



Vermont Interfaith Power & Light

A faith-based response to global warming

Green Mountains, Blue Water

February 23 Film Event Reminder & More

VTIPL Black History Month Commemoration & Related Resources



VTIPL Black History Month Film & Discussion
Yemanjá: Wisdom from the African Heart of Brazil

Tuesday, February 23, 6:30 p.m.

[PRE-REGISTER NOW.](#)

Be sure to register for VTIPL's upcoming presentation of the award-winning documentary, *Yemanjá: Wisdom from the African Heart of Brazil*, narrated by activist/author Alice Walker. The film explores the Afro-Brazilian spiritual culture known as Candomblé in Bahia, Brazil, which evolved from the ways of enslaved Africans and remains a vital force in Brazil today, though also largely misunderstood. Religious intolerance is widespread, with some devotees and houses of worship targets of violence in what is often considered religious racism. The film's story is told through the voices of distinguished elder women faith leaders from several of the oldest and most revered communities of Candomblé. Three of the elders have passed since the film's completion.



*The Rt. Rev. Dr. Shannon
MacVean-Brown, Bishop of
Vermont.*

Following the screening, there will be a discussion featuring: The Rt. Rev. Dr. Shannon MacVean-Brown, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont; VTIPL Board Vice-President The Rev. Dr. Nancy Wright; and The Rev. Rachel Field of Mission Farm. We also hope to be joined by a researcher working to help stop violence targeting Brazil's communities of African-derived religions. [Register on our website.](#)



*The Rev. Dr. Nancy Wright of
Ascension Lutheran Church.*

The discussion will include a Q & A with you, our community. We look forward to addressing the film's multiple themes including Candomblé practitioners' reverence for the natural world, implications of women-led faith communities, religious intolerance, and more.



*The Rev. Rachel Field, Mission
Farm, The Church of Our
Saviour.*

VTIPL will contribute funds equivalent to a film license fee to Vermont organizations working on environmental and racial justice: SUSU Healing Collective's BIPOC Land and Food Sovereignty Fund, and Vermont Racial Justice Alliance.

[REGISTER TO RECEIVE THE ZOOM LINK.](#)

Learn about [SUSU](#) & [VT Racial Justice Alliance.](#)

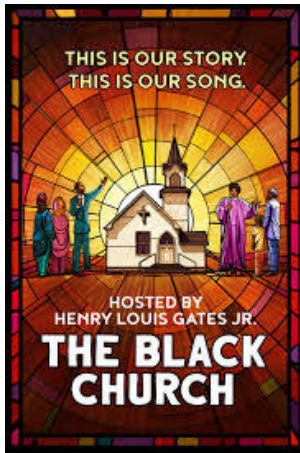
Get more info about the [film and view trailer.](#)



Festa de Yemanjá in Bahia, Brazil. Photo by Gerald Lee Hoffman

Black History Month Resources

During Black History Month in the U.S., many organizations are featuring special programming reflecting racial justice which often inherently connects with environmental and climate justice. Here are a few resources.



PBS Presents: *The Black Church*

Although it aired Feb. 16 & 17, this four-hour series is now available for streaming. From executive producer, host, and writer Henry Louis Gates, Jr., the series traces the 400 year-old story of the black church in the U.S., from its role as the site of African American survival and endurance, grace and resilience, thriving and testifying, freedom and independence, solidarity, and speaking truth to power. The series is a great primer for VTIPL's film event on February 23, as the roots and function of

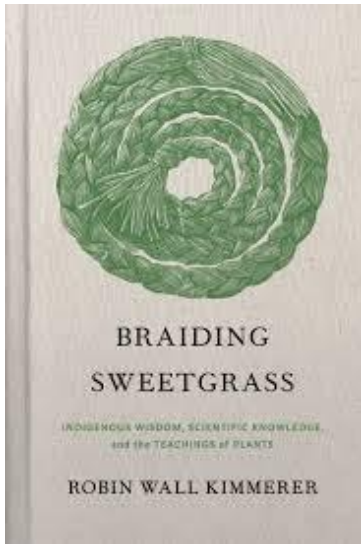
the Black Church are similar to those of the Candomblé spiritual tradition featured in our film. [Stream The Black Church.](#)

Walking Together: Growing in Awareness and Accountability, Putting Our Love into Action.

Sounds True offers thought-provoking programming with extraordinary writers and teachers of color as part of its commitment to stand with and for Black communities and social change activists working to end racism. Here are two:

Somatic Abolitionism features Resmaa Menakem, a body-centered psychotherapist, healer, and author of, *My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies*. Menakem begins by speaking of a construct he calls "white-body supremacy—how the white body in our culture is the supreme standard by which all bodies are measured, both structurally and philosophically." He also discusses the importance of becoming aware of this cultural construct, its 400-year-old history, and how it impacts us today on a cellular and emotional level.

Healing Racism is a powerful three-part webinar featuring Dr. Tiffany Jana. This series looks at how to embrace diversity in our personal lives, in our communities, workplaces, and the wider world. [Sounds True programming.](#)



Soup & Soul at Mission Farm. Feb. 24, 5 p.m.

Braiding Sweetgrass Reflection

Mission Farm invites you to cozy up to the fire with a cup of soup and join an exploration of Robin Wall Kimmerer's book *Braiding Sweetgrass* from 5-6:30 p.m.

As a botanist, Wall Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, her relationship with the more-than-human world transcends the analytical, and she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers.

Please order a copy of *Braiding Sweetgrass* to join in our discussion. The Bookstore in Brandon, VT, has offered to have extras in stock for those participating in this experience. [Register.](#)

Thank you so much for your interest in and support of our work!
We couldn't do it without you!

[Donate Now](#)



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