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Dear Friends,



The Fourth of July holiday always reminds me of this quote from James Baldwin, one of our country's greatest thinkers and writers:

“I love America more than any other country in the world, and, exactly for this reason, I insist on the right to criticize her perpetually.”

We confuse patriotism with a lack of critique, but as Baldwin says, pushing for our country to be better is an expression of our patriotism. Colin Kaepernick is a great example of this commitment. The response wasn't positive to his act of patriotism, and yet he did it anyway. We must stand our ground regardless of the consequences. There are sacrifices to be made for positive change.

So as we approach this holiday, I will ask you to perpetually critique, show up for positive change, and honor the flag, not blindly, but with purpose.

Links Worth Checking Out

[Performing Whiteness](#)

[Feliks' new favorite dinner](#)

[My new favorite vegan cake](#)

Coming Up

Hard Conversations Book Club

The Hard Conversations Book Club is open to new members at any time during the year. We meet once a month via teleconference call to discuss books that provide us with deeper insight into racism and other -isms. [Go here for information.](#)

Hard Conversations: Whiteness, Race, and Social Justice

“Until you can recognize you are living a racialized life and you’re having racialized experiences every moment of every day, you can’t actually engage people of other races around the idea of justice.” Whitney Dow, “The Whiteness Project.” We must understand our whiteness and the power it wields. This five-week course explores whiteness, white supremacy, and race as a social construct, among other topics. To see available courses, [go here](#). (New September courses just opened for registration.)

Hard Conversations: An Introduction to Racism

A five-week online class focused on systemic and structural racism, white privilege and white fragility, the myth of colorblindness, and how to be an effective ally. [Go here](#) for information about the next available course. (New September courses just opened for registration.)

Thanks for reading. If you like this newsletter and want to support it, forward it to someone who'd like it. If you're seeing this newsletter for the first time, [you can subscribe here](#).

Be a patriot. Speak up.

Patti

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