



THE GUILD FOR SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

Spiritual Listening • Sacred Response

The Guild for Spiritual Guidance, a non-profit organization, equips seekers and leaders to explore new ways to whole-heartedly serve in diverse professions, spiritualities, places of worship, and local/global communities. Acknowledging our interconnections and interdependence, we are committed to human being as a radically inclusive circle of trust. Membership in the Guild is understood to involve a commitment to a sustained discipline in the life of the Spirit, including a lifelong pursuit of the inward journey and concerned response through sacred action in the world.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Bernice Marie-Daly
Chairperson

Stephen J. Allen
Treasurer

Derek Donnan
Secretary

MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES

Shawn Kennedy Cribari
Mark D'Alessio
Amy Hyatt
Susan Robinson
Denise Tangney

APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Dianne Disston
Coordinator

Dorothee Caulfield
Assistant Coordinator

November 2017

Dear Friend,

Next year marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Guild for Spiritual Guidance. From our founding in 1977, the Guild has evolved to incorporate new insights born of a continuous process of self-evaluation while remaining deeply rooted in our history and mission. How pleased Teilhard would be with our determination to remain so connected to our initial roots while seeking to be relevant in our changing 21st century world!

On behalf of the Guild, both members and friends, we are writing to you from a deep sense of gratitude for what the Guild has meant to us, and from a desire to see the Guild touch and change many more lives.

First, Thank You!

First – we want to thank you for being so generous when the Guild appealed to you last November. Last year at this time, we weren't sure that the Apprenticeship Program had a future. Today – because of you – the Guild is in growth mode with a new Apprenticeship group (AP XX) alongside a new website, innovative workshops and events, and plans for upcoming overseas pilgrimages!

You are invited to continue to be a partner in bringing the life-changing wisdom of the Guild to more people. As partners, we're glad to share that you join such luminaries as Miriam Therese Winter, ¹our most recent Greater Guild retreat leader, in affirming that the Guild is a much-needed force in the world:

“The Guild, it seems to me, takes this very seriously . . . You're witnessing to something . . . something that we cannot hold in our hands, some reality that we

¹ Miriam Therese Winter, affectionately known as “MT,” is a Medical Mission Sister and best known for her popular and award-winning books (including *Paradoxology* and *Out of the Depths*) and songs (the Platinum record, “Joy is Like the Rain,” alongside “Spirit of God” and many others). Today, at Hartford Seminary, she directs both the M.A. in Transformative Leadership & Spirituality and the Women's Leadership Institute.



cannot see, but we know there's a presence that inspires us and intuitively gives us the energy to act when we need to act. . . . That becomes not only easier, but actually more constructive when we can do this in community.”

The New Apprenticeship Program is Thriving

The re-visioning of the Apprenticeship Program and revising the curriculum was a major undertaking, requiring countless hours of work by the AP “Dream Team” (Bernice Marie-Daly, II; Denise Tangney, XII; Mark D’Alessio, XVI; and AP Coordinator Dianne Disston). As Dorotheé Caulfield, XIX, said, “The Dream Team came up with a dream program!”

Renaming the strands from Teilhard, Jung, and Mystics, to Sacred Earth/Universe, Sacred Consciousness, and Sacred Love resonated with the 21st century spiritual seekers who have become apprentices. Naming Sacred Community as the fourth strand made clear what we have all known intuitively – that the transformation of each individual apprentice is made possible through the love and support of community.

Moreover, making explicit the connection between contemplative listening and taking action in service to the World was another compelling feature in attracting this new group of apprentices.

Finally, using technology for some of the teaching and the community gatherings definitely made the AP more doable for many prospective apprentices – thanks to both reduced tuition and fewer overnight gatherings.

Apprentice Class XX had their opening weekend in-person retreat at Wisdom House in September; and their first two “virtual” (online) gatherings in October and November!

Online gatherings? Does that work?

We admit, some of us were skeptical about how a sense of sacred community could be established with participants sitting in front of computer screens. But by all accounts, the first two on-line gathering have been quite moving, deep, and rich.

We hope you have had time to read the excerpts from Dianne Disston’s (AP Coordinator) reports in the November 18 Guild e-newsletter. It’s still early in the two-year program, of course, but, so far, it seems that the re-creation of the AP has been more successful than we could have imagined.

The Guild is Just Getting Started . . .

Without your support, none of this would have been possible. You have played a critical part in ensuring the Guild’s future. Will you consider renewing your generous financial commitment to the Guild?

Now that AP XX is flourishing, the Guild leadership team is exploring ways to make the Guild’s riches accessible to even more people.

In autumn, Bernice Marie-Daly and Denise Tangney, led a Guild-sponsored “Spiritual Makeover” retreat at Tabor Retreat Center on Long Island. The program introduced concepts from the Teihardian strand, providing a “taste” of the Guild for people intrigued by the wisdom but not prepared to make a two-year commitment.

And, Bernice and Denise will be taking the Guild’s Spiritual Makeover workshops – as well others – on the road to houses of worship and retreat centers in the tri-state area (New York, New Jersey, Connecticut).

Plans are proceeding for Guild-sponsored events and programs, steeped in the insight of the four strands, including November’s on-line book study on Judy Cannato’s wonderful Field of Compassion, upcoming pilgrimages to Iona, Scotland, on Celtic spirituality and to Assisi, Italy, on active-contemplative spirituality; in-person workshops steeped in the wisdom of the four strands; and, more.

Needless to say, these programs and plans, and others, take financial resources. In addition, the Guild continues to rely on contributions to subsidize the Apprenticeship Program and Graduate Guild retreats to keep them affordable. Through your generosity, the Guild has also been able to offer scholarships for those who find even the reasonable subsidized fees out of reach.

Renewal of the 600 Club

Last year, the response to our fall appeal was amazing! Members and friends of the Guild contributed about \$18,000: \$11,400 from the “600 Club,” composed of individuals who made a monthly commitment of \$50 or an annual commitment of \$600. An additional \$1,400 was raised from other monthly contributors at various levels; and \$5,200 was contributed by other one-time donors. The generosity of our members and friends has been remarkable.

The Guild’s leadership is committed to growth -- having stepped out in faith, with AP XX and new programs, that the Guild can match last year’s fundraising total of \$18,000.

The three of us who are sharing this letter with you have committed to renew our support of the Guild this year! Will you join us?

By renewing your support you will –

- **Empower** Guild graduates as spiritual companions to live out their sacred soul tasks in service to the world;
- **Deepen** on-going, graduate-level education for companions who want to integrate the practice of spiritual guidance within their chosen profession and explore new ways to whole-heartedly serve others;
- **Support** new seekers who want to discover their call to spiritual guidance and engage with their truest selves in sacred activism;
- **Provide** scholarships for those who couldn’t otherwise participate;
- **Broaden** the Guild’s reach in the world, spreading the wisdom and practice of



life steeped in the Strands and the grounding of Sacred Community.

Please help carry on the precious legacy we have been given by our founders: John Yungblut, Douglas Steere, Henri Nouwen, Madeleine L'Engle, Walter Wink, Nan Merrill, and so many others. The Guild is just getting started . . .

Your donation of *any* amount will help provide the Guild with the resources needed to continue to move forward. We have pledged our support and we hope you will, too.

In deep gratitude for your friendship,

Mary

Mary Mayer AP XVI

Dorothee

Dorothee Caulfield AP XIX

Julie

Julie Gross AP XIII

P.S. Make a Life-Saving Gift today

To join the **600 Club**, simply choose to make an ongoing monthly donation that is automatically charged to your credit card. You can choose to increase, decrease, or cancel your recurring donation at any time. Your gift supports the entire Guild mission, going to where the need is the greatest. Even a small monthly investment in the Guild can make a significant impact in the communities we serve.

Here's how it works: if 18 friends like you make a pledge of a donation of just \$50 a month, for a total of \$600 over the next 12 months, the Guild will continue to thrive. It's an easy and affordable way for you and the Guild to make a positive impact on the lives of those we serve in our local communities and the next generation of spiritual companions who will reach even more communities that need our help.

Even a small monthly investment in the Guild can make a significant impact at this time of growth. Thank you for being a friend!