Choosing Hope

July 2010 to June 2011





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SHALEM'S MISSION

To nurture contemplative living and leadership

SHALEM'S CORE VALUES

- Awareness that God is intimately present within and among us
- Reverence for the mystery of God's presence
- · Desire for spiritual discernment in all things
- · Radical willingness to trust God
- Respect for the unique spiritual path of each individual
- Recognition that contemplative living and leadership require spiritual support
- Commitment to action in the world arising from a contemplative orientation toward life

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Choosing Hope in Trying Times

Leah Rampy

We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, LORD, even as we put our hope in you. (Psalm 33: 20-22)

n times that seem to be full of difficulty and challenge, what does it mean to choose hope? After all, it's sometimes just too difficult to make it all the way through the evening news: war, poverty, unemployment, injustice, inequality. The toll we are taking on the Earth is mounting, yet we seem unwilling or unable to turn away from our desire to consume. The problems seem beyond our capacity, the solutions far away, the timeline too short, the leaders too short-sighted.

How easily I become an assessment machine, full of judgments and pronouncements about the state of the world, the country, everything! I see a situation—or more accurately I see only a small part of a situation—and my mind responds with declarations of "good" or "bad." From my ego, thinking self, I let my assessment of a situation determine whether or not I should be hopeful. In this way of seeing the world, hope is "out there" somewhere and I am dependent on others to deliver it to me. I wait for an action, a situation, a speech that will hearten and inspire and then I can find hope.

Yet I've come to believe that there is an alternative way of seeing where it is possible to choose hope. I think this is what the Psalmist is inviting in the scripture above. "We put our hope in you." He speaks of a proactive stance based on deep trust in the Holy One, a steady-state declaration of hope not influenced by situations and circumstances.

To make this shift to choosing hope, I must move beyond my ego self. As Richard Rohr writes in *Radical Grace: Daily Meditations*, we need to move from the "tyranny of our own judgments, opinions, and feeling about everything." To embrace a transformation of consciousness, we must "be liberated from ourselves as the reference point for reality, stating our preferences moment by moment and making mental commentaries on every event—up or down. It really does not matter whether we like it or not—it just is."

Contemplative practices help me to release my many assessments, being in the present, simply open to what is, without judgment or commentary. In that space, as Tilden Edwards puts it, I lean back into my spiritual heart. My prayer is to commune with the Holy One, to kindle the hope that is already within me—choosing hope.

Yet too many times, I notice that my ego self is impatient; I want to run ahead of Grace, get things done on my terms, in

my time. I'm grateful for the Psalmist's reminder that we wait in hope for the Lord. We trust. Our hearts rejoice. We put our hope in God. In other words, we declare that we hope, and in that hope, we wait for God's purpose to unfold, for the Spirit to call us to the work that is ours to do.

Not hoping *for* but *hope* in the waiting. So simple but not so easy. We live in a culture where we often feel pressure to "make things happen." Our ego selves can suffer when we acknowledge that we are not in control. And yet, what the Spirit invites is so much more than we can ever dream.



Working at Shalem has been a wonderful practice of "hope in the waiting." It is such a joy to live together in that charism and continually delight in what the Spirit brings forth. A few weeks ago, the staff was reflecting together on some of the things that had blossomed during only a few months. We gazed back on an amazing unfolding of new programs and transformative experiences. And not one of them had come from our own imaginations. We had simply waited in hope—not hoped for something—and then responded with our energy, gifts, and commitment to Wisdom's invitation; what evolved was far beyond what we would have dreamed.

Shalem's early leaders were dedicated to the hope in the waiting, living and leading from the spiritual heart, trusting the Spirit would breath into their efforts, shaping their work toward God's desire. Shalem was not envisioned as a world-wide organization; no strategic plan pointed in this direction. And yet today, from South Korea to South Africa, from Canada to Mexico, from Cuba to California, Shalem graduates witness every day through their contemplative leadership, helping to transform lives and communities and we answer the call to support this global network. It would have been so easy to "hope for the wrong thing." Through hope in the waiting, deeply trusting in God, we are called to work that is blessed and multiplied.

And that is the personal lesson and practice for me in what seems like trying times: to let go of grasping for circumstances, or situations or people that offer hope; to lean back into my spiritual heart, trusting in God's unfailing love, choosing to wait in hope, and responding to the Spirit's call.

Leah is Shalem's Executive Director.





"Ripeness is all" (William Shakespeare)

t was time—time for the sofa to go. It had been the centerpiece of the room we lived in as a family for well over 30 years, but it was time for this sturdy friend to go. It had been crawled and climbed on, tented with sheets, flopped on and slept on by tall teenage boys with size 12 shoes and multiple pizza boxes. It had been covered and recovered as daily wear left its imprint on the softening pillows and fading fabric. It had been stealthily dusted with cat hair—usually in the dead of night or when all were away and no warm laps were available for a quick, cozy snooze. Resting on it could feel like relaxing in the quiet comfort of a peaceful garden. But now, something inside kept saying it was time for it to go.

Even though this sofa was associated with mountains of memories and felt like a familiar pair of comfortable jeans, something inside said it was time to let go and make space for the new. Of course, many would have come to this conclusion for more practical and aesthetic reasons long before I did, but knowing how hard it can be sometimes to let go of attachments, it was a blessing to feel gently released from this potent reminder of a younger phase of my life. It felt like letting go of more than a sofa—more like letting go of a stage of life full of young hopes and dreams and rich with possibilities. It felt like

an invitation to trust that something new and worthy would come with the changes and challenges of increasing age.

It also felt like the Beloved had grown my faith in Unknown Goodness enough to allow the release of the old without feeling unduly anxious about the new, showing me yet again that letting go can be organic and given rather than forced or contrived—like icicles dropping from eaves in the warmth of winter sun or leaves gently twirling to the ground as the air chills. It felt like the Beloved was helping me release with gratitude as part of a wider, organic process that was natural and freeing. The gift was a heightened inner awareness of an eternal flow of life that is beyond me and includes me and has a life of its own.

I was again reminded that events can unfold without being pushed or pulled. Time seems neither rushed nor delayed, neither hurried nor dragging, but just is. It has a ripeness that can somehow intuitively be known in the moment when we are open and blessed.

Perhaps it is easier to trust this ripeness when there is a slow evolution, a gradual transition or nothing too significant or unpredictable is lost in the process. Letting go in trust can be much harder when the need to let go happens suddenly or comes in an unexpected way as when someone dies unexpectedly or homes and businesses are destroyed in natural disasters. Letting go in trust can be much harder when peace, justice, and mercy are long overdue and still seem far away. These are greater mysteries inviting still deeper trust. In this moment, however, it seems good to notice the spiritual gifts that are given and let them live in my spiritual heart until it is time for greater awareness and fruit.

So what happened to the old sofa? When Goodwill was too full to take it, we stopped at a gathering of folks passing the time outside a small neighborhood store and asked if anyone wanted a sofa. In a rush of gratitude and enthusiasm, it found a new home. As we bid farewell to its new family and friends, a little girl was perched on its cushions and was playing patty cake with her Mom. What could be better or more right, I thought.

Liz is the Director of Shalem's Spiritual Guidance Program.

The Gift of My Fall

Jacqueline Dunlavey

A bad fall and a broken femur interrupted Jackie's involvement in a program that deals with companioning the dying. Here she reflects on that experience.

ife is a mystery. Did my recent fall happen to help me understand it a bit better? The fall was a life-changing experience in several ways:

- to be a patient in the hospital for the first time since I had my tonsils out at age five;
- to know what it is like to be in the pit of pain and immobility;
- to need help and to have to ask for it—something new to me and very hard to do—and to accept help gracefully and with gratitude;
- to know what it is not to be able to pray.

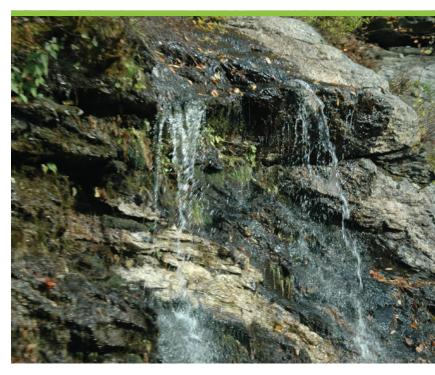
Holy Week and Easter came and went; the pain and immobility were the total focus. All I could manage was to ask God to hold me tightly.

Morphine is a marvelous thing, and with the help of it and other drugs, the pain began to be manageable, allowing the miracle of healing to begin. At the same time, there was lots of letting go—tickets to concerts and plays were given away, my sister's big birthday dinner on Easter didn't happen, the garden went begging to be cleaned up and planted, meetings of all kinds had to be missed. It was hard to let go of so much.

As I became stronger, I began to see new growth from the place of the deepest wounding. The whole experience was emerging as a gift. Certainly there were frustrating moments, but they did not diminish the giftedness.

There was the gift in knowing real pain; in the shift of lifestyle in having to slow down (everything takes so much longer now!); in the loss of capabilities and the being satisfied with doing less; in needing help and learning how to "let love in;" in learning the meaning of gratitude; in watching the miracle of healing happen; in learning how hard it is to let go of so much, even when there is no choice; in seeing the hand of God in it all.

Working with therapists, each new achievement is a triumph. It is wonderful to watch the amazing ability of the body to heal



and to begin to regain some of what had been lost. Healing has become resurrection in slow motion. Along with the physical, there is the spiritual healing in becoming more aware of surroundings, of the next move—to look at life more deeply and the Presence watching over me.

Life has become more vivid, as if before so much just washed over me. It is easy in familiar surroundings to live life on autopilot. This seems to have changed.

Having known pain, can I now pay closer attention to the pain of others and use the gift of attention to assure them of my presence? When words are appropriate, can I speak the words of comfort that meant so much to me? Can I help them heal in other ways—perhaps help them come to terms with letting go of so much?

I had hardly gotten into my ministry of visiting the sick and dying when the fall happened. My hope is that my experience will bring me new insights and will enhance my presence with those I am visiting.

Jackie is a graduate of Shalem's Personal Spiritual Deepening Program.

Sports as Contemplative Practice



illions of us play on sports teams from childhood on. Millions more watch. Church leaders bemoan the way sports events have begun to take over even Sunday mornings. There are many psychological and social layers to this powerful phenomenon. Much could be said about both the light and shadow sides of these layers and their impact on us. The fact of the matter is that sports are here to stay and can take up a tremendous amount of people's discretionary time.

If that's true, instead of fighting sports' frequent dominance of people's attention relative to other important dimensions of human living, can we take another look at them and see if we can widen the way we understand sports? Can they be seen and cultivated as a spiritual practice?

My son and his wife lead different non-profit organizations that cultivate sports teams as an arena not just for fun and winning but also for the development of leadership, courage, teamwork, mutual respect, academic incentive, and community building. They often see these vital qualities pouring over into other dimensions of the players' lives. In a culture with increasing weight placed on individual careerism and consumerism, sports viewed in this wider perspective

provide players with a sustained, disciplined way to absorb larger personal and communal values.

Coaches at their best become mentors of these values, and coaches wield enormous influence in the lives of players. Players spend far more time with their coaches than they do with any one of their other teachers. My son and daughterin-law cultivate coaches and teams that can embody the values I've mentioned. What they're doing offers a larger way of understanding sports that is needed everywhere, a way that can be seen as nurturing vital, implicitly spiritual values.

Can we widen an understanding of sports even further? I think we can. They also can be seen as contemplative practice. The *ultimate* goal of the game then is receptive participation in the creative Love at the heart of reality. The penultimate goal of "winning" then can be seen as drawing us to energetic, self-transcending attention, ready to physically and mentally "lose" ourselves in the game's expansive creative movements.

I'm reminded of an old film about a British long-distance runner in which he exclaimed, "God takes pleasure in my running." Contemplatively speaking, we could say that God's Spirit is delighting within him, indeed as him. St. Ireneaus declared that "the glory of God is a human being fully alive." The athlete at his best seeks such aliveness, and in times of spiritual openness can see it as embodying God's ebullient joy in us.

Teammates are those who support one another in opening the way to such full aliveness. They create and respond to opportunities that allow movement toward the goal. These actions involve total mental and physical availability to the moment's call, before any thoughts have time to develop. This includes a willingness to sacrifice oneself if need be for the sake of the team's movement, as well as a willingness to take the lead when the way opens. Little sense of separate "self" remains; everyone involved is a unique part of a larger whole. In its graced fullness such a stance leaves the player in what has been called "the zone," with selfless, on-target, effortlessly flowing action.

The opposing team members can be seen as helpers to the goal of full aliveness in God. Their opposition heightens our

awareness in the moment and energizes us to be even more fully given to the goal; they help us let go any remaining interior half-heartedness and self-separation. The opponents are the ultimately good "dragons at the gate" who contemplative tradition says we must be willing to get past in order to be given the gift of full aliveness. That aliveness in its graced fullness is vibrant communion with our true nature in God.

Participation in such a contemplative "practice" can become the deepest purpose of the game, for which the surface "winlose" goal is a means, not the end. Rather than being seen as a displacement of time for more obvious spiritual practices, it could be wonderfully reinforcing of the ultimate intent of those practices.

Such an understanding also could be a way of helping watchers of sports to vicariously participate in the game as a spiritual and contemplative practice, where they could be less tempted to treat it only as a power-seeking tribal diversion (thrilling as that can be). Sports can offer us so much more than that. Watchers can cultivate full presence in the moment, aware of the whole scene of vibrant unity and diversity in the game and the fans. They can delight in the "grace" of the game: the beautiful, spontaneous, unpredictable "moves" of the players (regardless of which side they're on)—the creative flow of the game. They can clap and yell for their team as a way of encouraging their energetic givenness to the creative possibilities of the moment. Watchers then are participants with the players in valuing full human aliveness and

responsiveness to the grace at hand. The "game" becomes more than a game; beneath and through it is an intention of responsive, collaborative, celebrative life in God.

All this may sound pretty far-fetched compared to the normal way of looking at sports. I'm sure it could be described in a much better and fuller way than I've done (and I invite you into the conversation by offering your own description). But I think what I've said holds the potential of opening the spiritual imagination of coaches, players, parents and spiritual leaders to let sports cultivate a way of being in the world with spiritual purpose and contemplative grounding. It would be one means of challenging the temptation of sports to become an idolatry of self-centered winning at any cost. That view can stomp on deeper values and cheat us of the great potential of sports to express our spiritual nature and shared purpose.

To faith, God's creative Spirit is moving in and around us all the time: bearing our suffering, fostering our joy, opening possibilities for our collaboration and communion through all the happenings of our lives. Sports are one more arena in the world's life where such faith can be lived out. With the enormous amount of time and money spent world-wide in this arena, why not explore far more than we have how it can become all it can be for our individual and communal spiritual journeys?

Tilden is Shalem's Founder and Senior Fellow.

I'm so deeply grateful for Shalem and the meaningful faith community it is for me and so many, and for the countless ways this connection sustains, supports and nurtures not only the various ministries I offer, but the heart of my soul itself.

How could I not support Shalem in return?!

—A Shalem Donor





"If God invited you to a party and said, 'Everyone in the ballroom tonight will be my special guest,' how would you then treat them when you arrived?" (Hafiz)

recently attended an evening event to name the Spiritual Direction Center at North Park Theological Seminary in honor of its esteemed and beloved professor, C. John Weborg. Two hundred of us gathered at the Chicago Hyatt for this lovely occasion.

As I stood in line to register, I noticed that there must be a convention of sorts going on in the room next to ours. Everyone attending that other event looked like they had come from a galaxy far, far away. There were Darth Vadar, Yoda, and other notables from the more familiar movie galaxies, as well as individuals, couples, whole families—from the young to the old—dressed in their finest galactic clothes. Throughout the evening, we mingled with these aliens in the hallways, corridors, bathrooms, on the escalators, while eyeing each other surreptitiously. The thought

did cross my mind that our evening-wear might have looked as strange to them as theirs did to us.

Later on in our evening program, the guest speaker was half way into his speech when the music started next door. At that point, I realized that only the thinnest membrane of a wall separated us from our galactic neighbors. They were enjoying loud, thumping, dance music punctuated by the joyous shouts of those on the dance floor. We were singing "Amazing Grace" in multiple harmonies. Our evening ended with prayers and blessings; the extraterrestrials danced on.

I've wondered what to make of this evening ever since.

A recent article in *The Huffington Post* described a conversation with theologians at the 100 Year Starship Symposium in Orlando, Florida. Among the myriad topics discussed was exactly how the religious community would react to the possibility of real, honest-to-goodness aliens in our midst. Would an extraterrestrial presence shatter the faith of the faithful? Or, if Earthlings aren't alone in the universe, would we actually accept galactic neighbors as new-found friends?

I was heartened to learn that for theologians the notion of other worlds with intelligent beings is not a problem. To think otherwise would be to limit God's creative freedom. Since astronomers believe that the universe is made up of a hundred billion galaxies with a hundred billion stars in each, almost all of which could have planets, it would be foolish to believe that there is no other intelligent life in the cosmos. "God's creation is immense, and other intelligent beings would be creatures of God's," said one theologian. Aliens too would "live and move and have (their) very being in God."

Also according to the article, another theologian had done some research on this topic trying to get the views from the pews. Amazingly, his findings showed that religious believers are more ready to share a pew with an alien than we might expect. Far from being shocked and shattered by the news of extraterrestrial life, they would welcome a galactic brother or sister into their fellowship.

A friend of mine who came to this country on a student visa, finally received a permanent resident visa. Her card

read: "Permanent Alien Resident." Perhaps we should all carry cards like this. Scripture encourages us to be "in the world but not of it." Hymns tell us this world is not our home, we're just a-passin' through. In this light, we are all just un-carded aliens.

For that matter, Scripture reminds us that God's ways are not our ways and God's thoughts are not our thoughts. God is stranger than we can ever know. Perhaps one of the thousand beautiful names of God should be the "Alien One." Being born in the image of God must mean that we have the same seeds of "otherness" in us.

As we come to recognize and see the beauty of that otherness in ourselves, then perhaps we can see the beauty of the unfamiliar in others. As we find God in ourselves, then we see God in everyone. We realize that our alien nature is alive, vibrant, filled with the breath of God.

If we are really honest, we'd admit we have been living with aliens all along. Some from other countries, some we grew up with. When I look at all those around me, even those I know well and love, I realize how utterly foreign they are

to me. Daily I realize that men really are from Mars, women really are from Venus, as the title of a famous book claims. Some of my family members and I think so differently, we surely came from different planets and live in different worlds.

However, if we know ourselves as "permanent aliens," it might help us bring a new perspective and a softer heart to our consideration of immigration laws. It might soften our gaze as we look at those who dress differently, or seem so foreign to us. We might discover a new civility in discourse and desire to understand those who hold different points of view. We might hear new harmonies as we listen to the variety of voices and accents among us. We might experience the amazing grace of a new understanding of creation, the cosmos and God's ultimate creative freedom.

Perhaps we would discover, as the poet Hafiz reminds us, that everyone is invited to God's party. We might even dare to imagine Aliens and Earthlings dancing together on God's "jeweled dance floor."

Carole is Shalem's Senior Program Director.

These fragments from Yeats' prophetic poem "The Second Coming" keep coming to me:

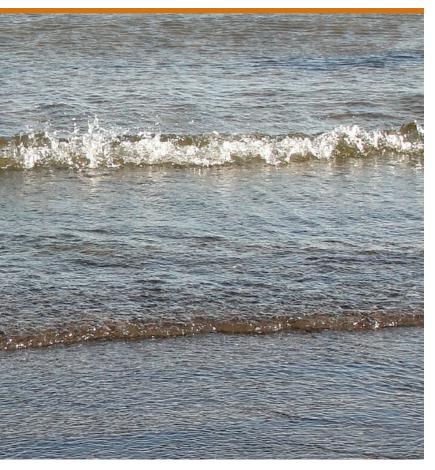
"Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold; Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world... what rough beast, its hour come round at last, Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?"

It seems to me that contemplatives are called to hold the world's heart during these extraordinary times, helping maintain the pathway for Yeats' rough beast to slouch towards Bethlehem. Shalem is an extraordinary resource for the contemplative spirit. So, to me, despite these remarkably challenging economic times, supporting Shalem is a necessity for the sake of the world.

—A Shalem Donor

As It Is and Always Shall Be...

Anne Roser



You have heard; now see all this; and will you not declare it? From this time forward I make you hear new things, hidden things that you have not known. (Isaiah 48.6)

he morning dawns clear and bright, cloudless, with calm seas. We wait by the dock in silent anticipation. My spirit is parched, thirsty for this journey to begin. We come with our food and bags and coolers. Soon, but not too soon, it is time. Time to load up onto the ferry. Soon, but not too soon, it leaves the mainland and heads out on a two-and-a half-hour trip to Matinicus Isle, Maine. It has been a summer ritual for us for many years now, beginning when our boys were in preschool. They are teenagers now. They have grown up with this trip as a holy, sacred part of their summer. It is no less for us as adults.

We say goodbye to email, WIFI, cell phones, computers, and TV. We say hello to hand-washing dishes, hanging up clothing outdoors to dry, and walking as our primary

mode of transportation. We live by the tides. We live by the weather. We return back to the earth, into the gift of creation. As the ferry glides along the waters, we spot an occasional seal or whale. On the horizon are the working boats searching for their catch. There are the pleasure boats on their own cruises. And we are on this simple journey where the tensions and madness of life slowly ease away and in their place, God simply is.

We are gently centered back into spacious living—listening more intently to one another, pondering a beautiful sunset, watching the rhythm of the sea, discovering sea glass and shells and other detritus the tides offer to us. We are here as island ministers, but it is the people and place that minister to us. We celebrate the friendships formed here over many years. We marvel at how wonderful fresh baked goods smell and taste early on a rainy morning. We re-acquaint ourselves with the island dogs, for they are everyone's best friends—goofy, extravagant messengers of God's grace. We listen to the struggles and joys of island life as shared by those who dare to live year-round in this remote, beautiful spot.

Every summer there is a new discovery. A path not previously travelled. A striking shade of sea glass. A hidden cove. There is the delight of spontaneous conversation, being immersed in ideas and challenges and insights from unexpected people. And always, there is this amazing creativity of those who gather driftwood and buoys and seaweed and build various structures upon the beach. One year, a sculpture of lobster buoys. Another year, huts reminiscent of Gilligan's Island. This year, it is an altar to God. It is Barbara Brown Taylor's "altar in the world" in the flesh.

This small island, miles out to see from the mainland, is full of surprises. Each day invites us to see more deeply into the mystery of life. The holy is revealed, epiphany after epiphany. We hear and see the new things that Isaiah proclaims. Much like the Israelites experience deliverance from the oppression of Babylon, we are freed from the brokenness and chaos of life with a return to simplicity, where our eyes are again opened, our ears again can listen to the truth that God simply is.

I believe I come each year to the island by choice, but in fact, it is God who draws and invites me there. Not so

much to that physical space, but to the loving presence of the holy. It happens for me on this island as it may happen to another in a different setting. Here, the interruptions that previously have barricaded my spirit are lifted, the acute struggles and gracious joys of life are experienced with a newfound clarity. Here, what is revealed is that everything is sacred...as it is and always shall be, world without end, amen... a phrase from the prayers of my childhood.

In the microcosm of island life there is a give-and-take much like the ebb and flow of the sea. One cannot exist in a small community without graceful bending, without a flexible and moldable spirit, without an openness to who and what is beyond one's own self. Is that not what the spiritual journey is also all about? The giving and the receiving... the Spirit's weaving together of time, context and yearning... the tapestry created when the holy Other flows

into the deepest and darkest places of our being. We are released from all that need *not* be—even as the tides sweep myriad collections of pebbles and broken bits of shell and glass and yes, even discarded trash, away from the shore, into the vast depths of the sea.

How marvelous this holy incarnate One, truly present in the life of all that is around us, who can take the brittle parts of our existence, bless them, heal them, and offer wholeness and peace. Like the waters refine the sharp edges of sea glass, so we are given a gracious new birth. Our rough edges are softened; our fragility is made strong; no matter where we are swept by the tides and turns of life, God is, and God will be.

Anne is a graduate of Shalem's Clergy Spiritual Life and Leadership: Going Deeper Program.

Poplar Trees on Monastic Ground

Winston Breeden Charles

Tall brown and gray trunks silently steadily stand reaching into the sky spreading a canopy above.

They sign a calmness a confidence a quietness

That reassures me and recalls within the quiet, calm confidence of the Holy flowing steadily into me bringing life again.

Winston is part of Shalem's Leading Contemplative Prayer Groups & Retreats Program, Class of 2012.

Walking by Faith, Not by Sight

Westina Matthews



Te stood on the rooftop of our building at 6:50 p.m. on March 7th, looking up at the sky, for a sighting of the space shuttle Discovery. The shuttle's 13th and final visit to the orbital outpost; it had undocked from the International Space Station earlier in the day for the last time as it prepared to make its descent back to Earth. An hour earlier, my neighbor had excitingly told me that we would be able to see a very bright light in the sky if we looked north at about 6:54 p.m. Would I like to join her?

Arriving to the rooftop before my neighbor, I watched two small lights move quickly across the sky and pointed out the moving specks of light to her when she joined me. But she was convinced that what I saw was not it. "It's supposed to light up the entire sky," she insisted. Shivering in the 39-degree temperature (with wind chill 31F), we kept looking for the bright light and were told that it would "light up the sky." We could see the small white clouds of our breaths as we looked up during long periods of silence, craning our necks to catch a glimpse of a big, bright light shooting across the sky. Breaking the silence, she quietly said that she appreciated that someone in our building had imagination and would share the moment with her.

We saw a lot of airplanes flying overhead, but nothing that looked like the space shuttle. Finally chased inside by the wind and cold, we gave up. Sensing her disappointment, I reassured her, "Well, even though we didn't see it, it doesn't mean that it didn't happen." I knew beyond a shadow of doubt that the STS-133 crew members were somewhere up in space, and that they were scheduled to land at 11:57 a.m. on March 9, 2011 at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Seen or not seen by us.

We learned the next day that we actually had seen the space shuttle. It had passed the Village of Suffern, New York, at 6:55 p.m. and was easily visible as two small stars moving in tandem across the sky. Is that not like our faith sometimes? We think that God will be revealed as a great burst of light that cannot be missed. But often instead God moves quietly and determinedly toward that still quiet place within ourselves where love and peace reside; and if we can trust our inner voice that is whispering into our very being by our Creator, we will begin to discern the great mystery of each and every blessed moment. If we can only believe, seen or not seen, walking by faith and not by sight.

I spent much of this past winter walking by faith, literally. With the new record breaking snow falls, pathways on sidewalks were often narrow, with only room enough for one foot step at a time. I envied the much more nimble younger folks who quickly—and laughingly—put one foot in front of the other, balancing easily as if trapeze walking. I even saw them jogging or riding their bikes on those snowy, icy sidewalks and streets. I on the other hand walked ever so slowly, trying to keep my balance between snow piles of three feet or more.

On one of those days, as a true New Yorker, I found myself pulling and pushing my almost three-foot-wide grocery cart, loaded to the top with groceries, down a narrow, icy path; and it was particularly hazardous. If lucky, there were sections where the sidewalk had been cleared snow-shovel wide—about 10 inches—and I was huffing and puffing, tilting the cart on two side wheels, praying the groceries would not topple out.

Just then an angel appeared: a young mother (with her son in tow) who offered to help me. She went to the front of the cart and I stayed in the back. Together we were able to lift the cart high above the snow piles, and down over the icy, snowy slope to the street. I am sure her previous years of navigating a carriage or stroller alone helped her feel compassion for an older woman with a laundry cart. To my pleasant surprise, she continued to walk with me the final half block, and helped me lift the cart up the two steps to the entryway of my apartment building. Her son—who was no more than five years old—patiently followed behind us. I thanked her profusely.

"I try to do at least one nice thing a day," she responded cheerfully. "Maybe it will help get me a place in Heaven when my time comes." She and her son waved good-bye as they continued on their trek.

And isn't that just like God as well? As we carefully and timidly step out in faith, encouragement and support appear when we least expect it. Plato encouraged us to "be kind, everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle." Perhaps I will need to do two acts of kindness a day for the rest of my life as penitence for the conscious and sometimes unconscious acts of kindness not taken for strangers as well as friends who are fighting their own hard battles. May God forgive me for my own inactions; and let me walk more often by faith, not by sight. Maybe, just maybe, I might then be able to get a place in Heaven when my time comes.

Westina, a Shalem board member, is a graduate of Shalem's Spiritual Guidance Program.

Dun I

In August, 2000, my wife and I participated in a pilgrimage, sponsored by Shalem Institute, visiting several of the Celtic shrines in the UK. One summer afternoon, while on the Isle of Iona (Scotland), I hiked to the top of Dun I (done ee), the highest ridge on the island. The day was sunny but was cooled by a strong wind. At the top I was pleased to find that I was alone. I nestled into the lea of a boulder, to feel the sun more and the wind less, and began to celebrate the day by improvising on my harmonica. In the solitude of a pause I heard a moment of music from somewhere. I was not alone!

I got up and walked around to discover who else might be on the hilltop but saw no one. Reassured, I returned to "my boulder" and nestled in once again. Just as I raised the harmonica to my lips to resume playing I heard the music again and was startled to realize that it came from my own harmonica—a breath of wind blowing through the reeds. It was as if I were playing a duet with God.

As I now reflect on this experience, I wonder, "Are we ever alone?" and "Is not all of life a duet?"

— James Donnelly Jim is a graduate of Shalem's Spiritual Guidance Program. This piece was previously published in the August/September 2006 issue of Sacred Journey.

Moon Listening Judith Favor



s the August moon rises over Chimney Rock, I sense an urge to leave the group at Casa del Sol and move into the desert. I'm conflicted about leaving just when the party is getting started. I love co-facilitating Spiritual Journey retreats at Ghost Ranch, but tonight I'm tired. My listening ears are saturated with soulful talk. I follow the moon's tidal tug, say my farewells to people on the patio and tighten the laces of my walking shoes. My inner critic starts up—too old for this work, too introverted—as I start out across the sand. But I'm ready to be quiet, ready to walk alone in moonlight, ready to make my way toward bed at the Main Ranch two miles away. The inner voice hushes when I focus on the complex cloud patterns that hide, then reveal, the full moon.

Pupils gradually widen as my eyes cooperate with Nature, granting night vision to find my way without a flashlight. Music and laughter trail me for a mile or so, then evaporate into the night air. After the human sounds dissolve, my ears tune to insects and reptiles doing their work in darkness. The farther I walk along the gritty track, the less tired I feel. Contemplative time in nature, what Gerald May called "the wilderness of being," is already beginning to renew my body and refresh my soul.

Wisdom calls, humming tunelessly beyond words. Every so often I sense her stopping me, turning me to gaze at rugged mesas profiled against the western sky, then toward Pedernal to the south. Wisdom invites me to pause in darkness, to behold the brightening sky. Unlike the neon smog that blankets skies in the Los Angeles basin where I live, no light pollution mars the heavens in northern New Mexico. I marvel at the vast panoply of stars, acutely aware of Sacred Presence.

I pass Georgia O'Keefe's adobe house, empty since her death. A primitive log ladder leans against one wall and my imagination climbs it, up onto the flat roof. As the story goes, the artist required her guests to mount this ladder after dark, moving the party closer to moon and stars. Perhaps it was O'Keefe's idea of dessert, serving a taste of contemplative skywatching after dinner.

"What has happened to our moonlike consciousness?" asks John Philip Newell, Resident Companion/Theologian at Ghost Ranch's Casa del Sol Spirituality and Retreat Center. I ponder Newell's question as I gaze at the home where Georgia O'Keefe lived and painted for 50 years. Perhaps it was her appreciation of moonlike consciousness that led the artist to insist that visitors scale the rustic ladder. I listen, imagining O'Keefe and her guests on the roof, moving beyond social chitchat into the speechlessness of wonder.

"Moonlike consciousness," a term coined by Carl Jung, captures the ineffable communion with Nature that some people experience in the empty desert. After my inner commentary quiets down I began to hear "integrate and transcend." I recognize this as an element of Ken Wilber's teaching, but the phrase seems to come from the moon. Integrate and transcend, in a feminine voice. Maybe I am hearing the still, small voice of Wisdom. At first it sounds invitational. As I

carry the words on my breath, then adjust my steps to match their rhythm, the tone becomes more insistent, more commanding. I feel like a character in the old TV show, *Mission Impossible*: "This is your mission, should you choose to accept it. Integrate. And transcend."

This sort of thing—some call it contemplative immersion—sometimes happens when I walk the good earth by myself, especially when I'm tired. This night, rather than trying to figure out what the message means, I simply walk with it.

I receive it as Wisdom's reminder that everything comes together in God's good time. Integrate and Transcend. Some day the meaning may become clear. For now I am lit with gratitude for luminous moments like this, grateful that I have the strength and balance to walk alone in the wilderness of being. I pause in the moon shadow of an ancient juniper to savor the holy gift, the one Jerry May calls "abidingness."

Judith is a graduate of Shalem's Spiritual Guidance Program.

A Rocking Chair Contemplative

Tim Schumacher

have always loved rocking chairs. Some of my fondest memories of places I have lived and people I have loved include a rocking chair somewhere in that memory.

Our cottage at Windfall Lake in northern Wisconsin, where my family has vacationed for 85 years, has a rocking chair that comes to mind immediately when I think back on the evenings we spent playing games, singing songs and sharing stories. My grandmother's rocking chair is also a prominent image for me. I remember her praying in that chair after she had put us to bed. And before that, I recall sitting on her lap as she sang her favorite songs to us and we slipped into sleep.

My grandmother's sister gave us her antique rocking chair many years ago. Now well over 100 years old, it sits in the corner of my mother's living room between two windows. It is a beautiful old chair that is in the perfect spot. I have sat in it many times for many hours with eyes closed, enjoying the peaceful motion of rocking back and forth. And I have enjoyed that same peaceful motion with eyes wide open, staring out the windows at the beautiful world I grew up in and allowing that world to stare back in at me and make my soul smile with delight.

When I built my first home in rural Wisconsin, the first piece of furniture I purchased was a rocking chair. I set it near my large window in the living room overlooking the hill that ran down to Bower Creek and the woods beyond. I sat in that chair nearly every morning and every evening and let the gentle rocking take me into my prayer time.



While the images alone of these chairs bring me delight and peace, it is the motion that has most fascinated me, particularly in recent days. I think the motion has always captured and nourished my—sometimes desperate—need for movement coupled with an equally strong desire for peace and calm. The gentle rocking slows me down while allowing me to experience the constant movement that I seem to crave.

Recently I was paging through a copy of *Newsweek* magazine when I came across an advertisement for MSNBC. The ad is a new campaign for MSNBC that invites us to *lean forward*; to think big; to reach out; to act fast; to listen closer. *Lean forward*: I like that. It is part of the rocking motion. When I finished reading the ad for the first time, it reminded me of a prayer I had heard recently. In our New Mexico Personal Spiritual Deepening Program, we developed a practice at the end of each gathering. As we held hands in prayer, each of us was invited to name the prayer that was in our hearts. Since there were seven participants, each person and their prayer were assigned a day of the week. Each day, the rest of us were able to hold that person and their prayer in our hearts—throughout the day. My good friend and co-leader, Sue Joiner, offered us

her prayer as well each time and it was simply to *lean back* into the arms of God. *Lean back*: I like that, too. It is also part of the rocking motion. And that is what brought to my mind again this love I have for rocking chairs, but this time with a new perspective. Lean back into the arms of God and then lean forward to reach out to the world. What a marvelous metaphor for the contemplative life. What a wonderful image for the rhythm that we contemplatives seek in our lives. We rock back into God's arms. We rock forward into the waiting arms of the world. Or perhaps we take the world, as my grandmother did, in our arms and let it rock with us.

I am quite certain that the first rocking chair must have been fashioned by someone with a true contemplative spirit, a true contemplative heart. These wonderful chairs have served throughout my life to nourish my own contemplative spirit. Without even realizing it, I suppose I have always been just a simple rocking chair contemplative.

Tim is a graduate of Shalem's Personal Spiritual Deepening Program and Shalem's Leading Contemplative Prayer Groups & Retreats Program.

NEW POSSIBILITIES—SHALEM'S SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE PROGRAM & LANCASTER SEMINARY

Recently, Shalem Institute entered into an exciting, new partnership with Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, to create a Masters of Divinity program that specializes in Spiritual Direction.

This three-year program is open to men and women from any denomination who discern a call and would like to apply. During the first year, students will work with a spiritual director and take the courses foundational to the MDiv degree. The second year, students will continue with their carefully tailored theological studies while also beginning the Shalem Spiritual Guidance Program. They will finish both programs in the third year and graduate with an MDiv degree from Lancaster Theological Seminary and a certificate in spiritual direction from Shalem.

This combined program allows those drawn to ordained ministry to enrich their ministry through nurturing a call to contemplative spiritual direction. They can receive contemplative grounding as well as graduate with a comprehensive understanding and lived experience of the ministry of spiritual direction. This combined focus can deepen awareness and enlarge possibilities for ministry. Individuals interested in this possibility would discern a call to both programs and would then apply to each program.

We are very pleased about this special, joint program and the new possibilities it will create for both institutions. More details can be found on both web sites: www.shalem.org and www.lancasterseminary.edu.

Annual Fund Contributions

Our thanks to the following Shalem friends who contributed to Shalem's Annual Fund between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011, a total of \$340,136 from 639 people. Those gifts received after June 30, 2011 will be listed in next year's annual report.

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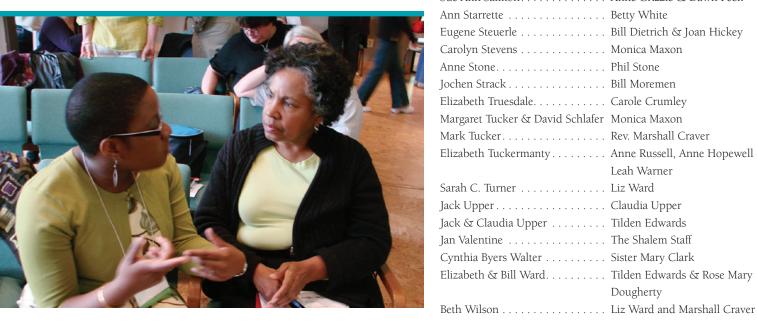
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| Jane K. Koonce. Carole Crumley Margaret Krantz Mary Ellen Doyle Ann Kulp Lin Ludy J. Paul Lennon Father Peter Cronin James Lynn. CeCe Balboni Debra McMaster Marianne Hieb, RSM Mary Jo Melberger God's glory through Shalem! Louise E. Miller Liz Ward Bill & Grace Moremen Marlene Maier Darlene B Muschett The Shalem staff Sue O'Neal Chet O'Neal Grace Ogden Carole Crumley Erin A. Oliver-Neault Rose Mary Dougherty Clare Openshaw Leah Rampy & all the Shalem Staff Constance Ordower Wisdom David Orr. Leslie Miller Diane & Ron Paras Rhoda Nary Nan Perkins Edna Noiles Alicia Porterfield. Lisa Richey Rosalind Powell The Shalem Staff Leah & David Rampy Anne Grizzle Lois Nell Richwine Marlene Maier Cindy Rogers The Very Rev. Donald Krickbaum Jean & David Rogers Tilden Edwards & Rose Mary Dougherty Sue Ann Salmon Anne Grizzle & Dawn Peck Ann Starrette Betty White Eugene Steuerle Bill Dietrich & Joan Hickey Carolyn Stevens Monica Maxon Anne Stone Phil Stone Jochen Strack Bill Moremen Elizabeth Truesdale. Carole Crumley Margaret Tucker & David Schlafer Mark Tucker Rev. Marshall Craver Elizabeth Truckermanty Anne Russell, Anne Hopewell & Leah Warrer Sarah C. Turner Liz Ward Jack Upper Glaudia Upper Jack & Claudia Upper Jack & Claudia Upper Tilden Edwards Jan Valentine The Shalem Staff | | | |
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| James Lynn CeCe Balboni Debra McMaster Marianne Hieb, RSM Mary Jo Melberger God's glory through Shalem! Louise E. Miller Liz Ward Bill & Grace Moremen Marlene Maier Darlene B Muschett The Shalem staff Sue O'Neal Carole Crumley Erin A. Oliver-Neault Rose Mary Dougherty Clare Openshaw Leah Rampy & all the Shalem Staff Constance Ordower Wisdom David Orr. Leslie Miller Diane & Ron Paras Rhoda Nary Nan Perkins Edna Noiles Alicia Porterfield Lisa Richey Rosalind Powell The Shalem Staff Leah & David Rampy Anne Grizzle Lois Nell Richwine Marlene Maier Cindy Rogers The Very Rev. Donald Krickbaum Jean & David Rogers Tilden Edwards & Rose Mary Dougherty Sue Ann Salmon Anne Grizzle & Dawn Peck Ann Starrette Betty White Eugene Steuerle Bill Dietrich & Joan Hickey Carolyn Stevens Monica Maxon Anne Stone Phil Stone Jochen Strack Bill Moremen Elizabeth Truesdale Carole Crumley Margaret Tucker & David Schlafer Mark Tucker Rev. Marshall Craver Elizabeth Tuckermanty Anne Russell, Anne Hopewell & Leah Warner Sarah C. Turner Liz Ward Jack Upper Claudia Upper Jack & Claudia Upper Tilden Edwards Jan Valentine The Shalem Staff | Ann Kulp | Lin Ludy | |
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| Mary Jo MelbergerGod's glory through Shalem!Louise E. MillerLiz WardBill & Grace MoremenMarlene MaierDarlene B MuschettThe Shalem staffSue O'NealChet O'NealGrace OgdenCarole CrumleyErin A. Oliver-NeaultRose Mary DoughertyClare OpenshawLeah Rampy & all theShalem StaffShalem StaffConstance OrdowerWisdomDavid OrrLeslie MillerDiane & Ron ParasRhoda NaryNan PerkinsEdna NoilesAlicia PorterfieldLisa RicheyRosalind PowellThe Shalem StaffLeah & David RampyAnne GrizzleLois Nell RichwineMarlene MaierCindy RogersThe Very Rev. Donald KrickbaumJean & David RogersTilden Edwards & Rose Mary DoughertySue Ann SalmonAnne Grizzle & Dawn PeckAnn StarretteBetty WhiteEugene SteuerleBill Dietrich & Joan HickeyCarolyn StevensMonica MaxonAnne StonePhil StoneJochen StrackBill MoremenElizabeth TruesdaleCarole CrumleyMargaret Tucker & David SchlaferMonica MaxonMark TuckerRev. Marshall CraverElizabeth TuckermantyAnne Russell, Anne Hopewell & Leah WarnerSarah C. TurnerLiz WardJack & Claudia UpperTilden EdwardsJan ValentineThe Shalem Staff | James Lynn | CeCe Balboni | |
| Louise E. Miller Liz Ward Bill & Grace Moremen Marlene Maier Darlene B Muschett The Shalem staff Sue O'Neal Chet O'Neal Grace Ogden Carole Crumley Erin A. Oliver-Neault Rose Mary Dougherty Clare Openshaw Leah Rampy & all the Shalem Staff Constance Ordower Wisdom David Orr. Leslie Miller Diane & Ron Paras Rhoda Nary Nan Perkins Edna Noiles Alicia Porterfield. Lisa Richey Rosalind Powell The Shalem Staff Leah & David Rampy Anne Grizzle Lois Nell Richwine Marlene Maier Cindy Rogers The Very Rev. Donald Krickbaum Jean & David Rogers Tilden Edwards & Rose Mary Dougherty Sue Ann Salmon Anne Grizzle & Dawn Peck Ann Starrette Betty White Eugene Steuerle Bill Dietrich & Joan Hickey Carolyn Stevens Monica Maxon Anne Stone Phil Stone Jochen Strack Bill Moremen Elizabeth Truesdale. Carole Crumley Margaret Tucker & David Schlafer Monica Maxon Mark Tucker Rev. Marshall Craver Elizabeth Tuckermanty Anne Russell, Anne Hopewell & Leah Warner Sarah C. Turner Liz Ward Jack Upper Claudia Upper Jack & Claudia Upper Jack & Claudia Upper Jack & Claudia Upper Jack & Claudia Upper Tilden Edwards Jan Valentine The Shalem Staff | | | |
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| Darlene B Muschett | Louise E. Miller | Liz Ward | |
| Sue O'Neal | | | |
| Grace Ogden | | | |
| Erin A. Oliver-Neault Rose Mary Dougherty Clare Openshaw Leah Rampy & all the Shalem Staff Constance Ordower Wisdom David Orr. Leslie Miller Diane & Ron Paras Rhoda Nary Nan Perkins Edna Noiles Alicia Porterfield Lisa Richey Rosalind Powell The Shalem Staff Leah & David Rampy Anne Grizzle Lois Nell Richwine Marlene Maier Cindy Rogers The Very Rev. Donald Krickbaum Jean & David Rogers Tilden Edwards & Rose Mary Dougherty Sue Ann Salmon Anne Grizzle & Dawn Peck Ann Starrette Betty White Eugene Steuerle Bill Dietrich & Joan Hickey Carolyn Stevens Monica Maxon Anne Stone Phil Stone Jochen Strack Bill Moremen Elizabeth Truesdale Carole Crumley Margaret Tucker & David Schlafer Monica Maxon Mark Tucker Rev. Marshall Craver Elizabeth Tuckermanty Anne Russell, Anne Hopewell & Leah Warner Sarah C. Turner Liz Ward Jack Upper Claudia Upper Jack & Claudia Upper Jack & Claudia Upper Tilden Edwards Jan Valentine The Shalem Staff | | | |
| Clare Openshaw. Leah Rampy & all the Shalem Staff Constance Ordower . Wisdom David Orr. Leslie Miller Diane & Ron Paras . Rhoda Nary Nan Perkins . Edna Noiles Alicia Porterfield . Lisa Richey Rosalind Powell . The Shalem Staff Leah & David Rampy . Anne Grizzle Lois Nell Richwine . Marlene Maier Cindy Rogers . The Very Rev. Donald Krickbaum Jean & David Rogers . Tilden Edwards & Rose Mary Dougherty Sue Ann Salmon . Anne Grizzle & Dawn Peck Ann Starrette . Betty White Eugene Steuerle . Bill Dietrich & Joan Hickey Carolyn Stevens . Monica Maxon Anne Stone . Phil Stone Jochen Strack . Bill Moremen Elizabeth Truesdale . Carole Crumley Margaret Tucker & David Schlafer Monica Maxon Mark Tucker . Rev. Marshall Craver Elizabeth Tuckermanty . Anne Russell, Anne Hopewell & Leah Warner Sarah C. Turner . Liz Ward Jack Upper . Claudia Upper Jack & Claudia Upper . Tilden Edwards Jan Valentine . The Shalem Staff | | | |
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| David Orr | | | |
| Diane & Ron Paras | | | |
| Nan Perkins Edna Noiles Alicia Porterfield Lisa Richey Rosalind Powell The Shalem Staff Leah & David Rampy | | | |
| Alicia Porterfield Lisa Richey Rosalind Powell The Shalem Staff Leah & David Rampy | | | |
| Rosalind Powell The Shalem Staff Leah & David Rampy Anne Grizzle Lois Nell Richwine Marlene Maier Cindy Rogers The Very Rev. Donald Krickbaum Jean & David Rogers Tilden Edwards & Rose Mary Dougherty Sue Ann Salmon Anne Grizzle & Dawn Peck Ann Starrette Betty White Eugene Steuerle Bill Dietrich & Joan Hickey Carolyn Stevens Monica Maxon Anne Stone Phil Stone Jochen Strack Bill Moremen Elizabeth Truesdale Carole Crumley Margaret Tucker & David Schlafer Mark Tucker Rev. Marshall Craver Elizabeth Tuckermanty Anne Russell, Anne Hopewell & Leah Warner Sarah C. Turner Liz Ward Jack Upper Claudia Upper Jack & Claudia Upper Tilden Edwards Jan Valentine The Shalem Staff | | | |
| Leah & David Rampy Anne Grizzle Lois Nell Richwine Marlene Maier Cindy Rogers The Very Rev. Donald Krickbaum Jean & David Rogers Tilden Edwards & Rose Mary Dougherty Sue Ann Salmon Anne Grizzle & Dawn Peck Ann Starrette Betty White Eugene Steuerle Bill Dietrich & Joan Hickey Carolyn Stevens Monica Maxon Anne Stone Phil Stone Jochen Strack Bill Moremen Elizabeth Truesdale Carole Crumley Margaret Tucker & David Schlafer Mark Tucker Rev. Marshall Craver Elizabeth Tuckermanty Anne Russell, Anne Hopewell & Leah Warner Sarah C. Turner Liz Ward Jack Upper Claudia Upper Jack & Claudia Upper Tilden Edwards Jan Valentine The Shalem Staff | | , | |
| Lois Nell Richwine Marlene Maier Cindy Rogers The Very Rev. Donald Krickbaum Jean & David Rogers Tilden Edwards & Rose Mary Dougherty Sue Ann Salmon Anne Grizzle & Dawn Peck Ann Starrette Betty White Eugene Steuerle Bill Dietrich & Joan Hickey Carolyn Stevens Monica Maxon Anne Stone Phil Stone Jochen Strack Bill Moremen Elizabeth Truesdale Carole Crumley Margaret Tucker & David Schlafer Monica Maxon Mark Tucker Rev. Marshall Craver Elizabeth Tuckermanty Anne Russell, Anne Hopewell & Leah Warner Sarah C. Turner Liz Ward Jack Upper Claudia Upper Jack & Claudia Upper Tilden Edwards Jan Valentine The Shalem Staff | | | |
| Cindy Rogers The Very Rev. Donald Krickbaum Jean & David Rogers Tilden Edwards & Rose Mary Dougherty Sue Ann Salmon Anne Grizzle & Dawn Peck Ann Starrette | 1, | | |
| Krickbaum Jean & David Rogers Tilden Edwards & Rose Mary Dougherty Sue Ann Salmon Anne Grizzle & Dawn Peck Ann Starrette Betty White Eugene Steuerle Bill Dietrich & Joan Hickey Carolyn Stevens Monica Maxon Anne Stone Phil Stone Jochen Strack Bill Moremen Elizabeth Truesdale Carole Crumley Margaret Tucker & David Schlafer Monica Maxon Rev. Marshall Craver Elizabeth Tuckermanty Anne Russell, Anne Hopewell & Leah Warner Sarah C. Turner Liz Ward Jack Upper Jack & Claudia Upper Jack & Claudia Upper Tilden Edwards Jan Valentine The Shalem Staff | | | |
| Jean & David Rogers Tilden Edwards & Rose Mary Dougherty Sue Ann Salmon Anne Grizzle & Dawn Peck Ann Starrette Betty White Eugene Steuerle Bill Dietrich & Joan Hickey Carolyn Stevens Monica Maxon Anne Stone Phil Stone Jochen Strack Bill Moremen Elizabeth Truesdale Carole Crumley Margaret Tucker & David Schlafer Monica Maxon Mark Tucker Rev. Marshall Craver Elizabeth Tuckermanty Anne Russell, Anne Hopewell & Leah Warner Sarah C. Turner Liz Ward Jack Upper Claudia Upper Jack & Claudia Upper Tilden Edwards Jan Valentine The Shalem Staff | Cindy Rogers | | |
| Dougherty Sue Ann Salmon Anne Grizzle & Dawn Peck Ann Starrette Betty White Eugene Steuerle Bill Dietrich & Joan Hickey Carolyn Stevens Monica Maxon Anne Stone Phil Stone Jochen Strack Bill Moremen Elizabeth Truesdale Carole Crumley Margaret Tucker & David Schlafer Monica Maxon Mark Tucker Rev. Marshall Craver Elizabeth Tuckermanty Anne Russell, Anne Hopewell & Leah Warner Sarah C. Turner Liz Ward Jack Upper Claudia Upper Jack & Claudia Upper Tilden Edwards Jan Valentine The Shalem Staff | | | |
| Sue Ann Salmon | Jean & David Rogers | | |
| Ann Starrette Betty White Eugene Steuerle Bill Dietrich & Joan Hickey Carolyn Stevens Monica Maxon Anne Stone Phil Stone Jochen Strack Bill Moremen Elizabeth Truesdale Carole Crumley Margaret Tucker & David Schlafer Monica Maxon Mark Tucker Rev. Marshall Craver Elizabeth Tuckermanty Anne Russell, Anne Hopewell & Leah Warner Sarah C. Turner Liz Ward Jack Upper Claudia Upper Jack & Claudia Upper Tilden Edwards Jan Valentine The Shalem Staff | C A C 1 | 9 , | |
| Eugene Steuerle Bill Dietrich & Joan Hickey Carolyn Stevens Monica Maxon Anne Stone Phil Stone Jochen Strack Bill Moremen Elizabeth Truesdale Carole Crumley Margaret Tucker & David Schlafer Monica Maxon Mark Tucker Rev. Marshall Craver Elizabeth Tuckermanty Anne Russell, Anne Hopewell & Leah Warner Sarah C. Turner Liz Ward Jack Upper Claudia Upper Jack & Claudia Upper Tilden Edwards Jan Valentine The Shalem Staff | | | |
| Carolyn Stevens Monica Maxon Anne Stone | | | |
| Anne Stone | | | |
| Jochen Strack | | | |
| Elizabeth Truesdale | | | |
| Margaret Tucker & David Schlafer Monica Maxon Mark Tucker | | | |
| Mark Tucker | | , | |
| Elizabeth Tuckermanty Anne Russell, Anne Hopewell & Leah Warner Sarah C. Turner Liz Ward Jack Upper Claudia Upper Jack & Claudia Upper Tilden Edwards Jan Valentine The Shalem Staff | _ | | |
| Leah Warner Sarah C. Turner . Liz Ward Jack Upper . Claudia Upper Jack & Claudia Upper . Tilden Edwards Jan Valentine . The Shalem Staff | | | |
| Sarah C. Turner Liz Ward Jack Upper Claudia Upper Jack & Claudia Upper Tilden Edwards Jan Valentine The Shalem Staff | Litzabetii luckeriilality | | |
| Jack UpperClaudia UpperJack & Claudia UpperTilden EdwardsJan ValentineThe Shalem Staff | Sarah (Turner | | |
| Jack & Claudia Upper Tilden Edwards Jan Valentine The Shalem Staff | | | |
| Jan Valentine The Shalem Staff | | | |
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| Elizabeth & Bill Ward Tilden Edwards & Rose Mary | | | |
| Dougherty | | | |

| GIVEN BY | IN MEMORY OF | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--------|
| Devon Allen | | |
| | , | |
| Shari L. Ayers | | |
| | | |
| Judith Bowers | | |
| Robert Brown | | |
| Gerald A. Butler | | |
| Alison Carmody | • | |
| Stacey Carter | | |
| Emily Castner | | |
| Thomas Coates | | |
| David Coleman | | |
| Mary Jo Colucci | | |
| Mary & Paul Corzine | | У |
| Carole Crumley | | |
| Mary Lewis Crummer | | |
| Cynthia Diane | | ındiff |
| Rosemary Dickerson | | |
| Marjorie Donnelly | Sue & John Richmond | |
| Jacqueline Dunlavey | - | |
| Doris & Richard Froelich | Lin & Bert Ludy | |
| Samuel R. Gammon | Mary R. Gammon | |
| Madi Green | Bert & Lin Ludy | |
| Claudia S. Greer | Anne Van Dusen | |
| Lindy Holt | Christy Davis | |
| Roberta D. Hucek | Jerry May | |
| Carol Ingells | Jerry May | |
| Barbara Jones | Christy Davis | |
| Jan Jones | Christy Davis | |
| Gregory Larkin | Christy Davis | |
| Dorothy Lee | Charlotte Moore | |
| Gabriel Makhlouf | Avril Makhlouf | |
| Linda Mastro | Christy Davis | |
| Monica J. Maxon | Lin & Bert Ludy | |
| Joan Maxwell | Lin Ludy | |
| Shirin McArthur | Gerald May | |
| Nancy McInnes | Charles Heinmiller | |
| Clara S. Mercado | Luis Fidel Mercado | |
| Maria Teresa Meyer | Robert Bensen Meyer, | Jr. |
| Paul D. Millin | | |
| Tiffany A. Montavon | Arthur Kernon Jordan | |
| Edward Morawetz | | |
| Clare Openshaw | | |
| Barbara & David Osborne | | |
| Mary Overholt | Christy Davis | |
| Alice J. Petersen | | |
| Leah & David Rampy | | |
| Mimi Raper | | |
| Eileen Regan | | |
| Jane May Ritchie | | |
| Jean & David Rogers | | |
| Mari Russell | | |
| June M. Schulte | | |
| J. 2 2 | | |

| GIVEN BY IN M | EMORY OF |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Felicitas Sebastian | Maria Aurora S. Santos |
| James & Loretta Starr | Jerry May |
| Carol Stehling | Billie Jo Stehling |
| Jean H. Sweeney | Christy Davis |
| Sara Beth Terrell | Cherry Partington |
| Karen D. & William F. Thompson | Gerald May |
| Carol Tsou | Lin Ludy |
| Naomi Tyler-Lloyd | Nathaniel Tyler Lloyd |
| Elizabeth Upton | Roberta Morel |
| Phyllis Van Lare | Lin & Bert Ludy |

| GIVEN BY IN | APPRECIATION OF |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Cynthia Chappell | . Thursday AM group |
| Rosemary Dickerson | . Thursday AM group |
| Ellen Cronin | . Thursday AM group |
| Jacqueline Dunlavey | . Thursday AM group |
| Dena Forster | . Thursday AM group |
| Marjorie Gray | . Group spiritual direction group |
| Suzanne Henley | . Group spiritual direction group |
| Ann & John Hisle | . Thursday AM group |
| Barbara Kane | . Thursday AM group |
| Kathleen Riether | . Group spiritual direction group |
| Frances Thayer | . Group spiritual direction group |
| Linda Trageser | . Thursday AM group |
| | |

SCHOLARSHIP GIFTS

Marty Albershardt
John Beddingfield
Betty Brody
Marshall P. Craver

Sue E. Czarnetzky
Tilden & Mary Edwards
Anne Grizzle
Andrea Vidrine
Beth Wilson



Statements of Financial Position and Activities

The Condensed Financial Statements shown below were derived from the audited financial statements of the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation, Inc. These condensed statements do not include all disclosures normally included in financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The complete financial statements, including statements of cash flows, footnote disclosures and the report of our independent accountants, Aronson LLC, are available for review upon request.

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF JUNE 30, 2011 AND 2010

| | 2011 | 2010 |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| CURRENT ASSETS INVESTMENTS | \$121,098 | \$ 85,094 |
| Board designated | 569,319 | 496,675 |
| TOTAL INVESTMENTS | 569,319 | 496,675 |
| | | |
| FIXED ASSETS | 11,970 | 15,783 |
| OTHER ASSETS | 17,011 | 23,771 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 719,398 | 621,323 |
| | | |
| LIABILITIES AND NET AS | SSETS | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | 56,835 | 76,517 |
| NET ASSETS | | |
| Unrestricted | 610,856 | 453,205 |
| Temporarily restricted | 51,707 | 91,601 |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS | 662,563 | 544,806 |
| | | |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS | \$ 719,398 | \$ 621,323 |

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2011 AND 2010

| | 2011 | 2010 |
|--|------------|------------|
| REVENUE AND SUPPORT | | |
| Programs, contractual work | | |
| and publications | \$ 479,643 | \$ 504,567 |
| Contributions | 372,267 | 410,370 |
| Investment income (losses) | 98,711 | 66,261 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | | |
| AND SUPPORT | 950,621 | 981,198 |
| | | |
| EXPENSES | | |
| Programs, including allocated staff compensation | 526,918 | 633,861 |
| Administration: | | |
| Staff compensation & benefits | 49,856 | 18,584 |
| Rent and other | 190,543 | 289,315 |
| Fundraising expenses | 65,547 | 64,341 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 832,864 | 1,006,101 |
| | | |
| Total Increase (Decrease) | | |
| in Net Assets | 117,757 | (24,903) |
| | | |
| NET ASSETS , Beginning of Year | 544,806 | 569,709 |
| NET ASSETS, End of Year | \$ 662,563 | \$ 544,806 |

Shalem Long-Time Donors We are deeply grateful for the following group of people who have given faithfully to Shalem for 15 years or more. Their

long-time, prayerful partnership with Shalem has sustained Shalem's ministry of contemplative living and leadership.

30 years and more

Sue Baczynski Ed Bauman Milo & Wendy Coerper Carole Crumley Iune Dunn Davis John Denham Marilyn Derian Susan Dillon Robert Duggan Tilden Edwards David Greer Carolyn Irish Dolores Leckey Carol Lobell Louise & Michael Lusignan Marlene & Milt Maier Monica Maxon Eleanor Merrick William & Grace Moremen Mary Louise O'Day Erin Oliver-Neault Barbara & David Osborne Jack & Claudia Upper Sandra Wilson

25-29 years

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Clare Openshaw Judith & Paul Purta Ruth Reynolds Robert & Maggie Silberstein Joan Stogis Margaret Tucker Amory Wade Christine Wood

20-24 years

Anonymous Paul Bailey Bill & Linda Barnard Isabella Bates Louise Berman William Bone David Bridges Marilyn Charles & Reuben Simmons Ellen & Michael Cronin Mary Crummer Jeanette Cureton Ioan Curley Kendrea DeLauter Roderick Dugliss Adrianne Ehle Neil and Virginia Eklund Anne & John Elsbree Paula & Todd Endo Carol Fitch J. Seymour Flinn Elizabeth Fribance Doris Froelich Samuel Gammon Kent Ira Groff Margaret Harris Teri & Bill Hocking Roberta Hucek Alice Immler David Jamieson Carolyn Johnson Heidi Joos Linda Kapurch Marcella Keefe-Slager Daniel Klement Delcy Kuhlman Donna Lord John Lose Eva Martin Mary McGowan & Roberta

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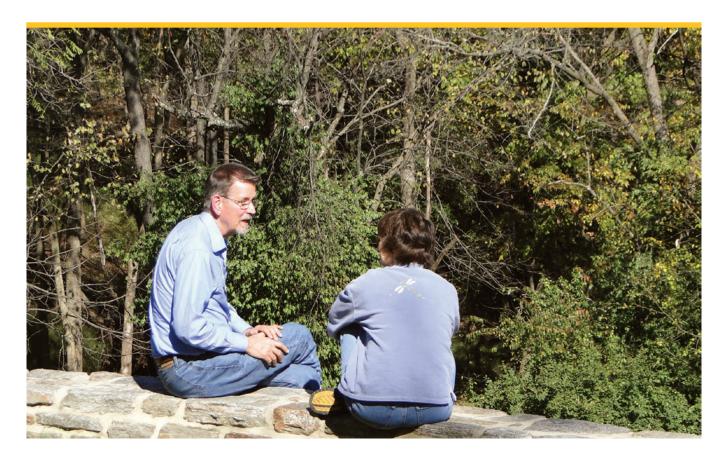
15-19 years

Anonymous (2) Skip Adams N. Franklin Adkinson Douglas Battenberg John Becker Evelyn Bertsche Andrea Bliss-Lerman

Joanne Bobek Anne Briggs O. Robert Brown Tina Brown-Eckert Michael Bucci Margaret Bullitt-Jonas & Robert Jonas Joseph Burkart Maria Carroll Iim Christianson Robert Colman Mary Jo Colucci John Danner Ann Dean Alida DeCoster Rosemary Dickerson Anna Louise Diver Wilda Dockery Rose Mary Dougherty Nancy Eggert



Kerins



Jeanne Evans **Judith Favor** Kate Finan O. Ray Fitzgerald Sharon Freeman Sharon Friedman Catherine Gibson Al Halverstadt & Susan Weeks Mary Tom Hefte Marianne Hieb Richard Hite Debbie Hittle Val Hymes Carol Ingells Maureen Jenkins Vance Johnson Jan Jones

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Shalem's Shekinah Society

We gratefully acknowledge the following members of the Shekinah Society who have put Shalem in their wills—

Margaret Bullitt-Jonas Merrill Carrington Carole Collins Jean Crawford John Denham Rosemary Dickerson Susan Dillon Tilden Edwards Alan Evans Judith Favor Doris Froelich Joann Klink Ann Kulp Kirby Lewis Brooke Morrigan K. Sheila Noyes Mary-Louise O'Day Clare Openshaw Laurence Pagnoni Don & Alixe Park Paul Purta Lisa Richey Betty Stoddard Joan Stogis Jan Thurston Linda Toia Nan Weir Emily Wilmer Sandra Hay Wilson

Why I Joined Shalem's Shekinah Society

Rosemary Dickerson



Shalem has given me many ways to deepen and learn over the last years. I had known of Shalem before I moved to Washington, DC, in 1996 and quickly found groups and classes of interest as well as pilgrimages. These were not the kinds of spiritual opportunity that I had ever encountered elsewhere, and I was enormously grateful. Staff encouraged me and asked me from time to time to take the lead. My spiritual life was nourished richly, and I found new joy in connecting with others through sharing the Spirit.

Shalem's programs for contemplative leadership are unique contributions to the world. I believe its mission is vital, and I care about its future. The Shekinah Society provides an opportunity for me to leave an amount greater than my yearly contributions can allow. Thanks be to God!

Making A Bequest to Shalem

When making your estate plans, we hope you will consider a gift to Shalem. Over the past few years, we have been richly blessed by several bequests, some of them unexpected. Not only have they greatly assisted Shalem's mission and ministry, they are a very special way for the donor's care to extend into the future.

Also, please let us know if you have included a bequest to Shalem in your estate plans. We'd like to say thank you and welcome you as a member of our Shekinah Society.

Please contact Monica Maxon at the Shalem office, 301-897-7334 or Monica@Shalem.org, if you would like more information about making a gift.



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Staff: Carole Crumley, Ann Dean, Rose Mary Dougherty, Tilden Edwards, Patience Robbins, Liz Ward and others

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• LEADING CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUPS & RETREATS

For those leading prayer groups and retreats in churches and other settings

• CLERGY SPIRITUAL LIFE AND LEADERSHIP

For clergy in congregational settings seeking to nurture their spiritual heart and leadership

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For those wanting support to live each day prayerfully and authentically

For more information: www.shalem.org | info@shalem.org | 301-897-7334

Volunteers & In-Kind Donations

We are very grateful for the many ways our community gives to Shalem. In the past program year, many have given of their time or have donated travel and other expenses.

- **June Schulte** and **Lisa Richey** for their incredible hand-made cards, created especially for Shalem.
- **Patrick Harris** and **Mel Shapcott**, of Cyberian Frontier, our web site managers.
- Susan Etherton, Frank Toia, June Schulte, Larry
 Hastings, and Leah Rampy, whose photographs grace
 these pages and our web site.
- Andrea Noel, Shalem's intern, who helped with our School of Prayer and in the office.
- **Darlene Muschett**, who took the staff out to lunch at Union Station.
- Stephen Broadhead for providing legal services to Shalem.
- Sue Clark and James Finan for their assistance in Shalem's office.
- **Anne Grizzle**, who offered her beautiful retreat center, the Bellfry, for a Shalem staff retreat.
- Shalem's **Board of Directors**, who donated numerous hours enabling Shalem's work in the world.
- Shalem's non-Board Committee members, who gave so much time over the year: Tim Carrington, Michael Cronin, Al Keeney, and Margot Eyring.

- **Grace Cummings, Bob Brown and Nancy Nikiforow** who were responsible for the Gerald May Seminar reception.
- For all the many people who helped with Tilden Edwards' book signing, especially Susan Dillon, Ann Dean, David Rampy, Liz Tuckermanty, Dale Manty, Jim Todhunter, Bob Brown, and Grace Cummings.
- Other individuals who made in-kind contributions:
 Patricia Amrhein, Kevin Bagley, Arlene Christian, David Covarrubias, Grace Cummings, Rose Mary Dougherty,
 Tilden Edwards, Wanda Finke, Larry Hastings, Joan & John Hatcher, Colleen Hernandez, Sharon Glass, Cornelia Groat, Anne Grizzle, Rick Hendricks, Christine Jeffrey,
 Al Keeney, Joe Kenna, Rita Lombardo, Margaret McBride,
 Tiffany Montavon, Andrea Noel, Jean Noon, Mary Katherine Morn, Tamara Newell, Sue Parks, Bruce Pickle, Leah
 & David Rampy, Patience Robbins, Frank Sasinowski, Liz
 Tuckermanty, Matthew Wright

Special Thanks

We give special thanks to the **Trust for the Meditation Process** and their funding of scholarships/apprenticeship costs for our Korean leaders in fiscal year 2010-11.



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Today's giftAnne Grizzle

A gift wrapped up I receive: today.
I open one layer at a time.
I smile, try on, admire, enjoy each moment as the day unfolds.

—From Anne Grizzle, A First Book of Poems