

Meaning of Service
Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities
Sessions in Boston and Springfield, MA
January 2006 - May 2006

Introduction

The Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities sponsored two Meaning of Service programs in 2006. The discussion series in Springfield consisted mostly of graduate students at the School of Social Work at Springfield College who have a community service requirement. Two regular participants were Citizen Schools volunteers in Springfield middle schools. In Boston, all participants were City Year corps members.

Readings

Springfield readings:

- “September 1, 1939” by W. H. Auden
- “Letter from a Birmingham Jail,” by Martin Luther King, Jr.
- “Lovers of the Poor,” by Gwendolyn Brooks
- II Samuel, 11-12:15
- “The Ring of Gyges” portion of Plato’s *Republic* and “The Veil of Ignorance” by John Rawls

Boston readings:

- “September 1, 1939” by W. H. Auden
- “Letter from a Birmingham Jail,” by Martin Luther King, Jr.
- “Lovers of the Poor,” by Gwendolyn Brooks
- II Samuel, 11-12:15
- “The Ring of Gyges” portion of Plato’s *Republic* and “The Veil of Ignorance” by John Rawls
- “Recitatif,” Toni Morrison

Facilitators

Springfield: John Drabinski, Professor of Philosophy, Hampshire College
Boston: Julia Legas, Philosophy Instructor, Suffolk University