

Living in the Balance

January 2017

Recently at a dinner party someone asked me what I was doing with my life right now. That gave me pause. I thought, "What am I doing?" Before I could answer, one of my friends said, "Wanda's an activist." I paused again. I mostly think of myself as one who continuously annoys people with my posts and pleas. I hope I can live into a brave word like "activist." This month as we begin another swing through this Universe, I bring you the words of people who speak from that activist place.....

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." — *Anne Frank*

"As my sufferings mounted I soon realized that there were two ways in which I could respond to my situation -- either to react with bitterness or seek to transform the suffering into a creative force. I decided to follow the latter course." — *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

"We are not to simply bandage the wounds of victims beneath the wheels of injustice; we are to drive a spoke into the wheel itself." — *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." — *Dr. Seuss, The Lorax*

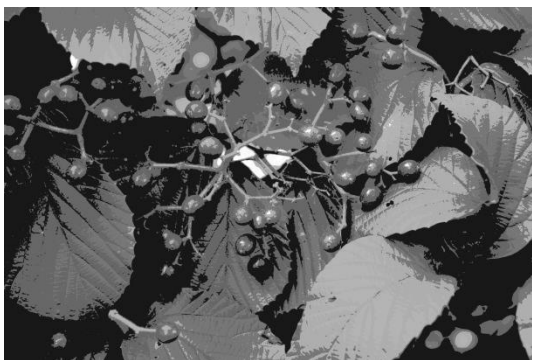
"We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented." — *Elie Wiesel*

"If I were to remain silent, I'd be guilty of complicity." — *Albert Einstein*

"No matter that patriotism is too often the refuge of scoundrels. Dissent, rebellion, and all-around hell-raising remain the true duty of patriots." — *Barbara Ehrenreich*

"When the last tree is cut and the last fish killed, the last river poisoned, then you will see that you can't eat money." — *John May, The Greenpeace Story*

"To really change the world, we have to help people change the way they see things. Global betterment is a mental process, not one that requires huge sums of money or a high level of authority. Change has to be psychological. So if you want to see real change, stay persistent in educating humanity on how similar we all are than different. Don't only strive to be the change you want to see in the world, but also help all those around you see the world through commonalities of the heart so that they would want to change with you. This is how humanity will evolve to become better. This is how you can change the world. The language of the heart is mankind's main common language." — *Suzy Kassem, Rise Up and Salute the Sun: The Writings of Suzy Kassem*



Calendar considerations.....

Amy-Jill Levine

March 12, 2017

Anderson School of Theology for Laypersons

<http://astlonline.org/>

The Sophia Institute, Charleston, SC

Returning to Our Wisdom, Returning to the Earth, January 27 – 29

Making Change your Ally with Creativity and Intuition, February 3 – 4

Born for these Times, Joan Borysenko, February 24 – 25

The Way Under the Way: The Place of True Meeting, Mark Nepo, May 19 – 21

www.thesophiainstitute.org

Kanuga Conference Center

Iconography with Suzanne Schleck, February 11 – February 17, 2017

Faith, Art and Creative Expression: A Liturgical Arts Conference, August 20 – 24

Lansing Lee Conference, October 22 – 29

Enneagram, October 26 – 29

Icon Writing with Teresa Harrison, November 13 – 18

www.kanuga.org

Southern Dharma Center

Check the website in early 2017 for an updated schedule

www.southerndharma.org

Wild Women Weekends!

Offered at Lutheridge in Asheville, NC

February 3 – 5, February 10 – 12, March 10 – 12, March 17 – 19, March 24 – 26, 2017

<http://www.novusway.com/our-programs/adult/lutheridge/>

Lake Junaluska Retreat Center

Listening for the Heartbeat of God, John Philip Newell,

June 30 – July 2

Interfaith Peace Conference, November 16 – 19

http://www.lakejunaluska.com/events/spiritual_enrichment/





Calendar considerations.....

The Anchorage in Greenville, SC

Offering a number of “desert days” now and in 2017
and their beach retreat and Mepkin retreat in 2017
<http://theanchorage.org/events.htm>

Creative possibilities

Consider trying or renewing your interest in a creative process.
The John Campbell School offers dozens of programs. <https://www.folkschool.org/>
Or go on line to the Metropolitan Arts Council in Greenville or in your local community and seek out
one of the talented artists in your area who is offering classes.

Spirituality and Practice e-courses

Offering a variety of e-courses on demand in many different traditions
<http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/ecourses/>

“We are beginning to understand that the world is always being made fresh and never finished; that activism can be the journey rather than the arrival; that's struggle doesn't always have to be confrontational but can take the form of reaching out to find common ground with the many others in our society who are also seeking ways out from alienation, isolation, privatization, and dehumanization by corporate globalization.”

— Grace Lee Boggs, *The Next American Revolution: Sustainable Activism for the Twenty-First Century*

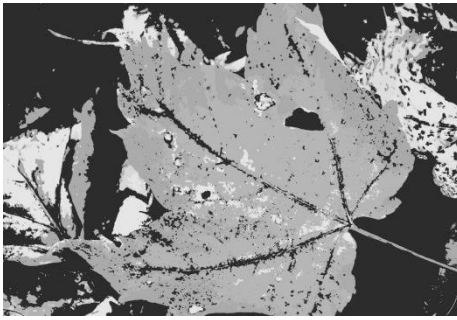
“You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You are able to say to yourself, 'I have lived through this horror. I can take the next thing that comes along.' You must do the thing you think you cannot do.”

— Eleanor Roosevelt

“We are the ones we have been waiting for....”

— Alice Walker





About Spiritual Direction —

- Offers a space and time for you to explore, reflect upon, and deepen your relationship with God.
- Provides a haven from the daily busyness of the outer world and opens a time to be still and to reflect on your inner journey.
- Is a companioning relationship grounded in dialogue and discernment.
- Explores ways you may integrate spirituality into your daily life.
- Is not limited to any one spiritual practice or tradition.
- May involve one or two meetings or multiple meetings over time.

You may wish to consider spiritual companioning if you are —

- Longing for a deeper relationship with the Divine
- Looking for a place to dialogue about spiritual questions
- Seeking ways to connect with the Spirit in a more intentional way
- Discerning ways to live in a more integrated and whole way
- Standing at a crossroads in your life
- Exploring new or fresh ways to be in relationship with God

For more information about Spiritual Direction, please feel free to contact me by phone
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All of the photos in this month's journal are my work except on the opening page. The photos are of seeds and leaves and other bits of nature resting for winter.