



U N I T Y
T E M P L E
U N I T A R I A N
U N I V E R S A L I S T
C O N G R E G A T I O N

September 2018
“Vision”

What Does It Mean To Be a People of Vision?

I have worn glasses for decades, so I can barely remember what it was like not to have them. One of the last things I do before I go to sleep is take off my glasses, and one of the first things I do in the morning is put them back on. My eyesight is not so bad that I couldn't function without my glasses. I can--when pressed--do stuff without them. But there's nothing quite like that moment when I put them on. It's like, all of a sudden, things are clearer. More focused. More vivid. I tend to take that moment for granted. (It's one of things that it's all too easy to take for granted, until such moments at the glasses are broken. Or no longer the right prescription...) Still, though, if I take the time to pay attention, I am a little bit in awe of this technology that lets me see like I do.

Would that the other kind of vision--the kind where we envision something--were so easy to find or focus on, or--if necessary, discarded, if it turned out that wasn't what we needed.

September always seems to me to be the beginning of a new year. (The result of so many years of schooling, and now working in a program year that reflects that school calendar.) It's a great time to consider the vision for our lives (or at least this chapter)--how do we want to grow this year? Where should we be pushing ourselves to deepen the meaning of our existence? What might we do to make sure our core values and beliefs align with the way we are living each day?

There are different arenas to live these questions out--different places to cast a vision. We might do this individually, or as a family, or as a congregation. Happily, we have recently done the internal work within the congregation; our congregational vision is articulated as welcoming all, inspiring compassion, nurturing wonder, and serving community. We've got a direction--a lens through which to consider decisions we make as a congregation or for the congregation. It's a terrific tool. It helps makes things clearer, more focused, even more vivid.

One of our Unitarian Universalist principles is acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth; this principle perfectly aligns with our theme of being a people of vision. While we share a vision as a congregation, on our own individual quests we will have personal visions that are wildly diverse. What a gift--there's so much we can learn from each other's different perspectives and goals, so many ways we can cheer each other on as we each work towards where we wish to be. For us, as part of a Unitarian Universalist community, being a people of vision means embracing that particular complexity.

It just so happens that I have been getting reminders from my eye doctor, telling me it's time to set up my appointment to get my eyes checked again. I've been putting it off, feeling like it's a burden, something that I have to do that I don't really want to do. So I'm trying to remind myself of this precious gift of clear vision that I have been given. And I think of the poem Sweet Darkness from David Whyte:

"When your eyes are tired/ the world is tired also. /When your vision has gone,/no part of the world can find you./Time to go into the dark/where the night has eyes/to recognize its own./There you can be sure/you are not beyond love...../Give up all the other worlds/ except the one to which you belong./Sometimes it takes darkness and the sweet/confinement of your aloneness/to learn/anything or anyone/that does not bring you alive/is too small for you."/

May our exploration of vision help bring us alive.

Emily

Our Spiritual Exercises

Option A:

Your Personal Vision Statement: Write It!

We've all heard of companies writing vision statements, but we rarely write one for ourselves. Use this month to fix that. Simple, clear and memorable statements of vision inspire us, help clarify our choices and motivate us to get out of bed each morning. Without them, we wander. With them, we choose and shape our own path. It's one of the best gifts we can give to ourselves.

And here's the great thing: it's not really that hard to give ourselves this gift. You don't have to make it complicated. In fact, the best personal vision statements are short and simple, even one-sentence. You can also make it less intimidating by narrowing the timeline. For instance, instead of trying to write a vision of what you will make of your entire life, just focus in on what you want to accomplish this year. For instance, you could just make the exercise a matter of answering one or both of the following questions: "How do I want to be different when this church year comes to an end?" and/or "What do I want to have done when this church year ends?"

Here's some more support. If you want to take the single sentence approach, check out these videos:

- <https://vimeo.com/8480171>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gw2xSdp4bOc&feature=youtu.be>

If you want to dive in more deeply, here's a great road map:

<http://static1.squarespace.com/static/5765deb1be659449f97fcfb5/t/5770b309579fb313164a7a37/1467003657818/LINDYNORRIS.COM+-+How+to+Develop+a+Personal+Vision+Statement.pdf>

As you are writing your statement, run it by those close to you. Ask for their reactions. Something insightful will surely arise from those conversations.

Come to your group ready to share your one, two or twenty sentence vision statement, and what you learned from the journey of writing it.

Option B:

Your Personal Vision Statement: Visualize It!

Some of us are visual learners, so instead of writing your personal vision statement, create a visual representation of it. This popular technique is called vision-boarding. Here are three great sites that explain what a vision board is and how to go about creating one:

- https://www.huffingtonpost.com/elizabeth-rider/the-scientific-reason-why_b_6392274.html
- <https://artfulparent.com/make-vision-board-works-10-steps/>
- <http://marthabeck.com/2010/06/how-to-make-a-vision-board/>

Just like we suggest in exercise A, consider focusing your vision board on your vision for this year. Maybe even consider updating your group about your journey with it as the year progresses! Another idea is to include your relationship partner or the entire family. How cool it would be if all of our families took the time to create a “family vision”?!

You know your small group will want to see what you created, so be sure to bring your Vision Board to your group to accompany your story about what you learned while creating it.

Option C:

Your Personal Vision Statement: Wear It!

Ok, so the idea of writing or visualizing your personal vision statement doesn't grab you. Well then what about those personal vision statements you wear on your sleeve- well chest and/or back really. Yes, that's right: your favorite t-shirt. Almost all of us have them: a t-shirt that makes a statement of our deepest beliefs. Implicit in each of these is a vision of the good life.

So dig out that “Vision T-Shirt” and bring it into your group, along with the story of when and why you bought it and what adventures you've had while wearing it.

The goal of this exercise is, of course, to take some time for deeper reflection on what it means to declare your vision to world. It's never simple to be public with our hopes, dreams and visions. It's also a great joy when our t-shirts enable us to connect with like-minded souls and know we are not alone. Take some time to think about how much these simple articles of clothing have meant to you. There's a reason most of them are torn, ratty and old. We don't want to let go of them in the hopes that their message won't let go of us!

P.S. check out examples of some “vision t-shirts” here:
https://www.etsy.com/market/liberal_tshirts

Option D: Your Vision Mentor

Our visions of the possible and the good are most often given to us, or at least greatly shaped by others. They come as gifts that are cultivated, inspired and midwived by those we consider visionaries or mentors. So, who are your vision mentors? What poet, preacher, spiritual teacher, artist, activist or musician helps you hold on to your vision of the possible and the good?

Use this month to honor them and refresh their vision in your mind's eye. Re-read the book they wrote. Pin up your favorite quote or picture of theirs. Memorize their poem so you can more easily keep it close. Whatever your method, find a way to keep them front and center this month, paying attention to new ways they are calling to you or propping up your hope and commitment.

Come to your group with the book, quote, poem or piece of art you've chosen. Share how they became your "vision mentor" and the impact they have made on your life.

Option E: Pick a Quote to Expand Your Vision

Our Recommended Resources are full of quotes about what it means to be a person of vision. There's likely to be at least one of them that opens you to a new way of thinking about the role and call of vision in your life. So as your practice of the month, set aside some time to go through them and meditate on them until you find the one that most expands your understanding of vision. After you've found it, consider printing it out and carrying it with you or pinning it up so you can continue to reflect on it throughout the month. Come to your group ready to share where the journey led you.

Your Question

As always, don't treat these questions like "homework" or a list that needs to be covered in its entirety. Instead, simply pick the one question that speaks to you most and let it lead you where you need to go. The goal is to figure out what being a part of a people of vision means for you and your daily living. So, which question is calling to you? Which one contains "your work"? Where is it trying to lead you?

1. What vision has been with you since you were a child? How has it both changed and remained the same?
2. Who are your vision mentors? What poet, preacher, spiritual teacher, artist, activist or musician helps you hold on to your vision of the possible and the good? What practice do you use to keep their guidance and inspiration in front of you?
3. What vision do you want to pass on to your kids, grandkids or those who look to you for guidance?
4. How is the season of fall a time of vision for you? How does this season of harvest and turning of leaves allow you to "see" differently?
5. How might it be a gift to lean into your near-sightedness? How might vision be calling you to take a break from the long view and gratefully gaze at the treasure right in front of you?
6. What might it mean to use a new form of perception to connect with the sacred? Many of us lean on our visual sight and analytical thinking to perceive and engage the holy. But how might listening or touch open an entirely new door? What about allowing your intuition to help you "see"? Or letting the muse of creative expression open up a new horizon? Many also suggest that vision is clearest when we look out with a "beginner's mind." What new form of "vision" is calling to you?
7. You see the beauty around you, but are you taking it in?
8. Wayne Dyer writes, "If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change." What in your life needs another look? What if you started with the things you are most sure about?
9. Is your vision of how your life is "supposed to be" in your way? Could clear vision require letting go of the visions to which you currently cling?
10. Have you ever had a "vision?" A spiritual revelation, mystical experience or premonition? Have you shared it easily? Or kept it to yourself?

11. "Once there were three bricklayers. Each one of them was asked what they were doing. The first man answered gruffly, 'I'm laying bricks.' The second man replied, 'I'm putting up a wall.' But the third man said enthusiastically and with pride, 'I'm building a cathedral.'" *Are you sure you are just laying bricks? What "brick" or "wall" is asking you to see a "cathedral" in it?*
12. What if you made room for one long, uninterrupted stare at a beautiful thing?
13. Loren Eiseley reminds us, "It is a commonplace of all religious thought, even the most primitive, that the [person] seeking visions and insight must go apart from [their] fellows and live for a time in the wilderness." *What might "stepping apart and going into the wilderness" look like in your life?*
14. Rose Nguyen writes, "I sometimes get so caught up with my big dreams... that I forget to recognize all the little dreams I've made come true!... We can get so caught up looking at where we should be, where we aren't, and where others are in comparison that we forget to appreciate where we've been and where we've come from." *How might looking back on how far you've come be a blessing to you this month?*
15. Is the speed and pace of your daily routine blurring your vision? Could the secret to finding clear sight be slowing down?
16. **What's your question?** Your question may not be listed above. As always, if the above questions don't include what life is asking from you, spend the month listening to your days to hear it.

Companion Pieces

Recommended Resources for Personal Exploration & Reflection

The following resources are not required reading. We will not analyze these pieces in our group. Instead they are here to companion you on your journey this month, get your thinking started and open you to new ways of thinking about what it means to be part of a people of vision.

Definition & Word Roots

The act or power of anticipating that which will or may come to be.

From Old French *vision*: presence, sight; view, look, appearance; dream, supernatural sight.

Wise Words

We are limited, not by our abilities, but by our vision.

Unknown

The soul never thinks without a picture.

Aristotle

We are here to abet creation and to witness it, to notice each thing so each thing gets noticed. Together we notice not only each mountain shadow and each stone on the beach, but we notice each other's beautiful face and complex nature so that creation need not play to an empty house.

Annie Dillard

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart.

Helen Keller

The most beautiful things are always hidden.

Anonymous proverb

Your vision will become clear only when you look into your heart. Who looks outside, dreams. Who looks inside, awakens.

Carl Jung

Vision without action is a daydream. Action without vision is a nightmare.

Japanese Proverb

Vision looks inward and becomes duty. Vision looks outward and becomes aspiration. Vision looks upward and becomes faith.

Rabbi Stephen Wise

If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change.

Wayne Dyer

Once there were 3 bricklayers. Each one of them was asked what they were doing. The first man answered gruffly, "I'm laying bricks." The second man replied, "I'm putting up a wall." But the third man said enthusiastically and with pride, "I'm building a cathedral."

Author Unknown

Luke, you're going to find that many of the truths we cling to depend greatly on our own point of view.

Obi-Wan Kenobi

Your outlook on life is a direct reflection on how much you like yourself.

Lululemon

If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea.

Antoine de Saint-Exupery

Failed plans should not be interpreted as a failed vision. Visions don't change, they are only refined. Plans rarely stay the same and are scrapped or adjusted as needed. Be stubborn about the vision, but flexible with your plan.

John C. Maxwell

It is a commonplace of all religious thought, even the most primitive, that the [person] seeking visions and insight must go apart from [their] fellows and live for a time in the wilderness.

Loren Eiseley

All human activity can be viewed as an interplay between two contrary but equally essential factors -- vision and repetitive routine... When one factor prevails at the expense of the other, the consequences are often undesirable. If we are bound to a repetitive cycle of work that deprives us of our freedom to inquire and understand things for ourselves, we soon stagnate, crippled by the chains of routine. If we are spurred to action by elevating ideals but lack the discipline to implement them, we may eventually find ourselves wallowing in idle dreams or exhausting our energies on frivolous pursuits. It is only when accustomed routines are infused by vision that they become springboards to discovery rather than deadening ruts. And it is only when inspired vision gives birth to a course of repeatable actions that we can bring our ideals down from the ethereal sphere of imagination to the somber realm of fact...

[Bhikkhu Bodhi](#)

The great tragedy of speed as an answer to the complexities and responsibilities of existence is that very soon we cannot recognize anything or anyone who is not traveling at the same velocity as we are. We see only those moving in the same whirling orbit and only those moving with the same urgency. Soon we begin to suffer a form of amnesia, caused by the blurred vision of velocity itself, where those germane to our humanity are dropped from our minds one by one. We start to lose sight of any colleagues who are moving at a slower pace, and we start

to lose sight of the bigger, slower cycles that underlie our work... Just as seriously, we begin to leave behind the parts of our own selves that limp a little, the vulnerabilities that actually give us color and character. We forget that our sanity is dependent on a relationship with longer, more patient cycles extending beyond the urgencies.

[David Whyte](#), *on how our vision is limited by speed*

We're always talking about how we should live in the now and "be present." We shame ourselves for looking back at the past or into the future... It's a beautiful thing to be mindful of the present, but don't forget to honor yourself, your past, and how far you've come. Odds are, it's further than you think... I realized that I sometimes get so caught up with my big dreams... that I forget to recognize all the little dreams I've made come true!... We can get so caught up looking at where we should be, where we aren't, and where others are in comparison that we forget to appreciate where we've been and where we've come from.

Rose Nguyen

If you don't look back, the future never happens...

[Rita Dove](#)

When you look deeply into your anger, you will see that the person you call your enemy is also suffering. As soon as you see that, the capacity of accepting and having compassion for them is there.

Thich Nhat Hanh

Our picture of ourselves has become too grand, we have lost the vision of a reality separate from ourselves.

Iris Murdoch, The Sovereignty of Good

If you sense there must be more, there is more.
Alan Cohen

Earth's crammed with heaven.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Above all, watch with glittering eyes the whole world around you because the greatest secrets are always hidden in the most unlikely places. Those who don't believe in magic will never find it.

Roald Dahl, The Minpins.

What will mess you up most in life is the picture in your head of how it is supposed to be.

Unknown

My barn having burned down I can now see the moon.

Mizuta Masahide

Sweet Darkness

David Whyte

Full poem with reading found at <https://onbeing.org/blog/sweet-darkness/>

When your eyes are tired
the world is tired also.
When your vision has gone
no part of the world can find you...

Turning to One Another

Margaret Wheatley

Full poem found here: <https://101friends.wordpress.com/2013/10/31/margaret-wheatley-turning-to-one-another/>

Ask: "What's possible?" not "What's wrong?"
Keep asking.
Notice what you care about.
Assume that many others share your dreams...

Beyond Words

Katie Pratt

Full poem found at <http://www.ayearofbeinghere.com/2014/10/katie-pratt-beyond-words.html>

When I look into your eyes,
I see your spirit.
When I notice your feet,
I see the journey you're taking...
Would you put down your logical way of
thinking for just a moment to see the hidden
spirit glowing in you...

Monet Refuses the Operation

Lisel Mueller

Full poem found here: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/52577/monet-refuses-the-operation-56d231289e6db>

Read by author here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rsisj0JOO98>

I tell you it has taken me all my life
to arrive at the vision of gas lamps as angels,
to soften and blur and finally banish
the edges...

The Opening of Eyes

David Whyte

Full poem found at <https://cslcv.blogspot.com/2014/06/the-opening-of-eyes-by-david-whyte.html>

Life is no passing memory of what has been
nor the remaining pages in a great book
waiting to be read.
It is the opening of eyes long closed...

There is something dying in our society, in our culture, and there's something dying in us individually. And what is dying is the willingness to be in denial. And that is extraordinary. The willingness to be in denial is dying in a meaningful number of us, the tipping point. It's always been happening, and when it happens in enough of us, in a short enough period of time, at the same time, then you have a tipping point, and the culture begins to shift.

Rev. Angel Kyodo Williams

Look at the world around you. It may seem like an immovable, implacable place. It is not. With the slightest push—in just the right place—it can be tipped."

Malcolm Gladwell, The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference

The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing.

Albert Einstein

When Night Has Ended

Jewish Rabbinical Tale

A more extended version here:

<https://www.facebook.com/littlefreepantry/posts/1365473406860897>

A rabbi asked his students, "How do we know when the night has ended, and the day has begun?"

One student replied, "When I can tell a goat from a donkey."

"No," answered the rabbi.

Another said, "When I can tell a palm tree from a fig."

"No," answered the rabbi again.

"Well, then what is the answer?" his students pressed him.

"Only when you look into the face of every man and every woman and see your brother and your sister," said the rabbi. "Only then have you seen the light. All else is still darkness."

Where there is no vision, the people perish.

Proverbs 29:18, the King James Version

Songs and Music

I Can See Clearly Now (Johnny Nash) –

Cover by Haeda:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUUcQ3CdGi8>

Cover by Grace VanderWaal:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZcCp7488puc>

Cover by Klapa Sinj & Iva Ajduković:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P89PINKk0eY>

Beautiful Vision (Van Morrison)

Cover:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6MHJXazFxs>

Beautiful vision, stay with me...

One Day (with No Woman No Cry mash up)

Matisyahu "

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=188kmAtK_3E

Head Full Of Doubt/Road Full Of Promise

The Avett Brothers -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QeYSqZPzwr8>

There's a darkness upon me that's flooded in light

There was a dream and one day I could see it,
Like a bird in a cage I broke in and demanded
that somebody free it

The World Is Ours

Aloe Blacc X David Correy -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=240THRfKcd4>

I had an epiphany one night

Looking at the endless star filled sky

The world is ours...

A Better Life

Grace VanderWaal

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHNF5G-Ufy4>

close your eyes

And create yourself a better life

Let the wind blow through your hair

Let the music take you there

And make a better life

A better life

Dreamer

Isbells

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqOno6pT3jA&list=RDXLCCdJSEq6c&index=6>

Every time you stargaze

The whole world

Is lying at your feet...

Videos & Online

How to See the World Like Malcolm Gladwell

<https://bigthink.com/videos/big-think-interview-with-malcolm-gladwell>

"There is a point in every child's development where he begins to realize that the content of his parents' minds is different than that in his own, says author Malcolm Gladwell. Yet adults often forget this fundamental realization, says Gladwell. "We always fall back on this notion that the rest of the world, their personalities and their minds, are set up the way ours are." In his Big Think interview, Gladwell, the author of bestsellers "The Tipping Point," "Outliers," and "Blink," talks about how this way of looking at the world has informed his career as a writer..."

A Different Perspective

<https://vimeo.com/120438150>

What does it take to no longer see a threat?

Personality Test: What Do You See First and What It Reveals About You

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Y76u3UyQd8>

It's unclear how scientific this really is. But it's sure fun!

Painting With a Different Kind of Sight

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kq6a391A7Wk>

After losing his sight, John developed a new way to share his vision by using touch, music, and emotion to paint stunningly colorful works of art. For those who thought that painting was only for the sighted, John Bramblitt is here to prove you wrong.

A New View of the Moon (and us)

<https://vimeo.com/259818647>

A prosecutor's vision for a better justice system

Adam Foss

https://www.ted.com/talks/adam_foss_a_prosecutor_s_vision_for_a_better_justice_system

An engineer's vision for tiny forests everywhere

Shubhendu Sharma

https://www.ted.com/talks/shubhendu_sharma_an_engineers_vision_for_tiny_forests_everywhere

A realistic vision of world peace

Jody Williams

https://www.ted.com/talks/jody_williams_a_realistic_vision_for_world_peace

A queer vision of love and marriage

Tiq Milan and Kim Katrin Milan

https://www.ted.com/talks/tiq_milan_and_kim_katrin_milan_a_queer_vision_of_love_and_marriage

Danger - Seeing White, Part 11 (Challenging the vision of black-on-white violence)

<http://www.sceneonradio.org/episode-41-danger-seeing-white-part-11/>

Articles

Looking at the world from a different perspective

<https://www.cyrielkortleven.com/looking-world-different-perspective/>

Charts and maps that will change your view on the world.

Learn more about "Darshan" (The Hindu practice of "divine sight")

- <http://www.srisarada.org/mandir/darshan.html>
- <https://classroom.synonym.com/what-is-darshan-in-hindu-worship-12085928.html>
- <https://www.quora.com/Why-is-the-ritual-of-Darshan-religious-seeing-or-visual-perception-of-the-sacred-so-important-in-Hinduism>
- <https://silentcedars.wordpress.com/2014/12/12/reflections-on-darshan-and-my-darshan-of-the-dalai-lama/>

Standing in the Shadow of Hope (Committed to the struggle without a vision of hope)

Austin Channing Brown

<https://onbeing.org/blog/austin-channing-brown-standing-in-the-shadow-of-hope/>

Excerpt: I cannot hope in whiteness. I cannot hope in white people or white institutions or white America. I cannot hope in lawmakers or politicians, and I cannot hope even in pastors or ministries or mission statements. I cannot hope in misquoted wisdom from MLK, superficial ethnic heritage celebrations, or love that is aloof. I cannot hope even in myself. I am no one's savior. The longer this list gets, the more elusive hope becomes. This is the cool place from where I demand a love that matters. In this place, I see the sun setting behind me, its light as far away as the stars, and I let the limitations of hope settle over me. I possess not the strength of hope but its weakness, its fragility, its ability to die. Because I must demand anyway. It is my birthright. It is the culmination of everything my ancestors endured, of all that my parents taught me, of the Blackness that rescued me. How dare I consider surrender simply because I want the warmth of the sun? This warmth has not been promised to me. My faith does not require it.

Coping When Your Life Vision Doesn't Go to Plan

Teresa Shimogawa

<https://tinybuddha.com/blog/the-betrayal-of-expectations-coping-when-life-doesnt-go-to-plan/>

Excerpt: "What will mess you up most in life is the picture in your head of how it is supposed to be." ~Unknown. I expected to get into college. I expected to have a career after a lot of hard work, and that one day I'd meet a nice man and we would get married. We would buy our first house together and start a family, picking out a crib and the baby's "going home" outfit and organizing a drawer full of diapers. We'd have more babies and go on vacations and grow old together. Spoiler alert: Life was only that simple until the universe pulled the rug out from beneath my feet. It was an ordinary school day when my life fell apart. These sorts of things usually happen on ordinary days.

Would your life be dramatically improved if you were utterly deluded?

Eric Barker

Full article found at

<https://www.bakadesuyo.com/2012/02/would-your-life-be-dramatically-improved-if-y/>

"Evidence shows that people who hold pervasive positive illusions about themselves, their abilities, and their future prospects are mentally healthier, happier and better liked than people who lack such illusions..."

Books

Visionaries: People & Ideas to Change Your Life

Jay Walljasper & Jon Spayde

<https://www.amazon.com/Visionaries-People-Ideas-Change-Reader/dp/0865714452>

On Looking: A Walker's Guide to the Art of Observation

Alexandra Horowitz

<https://www.amazon.com/Looking-Walkers-Guide-Art-Observation/dp/1439191263>

Read a wonderful essay on the book here:

<https://www.brainpickings.org/2013/08/12/on-looking-eleven-walks-with-expert-eyes/>

"Alexandra Horowitz shows us how to see the spectacle of the ordinary—to practice, as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle put it, "the observation of trifles." Structured around a series of eleven walks, *On Looking* features experts on a diverse range of subjects, including an urban sociologist, a geologist, a physician, and a sound designer. Horowitz also walks with a child and a dog to see the world as they perceive it. *What* they see, *how* they see it, and why most of us do *not* see the same things reveal the startling power of human attention and... what it means to be an expert observer..."

A People's History of the United States

Howard Zinn

<https://zinnedproject.org/materials/a-peoples-history-of-the-united-states/>

Want to change your vision of US history?

Invisible Man

Ralph Ellison

“I am invisible, understand, simply because people refuse to see me.” – from the prologue.

Essay about this classic’s relevance for today:

<https://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/ralph-ellisons-invisible-man-as-a-parable-of-our-time>

Movies

Selma

<https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/selma/>

Invictus

<https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/invictus/>

Frida

<https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/frida/>

Seraphine

<https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/seraphine>

IRIS

https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/iris_2015

trailer:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=127&v=eIG2AoiHszY

Documentary of the visionary designer but really about seeing the world through your own distinct eyes.

The Social Network

https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/the_social_network?

Field of Dreams

<https://www.common sense media.org/movie-reviews/field-of-dreams>

Baseball film starring Kevin Costner

“Families can talk about dreams. How do you know when to follow a vision that seems crazy or foolish? What thoughts go into weighing the risks of certain choices? Is there a way to know for sure whether an idea is a good one?” -

Common Sense Media review

Movies and TV about Visions of the Future

WALL-E

https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/wall_e

Black Mirror

https://www.rottentomatoes.com/tv/black_mirror

Ex Machina

https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/ex_machina

The Minority Report

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0181689/>

Get daily inspiration on the monthly theme by liking our Soul Matters Facebook inspiration page:

<https://www.facebook.com/soulmatterssharingcircle/>

Find musical inspiration on each theme by following our monthly Spotify lists:

<https://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com/spotify-lists.html>

© 2018-19 Soul Matters ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Packets are for use only by member congregations of the Soul Matters Sharing Circle.

Learn how to join at <http://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com>