

Unheard Voices

More diverse voices should be heard throughout the Goshen city to promote the acceptance of differences. One voice that is often not talked about here is the voice of people who have more diverse beliefs. Me and others who don't believe in God have agreed that it's hard to talk about your beliefs sometimes when people make you feel like you shouldn't because you are different. Goshen could be a more suitable space and safe space for people of all if these voices could be heard. Many people have different experiences with religion and that should be accepted throughout the city and in order for this to happen, more people need to be heard.

I personally have my own religious experiences as well which makes me realize how these people with stories are not heard. I was raised in a Christian family for the most part except for my father who did witchcraft for a little while and now believes in reincarnation. My grandma and grandpa taught me about God and the rules that came with it. At a certain point I started making my own decisions and when this happened I was always told I would end up in hell. Having this shoved down my throat long enough I decided to explore my beliefs and now I currently do witchcraft and believe in Mother Nature as my sort of Goddess. My mother, father, step dad, and brother are supportive of my decisions but it doesn't mean society is. I once was making friends with a boy and he mentioned how his family goes to church. I looked and nodded. "Where do you go to church?" the boy asked, looking at me.

"I don't go to church, I don't believe in God." I responded a little worried.

"Then what do you believe in?" He asked but this time a little more interested. I looked at him and explained the whole witchcraft and Mother Nature thing. "You know you're going to hell then because you hate God," he said, trying to hurt me or something.

I looked up at him and responded, "There's a difference between Satanic and other kinds of witchcraft, I'm a mix of green and hedratary witch. Plus, I don't do things like hexes since anything you do comes back at you three times worse."

He looked confused now, "I was always told about sacrifices and things like that."

"Some witches do that but not most," I responded understandably. Sadly due to how religious Goshen is nothing has been done by the city itself to promote these differences being talked about.

Things to help make these beliefs more known and have people with different beliefs heard is to have more things like rally's to help people share their stories. More people can know they are not alone and more can also accept that more diverse religions are not something to fight about. We could also add some of these different beliefs into our school systems along with Christianity so more people are taught at a young age. When things are introduced to younger kids they have an easier time adapting to it.

Diverse voices should be known across the city to help make it a place for all. Goshen is a very religious city so it is hard for people with diverse people to be heard and be accepted but hopefully CRC can help with this since they helped people of different color. This city has made great changes throughout the years and hearing these voices so we can be more accepted is something that should be worked on even if it will take time for people to adjust.