

# Community through Partnerships



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Wellesley staff members at the first spring session of **Community Conversations**, which discussed creativity and mindfulness in teams. *Photo credit: Rosa Hunter*

## COMING SOON: SPRING EVENTS

This summer's popular staff workshop series, **Community Conversations**, is being relaunched for the spring semester with four new sessions - topics include being an active bystander and cross-cultural communication. Check out our website for more information!

Other events:

**POC Open Mic Night**, hosted by Mezcla, Ethos, & PAC:

March 6 at 7:00pm, Lulu Anderson Forum

**First Generation Summit**, hosted by Wellesley First Generation Network and Class Action:

March 7 at 9:30am, Pendleton East & Jewett

**"Race: The Power of an Illusion" film & discussion:**

March 4, 11, & 18 at 6:30pm, Wellesley Public Library

Discussion leader: Robbin Chapman on March 18th

## LEARNING CORNER: PRIVILEGE

What is privilege? A privilege is an advantage that only some people have access to because of their social group membership. Members of social or identity groups with power—for example, white people, men, the upper class—benefit from membership in those groups without having to think about how race, gender, and class affect their daily lives. In the United States, whites have race privilege. They can see people of their race represented as the default in mainstream movies, books, and advertisements. Privilege dynamics can be complex, especially considering intersections of privilege, such as gender and race. A white woman might wonder if her gender will hold her back as she pursues her career, but she will not have to worry that her race will do the same. Other than when engaging in discussions about privilege, she won't have to think about how race affects her at all.

### JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

Email: [partnerships@wellesley.edu](mailto:partnerships@wellesley.edu)

Twitter: [@partnershipswc](https://twitter.com/partnershipswc)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/diversity.inclusion.5](https://www.facebook.com/diversity.inclusion.5)

Web: [www.wellesley.edu/diversityandinclusion](http://www.wellesley.edu/diversityandinclusion)



Wellesley College hosted the **World of Wellesley's 15th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast** in January. Robbin Chapman, Associate Provost, delivered opening remarks.

## Did you know?

Dr. Harriet Alleyne Rice became the first black graduate of Wellesley College in 1882. She went on to become a physician to French troops in World War I.

Source: Stokes, Keith. "A Woman of Valor." *Eyes of Glory*, 3 Oct. 2014.

## THE PARTNERSHIPS FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Increasing Access and Equity  
Community Learning and Development

Creating an Engaged Campus Community  
Institutional Advancement of Diversity

## Community in Action

Your Wellesley peers are making a difference!

If you'd like to be featured here, contact the Partnerships at [partnerships@wellesley.edu](mailto:partnerships@wellesley.edu).

**Layli Maparyan, Katherine Stone Kaufmann '67 Executive Director of the Wellesley Centers for Women and Professor of Africana Studies:** “Recently, I was invited by the U.S. Embassy in Berlin to serve as the Black History Month speaker for a five-city tour in Germany. My topic was ‘Building Cultures of Inclusion across Race, Ethnicity, and Religion,’ with an emphasis on women’s insights and innovations. Using womanism as a framework, I focused on everyday social change actions that build amity and reconciliation among members of polarized groups. I shared stories from figures as diverse as Eleanor Roosevelt and Mary McLeod Bethune, Marilyn Monroe and Ella Fitzgerald, Xernona Clayton and Calvin Craig, Leymah Gbowee and Asatu Bah Kenneth, Pregs Govender, Audre Lorde, and Bayard Rustin. My take-home message was about social change leadership, or the recognition and deployment of one’s own agency and authority around a social change vision for which one feels passion and drive. Cultivating social change leadership in everyone accelerates social change and brings us closer to our desired ends of justice and fellowship sooner and more democratically.”



Layli Maparyan at the U.S. Embassy in Berlin  
Photo credit: U.S. Consulate General Frankfurt



From left: Nikita Saladi '16, Allison Steiz '16, Tracey Cameron (Advisor to Students of African Descent), Judy Allen-Shaw of Natick, & Kim Ashby (Psychology Intern, Counseling Services)  
Photo credit: Robin Cook-Nobles

**Wellesley College staff and students** celebrated the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 19th. Several attended the Greater Framingham Community Church’s 28th Annual MLK Breakfast in Natick. In his keynote address at the breakfast, Dr. Lee Pelton of Emerson College said: “The American dream, the dream for which King gave his life...is to create out of the rich diversity of human experience, equality and social justice....I want to implore you to remain faithful, to be full of hope, to continue to do the good work that you already do, because we cannot afford to be silenced.” Dr. Cynthia Jackson of Northeastern University served as the Mistress of Ceremonies, and David Freeman Coleman and Confirmation, a contemporary gospel vocal ensemble, performed. Other members of the Wellesley community attended the World of Wellesley’s 15th Annual MLK Breakfast, which Wellesley College hosted this year. The celebration included performances by the Kuumba Singers from Harvard and the Wellesley High School Step Squad, and a keynote address by Jacqueline Dansler Peterson of The College of the Holy Cross.

