

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 3, 2008

Contact: Anaïs Dervaes  
(626) 844-4586  
info@pathtofreedom.com

**Path to Freedom Presents a Screening of  
*Shall We Gather At the River***

On November 23, Path to Freedom – Urban Homestead will host a vegetarian potluck followed by a screening of the documentary *Shall We Gather At the River*.

This event will be held 5-9 PM on the grounds of 626 Cypress Ave. in Pasadena. Suggested donation is \$10. Space is limited so reservations are necessary. To reserve, please call (626) 844-4586 or register online at [www.pathtofreedom.com/form/eventregistration.htm](http://www.pathtofreedom.com/form/eventregistration.htm).

**About the Film:**

A hundred years ago one man wrote a book that changed America. The man was Upton Sinclair. The book was *The Jungle*. It exposed the scandalous rancid health conditions inside the country's meat processing plants and led to the passage of landmark federal legislation that regulated health and sanitation in meat processing for the first time in our history. A heart stopping new documentary, *Shall We Gather At the River* (2008; 90 minutes; directed by Don McCorkell), has just been released which exposes a huge health and environmental scandal in our modern industrial system of meat and poultry production.

The health and environmental damage documented in today's factory farms far exceeds the damage that Sinclair could have imagined a century ago. Some scientists have condemned current factory farm practices, calling them "mini Chernobyls." The European Union stands virtually alone in establishing strong health and environmental standards for the industry. In the U.S and elsewhere the meat and poultry industry is dominated by dangerous use of arsenic, antibiotics, growth hormones and by the dumping of massive amounts of sewage in fragile waterways and environments.

The film documents the vast catastrophic impact on the environment and public health. It focuses on individual lives damaged and destroyed. As one observer noted, if terrorists did this, we would be up in arms, but when it is a Fortune 500 company, it is just "business as usual." The film follows the work of a handful of courageous activists and leaders who have faced intimidation and death threats and witnessed the profound impact of political abuse and corruption. In 1906, public outrage at the scandal exposed by Sinclair led to major reforms that cleaned up a corrupt and dangerous system. It is the hope of the filmmakers of *Shall We Gather At the River* that their film will mobilize a similar public outcry for reform.

**About the Potluck:**

For the vegetarian potluck, attendees are encouraged to contribute food produced within a 100-mile radius of their homes (Santa Barbara to San Diego). If that's not possible, then strive to purchase organic foods grown within the closest distance.

—MORE—

## ***Shall We Gather at the River Screening and Potluck (cont.)***

### **About Path to Freedom:**

Sponsoring organization Path to Freedom is a family-operated, viable urban homestead project established by Jules Dervaes in 2001 to promote a simpler and more fulfilling lifestyle and to sow a “homegrown revolution™” against the corporate powers that control the food supply.

Since the mid-1980s, members of the Dervaes family have steadily worked at transforming their ordinary city lot in Pasadena into a thriving organic micro farm that supplies them with food all year round. The family also runs a successful home business providing their surplus produce to local restaurants. Through their adventures in growing and preserving their own food, installing a solar power system, home-brewing biodiesel for fuel, raising backyard farm animals, and learning back-to-basics skills, these modern-day pioneers have revived the old-fashioned spirit of self-reliance and resourcefulness. Since 2001, their website, [www.PathtoFreedom.com](http://www.PathtoFreedom.com), has inspired hundreds of thousands to take steps towards a sustainable future and has generated a 21st century urban homestead movement.

**—END—**