

Spirituality Network Newsletter

Fall
2007

Taste and See What The Spirituality Network Has to Offer

Saturday, September 29, 2007, 8:45am-3pm, Gender Road Christian Church, 5336 Gender Road, Canal Winchester. Registration: \$20* if PREPAID by September 27; \$35* at the door (includes lunch and all materials).

Did you know that The Spirituality Network has a wealth of resource members who can help you on your journey of spiritual discovery? Come and learn more about opportunities to express your spirituality and experience practices that can enhance your faith life. Choose up to three sessions from a variety of spiritual practices (session topics subject to change):

Spiritual Direction for groups and individuals
Ignatian Prayer
Centering Prayer
Creativity

Taizé Worship
Praying with Icons
Labyrinth
Reiki
And more

Each session will introduce the practice with some history, development and relevance, followed by an experience that will give participants a "taste" of the practice.

Please visit our website: www.spiritualitynetwork.org for registration form and session descriptions or phone: 614/228-8867. (*scholarships are available, please call to inquire)

We would love to come to your church, group or organization to introduce our resources for spiritual growth. Call Amanda Stone Cushing: 614/228-8867 to learn more.

The Spirituality Network, Inc. provides:

- Education and formation through the Wellstreams Training Program
- Spiritual direction referrals for groups and individuals
- Retreat planning and facilitation
- Programs to foster the spiritual life
- Connection to a variety of spirituality resources in central Ohio

As an ecumenical organization, the Spirituality Network serves people both within and outside of religious institutions.

Patricia J. Gibboney
Executive Director
pjgibbo@aol.com

Carol Ann Spencer O.P.
Wellstreams Director
carol.spencer1@juno.com

Amanda Stone Cushing
Program Coordinator
ascushing4@hotmail.com

614/228-8867
fax: 614/228-8975
spiritnetwk@hotmail.com
spiritualitynetwork.org

Sandra Kerka
Newsletter Editor
kerka.l@osu.edu

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Sacred Feminine Discussion Group

Second Tuesday of each month, 2-4pm, at First Congregational Church, 444 E Broad St. Free will donations gratefully accepted. All are welcome. RSVP: 228-8867.

Sacred Feminine Discussion Group will resume meeting on the second Tuesday of each month, September–December. Topics are presented in an inclusive, supportive atmosphere. Please RSVP so that we can plan accordingly for space, materials, and refreshments.

September 11, 2007, *Remembrance*. Reflecting on the deep loss of September 11, 2001, we will explore some of the women of scripture who mourned and what they can teach us about loss and hope. Facilitator: Amanda Stone Cushing. This first meeting of the season will also provide opportunities to offer suggestions and ideas for this season's series. Come with your ideas!

October 9, 2007, *Your Good Body* based on the book by Eve Ensler. Facilitated by Betsy Buchal-Condon. The format will include several readings from the book, with time for individual reflection and response, as well as group discussion. The final reading will be the author's account of going to the secret ice-cream eating place in Afghanistan—as we join in the sacred act of eating the forbidden ice cream!

Future Dates (topics to be announced): November 13, 2007, December 11, 2007

Authentically Who We Are: An Introduction to Spiritual Issues of Homosexuality

Thursday, October 18, 2007, 6:30–8:30pm, Maple Grove United Methodist Church, 7 W. Henderson, Columbus.

Registration fee: \$35 if PREPAID by October 15, \$50 at the door

Facilitator Dan Schleppi knows firsthand how difficult it is to be an openly gay man of deep faith. He will invite participants to explore their own biases and to gain better understanding of the spiritual issues that homosexual persons face in our culture. This session is open to all, and is particularly well suited for spiritual directors and those in caring professions.

Dan Schleppi is a graduate of the Wellstreams Ecumenical Program in Spiritual Direction. He is a member of Gender Road Christian Church and serves on the Board of Trustees for The Spirituality Network.

Connecting in the Spirit: Contemplative Prayer and Story Sharing

November 8, 2007, 7–8:30pm, First Congregational Church, 444 E. Broad St, Columbus

Led by Loretta Farmer, Spiritual Director, Retreat Leader

Refresh your spirit with our monthly gatherings for prayer and story sharing in community. Each month, we will invite a different facilitator to lead us in reflection and discussion. FREE. All are welcome, please bring a friend! RSVP: 614/228-8867

Future Dates:

December 6, 2007

February 7, 2008

March 7, 2008

April 3, 2008

Edwina Gateley:
Celebrating the Journey
at the Spirituality Network's
20th Anniversary



The Spirituality Network is pleased to partner with Compassionate Communications-Central Ohio to present

Compassion and Faith: An Orientation to Nonviolent Communication

Tuesday, October 2, 2007, 7–8:30pm, First Congregational Church, 444 E. Broad St, Columbus

Free. PLEASE PREREGISTER: ccco112@sbcglobal.net or 614/558-1141

Presenters: Tom Carlisi and Katherine Murphy

Compassion and Faith: A Three-Part NVC Education Series

Tuesdays, October 9, 16, and 30, 2007, 7–8:30pm, First Congregational Church, 444 E. Broad St, Columbus

Registration fee: \$30 for all three sessions PLEASE PREREGISTER: ccco112@sbcglobal.net or phone 614/558-1141

Presenters: Tom Carlisi, Katherine Murphy, and Boo Krucky

Join us for this NVC Education Series, based on the Nonviolent Communications model of Marshall Rosenberg, Ph.D. to learn to recognize your own unproductive judgments, learn how to develop empathy and compassion for yourself and others, and experience opportunities to move toward a more compassionate lifestyle.

Tom Carlisi, M.A., LPCC is a local therapist and seminar trainer with over 30 years experience. Katherine Murphy, RN, is a certified life coach and recent graduate of the Wellstreams program for Spiritual Direction. Ms. Boo Krucky, a Compassionate Communications facilitator, will assist with the Education Series.

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20th Anniversary event photos, clockwise from top: Barbara Davis, Board chair; 20th Anniversary honoree Sr. Barbara Hahl of Mount Carmel Health System; Deborah Countiss Lindsay, who gave the opening prayer; and honorees Kerry Reed and Fr. Ralph Hutzinger. Honorees' awards designed by Donita Harris and Maddy Stapleton. Also honored were the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs and Fr. Vinny McKiernan, CSP, who was unable to attend.



Spirituality Network Board of Directors

Wayne Rapp, Chairperson
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St. Francis of Assisi Church

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Sharon Reed
Ohio Dominican University

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Dan Schleppe
Spiritual Director

Maxine Shonk, OP
St. Mary of the Springs

Ex-officio
Loretta Farmer
Spiritual Director to the Board



Pat Gibboney
welcomes guests at
the 20th Anniversary

from the Chair

What has impressed me during the many years I've been associated with the Spirituality Network is the dedication and commitment of the people involved. As I follow Barbara Davis as Chair of the Spirituality Network board, I'm aware of the hard work that has brought the Network to its position of trust and acceptance today. I will continue to provide the necessary leadership to help our organization become more accessible to all those in the community who thirst for the living water. Happily, I know I have the support of our talented and dedicated staff of Pat Gibboney, Carol Ann Spencer, and Amanda Cushing, plus a strong and committed board.

We are beginning an exciting year. We will be working to make the Spirituality Network resources better known and available to a larger segment of the community. We will put more emphasis on development, helping build a more financially stable and self-sustaining organization. In addition, we will begin implementing elements of a long-range plan developed this past spring. With strong effort, these are all attainable goals.

Whether you are a volunteer, a supporter of programs, or one of our financial angels, I thank you for your devotion and continuing commitment. As Chair of the Spirituality Network board, I will continue to honor your dedication with my hard work.

Peace,

Wayne Rapp

from the Executive Director

Patricia J. Gibboney, CFRE

The excitement and joy that we experienced during the 20th Anniversary celebration in May still lingers. It was not only a time to reminisce about the past 20 years and celebrate the accomplishments, but it gave us the opportunity to anticipate what the future may hold for The Spirituality Network in the next 20 years.

By the time you read this, you probably have received the invitation to participate in honoring our 20th year by making a donation to The Spirituality Network. The \$25,000 gift that we recently received has provided the challenge for us to raise another \$25,000 by the end of 2007. The donor, who wishes to remain anonymous at this time, has offered not only a very generous financial gift, but has also marked a significant new chapter in the life of the organization. It is our hope, and that of the donor, that you will prayerfully consider helping us meet this challenge.

Let me take this opportunity to thank each of you for your role in supporting our mission to "assist those who thirst for spiritual growth." I welcome your comments, ideas, and questions. Together, along with the Spirit, we will move The Spirituality Network into the next 20 years.

Next Wellstreams Class Now Open

The Application process is now open for our next class, which will begin in August 2008. The deadline for applications is April 15, 2008.

If you are interested, please request application materials by calling 614/228-8867 or e-mail carol.spencer1@juno.com

Our new website, www.wellstreamscolumbus.org, is currently under construction. The application process will be available online once the site is completed (by mid-August, 2007).

You can also visit us through www.spiritualitynetwork.org.



The Wellstreams Training Program for Spiritual Directors Presents:

Listening Skills Workshop

Saturday, September 22, 9:30am-3:30pm

Registration fee \$50, optional hot lunch \$5. Please register by September 7, 2007.

Listening is so basic that we take it for granted, yet “holy listening” can be a transforming experience for us. The ability to deeply listen to another rests on how successfully we can be with the other, while resisting the impulse to do something more. You can take the first step toward mindful listening by learning to be conscious, intentional, open and receptive. Mindful listening requires practicing attention, appreciation and affirmation. This workshop is open to anyone in a helping profession and/or anyone who desires to become a better listener by deepening the art of listening. A balanced day of silence, input, experiential exercises and discussion will allow us to explore the gifts and challenges of holy listening.

Sharon Reed, M.Ed. is a licensed professional counselor and Dean of Students at Ohio Dominican University and a graduate of the Shalem Program in Spiritual Direction.

Please register directly with The Spirituality Network for this workshop: 614/228-8867 or e-mail spiritnetwk@hotmail.com.

The Wellstreams Training Program for Spiritual Directors Presents:

Our Story Unfolding: Where, Who, What Are We?

Saturday, November 17, 9:30am-3:30pm

Registration fee \$50; optional hot lunch \$5. Please register by November 2, 2007.

In today's world we need to be concerned about ecology and what it means to our spirituality. Through images, experiences and personal reflection we will come to understand how intimately connected we are to the very origins of the Universe. Learn to connect to daily life and spiritual realities the truths revealed in the Universe Story about the nature of matter and the origin of all that is. We will consider spiritual growth, theology and the meaning and organization of human life within the context of of the Universe Story: the “Great Work” spoken of by Thomas Berry and others.

Jane Belanger, O.P. is the founder, land manager, and spiritual director for Shepherd's Corner, which seeks to care for the earth, for one another and for land, life and spirit.

Please register directly with The Spirituality Network for this workshop: 614/228-8867 or e-mail spiritnetwk@hotmail.com.



*Sr. Carol Ann Spencer, O.P.,
20th Anniversary honoree*

I'm Going Fishing Again

Judy A. Johnson

I love Saint Peter for his impetuous yet practical nature. When Jesus called him to fish for people, his life turned upside down. Yet according to John's Gospel, even after the resurrection, Peter does what most of us do when we don't know what to do: he goes back to what he did before. It's familiar, it's comfortable, and it worked well for a long time. So when Peter, standing by the Sea of Tiberias with six other disciples, suddenly says, "I'm going fishing," the others go, too.

At least two of those others—James and John—had been, like Peter, professional fishermen before Jesus walked into their lives. The sea is the same, the feel of the oars, the muscle memory of rowing and hauling up the nets, which are disappointingly empty. Peter is not the same, however, nor are the others. And the fish aren't swimming into the nets. This, too, they must have remembered: the nights when they worked hard for nothing.

At daybreak, a man on the shore is grilling some fish they didn't catch. He calls to them, asking them to put down the net again, this time on the right side of the boat. The net is now soggy and heavy, harder to toss out and pull in, so this isn't an easy command to heed. But the net comes back full of fish, so many that the men have trouble hauling the net into the boat.

This morning I took heart from that story. My life, like Peter's, has been radically changed in the last year, not (this time) by a meeting with Jesus, but by a diagnosis of ovarian cancer. Now in remission, on the other side of surgery and chemotherapy, my hair and my energy starting to return, I take comfort in doing what I've always done, especially writing. Some days, no matter how many words I toil to put down, the net of the page seems empty of anything that will feed and nourish others. I keep doing it, though, because it's the only way I know how to be. In time I may be asked to do something that seems crazy now, the equivalent of letting the net down on the other side of the boat. I sense vague stirrings that can't yet be identified or disturbed with too much prodding.

After a diagnosis of cancer—or any other life-altering event—the old patterns don't seem to work as well. The good news is, Jesus is still among us doing something surprising, cooking up something to feed us.

20th Anniversary Photos on pp. 2,3,4,5,10,12 by
Liz Kuhn

Artwork:
p. 5, Melvi Gelacio/Isis International-Manila
pp.7, 11, Sandra Torrijos/Isis International-Manila

Spiritual Parenting

Joanna Samuelson



It was the day before I started the Wellstreams program last summer (August 2006) that my husband and I learned some surprising, albeit wonderful, news... We were pregnant! A joyful moment, indeed, I just wasn't so sure how all of this would fit in with my plans. Already parents to three young children—eight, five, and two-and-a-half—we had a full life, trying to balance the often-competing demands of home, work, church activities, school functions, soccer games, piano lessons, play dates, and now, Wellstreams. But because I felt so certain that God had been nudging me toward a spiritual direction training program like this one for some time, we decided that we would make it work, whatever it took.

Well, our plan seemed to be working...at least for the next six weeks! But then, in early October, I had my first ultrasound, and my journey took another unexpected turn: We were expecting twins! I have heard it said before that God is in the surprises, and although there was so much God in this one, I felt conflicted as to how it was that She was calling me at this time in my life. But after another month or so of discernment, it finally seemed clear: I needed to set Wellstreams down for the time-being.

Several months have passed since then, and our precious twin sons are four months old already. It is such a sacred privilege to be able to mother our five beautiful children, and it feels right (and absolutely necessary!) to focus on my parenting for now. However, my longing to be part of a close-knit spiritual community—sharing, praying, and studying with one another—has not changed. In fact, my need for spiritual nourishment and encouragement seems stronger than ever! Recently, while I sat snuggling with our babies in my favorite “nursing” chair one morning, the glorious sunshine came pouring in through the window, and a phrase came to me—spiritual parenting.

While my thoughts and prayers are usually consumed by the twists and turns of my own spiritual journey, I now realize that God is inviting me to pay more attention to the spiritual needs of my children as well. It certainly pleases me that they are learning about God through Bible stories and Sunday school, but I now wonder if there is more that I could be doing to nurture their

“heart knowledge” of God. How do they experience and connect with God? In what ways do they see, hear and feel God on a daily basis? Do I honor and celebrate the intrinsic spiritual nature of their very beings?

I did a bit of research, and to my knowledge, there are no existing spiritual parenting groups in the Columbus area. After speaking with Sr. Carol Ann Spencer, Amanda Stone Cushing, my pastor, and a few others from church, I decided that it is time to reach out to see if there are other parents (and caregivers of children) with similar needs and concerns.

This fall, a few other sojourners and I are forming a “Spiritual Parenting Circle.” It will be a peer-led, discussion/support group that will further explore the topic of spiritual parenting. We plan to meet on a weekday morning, two times a month, and we will gather at North Congregational U.C.C., 2040 W. Henderson Rd. in northwest Columbus. We hope to have child care available.

To start our group, we will read *10 Principles for Spiritual Parenting: Nurturing Your Child's Soul* by Mimi Doe and Marsha Walch. A thoughtful and practical book, the following is a brief excerpt:

In the beginning, we are lifelines for our young children; they depend on us for their survival and look to us for all the answers. But the reality is that we don't have all the answers and never will... The greatest gift that we can give to our children is to lovingly and gently shift the lifeline from us to God.

If this spiritual dimension of the parenting journey resonates with you (or others whom you know), please consider joining us (or inviting them) to be part of this opportunity to support and learn from one another. We are still working out some of the logistics of our group meetings, but please let me know soon so that enough books can be ordered. You may contact me at 614/863-1716 or jimes5@sbcglobal.net.

Thanks, and blessings to you.

First Community Church

North Campus, 3777 Dublin Rd.,
South Campus, 1325 Cambridge Blvd.,
614/488-0681 ext 226, www.fcchurch.com

Fall Spiritual Searcher: Diana Butler Bass, September 16, 1:30-8:30pm, North Campus. Before September 16: \$65 per person, \$30 for students. Register at www.FCchurch.com/featured_searchers, or receive a brochure with registration form by calling 614/488-0681, ext. 226. A series of three lectures focused on the theme "Doing 'Christian' Differently: The Emerging Church in a Postmodern World," exploring the themes growing out of 3 years of research on growing, progressive Christian churches in the United States.

Jung Association of Central Ohio

Jung Haus, 59 W Third Ave, Columbus;
614/291-8050; JungACO@core.com;
www.jungcentralohio.org

2nd Saturday Coffee and Conversation, 10am-12pm. New topic each month. Free. Donations appreciated.

Bollingen Lecture: Archetypes of Relatedness. Lecture: Intimacy and Commitment in Relationship, October 5, 7-9pm; *Workshop: Intimacy and Surviving Abandonment*, October 6, 9:30am-3:30pm. Presenter: Deldon McNeely Ph.D. Jungian Analyst, Body Therapist, and Author. First Community Church, 3777 Dublin Rd.

Myth and Ritual in Contemporary Culture, December 1, 2007, 9:30am-12:30pm. Presenter: Elizabeth Fergus-Jean, Ph.D. Location: TBA.

Martin de Porres Center

2330 Airport Drive, Columbus;
614/416-1910; martindeporres@columbusdominicans.org; www.columbusdominicans.org/mdp

Mindfulness: Presence of Mind, Body, and Spirit, September 8, 10am-12:30pm. Experience ways to practice conscious awareness and attention to the present as a foundation for wellness and for being fully alive with Katherine Murphy, R.N., a spiritual director and certified Life Coach. Register by September 3.

The Power of Mindful Music, October 10, 7-9pm. Dr. Timothy Russell, music director of ProMusica, will discuss how mindfulness impacts his work as a conductor and educator, and how it can positively affect you and your world. Register by October 3.

Justice Video Series

October 15, 7-8:30pm. *Lives for Sale*, the Maryknoll documentary film on immigration and human trafficking.

November 15, 7-8:30pm, *Last Best Chance*, a docudrama about the threats from loose nuclear weapons and materials around the world.

St. Martin De Porres Feast Day Celebration, November 4, 2-4:30pm. This year's celebration of the November 3 feast of St. Martin de Porres is based upon the West African concept of *sankofa*—we must go back to our past in order to move forward. Planned in conjunction with Black Catholic Ministries, the celebration will bring youth and elders together in dialogue about a wide range of topics. The event will include a musical performance, and an exhibit of paintings by local artist Queen Brooks. No registration fee.

The Spiritual Center of Maria Stein

2365 St. Johns Rd., Maria Stein, Ohio; toll free 877/925-7625; spiritualcenterms@bright.net; www.spiritualcenter.net/

How to Be Spiritually on Fire without Burning Out, October 4, 10am-2:30pm. Donation: \$15, includes lunch. RSVP by September 28. Rev. Tim Knepper, C.P.P.S., will show how using Biblical Wisdom and Mother Theresa's practice can lead to changed behavior. Fr. Knepper is an associate pastor at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Ottawa, Ohio. There will be an opportunity to go to Confession at 11:30am. Eucharist will be celebrated at 2pm.

The Mind and Heart of Matthew's Gospel, October 9 & 16, 7-9pm. Attend one or both. \$5 donation for each session. RSVP by October 5. October 9: Fr. Larry Wyen will present the "Spirit of Matthew's Gospel." October 16: "Unifying Themes of Matthew" for the Sunday readings. These evening programs are for all who seek a deeper understanding of Matthew's Gospel. Fr. Wyen is pastor of St. Henry Parish in St. Henry, Ohio. He is a scripture scholar and a teacher for the Athenaeum of Ohio's Lay Pastoral Ministry Program.

Thank God for Families, November 8, 10 am-3pm. \$15 donation, includes lunch. RSVP by November 2. We are all members of families...and God is too. We hope that this day will open our eyes to God's hidden presence in our families. It is mainly in our families that we become holy. How can we do that? Fr. Jim Dugal, C.P.P.S. pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Montezuma, Ohio

Making the Most of Advent, December 5, 10am-3pm. \$15 donation, includes lunch. RSVP by November 30. Making the most of Advent through prayer and preparation can make a difference



at Christmas. We will be trying and discussing a variety of means to prepare for Christmas. This day will be led by Deacon Greg Bornhorst. Deacon Greg is a permanent deacon at Holy Redeemer Parish in New Bremen, Ohio..

Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center

1250 Tiffin St., Fremont; 419/332-6522; e-mail: olprc@ezworks.net; www.pinesretreat.org. Call or e-mail to register.

Desert Day Retreats, a day of quiet, gentle reflection and rest to reconnect with God and self in the peacefulness of the pines. \$20. Overnight and breakfast: additional \$25.

The Song of September led by Marianne Longo, RSM. September 19.

Autumn Thoughtfulness led by Breta Gorman, RSM. October 16.

With Grateful Hearts led by Wanda Smith, RSM. November 7.

Emmanuel, God with Us led by Wanda Smith, RSM. December 11.

Deborah Ling, Spiritual Direction

614/865-3332, 614/507-0656; e-mail: deborahling50@sbcglobal.net, www.deborahling.com

Shamanism Training for Men and Women. Ten-month training begins in September 2007. Small group focuses on living in harmony with, and exchanging information with creation. We can recognize the spiritual integrity and unique destiny of all being, and foster that destiny through our intentions, thoughts and actions. Monthly meetings develop skill, build relationships, and craft shaman's tools.

Equinox Drumming Retreat for Women, September 21-22, 2007, Campbell Farm, DeGraff, Ohio. Drum, dance, eat, and play on this beautiful farm on the Great Miami River. \$135 covers lodging (farm house) and home-cooked vegetarian meals plus facilitation. Celebrate the changing of the seasons and what is sometimes called "The Real New Year."

Winter Solstice Drumming for Men and Women, December 21, 2007. This large-scale, evening event celebrates the end of darkness and the welcoming of the light. All proceeds benefit Heifer International.

Mary, the Mother of Jesus experienced through scripture, image, poetry and song. December 8, 9am-3:30pm.

Ohio Dominican University Center of Dominican Studies

Colonial Room, Sansbury Hall, 1216 Sunbury Rd, Columbus; 614/251-4722; e-mail: colbyc@ohiodominican.edu

Dominican Life of the Mind Series 2007-2008: One People, One Planet, One Spirit, October 2, 2007, 7pm, Sansbury Hall, Colonial Room. Featuring: Eileen Gannon, OP, United Nations Representative of the Dominican Order in the United States. Sr. Eileen is also a member of the Sparkhill New York Dominican Congregation. Through her work in the UN, she represents the Dominican family whose members live and work in more than 100 countries throughout the world. She is also an educator, having taught at all levels of education as well as in educational administration and service learning.

St. Thomas More Newman Center

64 W Lane Ave, Columbus, 291-4674

Introduction to Centering Prayer, October 24, 7:30pm, led by Fr. Vinny McKiernan, CSP

St. Francis Spirituality Center

200 St. Francis Ave, Tiffin, Ohio; 419/443-1485; e-mail: retreats@stfrancisspiritualitycenter.org; www.stfrancisspiritualitycenter.org

Radical Amazement... Retreat to the New Universe, October 7-12. "As clearly as the parables told by Jesus challenged his listeners to ask questions about who they were and what their relationships meant, so the new universe story challenges us." Facilitator: Judy Cannato, author, retreat facilitator, spiritual director, Associate member of the Congregation of St. Joseph. Suggested offering: \$340.

A Day for Men: Turning to the Scriptures for Hope, Healing, and Guidance in Masculinity. October 12-13, 7pm Friday-3pm Saturday. Facilitator: Karl Schultz, Director of Genesis Personal Development Center in Pittsburgh, author, retreat director. Suggested offering: \$70.

Centering with Pottery and Poetry Retreat, November 9-11, 7pm Friday-after brunch Sunday. Facilitator: Sr. Jane Frances Omlor. Suggested offering: \$130, all materials included; commuter: \$100.

The Interfaith Association of Central Ohio

Conference on the Many Voices of Islam, October 28, 2-5pm, Ohio Statehouse Atrium, a free public forum with the following scholars: Dr. Mohammad H. Faghfoory, a professor of religion at George Washington University; Imam Mostafa Al-Qazwini, the Director of the Islamic Education Center of Orange County, CA; Dr. Anisa Abd el Fattah, founder and chairwoman of the National Association of Muslim American Women.; Dr. Robert Dickson Crane, former adviser to Richard Nixon and former deputy director of the U.S. National Security Council. For more information, contact Abukar Arman, abukar_arman@yahoo.com, of IACO's Education and Executive Committees.

Ongoing Groups

International Women's Writing Guild

The International Women's Writing Guild (IWWG) is a network for the personal and professional empowerment of women through writing. The central Ohio region of the IWWG provides a safe, supportive environment for any writer wishing to pursue personal growth and transformation of self through the development of their authentic voice. The quarterly meetings encourage this process through a program called Inner Palette, a combination of guided meditation, visual and written expression, and insightful discussion. Each meeting also includes The Circle, which gives participants the opportunity to share information about their writing and other work. For more information contact Kathy Curtis at kcurtis2@columbus.rr.com (614-273-0052) or Jeannetta Holliman at jpholliman@aol.com, or visit the Guild's website at www.iwwg.org.

IWWG Meeting, September 15, 10am-2pm, Camille's Cafe, 1305 Lane Ave., Upper Arlington Free and open to writers of all ability levels.

Public Reading, September 29, 2007, 2-4pm, Barnes & Noble, Polaris Parkway. Women of the central Ohio IWWG read their original writings, Free.

For more information contact Kathy Curtis at kcurtis2@columbus.rr.com (614-273-0052) or Jeannetta Holliman at jpholliman@aol.com, or visit the Guild's website at www.iwwg.org.

Writing What Matters to Us: Crafting the Personal Essay, October 6, 9am-5pm, Thurber Center, 91 Jefferson Ave., Columbus. Workshop Presenter: Marsha McGregor. \$15 for IWWG members, \$20 nonmembers. Healthy snacks and drinks provided for the day.

Marsha McGregor teaches personal essay workshops at the annual IWWG Skidmore College Summer Conference in Saratoga Springs, NY. Her essays and features have appeared in a variety of venues including The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Boston Herald, Akron Life & Leisure, Cleveland's Plain Dealer, National Public Radio and the popular anthology, A Cup of Comfort for Women. Ms. McGregor lives in Hudson, Ohio.

For registration information and workshop details, contact Jeannetta Holliman, central IWWG regional representative, at 614-252-7798 or jpholliman@aol.com. This workshop is funded in part by a Franklin County Neighborhood Arts grant awarded to Women Writers of Central Ohio by the Greater Columbus Arts Council.

Centering Prayer Groups

Led by Fr. Vinny McKiernan, CSP, at the Newman Center, 64 W. Lane Avenue, Columbus, every Monday 7-7:45pm and every Tuesday 12:15-1pm. 291-4674; e-mail: vinnycsp@yahoo.com

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 30 W. Woodruff Ave., Columbus, on Friday mornings, 6:30-7:45am, for centering prayer and praying the Divine Office. Justin Lanier, 484-9055.

Facilitated by Aniceta Pitstick, OP at Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus, every Thursday, 9:30-10:30am. 416-1910; www.columbusdominicans.org/mdp.

Turning Leaves and Tea Leaves

Second Wednesday of every month, 2-3:15pm. A monthly book club facilitated by Marialein Anzenberger, OP, and Colleen Gallagher, OP. Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus; 416-1910; martindeporres@columbusdominicans.org; www.columbusdominicans.org/mdp

Blue Heron Sangha

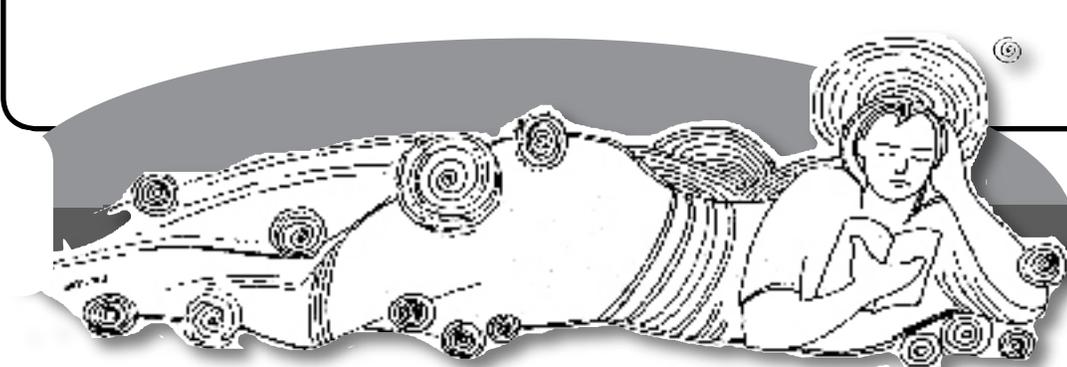
Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus, every Tuesday, 7:15-8:45pm. This is a mindfulness community in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh. For additional information, contact Sandy at scoen@columbus.rr.com.

Spiritual Sharing Group

The Interfaith Association of Central Ohio (IACO) invites you to share concerns, exchange views, and build relationships on the first Wednesday of each month from noon-1pm, at the Columbus Metropolitan Library, 96 S. Grant Ave., in the first floor conference room. For information contact Jeanne Marlowe, 476-8802; JAMarlowe@juno.com. IACO, an organization representing eight faith groups (Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Islam, Jain, Jewish, and Sikh), offers a variety of meetings in other locations. To receive e-mail updates, contact IACO@iaco.org.



Sr. Maxine Shonk, O.P.,
20th Anniversary honoree



Books and music for your spiritual life

Book Review and Interfaith Dialogue Announcement

The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew—Three Women Search for Understanding by Rabya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver, and Priscilla Warner (New York: Free Press, 2006)

In our post-9/11 world, it is clear that the tensions caused by religious bias and misunderstandings can have a disastrous, tangible impact on our lives. Globalization and the growing diversity within our own country have lent urgency to the need to address these issues.

Driven by this awareness, three New York women decided to engage in an interfaith dialogue. One woman was Muslim, one was Jewish and one was Christian. Initially their intent was to write a children's book about the commonalities of the three great Abrahamic religions. However they soon discovered a need to first deal with their own stereotypes and prejudices. They met regularly over a period of months. They made recordings of their dialogues and kept individual journals. The dialogues and journals were surprising and painfully open and honest. The dialogue also forced the participants to re-examine their own religious beliefs and traditions. The book is an edited compilation of the dialogue and journals.

The reader has the privilege of observing the unfolding understandings of the group and is challenged to re-examine their own stereotypes, biases and beliefs.

The book concludes with a discussion guide and suggestions for creating the readers' own "Faith Club" interfaith dialogue and a bibliography of other contemporary books on the topic.

Recommended by Susan Eisenman, Attorney, Mother, and one who longs for more unity, less divisiveness in our world

Spirituality Network has received a request from several members to sponsor a "Faith Club" dialogue locally. The tentative plans are for a five-week, Tuesday night series for February/March 2008. The projected location is the OSU area. Parking provided. If you would like additional information, please contact Susan Eisenman at 326-1200 (work) or 451-0403 (home) or via e-mail: adoptohio@aol.com

Firstlight: The Early Inspirational Writings by Sue Monk Kidd (Guideposts, 2006; paperback Penguin, 2007)

From Amazon.com book description: "Before she won an international readership with her novels, Sue Monk Kidd was best known for her smart, passionate spiritual writings. Now many of those early stories and essays (most of which first appeared in Guideposts) are collected in one volume, organized around thirteen spiritual motifs. In *Firstlight*, Kidd charts her emergence as a writer and seeker; reflects on her roles as wife, mother, daughter, nurse, and artist; and assesses what she has learned in settings as far-flung as Africa and her own home. The result is an intimate, uplifting book, filled with moments of recognition and discovery."

I am listening to the audio version of this collection of Sue Monk Kidd's early reflections and have just ordered the book. She talks about making a commitment to be "mindfully available" to others when they are in her presence—to be wholly present. In each of these reflections, she shares wonderful stories about herself and her "becoming," of her search to discover who she is beyond all the outward identities. I highly recommend this wonderful book.

Recommended by Kay McGlinchey, Associate Pastor, Gender Road Christian Church, spiritual director and Wellstreams supervisor

Child of All Earth composed and performed by Phyllis Cole-Dai (2007)

This music was composed out of Phyllis' deep concern for all people who are being traumatized by war, especially in Iraq and Afghanistan. These 14 original solo piano pieces grieve and deplore the violence of war as well as celebrate humanity's desire for, and work toward, peace. Each purchase of this CD will directly support the Campaign for Innocent Victims in Conflict (CIVIC). To learn more about CIVIC visit www.civicworldwide.com. To order, visit www.phylliscoledai.com or phone CD Baby at 800/448-6369.

Use the Network's Amazon Link

For the purchase of any books, music, or gifts, visit our website, www.spiritualitynetwork.org and use our link to Amazon.com. The Spirituality Network will receive a donation of a portion of your purchase price.

To receive updates on Network and
Community events via e-mail, write to us
at spiritnetwk@hotmail.com (subject line:
"updates list").

The Spirituality Network
444 E Broad St
Columbus OH 43215

The Spirituality Network is a 501(c)3 nonprofit ecumenical organization founded by Christians of the contemplative tradition.

Beginning in 1986, the Spirituality Network was envisioned as an interfaith outreach to address the "thirst for the God of Life." Though the Network was founded and has been sustained primarily by individuals from the wide spectrum of Christian faith, our aspiration is to be a community of acceptance and inclusion.

It is therefore, our vision that:

The Spirituality Network will be an inclusive resource for individuals and groups in Central Ohio who share a desire for spiritual growth and for helping others on their spiritual paths. Through a rich and diverse network of resources, we seek to provide a lasting sense of hope, peace, and purpose for our community.

Our programs include:

- Wellstreams Ecumenical Program of Spiritual Formation and Training
- Spiritual Direction Referrals
- Retreat Planning and Facilitation
- Continuing Education for Spiritual Directors and those in companioning ministry
- Women to Women Listening Ministry



Sister Noreen Malone, O.P., 20th Anniversary honoree