

VOL. 4 | SPRING 2021

DAYS-MASSOLO CENTER



March Newsletter



Looking Forward

The DMC is a lot of things and holds a different meaning for every person who has walked through its doors over the course of a decade. We're always changing and evolving as every year goes by, but our priorities have always been guided by you, because you made and continue to make the DMC what it is today.

OVERVIEW:

- Social Justice Initiative Month Highlights
- Womxn's History Month Celebration
- Cluster Meeting Times
- DMC Projects and More!

The DMC Newsletter serves as a medium to highlight student work and disperse important information for our community.

FOLLOW US ON:



[hamiltondmc](#)



[Days-Massolo Center](#)

THE SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE

A celebration of student activism.

Walking across College Hill Road, there's a little blue house that really stands out when you see it. What was once known as the Ferry Building on-campus is now home to the Days-Massolo Center, a space which holds a special place in the hearts of many students. What many may not know is that the DMC itself is the result of student activism. A group of students from various organizations on-campus came together to form the Social Justice Initiative in 2007. The coalition of students became dedicated to improving the experiences of all marginalized groups and individuals on the Hill. One of their proposals was a Cultural Education Center (CEC) on campus, which the group advocated for throughout the fall of 2007 and spring of 2008 through open conversations, discussions and debates. On the morning of Saturday, October 4th, a group of 38 students dressed in black gathered outside of Buttrick Hall on the day of a Board of Trustees meeting. In preparation for the demonstration, the group had tabled and spread a petition in support of the CEC, which garnered over 300 student signatures. Members of the SJI handed out copies of this petition as well as the proposal for the CEC to trustees as they walked in. While the Board met inside, a group of SJI members built a cardboard model of their CEC proposal outside.



**Featured SJI Alumni Panel
Speakers: Geoffrey Forrest
Hicks '09, Amy Tannenbaum '10,
Robyn Gibson '10, Kye Lippold
'10, Corinne Bancroft '10,
Stephanie Tafur '10**

SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE MONTH

Acknowledgement and recognition.

There's much more to the story of SJI that leads up to the opening of the Days-Massolo Center on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 2011, and we hope to share that story with you throughout the month of March. As the DMC reaches its 10-year anniversary this year, we feel that it is important to highlight and honor the work of the Social Justice Initiative. To kick off this celebration, the DMC will be hosting a panel discussion on Thursday, March 4th at 6:00 PM (EST) which will include various members of the original group! All are encouraged to come and learn more about SJI and how you can engage in your own social justice efforts today. In addition to the panel, various additional programs, workshops and celebrations will soon be announced in an effort to embody and continue SJI's pursuit of social justice on campus.

WHAT IS WOMXN'S HISTORY MONTH?

Celebration, education, visibility and inclusivity.

With roots dating back 1981, Womxn's History Month is an annual month-long celebration and recognition of the diverse experiences and identities of Womxn. The tradition began when Congress passed Public Law 97-28 on August 4th, 1981, a resolution which called for the President to proclaim the week of March 7th, 1982 as "Women's History Week". The week-long celebration was expanded to a month in 1987 after the National Women's History Project petitioned for the change, and by 1994 the month of March would be designated as "Women's History Month". You can learn more information about the celebration's history [here](#).



**Womxn's History Month
Artwork created by
Emily "Mil" Fienco '23**

WOMXN'S HISTORY MONTH COMMITTEE

A catalyst for social change and a resource for shared experience.

In an effort to build partnerships that truly recognize and celebrate cultural, heritage and identity months, the Days-Massolo Center has helped bring together planning committees to organize meaningful celebrations, lectures, workshops and various co-curricular programming for each historical month. With various students, faculty and staff, this year's Womxn's History Month Committee has dedicated its time to creating intentional programming that celebrates womxn of all identities, highlights the history of Kirkland College and emphasizing building community amongst all across campus.

"The committee hopes to provide spaces that allow our community to feel honored and supported, even as we cannot celebrate together in person," says Jillian Rhodes '22, a co-chair of the Womxn's Center and a member of the WHM committee. "Womxn's History Month is so important to me because it is an opportunity to celebrate and recognize the diverse experiences and identities of womxn, as well as, to educate on important topics that impact so many in our community."

To learn more about the committee's work and how to get involved in similar upcoming projects, please check out our [website](#) or feel free to reach out to the DMC via email at dmc@hamilton.edu. If you'd be interested in being a part of a committee for Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Month (April), Pride Month (June), Latinx Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15), Disability Awareness Month (October) and/or Native American Heritage Month (November), you can share your interest using this [link](#)!

WOMANIST WEEK SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 4th

Film Screening

Wednesday, March 4th, 7:30 PM at the Events Barn

Come watch an uplifting and inspiring documentary about the life of Alice Walker. She is the writer, activist, and the woman behind the term womanism. RSVP by clicking the link [here](#)!

Friday, March 5th

Womxn of Color Banquet

Friday, March 5th, 6 PM

Join us for a night of food, fun, and festivities celebrating womxn of color! Featuring a panel of womxn of color from around campus, the event will be catered with pre-packaged meals from Soul 112. RSVP by clicking [here](#)!

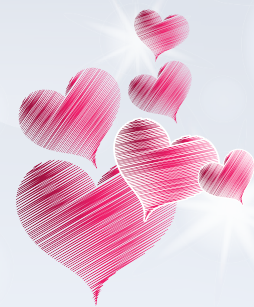
 **Wednesday, March 10th** 

Collaboration with FCC and BLSU: What is Womanism?

Wednesday, March 10th, 6 PM via Zoom

Come to learn, discuss, ask questions, and explore! We will be answering questions such as... What is womanism? Why is the text in all these emails purple? Why is womanism important? Is womanism the same thing as feminism? And more!

DMC UMBRELLA MEETING TIMES



Black Latinx Student Union

Description: BLSU is a cultural organization on campus that seeks to support and empower its members based on the pillars of advocacy, education, cultural appreciation and celebration, and community. The organization serves as a forum for the exchange of dialogue on the political, social, economic and cultural affairs of Black and Latinx people locally and worldwide.

Email: blsu@hamilton.edu

General Bi-Weekly Meetings: Fridays, 6 PM (EST)

Womxn's Center

Description: The Womxn's Center is an inclusive, student-run activist and educational organization dedicated to intersectional social justice and equity, with a particular focus on issues affecting the lives of womxn locally and globally. The organization is dedicated to exploring the intersection of gender, race, sexual orientation, class, ability and other characteristics incorporated into societal structures maintaining hierarchical injustices.

Email: womxn@hamilton.edu

General Meetings: Tuesdays, 8 PM (EST)

Gender & Sexuality Union

Description: The GSU supports and validates all genders, sexual orientations, and other LGBTQ+ identities. We strive to challenge homophobia, transphobia, and discrimination while supporting those impacted by them, and we strive to foster a spirit of respect for all genders, sexual orientations, and other LGBTQ+ identities. We commit to inclusion and advocacy honoring all intersecting identities and experiences through active solidarity.

Email: gsu@hamilton.edu

General Meetings: Thursdays, 8 PM (EST)

Feminists of Color Collective

Description: The Feminists of Color Collective aims to disrupt colonial, patriarchal, and capitalist spaces through dialogue and artistic outlets. Students explore the intersectionality of race, gender, class, and sexuality. The Collective is a space that caters specifically to the of- color experiences on campus and in the world writ large—aiming to foster an empowered community between individuals of such intersecting identities grounded in artistry, vulnerability, and companionship.

Email: fcc@hamilton.edu

General Bi-Weekly Meetings: Wednesdays, 6 PM (EST)

La Vanguardia

Description: The mission of La Vanguardia has and always will be to amplify the voices of Latinx students on campus while enriching campus diversity. We work to ensure that all Latinx individuals on campus feel supported and a part of the larger Hamilton community. We foster and embrace all Latinx cultures to lead discussions on Latinx identities, organize Latinx focused events and to create a welcoming experience for our diverse community.

Email: lv@hamilton.edu

General Meetings: Thursdays, 6 PM (EST)

Voices of Color Lecture Series

Description: The purpose of the Voices of Color Lecture Series (VCLS) is to honor C. Christine Johnson, a former HEOP director, through organizing a lecture (or series of lectures) that exposes the Hamilton community to the work of various people of color. The lectures serve to enhance Hamilton students' understanding and familiarity with the history and contributions of the oppressed and erased by providing support to existing programs, academic departments, and artistic pursuits.

Email: vcls@hamilton.edu

WHAT IS THE DMC TEAM UP TO?

Documenting the past and pushing forward with missions, visions and values.

As you can probably already see, there's always a whole lot happening at the DMC! We're home to a cluster of several cultural organizations on campus that focus on a range of topics such as race, ethnicity, gender, sexual identity and much more. Our family consists of the [Black Latinx Student Union \(BLSU\)](#), the [Feminists of Color Collective \(FCC\)](#), [La Vanguardia \(LV\)](#), the [Gender & Sexuality Union \(GSU\)](#), the [Voices of Color Lecture Series \(VCLS\)](#) and the [Womxn's Center \(WC\)](#). Each group actively outreach to the campus community to push for change while also sparking thoughtful discourse through meetings, events and campus traditions. One of our missions is to support these groups in making positive, long-lasting impacts for Hamilton's campus and community.

All of these organizations have a long history at Hamilton, all which intertwine into the story of the Days-Massolo Center. We feel that this presence and history is something that should be documented, recognized and highlighted in its entirety. As such, one of our missions has been to create a diverse archive of these histories that helps put the stories of these organization in focus. This archive has already begun, and we hope to release the first part of this project, a wide variety of videos from over the years featuring lectures, discussions, celebrations and more, by the end of 2021.

In addition to this project, the DMC has been working to revisit, revitalize and soon reveal its missions, visions and values. We have worked to incorporate student voice and agency in hopes to define the purpose of the DMC, something which will drive all of our future work and engagements. We are currently in the final stages of this project and hope to share our updated missions, visions and values statements in the coming months.

Another aspect of what we do on campus is planning and organizing programming that promotes inclusion, facilitates intercultural dialogue, builds collaborations and establishes partnerships that help make Hamilton a welcoming environment for all members of the Hamilton Community. One new way in which we have been engaging in this work is through the establishment of [committees](#) to organize meaningful programming for each historical month, just like the Womxn's History Month Community mentioned earlier in the newsletter. We also always make sure to collaborate with various campus partners to foster positive bonds that bring people together to provide a diverse range of events and activities here on the Hill.

There's a lot more that we're currently working on that we hope to share with you in our next newsletter! As always, you can reach out to us if you're ever in need of support or if you'd like to connect with our beautiful community. We hope that you can always find some time in your day to rest, because we all need it. Take care.

