



Passiontide-Easter 2010

The Christian Community

Movement for Religious Renewal

Greater Washington-Baltimore Area Newsletter

www.ccgwb.org



Dear friends,

The stillness, the quiet and the serenity that the thirty-inch snow had brought to our souls this winter make the sounds reaching to us out of the arriving spring even more clear- so fresh, so harmonious and harmonizing all at once. The falling snowflakes have done their part, cleansing and purifying the air in order for us to hear the sounds anew. The birds have awoken anew. The buds are starting to peek out of the ground and look up to the heavenly blue allowing this blue mantle to watch over them and protect them. The sunlight, after days of hiding behind the cloudy snowy white sky, is suddenly starting to shine with fresh radiance and power.

We as a community, after going through the inner stillness, serenity and refreshing time of the Holy Nights are able to listen to what is coming to us with renewed attentiveness and strength. In the midst of our budding and becoming, we are starting to peek – peek to the future of our community building activities through the body-building course offered by the seminary, through our annual members meeting, through new and courageous steps in the site development group and through looking into strengthening our relationship to Christ by coming together and experiencing what it means to be His disciples and feel how it is to follow Him.

May we continuously have the confidence of looking in and trusting the invisible inner mantle of our community watching over us and its radiant light guiding us as we step into these weeks of Passiontide leading us through the narrow road of Holy Week to the rising forces of Easter. May we walk with Him in every step of the way - individually as well as together as a community.

In Him,

Patrick Kennedy & Nora Minassian

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Cover art – Gradual
Awakening by Ursula Stone
www.ursulastone.com

Seminary Visiting Our Community

Rev. Gisela Wielki, director of the Christian Community seminary in Chicago, visited our community in March 5th-7th and offered a course on the theme "Christianity is a Body-Building Religion". We were also privileged to have Jeanne Feeney, a community member and a movement specialist, deepen our work with movement sessions.

Under the wise, gentle and spiritually forceful guiding presence of Rev. Gisela Wielki, we spent 2 very full days studying and experiencing body building from different perspectives. This open course offered by the Chicago Seminary of the Christian Community and graciously hosted by the Washington-Baltimore Congregation of the Christian Community, often felt like an educational marathon beginning early in the day with the Act of Consecration of Man and ending 12 hours later with a Gospel reading from the Altar. Kindly interspersed twice a day were inspired free flowing movement exercises led by Jeanne Feeney that complemented and expanded on the topics of the study.

The body and the building of a body were subjects examined from many different points of view. These myriad points of view seemed to rotate around a topic--- sometimes a micro-zooming in, sometimes macro-cosmically zooming out, but always moving. What is a body, what has a body, the creation of the human body, the body after the Fall, the body of Jesus of Nazareth, the light of the transfigured body, the Resurrection Body, the body of the future, how do we grow into these bodies?, were only touched upon the skin of the body of this class.

By Lawrence Smiley



I entered the weekend open course from the Seminary ready to challenge the ideas being presented. When Gisela held up Olympic athletes as an example of the height of the human body's evolutionary progress, I countered with the image of Classical Greek statues and the flabby bodies at my community pool. When Gisela talked about humans suffering death much more than animals, I asked how she could know that and said that I didn't want to swallow anything I hadn't fully chewed. Jeanne's movement session had us select a postcard image to represent our body. For

me was "The Kiss" by Gustav Klimt. For my partner, an image of an old gardener's hand lying over a newly planted seed with the hand of a young child poised on it. We shared what we saw in these images that reflected ourselves back to us. After our lunch break, I was no longer the one chewing up what was being offered, but found myself falling into reverie as Gisela's soothing voice washed over me and her ideas began to eat their way into me. A lively discussion after dinner woke me up to consider how each of us is "uniquely bent" before heading into the quiet contemplative mood of the evening service.

I entered the second day's Act of Consecration of Man in awe and wonder of the beauty of the human bodies around me. The graceful choreography of the servers moving, the gentle tones of the priest speaking, the harmonies of the voices singing, all seemed impossibly beautiful to me. As Gisela spoke of the fall from the garden, of the loving gift of our skin, and of the comfort of our touch, a deep sense of loving appreciation was awakened between myself and those surrounding me. With Jeanne, we created gestures to express the ideas held in the images we had selected to represent our bodies. We watched each other perform deeply meaningful movements, which seemed to have come to us as faerie gifts through working together.

Today at Tuesday breakfast, my partner from the postcard activity and I met briefly in the kitchen both glowing in the wake of what we had been through. "I finally learned that I am separate and that's the way it has to be," she said. "And I finally learned that I am connected to everyone." I said.

By Leah DeLano

Annual Members' Meeting

By Bruce Chamberlin

On Saturday, February 27th, we held our annual Member's Meeting of the Washington/Baltimore Christian Community. Normally we hold our annual meeting in November, but due to various budget questions, scheduling challenges, and snowstorms we weren't able to hold our meeting this year until February. Needless to say, there was much to talk about! This past year has been so full and rich with the celebration of the sacraments, festivals, new initiatives etc. that we had difficulty recalling it all. After a brief introduction by Bruce Chamberlin, President of the Board of Trustees, Rev. Nora Minassian gave a picture of what we are creating in our community life in working with the spiritual world and the Angel of our community in all that we do. Then Rev. Patrick Kennedy led us through a recollection of what has transpired in our community since our last meeting, a period, which encompasses the Christmas season 2008 to the present. Just touching briefly on the high points of what unfolded during this time took almost an hour, and we still didn't cover it all! It is very exciting and gratifying to see the deep interest and commitment that the members of our community have brought, and continue to bring to all aspects of our work and worship together.

J-Lee Newell, Treasurer for the Board of Directors, then gave an overview of the 2009 financial results, and we had questions and discussion about the state of our financial life and what has transpired in the last year. This was followed by brief reports from Bruce Chamberlin on the various groups that are carrying key aspects of our community life (Music, Servers, Festivals, Set-up teams, Carrying Group etc.). We then began the “looking forward” part of our meeting to address where we are directing our attention and our resources for the future. J-Lee shared our recently finalized budget for 2010, and we looked at the question of how to address the gap between our current revenue (which has grown significantly in the last year) and our increased expenses. The question of whether to add another year to the period we originally gave ourselves to draw from our Building Fund in order to cover our operating expenses was discussed, and we are taking that feedback now and looking at how best to proceed going forward.

After a short break (with some tasty snacks), Trish Mooney, chairperson of the Site Development Group, gave a report on the very important work that has been done in the last year, and a picture of where we are now in the development of our land and all the preparatory work that must take place in order for us to build a permanent chapel on the property. We also discussed the question of the purchase of a parsonage for our priests, and how this fits into our mid and long-term planning for the chapel. Patrick and members of the Board and Site Development Group are actively working to gather the necessary information to make a decision, particularly in light of the anticipated arrival of a new member in the Kennedy household! These large and important questions filled out the three hours we had allotted for our meeting, which left only a small bit of time for the last part of the meeting which was a look at what Membership in the Christian Community means. Patrick shared a few key thoughts for us to think on regarding how we take up this responsibility to joyfully carry the Christ impulse in the world. We are also looking at the possibility of having a Members Meeting two, or even three times a year considering the dynamic reality of our community, and the need to keep each other fully appraised of what is happening and what our hopes and dreams are for the future.

Note: If you have thoughts or feedback on any of the questions mentioned above, or any other aspects of our community life that you would like to share, please contact Patrick or Nora, or one of the members of the Board of Trustees. Your thoughts, and prayers, and participation are the life breath of our community.

Including the priests, members of the Board are:
 Bruce Chamberlin – bchamberlin10@yahoo.com
 J-Lee Newell – jacquelineleenewell@yahoo.com
 Andrea Daney – daneyka@yahoo.com
 Jeanne Feeney – jeannef@us.net
 Bettina Hinds – bettinahinds@gmail.com
 Kathy Dews – Katherine.dews@gmail.com

WORKING TOGETHER

We shape our self
to fit this world

and by the world
are shaped again.

The visible
and the invisible

working together
in common cause,

to produce
the miraculous.

I am thinking of the way
the intangible air

passed at speed
round a shaped wing

easily
holds our weight.

So may we, in this life
trust

to those elements
we have yet to see

or imagine,
and look for the true

shape of our own self
by forming it well

to the great
intangibles about us.

~ David Whyte ~

Sexuality and Consciousness 2010 Christian Community Young Adults Winter Conference –

By Amos Dancy

With every step towards healing, a healing does take place. However small or great the step we took, it was taken together, and as a community we moved forward. It was for me the first time that I experienced a conscious movement as a community towards the healing of this fundamental separation between human beings, that of male and female, masculine/feminine. Before the conference began, it was in my thinking that this theme of "Sexuality and Consciousness" had been a long time in the coming; being raised at nearly every planning meeting I can recall.

Now that the conference has happened, it is in my feeling that this theme has been coming for a very long time, much longer than I can recall. I don't know how else to say it but that it feels to me that this conference was a powerful moment in the biography of Humanity. A happening connected to the very beginning of this amazing story, when God created the human being in the image and likeness of the gods. Male and Female he created them, the two as one. Then, for the worse and for the better a great separation took place, and the pain and struggles, the joys and sorrows, the incredible challenges began between us, between us as human beings and between human beings and the Divine. And so we gathered, male and female, feminine and masculine, working together to come more fully to ourselves, to unite in our seeking and striving towards the fullness of His Being, the true Human Being who stands now before us, within us, beside us and weaving between us.

Mark your Calendars-April 24- 25 Confirmation Weekend

On April 24th at 7:30 pm Rev. Christward Kröner from Berlin will be giving a talk on the topic of: **“The Threshold as a Life-Companion - an introduction into the Sacrament of Confirmation”**

On April 25th at 10:30 am Rev. Kröner will be celebrating the Confirmation Sacrament. All are welcome to attend the Saturday lecture, the Sacrament and the Confirmation celebrations.



One of Our Teenagers Shares His Experience of an Internship

By Jules Feeny

From Sabo Ranch - Montana

My internship lasted the entire two weeks and beyond. We worked early in the morning till sometimes later at night, and extending into the weekends. I learned the basic way of life, living off the grid and eating in season. But life here is more than just that, there is a lot more to learn than just how to feed an animal and when.



Jules drives the manual shift Mitsubishi hay feeding truck with Kiril, Riley, and Jet the Labrador in the back

Throughout my first week here on the Sabo Ranch I have done many significant things that benefit the ranch, ranging from occupying the boys, to feeding chickens and ducks, to driving cattle. The job I did most is feeding chickens and ducks before my breakfast. It is a simple but essential task. I had to make a judgment about how much they are eating from the amount of feed that is left over from the day before, and check on general health for the flock. In the first few days I was asking many questions so that I could get more acquainted with the place, the people and the way things work. However, after a while I became more comfortable and was able to assess a situation and make a good choice on my own.

The work that was most challenging was milking cows. There were four dairy cows but only three were producing milk at the time. All of these cows had calves that needed to become more comfortable with humans. This was accomplished by grooming each calf with a currycomb. I also learned a bit about real life genetics and how they contribute to the herd as a whole. I also learned about the birthing of calves. I learned what good milk, eggs and beef are. I also discovered about eggs and how if they are fertilized they last longer.

Not much of this may benefit me in *every* day life, but in the long run I will know the difference between well and poorly raised eggs, beef and milk. Many people don't have a positive view of farmers. However this stereotype is actually not true. Farmers are hard working people who know more about what they do and how it affects the world than others.

My trip out here could not have been more educational and rewarding.



Jules at the edge of the Buffalo Jump at Harrison Lake. There is a steep 100-foot drop beyond the edge pictured.

Lord's Prayer Conference

By the participants Camilla Lake, Jane Parker and Jeanne Feeney

On Valentine's Day weekend we drove to the beautiful, snow covered hills of the Temenos Retreat Center in PA to join 15 others for a study of The Lord's Prayer. All services, eurythmy, drawing, meals and conversation were held in a beautiful open room, warmed by an enormous fireplace faithfully tended all weekend by Rev. Marcus Knausenberger. We began our study with a presentation by Rev. Craig Wiggins (Marcus' new colleague) on how to prepare oneself for prayer. He likened it to being a guest at someone's table- being willing to listen as well as share. Each subsequent Act of Consecration of Man and Close of Day gospel reading and sermon deepened our theme and our praying together. We were also very blessed to be led in artistic exercises by both Jillian Shoemaker, a wonderful eurythmist, and Mimi Coleman, a gifted art therapist. Our regular sessions with them allowed us to process, explore, and express on a soul level what we were encountering in The Lord's Prayer. We worked in both large and small groups with the prayer as a whole, with one line at a time and even focusing on single words. We looked at the evolution of the Lord's Prayer through various translations: Aramaic, Old Greek, Modern Greek, and English. Finally, we closed the retreat in a circle praying to Our Father in five different languages. In the end we agreed it was a privilege to be included in this retreat given what we each gained individually as well as the richness of praying together with our nearest Christian Community neighbors.

A Report from our Site Development Chair

By Trish Mooney

Dear Friends,

The Site Development Group continues to move forward towards developing a master plan for the site. This year's work is largely focused on gathering objective information about the land through survey work (boundary, topographical, soil, etc.), and meetings with P.G. County in order to get a clear and accurate picture of what we have to work with and how we can achieve it within current county frameworks. By the end of March we hope to have had our first meeting with PG County and to have a Boundary and Topographical Survey completed soon after based on their recommendations. We are also in the very beginning stages of developing a strategic planning process so that we can

develop a solid road map for achieving our goals in terms of building a chapel and stewarding the land.

In the 'day-to-day' department, many thanks to Camilla Lake and Michael Judge for procuring a plowing contract in the midst of the first major snowstorm back in December. Had they not pulled this off, I think we would still be trying to find someone to come and plow the church driveway (and would likely have to pay a ransom). We still have challenges with standing water and will be looking at some more dramatic short-term solutions to our parking issues in the coming months.

We are about to move forward on upgrading our Heating and Cooling system which should make it more energy efficient, quieter, and will allow for improved balancing of temperature between the chapel and the community spaces. We have had a welcome addition in Colleen Shetland who has stepped forward to act as note taker for SD meetings. This is no small task, and we are so grateful to have her!

Treasurer's Corner

By J-Lee Newall

Dear Friends,
The snowy weather has allowed us all to be with family and neighbors in new and wonderful ways. It also has meant that we haven't been able to celebrate the sacraments together as often as we would like. Income this month is understandably lower than estimated so if you can, please generously contribute to The Christian Community this month. It will keep our driveway plowed, our priests cared for, the Parish House warm, and the sacraments available to us all! If you are unable to make it to the Parish House, please mail your donation to: The Christian Community, 4221 Metzert Road, College Park, MD 20740.

Announcements:

- Tax letters have gone out! If you haven't received yours yet or if the one you received needs to be amended, please let me know, (301) 706-3384.
- We are planning to have our 3rd Community Dinner in Support of the Priest Retirement Fund of North America. A committee is forming to present a wonderful evening for all, please contact J-Lee Newall if you can help with planning the dinner and entertainment (301) 706-3384.

Thanks:

In 2009, we raised over \$52k in donations as well as contributed over \$5k for a family in need and over \$2k for the East Coast Youth Group to travel to Australia to the International Youth Conference. Thank you for your extraordinary generosity.

Mark your Calendars

April 10th, 2010

Conscious Crossings

A day in two parts – Participants are welcome to attend both or either morning or afternoon sessions \$40 – Donations including lunch and supplies. No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

Morning session – Preparing for Our Own Death
9 am- 12 pm

Discuss options, contemplate choices and the impact from various perspectives of each choice, and take home documents to share with family members.

Lunch Break 12-1:30pm

Afternoon session – forming a circle to care for those who are crossing the threshold of death within the Christian Community

1:30 pm– 4:30 pm

Do you feel called upon to serve the departed in creating a more formalized community for dying and after-death care? This would be a time to state your wishes and become part of this group.

CC Service Teams

Purple Team

April & November

Mary Brauer

Judith Graff

Patsy O'Connor

Blue Team

December & May

Jane Parker

Michael Anderson

Camilla Lake

Bruce Chamberlin

Expertise and Talents in our Community

This column is dedicated to those who would like to share their expertise and talents with other members – if you like to share your profession through our Newsletter with other members, please contact Rev. Nora Minassian – noraminassian@yahoo.com

Denise Lair, Licensed Esthetician

Certified in the Dr. Hauschka Method
Offering facials and body treatments
In Cabin John 2nd weekends each month

Also offer mail-order for:
Dr. Hauschka, Weleda and True Botanica products
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Contact:
DeniseLair2@earthlink.net or
call 434-263-8895

Colleen Shetland

Individual instruction - in English language and literature, Speech communication (public speaking and artistic speech), and English as a new language. For all ages from the early grades through adults.

Singing - Most people long to sing more freely, and there are ways to open our voices, and to experience more freedom in singing. Simple yet profound musical exercises have been developed to open us to an experience of spirit through tones. This work is sometimes called “Werbeck singing,” or “the School of Uncovering the Voice. Regardless of our musical ability, a careful approach to breathing, vowels, consonants, and tones can put any of us in touch with archetypal forces, which stimulate our inner life forces and move us toward greater health. For all ages.

Colleen Shetland has many years’ experience teaching in classrooms and private tutoring settings. She received an M.F.A. in Interpretative Speech and Music in 1969, and taught Fundamentals of Speech on the college level for ten years. Since then she has taught English as a new language both as a volunteer and professionally. She received an M.S. in Waldorf

Elementary Education in 2001, and taught for five years in Waldorf schools before retiring from classroom teaching. She now has a private practice in academic tutoring and singing therapy.

703-998-5264
mcshtland@earthlink.net

Rudolf Heirman Heirman Renovations

Licensed, bonded and insured general contractor/ Master Carpenter, with over 30 years experience of working on homes in the Washington D.C. area. Can do small repair work, moderate size renovations as well as whole house renovations. I also like to do consulting and structural alterations.

Contact:
Office: 301-593-0712
Cell: 202-352-8144



Denise Lair

Raises chickens and goats. She brings her farm fresh organic eggs and organic goat cheese on her visits to the DC area 2nd weekends of the month. You may email or call to request these in advance !

Contact:
DeniseLair2@earthlink.net or
call 434-263-8895

Future Now 2010

Calling All Young People



If you are off between May 13th and May 25th, you may want to think about packing your bags and travel to Germany. There is an International Christian Community Congress happening in Dortmund, called FutureNow2010, May 21-25th. You can go to their website, click on the right side of the home page above the photo for English, and then check out all the links.

Go to www.futurenow2010.org

They expect some 1500 people, many of them young people, with special programs and activities for young people in different languages, English obviously being one of them. (Jake they have night cafes for the young folks and need just your kind of music!!! and Meaghen, your improvisation acting skills.)

To make the trip worthwhile prior to the congress there is the opportunity to experience a Priest ordination in Stuttgart, (May 15-16th) followed by an Open Week at the Stuttgart seminary, May 17-21st. classes for the week will be conducted in English, before you travel to Dortmund with lots of other young people and after that you return to continue to travel on your own, or to do 'serious' money-producing summer work at home, before going back to college or some other job.

Such a congress does not come around too often, so if I have sparked your interest at all, in one or all of these events, get in touch with me, and then we can look into financial travel assistance. They really want some young representatives from the US!!! and I am trying to gather a group that will travel with me. Please, do pass this on to other young people not on this mailing list.

Just recently they were still working on a weblink/site for just the activities and the program for the young people, so that may not yet be up, but it should be very shortly. I can keep you posted on this, once you let me know that you are interested. There is some travel assistance for those from far away.

That's all for now, Gisela

Gisela Wielki
1-773-472-7041
giselawielki@sbcglobal.net

Upcoming local Events

Chapel Hill, North Carolina
visited by Rev. Nora Minassian (March. 18-20)

FEEDING THE 5000

At Shepherd's Table in Silver Spring

Food is being collected at the Parish House during Passiontide and will be brought to a food pantry in downtown Silver Spring on Monday, March 29. 6 of us are still needed to volunteer to serve the meal between 5:30 and 7:30pm at Shepherd's Table.

Please bring a favorite baked good on Palm Sunday, March 28 to be brought as a special offering from the abundance of our community to those in need!

Sponsored by the Bridge Initiative

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday

What is The Christian Community? – An orientation towards membership

12-1pm

Light in the Darkness

A visit to the newly hung Rothko exhibit at the National Gallery, which displays his later studies in the color black. A group will leave from the Parish House but those who wish come another way:

We will meet in the lobby of the East Wing at 2pm

The Act of Consecration of Man - every morning at 9 am

Followed by reflections on the events of the Holy Week

Thursday night silent meal – 6:30 pm

Good Friday

Silent Contemplation of the Cross, chapel open from 12 – 3:30pm

Vesper Service – The Event on Golgotha in Our Time

With homily, music and hymns

6:30-7:30pm

EASTER SUNDAY

6:15am Silent Sunrise Walk

9:15am **Easter Festival Garden**

With story and singing for children of all ages!

10am Sunday Service for Children

10:30am The Act of Consecration of Man

11:30am Easter Lunch – Potluck

12:30 – **Angels in the Holy Cave**

A special festival celebration for children including a visit to the 'cave' created on our property where Angels receive the children and give them a special Easter gift.

Followed by an Easter Egg hunt over the whole property!

Upcoming Regional and International Events

Children's Summer Camp

August 5-21

Contact Rev. Carol Kelly if you are interested: (845) 426-3144 or caroltkelly@juno.com

Summer Youth Conference

August 23-27

Contact Rev. Patrick Kennedy if you are interested: 240-505-9960 or cckennedy2006@gmail.com

FUTURE NOW!

The world conference of The Christian Community
Dortmund, Germany, Whitsun 2010. It will be a wonderful event!

For information contact

Miriam Roger by email info@futurenow2010.org

The web site is

<http://futurenow2010.org/typo3/en/future-now.html>

For our next Newsletter

If you like to write an article for our next newsletter, please send submissions by May 15, 2010 to Rev. Nora Minassian at noraminassian@yahoo.com