



HOMECOMING

Bethany Retreat House

Volume 21, Number 1

April 2016

BETHANY FAREWELL OPEN HOUSE

As Bethany Retreat House is set to close on June 30 of this year, an open house is planned for Sunday afternoon, June 11, from 1 to 4 p.m.

The open house invitation is extended to anyone who would like to visit Bethany one last time before it closes on June 30. Guests may enjoy walking through the house to visit places and memories from retreat time here. There will be refreshments and opportunities to enjoy the meditation garden, to share memories and blessings, and to purchase any remaining bargains in the bookstore.

BRH BOOKSHELF



On Living

By Kerry Egan

Riverhead Books, 2016, cloth, 208 pages, \$24

Reviewed by Deb Szrom Stepe

In this book, Kerry Egan, a hospice chaplain, shares experiences she has had with people who were dying and the stories those people told of their lives, weaving in her own life stories as well.

Stories shared are about themes universal for everyone's life: secrets, shame, love, regret, and forgiveness, among others. The author says that the spiritual work of dying is to find meaning in the stories of our lives. This book is a wonderful venture in sharing some of the fruits of that spiritual work.

The author says that listening to other people's life stories may not make you wise, but it can heal your soul, because it did for her. She breaks open the stories she tells with reverence and wisdom. The insights she and her patients gained from sometimes terribly painful experiences are awe-inspiring – insights, once shared, can indeed help to heal the soul of another.

I really loved this book! In the midst of many distractions of life, I found it really good to get in touch with issues that really matter. This book did that for me.

BOOKSTORE CLEARANCE SALE

Bethany's book store has been a treasure trove of spiritual reading resources over these 25 years. The book store will close for the final time on Saturday, June 24.

The clearance sale begins on Tuesday, April 25. Most books, CDs, and greeting cards will be available at a 50 percent discount off the retail price. The sale is on in-stock items only and does not apply to special orders. Some newer first-run titles are excluded from the sale.



Andrea Zargosa shops in the retreat house bookstore.

Book store hours are Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Other times are possible by appointment. Please call 219-398-5047 if you need to set up a special time to visit and shop. **Bethany staff is not always on site, so it is important to set up a time before stopping by if you plan to shop outside of the usual Tuesday/Friday bookstore hours. Walk-ins are not accepted outside of these normal bookstore hours.**

The clearance sale is an effort both to clear the shelves and to give Bethany patrons one last time to stock up on spiritual reading resources. Bookstore stock will diminish over time, so it's better to shop early in the sale rather than late.

ANNUAL VOLUNTEER GARDEN DAY Saturday, May 6, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Join us for one last Bethany Garden Day!

There's pruning to be done, beds and pond to be cleaned, containers to be planted, and mulch to be hauled and spread. Regardless of your skill, there is a job for everyone. Lunch is provided. Please let us know if you are able to join us: 219-398-5047 or bethanyrh@sbcglobal.net.

Bethany Retreat House
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Bethany Retreat House
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Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ
(Ancilla Domini Sisters, Inc.)
congregation of women religious.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

by Joyce Diltz, PHJC



In these remaining months before Bethany Retreat House closes, many of us return in our memories to moments of grace experienced at Bethany, for some in a retreat, for others in a spiritual direction session, for yet others in a dream group or book study or peer supervision group. For our final newsletter we will collect and publish these memories. Please consider sharing a blessing, gift, or grace you have received at Bethany Retreat House. Another collection will include brief statements about what Bethany has meant for you in your faith journey. Please send these memories for publication to me at the retreat house address above or via email: bethanyrh@sbcglobal.net. Please mark your submissions "for the newsletter."

Our June 11 open house offers another way to recall memories of time at Bethany. Please come for a visit to savor your time here, to share stories, and to bid farewell to Bethany Retreat House.

As many among us grieve the approaching closing of the retreat house, please be assured that most of the Bethany ministry will live on as I continue to offer spiritual direction, dream groups, a peer supervision group for spiritual directors, and the women's book study group. It is the space for retreat and the bookstore that "disappear" with the retreat house closing.

Two women close to Bethany have passed on in the last couple months. Sr. Margaret Haas, BVM, has been coming to Bethany for over 20 years. She died unexpectedly in Chicago recently. Many of you will remember Toni Heinzman from garden days and in her role as book sale assistant. She was a great partner on many a parish book sale weekend. Toni, too, died unexpectedly at her home in Mishawaka. Please remember them and those who grieve their passing.

IN MEMORY OF

Jerome Bauer by Carol Bauer

Fabian and Smolar Families
by Al and Yolanda Fabian

Sr. Margaret Haas, BVM

Toni Heinzman

Frank Munoz
by Martha and R. Louie Gonzalez

David Pastrick and Family
by Martha and R. Louie Gonzalez

Sr. Jeanette Schutte, PHJC
by Sr. Mary Carolyn Woelhoelter, PHJC

Gail Rogers
by Martha and R. Louie Gonzalez

Elena Teigen
by Barbara Kudirka

Robert Vorrier
by Patricia Barrick