

"IN REMEMBRANCE" OF

GEORGE FLOYD: October 14th, 1973 – May 25th, 2020

George Floyd touched the world. Friends and coworkers recall that George Floyd "would shake your hand with both hands. He would bend down to greet you. He had this real cool way of talking. His voice reminded me of Ray Charles...so soft spoken." "He'd say, 'Right on, right on, right on.'" George was a peacemaker who never fought, a sports scholarship recipient, rapper, father and grandfather, and a COVID19 survivor. In his last 8 minutes and 46 seconds, George Floyd said 16 times, "I can't breathe." –from Fernandez and Burch's "I Want to Touch the World" to 'I Can't Breathe.'" *NYT*, 18 June, 2020.

JUNE 15TH 1920: DULUTH LYNCHING OF ELIAS CLAYTON, ELMER JACKSON, & ISSAC MCGHIE

Accused of raping a white woman, 3 black men were beat and hanged from a light pole while Duluth police stood aside. At this month's centennial remembrance, Governor Walz cited the "unbroken line" between the 1920 lynching and George Floyd's 2020 murder. The Duluth Police Chief, whose great aunt had made the rape accusation, said, "We can't have George Floyd [to] have died in vain."

MANKATO MASSACRE OF 1862

In 1862, after U.S. theft of their land, the Dakota people were starving and desperate. The U.S - Dakota War ended with the U.S. convicting 303 Dakota men of war crimes. Thirty-eight were hanged in the largest mass execution in U.S. history. As they died, they joined hands and sang. The remaining Dakota were sent to Dakota territory, but not before many interned women and children died at Fort Snelling.

JUNE 25TH BATTLE OF THE LITTLE BIGHORN

In 1876 the U.S. army invaded the Black Hills to extract gold. The Lakota and Cheyenne protested, gathering ten-thousand strong in the Bighorn River Valley. The U.S. Army attacked, and Custer and his battalion were wiped out. Years later, police arrested Lakota leader Sitting Bull in retaliation. When the Lakota responded in peaceful protest, the 7th Cavalry massacred 150 Lakota people at Wounded Knee.



Day of Mourning Learning and Action

Thursday, June 25, 2020

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

St. Paul Campus, 700 E. 7th Street, St. Paul

POEM

I am enraged, I am infuriated, and inside me is ravaged
My city is burning and it is being mercilessly ransacked
my heart sinks
and my mind refuses to think
is this the world we want to live or we want to leave our children
with?
the facade that shamelessly exists
that everybody is equal irrespective of race, color, and creed
how many George Floyds have to be killed to break this myth?
As it reverberates through our streets
I can't breathe, I can't breathe
In agony, helpless Mother earth also bleeds

Sometimes it is the virus outside
Sometimes it is the virus inside
The notion of safety is becoming transient
Be it the protestors or the pandemic
No one is spared, the poor or the affluent
On top of it, racism, bigotry, and hatred
is all becoming rampant
What else is unfolding
In this unprecedented year 2020
as if everything is being plotted meticulously
by the Almighty
What else is left to be seen!
How much more our sore heart can glean!!

Albeit, the dreamer in me always finds a silver lining
As we march through the tunnel with the hope of finding
a future that is optimistic and thriving
let's continue our fight each and every one
till the dust settles and we chant in unison
we are all equal!
as one soul, one nation!

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PROGRAM AGENDA

- 9:00am** Welcome from the Anti-Racism Coalition, Jill Beaulieu Wilkie and Deborah Mosby, Co-Chairs
- Blessing and land acknowledgement
Hopè Flanagan, Turtle Clan Seneca Tribe from Tonawanda Reservation, Dream of Wild Health
- Remarks by the President Arthur, Metropolitan State University
- Student Remarks
Saryna Sheppard, Human Services student and June 25 event volunteer coordinator and Natasha Jones, Vice President of the Black Student Union
- 9:30am** Dr. Raj, Introduction of Keynote Speaker:
Leslie Redmond, President of the NAACP
- 10:00am** Simultaneous Learning Circles:
Circle 1: Activism and its role in undoing the literal and metaphoric knee, Anika Brown, Cynthia Wilson, Shvonne Johnson
Circle 2: Impact of Implicit and Explicit Biases, Kathleen Cole, Kim Halvorson, Marisol Brito
Circle 3: Corrections and Judicial process, Nikki Starr, LaShunda Roberts, Paris Crutchfield
Circle 4: Politics and Policies serving as the literal and metaphorical knee, Chauntyil Allen, Matt Filner, Kerry Kleyman
Circle 5: Mass Incarceration serving as the knee on the necks of Black and Brown People, Kevin Reese, Brother Phil, Kahlee Griffey
- 11:00** Break
- 11:15** Communal Sharing from Learning Circles
- 12:00-1:00pm** Collective Action with lunch:
Nantawan Lewis, Robert O'Connor
- 1:00pm** Concluding remarks Dr. Nantawan Lewis