

**2019
MLKJR
DAY**



INTERSECTIONAL ACTIVISM

SESSION 1 OFFERINGS (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

#freecyntoiabrown. In 2004, 16-year-old Cyntoia Brown shot and killed Johnny Allen, after he picked her up on the street and agreed to pay her \$150 for sex. Cyntoia was arrested, charged as an adult, and ultimately sentenced to 51 years to life in prison. Cyntoia, a young woman of color, was treated as a murderer and a violent criminal despite being the victim of early childhood neglect, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation and sex trafficking. The case went viral after celebrities like Rihanna, Kim Kardashian West, and LeBron James posted about it using the hashtag #freecyntoiabrown. In this workshop, we will use the Cyntoia Brown case to explore the systemic racial inequities in our justice system. We will also hear from a member of the Huckleberry HAART team, a San Francisco agency charged with providing 24-hour emergency response to child victims of sexual exploitation and sex trafficking in the Bay Area, to find out how youth in our own SF community are impacted by this issue.

AP Non-Violence: We Won't Try to Change You; We'll Just Be Kind. Come learn about nonviolent change makers. We'll hear from Dr. King, Thich Nhat Hanh, Gandhi, and Tolstoy. If we have time, we may also hear from Jesus, Buddha, Lao Tzu, and Krishna.

Coming Out of the Closet. How and why did we first define sexuality? How do we continue to do so? What genders us, and how do we gender ourselves? In this workshop, we will analyze the origin of sexuality labels in order to explore the myriad motivations for the creation of the "closet," and how gendered behaviors factor into our understanding of sexuality. We will discuss what it means to be closeted, as well as how we continue to subconsciously perform gender and sexuality despite our broadening understanding of both. Finally, we will examine institutions like the government, school, and social media to consider the ways in which we, LGBT or not, assert our identities by means which indirectly reinforce the existence of the closet. Note: This session is open to all, and non-LGBT faculty/staff and students are encouraged to attend.

Faith Through the Lens of Feminism. During this session, we will discuss the intersectionality of religion and feminism through our own personal experiences, various interpretations of religious texts, and voices of women around the world. This exploration will primarily center on the question of whether the advocacy of women's rights and one's faith are compatible. We will analyze the relationship between self-identifying women and religion in the modern 21st century not only by looking at current events, but also at the history of the two movements, the feminist movement and conservatism movement, in the history of American society. While this

2019 MLKJR DAY



session is designed to focus on the dichotomous bond of faith and feminism in the US, we will be outsourcing for experiences across the globe. It is imperative that we delve into the impact of religion on women in other countries because a common practice in the US is to discriminate against women based on their interpretation of religion on a global scale. For example, the Islamic faith is often presented

as a hateful and repressive religion without any respect for the women in their society. Meanwhile, in the Middle East and Northern Africa, where Islam is commonly practiced, there has been a revival of feminist movements with the intentions of both preaching women's rights and the appreciation of religion. Overall, "Faith Through the Lens of Feminism" is meant to be a space to learn more about the implications and different interpretations of religion through the eyes of a feminist. Although the MLK Day Symposium is meant to weigh heavier on the informative end, there will be time to share personal experiences and opinions on the intersection of faith and feminism at the end of this session.

God Knows Where I Am: Mental Health and Homelessness. In this session, we will be watching sections of the award winning documentary *God Knows Where I Am*. Directed by Todd Wider, the film tells the story of Linda Bishop—a homeless woman found dead in an abandoned farmhouse. This story of a woman's struggle between independence and mental illness is told artfully through different perspectives, including Bishop's own, by using the diary that was discovered alongside her dead body. We will discuss reactions to the film, connect it to the greater issues of mental health and homelessness, and brainstorm ways that we can personally help people with mental health issues who are living without a home in San Francisco.

Housing Affordability and the 2018 Elections. In June 2018, San Francisco elected its first mayor raised in public housing (in the nearby Western Addition.) The November election included several state propositions (1, 2, 5 and 10) and local Measures (C) that impacted the affordable housing and homeless services landscapes. We'll take a data-centered approach (bring your laptops!) to investigate how and why San Francisco voted the way it did. Then we'll have a look at what changes we should expect to see in the near and long term with this vitally important local issue.

How to Ruin the Boss's Day. Across the country, teachers are striking, successfully, not just for better pay for themselves, but also to improve conditions for students. How do the teacher strikes fit into the labor movement and the tradition of democratic workers organizations called unions? How do unions relate to struggles for race and gender justice? Why are right-wing billionaires putting so much effort into weakening unions? Twenty-year veteran union organizer and stand-up comedian Nato Green will show what union organizers do to figure out exactly how to ruin the boss's day. (*Nato Green*)

San Francisco native **Nato Green** is the country's only semi-functional hybrid of comedian, writer, and union organizer. In 2018, Nato Green released his second comedy album *The Whiteness Album* on Blonde Medicine Records, appears in the film *Sorry to Bother You*, and lived in Cuba for six months. Nato's humor commentaries have been published in the *San Francisco Examiner*, the *LA Review of Books*, *VICE*, *Truthdig*, *Huffington Post*, the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, *The Rumpus*, and *The Bold Italic*. His first

2019 MLKJR DAY



Kamau Bell on FX, the show that the New York Times called “five years ahead of its time,” and toured nationally with W. Kamau Bell & Janine Brito as *Laughter Against the Machine*.

comedy album, *The Nato Green Party*, was released in 2012 by Rooftop Comedy. Nato has been named San Francisco’s Best Comedian by the *SF Weekly*, *Huffington Post*, *SFist*, and CBS. He’s appeared on numerous podcasts including *RISK!*, *WTF with Marc Maron*, *Put Your Hands Together*, WBUR’s *You’re the Expert*, KQED’s *Truth Be Told*, KALW’s *Kamau Right Now*, and *Fake the Nation*. Nato wrote for *Totally Biased* with W.

More than Pittsburgh: Antisemitism in the US. In this workshop, we will look at how anti-Semitism manifests itself today and in recent US history. We will examine all types of Jew-hatred, not limited to recent violent incidents. The general layout will be a collaborative discussion. We will begin with a presentation, then open the floor to questions and a discussion.

Physical Ability: Awareness and Action. In the past few years, UHS students have been voicing a need for more information and more discussions on Ability and Ableism at UHS. This session will try to respond to that need. In this workshop, we will outline a brief history of the American Disabilities Act, its purpose and its impact. We will continue with a discussion of the challenges our society’s structures pose to people with disabilities, and reflect on ways in which we might be taking our physical abilities for granted. We will close by watching a short clip and a brainstorm of action steps, both personal and institutional, aimed to spread greater awareness of these topics.

Puerto Rico On The Map: Hurricane Maria, The Legacy of Colonialism and How to Make A Nation. On September 20th 2017, Hurricane Maria, a category 5 event, hit the island of Puerto Rico. The devastation brought on by this climate catastrophic event was made worse by a President who threw paper towels at residents and a Governor that lied about the number of fatalities. *Puerto Rico On The Map*, a media collective of all Latinx journalists, headed down to the island two weeks after Maria and began to report on what was really happening and how the people themselves began mutual aid organizations to help themselves. Our team highlighted the conditions in the western part of the island and amplified the people’s response to the delayed, inadequate aid from the U.S. In this workshop we will also show short documentary, *Puerto Rico Rising*. (Rosa Clemente)

Rosa Alicia Clemente is an organizer, political commentator and independent journalist. An Afro-Puerto Rican born and raised in the Bronx, NY she has dedicated her life to organizing, scholarship and activism. From Cornell to prisons, Rosa is one of her generations leading scholars on the issues of Afro-Latinx identity. Rosa is the president and founder of Know Thy Self Productions, which has produced seven major community activism tours and consults on issues such as hip-hop feminism, media justice, voter engagement among youth of color, third party politics, United States political prisoners and the right of Puerto Rico to become an independent nation free of United States colonial domination. She is a frequent guest on television, radio and online media, as her opinions on critical current events are widely sought after. Her groundbreaking article, “Who is Black?”, published in 2001, was the catalyst for many

2019 MLKJR DAY



for Vice-President of the United States in 2008 on the Green Party ticket. She and her running mate, Cynthia McKinney, were to this date the only women of color ticket in American history.

discussions regarding Black political and cultural identity in the Latinx community. She is creator of *PR (Puerto Rico) On The Map*, an independent, unapologetic, Afro-Latinx centered media collective founded in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. She is currently completing her PhD at the W.E.B. DuBois Center at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Rosa was the first ever Afro-Latina women to run

Resisting Racism Through Photography. Some people don't take up a lot of verbal space in discussions about race and racism. Instead, they prefer to resist -isms through their artwork. In this session, we will look at some photographers of color who engage with race through their art. The goal of this session is to introduce attendees to artists of color and, we hope, to inspire all to consider art as a form of activism. The artists whose work we will view may include David Hammons, Adrian Piper, Lorna Simpson, Kara Walker, Carrie Mae Weems, Gordon Parks, and Zanele Muholi.

The Bus Ride. This workshop will include the screening of the film, "The Bus Ride" by former UHS film teacher Chesley Chen, featuring alum Delilah Catalan. The film follows Delilah on her commute from the Bayview to campus as she recounts her experience as a UHS student. As a community, we will break down the themes of the film and use applied theatre techniques to analyze the film in relation to our own lives. This will be an interactive, on your feet form of social justice as we rehearse the revolution. A theatre background is unnecessary to participate. This workshop may extend 20 minutes into the beginning of lunch.

The Disappeared of Mexico. Freshmen history students learn the term "disappeared" in reference to victims of the Dirty War waged against those who stood up to the economic or political realities they faced. Sadly, this is not a remnant of the 1970s, but happened recently on a large scale in 2014 when 43 students from the Ayotzinapa Teachers College were disappeared near Iguala, in Guerrero State, Mexico. "Ayotzinapa: The Turtle's Pace" is a documentary of survivors telling what they experienced. We will hold a screening and discussion of Enrique García Meza's documentary to better understand this phenomenon used against protestors, the political context in which it operates, and thus what it means for Mexicans, Mexican-Americans, and for all who wish to protest injustice.

The Immigrant Yarn Project—Who Knew a Pom-pom Could Mean So Much?? With over 600 contributors representing generations of immigrants from every corner of the world—including contributions from homeless communities, seniors, students, the LGBTQ community, Native Americans, Democrats and Republicans, and even a Former Secretary of State, the Immigrant Yarn Project embodies and celebrates the vital diversity of America. This massive work of public art is opening at Fort Point on March 1, and this is your chance to become a contributor, make a pom-pom, represent your family's immigrant story, and learn how a tiny idea can become a colossal work of protest art. (*Cindy Weil, Founder and Creative Director of the Immigrant Yarn Project*)

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2019 MLKJR DAY



celebrating tolerance, difference and the vital contributions that immigrants have made to our success story. It's a metaphor for our crazy, wonky, diverse and colorful country created by immigrants and their descendants to honor and celebrate them.

Cindy Weil is the Founder and Creative Director of the Immigrant Yarn Project. During the 1990s/early 2000s, Cindy held director positions in the Internet Groups of Ameritrade, Inc. and Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia. After leaning out to have two sons, in 2008 she leaned back in as the Founder of the Wallpaper Collective, the first wallpaper retailer on the internet, and later launching her own line I80West. Like so many others, she was energized by the 2016 election and is now working full-time at Enactivist promoting unity, diversity, and freedom of expression. Cindy is a second generation Irish-American.

The Price of Convenience: Who Can Pay and What are the Costs? How did you and your family react to the recent, dangerously poor air quality levels in the Bay Area? Did you consider taking a vacation or stay put? In this session, we will be analyzing the intersection between environmentalism and socioeconomic status. We will discuss how expensive eco-friendly products restrict the scope of environmentalism and share low-cost alternatives to empower people of all socioeconomic statuses to be more environmentally conscious.

What Does White Anti-Racist Activism Look Like? Have you ever wanted more concrete examples of how white people have gone about working for racial justice in our country? Come learn about one inspirational example, Anne Braden, as we examine the film about her life: *Anne Braden, Southern Patriot*. We will identify concrete aspects of her approach to working towards greater racial equity in our country and discuss how they apply to our role as agents of change (in small and great ways) today.

SESSION 2 OFFERINGS (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Beneath the Label. How do we navigate a political divide that seems wedged into the foundation of our culture today? This session will focus on exploring how to have discussions across the "aisle," and how we can work to bridge that gap in our immediate community. We will foster a space where people can listen closely and speak freely—and wherever different viewpoints are heard and absorbed, as a precondition for healthy and informed debate. One goal of this workshop is to emerge better informed about the political differences in our community, and about how to navigate them personally and thoughtfully beneath any political labels that might be applied.

Beyond the Rhetoric: Latin American Immigration in Context. Immigration is intimately tied to US policy—both foreign and domestic. The specter of undocumented immigration, particularly from Central America, has become one of the most dominating and divisive tropes of current American politics. What role does historic U.S. support of oppressive regimes in the region play in the contemporary events? How has the rise/internationalization of criminal gangs impacted immigration? What is the contemporary human experience of being an immigrant, especially amidst some of the current rhetoric surrounding this topic? Join us for a conversation

2019 MLKJR DAY



about the recent history of the U.S. as it relates to the story of immigration that's often left outside the contemporary political conversation.

Controversial History: the Confederate Flag. Why is there a school named after Robert Lee or a street in San Francisco named after an exploiter of Indigenous peoples? Should one's supposed "good" traits overshadow the terror one has caused? This session explores the current discourse over Confederate flags and monuments across the country and whether their value as pieces of history outweighs their being part of a movement whose basis was defending the institution of slavery. We will also explore whether statues honoring Robert E. Lee and confederate flags in schools are comparable to the ways this country honors other historical figures such as Columbus and Stephen Austin, whose actions resulted in the deaths of many.

Defending the Vote: A Look Back at 2018. The fight for voting rights continued last year with landmark cases on gerrymandering, voter suppression and restoration. We'll take a look at some of the impactful decisions that affected millions of Americans, and also consider how data analytics firms are swaying opinions on both sides of the aisle.

Eating Disorders and Marginalized Voices. Eating disorders have long been categorized as a "white girl problem." While young white women do continue to be the largest and most at risk group for disordered eating, new research shows that there are growing numbers of people of color, trans people, men and older women who are impacted by eating disorders. These groups are often overlooked and not given adequate or effective support. Not only do people often not believe that these group members are being affected by an eating disorder, but the treatment models that exist do not address their unique perspectives. In this workshop, we will explore the National Eating Disorder Association's "Marginalized Voices" project and look deeply at personal narratives and larger trends of who is being impacted by eating disorders and why.

Forgotten Faces. This session is centered around learning about influential figures that have been left out of textbooks and contemporary dialogues. Throughout history, marginalized people have been erased from the narrative of progress in nearly every field imaginable, from chemistry to social justice. In *Forgotten Faces*, we will attempt to educate ourselves and others about these people, following a three-part structure. The first part will be dedicated to independent research about a selection of influential figures, and the second part will be the creation of biographical summaries. These will later be posted on a bulletin board so they can be shared with the larger UHS community. The last part will be a whole-group conversation about the figures and how marginalized people often impact history greatly without receiving the recognition they deserve.

Harvard and the Myth of the Model Minority. The recent trial accusing Harvard of maintaining racial quotas has brought much attention upon the longstanding idea of "Yellow Peril," or fear of Asians disproportionately overrunning institutions. But what has the trial revealed about the myth of the Asian "model minority?" Come learn about the history of this myth and background behind the trial itself. Be prepared to debate both sides of the trial as well as its ramifications for the future of affirmative action.

2019 MLKJR DAY



Has the Internet Significantly Leveled the Playing Field? Lessons Learned from the Internet and the Future of Democratizing Technologies. There's no doubt that the internet and other historical technologies have indelibly changed our lives, but have they managed to make societies more equitable? Or, instead, have these technologies simply continued to widen the economic and

social divisions within our societies? Champions of these technologies have continuously heralded their ability to unite and join disparate peoples to create communities and economic opportunities that otherwise weren't possible, but these champions have thus far been disproportionately wealthy, powerful, and white men who often stand to benefit most from their large-scale adoption. With both a historical and future-oriented lens, we hope to examine the degree to which the early visions and social justice-minded promises that the internet was expected to provide have come to fruition and what that may portend for the implementation of artificial intelligence, gene editing technology, robotic manufacturing, self-driving vehicles and other "intelligent" technologies. Given the strong historical evidence that the negative economic effects of technological advances have been felt most by the lowest classes, scientific research usually bends to the needs of the powerful few rather than the suffering many, and technological advancements often give significant power to leaders with perverse and unethical incentives, how can emergent technologies continue to bend more towards the will of the masses than the will of a powerful few? This will be a co-led, discussion-based session in which the student and adult leaders will briefly share some historical information followed by a structured conversation to critically discuss the ongoing role technology plays in shaping our society and ways that we might be able to take an activist stance in being a mindful advocate and/or critic of technological progress.

How to Ruin the Boss's Day. Across the country, teachers are striking, successfully, not just for better pay for themselves, but also to improve conditions for students. How do the teacher strikes fit into the labor movement and the tradition of democratic workers organizations called unions? How do unions relate to struggles for race and gender justice? Why are right-wing billionaires putting so much effort into weakening unions? Twenty-year veteran union organizer and stand-up comedian Nato Green will show what union organizers do to figure out exactly how to ruin the boss's day. (*Nato Green*)

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2019 MLK JR DAY



to help address this hugely critical issue!

Plastic, Plastic Everywhere! In this session, you will learn all about plastic pollution—what it is, how it ends up in the oceans, and its catastrophic effects on ocean ecosystems, animals, and us. We will talk about ways to solve the plastic pollution crisis and the things we can do to diminish our own plastic use. We will conclude with discussions and activities on reducing and reusing plastic. Come learn how

Priced Out: Art and Life in the Bay Area. If the Bay Area has always been a place that embraces alternative culture, what happens when the time and space for experimentation disappear? This workshop will explore the impact of rising costs of living on artistic life in and around the Bay Area. We'll ask the question: What do artists contribute to the lifeblood of a city? When artists leave, what do we lose? We'll watch a short documentary film about an alternative living space threatened with demolition, read some stories of recent evictions, and look at the ways in which artists are often complicit in the pattern of gentrification that eventually forces them out. The bulk of our time in this workshop will be spent in an open discussion.

Public Schools: Maybe We're Not So Different After All. This discussion will provide attendees an opportunity to learn about the role of public schools in today's educational landscape using their involvement in the Civil Rights movement, shepherded by Martin Luther King Jr., and more specifically *Brown v. Board*, as the foundation for our larger discussion. What are the (seemingly hidden) strengths of public schools? How do we talk about public schools, their teachers, their students, etc.? What rhetoric do we hear from politicians about public schools' relationship to educational reform, and how much of that conversation is helpful v. detrimental to progress and growth? What type of expectations do public school teachers have from both students and parents that they serve? What is the history of education reform, and why is it so difficult to achieve? What is a union and what is their purpose in a public school? What are the similarities between public and private schools?

Reproductive Rights: No Choice? In 1973, the landmark *Roe v. Wade* case legalized abortion in the USA. Since then, access to abortion and contraception has been challenged and chipped away through legislation and social attitudes. Now that the Supreme Court has a right-wing majority, further attacks on reproductive rights, including on *Roe v. Wade* itself, are sure to happen. All are welcome to this session, in which we'll watch some short testimonials from Bill Moyers' No Choice series reminding us what the United States was like before abortion was legal, and then have a conversation about the past, present and future of reproductive choices.

Selling "Woke." Was Nike's Kaepernick campaign taking a stand for Black Lives Matter, or exploiting the movement for publicity? Does *Crazy Rich Asians* seek to represent Asian Americans, or are studios just looking to sell to a new demographic? In this workshop, we will explore the commercialization of social justice issues and the gray area between representation and exploitation.

Talking About Masculinity 101. (Open to all self-identifying male students, faculty, and staff.) What does it mean to be man? This will be our central question, and through it, we will be discussing issues related to masculinity in our community and in broader cultural contexts. We will start by talking about the ways in which boys learn masculinity, and the traits, language,

2019 MLKJR DAY



discussions regarding masculinity at UHS.

behaviors, etc. associated with it. In their recently updated guidelines for working with men, the American Psychological Association asserted that traditional masculinity can be detrimental to men's physical and mental health. We will also attempt to unpack what this means and talk about what traditional masculinity looks like. This session will hopefully serve as a jumping off point for future

The Immigrant Yarn Project—Who Knew a Pom-pom Could Mean So Much?? With over 600 contributors representing generations of immigrants from every corner of the world—including contributions from homeless communities, seniors, students, the LGBTQ community, Native Americans, Democrats and Republicans, and even a Former Secretary of State, the Immigrant Yarn Project embodies and celebrates the vital diversity of America. This massive work of public art is opening at Fort Point on March 1, and this is your chance to become a contributor, make a pom-pom, represent your family's immigrant story, and learn how a tiny idea can become a colossal work of protest art. (*Cindy Weil, Founder and Creative Director of the Immigrant Yarn Project*)

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What Does It Mean To Be A White Ally? For white folks who want to be better allies to People of Color (POC). What is an ally? How can you be a better ally? What if you mess up? This workshop will offer some perspective on how to be a good ally to POC, and we will also discuss what NOT to do. We will explore the concept of allies versus accomplices, talk through examples of ways to step up, and provide resources for further reading.