

Dear Roundtable participant:

We glad you can come to the pre-conference roundtable on white awareness at the University of Chicago on Thursday, November 5. Our roster of participants is as follows:

Joseph Barndt, Crossroads Ministry, Chicago
Pat Bidol-Padva
Diana Dunn, People's Institute for Survival and Beyond, New Orleans
Meck Groot, Women's Theological Institute, Boston
Rita Hardiman
Jeff Hitchcock, Center for the Study of White American Culture, Roselle, NJ
Judith H. Katz, Kaleel Jamison Consulting Group
Paul Kivel, Violence Prevention Educator, Oakland, CA
Paul Marcus, Community Change, Inc., Boston
Cooper Thompson, VISIONS, Inc.

LOCATION

The roundtable will take place in the 2nd Floor South Lounge of the Reynolds Club at 1135 E. 57th St. on the campus of the University of Chicago in the Hyde Park section of Chicago. The Reynolds Club houses student activities. We have use of the room courtesy of our student organization sponsor, Chicago Ink. Chicago Ink is a student newspaper and is also the campus sponsor of the 3rd National conference on Whiteness.

TIME

We'll begin at 9 AM and finish at 4 PM with coffee breaks and lunch as we determine. There is a coffee shop in the Reynolds Club and restaurants within walking distance.

HOPED FOR OUTCOMES:

This is an opportunity for us to network on a topic rarely discussed in public venues, white awareness. So we look forward simply to the opportunity to meet one another and share our perspectives and work. At the same time, we hope to:

- 1) Produce a short statement about the importance of white awareness.
- 2) Collect background information to compile a report on the current state of white awareness work
- 3) Discuss strategies about how we can reach a broad audience with the statement and report.

WHAT TO BRING

Please bring with you any materials, articles, information you would like to share with others regarding yours and others efforts to address racism and change.

Please come prepared to talk about what you know if going on throughout the country to address racism so that we can develop a shared understanding of the scope of efforts.

OTHER ATTENDERS:

We have invited two other people to attend the session. Roger Gans, is a technical writer who has worked with Judith. We would like to use his services in completing the final copy of the report and thus are inviting him to share the day's activities.

Leon Wynter is a reporter who writes a monthly Business and Race column for the Wall Street Journal. He is attending the National Conference on Whiteness, and is known to Jeff Hitchcock and Lowell Thompson (not attending), two of the conference organizers. He would like to sit in on the roundtable, possibly in the afternoon, and perhaps interview some of us. He is interested in how white awareness and the growing interest in whiteness will impact the practice of diversity training and consulting in business. My (Jeff's) sense is that he believes it is something that is needed.

SOME QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT:

Below are two sets of questions/topics to think about.

Judith's questions...

1. What are the issues you are most concerned about today as a white person working against racism?
2. How have you seen the work against racism change since you've began?
3. In what ways do you see white people taking action and responsibility for addressing racism in a positive way?
4. What are the areas in which you believe we have to collectively get smarter about dealing with racism?
5. How do we strengthen our efforts for change among ourselves as white people?
6. How do we need to strengthen our partnerships with people of color?
7. What is your vision of "goodness" "success"?

Jeff's questions...

What are the dimensions of white awareness training done in the last year? The last 5 years? Describe in terms of:

- Who is being trained - types of organizations and people?
- Who is training - list organizations - resource directory?
- What content does training contain?
- What are motives to do?
 - for client organizations
 - for trainees
 - for trainees
- What are benefits to doing training?
 - for client organizations
 - for trainees
 - for trainees
- What markets are being used?
 - Client organizations
 - Conferences
- What formats?
 - Workshops
 - Integrated in curriculum
- What applied fields have done training?

- Social workers
- Counselors
- Whiteness studies - pedagogy
- Student teacher training
- What has changed over the last 20 years? The last 50 years?
- Why should people, organizations care about white awareness?

CONTACT INFO:

Please get back to either Jeff or Judith ASAP if you have questions.

Jeff will be in Chicago on Wednesday, November 4. To get messages to him, use the conference phone number at (773) 643-5732.