



GLASTONBURY MLK  
COMMUNITY  
INITIATIVE

presents an online

# Community Conversation

*May 9, 2022*

***Critical Race Theory: The culture war over America's racial reckoning and its place in public education***

***“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter”***

*Today's Community Conversation is generously supported by the Norma and Natale Sestero Fund administered by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving*

*The Norma and Natale Sestero Fund was created through the estate of Natale and Norma Sestero, longtime residents of Glastonbury, with the goal to benefit the people and institutions of the town. The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is the community foundation for the 29-town Greater Hartford region and is dedicated to improving the quality of life for area residents.*

[www.glastonburymlkci.org](http://www.glastonburymlkci.org)



## **Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative**

The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization, that was formed in 2001. GMLKCI's mission is to increase knowledge about, and understanding of, the philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and to provide leadership and active engagement to build an inclusive community. We believe that bringing people together to discuss openly and honestly social justice issues will help build a more inclusive and tolerant community. As Dr. King noted, "**... whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly...**" and "**...the quality of a community is determined by how members of the community relate to one another.**"

The goal of this Community Conversation is to inform and inspire Glastonbury residents to become actively involved in social justice issues by discussing in an open and congenial manner issues which may divide us or bind us together as individuals, families and a community.

All of the social justice issues discussed during this evening's Community Conversation are addressed in light of Dr. King's principles.

**"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."**

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## **Program**

### **Welcome and Introduction**

**David O'Connor**—GMLKCI

### **Panel Moderator:**

**Rev. Richard Allen**

### **Our Panelists:**

**John Brittain**, University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law

**Paquita Jarman-Smith**, Consultant, State of Connecticut Education Resource Center

**Mark Pazniokas**, co-founder and Capital Bureau Chief at CT Mirror

### **Conversation—Questions and Answers**

**Please enter your Questions into the Zoom “Chat”**

### **Closing Remarks and Appreciation**

**Please complete the program evaluation survey that will appear as you exit Zoom. Your opinions are important to our programming and fundraising efforts.**

## **Rev. Richard Allen**

**Dick Allen** has lived in Glastonbury most of his life. He is a retired United Church of Christ pastor. Since his Peace Corps days, he has maintained strong ties to Malawi, Central Africa. His parish work took him to the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota, to Lancaster, Wisconsin, and to South Glastonbury. He holds a BA degree from Trinity University and an M-Div degree from Andover Newton Theological School.

## **John Brittain**

**John Brittain** is a law professor at the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law . Previously he served as Dean of the Thurgood Marshall School of law at Texas Southern University and for 22 years was tenured law professor at the University of Connecticut School of Law . Mr. Brittain was one of the original counsel team in **Sheff v. O'Neill**, the landmark school desegregation case decided by the Connecticut Supreme Court in 1996. He is presently part of a legal team representing private plaintiffs in a federal lawsuit against the State of Maryland for denying Maryland's historically black institutions of higher learning comparable and competitive opportunities with traditional white universities.

## **Paquita Jarman-Smith**

**Paquita Jarman-Smith** is a Consultant at the State Education Resource Center (SERC) where she specializes in Early Childhood leadership, administration and supervision. Her background includes curriculum design and implementation, as well as equitable program improvement and quality practices for programs serving children birth to age 8. SERC collaborates with the Connecticut State Department of Education on the development and coordination of a prominent new course of studies to include Black and Latino Studies in the Public School Curriculum. In 2021, SERC published a position statement on Critical Race Theory and Education, sharing the agency's perspective given their role in equity and education.

## Mark Pazniokas

**Mark Pazniokas** is the co-founder and a journalist at CT Mirror, a non-profit, non-partisan, digital only source for in-depth news and reporting on public policy, government and politics. He is CT Mirror's Capital Bureau Chief. Mr. Pazniokas has a degree in Journalism from Boston University and was a staff writer at the Journal Inquirer from 1979 through 1984 and at the Hartford Courant from 1984 to 2009. he authored an article titled "**Critical race theory roils school board race in Guilford, a town long open to a study of slavery**" in the CT Mirror on October 24, 2021.

**The Town of Glastonbury Human Relations Commission** is available to assist any resident who, because of race, color, age, sex, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or intellectual, mental or physical disability, has been discriminated against in a manner prohibited by the laws of the State of Connecticut or the Town of Glastonbury. For additional information visit the Town's website or contact the Commission through the Human Resources Department, (860) 652-7501.



**Thank you for joining us for tonight's program.** Your attendance encourages the work we do as members of the Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative to make Glastonbury a more inclusive place to live and visit.

While all of our programs are free, we are dependent on you for financial support. The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative is a 501(c)(3) corporation and all donations are tax deductible. **Please consider supporting our efforts with a financial contribution.** You can send your tax deductible contributions to:

**GMLKCI Treasurer  
62 Chimneysweep Hill Road  
Glastonbury, Connecticut 06033**

**Also please consider supporting the Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative through the Amazon Smiles program.**

Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). Select **Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative** to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to GMLKCI.

**You can also support GMLKCI by using the DONATE button on our web site—[www.glastonburymlkci.org](http://www.glastonburymlkci.org)**

*The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative would like to thank our Sponsors, who make this work possible*



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