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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.

SPIRITUALITY NETWORK
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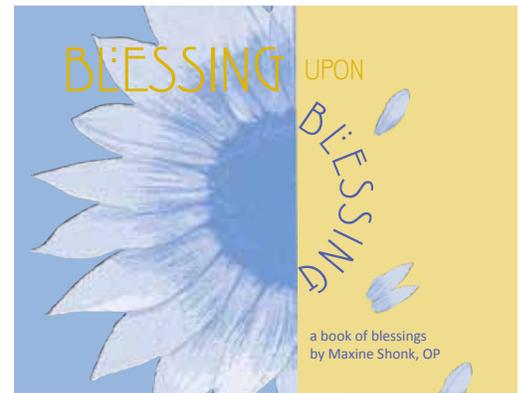
Twitter: www.twitter.com/spiritnetwk
Facebook: www.facebook.com; search "Spirituality Network, Columbus, Ohio"

BLESSING UPON BLESSING

The Spirituality Network is pleased to announce the forthcoming publication of *Blessing upon Blessing*, a book of blessings by Maxine Shonk, OP. This book offers 150 blessings that readers are invited to take into their own hearts and then in turn to bestow on others. Sister Maxine says:

The blessings offered in these pages are my attempt to put some words on that wordless sense of blessing that perhaps all of us come to know when we remain faithful to the journey. I have used these blessings in many settings and have marveled at the ways the Spirit works through them in retreats, workshops, discernment times, and any number of faith-sharing gatherings.

At the price of \$12 or 4 for \$40, they would make great Christmas gifts for those who have blessed your life or who are in need of a touch of grace themselves. Contact the Spirituality Network to place your order: 614/228-8867 or spiritnetwk@hotmail.com.



BOOK LAUNCH RECEPTION

Thursday, October 7, 7-8:30pm at the Martin de Porres Center

PLEASE RSVP to help us plan accordingly. Call 614/228-8867 or e-mail: spiritnetwk@hotmail.com

Join us to celebrate and bless the publication at our dessert reception. Sr. Maxine will read from the book and discuss how these blessings came to be and the ways they have touched many lives near and far.

BLESS AND BE BLESSED

Inspired by the theme of our new book, this issue of the newsletter offers several opportunities for you to be involved in outreach through the Spirituality Network:

- Attend our urban retreat on action and contemplation that includes a service activity (page 2)
- Become a volunteer for the Women to Women program, which needs companions to maintain existing sites and to expand to new sites (page 6)
- Participate in our new prayer quilt ministry and help provide comfort to hospice patients (page 7)

SPIRITUALITY NETWORK EVENTS

PREREGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. SPACE IS LIMITED.

To register, send name, phone, e-mail, and name of program to Spirituality Network ATTN: PROGRAMS, 444 E Broad St, Columbus, OH 43215; call 614/228-8867; or e-mail spiritnetwk@hotmail.com.

DISCOVERING THE SACRED IN THE ORDINARY: A BUSY PERSON'S DIRECTED RETREAT (IN 3 PARTS)

1. *Thursday, September 30, 2010, 7-8:30pm*
2. *Three individually scheduled spiritual direction sessions*
3. *Thursday, October 21, 7-8:30pm*
Thursday sessions at the Spirituality Network. \$60 PREPAID by September 24; \$75 after. Space is limited. PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED (see above).

When you think of a retreat, you probably think of getting away from it all, at a retreat center or a cabin in the woods. Most of us don't have the luxury of time to actually go away, even for a weekend. This retreat does not require you to pack your bags and travel anywhere. It takes place within the ordinary busy-ness of your daily life. It is a simple idea: over the course of 3 weeks, you make a commitment to yourself and to God for special time each day for prayer, reflection, and silence. Three times during the retreat period you will meet—for about an hour—with an assigned spiritual director to reflect on your daily practice of prayer and the ways in which you are (or perhaps are not) noticing the presence of God in your daily life. This is an excellent opportunity to get a "taste" of how spiritual direction might enrich your spiritual journey.

ENVISIONING PEACE: A FOUR-PART SERIES

Mondays, October 4-25, 2010; 7-8:45pm
Led by Sr. Maxine Shonk, OP, at the Spirituality Network. \$60 PREPAID by September 27; \$75 after. Space is limited. PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED (see above).

What does peace mean? Do we need a common understanding of peace? What does it look like? What does it ask of us? Each week, we will address these questions through discussion, lecture, reflection, and ritual.

Week I: The biblical concept of peace and the evolution of its meaning today.

Week II: The role of the Divine in our lives—Grace—in accomplishing peace.

Week III: The need for forgiveness in peacemaking.

Week IV: What peace may look like in the flesh; entering the heart of compassion where all may be One.

Sr. Maxine Shonk, OP is a member of the newly formed Dominican Sisters of Peace. She is a spiritual director and retreat leader and has served as adjunct professor of theology at Ohio Dominican University. She envisions peace in our world through the living of our lives, trusting that peace must be at the core of our existence.

ACTION AND CONTEMPLATION: AN URBAN RETREAT

Saturday, October 30, 2010, 9am-3:30pm
Facilitated by Donita Harris at the Church for All People, 946 Parsons Ave, Columbus. \$50* includes lunch. PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED (see above).

Action and contemplation are two sides of the same coin: one without the other will become hollow. Take this opportunity to experience both sides of this priceless coin. The day will begin with prayer and faith sharing, followed by an educational session on the variety of service opportunities in the community. All participants will experience being present through service at the United Methodist Free Store or other local site. The second half of the day will be spent in contemplation with some discussion to reflect on the experience, ending with a blessing.

Donita Harris is director of Community Development for all People, a Christian Lay Minister in the United Methodist Church, a spiritual director, and retreat facilitator.

*Your registration fee will help support the ministry of the House of Hospitality and the Spirituality Network. The House of Hospitality is a new Urban Retreat house on Columbus' south side, offering contemplative and social justice retreats. To learn more, visit www.4allpeople.net.

A SACRED PAUSE IN AUTUMN: A DAY OF REFLECTION FOR PEOPLE IN MINISTRY

Thursday, November 4, 2010, 9am-1pm, Shepherd's Corner, 987 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick. \$35 PREPAID by October 28; \$45 after. PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED (see above).

Take time to reflect, renew, and replenish your spirit with a time of respite for people in ministry: Clergy, Chaplains, Stephen Ministers, Lay Leaders, Spiritual Directors, and others in caring ministry who give their hearts to their work and communities. This mini-retreat will begin with continental breakfast and time for fellowship, followed by community prayer and discussion, silent reflection and individual meditation time, including the beautiful rural setting of Shepherd's Corner and labyrinth walk—weather permitting.

DREAMS: THE SOUL'S HEALING NAVIGATOR

Saturday, November 13, 9am-3pm, led by Janice Bachman, Maple Grove United Methodist, 7 W Henderson Rd, Columbus. \$50 PREPAID by November 6, \$65 after (includes lunch). PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED (see p. 2).

Dreams can be frightening or upsetting or revealing and/or meaningful. Often it is difficult to grasp what the dream intends with its wondrous and mysterious language of the unconscious. C.G. Jung said the dream is "a hidden door in the innermost and secret recesses of our soul." We must use many different keys to unlock this door. In this seminar, we will discuss classical elements of Jungian dream work with specific focus on imaginal techniques and dream enactments. Through lecture, conversation, and discussion the group will work with several dreams volunteered by participants. If you wish to work with one of your own dreams, bring a written copy.

Janice Bachman, Dominican Sister of Peace, is a Jungian analyst and spiritual director. She received her diploma from the Ontario Association of Jungian Analysts. Janice is on the summer faculty at Creighton University, Omaha, NE, where she teaches in the Graduate Program in Christian Spirituality.

SACRED FEMININE

Our cultural heritage gives us images of The Divine that are overwhelmingly masculine. How do women recognize and claim that they, too, are created in God's likeness? Join us on the second Tuesday of each month as we gather for discussion, reflection, and exploration on a variety of topics that help us to connect to uniquely feminine aspects of The Divine. Our intention is to discover more balance, create more peace, and offer more hope to our world.

Spirituality Network, 444 East Broad St. **In order for us to plan accordingly, PLEASE RSVP: 614/228-8867 or spiritnetwk@hotmail.com.** Donations accepted (suggested donation: \$5).

October 12, 2010, 2-4pm, *Where the Heart Is: Symbols and Stories of Feeling "At Home"* led by Amanda Stone Cushing. To continue our spring theme of memoir, we will be sharing stories and symbols of what it means "to be where our hearts are." Optional: Bring an item that symbolizes your experience of feeling "at home." **PLEASE PREREGISTER.**

November 9, 2-4pm, led by Janine Wilson, Associate Pastor, First Congregational Church. **PLEASE PREREGISTER.**

November 30, 2-4pm, *Creating an Advent Wreath.* Registration fee \$25 (this session only). SPACE IS LIMITED. PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED. Bobbi Gill will lead a contemplative session on creating an advent wreath with natural greens.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Patricia J. Gibboney, CFRE

You have heard me say this before, but one of the true rewards of serving as the Executive Director of The Spirituality Network is being surrounded by so many caring and spiritual individuals. Those who want to give back, whether it is with their time, their treasures, or their talents, have also inspired me. These generous gifts have sustained the organization for over 20 years.

There has been a lot of talk lately about Bill and Melinda Gates' and Warren Buffett's push for their fellow billionaires to contribute 50% of their net worth to charity, during their lives or through their estate plans. When I heard about this worthy initiative, I also wondered privately if they would be letting other people off the hook. Although The Spirituality Network does not have any billionaires (to my knowledge) providing financial support to the organization, I do know that we have received some very generous gifts from individuals who are passionate about the mission. And we recently received a \$10 gift from an individual, who is just as passionate about the mission, with a note saying, "I wish I could do more." For us, any gift of any amount is very important and greatly appreciated.

In a few weeks the Board of Directors will be holding a day-long retreat of prayer and discussion regarding the financial sustainability of The Spirituality Network. It is an issue that both the corporate and nonprofits worlds are exploring, and it comes at a good time for us. At the same time, the Development Committee is working on a plan to develop a Circle of Friends program that will provide an opportunity for our supporters to make a two- or three-year pledge and decide what form their giving will take. You will be hearing more about these two events in the upcoming months.

Thanks to all of you for making The Spirituality Network a vibrant organization that serves the spiritual needs of our community. Remember: *Nobody makes a greater mistake than those who do nothing because they thought that they could do only a little.*

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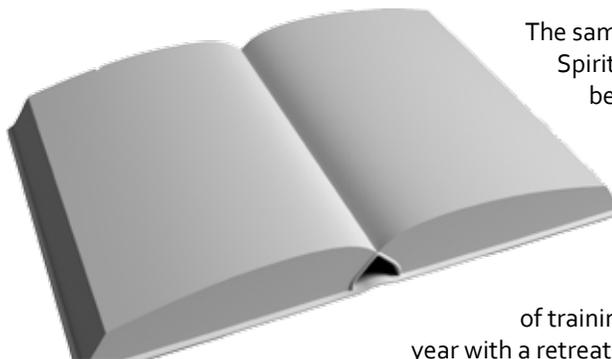
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REFLECTIONS FROM THE CHAIR *BEETREFLECTIONS?*

As summer comes to a close I am reminded that this time of year feels like a time filled with new beginnings. After the brief respite of summer, everything seems to swing back into gear: the kids go off to school, meetings and committees and leagues start up again. Life takes on a new or renewed rhythm.

The start of school signals many new beginnings, new challenges, new classmates, new learning. The same can be said for our involvements. There are often new people on deck, facing new issues and concerns. Life is not static but dynamic and we come to know change as a constant companion. I have a little book about the Benedictine way of living titled *Always We Begin Again*. I like that notion. Somehow, it reminds me that each moment is new and there is always the opportunity for fresh starts. We are never in quite the same place. While this can feel freeing, consoling, even exciting, it can also be a bit unnerving and unsettling since every new beginning signals an ending. It requires letting go of that which may seem comfortable and familiar.



The same is true in the life of the Spirituality Network. We are at the beginning of a new year. There are 25 new folks embarking on a life-altering journey of spiritual formation through Wellstreams. Those already in formation will move on to the next phase

of training. The Board will start our year with a retreat day to begin to chart a course for renewed vitality and sustainability. Our challenge is remaining faithful to the mission of assisting those who thirst for spiritual growth in ways most relevant to today, while being responsible stewards of our resources. It is a tall challenge indeed and one that resides with trust in the guidance of the Spirit. We welcome new faces around the table as well as those returning and always welcome fresh ideas, inspired insights, and renewed enthusiasm, even as we hold dear the wisdom of past contributors and the treasures of our history.

Times of change cause us to wonder what lies ahead. Contemplative living invites us to trust in the present and to live into the fullness of what is. In the words of Richard Rohr everything belongs. In the words of Ecclesiastes, "for everything there is a season."

Blessings and Peace,

Katherine Murphy Mertzluft



WELLSTREAMS: AN ECUMENICAL TRAINING PROGRAM IN SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT

www.wellstreamscolumbus.org

NEW WELLSTREAMS CLASS BEGINS

A new Wellstreams class opened on August 27, 2010 with 25 participants. This is our eighth class since 1996 and also our largest.

Registration will open in September 2011 for the ninth class, which will begin in August 2012. You can always find more information on our program on the website — www.wellstreamscolumbus.org

ATTENTION, WELLSTREAMS GRADUATES!

The Wellstreams Board is working on a survey that will be sent to all graduates some time in October. The Board is hoping that all of you will take the time to do the survey online. It will help in future planning.

Many thanks to Pam Townsend, 2007 graduate of Wellstreams, for her endless supply of used paper for our office. It is a great help to our budget and for that we are very grateful.

WELLSTREAMS WORKSHOP

MALE SPIRITUALITY

October 23, 2010, 9:30am-3:30pm, registration 9:10am. Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Dr. \$60; optional dinner \$6.

PREREGISTER BY OCTOBER 15 with the Spirituality Network: call 614/228/8867, e-mail spiritnetwk@hotmail.com, or online at www.wellstreamscolumbus.org.

Men's spiritual journeys will be the focus of this workshop. A pattern for male spiritual development will be presented. The nature of the male search for wholeness and connectedness will also be explored as it relates to the foundational images or archetypes of male identity: King, Magician, Warrior, Lover. The implication for guidance or offering support to men in their spiritual formation will be discussed.

Facilitator: Karl Ruttan is an Episcopal priest and spiritual director. He has served in congregational ministry in Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Central Africa. He has a passion for spiritual guidance and received his Ph.D. in Spiritual Formation from Duquesne University. He is currently serving as Canon for Life Formation in the Diocese of Southern Ohio where he oversees deacon training and Christian formation and provides a number of retreats and training conferences. He lives in Columbus with his wife Mary; they have two adult children.



GIVE AND RECEIVE THROUGH WOMEN TO WOMEN

by Sandra Kerka

They come together first to share a meal, then slowly begin to share their hearts. On the third Wednesday of each month at the Martin de Porres Center, a diverse group of women gathers together to support and strengthen each other's unique gifts. This is one of several sites of the Spirituality Network's Women to Women program, a listening ministry offered in partnership with community service agencies. One of many kinds of outreach offered by the Spirituality Network, Women to Women is now in its second decade. Meetings are also held weekly at the downtown YWCA, biweekly at the Family Shelter, and three times each month at the Community Housing Network on Fifth Avenue.

Women to Women brings women who may be struggling with abuse, violence, homelessness, and poverty together with volunteer companions who offer "reverent listening and nonjudgmental presence." For all who participate, it is an opportunity to share their stories in a safe space. Voices of the Wednesday group:

"I feel special here."

"This is a peaceful place."

"There is so much hope, so much energy here."

"If you don't listen, you don't learn."

"I learned to be a friend here."

The volunteer companions come together on the first Monday of each month to share their listening experiences. This session has become a safety valve, a way to forestall volunteer burnout. Like most people who serve, the companions find that they receive as much as they give. Marilyn Kohn says: "I see and hear women discovering their truth as they share their experiences with one another. I've found women who value me and my life experiences. That affirmation gives me strength to continue my journey." Mary Jo O'Brien sees "Jesus in these women who are struggling to build a life for themselves and their children. I feel privileged to be a tiny part of listening to their stories and honoring their presence in our world." For Judy Smoot, "being with the women reminds me of the common thread that connects us all. Our circumstances differ greatly but there is strength and courage to be found in sharing pieces of our lives with others. I give and receive in each interaction."

One "common thread" that unites us is the desire for home. One evening, a woman spoke of the "baby steps" she has been taking toward having her own place, and another expressed the simple pleasure of being able to walk outside her own door at midnight. Mary Jo recalls what homeless women told her they missed most—not being able to cook, or their teenagers being able to open the refrigerator for some pop and a snack. Judy heard several women express their yearning for a home and their desire to do the best for their children in the midst of painful circumstances.

Just as the companions grow in their capacity to listen and to mentor, the women for whom the ministry was designed find healing and new strength. "I've seen women transformed by their participation and move from being members of a group to leaders in our Wednesday group and out in the community," says Marilyn Kohn. "As women in our groups find that they have something to offer, they choose to bring healing and hope to other women who are in need."

Rather than "doing church," Judy says, "this ministry helps me remember to 'be the church.'" As she was leaving one meeting, she felt that "although no hymns were sung and no prayers were spoken aloud, that WAS church."

The success of Women to Women is due in no small part to the passion and dedication of Sister Noreen Malone and Sister Maxine Shonk, and they in turn credit the gifts, creativity, and hard work of the participants for the ways in which it has grown and expanded. Sister Noreen says, "I truly believe it is a powerful and healing ministry for us and for all the women who participate."

The work is so powerful and the need is so great that, besides keeping the existing four sites active, they are being asked to start several new groups, including one at the original Columbus site of the 1990s—Holy Rosary/St. John Community Center, one on the west side, and one for women recently released from prison. To do so, more volunteer companions are needed.

If you recognize the value in sharing support, knowledge, and wisdom with other women, if you have the capacity to be a listening presence, Women to Women needs you. The program provides mentoring and training for companions. Join this listening circle for a unique opportunity to "bless and be blessed."

WOMEN TO WOMEN MEETINGS

- Martin de Porres Center, 2320 Airport Drive, third Wednesdays, 6-7:30pm
- YWCA, 65 S. 4th St., Wednesdays, 10-11:30am
- YWCA Family Center, Tuesdays, 4:30-6pm, & Saturdays, 10-11:30am
- Community Housing Network, East Fifth Avenue, Tuesdays, 2-3:30pm (except third Tuesdays)

To participate, contact The Spirituality Network: 614/228-8867 or spiritnetwk@hotmail.com.

NETWORK LAUNCHES QUILT MINISTRY

A new prayer quilt ministry is being formed as a partnership between the Spirituality Network and OdysseyHospice in Gahanna. This group is the vision of Mary Ellen George, a First Community Church member since 2007. That church's Prayers and Squares quilt group, established 8 years ago under the direction of Barbara Davis, is assisting in the launch. The new group's mission is to create lap quilts of comfort for central Ohio adult hospice patients in a prayerful way.

With prayer as the foundation to this quilt ministry, Mary Ellen asked for a sign that she was on the right path — specifically a butterfly — as she headed to the Network office, and moments later, there on Broad Street was a woman wearing a butterfly-emblazoned t-shirt. So the group will be called "Wings and Prayers: Wanda and Karen's Comforters." The subtitle for the group name is in honor of a teacher and a friend. Mary Ellen's interest in quilting was initially sparked by a hospice patient (Wanda), whom she met as a volunteer for OdysseyHospice in the Fall of 2008. Wanda nurtured Mary Ellen's love of quilting, serving as her first quilt teacher. Some 40 quilts later, as she learned from Odyssey staff about the ways they can use prayer quilts with hospice patients and their families, the idea for this ministry took shape. Mary Ellen's "calling within a calling" was further inspired by the recent death from ovarian cancer of her friend Karen, who shared her interest in serving those dying or experiencing life-threatening illnesses. Karen was the first recipient, just 2 months before her death, of a "prayer" quilt from Mary Ellen, embellished with butterflies.

The quilt ministry is open to people with a wide range of experience, from "never sewed anything in my life" to intermediate and advanced quilters. (*And by "people" we mean men AND women.*) To begin, a workshop will be held on Tuesday, October 26 (see below for details), where Barb Davis and members of her Prayers and Squares group will demonstrate the process of creating a tied quilt. Then, on Saturday, November 6, at quilters' retreat at the Network participants will learn more about the specific details for setting up this ministry and will be invited to choose the time, talents, and treasures they would like to bring to it. Retreat participants will receive a special blessing to imbue them with the spirit of this initiative.

Participants will have the opportunity either to meet regularly at the Spirituality Network office or to sew at home, or both, engaging in a prayerful mode of creating quilts.

Join us and give wings to our prayer quilt ministry!

Contact Mary Ellen George if you are interested in participating in any aspect of this ministry and to sign up for the workshop and retreat by October 15: e-mail kmgeorge@wowway.com or call 614/878-1920.

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE:

- Help with one or more of the tasks of quilt making, which can include sorting, cutting, and ironing fabric; threading needles; sewing the quilt tops; laying out the quilt "sandwich" (top, batting, backing) etc.
- Donate supplies: fabric, scissors, needles, quilting curved pins, sewing machines, cutting tables, etc.
- Donate money to support the purchase of supplies.

TO GET US STARTED:

- *Tied Quilt Workshop*, Tuesday, October 26, 10am-12pm, First Community Church Annex, South Campus, 1320 Cambridge Blvd. REGISTER BY OCTOBER 15.
- *Quilting Retreat*, Saturday, November 6, 9:30am-12:30pm, Spirituality Network office



COMMUNITY EVENTS



FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH

North Campus, 3777 Dublin Rd, South Campus, 1320 Cambridge Blvd, 614/488-0681 ext 226, chieatt@fcchurch.com, www.fcchurch.com

The Truth About Intimacy, Love, Passion and Sexuality, October 10, 2:30-4:30pm, workshop; 4:30-5pm, book signing, Grace Hall, North Campus. Presenter: Terry Hershey. Church members \$25 (\$35 at the door); nonmembers \$30 (\$40 at the door); students \$10.

The truth is that intimacy has little to do with the other person. Intimacy begins with me. Most of us don't want intimacy, we want security, because intimacy is about openness, vulnerability, and risk. And vulnerability can hurt. Why are we afraid to be real? What does it mean to be real, to be honest or open? What do we desire in our relationships? And why do we settle for less? Why do we give up a part of ourselves for security? How do we name our fears and move beyond them? Who have we been in love with, and what drives that passion? Is it possible to love someone even with doubts, mystery and upheaval? Is it possible to find a relationship with someone who is afraid of intimacy?

John Philip Newell: Experience the World's Leading Voice in Celtic Christianity, December 3-5, 2010; Friday: An Introduction to Celtic Spirituality; Saturday: A New Harmony — The Spirit, The Earth, and The Human Soul

The Rev. Dr. John Philip Newell is a poet, a scholar, and a teacher. Formerly Warden of Iona Abbey in the Western Isles of Scotland, he is currently Companion Theologian for the American Spirituality Centre of Casa del Sol in the high desert of New Mexico, while making his home in Edinburgh, Scotland. He is internationally acclaimed for his work in the field of Celtic spirituality, including *Listening for the Heartbeat of God* and *Christ of the Celts*, as well as his poetic book

of prayer *Sounds of the Eternal*. He is a Church of Scotland minister with a passion for peace in the world and a fresh vision for harmony between the great spiritual traditions of humanity. John Philip has played a leading role on both sides of the Atlantic in the re-birthing of a creation spirituality for today. www.JPhilipNewell.com

More information: www.FCchurch.com/specialevents/spiritualsearcher, 614/488-0681, hetttds@FCchurch.com.

C. G. JUNG ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OHIO

Jung Haus, 59 W Third Ave; 614/291-8050; JungACO@JungCentralOhio.org; www.JungCentralOhio.org. Contact the Jung Association for information and/or to register for these programs.

2nd Saturday Coffee and Conversation, 10am-12pm, free, donations appreciated:

September 11, *Poetry: Reflecting the Journey*. Facilitators: JACO members.

October 9, *Dreams: Introduction to Stephen Aizenstat*. Facilitators: members of Nancy Lee's dream groups.

November 13, *Celtic Wisdom*. Facilitator: David Hett.

Jung 101: Introductory Seminar on the Work and Contributions of Carl Jung, September 23, 30, October 7, 2010, 7-8:30pm, Wicker Room, First Community Church, South Campus. Presenter: Jay Young, JACO board member. Limited to 15, preregistration required; 7 registrants required by 9/16.

Bollingen Lecture: Dream Tending: Awakening the Living Image, October, 15, 7-9pm; October 16, 9:30am-3:30pm, First Community Church. Presenter: Stephen Aizenstat, PhD, founding president, Pacifica Graduate Institute. Dream tending is a psychodynamic process of uncovering the hidden intelligence in dreams.

Listening to Dreams: Thoughts from an Analyst's Chair, November 20, 9:30-11:30am. Presenter: Jungian analyst Karen Herrmann, LPCC, LICDC. Details TBA.

MARTIN DE PORRES CENTER

2330 Airport Dr, Columbus; registration/information: 614/416-1910; martindeporres@oppeace.org; www.martindeporrescenter.net

Before Their Time: The World of Child Labor, September 25, 10am-12:30pm. Presenter: David L. Parker, MD. Suggested donation: \$10. Register by September 23. In conjunction with Dr. Parker's black and white photo exhibit (September 7-October 15), his presentation will consider the causes and consequences of child labor as seen through the eyes of a photographer and physician.

Henri Nouwen: His Pastoral Words of Compassion Continue to Speak to Us, October 14, 7-9pm. Presenters: Rev. Ron Hooker and Fr. Vinny McKiernan, CSP. Suggested donation: \$10. Register by October 12. The renowned priest, author, respected professor, and beloved pastor Henri Nouwen wrote over 40 books on the spiritual life. Rev. Hooker, a former student and friend of Nouwen, will present personal stories and reflect on Nouwen's Yale era writings. Father McKiernan, a longtime admirer of Nouwen and his work, will address several key themes in his writings.

St. Martin de Porres Feast Day Celebration: The Spirituality of Justice, October 24, 2-3:30pm; reception for featured artist, Evangelia Philippidis, 1pm. Presenter: Lucianne Siers, OP. Free; register by October 21. Grand Rapids Dominican Sister Lucianne Siers will explore the many ways in which we participate in the suffering of humanity through our prayer, our actions, and the ways in which we make choices about our lives. Dance by the Bakhita Dancers and music by three combined

parish choirs, in partnership with Black Catholic Ministries.

"I Will Always Be with You," November 13, 10am-2:30pm. Presenter: Mauryeen O'Brien, OP. Suggested donation: \$20, includes lunch. Register by November 10. Join with others who have experienced pain and loss, in a safe, peace-filled place where you can feel God's loving presence in your life. There will be time for prayer, input from the presenter, quiet and sharing, and a special healing service.

Special Holiday Offering: Hildegard of Bingen and the Living Light, December 5, 2-3:30pm. Presenter: Linn Maxwell. Free will offering accepted. Register by December 2. International mezzosoprano Linn Maxwell embodies the extraordinary life of 12th century German Abbess, Hildegard of Bingen. Accompanying herself with authentic medieval instruments, Linn performs seven of Hildegard's original songs and reads the mystic's actual letters and writings.

OHIO DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR DOMINICAN STUDIES

Colonial Room, Sansbury Hall, 1216 Sunbury Rd, Columbus; 614/251-4722; www.ohiodominican.edu/about/dominicanstudies/events.asp. *Registration is required for all events:* Complete the online RSVP form to reserve.

Symposium: Interreligious Dialogue in the Heartland, September 11, 8:30am-2:30pm, Erskine Hall Matesich Theatre. Keynote speaker: The Most Reverend Frederick F. Campbell, Bishop of Columbus. \$30 (Includes lunch), group of 10, \$150. The symposium will engage a variety of theologians, historians, and practitioners in the field of interreligious dialogue who will share their expertise and experiences within a panel format.

A Look at Samuel Mazzuchelli, OP: Model of Dominican Service—A Lecture Celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Arrival of the Dominicans in the Americas, November 11, 7pm, Sansbury Hall Colonial Room. Presenter: Rev. Thomas D. McGonigle, OP, Th.D., friar of the Central Province of the Dominican Order, coauthor of *The Dominican Tradition: Spirituality in History*.

Dominican Conversation Circles Lecture and Dinner. Faith and Transformation, September 28, 6pm, Sansbury Hall Colonial Room. Presenter: The Most Rev. James A. Griffin, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Columbus.

Dominican Life of the Mind Lecture Series. The Dominican Contribution to Human Rights: Bartolomé de Las Casas, November 3, 7pm, Sansbury Hall Colonial Room. Presenter: Ronald W. Carstens, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science at Ohio Dominican, author of *Falling into Grace: The Fiction of Andrew Greeley*.

Truth Seekers Reflection Series Lectures and Luncheons, 12pm, Sansbury Hall Colonial Room:

The Dominican Culture: A Democratic Approach to Collecting the Wisdom of the Community, September 15, Featuring: Fr. John Boll, OP, Ohio Dominican University Chaplain and Director of Campus Ministry.

The Contemplative Spirit: Source of Transformation, November 15, Featuring: Fr. Stephen Fitzhenry, OP, Chaplain of The Dominican Sisters of Peace.

THE SPIRITUAL CENTER OF MARIA STEIN

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

The Stages of Spiritual Growth, September 16, 10am-1pm. Presenter: Dr. Jane Steinhauser.

Grief...To Everything There Is a Season, November 2, 9, & 16, 7-8:30pm. Presenters: Bob Skipper and Chris Killian. \$30 donation includes all sessions. RSVP by October 29. This workshop will offer an opportunity to "normalize" our experiences with grief, honor the pain we experience, and claim our hope in living and living more fully in the hope given us by God in the gift of life.

Mansions of Teresa, November 4, 10am-1:15pm. Presenter: Dr. Jane Steinhauser \$15 donation, includes lunch. RSVP by November 5. Learn more about Teresa of Avila's understanding of the journey of the soul and her advice on what is needed to go deeper with God.

Rejoice in Hope...Persevere in Prayer, November 11, 10am-3pm. \$15 donation includes lunch. RSVP by November 5. Father Jim Dugal will discuss how Paul's letter to the Romans is an applicable message for all of us today.

Precious Blood Spirituality, November 20, 9am-1:30pm. Sister Martha Bertke and Sister Maryann Bremke will share the story of the founder of the Precious Blood Sisters, Mother Maria Anna Brunner.

New Year's Gathering – Looking back to 2010 BC, December 31-January 1 (Friday, 5 pm to Saturday, 12pm), \$145 couple donation, \$85 single donation, \$35 evening-only commuter; register by December 23. Fr. Al Naseman leads this retreat that will tap some of the spiritual wisdom of the ancients.

CLAN OF THE CROW SHAMANISM TRAINING

727/260-2238; e-mail dlinggg@yahoo.com

A new class begins in October. For more information, e-mail or call Deborah Ling.

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ST. THOMAS MORE NEWMAN CENTER

64 W Lane Ave, Columbus, 614/291-4674; www.thenewmancenter.net/wcms/index.php

Introduction to Centering Prayer, October 21, 12pm and 7:30pm, facilitated by Fr. Vinny McKiernan, CSP. An opportunity to learn a method of prayer that very intentionally places you in the mystery of God loving the mystery of you unconditionally.

COMPASSIONATE COMMUNICATION OF CENTRAL OHIO

2350 Indianola Ave, Columbus; 614/558-1141; jeff@nvcoho.org; www.nvcoho.org

Nonviolent Communication: Knowing Your Feelings and Needs through Body Sensations, September 26, 1-4pm, Yoga on High, 1081 N High St. Presenter: Marcia Miller. Learn simple yoga practices chosen specifically to help you learn and integrate nonviolent communication (NVC) as a living practice.

Adventures in Honesty: Living and Communicating Authentically, October 15, 6:30-9:30pm; October 16, 9:30am-5:30pm, Indianola Presbyterian Church, 1970 Waldeck Ave. Presenters: Jeff Brown et al. Learn the art of initiating difficult conversations without giving up or giving in on your needs or core values. Contact us for Saturday only registration (requires attendance Friday night or previous in-person NVC training).

Details: <http://www.nvcoho.org/opportunities-to-learn-nvc/>

INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OHIO

57 Jefferson Ave, Columbus; 614/849-0290; iaco@iaco.org; www.iaco.org

Interfaith Panel on Spiritual Literature for Children (PreK-8), October 17, 2-4pm: Old Worthington Library, 820 High Street, Worthington, OH 43085, free. Panelists include Dr. Asma Mobin-Uddin, author and physician, and Kim Gales, lead librarian, Worthington Libraries. Activities for children will be provided. Contact Madeleine G. Trichel, mtrichel@aol.com.

ONGOING GROUPS

CENTERING PRAYER

Led by Fr. Vinny McKiernan, CSP, at the Newman Center, 64 W Lane Ave, Columbus, Mondays 7-7:45pm and Tuesdays 12:15-1pm. 614/291-4674; e-mail: vinnycsp@yahoo.com.

TURNING LEAVES AND TEA LEAVES

Second Wednesdays, 2-3:15pm. A monthly book club facilitated by Marialein Anzenberger, OP, and Colleen Gallagher, OP. Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Dr, Columbus; 614/416-1910; martindeporres@oppeace.org; www.martindeporrescenter.net.

BLUE HERON SANGHA

Tuesdays, 7:15-8:45pm. Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Dr, Columbus, A mindfulness community in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh. Contact Sandy at scoen@columbus.rr.com.

THOMAS MERTON STUDY GROUP

Third Mondays, 6-8pm. Vespers in Motherhouse chapel, 2320 Airport Dr, are followed by discussion of Merton readings, led by Merton scholar David Belcastro, PhD. Hosted by Martin de Porres Center, 614/416-1910.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S WRITING GUILD

A network for the personal and professional empowerment of women through writing. Meetings twice monthly, free and open to all, for writing, reading, and gentle critiquing in a safe, supportive environment. For other meeting times/locations or to receive our monthly newsletter, contact Jeanne Marlowe at jamarlowe@juno.com, 614/476-8802.

September 18, October 16, November 20, 10am-12:30pm: Columbus Public Library, 96 S Grant Ave, 3rd Fl. Board Room.

October 30, 10am-12:30pm, Alison Hazelbaker's health practitioners building, 5115 Olentangy River Rd.

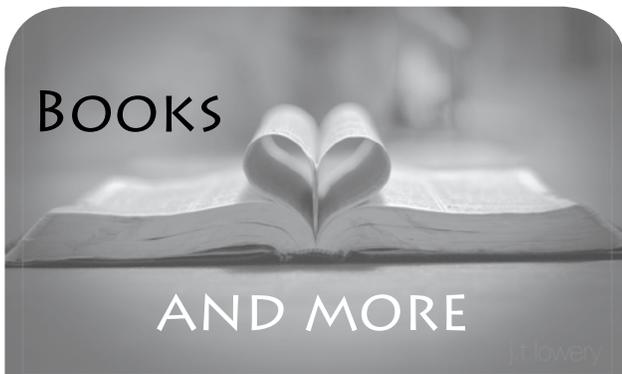
November 7, 2-4pm, Annual Fall Reading, Barnes & Noble, Polaris.

INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OHIO SPIRITUAL SHARING GROUP

Contact Jeanne Marlowe, 614/476-8802; jamarlowe@juno.com. IACO represents eight major faith traditions—Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Islam, Jain, Jewish, and Sikh—and holds open houses and educational forums in various locations; see www.iaco.org.

October 6, November 3, December 1, 12-1pm, Columbus Metropolitan Library, 96 S Grant Ave, 3rd fl board room (Oct. 6, conference room 2).

Open House at the Jain Center of Central Ohio, October 10, 1:30pm, 2770 Sawbury Blvd., Columbus



BOOKS

AND MORE

HELP THE NETWORK THROUGH AMAZON

Your purchase of books, music, gifts, or gift certificates through our Amazon.com link returns a portion of the price to the Network. Bookmark the Amazon Purchase Program link at www.spiritualitynetwork.org.

Saldana, Stephanie. *The Bread of Angels: A Journey to Love and Faith*. New York: Doubleday, 2010.

The Bread of Angels recounts a year Stephanie Saldana spent in Syria on a Fulbright fellowship, studying Jesus' role as a prophet in Islam. Her intimate memoir is a charming introduction to both the Muslim and Christian communities of Syria. I enjoyed the stories of Saldana teaching English to young Muslim women and her own lessons with a loving and astute sheikha—a female Islamic scholar. Saldana takes her readers along on a 30-day Ignatian retreat at one of the oldest Christian monasteries, only recently reopened. The monks conduct their prayers and the Mass in Arabic. They've chosen to be a strongly integrated presence among their Muslim neighbors. Above all, the book invites us into Saldana's own, very personal journey, including her hesitant movements toward a romantic relationship while sharing a unique experience of the region and its complexities.

Recommended by Rick Hatem

ANNUAL MEETING AN OCCASION FOR GRATITUDE

Great "thanks!" for The River's Voice and those like them who are willing to share their gifts, recognizing they rest in God and do it so simply and with such art.

When we gathered for our annual meeting and celebration in June we invited attendees to share their hopes, dreams, prayers, blessings, or gratitude on small cards that were collected that evening. The staff, board, and friends of the Network will hold these prayers as we enter another new year of service and programs. These prayers are posted on our website and in the "notes" section of our Facebook page.

We were delighted to have Global Gallery of the Short North cater the buffet for our annual meeting and celebration. Global Gallery Catering is a nonprofit, FairTrade organization that uses fresh and as much organic, locally grown products as possible. DELICIOUS!



Prayers ~ Blessings ~ Dreams ~ Hopes ~ Gratitude

Trish and Richard Bruxvoort Colligan (The River's Voice) sing while annual meeting attendees bring up their cards.



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LET US KNOW YOUR PREFERENCE!

Reducing printing and mailing costs through the use of more electronic communication is one option for making the best use of our limited resources. **Please let us know your preference for receiving this newsletter: PRINT or ELECTRONIC?**

E-mail or mail your response to The Spirituality Network (addresses above).

The Spirituality Network is an ecumenical outreach addressing the "thirst for the God of Life." Founded by Christians, our aspiration is to be a community of acceptance and inclusion. We seek to create hope, peace, and purpose in our community.

Our programs include:

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

SHOP AT KROGER'S AND BENEFIT THE SPIRITUALITY NETWORK

We thank Kroger's for helping our community prosper with this innovative program to give back to local nonprofits. Use your Kroger Plus Card and The Spirituality Network will receive a percentage of your bill. Just shop, swipe your card, and earn cash for The Spirituality Network. The code for The Spirituality Network is 84360. Visit www.krogercommunityrewards.com to register your card and activate the process. If you do not have a Kroger Plus card, they are available at the Customer Service desk at any Kroger.

To receive updates on Network and community events via e-mail, go to spiritualitynetwork.org and click on "Join our Google Group" box in the lower right corner.

WISH LIST

Donations gratefully accepted.

Office Equipment:

Two new computers
Copier machine
Digital camera/video recorder

Office Supplies:

1st class "Forever" postage stamps
Paper: copier, inkjet, cardstock
Inkjet cartridges for Epson C3810 and Canon ip4500
Gift cards to office supply stores

Hospitality Supplies:

Cups, napkins, coffee/tea, etc.