

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

OCTOBER, 2017

**All events will be held on Monday evenings, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, at Saint Susanna Parish Hall, 262 Needham Street, Dedham.**

**There will be a refreshments break. There are no fees, there is no charge for refreshments, and there is no pre-registration requirement.**

**Free Will offerings are gratefully accepted to cover our costs.**

### **October 16, 2017 – Roland Merullo/Religion and Current Politics.**

We live in a country divided by partisan politics, in a world torn apart by hatred and war. What if Jesus, alarmed at how the U.S. has lost its compassion for the poor and the immigrants, dismayed at how his teachings have been distorted and used by politicians and religious



zealots to turn love into hatred and faith into a call for arms, returns and announces he is running for President? The notion of Jesus coming to earth and running for President was at the heart of one of

Roland Merullo's novels, "**American Savior**", but it grew out of an idea he's wrestled with in many of his books: "How is one to behave in this imperfect world?" and "As Christians, what should our response be to the divisiveness and anger in America now?". Roland will discuss these questions in his presentation, and very much looks forward to give-and-take during the question and answer period.

A bit about Roland Merullo - Roland 's most recent book is the "**Delight of Being Ordinary: A Road Trip with the Pope and [the] Dalai**

**Lama”** His books range from suspense novels (Fidel's Last Days, A Russian Requiem, Revere Beach Boulevard, The Return) to love stories (A Little Love Story, The Talk-Funny Girl, Leaving Losapas) to golf and travel books (Golfing with God, Passion for Golf, The Italian Summer, Taking the Kids to Italy) to humorous spiritual road trips (Breakfast with Buddha, Lunch with Buddha, Dinner with Buddha, Golfing with God, American Savior).

### **October 30, 2017 - Native American Spirituality: Cultivating the**



### **3Rs: Respect, Reciprocity, Responsibility as Indigenous Practices.**

Professor Joyce Rain Anderson will be our speaker. Last season Brayton Shanley, in speaking with us about Standing Rock, mentioned how awed he was by the spirituality displayed at that event. In this presentation our

speaker will address that topic directly. Joyce Rain Anderson traces her heritage to Algonquin, Wampanoag, English, and Irish ancestors. She received her BA and MA from the University of Massachusetts Boston and her Ph.D. in 2005 from the University of New Hampshire. She is Associate Professor of English at Bridgewater State University; there she teaches first year writing, upper-level courses, and graduate courses, and is currently developing Global Indigenous Literatures and Writing. Currently, she is the Faculty Associate for the Pine Ridge Partnership where she works with Red Cloud Indian School in Pine Ridge South Dakota. Her co-edited collection, *Survivance, Sovereignty, and Story: Teaching Indigenous Rhetorics* was released in November 2015 from

Utah State University Press, and has received an honorable mention for the 2017 Outstanding Book Award from CCCC.

In this talk Professor Anderson will demonstrate how the culture, history and spirituality of indigenous peoples are intertwined: *“Prominently situated in front of the dorms on a broad walkway through the Bridgewater State University campus, our two sustainable, organic garden beds mirror each other. In the middle of each, the three sisters are planted in the tradition of our ancestors. In the process of preparing, planting, and harvesting we can listen to their stories. These plants are our relatives. The plants become the teachers and we must listen to their stories. In doing so, we bring their teachings into our lives and learn to live in relationship with one another.”*