

Five Towns: One **Book**

Bringing our communities together
to explore the life and work of
Lorraine Hansberry:
Radical Artist and Activist



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Welcome to CURE's Five Towns One Book Third Annual Event 2023

This year, we focus on the multifaceted and brilliant Lorraine Hansberry with a biography of her life, *Radical Vision* by *Soyica Diggs Colbert*. This biography opens many entry points for discussion, reflection and learning as Ms. Hansberry was a writer, playwright, activist, feminist and part of the gay community at a time when it was not as accepted. She died of cancer at 35 years old but contributed more to the Freedom movement than most in her short life.



Look through this beautiful program for detailed information on these events:

February 11 at 2 PM: Croton Free Library – *Discussion with author Soyica Diggs Colbert*

March 2 at 7PM: Rye Free Reading Room – *Hansberry: Civil Rights & Freedom Practices*

March 18 at 2PM: Larchmont Public Library – *A Raisin In The Sun, film screening & Talk Back*

March 29 at 7PM: Harrison Public Library – *Hansberry & Activism in Black Art*

April 15 at 3PM: New Rochelle Public Library – *Hansberry & A Theatrical Exploration of Redlining*

This programming is made possible with generous funding from the **Westchester County Board of Legislatures**. This year, we are proud to be doing this work with the five libraries of **Croton on Hudson, Harrison, Larchmont, New Rochelle** and **Rye**. In addition, we are proud to be partnering with **The Lorraine Hansberry Coalition** in Croton.



February 11 . March 2 . March 18 . March 29 . April 15



Five Towns: One **Book**

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Lorraine Hansberry: Radical Artist and Activist

February 11, 2023

The Croton Free Library

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Meet Author

Soyica Diggs Colbert

**Kickoff
Event!**

Join us in person for a round table discussion with Georgetown Professor and author **Soyica Diggs Colbert** about her inspiring book, **Radical Vision, A Biography of Lorraine Hansberry**. Ms. Colbert will engage in this chat with **Lynda Jones** of The Lorraine Hansberry Coalition in Croton, **Tejash Sanchala**, Executive Director of the Westchester Human Rights Commission and **Nicole Alifante** of CURE.

Ms. Colbert will answer questions from the audience and sign books afterwards. We are beyond honored that Ms. Colbert agreed to join us in person! If you would like a copy of **Radical Vision** to bring with you for signing, please reach out to the bookshop in Croton, **By-The-Dam Books**.

SOYICA DIGGS COLBERT is the Idol Family Professor of African American Studies and Performing Arts at Georgetown University.

Colbert's award-winning book, **Radical Vision: A Biography of Lorraine Hansberry**. She has held fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support a residency at the Schomburg Center, Woodrow Wilson Foundation, Stanford University, Mellon Foundation, and the Robert W. Woodruff Library at Emory University. Colbert has also lectured nationally and internationally at universities, high schools, and middle schools as well as for civic and arts organizations. Colbert's writing has been featured in the **The New York Times**, **Washington Post**, **Public Books**, **Metrograph** and **American Theatre**. She has been interviewed on **NPR** and commented for the **New York Times**, **USA Today**, **CNN**, and the **Washington Post**. She is an Associate



Director at the Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington, D.C. She has also served as a Creative Content Producer for The Public Theatre's audio play, **shadow/land**. Her research interests span the 19th-21st centuries, from Harriet Tubman to Beyoncé, and from poetics to performance.

Five Towns: One **Book**

Bringing our communities together to explore the life and work of
Lorraine Hansberry: Radical Artist and Activist

MODERATED BY:

LYNDA JONES is a Co-chair of the Lorraine Hansberry Coalition of Croton on Hudson, NY. The Coalition's mission is to celebrate the life of acclaimed playwright, author, and activist Lorraine Hansberry and her connection with Croton-on-Hudson. The Coalition is a volunteer-driven group that creates innovative and inclusive opportunities that reflect the values and ideals by which Hansberry led her life.



Lynda is also a versatile, accomplished leader with experience collaborating with management and governing boards to develop strategies supporting corporate objectives and missions. She recently stepped down after over a decade as the Vice President for Human Resources and Strategic Planning for Historic Hudson Valley, one of Westchester County's most prominent cultural organizations. While there, in addition to serving on the corporate leadership team, she directed all aspects of human capital management and planning and led a series of successful multi-disciplinary efficiency projects.

Lynda has held executive positions in the for-profit, government, and non-profit sectors, including Regional Director for Administration with Merit Behavioral Healthcare, Deputy Commissioner for Administration with the NYS Department of Labor, and Associate Executive Director with Services for the Underserved. She has also served as an independent consultant, designing and implementing systems resulting in the enhanced performance of individuals, teams, and organizations. A believer in the power of education, Lynda served six years as an elected member of the Board of Trustees of the high-performing Croton Harmon School District.

Lynda earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Bernard M. Baruch College of CUNY and a master's degree in public administration, with a concentration in public finance, from New York University.

Live-streamed on LMC Media's youtube page!

Five Towns: One **Book**

Bringing our communities together to explore the life and work of
Lorraine Hansberry: Radical Artist and Activist

TEJASH V. SANCHALA was appointed Executive Director of the Westchester County Human Rights Commission in 2019. Under County Executive George Latimer's leadership, the County's Human Rights Commission has been revitalized. Mr. Sanchala and his team are responsible for enforcing and administering the County's Human Rights Law and Fair Housing Law as well as conducting education and outreach on these laws and hate and discrimination in all of its forms. In 2021, the Commission's jurisdiction was expanded to include pioneering protections against discriminatory harassment. Mr. Sanchala has spoken at many events on xenophobia, racism and other forms of discrimination, hate incidents, and about the importance of belonging and inclusion.



Prior to joining the Human Rights Commission, Mr. Sanchala was a skilled and sought-after civil rights attorney for over two decades in private practice with a focus on advancing justice in employment discrimination and housing discrimination matters. In this capacity, he successfully represented many clients in combatting discriminatory policies and practices. He is highly regarded in his field and has received many awards for his work. Most recently, he was recognized by Crain's magazine as a Notable Asian Leader. He is also a trained mediator and arbitrator. He has conducted trainings to many groups on discrimination, sexual harassment, diversity, equity and inclusion.

Mr. Sanchala, a long-time resident of Westchester County, has served in leadership roles on many boards and community organizations with the aim of bettering the community including but not limited to: serving as a former board member for the Westchester County Bar Association and as the current co-chair of its Labor & Employment Law Section, serving as the former Chair of the Westchester County Fair Housing Board and co-authoring the Westchester County Fair Housing Law. He has been recognized for his pro bono legal services to underserved and marginalized communities in combating hate and discrimination and in advocating for workers' rights and securing unpaid wages. He has served as mock trial judge in competitions for law school students and high school students. He strongly believes in giving back to the community and has mentored many students in high school, college and law school.

Mr. Sanchala lives with his wife in Westchester County.

Five Towns: One **Book**

Bringing our communities together to explore the life and work of
Lorraine Hansberry: Radical Artist and Activist

March 2, 2023

The Rye Free Reading Room

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

A discussion about Lorraine Hansberry and her role in The Civil Rights & Freedom Practices

Engage in this discussion about Hansberry's role in Civil Rights in the 1950s and 60s, her collaboration with Black thought leaders like James Baldwin and her personal "Freedom Practice". We'll be joined by the brilliant team from **Elevator Repair Service Theater Co.** in NYC who recently produced Baldwin vs. Buckley at Cambridge at The Public Theater. This will be an inspiring evening with **John Collins, April Matthis** and **Greig Sargeant**. You don't want to miss this – the best of NYC comes to Rye!



JOHN COLLINS
(Director, Baldwin and Buckley at Cambridge)
founded
Elevator Repair Service in 1991.
Since then, he

has directed or co-directed all of the company's productions while also serving as the company's Artistic Director. ERS productions directed by Collins include ***Cab Legs, Room Tone, Gatz, The Select (The Sun Also Rises), The Sound and the Fury, Arguendo, Measure for Measure***, and numerous others. He is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, a United States Artists Fellowship, and a Doris Duke Performing Artist Award.

GREIG SARGEANT (*Conceiver/James Baldwin, Baldwin and Buckley at Cambridge*) is an actor and associated artist of the Obie Award-winning **Target Margin Theater**, and a company member of the internationally renowned Obie Award-winning theater ensemble **Elevator Repair Service**. Recent credits include ***Baldwin and Buckley at Cambridge, Measure for Measure*** and ***The Sound and the Fury*** (The Public Theater), ***Fondly, Collette Richland, Bonnie's Last Flight***, and ***The Little Foxes*** (NYTW), ***The Parable Conference*** (BAM), ***Please Bury Me/Go Forth*** (Baryshnikov Arts Center), ***Uncle Vanya, The Dinner Party, The Seagull, Mamba's Daughters, Strictly Dishonorable, South, Dido, Queen of Carthage, India Song, Egypt, Cymbeline, Objects Lie in a Table, Measure for Measure, Boca, Sonoma, Infinity Lying Down*** (TMT), ***Gatz***



Five Towns: One **Book**

Bringing our communities together to explore the life and work of
Lorraine Hansberry: Radical Artist and Activist

(REDCAT). Film: *Help Me Mary* (dir. Annie Tuppe), *The Bad Infinity* (dir. Graham Sack). Sargeant has also been published in American Theatre Magazine, having written an article regarding agency and race in the theater. Greig was a W.E.B. Dubois Fellow at West Virginia University, where he received his MFA in acting.



APRIL MATTHIS (*Lorraine Hansberry, Baldwin and Buckley at Cambridge*) is an Obie Award-winning actor and company member of **Elevator Repair Service**. With ERS: *Baldwin and Buckley at Cambridge* (Philadelphia Fringe Festival), *The Sound and the Fury*; *Fondly, Collette Richland* (NYTW); *Measure for Measure* (The Public); *Everyone's Fine with Virginia Woolf* (Abrons Art Center); *Gatz* (Perth Festival). Broadway: *August Wilson's The Piano Lesson*. Off-Broadway: *Help* (The Shed);

Toni Stone (Roundabout); *Fairview*, *LEAR* (Soho Rep); *Signature Plays—Funnyhouse of a Negro* (Signature Theatre); *IOWA, Antlia Pneumatica* (Playwrights Horizons); *On the Levee* (LCT3). Regional: *Most Happy in Concert* (Williamstown), *Little Bunny Foo Foo* (Actors Theater of Louisville), *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Yale Rep). TV: *"The Blacklist"* (NBC), *"Evil"*, *"The Good Fight"* (Paramount Plus), *"New Amsterdam"* (NBC). Film: *Black Card*, *Fugitive Dreams*, *Ramona at Midlife*.

REVEREND LANE COBB, MS CPC is an interfaith minister, women's leadership coach, and antiracism educator helping leaders and their organizations create inclusive communities and workspaces that nurture interracial relationships and contribute to a more equitable and just society. She is co-founder of Race Talk Revolution, Inc, a nonprofit organization that provides education to elevate and transform the social conscience and promote antiracist activism through community engagement, self-discovery and spiritual inquiry.



Inspired by Beloved Community, she envisions a world of radical inclusion, where everyone is valued and everyone belongs. Her virtual and in person trainings challenge participants to transcend false narratives that separate us from each other so we can enjoy the bonds of our shared humanity and work together to create a world that works for everyone. For Reverend Cobb, there is no revolution without love.

FB and YouTube @RaceTalkRevolution

Five Towns: One **Book**

Bringing our communities together to explore the life and work of
Lorraine Hansberry: Radical Artist and Activist

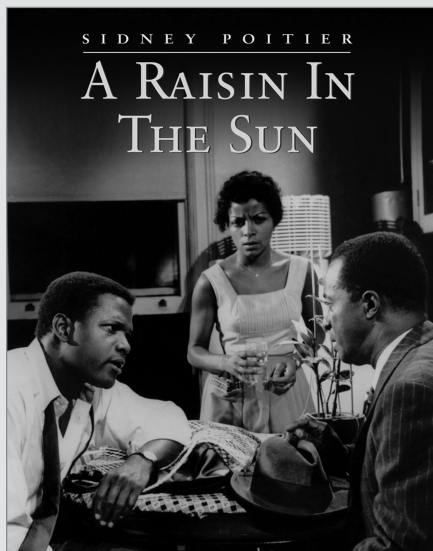
March 18, 2023

Larchmont Public Library

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

A Raisin In The Sun –
film screening & talk back

Settle in with your neighbors for a screening of the classic film, ***A Raisin In The Sun*** by Lorraine Hansberry. Refreshments and discussion after the filming with local Mamaroneck actor and activist, **Larry Albert**. Share your thoughts about how this film still resonates today.



TALK BACK FACILITATED BY:



LARRY ALBERT has been acting since 1975 on stage, TV, films, music videos, print modeling, and singing. After graduating college in 1975, he began his career as a counselor for disadvantaged youth in Westchester County and NYC helping them accomplish their academic and career goals. He worked for non profit agencies such as The College Careers Fund of Westchester, and New York state department of Corrections at Sing Sing. His social activism started

in 1964, at 14 years old during the modern day Civil Rights movement, and the student protest and Black Power movement of the late 1960s. He continues today to speak for those who can't speak for themselves, and to advocate for those that are oppressed and disenfranchised.

Five Towns: One **Book**

Bringing our communities together to explore the life and work of
Lorraine Hansberry: Radical Artist and Activist

March 29, 2023
Harrison Public Library
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
***Hansberry & Activism in
Black Art***

A panel discussion with local Black activist artists including painter **Alvin Clayton** and writer/poet **TBD**. Learn about how these artists are inspired by current events and the call to express their ideas on Liberation, Social Justice and Politics. Inspired by this event, Mamaroneck school district students submitted artwork and writing which reflected their thoughts on social justice today. Look for where their work will be exhibited on CURE's website: www.learnwithcure.com

ALVIN CLAYTON is a Trinidad-born artist, restaurateur, and model. Alvin and his wife, Gwen, are the owners and operators of the award-winning Southern and Caribbean Restaurant, ***Alvin and Friends*** in New Rochelle, NY. Alvin's restaurant experience started with an investment partnership in the famed Georgia Restaurant, on the trendy Melrose Ave in Los Angeles, headed by Restaurateur Brad Johnson and several celebrities, including Denzel Washington, Norm Nixon, Debbie Allen, and other celebrities.



Alvin Clayton is a self-taught artist. He is heavily influenced by Matisse and the French Impressionist movement. His paintings exude bright bold colors of life in the African experience as it relates

to the past and present conditions. Alvin has had several groups and one-man shows featuring his work, most recently, ***Alvin And Friends at the Rye Art Center***, in Rye, NY, and ***Unapologetically Me: a virtual political show at Iona College's Brother Kenneth Gallery***. His work has been featured at the Smithsonian Institute of African-American Art, has been featured in several films, including *The Best Man Holiday*, and has been collected by several celebrities, and collectors, including Ken and Kathy Chenault, New York University, Denzel Washington, Blair Underwood, Hill Harper, CC H. Pounder, Lorraine Toussaint, to name a few. Alvin's focus is now on being acquired by museums!

Gaining status as a "Super Model," Alvin's modeling career started at Wilhelmina Models and ended with the Ford Modeling Agency, just eight years ago.

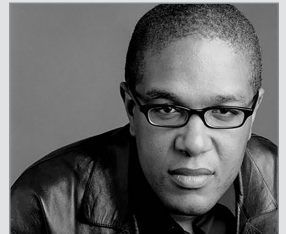
Five Towns: One **Book**

Bringing our communities together to explore the life and work of
Lorraine Hansberry: Radical Artist and Activist

As a supermodel, he has graced the pages of the top publications such as **GQ**, **Vogue**, **Glamour**, **Elle**, **Ebony**, **Essence**, **EM**, to name a few; countless catalogues, including **Nordstrom's**, **Bloomingdales**, **Lord & Taylor**, **Macy's J-Crew**, **L.L. Bean**. Alvin has also done major ads on TV and billboards including **Banana Republic**, **AT&T**, **Haynes**, and countless others.

With a well-rounded resume, Alvin has now been signed by the world-renowned IMG Models. Alvin and Gwen live in Westchester as partners in the restaurant; they have four kids and a dog and two cats.

CHRISTOPHER JOHN FARLEY C.J. Farley's young adult novel "Around Harvard Square" won an NAACP Image Award in 2020. He's the author of four other novels, including "Game World," "My Favorite War," "Kingston by Starlight," and his most recent release, "Zero O'Clock." Farley's nonfiction books include "Before the Legend: The Rise of Bob Marley," which was a finalist for a Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, and the national bestseller "Aaliyah: More Than a Woman," which was adapted into a hit movie for Lifetime television. Farley co-wrote and co-edited the book "The Blues," the companion volume to Martin Scorsese's PBS documentary series, and served as a consulting producer on the Peabody-winning HBO documentary "Mr. Dynamite: The Rise of James Brown." Farley, a former senior editor for the Wall Street Journal and a former music critic for Time magazine, has interviewed some of the greatest musical artists in the world, including Aretha Franklin, Bob Dylan, Stevie Wonder, Joni Mitchell, Lauryn Hill, Adele, Beyoncé, Jay Z, Janelle Monáe and Taylor Swift. Farley is a graduate of Harvard and a former editor of the Harvard Lampoon.)



Five Towns: One **Book**

Bringing our communities together to explore the life and work of
Lorraine Hansberry: Radical Artist and Activist



DEVAN SANDIFORD is a published writer, award-winning storyteller, and founder of Unreeling Storytelling—a Brooklyn-based community providing space for people who quietly wait to speak and yet urgently need to be heard.

Raised in the wake of his Uncle Ron being fatally shot by the police outside of their Miami home, Devan spent his childhood and young adult years carrying his uncle's death in silence everywhere he went. Then, feeling a voice within that was longing to be heard, Devan moved to Brooklyn, New York to push himself out of his comfort zone and find the power of his authentic voice. Stepping onto stages in New York City, New Jersey, Toronto, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Michigan, Virginia, and virtually all over the world, Devan has now shared more than 50 personal stories in front of sold-out crowds of up to 1200 people.

His stories have been featured in the Washington Post, The Moth Podcast and Radio Hour, Seattle NPR-affiliate KNKX, Speak Up Storytelling, Simple Families Podcast, Writing Class Radio, and many other outlets. One of his stories, ***The Loudest Whisper***, was selected to air alongside a story told by Rev. Al Sharpton for Black History Month 2020—a podcast episode downloaded over 1.2 million times and in 49 different countries. Devan has also been interviewed about race and identity, parenting, storytelling, and grief for The New York Times and Washington Post. He is a Voices of Our Nations Arts Foundation (VONA) alumni and a recipient of the Corporeal Writing Scholarship for Writing Trauma Toward Healing and Joy with Terese Maria Mailhot.

Using his voice to speak truth to all the moments he carried in silence, Devan has received acclaim from multiple New York Times bestselling authors, including Roxane Gay, who said he was “an excellent writer who will be endlessly interesting to his readers”, Terese Maria Mailhot, who remarked he “wills himself from one thought to the next with a work that has momentum and fluidity”, and Nancy French, who shared he “has a unique perspective” and is “able to navigate the complicated issues facing modern America with a deft, compassionate touch.”

Devan work as Senior Communications Officer, Story Developer, and Writer at The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and lives in Brooklyn, New York with his wife and their 11- and 8-year-old sons. He is working on his debut book—a memoir, currently titled: ***The Silence We Carry: Confessions of a Six-year-old Man***.

Five Towns: One **Book**

Bringing our communities together to explore the life and work of
Lorraine Hansberry: Radical Artist and Activist



LESLIE GASKIN believes in the connectedness of all things. She has been involved in organizations that seek to support, organize and empower Black Community in New Rochelle, New York since she was a teenager.

A founding member of KiAfrikka Taalimu Shule, a Saturday School which offered an afrocentric curriculum to students. A founding member of The African Heritage Educational

Forum, a lecture series that featured guests like Dr. John Henrik Clark and Dr. Yosef Ben-Jochannan.

Leslie is a member of NewROAR, New Rochelle Against Racism, an organization committed to dismantling institutional racism. She is a member of the New Rochelle branch of the NAACP. She is a member of The Collective, a group whose mission is to advocate for melanated children. Leslie is also a member of NRAJ, New Rochelle Alliance For Justice and the Lincoln Attendance Zone PTSA. Leslie is the Carrington Arms Tenants Council President and finally Leslie is a charter member of the African American Advisory Committee of the City of New Rochelle, community representatives dedicated to addressing the concerns, needs and interests of the Black community in New Rochelle.

"Accurate history should not depend on who is telling it."

-Leslie Gaskin

Five Towns: One Book

Bringing our communities together to explore the life and work of
Lorraine Hansberry: Radical Artist and Activist



CANDACE PINN is an educational consultant and retired educator, with 30 years of experience. She provides Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training to educators and school related personnel, in public and private educational settings.

Candace became a master early childhood educator, utilizing her strong foundation in the pragmatics and fundamentals of teaching, while enjoying many leadership roles over her career; *Culturally Responsive Education* (CRE) staff developer/trainer, Federation of United School Employees (FUSE) representative, mentor teacher, teacher leader and chairperson/representative of district-wide committees on *Diversity, Equity and Inclusion* (DEI), curriculum and instruction, *Response to Intervention* (RTI) and nutrition.

After becoming a member, in 2006, of the Westchester Alliance of Black School Educators (WABSE), Candace was elected President and has served in this capacity for over 10 years. Under her leadership WABSE raises thousands of dollars annually to fund scholarships for college-bound high school seniors; WABSE continuously expands their network to include educators, educational leaders, students and community members; WABSE provides many opportunities and experiences for adults and students, including educational workshops, panels, professional development, field trip studies, annual Black History Month and Juneteenth celebrations, college fairs, art and spoken word events. As a leader who values collaboration, she has expanded WABSE's community partners and develops grant funded programs. As an activist leader, Candace supports DEI Initiatives by working with NYS legislators and the New York State Department of Education (NYSED) on education reform policy and law.

Candace is a native of Brooklyn N.Y. and holds a BS in General Engineering from Tufts University, a MS in Computer Science from the NYU College of Engineering and an MA in Education from Columbia Teachers College. She has four adult children, three sons and one daughter. She and her husband reside in Mount Vernon, N.Y.

Five Towns: One **Book**

Bringing our communities together to explore the life and work of
Lorraine Hansberry: Radical Artist and Activist

April 15, 2023
**New Rochelle Public
Library Ossie Davis Theatre**
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
*Looking at the work of
Lorraine Hansberry through
a Theatrical Exploration
of Redlining*

This is our final event of Five Towns: One Book but sure to be memorable! It is truly fitting that it's happening in the Ossie Davis Theater as Mr. Davis was a comrade of Hansberry who also fought for Black liberation and civil rights. Engage in a moderated discussion with theater director, **Kevin R. Free** (artistic director, Miles Square Theater), local redlining expert, **Gregory Jost** (Fordham University) and brilliant actors (TBD). There will be excerpts read from *A Raisin In The Sun* and Bruce Norris's play *Clybourne Park*, a present day spin off of Raisin in addition to informative history about local redlining laws and how federal segregation affects local communities today. Don't miss this!

GREGORY JOST is a Bronx-based organizer, educator and facilitator with expertise in the history of systemic and structural inequality and strategies for racial equity and justice through community reinvestment and economic democracy. He is an Adjunct Faculty member in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Fordham University where he focuses on the Bronx's history with redlining and grassroots approaches to systemic issues. Gregory's work at **Banana Kelly Community Improvement Association** in the South Bronx keeps him grounded in current campaigns and coalitions fighting back against the extractive economy, and fighting forward for community ownership and wealth building opportunities. He has extensive experience co-designing curricula, interactive exhibits, databases and popular education workshops. He is currently writing a book on the Bronx's battles against redlining while working to bring a community development credit union to the Bronx.

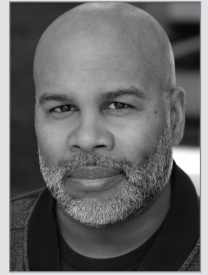


**Live-
streamed!**

Five Towns: One **Book**

Bringing our communities together to explore the life and work of
Lorraine Hansberry: Radical Artist and Activist

KEVIN R. FREE is a multidisciplinary artist whose work as a storyteller has been showcased many places, including Target Margin (2018), the Where Project (2015), QED: A Place for Storytelling (2014); on the *Moth Mainstage* (“*Heart of Darkness*,” 2012), Dana Rossi’s *The Soundtrack Series*, Kathleen Warnock’s *Drunken! Careening! Writers!* (2012). Kevin is currently the Artistic Director of Miles Square Theater in Hoboken, NJ.



As an actor, Kevin has appeared on television on *Law & Order* and *Law & Order: SVU*, *Murphy Brown*, *Cyberchase*, and in several national and regional commercials. In 2018, he made his feature film debut in Bo Burnham’s Eighth Grade. New York audiences have seen Mr. Free Off-Broadway, playing the role of Bellomy in *The Fantasticks* (the first African-American to play the role in the New York Production’s 54-year history). He created the role of Michael Curtiz in Reid & Sara Farrington’s Drama Desk-nominated *CasablancaBox* in 2017. Other notable NYC acting work: *Night of the Living N-Word!!* (Also, writer; Overall Excellence in Playwriting, FringeNYC 2016); *Marian, or The True Tale of Robin Hood* (Flux Theatre Ensemble); *The Making of King Kong* (Target Margin); *From My Hometown* (Amas Musical Theatre; Audelco Award Nominee); *Taking A Chance On Love* (York Theatre); *The Conjure Man Dies* (New Federal Theatre) and as one of the ninjas in *Happy Sunshine Kung Fu Flower* at the Zipper. Some of his favorite roles in regional theatre include Dr. Frans in the World Premiere Production of Jen Silverman’s *WINK* at Marin Theatre Company; Murray in the World Premiere Production of *DAVE* at Arena Stage; James Farmer in *The Parchman Hour* at the Guthrie Theater; Donnie in the World Premiere of Colman Domingo’s *DOT* at Actors Theatre of Louisville; Albert/Kevin in *Clybourne Park* at Portland Center Stage; Tonton Julian in *Once On This Island* (Paper Mill Playhouse); Dromio of Ephesus in *The Boys from Syracuse* (CENTERSTAGE); Nemur in *Chasing Nicolette* (Prince Music Theatre); Flick in *Violet* (Arden Theatre, Barrymore Award Nominee - Best Supporting Actor in a Musical), and Belize in *Angels in America* (Charlotte Repertory).

His full-length plays are *Face Value* (Henry Street Settlement Playwright’s Project Grant, 2000; Mill Mountain Theatre New Play Festival Finalist, 2003); *(Not) Just a Day Like Any Other* (written & performed with Christopher Borg, Jeffrey Cranor, and Eevin Hartsough; recipient, 2009 NY IT Award for

Five Towns: One Book

Bringing our communities together to explore the life and work of
Lorraine Hansberry: Radical Artist and Activist

Outstanding Ensemble); and *A Raisin in the Salad: Black Plays for White People* (Eugene O'Neill Playwrights Conference Semi-Finalist 2013), *The Crisis of the Negro Intellectual, or TRIPLE CONSCIOUSNESS*, and *You Are in An Open Field* (written & performed with Eevin Hartsough, Marta Rainer, Carl Riehl, and Adam Smith); *Night of the Living N-Word!!* (FringeNYC 2016); *AM I DEAD? The Untrue Narrative of Anatomical Lewis, The Slave* (Commission from Flux Theatre Ensemble); *BALBOA IS NOT DROWNING*. His ten-minute plays include *...in which Bishop Eddie Long loses a battle with his demons...* (Sticky at the Bowery Poetry Club, JACK) and *PORTAL, or Metaphorical Tricycle* (The Fire This Time Festival), and *Turn This Motha Out (with Prayer)* (48 Hours in Harlem, inspired by Tyler Perry's "Diary of a Mad Black Woman"). He is an alumnus of the New York Neo-Futurists, with whom he wrote and performed regularly in *Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind (30 Plays in 60 Minutes)* between 2007 and 2011. His work has been published by Commonplace Books ("What it Means To Be A Grown Up: The Complete and Definitive Answer") and at www.indietheater-now.com. In 2010, He was named one of NYTheatre.com's 15 people of the year, because of his "outstanding, noteworthy contributions to the New York theatre scene."

As a director, Kevin is in rehearsal now for *Marcus; or The Secret of Sweet* at Nevada Conservatory Theater. In 2019, he directed 8 world premiere plays for season 10 of The Fire This Time Festival; *Topdog/Underdog* at The University of Arkansas; *The Last Five Years* at Portland Stage; *GLORY!* at Dixon Place; *Pipeline* at Mile Square Theater (named one of the top 10 theatre productions of 2019 by NJ.com); and the World Premiere of Amy R. Berryman's *WINNER*, which was a Finalist in the Samuel French Off-Off-Broadway Short Play Festival. Other significant credits: *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill* at Portland Stage; Renita Martin's *Blue Fire on the Water* at The Fresh Fruit Festival; Okello Kelo Sam's *Forged in Fire* at City Tech Theatreworks; *30 Plays in 60 Minutes* as a guest director at Bloomsburg University, and 4 works by Nathan Yungerberg at the Bed-Stuy Playwright Series. He directed Adrienne Dawes's brilliant *Am I White* at Blackboard Plays Reading Series, Tracey Conyer Lee's *Poor Posturing* and *The First Time* for The Fire This Time Festival, and Michelle T. Johnson's *Wiccans in the 'hood* for the Midwinter Madness Festival. Passionate about the solo show format, he also developed and directed Elizabeth Stewart's *Racist is My Middle Name* for the Estrogenius Festival (2010), and Tracey Conyer Lee's *Standing Up: Bathroom Talk and Other Stuff We Learn From Dad* (FringeNYC 2010). Mr. Free has also directed several productions performed or written by young people,

Five Towns: One **Book**

Bringing our communities together to explore the life and work of
Lorraine Hansberry: Radical Artist and Activist

including several plays in Writopia Lab's Bestival of New Plays, *The Wiz*, *The Robber Bridegroom*, *Godspell*, *Barnum*, *The Big Bad Musical*, *Dear Edwina*, *A Year with Frog and Toad* and *Starlight Express*.

Mr. Free has also excelled as a producer and arts administrator. In 2018, he produced a borough-wide celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the original recording of Louis Armstrong's "What A Wonderful World" in Queens Libraries. He is the former Education Director of Queens Theatre in the Park, bringing arts to underserved communities in Queens. He is also the former Producing Artistic Director of The Fire This Time Festival, a platform for early career playwrights of the African Diaspora, winning an Obie for his efforts in 2015. He maintains a collaboration with Frigid New York as curator of QUEERLY, a multi-arts LGBTQ+ festival. He has a long-standing collaboration with Eevin Hartsough and Katie Rosin, with whom he co-wrote and produced the web series *Gemma & The Bear!* and the upcoming *BECKYS THROUGH HISTORY* (MyCarl.org).

Once a regular contributor the NPR show "*News & Notes*," Mr. Free's voice can now be heard on the popular podcast Welcome to Night Vale, as Kevin, the voice of Desert Bluffs. He was a singer on the World Premiere Recording of the musical Avenue X and is the narrator over 300 audio books, including Martha Wells' *Murderbot Diaries*; Victor LaValle's *The Ballad of Black Tom*; the Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Known World* (AudioFile Magazine Earphones Award, 2004) and *Say You're One of Them* (Oprah's Book Club) and Rick Riordan's *The Kane Chronicles* (Audie Award Finalist, Audiobook of the Year 2011).

He is also an asshole who watches and live-tweets political debates, Awards Shows and Network TV. Follow him on Twitter: @kevinfree.

Five Towns: One **Book**

Bringing our communities together to explore the life and work of
Lorraine Hansberry: Radical Artist and Activist

Join us for the events built around **Radical Vision, A Biography of Lorraine Hansberry** by *Soyica Diggs Colbert*

Borrow in print from your local library or download via the Libby app or purchase it from **By-The-Dam Book** in Croton or www.thehumblebumblebook.com

The Lorraine Hansberry Coalition (LHC), established in February 2021, is part of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee of Croton-on-Hudson, NY. It is dedicated to celebrating the life of acclaimed playwright, author, and activist Lorraine Hansberry and her connection with Croton-on-Hudson. A volunteer-driven group, we create innovative and inclusive opportunities that reflect the values and ideals by which Hansberry led her life, and welcome new members to join!
Get in touch with us via email:
coh.di.lhc@gmail.com.

Please support us.

DONATE what you can if you believe that anti-racist work can start right in your own backyard! CURE cannot continue this work without your support! Learn more about us at www.learnwithcure.com

We are grateful.

Thank you to all who made these events possible: the Mamaroneck Union Free School District's District Equity Task Force for partnering on the March 29th event; Catherine Parker for her continued sponsorship.

All of CURE's Five Towns: One Book events are **FREE** to the public and made possible by funding from the **Westchester County Board of Legislators**. In the words of Dr. Kimberle Crenshaw, *"There is no daylight between the protection of our Democracy and the protection of Anti-racism."*

Five Towns: One **Book**

Bringing our communities together to explore the life and work of **Lorraine Hansberry: Radical Artist and Activist**

Meet our amazing **county partners** who believe in this work!



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anti-Racist Alliance Black Westchester Catherine Parker Center For The Study of White American Culture (CSWAC) Community Resource Center Croton River Artisans Gallery Hudson Valley Birth Network The Humble Bumble Indivisible New Rochelle Indivisible Westchester Jay Heritage Center Larchmont Avenue Church Larchmont Mamaroneck Human Rights Committee Larchmont Mamaroneck Indivisible Larchmont Mamaroneck Local Summit Larchmont Mamaroneck Lions Club Larchmont Temple LMC Media League of Women Voters' Voters of Westchester County New Rochelle Council on the Arts New Rochelle United Methodist Church | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Rochelle Public Library Foundation NPW – Non Profit Westchester One Mamaroneck One Small Stone pRYEde RaceTalk Revolution Restorative Justice Westchester RyeAct Coalition SURJ Showing Up for Racial Justice St. John's Episcopal Church St. Thomas Episcopal Church Teach the Truth – Westchester Tom Murphy – Mayor Village of Mamaroneck Town of Mamaroneck Racial Equity Task Force Unison Arts Urban Legacy Foundation WESPAC Westchester Alliance of Black School Educators Westchester Black Women's Political Caucus Westchester County Board of Legislators WWA Westchester Women's Agenda |
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Thank you for supporting our efforts and for the great work you do!