DO LOCAL FOODS, NEW AGE SENSIBILITIES, AND SLOW GROWTH MOVEMENTS PROMOTE PROVINCIALITY AND INTOLERANCE?

Tuesday, November 4, 2014
5:30 - 7 p.m.
Sedona Public Library, Community Room

Facilitated by: Dr. Aaron Rizzieri

5:30 p.m.
Welcome and Introduction
Ms. Andrea Houchard, Director, Philosophy in the Public Interest

5:45 p.m.
Community Discussion
Dr. Aaron Rizzieri

1) What values do movements such as local foods and slow growth promote?

2) Have these movements gained in popularity in Flagstaff/Sedona in recent years? If so, why?

3) Are there negative impacts of these movements for the residents of Flagstaff/Sedona? If so, what are they?

4) How, if at all, do these movements promote provinciality, intolerance, or elitism?

6:50 p.m.
Closing Questions and Recap of Discussion

We are grateful for support from NAU’s W.A. Franke College of Business and the McKenzie Endowment for Democracy.
1) What do values inherent in movements such as local foods and slow growth promote?

**Local food movement**: “a collaborative effort to build more locally-based, self-reliant food economies—one in which sustainable food production, processing, distribution, and consumption is integrated to enhance the economic, environmental and social health of a particular place.”

- Usually, “local foods” are considered foods from local independent farmers. However, “local” food could refer to food produced within a home, a farm, businesses within a city, businesses within a state, or the businesses and farms from the surrounding states.
- Organic food that is not grown “locally” may be deemed less-than foods produced locally, organic or not. In the same light, foods that are produced locally may not be organic or made under humane conditions.

**Slow growth movement**: suggests concentrating growth or compacting it in different ways so as to keep open, easy-access communities. There is also an interest in slowing economic growth in the interest of protecting the natural environment and businesses or communities already present.

**Slow city movement**: This movement is similar to slow growth, but is more interested in cultural values. In general, it aims to work towards creating less polluted physical environments, conserving local aesthetic traditions, and fostering local crafts, produce, and cuisine. Additional goals and values of this movement include:

- Using technology to create healthier environments, to make citizens aware of the value of more leisurely rhythms to life, and share their experience in seeking solutions for better living.
- Educating consumers about local options.

2) Have these movements gained in popularity in Flagstaff/Sedona in recent years? If so, why?

Community members have embraced the local food movement and they see growth in community markets and gardens, organic grocers as well as backyard gardeners.

- For example, what can be called the “local beef movement” aims to preserve and enhance the western landscape. As a result, Flagstaff consumers can choose to have beef made from range-fed or feedlot cows. Diablo Burger’s Derrick Widmark has said “we want people who live here… or visit here to taste food and place” by doing so they “strengthen their connection to this place.”
- The Flagstaff and Sedona Farmers Markets allow independent growers and producers to get together and sell local goods.

There has also been some interest in slow growth and slow city movements in both communities due to an interest in preserving the surrounding environment, preexisting businesses, or residential areas.

3) Are there negative impacts of these movements for the residents of Flagstaff/Sedona? If so, what are they?

Economically, these movements could conceivably be high cost to the community:

- It keeps money circulating within the local economy and promotes a smaller carbon footprint because of less influence from industrialization.
- Making local agriculture efficient for a large economy could lead to an increase in production costs therefore making the food more expensive to purchase.
The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) found that “households spend more money on food when incomes rise, but food represents a smaller portion of income as they allocate additional funds to other goods.”

Where are we spending our money on food? The graph below illustrates the change in consumer price index (CPI) of various food categories between the second quarter of 2013 and the second quarter of 2014:

"Consumer Price Index" can be defined as a measure showing the weighted average of prices of a basket of consumer goods and services.
Slow growth and slow city movements may lead to Flagstaff and Sedona being left behind economically and technologically at the cost of wanting to preserve culture, business, and the natural environment already present.

Overall, the movements may be more supported by those who can afford to spend a little extra money on locally grown foods or increased cost of living because of the city’s desire to stay compact and environmentally friendly.

4) How, if at all, do these movements promote provinciality, intolerance, or elitism?

Intolerance vs. Elitism:

- **Intolerance**: unwillingness to tolerate or respect the views, beliefs, or behaviors of others.
- **Elitism**: attitude of one belonging to a group of high status or power.

“Social exclusion” is defined by the Department of International Development as a process where certain groups are systematically disadvantaged through discrimination on the basis of their social class, migrant status, or where they live, or other trait.

In applying these concepts to Flagstaff and Sedona, it may be useful to ask the following:

- Are Flagstaff and Sedona actively or casually excluding others from participating in their respective communities as a result of the aforementioned movements?
- Are these communities perhaps unintentionally fostering intolerance towards those who have different consumer habits, lifestyles, and views of economic expansion?
- If there is such exclusion, intolerance, or elitism, what forms does it take?

An important concept to consider when thinking about the individual’s relationship to the community is **cosmopolitanism**: “the idea that all human beings, regardless of their political affiliation, are (can or should be) citizens in a single community” as defined by the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy.

- Cosmopolitanism also references thinking about how we view our relationship with other community members, the local government, and cultures.
- Are we then citizens of our local cities? Or are we citizens of the world? Where do we lay our responsibilities to each other socially, economically, and politically?

Sources
http://www.earthsfriends.com/local-food-movement/
http://www.planetizen.com/node/21630
http://sedona-farmers-market.com/restaurants/
http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/cosmopolitanism/
HOT TOPICS CAFÉ COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

The “hot topics” in the Hot Topics Cafés are selected by community members that represent diverse constituencies and viewpoints. We thank our committee for their participation.

*Voted on Fall, 2014 “Hot Topics.”

Flagstaff & Winslow
*Celia Barotz
Flagstaff City Council
*Frankie Beesley
Program Coordinator, Friends of Flagstaff’s Future
*Joe Boles
Professor Emeritus, NAU College of Arts and Letters
*Carynn Davis
Executive Director, The Literacy Center
*Coral Evans
Flagstaff City Council
Jean Malecki-Friedland
MD MPH; County Director and Chief Medical Professor and Chair, Preventive Medicine and Public Health, Miami Miller School of Medicine; Co-Founder, The Compassion Project
*Jacque Gencarelle
Northern Arizona Behavioral Health Association
*Barbara Hickman
Superintendent, Flagstaff Unified School District
*Bob James
Retired from Lockheed Martin Space Systems; Member, The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany; Member and Docent Museum of Northern Arizona; Adjunct Math Instructor Northern Arizona University; Member, The Boy Scouts of America—Silver Beaver
*Sherman Stephens
Flagstaff Community
*Craig Van Slyke
Dean, NAU W.A. Franke College of Business
*Michael Vincent
Dean, NAU College of Arts and Letters
*Harriet Young
President, American Association of University Women; Chair, Flagstaff SpeakOut AZ

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Jona Vance
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Robin Weeks
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Yavapai College, Sedona Center
Randy Wilson
Arizona Daily Sun

Sedona & the Verde Valley
Karen Daines
Assistant City Manager, Sedona
Paul Friedman
Sedona Citizens for Civil Dialogue
*Darrin Karuzas
Principal, Sedona Red Rock High School
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Keep Sedona Beautiful; Board Member, Verde River Basin Partnership
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*Steve Segner
Owner, El Portal; Chair, Lodging Council, Sedona Chamber of Commerce
Jessica Williamson
Sedona City Council

Ex officio
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NEXT SEDONA HOT TOPICS CAFÉ:
What is Sustainability and What Are the Costs and Benefits?

Wednesday, November 19, 2014
Yavapai College, Sedona Center
Sponsored by OLLI
5:30 - 7 p.m.