

The following is most of the Zoom chat for ***Do You Have Black Friends, or Do You Just Know Black People*** presented by Allison Linney for The Center at Belvedere on 24 March 2021. A link to the presentation can be found [here](#). This Zoom chat contains questions, comments and links from the presentation curated by Carolyn Merrick, Program Coordinator for The Center at Belvedere, 434.220.9742.

- [www.thecenterville.org](http://www.thecenterville.org) to sign up for weekly e-news and to donate
- From Tabzeera to Everyone: 06:01 PM

Betty and Coretta is also a good movie to watch

- From Meredith to Everyone: 06:07 PM

I hesitated to reach out to Black people I know after George Floyd even though I worried about them but somehow it felt intrusive to reach out,....it was all so ugly I felt like I was covered with the sxxxt of whiteness

- From Kathy to Everyone: 06:19 PM

Thank you! I loved Dr. Jana's presentation.

- From Gaynell to Everyone: 06:21 PM

Thank you Allison. You are truly a servant leader.

- From ERIKA to Everyone: 06:22 PM

<https://vabook.org/2021/03/15/acts-of-exclusion-a-conversation-with-tiffany-jana/>

- From Cynn timer to Everyone: 06:24 PM

As a shy person I tend to think that actively pursuing a friendship is intrusive. With black people all the mores where I worry about my motives. Am I seeking to number myself among the justified good white people?

From Katherine to Everyone: 06:25 PM

I have had a close friend of color for many years and yet we have never had substantive discussions about race. How do I start/

- From Liz to Everyone: 06:26 PM

Can you give any example of the most difficult feedback you received and how you handled it?

- From Roberta (Direct Message) 06:27 PM

Allowing ourselves to be vulnerable is very good advice. added to Kaki's advice last week om being comfortable with being uncomfortable. Yea!. Any more advice?

- From Lisa to Everyone: 06:27 PM

When having the DEI conversations that start with the "this is a safe place" to me means let's not make the white people in the room feel guilty but how can I be authentic to my to experience?

- From Tiffany to Everyone: 06:28 PM

Stay open and curious. The motive should be to know, connect , and deeply understand the perspective of another. White people often don't listen to us. If your actions demonstrate advocacy and openness, you will be closer to cultivating a friendship. Leverage your privilege on behalf of folks you aspire to know better. Help us get through doors that are often closed to us.

- From Allison Linney (she/her) to Everyone: 06:32 PM

[https://www.allisonpartners.com/resources/entry/blm\\_what\\_should\\_i\\_do\\_next](https://www.allisonpartners.com/resources/entry/blm_what_should_i_do_next)

<http://vabook.org/2021/03/15/acts-of-exclusion-a-conversation-with-tiffany-jana/>

- From Vashon to Everyone: 06:34 PM

Allison, I commend you for taking on this subject. Definitely recommend the YouTube video White Rage by Carol Anderson. It does an excellent job of providing context for the challenges (post and current) black people have faced.

- From Emily to Everyone: 06:35 PM

Do you have any recommendations for books/movies for children/teens?!

- From Tiffany Jana to Everyone: 06:36 PM

If more of us were people you couldn't say mean things around, the world would be a kinder place.

- From Clay to Everyone: 06:36 PM

+1!

- From Jen to Everyone: 06:36 PM

Stamped (YA version) is a great book. anything Kwame Alexander or Jason Reynolds

- From Natalie to Everyone: 06:37 PM

+1 Dr. Jana

- From Tiffany Jana to Everyone: 06:41 PM

Yes! Feedback to self SHOULD be the worst! If you do the work, you will be much more sensitive to doing better!

- From Jane to Everyone: 06:44 PM

I grew up in a very ethnic/diverse community in the 50/60's...families were all in a very similar economic situation; our parents worked together in same job roles, blacks&whites; I had black girlfriends who were my best friends; we went to the same school and did they same stuff.....I moved to charlottesville about 40 years ago, and still haven't developed the number of black friendships I had 50 years ago.....It seemed it was all so much easier when we all felt we were at the same economic level,,,and the difference among us were just the color of our skin.

- From Jackie to Everyone: 06:45 PM

Jacqueline Woodson has terrific books for teens.

- From Allison Linney (she/her) to Everyone: 06:45 PM

[https://www.allisonpartners.com/wvrn/entry/vabook\\_2021\\_is\\_all\\_virtual](https://www.allisonpartners.com/wvrn/entry/vabook_2021_is_all_virtual)

- From Jackie to Everyone: 06:45 PM

Brown Girl Dreaming

- From ERIKA 06:46 PM

When you realize you were insufferable and exhausting in the beginning stages of coming to terms with your own racial identity, do you go back to apologize to the people you troubled with your newly found "wokeness"?

- From Kathy to Everyone: 06:47 PM

I enjoyed the book festival talk with the two authors Raybearer and Crosshairs and Raybearer is YA Both were extremely interesting speakers!

- From Tiffany Jana to Everyone: 06:48 PM

We've been protecting whiteness and white feelings forever. We MUST center Black wellbeing and LISTEN.

It's not safe to be Black.

If you are an ally, you have to get uncomfortable sometimes.

- From Enid to Everyone: 06:49 PM

This is the basic purpose of this series. We hope to open eyes and hearts and EARS.....

- From Natalie to Everyone: 06:49 PM

Yes 🙏 Dr Jana

- From Enid to Everyone: 06:49 PM

Be an ally.

- From Natalie to Everyone: 06:49 PM

Mediocre (the book) is the shot!!

- From Ravi to Everyone: 06:52 PM

I think your comments on children and how they experience the world is an important perspective. My twin boys became close friends with many of the young black athletes at the Miller School were they attended high school (they are close friends of Jackson too), and when they would all go out on the weekends, my twins had an arrangement that they would be designated to talk to the police should they get pulled over (and be the only drivers) so as to protect their friends....when they shared this with me it was upsetting and yet so real.

- From Jen to Everyone: 06:52 PM

yes!

- From Richard to Everyone: 06:52 PM

what does centering mean? I am not sure.

- From Clay to Everyone: 06:53 PM

@Richard putting yourself and your experience at the center of the conversation

- From Tiffany Jana to Everyone: 06:53 PM

Centering = privileging, focusing on, protecting, and making the main perspective of the experience

- From Leigh Ann to Everyone: 06:54 PM

Thanks, Allison, for weaving in the practical tech tips from Dr. Kelli Palmer on how to use both eyes and ears to consume more of the great content being shared.

- From Tabzeera to Everyone: 06:56 PM

Thank you for your presentation. It's important to understand that Blacks are not seeking privilege. We want to know that when we enter an environment that we are not treated differently. We are not seeking to take over positions but to feel that the best person for the job was appointed. We are not seeking friendships. Friendships come naturally when you are naturally friendly to others.

- From Frankto Everyone: 06:56 PM

thank you Allison!!!!

- From Sam to Everyone: 06:56 PM

Thank you

- From Gaynell to Everyone: 06:56 PM

Thank you.

- From Beth to Everyone: 06:56 PM

Thank you!

- From Frank to Everyone: 06:56 PM

and thanks Dr. Jana for a special appearance!

- From Barbara to Everyone: 06:56 PM

thank you Allison and Dr. Jana. Great talk. Learning!

- From Shannon to Everyone: 06:56 PM

Incredible. Thank you. I have actions in mind now!

- From Tiffany Jana to Everyone: 06:56 PM

Glad to be here!

- From Dona to Everyone: 06:56 PM

Thank you!

- From Kent and Judy to Everyone: 06:57 PM

Thank You!

- From Virginia to Everyone: 06:57 PM

Thank you!

- From Vashon to Everyone: 06:57 PM

Awesome job Allison!

- From Jean to Everyone: 06:57 PM

Thank you!

- From Maggie to Everyone: 06:57 PM

Thank you! This was excellent, especially the feedback from Tiffany!