

Voices of Veterans A Welcome Home Ceremony

Thursday Nov 10th ~ 7:00 pm

First Unitarian Church

1187 Franklin St ~ San Francisco, CA

The Voices of Veterans Retreat will culminate in a public Welcome Home Ceremony on Thursday, November 10th, 2011.

This event gathers the community for the distinct purpose of recognizing the service of veterans and honoring their experiences during war time.

The point here is not political discussion, but the need to heal the distance between the warriors and those they protect and bridge the gaps between war and peace, trauma and renewal, pain and understanding.

Healing only happens when the burdens of war can be shared by the greater community. A public gathering allows citizens to be compassionate witnesses to the stories of war and the need for conscious and genuine acts of welcoming. As one veteran writes in a poem: "Can we create a village as strong as a war?"

Responses to previous Welcome Home Ceremonies:

"From the first moment I was weeping, and didn't stop the whole night... a healing experience for everyone there, including the audience."

"If only every single veteran could have that experience. If only every community could share it with them."

Voices of Veterans Retreat

A HEALING RETREAT FOR VETERANS



Sun Nov 6th – Thurs Nov 10th
Camp Newman

4088 PORTER CRK. RD., SANTA ROSA, CA

Sponsored by Mosaic Multicultural Foundation

Voices of Veterans Retreat

Sun, Nov 6th – Thurs, Nov 10th

Camp Newman, Santa Rosa, CA

What is the Voices of Veterans Retreat?

This retreat provides a safe place and supportive time for veterans to share stories and consider significant events and results of their war experiences. The point isn't simply recounting "war stories" as much as finding meaningful and healing ways to carry the dramas and traumas of combat and war.

The experience of war alters a person's way of being in the world. Even those who come through battles physically unscathed are forever changed within themselves. Those who survive the gravities of war carry a darker knowledge of the world and of the human heart.

We will focus on creating a "community of veterans" that goes deeper than political opinions and gives voice to frequently unspoken aspects of war and its aftermath. Through sharing, discussion, and writing, key feelings and memories will be explored and placed into healing contexts.

What veterans say about the retreat:

"I didn't know it was possible to find such healing and feel safe telling my story"

"Until our retreat I couldn't write about my experiences or express myself."

"This process needs to continue. Our message speaks to the human soul and the time to speak is now."

Who is the Veterans Retreat intended for?

The retreat is intended for veterans of foreign wars and those who are directly affected by war. Participants at the retreat form a "sudden community" in which each voice gets heard and everyone receives proper support.

Veterans from past wars become mentors for those returning from current battles. Participants become presenters and recipients at the Welcome Home Ceremony that follows the retreat.

Who facilitates the Veterans Retreat?

The retreat will be primarily facilitated by Michael Meade, a Vietnam era veteran, noted author, and renowned storyteller. The support team includes Mosaic staff and experts in the fields of PTSD and trauma recovery.

Is there a cost for attending the Retreat?

Due to the generosity of community members, and supporting grants to Mosaic, travel expenses, accommodations, retreat residency, meals, and healing treatments can be provided at no cost to participating veterans.

To register for the Voices of Veterans Retreat contact:

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For additional information contact:

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