

Contributors

Nancy Ellen Abrams is a lawyer, writer, and former Fulbright scholar, with a long-term interest in the history, philosophy, and politics of science. While working on the staff of the U.S. Congress, she co-created a novel method by which government agencies can make wise policy decisions in cases involving scientific uncertainty, and she has consulted on this for the Swedish government, several state governments, and various corporations. Her articles have appeared in journals, magazines, and books. She has also released three albums of her songs and performed in eighteen countries.

C. Lynn (Carol) Anderson, D.Min., ACSW, completed her doctoral program at the University of Creation Spirituality. Educated and trained in the fields of spirituality, social work, and education, Dr. Anderson offers a fresh voice in capturing the essence of the human/divine connection; she has been described as an "irreverent mystic." She is the author of the spirituality book, *Where All Our Journeys End: Searching for the Beloved in Everyday Life*. C. Lynn currently teaches social work courses at a Michigan university while also working as a therapist on an inpatient psychiatric unit. She owns the business, Sarah's Circle, LLC, which focuses on consultation, education, and training. No stranger to controversy, Dr. Anderson is a political activist regarding GLBTQ issues. She can be contacted at www.sarahscircle.com.

Marvin L. Anderson, Ph.D., works as a consultant on congregational renewal and community development, with an emphasis on rural ministry and small membership churches. Until recently, he worked in the Congregational, Educational and Community Ministries (CECM) Unit at the General Council Office of The United Church of Canada. Prior to that, Marvin held the Endowed Chair of Town and Country Ministries at Saint Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, Missouri, affiliated with the United Methodist Church of America. Marvin lives with his wife and two sons and three cats in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Paula Artac, D.Min., is a professional watercolor artist, art instructor, art therapist and expressive arts therapist with over 25 years of teaching experience. Her paintings have won both local and national recognition and awards. Her "transformational" artwork has been recently on exhibit at the Sedona Cancer Center. She is currently preparing for a solo art exhibit in Phoenix, AZ. As an art therapist, she has developed her *Colors of Life®* art and wellness program. She presents numerous experiential workshops and advanced education classes teaching a cosmological approach to creativity, spirituality and wellness at regional and national conferences. Paula facilitates spirituality-based art and wellness retreats in Arizona and California. She has designed the *Personal Symbol Development©* program at *Sundance*, an holistic drug and alcohol recovery residence in Scottsdale, AZ. Paula is a past doctoral program faculty member at the University of Creation Spirituality, and is currently teaching online expressive arts therapy courses at San Diego University for Integrative Studies as well as holding an adjunct faculty position at Ottawa University in Phoenix, AZ. Paula teaches watercolor and creative expression at the Shemer Art Center and Museum in Phoenix, and Granite Reef Senior Center in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Dorsey O.Blake, D.Min., is Dean of the Faculty and Visiting Professor of Spirituality and Prophetic at Starr King School for the Ministry. He also serves as pastor of the Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples in San Francisco, the nation's first interracial, interfaith congregation. The Rev. Dr. Blake was Vice President for Community Learning at the University of Creation Spirituality and founding co-director of the University of Creation Spirituality's Doctor of Ministry program. He's also the former director of the Graduate Theological Union's Center for Urban Black Studies and a former University of Alabama professor, its first full-time Black male professor. Dr. Blake has extensive experience in field ministry and interfaith, justice and peace work.

J. Melvin (Mel) Bricker, D.Min. in Spiritual Care and Counseling, MA in Creation Spirituality, served for twenty-nine years as a United Methodist clergy in western Michigan. From 1996 to 2005 he was Assistant to Matthew Fox and Co-Director of the Doctor of Ministry program at the University of Creation Spirituality. Mel is semi-retired doing consulting work for Wisdom University, San Francisco, CA, helping to implement an after school program for youth being developed by Friends of Creation Spirituality and doing Spiritual Mentoring. He enjoys living with his companion, Paul Kircher, in Oakland, CA, gardening, cooking, hiking, singing in Berkeley Broadway Singers, attending theatre and concerts and traveling.

Catherine Browning holds a master's degree in Creation Spirituality. She also holds a master's degree in nursing and is a board certified psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioner. Since 2001 she has lived in Kuwait and traveled throughout the Middle East. She is a Middle East educator and liaison. Her book *Blazing Radiance* is a collection of her poems written in the Middle East and structured according to the Four Paths of Creation Spirituality. www.catherinebrowning.com

Amy E. Brucker, M.A., found her calling early in life – to create. At the age of 3 she was given her first easel and paint palette. Shortly thereafter, Amy perfected the art of finger painting. Of course, she didn't stop there. Over the next 30 years Amy set out to explore every creative form she could find, not limiting herself to the arts, but including dancing, singing, drumming and writing. Now she helps others creatively express the stories of their lives through spiritual guidance, dreamwork and web design.

Charles Burack, Ph.D., is an inspirational teacher and gifted coach of integrative approaches to personal transformation and professional development. He is also a widely published writer, award-winning scholar, and author of two books. His innovative approach to teaching, coaching, and training draws on his diverse, twenty-eight year career. Currently, a liberal arts professor and life/work coach as well as a professional writer/editor, Chuck has also worked as a psychology researcher (University of Chicago Medical Center), a strategic planner and communications consultant (Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago), and a professional writer/editor (at numerous institutions). With a Ph.D. in English from UC Berkeley, and Master's degrees in English and Human Development from Northwestern U. and the U. of Chicago, Burack began his teaching career in 1990. He is chair of the Department of Liberal Arts and director of the B.A. Psychology Program at John F. Kennedy University, where he teaches interdisciplinary courses in creativity, psychology, writing/literature, work studies,

and religion. He has also taught at UC Berkeley, St. Mary's College, Naropa University, Oakland, and other universities and institutes. Since 2006, he has volunteered as an interfaith chaplain and grief counselor at Kaiser Permanente Hospital.

Bruce Chilton, Ph.D., is Bell Professor of Religion at Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson and priest at the Free Church of St. John the Evangelist in Barrytown, New York. He is the author of many scholarly articles and books, including *Abraham's Curse: The Roots of Violence in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*; *Rabbi Jesus: An Intimate Biography*; *Rabbi Paul: An Intellectual Biography*; and *Mary Magdalene: A Biography*. He has taught with Matthew Fox on a number of occasions.

Elise Dirlam Ching, RN., M.A., is an Acupressure Massage Therapist and Certified Hypnotherapist. She is an award-winning poet and has been a Registered Nurse at the San Francisco County Jail for twenty-five years.

Kaleo Ching, M.A. Art; is a Certified Acupressure Massage Therapist) and Certified Hypnotherapist. He teaches Chi Kung and massage classes at the Acupressure Institute in Berkeley. He has a private massage/hypnotherapy practice.

Elise and Kaleo co-teach maskmaking for transformation, art-as-healing, and Chi Kung classes for many institutions in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond, including the John F. Kennedy University Arts and Consciousness Program for the past eighteen years. They co-authored *Faces of Your Soul: Rituals in Art, Maskmaking, and Guided Imagery with Ancestors, Spirit Guides, and Totem Animals* and *Chi and Creativity: Vital Energy and Your Inner Artist*. View their Chi Kung video and a gallery of masks with poetry www.kaleoching.com.

Deidre Combs D.Min., founded Combs & Company in 1994 to provide cross-cultural communication and conflict skills enhancement, coaching, strategic planning and team building services. She holds a doctorate focused on world religions from the University of Creation Spirituality. Combs serves as faculty at Montana State University, Naropa University, Prescott College and Wisdom University. Combs is the author of two books, *The Way of Conflict* and *Worst Enemy, Best Teacher*, and has worked with a variety of corporate, non-profit and government clients including Landmine Survivors Network, US Forest Service, Aveda Corporation, Allina Hospitals and Clinics and Young Presidents Organization.

Drew Dellinger is a spoken word poet, teacher, and activist. He is founder of Poets for Global Justice, and author of the collection of poems, *love letter to the milky way*. Dellinger has presented and performed at hundreds of conferences, colleges, protests, and events across the country, speaking on justice, cosmology, ecology, and democracy. Dellinger's poetry has been widely published and his work is featured in the film, "Voices of Dissent," and the books *Igniting a Revolution*, *Children of the Movement*, and *Global Uprising*. In 1997 he received *Common Boundary* magazine's national Green Dove Award. Dellinger has studied cosmology and ecological thought with Thomas Berry since 1990, and has taught at Prescott College, Naropa University-Oakland, Esalen Institute and John F. Kennedy University. www.drewdellinger.org

Jen Delyth is part of the living Celtic tradition. She creates original Celtic paintings and illustrations which explore the language of myth and symbol inspired

by Celtic folklore and the spirit within nature. Her work is informed by the folk motifs and symbols of the ancient Celts, but woven through her experience and vision as a woman of the twenty-first century. Jen's original Celtic artwork has been widely published and exhibited in North America, back in her native Wales and around Europe. Her work has graced the covers of several books including *Celtic Way of Seeing* by Frank MacEowen and *Dictionary of Celtic Myth and Legend* by Miranda Green. www.kelticdesigns.com

Priscilla L. Denham, D.Min., is an ordained United Church of Christ pastor and teacher, currently serving in Massachusetts. She is a Supervisor with the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education and a Fellow with the American Association of Pastoral Counselors and was a chaplain for over twenty years in trauma and psychiatric hospitals, in addition to her work as therapist. Loving the book *Original Blessing* for many years eventually brought her to Oakland to study. She has integrated art-as-meditation practices honed at The University of Creation Spirituality (especially dreamwork, rituals, and writing) into her Jubilee worship services and Spiritual Companionship work. Trust the Blessings.

Mark Dukes was raised by his mother in Columbus, Ohio, and attended Columbus College of Art and Design. Moving to San Francisco, he became a deacon of the African Orthodox Church of the West and a member of St. Gregory's. His iconographic style is based on traditional Orthodox icon painting and shaped by his experience as a contemporary African American. Besides his installations at St. Gregory's, he has painted icons at the African Orthodox Church and at Christ of the Hills Monastery in New Sarov, Texas. His paintings have been exhibited in the Bay Area, at the African-American Museum in Dallas, and at the Sorbonne in Paris; recently his work appeared in the group show "New Visions: Introductions 2005" at Pro Arts Gallery in Oakland, California.

Larry Edwards, Ph.D., earned his degree in chemical-physics from Harvard University. He taught/researched at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, Cal State Northridge, and the California Institute of Technology before moving to the U.S. National Science Foundation. After seventeen years of government service Larry finally realized the depth of today's crisis and left NSF to live and teach at Genesis Farm in Blairstown, NJ. He continues to teach there as well as at the California Institute of Integral Studies and Wisdom University (formerly the University of Creation Spirituality).

Riane Eisler is internationally known as author of *The Chalice and The Blade*, *Sacred Pleasure*, the award-winning *Tomorrow's* and *The Power of Partnership*. Eisler is a scholar, author, educator, organizer, and social activist. Her honors include the first ERA Alice Paul Award. She is a Commissioner of the World Commission for Global Spirituality and Consciousness. She was named in *Macrohistory and Macrohistorians* as one of the 20 most important macrohistorians of the last 300 years and identified by *The Utne Reader* as one of the world's 100 most important social visionaries. Her most recent book is *The Real Wealth of Nations: Creating a Caring Economics*.

Susan Coppage Evans, D.Min., is the President of *Creation Spirituality Communities, Inc.* which envisions "a network of communities ranging from intentional groups to alternative churches, which are grounded in the tenets of Creation Spirituality and revere the sacredness of all creation". After two decades in

the psychiatric field, she now provides support for mind, body and spiritual wellness through her consulting company, *WholeHearted, Inc.* She is a founding partner of the *Eating Recovery Center*, a treatment center for eating disordered women and is on the leadership team of *One River: a Creation Spirituality Community* in Lakewood, Colorado.

Richard Fabian is founder of All Saints Company and co-founder of St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church. Since the early days of his ordained ministry, Rick has offered to the church an extraordinary ability to synthesize modern church growth models with patristic theology and practice. He realized his life-long dream to found a church on the teaching of the Cappadocian theologians with the founding of St. Gregory of Nyssa in 1978, which has developed an international reputation as a center for the development of Christian worship. A highly-regarded liturgical scholar, he is a member of the international *Societas Liturgica* and the North American Academy of Liturgy. He continues to lecture and write, and his church music compositions are published in various Episcopalian service books.

Caitlin Flynn-Nieves is a nationally published artist and educator, who has been involved in arts and education for over twenty-five years. Her work is influenced by her Celtic spiritual heritage and Tibetan Buddhist spiritual beliefs – all of which honor the sacred in nature. Caitlin has offered classes in contemplative, expressive and fine arts, and currently teaches mosaic art and organizes children's mural projects in Mexico.

Netti Garner, D. Min., MSN, RN., graduated from the University of Creation Spirituality in 2006. Her focus of study was how chant reveals mystical experience. Netti leads interfaith chant gatherings, using affirming language and *Yoga of Sound* musical concepts to create an environment that allows the participant to become aware of their deep spiritual nature. Inspired by her studies in Creation Spirituality and by Russill Paul's chant courses, Netti has written a number chants that aim to bridge Eastern chant principles into Western musical traditions. When Netti is not chanting she leads Interdisciplinary Yoga classes at Priory Farm and teaches nursing at Lane Community College in Eugene, Oregon. Visit Netti's website for more details: prioryfarm.org.

Linda George discovered Matthew Fox's writings in 1978. She was attending graduate seminary at the time, but had never heard of the Creation Spirituality tenets or the mystics who exemplified them. She felt as though she had finally found her way home, and her life has not been the same since. After thirty years of full-time pastoral ministry, including a twenty-four year career as an Army Chaplain, Linda is now working on a PhD dissertation from Wisdom University, focusing on the spiritual wisdom of Rabindranath Tagore. She is also singing professionally, following another lifelong passion. Linda feels so grateful for her life, and for her husband Wayne, their houseful of dogs and cats, and all the love that sustains her.

Barbara Getrost is the founder of *Pregnant Earth.com*. She has had a passion for art all of her life, yet remained sufficiently distracted from any direct pursuit of it. It came in pursuit of her with mystical, yet insistent visions of gloriously pregnant women. Not necessarily wishing for a child, she was somewhat perplexed but began to notice the glaring lack of such visions in a world completely inundated with imagery of the female body. The harder she looked, the

more disturbed by this inexplicable absence she became and this is what propelled her forth, into creating only art that celebrates the beauty and power of the pregnant body. As such, she is a self-taught artist, now. Born and educated in New Zealand, she has lived and travelled in cultures throughout the world and currently lives in Northern California with her husband and their cat!

William Gordon, D.Min., is a Maine native now living in Chicago. He is an author, trainer, and empowerment coach with twenty-six years of pastoral experience. The focus of his spiritual work has been community and personal transformation, with an emphasis on the role of patriarchy as a cultural organizer.

Khady Gueye is a Doctoral student at the Sorbonne, in Paris. She holds Master's degrees in Intercultural Mediation and Mediation with NGOs, from L'Institut Catholique de Paris (where Matthew Fox earned a Ph.D). She is a Senegalese native, living away from her family with two children in order to attain a western education. When not in Paris, she lives in Dakar.

Gina Rose Halpern, D.Min., is the Founder and Co-Director of the Chaplaincy Institute for Arts and Interfaith Ministries, and the author / illustrator of *To Heal the Broken Heart*, published by ChI Press in 2003. She is an internationally known visual artist, with works displayed around the world. She continues to exhibit her work, including exhibitions at Marin General Hospital and the Institute for Health & Healing. She has been the Executive Director for Healing Through the Arts, a nonprofit organization created to build bridges between the creative arts and the healing arts. Previously she also was the administrator of Antioch College's Buddhist Studies Program in India, leading educational groups in India and Nepal for ten years. Rev. Halpern has been on the board of the Society for Arts in Healthcare, and designed healthcare facilities, including work for The Children's Hospital in San Diego. In 1995 she toured Russian pediatric hospitals as a clown with Patch Adams, MD and in Gesundheit Institute. She is a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design. She received her Masters in Culture and Creation spirituality from Holy Names University in Oakland, CA., and her Doctor of Ministry degree from The University of Creation Spirituality. Rev. Halpern has been on the faculty of John F. Kennedy University and the Naropa, Oakland - The University of Creation Spirituality. She is the author and illustrator of the bilingual children's book *Where is Tibet?* www.ginarosehalpern.com; www.chaplaincyinstitute.org

Howard Hanger was described by one reviewer as more of a verb than a noun. Howard describes himself as A.D.D. For more than 30 years Howard Hanger served as an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church. He left the denomination so that he could continue to officiate same-sex ceremonial unions. Both his father and grandfather were Methodist Ministers, one of whom left the church over his opposition to war and the other got into trouble with the church over his pro-civil rights stance. Howard believes that, as a minister, his mission is to bless and encourage love wherever he finds it and to bring love where it is not. Howard has founded and still works with Jubilee! Community church, Jazz Fantasy music business, and Hanger Hall School for girls.

Andrew Harvey, Ph.D., is a world-renowned religious scholar and author. Born in South India in 1952, he studied at Oxford University and became the youngest Fellow ever elected to the prestigious All Soul's College. He has devoted his career to studying, teaching and writing on the world's mystical traditions. His

books include *Son of Man; The Direct Path; Journey to Ladakh; and The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying*.

Matthew Henry, D.Min., lives with his wife and two daughters on a small farm in the Nambucca Valley, on the east coast of Australia. His work has included teaching, youth work, web technologies, and conference leadership. As a songwriter, Matt has released several CDs (www.paintedguitar.com). He obtained a Doctorate in Ministry from the University of Creation Spirituality, and has assisted Matthew Fox in teaching and with research writing. He is a board member of Creation Spirituality Communities, Inc.

Jennifer Hereth is a painter. She has had over thirty exhibitions in museums and galleries in North and South America. She taught for the University of Creation and Spirituality for ten years, at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and in Egypt, Costa Rica, Mexico and Brazil. Jennifer is currently Professor of Painting at The College of DuPage, in Illinois. In 1992 Jennifer received a three-year Kellogg Grant and was part of a think tank in Central and South America. In 2000 she received the Chicago Women's Today Award, *100 Women Who Make a Difference*. In 2001 she was named *Volunteer of the Year* for the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless. She has two sons, Wyn and Gus.

José Hobday is an acclaimed international speaker, author and social activist. Sister José is a Seneca elder and a sister of the Order of St. Francis. Although she has post-graduate degrees, she refers to herself as a student of life and a missionary-at-large. José taught indigenous studies at Boston College and UCLA and was a member of the faculty of the University of Creation Spirituality from its inception. She has worked closely with many Native American communities, and now lives with the Yakima community in Tucson. Howard Zinn, Caesar Chavez and the Dalai Lama are among the many people with whom she has worked and spoken. She is the author of *Simple Living*, and *Stories of Awe and Abundance*.

Richard E. Kuykendall, D.Min., is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. He graduated in the first doctoral class at the University of Creation Spirituality in 1999. His dissertation was entitled, *Tarot Meditations: A Reflection Informed by Creation Spirituality*. He has also published two books: *Liturgies of the Earth*, a book of rituals that follows the wheel of the year, and *Prophetess of the Earth* which is a rewriting of the Gospels and Apocalypse with a feminine Christ-figure who teaches "the gospel of the way of the earth." He has also given birth to a spiritual community in 1990 called "Spiritwind." Spiritwind is an eclectic group of "spiritual adventurers" which meets in two locations--one in Tehachapi, CA and the other where he is currently minister at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Auburn, CA.

Juli C. Lasselle is originally from Berkeley, Ca. After receiving a BFA in Theatre at New York University, she moved to Ireland where she pursued her love of photography. A member of the Photographic Society of Ireland, she taught and showed her photography throughout Ireland winning several awards. Her photographs are in private collections throughout the US and Europe. She is currently represented by Ann Flynn of the Art Bar and Tiburon Fine Art Gallery in Tiburon, Ca. Ms. Lasselle went to graduate school at University College Dublin where she graduated with an MA in Film Studies. She returned to the US and attended the

University of Creation Spirituality before her love of film called her to write/direct/produce the award winning short documentary *Man Meets Bull*, the award winning short film *love Francesca* and her debut feature *Locked*. She is currently working on her new feature: *Grief & Violence*. Further information can be found at www.mandorlapictures.com.

Sandra Gillogly Lee, B.S., M.Div., D.Min., is a retired Unitarian Universalist minister and Hospice chaplain. She received her BS from Oklahoma Central State University, MDiv from Vancouver School of Theology - University of British Columbia, and DMin from University of Creation Spirituality. Reverend Lee has served congregations in Oregon, Washington and Colorado. Before entering the professional ministry, she studied chemistry and worked in medical research for private and governmental institutions. She grew up on the plains of Oklahoma, where her family homesteaded in the Land Run. This stark landscape nurtured a generous love of life and an unending curiosity about the workings of the world. Her ministry focus has been an interfaith exploration and celebration of compassion, justice, interdependence and beauty for all species and the Earth. She currently resides in Grand Junction Colorado.

Michael Lerner is editor of Tikkun Magazine www.tikkun.org, chair of the interfaith international organization The Network of Spiritual Progressives (NSP) www.spiritualprogressives.org, author of eleven books including *Healing Israel/Palestine* and the 2006 national best-seller *The Left Hand of God*, rabbi of Beyt Tikkun synagogue-without-walls in S.F. and Berkeley, Ca., and a leading voice in the American Jewish world for repentance, reconciliation and peace between Israel and Palestine.

Tracy E. Longacre, MLA., is an Episcopal Deacon currently living and working in Cameroon where she is an organizational development advisor to local civil society organizations. She has been an avid photographer since her teens and has had the privilege of photographing people and places in many places around the world. Her favorite creative outlet is creating uplifting photo/music slideshows. You can see more of her photography, including her thesis for her MLA in Creation Spirituality at www.telphoto.com and read about her adventures in Cameroon at <http://telcameroon.vox.com>. Tracy is close to completing her Doctorate in Ministry.

Michael Mansfield, D.Min., is a faculty member in the Department of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies at the University of California at Berkeley training people to use theater for social change and justice-making. He has been a part of the Creation Spirituality Community as student and faculty for twenty-two years. He is a renowned ritualist and prayer-maker (Rezandero). His overly-wed husband, Randy Sweringen, works as a development director for the College of Engineering at the University of California at Berkeley at CITRIS – The Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society.

Fred Matser is an inspiring humanitarian who, like many others, cares deeply about the future of the planet. He has made it his life's work to contribute towards creating a more functional society by means of inspiration and empowerment. Towards this end he has been a (co-)initiator, (co-)creator and (co-)financer on a wide range of projects and over fifteen foundations in both The Netherlands and abroad since 1983. The projects as well as the foundations cover the fields of healthcare, environment, conservation, peace and global

transformation. The main themes of his work are the encouragement of inspiration, co-creativity and harmony: within the individual; between people; between people and their environment; and re-balancing the equilibrium of the male and female principle in humans.

Kate McLennan, D.Min., is a singer/songwriter, Interfaith Minister, writer, and leukemia survivor whose story was filmed by the Lance Armstrong Foundation's website (livestrong.org). She earned her Doctor of Ministry degree from the University of Creation Spirituality, and was given dharma transmission from Buddhist teacher, Robert Beatty, in Portland, Oregon. Kate is an accomplished performing artist and teacher, and was among the first group to be ordained as an Interfaith Minister in Creation Spirituality. Visit her website www.katemclennan.com for information on her three albums of original music, one-woman show, and upcoming book *The Messy Buddha: Dancing on the Soul's Growing Edge*.

Sheila Mee, D.Min, BCC, is the Coordinator of Pastoral and Spiritual Care at Children's Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska. For many years she was an evangelical missionary, teaching theology in various countries in Latin America. Long before she could name it, she began embracing Creation Spirituality. This gradual embrace eventually caused her to question her traditional beliefs and she began the slow process of discarding what she no longer knew to be true. She struggled with articulating the core beliefs that were emerging. It was only while reading Matthew Fox's *Original Blessing* that Sheila realized there were others out there who believed as she did. Being able to name her deepest truths has provided impetus for her ongoing transformation.. Sheila is married to Fred Gilbert. She has two daughters and eight grandchildren. In addition to drawing and painting, she is an avid gardener.

Cynthia Merten is a pioneering church educator who has made active and creative learning in church settings a reality for countless children, youth and adults. An innovative proponent of the Multiple Intelligences model, Cindy has literally transformed churches to the amazement and delight of joyfully-participating congregations. Most recently, Cindy has co-created groundbreaking programs for including children with disabilities in the life of a congregation, and serves on the Board of Directors of Variety FAR, a non-profit therapeutic and performing arts conservatory for children with special needs. Cindy lives in Michigan with her husband and their three holiday-returning college-aged children.

Caroline Myss is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling books *Invisible Acts of Power*, *Sacred Contracts*, *Why People Don't Heal and How They Can*, and *Anatomy of the Spirit*, and is a pioneer and international lecturer in human consciousness. In 2003, she founded the CMED Institute, an educational program that specializes in intensive classes on archetypes, personal power, and mysticism. Her audiotapes include *Entering the Castle* (Hay House) and *Why People Don't Heal and How They Can; Spiritual Madness; and Spiritual Power, Spiritual Practice* (Sounds True). Her work is featured on her popular website www.myss.com. She lives in Oak Park, Illinois.

Paul Morin has had a constant love affair with the written word since he was seven years old and discovered the joy of reading. That love of words continues to this day as he attends Hope College where he studies English and creative writing. He can often be found sitting at his desk, writing down the stories of the

characters that get stuck in his head. After graduating he plans to further his writing career and he would be much obliged if you enjoy his work should you ever come across one of his books (on the best sellers shelves, in the bargain bin, or in trash can).

Diarmuid O'Murchu, M.S.C., a member of the Sacred Heart Missionary Order, and a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin Ireland, is a social psychologist whose entire working life has been in social ministry. In that capacity he has worked as a couple's counsellor, in bereavement work, AIDS-HIV counselling and laterally with homeless people and refugees. As a workshop leader and group facilitator he has worked in Europe, USA, Canada, Australia, The Philippines, Thailand, India, Peru and in several African countries, facilitating programmes on Adult Faith Development. His best known books include *Quantum Theology* (1996 - revised in 2004), *Reclaiming Spirituality* (1998), *Evolutionary Faith* (2002), *Catching Up with Jesus* (2005), *The Transformation of Desire* (2007).

Lisa Ota, RD, MPH, MA, is a Registered Dietician with a passion for the relationship between food and spirituality. Her message about the unbreakable links between the divine and food is the result of over twenty years of academic, professional and personal exploration. She has developed wellness programs for various non-profit organizations, governmental agencies, and corporations and currently serves on The UC Berkeley Wellness Letter Advisory Committee. On Earth Day 2007, she launched *SacredBite: nutrition education that's simply divine* (www.sacredbite.com), an innovative website that nourishes our relationship with food for the benefit of our individual, communal, and environmental well-being. SacredBite helps people begin to recover the body-centered spirituality necessary to restore our natural relationship with the environment and to bring about eco-justice. Lisa is a proud native of the San Francisco Bay Area and is currently working toward certification in shamanic soul coaching.

Colleen O'Toole is a graduate of Alma College (MI) with a Bachelor's degree in Religious Studies and Sociology (2008). There she studied under the late Bishop Thomas Mar Makarios of the Indian Orthodox Church. Colleen served as a Corps Member in the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps from October 2005 through July 2006. She has experience as a camp counselor, camp chaplain, tutor, and construction worker. Her greatest passion is service to others. She has had the amazing opportunity of traveling to Poland for a one month intensive course on the "Holocaust: Causes and Legacies" (spring of 2007). There she worked to restore a Jewish Cemetery, visited Auschwitz, Berlin, and other historic landmarks. Colleen is pursuing a career in the nonprofit sector.

John Jerry-Anthony Parente, D.Min, holds degrees in art, theology and spirituality. He has lived in monasteries and as a lay contemplative with a committed spiritual practice that draws from the east as well as the west. John's teaching on the world's contemplative traditions for eighteen years on the college/graduate school levels as well as his twenty-three years working as a widely exhibited professional artist-painter has received outstanding acclaim. He was a resident scholar at the Institute for Ecumenical & Cultural Research (MN), the Executive Director of The Christine Center (WI), and the Director of Campus Ministry at Seton College (NY) and the former co-Director of the University of Creation Spirituality's D.Min program

Ana Perez-Chisti, Ph.D., is the Chair of the Global PhD Program at the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology in Palo Alto, California. She is a lineage holder and National Representative for the Sufi Movement International and is an ordained minister and senior spiritual guide (Murshida). She has lectured internationally bringing the subjects of Unity of Religious Ideals, Feminist Philosophy, Non-violent communication methods, and Social Psychology to many universities worldwide. She has dedicated years of work in the field assisting aid organizations in their support of countries where natural disaster, war, and famine have disabled communities. She was the director of the Prison Library Project which encouraged inmates and families to seek supportive educational and counseling assistance. She worked with Mother Teresa in her efforts to set up the Mission of Charity center in San Francisco and supported her efforts with the poor at the Kalighat in Calcutta, India. She has a black belt in Shorin-Ryu Karate and studied with Sensai's Jack Saito and Richard Kim of San Francisco. She also studied Kendo for over a decade with the revered Kendo master, Reverend Sui Shin Kan from Japan. Sections of her published articles and texts can be found on www.sufimovement.net and on www.itp.edu

Mary Plaster, M.A., is a multi-media artist, working across various genres of street theater, studio art and film for over twenty-five years. Her formal background concentrated on mixed media painting, ranging from large scenic designs and murals to tiny Russian Byzantine icons. Informally, most of her life she has worked with the animated sculptural medium of giant street puppetry—her “dancing icons.” She finds the folk art nature of it more universally accessible because the process encourages (gives heart to) a community of participants, rather than merely entertaining lone spectators in a television culture. She was awarded a 2008 Arrowhead Regional Arts Council Individual Artist Grant in order to study with Peter Schumann's Bread and Puppet Theatre in Vermont. She has also received travel scholarships for photography and digital video in India and France. Mary lives on Spirit Mountain near Duluth, Minnesota with her family, which is appropriate for a doctoral student in Creation Spirituality. www.maryplaster.com

Betsy Porter of Oakland, CA, has been painting Byzantine-style icons ever since 1997, when she enrolled in a workshop of the Prosopon School of Iconology, instructed by its founder, Vladislav Andrejev. She writes, “Although iconography is challenging, it feels natural to me. I have always taken pleasure in making, looking at, feeling, living among wonderful things. The symbolism and theory of iconography delight me. After studying with Valdislav, I could never again look at art the same way! Here was art as it had once been, and was becoming for me – a rich synthesis of the intellectual, aesthetic, material, and spiritual.” Betsy teaches iconography at her church, St. Gregory of Nyssa in San Francisco, CA. Because painting an icon is so time-consuming, she can produce only a few pieces each year. As a day job, she practices architecture in San Francisco. Learn more about Byzantine-style iconography at Betsy's website, www.betsyporter.com.

Melanie Porter, D.Min., serves as a hospice chaplain. Her Christian roots are enriched by various writers of Creation Spirituality, as well as the New Thought movement. Melanie's spirituality is inspired by being outdoors in nature, and engaging the creative process. She shares life with her long-time domestic partner, artist Gary Kunz, and their four-legged and winged friends. They live in a hundred-year-old bungalow in a high desert valley, resting in the early morning shadow of

the Grand Mesa, on the northern bank of the Colorado River (Grand Junction, CO). Melanie is an active member of One River: A Creation Spirituality Community (www.oneriver-csc.org) based in Lakewood, CO.

Arleigh Prelow is an independent documentary filmmaker and writer. Through her company, InSpirit Communications and Film, she aspires to produce creative, well-crafted work which enlightens, engages and, at its core, inspires its audiences. Arleigh is currently completing *Howard Thurman*, a widely anticipated feature-length documentary on Dr. Howard Thurman, one of the pre-eminent spiritual and intellectual figures of the twentieth century. Arleigh Prelow is based in Berkeley, CA, USA

Joel R. Primack, Ph.D., a professor of physics at the University of California Santa Cruz, has done foundational research in cosmology. He and his team use some of the world's biggest supercomputers to simulate the evolution of the universe, and they compare the results with observational data. He has recently chaired the Forum on Physics and Society of the American Physical Society, as well as the Committee on Science, Ethics, and Religion of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He is a coauthor of *Advice and Dissent: Scientists in the Political Arena*.

Sea Raven, D.Min., is a free-lance writer, harper, and worship leader. Her innovative music, earth-based liturgies, and life celebrations are grounded in post-modern Christian scholarship, and focused on justice, peace, and the integrity of creation. Sea Raven's doctoral project, *The Wheel of the Year: A Worship Book for Creation Spirituality*, provides worship experiences that spring from pre-Christian Celtic spirituality, post-modern cosmology, and the theology and four-path principles of Creation Spirituality as developed by Rev. Dr. Matthew Fox. The project is published on her website along with her blog, *Liberal Christian Commentary*, on the readings of the Christian Revised Common Lectionary. Gaia Rising! Theology and Cosmology for the 3rd Millennium of the Common Era, www.gaiarising.org.

Robert Rice is a visual artist with a concentration in painting and design. His visual art career has been combined with an intense interest in modern dance and choreography. Along with his creative work he has worked in arts administration and teaching. He taught for over 20 years at the Wisdom and Naropa Universities in Oakland, under the leadership of theologian Matthew Fox. In 1993 Rice retreated to the wilderness for two and a half years. During this period he devoted his entire time to painting. Now living in Sebastopol, California, he continues his creative work full time.

John Robinson holds doctorates in clinical psychology and ministry and is an ordained interfaith minister, author, and mystic. After three decades of clinical practice, three books on the psychology-spirituality interface, and years of teaching, he now lives and writes from an island in the Puget Sound. His new book, *Finding Heaven Here*, will be published in January, 2009. You can learn more about his work at www.johnrobinson.org.

Beverly Rubik earned her Ph.D. in biophysics from the University of California at Berkeley. She is renowned for her work on the biofield at Institute for Frontier Science, a nonprofit laboratory that she founded in Emeryville, CA. Her main research area is the subtle energetics of living systems, and her work has been

supported by NIH funding. She has published over eighty papers and two books. Dr. Rubik presently serves on the editorial boards of *Journal of Alternative & Complementary Medicine*, *Integrative Medicine Insights*; and *Revision*. She is also adjunct professor in Integrative Health at Saybrook Graduate School in San Francisco; a consultant on maverick healthcare products; and a holistic health practitioner to clients at Health Medicine Center in Walnut Creek, CA. She has taught with Matthew Fox at both the Institute in Culture and Creation Spirituality, and the University of Creation Spirituality. www.frontiersciences.org

Sandy Eisenberg Sasso was the first woman ordained from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and received her Doctor of Ministry from Christian Theological Seminary. She is an award winning children's author, with titles including *God's Paintbrush* and *In God's Name*. Her most recent book for adults was published in spring, 2007, *God's Echo: Exploring Scripture with Midrash*. She and her husband, Dennis C. Sasso have been rabbis of Congregation Beth-El Zedeck in Indianapolis since 1977.

Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, better known as "Reb Zalman," was born in Zholkiew, Poland, in 1924. Raised largely in Vienna, his family was forced to flee the Nazi oppression in 1938. He was ordained in 1947, received his Master of Arts degree in the Psychology of Religion in 1956 from Boston University and a Doctor of Hebrew Letters degree from Hebrew Union College in 1968. Throughout his long career, Reb Zalman has been an unending resource for the world religious community. He is the father of the Jewish Renewal and Spiritual Eldering movements, an active teacher of Hasidism and Jewish Mysticism, and a participant in ecumenical dialogues throughout the world, including the widely influential dialogue with the Dalai Lama, documented in the book, *The Jew in the Lotus*. One of the world's foremost authorities on Hasidism, he is the author of *Wrapped in a Holy Flame: Teachings and Tales of the Hasidic Masters*. His latest book is *Jewish with Feeling: A Guide to Meaningful Jewish Practice*, written with Joel Segel. Reb Zalman currently lives in Boulder, Colorado, and continues to be active in mentoring his many students the world over.

Rupert Sheldrake, Ph.D., one of the world's most innovative biologists, is best known for his theory of morphic fields and morphic resonance, which leads to a vision of a living, developing universe with its own inherent memory. He first worked in developmental biology at Cambridge University, and is currently Director of the Perrott-Warrick project. His books include *Natural Grace* and *The Physics of Angels* (both with Matthew Fox), and *The Sense of Being Stared At*, *Dogs That Know When Their Owners Are Coming Home*, and *Seven Experiments that Could Change the World*.

Keith Smith is an indigenous Australian of the Kamilaroi people. He engages in traditional and other artwork, involving painting, burning and carving. Besides his creativity expressed through art, Keith is gifted in working with animals and playing with children of all ages.

Jeremy Taylor, Ph.D., an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister, has worked with dreams for over thirty years; he blends the values of spirituality with an active social conscience and a Jungian perspective. Founding member and past president of the Association for the Study of Dreams, he has written three books integrating dream symbolism, mythology, and archetypal energy. The latest is: *The*

Living Labyrinth: Universal Themes in Myths, Dreams and the Symbolism of Waking Life. His earlier books, *Where People Fly* and *Water Runs Uphill*, and *Dream Work*, have been translated into many languages.

Luisah Teish is the founder and president of Ile Orunmila Oshun. She holds a chieftancy title in the Fatunmise lineage as head Oshun Priest in the United States. Teish is a writer, storyteller and creative projects consultant. She is the author of *Jambalaya: The Natural Woman's Book of Personal Charms and Practical Rituals*, *Carnival of the Spirit*, and *Jump Up: Good Times Throughout the Season with Celebrations from Around the World*. Teish is internationally known for her performances of African, Caribbean, and African-American folklore and feminist myth. She teaches at New College of California, John F. Kennedy University, and Naropa, Oakland and serves as a consultant for writing, ritual, performance and other creative projects. Teish is the Vice President of the Association for Transpersonal Psychology and the founder of the School of Ancient Mysteries and Sacred Arts Center in Oakland, CA.

Karma Lekshe Tsomo teaches Buddhism and World Religions at the University of San Diego. A fully ordained American nun practicing in the Tibetan tradition, she is president of Sakyadhita: International Association of Buddhist Women and has helped organize nine national and international Sakyadhita conferences since 1987. She helped found eight education programs for women in the India Himalayas. Her books include *Sakyadhita: Daughters of the Buddha: Buddhism Through American Women's Eyes*; *Innovative Buddhist Women: Swimming Against the Stream*; *Sisters in Solitude: Two Traditions of Monastic Ethics for Women*; *Buddhist Women Across Cultures: Realizations*; *Living and Dying in Buddhist Cultures* (with David W. Chappell).

James F. Yockey, M.A, M.S., is a percussionist, a published poet and author of *Meditations with Nicholas of Cusa*. He has an MA in Spirituality and Culture from ICCS Holy Names College and an MS in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin Madison. Currently he works as CEO of URS Inc., an energy brokering and consulting firm specializing in energy systems and software for creating tribally owned and operated utility organizations for Indian Tribes throughout the US and Canada. He lives with his wife, Mary and son, Judah in Madison, Wisconsin and Flagstaff, Arizona.