

Search For Meaning 2009: Author Bios

Keynote Speaker: Sherman Alexie



Keynote speaker Sherman Alexie excels at using spiritual themes in his fiction writing. Alexie is the author of four novels (including *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* and *Flight*), eleven books of poetry (including *Dangerous Astronomy* and *One Stick Song*), two screenplays (*The Business of Fancydancing* and *Smoke Signals*), three collections of short stories (including *Ten Little Indians* and *The Toughest Indian in the World*), and numerous essays. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2008 Boston Globe–Horn Book Awards for Excellence in Children’s Literature (for *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*), the 2008 Stranger Genius Award, the National Endowment for the Arts Poetry Fellowship, the 2003 Publishers Weekly Book of the Year (for *Ten Little Indians*), two inclusions on the New York Times

Notable Books list, and the Sundance Film Festival Audience Award (in 1998, for *Smoke Signals*). He received an [honorary degree from Seattle University in 2000](#).

Keynote Speaker: James K. Wellman, Jr.



James K. Wellman, Jr., Ph.D., will address the religious issues dividing the nation, especially as the United States anticipates a new president in the White House and numerous problems that will require bi-partisan decision-making. Dr. Wellman is Associate Professor of American Religion and chair of the Comparative Religion program in the Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington. He is the author of *Evangelical vs. Liberal: The Clash of Christian Cultures in the Pacific Northwest* (2008), *Belief and Bloodshed: Religion and Violence Across Time and Tradition* (2007), *The Gold Coast Church and the Ghetto: Christ and Culture in Mainline Protestantism* (1999), and *The Power of Religious*

Publics: Staking Claim in American Society (1999, with William Swatos), as well as several edited works and many journal articles.



David P. Alcorta

David P. Alcorta has been telling stories since he was a child and continues to tell human interest stories both socially and professionally in his Sunday sermons. David is now retired from a career in Public Administration and Human Service and enjoys a full-time ministry as an Ordained Deacon. He now pours his experience with human service, spiritual energy and storytelling into the writing of children's stories.



Paul Anderson

Author of over 160 published essays and several books, Paul Anderson is Professor of Biblical and Quaker Studies at George Fox University, where he has served since 1989, other than a year of teaching as a visiting professor at Yale Divinity School (1998-1999). As a leading expert on the Gospel and Epistles of John, Anderson's books and published essays have broken new ground in understanding both the Christ of faith and the Jesus of history. His first book, *The Christology of the Fourth Gospel* (1996, 1997, and 2009) identifies the character and origins of John's Christological tensions (a key source of historic theological debates), and his most recent book, *The Fourth Gospel and the Quest for Jesus* (2006, 2007) explains how John's presentation of Jesus may yet contribute to the Quest for the Historical Jesus in the Modern Era. In addressing these issues, Anderson has put forward new theories of John's composition, its relation to other gospel traditions, and a history of the Johannine situation. He serves as co-chair of the John, Jesus, and History Project and is co-editor of its three volumes (2007; 2009, in press; 2011, projected).

Paul Anderson also speaks and writes on matters of spirituality, peace, discernment, and Quakerism and has edited the *Evangelical Friend* (1990-1994) and *Quaker Religious Thought* (2000-present). He Directs the [George Fox University Congregational Discernment Project](#) (supported by two Lilly grants), designed to help leaders from different Christian traditions lead by facilitating discernment and consensus rather than by political or divisive means. He was invited on behalf of the Faith and Order Commission of the National Council of Churches to contribute a major response to Pope John Paul II's *Ut Unum Sint* (his essay was published in *One in Christ*, 2005), and in 2006 he was able to give copies personally to Cardinal Kasper and Pope Benedict in the Vatican. Anderson's Ph.D. is from the University of Glasgow, and last year he served as President of the Pacific Northwest Region of the AAR/SBL/ASOR.



Gary Chamberlain

Dr. Gary Chamberlain is Professor of Christian Ethics in the Theology and Religious Studies Department at Seattle University. He regularly teaches courses in peace and social justice, ecology and religion, human sexuality, and faith and morality. Dr. Chamberlain has published previously in *America*, *Journal for Peace and Justice Studies*, *National Catholic Reporter*, *New Catholic World*, *Christianity and Crisis*, *Theology Today*, *Worship*, *Journal of Religious Education*, *Chicago Studies*, *Journal of Peace and Justice Studies*, *Belizean Studies*, *The Iliff Review*, *Review of Business*, *Seattle Journal of Social Justice*, *The Critic*, *Encounter*, *Japan Christian Quarterly*, *The Journal of Value Inquiry* and several other journals and magazines. His most recent book, *Troubled Waters: Religion, Ethics, and the Global Water Crisis*, was published in 2008 by Rowman and Littlefield Press. A previous book, *Fostering Faith*, was published by Paulist Press February, 1989, and he co-edited, with Fr. Patrick Howell, S.J., *Empowering Authority*, published by Sheed and Ward in 1990. He has presented the results of his scholarship for several years locally and at regional, national, and international conferences.

His research on issues such as immigration, family planning, reproductive health, abortion, along with ecology and water, all from a religious/ethical perspective, has taken him to Belize annually for eleven years and Japan four times.

He resides in Seattle, WA, with his wife, Sharon, and has twin sons, Michael and Benjamin, who also live in Seattle.



Daniel A. Dombrowski

Daniel A. Dombrowski is Professor of Philosophy at Seattle University. He is the author of sixteen books and over a hundred articles in scholarly journals in philosophy, theology, classics, and literature. His latest books are *Rethinking the Ontological Argument: A Neoclassical Theistic Perspective* (published by Cambridge University Press, 2006) and *Contemporary Athletics and Ancient Greek Ideals* (published by University of Chicago Press, 2009). His main areas of intellectual interest are history of philosophy, philosophy of religion (from a neoclassical or process perspective), and ethics (especially animal rights issues).



David Domke

David Domke worked as a journalist for several newspapers in the 1980s and early 1990s, including the *Orange County Register* and *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, before earning a Ph.D. in 1996. He is now a Professor and Acting Chair in the Department of Communication at the University of Washington. He is the author of a 2004 book that examines the religious rhetoric of the Bush administration and the

mainstream press's response, *God Willing?: Political Fundamentalism in the White House, the "War on Terror," and the Echoing Press* (Pluto Press). His new book, *The God Strategy: How Religion Became A Political Weapon in America*, was published in January 2008 by Oxford University Press. In the last few years he has spoken about politics and communication with academic, political, media, and public audiences around the country. In 2002 he received the University of Washington's Distinguished Teaching Award, the university's highest honor for teaching. In 2006, he received the Hiller Kriehbaum Under-40 Award, given by the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, for outstanding early career accomplishments. Also in 2006 he was named the Washington state Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.



Ted Fortier

Ted Fortier is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at Seattle University, where he has taught since 1996. Originally educated as an archaeologist, Ted also has degrees in philosophy and theology. His experience living among the Yupik and Athabaskan people of Alaska led him to study Cultural Anthropology at Washington State University. He has worked both as an anthropologist and as a pastor for the Coeur d'Alene Tribe of Idaho.

Ted's work has centered on indigenous religions, shamanism, culture change, and resistance to Westernization. He has worked closely with tribal groups in the Northwest and the Southwest of the United States, in Canada, Alaska, and in Mexico and Central America. He is currently developing projects that deal with cultural knowledge preservation among the Coast Salish in Washington.

Ted is the author of *Cultural Memory: Religion, Resistance and Identity*. (University of Texas Press, 2007), and *Religion and Resistance in the Encounter between Coeur d'Alene Indians and Jesuit Missionaries on the Columbia Plateau* (Mellon Press, 2002).



Ann Louise Gilligan & Katherine Zappone

Ann Louise Gilligan and Katherine Zappone met in September of 1981 at Boston College, when they entered an interdisciplinary doctoral program in Religion and Education. Ann Louise had traveled from Dublin, Ireland, and Katherine had moved to Boston from New York, though she had grown up in Seattle. One year later they held a life-partnership commitment ceremony and since 1983 have lived in Dublin, Ireland. After completing their Ph.D.'s in 1986, they founded what is today the largest independent community organization in Ireland. Its mission has been and continues to be the eradication of poverty through education. While the first classes took place in their own home and later in a converted garage just outside their kitchen door, An Cosán (Irish for 'the Path') is now located in the heart of Tallaght, one of Dublin's

suburbs. Thousands of children and adults have been educated there, and its sustainability is due to a spiritual ethos of love and mutual respect.

Ann Louise is a senior lecturer in the Education Department of St Patrick's College, Dublin City University, where she has been involved in teacher education, and she was appointed by the Minister for Education to establish a statutory agency that supports the school attendance of young people. Katherine is a Commissioner with the Irish Human Rights Commission, appointed by the Minister for Justice to this role. She lectured in Trinity College Dublin for a decade in the area of Practical Theology and more recently has worked in the field of Public Policy. They were both lucky enough to have lectured on the Summer SUMORE program for several years. They both have published articles and books in the fields of education, ethics, feminist and liberation spiritualities, philosophies of imagination, and human rights.



Daryl Grigsby

Daryl Grigsby has been involved in writing, publishing and community service for many years in Chicago, San Diego and Seattle. Daryl graduated from Chicago State University, one of the few Historically Black Colleges in the northern United States. While at Chicago State University, he founded the Chicago State University Christian Fellowship, the school's first ecumenical student gathering. He is the founder and first president of the San Diego African-American Writers and Artists, a group which in 2006 celebrated its 25th anniversary.

Daryl is the founder of Asante Publications, a small publishing company that published his first books. Asante published *For The People: Black Socialists in the United States, Africa and the Caribbean*, and *Oh Freedom: Essays on Black Spirituality*. In addition, he has been published in several national and regional newspapers and magazines; including the *National Catholic Reporter*. He is involved in various efforts at his church at St. Therese parish, including a black Catholic men's group, tutoring and mentoring, and other activities. Daryl has a Master's degree from Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry. He is a guest lecturer at youth conferences, churches, schools and other institutions, and has spoken on the social message of hip-hop and the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Daryl is author of the recently-released book, *In Their Footsteps: Inspirational Reflections on Black History for every day of the Year*. The book is a celebration of the contributions of people of African descent all over the world.



Leticia Guardiola-Sáenz

Leticia Guardiola-Sáenz is a New Testament scholar originally from Mexico. She teaches Christian Scriptures at Seattle University at the School of Theology and Ministry and the Theology and Religious Studies department. Her most recent work is part of *The Peoples' Bible*, a study Bible featuring multicultural perspectives and culture-critical methods, for which she served as editor responsible for the New

Testament. Through her experiences as a Latina woman of Mexican heritage, born and bred in the bicultural borderlands between Mexico and the United States, she has come to appreciate and read the Bible as a hybrid text where many borders, voices, and meanings converge. So, as a reader, believer, and lecturer of the Christian Scripture, she is constantly negotiating and contesting the meanings and stories of the Bible as she seeks to responsibly interpret and appropriate its message in a culture and time that is thousands of years and miles away from its original context. Ultimately, her goal as a Bible scholar and writer is to empower readers as agents of historical change in the ongoing process of decolonization and liberation, to dismantle oppressive interpretations, and to offer inclusive and transformative readings that can bring about justice and liberation for all of God's creation.



Lesley Hazleton

British-born Lesley Hazleton is a psychologist and veteran Middle East journalist whose work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Esquire*, *Vanity Fair*, *The Nation*, and other publications. The author of several books on Middle East politics, religion, and history, she now lives in Seattle.

Her two previous books, *Mary: a flesh-and-blood biography* and *Jezebel: the untold story*, will be featured at the festival.



Maria "Dancing Heart" Hoaglund

The Rev. Maria "Dancing Heart" Hoaglund has been doing some kind of spiritual work for most of her life, with the foundation of a cross-cultural perspective because of her birth and upbringing in Japan. She attended Pacific School of Religion after graduating from Yale College. She later graduated from Chicago Theological Seminary with a Master's of Divinity. For ten years, Maria served as a parish minister with the U.C.C. Church in Hawaii and in the Great Northwest; she then transitioned into hospice ministry 14 years ago. In 2005, she self-published her first book, *The Last Adventure of Life: Sacred Resources for Transition*. A second edition of the work was published through Findhorn Press last June. A third edition is coming out this February through Finch Publishing of Australia. Through her work and interests, Maria has become knowledgeable in many integrative and holistic healing and spiritual practices, and she incorporates these in her work. She is recognized as a broad-based spiritual counselor, bridging traditional religion with the new spirituality being birthed around the world. For more about Maria and her work, you may visit www.thelastadventureoflife.com or www.changewithcourage.com.



Wes Howard-Brook

Wes Howard-Brook has been teaching and writing on the Bible since 1988 in the Northwest and across the country. He teaches Bible and theology at Seattle University's Theology and Religious Studies Department and in parishes around the Puget Sound. Previously, Wes was an attorney, including a stint as counsel to the US Senate Judiciary Committee. He has an M.Div. from Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry. He and his wife, Sue Ferguson Johnson, collaborate in the ministry, Abide In Me (www.abideinme.net). Together, they provide resources for the spiritual formation of individuals, groups and congregations.

Wes is currently at work on the book *"Come Out My People": God's Call Out of Empire From the Beginning to the End*. The book traces the history of "the two religions" in the Bible: not "Judaism" and "Christianity," but the religion which supports "empire" and the religion which opposes empire. The book moves from the roots of civilization in ancient Babylon, through biblical history and beyond to the time of Augustine, concluding with reflection on America's relationship to "the two religions."



Paul Janowiak, S.J.

Paul Janowiak S.J., associate professor, is a liturgical and sacramental theologian. A Jesuit priest, Fr. Janowiak has special interest in the role of preaching within the Roman Catholic liturgical context. His first book, *The Holy Preaching: The Sacramentality of the Word in the Liturgical Assembly* (Liturgical Press: 2000) focuses on the meaning of Christ's sacramental presence in the proclamation of the Word of God. He is currently working on a book that explores the Church's liturgy as a participation in the relational and mutual self-offering of the Trinity. In addition, he serves as the vice-president of the International Jungmann Society of Jesuit scholars, who met this past summer in Montserrat, Spain.



Patricia O'Connell Killen

Patricia O'Connell Killen, Ph.D., is Professor of American Religious History at Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Washington. She researches and writes about the intersection of social context, community, and spirituality--how communities "think" (or don't think) with the wisdom of their religious heritage to address the challenges and novel circumstances of their time.

Killen is the primary editor of *Religion and Public Life in the Pacific Northwest: The None Zone* (2004), the first book to present an interpretation of religious dynamics of the region; a contributor to *Cascadia: The Elusive Utopia, Exploring the Spirit of the Pacific Northwest* (2008); co-author of *The Catholic Experience of Small Christian Communities*

(2000) and author of two award-winning books, *Finding Our Voices: Women, Wisdom and Faith* (1997) and, with John de Beer, *The Art of Theological Reflection* (1994).

Killen works regularly with clergy, congregations, and community organizations on understanding the religious ecology of the Northwest and how it shapes both individual and institutional religious sensibilities and possibilities. She gives workshops on theological reflection to religious educators and religious communities nationally and internationally, and teaches theological reflection at the Institute of Pastoral Studies, Loyola University of Chicago.



Kristin von Kreisler

Kristin von Kreisler is the author of bestselling books about animal emotion and morality: *The Compassion of Animals*, *Beauty in the Beasts*, and *For Bea*. Her books have been translated into a dozen languages and chosen for the Book of the Month Club and the Christian Family Book Club.

In the past ten years she has collected thousands of stories of animals performing acts of compassion, courage, loyalty, generosity, and cooperation. And she believes the stories add up to data for her informal field study proving that animals, like humans, can consciously choose to do good – and be instruments of God. Her most recent book is a memoir about how she became an animal welfare advocate after rescuing a beagle from a medical lab. Because of her love of animals, she also became a secular Franciscan.

She has taught English and journalism at the University of Hawaii and California State University at San Jose. And she has written hundreds of articles for national magazines and newspapers, including the *Washington Post*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Parade*, *Woman's Day*, *Family Circle*, and *Reader's Digest*, where she was a staff writer. Her writing has led her to give many talks and interviews about animals and to work with local and international animal organizations.



Marianne LaBarre

Dr. Marianne LaBarre is a faculty member at the School of Theology and Ministry at Seattle University and currently serves as the Director of the Pastoral Leadership Program. A full time member of the STM faculty since 1986, Marianne served for more than a decade as Director of the Master of Divinity and Formation Director for the school. Following her doctoral work in Leadership, she was a founding member of the interdisciplinary Executive Leadership Program at Seattle

University. She served as its director and on the faculty for six years prior to accepting the position of Director of the Pastoral Leadership Program. She teaches the year long synthesis course entitled Sustaining Pastoral Excellence for the Pastoral Leadership

Program and Spiritual Discernment for STM. Marianne is author of *God Knows Your Job Gets Old: 12 Ways to Enliven It*.



Rabbi Anson Laytner

Rabbi Anson Laytner is the executive director of the Seattle Chapter of the American Jewish Committee. He also is an adjunct professor with Seattle University's Department of Theology and Religious Studies and also works with the School of Theology and Ministry at Seattle University. Previously, he served as the executive director of Multifaith Works (MW), a Seattle non-profit agency serving people with AIDS or other life-threatening illnesses. Prior to working at MW, Laytner headed the Seattle Jewish Federation's Community Relations Council.

As a volunteer, Laytner serves as President of the Sino-Judaic Institute and edits its journal, *Points East*. Laytner is the author of *Arguing with God*, and *The Animals' Lawsuit Against Humanity* and over 60 articles on subjects ranging from Jewish theology to the Arab-Israel conflict to the Chinese Jews. Laytner has degrees from York University in Toronto, the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, a master's in Not-for-Profit Leadership from Seattle University, and an honorary D.D. from Hebrew Union College. Rabbi Laytner is married to Merrily McManus Laytner. Between them, they share three daughters, two sons-in-law, and four grandkids.



David Leigh, S.J.

David Leigh has taught English and Theology at Seattle University since 1983, and has served as Director of the University Honors Program from 1983-93, Director of the Core Curriculum from 1988-98, and Chair of the English Department from 1993-98. He is the author of some fifty articles in the areas of Literature and Spirituality, and has written two books: *Circuitous Journeys: Modern Religious Autobiography* (Fordham University Press, 2000) and *Apocalyptic Patterns in Twentieth-Century Fiction* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2008). His book on autobiography is a study of ten modern spiritual leaders who have written their life stories, such as Thomas Merton, Dorothy Day, Mohandas Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Black Elk, Rigoberta Menchu, and others. His study of apocalypse in twenty modern novels explores fiction by Walker Percy, John Updike, Doris Lessing, Toni Morrison, Salmon Rushdie, and others.



Maliha Masood

Maliha Masood was born and raised in Karachi, Pakistan. She moved to the United States as a teenager and grew up in Seattle, WA. An award-winning writer in creative nonfiction, she is the author of *Zaatar Days*, *Henna Nights: Adventures, Dreams and Destinations across the Middle East*, a first hand account of her one year solo journey through Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey. Maliha's essays and op-eds have been widely anthologized and published internationally in *Al-Ahram Weekly* and *Asia Times*. Fluent in Urdu, Arabic, and French, she has worked as a consultant in information technology, conflict resolution, and broadcast media. Maliha wrote and co-produced the independent documentary *Nazrah*, exploring gender, politics and Islam in the wake of 9/11 and taught the popular course, *From Burqas to Catwalks*, at the University of Washington where she earned her BA in International Business. She did her graduate studies at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, earning a master's in International Affairs and Public Policy in 2004. Her life long mission is to continue expanding a dialogue between Islam and the West towards cultural pluralism and mutual understanding. To this end, Maliha founded The Diwaan Project, a Seattle-based organization addressing global affairs in public education. An avid speaker and guest lecturer at universities nationwide, she has been featured on NPR and PBS. More information available at www.maliha-masood.com.



Christine Valters Paintner

Christine Valters Paintner, Ph.D., is an adjunct faculty member at the School of Theology and Ministry in the field of Christian Spirituality and the Program Coordinator at the Ignatian Spirituality Center. She ministers as a retreat leader, spiritual director and supervisor, writer, and artist and writes a regular blog and newsletter on the integration of spirituality and artistic expression through her website at www.AbbeyoftheArts.com. She also self-publishes a series of Reflective Art Journals featuring photography, collage, and her writings on the spiritual life and practice. Christine is an Oblate of St. Benedict at St. Placid Priory and lives out the monastic way in her daily life. She co-wrote *Lectio Divina: Contemplative Awakening and Awareness* with Sr. Lucy Wynkoop, available through Paulist Press.



Sharon Daloz Parks

Sharon Daloz Parks teaches in the Pastoral Leadership Program and in the Executive Leadership Program at Seattle University. She is the author of *Leadership Can Be Taught: A Bold Approach for a Complex World* (Harvard Business School Press, 2005) and *Big Questions, Worthy Dreams: Mentoring Young Adults in Their Search for Meaning, Purpose, and Faith*, and she is a co-author of *Common Fire: Leading Lives of Commitment in a Complex World* (Beacon, 1996). She directs the Powers of Leadership seasonal retreat cycle at the Whidbey Institute, and she serves nationally as a lecturer and consultant for a broad range of professional groups. She has a particular concern for the formation of meaning and faith and practices of citizenship and leadership in the context of changing organizations and cultures. Previously she served for over sixteen years in faculty and research positions at Harvard University in the Schools of Divinity, Business, and the Kennedy School of Government. She has served also on the faculty at the Weston Jesuit School of Theology. Early in her career she served in college and university ministry.



Brenda Peterson

Brenda Peterson is a nature writer and novelist. She is the author of 15 books, including *New York Times* "Notable Book of the Year," *Duck and Cover*. Her memoir, *Build Me an Ark: A Life with Animals* was chosen as a "Best Spiritual Book of 2001," a One Spirit and Quality Paperback Club book, and is just out in a Chinese edition. Her ten non-fiction books, including *Living by Water* and the *National Geographic* book, *Sightings: The Gray Whale's Mysterious Journey*, established her as a prominent creative non-fiction writer, extensively profiled in *America's Nature Writer's*. Peterson's most recent novel is *Animal Heart* (Sierra Club Books). Peterson's non-fiction has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Reader's Digest*, *Christian Science Monitor*, and *Utne Reader*. Her work is featured in national magazines, including *Sierra*, *Oprah Magazine*, and *Orion: People and Nature*. She is a frequent columnist for the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* and *Seattle Times*, and since 1993 she has contributed environmental commentary for both Seattle National Public Radio stations. Her new book, *I Want to Be Left Behind: Rapture Here on Earth* is a spiritual memoir and is due out in 2009. The first chapter, internationally reprinted, was published by *Orion* magazine and can be seen at this link: <http://www.orionmagazine.org/index.php/articles/article/502>.



Judy Pigott

Judy Pigott has a wealth of extended, blended, and chosen family experiences in both leading and participating in care-share teams. She has an undergraduate degree in psychology from Skidmore College

and a master's degree in teaching from Teacher's College, Columbia University. Her post-graduate studies at Seattle University focused on teaching English as an Additional Language and social justice. She also has training and experience in Hospice work and in creating care-share teams. She is committed to fostering communities that nurture all participants physically, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually.

Judy is the co-author of *Personal Safety Nets: Getting Ready for Life's Inevitable Changes and Challenges* and its companion workbook, *Personal Safety Nets: Get Ready/Get Started*. For more information, visit www.PersonalSafetyNets.com.



Jamal Rahman

Jamal Rahman, originally from Bangladesh, is Muslim Sufi Minister at Interfaith Community Church and adjunct faculty at Seattle University. He has a passion for Interfaith work and believes that Interfaith is not about conversion but about completion--becoming a more complete human being. Jamal works actively and regularly with Rabbi Ted Falcon and Pastor Donald Mackenzie. An author, teacher, and talk show host, Jamal travels often as a trio, locally, nationally, and internationally, co-facilitating workshops and retreats.



Michael Raschko

Father Michael Raschko was born in June 1948 in the flatlands of North Dakota. He fled the plains for more mountainous territory at the tender age of 1. He lived in Salem, Oregon, until he was 5 and then moved to Seattle, which he has called home since 1953. He attended St. Teresa Parish grade school and then entered the high school seminary of the Archdiocese of Seattle. He graduated from both high school and college at Archdiocesan Seminaries--St. Edward's (which is now a state park) and St. Thomas (which is now a school of alternative medicine). He left the seminary after one year of theological study and went to Harvard, where he received a Master's of Theological Studies. He then finished up his seminary studies at St. Thomas (see above) and was ordained a diocesan priest in 1975. He served three years as Associate Pastor at St. Frances Cabrini in Tacoma, Washington, with Father Andrew Squier. He then spent four years earning his Ph.D. in Systematic Theology at the Divinity School of the University of Chicago, a degree he completed in 1982.

Father Raschko has been part of the faculty of the School of Theology and Ministry at Seattle University since its founding in 1985. (It began as the Institute for Theological Studies but became a School in 1996.) He teaches systematic theology, an area which entails such course as Christian Anthropology, Christology, and Hermeneutics. He also likes to teach courses in the history of Christianity, which naturally tend to lean in the

direction of the history of Christian thought. Father Raschko has helped with priestly ministry on a regular basis in St. Antony parish in Renton and Mary Queen of Peace parish in Sammamish. He has held the Bertch Professorship in Systematic Theology at STM since the Spring of 2005, and in 2007 was named the McGoldrick Fellow, a faculty award given by the president of the university for teaching in the spirit of Jesuit education. Father Raschko has published various articles in the field of systematic theology and in the area of theology and science. His book, *A Companion to the Gospel of Mark*, is a commentary on that gospel written from the perspective of a systematic theologian who preaches on a regular basis.



Patricia Clemens Repikoff

Patricia Clemens Repikoff, Patty, grew up along the banks of the Columbia River in Vancouver and is a native of the Pacific Northwest. She grew up surrounded by books and the world of the imagination and arts. During a college summer program, her world turned upside down (or right side up) after encountering the people of Mexico, and she was drawn to the ministry of teaching in areas where poverty had made its mark on peoples' lives. After graduating from Gonzaga

University in 1971 in English, she joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corps to teach for four years in underserved areas which included El Paso, Texas, and the Hilltop area of Tacoma, Washington. She received a M.Ed. from University of Puget Sound in Tacoma in 1978.

She sensed a deeper calling to parish ministry, and has devoted the last 31 years to Lay Ecclesial Ministry for the Archdiocese of Seattle, serving as Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation, Liturgy, and spiritual director at St. Leo's in Tacoma. She began her M.Div., studies at Seattle University in 1985, and graduated in 1990. In 1990, Archbishop Hunthausen appointed her Pastoral Life Director, the lay pastoral leader in collaboration with a priest minister, of St. Therese Parish in Seattle. In 1998, Archbishop Brunett called her to serve as Pastoral Life Director of Christ the King/Cristo Rey Parish in North Seattle. During that time she began doctoral studies and received a Doctorate of Ministry in 2007 from the San Francisco Theological Seminary. In 2007, Archbishop Brunett appointed her Coordinator of Hispanic Ministry for the 14 Catholic parishes on the eastside of Lake Washington, home to 25,000 Spanish-speaking people.

Her only publication, *Dashed Dreams and Diamonds: Dangerous Memories and Impatient Truths. Stories from Seven Women of the Gospel*, was written in 1985-86 during her first enchantment by the Word of God through her classes at Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry.



Jonathan Rosen

Jonathan Rosen is the author of *The Talmud and the Internet: A Journey Between Worlds* (2000) and of the novels *Eve's Apple* (1997) and *Joy Comes in the Morning* (2004), all available from Picador. In

1990, Jonathan created the Arts & Letters section of the *Forward*, which he oversaw for ten years. His essays have appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*, the *New York Times Book Review*, the *New Yorker*, the *American Scholar*, and several anthologies. He is currently the editorial director of the Nextbook/Schocken publishing series *Jewish Encounters*.



Julie Rochelle-Stephens

Julie Rochelle-Stephens, M.M., is a nationally renowned trainer, educator, author, mentor, speaker, and consultant. Her contributions in the field of conflict management, recovery, relationships, spirituality, and human development have marked her career for 25 years.

Julie has recently published *12-Step RSVP: Recovery, Spirituality, Vision, Purpose Journal and Morning Meditation Cards*. Julie works intimately with counselors, ministers, spiritual directors and individuals who honor the healing process and believe in the power of recovery. She has published articles in *Art of Wellbeing*, *Guilford Woman Magazine*, *High Point Enterprise*, etc.

Julie's spirituality work includes workshops and gatherings on topics such as Multi-Cultural Talking Circles, Honoring the Elders, Racism, Women's Studies, Addictions, Conflict Resolution, Spirituality, Earth Teachings, and much more.

Julie has been an adjunct faculty member at Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry for more than 20 years. She teaches communications, spirituality, and conflict resolution.

Julie has recently moved from Washington State to North Carolina.



Thomas C. Sorenson

Rev. Dr. Thomas C. Sorenson is pastor of Monroe Congregational United Church of Christ in Monroe, Washington. After graduating from the University of Oregon, he obtained his Ph.D. in history from the University of Washington in 1977. His major field of study was imperial Russian history. His dissertation is entitled *The Thought and Policies of Konstantin P. Pobedonostsev*. It is a study of the conservative populist ideology of the man who was the Over Procurator of the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church from 1880 to 1905 and who was the principal tutor of the last two tsars of Russia. After completing his Ph.D., Dr. Sorenson obtained a J.D. degree from the University of Oregon School of Law and practiced law for many years in the Seattle area. For over five years he was a staff attorney at the Legal Action Center, a program of Catholic Community Services of Western Washington, providing free legal representation to low income tenants in eviction cases.

In December, 2000, Dr. Sorenson obtained his M.Div. from the Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry. He has been pastor of Monroe Congregational United Church of Christ since March, 2002. He is married to the Rev. Jane Sorenson, also an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, currently serving as Acting Lead Pastor of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Bellingham, Washington. *Liberating Christianity: Overcoming Obstacles to Faith in the New Millennium* (Wipf and Stock, Eugene, Oregon, 2008) is his first book-length publication.



Jeffrey L. Staley

Jeffrey Staley received his Ph.D. in New Testament from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California, in 1985, and has taught at the University of Portland, Pacific Lutheran University, University of Notre Dame, and for the past ten years at Seattle University. He grew up on the Navajo Indian Reservation in northern Arizona and is married to an Asian American woman, and both of these experiences have contributed deeply to his interest and research in postcolonial biblical interpretation. Staley is the author of *Jesus, the Gospels, and Cinematic Imagination: a Handbook to Jesus on DVD* (John Knox, 2007) and *Reading with a Passion: Rhetoric, Autobiography, and the American West in the Gospel of John* (Continuum, 1995). Most recently he has published essays in R. S. Sugirtharajah's third edition of *Voices from the Margin: Interpreting the Bible in the Third World* (Orbis, 2006) and in *Postcolonial Interventions* (Sheffield Phoenix, 2009) a collection in honor of R. S. Sugirtharajah.

In 2008 he founded a three year consultation in the Society of Biblical Literature devoted to Bible and Film, another area of his research and teaching interest.



Philip L. Tite

Philip L. Tite is a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Religious Studies at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. A Canadian, raised in Toronto, he holds a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from McGill University (Montreal, Canada), where his research focused on moral exhortation within early Christian discourse (specifically in relation to ancient Gnosticism). He is particularly interested in how groups in antiquity constructed their social identity through religious rhetoric. His current teaching and research include New Testament studies, history of early Christianity, and issues of method and theory in the study of religion.

Dr. Tite is the author of *Compositional Transitions in 1 Peter: An Analysis of the Letter-Opening* (International Scholars Publications, 1997), *Conceiving Peace and Violence: A New Testament Legacy* (University Press of America, 2004), *Valentinian Ethics and Paraenetic Discourse: Determining the Social Function of Moral Exhortation in Valentinian Christianity* (Brill Academic Publishers, forthcoming), and co-editor of *Religion, Terror and Violence: Religious Studies Perspectives* (Routledge, 2008) as well as numerous articles in academic journals such as *Harvard Theological Review*, *Method*

and Theory in the Study of Religion, and *Teaching Theology and Religion*. He is currently beginning a book project on early Christian martyrs and funeral practices. Additionally, since the events of September 11, 2001, his growing concern over the connection between religion and violence- or peace-promotion has prompted his recent work on the role of religious studies scholars as public intellectuals within discourses on religion and violence.



Patrick J. Twohy, S.J.

Patrick J. Twohy, S.J., is a Jesuit priest who has lived and worked with Native American Peoples in the Pacific Northwest for the past thirty-five years. He has published two books: *Finding a Way Home: Indian and Catholic Spiritual Paths of the Plateau Tribes* and *Beginnings: A Meditation on Coast Salish Lifeways*.



Eugene Webb

Eugene Webb is Professor Emeritus in the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington. Before his retirement he was Professor of Comparative Religion and Comparative Literature and Associate Director of the Jackson School where he founded and chaired both the Comparative Religion Program (in 1974) and the European Studies Program (in 1994). From 2000 to 2007 he served on the Advisory Board of the Institute for Ecumenical Studies in the School of Theology and Ministry at Seattle University, and from 2001 to 2006 he also served on the Executive Committee of the Institute for Ecumenical Studies.

In addition to two books on the novels and plays of Samuel Beckett, Professor Webb is the author of *The Dark Dove: The Sacred and Secular in Modern Literature* (1975), *Eric Voegelin, Philosopher of History* (1981), *Philosophers of Consciousness* (1988) and *The Self Between: From Freud to the New Social Psychology of France* (1993). His *World View and Mind: Religious Thought and Psychological Development* will be published by the University of Missouri Press in February 2009.



Rabbi Daniel Weiner

The Senior Rabbi of Temple de Hirsch Sinai in Seattle since July 2001, Daniel A. Weiner strives to make community at the synagogue a 'family of families.'

Born in Cincinnati and raised in San Francisco, Rabbi Weiner received a BA in Communication Studies from the University of California at Los Angeles, where he was Commencement Speaker in 1986. He earned his master's degree from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1989. Ordained in 1991, Rabbi Weiner served as the Assistant/Associate Rabbi at Baltimore Hebrew Congregation from 1991-1996 and then as the Senior Rabbi of Temple Ohav Sholom in Harrisburg.

He is the proud husband of Cynthia, and father of Julia and Benjamin. He just presided over Julia's Bat Mitzvah after letting her to decide whether to have him perform the service.

Rabbi Weiner is a founder of Faith Forward, a cutting edge interfaith organization that highlights and shares the inextricable bonds between progressive values and religious principles.

He is a popular lecturer at Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry, dedicated to outreach to unaffiliated and interfaith families. He advocates for the intersection of film and transcendent religious values through his "Spirit on the Screen" presentations. Weiner has been lauded for his speech on "Partners of Jews" and his leadership of the innovative and spiritual Rock Shabbat services. His columns have appeared in the *Seattle Times* and the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*; he is a frequent guest on Seattle and Denver radio and television in the Pacific Northwest.

He is the son of Rabbi Martin S. Weiner, who is an editor of the new Reform prayer book, *Mishkan T'filah*, and who recently retired as Senior Rabbi of Congregation Sherith Israel in San Francisco.

Check out www.goodgodforus.com, where you will find more information about this book, *Good God: Faith for the Rest of Us* and special free resources, including a reader's/study guide, lesson plan for educators, and a blog on spirituality, religion, and how they impact politics and popular culture.



Flora Wilson Bridges

The Reverend Dr. Flora Wilson Bridges is a tenured associate professor of Pastoral Theology in the Graduate School of Theology & Ministry at Seattle University. She was recently selected for the significant honor of serving as the school's first recipient of the Spehar-Halligan Professorship of Collaboration in Inter-Religious Dialogue.

Dr. Bridges' work, both as an experienced pastor and theologian and scholar, centers on spirituality and issues of racial and gender justice. It calls for the necessity to understand the deep interconnections between these historic liberation movements and African-American spirituality as a means of healing, in the words of the historian Lerone Bennett, Jr., the "crisis of the black spirit" that now confronts the African-American community and the Black Church if—in the years ahead—they are to persist as a healthy and viable part of North American culture.

Her work includes a vital concern for linking the contemporary dialogues about black spirituality, race, class, and gender with the concern for justice as reconciliation as people in the United States and the world work to achieve what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called the Beloved Community and Jesus of Nazareth called the kingdom of God.

Dr. Bridges is the author of *Resurrection Song: African-American Spirituality*—an original contribution to the theological and political dialogue about black spirituality and race in America. She is currently writing the book *Reconciliation: Memory, Justice, and Forgiveness*—a spirituality of reconciliation from the African-American spiritual tradition.

Gregory Wolfe



Gregory Wolfe is Writer in Residence at Seattle Pacific University and the founder and editor of *Image*, one of America's leading literary quarterlies, now celebrating its twentieth anniversary. He also directs the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program at SPU. In 2005, he served as a judge for the National Book Awards. Wolfe has published essays, reviews, and articles in numerous journals, including *Commonweal* and *First Things*. His essays have been anthologized in collections such as *The Best Christian Writing* and *The Best Catholic Writing*. Among his books are *Intruding Upon the Timeless: Meditations*

on Art, Faith, and Mystery, *Malcolm Muggeridge: A Biography and Sacred Passion: The Art of William Schickel*. Wolfe is also the editor of *Bearing the Mystery: Twenty Years of IMAGE* (forthcoming), and *The New Religious Humanists: A Reader*. A new collection of essays, *Beauty Will Save the World*, is forthcoming from ISI Books. He has co-authored several books on parenting with his wife, the novelist Suzanne Wolfe, including *Books That Build Character* and *Bless This House: Prayers for Families and Children*. He received his BA, summa cum laude, from Hillsdale College and his MA in English literature from Oxford University. He and his wife are the parents of four children and live in Seattle, Washington.

