

Village U Environmental Classes

Winter 2014

Village U at Village Church is offering 2 environmental classes in January and February:

1. *Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream* by Sister RoseTherese Huelsman and Kathy Outlaw on Saturday, January 25, 9:00 am to 2:30 pm with lunch, Room 228 (Friendship Hall East).

Class Description: *Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream* is a Symposium that seeks to foster a bold vision to bring forth an environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling, socially just human presence on Earth. "Awakening the Dreamer" refers to the need to WAKE UP from the illusion that we can keep living as we are and flourish and even survive. "Changing the Dream" invites us to CHOOSE AND CREATE a different future. This Symposium--an alliance of first world and third world peoples--is a project of the Pachamama Alliance.

Thought-provoking, challenging, and deeply moving, this Symposium is a dynamic multimedia presentation drawing on some of the most respected social and scientific experts of our time, interwoven with wisdom and inspiration from the Pachamama people. With informative videos and guided personal reflection exercises, the Symposium experience reaches deeply into the heart, mind, and soul. It promotes transformational conversations and experiences that weave together indigenous and modern worldviews such that human beings are in touch with their dignity and are ennobled by the magnificence, mystery, and opportunity of what is possible for humanity at this time.

The Symposium is based on four questions: "Where Are We? How did We Get Here? What's Possible for the Future? Where Do We Go from Here?" Participants listen, learn, reflect, share, and ponder how they can respond to the needs of the earth and its people. They explore the state of our industrial world and the thinking that got us where we are today. They connect with their concern for the earth and are empowered to make a difference. They are encouraged to embrace a new dream and a bold vision and to "become the change they wish to see in the world." The goal is to infuse them with commitment and optimism about our future, armed with the realization that they are part of a worldwide groundswell of spirit-led, creative solutions to our global problems. This 5 1/2-hour symposium includes lunch.

There will be a special \$25 charge for this symposium payable at the door. A box lunch is included. When you register, please specify vegetarian or meat sandwich. If you register after Friday January 17 or have special dietary requirements, bring your own lunch. Adjusted cost will be \$20. Scholarships are available.

Bio: Presenters Sister RoseTherese Huelsman and Kathy Outlaw are active members of the Sustainable Sanctuary Coalition of KC (SSC). Both are certified facilitators who have been trained by the Pachamama Alliance. Since 2010, they have led symposiums throughout the metro area and beyond. A sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, RoseTherese is an educator and theologian who is passionate about Justice and Earth Care. She currently serves as the chair of SSC's Program Planning Team. Kathy is a retired nurse who has always been interested in public and occupational health. She joined SSC as a representative of the EarthCor Team at the UMC Church of the Resurrection in Leawood. She is a member of SSC's Program Planning Team and has participated in helping present numerous SSC programs as well as *Awakening the Dreamer*.

2. *Blue is the new Green: Water Issues in the 21st Century* by Kristin Riott on Tuesday evening, February 4, 6:30-8:00 pm, Room ???.

Class Description: Kristin Riott will give an overview of fresh water issues globally, nationally, and locally, including how water is used at home, the water-energy "nexus," and a summary of Bridging the Gap's recent work with citizens on water conservation.

Bio: Kristin is Executive Director of Bridging the Gap in KC, MO; an Al Gore trained Climate Change spokesperson; and a Village Church member who collaborated with Rev. Tom Are to pass out 1500 CFLs on Palm Sunday 2007. At Bridging the Gap, she led the development of its educational program, 5 Green Things, which won a national Clean Air Excellence Award from the EPA in Washington. Prior to her environmental work, Kristin enjoyed a 20-year career at Hallmark Cards, concluding with the leadership of the writing and editorial division. Last March, she served as a panelist at Village Church's Climate Change Forum.

Enrollment Information:

To register, call Marianne Weber (913.671.2333) or email her (marianne.weber@villagepres.org). Or you can register at the beginning of class. Walk ins are welcome.