

Women's Network News

Winter 2009

Affirming and Celebrating Women



Women supporting women in their spiritual journey

UCC Women's Network

Northern California Nevada Conference,
United Church of Christ

The Network Steering Committee

spearheads the UCC Women's

Network activities:

Outstanding Women's Luncheon

Fall Day Retreat &

Winter Weekend Retreat.

If you are interested in joining our leadership team contact

Network Chairwoman, Kay Harris,
650 572-8378, kay@communi-ks.com

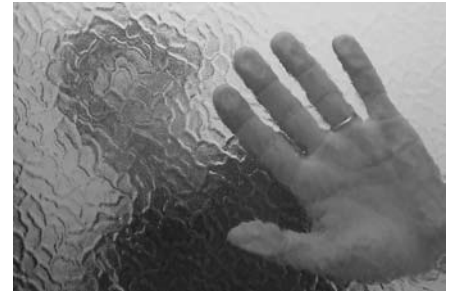


Join us for our exciting annual weekend Winter Retreat at the Mercy Center in Burlingame! For the second year in a row, we are proud to be presenting the retreat in conjunction with the Disciples of Christ (DOC) Women's Ministries—WomenSpirit! The addition of the Disciples women brings even more strength and talent to our wonderful weekend retreat!

Winter Weekend Retreat 2009

The Thin Places: Where the Divine and the Ordinary Meet

At this year's winter retreat, we will study, explore, and embrace the *Thin Places*. What is a thin place? *Thin Places* are those places in life where the dividing line between the holy and the ordinary is hard to see...and more easily felt...to the point that the ordinary becomes holy and the holy becomes ordinary. To quote Mindie Burgoyne in *Walking Through Thin Places*:



“Thin Places are ports in the storm of life, where the pilgrims can move closer to the God they seek, where one leaves that which is familiar and journeys into the Divine Presence. They are stopping places where men and women are given pause to wonder about what lies beyond the mundane rituals, the grief, trials and boredom of our day-to-day life. They probe to the core of the human heart and open the pathway that leads to satisfying the familiar hungers and yearnings common to all people on earth, the hunger to be connected, to be a part of something greater, to be loved, to find peace.”

A thin place is anywhere that God feels especially near. Come join us as we strengthen our connection with God by reaching through the veil...



Our keynote speaker, **Rev. Patricia Evans**, is a native Oregonian, third generation Disciples' minister, and the Senior Minister of the First Christian Church in Albany, OR. Before serving this congregation she was the Pastor of the First Christian Church of Selma, CA for 14 years. Throughout her years in Selma she was also an active leader in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Northern California and Nevada and served a term as Regional

Moderator, Church Camp director, retreat leader, keynoter, and chair of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee several times. Patty is a graduate of Chapman University in Orange, CA and received her Master of Divinity degree from Claremont School of Theology in Claremont, CA. She was ordained in 1980 at the First Christian Church of Fullerton, CA. Patty enjoys reading, going to the movies and does intricate pen and ink drawings that she calls "doodling." She also loves music and plays the piano, cello, guitar and psaltery. Patty has visited over 20 countries around the world as well as most of the states. She delights in returning to Northern California for this retreat and looks forward to renewing her friendships with the women of the Northern California churches!

This year we have put a new spin on several activities and feature a broad range of workshops that are sure to interest every participant. Barbara Hamm will lead our music program and Taizé service. There will be time for you to relax, reflect, and just breathe. Register now to reserve this special time for yourself! **Even better—bring a friend!**

Jan. 30—Feb. 1, 2009 • Mercy Center, Burlingame

Saturday Workshops

Workshops are offered in three sessions—one in the morning and two in the afternoon. There are only three workshops per session time with NO duplication. When you arrive at the retreat you may select workshops you wish to attend. One/session.

Build Body Confidence by Finding Your Style

You don't have to spend a fortune or diet to look great! By focusing on the positive you will be able to banish negative body image and gain self-confidence. In this workshop, Tina will show you how to make clothes work for you and your body, thereby helping you define your style, and discover joy in dressing for your life. ■ **Tina Brown is a personal clothing stylist who lives in Santa Cruz. Her company, Ilka, emphasizes clothing as an environment for the body, not solely fashion. Her credits include fashion photo shoots and runway work for Macy's, Saks Fifth Avenue and Giorgio Armani. She works with her clients' existing wardrobe and within the client's budget to get the most from their own closet.**

Conversations with Keynoter Rev. Patty Evans

This is your opportunity to ask Patty questions about her presentations or just get to know her better.

Dancing into the In-Between

Dance helps both the dancer and the community to stretch into new awareness, claim joy, release old aches, and awaken wonder. Class participants will prepare choreography to be shared in our Sunday worship. Individuals may or may not choose to participate in the final performance, but all are welcome to share in the workshop's creative process. ■ **Vicky Blake is a liturgical dancer and teacher especially known for "living sculpture" choreography which incorporates multiple human bodies with flexible fabric screens and bags.**

Discovering What's Truly Important:

Reflecting on "Eat, Pray, and Love" by Elizabeth Gilbert

Come to Savor, Encounter, and Embrace your own story! Many readers found themselves most at home in a particular section of Gilbert's book as the author travels through metaphorical lands embodied by her experiences in America, Italy, India, and Bali. We'll discuss, critique and respond to this popular book, explore rituals of naming ourselves and our experiences, and celebrate relearning how to love ourselves. ■ **Judith Oehmen is a Life Coach who has shared her skills in community college, medical facility, and conference settings. Emily Stahl helped in the creation of the Tri-Valley Haven and developed their children's program ministry.**

Journaling Inward, Exploring our Inner Landscapes

In this workshop, we will learn and explore the journaling process as a tool to facilitate moving deeply inward to uncover, unveil, and reveal our truest selves.

The workshop will use journal prompts focused on the conference theme, contemplative exercises, and sharing in small groups to help us explore our inner landscape.

■ **Angela Garcia, MA has a full-time professional career in a leadership role in the corporate world. She provides individual spiritual direction in Modesto, California, facilitates monthly workshops in creative expression, and finds time to explore her own inner life, creativity, and contemplative spirit.**

Life-landscape Book

We will use a simple book-making method to create a small, keepsake book. Combining the tactile with the visual will help us investigate our ideas around our spiritual lives, needs & hopes. The books can also provide space for us to record our thoughts during the retreat weekend. Our retreat theme can be expressed and shared in an individually created book. All supplies & a variety of art materials will be provided. ■ **Susan Sullivan is a dancer, drummer, fitness trainer & teacher. She holds certifications in personal training, yoga, Taketina Rhythm work, & Seniors Fitness. Susan has led arts workshops in the San Francisco Bay Area for over 12 years, seeing the arts as a community & spirit building activity. She teaches fitness in San Francisco and is the founder of Binky's Barn, a studio for fitness, music & art.**

Mystery, Mindfulness and Midrash:

What are the "thin places" in the Biblical story?

How did the writers convey their sense of the intersection between the holy and the ordinary? What can we learn about our own spiritual geography, and our ability to perceive the holy as it is revealed to us in our own lives? Come and explore the journey. ■ **Rev. Dr. Judith Jones is pastor at First Christian Church (DOC) in Vallejo. Dr. Jones leads workshops on art and worship, feminine spirituality and Biblical Studies, and is currently working in the area of Shalom Economy—peace, conservation and economic justice.**

Her most recent publication, Women in the Gospel of John: The Divine Feminine, has just been published by Christian Board of Publication/Chalice Press.

The Thin Within—Living in the thin place within the human heart

The difference between living out an ordinary existence and living a miraculous life thins when we connect with our innate divine nature and consciously bring it forward in order to live it in a spiritually inspired way. In this workshop, we will go through an exercise that will reveal more about who we truly are in our hearts, allowing us to live "in the spiritual thin place" as we go about everyday life. ■ **Anne Jackson, Ph.D. is a licensed clinical psychologist and professional life coach located in the San Francisco Bay area. She specializes in leading transformational workshops and guiding the personal.**

Zero Days: The Real-Life Adventure of Captain Bligh, Nellie Bly, and 10-Year-Old Scrambler on the Pacific Crest Trail

Come join author Barbara Egbert and her daughter Mary as they share stories of their incredible adventure hiking the 2,650-mile Pacific Trail from Mexico to Canada. Named for the precious days off when hikers rack-up zero trail miles, "Zero Days" is Barbara's account of their epic journey, which required love, perseverance, and the careful rationing of toilet paper. Along the way, they discovered which family values, from love and equality to thrift and cleanliness, could withstand the long, challenging trail and 137 nights together in a 6-by-8-foot tent. ■ **Barbara Egbert, and her daughter Mary, the youngest person to successfully walk the famed Pacific Crest Trail, are members of the Little Brown Church of Sunol. The book describes their family backpacking trip from Mexico to Canada in 2004. They use their book signings to promote outdoor recreation for families with small children.**

Retreat Bonuses!

Friday Night Community Building: Stretching the Truth

Rev. Margie Brown is a professional storyteller specializing in Biblical Humor. Our special guest from Idaho, Vicki Blake, is a nationally-known choreographer of community creativity. They will help us break the ice using stretchy fabric (not for dance as in Vicki's workshop) in a variety of fun and surprising ways to lead us in small group building.

Chaplains

Our chaplains Rev. Valerie McEntee, Rev. Nancy McKay, and Rev. Diane Wilson will be available to all.

Guided Meditation

Saturday and Sunday. Start your day in harmony by joining Angela Garcia from 7:00-8:00 a.m. in a guided group meditation.

Walk of the Labyrinth

Enjoy the spiritual practice of walking the beautiful outdoor labyrinth or our indoor labyrinth in the sanctuary.

Walk the Mercy Center Grounds

Grab a jacket and leisurely walk around the Mercy Center grounds or enjoy the outdoors labyrinth.

Singing

Join us in the stairwell and sing like an angel or join the Retreat Choir!



Serendipity

Rosie Potestio will lead our "talent-no-talent" evening sharing time. This year we will have a special activity leading into the Taizé worship service.

Saturday Night Taizé Service

This beautiful candlelight service will offer opportunities for healing prayers and walking the indoor labyrinth.

UCC Women's Network & Disciples WomanSpirit Winter Retreat

Jan. 30–Feb. 1, 2009 • Mercy Center, Burlingame

Registration Form: Register Early—overnight space is limited

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City/ST/Zip _____

Phone () _____ Email _____

Church Affiliation _____

REGISTRATION before Dec. 10 • NEW DEADLINE

- \$270 FULL TIME (Friday-Sunday) fee (all rooms are singles)
- \$40 nonrefundable deposit payable by December 10, 2008 to hold your room. \$230 balance due before January 10, 2009
- \$200 FULL TIME COMMUTER fee (Friday-Sunday and includes all meals)
- \$109 SATURDAY ONLY COMMUTERS (9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. — includes lunch & dinner, workshops, morning worship & evening Taizé worship services.)

\$_____ *UCC Women's Network Dues: \$25 or \$15 Senior/Student
(Dues covers operating costs of UCC WomenNetwork)

\$_____ Contribution for Retreat "Angel" Scholarship Fund**: Thank you!

LATE REGISTRATION postmarked after December 10, 2008

- \$290 Full Time \$220 Commuter \$119 Saturday Only

\$_____ TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED. Checks only # _____

NO REFUNDS AFTER January 10, 2009

MEALS: Mercy Center needs to know the number of meals required for each session. Please check the meals you will be attending:

- Fri. dinner Sat. breakfast Sat. lunch Sat. dinner
- Sun. breakfast Sun. lunch

- I would like to apply for a scholarship. **Scholarships are limited by the amount of Angel Fund donations. Please contact your local church to see if they can assist you. Apply for a scholarship by including a separate request with this registration. Women's Network dues (\$25) are required to receive a scholarship.

- I am willing to be a Retreat Sister to a first-time retreat participant.

Please mail this registration form to... Anne Lowe, Registrar, 3417 Alisa Ct., Modesto, CA 95356. Make all checks payable to NCNC UCC, and memo: Women's Network Winter Retreat. Please let Anne know if you have special needs or questions. After January 10 you can be Wait Listed for a room. Call Anne for availability. (209 545-5175 or email at annelowe@comcast.net).



2009 Retreat Committee's first planning meeting: (L-R back row) Kay Harris, Margie Brown, Lou Ann Hughes, Judith Jones, Cindy Leachmoore, Robin Spindler. (L-R front row) Hazelee Jaberg, Paula Pociecha, Anne Lowe, and Valerie McEntee. (Several members are not pictured.)

Greetings!

How happy we are to be working with the creative women of the DOC on a very powerful and spirit-filled weekend retreat! Maybe if someone asks you what you want for Christmas, you can tell them "A RETREAT!" Please note that the first deadline is **Dec. 10 for the lower rate**, so don't wait—get those registrations in! We look forward to retreating with you in January!



UCC Women's Network
Lisa Bruk, Membership
2841 Woodmont Circle
Modesto, CA 95355

Address Correction Requested

Winter Weekend Retreat

Jan. 30–Feb. 1, 2009

Mercy Center, Burlingame

KEYNOTER: Rev. Patricia Evans

Network Facts: Did you know?

The UCC Women's Network is funded solely through the membership dues. We do not receive any funding from the associations, conference or national UCC organizations. Retreats are self sustaining. Expenses primarily fund communications materials, design, printing, and postage for our events. Retreat key leaders (keynoters, chaplains, workshop leaders, music leaders) are given small stipends. Committee members for our events as well as the Steering Committee for the Network are all volunteers. Scholarships are funded through the Angel's Scholarship Fund which has been struggling in recent years. The recent Autumn Day Retreat scholarship fund offering, \$290, will support almost 4 scholarships. Your support of the Dues and Scholarship Fund are appreciated by many deserving women.