



## Social Justice Working Group Newsletter

*"The most fulfilled people are the ones who get up every morning and stand for something larger than themselves. They are the people who care about others, who will extend a helping hand to someone in need or will speak up about an injustice when they see it."*

**-Wilma Mankiller**

The ORA Social Justice working group is charged with keeping ORA staff informed of opportunities to engage in activities on Emory's campus and the greater Atlanta area around social justice, diversity, and inclusion. Our newsletter aims to provide relevant information and events to stay connected to the Emory and Atlanta community.



### Native American Heritage Month

This month celebrates the contributions — cultures, traditions, histories — of Native people to the United States. Learn more [here](#).

We gather with our families around the Thanksgiving table, thinking about the stories we have read or learned through the years that portray this meal as peaceful. As we know more about Native Americans and their experience, it was much different for them and what became of their culture and population. This encounter between the Wampanoag Peoples and the English settlers in 1621 "had much more to do with political alliances, diplomacy, and a pursuit of peace." You'll be able to learn more [here](#).

We have an [Indigenous Language Path Working Group](#) here at Emory.

A great book that reframes the Thanksgiving story that can be shared with little ones: [KeepunumukWeeâchumun \(corn\) Thanksgiving Story](#).

The Smithsonian has a National Museum of the American Indian; visit it virtually [here](#).

### International Day of Disabled Persons

The annual observance of the International Day of Disabled Persons was proclaimed in

1992, by the [United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/3](#). The observance of the Day aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. It also seeks to increase awareness of gains to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.



## AI and Social Justice

As we are just energized and informed after Research Week, we want to highlight some information on Artificial Intelligence working for Social Justice at Emory:

**Precision Medicine Delivered with Empathy:** The Emory Empathetic AI for Health Institute (AI Health) harnesses the power of machine learning and big data to transform how healthcare systems prevent, diagnose, treat, and cure diseases. The three-pronged mission of the institute is to innovate, deploy, and scale up accessible, cost-effective, and equitable artificial intelligence (AI) tools into healthcare solutions for patients at Emory Healthcare and, ultimately, across the globe. [Find more information here](#)

## The Holidays are Coming!

You can learn more about other cultures and religious traditions no matter what you celebrate. See below some of those traditions:

[Diwali](#) took place on November 12 and celebrated India's biggest and most important holiday. The festival gets its name from the row (*avali*) of clay lamps (*deeps*) that Indians light outside their homes to symbolize the inner light that protects them from spiritual darkness.

[Hannukah](#) will start on the evening of December 7 and end on December 15, 2023. Hanukkah commemorates, in particular, the rededication of the Second Temple of Jerusalem by lighting candles on each festival day.

[Posadas](#) is a religious festival celebrated in Mexico and the US between December 16 and 24, commemorating Joseph and Mary's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of a safe refuge where Mary could give birth to the baby Jesus.

[Christmas](#) is an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, observed primarily on December 25 as a religious and cultural celebration among billions of people worldwide.

[Kwanza](#) is an annual celebration of African-American culture from December 26 to January 1, culminating in a communal feast called Karamu, usually on the sixth day.[1] It was created by activist Maulana Karenga, based on African harvest festival traditions from various parts of West and Southeast Africa. [More information here.](#)



## Transgender Day of Remembrance

"Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) was started in 1999 by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998. The vigil commemorated all the transgender people lost to violence since Rita Hester's death, and began an important tradition that has become the annual Transgender Day of

Remembrance."

Participate in Transgender Day of Remembrance by attending and/or organizing a vigil on November 20 to honor all those transgender people whose lives were lost to anti-transgender violence that year, and learning about the violence affecting the transgender community.

## Did you know about the Emory Twin Memorial Towers?

Emory University's [Twin Memorials project](#), which will honor the enslaved individuals who are part of the university's history, has entered an exciting phase with the engagement of [Hood Design Studio](#). As Hood Design Studio carries out its work, there will be more opportunities for the Emory community to share feedback and get involved.



### Additional Information from our Presenters during Research Week

Thank you for attending the SJWG session during Research Week and for your positive feedback! We want to follow up with some links to the critical work our presenters are doing:

Dr. Eri Saikawa: The Community-Based investigation of soil contamination in Atlanta does an extensive job of finding areas that need remediation from lead and other metals. You can find their information [here](#).

Dr. Judy Gichoya: Her career focus is on validating machine learning models for health in real clinical settings, exploring explainability, fairness, and a specific focus on how algorithms fail. Find this news piece on [Dr. Gichoya's work](#).

Michelle Pratt presented her team's findings on how to improve breastfeeding practice among minorities.

## Events and Other Updates

### SJWG Events

- **Giving Thanks: Sharing Our Cultural Traditions.** Thursday, November 16 at noon. Register [here](#).

### Other Important Dates

- November 16- [Dutch American Heritage Day](#)
- December 10- [Human Rights Day and International Human Rights Day](#).

Look at the [Emory University Events](#) for more happenings

Visit our website

Questions or Suggestions? Email us!



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