifically address the ongoing legacy of enslavement in the United States when the dialogue is reduced to bad people versus good people rather than talking about systems and impact.
- 02:08:58 Shakira A. Ali - Trenton, NJ: The Braver Angels approach sounds quite similar to the prejudice reduction "controversial issues" process taught by the National Coalition Building Institute. <https://ncbi.org/>
- 02:09:00 Helen Higginbotham - NJ: @Karen, you exhibit the foundation of the anti-Critical Race Theory argument. There is a deep resistance in America to look at herself, her history and the barbarity of it, for what it truly is... Slavery in America, even according to Germans (read Caste by Isabel Wilkerson) was more barbaric than any other, continued into jim crow and still exists in the minds of many today in very insidious ways. Why else the appeal of trump?

- 02:11:52 Karen Tibbals Washington NJ: I have been looking at how our moral foundations have driven our political choices. The prejudice against others is a particular manifestation of the Loyalty to the group moral foundation, as well as the Sacredness/Purity moral foundation, that is used to justify all forms of othering, not just slavery. That doesn't mean that the moral foundations are bad, they are just part of our essential humanity.
- 02:12:33 Karen Tibbals Washington NJ: And we need to work with that essential humanity and overcome it.
- 02:12:40 Bathabile Mthombeni (she/her): @Karen: I see you've read The Righteous Mind. Keeping moral foundations theory in mind, How would you suggest that we address the ongoing legacy of enslavement in the United States?
- 02:13:36 Helen Higginbotham - NJ: @Karen. Thanks for the conversation
- 02:14:57 Nan Sparrow: Thank you for these words, 'patriotic empathy.' !
- 02:15:05 Hyacinth Brooklyn New York: Just thinking aloud . . . has capitalism simply adjusted / shifted the tenents of slavery ?
- 02:15:13 Maria R. Volpe, NYC: If you have specific questions for John Wood, please post here or raise hands
- 02:15:23 Chip Stewart Frenchtown, NJ: What about international negotiations? Thank you.
- 02:15:23 Karen Tibbals Washington NJ: I have written a book applying the ideas of the Righteous Mind to politics and how to use them to overcome. My book is called Persuade, Don't Preach.
- 02:15:49 Bathabile Mthombeni (she/her): @Karen - where is you book available?
- 02:16:25 Helen Higginbotham - NJ: I have a question. What is the demographics of Braver Angels in terms of race?
- 02:16:36 Karen Tibbals Washington NJ: My book is available on Amazon and other major platforms.
- 02:16:56 Diane (she/her): Have the dialogues changed the way people continue to advocate for their positions in the larger world?
- 02:16:57 K. Sweetness Jennings - Bronx: religious people and people of faith .. is that two different people?
- 02:16:59 Karen Tibbals Washington NJ: I have heard that Braver Angels has trouble recruiting Conservatives. Is that true?

02:17:50 Bathabile Mthombeni (she/her): @Karen: Thank you! I look forward to reading it.

02:18:03 Helen Higginbotham - NJ: The discussion was sparked by Mr. Woods' comment re: a religion being hijacked. I interjected that Christianity was hijacked

02:18:05 K. Sweetness Jennings - Bronx: Persuade Don't Preach.. I so embrace that title. Awesome

02:18:15 Katerina Apostolides: How many people participate in each debate?

02:18:42 Shakira A. Ali - Trenton, NJ: Has Braver Angels hosted / convened conversations about Equity? Whether or not people have a basic human right for basic human needs? Education? Healthcare? Housing? Food?

02:19:19 Helen Higginbotham - NJ: Is the org considered more "conservative" than not?

02:19:46 Ted Schulman - NYC: Spiral Dynamics is a branch of Social Evolutionarily theory - it's an important framework for helping to understand differences:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WvIJ66kUcfg>

02:20:59 K. Sweetness Jennings - Bronx: \$1 monthly :) so who absorbs the cost of running the organization

02:21:29 Ellen Banks-- Buffalo NY: I would like to see Shakira's question addressed

02:21:39 Helen Higginbotham - NJ: What is the outreach to the Black community?

02:22:22 Shakira A. Ali - Trenton, NJ: Has Braver Angels hosted / convened conversations about Equity? Whether or not people have a basic human right for basic human needs? Education? Healthcare? Housing? Food?

02:25:53 Bathabile Mthombeni (she/her): John, great point! This is so true!

02:26:05 Niki Borofsky, JAMS: Thank you John Wood! Safe travels!

02:26:07 Bathabile Mthombeni (she/her): Thank you!

02:26:10 Nan Sparrow: Thank you!

02:26:15 Whitney Kate Sullivan (NYC): Thanks!

02:26:18 Shakira A. Ali - Trenton, NJ: Thank you, John!

02:26:20 Janice Tudy-Jackson: Thank you, John!

02:27:08 Niki Borofsky, JAMS: Today is the 20th Anniversary of the Roundtable Breakfasts!

02:27:23 Katerina Apostolides: Wow! Congrats

02:27:52 Tammy Patterson- Watertown, NY: I have to leave for another meeting. Have a wonderful day everyone.

02:28:18 Deborah, NYC: congratulations and thank you for all these years of such important work!

02:28:32 Dian (she/her) Lenape land/Brooklyn: Thank you Maria for your visionary efforts!

02:28:38 Niki Borofsky, JAMS: Please raise your hand and chime in with your comments for our Maria Volpe - this forum would not exist without her work and leadership!

02:29:35 Frances Calafiore: Exceptional in all regards! Kudos and thank you Maria!

02:29:35 Niki Borofsky, JAMS: THANK YOU MARIA!!!!

02:29:39 Bathabile Mthombeni (she/her): Well said, Chuck!

02:29:45 Susan Glatki - Massachusetts: Thank you to Maria for the roundtables. I have enjoyed them this past year and thank you to the participants and their questions and informative chat discussions. Also Thank you to John Wood, Jr. and Braver Angles

02:29:59 William Sparks: I have to leave. Thank you to all for such a wonderful morning. I have thanked Maria privately for what Chuck is discussing, kudos! Out where I live in Long Island, our town keeps the 9/11 tradition alive, our civic group places lovely luminaria by each driveway at dusk, and removes at dawn, we will never forget! Maria keeps the spirit alive each month & beyond. Thanks again. Will

02:30:02 freda: Maria you are an incredible resource and inspiration. Thank you for all you do everyday !


02:30:16 Josephine (Jo) Pantaleo (she,her): Yes, well said! Maria is a model for us. Thank you to Maria and the founding group.

02:30:24 Doris Nathan: THANK YOU MARIA!!!

02:30:35 Isabelle Wallace: Many thanks for putting this discussion together, and for all you continue to do for our community!

02:30:37 Bathabile Mthombeni (she/her): THANK YOU MARIA!!!! <3

02:30:40 Mavis Hall: Thank you Maria for all that you do to "Make Talk Work". Happy Anniversary!!!

- 02:31:42 Nan Sparrow: Maria, I met you at a workshop when David Dinkins was mayor. My appreciation for you, and the work you have done and continue to do, just increases over time.
- 02:32:02 Simara Ziccarelli: I have to leave, unfortunately. Thank you so much and, congrats, Maria!
- 02:33:34 Naomi Jones: Good to see everyone, per usual it was a wonderful Round Table, and like the rest of Us I am a super fan of Maria... thank u ALL and enjoy the rest of the week

- 02:34:02 K. Sweetness Jennings - Bronx: Sleep is very necessary Please lets be clear about that.. Rest creates balance and well being ..
- 02:34:13 Frances Calafiore: Thank you to all involved in making these breakfasts possible! You are all greatly appreciated! 😊
- 02:35:08 K. Sweetness Jennings - Bronx: Thank you Maria for your energy you freely share with US
- 02:35:28 denise: Thank you so much Maria for all you have done for the community.
- 02:35:51 Tamika Shiver-NYC: Absolutely!
- 02:35:52 Matthew Lattimer-NYC: I have to drop off, just wanted to say congratulations and Maria, you are one of the first people I was emphatically encouraged to meet when I first started working in this space 13 years ago. It has been a pleasure to work with you. You are tireless, constant and resourceful. Thank you and we would not be able to do it without you.
- 02:36:21 Tom Rothschild CA-East Bay: I agree with Frances, and also with Maria, that this is a cooperative, and a group effort; and with Julie that it wouldn't have happened and continue now, without Maria who is the heart of our communal body.
- 02:36:41 Rhetta Barron: What Mark said is certainly true for me. Through the listserv I was able to learn about trainings, workshops, etc. that launched me into a career in Restorative Practices in the NYC schools. Thank you Maria and the John Jay listserv team.
- 02:36:47 Lynn Gaffigan: Thank you from Chicago area for your and the group's generosity in sharing and connecting around conflict resolution. Very thankful!
- 02:36:56 Shakira A. Ali - Trenton, NJ: This is only my 2nd engagement with your wonderful group, so let me also add my thanks to you, Maria, for generating and maintaining this space. It is a much-needed venue. God Bless your continued endeavors. I hope to come back!

02:36:58 Nan Sparrow: Thank you, Julie

02:37:03 Niki Borofsky, JAMS: Thank you Julie: Respond, Repeat, Respect and Reflect!

02:37:04 Stacey Myers: I concur with Whitney. Thank you Maria for keeping us connected and I appreciate all members for sharing their time and expertise

02:37:36 N: So glad you're here with us, Shakira!

02:38:06 Louis Cohen-Florida: Professor Maria Volpe: a humanist, compassionate, a true listener, a matriarch, a scholar who helps people to grow and wants the best day for all. Peace and good health for all.

02:38:48 Bathabile Mthombeni (she/her): Thank you, Julia. for your dedication to keeping our community together! <3

02:40:05 Elyn R: Thanks much Maria and group for illuminating conversation and info. And Happy New year to those who celebrate it.

02:40:07 Niki Borofsky, JAMS: Thank you to everyone for participating -- today, and over the past 20 years -- and for helping to create this important dispute resolution community!

02:40:25 Rachel Ji-Young Yoo: Thank you!

02:40:27 Angela Crossman: Thank you Maria!!!

02:40:34 Ted Schulman - NYC: Thank you Maria, thank you all.

02:40:53 Chip Stewart Frenchtown, NJ: Terrific. Thank you for bringing on the Braver Angel.

02:41:30 Felicitas Kort NYC: Congratulations Maria on this 20th Breakfast Anniversary

02:41:34 Nan Sparrow: I am so glad I was able to attend this meeting and hear these compassionate thoughts.

02:41:35 kdavis: In deep gratitude - Marie & all!!!

02:41:38 Felicitas Kort NYC: Anniversary

02:41:55 Gizem Alper: Thank you all