Office for Diversity and Inclusion Newsletters, Spring 2024

Office of Diversity and Inclusion

Anila Karunakar

Director for Diversity and Inclusion

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/univ_publications

Part of the Higher Education Commons, and the History Commons

Repository Citation
https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/univ_publications/3282

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in General University of Maine Publications by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.
Greetings and good day,

It is a pleasure to be writing to you all today! My name is Taylor Matthew Ashley and I serve as the Coordinator for Diversity and Inclusion alongside an incredible team of students and staff! I’d like to take this opportunity to encourage you to take a moment to reflect...just for a few moments. Reflect on how you feel at this moment, the joyful moments from the day, the things you accomplished, and the people you interacted with. Let this reflection fill you with positivity, for we can always use a fresh dose! Now think about tomorrow...what will you do? who will you encounter? how will you feel? Now let time run its course, remembering to stop to smell the roses!

With all of this in mind, I wish you all a beautiful 2024! As the seasons come and go, I hope you find yourself learning new things, meeting new
folks, interacting with nature, and much more! This is our moment to shine!!

Sincerely,
Taylor Matthew Ashley (He/Him)
Taylor.Ashley@maine.edu
Coordinator for Diversity and Inclusion

Upcoming Programs and Events
On behalf of the Office for Diversity and Inclusion, we are extremely excited to invite the two of you to the first session of the Rivers, Cultures, and Cuisines Series (RCC). The RCC Series is an immersive culinary and dining experience that will feature four rivers from around the globe and highlight the various regional cultures and cuisines. Above all, the series aims to build cultural awareness about the rich diversity of our planet and how the natural environment has shaped our cultures and cuisines!
RCC Series Schedule

1. Penobscot Jan 29
2. Mississippi Feb 5
3. Amazon Mar 4
4. Niger Apr 1

This series is **FREE and open to all UMaine community members** and has been made possible with support from the Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center, the Cultural Affairs and Distinguished Lecture Series, and the HAMM Grant.

**The first river we will be exploring is the Penobscot River**, home to the Penobscot Nation and the University of Maine. This session is scheduled for **Monday, January 29th** and will feature an exquisite meal, crafted by Chef Joe Robbins as well as an upbeat musical performance by the Burnurwurskek Singers.

We invite you to join us for either the Culinary and/or Dining Experiences. To reserve your spot, simply complete this Google Form, [https://forms.gle/HMCxGz4JvMudDdPR7](https://forms.gle/HMCxGz4JvMudDdPR7). **We will be accepting reservations beginning on Monday, January 22nd.**

For questions and accommodations, you may contact Taylor.Ashley@maine.edu.
Free Admission

Monetary, food, or clothing donations to our highlighted non-profits strongly encouraged!

Concert for a Cause
January 27th, 6-8pm
IMRC

Supporting:

Food AND Medicine

The University of Maine is an EO/AA Institution.
FULFILLING MLK’S DREAM

WORKING TOWARDS PEACE
Join us for a short program in recognizing MLK's enduring impact on the lives of students today at UMaine.

Thursday, February 15th, 4pm-5:30pm
North Pod, Memorial Union
The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.

BookTok: Find or Fail?

Do you wish you had a place to discuss your thoughts on books with others? Then come join us at the first BookTok Book Talk Event at Fogler Library!

Friday January 26th
5pm-7pm

The Oakes Room at Fogler library
Join ODI for an open session of Safe Zone training to learn about the Q+ community and its terms!

February 28th
1:00pm
Memorial Union Room 312
LGBTQ+ community game nights

Spend some time having fun, playing games & hanging out with other Queer people!

FEB. 23rd
MSC, UNION RM 314
6pm - 9pm

MAR. 22nd
MSC, UNION RM 314
6pm - 9pm

APR. 19th
MSC, UNION RM 314
6pm - 9pm

Questions or accommodations? Contact odi@maine.edu
The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.
DIFFICULT DIALOGUES

Developing community to listen, learn and discuss

FEBRUARY 27
MARCH 26
APRIL 17
12PM - 1PM, MULTICULTURAL STUDENT CENTER

THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION INSTITUTION.
People of Privilege

Using our privileges for change.

January 31st @12
February 21st @12
March 27th @12
Memorial Union room 312
LUNCH AND LEARN

COME AND LET US LISTEN, LEARN, AND LUNCH

FEBRUARY 27
MARCH 26
APRIL 17

12PM - 1PM, MULTICULTURAL STUDENT CENTER

THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION INSTITUTION.
Hello Friends! Welcome to 2024!!!
I am so happy to be back this semester to bring you all some amazing opportunities for us to practice community. I hope that you are looking forward to new resolutions that help us be community better.
Friends, it weighs on me to openly say that I continue to center my thoughts to the war that is taking place between Israel and Palestine. I join all peacemakers in pleading for peace by asking for an immediate ceasefire, release of all hostages without any harm and allowing medical and food aid reach those in desperate need in Palestine.

The team at ODI has been working hard to create programs that will enrich us while also working on building skills to practice community. I hope you will join us.. We just completed the first of the Rivers, Cultures and Cuisines series' food from in and around the Penobscot River. It was an
incredible experience. Next Monday, we enjoy food from the Mississippi. Sign up to have a place at the table!

I wish us all a safe, healthy and enriching journey this Spring 2024!

Sincerely,
Anila Karunakar (She, her, hers)
Director, Office for Diversity and Inclusion
Memorial Union Room 310
Defamation Experience

Sit in as a member of the jury on a mock defamation trial that "holds our prejudices and assumptions under a powerful lens, and does not let go except by way of an unsettling self-examination." A part of our Social Justice Saturdays Track, this is a great opportunity to engage and learn.

Saturday, February 10
1-3:30 p.m.
DPC 100
BLACK HISTORY MONTH KICK-OFF:
BLACK LIVES MATTER FLAG RAISING
THURSDAY, FEB. 1ST
12PM IN THE UNION ATRIUM
IN FRONT OF THE BOOKSTORE
Rivers, Cultures, & Cuisines

FREE AND OPEN TO THE UMAINE COMMUNITY
AN IMMERSIVE CULINARY & DINING EXPERIENCE

PENOBSCOT  JAN  29
MISSISSIPPI  FEB  5
AMAZON  MAR  4
NIGER  APR  1
Mondays | 2-4:30 & 5-7

RESERVE YOUR SPOT THE MONDAY BEFORE EACH SESSION!

For Questions and Accommodations, Contact odi@maine.edu
The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.
AS AN AMERICAN...
HOW CAN I USE MY PRIVILEGE FOR PEACE?

WITH STATE REPRESENTATIVE LAURIE OSHER

PEOPLE OF PRIVILEGE SERIES

Memorial Union Room 312
January 31st @ 12

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.
Join us for a free screening of the documentary film "A Tree of Life: The Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting" followed by live panel discussion with subjects from the documentary, Audrey Glickman, Diane Rosenthal, & Andrea Wedner.

"A Tree of Life: The Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting" is a deeply personal portrait of the survivors, victims and family members, who share their harrowing first-hand accounts of the impact of the shooting on the community. The film is rooted in a community in the aftermath of a violent attack, as they work to rebuild and heal. Despite core differences, they come together to determine what justice looks like and how to best move forward while honoring and learning from the past. The film sheds light on the collective trauma suffered by a tight-knit group and brings into sharp focus the hate-based rhetoric that surrounds many of the mass shootings today, threatening the fabric of our society.
ODI PRESENTS

DIFFICULT DIALOGUES

Developing community to listen, learn and discuss

FEBRUARY 8TH: CRITICAL RACE THEORY
MARCH 8TH: #METOO
APRIL 4TH
2PM - 3PM, MULTICULTURAL STUDENT CENTER

THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION INSTITUTION
On behalf of all of us at ODI, we wish a wonderful Lunar New Year!
It is the year of the Dragon, y'all! Dragons, we are ready for you intelligence, charisma, and confidence to shine. Shine, dear Dragons!

Over the last couple of weeks, folx have asked me about why we, I, celebrate Black History Month. So I would like to attempt to respond to these inquiries. (Also, thank you for reading my newsletters and for engaging with me!).
1. Being in this country for about 26 years, I have noticed an inequitable representation of Black and Brown folx in my personal life. Also, in my college and university, in popular music, in art, in theatre, in books I read, movies I watch, history I know...and the list is long. Black History invites me to take an inventory of myself. Of course, Black History is important and matters every day, AND I use this month to specifically center Black history, books, research, music, art, because I am aware of how much I don't know and I want to know better.
2. Celebrating Black History aligns with my values! I value my community, my friends and there what matters to them, matters to me. I find myself celebrating Pride, Mardi Gras, Thanksgiving, honoring Veterans Day, and so I fully lean into celebrating Blackness in all its forms.

3. Knowing the history of Black Americans allows me understand Whiteness.

4. Understanding Blackness in its colonial and historical context allows me to challenge and dismantle anti-Blackness in my life.

5. Learning more about Black History allows me to connect with my students. It allows me to validate them, their experiences, their successes, their daily traumas. It helps me to champion them. That alone makes it worth the celebration!

What about you? Why do you celebrate Black History Month? Share them with me.

Sincerely,

Anila Karunakar (She, her, hers)
Director, Office for Diversity and Inclusion
Memorial Union Room 310
Welcome to the year of the Dragon from all at ODI

Click here to learn more: Lunar New Year Celebration
The year's theme for Black History Month is "African Americans and the Arts". Sign up here at 28 Days of Black History Month to receive a newsletter daily that centers Black artists.
## ODI FEBRUARY EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1ST THURSDAY</td>
<td>12:00-12:30PM</td>
<td>Black History Month Flag Raising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6TH MONDAY</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rivers Cultures and Cuisines: Mississippi River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8TH THURSDAY</td>
<td>2-3PM</td>
<td>Difficult Dialogues in the Multicultural Student Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10TH SATURDAY</td>
<td>12-3PM</td>
<td>Social Justice Saturday : Defamation Experience DPC 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14TH WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>11AM-12PM</td>
<td>Bi-Brunch in the Rainbow Resource Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Working Towards Peace : Fulfiling MLK’s Dream, North Pod, Memorial Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19TH MONDAY</td>
<td></td>
<td>Time for a Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20TH TUESDAY</td>
<td>10AM-12:30AM</td>
<td>Implicit Bias, Microagression and Response Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21ST WEDNESDAY</td>
<td></td>
<td>People of Privilege 12-1pm, MSC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23RD FRIDAY</td>
<td>6-9 PM</td>
<td>LGBTQ+ Game Night in the Multicultural Student Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26TH MONDAY</td>
<td>2-4PM</td>
<td>Intro to DEI Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28TH WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>1-3PM</td>
<td>SafeZone Training located in MSC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29TH THURSDAY</td>
<td>1-3PM</td>
<td>Transforming Self for Racial Equity 1-3pm Black Connections Dinner: Career Center 5-7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Difficult Dialogues in the Multicultural Student Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31ST WEDNESDAY</td>
<td></td>
<td>Working Towards Peace : Fulfiling MLK’s Dream, North Pod, Memorial Union</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Year of the Dragon

LUNAR NEW YEAR Celebration

Feb. 7th

FREE Food, Games, and Fun!

57 Stodder Hall 6-8PM
DIFFICULT DIALOGUES

CRITICAL RACE THEORY
MULTICULTURAL STUDENT CENTER
MEMORIAL UNION 312
FEBRUARY 8TH, 2PM - 3PM

THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION INSTITUTION.
Defamation Experience

Sit in as a member of the jury on a mock defamation trial that "holds our prejudices and assumptions under a powerful lens, and does not let go except by way of an unsettling self-examination." A part of our Social Justice Saturdays track, this is a great opportunity to engage and learn.

Saturday, February 10
1-3:30 p.m.
DPC 100
CARIBBEAN & LATINX STUDENT ALLIANCE PRESENTS:

VALENTINE'S DAY

Goodie Sale

GUAVA & CREAM CHEESE PASTRIES

V-DAY BAGGIES AND CARDS

12th, 13th, & 14th FEBRUARY
12PM-3PM

LOCATION: BEAR'S DEN TABLING STRIP

FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL ALONDRA.GOMEZ@MAINE.EDU
BISEXUAL BRUNCH

11AM | FEBRUARY 14TH | RRC
MEMORIAL UNION
ROOM 224
ALL BISEXUAL AND MULTISEXUAL PEOPLE ARE WELCOME!
FULFILLING MLK’S DREAM

WORKING TOWARDS PEACE

Join us for a short program in recognizing MLK’s enduring impact on the lives of students today at UMaine.

Thursday, February 15th, 4pm-5:30pm
North Pod, Memorial Union
Hello friends!
Today's message is really simple.
It is the season of love - in all of its forms. Not simply the romantic kind. Reach out to a friend, your siblings, family, guardians, grandfamily, neighbors, mentor, niblings, and you know how else.
Valentines Day can come with excitement and anticipation for some, while it comes with loss and loneliness for others. Simply check in with each other and support each other the way that is acceptable by all.
Some ways of showing love is
Affirmation
Appreciation
Saying hello
Being kind to yourself
Sharing a funny meme
Try at least one thing this week, in addition to showing up to our amazing events!

Sincerely,
Anila Karunakar (She, her, hers)
Director, Office for Diversity and Inclusion
Memorial Union Room 310
CARIBBEAN & LATINX STUDENT ALLIANCE PRESENTS:

VALENTINE'S DAY

Goodie Sale

GUAVA & CREAM CHEESE PASTRIES

V-DAY BAGGIES AND CARDS

12th, 13th, & 14th FEBRUARY 12PM-3PM

LOCATION:
BEAR'S DEN TABLING STRIP

FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL ALONDRA.GOMEZ@UMAINE.EDU
THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION INSTITUTION.

BISEXUAL BRUNCH

11AM  FEBRUARY 14TH  RRC
MEMORIAL UNION
ROOM 224
ALL BISEXUAL AND MULTISEXUAL PEOPLE ARE WELCOME!
Thursday Dinner & Dialogue Presents:

**Focus on Abortion**

*Americans Share Their Stories*

A Traveling Exhibit by Roslyn Banish
With Presentations by Grandmothers
for Reproductive Rights (GRR)

Thurs. Feb 15, 2024
6pm Dinner | 7pm Program

The Wilson Center
67 College Ave, Orono

wilsoncenterorono@gmail.com
IMPLICIT BIAS, MICROAGGRESSIONS
AND RESPONSE LANGUAGE

FEB 20, 10AM-12:30PM
MARCH 21, 12:30PM-3PM
MEMORIAL UNION
229 BUMPS ROOM
Drop in for support filling out the 2024-2025 FAFSA!

Wednesday, February 21
Catered lunch by Las Palapas Mexican Restaurant

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.
LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY GAME NIGHT

Spend some time having fun, playing games & hanging out with other Queer people!

MSC, UNION RM 314
FRIDAY, FEB. 23RD
6PM - 9PM

Questions or accommodations? Contact odi@maine.edu
The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.
2024
INTERNATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL
A celebration of dance from around the world.
SATURDAY, FEB. 24
2 PM AND 7 PM
JAPANESE CULTURAL CELEBRATION
1 PM PRIOR TO THE SHOW
COLLINS CENTER FOR THE ARTS
University of Maine
FREE ADMISSION
For more information call
581.3437 or visit
umaine.edu/international

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.
INTRODUCTION TO
DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION
TRAINING SESSIONS

THE UNION | RM 312 | 2-4PM
MON FEB 26
WED MAR 20 *HYBRID

INTENDED FOR ALL UMAINE COMMUNITY MEMBERS
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

ODI FACILITATORS

FOR ACCOMMODATIONS & INQUIRIES
ODI@MAINE.EDU

THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION INSTITUTION.
TUESDAY • FEBRUARY 27TH • 12:30PM-1:30PM
MULTICULTURAL STUDENT CENTER
ROOM 312 IN THE MEMORIAL UNION

JOIN ODI AND TITLE IX FOR A FREE LUNCH AS WE DISCUSS PROTECTING OUR PEACE BY LEARNING EMPOWERING WAYS TO SET BOUNDARIES
Join ODI for an open session of Safe Zone training to learn about the Q+ community and its terms!

February 28th
1:00pm
Memorial Union Room 312
Transforming Self for Racial Equity
Facilitated by Anila Karunakar (She. her. hers)

MEMORIAL UNION 229 BUMPSROOM
FEBRUARY 29, 1:00PM - 3:30PM
MARCH 28, 10AM - 12:30PM
BLACK CONNECTIONS DINNER
AN OPPORTUNITY TO FORM NEW NETWORKS FOR BLACK STAFF, FACULTY AND STUDENTS
MEMORIAL UNION SUITE 300
FEBRUARY 29TH
5PM - 7PM

THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION INSTITUTION.
The Crown Act
1 message

UMaine Office for Diversity and Inclusion <Anila.karunakar@maine.edu>  
Reply-To: UMaine Office for Diversity and Inclusion <Anila.karunakar@maine.edu>
To:  

Mon, Feb 26, 2024 at 5:56 PM
FEBRUARY
DEI TRAININGS FACILITATED
BY THE OFFICE FOR
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

26 INTRO TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION
MONDAY 2-4 PM MSC, UNION RM 312

28 SAFE ZONE TRAINING
WEDNESDAY 1-3 PM MSC, UNION RM 312

29 TRANSFORMING SELF FOR RACIAL EQUITY
THURSDAY 1-3:30 PM BUMPS RM, UNION

odi@maine.edu
This is the last week of Black History Month.

Friends,

There is so much left to learn in order for us to be in community. Last Friday, I woke up to the news of the murder of Nex Benedict. How can this happen? What are we telling our children? Ourselves? How can we prevent our fragilities from manifesting through violence? How can we 'legally' penalize a student, Darryl George, for the way they style their hair?

Come learn about how we can utilize inclusive practices in our speech
and actions as we work with and serve our friends from the LGBTQ+ community at our Safe Zone training on the 28th from 1-3pm. Learn more about how the Crown Act frees Black folx to wear and style their hair in every way that is natural to them. The power to create supporting and affirming spaces are up to us. May we rise up to that calling.

Sincerely,
Anila Karunakar (She, her, hers)
Director, Office for Diversity and Inclusion
Memorial Union Room 310

We’re Ending Hair Discrimination

_The CROWN Act was created in 2019 by Dove and the CROWN Coalition, in partnership with then State Senator Holly J. Mitchell of California, to ensure protection against discrimination based on race-based hairstyles by extending statutory protection to hair texture and protective styles such as braids, locs, twists, and knots in the workplace and public schools. Learn more at_ [https://www.thecrownact.com/](https://www.thecrownact.com/)
Thank You Maine for signing The CROWN Act!

By signing The CROWN Act, into law, you have given protections to over 20K Black citizens in your state against race-based hair discrimination.

#PassTheCROWN
LUNCH & LEARN
PROTECTING YOUR PEACE
TUESDAY • FEBRUARY 27TH • 12:30PM-1:30PM
MULTICULTURAL STUDENT CENTER
ROOM 312 IN THE MEMORIAL UNION

JOIN ODI AND TITLE IX FOR A FREE LUNCH AS WE DISCUSS PROTECTING OUR PEACE BY LEARNING EMPOWERING WAYS TO SET BOUNDARIES
COMMUNITY & CONVERSATION

JOIN US FOR A MOVIE AND PIZZA

FEB 28TH, 2024
7:00 PM-9:00 PM
IN THE MULTICULTURAL RESOURCE CENTER
UNION RM. 312

Questions or accommodations? Contact odi@maine.edu
The university of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution
BLACK CONNECTIONS DINNER

AN OPPORTUNITY TO FORM NEW NETWORKS FOR BLACK STAFF, FACULTY AND STUDENTS

MEMORIAL UNION SUITE 300
FEBRUARY 29TH
5PM - 7PM

THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION INSTITUTION.
EXPECTATIONS OF FEMININITY

An open conversation on the internal and external effects of femininity and the way we express it within our society.

March 1st, 1-2 PM
RRC, Union Room 224

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.
Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo

Saturday, March 2, 2024 at 8 p.m.
COLLINS CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, the world’s foremost all-male comic ballet company, brings its internationally beloved troupe of dancers to the CCA as part of its landmark 50th anniversary season featuring gems from across the company’s groundbreaking repertoire. Founded in New York City in 1974, the company, affectionately known as the Trocks, has grown from its roots in late-late shows in off-off Broadway lofts to a global touring sensation, performing from Tokyo to Toronto and everywhere in between. The company dances en travesti with razor-sharp wit and breathtaking pointe work, performing polished parodies of works that span the classical ballet canon. Revered by ballet aficionados as well as by those who don’t know a plié from a jeté, the Trocks are “a guaranteed hoot for people who know nothing of ballet and an absolute must for those who think they know the originals.” (Sydney Star Observer).

Click here to reserve your seat.
HAIR CARE FAIR

Join us for an enriching experience and gain access to hair care! Meet stylists and get your hair done by professionals.

March 2nd 9 AM to 5 PM  Woolley Room at DTAV
Wednesday March 6
1pm-2pm in the MSC

PAINTING FOR A PURPOSE

come and make art to decorate the centers

RRC, MSC, IFRC
DIFFICULT DIALOGUES

#METoo
HOW DO I DATE NOW?!

MULTICULTURAL STUDENT CENTER
MEMORIAL UNION 312
MARCH 8TH, 3PM - 4PM

THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION INSTITUTION.
Rivers, Cultures, & Cuisines

FREE AND OPEN TO THE UMAINE COMMUNITY

AN IMMERSIVE CULINARY & DINING EXPERIENCE

PENOBSCOT   JAN  29
MISSISSIPPI  FEB  5
AMAZON       MAR  4
NIGER         APR  1

MONDAYS | 2-4:30 & 5-7

RESERVE YOUR SPOT THE MONDAY BEFORE EACH SESSION!

For Questions and Accommodations, Contact odi@maine.edu

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.
Happy Women's History Month!

1 message

UMaine Office for Diversity and Inclusion <Anila.karunakar@maine.edu>  Mon, Mar 4, 2024 at 5:23 PM
Reply-To: UMaine Office for Diversity and Inclusion <Anila.karunakar@maine.edu>
To:

University of Maine System Mail - Happy Women's History Month!  https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ik=6098647e0e&view=pt&search=a...
USA’s Role in Palestine

TUES, MARCH 4
12:30-1:30 PM
MEMORIAL UNION ROOM 312

FREE LUNCH PROVIDED BY:

QUESTIONS? CONTACT JACOB.HINZ@MAINE.EDU

THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION INSTITUTION.
Wednesday March 6
1pm-2pm in the MSC

PAINTING FOR A PURPOSE

come and make art to decorate the centers

RRC, MSC, IFRC
#METOO
HOW DO I DATE NOW?!

MULTICULTURAL STUDENT CENTER
MEMORIAL UNION 312
MARCH 8TH, 3PM - 4PM

THE UNIVERSITY OF MAIN IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION INSTITUTION.
March 8: The importance of Recognizing International Women's Day
WOMEN’S CONNECTIONS DINNER

An opportunity for UMaine’s Women staff, faculty and students to network together

Memorial Union
March 20th 5pm – 7pm

Questions or accommodations? Contact odi@maine.edu

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.
Welcome Back!

1 message

UMaine Office for Diversity and Inclusion <Anila.karunakar@maine.edu>  
Mon, Mar 18, 2024 at 7:36 PM

Reply-To: UMaine Office for Diversity and Inclusion <Anila.karunakar@maine.edu>

To:

To:
Wishing you a blessed and peaceful month of Ramadan!

From all of us at ODI
THE FUTURE IS FEMALE
THE SALON
Lynch Room, Fogler Library

From Surviving to Thriving: Ensuring that We Support the Whole International Student

The global events of recent years have called for a sea-change and re-imagining of academia’s mission and work with international students, as well as the central role they play in building global bridges and fostering global engagement. Please join Orlina Boteva, Director of the Office of International Programs, and Dr. Karen Pelletreau, CITL Director of Faculty Educational Development, in a conversation with Dr. Rajika Bhandari, author of the award-winning memoir, America Calling: A Foreign Student in a Country of Possibility, a spring 2024 CITL book club title.

Tuesday, March 19, 2024
6:00-8:00pm
This is a hybrid event and will be recorded.
Light fare and soft drinks will be served.
Book signing to follow.

https://library.umaine.edu/salon/

This salon is supported in part by a grant from the Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series Fund and by generous contributions from Fogler Library donors and the following co-sponsors:

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.
PRIDE WEEK 2024

25 March Monday
PRIDE FLAG RAISING:
10AM
MEMORIAL UNION ATRIUM
CREATE YOUR OWN FLAG
1PM - 2PM
RRC UNION 0224
PRIDE CLIMB
6PM - 8PM
MAINE BOUND

26 March Tuesday
LUNCH AND LEARN:
Q+ SEX EDUCATION
12PM - 1PM
MSC UNION #312
PERSON OF PRIVILEGE:
AS A CHRISTIAN...
12PM - 1PM
MSC UNION #312
Q+ COMMUNITY AND CONNECTIONS DINNER
5PM - 7PM
CAREER CENTER SUITE 300

27 March Wednesday
TRANSFORMING SELF FOR RACIAL EQUITY
10AM - 12:30PM
BUMPS ROOM UNION #229
COZY NIGHT
7PM - 9PM
MSC UNION #312

28 March Thursday
TRANS FLAG RAISING
10AM
MEMORIAL UNION ATRIUM
TRANS DAY OF VISIBILITY VIGIL
6:00PM - 7:30PM
FOGGER LIBRARY STEPS
PRIDE SWIM
8PM - 10PM
NEW BALANCE REC CENTER

29 March Friday

30 March Saturday
UMAINE WILDE STEIN'S DRAG SHOW
7PM - 9PM
COLLINS CENTER FOR THE ARTS

---
The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.
HAPPY Pride Week Flag Raising!

Monday March 25th, 10am
Memorial Union atrium in front of the Bookstore
CREATE YOUR OWN FLAG

Paint your own custom flag, pride or otherwise!

Monday, Mar. 25th, 1-2pm
RRC, Union room 224

Questions or accommodations? Contact odi@maine.edu
The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.
FREE LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

Q+ SEX ED

HOSTED BY:
ASPEN RHULIN

Thursday March 26th
12:30 - 1:30pm
Multicultural Student Center
Memorial Union RM 312

Questions, concerns or accommodations, please contact odi@maine.edu

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.
Q+ CONNECTIONS DINNER

Memorial Union Suite 300
March 27th
5 PM - 8 PM

An opportunity to form new connections with students, faculty and staff during a free meal.

Questions, concerns or accommodations, please contact odi@maine.edu

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.
Transforming Self for Racial Equity
Facilitated by Anila Karunakar (She, her, hers)

MEMORIAL UNION 229 BUMPSROOM
MARCH 28, 10AM - 12:30PM
TRANS DAY OF VISIBLE<br>FLAG RAISING

FRIDAY MARCH 29TH, 10AM
MEMORIAL UNION ATRIUM, IN FRONT OF THE BOOKSTORE
CANDLELIT VIGIL FOR
TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY

MARCH 29TH 2024
6:30-7:30PM
AT THE FOGLER
LIBRARY STEPS
CANDLES WILL BE PROVIDED

We welcome community members to speak at the vigil. If you would like to speak, scan the QR code to fill out the form.
PRIDE SWIM

INVITING ALL TRANS+ INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR FRIENDS TO COME ENJOY A NIGHT AT THE POOL!

FRIDAY, MARCH 29TH 8-10 PM
NEW BALANCE STUDENT RECREATION CENTER POOL

Questions or accommodations? Contact odi@maine.edu

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.
UMAINE DRAG SHOW

7 PM
MARCH 30
HOSTED BY
CARRIE THE ONE

at the CCA
FREE WITH MAINECARD

Sponsored by Wilde Stein
Welcome to April, Friends. I hope you all have a chance to get out and experience some Sun!

This week we are celebrating Diversity Week. I often think about identities that make us incredibly unique. Ways in which our experiences, our choices and lifestyles and so many other factors that

“We are here for a reason—every one of us—to make a contribution to bettering the world. But you have to have the heart to do it.”
—Justice Sonia Sotomayor
contribute to the making of self. We settled on a few. I hope that you will consider participating in meaningful discussions, celebrations, trainings that helps us better community together.

Happy (almost) Spring!

Anila Karunakar (She, her, hers)
Director for Diversity and Inclusion
anila.karunakar@maine.edu
207-581-1437

Happy Diversity Week!
Q+ SEX ED

HOSTED BY:
ASPEN RUHLIN

Tuesday April 2nd
12:30 - 1:30pm
Multicultural Student Center
Memorial Union RM 312

FREE LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

Questions, concerns or accommodations,
please contact odi@maine.edu

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.
Multicultural Movie Night!

Memorial Union Room 312
Tuesday, April 2nd
from 5-6:30

Snacks will be provided!

Questions or accommodations? Contact ODI@maine.edu

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.
OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PRESENTS

WOC WEDNESDAY

Spill the Tea!

COME BY THE MULTICULTURAL STUDENT CENTER MEMORIAL ROOM 314 APRIL 3RD FROM 12 TO 1:30 PM
QUEER IN STEM

An open community conversation focused on shared and unique experiences as queer people in the STEM fields. Plus snacks!

Wednesday, April 3rd
at 2:00 pm in the MSC, Union room 312

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.
Green Zone Training

Learn ways to serve our student veterans well.

Thursday, April 4th
2pm - 3pm
MSC Memorial Union #312

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.
DIFFICULT DIALOGUES

"DEI MUST DIE" Elon Musk
THE DANGER OF DEI
MULTICULTURAL STUDENT CENTER
MEMORIAL UNION #312
APRIL 4TH 3PM - 4PM

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.
OPEN MIC NIGHT
AN EVENING OF SELF-EXPRESSION!

APRIL 5TH, 5PM - 7PM
UNION #151 THE MIND SPA

A NIGHT TO EXPRESS YOURSELVES THROUGH CREATIVE OUTLETS INCLUDING SPOKEN WORD, POETRY, KARAOKE, PLAYING AN INSTRUMENT, AND DANCE.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE!

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.
Eid Mubarak!

1 message

UMaine Office for Diversity and Inclusion <Anila.karunakar@maine.edu>
Reply-To: UMaine Office for Diversity and Inclusion <Anila.karunakar@maine.edu>
To:

Eid Mubarak! Happy celebration to you all.

Best,
[Signature]

UMaine Office for Diversity and Inclusion
Eid Mubarak, dear Friends.

Last week was Holi. A Hindu tradition that celebrates the coming of Spring and the triumph of good over evil! I often celebrated this festival with my best friend (of 35 years!) at her Hindu temple in Bahrain. So much joy shared with my friends, my community, my people. It is truly times like today where I would gather with our long time family friends’ home (of over 45 years!) where we sang, danced and ate so much food during Eid-Al-Fitr celebrations! My people. I often reference "My People." I have lived in India, Bahrain, Iowa, Indiana, and Maine. I find absolutely no value to any geographical location. No loyalty to land in a way that is any way territorial. But people, I claim people! My people. Midwesterners, my people. Mainers, my people. Bahrainis, my people. Indians, mine. Muslims, Hindus, Native Americans, African Americans, Q+ friends, undocumented friends, White friends, Asians (duh!), Middle
Easterners, Africans, Latine friends, multilingual friends, folx caught in the lines of immigration awaiting papers', country music lovers (Shania Twain!), Christians and many, many, many others - all my people.

My parents were incredible role models who reflected what it meant to be community by being advocates, sharing our home, food, both physical and spiritual resources. What we claimed as ours, also belonged to our people. And my people did the same for me. I share from the lessons that my people had the grace, compassion, patience and love, they showed me.

May you get people in your life who will grow you to be better in every way. May you learn to claim your people beyond all you hold dear. May you discover your people and be claimed by them in return.

Sincerely,
Anila Karunakar (She, her, hers)
Director for Diversity and Inclusion
anila.karunakar@maine.edu
207-581-1437
Green Zone Training

Learn ways to serve our student veterans well.

Thursday, April 11th
2pm - 3pm
MSC Memorial Union #312

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.
"DEI MUST DIE" Elon Musk

THE DANGER OF DEI

MULTICULTURAL STUDENT CENTER 
MEMORIAL UNION #312 
APRIL 11 TH 3PM - 4 PM

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.
Thursday Dinner & Dialogue Series

ON-CAMPUS

Join the Wilson Center Board & ODI in the North Pod of the Union for a free dinner on:

SOCIAL MEDIA

What do different religious & spiritual traditions have to offer to navigate the presence of social media in our lives?

6-8pm Thursday April 11th
All are welcome!

wilsoncenterorono@gmail.com

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity / affirmative action institution
Have a fulfilling summer!

1 message

UMaine Office for Diversity and Inclusion <Anila.karunakar@maine.edu>  
Reply-To: UMaine Office for Diversity and Inclusion <Anila.karunakar@maine.edu>  
To:

Mon, May 6, 2024 at 5:46 PM
Proud to be Asian
Proud to be Pacific Islander
Proud to be American

AAPI Heritage Month May 2024
MAY 5TH, 2024

National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirited People

#MMIWG2S+

#NoMoreStolenSisters
506 MMIWG cases were identified across 71 selected urban cities

128 were cases of missing Indigenous women

280 were cases of murdered Indigenous women

98 were cases with an "unknown status"

29 The median age of MMIWG victims
CINCO DE MAYO

Cinco de Mayo celebrates the 1862 defeat of the French by the Mexican army at the Battle of Puebla.

That battle occurred during the Franco-Mexican War, which was an invasion of Mexico launched by the French in 1861. The French invaded Mexico as a result of newly elected Mexican President Benito Juarez's decision to suspend interest payments on loans the country took out from foreign countries. France was one such creditor, but the French were not the only country to send troops to Mexico in response to Juarez's decision. Spain and Great Britain also sent troops to Veracruz, but both countries entered negotiations with Mexico and ultimately withdrew their forces.

However, France, under the leadership of Napoleon III, wanted to ensure access to Latin American markets. The French naval fleet's arrival in Veracruz forced President Juarez and his government to retreat.

Months later, Juarez's force of 2,000 squared off against 6,000 French troops at the Battle of Puebla. Despite being heavily outnumbered, the Mexican forces claimed victory, losing fewer than 100 men while French casualties numbered nearly 500.

While the victory itself did not prove a major win in the war against the French, it symbolized the strength of the Mexican people and served to strengthen the resistance movement.

Cinco de Mayo is a minor holiday in Mexico, but has grown into a popular celebration of Mexican culture in the United States.
19 June

JUNETEENTH

FREEDOM DAY

Join us as we raise the Juneteenth Flag and reflect on the history of the day and its impact on our today.

Light snacks following the Flag raising in the Coe Room (Union 218)

Friday, June 14th, 2024
10am on the Mall
(Union atrium in case of rain)

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.
Last Newsletter for the season!
Thank you for going on this journey with ODI this past year. For all the ways you have influenced, supported and grew us. I am so grateful. Even as most of our students leave campus for the summer, there are still events we are arranging for the summer! Follow us on Instagram or Facebook to stay on top of what is going on in our spaces. Use this summer to try out something new, meet up with friends, check in with your mentor, reorient, restore, lean into the hard
moments so you can enjoy the light moments. May this summer lead you sweet paths of self-discovery!
We'll see y'all back in the Fall.

Sincerely,
Anila Karunakar (She, her, hers)
Director for Diversity and Inclusion
anila.karunakar@maine.edu
207-581-1437