



## Building Connections During Interesting Times

Wednesdays, July 7 – August 4, 2021, at 10 am & 4 pm (PST)

Date	Read <i>Uhura's Song</i> , by Janet Kagan, to Tease Out These Themes	Listen to Podcasts with Scientists To Broaden Our Discussion
July 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why &amp; how speculative fiction (in fact, all of the arts) acts as a mirror that can widen our perspective &amp; place human behavior in a biological as well as cultural context</li> <li>How understanding our place in the universe increases our capacity to build connection &amp; community here on earth</li> </ul>	<p><b>Jill Tarter</b>, <a href="#">It Takes a Cosmos To Make a Human Being</a>  <i>Jill Tarter is an astronomer who spent decades in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI), including as director of the SETI Institute. Carl Sagan used her work &amp; life in his novel, <u>Contact</u>; Dr. Tarter spent time with Jodie Foster as she prepared to play the character Ellie Arroway in the film version.</i></p>
July 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Becoming “participant observers” in our daily lives; the book this refers to this as “asking baby questions”</li> <li>Considering &amp; observing linguistic (i.e., proverbs, slang, humor) &amp; body language choices when meeting new people</li> </ul>	<p><b>Mary Catherine Bateson</b>, <a href="#">Living as an Improvisational Art</a>  <i>Mary Catherine Bateson was a linguist, anthropologist, professor, &amp; author; she was the daughter of anthropologists—Margaret Mead and Gregory Bateson. She taught at Harvard, Amherst, and George Mason; her books include <u>Composing a Life</u>, <u>Composing a Further Life</u>, &amp; <u>With a Daughter's Eye</u>.</i></p>
July 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Balancing the need for cultural rituals while responding proactively to environmental &amp; societal change</li> <li>Listening to younger people, creating structures &amp; situations where they can lead, &amp; offering support &amp; advice as appropriate</li> </ul>	<p><b>Jane Goodall</b>, <a href="#">What it Means to Be Human</a>  <i>Jane Goodall is a primatologist &amp; environmental activist. Her research with chimpanzees fundamentally changed our understanding animals; she changed her focus to environmental activism in 1980s. She began the Roots &amp; Shoots program with 12 Tanzanian young people 30 years ago; the program is now in ~100 countries. She is the author &amp; subject of dozens of books &amp; films.</i></p>
July 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finding &amp; cultivating practices to build the capacity to sit with difficult truths &amp; act with compassion, integrity, &amp; spaciousness</li> <li>Encouraging a sense of curiosity, openness, &amp; wonder, especially about our place in the natural world</li> </ul>	<p><b>Joan Halifax</b>, <a href="#">Finding Buoyancy Amid Despair</a>  <i>Joan Halifax is a Zen Buddhist teacher, medical anthropologist, civil rights activist, hospice care giver, and author. Over a long and varied career, she has focused on how to be of service with capacity and grace. Her books include <u>Standing at the Edge</u> &amp; <u>Being with Dying</u>.</i></p>
August 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understanding that our Western scientific lens needs to be balanced by indigenous wisdom (including European traditions)</li> <li>Recognizing the interconnected nature of all life; weaving story, beauty, art, &amp; movement into our activities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Robin Wall Kimmerer</b>, <a href="#">The Intelligence of Plants</a>  <i>Robin Wall Kimmerer is a botanist, professor, author, Director of the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment at SUNY, &amp; an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Her books include <u>Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants</u> &amp; <u>Gathering Moss</u>.</i></p>

To register: <https://sutra.co/circle/oi65m3>  
 More information: [kbmurphy@lwvwa.org](mailto:kbmurphy@lwvwa.org)

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