



the Spire

October 2021



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*Submissions for the Spire are due
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All submissions should be sent to
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From the Pastor's Desk

The End of (Ordinary) Days

By Pastor Tim Phillips



Shockingly, we are counting down the days of what the Church calls “ordinary time” – the season between the drama of Pentecost and the waiting of Advent. There have been suggestions that we call this long season something other than “Ordinary Time.” Our Godly Play folks call it the “green growing season.” Some refer to the entire period as “Pentecost” in which the Spirit is at work in the ordinary routines of our lives.

But I think I’ll hold on to “Ordinary Time.” It’s a good reminder that the Spirit is present in those regular morning rituals, the daily sharing of bread, the routines of closing down our days. The Romney Lecture speaker, Rev. Sekou, reminded us last weekend that resistance to the demands of Empire includes finding joy in the ordinary things that Empire cannot control. It can be a great act of subversion to just enjoy each other’s company when the power of Empire depends on keeping us apart and, even better, at each other’s throats.

There’s a lot to be said for good old ordinary days. There are some special highlights within that season for us; like Homecoming and World Communion (Oct. 3) and All Saints Sunday (Nov. 7). These days stand out from regular Sundays as a way of reminding us that even ordinary days are tinged with hopes for home, a vision for a global table, and the “cloud of witnesses” that go with us beyond their own earthly lives.

We have a lot of literature these days about the “sacred ordinary.” I find great wisdom there. But I also have questions. If every meal is a kind of communion, what is so special about Communion on a Sunday morning? If every day is sacred, why Sabbath? If all the Earth is holy, why have all religious traditions singled out particular places as windows into the Divine?

As we come to the end of (ordinary) days, maybe we should take stock of what has made them special and what special days remind us about every day. We celebrate Communion because it reminds us of what makes any meal sacred. We hold Sabbath time to make space for us to remember that all creation and all life is holy. We gather in worship (in person or online) to remember that our individual lives matter as part of a larger network of humanity. The special “holy days” ahead move us out of our routines in order for us to remember and imagine. Advent reminds us to pay attention to the new life being born in every day. Christmas reminds us that God-with-us is present now. Epiphany reminds us that sometimes the only way home is to take a different route.

In a lot of ways, there has not been anything ordinary about the more than 600 days of pandemic. There is nothing ordinary about the racial revolution that is calling us to change our ways. It doesn’t seem like there is much ordinary “common sense” when it comes to the political world. Things we thought were routine are sometimes now heroic. It isn’t just the Church calendar that is turning the page. I think history itself is calling us to a new way of being that explodes our understandings of what is ordinary.

So, being present in our lives right now in Ordinary Time is all the more important as we enter the seasons of Advent and Christmas and Epiphany. New promises may show up. Wider vision may be revealed. A bigger sense of “home” may appear. As Godly Play kids can tell you, in whatever season we find ourselves it is always good to wonder. I wonder.

Growing Together

Young Adult Fall Retreat

REGISTER BY OCTOBER 5!

October 15-17 near Cle Elum

This retreat is largely unstructured, with time for hiking and reading and cooking and relaxing by the fire pit. All participants must provide proof of vaccination. Contact Pastor Anita for more information on how you can join this time of fun and fellowship in the Cascade Mountains near Cle Elum.

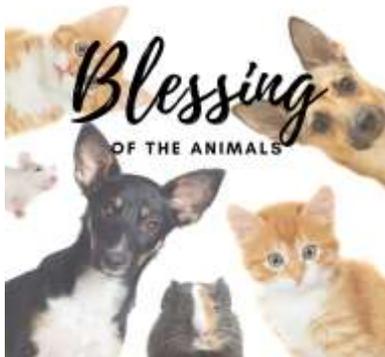
Register through this online form by **October 5:** <https://forms.gle/nGpD3T3GeApjvHub6>



Godly Play News

Recently, SFBC had the opportunity to host a Godly Play training for leaders around the Seattle area. Eighteen people from multiple denominations gathered at SFBC to learn about the Godly Play philosophy, method and to practice telling stories using the new and revised Godly Play curriculum. At SFBC, we are grateful for our continuing storytellers, Patrick Green, Bob Sittig and Pastor Anita; and we welcome new storytellers, Pastor Patricia and Martha Hopley!

Godly Play will take place online for kids in kindergarten-5th grade on Sunday mornings at 9:30. We will be using the Zoom platform and will meet from 9:30-10:10 at the latest. During this time, we will share together, experience a Godly Play story, and do our work. Please contact Pastor Anita with any questions about Godly Play.



Sunday, October 3, 4-5 p.m.

Corner of Harvard and Seneca

Bring your dog, cat, lizard, fish or bird (or a photo of your pets) for a blessing of the animals in honor of Saint Francis' Feast Day. We will have some animal treats to give out to our neighborhood pets!



Halloween Happy Hour & Zoom Party

Friday, October 29, 4-6 p.m.

Join Pastor Anita online for a time of fun and fellowship for Halloween! This gathering is open to all ages. At 4:30, we will play games, share stories, and have a virtual costume parade. Please be mindful of the appropriateness of your costume during this gathering (check yourself for cultural appropriation—read the article in our anti-racist insert!).

Contact Pastor Anita for more information.

Our Life Together

"All Leaders Meeting"

Sunday, October 17, 1:30 p.m.

All people serving in SFBC leadership positions are invited and encouraged to attend an online orientation session with Rev. Douglas Avilesbernal, an important next step on our congregation's path toward anti-racism. Rev. Avilesbernal is Executive Minister of our Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches. He brings a wealth of experience in helping congregations with their work to become more racially aware and inclusive. This session will introduce foundational concepts and language and will lay the groundwork for deeper conversations between Rev. Avilesbernal and SFBC leadership groups including Diaconate, commissions, long range planning task forces, standing committees, choir, and companion ministry volunteers. If you serve in a leadership position, please plan to join us. The session will be conducted via Zoom and will last about ninety minutes.

- Zoom Link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81084407131>
- Meeting ID: 810 8440 7131

Kae Eaton Event

Sunday, October 10, 12:30-3 p.m.

Join us as we welcome Kae Eaton, an area minister walking on the path of companionship. Kae studied with Rev. Craig Rennebohm, who provided street ministry for 20 years in Seattle, and from which emerged the work of companionship.

Our SFBC hospitality team (former ushers and new volunteers) and our SFBC companion ministry (greeters and guides from the curb to the sanctuary) are taking part. All of us invite you to learn this valuable program.

Free admission and handbook. Bring a sack lunch for yourself. Bottled water provided.

RSVP NOW to Darren Hochstedler at darren@seattlefirstbaptist.org.

Bearing Witness

SFBC Women's Online Retreat

**Saturday, October 23
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Women of SFBC! Join your beloveds for a time together thinking about how we listen to one another and to others, and sharing our stories in the process.



This is a great way to get to know other women in the church if you are new or even if you still feel new to SFBC. And for those who have been a part of this community long-term., this is an opportunity to get to know someone not previously in your particular circle.

Listening is a sacred act, and a revolutionary act in a world where we as women are expected to hold so much of the weight and to hurry, hurry, hurry in the process. Plan to slow down for a few hours on October 23rd so you can hear your sisters' stories and feel heard yourself. Cherry Johnson will do a bit of teaching about the importance of **Bearing Witness**, but mostly it will be you doing the talking with one another. We will laugh, probably cry a bit, maybe sing some (on mute sadly), and REVEL in one another's good company.

Absolutely no preparation needed. FREE TO ALL (though donations to the SFBC Retreat Scholarship Fund are always welcome and needed). **Please register in advance in order to get the Zoom link by emailing:** retreats@seattlefirstbaptist.org or call the church office.

Planting Seeds of Anti-Racism in Our Community

In the past few months at SFBC, our Anti-Racism Task Force has been working diligently to understand our past as well as make preparations for the future. SFBC has committed to the work of Anti-Racism, and we are aware that all of us are in a learning process. To that end, we thought it might be helpful to provide some resources for you.

The History they Never Taught Us

By Pastor Tim Phillips

One of the ways I am working on my own white supremacy is to read history from a different perspective. I love history. But I hate that I keep discovering how corrupted that history was.

This summer I read Dick Miller's book, *John P. Slough*. (Yes! Our Dick Miller.) It's a fascinating story of a complicated man in a complicated time – a Union general who nonetheless wrote against segregated education because he would “never consent, by vote or action, that ‘those upon whom Nature's God has stamped inferiority, shall ever associate with my children in our common schools.’” This line leaped off the page because I had just finished Ibram Kendi's huge work, *Stamped from the Beginning*, which chronicles the buried history of racist ideas and actions even among those we honor as heroes of freedom. The section on Abraham Lincoln sent me into complete disorientation. I recommend both books as remedial reading for anyone who thinks they know U.S. history.

And then there's the Church. I am reading now *White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity* by Robert P. Jones (who is white) with a commendation by my old preaching professor, Michael Eric Dyson. Jones was raised a Southern Baptist and much of what he writes is about the history of that group of Baptists in promoting and institutionalizing racism in the South. According to Jones it wasn't simply complicity. It was more commission than any kind of benign omission. His historical critique is important for folks in all denominations. He talks about Presbyterians, Methodists, Roman Catholics, and (sadly) Baptists. Our church families and the Evangelical movements of today all have responsibility for the racism we need to deconstruct. Jones' book helps us see what we are dealing with.

I am happy to talk about any of these books. They are hard. But there is something freeing about looking behind the curtain and seeing our history for what it is rather than what we pretend it to be. Sometimes, the curtain moves aside to reveal a whole new landscape. And, like the dawning light of a new day, that can bring hope.

Other Books SFBC is reading...

Ijeoma Oluo, *So You Want to Talk about Race*, Seal Press, © 2018

Austin Channing Brown, *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*, Convergent Books, © 2018

Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, with foreword by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, *Reconstructing the Gospel, Finding Freedom from Slaveholder Religion*, IVP Books, © 2018

Layla F. Saad, with foreword by Robin DiAngelo, *Me And White Supremacy*, Sourcebooks, © 2020

Robin DiAngelo, *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*, Beacon Press, © 2018

Ibram X. Kendi, *How to be an Anti-Racist*, One World, © 2019

A (very) Short List of Resources

One of our goals in becoming an anti-racist community is to make information and resources accessible and available to SFBC family and friends. This list is neither comprehensive nor exhaustive, it is simply a good starting point. Many of these links will send you to articles that recommend further reading. Consider picking one book a month, or one article a week as a starting point or possibly starting a book group with friends to hold one another accountable. If you have further resources to recommend, we invite you to share them on our Facebook Group: [Seattle First Baptist Connecting](#)

NPR's list of media, books, podcasts:

<https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2020/06/06/871023438/this-list-of-books-films-and-podcasts-about-racism-is-a-start-not-a-panacea>

Ibram X. Kendi's Recommended Reading List: in *The Atlantic*

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2019/02/antiracist-syllabus-governor-ralph-northam/582580/>

or *The New York Times*

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/29/books/review/antiracist-reading-list-ibram-x-kendi.html?smid=url-share>

Peggy McIntosh's White Privilege Papers select list:

<https://nationalseedproject.org/about-us/white-privilege>

Business Insider's 22 on race and white privilege

<https://www.businessinsider.com/books-white-privilege-novels-racism-antiracism-black-scholars-2020-6>

Essays on White Privilege for White Allies:

<https://www.bustle.com/articles/196610-12-essays-about-white-privilege-that-every-white-ally-needs-to-read>

For Young Readers:

- <https://www.nytimes.com/wirecutter/reviews/antiracist-books-for-kids-and-teens/>
- <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/twelve-books-to-help-children-understand-race-antiracism-and-protest-180975067/>
- <https://www.parents.com/kids/responsibility/racism/powerful-anti-racism-books-for-kids-by-age/>

TED Talks:

- Kimberle Crenshaw: The Urgency of Intersectionality:
https://www.ted.com/talks/kimberle_crenshaw_the_urgency_of_intersectionality
- Justice by (re)design Playlist:
https://www.ted.com/playlists/762/justice_by_re_design
- Health & Racism:
https://www.ted.com/playlists/567/the_link_between_health_and_racism

Books for Children and Youth

- Ibram X. Kendi, *AntiRacist Baby*, Kokila, © 2020
- Innosanto Nagara, *A is for Activist*, Seven Stories, © 2013
- Aslan & Kelly Tudor, *Young Water Protectors: A Story About Standing Rock*, Eaglespeaker Publishing, © 2018
- Jacqueline Woodson, *The Day You Begin*, Nancy Paulsen Books, © 2018
- Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins & Ann Hazzard, *Something Happened in Our Town: A Child's Story About Racial Injustice*, Magination Press, © 2020
- Martin Luther King, Jr. & Kadir Nelson, *I Have a Dream*, Schwartz & Wade, © 2012
- Ibram X. Kendi & Jason Reynolds, *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You*, Little, Brown, Books for Young Readers, © 2020
- Julius Lester, *Let's Talk About Race*, Harper Collins, © 2008

Do You Know the History of These Phrases?

Here are some phrases that have a problematic history. We invite you to think about how these phrases are commonly used and also to imagine new ways to talk about these things in your community. This is not an exhaustive list; rather, it is a learning opportunity to begin thinking about the ways in which systemic racism has embedded itself in our language and our interactions. As we learn the history of these phrases, we invite you to also consider other “common” phrases that may have problematic histories. Take time to do a web search to learn better, and join us in “doing better.”

Peanut Gallery

This phrase refers to the segregation of whites and blacks in the Jim Crow era and the ways in which black people were relegated to lesser seats and not given full participation in social events.

What to say instead?

Try using a phrase like “from left field” (a baseball metaphor) or finding a different way to address the broader audience.

Uppity

This term has historically and in recent times been used to indicate that black people are acting above their station. The implication is that the person indicated needs to get back “down” to their appropriate place in lower status.

This kind of language is best avoided.

Spirit Animal/Totem

A Spirit Animal or Totem is a highly sacred part of someone’s spiritual journey, and is not something to be bantered about flippantly.

What to say instead?

“I feel very connected to this because...”

Long Time No See/No Can Do

“Long time no see” or “No can do” - these phrases were used by white people to mock immigrants from countries in Asia due to the language barrier. It is considered a mockery of Pidgin English and of those who have had to learn English as a Second Language.

What to say instead?

“It’s been a while!” or “I can’t do that”

Grandfathered In/Grandfather Clause

In the late 1800’s, during the struggle for voting rights for black people in the USA, voting restrictions were enacted to make it infinitely more difficult for blacks to gain eligibility to vote. Whites were exempt from this because of legislation that allowed for descendants of prior voters (grandfathers) to vote without meeting the stringent requirement enacted on black voters.

What to say instead?

Use more descriptive legal language - “I had a pre-existing agreement which allowed me to avoid the new requirements”

Gyp/Gypped/Jip/Jipped

These are phrases which are a negative racial slur against the traveling people primarily from the Romani tribes. These tribes were regularly considered thieves, shifty, and otherwise untrustworthy. The Romani tribes also suffered greatly during the pogroms and Holocaust.

What to say instead?

“I felt cheated” or “I felt swindled”

Sold Down the River

This can be used to express deep betrayal; however, its original meaning was that family members and children had literally been sold to other slaveowners to go further south into more grueling conditions in the South. It was often seen as a death sentence to enslaved people.

What to say instead?

"I feel deeply betrayed"

Off the Reservation/On the Reservation

This phrase is rooted in the forced relocation and internment of Native Americans on USA soil. Aside from the treaties broken and dishonored and the government's horrible legal treatment of reservations, this phrase is oriented around the control and subjugation of this land's native people.

What to say instead? *"How can we get this back on track?"*

These are only some of the many phrases that have racist backgrounds. It's also worth noting that language surrounding "Master/Slave" or "Black/White" is very common in all areas of our culture. In technology or real estate, the terms "master" implicate the deeper history of slave owning. Our culture has also consistently demonized "black" (think blackmail, blackball, blacklist) in common understanding. Even things like using the word "slave" instead of "enslaved person" can indicate an implicit bias. It's important for us to begin taking these thoughts captive and handing them over to the Holy Spirit for self-reflection.

For more information on other phrases that can be hurtful and problematic in community, we recommend this article on privilege and speech:

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/things-white-people-say-highlight-privilege_1_5edeafafc5b637b87e22cee0

For those who want tools on how to confront these statements when heard in public, please

Films to Inspire and Educate about Different Cultures & Race

The short list below includes feature films and documentaries. For more recommendations:

<https://coolidge.org/about-us/news-media/anti-racist-film-viewing-recommendations>

<https://www.vox.com/culture/2020/6/2/21276966/antiracist-movies-streaming-racism>

- Do the Right Thing (1989)
- Malcolm X (1992)
- The Glass Shield (1994)
- Indian Horse (2017)
- Reservation Dogs (2021)
- Dear White People (2017-present)
- An American Mosque (2012)
- The Grace Lee Project (2005)
- Freedom Riders (2010)
- Selma (2014)
- Hidden Figures (2016)
- Songs My Brothers Taught Me (2015)
- 13th (2016)
- I Am Not Your Negro (2016)
- Minari (2020)
- Whose Streets (2017)
- High on the Hog (2021)
- Just Mercy (2019)

Our Life Together

Straight Talk about “Natural” Gas

Part 4: Fracking, Burning, & Leaking

Why is this faith community discussing “natural” gas at such length? Because, like coal and oil, its use as a fuel source has profound implications for all living things. The sooner we end the use of gas in our homes and other buildings, the more hospitable the climate will be for humans and our fellow creatures for many centuries to come.

The previous article in this series outlined the health hazards created by burning fossil gas in our own community. It’s also important to understand that the millions of people living near fracking wells are at even greater risk.

[Most of the gas used in Washington](#) comes from hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking,” operations in British Columbia. This relatively new process, using explosives and high-pressure liquid injection, causes air and water pollution, illnesses, and earthquakes. The water that flows to the surface from these wells — 900 billion gallons a year — is contaminated with toxic chemicals and is often radioactive.

A disproportionate number of the 17 million Americans living within a mile of a gas or oil well are people of color. Living near a gas well is associated with a higher incidence of premature births, low birth weight, and low gestational age. Concerned Health Professionals of New York and Physicians for Social Responsibility maintain [a detailed, up-to-date compendium](#) of the risks and harms caused by gas and oil fracking.

All of us are harmed by the climate disruption caused by fossil gas. When burned in our homes and workplaces, the primary product of combustion is carbon dioxide, the primary greenhouse gas that has brought drought and wildfire to some areas, flooding and catastrophic storms to others.

The main component of gas — methane — is itself a greenhouse gas [85 times more potent](#) than carbon dioxide over 20 years. A growing body of research shows that the gas industry leaks methane at every step of the way — from fracking wells, pipelines, compressor stations and our homes. Fossil gas, it turns out, may be even worse for the climate than coal.

It’s time to end our dependence on gas and create all-electric buildings. The next two articles in this series will explore ways we can make this transition in a fair way.

If you have questions or comments, please contact one of the signers below or email: [|keithervin@msn.com](mailto:keithervin@msn.com)

With blessings from these members of Interfaith Climate Action - First Hill:

Joan Bowers, Elizabeth Burton, Cindy Ervin, Keith Ervin, Elizabeth Heath, Sandra

Wednesday Evening Programs in October

6:30-7:30 p.m. on Zoom

October 6: Storytelling Night

October 13: Craft Night

October 20: Talent Show Night

October 27: Taize service led by Pastor Anita

Our Life Together

Seattle Jazz Vespers Presents: Jacqueline Tabor's Tribute to the Late & Great Stylist Nancy Wilson

Sunday, October 3rd at 6 p.m., in the Sanctuary of Seattle First Baptist.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Free Parking in the Polyclinic Garage.

Masks required with distanced seating.



A returning SJV favorite, Jacqueline Tabor, the Seattle Chanteuse's signature bluesy style has set her apart as a legendary performer in the Pacific Northwest. She combines relaxed energy with tremendous range and masterful improvisation, defining herself as a unique and dynamic presence in the contemporary jazz world. Tabor's stunning vocals have thrice earned her the Earshot Jazz Vocalist of the Year Award, as well as the Seattle-Kobe Sister City Association Female Jazz Vocalist Award. Backed by a hand-picked ensemble of Seattle's most talented jazz musicians, Tabor always brings you a breathtaking performance that stands as a testament to her place as one of the PNW's most beloved jazz voices. For concert details, the latest concert news or last-minute updates, please visit our website: SeattleJazzVespers.org



Volunteers Needed for Seattle Jazz Vespers

Seattle Jazz Vespers needs a few volunteers to help greet patrons, hand out programs, assist them to find seating and restrooms. It is a great but simple gig. Volunteers to be in the sanctuary by 5:30 p.m. (when the doors open) on the first Sunday of every month, October through June and meet up with Virgil Tollefson. You can volunteer once or every month. You only need to stay through the intermission then you can either leave or enjoy the rest of the concert. The concert concludes around 8 p.m.



Celebration of Life: William "Bill" Malcomson (1932-2021)

Sunday, October 31, 2 p.m.

You are invited by the Malcomson family to attend a Celebration of Life for Bill Malcomson, longtime member of SFBC, first Theologian-in-Residence, and minister of Church Administration. His obituary is here:

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/seattle-wa/william-malcomson-10306356#remembering>

The service will include some of Bill's favorite music, be led by Pastor Tim and John Malcomson, and include chances to share memories. At this point, there will not be a reception due to the pandemic. The service will likely be available virtually. See the church calendar for details closer to the time of the event. The Malcomson Family is grateful for your prayers, many cards, calls, emails, and posts on Facebook etc. honoring Dad and supporting the family.

With much love for our SFBC family, Christi (Grace, Will, and Sarah), Scott, John and Heidi

Seattle First Baptist Church
1111 Harvard Ave
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Covid Tracing & Vaccines

We are committed to keeping our spaces safe and also doing our part to prevent the spread of COVID-19. If you find that you have tested positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of attending a function at SFBC in person, please contact Darren at darren@seattlefirstbaptist.org with the date of the positive test as well as the date(s) that you were in person at SFBC. We are also mindful of the Governor's new policies being implemented on October 25, and are prayerfully considering our community response for services. We will provide an update as soon as possible.

Fall Programming

- ◆ Monday Night Brave Space Forum: Weekly at 7 p.m.
- ◆ Tuesday Prayer with Pastor Patricia: Weekly at 12:00 p.m.
- ◆ Wednesday night programming (6:30 p.m.) on Zoom
- ◆ Thursday Bible Study with Pastor Tim: Weekly at 12:00 p.m.
- ◆ Sundays:
 - 9:30 a.m. Godly Play on Zoom
 - 11 a.m. Service (Coffee Hour to follow online)

Sunday, October 3, 4 p.m. - Blessing of the Animals
6 p.m. - Seattle Jazz Vespers

Friday-Saturday, October 8-9 - Evergreen Annual Meeting

Sunday, October 10, 12:30 p.m. - Kae Eaton Event

Friday-Sunday, October 15-17 - Young Adults Fall Retreat

Sunday, October 17, 1:30 p.m. - "All Leaders" Meeting

Thursday, October 21, 7 p.m. - Diaconate Meeting

Saturday, October 23 - Bearing Witness: Women's Online Retreat

Friday, October 29, 4 p.m. - Halloween Happy Hour & Zoom Party

Sunday, October 31, 2 p.m. - Bill Malcolmson Celebration of Life
4 p.m. - Special Halloween Program

Tuesday, November 2, 7 p.m. - How to be an Anti-Antisemite Course begins

What's the Difference Between Cultural Appropriation & Cultural Appreciation?

As we move into the Halloween season, when costumes will be pulled out to celebrate, we also encourage you to be mindful of the ways in which many costumes tokenize or otherwise marginalize other cultures and ethnicities. You may have seen news articles or other media talking about black-face, Middle Eastern Sheikhs, Geishas, or Native American costumes. These are just the tip of the iceberg, however, as we seek to show appreciation for differences without *appropriating* other cultures.

There is a difference between finding a costume of a particular well-known character, and using a generalized stereotype as a costume. It's also important to have age-appropriate (albeit sometimes challenging) conversations with your children about whether or not a costume is appropriate. If your child has fallen in love with the movie Pocahontas, it might be important to have a conversation about the actual history of the character and letting them know that dressing up this way for Halloween could be hurtful to others and is therefore not appropriate.

So what is cultural appropriation?

According to the Oxford Dictionary, cultural appropriation is the “unacknowledged or inappropriate adoption of the practices, customs, or aesthetics of one social or ethnic group by members of another (typically dominant) community or society.” Cultural appropriation is generally understood as a phenomenon by which the dominant, in-power members of society (often white, cis-heterosexual) take over some aspect of another marginalized group without adequate recognition. This is also often combined with profiteering from another culture of which one is not a member. This can include non-Indigenous people crafting “dreamcatchers” or those of European descent attempting to wear traditionally African hairstyles or clothing.

How do we show appreciation without appropriation?

In general, appreciation involves learning the history and the meaning/significance behind those cultural aspects that you wish to emulate or integrate into your life. It requires honestly assessing whether or not something is “for you” or if it belongs as part of a different ethnic or religious heritage. This can be accomplished by purchasing art from those who are part of that culture, supporting the endeavors and publicizing work by different cultures, and acknowledging the problematic past that we have in the USA of tokenizing and dehumanizing cultures through generalizations and stereotypes. For example, if you wish to wear jewelry in Native American/Indigenous styles, look for a local artist who is part of a tribe or nation near you and invest in their business. If you are interested in hair braids or unique styling (including locs), consider your own ethnic or cultural heritage and look to those cultures for your inspiration. So often, the parts of culture that have been taken on in appropriation have then been weaponized against marginalized communities. Hairstyles, fashion, lifestyle and more have often been harshly criticized and condemned when those in our communities of color express them initially, but accepted without question when “mainstreamed” by those in power. It is critical for us to be thoughtful and mindful of how our usage of these cultural motifs can be both harmful and degrading and also an example of our privilege and power.

So, this Halloween, as you think about cultural motifs in your costuming, we encourage you to take time and effort to learn more about and appreciate those cultures embedded in the characters you and your children know and love.



HOW TO BE AN ANTI-ANTISEMITE

Learning from the Past | Confronting the Present
with Rabbi Olivier BenHaim

14 sessions beginning Tuesday, November 2nd, 7 PM
Cost: Free (Donations Suggested)



How to be an Anti-AntiSemite

14 Sessions beginning Tuesday, November 2, 7 p.m.

These past few years, America has seen antisemitism flare up on its streets, against its Jewish institutions and, exponentially, online. Reports of public harassment, desecration of sacred sites and vandalism have multiplied, as have the numbers of fatal shootings. On the far-right, tiki-torches marchers shout on America's streets: "Jews will not replace us!" On the far-left, Israel-hating activists attack Jews in New York City neighborhoods and Los Angeles restaurants. This hatred of the Jew isn't new. It has followed us for more than 2,000 years. And though it might express today in different guises than in the past, the core of what animates antisemitism has remained the same. Understanding this history, tracing back the birth and evolution of the different strands of antisemitism in time, allows us to draw a clearer picture of how it expresses, how we can better spot it, call it out for what it is, and assertively confront it today, something we can no longer postpone.

Paraphrasing Bayo Akomolafe: "The times are urgent, we must slow down." We must take the time, right now, to have this conversation together, Jews and non-Jews alike, anyone invested in combating racism and prejudice wherever and however it may appear. This is a necessary course. And its time is now.

Join Rabbi Olivier BenHaim from Bet Alef Meditative Synagogue for this important and timely course.

When?

14 Sessions on Tuesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

November 2, 9, 23, 30

December 7, 14

January 4, 11, 18, 25

February 1, 8, 15, 22

Where?

The course will be offered both **in-person** - provided it is safe enough - and **live-streamed**. Each session will be video recorded to allow for asynchronous participation.

Cost? FREE - donation suggested, registration required at:

Topics that will be covered:

1. Jews & Christians: Separation & Consequences
2. Before & After the Crusades
3. Medieval Antisemitism
4. Luther, the Jews, and the Renaissance
5. The Age of Enlightenment and the Jewish Question
6. Nationalism & Antisemitism: From Dreyfus to the "Protocols"
7. Antisemitism Before & After the Shoah (Holocaust)
8. Jews & Muslims: From Medina to Gaza
9. Antisemitism Today: At Home & Around the World

<https://www.betalefmembers.org/event/how-to-be-an-anti-antisemite.html>