

The Unitarian Church in Westport

For Immediate Release

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Unitarian Church & TCC to Host James Baldwin Celebration – 12/2/17

As the world marks 30 years since the death of James Baldwin (1924-1987), The Unitarian Church in Westport and the Triangle Community Center (TCC) will co-host a celebration of Baldwin and the causes for which he stood. A world-famous author, social critic, and Civil Rights activist, Baldwin devoted his life to a message of brotherhood. His words, both written and spoken, are as relevant today as they were 64 years ago when his first novel “Go Tell It on the Mountain” was published.

The program – which is free and open to the public – will include a Panel Discussion, Reception, Film Screening & Public ‘Talkback.’ The program’s focus will be the intersection of Art and Social Justice, with James Baldwin as catalyst. The event will take place on Saturday, Dec. 2nd, at .

At 4:30PM, the celebration will begin with a three-person panel discussion of Baldwin’s groundbreaking novel *Giovanni’s Room* (1956) – a searing exploration of love, identity and social alienation. Moderated by filmmaker Karen Thorsen, the panelists will be Dr. Rich Blint, an NYU Visiting Scholar and Columbia University Research Affiliate who currently teaches at Barnard College’s Department of Africana Studies, and Dr. Jackie Goldsby, an award-winning author, Professor of English, and Chair of the Department of African American Studies at Yale University. Both are well-known Baldwin scholars; both have taught courses on *Giovanni’s Room*.

At 6PM, an hour-long reception with light refreshments will immediately follow the panel discussion.

At 7PM, the award-winning film classic *James Baldwin: The Price of the Ticket* (1989) will be screened in WideScreen HD. Recently restored and re-mastered with the help of the Ford Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts and Stan & Joanne Marder, the film was directed by Unitarian Church-member Karen Thorsen and is still being shown all over the world.

At 8:30PM, a post-screening public ‘talkback’ about diversity, discrimination and the meaning of brotherhood will conclude the evening.

“The whole experience has been a privilege,” Thorsen says. “Because of my collaboration with Baldwin – both before he died and over the past thirty years – I’ve become a conduit for something far greater than anything I could do or say on my own.”

More information about Baldwin, his writing, and this important film – including a film trailer – can be found at jamesbaldwinproject.org.

More information about our two panelists, Dr. Rich Blint and Dr. Jackie Goldsby can be found (in alphabetical order) at jamesbaldwinproject.org/ScholarsAdvisors.html.

The Unitarian Church in Westport is a diverse and welcoming religious community, free of creed and dogma, and open to people of all backgrounds and beliefs. More information about the church can be found at uwestport.org.

Triangle Community Center is Fairfield County's leading provider of programming and resources to nurture growth and connection within the LGBTQ community. It's website is: <http://www.ctpridecenter.org/>

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