

Dear Fellow Retreat Participant,

You are receiving this as a participant of *earthseedsalmoncreek*, a retreat and momentary convergence for POC artists and meditation practitioners, in the redwoods of Mendocino Valley from August 7-14. There will be 13 of us taking part in the retreat.

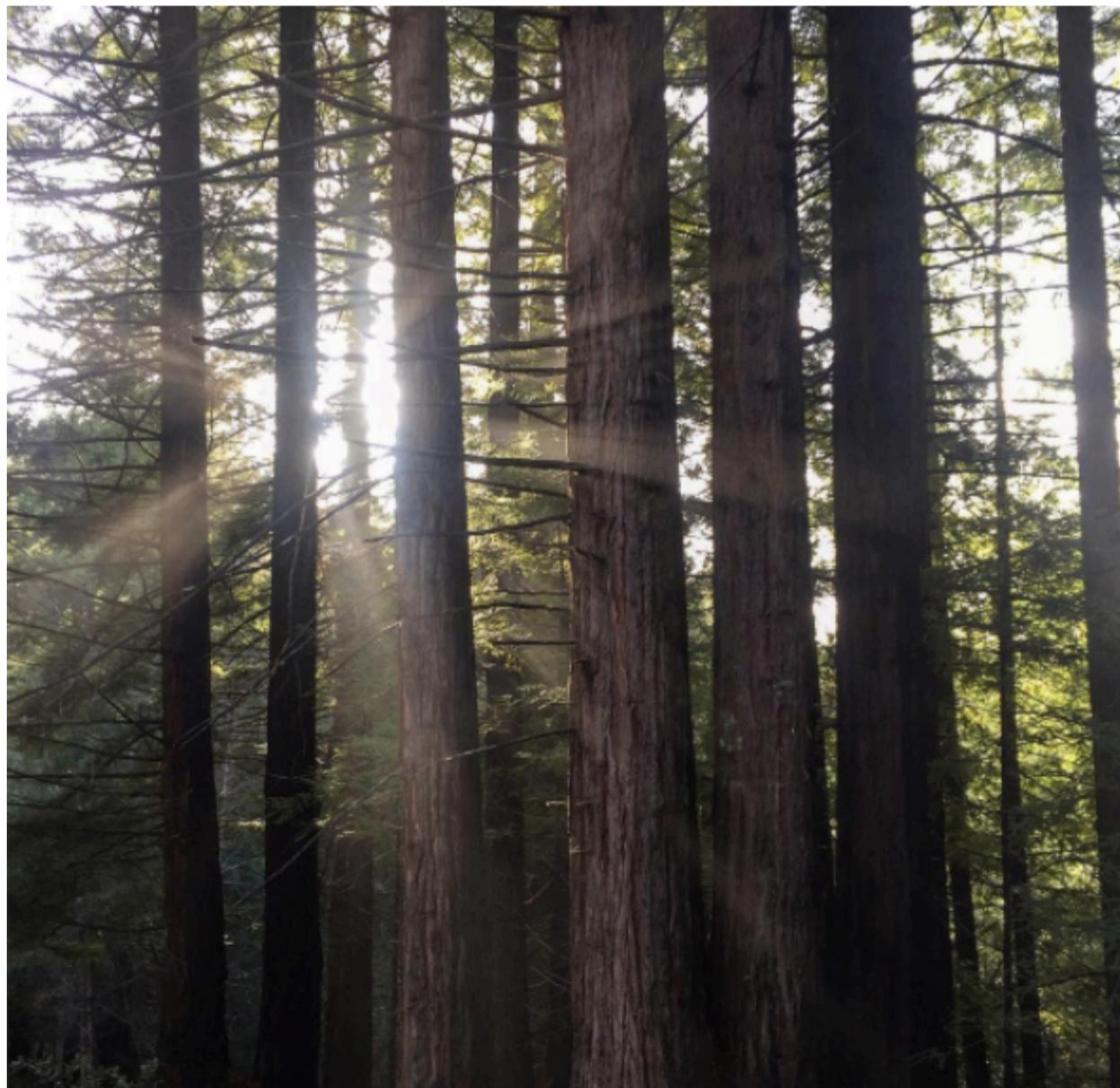
Please take the time to read the attached info packet, as well as the PDF with driving directions, guidelines, cabin supplies, and departure checklist from Salmon Creek Farm. We will have printed versions of the SCF guidelines + reminders for you to sign upon arrival.

Feel free to send along any questions or concerns you may have as we lead up to the retreat.

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earthseedsalmoncreek

earthseedsalmoncreek is meant to be a self-directed space of respite, reflection and renewal for a cohort of POC artists and practitioners, who in different ways ask critical questions of togetherness inside of their creative work and actions. Some people may desire of this retreat a silent meditation experience, others may wish to use this space to engage ideas for an upcoming project, and others may just want to relax, read and hike. We see these all as different facets of research and aim to hold space for how each person wishes to respectfully spend their time. Our dynamic composition of intentions will be anchored by two daily shared meals together (lunch and dinner), as well as optional activities offered by any participant.

Conversations around Octavia Butler's *Parable* series inspired us to put on this retreat. Early on, we decided to name our week earthseed in honor of Butler as a guide for our time. You can access ["The Book of The Living"](#) from *The Parable* series here.

The universe is Godseed.

*Only we are Earthseed. And the Destiny of Earthseed
is to take root among the stars.*

We are Earthseed

*The life that perceives itself
Changing.*

In order to rise

From its own ashes

A phoenix

First

Must

Burn

—Parable of the Sower, Octavia Butler

The site

[Salmon Creek Farm](#) (SCF) is a former commune in Albion Ridge, which was once home to Northern Pomo people in Mendocino county. The farm is now owned and operated by artist Fritz Haeg who is donating the space to us. We will stay in rustic cabins on 35 acres of redwood forest, that Fritz and a rotating team of visitors and SCF regulars have spent the last two and a half years restoring.

You can watch Frieze videos from 2015 about the past, present & future of Salmon Creek Farm: [“Part One: Beginnings”](#) & [“Part Two: Futures”](#) plus this [New York Times story](#) from March 20th, 2016.

The book “West Of Eden: Communes and Utopia in Northern California” begins to give us a deeper history of Albion, and the commune movement of the 1960s in Northern California. There are several copies of West of Eden at SCF, and the excerpt below is from an excellent article by one of the co-authors: [“The Albion Nation: Communes on The Mendocino Coast”](#)

“The ’60s settlers were not the first to migrate to the Mendocino coast. Albion Ridge sits above the village of Albion, where the Albion River, south of Mendocino, empties into the sea. This land was home to Northern Pomo people, inheritors of thousands of years of habitation. The site of the village had been claimed by the Spanish, seeking souls; raided by Russian fur traders; then, in 1822, taken by Mexico until 1850, when it was passed on to an English sea captain who, in the imperial spirit of that age, gave the site and its river the ancient name of England—Albion. Settlers followed, first Americans, both citizens and soldiers. Anglos overwhelmed the Pomo homelands. In a pattern typical of the American West, these newcomers came as conquerors and colonizers. In cruel campaigns, they made “a bad situation worse.” In 1850 alone, 200 Pomo were murdered, their villages ransacked, their lands stolen. In 1856, they were imprisoned in Mendocino, 11 years later, turned out, “homeless, landless, and with no legal rights.” The horrors of these wars stain memory here; the Anglos succeeded in driving out the Pomo, though not entirely. Survivors regrouped, then regrouped again; they continued summer treks through the coastal mountains to the sea to harvest and dry abalone, mussels, clams, seaweed, and salt.”

Past and future (from SCF)

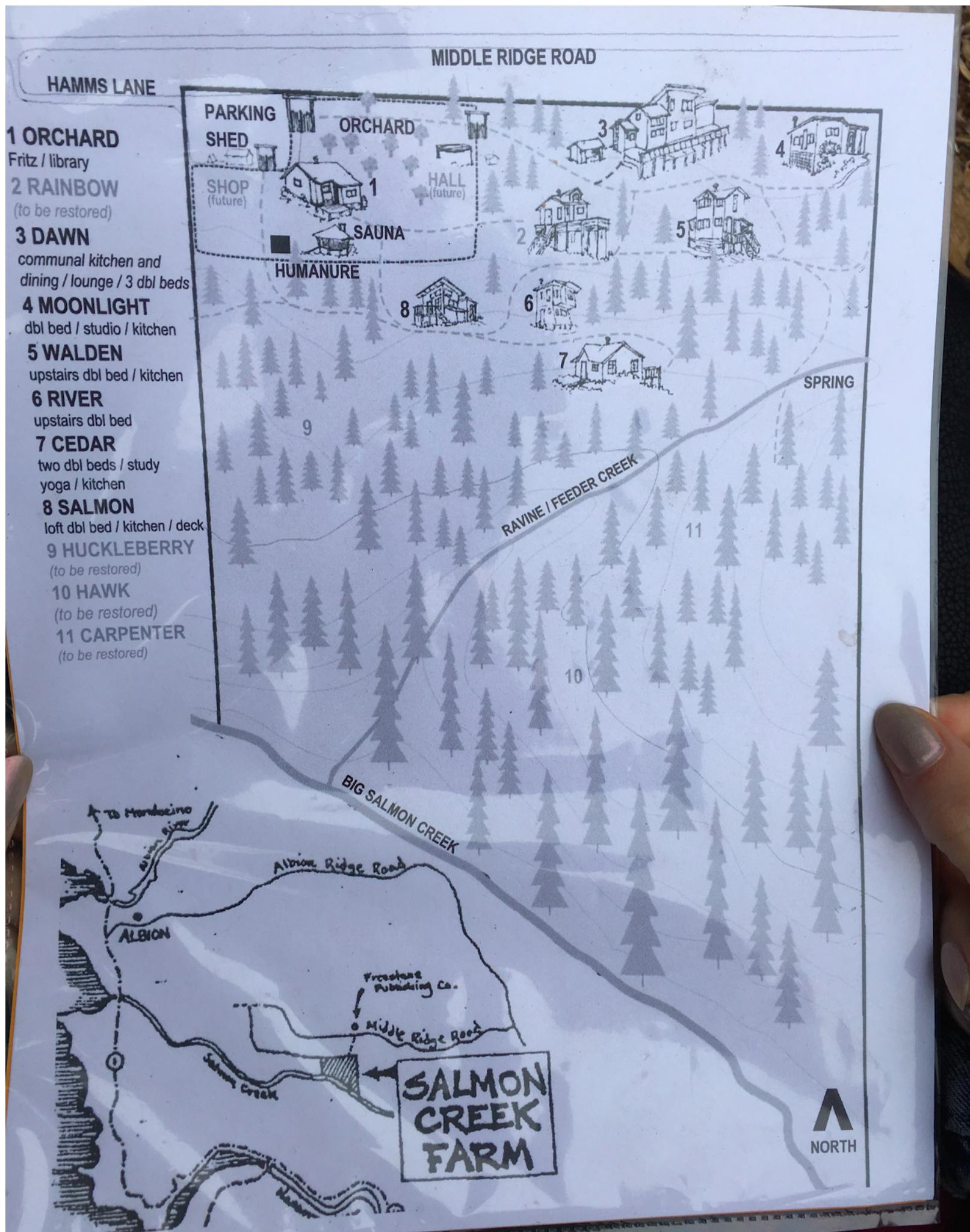
Commune Salmon Creek Farm was established in 1971 by a group of young people looking for something else, craving more than what mainstream culture was offering them. This commune, along with many others in this region at the time, grew out of the student protest culture of the late 60’s, by those disenchanted with the society they were inheriting from previous

generations. They were resisting the war and general mindless consumer conformity, while promoting issues like civil rights, gay liberation and environmental consciousness. They learned how to build their own homes, make their own clothes, grow their own food while living communally.

With its purchase 2014, SCF starts a new chapter as a long-term art project shaped by many hands, a new sort of commune-farm-homestead-sanctuary school hybrid. It continues as a place to take a step back from contemporary urban society, but instead of a fixed group of permanent residents, it is comprised of an extended community of regularly returning comrades: queer-centric and mostly artist-activist-hyphenates (builders, writers, cooks, woodworkers, performers, bakers, gardeners, welders, dancers, weavers, fermenters, singers, publishers, potters, herbalists, farmers, foragers, foresters, poets, etc). SCF is a free-exchange where returning comrades make themselves at home for stays of a week up to a few months, while contributing in some way to daily operations and the ongoing revival (from gardening, cooking, cleaning, tending, trailblazing, building, repairing and chopping wood, to cultural or even financial contributions). Each person on the land asks how their skills/interests/curiosities meet the needs/potentials/resources of SCF. This new community is still in formation and welcoming nominations for first-timers interested in a trial visit.

At SCF we try to...

- ...surrender to the land.
- ...give a little more than we take.
- ...take care of ourselves & each other.
- ...leave things better than we found them.



We are:

Ami Puri

Dunya Alwan

Gabby Miller

Jasmine Nyende

Leu Leung

Marbles Lūk

Raquel Vigil

Sophia Wang

Sierra Pickett

taisha paggett

Wu Li Leung

Xandra Ibarra

Arrival: Monday August 7th

Arrival 1: THIS WILL TAKE TIME

[24000 Windy Hollow Road, Point Arena, CA 95468](#)*

Our friends down the road at [THIS WILL TAKE TIME](#) (TWTT) are opening up their 80 acre farm for us to convene and eat together before we head to Salmon Creek Farm. THIS WILL TAKE TIME is a residency program/non-profit organization located in Point Arena, California. It's about an hour south of Salmon Creek Farm.

Please arrive between 12pm and 2pm.** Please bring a bagged lunch and/or potluck items to share. We will have salad and other food from Salmon Creek and TWTT farm to eat as well.

We will caravan up to Salmon Creek Farm together from Point Arena.

*Driving note: Cell phone service is spotty once you get on CA-1, so you may want to load or print out directions before hand. Mendocino is about a 3 to 3.5 hour drive from The Bay Area. *You can googlemap to 24000 Windy Hollow Road, Point Arena. You'll see a sign that says "this will take time" and number 24000. Come slow on the gravel driveway and keep going round bends til you see the main farmhouse. You can park by the other cars around there.*

**If you aren't able to make it to TWTT, please let us know. Ami and Leu will be onsite at SCF in case you arrive there before the rest of us.

Arrival 2: SALMON CREEK FARM

[32297 Middle Ridge Road, Albion, CA 95410](#) (*)

We aim to arrive to Salmon Creek Farm around 3pm. Fritz and his dog Zucca will be staying in their cabin during our retreat. They will be sticking to his cabin, the orchard and building projects, which are all located at the edge of the property. He will be on site to welcome us, and answer any questions when we arrive. We will all meet in the Dawn cabin at 6PM for a welcome orientation followed by dinner.

Our time together

Mon Aug 7 - Arrival day

11am -2pm Gathering at THIS WILL TAKE TIME in Point Arena

3-5pm Arrival / settling in at SCF

6pm Meeting for orientation in Dawn cabin

6:30pm Dinner

After dusk Full Moon viewing

Sample Tue Aug 8 - Sat Aug 13 schedule

6:30am Milking goats for those who want to with Leu Leung + Ami Puri (except for Wed Aug 9th)

Prepare your own breakfast

9:00am Movement, meditation practice led by Marbles Lūk

Free time

1-2pm Community lunch

Free time / Farm + Garden Skills with Raquel Vigil

6:30-7:30 Community dinner

Free time / sleep time

Mon Aug 14 - Departure day

8am Morning sit

9:30am Breakfast

Clean up, pack up (Please refer to the SCF cabin notes for specific cabin instructions.)

More togetherness and info on offered practices*

__ **Seaweed gathering (Wed Aug 9).** For whomever wants to join, we will go to the ocean for seaweed gathering with Leu Leung + Ami Puri. The low tide is at 7am. We'll plan to leave SCF at 6am.

__ **Salt pool tending (Sat Aug 12).** An outing and lunch picnic with Leu + Ami. Ideally in the morning chunk of time after meditation. For folks who choose to stay at SCF and not go salt pool tending, we will leave them a prepared lunch.

__ The peak of the **perseids meteor shower** is the night of **Sat Aug 12** and morning of **Sun Aug 13th**. "The waning gibbous moon will compete with the perseids, but their numbers and brightness may still provide a rewarding display." Astronomy with Wu Li Leung.

__ **Community eating and silent meal practice.** Our two daily meals, lovingly prepared by Ami and Leu, are the central anchor of our time together and we ask that everyone commit to attending. To further nourish that container, we'd like to practice observing silence for part of our meals. Further details to be provided. (Please also see "seed support" on the next page.)

__ **Ancestor Altar.** Please bring an object(s) that hold(s) the memory of a person/energy/ancestor that you would like to accompany you and that you can share in a collective ancestor altar for our retreat.

__ **Daily movement and meditation practice.** Feel free to join the daily practice led by Marbles--no particular experience required--or respectfully share the time and space doing a practice of your own.

__ **Spend time with the goats!** Join-in for daily early morning milking and hanging with the goats sessions.

__ **Daily Farm + Gardening skills.** Raquel Vigil, farmer/educator, has offered to take the lead on any farm / gardening chores that need to be done and offer retreat participants some guided instruction working with the plants. All are welcomed to join.

__ **Voluntary electronics cleanse.** To help bring our whole attention to the land and space, people are invited to check-in electronic items they feel might cause them unwelcomed distraction, such as cell phones, computers etc. We'll keep them in a safe place for the duration of the retreat. For those of us who will stay plugged in, there is excellent wifi throughout the property.

__Personal time to walk down to Salmon Creek/read /write/retreat/respectfully do whatever you want.

__**Building an archive.** Following the retreat we'd like to produce an archive/document of this happening though don't know yet what that means or entails. Perhaps asking everyone to collect a few items, mementos, from the retreat that can be later organized into a distributable catalogue? Perhaps you have another idea? Please share. More details later.

__***Is there a practice or activity that you would like to share? Please do and we'll add to the schedule.**

Seed Support

To keep costs down and collectively support the space, we ask that each person sign up for at least 3 kitchen shifts/"seed support" jobs. You will be able to sign up for shifts on arrival.

The daily shifts are:

12-1pm lunch prep

2-3pm lunch clean up

5:30-6:30pm dinner prep

7:30-8:30pm dinner clean up

Dana and gift economy thinking

Fritz's donation of the site, research funds culled from UC Riverside, love and volunteer action is supporting this retreat so that the only out-of-pocket expense we anticipate participants having is individual transportation to and from the site, and whatever additional items one wishes to acquire to support their experience. Furthermore, both SCF and *earthseedsalmoncreek* seek to operate on just and sustainable models of exchange and compensation such as gift economics and the practice of Dana. We invite you to participate in whatever manner you see fit and are able to do at this time.

There is no set fee for visiting SCF. Costs are minimal, with expenses such as toilet paper, propane for cooking & showers, electricity, and food staples / stocking the pantry. The daily cost

per person is estimated between 5 and 15 dollars a day. This cost has largely been covered. You are welcome to donate towards covering the cost of your time or for future visitors at SCF, in whatever way works for you.

More on Gift Economics + Dana

Here is a some useful language, and resources about **Dana/Gift Economics** from the East Bay Meditation Center. More here: <https://eastbaymeditation.org/resources/gifteconomics/>

Donations to SCF may be offered, now or later, in many forms. If you're looking, here as a few suggestions:

- Funds to support current and/ future endeavours.
- Cash donations accepted in a jar in the kitchen that goes to food pantry + upkeep of supplies
- Books and music records to build a POC-centric library at SCF (to keep at SCF or just for the duration of our retreat);
- Offering of your time and energy to support maintenance, land and/or building projects at SCF, now or in the future;
- Tea and coffee to share at the retreat , non perishables to keep your individual cabin stocked during your stay and in the future.

Daily being and observances at Salmon Creek Farm

Communal Space

Dawn is a communal cabin and where we will have our daily collective meals. You are also welcome to go there to make breakfast and snacks, or cook/hang out at any time. There will be breakfast items like eggs, grains, and greens that will be provided for you to cook.

Cabins

Many of the cabins are outfitted with small kitchenettes (coffee making equipment, cups and plates, small fridge and a stovetop). You may want to bring food/snack and drink that you especially would like to have with you. Please do bring your own coffee / teas. Bedding + towels are provided in all cabins. There are rechargeable headlamps in the cabins as well. Please read the accompanying Salmon Creek Farm PDF for a detailed list of what other cabin supplies are provided. There are outhouses with pit toilets, that you will be responsible for emptying out throughout the week. The cabins have outdoor showers, heated by propane tanks. Electricity bills can run high. Please turn off all lights when not in use.

Local markets

There is a small grocery store in Albion, and natural food store [Corners of The Mouth](#) + bigger grocery store [Harvest Market](#) in Mendocino, about 20 minutes North, if you find yourself in need of some particular supply.

Salmon Creek Farm is considered a **sanctuary space**. Please keep to and be quiet on footpaths and refrain from inviting unannounced guests. Please also help in observing the following:

*We aim for zero trash. Be mindful of what you bring to the space... Our kitchens, food, and cooking are **local, organic, packaging-free (as much as possible), and plant-based/vegetarian**. When deciding what to cook, we work from the kitchen outwards, first using left-overs, pantry items, in-stock produce, harvests from the gardens, orchard & woods, and then sourcing foods from local farmer friends (Nye Ranch and Fortunate Farm) and Mendocino workers co-op (Corners of the Mouth).*

When packing for and during your time in retreat, we also ask everyone to participate in upholding a **chemical and fragrance-free environment**. The following is helpful: *To provide a chemical and fragrance free event, we request that participants refrain from the following before or during the event: Wearing colognes, perfumes or scented oils; and using chemical based laundry detergents or fabric softeners. We ask participants to wear something that has had limited exposure to the items above.* For more info: How to be Fragrance Free by Peggy Munson <http://www.peggymunson.com/mcs/fragrancefree.htm>

Learn how to spot and avoid **poison oak** (<http://www.poison-ivy.org/pacific-poison-oak>) and do check for **ticks** (https://www.trails.com/how_1198_check-for-ticks.html) promptly after spending time in grasses or woods. Also be sure to wash up after spending time with the goats as they can pick up poison oak.

****Please refer to the SCF cabin notes for additional space observations and guidelines.****

What to pack

- Whatever clothes you want to wear for the week that will ensure your comfort. (NOTE: The washer dryer is not available for personal use.)
- Clothes you can garden in if you want to garden, or if you want to handle goats who have been frolicking in poison oak.
- Clothing and favorite items for movement and sitting practice if you chose to participate
- Swim stuff for the swimming hole / jumping in the ocean possibilities
- Also For Sea + Salt + Seaweed + Surf outings:
 - Water-shoes or booties for seaweed gathering if you have them (not necessary but helpful)
 - Wetsuits + surfboards (Not necessary but fun - we will try to gather extra for folks who are interested)
 - Scissors and bags for harvesting seaweed into
 - Leu and Ami (our goat guardians and seaweed gathering guides) invite people to bring any prayers/songs/offerings to share in the group or privately for our gathering outings.
- Sunscreen / Sun Hat
- Toiletries - Soap/Shampoo for showering
- Ancestor altar item(s)
- Books + Journals and other things that you'd like to accompany you
- Coffee/ tea and additional food items that you'll want during the week
- **Musical instruments**
- Donations to the space, project (money funds, records, books, etc.)
- Remember to keep it chemical and fragrance-free please

FURTHER RESOURCES / THINGS ON OUR MINDS

More Land Projects Nearby

[Groundswell POC gathering in Boonville](#)

[This Will Take Time in Point Arena](#)

[Fancyland - Off the grid queer land project in Arcata](#)

Seeds

...are on our mind. Ancestral seed swapping and seed banking has been a topic of conversation. In case people are interested, here are some links:

<http://sierraseeds.org/>

<http://www.seedsavers.org/>

<https://www.southernexposure.com/>

<http://www.kitazawaseed.com/>

<https://strictlymedicinalseeds.com/>

<http://tierranegrafarm.org/>

<https://seedkeeping.tumblr.com/>

More

[“The Book of The Living”](#) from The Parable series by Octavia Butler

[Emergent Strategy by Adrienne Marie Brown](#) Inspired by Octavia Butler's explorations of our human relationship to change, *Emergent Strategy* is radical self-help, society-help, and planet-help designed to shape the futures we want to live.

[THE UNIVERSE IS LIT](#) The Universe is Lit: Bay Area Black and Brown Punk Fest taking place August 3rd-6th.

[The Ecotopian Toolkit](#) Resources gathered for recent conference on the anthropocene and utopian thought.

“Looking toward the future, we ask how utopian scenarios might prompt the kinds of integrated knowledge production Anthropocene entanglements require. Might a utopian turn help us navigate warmer, rising waters? Can it help build refuge? Can the utopian imaginary help us design tools, both conceptual and material, to make worlds that are simultaneously less carbon-intensive, more equitable, more mutually entangled, and available for visions of other possible futures? Can the utopian imaginary help to conceptualize environmental problems so that their solutions are participatory? Collaborative? Multi-lingual? Open-ended? Hopeful?”

We are interested in shedding light on the past and futures of utopian thought not as an escape from the urgency and violence of the Anthropocene, but as a productive response. Utopian explorations, in historian of science Donna Haraway’s formulation, open the possibility “for weaving something other than a shroud for the day after the apocalypse that so prophetically ends salvation history.”

THANK YOU FOR READING!

