

**Saturday Featured Speaker: John DeGraaf**  
([johndegraaf.com](http://johndegraaf.com))



This year's featured speaker is nationally acclaimed John DeGraaf, author, filmmaker, speaker and activist with a mission to help create a happy, healthy and sustainable quality of life for America. John has been a keynote speaker at numerous conferences and has lectured in more than one hundred American universities and in other countries including Brazil, the UK, the United Arab Emirates, Canada, Hungary, Mexico and Austria (upcoming in September, 2017). Videos of some of his speeches can be viewed on his website; [johndegraaf.com](http://johndegraaf.com). Others are available on line in written form. We are extremely pleased and honored to have him back at WOYP this year!

John has written numerous books including: *Affluenza*, *Take Back Your Time*, *What's the Economy for Anyway* as well as a *Memoir*. He is currently working on 2 new books: *Make America Beautiful Again* and *The Backpacking Theory of Life*.

John DeGraaf produced 40 documentaries and many more shorter films of 5-15 minutes in length receiving more than 100 regional, national and international awards for filmmaking. *The John de Graaf Environmental Filmmaking Award* is presented annually at the Wild and Scenic Film Festival in Nevada City, California. 15 of his documentaries have been broadcast nationally in primetime on PBS, including the popular special AFFLUENZA. His 1985 film VISIBLE TARGET was called "wondrously well-done" by John Corry of *The New York Times* and his 2005 film SILENT KILLER was chosen by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to celebrate its 60th anniversary. John has taught filmmaking at the University of Washington (extension), The Evergreen State College and Boston University's Center for Digital Imaging Arts. He worked as an in-house independent producer of documentaries for KCTS, the Seattle PBS affiliate, from 1982-2014.

Per his website, John DeGraaf believes that all of us must work actively for justice and sustainability. He is the co-founder and president of Take Back Your Time, co-founder of the Happiness Alliance, former policy director of the Simplicity Forum and founder of the emerging organization, Make America Beautiful Again. He is a senior advisor to Earth Economics, an ecosystem services organization, a board member of Earth Island Institute, and an advisory board member of the Donella Meadows Institute. He was an advisor to the government of Bhutan in 2013 and to the Happiness Ministry of the United Arab Emirates in 2017.

John has been involved in the Berkeley Free Speech Movement, Volunteers in Service to America, the University of Wisconsin anti-Vietnam War movement, Students for a

Democratic Society, the Wisconsin Alliance, the Venceremos Brigade, the Minnesota Farmer-Labor Association, the New American Movement, Democratic Socialists of America, the Washington Commonwealth Federation, the Democratic Party, the Northwest Progressive Institute, the Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth, Sustainable Seattle, the Balaton Sustainability Group, and many other social justice and environmental causes.

In addition to speaking on Saturday, Friday evening will feature John DeGraaf's latest film - REDEFINING PROSPERITY: THE GOLD RUSHES OF NEVADA CITY (<https://www.redefiningprosperityfilm.com>) followed by discussion with John. This film is the story of the transformation of culture and economy in California's largest Gold Rush town -- Nevada City. With its legacies of environmental devastation and extreme mistreatment of both the native Nisenan Indian people as well as the immigrant workers who built many of the mines, Nevada City citizens transformed it into a model community with emphasis on protected common resources, respect for others, local organic foods, artistic creativity, tourism, and citizen engagement. It's the story of how the fight to save the beautiful Yuba River from being dammed by a foreign corporation brought together previously conflicted segments of the community. Prosperity provides a powerful message about the importance of working together at the local level to make great changes that can reverberate around the world. A little town in California's Sierra Foothills shows us how.