

## Racism: A White Man's Journey

The following names and locations have been changed to protect the innocent. I was born in a small town shouldered by two large cities, Newport and Jackson. The population of those cities was diverse, black, white and Hispanic.

Now back to my home town, population 6,000, 99.9 percent caucasian, and ethnicity basically Italian, Irish and Polish. My town was a blue-collar community, consistent mostly of manufacturing.

Now to the racism. At the age of 6 that word was unknown to me. My dad was a self-employed mason who had a black helper named Sam. Though his black skin was obvious it didn't register to me as different. Now the following that you are about to read will sound horrific and unimaginable in today's civilized world. But in white America, it was part of the vernacular. I could not come to write the 'n' word in this article. But this little boy at 6 did not know of that powerful word to be bad.

Racism saturated this town of GOD fearing blue-collar Americans and racial epitaphs were spoken as calmly as good morning and GOD Bless you. I did not realize at the time that these hateful words were just that. It's a kin to a long-time question, if a tree falls in the forest and there is no one there to hear it, does it make a sound and so it is with racism. Its still there even though there is no one listening.

All the laws, all the anger and hate is not going to change racist attitudes. Living racists is a conscious choice, it is vial in speaking. Hating the racists, verbally assaulting them, and calling anyone a racist who may make an off cuff comment or use a phrase, is that not a racist

thought?

What is the point of this article? The point is that we cannot change a racist or racism in our country. Racism comes from within the person therefore that racist must have a spiritual awakening of brotherhood and humanity. We must be strong and united. The Reverend Martin Luther King once spoke these words, "Every man must write with his own hand the charter of his Emancipation Proclamation. We are all in this country a minority of one and how we succeed or fail depends on our effort."

The anger we have from the mind of the racist is frustrating. It is just and right to hate hate, but not the hater.

**Walter Sosnosky  
Kenilworth**

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Susan M. Dougherty for The Westfield Leader

## We Support Scott Katz In Ward 4 on Westfield Council

My husband Schuyler and I have been homeowners on Tamaques Way in Westfield for the past 33 years. We are proud of our neighborhood and proud of this town.

Over the years we've been deeply involved in the community: my husband was Scout master for Pack 79 for over a decade and served on the town's library board; I served on the Westfield Neighborhood Council and the Westfield Girl Scouts as a board member, was PTSO president at Westfield High School twice, and have been a special education teacher at Wilson School for 21 years.

My family has invested a lot of ourselves in this town and we believe in this town. That is why we are voting for Scott Katz for Ward 4 on the Town Council.

Scott shares our love for Westfield and our strong belief in community volunteerism.

With a degree in economics from Tulane University and with experience in creating and managing small businesses, we have faith that Scott will be able to continue the revitalization of our downtown and will lend his expertise towards strong, smart growth and stability.

Living on Tamaques Way, our family has a deep love and commitment to the maintenance and care of one of Westfield's natural gems: Tamaques Park, a beautiful fusion of wilderness walking trails and manicured fields for sports. Scott shares our love and active enjoyment of this unique space, and has coached Westfield sports. He

understands the need to preserve the pristine character of Tamaques Park, while at the same time endorsing the Parks and Recreation Master Plan process to ensure Westfield addresses the need for modern and accessible athletic fields.

We encourage all our neighbors in Ward 4 to contact Scott, and review his Facebook and website to learn of his plans for improving our ward and our town. On Sunday, August 18 Scott will be hosting a meet and greet bike ride around Tamaques Park starting at 10:30 a.m. and ending with ice pops! We will be there, and we encourage you to join us.

**Lisa and Schuyler  
Quackenbush  
Westfield**