

Second Congregational Church of Greenwich

Conversation, Celebration, Community - Of Faith

August 7, 2019

Toni Morrison: An Appreciation (by Liz Perry):

This week, we lost a giant of American letters. Toni Morrison passed away, at the age of 88, having reshaped not just African-American literature but Literature, capital L. When I read the news on Tuesday, I was at work. I got up and closed my door so I could cry in private.

I was in high school when I read *The Bluest Eye*, and I still remember the disoriented feeling I had as the language and narrative washed over me. As a white girl reading the story, I was both horrified and—what is the word?—thunderstruck. Morrison's story set the terms for future fiction she would write. This was not literature by or about me. It was literature that claimed the black experience as central, that did not concern itself with me, a white reader, and that, in a way, did not feel it needed to explain itself to me. Reading an American story that did not include me or concern itself with me was a new experience, and I took note.

But to celebrate Morrison only through the lens of race is in some ways to silo her, to force her imagination into the hobbled categories of white and black. Her stories did not explain themselves to anyone, regardless of race—she invented new narrative forms, bending and blending time and place. My friend Erika tells her students that the things that make *Beloved* a difficult novel to read are actually clues to understanding the story; it's hard to tell what is real when you read, and that uncertainty puts us as readers into the experience of an enslaved person who cannot tell what is real or what is an imagined horror.

I think the right way, or at least, one way to honor Morrison's memory is to spend time this week deliberately considering the things that we know in our bones but which are beyond words. What is it in our lives that brings us into contact with feelings and understandings we cannot explain in words? That is what Morrison was after. And her stories asked us, demanded of us, a readerly mind, an attention that was full and open. Wherever she is now, dancing with the clouds, her legacy is in our ability to pay attention to the things in our lives that are beyond words.

See you in church,

Max

**The Sermon this week
is based on Scripture from:
Hebrews
11:1-3, 8-16**

**If you would like to hear
past Sermons you can
find them on our website:
2cc.org**

Since 1705

Second Congregational Church

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:15 & 9:30 a.m.

Coffee Hour – there is a sign-up sheet in Fletcher Hall for those who would like to bring baked goods for “Sunday Morning Coffee Hour.” We recommend that you bring approximately four dozen bite-size items. The church will continue to supply fruit and beverage.

You can also sign-up via email pam@2cc.org.

Mark your calendars!

Homecoming Weekend 2019

SEPTEMBER 6-8

DETAILS TO FOLLOW...

The Women's Fellowship
of Second Congregational Church
Presents



Alli Hawes, Former Food Stylist at the TODAY SHOW!

Tuesday, September 10, 2019
11 a.m. ~ Fletcher Hall

Come and meet Alli Hawes, former Food Stylist at the TODAY SHOW!

She will tell us how she became a food stylist and demonstrate her favorite food styling tips and tricks. Learn how to break down recipes, food prep, make garnishes and how to present them, keep food looking good and photographing food.

Alli will also demonstrate how to prepare what she calls "The Big Spread" - A table-sized spread of a selection of cheeses, meats, fruits (fresh and dried), veggies, dips, olives, crackers, & bread.

To top things off, she will demo a few tips and tricks for presenting desserts.

Lunch follows @\$10./pp

This unique opportunity to learn from a pro should not be missed!
Please call the church office and make your reservation TODAY!
(203) 869-9311

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