

Learning Right Relations: OUUC's Class Series/Activities, Fall, 2015 – Fall 2017

Learning Right Relations (LRR) is a series of classes, auxiliary meetings and visits to Tribal sites aimed at addressing the historic marginalization and ongoing inequities of our Coast Salish neighbors. Our work was co-founded in the autumn of 2015 by Douglas Mackey and Pat Rasmussen--each with more than 30 years of collaborative work with several Tribes--as classes offered by the Adult Ed Committee of the Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation. What follows is a **history** of much of our work beginning with the initial class in the autumn of 2015 through our most recent class in the Winter/Spring of 2017.

Class members have combined their personal books about the Tribes of the Pacific Northwest to create a reading library available to all on a loan basis. A brief annotated listing of these publications is available online [here](#). *This link, and the other hyperlinks below, connect readers to documents stored on the Internet in a Google drive.*

Addenda 1, 2, and 3 follow the listing of classes and activities immediately below.

Addendum 1: an adopted listing of inspirational activities and practices suggested by Deb Cruz (dwacruz@comcast.net), Board officer of the Northwest Unitarian Universalist Justice Network, who, with fellow committed UU activist, Beth Brownfield (bethbrownf@aol.com), work, with great success, in partnership with the Lummi Nation for social and environmental justice within a context of spiritual growth.

Addendum 2: LRR “Action Group” (planning) members.

Addendum 3: on a change in sponsorship and venues beginning in autumn, 2017.

A. Adult Ed Classes

1. [LRR, Series I, Autumn, 2015.pdf](#)
2. [LRR Series II, Winter-Spring, 2016.pdf](#)
3. [LRR, Series III, Autumn, 2016.pdf](#)
4. [LRR, Series IV, Winter-Spring, 2017.pdf](#)

B. Chronologically Ordered Content of Specific Classes; Other Significant Activity and Reports

1. Class 1 of Series I included sharing of the unique recording of the story of the Steh-Chass people as told by Johnny Moses (personal copy of Pat Rasmussen) and Pat's introduction to her article [What Happened to the Steh-Chass People?](#). Robert Satiacum presents his views, via cell phone connection, about the path for non-tribal people willing to learn about the true history of the Tribes of the Pacific Northwest. (October 4, 2015)

2. [Class 2 of Series II](#) meets at the Squaxin Island Museum, Library and Research Center: Tribal presentations by Paula Krise; spectacular murals; plenary discussion. (March 20, 2016)
3. [Presentation at Traditions Café on Paddle to Nisqually by Hanford McCloud](#), Leschi Heritage Foundation Executive Director and coordinator of the Nisqually Canoe Family; LRR donates to Canoe Family for quality communications equipment.) (March 25, 2016.)
4. At [Class 3 of Series II](#), Robert Satiacum, Tribal elder of the Puyallup Tribe, shows his celebrated movie about *Canoe Journeys* and speaks about the role they have played in NW Indian Country, (April 24, 2016).

This class was followed by an additional session to show an historic movie on the fish wars (*As Long As the Rivers Run*) and hear an evocative presentation by Jeff Tayer, former Regional Director of, and enforcement officer for, the WA State Dept, of Fish and Wildlife. (May 1, 2016)

5. At another special gathering, Cynthia Iyall—direct descendent of Chief Leschi, former Nisqually Tribal Chair, and major contributor to Leschi’s “exoneration of murder”—won a wildly applauded presentation of early Nisqually history as she and participants walked on the boardwalk trail at the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. (Rescheduled from a nominal date of June 26, 2016 to an August date.)
6. Moving [worship service](#) at OUUC on Learning Right Relations activities by LRR steering Group members, as suggested by Interim Minister, Emily Melcher. Full transcript available: (July 24, 2016)
7. [Paddle to Nisqually Poster](#) includes a description of the blanket give-away project, where 1400 blankets were gifted to the Nisqually Tribe Canoe Family, who used these as give-aways during ceremonies at the Nisqually Canoe Journey. (July 30, 2016)
8. For the [second class of Series III](#), a masterful PowerPoint presentation on the Boldt decision by Fronda Woods, Assistant Attorney General in Gov. Inslee’s office. This was followed by Willie Frank, Jr., speaking about his experiences during the Fish Wars as the youngest son of Billy Frank, Jr. and (November 6, 2016)
9. [Third class of Series III](#) includes an introduction by LRR Steering Group members to the now-mandated STI (Since Time Immemorial) K – 12 Curriculum; a moving presentation by two closers of safety valves on two of the five pipelines bringing tar sands crude oil into the US; reflections drawn from their 30 plus year relationships with Tribal members. (December 4, 2016), 2016)
10. A [document](#) by Pat Rasmussen on the history of Johnny Moses and his Red Cedar Circles for the special circumstance of a *peshelt* (a giveaway to express gratitude) hosted by OUUC.
11. [Vision and Mission statements](#) and a summary of major LRR projects and activities as of February 2, 2017. Nominal title of document: Olympia Learning Right Relations Group (Feb. 2, 2017)
12. [Class 1 of Series IV](#) was devoted to three major foci: a.) Our own Pat Rasmussen sharing her experiences that led to her report, *What Happened to the Steh-chass People?* –the story of the residents of the lower reaches of Budd Inlet and the Deschutes River near Tumwater; b) rich presentations by two key staff members of the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction’s Office of Indian Education—administrator Joan Banker and trainer Laura Lynn-- on the history and current status of the *Since Time Immemorial Curriculum*; and c) reports from LRR Group

members on their activities to support increased awareness and support for tribal sovereignty. (Feb. 5, 2017)

13. This entry is a report on what took place in the [second class of Series IV](#) rather than what had been sent to participants as intended offerings because of the unexpected availability of Robert Satiacum and his wife, Liz. Reported here were Liz's moving account of experiences of maltreatment of water protectors at Standing Rock; Robert's impassioned tribute to Doug Mackey; Pat Rasmussen's showing of a DVD on Princess Angeline of the (unregistered) Duwamish Tribe; and Doug's moving account of the proclamation given by Jo De Goudy, Tribal Chairman of the Yakama Nation, about the infamous 15th century Papal Bull on the Doctrine of Discovery. (March 28, 2017)

14. A report on an extraordinarily impressive presentation on [Tribal Sovereignty by Gordon James](#), Director of Education for the Squaxin Island Tribe. (April 25, 2017)

15. [Class three of Series IV](#) features a DVD and presentation by Diana Moore and Karen Jackson on the horrific loss of the Celilo Falls fishery on the Columbia River; Doug Mackey's engaging review of features—some good, some not-- of salmon management since the 1974 Boldt Decision; and a rich presentation by Pat Rasmussen on three major spiritual paths of Northwest Indians. (April 30, 2017)

Addendum 1: adopted list of practices and activities for Learning Right Relations *(From Deborah Cruz, NWUUN Hub Coordinator, with modest editing by BMS)*

- Research developing/creating a leadership council specific to First/American Indian issues and challenges;
- Enhance or develop solidarity networks within the greater faith community on local, state and regional levels;
- Enhance or develop ally networks with environmental and social justice organizations on local, state and regional levels;• Develop leadership training programs, based on "right relations;" * *(See asterisked entries at bottom of document)*
- Develop leadership training programs for those willing to work with the greater community;*
- Develop a curriculum for educating youth;*
- Develop a curriculum for educating congregational members or interface groups on issues concerning spirituality and the Earth, First/American Indian Nations issue;.* Create social media projects to educate and inform (videos, blogs, etc.);
- Establish networks with local Tribes and Nations willing to participate. This would necessitate researching the region and determining which Tribes/Nations are where (what their land base is historically-- if possible, but at least contemporarily)-- their status as Tribes and/or Nations, their leadership, making connections, to some extent understanding the immediate issues and challenges they are facing, etc;
- Support Tribes and Nations with conferences, demonstrations, presentations and other identified needs;
- Develop curricula for educating congregational members and make open to interfaith groups on issues concerning spirituality and the Earth, First/American Indian Nation issues;*
- Create social media projects to educate and inform (videos, blogs, etc);
- Establish networks with local Tribes and Nations willing to participate. This would necessitate

researching the region and determining which Tribes/Nations are where (what their land base is historically, if possible, but at least temporarily), their statuses as Tribes and/or Nations, their leadership, making connections, to some extent understanding the immediate issues and challenges they are facing, etc;

- Support Tribes and Nations with conferences, demonstrations, presentations and other identified needs;
- **This would include supporting such events as the Totem Pole Journey.**
- Pursue incorporation of indigenous issues, challenges and worldviews into spiritual practices based on individual belief systems or collaborative interfaith efforts;
- Lobbying, as a community, local, state and federal representatives. Example: teams could go to speak to WA State representatives on Native American Lobby Day, Interfaith Advocacy Day, Environmental Lobby Days, etc. This would also include letter-writing campaigns to local, state, federal and international legislative representatives and agencies.
- Organize faith and interfaith actions by themselves or in conjunction with other actions such as Earth Day events, Indigenous Peoples Day events, Native American Heritage Awareness Month, climate justice actions, or other environmental/social justice group actions (350.org, Idle No More, Rising Tide, etc.).
- Develop educational programs and actions based upon various general issues such as institutionalized racism and its impact on F/AI Nations, repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery, federal laws and policies, rights within treaties, local and regional histories of indigenous peoples—cultural, political, etc. This would require some work with Tribal partners if available and willing.

The end ideal is to harness the energy and create a spiritual revolution that would follow the example and leadership of our First/American Indian Tribes/Nations in preserving human rights as a species imperative and in protecting, healing, restoring and honoring the Earth, on which we all rely for our very existence.

Addendum 2: LRR “Action Group” (planning) members:

Mackey, Douglas (dougwmackey@yahoo.com); Rasmussen, Pat (patr@crcwnet.com); Adams, Bobbie (riawa@comcast.net); Chang, Coco (changcocochang@gmail.com); Eklund, Wendy (wendy.eklund@gmail.com); Finch, Ken (finchgeemail@gmail.com); Jackson, Karen (roadking_27@msn.com); Kerseg-Hinson, June (junzk@comcast.net); Killelea, Donna (DonnaKillelea@yahoo.com); Moore, Diana (dmoore@tss.net); Perry, Pat (tutta667@hotmail.com); Rodrick, Elizabeth (erodrick@comcast.net); Rosmond, Julie (jgrosmund@gmail.com); Steckler, Bernie (bms9@comcast.net); Taylor, Polly (pollyktaylor@comcast.net.) Recent additions from the Interfaith Works Council: Henderson, Randy (hendersonrandy@comcast.net); LaViollette, Marcy (mlavioll@cs.hmc.edu).

ADDENDUM 3; What’s Next? Over the past two meetings we introduced a change in sponsorship and venues aimed at expanding the outreach of our Vision and Mission. Beginning in the autumn of 2017, we will be moving from the auspices of our beloved OUUC Adult Ed Committee under Chair, Ann Rockway, and move to the OUUC Ministry of Faith under Bridge Minister Carole McKinley to

work collaboratively with faith communities of Interfaith Works in offering classes and auxiliary meetings at IW churches and Tribal sites. We will do this while exploring an expansion of our outreach to Tribes beyond the territories of the Medicine Creek Treaty. That collaborative work is now underway with planning for autumn classes at the First Methodist Church.

There are some curricula and presentation materials that are already in existence and it may be that they can be reviewed and modified to work for our purposes, such as *the Seeking Right Relations curriculum, Honor Works, and Earth Ministry's Care for Creation curriculum

Bernie Steckler, LRR Steward, July 26, 2017