



Santa Sabina Center



PROGRAM
2020

Fostering
Contemplative
Ways of Being



PRIVATE RETREAT OPTIONS

In 2020 we have three regular monthly offerings:

- Tuesday evening, the Music of Hildegard
- Wednesday, the Day of Prayer
- Wednesday evening, the Teilhard de Chardin study circle

See special opportunities below. Each option requires pre-registration and pre-payment at least one week in advance.



Tuesday 3 p.m. to Wednesday 3 p.m. – \$100

Includes overnight stay on Tuesday, participation in the Hildegard evening and the Day of Prayer; light breakfast and deli sandwich on Wednesday.



Wednesday 9 a.m. to Thursday 10 a.m. – \$100

Includes Wednesday Day of Prayer, deli sandwich on Wednesday, Wednesday evening Teilhard study circle, overnight stay on Wednesday and light breakfast on Thursday morning.



Tuesday 3 p.m. to Thursday 10 a.m. – \$175

Includes Hildegard evening, Wednesday Day of Prayer, Wednesday evening Teilhard study circle, two overnights, light breakfast Wednesday and Thursday mornings and deli sandwich on Wednesday.



Private Stays by Arrangement – contact for current rate

Private stays at other times may be arranged when our calendar permits. An overnight stay includes a light breakfast. Single or double occupancy may be arranged. Requires pre-registration and non-refundable deposit of \$25 at least two weeks in advance.

RESIDENTIAL RETREAT SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGE

We are pleased to offer a rich and diverse set of programs for 2020. Should you like the idea of participating in more than one of these programs, perhaps the subscription options below will be especially attractive.



Three Weekend Retreats: \$1200

Requires pre-registration for the three retreats and payment in full at least one month prior to the first program.



One Week-long Retreat and One Weekend Retreat: \$1025

Requires pre-registration for the two retreats and payment in full at least one month prior to the first program.

Dear Friends of Santa Sabina,

In a world of tumult and turmoil, it is a relief to know that our spiritual practices can help us ground ourselves. I often find myself turning to and challenged by the words of theologian Karl Rahner, SJ: “In the days ahead, you will either be a mystic (one who has experienced God for real) or nothing at all.” Rahner, who died in 1984, knew even then that our lives and our future require the deep grounding and confidence that we are held in and supported by grace. We can easily sense the concern of being “nothing at all” as we see the despair and helplessness that pervades so many people in our country and around the world. And, yet, there is hope in turning ourselves toward the divine gifts that surround us. There is hope when we touch one another with kindness and generosity; there is hope when we support one another with prayer.

We invite you to find your way to Santa Sabina in the New Year to enjoy the opportunities to experience “contemplative ways of being.” Whether your doorway to the contemplative is writing, music, or praying with Scripture, we have some very special opportunities in 2020. Jane Hirshfield returns and evokes the sacred through the art and craft of poetry. Sr. Patricia Bruno, OP, draws from both the Psalms and poetry to guide us more deeply into the silence. Dr. Kayleen Asbo takes us into the poetry of *The Divine Comedy of Dante Alighieri* through music and various prayer forms to open our hearts to the Great Mystery, while Veronica Mary Rolf uses the Christian Scriptures to explore life’s journey.

Both summer retreats provide for longer explorations – Fr. Joe Nassal, CPPS, suggests that the call of the Gospel is to become a new creation; and Fr. Tony Gittins, CSSp, refreshes our lens on the fundamentals of the Christian calling.

Even as Rahner challenges us to “be a mystic,” he reassures us with these words: “When one is with God in awe and love, then he/she is praying.”

Abundant blessings to you and your circle of friends and loved ones as Advent, the Season of Gratitude and Light, comes near. We look forward to welcoming you to pray with us as we approach the New Year. A blessed and holy holiday season to you from all of us at Santa Sabina,

**Sisters Margaret and Raya
and the Staff of Santa Sabina Center**



Retreat weekend with Jane Hirshfield

Invitations, Inventions, Inventories and Turnstiles: A Poetry Writing Retreat

“The most commonplace truth, when it floods the *whole soul*, is a revelation,” wrote Simone Weil. William Stafford described a writer as “not so much someone who has something to say as he is someone who has found a process that will bring about new things he would not have thought of if he had not started to say them.” Almost anything can become the invitation

and turnstile of discovery. Each new poem can invoke a deepened comprehension – or, sometimes as useful, a deepened incomprehension. One right word can summon and sum a life’s moments or lengths. Participants will have ample time for attending to outer and inner worlds, to undertake new writing, and to contemplate the poems of others, in both silence and conversation.

Internationally renowned poet, essayist and translator Jane Hirshfield is the author of fourteen much-honored books. Her books have received numerous awards and have been named best books of the year in many noteworthy publications. Jane’s work appears in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *Harper’s*, and *Poetry*, as well as in ten editions of *The Best American Poetry*. Her ninth poetry collection, *Ledger*, will be released in March 2020.

Fee for the program with 3 nights lodging and meals: \$475. Register by December 20, 2019: \$425
Commuter fee includes meals: \$400. Register by December 20, 2019: \$375
Deposit: \$200



Retreat weekend with Patricia Bruno, OP

Grace Abounds — Exploring Our Own Spiritual Narrative

Grace abounds when we take the time to listen. What decisions, unexpected choices, joys and surrenders have deepened our faith and brought us to our contemporary religious practices. Using scripture, contemporary writings, poetry and journaling, we will discover the moments of grace that have formed us and the Wisdom that enables us to live more fully into our unfolding

futures with hope. Join us during this weekend as we each explore our own spiritual narrative.

Patricia Bruno, OP, a member of the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael, is a well-known itinerant preacher, traveling throughout the year to provide parish retreats across the United States with her preaching partner, Jude Siciliano, OP, a member of the Southern Province of Dominican friars. Sister Patricia writes regularly sharing her insights into Scripture through her monthly newsletter, “Stories Seldom Heard.” As in all of her retreats, she will bring her love of the Christian scriptures, poetry and ritual, as well as the fruit of her own prayer, to share with retreatants in this contemplative exploration.

Fee for the program with 3 nights lodging and meals: \$450. Register by April 15, 2020: \$400
Commuter fee includes meals: \$375. Register by April 15, 2020: \$350
Deposit: \$200

July 7 – 12, 2020

Retreat week with Joe Nassal, CPPS

Making All Things New: Becoming a New Creation

When we hear that something is “new and improved,” we anticipate it is better than the “old” model. But on the journey of faith, a “new creation” is the promise of transformation that comes from God’s generous grace. The call of the gospels is to become a new creation in the Risen Christ. It is the profound belief that each and every person, made in God’s image and likeness, can be restored and renewed in Christ. No matter where we are on our journey, God offers the possibility of a new beginning. This week-long contemplative retreat will explore in practical and prayerful ways what it means to become a new creation and to serve with a renewed sense of purpose and passion for life.



Joe Nassal, CPPS, is the author of eight books including *The Conspiracy of Compassion*, *Premeditated Mercy*, and *Moments of Truth*. A Missionary of the Precious Blood, Fr. Joe has been extensively engaged in retreat, renewal and reconciliation ministry. He was involved in establishing the Precious Blood Center for Reconciliation on the south side of Chicago, and has served in parish, justice and peace, formation, and vocation ministries, as well as serving in provincial leadership for his community. Recently he has returned to Berkeley, CA, where he is involved in establishing a Mission House of Prayer for those on the margins.

Fee for the program with 5 nights lodging and meals: \$625. Register by May 15, 2020: \$575
Commuter fee includes meals: \$550. Register by June 15, 2020: \$525
Deposit: \$250

August 4 – 9, 2020

Retreat with Anthony Gittins, CSSp

Seek First the Realm of God

In the silence of our six contemplative days together we will explore the meaning and critical importance of Christian Spirituality, revisiting such fundamental aspects of our spirituality as hope, imagination, conversion, Eucharist and the call to grow in age and wisdom. Our exploration will be infused afresh with the spirit of adventure. We invite you to join us for this opportunity to renew ourselves in the core of the Christian tradition with a master teacher and theologian.



Anthony Gittins, CSSp, is a native of England and a member of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit. He is Emeritus Professor of Theology and Culture from the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and brings his depth of knowledge as a cultural anthropologist to his teaching on mission theology and spirituality. Fr. Anthony offers retreats, workshops and seminars through the U.S. and around the world. He has also spent over thirty years with and among homeless women on the streets of Chicago in efforts to support their struggle to escape poverty and prostitution.

Fee for the program with 5 nights lodging and meals: \$625. Register by June 15, 2020: \$575
Commuter fee includes meals: \$550. Register by June 15, 2020: \$525
Deposit: \$250



Retreat weekend with Kayleen Asbo

Finding Our Way through the Dark Woods: A Retreat with Dante's Divine Comedy

Dante's *Divine Comedy* has been called the most beautiful poem ever written—but it is much more than that: it is a brilliant work of imagination that weaves together Greek and Roman myth, European history and a pathway of universal spiritual development with deep cross-cultural resonances. Written during Dante's middle years, his own “dark woods,” it is an epic achievement that saved the author's own life. His experience and vision can immeasurably enrich our own, becoming a map for our own inner development and transformation. In this four-day retreat marking the 700th anniversary of *The Divine Comedy*, we will encounter this epic adventure through storytelling, art and collage, guided meditation and writing practices, music and ritual.

Retreat leader Kayleen Asbo, Ph.D., a passionate interdisciplinary scholar, musician and writer, is a faculty member of the Pacifica Graduate Institute. Kayleen also serves as the Creative and Artistic Director for the Mythica Foundation for Contemplation and the Arts and teaches regularly for the Osher Life Long Learning Institutes at UC Berkeley, Sonoma State University and Dominican University. She leads pilgrimages to sacred sites in Europe every year. Her encounter with and love of Dante's work shaped her life as a teenager and has inspired much of her work, locally, nationally and internationally. Many find her work “an inspiring synthesis of head and heart,” as well as “fascinating, profoundly moving and truly life-changing.” Visit Kayleen's website at www.kayleenasbo.com.

Fee for the program with 3 nights lodging and meals: \$475. Register by October 1, 2020: \$425
Commuter fee includes meals: \$400. Register by October 1, 2020: \$375
Registration deposit: \$200



Advent retreat day with Veronica Mary Rolf

The Story of Our lives in Sacred Scripture

In our secular, contentious, and high-tech world, does God still speak to us through sacred Scripture? Are biblical stories really relevant to our lives?

Award-winning author Veronica Mary Rolf will draw on themes from her new book, *Suddenly There is God: The Story of Our Lives in Sacred Scripture*, to trace the complete arc of our life's journey through dramatic conflicts and stunning revelations in both the Hebrew and Christian Testaments. She will also suggest contemplative ways in which we may enter more deeply into the narratives, discover their personal relevance, and allow the experience to transform our lives.

Veronica Mary Rolf is an independent scholar, retreat leader, and a master teacher of dramatic arts. In addition to her new book mentioned above, Veronica Mary has written *An Explorer's Guide to Julian of Norwich*; and *Julian's Gospel: Illuminating the Life & Revelations of Julian of Norwich*, which has won numerous book awards. Veronica lectures on Christian mysticism and sacred Scripture and leads retreats on contemplative spirituality. Visit her regular weblogs: www.JuliansVoice.com and www.VeronicaMaryRolf.com.

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fee includes program and lunch: \$125. Register by November 1, 2020: \$100
Deposit: \$50



Art-Meditation Retreats

Saturdays 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
By appointment only

The Way of Hand Papermaking

A contemplative day of hand papermaking from natural fibers with papermaker Harriet Hope. Space for each session is limited.

Contact:
Harriet Hope
Telephone: 415.259.9440
Email: hhope24@gmail.com

Fee: \$60, includes materials and Japanese bento box lunch.

MONTHLY OFFERINGS

Music of Hildegard of Bingen

Tuesdays, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Through the Ear to the Heart with Devi Mathieu

Devi Mathieu leads a gentle, contemplative practice of listening and singing the music of Hildegard. This restorative evening experience requires no previous familiarity with the music of Hildegard or with medieval music.

January 7	February 11	March 10	April 7	May 12
September 8	October 13	November 3	December 15	

Suggested offering: \$10 - \$20. Register upon arrival.

Days of Prayer 2020

Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

Throughout the year various guest presenters guide these quiet, contemplative Days of Prayer. Generally the day concludes with Eucharist at 1:15 p.m.

January 8	Christina Atienza, OP
February 12	Barbara Green, OP
March 11	Kayleen Asbo
April 8	Colette Lafia
May 13	Andrews Amir
September 9	Christina Atienza, OP
October 14	Margaret Diener, OP
November 4	Marietta Fahey, SHF
December 16	Joe Nassal, CPPS

Suggested offering: \$20. Register upon arrival.

Study/Reflection Evenings

Wednesdays, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Are you drawn to a deeper contemplative study of the Christian faith in light of Teilhard de Chardin's evolutionary and scientifically considered cosmic view? We explore Teilhard's life and thought while reflecting on the implications for ourselves today. We welcome you to join Dominican Sisters Raya Hanlon, Ruth Droege, and Margaret Diener in this exploration. We meet once a month on the evening of the Day of Prayer. See the dates above.

A free will offering for the evening is welcome. Register upon arrival.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Contemplative Concert Series 2019 – 2020

Suggested offering: \$20. Garden Reception follows each concert. Register upon arrival.

December 8, 2019 – 3 p.m.

Bertina Boyadjiev, Harpist · Chris Boyadjiev, Flutist

Celebrating the Spirit of the Season

Bertina Boyadjiev takes inspiration from Jordi Savall's observation: "Music expresses and prolongs what words cannot say, and time acts as a filter, distilling these orally transmitted melodies and pairing them down to the truly essential... spirit of the civilization."

Celebrate this Advent/Christmas season of beauty, joy, anticipation and retrospection with Bertina and Chris as they perform delightful solos and duets of classical pieces from Mascagni, Bizet, Chopin, Mozart, Gluck, Debussy, Poulenc and others.

A resident of Marin County, Mrs. Boyadjiev moved to the Bay Area in 1993. She studied first in her native Bulgaria and performed there; then, she completed her Masters in music from Indiana University. At present she performs with the Napa Valley Symphony, the Marin Symphony and the Mendocino Music Festival. Formerly a faculty member of the Music Conservatory at San Domenico School, she now teaches privately.

Chris Boyadjiev is a sophomore at Marin School of the Arts in Novato. He is currently performing with three youth symphony orchestras – Young People's Symphony Orchestra, Marin Symphony Youth Orchestra and Woodwind Ensemble at Marin School of the Arts. Chris has won numerous awards, including being one among only twenty participants from around the world to perform at the Masterclass of Sir James Galway at the thirtieth Galway Flute Festival in Weggis, Switzerland.



April 5, 2020 – 3 p.m.

Kayleen Asbo, pianist

Palm Sunday Concert — Grief to Grace

To mark the opening of Holy Week, pianist Kayleen Asbo, will offer a musical program of J.S. Bach, Mozart, Schubert, Arvo Part interwoven with poetry by David Whyte, TS Eliot, Mark Nepo and Ellen Bass.

Kayleen Asbo, Ph.D, received her master's degree in Piano Performance from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where she subsequently taught for 19 years before launching Mythica, an organization dedicated to fostering beauty, depth and meaning in service of the community through education, the arts and contemplation. The cultural historian for the Santa Rosa Symphony, Dr. Asbo has most recently performed internationally with violinist Nigel Armstrong in England and Scotland with her unique programs that weave together story, poetry, music and contemplation. Learn more at www.kayleenasbo.com



May 17, 2020 – 3 p.m.

Amy Schaner and Dominic Schaner

Enfin la Beauté: Airs & Graces of the Heart

Secular love songs of the late Renaissance & early Baroque featuring French airs de cour, English Ayres, and Italian passaggi, graced with lute solos from the French royal court, Elizabethan court, and the Roman papal court.

Amy Schaner (voice) and Dominic Schaner (lute) met and fell in love in 2007 at an early music workshop. Since then they have shared a passion for ancient music, performing lute songs and chamber music together. A unique blend of original manuscript study and historically-informed improvisation, Dominic and Amy Schaner try to embody the renaissance idea of the composer-player: musicians who balance the intellectual and emotional to achieve a new experience at each performance. With two children under 5 years old, they are also trying to find balance outside the musical world. Dominic teaches music and explores restorative practices at a high school for at-risk youth. Amy has also been a teacher, and now is a writer and stay at home mom.





INFORMATION ABOUT PROGRAM REGISTRATION

- Discounts available for early registration by the dates indicated.
- Required deposit amounts indicated with the fee information.
- Scholarship assistance is available for individual programs.
- Cancellation policy: Individuals cancelling a retreat 14 or more days prior to the retreat will forfeit \$75 of the deposit. If less than 14 days, the entire deposit is forfeited.

If you would like to receive program updates, please send your email address to info@santasabinacenter.org. We will be delighted to add you to our email list.

Santa Sabina Center

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