

Spring 2014 Newsletter



[see pages 6-8 for registration and ad information](#)

2014 Living Faith Awards

On Thursday, May 15, The Spirituality Network will host the 23rd annual Living Faith Awards Breakfast. This is the second year that the Network is the sponsor of this event. Prior to 2013, it was sponsored by the Metropolitan Area Church Council.

With the exception of the Alvin Hadley Social Justice Award, all awards are given to laypersons who exemplify *dynamic* faith in their lives. The Hadley Award often recognizes a member of the clergy who provides leadership in the area of social justice. The individuals who have been selected to be recognized this year are those who live their faith by inspiring, challenging, and serving others in the larger community beyond their immediate congregations. We are pleased to announce those who will be honored with the Living Faith Awards:

Jacques Angelino, First Unitarian Universalist Church

Shirley Barker, Broad Street Presbyterian Church

Ladonya Brady, Potters House, Church of God

Connie Hieatt, First Community Church

Peggy Murphy, Madison Christian Church

Bill Pritchett, St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

Jeanne Purcell, St. Thomas More Newman Center

Tom White, First Community Church

Alvin Hadley Social Justice Award: Reverend Tim Ahrens, First Congregational Church

Interfaith/Multicultural Award: Bangalore Shankar, Bharatiya Hindu Temple

Hope for Today Award: Sharon Reed, St. Elizabeth Catholic Church

Hope for Tomorrow Award: Judy Smoot, St. Alban's Episcopal Church

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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.

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Arti Gras! 14th annual celebration of Art & Spirit



Arti Gras! is partially supported by a Franklin County Neighborhood Arts grant from the Ohio Alliance for Arts Education.



clockwise from top left: Sacred Journey (led by Donna Doone and Sr. Rosemary Loomis); raffled quilt created by Barb Davis; Masks & Meaning (Bobbi Gill); Amusing Your Imagination (Amy Flowers); table decoration; Scraps and Stitches Prayer Journal (Susan Eisenman); Prayer Beads (Donita Harris); center: experiencing clay during Judy Smoot's keynote address

More photos on the website: <http://spiritualitynetwork.org/artigras.html>

Spirituality Network Events



PREREGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. SPACE IS LIMITED. Register online at spiritualnetwork.org/events.html; or 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. Registration fee may be paid by cash, check, or credit card (MasterCard, Visa, Discover).

Scholarships available for all programs. Please call to inquire.

Wisdom from the Desert Mothers: A Retreat Day in Lent

Saturday, April 5, 2014, 9:30am-3:30pm

Led by Rev. Dr. Brenda Buckwell

Center of Peace, 1111 E Stewart Ave

\$50 PREPAID by March 28; \$65 after (includes lunch)

This retreat day will offer respite for your weary soul as we gather to share stories from the Desert Ammas, providing spacious time for reflection and prayer on your own journey. Explore how God whispers to your soul, encouraging you to embrace your role as an “Amma” to those in your circle of influence. This retreat will include worship, teaching, and storytelling interspersed with time for individual reflection and small group sharing.

Rev. Dr. Brenda Buckwell is an ordained pastor, serving Westgate United Methodist Church. She is Director of Learning and Formation for The Fellowship of UMC Spiritual Directors and Retreat Leaders in addition to serving on the faculty of the Rueben P. Job Institute for Spiritual Formation at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary and as adjunct faculty at Union Theological Seminary.

Seeing the Holy

by Deborah Tisch

There are moments
when I find the words
when it comes through me
like a message,
special delivery,
when I look at that leaf
or flower or stormy sky
and see power
from beyond
and I see The Holy.

Then the light shimmers
through that leaf that is
clinging to a branch,
and glistens off the drops
of dew on the morning grass
when the mist hovers
over a field as the sun rises,
and I see The Holy.

And my heart says wow.
My soul sings.
My feet stand still in the silence
and my heart and eyes
take it all in.

Maybe I saw this before,
but no matter
because It holds me,
this beautiful presence,
surrounding me
filling my senses
expanding my breath,
and all life pauses
for this moment.

For there I see
The Holy.





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p. 8, AWBA

From the Chair

by Joe Fowler

For about 15 years I have been shoveling my neighbor Paul's sidewalk in the winter. He is almost 90 now, about 25 years older than I am. He has never asked me to do it and we have never discussed it. It goes unmentioned until spring arrives each year and he meets in the yard between our houses and he says thanks and gives me a bag of oranges or grapefruit.

This year during that big storm in early February I looked out my window and saw my neighbor Eric, who lives on my other side, shoveling my walk. This neighbor is about 30 years younger than me. I was surprised and a bit taken aback. I hadn't asked him and hadn't expected help. But I also realized that I was a part of a continuum of generations and individuals assisting each other without fanfare. He was being a good and caring neighbor.

Despite the unwelcome reminder that I am getting older, there is joy in noticing that there is a caring, loving community surrounding each of us. Often times it seems invisible to us and that is why it is such a touching revelation when we finally notice.

The Living Faith Awards is an opportunity to honor members of the central Ohio community who inspire, challenge, and serve others through work grounded in the faith that guides their lives and their interactions with the world and its inhabitants. Twelve exceptional people will be honored this year and I am proud to say that I know several of them personally. You can read more about the awards elsewhere in this newsletter. I hope that you will be able to attend the breakfast and join us in honoring these individuals.

We live in a difficult time of unrest and conflict. It is hard for many of us to feel safe or confident about the future. Still we must press on with the hope that is inspired by our faith in a reality that is greater than us. I am reminded of a poem by William Stafford:

The Way It Is

There's a thread you follow. It goes among
things that change. But it doesn't change.
People wonder about what you are pursuing.
You have to explain about the thread.
But it is hard for others to see.
While you hold it you can't get lost.
Tragedies happen; people get hurt
or die; and you suffer and get old.
Nothing you do can stop time's unfolding.
You don't ever let go of the thread.

So hang on to that thread. Love and help your neighbors. When spring gets here I will thank Eric. I wonder what I will give him.



Wellstreams Workshops

Open to anyone who desires to grow and are ideal for persons in helping professions, lay ministers, caregivers, etc. Please preregister by calling 614/228-8867, via e-mail: carol.spencer1@juno.com, or online: <http://wellstreamscolumbus.org/calendar.html>.

Awakening the Dreamer—Changing the Dream (Eco-Spirituality and the New Cosmology)

Saturday, May 3, 2014, 9:10am-3:30pm, Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Dr. Brown bag lunch or nearby restaurant. \$65 prepaid by April 26; \$75 after.

Through dynamic group interactions, leading edge information, and inspiring multimedia, participants are moved to reconnect with their deep concern for our world and empowered to make a difference.

Designed with the collaboration of some of the finest scientific, indigenous, and activist minds in the world, this workshop explores the current state of our planet from a new perspective and connects participants with a powerful movement to reclaim our future.

A vision with a plan can change the world.

We cannot have peace on the earth unless we have peace with the earth.

FACILITATORS: Sr. Joan Supel, OP, and Sr. Carol Ann Spencer, OP, are both spiritual directors, retreat leaders, and certified Awakening the Dreamer workshop facilitators.

COMING NEXT FALL:

October 11, 2014: Bio-Spirituality and Focusing

November 15, 2014: Male Spirituality

- Registration for a new class is now open. This class will begin on August 22-23, 2014. *Registration deadline: April 15, 2014.*
- Wellstreams graduates interested in the practicum for directed retreats, July 29-August 4, 2014: *Deadline is April 30, 2014.* However, please let the office know now if you are thinking about this because we are going to open it up to spiritual directors from other training programs.
- Opportunity for a directed retreat at Our Lady of the Pines, July 29-August 4, 2014. *Registration deadline: June 15, 2014.*
- Information/registration for the practicum/directed retreat is online at <http://wellstreamscolumbus.org/calendar.html>



Light Up the World, 1 Flame at a Time led by Carol Phillips Whitt (Arti Gras! 2014)



2014 Living Faith Awards

Thursday, May 15, 8am-10am
Harry C. Moores Center
Capital University

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The keynote speakers at the awards breakfast will be Don and Nancy Kelley, who will speak on the topic of "Living Faith Together."

The special awards recognize individuals in specific categories. The Alvin Hadley Social Justice Award will be presented to Rev. Tim Ahrens, Senior Pastor at First Congregational Church. His tireless efforts on behalf social justice have had an impact on local and statewide lobbying through two organizations, B.R.E.A.D. and WE BELIEVE. Bangalore Shankar has been described as someone who has provided quiet and unassuming leadership to the Bharatia Hindu Temple in Powell. He will be awarded the Interfaith/Multicultural Award in honor of his role in bringing together people of many faith traditions and encouraging collaboration among diverse opinions and cultures.

Two newer awards, Hope for Today and Hope for Tomorrow, will honor individuals who are involved with the mission of The Spirituality Network and live that mission while inspiring others. Sharon Reed, who will be recognized with the Hope for Today Award, has been involved with the Network since its founding 28 years ago. She has held many roles with the organization including retreat facilitation, Wellstreams faculty member, and currently spiritual director to the Board of Directors. Sharon is the Dean of Student Life at Ohio Dominican University. The award of Hope for Tomorrow will be presented to Judy Smoot, who is a graduate of the Wellstreams Training Program and a spiritual director. Judy's passion to provide spiritual care for individuals who have been diagnosed with a chronic illness led her to begin a nonprofit organization, Always We Begin Again (AWBA). Through online technology, Judy is providing a spiritual ministry that includes retreats, blogs, classes, and workshops that include expressive arts.

Individual reservations: \$30

Table of 8 or more: \$25 per person

Register by May 9 on our website, spiritualitynetwk.org/livingfaith.html or call 614/228-8867.

To purchase an ad in the program, see pages 7-8.

This event is a unique way of lifting up the individuals, community organizations, and congregations who are contributing in a significant way to the spiritual life of many, whether it be in a soup kitchen, a prison, a garden, working with the homeless, or spiritually enriching the lives of individuals who have been diagnosed with a chronic illness. This event will leave you humbled and inspired at the same time. The Spirituality Network is honored to sponsor this event and we hope that you can join us.



The Spirituality Network
Presents

The 2014 Living Faith Awards

Thursday, May 15, 2014, 8 am-10 am

Harry C. Moores Center at Capital University

Reservations: \$30 per person ~ Groups of 8 or more: \$25 per person

Make your reservation: spiritualitynetwork.org/livingfaith.html

or phone: 614/228-8867



Commemorative Program Advertising Information:

Submit your digital black and white ads
NO LATER THAN APRIL 25 to
Sandra Kerka (skerka@insight.rr.com).

Acceptable formats: PDF, JPG, Microsoft Word, Adobe Illustrator

If you want us to design your ad, deadline is April 18.

To place your advertising order
complete the form on p. 8 and mail with payment to:
The Spirituality Network, ATTN: LFA
444 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43215
OR download form and pay online
http://spiritualitynetwork.org/livingfaith_ad.html

Full page ad: 4" W x 7" H
includes 4 complimentary reservations
\$200
If we design your ad: \$250

Half page ad: 4" W x 3.25" H
includes 2 complimentary reservations
\$100
If we design your ad: \$140



Thank you for your support of the Living Faith Awards Breakfast

The Spirituality Network, Inc.
444 East Broad Street ~ Columbus, Ohio 43215
614/228-8867 ~ www.spiritualitynetwork.org



2014 Living Faith Awards Ad Form
To place your advertising order complete all information and return with payment to:
The Spirituality Network, ATTN: LFA
444 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

NAME: _____
CONGREGATION OR COMMUNITY: _____
DAYTIME PHONE: _____
E-MAIL: _____
MAILING ADDRESS: _____

- Full page ad, 4" x 7" : \$200 (deadline April 25)
- Design ad for us* : \$250 (deadline April 18)

Please list names for your four complimentary reservations:

- Half page ad, 4" x 3.25" : \$100 (deadline April 25)
- Design ad for us* : \$140 (deadline April 18)

Please list names for your two complimentary reservations:

*We will design an ad for you with your submitted content.

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

- Check enclosed and made payable to The Spirituality Network
- Credit card (circle one): VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER

PLEASE FILL IN ALL REQUESTED INFORMATION:

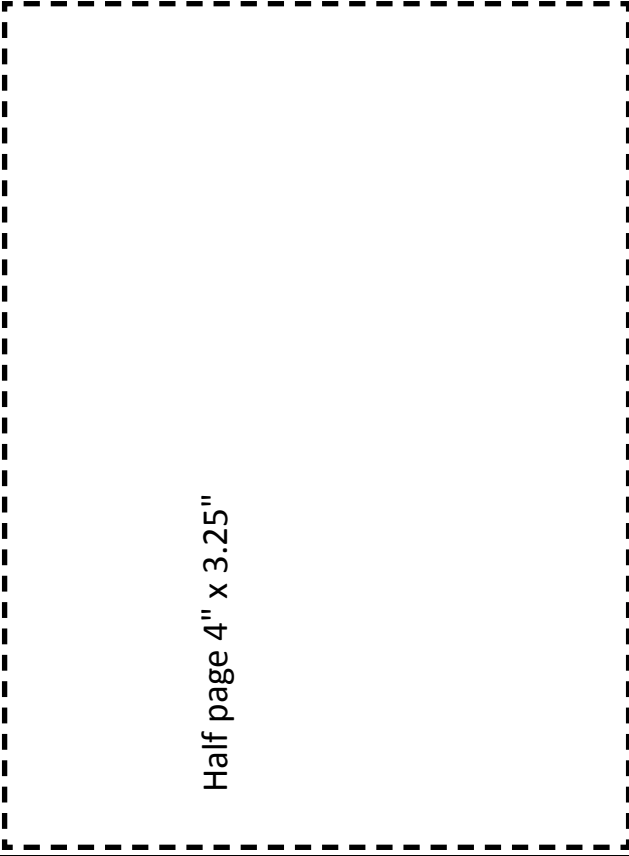
Credit Card Number _____
Expiration Date: _____
Name on the card: _____
Security Code: _____

I authorize The Spirituality Network to process this charge:

Signature: _____
Date: _____

Full page 4" x 7"

example of ad sizes

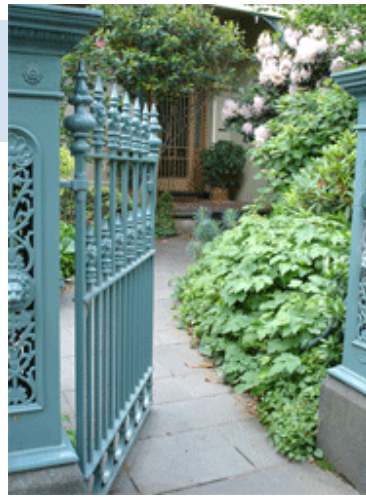


Half page 4" x 3.25"

Always We Begin Again

AWBA has completed its 5-year strategic plan, part of which focuses on developing collaborations and building our resources for future facilitators and workshop leaders. We are excited for the connection with Melbourne, Australia art therapist Libby Byrne as part of our third offering of the online retreat "Beginning Again." By the time this newsletter publishes, this retreat should be at the midway point. Libby reached out to us across the miles after a google search of "spirituality" and "chronic illness" brought her to our website. Libby uses art to manage her own chronic diagnosis. In addition to her art therapy practice with clients, she teaches art therapy at LaTrobe University, and exhibits her art at galleries in her community. We are eager to have Libby's presence in this retreat, and to discern how to effectively share her compassionate heart, talents, and personal experience with the AWBA community in the future. If you or someone you know is or has been affected personally by chronic illness and has a passion for serving this population with retreat or workshop ideas, please let us know. We would love to brainstorm with you.

AWBA is hosting two new blogs this spring. "Caregiver Connection" features one mom's journey with her son diagnosed with autism. "Ebbs and Flows" features the experiences of a woman living with a chronic diagnosis and well as her experiences as a



support person. Visit the "blog" link on our website www.myawba.org to learn more about our blogs and to be linked with their content. This is a great way to find a community that might resonate with your needs and to engage in dialogue with others for mutual encouragement and support. We look forward to expanding our blog offerings as new bloggers find their way to AWBA.

In these next few months, our Board of Directors will focus its attention on implementing our new strategic plan to ensure that we continue to provide the best support possible. I welcome your e-mails for how we might creatively serve those affected by a chronic diagnosis.

Judy Smoot
Executive Director
director@myawba.org

Wings & Prayers quilt ministry

We need both more willing hands to assemble quilts for hospice patients and monetary donations to purchase batting and backing.

If you are able to contribute monetarily to our ministry, we would be most grateful. You can send a check to the Spirituality Network identifying that it is for the Wings and Prayers Quilt Ministry. If you are interested in helping us make these simple lap quilts, please call Mary Ellen George at 614/878-1920 or e-mail kmgeorge@wowway.com. No experience is necessary! We meet the second Saturday of the month from 9:30am to 12:30pm at the First Congregational Church in downtown Columbus. We'd be delighted to have you join us in this meaningful ministry.



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. Monthly book club facilitated by Marialein Anzenberger, OP, and Colleen Gallagher, OP. Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Dr, Columbus; 614/416-1910; martindepordes@opeace.org; www.martindepordescenter.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, and discussion of Merton readings, led by Merton scholar David Belcastro, PhD. Hosted by Martin de Porres Center, 614/416-1910.

Just for Today

Letting go isn't easy for many of us. We hold on to memories, traditions, dreams, mementos. These are not necessarily bad. Our pasts are definitely a huge part of who we are. Our futures define who we may ultimately become.

But I wonder if we hold onto these and give up something equally as precious. Today.

Are we so focused on what was or what might have been that we fail to appreciate the present? Are we so anxious about what tomorrow brings that we fail to enjoy what's here and now? It's an easy trap to fall into. And it deprives us of so much.

Recently, my son and daughter-in-law gave me a gift that was far richer than I suspect they ever imagined: a sandbox. Oh, it's not just any sandbox. The sand includes a polymer so that the sand never dries out. I describe it as kind of like brown sugar. I packs like brown sugar, it's granular like brown sugar. It sticks to itself... but this sand doesn't stick to anything else.

This gift has become a kind of therapy for me. I took the sandbox to my office. Each morning before I get into my daily (or not so daily) routines, I take 30 minutes or so to create something in the sandbox. It's become quite the community project. Each morning colleagues stop by to see what I've created. They make their own additions or offer ideas for future projects.

After sending photos to my family for several days, my daughter-in-law suggested that I create a blog and post the pictures. I call the blog, Just For Today.

It's been cool to create something new every day. But it also means that I have to destroy what I made the day before. I have to let it go. It's a reminder for me to focus on today. To enjoy what the day brings and to start fresh each new day. It's a reminder that our God is a God of new beginnings. Of second chances. Of relationships and being cocreators.

I encourage you to stop by my blog (<http://arodsr.wordpress.com/>) and check it out. If you have suggestions, please let me know. Mostly, I hope it inspires you to enjoy today.

Alejandro Rodriguez
Past Board Chairperson
The Spirituality Network

Community Events

STS. PETER & PAUL RETREAT CENTER

2734 Seminary Rd, SE, Newark; 740/928-4246; info@stspeterandpaulretreatcenter.org; www.stspeterandpaulretreatcenter.org

Women's Retreat, May 10, 2014, 9am-12pm, facilitated by Maxine Shonk, OP. \$15, includes continental breakfast. Join us for an uplifting morning of praise and inspiration on becoming a kinder and more caring Christian woman.

CENTER FOR COMPASSIONATE COMMUNICATION

2350 Indianola Ave, Columbus, OH 43202; 614/558-1141; info@speakingpeace.org; speakingpeace.org

Parenting from the Heart: Raising Children using Compassionate Communication, April 19, 26. May 3, 17, 24, 31, 9:30am-11:30am. Led by Susanna Warren. More information: http://www.cnvc.org/trainingcal/view?training_id=2921

Family HEART Camp, August 2-9, 2014, Greenwood Lake Camp and Retreat Center, Delaware, Ohio. Earlybird discounts through May 19. All-ages summer camp for children, parents, and families grounded in the principles of Compassionate Communication principles. Register online at <http://www.familyheartcamp.org/register.html> or call 855-FHC-CAMP.

International Intensive Training, August 15-24, 2014 in Columbus, Ohio. 10% earlybird discount through May 15. A 9-day immersion in a compassionate community learning how to speak from the heart, practice deep nonjudgmental listening, and build self-empowerment from the inside out. More information: <https://www.cnvc.org/usa-ohio-august-2014>

C. G. JUNG ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OHIO

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

Planning for Retirement with Soul and Imagination, Thursdays, April 24, May 1, May 8, 6:30-8:30pm, First Community Church, 1320 Cambridge Blvd. Presenter: John P. Schuster, JACO board member, executive coach, author.

Connect with the Self Through Singing, June 1, 2014. Presenter: Jamie Massa, JACO member, degree in voice pedagogy. Experience singing: holistic and freeing. Details TBA.

2nd Saturday Coffee & Conversations, 10am-12pm most months. New topic and facilitator each month. Donations appreciated.



Ongoing Groups

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S WRITING GUILD

A network for the personal and professional empowerment of women through writing. Meetings free and open to all, for writing, reading, and gentle critiquing in a safe, supportive environment.

Men are welcome!

Contact Jeanne Marlowe at jamarlowe@juno.com, 614/476-8802 for free e-newsletter with additional dates.

April 5, June 7, 10am-12:30pm, Columbus Public Library, 96 S Grant Ave, 3rd fl. board room.

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; www.iaco.org.

April 2, May 7, June 4, July 2, August 6, 12-1 pm, Columbus Metropolitan Library, 96 S Grant Ave, 3rd fl board room.



444 E Broad St
Columbus OH 43215
spiritnetwk@hotmail.com
spiritualitynetwork.org

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

We Believe:

- That God’s love is unconditional
- That each person is drawn into relationship with God through the circumstances of human experience
- That a healthy, ongoing relationship with God, self, and all of creation moves one to respond authentically to the needs of others
- That a contemplative life stance must be rooted in prayer, nonviolence, and a radical passion for truth

To receive updates on Network and community events via e-mail, go to spiritualitynetwork.org and click on “SN Google Group Signup” in the middle of the page. Click on “Apply for group membership” on right side of the google group page. Click on red signup button and follow prompts using gmail or any e-mail address.

We Provide:

- Education and formation through the Wellstreams Program
- Spiritual direction referrals for groups and individuals
- Retreat planning and facilitation
- Programs to foster the spiritual life, including continuing education and professional enrichment for those in caring ministries
- Outreach to the underserved in society, through programs, scholarships, and other enrichment opportunities

We Serve:

- Both those with and without formal faith affiliations
- Both those with and without ability to pay.

The Spirituality Network, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization.

Share Your Gifts



Help the Network with Your Shopping

The Spirituality Network has a strong legacy of volunteer power that has been the foundation of its success for more than 25 years. Many people are unaware that the three staff members are part time; only with the support of volunteers does the day-to-day operation function on a full-time basis.

There are numerous ways to get involved. Some provide a one-time opportunity; others are short term or ongoing for a limited time, such as a committee membership. You can lend skills, talents, and experience to help strengthen the organization. You can share your gifts, your vision, and your ideas by getting involved.

You may never know what results come of your action, but if you do nothing, there will be no results. ~ Gandhi

Get involved with the Spirituality Network.
See our website for more information: <http://spiritualitynetwork.org/getinvolved.html>

When you shop for books, music, gifts, or gift cards remember to use our Amazon.com link, which returns a portion of the price to the Network. Bookmark the Amazon Purchase Program link at www.spiritualitynetwork.org.

Support the Mission of The Spirituality Network:

DONATE ONLINE NOW

Or mail your tax-deductible gift to The Spirituality Network, 444 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

Thank you!