

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to autumn! We are grateful to have seen so many of you at our recent Celebration of St. Francis and hope that you might join us for our upcoming **Colleague Consultation** (Sunday, October 20). Our guest speaker/facilitator will be Sr. Alexandra Kovats (CSJP), a Board member, Colleague, and dear friend of Earth Ministry. Alexandra is a spiritual director and an Adjunct Professor of Spirituality at Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry. The theme of her presentation will be, "The Blessing Seed: Reflections on Spirituality from an Ecological Perspective." Alexandra will help us to revisit the creation story in the Bible from an ecological perspective and look at implications for our daily spiritual lives and our work with congregations. Alexandra will also help us to weave this perspective and practical implications together with current national and global concerns. This will be both a reflective and practical sharing experience. The Consultation will begin with a brief reflection then Colleague Sharing at 1:30. After a break, Alexandra will begin our time of learning and reflection at 3:30. At 5:00 we'll share some resources for Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas, and then close with a time of reflection. You can **RSVP** as late as Friday, October 18.

We do hope that you will join us for this time of fellowship – especially during these times when coming together for prayer and action feels so important. Many blessings to you during this season of change,

Tanya Marcovna Barnett & Nancy Wright

Events for Colleagues and Congregations

Sunday, October 20: Colleague Consultation, 1:30-5:30 p.m., St. Madeline Sophie Roman Catholic Parish (please see directions at the bottom of the next page and the description above). Please RSVP.

Friday, October 25: Fourth Friday Films, 7 p.m., Woodland Park United Methodist Church, 302 N. 78th St. at Greenwood Ave. N. Please join us for popcorn, thought-inspiring films (*Beyond Organic* and *The Man Who Planted Trees*), and good fellowship.

Saturdays, October 26 & November 16: Reflection and Restoration along the Duwamish River, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Hamm Creek, Seattle (please RSVP – we'll send you directions to the site). We'll join with People for Puget Sound and (on the 16th) youth from Student Conservation Association to help restore this vital habitat for salmon and local communities. Our day will begin with a time of reflection. Youth (over the age of 12) and youth groups are very welcome.

Sunday, October 27: Assembly on Democracy: Non -

violence and Iraq, noon-4 p.m., Antioch University, 2326 6th Ave. With a focus on practical applications of the Earth Charter, this meeting for learning and action will give special attention to the Middle East and Iraq. For more information, call (206) 721-5672 or email dickburkhart@attbi.com.

Saturday, November 2: Tree Planting event with Friends of the Cedar River Watershed, for location and times, please contact Yvette at (206) 297-8141 or yvettem@cedarriver.org. Earth Ministry has partnered several times with the Friends in the Watershed's Stewardship Program. EM staff will not be present at this event, please feel free to contact us if you would like reflection materials to accompany this time.

Tuesday, November 5: Election Day ... let your voice be heard.

Wednesday, November 20: "The Sacred Lands of Indian America: Reflections on the Sacred Earth," 7:30 -9 p.m. (doors open at 7), Town Hall, 1110 8th Ave., Seattle. Upper Skagit elder Vi Hilbert will be the honored guest at this event that explores the sacredness of and public policy affecting national sacred lands. Other guests include Chris Peters (Seventh Generation Fund) and Charles Little (author and director of the "Sacred Lands of Indian America." For tickets, call Elliott Bay Bookstore, (206) 624-6600: \$5 in advance, \$10 at door.

Friday, November 22: Fourth Friday Films. (Same time and location as above. Please watch for our Monthly Update for details.)

Friday, November 29: Buy Nothing Day. On this, the busiest shopping day of the year, you can join others in this grassroots campaign to challenge our society's unsustainable consumer habits ... it's simple, just buy nothing. To learn more, go to www.adbusters.org/campaigns/bnd.

Highlighted Resource

Earth Ministry's latest book & study guide – just in time for Thanksgiving:

Food & Faith: Justice, Joy, and Daily Bread

This greatly expanded version of our *Food, Faith, & Sustainability* (1997) celebrates the sacramental dimensions of eating, and examines the moral, spiritual and economic implications of our food choices. Contributors include Wendell Berry, Vandana Shiva, Bill McKibben, Thomas Moore, and Elizabeth Johnson. As with *Simpler Living*, *Compassionate Life*, this book includes an action-inspiring study guide for groups and individuals. The cost is \$14.95. To learn more and to order, contact us using information below.

Stories & News from Local Congregations

Please always feel free to share your stories and news with us.

- Every year at our Celebration of St. Francis, we publicly acknowledge our Greening Congregations Partners – new Partners and those from past years – with a brief speech and the presentation of a banner. Prior to 2002, our Partners included Georgetown Gospel Chapel, Fairwood United Methodist Church in Renton, Suquamish UCC, and First Congregational UCC in Everett. All continue to actively engage in efforts including serving shade-grown/fair trade/organic coffee, gardening on church grounds and donating fresh produce to local food banks, leading meditative day hikes, and much more. Our newest Partners include East Shore Unitarian Church in Bellevue and St. Marks Episcopal Cathedral in Seattle. East Shore's "Earth Corps" group helps the church to live out its commitment to "affirm and promote ... respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." They have done so already through their organizing and participation in "Earthwalk" this past April, selling compact florescent light bulbs after worship once a month, serving sustainable/just coffee, and much more. St. Marks' Ecology/Spirituality group has helped to shape the Cathedral's strategic plan to be more creation-honoring – a plan that will be in place over the next 10-15 years! They've hosted a fantastic forum entitled "The Global Economy, Justice, and You," habitat restoration days on the Cathedral's "greenbelt," and much more. To find out more about our Greening Congregations Partners process, please contact us using the information below.
- Karen Westeen is the Colleague at St. Joseph, St. John Episcopal in Tacoma. The congregation is about to undergo a construction project and has already arranged to recycle as much of the demolished materials as possible.
- Several congregations have recently hosted/will soon host Blessing of the Animals services (many in Celebration of St. Francis of Assisi). Some of these congregations include Woodland Park United Methodist (Seattle), University Congregational UCC (Seattle), Christ Episcopal (Tacoma), St. Marks Episcopal (Seattle), Fairwood United Methodist (Renton), and The United Churches of Olympia. If you'd like to hear more about these services or get suggestions for hosting one in your own congregation, please contact us.

A warm welcome to our new Colleagues:
Clyde Davis and Granville Horn – St. George Episcopal Church, Maple Valley
Susan Gilbert – Ascension Episcopal Church, Seattle
Many blessings to you all.

Calling all Volunteers:

From time to time Earth Ministry has need for volunteers to help pitch in with events and small projects. If you, or anyone you know, would like to add yourself to a list of "on-call" volunteers, please contact Yvonne using the information below. Thank you for your consideration!

Eco-tip

In addition to celebrating "Buy Nothing Day" (see previous page), you may also want to consider giving "alternative gifts" for Christmas this year. Alternative Gifts International, a non-profit interfaith agency, helps individuals discover "gifts that empower people in crisis and protect our planet – presents to honor your family and friends that also build peace in our global village." The gift-giver donates what he/she would have spent on typical gifts to international relief and development projects in the name of their intended gift-recipient. To learn more, go to www.altgifts.org or call (800) 842-2243.

Litany/Prayer

(Excerpted/adapted from International Communities for the Renewal of Earth [ICRE] litany, in *Prayers for a Thousand Years*, edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon, © 1999.)

All: *As we search for glimpses of truth, we journey together toward new levels of meaning.*

Leader: As we help to rebuild the world out of chaos,

Response: *We journey together.*

Leader: As we help to rebuild the world out of shattered illusions of superiority, **R.**

Leader: As we help to rebuild the world out of inadequate institutions, **R.**

Leader: As we help to rebuild the world out of unfair sharing of Earth's precious gifts, **R.**

All: *As we help to rebuild the world out of the chaos, we journey together toward a new era of justice.*

Leader: As the universe unfolds, **R..**

Leader: As the universe unfolds through spontaneous communion, **R.**

Leader: As the universe unfolds through new levels of meaning, **R.**

Leader: As the universe unfolds through new forms of life, **R.**

All: *As the universe unfolds, we journey together in God's great becoming.*

Directions to the Colleague Consultation: From I-405, take exit 10 and head East on Coal Creek Parkway. St. Madeline Sophie is located in the South part of Bellevue, near Factoria Square. From the shopping area, drive South on Factoria Blvd. Turn left on Newport Way, then right on 130th Place SE. For a map and additional directions, go to www.stmadsophie.org/About/Map.htm or call (425) 747-6770. For bus information, go to www.riderlink.gen.wa.us or contact us if you would like to explore carpooling with other Colleagues.