

CARP Las Vegas hosts Online Two-Day Divine Principle Retreat

Can't host gatherings with more than 10 people? No problem! CARP Las Vegas hosted its *first-ever* monthly retreat virtually through Zoom on March 24th and 25th. The workshop consisted of 27 participants including CARP Bay Area and CARP Arizona.

Mother Moon mentioned that, in the age of the internet, we have the ability to connect with the rest of the world in an instant. CARP Las Vegas team wanted to seize this time of 'shelter-at-home' as an opportunity to explore the way to stay connected with friends and spread the word and love of God. The team met and discussed at lengths how they could convey the spiritual message online and at the same time communicate the spirit, heart, and love.

The aim of the workshop is to present the Divine Principle in a way that is very practical, and applicable to life. The lecturers were Augustine Maddox, Jennifer Silerio, Juan Morales -- who were giving lectures for the first time -- and the CARP UNLV Vice President, Ryota Naito. By including personal testimonials and practical action steps, all lecturers intended to make some essential concepts of the Principle more relatable and relevant to the daily life of young adults.

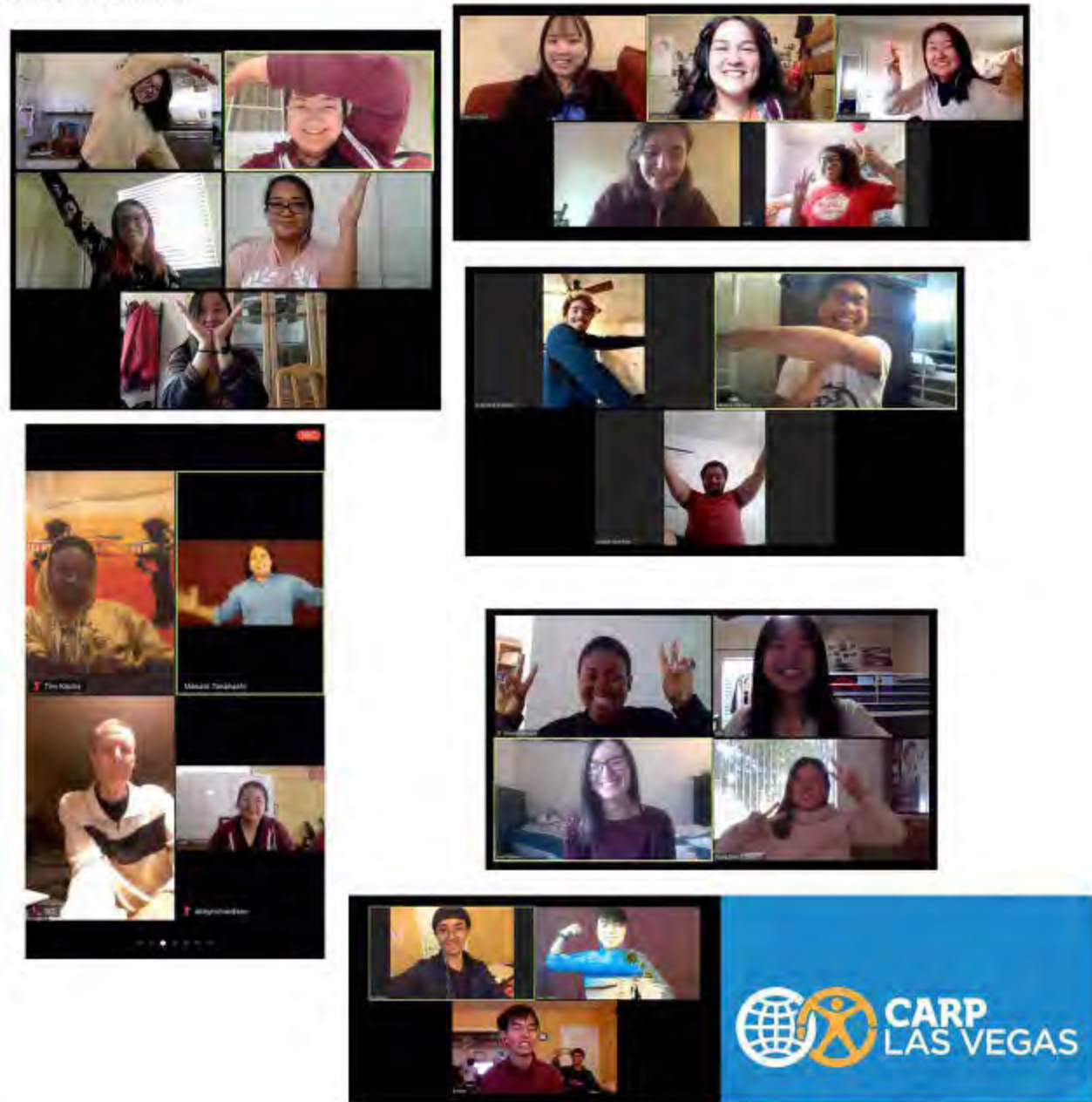
Ms. Silerio and Mr. Morales are both recent CARP graduates, who had studied the Divine Principle and joined CARP while they were attending the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV). Both having transformational experiences themselves through studying the content, they committed to give similar life-changing experiences to others by volunteering to give lectures this time. They were able to share their personal experiences of how the Principle transformed their views about life and the world, and many participants felt deeply touched by their lectures.

Photos of Lecturers:



As usual, all participants were divided into groups or 'families.' Ice breakers and bonding activities were done to create a sense of belonging and connection with each other within families. Discussions after each lecture allowed the participants to gain deeper insights into the lecture contents through listening to what others understood and asking questions.

Retreat Families:



Having a workshop virtually definitely posed the challenge of having limited interaction with the participants. However, in the end, everyone was simply happy to be able to connect in the heart beyond the limitation of distance. One participant shared: "Even though the virus was spreading and the workshop was a virtual one, still could feel the love from everyone and realized nothing can block the power of LOVE. It was a great workshop - almost like an in-person workshop. And it was a nice opportunity to meet various people from other areas."

With much helpful feedback from the participants, the team is talking about how to improve and planning to host another retreat on April 17th and 18th, inviting more out-of-state participants. Nothing is going to stop God's love from spreading to the world!

Additional Photos:

