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Former resident is inspired by recent events to help fight racism

(Editor's Note: The following story is about former NV resident Tom Gegax, whose parents Lib and Bill Gegax were very active in the community when they lived here years ago. Tom went on to a successful business career in Minneapolis and the Midwest. In addition to being a published author, his attention has now turned to documentary filmmaking. Read on.)

Spark: A Systemic Racism Story is a 30-minute documentary by Tom and his partner Mary Wescott that takes a historical and present-day look at systemic racism. The tragic death of George Floyd ignited a nationwide discussion and a more profound look at deep-seated, systemic racism in America. Coast to coast protests took place to raise awareness and show support in reversing systemic racism.

The couple created the documentary to encourage recognition of unconscious bias and show a path to unlearning a historical narrative that redefined an entire race.

The documentary is presented in complete, abbreviated, and mini versions and can be viewed at www.spark-doc.com. You can also view the full documentary here.

Amateur Films has released Spark: A Systemic Racism Story, a documentary by white allies that explores racism's roots and remedies. The thirty-minute film takes a historical and present-day look at systemic racism, and it is a call to action to white people to become a Black community ally.

Gegax's and Wescott's participation in a protest inspired these white allies to create the non-commercial educational documentary to encourage recognition of unconscious bias and show a path to unlearning a historical narrative that redefined an entire race.

The documentary is an aggregator of interviews and clips of prominent leaders and racial justice advocates providing historical context of policies and procedures that led to the oppression of the Black community. Spark also proposes practical solutions and remedies in public safety, policing, criminal justice, and society.

"While watching the George Floyd protests unfold, it was clear the nation was experiencing a moral awakening," said Trent Gegax, story and editor producer. "Spark: A Systemic Racism Story aims to educate through awareness, listening and the daily practice of anti-racism because until everyone is free, no one is free."

Spark, in addition to individual use, can be used as a free educational tool for any organizations or communities seeking to accomplish racial-justice and racial-sensitivity goals. The documentary is presented in complete, abbreviated, and mini versions and can be viewed at www.spark-doc.com.

About Amateur Films, LLC

Amateur Films, LLC is based in Minneapolis, MN and was created by Tom Gegax and Mary Wescott of the Gegax Family Foundation in 2020. Spark: A Systemic Racism Story is the first film by the production company.

The three-generation production team is made up of volunteers and includes talented and passionate neighbors and children in addition to the retention of top Hollywood writers, editors, composer, and sound and color experts. Amateur Films, LLC was inspired by the George Floyd protests in June 2020 as well as Tom Gegax and his personal experience working in Chicago when 14 Black

service station owners in his territory developed deep relationships and protected him from harm during the late 60's civil rights uprisings.



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Tom Gegax and partner Mary Wescott are pictured at a recent demonstration. The two have now released a documentary addressing the issue of unconscious bias. It can be viewed at www.spark-doc.com on the internet.—Submitted Photos



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Spark: A Systemic Racism Story" is a timely 30-minute documentary by Tom Gegax and Mary Wescott.