

Days of Grace

RETIRED CLERGY ASSOCIATION | NOVEMBER & DECEMBER | 2022

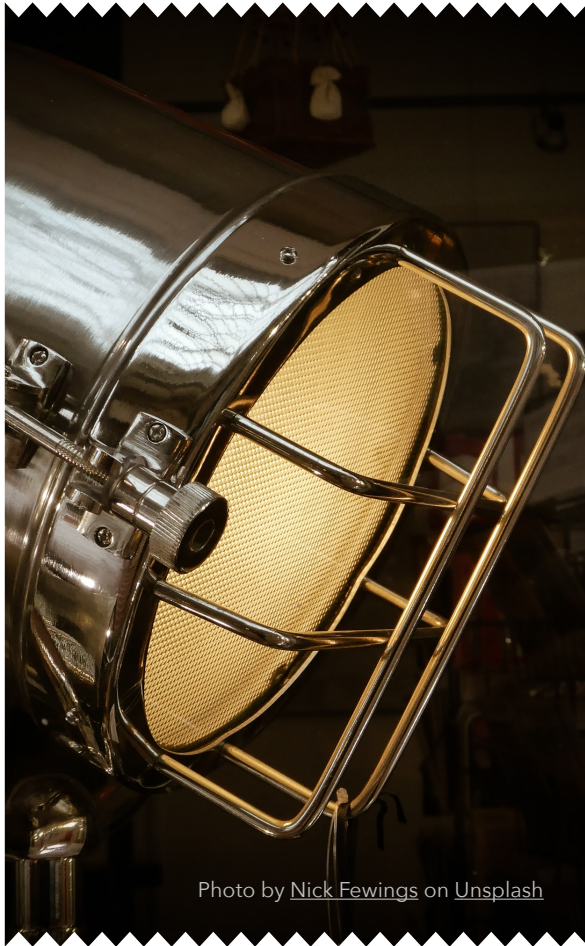


Photo by [Nick Fewings](#) on [Unsplash](#)

GET INVOLVED!

MAKE IT YOUR ASSOCIATION!

The Board of Directors want to make the RCA more than just an annual meeting. We want you to put your mark, as it were, on the group. But how? I don't want to go to Board Meetings you say? You don't have to! You can Choose Your Own Adventure®!

Do you have an interest that you would like to join with others to explore or do more? Books? (writing or reading!) Travel (for fun or learning or both) Political Information or

Action? Exercise in person or over Zoom?
Photography? Hiking?
Birding? Art (making or observing)? Kite flying?

These can be one time or ongoing events. It's up to you! Group formation can be announced via email, RCA Website, and Facebook. Just let Nancy know what you're doing and how/were/when your pop up event will be held. She will get the publicity out to the membership!

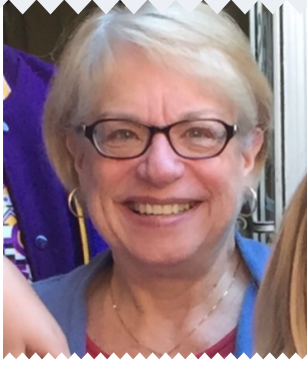
nancydaley@ca-nv-rca.org

ZOOM Pop-Up Conversation

JOIN US for coffee on Zoom with RCA member Michael Yoshii, just back from two weeks in Palestine. He has been working over the past months for the village of Wadi Foquin, so he will have stories to share and an up close view of the realities, hopes, and complications in this area of our world. November 14, 2022, 11am.

Register and get the Zoom link with:
bettypagett@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



MY FRIEND JEANETTE

I would like to introduce you to my friend Jeanette who was born in Rotterdam ten years before the start of WWII. She came from a large loving family. When the war started her family took in two Jewish boys who lived in their attic.

One evening just before Christmas early in the war the whole family, including the two boys, were gathered around the piano singing Christmas carols when they heard a knock on the door. The Jewish boys quickly made their way up the stairs to the attic while Jeanette's mother opened the door. Standing there were two Nazi soldiers. Everyone stood still afraid of what was going to happen.

One of the soldiers said as they passed the house they could hear the Christmas music and it reminded them of home. Jeanette's father invited them to come in and join the singing. They stayed for a long time singing and sharing Christmas stories. As they left they thanked the family for their hospitality and wished them a Merry Christmas.

Jeanette related this story to me one Sunday as I was taking her home from church. She was a wonderful lady with a warm smile that would make any heart melt. I asked her how she could be so happy after living through the war. It is then that she gave me the advice for a happy life...

Keep smiling. I'm always surprised at what a smile can do because there are people who are always grumpy and if you keep smiling at them, sooner or later you'll get a little smile back.

Surround yourself with nice people. Keep looking until you find them. Don't be grumpy yourself because nobody will want to talk to you. Be interested in people so you can talk to them. Keep your eyes open for people who think like you do. Have a good sense of humor. Laugh a lot.

Be with people. There's nothing worse than being alone. You don't have to be good friends with everybody and it doesn't have to be huggy or cozy but we know we are there for each other.

Have somebody who loves who you are so there are a lot of laughs. That's what Jake, her husband, and I did.

If you can sing songs, that's the best thing you can do...children's songs, hymns, long ago songs. We were a happy family and, oh boy, did we ever sing a lot. Listening to music you can feel it wash over you.

You need to trust people. You have to trust people, you need to trust. Always try not to judge. Look for the better things. Let go of the things that hurt you that you can't change. Don't think about them.

I've been lucky to have good friends, to have had a good job and my family. I was lucky I found my husband out of 19 men who worked in our office and he chose me. The other men came to our wedding. I have no regrets.

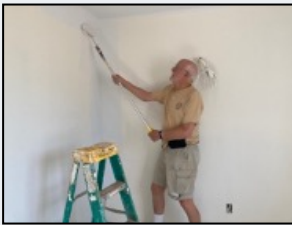
Thank you Jeanette for all your good advice. I hope you all can find it as helpful as I have.

~Sandy

2022 VIM WORK PROJECT

VIM

SCENES FROM A WORK PROJECT



For the first time since Covid, RCA sponsored a work project. Oct 2-7 seven RCA members, joined by 4 Endowment board staff and 4 Habitat for Humanity volunteers labored on three homes in Paradise, CA. burned to the ground four years ago. The non-profit Hope Crisis Response Network sponsored our work out of Middletown for several years and has established a volunteer presence in Paradise. New homes are financed by CalHome loans and volunteer hours make it possible for the complete home to be built within the \$150,000.

During the week we shared worship in the Paradise UMC

sanctuary which just survived the fire. We were led by work camp participant

Bob Chicou who was pastor of the church at the time of the fire. Tearfully and prayerfully we heard

his witness to his experience. The next night we heard from Steven Eatough-Smith who was chaplain to the Sheriffs' department at the time of the fire, and accompanying the officers while they found and identified bodies. What gifts of ministry and experience valuable to others who go through similar challenges!

Our thanks to Nadine DeWitt who began RCA's work project ministry and to all our volunteers. It is an incredibly special collegial experience as well as a gift to communities suffering to find new life.



- Betty Pagett Co-Leader
Mission & Justice
Committee

Thoughts on a Retirement

By Kathi McShane

I have for some years thought of the Gospel story of the rich young ruler (Mark 10:17-31) as my story. As part of a guided retreat that came not a moment too soon in a time of crisis, a spiritual director offered me this text, reminded me that my assignment was to meditate on it, not preach it, and sent me out to spend the next 24 hours in silence.

I found in that story something I had never seen there before: myself. I saw myself in the character named 'rich young ruler' who—even in his sadness—loved the picture of his life too much to trade it in for the simplicity of Jesus' calling. I saw myself in the 'I can't' response of this young man; and the dismayed, knowing look that must have crossed Jesus' face as he walked away. I saw myself—thanks be for grace—in the sentence "Jesus looked at him and loved him."

I have--of course, because I am a preacher—used that story many times in my ministry. I've asked people to think of it as a story not about wealth but about identity. I think maybe what kept that earnest young man from following Jesus wasn't his wealth, but the self-image that rested on the scaffolding of his possessions. And so, I've asked, what is the familiar identity that makes us feel rich, and that keeps us from seeing in ourselves a poorness of spirit that would welcome salvation?

And now, just a few months into retirement, I am wondering about another ending to this story. What if the rich young ruler had done as Jesus suggested? What if he had, as he sold his many possessions and gave away all the money, and felt good about it, come back to join the throng of Jesus-followers? Would he have felt immediately unburdened? Would every day have felt full of good work, transformation, the joy of a compassionate life? Or would there be days when he still wondered, "Who am I, now that I am not the 'rich young ruler'? What is my name in the Gospel that is being written now?"

In the rule of life I have constructed to guide me through these days when I'm learning to measure my value by something other than productivity, I have included an element that is simply 'Give yourself away for others.' I realize now how much I relied on my work as a pastor to do that—pretty much every day. That was the joy of ministry for me. That is the loss that stings.

What did you feel in those first days after you gave up the name 'Pastor'? What is the identity that holds you now? Is there a place—or need—for a conversation about this?

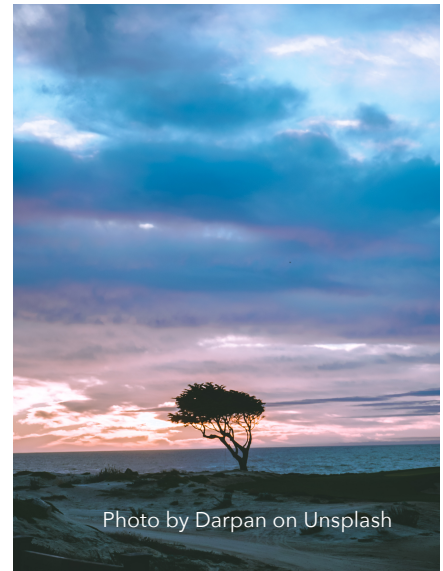


Photo by Darpan on Unsplash



BE THE LIGHT

The Endowment Board is encouraging people to "Be the Light" for someone this Christmas, and consider making a tribute donation to their 2022 *Tree of Light*. For every tribute donation made in December, an ornament bearing a message crafted by you will be added to a tree on display in the lobby of The Endowment Board. A special acknowledgement will be sent to the person or family you designate, notifying them of your thoughtful contribution. It's the perfect way to bring light, love, and joy to someone special, while also meeting your year-end philanthropic goals. The money raised from this year's letter will be directed towards The Shepherd Fund. This fund offsets costs for retired clergy and spouses in times of need, i.e. emergency, family crisis, financial, and/or a situation in which financial relief is deemed necessary. Letters will be sent around Thanksgiving, so keep your eyes and hearts open!

RELATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE

One of our most successful ministries of the Relational Care arm of RCA is the fairly newly established Card Ministry.

This has been under the leadership of Alice Oberg and Alice has done an awesome job of setting up the card ministry system with volunteers sending out Birthday and Anniversary cards every month to Retired Clergy and we are very grateful for her ministry. There have been many expressions of "Thanks" for being remembered and keeping in touch. Card ministry is always looking for volunteers who will help with this calling of "remembering" service. This was especially appreciated during the Pandemic.

Now Alice has stepped up once again into the position of Treasurer for RCA. She would really like to hand the reins of Card Ministry to another member of Retired Clergy in the near future. Alice is fairly well set up until the end of this year. She has set up the system and is available to train someone to continue the process.

Please give this some thought and prayer for a way to be of service to your fellow colleagues in Retirement. With grateful anticipation of your response,
Carolee Catterall, Relational Care Chairperson
530-635-4580
CDCSunflower@yahoo.com

UPDATE FROM MICHAEL SWARTZ AND NANCY MCCONNELL

- We celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary in September
- We purchased a condo in Long Beach, CA (where Nancy is from) and spent January-March of this year there. We are officially snowbirds! We enjoy being closer to family when we are there and avoiding the Iowa winters!
- We have adapted to retirement (although Michael continues to provide pulpit supply here and there). We enjoy gardening and Michael has become an expert pickle maker using our fresh cucumbers, onions, and herbs.
- Our pandemic pets - Dudley the dog and Yoda the cat - keep us busy and provide daily entertainment.

GREETINGS TO ALL!

SACRAMENTO AREA "IS-BEENS"

Correspondent Sue Angove

It is not easy to say "Goodbye" to retired clergy within our conference who have left the Church Temporal and joined the Church Triumphant as the years move forward. For this November, 2022 issue, we want to remember Ardith Allread, John Albright Sr., and Norman Callaway. May they Rest in Peace.

ANGOVE, Jerry and Sue have lived in the Village at Heritage Park within north Natomas for 18 months by the time this publication arrives at your doors. Senior resident living has much to offer. They love living closer to 2 grandchildren who practice and play indoor and outdoor soccer vigorously. By mid-November they will have seen the fall colors of eastern Canada and New England as well as viewed the California coastline on cruises.

CATTERALL, Carolee has been a very busy woman clergy this year. Beginning in January, she has been part of the Academy for New Church Development and Ministry. This experience has been a challenge within the realm of academia. Additionally she has found Bread of Life ministry here in Sacramento offering her growth in meaningful ways.

CUMMINGS, Pam pastored the Pacific Grove church near Asilomar from 2011 until 2018. While there she attended the yearly Bach Festivals in Carmel-by-the-Sea and has done so ever since. This year in late July was no different. With her beautiful voice, (Sue added this part) she is enjoying being part of Sacramento St. Mark's choir.

GREEN, Lothair and Joyce enjoyed vacationing in Hawaii during April and May. During July, they spent time in San Diego helping their oldest grandson celebrate his 31st birthday.

GRUNDMAN, Deb and Gary were eager to try out the charging station network for their new Mustang. They drove it across country to see family in Pittsburg, PA in July. Once they mastered the challenge of making Apps work together instead of against each other, the trip continued smoothly. They enjoyed sharing with their nearly grown grandsons as Gary did a masterful job teaching them both driver training. They were glad to celebrate with their family and enjoyed the glorious country we live in between here and there. From hailstorms @ 11,000 feet in Colorado to windmills and crop circles in Kansas, it was ALL a DELIGHT. They both hope you also find ways to be in God's great outdoors - maybe when our temperatures cool off a bit!

HERSCHBACH-MARTIN, Eva and Ed spent 3 days celebrating their 23rd wedding anniversary in June @ Calaveras Big Trees camping, enjoying hiking the trails, and seeing the magnificent trees there.

KELLY, Linda is keeping quite busy working for BOOM and pastoring part time in Knights Landing @ Community UMC. She continues her Spiritual Direction work too. She is part of two writing

groups. Her second grandchild is expected in November. She hopes to journey to see the baby, his brother, and her son's family's new home in Connecticut at Christmas time.

KIMBALL, Tom and Connie are in Covington, Georgia right now as fall begins. They have almost completed the remodel (99%) of their remarkable family home there. Their daughter and Tom's sister are part of the endeavor. Their plan will be to make this special residence an Airbnb. Covington is the county seat of Newton County, 35 miles east of Atlanta. Tom's sister will be living with him and Connie back here in CA. She has been diagnosed with Dementia.

MONROE, Doug and Martha celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary September 20th mostly at home with a nice dinner out. Diagnosed in December 2021 with breast cancer, Martha is grateful for Doug's love and support through surgery, chemotherapy, and the unexpectedly nasty side effects of the chemo. They are at home most days while Martha slowly gains strength. They thank ALL who have sent cards, greetings, notes, and prayers to God on their behalf.

MURDOCK, Marty and Cheryl are our newest residents in Rancho Cordova. They moved December, 2021 into a new home ½ mile from their daughter Joy and her family. Happily helping with their two grandsons' school and other activities, they are also finding time for Marty to play his tuba in Rancho Cordova's Community Band and Cheryl busy in her role as personal travel agent. WELCOME!

WATTERS-JULSING, Kay is doing very well, continuing to regain strength and more independence, a little at a time. She is very thankful, filled with an abundance of gratitude. She is walking much better, using a cane when needed. There have been and continue to be opportunities to learn lessons from difficulties encountered and learn them with joy. Her family are all doing well. "I am grateful for each day and my many blessings. I AM ENJOYING LIFE!"

MANY "IS-BEENS" were a delight to touch base with after a long time being apart from one another. They send greetings to all of our retired clergy in this conference hoping all are content, safe, and well.

Excerpts from Bob Schwartz's Book Ten Top Truths from Nancy Schwartz

In 1982 on a 8500 mile trip across country in our Silverado pickup with a camper shell, Nancy and I treated our teenage kids to the wonders of America. In time I became a distraction to them because as soon as someone would use a certain word or some short phrase, I'd sing a little song about it... "Deep in the heart of Texas", "I'm Alabama Bound", "New York, New York", "It's a Wonderful Town!" enough Dad!

I use one song to start off this massive work on the wisdom of a lifetime: "Give Me a Kiss to Build a Dream On". Better yet give me a truth to build a life on. Even better yet build me ten truths to build a life on! This is what I seek to do by distilling the best of 50 years of "The Wisdom" and experience of a thinking and feeling pastor, an enthusiastic family man, and a love of life.

....an example of one of his examples..... The story of the six blind men of Hindustan. These six men bumped into an elephant. Each one sought to describe the elephant from the body part that was bumped into. The one who bumped into its side was sure an elephant was like a wall. The one who got hold of its tail felt like an elephant was like a rope. The one who hugged its leg was sure an elephant was like a tree trunk. And on they went. Were they lying? No, just incomplete. Did anyone grasp the whole reality? No. Does this then totally invalidate what they experienced? No. But if they could all manage to get together then collectively they might come up with a better picture than any one of them could come up with alone. How we need each other in the search for truth.

Such a gifted writer and preacher!

Search: Ten Top Truths by Bob Schwartz on Amazon for the complete book



Photo by [Kenny Eliason](#) on [Unsplash](#)

ANNIVERSARIES!

November

THOM & DEBBIE ABRAHAMSON
GEORGE & LOUISE CARTER
OSCAR & INITA ESCAMILLA
BECKY GOODWIN & PAUL COLBERT
PAUL & LANA HARKNESS
LIZABETH & CHRISTOPHER KLEIN
JIM LUTHER & DAWN HORDER
STEVE & KELLEY PUDINSKI
FLOYD QUENZER & DONNA HOUGLAND
RICHARD & DIANE TAYLOR
MICHAEL & SUZANNE YOSHII
ERNLE & MARGARET YOUNG

December

ANGEL & NORMA BETANCOURT
DAVE & JANET BUNJE
JIM & CELINDA CURRENT
SHARON & GUARI DELGADO
RAY & CAROLYN DOWDY
GREGORY & CARYL FLOYD
JOHN & MEGUMI FUJIMORI
LIN & Nanci GOODYEAR
NOBU & CAROL IMAIZUMI
BOB & ELIZABETH ANN KUYPER
FRANCES & FRANK LEIBERT
LINDA & BOB LOESSBERG-ZAHL
LILIA LOPEZ-RAHMAN & MATI RAHMAN
DAVID & CEDAR MOSS
AURA-LILA & OSCAR OCHOA
JIM & NANCY PATTERSON
TED & HARRIET PECOT
NANCY PHARIS-CURIE & DENNIS CURIE
MACK & NANCY PHILLIPS
MONIQUE-CHERI PIERRE & ERIC DALE BETTY
& BOB WEISER
CHUCKUA & POYEE YANG



Photo by Simon Berger on Unsplash

Birthdays!



NOVEMBER

THOM ABRAHAMSON
DEBBIE ARJONA
BILLYE AUSTIN
DONALD BALDWIN
BILL BALLAGH
MARY BECK
GAYE BENSON
RACHEL BERRY
GENE BOUTILIER
BETTINA BROWN
DON BURKHART
LISA CARTER-NORLANDER
AMELIA CHUA
DICK CORSON
PAM COY-ARMANTROUT
JIM CRAWFORD
JIM CURRENT
STEVE DRAUCKER
KATHRYN DUNNING
ALEXIS EASTON
JANICE EMERSON
DOUG FITCH
ART GAFKE
JUDSON GEARS
LARRY GEORGE
LIN GOODYEAR
SHIM HABTE
HEATHER HAMMER
NEAL HARRELL
JAN HOUGLAND
EILEEN JOHNSON
STEVE JOHNSON
DOUGLAS JOHNSON
KATHLEEN KAPLAN
HEE-SOO KIM SU-KYONG KIM

VERONICA KIMBLE
MO-CHI LAM
EILEEN LINDSAY
ODETTE LOCKWOOD-
STEWART
LINDA LOESSBERG-ZAHL
JIM LUTHER
DIANNE LYNN
ED MARTIN
KAREN McCLINTOCK

MARTHA McCORKELL
FAYE McCOY
NORM MOWERY
MARGARET OROPEZA
BETTY PAGETT
RUTH PARKER
MARK PARSONS
JIM PATTERSON
GARY PUTNAM
BETSY SCHWARZENTRAUB
DANTE SIMON
JERRY STRAKS
VERNA TAM
ROSEMARIE TIAPULA
KAY WATTERS-JULSING
STEPHEN YALE
FRANK YANG

DECEMBER

LILLIAN BAKER-HOLLEMAN
TINA BALLAGH
MARILYN BASTEAR
JOYCE BRACKNEY
JOSEPH BROWNRIGG
PATRICIA BRUCE
MARGARET BRUCE
DANA CASTILLO
CHUCK CORDES
STELLA CORDES
ERIC DALE
SHARON DELGADO
GUARI DELGADO
ANNE DILENSCHNEIDER
PAUL DIRDAK
CAROLYN DOWDY

CLIFFORD DROKE
SANDRA EXELBY
DON FADO
ANGELI FITCH
BETTY GEARS
ALICE ANN GLENN
NOBUAKI HANAOKA
PAUL HARKNESS
DOREEN HART-HINSHAW
LEE HAYWARD
DONNA HOUGLAND
DANNY HUANG
NOBU IMAIZUMI
LINDA KELLY
TAECK-KYU KIM
CHRISTOPHER KLEIN
NANCY LANDAUER
PAT LEAMY
KIM LESLIE
LILIA LOPEZ-RAHMAN
WINNIE McILVENNA
MAGGIE McNAUGHT
LEE MORRISON
ALICE OBERG
BOB OLAH
ANTHONY OROPEZA
RONALD PARKER
GINNIE PEARSON
GAYLE PICKRELL
DIANE PINNEY
MARY PRANCE
LINDA PRENDERGAST
DON ROULSTEN
BETH STIDHAM
WANG THAO
CAROL UBALDE
TED VIRTS
LOC VO
CLARENCE WAGER
CAROL WALKER
SHARON WATSON ERNLE YOUNG

January 2023

**For: CA-NV RETIRED CLERGY
Gathering of Spiritual Leaders**



ALL PAPERWORK MUST BE

RECEIVED BY:

March 1, 2023

Provided to you by:
A Grant from the Conference Claimants Endowment Board
and the Retired Clergy Association

Date: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

*I hereby request reimbursement in the amount of \$_____ for actual expenses incurred at the 2023 Gathering of Spiritual Leaders for food, lodging, parking and mileage**.*

****Please attach your receipts.**

Receipts are REQUIRED for reimbursement

Reimbursement: (please check your length of attendance)

ONE DAY'S attendance for Retired Clergy/Surviving Spouse (max. \$300)

ONE DAY'S attendance for Retired Clergy and 2nd Clergy/Spouse (max. \$350)

TWO DAY'S attendance for Retired Clergy/Surviving Spouse (max. \$500)

TWO DAY'S attendance for Retired Clergy and 2nd Clergy/Spouse (max. \$600)

Hotel Expense: _____ Receipts **REQUIRED**

Parking Expense: _____ Receipts **REQUIRED**

Food/Meals Expense: _____ Receipts **REQUIRED**

Mileage: _____ miles x .20 = _____ (within conference boundaries)

Signed _____

After you fill out this form (**attach all receipts**) return it to:

PLEASE NOTE

ADDRESS



Alice Oberg

5803 River Birch Dr

Bakersfield, CA 93306

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916-539-4249 nancydaley@ca-nv-rca.org www.ca-nv-rca.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Fling

April 18-20, 2023

> Christ The King
Citrus Heights

Annual Conference Session

June 9-12, 2023

> Sacramento Convention
Center

Annual Luncheon

June 9, 2023

> Sheraton Hotel