



Greater
Rochester
Community of
Churches

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the *Ecumenical Messenger*

September 2005

Dealing With the Hidden Consequences of War A Program for Families and Pastoral Leaders



SEPTEMBER 22nd, 2005
1pm- 4:30pm
ST JOHN OF ROCHESTER
8 Wickford Way - Fairport, NY 14450
(Rt 490E to 31 E. toward Fairport –
585- 248-5993 Church Office

More and more we are becoming aware of effects of war that may be invisible and that none-the-less have profound consequence. This fall GRCC repeats our program looking at how can we best be agents of healing to those suffering from the trauma of the war in Iraq, both veterans, family members and members of our communities. “Dealing with the Hidden Consequences of War” will help us begin to understand and address both the visible and invisible wounds of war. Dr. A. Peter Ziarnowski, coordinator of the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Program at the Canandaigua, N.Y., VA Medical Center, will keynote the event.

In addition, Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Mary Anne Vitticore and Counselor Les Felhazy will offer focused workshops to help pastoral leaders and family members.

A free-will offering to benefit the Office of Veteran’s Affairs and the ministry of GRCC will be received.

Call ahead to reserve your place at this important event. Call GRCC at 24-2570 or
-- or register on-line with an email to grcc1@frontiernet.net. Please include the words
“hidden consequences” in the subject line. Fax reserve at: 254-6551

GRCC is an association of churches, ecumenical clusters, religious organizations, and denominations working together in our community – sharing in worship, prayer, interfaith dialogue, and justice ministry.

Greetings from the President

Re-establishing Communion Among the Churches

Brother Roger, whose vision in 1940 for reconciliation within the Christian Church gave birth to the Taize Community in France, was killed during evening prayers on August 16. A woman, apparently mentally ill, stabbed him as he prayed with 2500 people.

At the midnight prayers that night, after Brother Roger died, Brother Francois said, "Costly in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his friends."

Brother Roger was 90. He founded the ecumenical monastery right on the line where France was divided during World War II. He sheltered Jews from the Holocaust. His yearning for Christians to come together, his unbreakable spirit, his resolute kindness brought together a hundred brothers from 25 nations and tens of thousands of pilgrims each summer, most of them young. Pope Benedict was in close touch with him. Taize music has spread into many of our churches. Like Brother Roger, it knows no denomination. His death is costly. His life is priceless.

Last December, Brother Roger wrote a letter to be shared with the churches around the world. In his letter he said, "*Re-establishing communion is urgent today; it cannot continually be put off until later, until the end of time. Will we do all we can for Christians to awaken to the spirit of communion?*"

Thank you for lending strength to Brother Roger's vision. We will build in Rochester this beloved community leaping denominational division through the Spirit. As he prayed:

**Holy Spirit, enable us
To turn to you at every moment.
So often we forget that you dwell within us,
that you pray in us, that you love in us.
Your presence in us is trust
and constant forgiveness.**

In the Unity of the Holy Spirit,

Richard Newell Myers, President



BROTHER ROGER OF TAIZÉ
12 May 1915 - 16 August 2005

To Contact GRCC
Call: (585) 254-2570
Fax: 254-6551
Email: grcc1@frontiernet.net
Web: www.grcc.org

Marie Gibson
Administrator
John Wheeler, VP for
Organization

GRCC Bids Farewell to Mary Ellen Denio

After nearly 15 years of service to Church Women United and the community of Rochester, Mary Ellen Denio (better known as “M’ellen”) is retiring as director of that agency, and moving back hometown of Old Forge, New York.

M’ellen is known for her sensitivity to interfaith and race relations. She has served on the Mayor’s BiRacial Committee, the Interfaith of Rochester, participated in the pilot program of Moving Beyond Racism, and worked with NAIN, North American Interfaith Network. She has worked with the Women and Gender Studies at Divinity School, and helped to create and present special ecumenical and interfaith worship services around Monroe County.



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Former board president Sister Beth LeValley had this to say:

“I met Mary Ellen through GRCC and she always seemed to nicely blend... with the task at hand, with the need, mostly with the people. That blending came to great use as she helped me, Reverend Paul Womach, and Rev. Gordon Webster work together to craft a "new vision" for GRCC out of the transition that we were part of at our very beginnings. She is the quiet, behind the scenes worker who has excellent "felt insights" about reality and people. I will miss her.”

Dr. Stephanie Sauve, Dean of Women and Gender Studies says:

“Mary Ellen will be greatly missed here at CRCDS. She served on the Woman and Gender Studies Advisory Board for many years. Mellen's light, wit, wisdom and passion for the other, deepened and enlivened our conversation and programs. She was a blessing... a gift to our journey.”

M’ellen is not retiring from employment, as she will be taking a retail job at the Old Forge Hardware Store. She says she is looking forward to a more laid-back life style, and reconnecting with old friends and family. Although she won’t be “around the corner” anymore, she is only an email away: mellen42@juno.com Drop her a line!

Good luck and Godspeed to a good friend!

Your financial support to GRCC is very important. Won’t you take a moment to renew your church’s/agency’s membership, or send your personal contribution to: **GRCC, 2 Riverside Street, Rochester, New York 14613** – To know more about us, visit our website at www.grcc.org or call us at (585) 254-2570. Thank you!

Name _____

Address _____

Enclosed \$ _____ Phone/Email _____



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Online at www.grcc.org

Mark Your Calendar!

Monday, September 12th – **Moving Beyond Racism Book Club**-- "Lies Across America: What Our Historic Sites Get Wrong" by James W. Loewen – Barnes and Noble, Pittsford Plaza, Monroe Avenue, 7:00 PM. All are welcome. No fee.

Wednesday, September 14th – **The Many Faces of God: An Interfaith Encounter** Presented by: The Rev. C. Denise Yarbrough This is an experiential course in world religions and interfaith dialogue in which Christians have the opportunity to visit places of worship in a variety of major world religious traditions, while engaging Christian theological understanding. All classes will be held at the Inn on Broadway, One Broadway, Rochester (across from Christ Church) and run from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm unless otherwise indicated. Wednesday Evenings and Saturdays in 2005: September 14, Introduction and Islam / October 1, site visit -- October 12, Judaism / October 22, site visit -- November 9, Hinduism / November 12 site visit.

Wednesday, September 14th – **Women of the Well “Re-Membering”** Church of the Transfiguration, 50 W. Bloomfield Road, Pittsford, NY. Time: 7:30 p.m. This production will be a fund raiser for "Step by Step", a ministry to empower women who are, or who have been, incarcerated. Call: 586-3279

Friday, September 16th – 7:45 AM Bagel Breakfast, about the Greater Rochester **Children’s Sabbath** with Dr. Jeffrey Kaczorowski, Executive Director of the Children’s Agenda in Rochester; Jewish Community Federation, 441 East Avenue. RSVP: 254-2620 or michelleyale@frontiernet.net

Programs and events in calendar are not all sponsored by GRCC or its members.

Saturday, September 17th – **Save Our Sisters (SOS) Annual Conference, “Healthy, Wealthy, and Wise.”** Clarion Riverside Hotel, 120 E. Main Street, Rochester; 8AM to 2:30 PM. Call Memorial AME Zion Church at 546-5997.

Friday, September 23rd – **Breaking Cycles of Harm: Victims’ Needs, Offenders’ Responsibilities and Community Empowerment.** St. John Fisher College, Kearney Hall. 8:30 AM registration, program 9AM till 4:00 PM. Includes lunch. For more information and to register call: Finger Lakes Restorative Justice Center 473-0970 or register online at www.flrjc.org

Monday, September 26-- Book signing at the Islamic Center by George Dardess, **“Meeting Islam: A Guide for Christians.”** To know more email: gdardess@yahoo.com

Thursday, October 3rd – **Howard Thurman Lecture** at the Divinity School, featuring Rev. Marvin Chandler; “Remembering FIGHT” – Strong Hall – 7:00 PM. Call: 271-1320 or Email Rev. Lawrence Hargrave at lhargrave@crcls.edu

Monday, October 17th – **Health Care Program** from 6:30 - 8:00 PM--Downtown Community Forum at St. Mary's. Email srbeth1@juno.com

Are you over 60 or disabled? Do you need help with the upkeep and maintenance of your home and yard? If you answered yes, then maybe **Catholic Family Center's HomeWorks Program** can help. Membership in **HomeWorks** provides guaranteed low-cost qualified professional handyman services, an annual home inspection, and a 24-hour response service for emergencies. **Have the comfort in knowing that help is just a phone call away!** For more information, call **HomeWorks at 262-0335**. Email: rbray@cfcrochester.org.