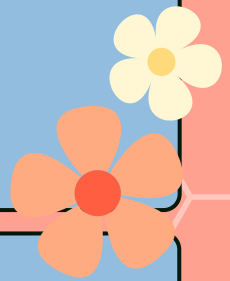


WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY | OFFICE OF SPIRITUAL & RELIGIOUS LIFE | UC 2ND

WELCOME BACK!

Hi! Welcome to **SRL's 4th newsletter!** We hope everyone had a restful and joyous break. In this issue, we've got more recaps, highlights, and events for you to enjoy, so stick around!



RECAP: MLK!

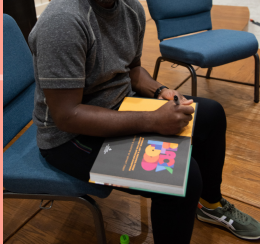
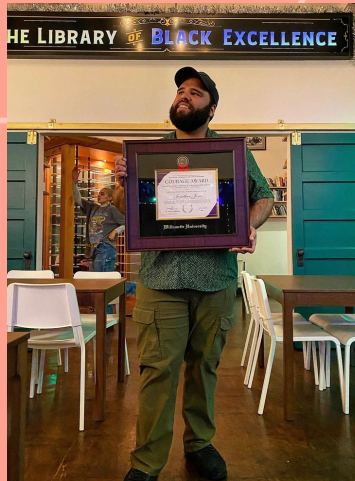
Our first week back was full of events with **Willamette's 2023 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration!** Hosted by the SRL office, our special guest was **Bryant Terry**, a renowned vegan chef, food justice activist, and conceptual artist. His career began on the foundation of **raising awareness about food justice** issues. The theme for MLK was **Just Living: Celebrating the African Diaspora**, with the purpose of recognizing and celebrating **varied aspects of the black community, worldwide.** The full program can be found **here:** <https://willamette.edu/offices/oma/mlk/index.html>.

The week started with the **MLK Book Club Gathering and Discussion**, a virtual book club to discuss the stories and recipes from Terry's award-winning book: **Black Food: Stories, Art & Recipes from the African Diaspora.** Upon arrival, Terry headed to **PNCA**, where our own Spoken Word Artist **Sterling Cunio** performed an original on Food Scarcity, followed by a cooking demonstration and artistic presentation by Terry including a response to the prevalence of food insecurity. **Kelvin Clark**, the Associate Dean of Students at PNCA, found that Terry's "culinary family history amazed [him], and even encouraged [him] to try out new vegan foods!" Terry provided a **Cook-In**, in our Goudy Commons, demonstrating his cooking skills while **teaching some of the history of the Black Panther Party.** **Laila Pickett, BSU President**, said that the Cook-In motivated her to "focus more on food justice" and how she can "play a part in making basic needs inclusive!" **Iris Hankins, the student who suggested Terry for MLK**, "really enjoyed Terry's multifaceted approach to art... **using African food to incorporate music and studio art**, weaving the three mediums together like a tightly woven braid."



Fulfilling WU's tradition, we went **Into the Streets** in service to others. Terry helped alongside students to demo and restore a garden for an elder living community. Other service projects included cleaning up shelters, working at Zena Farm, and helping Restore of Habitat for Humanity with inventory serving the Salem community. **Tommy Van Cleave, our new Assistant Dean of Civic Engagement**, commented that it was a great experience to expand on our partnerships, a great day overall, and a way to "challenge the students to see community service as a catalyst for future community engagement."

The commemoration ended with the primary Atkinson lecture series event, **Food Justice: At the Intersection of Food, Politics, Poverty, Public Health and Environment**. Terry shared pictures and memories of his ancestors, and how they inspired him to **spread the word of food justice through art installations, music**, and more. He spoke about his journey in the food industry, highlighting his **B-Healthy program**, which helped students expand their palettes and taught them to teach their families and others about our own food crisis, and how to combat that. He reminded us that if everyone can come together, we can change the food industry into something sustainable and healthy for everyone. Led by Chaplain Ineda, Willamette awarded **local chef Jonathan Jones** its inaugural **Courage Award** honoring his tireless community activism and allyship through his advocacy and support of the African diaspora community and to all who face oppression in Salem. Jones felt **"humbled and honored"** in a tearful speech as he received the award. Terry challenged artists who debate the value of their work to always **"trust your vision"** and to not let anyone tell you what is or is not important to share with the world.



DIVERSITY OF LOSS GRIEF GROUPS

Sign up for grief groups! The group is called **Diversity of Loss: The Journeys of Grief**, which focuses on social support for those who are grieving, in a group setting: a chance to digest and understand the raw emotions that come when we are faced with significant yet varied losses. **Our first grief group was held on Feb 13th.** Groups will continue every Monday, at 4:15 and 5:30 PM. Sessions at PNCA began Tuesday, Feb 21st and will be held every other week. **Please sign up using the QR code below!**

HOMELESS EPIDEMIC: CONVO!

Join us for **Convo!** Led by student **Madonna Jonhera**, she looks into the **Homeless Epidemic** with a particular focus on Portland and Salem, where most PNCA and Willamette students reside. This epidemic has **increased significantly with the influence of COVID-19**, with the forced isolation negatively impacting societal spending. There were many who suffered without work and support from others, causing them to lose their homes. This three-part convocation will **bring speakers from local charities** that work alongside those who suffer from homelessness, and encourage students to help get involved and make a difference. **Part 1 will be held Thursday, February 23rd at 11:30 AM in Montag Den.**



DIVERSITY OF LOSS

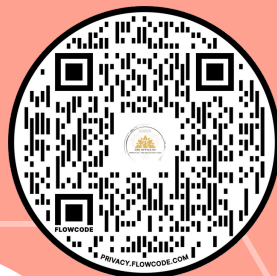
THE JOURNEYS OF GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

GRIEF IS A POWERFUL EMOTION, BECAUSE WE ARE SOCIAL BEINGS. THE BONDS WE FORM WITH OTHERS ARE POWERFUL AND LONG-LASTING. LOSING SOMEONE OR SOMETHING OF DEEP IMPORTANCE IS UNDOUBTEDLY ONE OF THE MOST CHALLENGING TASKS WE WILL FACE IN LIFE, YET IT IS STILL POSSIBLE TO MOVE ON.

SIGN UP HERE



SIGN UP FOR OUR MAILING LIST!



INEDA'S PNCA CARE HOURS!

Chaplain Ineda is **present at PNCA!** Her office hours for the Spring semester are **Tuesdays: 2/21, 3/7, 3/21, 4/4, 4/18, 5/2, 5/16;** and **Wednesdays: 2/15, 3/1, 3/15, 3/29, 4/12, 4/26 and 5/10, 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM.** Students at PNCA may drop-in or for 1:1 care sessions or sign up here! <https://calendly.com/wuchaplain>.