



CONTEMPLATIVE OUTREACH of NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Newsletter # 3--March, 2009

Contemplative Outreach of Northern California

Please Note: You are receiving this newsletter because you have attended an event, talk or retreat sponsored by Contemplative Outreach of San Francisco. The contents of this newsletter describes future Centering Prayer events which will occur within the next few months. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, scroll down to the bottom where you can unsubscribe.

Contents of Newsletter # 3--Northern California

1. Attendance at Richard Rohr Event
2. Fr. Terry Ryan to Speak April 4, 2009 on Abhishiktananda
3. Invitation to Gala East Bay Community Building Dinner
4. Final Sessions--Living Flame Contemplative Education Series
5. Save the Date--'Small Group' Facilitator's Workshop
6. Conference/Retreat--Centering Prayer in California Prisons
7. 2009 Retreats to Deepen your Practice of Centering Prayer
8. Attend a Workshop to Learn the Practice of Centering Prayer
9. New Website--Contemplative Outreach of Northern California

If you would like to register for Newsletters and Alerts go to
<http://www.ContemplativeOutReach-NorCal.org/register>

1. Attendance at Richard Rohr Event

Special thanks to the 446 people who attended Richard Rohr's talk at St. Ignatius Church on the campus of the University of San Francisco on Feb. 22, 2009. The talk was co-sponsored by Contemplative Outreach of San Francisco and the Theology Department of the Jesuit USF. Proceeds will be used for Centering Prayer Prison Ministry. Fr. Rohr visited San Quentin Prison with the Centering Prayer volunteers on Monday, Feb 23, and gave a heart-felt and well received talk to the inmates who practice Centering Prayer.

2. Fr. Terry Ryan to Speak April 4-Old St. Marys

As part of the Speakers Series on Contemplative Prayer and the Spiritual Journey, Fr. Terry Ryan CSP will speak on Sat. April 4 in Chinatown at Old St. Mary's Paulist Bookstore, corner of California and Grant Avenue from 9:30 am to 12:30pm. Coffee from 9:00am. Freewill Offering to Fr. Terry.

The April 4 talk will be on Abhishiktananda (Henri le Saux OSB).

A Catholic Priest meets Hindu Spirituality----The Hindu name, Abhishiktananda means Bliss of the Anointed One. It is the name taken by the extraordinary French Benedictine priest, Henri Le Saux. He lived as a holy man in India, and gave to us his vision of our Christian spiritual path through his experience in the Hindu spiritual culture. His writings distill his contemplative insights on the path to union with God to which all Christians are called.

3. Invitation--Gala East Bay Community Dinner

*****Very Special Event*****

The East Bay Chapter warmly invites all Friends of Contemplative Outreach of Northern California to attend an evening of wonderful food and entertainment. Most importantly of all, come make new friends, meet many old friends and enjoy the family style dinner and relationship-building fellowship of Centering Prayer practitioners from all over northern California. Friends and spouses welcome. Chef Elka Gilmore has planned an elegant gourmet vegetarian dinner, including wine. Please join us!!!!

Sunday, April 26, 2009 from 5:00pm to 8:00pm

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2nd Floor Parish Hall
2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94704

Free Parking Available in the garage (Handicap accessible)
Enter garage on corner of Ellsworth and Durant.

To pre-register at \$30, make check payable to COOEB, then mail check to Helen McKennon, 408 Timberline Ct, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523. You may pay at the door. (\$35)

4. Final Sessions-Living Flame Education Series

The final two sessions of the Living Flame Contemplative Education Series will be held at Mercy Center on Saturday, April 18 and Saturday, May 30, 2009.

5. Save the Date: Group Facilitator's Training

All Centering Prayer small faith community Facilitators in Northern California are invited to attend a one day training and retreat on Saturday, July 18, 2009 in the East Bay (location to be announced). This session will be conducted by Mary Wyman, Coordinator of Contemplative Outreach, San Francisco. Topics will include a) The Facilitator as Servant Leader; b) Applying Contemplative Outreach Theological Principles to the Dynamic of the Small Group; c) Deepening the Spirituality of the Group and d) Various formats for Prayer Meetings. If interested in attending, please respond to mary.wyman@yahoo.com.

6. Conference--Centering Prayer in Prisons

Contemplative Outreach of San Francisco will sponsor a 3-day conference-retreat August 7-9, 2009 at Mercy Center in Burlingame for volunteers whose ministry is to conduct and support Centering Prayer meetings for inmates in northern California prison facilities. Sessions will include a) prison volunteers as servant leaders; b) guest speakers; c) enriching the dynamics of the prison Centering Prayer group; c) panels exploring various formats to increase involvement of inmates; d) increasing the depth of spirituality in both servant leaders and inmates. More information will follow to the prison volunteer community in mid-May. The conference will be facilitated by Mary Wyman, Coordinator of Contemplative Outreach of San Francisco and George Biniek, leader of volunteers at San Quentin Prison.

7. Retreats To Deepen Your Centering Prayer

Have you ever attended a Centering Prayer retreat? If you have, you probably would agree that it is a sacred, refreshing and renewing experience allowing you to enter into a profound level of spiritual practice in an atmosphere of silence and community. Make a local retreat this year--there are several to select from in the list below.

At the beautiful and comfortable Mercy Center Retreat House and wooded campus in Burlingame, (near the San Francisco airport), it is easy to be more attentive to the presence of the Divine in your life.

2009 Centering Prayer Retreats include:

Triduum Retreat (Holy Thursday through Easter) from April 9-12

8-day Centering Prayer Retreat from May 18-25 (Space available). Call Mercy Center (650) 340-7400 for Christine. Scholarships available.

4-day "A Taste of Silence" from August 6-9

Centering Prayer as the 11th Step Retreat from Oct. 30-Nov. 1

---And in the peaceful surroundings of the San Damiano Retreat Center at Danville, California, you can register for a 4-day Centering Prayer Retreat from Dec. 10-13, 2009.

8. Introductory Workshops on Centering Prayer

Note: Several Introductory Workshops to Centering Prayer have been conducted in the past three months. Special thanks to Mercy Center in Burlingame, Hope Lutheran Church in El Sobrante, St. George's Episcopal Church in Antioch, St. Mary's Catholic Church in Sacramento, St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Palo Alto, and the Journey Center in Santa Rosa.

If you or your church wishes to schedule an Introductory Workshop anytime in northern California, please email your request to mary.wyman@yahoo.com.

More Introductory Workshops are scheduled for:

Lakeside Presbyterian Church--San Francisco--April 18

Elam Lutheran Church in Petaluma on April 25

First Presbyterian Church in Monterey on June 27

Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church on August 1

Mercy Center in Burlingame on September 27

9. Please visit our New Website for northern California Contemplative Outreach activities:

www.contemplativeoutreach-norcal.org

The East Bay and San Francisco Chapters of Contemplative Outreach have collaborated on the website above which will consolidate all the Centering Prayer activities and events for northern California. It also lists all prayer groups in northern California by County. If you find any omissions or additions in the prayer groups, please email mary.wyman@yahoo.com.

We are indebted to Bill McLennan and Marty Badgett who together designed, tested and funded this website venture. Their generosity of spirit, interest and talents in the design and upkeep of the website exemplifies the nature of servant leadership, ie, they exercise "leadership as service, especially by being alert and responsive to the growth and needs of the spiritual network of Contemplative Outreach." Our deepest thanks to you, Bill and Marty.

www.contemplativeoutreach-norcal.org

To unsubscribe from Contemplative Outreach alerts please email unsubscribe@conout-norcal.org with your name and zip code.