

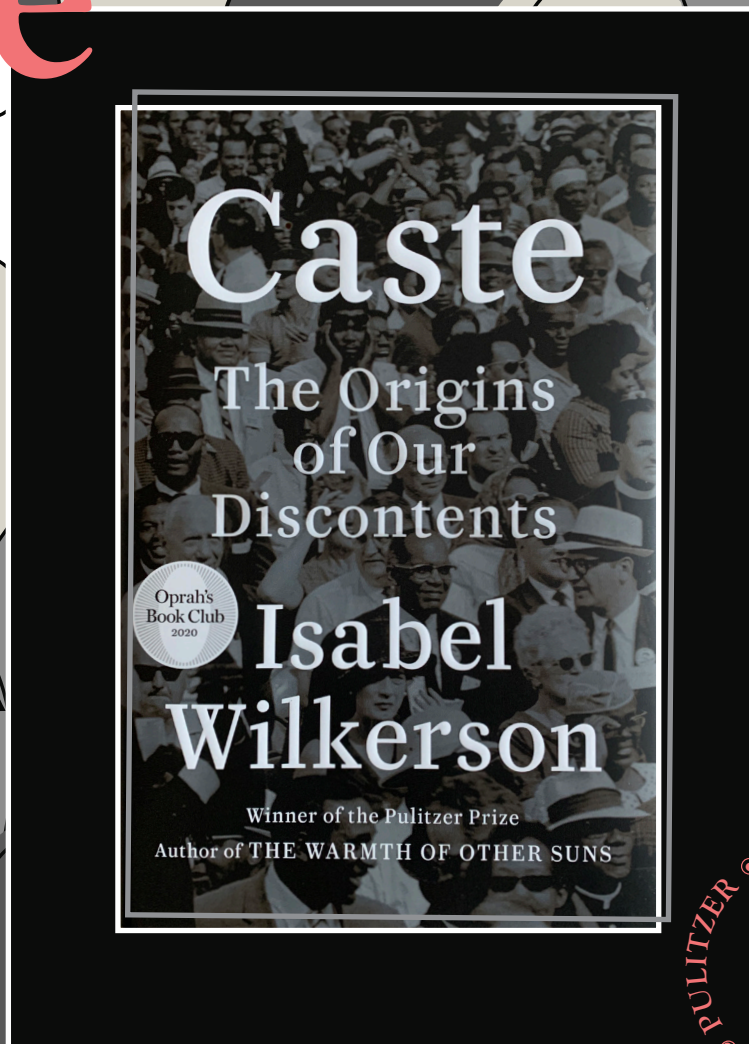
LAKE OSWEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS THE AWARD WINNING  
**LAKE OSWEGO READS**

**15<sup>TH</sup>**  
ANNUAL

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2021



**Caste**

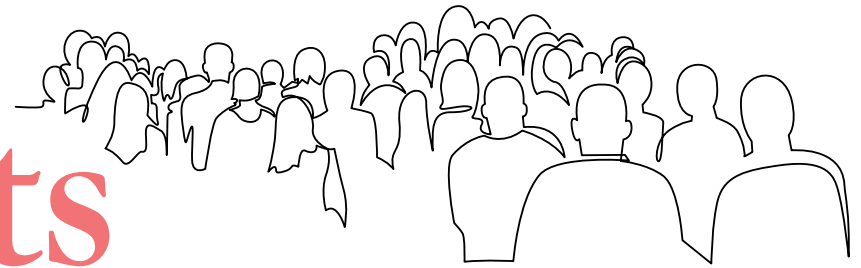


PULITZER PRIZE WINNING AUTHOR

“Wilkerson combines impressive research . . . with great narrative and literary power . . . . She humanizes history, giving it emotional and psychological depth.”

- John Stauffer, *The Wall Street Journal*

# Caste Events



## THUR | JANUARY 7 | KICKOFF & BOOK GIVE AWAY

Come celebrate the 15th annual Lake Oswego Reads! Bring your Lake Oswego Library card to receive a free copy of *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson. While upholding COVID-19 precautions, 800 free books will be distributed to Lake Oswego Public Library card holders starting at 10am, thanks to ongoing support from the Friends of the Lake Oswego Library. **Library, 706 Fourth St.; 10 a.m.-7 p.m.**

## MON | FEBRUARY 1 | LO Reads Virtual Art Show

Join several artists for a memorable evening as they virtually explain the art they created after reading *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*. The art work will then be displayed throughout February at the Lakewood Center for the Arts and on the Lake Oswego Public Library website. Artists include Stuart Adams, Gerri Allen, Bill Baily, Mary Burgess, Leslie Cheney-Parr, Susie Cowan, Alma de la Melena Cox, Marta Farris, Bonnie Garlington, Dave Haslett, Dyanne Locati, Ann Munson, Debby Neely, Kara Pilcher, Jan Rimerman, Leanne Streit, Natalie Wood, and Beth Yazhari. Pre-registration required for program. All art pieces will be available for purchase in person or online at [www.lakewood-center.org](http://www.lakewood-center.org). **Join with Zoom; 6 p.m.**



## TUES | FEBRUARY 2 | Librarian-led Book Discussion

Share your thoughts, feelings, and questions about *Caste* with fellow readers in a free online discussion led by LOPL Librarian Chris Myers. Pre-registration is required. **Join with Zoom; 3:30 p.m.**

## TUES | FEBRUARY 2 | First Tuesday Music

Critically acclaimed blues and gospel singer Marilyn Keller, accompanied by legendary jazz pianist Darrell Grant, will perform a live-streamed program of blues and gospel music.



A 2016 inductee of the Jazz Society of Oregon Hall of Fame, Marilyn Keller is a 38-year veteran of music and stage performance in jazz, gospel, R&B, pop, blues, and theater. She has performed locally, nationally, and internationally.

Darrell Grant has performed extensively as a bandleader and solo artist throughout the U.S., Canada, and Europe, in venues ranging from clubs to major jazz and chamber music festivals. His current projects include the MJ New Quartet and Step by Step: The Ruby Bridges Suite. This free concert is made possible through the generosity of the Friends of the Lake Oswego Public Library. Pre-registration required. **Join via YouTube and Facebook; 7 p.m.**



*Her closeness with, and profound affection for, her subjects reflect her deep immersion in their stories and allow the reader to share that connection.*



- Janet Maslin, *The New York Times*

## WED | FEBRUARY 3 | Social Justice Sewing Academy Workshop

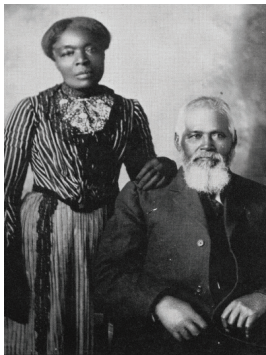


Part 1 of 2. Create a quilt block! Founded in 2017, the Social Justice Sewing Academy (SJSA) is a youth education program that bridges artistic expression with activism to advocate for social justice. Through a series of hands-on workshops in schools, prisons and community centers across the country, SJSA empowers youth to use textile art as a vehicle for personal transformation and community cohesion and become agents of social change. Many of our young artists make art that explores issues such as gender discrimination, mass incarceration, gun violence and gentrification. The

powerful imagery they create in cloth tells their stories, and these quilt blocks are then sent to volunteers around the world to embellish and embroider before being sewn together into quilts to be displayed in museums, galleries and quilt shows across the country. This visual dialogue bridges differences in race, age and socioeconomics and sparks conversations and action in households across the country.

SJSA empowers young people to use sewing to express themselves and create opportunities for growth and change. <http://www.sjsacademy.org/what-we-do.html> Registration is required. Ages 13-20. Includes 2 live, zoom calls and supplies. Free to first 30 registrants. **Join with Zoom; 4 p.m.**

## WED | FEBRUARY 3 | Oregon Black History: 450 Years in 45 Minutes

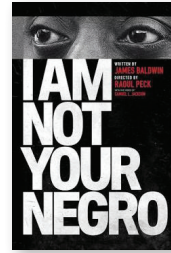


Zachary Stocks, Executive Director of Oregon Black Pioneers.

Oregon Black Pioneers is Oregon's only historical society dedicated to preserving and presenting the experiences of African Americans statewide. Since 1993, our organization has illuminated the seldom-told history of people of African descent in Oregon. We are inspired by the tenacity of Black Oregonians who have faced discrimination and hardship to make a life for themselves here over the past 400 years. We honor their sacrifices by remembering their stories and by sharing them to the public.

Oregon Black Pioneers is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. <https://oregonblackpioneers.org/about/> Presented by Oswego Heritage Council. Pre-registration is required. **Join with Zoom; 7 p.m.**

## FRI | FEBRUARY 5 | Movie Club



The Lake Oswego Public Library and the Lake Oswego Group, Respond to Racism, invite you to watch the Oscar-nominated documentary *I Am Not Your Negro: James Baldwin and Race in America* and join an online discussion of the film. The documentary, narrated by Samuel L. Jackson, explores the continued peril America faces from institutionalized racism. In 1979, James Baldwin wrote a letter to his literary agent describing his next project, *Remember This House*. The book was to be a revolutionary personal account of the lives and successive assassinations of three of his close friends – Medgar Evers, Malcom X, and Martin Luther King, Jr. At the time of Baldwin's death in 1987, he left behind only thirty completed pages of his manuscript. In this 2016 documentary, master filmmaker Raoul Peck envisions the book Baldwin never finished. The result is an examination of race in America, using Baldwin's original words and a flood of rich archival material. *I Am Not Your Negro* is a journey into Black history that connects the past of the Civil Rights movement to the Black Lives Matter movement. The documentary is available for free streaming through Kanopy with your Lake Oswego Public Library card at <https://lakeoswego.kanopy.com/video/i-am-not-your-negro>. View the film at your convenience and then join Respond to Racism and the Library for a facilitated discussion. Pre-registration is required for the discussion. **Join with Zoom; 2 p.m.**

## SAT | FEBRUARY 6 | Story Time for ALL

Gather, listeners, young and old, to hear a story read by one of our Library's Children's Librarians. Chosen from some of our favorite diverse books, it will be a story for everyone, featuring diverse characters, doing kind things, written by an author of color. Pre-registration is required. **Join us on Facebook and YouTube; 10 a.m.**

## SAT | FEBRUARY 6 | Raising Up Socially Conscious, Anti-Racist Communities for Our Children



Katharine Phelps. Each of us holds the power to help build communities and institutions that are truly welcoming spaces for all of us. What are some resources, frameworks, and mindsets that we as parents, educators, and community members can use to develop, inwardly and outwardly, our personal calls to action and illustrate to our children that justice, equity, and diversity matter. **Join us on Zoom; 10:30 a.m.**

**SAT | FEBRUARY 6 | With this Needle: Women, Words and Quilts**



Portland quilt maker Tamara King discusses the ways women have used the art of quilt-making over the years to add their voices to the social and political discussions of the day. See quilt slideshow, *Words Unbound*, on our website. Pre-registration is required. **Join us on Zoom; 7 p.m.**

**MON | FEBRUARY 8 | The Origination Point and Role of Race in a Caste System**



Dr. Bill de la Cruz will discuss the role of race in perpetuating a caste system of division. He will talk about the narratives and mindsets of superiority and its effects on socializing stereotypes and perceived inferior groups. Pre-registration is required. **Join us on Zoom; 7 p.m.**

**TUES | FEBRUARY 9 | "Whatever else the true American is, he is also Black"**



John Callahan and Ralph Ellison. Callahan, a retired professor of Humanities at Lewis and Clark, will explore race in America through author, Ralph Ellison's work - fiction, essays, and letters. **Join us on Zoom; 7 p.m.**

**WED | FEBRUARY 10 | Turning Judaism into a Race: Social Justice Sewing Academy Workshop**



(Second in a series of two) Create a Quilt Block! Registration is required. Ages 13-20. Includes 2 live zoom calls and supplies. Free to first 30 registrants. **Join us on Zoom; 4 p.m.**

**THUR | FEBRUARY 11 | "Racial Hygiene" in Nazi Germany**



Professor Maureen Healy of the Department of History at Lewis & Clark College will examine the legal avenues through which the Nazi regime excluded Jews from German society in the 1930s. Rejecting a traditional view of Jews as members of a religious or cultural community, the Nazis sought to define Jews as members of a race determined by blood and birth. This talk will explore the dubious "science" underpinning Nazi racial laws and examine ways that German Jews coped with their shrinking legal and civic identities. Pre-registration is required. **Join us on Zoom; 7 p.m.**

**TUES | FEBRUARY 16 | Third Tuesday Author**



Jack Miller, *Assembling a Racist Power Structure: The Politics of Racial Divisiveness*. How and why did skin color become the basis of an interlocking political, social, and economic hierarchy in colonial American? What were the unique needs and circumstances that led to the creation of a system of chattel slavery supported by a strong sense of racial identity among Southern whites? In this talk, Dr. Jack Miller will examine these questions, exploring the political, economic and psychological dynamics that contributed to the process of assembling a racist power structure in the United States. Pre-registration is required. **Join us on Zoom; 7 p.m.**

**WED | FEBRUARY 17 | When Just Us, Get No Justice: How Racial and Gender Hierarchies Maintain Black Women's Oppression**



Professor Shirley A. Jackson is a sociologist and former chair of the Black Studies Department at Portland State University. Dr. Jackson's research focuses on race, gender, and social movements. Her talk focuses on the intersecting caste-like system of race and gender that works to silence and restrain Black women's voices. During times where calls for social justice focus on Black Lives Matter, these calls appear to have excluded them. **Join us on Zoom; 7 p.m.**

**SAT | FEBRUARY 20 | Cooking with a City Councilor**



Join our newest Lake Oswego City Councilor, Massene Mboup, as he teaches us to cook his favorite Senegalese Chicken and Rice dish. Recipe will be provided with sign up for this virtual event. Pre-registration is required. **Join us on Zoom; 4:30 p.m.**



Please check the website [www.ci.oswego.or.us/loreads](http://www.ci.oswego.or.us/loreads) to register for programs and for all updates throughout the month of February.

**SUN | FEBRUARY 21 | Unlearning & Re-educating:  
Why LO Needs Curriculum Reform**

A panel discussion with LOSD students: Cameron Iizuka, Serena Lum, Barbara Chen, Izzy Rowland, Ella Diaz, Jackie Booth, Phoebe Garrett and Emma Kaer as they discuss the need for anti-racist curriculum in Lake Oswego Schools. Pre-registration is required. **Join us on Zoom; 2 p.m.**

**TUES | FEBRUARY 23 | Hear Author Isabel Wilkerson**



Join the Pulitzer Prize-winning, bestselling author of *The Warmth of Other Suns*, as she examines the unspoken caste system that has shaped America and shows how our lives today are still defined by a hierarchy of human divisions from her New York Times best-selling book, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*. Pre-registration is required for this virtual event.

**Join us on Zoom; 5:30 p.m.**

**THURS | FEBRUARY 25 | Librarian-Led Book Discussion**

Join the conversation and share your experience reading *Caste*. Meet with fellow readers in a free online discussion facilitated by LOPL librarian Alicia Yokoyama. Pre-registration is required. **Join us on Zoom; 10:30 a.m.**

**THURS | FEBRUARY 25 | Caste-themed Trivia Night**

Join your hosts, Librarians Chris and Carissa, for a *Caste*-themed night of online trivia. Pre-Registration is required. For details, <https://www.ci.oswego.or.us/library/remote-lopl/online-lopl-trivia> **Join us on Zoom; 7 p.m.**

**FRI | FEBRUARY 26 | Librarian-Led Book Discussion**

*Caste* provides the opportunity for readers to take a close look at the American experiment, to see it clearly through new eyes and notice the deep issues and problems inherent in American society. Share your thoughts, feelings, and questions about *Caste* with fellow readers in a free online discussion led by LOPL Librarian Todd Feinman. Pre-registration is required. **Join us on Zoom; 1 p.m.**

**MORE TO SEE & DO DURING FEBRUARY**

**PUBLIC library**  
**TRIVIA NIGHT**  
with the Lake Oswego Public Library  
**7pm Thursdays ... all ages**  
using Zoom and Google Docs  
visit Remote LOPL @lopl.org to register

FEED THE MIND. NOURISH THE SOUL

**TUESDAYS TO GO!**  
WITH LAKE OSWEGO READS!

WE SUPPORT  
LAKE OSWEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY  
JOIN US EACH TUESDAY IN FEBRUARY  
WITH A MEAL BEFORE AN LO READS VIRTUAL EVENT

**CALL FOR ART**

**PLEASE  
SUBMIT  
YOUR  
ENTRY  
BY  
JAN. 29,  
2021**

Our country struggles with the issues of human division based on skin color in many areas of our society. Lake Oswego Reads invites Lake Oswego High School students, ages 13 - 20, to create art on this important social justice topic which is one of the critical subjects in this year's book selection—*CASTE: THE ORIGINS OF OUR DISCONTENTS*, by Pulitzer Prize author, Isabel Wilkerson.

The arts are a powerful way to bring awareness to our community and your voice is essential and valuable in expanding our perceptions. This is how we create change.

With the goal of uniting our humanity, we encourage you to contribute your creative expression—shine the light on divisiveness based on skin color or race, call out an injustice or explore an empowering narrative.

Your art will be shared with the community online on the Lake Oswego Reads website.

Submit your photo, video or pdf to: [Nniland@lakeoswego.city](mailto:Nniland@lakeoswego.city)

*No art experience is necessary, only a desire to share your creativity in these ways:*

- \* 2D art, incl. photography (please take a photo-png and high rez jpegs).
  - \* Digital illustration and/or animation
  - \* Sequential art (like a comic strip with or without words)
  - \* E-zine (can be an interactive pdf with or without links)
  - \* Short graphic novel
  - \* Poetry (with or without video; with or without art)
  - \* Essay
  - \* Video (mp4 format only)
  - \* Act a scene that raises awareness
  - \* Film your art process and/or discuss its meaning
- Please make sure your images are copyright-free.

**"Every day you have the power to choose our better history—by opening your hearts and minds, by speaking up for what you know is right."**

~ Michelle Obama



# BOOK SUMMARY

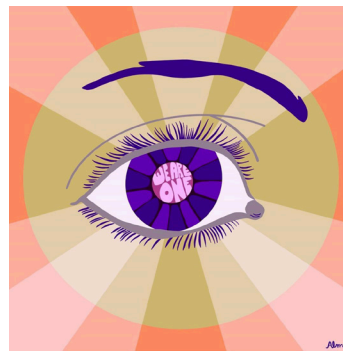
In this brilliant book, Isabel Wilkerson gives us a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores, through an immersive, deeply researched narrative and stories about real people, how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings. Beyond race, class, or other factors, there is a powerful caste system that influences people's lives and behavior and the nation's fate. Linking the caste systems of America, India, and Nazi Germany, Wilkerson explores eight pillars that underlie caste systems across civilizations, including divine will, bloodlines, stigma, and more. Using riveting stories about people—including Martin Luther King, Jr., baseball's Satchel Paige, a single father and his toddler son, Wilkerson herself, and many others—she shows the ways that the insidious undertow of caste is experienced every day. She documents how the Nazis studied the racial systems in America to plan their out-cast of the Jews; she discusses why the cruel logic of caste requires that there be a bottom rung for those in the middle to measure themselves against; she writes about the surprising health costs of caste, in depression and life expectancy, and the effects of this hierarchy on our culture and politics. Finally, she points forward to ways America can move beyond the artificial and destructive separations of human divisions, toward hope in our common humanity. Beautifully written, original, and revealing, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* is an eye-opening story of people and history, and a reexamination of what lies under the surface of ordinary lives and of American life today.

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Isabel Wilkerson, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Humanities Medal, is the author of the critically acclaimed *New York Times* bestseller *The Warmth*

*of Other Suns*. Her debut work won the National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction and was named to *Time's* 10 Best Nonfiction Books of the 2010s and *The New York Times's* list of the Best Nonfiction of All Time. She has taught at Princeton, Emory, and Boston Universities and has lectured at more than two hundred other colleges and universities across the United States and in Europe and Asia.



# DISCUSS THE BOOK

There will be many opportunities to participate in book discussion groups during February on Zoom. See the calendar for details.



For weather and program changes, visit [www.ci.oswego.or.us/loreads](http://www.ci.oswego.or.us/loreads)  
**503-675-2538**



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**SPONSORS:** The Lake Oswego Reads program would not be possible without the amazing generosity of our sponsors. For 15 years, many businesses and organizations have donated funding, program venues and in-kind services to support our mission to bring the community together through books. Heartfelt thanks to all who contribute to Lake Oswego Reads and especially to:



FEBRUARY 2021

*CASTE: THE ORIGINS OF OUR DISCONTENTS*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 7 Book Giveaway (Library) 10-7 pm	LO Reads Art Show Reception Jan Rimerman 6 pm	•Librarian-Led Book Discussion (Chris Myers) 3:30 pm •First Tuesday Music Marilyn Keller 7 pm	• Social Justice Workshop (Part 1) 4 pm •Oregon Black History: 450 Years in 45 Minutes 7 pm		•Movie Club Allison Arnold - <i>I Am Not Your Negro</i> Discussion with RTR 7 pm	•Story Time 10 am •Raising an Anti- Racist Child 10:30 am •Women, Words and Quilts 7 pm
	•Dr. Bill de la Cruz Role of Race in Caste System 7 pm	•John Callahan <i>Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man &amp; Juneteenth</i> 7 pm	•Social Justice Workshop (Part 2) 4 pm	Mo Healey Caste System in Nazi Germany 7 pm		
		Third Tuesday Author Jack Miller Assembling a Racist Power Structure: The Politics of Racial Divisiveness 7 pm	•Professor Shirley A. Jackson 7 pm			•Cooking with City Councilor Massene Mboup 4:30 pm
•Unlearning & Re-educating: Why LO Needs Curriculum Reform-LOSD Student Panel Discussion 7 pm		•Hear Author Isabel Wilkerson 5:30 pm		•Librarian-Led Book Discussion (Alicia Yokoyama) 10:30 am •Caste-themed Trivia Night (Carissa & Chris) 7 pm	• Librarian-Led Book Discussion (Todd Feinman) 1pm	

Please check the website [www.ci.oswego.or.us/loreads](http://www.ci.oswego.or.us/loreads) to register for programs and for all updates throughout the month of February.

“ As we go about our daily lives, caste is the wordless usher in a darkened theater, flashlight cast down in the aisles, guiding us to our assigned seats for a performance. The hierarchy of caste is not about feelings or morality. It is about power—which groups have it and which do not. ”