

**Transformation**  
Jean Durkin  
Unitarian Church of Evanston, Illinois

CHALICE AND OPENING WORDS

*On The Brink*

All that we have ever loved  
and all that we have ever been  
stands with us on the brink of all that we aspire to create:  
a deeper peace,  
a larger love,  
a more embracing hope,  
a greater generosity of spirit,  
a deeper joy in this life we share.  
- - Leslie Takahashi Morris

Nature often holds up a mirror so we can see more clearly the ongoing processes of growth, renewal, and transformation in our lives. May our time together provide a safe place to share about our transformations as we listen deeply and speak our own truth.  
CHECK-IN

TOPIC AND SHARING

READINGS

We do not grow absolutely, chronologically. We grow sometimes in one dimension, and not in another; unevenly. We grow partially. We are relative. We are mature in one realm, childish in another. The past, present, and future mingle and pull us backward, forward or fix us in the present.  
-Anais Nin

All change is not growth, as all movement is not forward.  
-Ellen Glasgow

And the day came when the risk to remain tight in a bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom.  
-Anais Nin

When we quit thinking primarily about ourselves and our own self-preservation, we undergo a truly heroic transformation of consciousness.  
-Joseph Campbell

All change, even very large and powerful change, begins when a few people start talking with one another about something they care about.  
-Margaret J. Wheatley

Personal transformation can and does have global effects. As we go, so goes the world, for the world is us. The revolution that will save the world is ultimately a personal one.

-Marianne Williamson

It is only when we truly know and understand that we have a limited time on Earth and that we have no way of knowing when our time is up that we will begin to live each day to the fullest, as if it were the only one we had.

-Elizabeth Kubler-Ross

All changes, even the most longed for, have their melancholy, for what we leave behind us is a part of ourselves; we must die to one life before we can enter into another.

-Anatole France

QUESTIONS (Please respond to whichever question or questions you feel moved to answer. It is not necessary to respond to all of the questions. You may also respond to any of the readings that you find to be particularly meaningful.)

1. What in your life is undergoing transformation these days?
2. Tell about an important personal or social transformation you have been part of.
3. How are current social or global transformations impacting your life?
4. What transformation would you like to see in the future?

## SHARING

LIKES (celebrations, gratitudes, appreciations for needs met) and WISHES (mournings, requests, acknowledgements of needs not met)/CHECK-OUT (a few words or phrases from each who wants to share)

## CLOSING WORDS

### A Riff

I came as rain  
a droplet from the sky  
splashing  
returning to sisters and brothers.  
A trickle then a rivulet.  
A cascading stream  
following the course of least resistance.

Pond

Rapids

Lake

River

growing deep and powerful

placid and powerful.

Flowing into the ocean and a silence that is not an end.

I came as a cloud shading those I loved,  
dew that glistened and evaporated,  
tears coursing down,  
waters of joy and gratitude.  
Life's precipitation  
can't be captured or contained, only kissed.  
- - Mark D. Morrison-Reed

EXTINGUISH THE CHALICE OR CANDLE