



OUR COMMITMENT TO SELF AND SOCIETY

EMAIL: INFO@OURCOMMITMENT.NET

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FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

OUR FEBRUARY EVENT:

A HISTORY OF EQUITY IN FORT COLLINS!

DATE: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2022

TIME: 6:00 – 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: ZOOM

JOIN FROM PC, MAC, LINUX, IOS OR ANDROID:

[HTTPS://HP.ZOOM.COM/J/6174914469?pwd=Y0RVcVVOWDLxVTh4MVBQAVPTSjZlQTO9](https://hp.zoom.com/j/6174914469?pwd=Y0RVcVVOWDLxVTh4MVBQAVPTSjZlQTO9)

IF REQUESTED: PASSWORD: 442878

MEETING ID: 617 491 4469

As we look to where we are going in making Fort Collins truly a “Choice City” for all, we need to know where we are - and to know where we are, we need to know how we got here!

Maren Bzdek and Jim Bertolini of the City’s Historic Preservation Department, and Lesley Struc, Curator of the City Archive at the Museum of Discovery, will present an overview of the history of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Fort Collins, and there will be time for questions.

Our presenters will also tell us how we can help them to fill in the gaps in their historical records by adding our stories to the archive!

We will also hear from our flagship stakeholders: Claudia Menendez, the City’s Equity officer, Paul Ford of HP, Inc., and Deirdre Sullivan of United Way of Larimer County, about what their organizations are doing, as we speak, to further equity and inclusion!

Pre-registration for this event is **not** required – we look forward to seeing you there!

Looking Forward by Looking Back
By Rev. David Williams

Roots, the book by Alex Haley, was first published in 1976 and made into a TV miniseries in 1977. It traced the history of an African family from the continent of Africa to the shores of North America. It highlighted the twisted saga of inhumane treatment to people whose skin color and ethnic ways were different than their captors. It was highly acclaimed and reviewed by millions. Haley was applauded for his brashness on a subject matter often not known or discussed.

Another highly acclaimed movie in the same vein was the movie *Amistad*. It chronicled the story of a Spanish slave ship that set sail from Cuba to America. During the trip, a slave aboard the ship leads other slaves in an unprecedented uprising. Once more, looking back in history, film can bring an awareness of historical markers often submerged beneath the surface of regular classroom information.

Still another highly prized movie was *Schindler's List*, produced in 1993. This film tells the story of Oskar Schindler, a German industrialist who saved more than 1300 Jews from the Nazis. This movie made the world look back at a shameful moment in human history, but celebrate an obscure person in Oskar Schindler who risked his life to do what was right for the downtrodden.

OCTSS continues to challenge our community to search our closets and see where we might have missed the mark in promoting love and acceptance for all. For some this may be a totally new experience. The world which they are accustomed to has always been welcoming and accessible. But, for others, it may challenge their thinking after seeing history through the lens of rejection, sometimes annihilation, disassociation, or subpar human retribution. History can uncover our highest achievements as well as our lowest behaviors.

On February 27, 2022 OCTSS will host our first gathering of the year online for the community. Special guests from around the community will share their thoughts on our collective past, our current status and hopes for a brighter future. We believe all these components are necessary to create a better tomorrow. Our work is predicated on individuals and companies assessing where they have been since their inception; to ask the hard questions. Have we truly been a welcoming and encouraging place of business for all who help make or use our product? If not, what do we need to change? Where have we been blind? Who is missing from enjoying the good life that only a select few are experiencing? These questions and others like these demand total honesty in order to transform a company and community. We hope you will join us for this important discussion.

Look at What is Already Happening!
by Nina Rubin

When we made our initial commitment to this initiative last June, we imagined a significant amount of potential change in our community. As we started working with businesses, non-profits and community leadership, we were thrilled to realize how much work was already in progress!

We have now identified our first round of commitment partners and they are awesome! Each has made a public, measurable commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and are all willing to partner with others in the community to identify measurable goals and to model for and encourage others.

Our first partners are City of Fort Collins, United Way of Larimer County and HP.

We are also in contact with other organization and businesses that are in the process of making commitments and coming on board. We are looking forward to recognizing and celebrating all those whose work is making this a better community for all. Please stay tuned for our ongoing reports of successful commitments and what that means for all of us!

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

PLEASE CONTACT US AT THE EMAIL ADDRESS AT THE TOP OF THIS NEWSLETTER!