

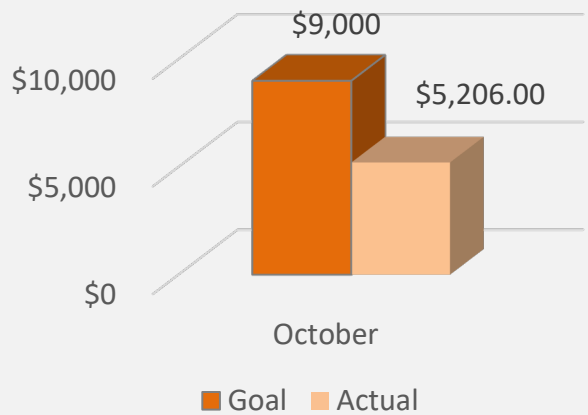


Lace on Race Newsletter

September and October 2021



October Update



PayPal: paypal.me/LaceonRace

Community Welcome

Check it out!

[Community Guidelines](#)

Register and join us at

[Lace on Race Café](#)



As we rub
the calluses on our hands;
the calluses
that make our hands hard,
but our hearts soft,
as we wipe our foreheads
and leave a streak
of compost behind,
we allow ourselves
to think of harvest,
and bounty,
and sharing.



Lace on Race

Mental & Emotional Health

This fund will allow Black and Brown women to find time for themselves in authentic, healing self-care. To be able to stop, reflect, to rest. To be able to grieve, to mourn, to commiserate. To experience playfulness and joy, while cherishing one another and themselves.

Monthly engagement goal is to disburse up to \$1,000 from this fund.

To Apply
To Contribute

LoR Merch

God is A Black Woman Calendar

Order Now for 2022!



Original poetry by
Lace paired with
art by Marlise!

Includes significant dates in the
history of racial equality.

Order Form: Calendars, Stickers & Notecards – OH MY!

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Community Partner

laceonrace.com

Women for Afghan Women (WAW)
Located in New York and Afghanistan

WAW provides life changing, community-based programs to thousands of women, children and families throughout Afghanistan. Our services include family counseling, education, and vocational training.

Engagement: \$1,000

Community Partner

laceonrace.com

Southern Solidarity
Located in New Orleans, LA

Southern Solidarity is a grassroots, community-based group of volunteers in solidarity with the unhoused in their quest toward liberation. We organize the delivery of food, medical resources and basic needs directly to the unhoused in the downtown area of New Orleans because the government has not filled this need.

Engagement: \$1,000

Lace on Race Featured Posts

HESED REMINDER – REQUIRED COMMITMENT TO ENGAGE

WE ARE NEW PEOPLE DOING NEW THINGS IN NEW WAYS! YOU ARE LOVINGLY BEING CALLED IN – NEW NORMS APPLY. ENGAGE IN LACE ON RACE CAFÉ, CROSS-POST, RESPOND TO AT LEAST 2 COMMUNITY MEMBERS & SHARE TO YOUR NETWORKS.

[Never Waver](#)

[Unpacking Colorism Demands Courage](#)

[Where Tired Feet Can Stand](#)

[The Sixth Tenet – Grow Out](#)

[October ASK and Mid-Month ASK](#)

[Community Partner Feature – Women for Afghan Women](#)

[Lace on Race Website Scavenger Activity](#)

Key Posts to Visit & Revisit

STARTER POSTS
<u>Guideline Videos</u>
<u>Community Onboarding</u>
<u>Relational Ethics</u>
<u>Obstacles to Growth & Community</u>
<u>Encouragement, Exhortation & the Can't</u>
<u>React, Emojis & Engagement</u>
<u>White Woman & Oppression</u>
<u>Critical Discussion Posts</u>
<u>Hope & Vision</u>

Chef's Table & Sustainers Circle

Chef's Table:

Chef's Table at the Lace on Race Café is a forum for walkers who are ready to work deeper, harder and faster in service to our North Star. Walkers invited to this table will have demonstrated relentless reliability; resilience through lumpy crossings; dedicated financial engagement (of any capacity); and high levels of community participation. [Chef's Table Self-Evaluation Form](#)

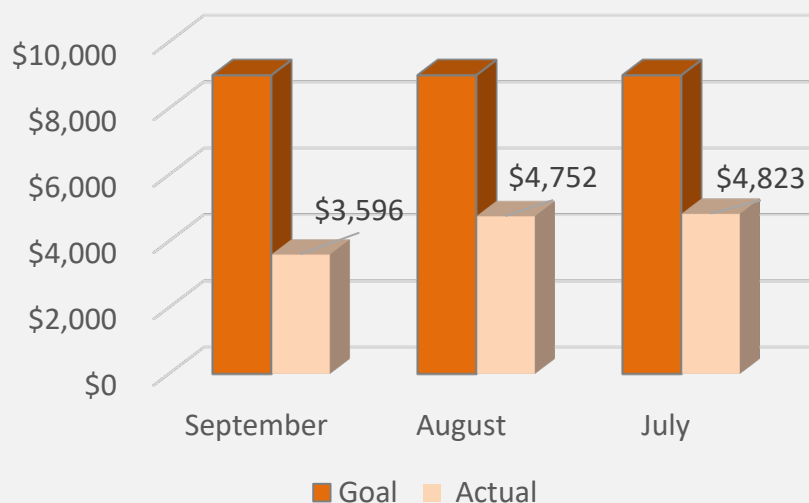
Sustainers Circle:

A sustainer is someone who has consistently been in the Lace on Race community for six months or more and is committed to financially sustaining this space and reliably engaging in the community. [Sustainer Application](#)

Sustainer-in-Training:

If you have not yet met Sustainer criteria due to the six-month active community member requirement and are still interested in becoming a Sustainer, please fill out our [Sustainer-in-Training Form](#).

Previous Financial Engagement



To community walkers who have and continue to financially engage, we give thanks. It's your generosity that allows Lace on Race to act in concert with our ethos.

As I write this, my monthly love letter to our Beloved Community, the Orange Tree is lit up by a rose gold sunset. Perfect lighting. There is a haziness; a gentle softness as I gaze out to the west from my perch on the Coronavirus Couch. I am grateful.

So grateful. And convicted.

There is nothing more joyful than being allowed to do what I do every day. Every day, I get to research, and write, and counsel, and abide. I awaken with thankfulness for all I will get to do. Soon I will sleep. I will do my evening ablutions, thinking of all who I touched today, and of all who touched me. I think of conversations, snippets of internal dialog, reading and going deeper, eyes held for the fraction of a second longer than the world says is allowed that turns a stranger into the beginnings of a friend.

Gratitude for the risks I am allowed, thanks to you all, to take. Gratitude that, thanks to you all, there is no such thing as 'wasted time'. Gratitude that, thanks to you, I can put down my beloved book, or close my laptop, or lay down my pen and abide with the people I love or will come to love--which is every person I meet. That my ever-growing list of good things, important things will never have to be rigidly held to when there is a heart in need of meeting.

It is this--the time not calendared; the time not accounted for, the only seemingly throwaway encounters, that are the unami of the work.

I do a lot in my official role here at Lace on Race, and I treasure it all; I count it all joy.

But, or rather And.

It is also in the encounters with people who don't know my 'title'; who don't know the struggle and the intention that undergirds the woman that they see before them.

All they know is they see a woman with a laptop recently closed; a woman with kind eyes who doesn't flinch. So, the woman on the Amtrak train can tell me about her son she will soon see. I see the deeply etched lines between her tired eyes and know she worries about him. And I settle in, meet her, ask our car steward for the second can of Diet Coke she wants but is too embarrassed to ask for, and meet her.

So, the man at The Hamlett (hi, David!) can see in my face that it is safe to approach my table, be emboldened to ask if he can taste my pastry, can pour his heart out about his hopes for the community he is forming (one much like our own), share thoughts of community and belonging, and then leave, filled with much more than a vegan chocolate muffin. A connection established.

No essay written that late morning; 'urgent' phone calls on the list postponed. The most important appointment of the day was not on Vicki's calendar she oh so carefully curates for me.

North Star living makes room for the impromptu, the unexpected, the serendipitous. It must. We cannot schedule out our praxis, so we know when we need to be on point (which is the temptation), and the rest of the time allow ourselves to 'exhale' back into our former ways of being and of thinking when we think no one is looking.

I am not only charged and called to my commitment to Full Respect Living when I am 'on the clock'. Neither are you. Who you are, who I am, who we are individually and collectively in relationship to North Star Living, cannot be dependent on who we think is watching or noticing; cannot hinge on if people know of our commitment to ourselves and to the world.

In my 'everyday' life, many if not most people. are utterly unaware of my vocation. Good. But I am. You, who are reading this from where you are, in Birmingham or Goleta or Sioux Falls, or Cambodia or London--or maybe even 3 houses down from me in my modest neighborhood--don't know if I live out what I exhort you to do and to be on the daily. But I know.

A few paragraphs up, I mentioned the word ‘serendipitous’. I almost wrote ‘seditious’.

That word would also have been accurate.

My gratitude comes not least from the fact that you all give me the space and grace and time and courage to be, yes, seditious. Living a life and encouraging others to live lives which are markedly different from the lives to which the world would have us acquiesce. I am grateful I can be intentional. I am grateful that sometimes I can forget (or temporarily ignore) deadlines. I am grateful I can be fully present to people who need to be seen. As a New Person doing New Things in New Ways walking alongside others who do the same (and yes, so many things have been new to me too! Cutting novel ethos and praxis from whole cloth without a pattern to guide me has been both gratifying and terrifying), I can encourage you and exhort you *only to the extent* that I live it out with rigor and relentless reliability.

Thank you for walking with me. Thank you for allowing me to be seditious. Thank you all for holding the gas lamps while I walk and sometimes stumble, but also sometimes dance, as rose gold dusk turns to night.

And then we rest. And then we rise again.

With love, your Lace



Lace Watkins, Executive Director



[Check Me Out!](#)