

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The Season of Hospitality

BY AMY

The beginning of November is a time of so many celebrations! We have just celebrated American Halloween, and today we acknowledge the beginning of American Indian Heritage month. This is also the time when our LatinX brothers and sisters are celebrating Dia de los Muertos or Day of the Dead. All of these wonderful observances form a season of hospitality. Hospitality is, of course, the welcoming of others into our hearts and homes. It involves extending true care to friends, family, and strangers alike.

In Native American storytelling, hospitality is a recurring theme. One story from the Sauk tribe tells about how corn came into existence from an act of hospitality offered to a strange woman who descended from the sky. After two Sauk ancestors generously offered her some of their food, she told them to return to that place in a year's time. Although their kinspeople thought they were foolish, the two ancestors returned to the sacred spot a year later and found corn growing in the place where the woman had been resting her hand.

Although we might not realize it, the celebration of Halloween also involves hospitality as we give treats to others' children, regardless of whether we think they "deserve" it. Halloween is a remarkable moment in our culture when traditional lines that divide our communities - race, ethnicity, and social class - can be temporarily suspended for a night. Sociological research indicates that communities that have a robust celebration of Halloween tend to be healthier.

The Day of the Dead, which is celebrated today and tomorrow by many LatinX peoples and countries, provides hospitality to dead loved ones and ancestors. Celebrants create an *ofrenda* or home altar and place items on it for the dead. The *ofrenda* is an acknowledgment of the ongoing presence of the dead with the living, and honors their memory. Celebrations then move from the home to the cemetery where the dead offer hospitality to the living. In Oaxaca, Mexico, Day of the Dead celebrations are viewed as absolutely necessary to the wellbeing of the whole community.

CONT'D ON PAGE 02



This issue:

The Season of Hospitality"
by Dr. Merrill Willis

PAGE 01

Lynchburg Cares
Fundraiser (Part 2)

PAGE 02

Upcoming Interfaith
Holidays

PAGE 02

Dates to Remember

PAGE 02

The Season of Hospitality (cont'd)

What all of these stories and celebrations have in common is that the experience of hospitality blesses both the giver and the receiver. True hospitality changes all of us. As we enjoy this season of hospitality, each of us has the opportunity to reflect on a time when we felt welcomed and treated with loving care and attentiveness. How can we extend that experience of welcome to others?



For more information about the Spiritual Life Center, including info on our student groups, go to our webpage - link in the email signature. You can also visit our Linkt.ree (Link is in email).

Upcoming Interfaith Holidays

November 1

All Saint's Day (Christian)

November 2

All Soul's Day (Christian)



Dates to Remember

Weekly on Sundays in Snidow Chapel:

- 11 a.m. Worship with Church of the Covenant
- 4:30 p.m. Roman Catholic Mass

TODAY at 8 p.m. in Snidow Chapel
SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Contact the SLC to have a candle lit even if you cannot attend. Email SpiritualLife@lynchburg.edu or call 434.544.8348.

Tuesday, November 7

6 p.m. - Hall Campus Center,
Memorial Ballroom

SOUND BATH WITH GREG BURNS

Watch our social media regarding the COFFEE CHAT WITH THE CHAPLAINS Held on Tuesdays from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. at the Spiritual Life Center (500 Brevard St.)