THE YWCA BERKELEY/OAKLAND
RACIAL JUSTICE/ADVOCACY COHORT
PRESENTS...

- MAPPING OUR STORIES -
ON THE ROAD TOWARDS
RACIAL JUSTICE

A ZINE:
with artwork and story telling from the
YWCA Racial Justice/Advocacy Program, an
end of semester project.
over and over again
it becomes known
the peace we seek is seeking us
the joy a full bud
awaiting our attention
justice in our hands
longing to be practiced
the whole world
learning
from within

this thrilling mote in
the universe
laboratory
labyrinth

internalize demands
you are the one
you are waiting for
externalize love
bind together us into
a greater self
a complex movement
a generative
abundance
an embodied evolution

learn to be here
critique is a seductress
her door is always open
so what if you get some
we are going further
past reform, to wonder
this requires comprehension
that cannot fit in words

out beyond our children
beyond the end of time
there is a ceaseless cycle
a fractal of sublime
and we come to create it
to soil our hands and faces
loving loving and loving ourselves, and all our places
At the YWCA Berkeley/Oakland, our vision is to support young leaders to develop the tools and resources they need to advocate for themselves and to build collective power in our communities. To fulfill the YWCA’s mission of eliminating racism and empowering women, it is critical that we are working to support full access and engagement for women and girls of color in our communities. We believe that when we center and follow the leadership of women and girls of color, and uplift the priorities and solutions of those most impacted, we can more meaningfully engage in the struggle for access, equity, and collective liberation.

COVID-19 and the ongoing, vast systemic inequities that continue to present barriers and challenges to us as individuals and as a collective, continues to impact our individual and collective capacities, energy, and physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing. We acknowledge these inequities, and are committed to centering access and equity at the core of our program – in our work together, and how we are in relationship with one another.

This semester, the Racial Justice & Advocacy Programs combined forces to create a space for young leaders to come together and build beloved community, engage in deep political education, and to provide the space for program members to explore the history of white supremacy and systemic racism in the United States, as well as liberation movements and initiatives led by Queer, Trans, Black, Indigenous, Native & Communities of Color.

To wrap up the Fall Semester, Racial Justice/Advocacy Program members had the opportunity to create their Story Mapping Projects that connected their lived experiences, personal stories and knowledge to the issues and themes we explored in the program this semester.

With this ZINE, we invite you to dream, build, and struggle with us for the world we know is possible.

In Solidarity & With Love,
The YWCA Berkeley/Oakland Racial Justice/Advocacy Fall 2020 Cohort
she said she was obsessed with the sky
because it was far away
away from the
frustration, stagnancy, bitterness
and she just wanted it to
swallow her up
and turn her thoughts
into clouds of mist
among those sublime
shadows and colors
where there would just be
peace
and
relief
she said she lived in a world where
the truth was
buried like lies
and hypocrites spoke lies as
revelation of truth
she said she lived in a world where
her blood burned
in resentment
and there was nothing to be done
but let it burn into an ash
and let it scatter in the wind
like a forgotten promise
for the world was obscene in all its offences
despite its beauty
and the world told her that she didn’t
really matter
that change took millennia
and what was she
in the face of
a thousand years
but she said she was obsessed with the sky
and the sky was there
at every dawn and every dusk
it was there
as gray
as blue
as yellow
as pink
as purple

like the people it saw and
the things they felt
and their words and their actions
and the cries of the oppressed
against their oppressors
and the belief in freedom
and justice
and above all
happiness
so the sky was hope
hope in existence
in equality
in kindness
in fighting the good fight; the right
fight even if it was by the hand
the words
or just within
the heart,
beating away with fervent aspiration
she said she would become like the sky
in a world where
life wasn’t valued,
she would value it
she would take root in those hearts
those hearts yearning for
a place of belonging
a place of redeeming
a place of quiet
and a place of respect.
she was the sky
and she silently watched
she quietly learned

and silence and quiet
do send a message
always being there,
even in our hearts,
does send a message

"a poem about hope, justice, and resilience." - Aamna, IG: @h_aamna
"Before this semester, I wasn't aware of all the issues and the extent of injustice in the US. One of the first things I learned this semester was that I was living on Indigenous lands. To think back, it seems so obvious, however when we were told the first day - and everyday - to remember and honor the land we were on, and to act in solidarity with the Indigenous communities it belongs to, I realized that this would be the first part of my journey towards being a better and informed self.

I decided to do a drawing connecting the land that UC Berkeley is built on to its roots with the Ohlone people. I wanted a way of representing the two together and connect them, allowing viewers to understand that the land the school and the city of Berkeley are built upon is one that belongs to the Ohlone people. This drawing is a reminder to myself that I will always be on Indigenous land. It also reminds me of how much I've learned this semester and how much I still have to learn about this topic, as well as every topic we've touched on this semester, in my future to become an even better advocate and ally." - Kaleigh, IG: @kaleightlin
"I wanted to explore the disproportionate exposure to pesticides faced by people incarcerated in California’s Central Valley due to the placement of prisons in mainly agricultural, rural areas. Inadequate education or attention to the issue by prison staff results in prolonged exposure meaning incarcerated communities are at a higher risk for adverse long term health outcomes such as cancer, Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, etc.

This represents just one of many ways that the incarcerated people can continue to be punished by society's actions and inactions long after their prison sentence has been served. On the outside I wanted to show the California that mainstream society sees, a bountiful, fertile land, and I used lyrics from the California state song. On the inside, I wanted to show the effect of these pesticide chemicals within lungs leading to poor health outcomes and using quotes from incarcerated people which I found in the book Poverty, Prisons, Pollution, and Valley Fever, by Sarah Rios in Lessons in Environmental Justice." - Sage, IG: @dirtytempleton
Today, voting ballots are open to most U.S. citizens regardless of gender or ethnicity with ballots in numerous languages for increased accessibility. Yet if 72 years earlier, a Chinese-American woman citizen would have been barred from placing her vote. 100 years earlier, a woman citizen would have been unqualified to vote. What would my voting rights looked like before the 19th Amendment and the Nationality Act were passed? I take a look at the work and legacy of Mabel Ping-Hua Lee (b.1897-d.1966), the First Chinese-American Woman Suffragist. Her life is a testament to her belief for not only women's suffrage but social and economic equality. This is shown in her 1916 speech, "The Submerged Half," to the U.S. Women's Political Union, "For no nation can ever make real and lasting progress in civilization unless its women are following close to its men if not actually abreast with them." - Emily
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To learn more about the YWCA Berkeley/Oakland and all of our programs:

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Sign up for our newsletter @ https://bit.ly/2z1scO0 to see us in action and get involved!

If you have any questions, or want to get in contact with us, email info@ywca-berkeley.org or call (510) 848-6370.
THANK YOU!

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