

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



(2021-2022) Year-end SRL Staff Dinner

RECAP: RECKONING W/ RACISM

One outstanding series of events we hope you didn't miss last semester was Reckoning with Racism. **Reckoning with Racism was a virtual event of SRL in collaboration with the Claremont School of Theology, and the Common Table of the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.**

Together, we sought to reimagine and create more liberative and relational ways of being grounded in justice. It was a mind-opening place where community members had a space to share and thread stories together, teaching the importance of accountability as well as coming together as people.

The series centered around three topics: **Doctrine of Discovery, Japanese Incarceration, and From Lynching to Capital Punishment.** It was an insightful series that got minds moving, to think and develop practical solutions to dealing with racism.

WELCOME BACK!

Whether you're new or returning around campus, practicing within a major faith tradition or maybe you've just started exploring the use of manifestations, or maybe you don't have any religious or spiritual affiliation at all.

That's okay! **The Office of Spiritual and Religious Life (SRL) welcomes you!** Our goal is to recognize and affirm the diversity of spiritual, religious, ethical, and cultural experience at Willamette University. The Office of Spiritual and Religious Life seeks to deepen spiritual and ethical dialogue, and to foster growth and contemplative action by providing space for well-being and connection.

We have many exciting opportunities planned for the 2022-2023 school year, and we are hoping you'll join.

RECAP: WORDS OF WISDOM

If you're an avid reader of WU Today, you might remember reading about Words of Wisdom (WoW). **Words of Wisdom is another series from the SRL office that promotes discussions to broaden the lens of the student community.**

The series takes the form of contemplative engagement with a variety of "sacred" texts on spiritual and ethical wellness to include discussion, interpretation, and integration of these texts. **WoW is led by Professor Susan Smith**, a Willamette Professor of Law, who represents the national United Church of Christ regarding water justice issues, and who also has seven years of seminary education and training. In the past year, WoW engaged the writings of Poet Laureate, Amanda Gorman, and other non-traditional sacred texts.

If you are interested in joining a session, WoW sessions are scheduled to take place every Thursday in the activities corner of Rick's Cafe (Rick's Corner) from 12:30-1:30 PM.

RECAP: STRUT

Are you into fashion? Maybe you remember the all-inclusive **STRUT** for Convocation last semester. Hosted by (current) Student Body President Oakley Phoenix, it was a celebratory event where anyone came dressed in their own unique style, no cares or worries, to be unequivocally themselves—to strut down the red carpet and express their individuality, identity, and gender, and to bring people together as a warm community.

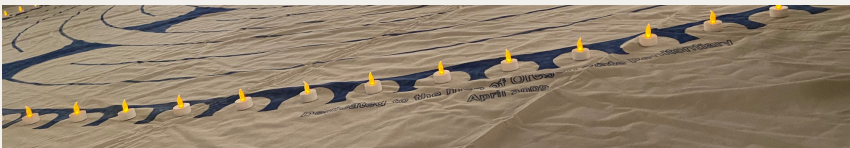
It was a great event that got students out during the pandemic to hang out and have some fun being themselves!

Photos: 1) Oakley Phoenix 2) CJ Lane 3) Attending students



RECAP: GOOD FRIDAY

If you are of Christian affiliation, maybe you participated in our **Good Friday** event, held at Cone Chapel in Waller Hall last semester. To commemorate the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ, the SRL office planned activities centered around the Stations of the Cross, a large Chartreuse labyrinth, and creative arts as a way of encouraging reflective thinking during this important time for Christians and others.



POETIC PRAISE!

In case you missed it, Poetic Praise was great! An annual Family Weekend event, **Poetic Praise** is an inspirational service offering an open mic, where you can hear poetry from anyone in our community (there is no requirement for a religious or spiritual affiliation).

This year's service was focused on the theme of resilience, featuring our own spoken-word artist-in-residence, **Sterling Cunio**, who spoke about his background and read a few of his own poems, which related to the theme of **resilience**. We even had a couple students read some of their poetry, which was great to hear.

Photos: 1 & 2) Sterling Cunio 3) (L to R) Chayo Ureño, Sieren Clayton

COMING SOON: SALEM PEACE LECTURE!

In addition to the great things going on last year, we've got more things to look forward to this semester! This month, **the SRL office welcomes all to the annual Salem Peace Lecture.**

The Peace Lecture Series brings the community-at-large a variety of thought-provoking lectures that explore pathways to justice, peace, and harmony, and recognizes and honors local peacemakers. This year's Peace Lecture will feature Ira Helfand, MD who will speak on the topic "Back from the Nuclear Brink: Prescription for Survival." We will be honoring Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN) for their decades of work and advocacy on behalf of Oregon's farmworkers.

The 33rd Annual Salem Peace Lecture will be held on Thursday, October 26th in Smith Auditorium at 7:30 PM. The Salem Peace Lecture is a wonderful event that is invigorating and eye-opening, and we sincerely hope you'll be there.



Our office is directed by **Chaplain Ineda Pearl Adesanya**, who although just beginning her second year at WU, has provided a wonderfully welcoming and open space to any who wants to stop by.

She has established a great motto for the office: **"A Space for Well-being and Connection, offering a warm and welcoming space open to all students, staff, faculty and alumni regardless of faith tradition, spiritual orientation, ethical viewpoint or worldview."**

COME VISIT US!

Come visit us! The Office of Spiritual and Religious Life is a welcoming place that invites any and all. Our staff—**Beth, CJ, Isabela, Patrick, McKenna, Meelad, Leanne, Ted, Mattie, and Whitley**—are here and happy to help!

Chaplain Ineda also offers a meditation series that includes **A Meditation Moment**, where everyday, everyone is invited to come into a space for wellbeing and connection. Only fifteen minutes, our meditation room (which is located in our office, UC 217) is welcome to anyone who just needs a small moment to gather themselves, to keep powering through the rest of their day. **A Meditation Moment is available everyday from 12:15-12:30 PM.**

But if you can't make that, then consider **A Time For Meditation, held at Cone Chapel, every Thursday from 4:30 to 5 PM.** It features the same restorative qualities as A Meditation Moment, over a longer time period.

But really, the SRL office is a great place to stop by and explore something new, or even just to stop by and hang out—we'd really love to have you. **This is our first newsletter of the 2022-2023 school year, and we will have many more coming soon, so keep an eye out for more! Take care!**



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