

Justice Talking 2007
Wyoming Humanities Council
University of Wyoming Center for Volunteer Services and
Wyoming Conservation Corps (final two sessions)
2007

Readings

- “The Lovers of the Poor” by Gwendolyn Brooks
- *The Autobiography of Ben Franklin* – Excerpt on the virtues
- “The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas” by Ursula LeGuin
- Selected American folksongs

Special Features of this Conversation

This discussion series included selected folksongs as well as more traditional texts. Participants appreciated the inclusion of the songs because, as one participant indicated, “they engage me in a way that poems or autobiographies can’t do as easily.”

Feedback from Participants

Program participants indicated that the discussions provided a chance to get to know their fellow volunteers better and elicited numerous comments.

Regarding the impact of the discussions:

- *The discussions have helped me think on a bigger scale outside of my site and the community.*
- *It has made me think of why it’s important to serve and who it benefits.*
- *The discussions allow us to reflect, to analyze our service as an outsider, and also really making us look at service and what it means to us.*
- *Some of the stories, especially the first one, impact my thoughts about how we try to help the needy but in reality—we may not have been that helpful as we really don’t understand the people we are trying to help.*

Regarding the people they are serving:

- *The discussions have made me think about how my relationships with people vary from person to person. Made me think about the actual people more.*

- *It makes me look at how they view service compared to the way I view service.*
- *Try to understand them before attempting to help them may be beneficial in some cases.*
- *I give them more empathy.*

Regarding the participants' plans for their futures:

- *I really felt more compelled to continue serving after AmeriCorps.*
- *I am considering future work for non-profits.*
- *Pay more attention to the actual process/procedures of the nonprofit, not just the goals.*
- *They have made me more aware of what types of service I would like to go into and where I would fit best and most enjoy.*
- *It will help us to keep different issues in mind when working with service organizations, such as the real effects of what we're doing.*

Facilitator

Cathy Connolly