

Press Release – Sowing the Seeds of an *Ecological Civilization*

The Sepulveda Unitarian Universalist Society announces the “Stewards of the Earth” Eco-Justice Forum
December 16, 2015

On December 27th, Sepulveda Unitarian Universalist Society, a progressive congregation, and local historic landmark, is hosting two events designed to explore the questions: How can the San Fernando Valley become more economically vibrant, environmentally nurturing, and socially uplifting? Can we become truly *resilient*?

Beginning at 10:30 am, our Sunday Service will focus on the common root of social justice and our concerns for the planet. Guest speakers Eugene Shirley from Pando Populus™, “a platform for people who care about big ideas and the Earth”, whose aim is to create an *ecological civilization*, and Terry Kruger, from the Pachamama Alliance and the Citizens’ Climate Lobby, will offer brief introductions to their organizations’ complimentary goals, missions, and philosophies.

Those interested in learning more will be invited to continue this exploratory journey with us following the Onion’s traditional Fellowship Hour – featuring light food and refreshments. Then at 1 pm, our Social Justice Committee is proud to present an open forum; our guest speakers will be joined by many of their colleagues from partner organizations such as CSUN’s Institute of Sustainability, Sierra Club’s Angeles Chapter, Food and Water Watch, Progressive Christians Uniting, 350.org, and youth representatives from our local schools who are also invited.

Stewards of the Earth is an inaugural event for the founding of the first *Pando Populus Hub* – a grassroots proving ground for the practical application of Process Thought. “Process thought,” according to Claremont’s Center for Process Studies (CPS), and as stressed heavily at COP21, “offers an approach to the social, political, and economic order that brings issues of human justice together with a concern for ecology. Our wide range of interests includes multicultural, feminist, ecological, inter-religious, political, and economic concerns.”

This is all a part of Philosopher Alfred North Whitehead’s vision of an *Ecological Civilization*.

Free and open to the public, guest speakers will offer background information on their organizational missions and their work, locally and abroad, addressing a myriad of various economic, environmental, and social justice challenges, issues that affect the health and wellbeing of Angelinos *as well as every other organism on the planet*.

Beyond our existing relationships and current efforts, this forum is intended as a social catalyst event to ignite a passion and inspire action in all who attend – a reaction expected to be transformative – nothing less than the alchemy of change called for in COP21. We’ll consider how we might collaborate in taking positive steps throughout the greater Los Angeles area, assisting our communities in their move toward a more resilient future.

Our first *Stewards of the Earth* forum will certainly educate the public, but we’ve also invited many of our most prominent elected officials to hear first-hand from their own constituents about environmental and social justice matters that are of major importance both locally and globally. Our democratically-elected leaders have a mandate to make sure that their actions are guided by “the will of the people”. *This* is an opportunity for residents of the San Fernando Valley to make their will known at all levels of local, regional, and national government.

Based on the work of philosophers Alfred North Whitehead (1861-1947) and Charles Hartshorne (1897-2000), Process Thought, as taught at the Center for Process Studies, at the Claremont School of Theology, seeks to promulgate “a longstanding philosophical tradition that emphasizes *becoming* and change over static being” while helping to “harmonize moral, aesthetic, and religious intuitions with scientific insights. It also grounds discussion between Eastern and Western religious and cultural traditions” and “promotes a new way of thinking pioneered by philosophers Whitehead and Harthorne through seminars, conferences, publications, and an extensive library.”

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To learn more about Pando Populus go to: <http://www.pandopopulus.com/about-pando/>

To learn more about the Pachamama Alliance go to: <http://www.pachamama.org/about>

To learn more about the Center for Process Studies (CPS) go to: <http://www.ctr4process.org/about/who-are-we>