



MARCH 18, 2017

HUMAN LIBRARY YORK

*Don't judge a book
by its cover*

The Human Library: York event is being brought to you by a volunteer committee led by an alumna from the Leadership for Diverse Schools program. The event is made possible by a grant from the Women's Giving Circle of York County Community Foundation and partnership with Leadership York's Alumni Engagement Committee and York College's Center for Community Engagement.

LEADERSHIP

*Leadership Training
For A Better Community*

York

CENTER for
**COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

YORK COLLEGE
OF PENNSYLVANIA

WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE
York County Community Foundation

#HUMANLIBRARYYORK

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Dear Readers,

Every person has a story to tell. It is in the moments when we take time to sit down and truly listen to each other's stories that the bonds of understanding, empathy, and compassion are born.

As a lover of books, I've always been moved by the power they hold when readers are able find pieces of themselves between the pages. And what are books, really, other than simply someone's story captured onto paper? Opening a book, can either serve as a mirror for individuals to see a reflection of themselves or a window to which one can peer into another's world.

Today you have the opportunity to personally interact and hear stories from a diverse collection of human books living in our community. I am so grateful for the strength and courage of all of the individuals who have joined us, willing to embrace their voice in the hopes of helping to build bridges of understanding and empower others.

I hold many hopes for our Human Library experience this afternoon. I hope that each of you will dig deep inside of yourself, approach one another with an open heart, and experience conversations this afternoon that will be both mirrors and windows for your soul. I hope you find a home among each other's stories about the beautiful journey that is the human experience. Lastly, I hope you leave today having discovered shared connections that tie you closer, while also appreciating new ways of seeing that you may otherwise have not had the opportunity to explore. Today will be what we make of it. Let's make something wonderful.

Happy Reading,

Katie Hartman
Event Organizer





LIBRARY CATALOG

A list of today's available book titles

Aging & Ageism

Alcoholic

Arts Advocate

Atheist

Autism

**Black Female Attorney with a Purpose
& Christian Mother**

Blind, But with Vision

Disabled

Ex-Convict Gone Good

Ex-Offender/Life Defender

Firearms Enthusiast

Gay Married Man

**Hard of Hearing/Deaf: Why Do You Ignore
Me & Shame Me Because I Can't Hear You?**

Higher Education Advocate

Homelessness

Illiteracy

Immigrant DREAMers

Immigration Advocate

Jehovah's Witness

Jew

Just Like You, With Tattoos: Punk Survivor

Latina

Law Enforcement

Mental Illness

Military Combat Veteran

Millie Comes to America

Muslim-American Woman

**Off the Cuff: The Mix of Female Policing,
Home, and Relationships**

Recovering Addict

**Romancing the Divine: Experiencing
Hinduism Spirituality in Practice**

**The One-Stop Diversity Shop:
Intersectionality, Being Gay/Black/Urban,
Rural/Poor/Middle Class & More**

The Waltzing Widow

**Transgender, Christian & Not a Fan of Drag:
The Story of a Musician, Activist,
Minimalist and More**

Visibly Tattooed

**When Your Daughter Says Those Three
Words: He Touched Me**



COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

visit with local community organizations to learn more about what's already happening in and around York and how you can help.

Centro Hispano José Hernández

City of York Human Relations Commission

Crispus Attucks Center

Intercultural Student Life and Global
Programming (York College of PA)

Key Learning Consultants

Leadership York

LGBT Center of Central PA

Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center (PIRC)

Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and
Gays (PFLAG) York

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of York

York County Food Bank

York County Libraries

York County Literacy Council

York Jewish Community Center

YWCA Racial Justice Committee



START A CONVERSATION

Not sure where to begin or what to say next? Maybe these can help.

What is your greatest struggle right now?

Tell me why you wanted to come and share your story as a human book today.

What do you want people to know about you?

For what in your life do you feel most grateful?

Take four minutes and tell me your life story in as much detail as possible.

If a crystal ball could tell you the truth about yourself, your life, the future, or anything else, what would you want to know?

Is there something that you've dreamed of doing for a long time? Why haven't you done it?

What is the greatest accomplishment of your life?

Complete this sentence: "I wish I had someone with whom I could share..."

If you were to die this evening with no opportunity to communicate with anyone, what would you most regret not having told someone? Why haven't you told them yet?

What is one thing you think I would be surprised to learn about you?

What is something you think that we both have in common?

Who has been the most important person in your life?

Can you tell me about him or her?

What was the happiest moment of your life? The saddest?

Who has been the biggest influence on your life? What lessons did that person teach you?

Who has been the kindest to you in your life?

What are the most important lessons you've learned in life?

What are you proudest of?

When in life have you felt most alone?

If you could hold on to one memory from your life forever, what would that be?

How has your life been different than what you'd imagined?

How would you like to be remembered?

Do you have any regrets?

What are the hardest times for you?

Share an experience where you feel like someone has misunderstood or judged you.

What do you think is the most different about our lives?

What do you think is a gift you have to share with the world?

What kinds of questions do people often ask you?

What kinds of questions do you wish people would ask you?

Complete this sentence: If you really knew me, you would also know...

What are some misconceptions that people have made about you before?

How accepting do you feel that our community is of people with your identity?

What are you passionate about?

What hidden gifts has your identity afforded you?

What is your biggest hope?

What's one thing you had to learn the hard way?

What single experience most transformed you?

LOVE & RELATIONSHIPS

Do you have a love of your life?

When did you first fall in love?

What was your first serious relationship?

What lessons have you learned from your relationships?

How would you define love?

How has love changed you?

WORKING

What do you do for a living?

Tell me about how you got into your line of work.

Do you like your job?

What lessons has your work life taught you?

If you could do anything now, what would you do? Why?

Do you plan on retiring? If so, when? How do you feel about it?

Do you have any favorite stories from your work life?

RELIGION

Can you tell me about your religious beliefs/spiritual beliefs? What is your religion?

Have you experienced any miracles?

What was the most profound spiritual moment of your life?

Do you believe in God?

Do you believe in the after-life? What do you think it will be like?

When you meet God, what do you want to say to Him?



MORE CONVERSATION STARTERS

SERIOUS ILLNESS

- Can you tell me about your illness?
- Do you look at your life differently now than before you were diagnosed?
- What have you learned from life? The most important things?
- Has this illness changed you? What have you learned?

FAMILY HERITAGE

- What is your ethnic background?
- Where is your mom's family from? Where is your dad's family from?
- Have you ever been there? What was that experience like?
- What traditions have been passed down in your family?
- Who were your favorite relatives?
- Do you remember any of the stories they used to tell you?
- What are the classic family stories? Jokes? Songs?
- Where did you grow up?
- What was your childhood like?

WAR

- Were you in the military?
- Did you go to war? What was it like?
- How did war change you?
- During your service, can you recall times when you were afraid?
- What are your strongest memories from your time in the military?
- What lessons did you learn from this time in your life?

RAISING CHILDREN

- When did you first find out that you'd be a parent? How did you feel?
- Can you describe the moment when you saw your child for the first time?
- How has being a parent changed you?
- What are your dreams for your children?
- Do you remember when your last child left home for good?
- Do you have any favorite stories about your kids?

REMEMBERING A LOVED ONE

- Are you comfortable/ can you talk about your loved one's death?
- What has been the hardest thing about losing _____?
- Do you have any stories you want to share about _____?
- How are you different now than you were before you lost _____?
- What is the image of _____ that persists?
- Do you have any traditions to honor _____?
- What has helped you the most in your grief?
- What are the hardest times?

This list of questions was compiled from various sources including:

StoryCorps

Arthur Aron's 36 Questions

SoulPancake:

Chew on Life's Big Questions by Rainn Wilson, Devon Gundry, Goltiz Lucina, and Shabnam Mogharabi

#HUMANLIBRARYYORK

RULES FOR READERS OF THE HUMAN LIBRARY

Welcome to the Human Library where people are on loan as books. To get started with borrowing our human books, please first make sure you have received your free library card at the registration table. With your library card, you can contact our librarian at the counter to begin checking out books!

Human Library Card

The card is your personal proof that you have challenged your prejudices and stereotypes at the Human Library. Also, it is to help you remember when you need to bring back the book to the library.

The Books

All of our books are volunteers. They come from many different backgrounds to meet readers, but all sharing the same motivation-- to help bring about understanding, answer questions, and share their experiences through open, authentic conversation to counter discrimination, prejudice, and stigma. The books represent just a small selection of groups in the community that are frequently subjected to stigma.

The Librarians

Librarians are there to help you in any way they can. They will first and foremost help you identify which book title is the most relevant for you to meet and talk with. It is your choice, but through your chat with the librarians, we can help ensure a good match for you is found. Once you have selected a book, your librarian will bring it to you and make the introductions.

Duration of Loans

The living book and any equipment must be returned to the Human Library no later than 30 minutes after the start of the loan. Please keep the deadline. Readers are only permitted to borrow one book at a time. Loans can be extended with the agreement of both your book and the librarian at the counter. Your book must be handed back to us in the same condition as it was in when given to you.

Where To Go?

We have prepared several reading rooms for you downstairs to enjoy your talk. Find a comfortable nook to share together or walk and talk throughout the rooms. You are not allowed to take the book home with you and we ask that you keep your book inside the building for the duration of your conversation.

How To Get the Conversation Going?

You can always start by sharing a little about yourself and why you found this title interesting. Please remember to feel absolutely free to ask any questions you would like about your book's topic. Do not be shy. Now is the perfect opportunity to ask the questions that you might otherwise never have the opportunity to ask. You may also refer to the list of possible questions provided on the handout you received at registration for some other ideas for conversation starters.

Happy Reading!

