



THE GUILD FOR SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

Spiritual Listening. Sacred Response
Find Your Voice. Stir Your Community.

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Dear Friend,

Do you want to help significantly change the spiritual state of our planet?

We are writing to you as friends and colleagues. We are graduates of the Guild's Apprenticeship Program and we have returned to serve as cultivators for the AP. From its founding in 1977, the Guild has evolved to incorporate new insights born of a continuous process of self-evaluation and action in the world. And, as new wisdom and scholarship has been incorporated into each of our four "strands," new generations of scholars and spiritual leaders serve in these roles. We have been privileged to serve with the Guild to cultivate the gift of spiritual guidance for social action and spiritual care.

"Be the change you wish to see in the world."

Mahatma Gandhi

The Guild's mission of contemplation in action involves withdrawing from the world in reflection, but not to escape from the world or its problems. Rather, this stepping back offers a chance to take a penetrating look at the world as it truly is, in all its beauty and gift as well as its pain and injustice. Spiritual and psychological development has always guided the Guild's journey, and your personal and transpersonal points of connection continue to inspire our shared commitment to personal and societal well-being and justice.

"Even in a world that's being shipwrecked, remain brave and strong."

Hildegard of Bingen

First, Thank You!

Thank you for embodying the four strands in the world! Your integration of spiritual guidance within your local communities, professional work and volunteerism is, at heart, what we mean when we share with the world that the Guild is about our interconnected role in life's journey. Sacred Consciousness, Community, Life, Love, Earth, and Universe – in and through our strands is a power to choose our response in service to the world.

Second, We're in Growth Mode!

Thanks to the amazing financial support of many of our members, the Guild is in growth mode unmatched since our founders. With a thriving Apprenticeship group (AP XX), a thought-provoking bi-weekly e-newsletter, an inspiring and active Facebook page, learning opportunities in person and on line that are open to all seekers (not only Guild members),



and a sold-out Pilgrimage to Iona next September, we are excited to share news that, along with many other charitable nonprofits, the Guild is traveling a journey to identify how to build the core values of diversity, equity, and inclusion into all our programs, as well as to model those values as we live into our mission. We believe that embracing diversity, equity, and inclusion as mission values, in the spirit of Sacred Community, is a way to intentionally make space for positive outcomes to flourish.

And, Third, Your Partnership is Essential!

We are inviting you to be a partner in the Guild's essential work of transforming the spiritual state of our planet – one soul at a time. As Mary Mayer, a graduate of Guild Apprenticeship Class XVI described her Apprenticeship journey:

"The Guild Apprentice experience was a giant step on my spiritual journey; an experience which opened many windows in my mind and heart and provided momentum for a lifetime of spiritual growth. I learned to trust the validity of my own evolving spiritual experience. During the two-year Apprenticeship experience of developing community, I learned the value of speaking my truth as I understand it and of listening with an open heart. Developing these skills has made me a much more effective spiritual guide and community leader."

The New Apprenticeship Program is Flourishing

The re-visioned Apprenticeship Program attracted a strong group of apprentices, committed to contemplation and to taking action in service to the World. Renaming the strands from Teilhard, Jung, and Mystics, to Sacred Earth/Universe, Sacred Consciousness, and Sacred Love resonated with these 21st century spiritual seekers.

Naming Sacred Community as the fourth strand made explicit what we have all known instinctively – that the transformation of each individual apprentice is nurtured through the love and support of community.

And using technology for some of the teaching and the community gatherings definitely made the AP more doable for many prospective apprentices – thanks to reduced tuition due to fewer overnight gatherings and the immediacy and intimacy of online community.

Online community? How 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 online gatherings have been quite moving, deep, and rich. Based on the feedback from the apprentices, it seems that the re-creation of the AP has been more successful than we could have imagined.

"Why do you stay in prison when the door is so wide open?"

Rumi

What's Next for the Guild?!

Without the financial support of many of our members, none of this would have been possible. Won't you join your fellow Guild members in helping to ensure the Guild's future?

Sacred Community

With your help, our new diversity initiative can become an accessible, thriving journey for expression and learning, to model our founding values and expand our programs to ensure cultural consciousness, practices, and equity.

Sacred Love/Life

With your help, our programs will continue to expand into the diverse, interspiritual promise of eastern ancient and contemporary mystics alongside our western spiritual listening and sacred response.

Sacred Earth/Universe

With your help, the Guild can continue to shift into a consciousness that impacts all aspects of life on our planet, offering new learning experiences that are available for retreat groups, places of worship, and other groups. These programs provide an interactive, engaging exploration of The Universe Story and provide a "taste" of the Guild for new audiences intrigued by the wisdom but not prepared to make a two-year apprenticeship commitment.

Sacred Consciousness

And, with your help, the Guild will continue to empower our graduates and the wider world to integrate the strands within our professional and volunteer work, local communities, spiritualities and places of worship.

These programs and plans take financial resources. As you can see, the Guild leadership team is taking action to make the Guild's riches accessible to even more people. What is more, the Guild continues to rely on contributions to subsidize our core Apprenticeship Program and Graduate Guild retreats to keep them affordable.

Our members serve, variously, as corporate employees, educators, therapists, pastoral counselors; social workers; shelter workers; prison chaplains; medical professionals; hospice helpers; educators; business executives and consultants; non-profit directors and administrators; artists; body-oriented therapists/teachers; teachers of diverse kinds; forest rangers; environmentalists; engineers; barbers; carpenters; disaster relief workers; clergy, pastors, and religious leaders; spiritual directors and companions; and, more.

Through your generosity, the Guild will be able to offer scholarships for those who find even the reasonable subsidized fees out of reach.

Your Support Will Transform Lives

For the past two years, the response to our annual appeal each fall was amazing! Members and friends of the Guild contributed more than \$35,000 over the past two years. 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, we hope that the Guild can count on you to join your fellow Guild members in their generous support.

We have committed to renew our support of the Guild this year! Will you join us?

By making a contribution you will –

- **Empower** Guild graduates as spiritual companions to live out their sacred soul tasks in service to the world;
- **Deepen** ongoing, graduate-level education for companions who want to integrate the practice of spiritual guidance within their chosen professions 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 diversity within Sacred Community.

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

"Life is very short and what we have to do must be done in the now."

Audre Lorde

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 continued friendship,

Michael Petrow

Michael Petrow, AP XIX
Cultivator, Sacred Love Strand

Bernice Marie-Daly

Bernice Marie-Daly AP III
Cultivator, Sacred Earth/Universe Strand

P.S. - Consider Joining the 600 Club. 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.

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