**Agency: A Driver of Evolution?**

Art Klipfel and Grady McGonagill will lead a discussion presenting aspects of two differing Worldviews (where did we come from and where are we going):

* Art shares with many the view that there is and has always been consciousness in the evolutionary process, a process comprised of billions of years. New Age science is helping us to understand this consciousness more deeply. This is a consciousness that has lead to the creation of - to quote Plato – truth, beauty and goodness. Stated another way, this agency in evolution provides purpose, meaning and directionality that we are challenged to discern and follow in our social, cultural and political lives.
* Grady finds Art’s view attractive, but isn’t persuaded there’s enough evidence to support the notion that “evolution has an arrow.” He finds awe and wonder worthy of religious reverence in nature. However, he sees adequate explanation for the appearance of life and consciousness in the findings of science: complex adaptive organisms could have evolved from matter without being guided by any inherent intelligence or spirit. It would be good news if the universe were friendly in this way, but to believe it goes beyond science and requires faith.

Art and Grady hope these thoughts can stimulate a conversation related to Worldviews, and how as individuals we see a Worldview from a New Story perspective. And perhaps we can discuss how our current Worldviews are fragmented, which has likely contributed to the current divisiveness in our world. Is it possible that a New Story Worldview can be shared in all cultures and societies and help us unite to address the global issues of climate change and social justice?

**Readings**

*On Arthur’s View*

* Carter Phipps: *Evolutionaries: Unlocking the Spiritual and Cultural Potential of Science’s Great Idea*
* Stewart Kaufman – *Reinventing the Sacred, A New View of Science*
* Lynn Margulis:  *Symbiotic Planet: A new Look at Evolution*
* David Bohm: *Wholeness and the Implicate Order*
* Teilhard de Chardin: *Hymn of the Universe*

*On Grady’s View*

* Religious Naturalist Association. <http://religious-naturalist-association.org/>
* Chet Raymo, [When God is Gone Everything is Holy – The Making of a Religious Naturalist](https://smile.amazon.com/When-God-Gone-Everything-Holy-ebook/dp/B0028QHJB2/ref%3Dsr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1515976011&sr=8-1&keywords=When+God+is+Gone+Everything+is+Holy+%E2%80%93+The+Making+of+a+Religious+Naturalist)
* Ursula Goodenough, [The Sacred Depths of Nature](https://smile.amazon.com/Sacred-Depths-Nature-Ursula-Goodenough-ebook/dp/B004VDLZZG/ref%3Dsr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1515951268&sr=8-1&keywords=ursula+goodenough).
* Jerome Stone, [Religious Naturalism Today:  The Rebirth of a Forgotten Alternative](https://www.amazon.com/Religious-Naturalism-Today-Forgotten-Alternative/dp/0791475387).