

February 2009 Soundings

This issue of Soundings includes:

Calendar

Events in February and news from current members of Seekers and the wider Seekers community.

SOUNDINGS

FEBRUARY 2009

CALENDAR

Tuesdays, Feb. 10–Mar. 17–Seekers School of Christian Living, with two classes. (See story.)

Sunday, Feb. 1–InterPlay, 1–4 p.m., Sanctuary. Also: Friday, Feb. 13–InterPlay day-long

event, Cynthia Winton-Henry, at Sacred Circles event at the National Cathedral. (See story

for these and other events.)

Friday, Feb. 13, and Saturday, Feb. 14–Sacred Circles women's event at the National

Cathedral. See

www.nationalcathedral.org/learn/sacredCircles.shtml

Sunday, Feb. 15–Visit to Seekers by the founder of Afghanistan Institute of Learning (AIL)

and post-service discussion, 11:30 am–12:15 pm. (See story.)

Sunday, Feb. 15—Concert, 3 pm, at Lutheran Church of the Reformation on Capitol Hill (see

story)

Friday, Feb. 20–Sunday, Feb. 22—Dayspring Silent Retreat for the larger C of S community and

beyond. “Becoming God’s Beloved,” led by Peter Bankson. (See story.)

April 2009—Seekers Retreat at Dayspring. More information will be coming later.

SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN LIVING

Two classes at the Seekers School first spring term begin soon:

Dates: 2/10-3/17 (six weeks)

Dinner at 7:00 for a \$4 donation

Classes 7:45–9:30

Passion and Purpose: A Study of Psalms

Led by Dan Phillips

This discussion group will explore the power and artistry of ancient Hebrew poetry with a

goal of finding relevance to our modern lives. In considering the forms and images of the

Psalms, we will examine our own passions for and thoughts about the divine. Using artistic

expression and group participation, we will investigate what, if anything, these writers

from another time and place have to say to us about our practices of prayer and worship. And

we will attempt to relate our own ideas of the good life with what those presented in this

holy book.

Book discussion group—Gilead, by Marilynne Robinson

Led by Brenda Seat

Gilead was published in 2004 and won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2005 amid widespread

acclaim. This epistolary novel presents a sympathetic portrait of Reverend John Ames, who

writes about his life and his beliefs, ever mindful of the fact that he has only a short

time to live. Reverend Ames takes up the task of writing in the hopes that his little boy

will read this book when he is an adult and thus become acquainted with the father he may

barely remember otherwise.”

Themes of trying to translate and communicate experiences and understandings from one

generation to the next, the issues of that arise between fathers and sons, the relevance of

faith, and coming to terms with the shortness of life will be explored.

Brenda hopes that all who join the group will help “co-teach!”

DAYSPRING RETREATS

Nancy Lawrence writes—There will be a Dayspring Silent Retreat

for the larger C of S

community and beyond. Our Peter Bankson will be leading "Becoming God's Beloved"—based on

Henry Nouwen's thought—February 20–22. Anyone interested, please contact Peter.

Our next Seekers silent retreat at Dayspring is scheduled for April, the weekend after

Easter. More information will be coming later.

SOUNDINGS SURVEY

Please note that this survey is in Kate Cudlipp's email of January 28 to all

Seekers. If you have not responded to Kate and would like to, please do so using her emailed message.

Kate writes—The Servant Leadership Team and Liz Gould-Leger are asking you to spend a few

minutes to answer the following few questions to help us think about the future of

Soundings, the Seekers newsletter. If you will indicate in some fashion—an asterisk or any

other mark that shows your choice of answers—and then return your responses to me, we would

appreciate it. We are hoping for responses from as many of you as possible so we will have a

good indication of where to go with the newsletter. All suggestions and comments are

welcome.

I am also attaching the questionnaire as a document if some of you would prefer to work with

it in that form—and then return it to me. Ongoing Epiphany blessings, Kate

INTERPLAY EVENTS

February 1: “InterPlay DC First Sunday Gathering and Body Spirit Celebration” from 1-4pm at

Seeker’s Church

February 13: The founder of InterPlay, Cynthia Winton Henry at Sacred Circles Conference for

Women’s Spirituality

(<http://www.nationalcathedral.org/learn/sacredCircles.shtml>)

is the

link for more information.

February 15: The Living Masquerade: Embodying the Archetypes with Cynthia Winton Henry and

Rick Kakareka 1:30 – 5:30 at Christ Church on Capitol Hill – see information below.

February 27: Friday Evening Northern Virginia Playgroup at the Carey Building with John

Peterson—see below.

February 28: Saturday InterPlay Class at the UU Church in Arlington with Dina Claussen and

Rick Kakareka.

Next 1st Sunday DC/MD/VA Open Gathering: March 1, 2009 (Call Sue at 703-641-5963)

websites: interplay.org & interplaydc.org .

The Living Masquerade: Embodying Archetypes

With Rick Kakareka and Cynthia Winton-Henry

Sunday Feb 15, 2009

1:30-5:30pm

Cynthia and Rick embody playful archetypes like Tree of Life, Rainbow Serpent, Raccoon, and

others that guide and inspire them. What is alive in you that wants to be seen? Using

InterPlay forms, improvisational mask making, and community sculpting, we'll draw on our

body wisdom as we ask, "Who are we now and what are we facing?"

Location: Christ Church

620 G Street SE

Washington, DC 20003

Christ Church is just two and a half blocks south of the Eastern Market Metro station.

Cost: \$30

Please let us know if you'll be joining us by contacting Rick (You can send us a check ahead of time or register at the door. Checks should be made out to

Interplay DC.)

Rick Kakareka

6417 Cherokee Court

Alexandria, VA 22312

rick@virtualconnections.net or 703-966-7138

Rick Kakareka is a certified Interplay leader. He is visual artist, mask maker, and

musician. He is a member of The Big Yes Performance Ensemble and founder of the NoVA/DC Joe

Campbell Foundation Mythological Roundtable.

InterPlay–Northern Virginia Playgroup

Friday Feb 27, 2009

7:00-9:00 PM

Led by John Peterson, Certified InterPlay Leader
at the Cary Building – 8136 Old Keene Mill Rd, Suite A-210
Springfield, VA 22152
(Near Old Keene Mill and Rolling Rd)

CALL FOR USED LAPTOPS FOR BOKAMOSO YOUTH

Kate Cudlipp writes–Jackie McMakin has asked that I send out the request below for used

laptops. Hope some of you may be able to respond and/or forward the request to others who

might help–your address list, neighborhood or work lists, etc.

Needed: Used Laptops for South African Students

South African students who are members of the Bokamoso Youth Troupe are in need of used lap

top computers for their studies. Here are the specs:

- PC with Windows 2000 or xp

- Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point

Deadline: March 1. The reason for the deadline is that 29 American students will travel to

South Africa as part of an exchange on March 15. We have a computer person who can clean up

the computers and upgrade them if necessary.

Please call Roy Barber 202-244-6353 and we will arrange a way to get the computer.

Your used laptop can make an enormous difference in the life of a South African student

eager to learn.

RECYCLING ELECTRONICS

Trish Nemore passes on this message from the Sligo Park Hills website:

Best Buy Takes E-Waste Recycling Nationwide

Beginning Feb. 15, Minneapolis-based Best Buy has announced it will provide e-waste

recycling at all of its 1,006 stores nationwide and will expand the service to its stores in

Puerto Rico by 2010. Consumers will be allowed to drop off two items, per household each

day, free of charge.

A \$10 recycling fee will be charged per unit for items with screens such as televisions,

monitors and laptop computers. Consumers will receive a \$10 gift card in exchange for the

recycling fee, except in its California stores or for the company's exclusively branded

products. Stores also will not accept televisions or monitors larger than 32 inches, console

televisions, appliances, microwaves and items that contain Freon.

In June, the company launched a pilot program at 117 of its

U.S. stores.

Note—For Seekers and others interested in the Maryland area below, here's a local website

included in Trish's message:

To receive information about Silver Spring/Takoma Park outside of Sligo Park Hills, email

SilverSpring-TakomaParkCommunityNews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com to join.

NEWS OF THE WIDER SEEKERS COMMUNITY

Ron Kraybill—Pat Conover sends us good news (January 12 here in the U.S.) from Ron, former

Seekers member now in the Middle East.

Hi guys, They're here! [Ron and Ody's expected twins.] Arrived Monday evening at 745 and

750pm. A month early, 2.2 and 1.9 kgs., but 9 APGAR ratings and in perfection condition. Ody

says they look like Kraybills, especially Josh and Carly. Ody's water broke at 630am Monday

morning, we went right away to the hospital, moderate level contractions all day, full

dilation by 7pm, 30 minutes of pushing and the Baby A was here! One big push and Baby B

arrived five minutes later! They are on monitors for some days in the neonatal unit but we

are hoping to take them home by the end of the weekend. Ody's fine—says the labor really was

not as bad as she expected, extremely tired and sore, but doing well. I'm tired and happy

and overwhelmed but doing fine. Love, Ron

The best email address for Ron is: RonKraybiill@gmail.com.

Thelma Hemker—Kate Cudlipp sends a message of her death.—Here is word of the passing of one

of the oldest (I have to think) C of S'ers. The information is here for anyone who may have

known Thelma Hemker and would like to be present at her memorial service.

On Friday, February 6, 2009

We will celebrate the life of Thelma M. Hemker—August 16, 1903, to January 19, 2009

National Lutheran Home Chapel

9701 Veirs Drive

Rockville, MD 20850

10:30 a.m.

Light lunch following in Lang Hall

For further information call Fern Edwards, 301-424-8107.

Directions: I-270, Exit 5-Falls Road South (west – go back over I-270 when coming from DC),

right on Wootton Parkway, to Scott Drive (4th left, first light) becomes Veirs Drive. NLH

Campus is on the right.

Phone: 301-424-9560

Wednesday, February 4, in the joint service of Potters House Church and Jubilee Church,

there will be a period of remembrance of Thelma at 6:00 p.m.
1658 Columbia Road N.W.
Washington, DC 20009

CHORAL CONCERT AT REFORMATION—KATHY TOBIAS

Kathy writes—I thought you might be interested in our performance (Reformation choir plus

outstanding singers from the DC area) of the Faure Requiem and the world premiere of the

Requiem written by our wonderful (Juilliard-trained) choir director/composer Paul Leavitt—a

benefit for Whitman-Walker Clinic. Flyer attached—hope it comes through! [See Kathy's Jan.

27 email for the attached flyer.]

The performance is Sunday afternoon, February 15, 3 pm, at Lutheran Church of the

Reformation, 212 E. Capitol (right behind the Supreme Court). All are welcome to come;

contributions are voluntary.

INAUGURAL EXPERIENCE AND REFLECTIONS IN PAT'S BLOG

Pat writes— Dear Family, Friends, and Colleagues, It feels good to be posting to my blog

again. This one is a short personal piece about feeling so different about being part of the

political aspects of citizenship as a result of my experience at Obama's inauguration. You

can read the post at <http://blog.patconover.com>. Sorry for the mistake in my web address in

my last email message to you.—Enjoy.

AA AT SEEKERS

John Morris writes— Many of you know that we host an Alcoholics Anonymous group at Seekers.

The Takoma Rush Hour Group meets every Thursday at 5:30 pm, renting the space just like any

other building user, in keeping with AA's tradition that every group be fully

self-supporting. The group began about 18 months ago with just two or three members, meeting

in the third-floor meditation room. As of a month ago, the group had become so large that it

had to switch to the conference room for its meetings, which now number 15–20 people. A

member of Seekers who attends the meetings reports, "We've been very successful in helping

each other stay sober. We attracted quite a few newcomers to the AA program, and several of

these members recently celebrated their first anniversary of sobriety." Seekers can feel

pleased and proud that the gift of sobriety through Alcoholics Anonymous is being offered at

our church.

AFGHAN INSTITUTE OF LEARNING—FOUNDER'S VISIT AND A DISCUSSION

Jane Engle writes—Mark your calendar: The founder of Afghanistan Institute of Learning

(AIL), Sakena Yacoobi, will be at Seekers 2/15/09. After joining us for worship, from 11:30

am to 12:15 pm, she will lead a discussion of the situation in Afghanistan today, focusing

on women and children, and the work of AIL. Sakena will also be a plenary speaker and lead

workshops at the Sacred Circles Conference at the National Cathedral preceding her visit to

Seekers. Seekers has made donations to AIL through our international giving for many years.

Contact Jane Engle if you would like to join Sakena for lunch at a nearby restaurant after

the discussion.

CELEBRATION CIRCLE—A SUMMARY OF PREACHING IN 2008

At Seekers we take seriously our understanding that each of us, without exception, can and

does hear God's Word in various ways in our lives, and that some of us are led to share the

Word that we hear through preaching. One of the consequences of this stance is that we have

a rich diversity of preachers at Seekers. Just how rich it is can be seen from the following

summary of our 2008 preaching.

34 people or groups preached at least once.

We heard 27 women preachers, 15 men, and 7 groups. In addition, we had two Taize services

and a Christmas carol sing.

On 45 Sundays, the preaching came from the Seekers community. On seven Sundays, we heard

voices from outside our community.

Whether or not you personally were included in these 2008 numbers, Celebration Circle would

be delighted to have you in the mix for 2009. Ken Burton keeps the preaching calendar, but

please feel free to speak with any member of the mission group (Deborah Sokolove, Peter

Bankson, and Sandra Miller, as well as Ken), about adding your voice to those that we hear

from the Seekers pulpit.

CARMEN ESTRADA IN DANCE PERFORMANCE

Leslie Smith writes—Our daughter Carmen will be performing with a flamenco dance company at

the end of February at the Alden Theater in McLean. I'm attaching a notice and ticket

information for anyone interested in attending. It should be quite an evening. Warmly,

Leslie

Mark your calendars and buy your tickets early for Furia

Flamenca's next big production

coming on February 28, 2009! Our next big show will be held at the Alden Theater in McLean,

VA. This will be our biggest production yet, where we will bring to life the poetry of

Federico Garcia Lorca through flamenco in an unforgettable evening of poetry, music, singing

and dancing. Come experience the passion of Garcia Lorca through flamenco! Tickets are

already on sale and are only \$30 and \$25 for McLean residents! The show will only run for

one evening, so don't wait until the last minute to buy your tickets! For more information

on the Alden Theater and to purchase tickets, please visit their website at

<http://www.mcleancenter.org/alden/guestartist.asp>