



Living in the Balance

December 2013

The individual has always had to struggle to keep from being overwhelmed by the tribe. If you try it, you will be lonely often, and sometimes frightened. But no price is too high for the privilege of owning yourself.

Friedrich Nietzsche



It is never too late to become what you might have been.

George Eliot

What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.

Jane Goodall



Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, 'Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?' Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

Marianne Williamson



Some people believe holding on and hanging in there are signs of great strength. However, there are times when it takes much more strength to know when to let go and then do it.

Ann Landers

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Calendar considerations.....

Hanukkah Celebration

Monday evening, December 2 at 7:00 p.m.
Chapel Garden Room at Furman University
Greenville, SC

Spirituality and Practice e-courses

Advent of the Heart with Father Thomas Keating, November 29 – December 25
The Gospel of Thomas for Advent with Cynthia Bourgeault, Nov. 30 – Dec. 25
Other on-demand e-courses available
www.spiritualityandpractice.com/ecourses/#current

Valle Crucis Conference Center

Advanced Intensive Centering Prayer Retreat, December 1 – December 8
Advent: Waiting in Joyful Hope, Friday, December 6
If you want to make a personal retreat, there are hermitages available.
www.hightsouth.com/vallacruz

The Anchorage

Advent Retreat, Thursday evening, December 5 from 6:30 until 8:30
www.theanchorage.org

Advent Quiet Day

Saturday, December 14, from 10:00 until 4:00
St. James Episcopal Church, Greenville, SC
There is no charge for the program, but you need to register. Lunch is included.
<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?llr=ie8e9tnab&oeidk=a07e8kcvth85b8a6c3d>

Kanuga Conference Center

Enneagram Conference, December 5 – 8
Kanuga Conference Center, Hendersonville, NC
www.kanuga.org

Contemplative Outreach of Middle Tennessee

3-Day Advent Centering Prayer Retreat, December 13 – 15
8-Day Intensive and Post-Intensive Centering Prayer Retreat, January 5 – 12, 2014
St. Mary's Center, Sewanee, Tennessee
www.centeringprayermidtn.com

The Sophia Institute

Writing Yourself Home: Embracing Your Authentic Voice
January 10 – 11
Charleston, SC
www.thesophiainstitute.org





Calendar considerations.....

Southern Dharma Retreats, Hot Springs, North Carolina

New Year's Retreat, December 27 until January 3
For more information about retreats and the schedule
<http://www.southerndharma.org>

Barbara Brown Taylor

Saturday, March 22, 2014
Mary & Martha's Place, Atlanta, GA
www.maryandmarthasplace.com

The Year of Altruism Greenville, SC

The mission of the Year of Altruism is to encourage and celebrate altruism in thought, speech and deed, focusing the community on fostering acts of kindness in its organizations and individuals, thus creating a better future, one life at a time. Events are scheduled throughout the year.
For details and schedules to go <http://yearofaltruism.org>

Anderson School of Theology for Laypersons

Dr. Walter Brueggemann, February 16, 2014
Dr. John Philip Newell, November 9, 2014
For more information <http://astlonline.org>

Lake Junaluska Peace Conference

March 27 – March 30
Lake Junaluska, NC
<http://www.lakejunaluska.com/peace>

In the midst of the holidays.....

May you find a quiet space for your soul....

A place of rest and peace....

A place of renewal....

A place of retreat.....





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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The photos in this month's journal are my work. All the photos were taken at Mepkin Abbey near Charleston, S.C. The abbey has more than 350 crèches. Each year they display between 50 and 60. The crèches have come to them from all over the world.