GENESIS
Spiritual Life and Conference Center
A Sponsored Ministry of the Sisters of Providence
February to September 2021
Dear Friends of Genesis,

Happy New Year! Thank you to everyone who answered the call with a 2020 year-end contribution to support Genesis’ mission of hope and healing. Your generosity was Providence to us in a difficult year. I am incredibly proud of how Genesis staff carried stress and uncertainty in 2020. Although we put on our “game faces” to serve guests, COVID-19 has taken a toll on us. Your financial contributions and notes of encouragement mean a great deal, as Genesis strives for sustainability in the wake of many, many cancellations—so understandable during the pandemic, yet not without impact.

As we cross the threshold into 2021, we at Genesis are living into an emergent paradigm of program planning: Putting forth on-site, online and hybrid programs with flexibility to shift plans as circumstances change week to week. We continue welcoming a limited number of guests onsite for select programs and retreats and look forward to a fuller house as vaccines become more available. Until then, we are confident in offering a safe, sanitary and physically-distanced retreat environment without sacrificing the personal, Genesis-style, special touches you, our guests, have come to know and love.

In this spirit, JoAnn Bourquard; Norm Comtois, OMI; Karen Fisk; and I are looking forward to again celebrating the Easter Triduum retreat with you. We are currently, cautiously planning to offer a hybrid format: Sessions will be live streamed to view at home while on-site registrations will be limited to preserve physical distancing. Up-to-date details on all Genesis’ programs, including new offerings scheduled after this catalog went to print, can be found at GenesisSpiritualCenter.org.

This past year has been draining for all of us. If you are feeling the need to come away for one day or a few days to rest, pray and be nourished with good food, some time by the fire, and a massage or spiritual direction session, our Guest Wing awaits. If you have been caring for someone with chronic illness, Genesis offers respite—for one day or several. If you fear you don’t have the financial resources, please reach out anyway—through the generosity of our benefactors, we can offer financial assistance. And once again, enabled by a generous gift, Sr. Elizabeth is offering free overnight respite stays for people living with cancer, or in remission, as well as caregivers of people with cancer. This is our mission of hope and healing. If you are feeling the inner call to come away, please give us a call to find out more!

Genesis is truly a community endeavor: Abiding gratitude to spiritual directors Mary MacGillivray, Carol Villaggio, Suzanne Nolan, Natalie Cain, SSJ; Mary Ann Connolly, SC and to Gladys Nicholson for their support in 2020. And, I am delighted to announce that Christina Leafo, Associate Director of the Global Catholic Climate Movement, will be offering spiritual direction through Genesis with a focus on serving ecological and climate activists and advocates (virtual sessions only) in 2021.

In Providence, 
Liz Walz, ASP

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**Mission Statement**

Each of us is a seed of God that is meant to grow into the likeness of God. Genesis Spiritual Life and Conference Center is a place where the seed can be nourished towards full maturity. The mission of Genesis Spiritual Life and Conference Center is to create an environment that will reveal the love of God for all creation and bring hope and healing to all who come. Sensitivity to atmosphere, devotion to the land, and attention to program design invite everyone to experience God’s providential care and a sense of well being.

**CORE BELIEFS**

- God’s love is present and active in all creation and in the lives of all persons; therefore all are related and sacred.
- Since creation is ongoing, each person has the capacity for awakening and healing, which can impact all levels of our global community.
- The warmth of human caring reveals the presence of a loving God. Our reflection on this experience can transform our lives by deepening our prayer and commitment to loving service to others.
- A welcoming and supportive community offers gifts of peace and hope in a hectic and materialistic world.
- Natural beauty and a reflective atmosphere invite a deeper awareness of the divine presence.

**PRIORITIES**

Genesis Spiritual Life and Conference Center will have as its focus:

- Those who are striving for a more holistic life and deeper connection with self, God, and others;
- Those who are in need of welcome, nurturing, reflection, and support;
- Those who foster a world view that sees all people and creatures as part of one community;
- Those who serve others in pastoral ministries, health care, human services, education, and the arts;
- Those who are alienated from formal religion but are desiring to fulfill their spiritual yearnings and live a life of loving service, and
- Those who are marginalized in our communities.

**STRATEGIES**

Genesis Spiritual Life and Conference Center is committed to:

- Creating an atmosphere of hospitality which welcomes persons of all faiths, spiritual paths, and walks of life;
- Presenting programs that promote the experience of God’s love for all creation, the healing and growth of body, mind, and spirit, and the relationship between individual, community, and Earth;
- Inviting resource persons and program leaders who share the values of Genesis Spiritual Life and Conference Center, and
- Providing hospitality and hosting programs for those church, civic, and community groups seeking accommodations.
February to September Programs

**February**

**Friday to Sunday, February 12 to 14**
**Weekend Yoga Retreat:**
**Returning the Sun To Your Sky**
Kathy Niedzielski  
*On site with private room, $305.*

**Saturdays, February 20, 27, and March 6**
**Reconnecting With Nature Series: "Healing for the Soul", a Contemplative Discussion Group**
JoAnn Bourquard  
9:30 to 11:00 am via Zoom, cost $75 for series.

**Friday to Sunday, February 26 to 28**
**Celtic Artwork Studio Weekend**
Sadelle Wiltshire  
*On site with private room, $330 includes materials fee.*

**March**

**Wednesdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7, 14**
**Book Study: The Rebirthing Of God**
by John Philip Newell
Jane Comerford, CSJ  
10:00 to 11:30 am, via Zoom, $70 for 7-week series.

**Thursdays, March 4 to April 29 (No class April 1)**
**Spring Renewal Yoga Series**
Kathy Niedzielski  
6:30 to 7:45 pm, $85 for 8 weeks; $70 for any 6 weeks; per-class rate $12. Preregistration required.

**Saturday, March 13**
**BioSpiritual Focusing Day of Presence**
Elizabeth Oleksak, SP; Donna O'Connor, Becky Crane, Kathy Irr, Annemarie O'Connor, Mike Smoolca  
9 am to 5 pm, Cost $80 includes lunch.

**Saturday, March 20**
"Come to the Table" Women’s  
**Ministry Spiritual Retreat**
Val Liptak, Joanne Murphy, Michelle Suhocki  
9:00 am to 3:00 pm, $35 includes lunch.

**April**

**Thursday to Sunday, April 1 to 4**
**Easter Triduum Retreat**
Fr. Norm Comtois, OMI; JoAnn Bourquard; Karen Fisk; Liz Walz, ASP  
*On site with private room, $435.*

**Friday to Sunday, April 9 to 11**
**Living In Recovery: 12-Step Weekend Retreat**
Madeleine Joy, SP  
*On site with private room, $305.*

**Wednesdays, April 14, 21, 28**
**The Space Between Us:**
**Conversations About Spirituality and the Transformation of Conflict**
Dr. Betty Pries  
9:30 to 11:30 am  
Via Zoom, $90 for all three sessions.

**Thursday, April 22**
**Earth Day Program:**
**Tea and Prayer on the Grounds**
Sr Elizabeth Oleksak, SP  
*See website for details.*

These next pages list the date, title and presenter of Genesis’ program offerings from February to September. You can find full program descriptions and presenter bio’s at GenesisSpiritualCenter.org. Some programs are hybrid, meaning you have a choice of viewing them live from home or attending them on site. Information on commuter costs as well as additional online-only programs and retreats are also listed on Genesis’ website. Our offerings are continually evolving, so please take a peek at our website from time to time for updates and to see what’s new!
April (cont’d)
Friday to Sunday, April 23 to 25
Living the Serenity Prayer
Betty Hill Crowson
Begins Friday at 7 pm and ends Sun noon
Via Zoom, Cost $200, all proceeds to benefit Genesis.

May
Friday to Monday, May 28 to 31
Sacred Mystery in the Heart of Creation
Linda Neil, CSJ
On site with private room, $435.

Sunday to Friday, May 30 to June 4
5-Day Silent Directed Retreat
Jane Comerford, CSJ and Suzanne Nolan
On site with private room, $500.

June
Friday to Sunday, June 11 to 13
From Struggle to Serenity: Improving Relationships
Betty Hill Crowson
On site with private room, $345.

Saturday, June 19
Welcoming Summer: A Morning Retreat
Sister Jane Comerford, CSJ
9:30 am to 12:30 pm, Cost $30.

Thursdays, June 24 to August 12
Summer’s Light Yoga Series
Kathy Niedzielski
$85 for eight-week series; $70 for any 6 weeks; $12 per class.
Pre-registration required.

Sunday to Friday, June 20 to 25
5-Day Silent Directed Retreat
Nancy Sheridan, SASV and Nicki Verploegen, PhD
On site with private room, $500.

Sunday to Saturday, June 27 to July 3
6-Day Silent Directed Retreat
Kitty Hanley, CSJ; Janet Weber, RSCJ
On site with private room, $560.

July
Friday to Wednesday, July 2 to 7
Live Stream After Pandemic:
A New Horizon for Ecological Spirituality
Diarmuid O’Murchu, MSC, PhD
On site with private room, $615 or via Zoom, $435.

Friday to Sunday, July 9 to 11
Workshop: Has God Changed, Or Is It Me?
Lucy Abbott Tucker
On site with private room, $305.

Monday to Friday, July 19 to 23
Psychology and Spirituality of Thomas Keating:
Call to Contemplative Living
Don Bisson, FMS
On site with private room, $490.

Sunday to Friday, July 25 to 30
5-Day Guided Biospiritual Focusing Retreat
Elizabeth Oleksak, SP; Becky Crane, Kathy Irr,
Annemarie O’Connor, Donna O’Connor, Mike Smoolca
On site with private room, $615.

August
Sunday to Saturday, August 1 to 7
6-Day Silent Directed Retreat
Mary Costello, RSM; Carol Fitzsimmons, CSJ;
Margaret Galiardi, OP
On site with private room, $560.

Thursday to Tuesday, August 12 to 17
Creating a Faith for Today That Is Authentic,
Transformative and Connected To the Earth:
A New Genesis Story
Jan Phillips
On site with private room, $615.
In-House Healing Arts Services

Genesis Healing Arts Mission is to offer safe, sacred space to listen to what is arising within you and deepen your spirituality through sacred conversation, healing touch and energy work. Honoring the interdependence of body, mind and spirit, we support personal transformation for the healing of each other, society and the earth.

BioSpiritual Focusing:
Sr. Elizabeth Oleksak, SP
Donna O’Connor
P: 313-562-3627

Yoga Therapy:
Megan Elliott, E-RYT, C-IAYT
P: 413-347-1932

Spiritual Direction:
Sr. Jane Comerford, CSJ
JoAnn Bourquard
Christina Leano
P: 413-562-3627

Massage Therapy:
Jean Risk, LMT
P: 413-537-6041

August (cont’d)

Thursday to Tuesday, August 19 to 24
5-Day Journey through Healing
Betty Hill Crowson
On site with private room, $615.

Saturday, August 28
BioSpiritual Focusing Day of Presence
Elizabeth Oleksak, SP; Donna O’Connor, Becky Crane, Kathy Irr, Annemarie O’Connor, Mike Smoolca
9 am to 5 pm, $80 includes lunch.

September

Wednesday to Wednesday, September 1 to 8
8-Day Silent Directed Retreat
Ruth Duffy, SND and Mary Ellen Schopfer, CSJ
On site with private room, $750.

Wednesdays, September 15 to November 3
BioSpiritual Focusing Book Study and Practicum
Elizabeth Oleksak, SP; Donna O’Connor, Becky Crane, Kathy Irr, Annemarie O’Connor, Mike Smoolca
6:30 to 8:30 pm, $175 for the series.

New Life Garden and Providence Arboretum

Many people choose to honor or memorialize loved ones with a gift to our New Life Garden. Please call 413-562-3627 or visit us online to learn more. Thank you!
Events, Meeting & Conference Services

We welcome groups of up to 25 people, per COVID guidelines, to hold meetings, conferences and events at Genesis, a lovely alternative to busy meeting sites. Groups may rent space for day or evening events, or multi-day programs that require overnight accommodations. Sanitizing procedures are in place, masks and physical distancing are required. The Carriage House is a unique conference center with the character and beauty of a historic building. An original structure built in 1889, the Carriage House was renovated in 1990. The meeting space can be arranged in several different configurations to optimize your meeting time. Conference rooms are spacious and private, and have a distinctive style and charm that will provide the perfect “change of scenery” conducive to productive work, training or planning sessions.

A Peek Ahead to Fall 2021!

Betty Hill Crowson:  I Was, I Am, I Shall Be (With God’s Grace) - Fri-Sun, Oct 1 to 3
Don Bisson, FMS: Teilhard De Chardin and Jung: Awakening the Fires of Love - Fri-Sun, Oct 15 to 17
Paula D'Arcy: Opening to the Light - Fri-Sun, Oct 29 to 31

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ANIMAL LIFE
Gracie, Genesis Cat

Please note: Due to the coronavirus pandemic, per-diem cooks, dietary aides and many volunteers have not yet been called back. We treasure their gifts and miss them!
Genesis School For Contemplative Living ~ 2021-2022 Cohort


This fall, Genesis will launch our fourth-year School for Contemplative Living. We are deeply grateful for the wisdom and heart-centered approach of our co-faculty who invite us in word and action to put on the mind of Christ: Don Bisson, FMS; Jane Comerford, CSJ; Norm Comtois, OMI; Christina Leaño; Liz Walz; and Rev. Matthew Wright. We anticipate having 15 participants in the 2021-2022 cohort, the application process is still open as this catalog goes to print. Please pray for us! For more information, contact Jane Comerford, CSJ at 413-562-3627 or jcomerford@GenesisSpiritualCenter.org. GSCL qualifies for CEU credits through the Elms College.

5 residential weekends over 9 months

$2,800 if paid in two or more installments, or $2,500 if paid in full by Sept 1, 2021. Financial aid is available.

Providence Arboretum

We are delighted that Providence Arboretum has been re-certified as a Class I Arboretum by ArbNet. Set on 19 acres at Genesis, let the sights, sounds and scents of our Providence Arboretum comfort and inspire you whenever you need it most. The pressures of daily life, compounded by news headlines, can leave us feeling dispirited and overwhelmed - and in those moments, we step outside and walk among the trees. The trees are here for you, too.

If you’re feeling compassion fatigue, or if you just long for a few moments to yourself between carrying out responsibilities, please stop by and let our grounds minister to you. You'll find more than 365 identified trees, shrubs and flower beds, pathways both marked and unmarked, a Spiral of Life and a Living Labyrinth. Depending on the season, chairs and lounges, swings and a variety of creatures can be found to amaze and delight you!

We are grateful to arboretum curator Sr. Elizabeth Oleksak, SP, and consultant Kathleen Kitka for all their hard work. Sr. Elizabeth is available by appointment for ecospiritual consulting. Genesis also has an ecospiritual Library with numerous books and articles. For more information, please call Genesis at 413-562-3627.

Genesis Program and Retreat Registration, Deposit and Cancellation Policies

For all programs and retreats:

- Register and pay online via PayPal, by phone using a credit card, or by sending a check.
- We accept U.S. checks, VISA and MasterCard.
- Please note that no confirmation is sent unless requested.
- For online registrations, please note that your reservation is not confirmed until we contact you, usually within one business day of your submission.
- Registration for programs lasting 2 to 8 hours must be paid in full at time of registration.
- Registrations for overnight and weekend programs require $100 deposit upon registration. Payment in full is required 14 days prior to program start.
- Registration for programs 3 nights or longer requires $150 deposit upon registration. Payment in full is required 14 days prior to program start.
- For cancellations up to 14 days before program start, receive a full refund less $35 processing fee.
- For cancellations within 13 days of start of program or retreat, your deposit is non-refundable. Exceptions made for COVID-related cancellations.
- Should Genesis cancel a program or retreat, you will receive a full refund.

Register Online – GenesisSpiritualCenter.org | Register by Phone – 413-562-3627
>>> IMPORTANT NOTICE <<<

To care for the environment and reduce waste, Genesis mails our catalog to those who have attended a program within the past 5 years or who have been added to our mailing list in the past 3 years. If you would like to continue receiving the Genesis catalog, please call 413-562-3627. We will be glad to keep you on our list. Our program catalog is always available on-line and by email.

GENESIS IS OBSERVING COVID GUIDELINES, SANITIZING IS IN PLACE, FACE MASKS AND PHYSICAL DISTANCING ARE REQUIRED.

Genesis is

Hospitality

For those who are seekers of a new truth...

For those who come with anticipation in their step...

For those with weary spirit seeking rest...

Whoever you are, wherever you are, you are on a journey and Genesis

Welcomes You!