

On the Spiritual Side

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Patricia Walsh-Collins: Shared Teachings

Our structures, skills and institutions, which we have relied upon for generations, are no longer serving us well.

Change is upon us, and opportunity is at hand.

I believe that in 2016 and beyond, our greatest education will be in our "unlearning"; unlearning much of what we know about how the world works, because honestly, it isn't working as well as it did in the past.

The unrelenting grind of the American dream of success, achievement, acquisition and upward mobility has come at some cost.

The crushing cost of a college education, which once earned, cripples the recipient with debt; the myth of the corporate world whose prime directive is no longer pride in service or contribution, but rather in an



PATRICIA WALSH-COLLINS

inequitable distribution of earnings; a government that is routing its citizens' security,

leaving a pulse of fear beating throughout our nation, and an ailing planet crying out for us to heal her.

I greet these changes with a degree of sadness, but more so, with a sense of hope and optimism.

Many of our historic pathways to success and happiness are being dismantled, leaving the field wide open for those who are excited, curious, creative and fearless, to reconstruct a new

vision of a successful life, and a new definition of happiness.

The future will not necessarily be about upward mobility, rather than about a full and gratified heart. Singular achievement, will give way to a shared experience of communal growth, prosperity and belonging.

"Unlearning" could be our greatest tool for the future. Most of our stresses and tensions today are the consequences of having "progressed" too far in a linear, masculine, industrially driven

manner. We neglected our feminine, our creative forces and our heartfelt inspirations. We forgot to feed our hearts with the breath and touch of the most divine feminine, our planet Earth.

As we begin this new year, lean into these changes by giving yourself the gift of time ... time in nature. Be quiet and listen. Allow the gentle movements and sounds to begin to soften your edges. Let the messages of nature filter into your mind, seep into your heart and begin to

unlearn your "crazy." Make a

choice. Put your energy forward. Step into your vision of the world and slow down enough to "unlearn" what no longer serves you. And by all means, do the same for your children.

Patricia Walsh-Collins is a 37-year resident of Bucks County, with a 20-year career as a professional educator. She is owner and creator of Art of Spirit and Art of Spirit's Earth School.

Interfaith service to commemorate Dr. King

The Princeton Clergy Association hosts its annual Interfaith Service in honor of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 18, the official federal holiday designated to his honor.

The service will be at Nassau Presbyterian Church, 61 Nassau St., Princeton, N.J., across from Palmer Square.

The preacher will be the Rev. Muriel Burrows, longtime pastor of Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church in Princeton. Burrows, originally from South Africa, is planning to retire in June, so the Clergy Association wanted to be sure to have her preach for these years' service.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their children, as the service will conclude by 8:30 p.m.

Diverse faith leaders in the Princeton area will co-lead the liturgy, and area choirs and musicians will also participate.

During the service, a freewill offering will be received, which will be split equally between the United Negro College Fund and the Princeton-based Coalition for Peace Action.

The service is free and open to the public, and is co-sponsored by Coalition for Peace Action (CPFA). For information, visit CPFA's web site, peacecoalition.org or call its office at 609-924-5022.



Sharim v'Sharot, with Music Director Dr. Elayne R. Grossman, performs a fundraising concert in a private home in Newtown Jan. 31.

Jewish choral music concert benefits Sharim v'Sharot

Hear Sharim v'Sharot present "An Afternoon of Jewish Choral Music" at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 31, in a private home in Newtown.

The snow date is Feb. 7. Meet the choir as refreshments are served after the performance. Reservations are required, since space is limited.

R.S.V.P. to Max Yaffe by Jan. 27, at 215-504-9559 or maxyaffe@gmail.com. To mail

your reservation and check to Sharim v'Sharot, send it to William Weinstein, 39 Twin Rivers, East Windsor, N.J., 08520.

The cost is \$18 per person in advance or \$20 at the door with a reservation; children's tickets are half price with an accompanying adult.

Sharim v'Sharot (from Ecclesiastes 2:8, Hebrew for "People of

Song"), a four-part cappella choir conducted by Dr. Elayne Robinson Grossman, was founded in 2000.

The visions of the Sharim v'Sharot Foundation are "to perform the music of the Jewish people in the highest quality possible in order to convey our love of Jewish music and culture and to share the passion and rich tapestry of Jewish experience."

Trinity Buckingham hosts "Preparing for the End of Life"

Trinity Buckingham Church holds a four-week, "Preparing for the End of Life," Sunday morning forum series, beginning Sunday, Jan. 17.

Presentations will be held in the church's Pierce Hall, and will be offered at two times each Sunday - at 9 and 11:30 a.m.

For the first presentation, Joseph A. Fluher of Fluher Funeral Home will offer his expertise and guidance on how to navigate the variety of services provided

by funeral homes in the time before and after burial.

"There are many resources available to us that can prepare us, both practically and emotionally, for the physical death of our bodies," said the Rev. Dr. Nancy Burton Dilliplane, rector of Trinity Buckingham Church.

"We are pleased to be able to provide the local community with the means to plan for the end of life in ways that incorporate our personal goals as well as our

deepest hopes and needs."

Trinity's "Preparing for the End of Life" series will continue in the following weeks with presenters offering information on advanced health-care planning, planned giving, and how to plan a funeral or memorial service.

Trinity Buckingham Church, 2631 Durham Road, is at the intersection of routes 202 and 413. For information, visit trinity-buckingham.org or call 215-794-7921.

Celebration on help for Middle Eastern refugees set

Pebble Hill Interfaith Church, with the assistance of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) of Pennsylvania and the Narenj Tree Foundation of Norristown, holds its celebration on help for the Middle Eastern refugees, at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 24.

The Sunday celebration, at 320 Edison-Furlong Road, Doylestown, will be hosted by students of the School of Sacred Ministries: Joe Kleiden, who will facilitate, Bill Mettler, who will offer a guided a meditation, and Caryn Cziriak, who will lead Middle Eastern singing and chanting.

The School of Sacred Ministries is a service-oriented, non-profit divinity school in the field of interfaith education and an affiliate of Pebble Hill Interfaith Church, whose mission is to help spread greater understanding by respecting those of all faiths and recognizing and embracing com-



PHOTOGRAPH PROVIDED BY PEBBLE HILL CHURCH
The Mideast Refugee Crisis, a celebration to support and increase awareness of efforts on behalf of refugees, takes place at Pebble Hill Church on Jan. 24.

Foundation, which provides aid primarily to Syrian refugees, will send representatives to participate.

Following the celebration will be a reception and facilitated discussion on opportunities for local religious and human-service organizations and interested parties. Refreshments and beverages will be served.

For information, contact Joe Kleiden at 267-231-7905 or jkleiden@gmail.com, or Andy Wright at 267-475-1456 or waw@well.com, or Pebble Hill Interfaith Church at 215-348-3428. Visit online at pebblehillchurch.org.



GORDON NIEBURG

Blessing the Delaware River

St. Philip's Episcopal Church in New Hope concludes the Christmas season on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord day, Jan. 10, with the Blessing of the Delaware River. It is traditional to bless water on this day in remembrance of the baptism of Jesus by St. John the Baptist. It also calls for remembering "our responsibility as stewards of God's creation."

Phoebe Richland sets chapel dedication, chaplain installation

Phoebe Richland, 108 S. Main St., Richlandtown, holds a service of dedication for the Benner Heller Memorial Chapel at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 17.

The dedication will follow the installation of the Rev. Jamie Moyer, Phoebe Richland's new chaplain, beginning at 2:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room of the personal-care community.

Both events are open to the public, and a reception will follow the dedication.

The Benner Heller Memorial

Chapel is provided through a gift by Larry Benner in honor of his parents and grandparents. Stained glass windows from the former Pennsylvania Southeast Conference (PSEC) church house in Collegenille are part of the new chapel and were donated by the PSEC.

The Ursinis Association and the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference will hold the Service of Installation for Moyer, and clergy are invited to robe in red and process.

Class explores biggest questions about Judaism

The Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) presents "The Jewish Course of Why," the institute's new six-session winter course, beginning the week of Feb. 1, at the Jewish Learning Academy.

Rabbi Aryeh Weinstein of the Jewish Learning Academy at Lubavitch of Bucks County will conduct the sessions from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on six consecutive Monday evenings at the Glazier Jewish Center, 25 N. State St., Newtown. "No religion is known for its rational basis and its welcoming of questions and intellectual debate quite like Judaism," explained Rabbi Zalman Abraham of JLI's headquarters in Brooklyn.

"In preparing for the course, we turned to over 30,000 people who each submitted their biggest questions about Judaism. We then selected the most popular among

them and addressed each one with resonant insights from the greatest minds in Jewish history."

"The Jewish Course of Why" spans a diverse range of topics, from fun, light and off-the-beaten-track questions, to more complex and controversial issues.

Some of the course's 50 questions include: Why are there so many Jews in Hollywood? Why do Jews eat gefilte fish and cholent and wish each other mazal tov and l'chaim? Why does the Bible sanction slavery and animal sacrifices? What is the cause of antisemitism? What does Judaism say about Christianity and about the role of women in Jewish life?

In addition, the course offers insight into mysterious Jewish practices, strange biblical narratives, and enigmas of Jewish identity.

"We're excited to be offering

this fun and dynamic learning experience here in Bucks County," said Weinstein, the local JLI instructor in Newtown.

"The Jewish Course of Why" gives our participants the opportunity to expand their Jewish knowledge and intellectualize their Judaism by exploring rational insights into the most intriguing questions that Jews have today. Like all previous JLI programs, "The Jewish Course of Why" is designed to appeal to people at all levels of Jewish knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning.

All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple or other house of worship. Call 215-497-9925 or visit jewishacademy.info for registration and information.

Worship Directory

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, January 17, 2016
9:30 a.m. Worship / Sunday School

Pastor Michelle Schenk

10:30 a.m. Fellowship and Refreshments
Nursery Service Available

186 E. Court St., Doylestown • www.DoylestownSalemUCC.org
215.348.9860

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