



# BENNINGTON BULLETIN



Happy Fourth of July! Wishing everyone a relaxing holiday. Administrative offices will be closed on Friday, July 3. Your regularly scheduled Bulletin returns next week.



## Antiracist Book Exchange

Michelle Cirillo '19 and Jordan Greenblatt '17 [launched](#) the Antiracist Book Exchange to widely share antiracist and Black liberation literature while supporting Black-owned bookstores, at no cost to the recipient. Since launching in early June, the Antiracist Book Exchange has sent more than 350 books to people across the US, as well as in Canada, Germany, Hong Kong, Spain, Switzerland, the UAE, and the UK. To contribute to their work, request a book, or learn more about the project, visit [their website](#). For updates, follow [@antiracistbookexchange](#) on Instagram.



## "The Empire of Light"

Michael Dumanis [has won](#) the 2020 Lyric Poetry Award from the Poetry Society of America for his poem "The Empire of Light," selected by Hanif Abdurraqib.

## Commitment to Shared Responsibilities

Please review this draft of the [Commitment to Shared Responsibilities](#), which will be a key part of our efforts to protect health and safety when bringing community members back to campus for the Fall term. Everyone who will be on campus will be expected to show our shared commitment to one another by adhering to these responsibilities at all times. In July, we will be sharing more information about the Fall term (including student housing, arrival on campus, quarantine, and health and safety protocols for students, as well as faculty and staff), staffing on campus, and the ways in which we, as a community, can hold ourselves accountable for adherence to the Commitment. We welcome your feedback or questions at [CV19TaskForce@bennington.edu](mailto:CV19TaskForce@bennington.edu).

## Resources from the Office of Diversity & Inclusion

In recent weeks, many of us have struggled to make sense of the racial injustices that have been laid to bear across the nation, and globally. Likewise, we have reflected on efforts we might undertake individually and collectively to be proactive in response to building a culture of inclusion. The values of equity and inclusion are of central concern to Bennington College, and, for many of us, they are also core to how we approach our daily lives. In response to the killing of George Floyd at the hands of police, and other similar instances, as well as to the issues raised by the Black Lives Matters movement, we feel that we cannot simply be bystanders. Earlier, you read

the [letter of solidarity](#) issued by Interim President Isabel Roche. In alignment with that statement, and also with incoming president Laura Walker's focus on responsive action, we can each make a commitment to educate ourselves and maintain a focus on justice. Accordingly, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion will be highlighting recommended resources in the Bulletin that can help us understand histories of, and challenges faced by, marginalized communities. These resources can also provide recommended actions in response to injustice. You are encouraged to access these materials and to recommend others with which you may be familiar. Also, keep an eye out for discussions, trainings, and other events pertinent to diversity, equity, and inclusion that we will be hosting. Consider this an invitation to think about the people Bennington recruits, retains, and serves, and how our areas of focus (teaching, creative production/research, service, and outreach) affect the welfare of the full tapestry of human diversity.

- Self-reflection: *Me & White Supremacy* by Layla Saad (28-day reflection workbook), [Justice in June](#) (30-day educational process)
- Readings: [97 Things White People Can Do To For Racial Justice](#)
- Exercise: [Harvard Implicit Bias Project](#)
- Organizations: [Black Lives Matter](#); [The Marshall Project](#)
- Movie: *I Am Not Your Negro* (available on Amazon Prime)

### Oil Tank Inspections

On Wednesday, July 1, West Oil will be conducting oil tank inspections in all campus buildings. They will be escorted to all spaces by Buildings and Grounds. The inspections should only take a few minutes in each location. If you have questions, please contact [Todd Siclari](#).

### June Newsletters

Every month, Communications sends newsletters out to [alumni and friends of the College](#) and [families](#). Enjoy June's stories and encourage interested community members to [sign up](#) for the alumni and friends newsletter.