



DIVERSITY & INCLUSION NEWSLETTER

Whatcom Family YMCA

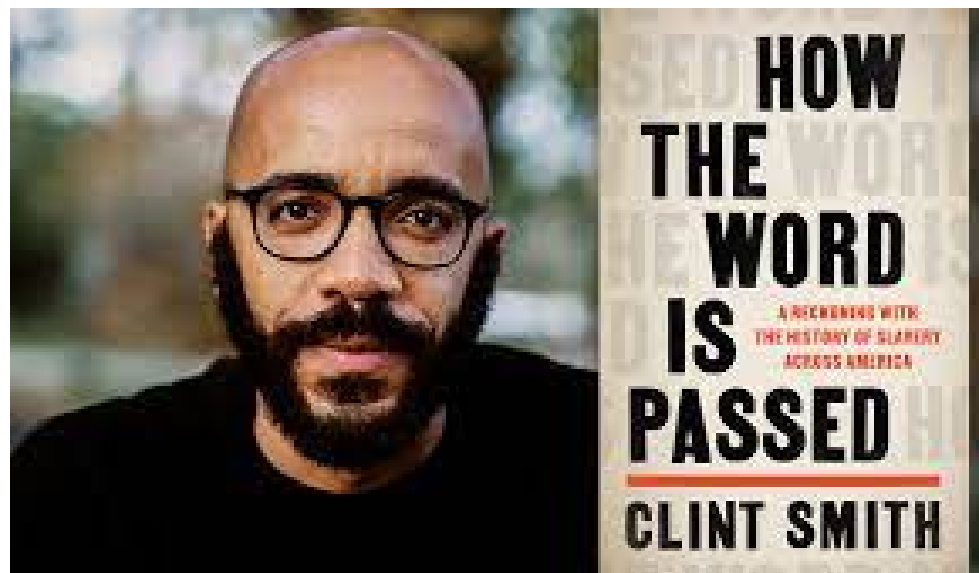
August, 2021



GIVE IT ALL THE STARS

**A Book Review of How the Word is Passed:
A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America**

Clint Smith is an African-American writer who has written a brilliant book entitled “**How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning With the History of Slavery Across America.**” Everywhere Smith travels, he encounters a welter of opinions and stories about what people know—or think they know—about slavery.



If the rating scale was one to 5, give this book a 5. If it were one to 100, give it a hundred.

This non-fiction narrative is that good.

Clint Smith, a poet, scholar and Atlantic magazine staff writer penned the #1 New York Times bestseller that is both really hard to read, and really important to read. Smith guides us through 8 places, seven in the US and one in Senegal, and uses people, monuments and landmarks to help us to better understand how the brutal history of slavery has a direct impact on making sense of the United States today. Each chapter takes us to one place, and teaches us the history of slavery & racism there because Smith believes that education is our way forward. If you are interested in topics like truth, justice and social change, this book is a must-read. **Bonus:** Clint Smith’s background in poetry brings a beautiful, moving voice to this work.

WHY THE Y?

In an attempt to educate the greater community on our Y’s commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion we want to highlight our diverse members, volunteers and staff and why they are committed to the Y.

I enjoy my time at the Y. It is a place where I have been both a member and an employee. I have made many friends and have continued to volunteer because I believe in the purpose in the community for all ages, and supporting programs of health, well-being and childcare all around Whatcom County.

These are trying times and I hope to be able to continue my time at the Y. For me, it’s a place to workout. I look forward to seeing people I have made friends with and staff and co-workers that I continue to keep in contact with.

Thumbs up to the Y!

Jamie Starks

“To the place that saw me grow for nearly 23 years, giving back means everything to me. Caring, kindness, and compassion go a long way at the YMCA.”

Liz Alavardo

My interest in joining the Y board is because I want to give back to the community where I have lived in for 20 years now. The YMCA is the perfect place because I believe in the YMCA’s mission.

Focusing on the health and wellness of our community and providing services where it’s needed the most is very important to me. It is an honor to serve on the board and I look forward to helping out however I can to help our community grow.

Giang Ha