



## Seminary of the Street

### Meet Us at the Corner of Love and Justice

Dear Nichola,

Something really big happened to me recently, and I'm still digesting what it means for my life and what it r

Essentially, what happened was that I witnessed the potential for transformation that happens when you c  
part is important because loving someone doesn't mean hiding those parts of yourself that might make the

I wrote about the experience at length [here \(http://www.tikkun.org/tikkundaily/2010/06/29/sinners-united-fo](http://www.tikkun.org/tikkundaily/2010/06/29/sinners-united-fo)  
insufficient for the kind of transformation a lot of us want to see. Fairness is about everyone getting what h  
regardless of what we did or didn't do yesterday to deserve it. Fairness is a secular form of justification by

I'm just guessing here--extrapolating from my own experience (and yes, this is a confession)--but I would c  
people and so would deserve quite a lot in the economy of fairness, whereas those other folks--those folks  
wants to see *those* folks get what they deserve. That's understandable. It's pretty human. But it's not grace  
to progressive values.

As I said, I'm still digesting this. One of the places I hope to do some of that digesting is at Miki Kashtan's f  
extending empathy being our comfort zones. Read on for details on her workshop and other upcoming eve

## Trauma and Oppression

**a free talk and q and a with Vanissar Tarakali, Ph.D.  
Thursday, July 8, and repeated on Monday, July 26**

All of us have, at one time or another, been the targets of oppression or violence, even if only as children i  
about the impact of this oppression and violence on the body and about practical ways to heal from intima

Many people have asked for a way to learn more about Vanissar's offerings without committing to a full-da  
new approach to social healing work!

**Offered twice in July: Thursday, July 8, or Monday, July 26  
7pm**

**First Congregational Church of Oakland, 2501 Harrison St.**

**Free; suggested donation of \$10 gratefully accepted**  
**[Email ntorbett@seminaryofthestreet.org](mailto:ntorbett@seminaryofthestreet.org) to RSVP**

*Vanissar Tarakali, Ph.D. is a healer and teacher who designs embodied healing oppression and allyship to unlearn oppression and use their privilege for social justice. The former Healing Oppression Project co-leader Denise Benson, and intuitive reading with Phyllis Pay. [www.vanissar.com](http://www.vanissar.com)*

## **Alternatives to Gentrification**

**Tuesdays, July 6-20, 6-8pm**

An initiative of [Seminary of the Street's West Oakland Social Healing Project](#), the "Alternatives to Gentrification" happens, explore alternatives being pioneered in other places, and dream together about what might be possible.

On Tuesdays in May, sixteen people packed our living room for an honest, searching discussion of Nathaniel Mackaye's series will continue our focus on the race and class issues associated with gentrification and will take place with us soon.

Bring your dinner or enjoy some snacks that we'll provide.

Tuesdays, July 6, 13, 20, 6-8pm  
1724 Filbert Street (enter through door off 18th St.)  
Small donation requested to cover the cost of snacks and materials  
RSVP [here: ntorbett@seminaryofthestreet.org](mailto:ntorbett@seminaryofthestreet.org)

## **FREE: Be a Resource in Your Community**

**with Miki Kashtan, cosponsored with Bay-Area Nonviolent Communication**  
**Friday, August 6, 4:30-6:30pm**

Would you like to learn how to become a resource in your neighborhood or community?

In this workshop you can learn basic skills in empathic listening that can support you in the following areas

- \* capacity to stay present in challenging situations
- \* ability to reflect your understanding regardless of content
- \* competence in checking for understanding of deeper meaning of what is shared
- \* willingness to listen without trying to solve problems

Miki Kashtan, certified NVC trainer, is a founder of Bay Area Nonviolent Communication and the North American organizations and teaches NVC at workshops in the San Francisco Bay Area and around the country. Miki has been part of the Department of Peace campaign, facilitation of the African Alliance for Peace summit in Ghana, and a global facilitator in California at Berkeley.

Continuing Education Units are available. For information, please go to: [http://www.baynvc.org/new\\_announcements](http://www.baynvc.org/new_announcements)

Note: Space is limited. Although this is a free event, we ask that you pre-register if at all possible. To register

**Friday, August 6, 4:30-6:30pm**  
**First Congregational Church of Oakland, 2501 Harrison St.**  
**Free, but RSVP requested**  
Call BayNVC at (510) 433-0700 or email [register@baynvc.org](mailto:register@baynvc.org)

## **How Oppression Shows Up in the Body**

**with Vanissar Tarakali, Ph.D.**  
**Saturday, August 7**

In this repeat offering of Vanissar's popular "learn through the body" workshop from June, we will bring pre reflection and discussion we will explore how humans survive the trauma of oppression (racism, sexism, c legacies of trauma and oppression that both targets and agents of oppression carry in our bodies.

Participants will take away practical tools that support awareness and open up creative ways of engaging

Topics include: oppression as social trauma; how internalized dominance and internalized oppression sho dissociation; transforming powerlessness and shame into creative power; owning/recycling your privilege;

**Saturday, August 7**

**10am-5pm**

**First Congregational Church of Oakland, 2501 Harrison St. in Oakland**

**Sliding Scale: \$80-180; some financial assistance available**

**Email [ntorbett@seminaryofthestreet.org](mailto:ntorbett@seminaryofthestreet.org) to register.**

## **Dissident Discipleship in the American Empire: A Week-Long Intensive**

**with Nichola Torbett**

**August 9-13, 1:30-5:30 each day**

What does it mean to follow Jesus, the radical teacher, healer, and ally of oppressed peoples, in 2010 in th will allow us to be a harbinger of the new creation in the midst of deathliness?

So many of us hunger for more aliveness, more love, and deeper connections and yet find ourselves succ of the dominant culture. How can we cultivate our capacity, and the capacity of others in our communities, way of living?

Join me and a couple remarkable guest teachers for a week of authentic conversation, confession, lament

To sign up, visit

<http://a3.acteva.com/orderbooking/loadEventRegistration.action?skuld=4B65DD5601273F173256A02500>

## **Causa Justa::Just Cause Can Use Your Help**

Part of how we are trying to put feet on our values and ideas at Seminary of the Street is by lending practic our neighborhood of West Oakland. One such partner is [Causa Justa::Just Cause \(CJJC\)](#), a multi-racial, g Oakland residents.

CJJC has let us know that they have the following needs over the coming weeks. If you can help, contact I Street.

ANYTIME THIS WEEK: Office support, West Oakland office

From tenant clinic data entry, fundraising follow-up, to uploading photos from the USSF, we have a bunch between 10-6pm.

Tuesday July 6: Campaign Meeting, East Oakland office

Rides to meeting: 4:30pm-5:30pm

Rides home from meeting: 7:30pm-8:30pm

Thursday July 8: Morning Membership Meeting, West Oakland office

Rides to morning meeting: 9am-10am

Rides home from morning meeting: 12pm-1pm

Thursday July 8: Evening Membership Meeting, West Oakland office

Rides to evening meeting: 4:30pm-5:30pm

Rides home from evening meeting: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Tuesday July 13: Campaign Meeting, East Oakland office

Rides to meeting: 4:30pm-5:30pm

Rides home from meeting: 7:30pm-8:30pm

## Your Donations Make Possible....

As many of you know from experience, we are committed to making our offerings accessible to those who because of the generosity of those who donate to our 501(c)(3). We are now beginning to see people who gratifying. Can you be a part of it?

In addition, we are taking on a number of new projects this year, including the [West Oakland Social Heali](#)

For the first time, we are considering hiring a paid staff person, to support this and other efforts. (Many of ) response we have received and at the opportunity to be of service. In order to move to the next level, we r

Please consider sending a tax-deductible donation to Seminary of the Street, 1724 Filbert St., Oakland, C/

## Volunteer Opportunities

We can always use help with set-up and clean-up before and after our events, and we also have periodic i

Do you go to a lot of coffee houses, libraries, and other community spaces with bulletin boards? Would yo

One of the best ways for people of relative privilege to unlearn racism and classism is to take on a low-level Seminary of the Street is currently developing a partnership with Causa Justa: Just Cause though which w work. Particular needs include giving their members rides to meetings, answering phones, and helping with for people who volunteer through us, working together to deal with the feelings and reactions that come up

More volunteer opportunities are coming soon.

## Wish list

Here are some things we can use:

An LCD projector

A presentation easel (the kind that holds big white pads of paper)

Access to West Oakland space for events

Granola bars, seasonal fruit, or other good snack foods, both for our public programs and for those who cc

## Finding "Seminary of the Street-Like" Offerings in Other Places

We often get emails from folks in other parts of the country, lamenting that they can't attend our classes. F beginning of that list. If you know of other places, please [send them to us](#) for consideration.

[Tierra Nueva/The People's Seminary](#) in Burlington, WA

[Bartimaeus Cooperative Ministries](#) in Southern California

[The Servant Leadership School](#) in Washington, DC  
[The Alternative Seminary](#) in Philadelphia, PA  
[City Seminary of New York](#) in New York City, NY  
[Word and World](#) (traveling)

Also, we are willing to take some of our offerings on the road if you can organize a group large enough to r

I hope you find these resources helpful. Your comments and suggestions are always appreciated, so send

Blessings,

Nichola Torbett  
Founding Director, Seminary of the Street

\*\*This mark indicates classes cosponsored by First Congregational Church of Oakland. Members and plec

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