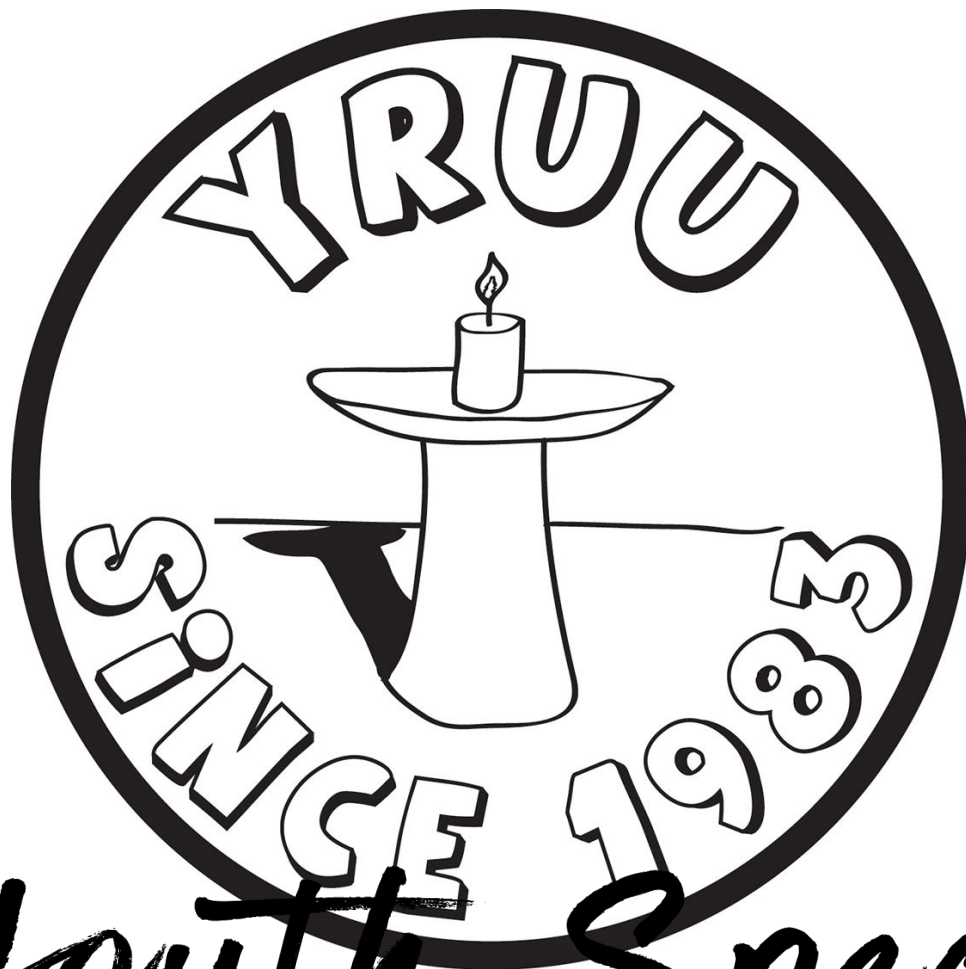


SPEAKING OF JUSTICE

faith in action



Youth Speak

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists

YRUU

is

a beginning and an ending
of each week where we find
a calm within
ourselves.

YRUU

is a constant
in our lives where
youth are valued
and respected

strong people.

of caring and
community

and as a
as individuals

and where we can grow

YRUU is a

consistent and steadying space
grounding in its rituals and traditions
that helps youth to listen and self-reflect
to be with like-minded and like-hearted people
to be with a community of people who want to hear you.

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FOR THE BEEES

By Luca Gregston

MY ART explores the theme of bees and the dying off of bees. I am a beekeeper and started developing an interest in bees at about the age of seven. The more I learned about bees and beekeeping, the more I became fascinated. My first time opening a hive was with a beekeeper in France where I was born, and he showed me how to extract honey.

Bees are dying right now, at a rate that is accelerating and threatening our food supply. This is because of several reasons including monoculture and the use of systemic (neonicotinoid) pesticides.

When I moved to the United States at 14, I started to keep bees in my backyard. Since then I discovered there are many potential forms of bee art. The bees themselves provide a lot of the materials. Several artists have influenced me in my approach to bees and the phenomenon known as colony collapse disorder.

The German artist Otto Dix painted soldiers attacked by mustard gas in World War I. Soldiers fighting in World War I were guinea pigs for some of the neurotoxins that are now used in pesticides. So for me there was a strong connection.

Another artist who influenced me is Georgia O'Keeffe. When I saw her pure, sensual flowers with pollination buds, but purified of insect life – no bees – it made me think of how pesticides are causing bees to disappear.

Agrochemical companies have been doing many things to hide what is happening to bees such as falsifying research findings and investing in public relations campaigns with names like “bee care.” Agrochemical companies are driven by profit like most companies in the world. If they stop selling pesticides they would be losing a large amount of profit. But in the long run they are destroying the basis for sustainable agriculture.

These works that I have created are meant to convey an alarming message but it doesn't have to be depressing. Whatever is behind colony collapse disorder could give way to a new human relationship with bees and pollinators. Or it could get worse. The core message is one of inspiration to act. I hope my artwork will be part of an awakening to act on a problem that is affecting us all.



“The core message is one of inspiration to act.”

SO HELP ME GOD

By Mahala Shulman

October 6, 2018 will go down as a sad, sad day for America. The confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court, the highest court of America, left me feeling numb. While the world continued on, I could not.

Earlier that week I had been forced to pull the car over, en route to school, to switch places with my father. NPR has played on the stereo for as long as I can remember, my parents always rathering me to be aware than censored; it was a centerpiece to our morning commute. The past couple of months, though, the news started to silence our conversations. As I drove in silence, my father erratically spit chuckles of despair and unbelievable frustration. This was the general balance of our relationship: me, processing

my emotions internally, and him formulating his via yelling at the stereo.

On this particular day, the disparaging voice of Brett Kavanaugh brought tears to my eyes. I was so caught up in the arrogance in his tone that I ran a red light before slamming my breaks and pulling over. We rode the remainder of the ride in silence.

Upon arriving at school, I sought shelter between the walls of art classroom that has become my second home in the past few years.

In the week following the Kavanaugh confirmation, I drew, cut, and printed this "rage-piece" that I have now titled "So Help Me God." I took refuge in the only thing able to distract me from my fear and heartbreak for myself and my country. Every moment

I had free, I escaped to the privacy of the art studio, my form of self-medication.

While I am very proud of the pieces I made, the therapeutic slicing of the stencils and releasing of pressure of the spray paint can provided much more comfort to me than seeing the pieces completed.

In a time when I felt unable to address some of my feelings and reactions, this piece allowed me to express the fear, sadness, and rage I felt. That's what art is about: art is and will always be a mode to fill the gaps my vocabulary cannot reach. Art allows me to communicate in ways I am unable to convey otherwise. Most importantly, art fosters a place of personal growth as I grow up and reflect upon who I want to be and what impact I want to make on the world.



By Mahala Shulman



By Mahala Shulman

The Autistic Dancer Box

By Rhionne Morris

Into this box , I put...

Anger that autistic people are labeled as
'weird' 'dumb' 'incapable of learning
anything.'

I put into this box,

My hopes and dreams of starting a family
someday.

I put into this box,

Fear, that autistic people will never be
accepted into society.

I put into this box,

My anxiety,

I put into this box,

My love of dancing, because, when I'm
dancing, all my worries disappear.

Sometimes, I feel so alone and scared, I can't
control my actions. I get anxious very easily
and sometimes, I start crying uncontrollably,
and it's very hard to stop.

Into this box, I put...

And the final item I put into this box is.....

My hopes for the future.

My Gratitude,

I put into this box,

Loneliness, because even though I'm
surrounded by friends and family, sometimes
I feel all alone.

For all my friends and family who have stood
by me through the good times and the bad,
Thank You all so much for everything you
have done for me. I love you all so much, I
don't know if I could ever repay your kindness

THIS IS ME

the autistic dancer and this is my box.



OPB INTERVIEW EXCERPTS WITH JADEN WINN

Co-organizer of the Portland Climate Justice Strike

“We are walking out of school because we want to show our community that we’re not receiving the climate justice education that we need. So we’re going to demand that education for ourselves. Especially in Portland this is important because almost three years ago there was a resolution passed by the Portland Public School Board. It was passed unanimously, and it said that there would be climate literacy curricula introduced into our schools to educate students about why climate justice is necessary, what are the effects of climate change on our world, and exposing students to career pathways in the renewable energy sector. And this resolution has yet to be implemented. So, in Portland it’s especially important for us to be walking out to show our support for receiving this education that isn’t being offered to us, but one that we need and deserve. If we want to have a sustainable future, it means we need to make a statement now.

“We need to open the eyes of our politicians and lawmakers. If adults in leadership positions are opposed to climate justice, their decisions are affecting the world of the adults of tomorrow and the youth of today. Even if we’re not yet 18 and we can’t legally vote, our voices have to be heard. We have to inherit the world with all of the good things and all the mistakes that our politicians and lawmakers make.

“On top of that, we don’t want the lawmakers coming to us and asking us *what do we do?* Because we don’t have the education or the background to tell them what to do. We want our leaders to look to the scientists. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is a great group of scientists who are committed to addressing climate change.

“Even when youth stand up in our world today, we’re always overshadowed by the fact that we’re not yet 18, the age of an adult. Our leaders can say we’re not really there, we don’t really care, we don’t really want to make a difference. Yet we’re standing up now because we don’t see another way. Our politicians, our leaders are *not* doing what they need to do to protect our future. It’s being left to us.

“There are students in over 100 countries around the world participating in this strike, and I don’t really know what’s going to happen. But I do know that as an activist, I’m going to continue pushing for this for as long as it takes.”

Reflections From Sunday Mornings



In October & December of every church year,

our high school youth spend a Saturday night at the church. Their overnights include singing holiday carols in Pioneer Courthouse Square, a youth-led worship service in Eliot Chapel, and the following morning they distribute socks, sandwiches, and self-care items to people on the streets of downtown Portland.

Before walking outside on those often rainy Sunday mornings, our older youth become mentors to our 9th graders. Our youth share the importance of respecting people when approaching their space on sidewalks or under bridges.

They also highlight the obvious: distributing these items does not immediately address the larger systemic issues related to funding for basic services and affordable housing. We come together as a community to remember that we're working for a world where basic needs are met, and these distributions are no longer necessary. And, until then, people need to eat. People need to have dry socks on rainy days. People need the basics that protect their health.

These are reflections from some of our high schoolers about what these Sunday mornings mean to them.

“It’s an important reminder for me. We’re out here, and my hands are freezing. My feet are freezing. Just to take the time to ask myself, *what would it be like to not have a warm place to return to when we’re done giving these socks to people?*”

“It gives me perspective. We do this two times in the fall and winter. There are 363 other days that we’re not out here. And where do they go then? What do they do?”

“We have a serious problem in Portland. We need to do a better job. And I enjoy trying to understand, trying to help.”

“This is different than volunteering at the food bank. We’re all humans. We need to see the humanity in other people.”

“I appreciate the human connection. To just take the time to focus on people who are so often ignored or treated as invisible. Just listening to them. Letting them know that people care about them and their well-being.”

“This is about inherent worth. And that’s a basic part of our faith. Inherent worth within everyone. Yes, including people who don’t have a roof over their head at night.”

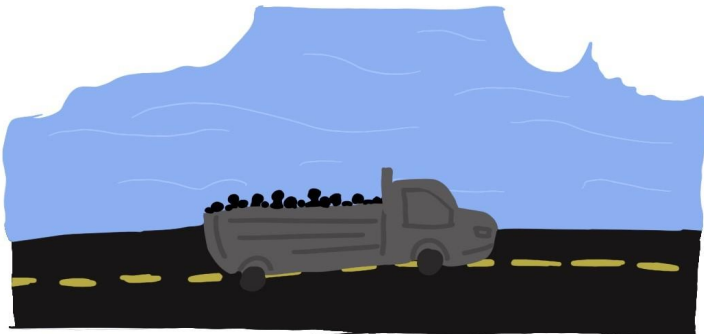


Immigrant Dreams

By Ciera Webster



Stuffed animals often represent guardians for children, holding a reminder of good times. I myself still have many stuffed animals. It's important to remember that these guardians are solely in the owners imagination, just like the stuffed cat here. The stuffed cat, Spotty is just the kid's interpretation of what's happening. What Spotty says may not be reality, but it's the kid's reality.



My home is gone. Mom and Dad are scared. What next? Where do we go?





The government will provide some services but your family will have to become legal U.S. citizens before the government will help.



Will they help us find a place to sleep? I miss sleeping on a soft bed that doesn't rock.





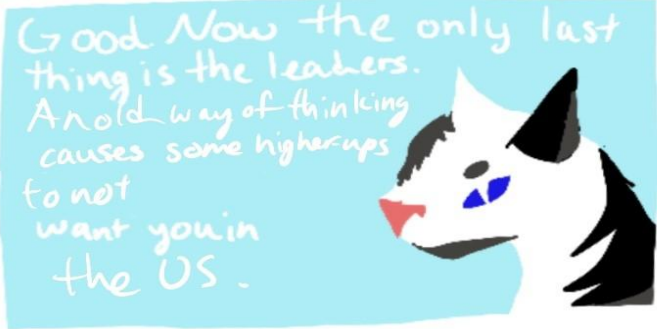
A little. Mom taught me some on the way over.

Mom and Dad will teach you more. Knowing English will help you. Border Angels in California can help with educational services too.

Why don't more people help? Am I bad?

Some people think you can't do as much as those who have homes there, as goofy as it is. But hey, others are doing it, so I know you'll blow them away!





The End

UPCOMING EVENTS

POSTCARD WRITING \ \ Sunday, April 14

Support immigrant rights and youth justice reform! Fill out postcards in support of critical bills currently making their way through the Oregon legislature. Everything provided: bill descriptions, pens, postcards, and delivery. Sponsored by the Immigrant Justice Action Group and Ending Mass Incarceration/Advancing Racial Justice (formerly Ending the New Jim Crow), in collaboration with ACLU Oregon.

Details: Sunday, Apr. 14, After Both Services in the Buchan Reception (RM B101)

[FACEBOOK](#)

10TH ANNUAL SEWELL LECTURE \ \ Tuesday, April 16

“On learning to love my black self in a country where black lives were never meant to matter.”

Speaker: Julie Lythcott-Haims roots for humans. Julie is deeply interested in what impedes us. She is the New York Times bestselling author of *How to Raise an Adult*, an anti-helicopter parenting manifesto which gave rise to one of the top TED Talks of 2016, and now has over 3 million views. Books will be available for purchase. Reception and book signing to follow in Fuller Hall.

Details: Tues., Apr. 16, 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Adult tickets, suggested donation of \$20 (no one turned away).

Youth under 21 are free. Drop-ins welcome.

[PURCHASE TICKETS HERE](#) || [FACEBOOK](#)

POLICE PEACE PDX FORUM \ \ Tuesday, April 29

The fourth annual Police Peace PDX forum, organized by [Youth Educating Police](#), will feature a panel discussion with Chief Outlaw, Officer Rashida Saunders, and 3 young entrepreneurs here in Portland. The focus of the panel will be going in depth about youth-police relations and what policies and community engagement efforts of the PPB should be both lauded and improved.

Details: Sunday, Apr. 29, In the Buchan Reception

Youth will receive \$20 || [RSVP](#)



First
Unitarian
Portland

10TH ANNUAL SEWELL LECTURE



TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2019

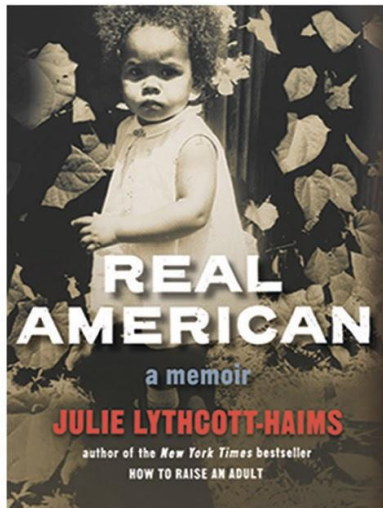
First Unitarian Portland
Sanctuary, 1211 SW Main St.
Doors open at 6:30pm
7pm-9pm

Adult Tickets \$5-\$20
Suggested Donation
21 & Under Free
No one turned away
Walk-ins welcome!



JULIE LYTHCOTT- HAIMS

**From *Real American: A Memoir*, Julie Lythcott-Haims will speak
"on learning to love my black self in a country
where black lives were never meant to matter."**



Julie roots for humans. Humans need agency in order to make their way forward and she is deeply interested in what impedes us. Julie is the New York Times bestselling author of *How to Raise an Adult*, an anti-helicopter parenting manifesto which gave rise to one of the top TED Talks of 2016, and now has over 3 million views.

Her second book is the critically-acclaimed prose poetry memoir *Real American*, which illustrates her experience with racism and her journey toward self-acceptance. A third book on how to be an adult, for young adults, is forthcoming. She is a former corporate lawyer and Stanford dean, and she holds a BA from Stanford, a JD from Harvard, and an MFA in Writing from California College of the Arts. She lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her partner of thirty years, their teenagers, and her mother.

// JUSTICE ENGLISH GUEST YOUTH POET

Senior at Roosevelt High School, Justice English is an experienced spoken word performer & social justice

// MELLISA LOWERY MODERATOR

Director of international award-winning documentary, *Black Girl in Suburbia*, will moderate a discussion following Julie's talk.



// BOOK SIGNING & RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

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Portland OR, 97205

SOCIAL MEDIA
Facebook @FirstUPDX
www.firstunitarianportland.org

RSVP
<https://bit.ly/2Tmt3OV>
or scan the QR code



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SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION GROUPS

At First Unitarian Church of Portland

**Contacts are updated as of 3/10/2018 & are subject to change.*

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Peace Action Group (PAG)

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UU Animal Ministry (UUAM)

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