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| ER Updates: Ambassadors, Student Leaders, and more!It was August of 1955 when 14-year-old Emmett Till was killed in Mississippi by a group of White men for allegedly whistling at a White woman. In August 1963, 250,000 Americans marched in Washington, D.C., the original March on Washington, to demand fair and equitable wages, the passage of the Civil Rights Act, integrated schools, and the enactment of a bill that would prohibit job discrimination. It was at this march that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his famous, "I Have a Dream" speech. Two years later, in August 1965, the Voting Rights Act was signed, removing obstacles that had prevented many Black Americans from voting. As I write to you now, in August of 2021, it is with the understanding that we are still struggling to realize these hard-won freedoms. This year alone, we have seen an insurrection on our capitol attempting to block the peaceful transfer of power to an elected president, and 30 state laws across 18 states have been passed and enacted in 2021 to date that restrict access to voting for people of color. The dream Dr. King spoke of on August 28, 1963, is still just that: a dream. Though this was not from an August past, I wish to draw our attention to a different piece of writing by Dr. King, "Letter from a Birmingham Jail." In this letter, which was written a few months before his "I Have a Dream" speech, he writes, “For years now I have heard the word "Wait!" It rings in the ear of every Negro with piercing familiarity. This "Wait" has almost always meant "Never." We must come to see, with one of our distinguished jurists, that "justice too long delayed is justice denied.”"Structural racism must be addressed now. As summer comes to a close and we head into a time of new beginnings -- perhaps new school years, new jobs, or simply new colors on the tops of trees -- I invite you to consider the urgency of our movement. We can not wait. It is a steep climb, but if we wait we will likely roll backwards.Sincerely,*Elaine* |

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| **As we wait with anticipation for children to return to school, we don't want to forget the hardships all of our students and educators faced due to the COVID-19 pandemic. First, we congratulate all who did whatever they could to excel during a very challenging situation, both students and educators. We also want to acknowledge that not all of our children and educators had all of the tools and resources they needed to create the optimum remote learning environment. We are grateful that one of our donors, the Schroder family, made a $10,000 donation, to enable us to donate 43 3100 Dell Chromebooks to Roosevelt Union Free School District for children who did not have computers or other devices that could be used for remote learning. Dr. Deborah Wortham, Superintendent of Schools, says: “Thanks to Schroder Family’s generous donation, our students will be assisted with technology to further their education.”** |

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| An ERASE Racism Ambassador is someone who is inspired by ERASE Racism's mission to take action in their community, either by raising funds or awareness or both, and uses their platform (no matter how big or small!) to engage more people in a conversation about structural racism. This month, we want to highlight two individuals whose commitment to ERASE Racism's work combatting structural racism had a big impact in their communities and on Long Island! **Lucy Beeton** recently graduated from Pierson High School in Sag Harbor, NY. As part of a higher-level high school diploma program offered at her school, she was able to undertake a community service project in the spring of her senior year. She used this opportunity to organize a virtual 5k running race benefitting ERASE Racism. Lucy says, “I really appreciate and respect the work your organization does for our local communities, as well as communities across the nation, and am really passionate about helping such an amazing cause.” Through her passion and commitment to racial justice on Long Island, Lucy’s virtual 5k raised $1,605.07 for ERASE Racism. **Robert Villano**is an LMSW, primary therapist at Wellbridge Addiction Treatment and Research, and a painter. In July, he sold his painting of James Baldwin for $100 to members of the First Baptist Church in Riverhead, Long Island, as a gift for the pastor of the church, Reverend Coverdale. The selling price was matched by his place of employment, Wellbridge Addiction Treatment and Research in Calverton, his father, William Villano, and his company, One Source Tool Supply, and a mentor of his, Daniel Mattio. Robert’s painting ultimately raised $500 for ERASE Racism. A person wearing a yellow shirt  Description automatically generated with low confidenceThe engraving on the frame of the painting is a quote from Baldwin. It reads: “Love takes off the masks that we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within." Robert says, “Social justice is something I take very seriously. This country was built on racial inequality, the effects of this are still very much alive today. This injustice can be corrected through anti-racist work. I wish more people were willing to see this. I support the work your organization is doing and will continue to find ways to donate.”For more information about ERASE Racism's ambassadors,[click here](https://eraseracismny.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c458a537b7d5d643657749313&id=bfdedb8488&e=34dfeefb96). |

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| **ERASE Racism at 6th Annual Reimagining Education Summer Institute with Teachers College, Columbia University**In July, student leaders of ERASE Racism’s Student Task Force (STF), along with its President Elaine Gross, Community Educator/Organizer Nicole Grennan, and STF Alumnus Joel-Anthoney Bossous, participated in the 6th Annual Reimagining Education: Teaching, Learning and Leading for a Racially Just Society Summer Institute (RESI) from July 12-16th. During this conference organized by Teachers College, Columbia University, ERASE Racism’s student voices addressed the urgent need for culturally-responsive teaching, particularly with respect to integrating current events and student-centered learning into existing curriculum. The students led a workshop called, "Let's Talk About It: Discussing Current Events in Class," and participated in a plenary entitled, "Truth to Power on Segregated Suburban Schools: Long Island Youth Speak." Additionally, Elaine Gross and Joel-Anthoney Bossous participated in RESI's first ever Policy Day as Roundtable Panelists.Thanks to the generosity of the Rauch Foundation, ERASE Racism was also able to sponsor 31 Long Island educators to attend this year’s conference. [Click here](https://eraseracismny.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c458a537b7d5d643657749313&id=19b52414d5&e=34dfeefb96) to read the full report on our website!  |

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| [Click here](https://eraseracismny.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c458a537b7d5d643657749313&id=f57f37cdc3&e=34dfeefb96)**to read about the event on our website. Registration details will be forthcoming.** |

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| **Are you passionate about fair housing on Long Island? ERASE Racism has been participating as an active member in the Suffolk County Fair Housing Task Force for the past year. In July, the Task Force released a**[report](https://eraseracismny.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c458a537b7d5d643657749313&id=5745006b33&e=34dfeefb96)**with action steps to combat racial discrimination and segregation. Following the report, the Suffolk County Legislature approved the creation of a**[Permanent Housing Advisory Board](https://eraseracismny.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c458a537b7d5d643657749313&id=9dbcc5e41d&e=34dfeefb96)**, with ERASE Racism as one of its members.** |

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