Days of Grace

Retired Clergy Association Cal-Nevada UMC

What Are They Up To Now?

Anne Dilenschneider

By Pam Abbey

"Keep adding to your toolbox!" Anne

Dilenschneider's journey has helped her develop tools for a life today that she could not have imagined when she was younger.

Anne took early retirement

in 2001 in order to become a spiritual director for clergy. During that time, she

worked as an employment law paralegal and learned about federal protections, including the ADA. She also earned a PhD in clinical psychology.

Anne then served as director of a mental health program in San Mateo County for homeless persons with severe mental illness. When she refused to violate state law and understaff the facility, Anne was fired. Although the State of California ruled in her favor in all 5 of the subsequent judicial hearings, Anne found herself without work. She ultimately landed a post-doctoral residency in Fargo, North Dakota where she trained in ADHD and autism assessment and treatment. During that time, she served as a ¾ time pastor and learned to love the Dakotas. At the end of her residency, Anne moved to Sioux Falls, South Dakota where she is in private practice.

Since 1992, as a pastor in Cal-Nevada, Anne has been accompanying transgender persons. In South Dakota, transgender persons of all ages began to seek her out. Committed to providing the best care in the region, Anne became one of the first health care providers to earn the international specialty credential in transgender care. That training included courses at the medical schools at Harvard, The Ohio State University, University of Minnesota, and Icahn School of Medicine in NYC.

Because many transgender persons have autism, Anne teaches other healthcare providers about autism assessment and treatment. And, each year when discriminatory laws are proposed in violation of federal constitutional protections, Anne testifies on behalf of transgender persons before the South Dakota Legislature.

To prepare a new generation of physicians, Anne lectures at the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine and serves as an international faculty member for the WPATH Global Education Institute. Her areas of focus are: 1) transgender healthcare, 2) the intersection of gender incongruence and autism, and 3) diversity and inclusion.

In the mix of caring for her own clients, educating healthcare providers and legislators, and staying connected with her 4 children who are engaged in work across the world, Anne continues to be part of an on-going national Native/non-Native restorative justice project. On Sundays, she often preaches at UMC and UCC congregations. And, on Saturdays, you will find her with one of her certified therapy dogs reading with children at the Sioux Falls Downtown Library.

Looking back, it's clear that everything she's learned along the way is now part of the toolbox Anne uses in her daily ministry.

Ten years ago, shortly after I retired from teaching middle school students for twenty years, I decided I wanted to do something different with my life. Frank had died two years previous and I knew I would have to find my way by myself. So I asked God to keep me open to possibilities that were out there. One afternoon when I picked up the mail I noticed a newsletter called Days of Grace from the Retired Clergy Assoc. Frank had only been retired for a year so he didn't have time to get involved and I didn't have a clue who these people were.

As I read through the info I was very excited to read about so many people I knew and what they were doing. So many names that I recognized from attending ACS for almost thirty years. There was one article that caught my eye about a VIM trip to New Orleans. I had been a part of VIM at my local church so I thought I would give Nadine DeWitt a call and find out more. She was so helpful and encouraged me to join them that October. What the heck, I would give it a try. That was my first of several trips with VIM. Now I can hang drywall with the best of them. Do you need insulation...Give me a call.

While we were there Nadine invited me to attend the

Spring Fling or Not Spring Fling? That is the Question. Sandy Roberts President

Spring Fling the following May. I had no idea what it was and as a surviving spouse I wasn't sure I would be included. So thinking about my request for God to lead me I thought I would give it a try. We met at Christ the King Retreat Center in Citrus Heights. When I got there I saw so many familiar faces and most of our group from the NOLA trip the past October.

When I went to register a very nice young woman helped me. I knew she couldn't be retired because she was much too young. She assigned me my room and we chatted a few minutes. I finally asked her if she was the babysitter for all these retired folks. She laughed and said it was more like herding cats. We have since become life long friends.

I loved being with so many people that had known Frank. It is still hard to realize he has been gone over fifteen years. But being with so many friends that had known him and worked with him, and prayed

with him made him seem so nearby. It was a wonderful experience. So the next year I was excited to come back and see my friends again and share memories.

Sometime during the two days Dave Thompson asked me if I would like to be on the Spring Fling committee. All I had to do is have lunch with the others on the committee and look at the evaluations. lol So I said sure, I could do that. When I got to the Annual RCA Luncheon I looked at the slate of officers to be voted on. lol How did my name get on the list as a member at large? I didn't know I had said yes to this. I figured what the heck, I'll keep my mouth shut and my head down. Well, I have never learned how to keep my mouth shut. Before I knew it a couple years later Tom Kimbel called me and told me my friends, lol, thought I would make a good Vice President. I said yes but I could never be President. lol Here I am at the end of a two year term of lots of ups and downs but I have enjoyed working with so many who I now call my friends.

So I would highly recommend that you to come to Spring Fling April 24-25 and see where God is leading you.





Follow us on Facebook!

We have a Facebook page just for RCA members (that's you!).

https://www.facebook.com/ groups/ RetiredClergyAssociation

Just click the "join" button and answer the questions. There are just 3 very easy questions but it helps us screen out the scammers and spammers.

Heather Leslie Hammer and Nancy Daley are the Admins of the page so give us a day or two to approve your request. It's a faster than that, but life happens!

We encourage you to engage with the page and other RCA members there. We request you keep the discussion to the theological or connectional. Please no campaigning for candidates for office.

Remember to simply "Play nice" and we can keep our little corner of Facebook a pleasant place to be.



Membership Count!

We currently have a total of 805 members!

We have received donations from 239 members.

102 of them have donated at the Basic (Sing all... Sing lustily and with good courage) Level.]

68 of them have donated at the Supporting (Scriptures, Tradition, Reason, and Experience) Level,

45 of them at Sustaining (Give all you can... In all way you can)

3 of them at the Sponsor (Hearts Strangely Warmed) Level.

21 of them at the Lifetime (Going on to Perfection) Level.



Annual Luncheon June 7, 2024

Heavens to Mergatroyd! Annual Conference Session and our Annual RCA Luncheon is coming FAST!

Registration for the luncheon will be in the May/June Days of Grace but BE AWARE that registration will be due IMMEDIATELY!

MONDAY MAY 20, 2024

Please watch your email for the registration form, watch our website (www.ca-nv-rca.org) for the download, and watch your mailbox for Days of Grace. Be ready to turn that registration around!

We have not raised the cost for you again this year! (YAY! Thanks Endowment Board)

If you attend Spring Fling, bring your checkbook so you can register right then and there!

SPRING FLING

APRIL 24-25, 2024

Join us for our annual Spring Fling at Christ the King Retreat Center 6520 Van Maren Lane Citrus Heights, CA 95621

Person 1 Name:Person 2 Name:		
Emergency Contact:		Phone:
Single Occupancy: 1 x \$120		\$120.00
Discount:	First Timer: Supporting Member Sustaining Member Sponsoring Member Lifetime Member	50% (subtract \$60 per person) 5% (subtract \$6 per member) 10% (subtract \$12 per member) 15% (subtract \$18 per member) 20% (subtract \$24 per member) Discount Amount: \$
Double Occu	pancy: 2 x \$110	\$220.00
Discount:	First Timer: Supporting Member Sustaining Member Sponsoring Member Lifetime Member	50% (subtract \$55 per person) 5% (subtract \$5.50 per member) 10% (subtract \$11 per member) 15% (subtract \$16.50 per member) 20% (subtract \$22 per member) Discount Amount: \$
		TOTAL \$
Comn		nt is per person, not per couple person: \$60. Add \$15/person for 1 breakfast
	Please include you	ur check made out to: RCA
		nd are sending our registrations separately.
Special need	ds (mobility issues, diet re	equests):
Mai	l to: RCA 9328 Elk Grove	e Blvd #105-141, Elk Grove, CA 95624
	E ONLY: CK	



REX HAMILTON
will be joining us for a
lively discussion on
music and religion. If
you love church music,
you don't want to miss
this Spring Fling!

Rex was born in Portland Oregon, and raised in an Anabaptist (Mennonite) home. He has an M.Div. from Princeton Seminary, and his Ph.D. is in religious studies from the University of Aberdeen (Scotland). He has been at The University of the Pacific for 14 years. He grew up in a musical home, and has been singing with the Stockton Chorale for 8 years. Rex is also academically interested in music and its place in religious communities; He is a member of the British Forum for Ethnomusicology.



NIV

Peter Declares That Jesus Is the Messiah

- ¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"
- ¹⁴ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."
- 15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"
- ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."
- ¹⁷ Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.

The Message

Son of Man, Son of God

¹³ When Jesus arrived in the villages of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "What are people saying about who the Son of Man is?"

¹⁴ They replied, "Some think he is John the Baptizer, some say Elijah, some Jeremiah or one of the other prophets."

¹⁵ He pressed them, "And how about you? Who do you say I am?"

¹⁶ Simon Peter said, "You're the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ Jesus came back, "God bless you, Simon, son of Jonah! You didn't get that answer out of books or from teachers. My Father in heaven, God himself, let you in on this secret of who I really am. And now I'm going to tell you who you are, really are. You are Peter, a rock. This is the rock on which I will put together my church, a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out.

am?"
of the living

You didn't eaven, God Photo by Simone Dinoia on Unsplash on going to tell pools on which

March-April 2024 SACRAMENTO "IS-BEENS"

Correspondent Sue Angove

ATKINS, GREGG shares he is grateful for his Woodland UMC congregation who surround him with constant care and attention. His wife Rev. Ardith Allread had a collection of 110 Nativity sets. She asked Gregg to share them with the members at Woodland upon her death. One Sunday evening this past November, the church held a soup supper with a great turnout! 87 of her Nativity sets were shared. Gregg truly experienced a magnificent, magical, blessed evening as congregants each chose their Nativity set in remembrance of Ardith. (These were Gregg's words.)

CORSON, JANE shared that today, February 7 is her youngest great granddaughter Audrey's 2nd birthday. What a delight to hear Jane's voice telling me all about this amazing little girl. Jane left her doctor's office recently with a "clean bill of health" report. How great for which we say, "Wonderful and Praise God."

CUMMINGS, REV. PAM shared during our chat she is grateful to family, friends, and members of the six congregations she served for their calls, their cards, and their prayers during this time of health issues. Pam shares a special book she encourages us to read. The title is What Makes You Come Alive? A Spiritual Walk with Howard Thurman. It is available on Amazon.

CUNNINGHAM, REV. DON was honored at his special family party in Sacramento for his

91st birthday. He is thankful for the cards he received from our RCA members.

FADO, REV. DON and JEAN are pleased to share, "Last year was medically challenging for Jeanie. She concluded the year of multiple hospitalizations by falling and injuring four ribs. This new year has brought healing. She is now out of pain and doing better than anytime last year for which we give thanks."

GRUNDMAN, REVS. DEBBI and GARY have had some busy months. Gary returned in early February from sharing a month with 'Guam Strong' following a May, 2023 typhoon event. FEMA and UMVIM teamed up to support and mobilize volunteers to help in repairing homes and property. The teams were composed of UMC folks (and others) from all over the country. Along with the roof work and tool laden labor, Gary was also able to enjoy the local cultural events; snorkeling and hiking to parks, historical sights, and WWII remembrances. He was away for a full month. Meanwhile. Deb remained at home engaged with handbell choirs in two churches as well as many hours in the guilt studio enjoying color and puzzles in fabric. 'We enjoy all that God offers and give thanks! Hope to see many of you at Annual Conference this year.'

PATZER-HALL, MARGE has been involved with our Sacramento League of Women Voters for some years. Currently she is part of conducting forums to educate high school seniors here about voting in primary elections which determine local and state issues/candidates while the November

election does that on the national level. The League is encouraged by seniors registering to vote.

MUELLER, REV. JANET is learning how to quilt, enrolled in two classes which she enjoys very much. The pastor at Janet's local church shares familiar Biblical passages offering some entirely new ways to interpret them. Exciting additions to worship services may challenge our minds!

MURDOCK, REV. MARTY and CHERYL

remain excited about having moved to Rancho Cordova ½ mile from daughter Joy and her family. They are involved in their two grandsons' sporting events as well as provide school transportation for them and handle other things for the family when necessary. How enjoyable!

SAYLOR, REV. RON spent most of last October visiting the islands of Hawaii, Kaua'i and Maui. While in Maui, Ron learned efforts to rebuild Lahaina are beginning. More important is the plea from business personnel and residents to tourists /visitors to come back to Maui. "MAUI is more than the town of Lahaina. We need your travel dollars. We need tourists to enjoy the beautiful other parts of our island." (These are the words being spoken by the people of Maui.)

schwarzentraub, rev. betsy and ken continue to enjoy living in Elk Grove. Betsy had her first launch of her current book, "Tossed in Time, Expanded Edition" on February 4th. It will be available soon to purchase on Amazon.

As we pass through Lent leading to Easter Sunday, March 31st, "Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."

Martin Luther

Class of 2023 Retiree **DAVID PARK** responded to Carolee Catterall's email with this...ENJOY!

Dear Carolee,

Thanks for the thoughts!

I am soaking in retirement, and I have ways to go!

I am not planning to be involved in anything to do with ministry for now. I am too busy being lazy and undisciplined and unaccountable, all the characteristics that denote a despicable human being, if you know what I mean!

It's new, and so wonderful!

After all, retirement is made of them, I think, but my wife is trying to correct that with a honeydew list.

Fat chance!

Gotta go!

David.



CLASS OF 2023 RETIREES

As she approaches retirement, **Ann Lau-Choy** looks back at her 23 years in ministry marveling at how much she learned during that time. Her understanding and knowledge of scripture deepened and she appreciated the opportunities she had to know people and walk with them through their faith journey.

Anne served Oakland Chinese; Asbury, Livermore; St. Paul's, Fremont; and Fairfield UMC. While on family leave she also filled in at Morgan Hill and Wesley, San Jose. Some of her favorite things to do in ministry were working with the Walk to Emmaus and Chrysalis retreats and occasionally with Kairos Prison Ministries.

She and her husband, Lance, will be moving from Fairfield back to their home in Fremont. Lance will be continuing to work in career counseling at Stanford University a bit longer before he joins Anne in retirement.

Like many retirees, Anne is looking forward to a good rest and not juggling the many responsibilities of ministry for a while. She will be continuing to serve on the Endowment

Board

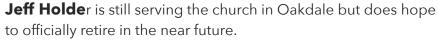
and

Thank you for the gracious welcome.

I am moving towards chaplaincy. If accepted, I will start the CPE program in either UCSF or John Muir Med Center, Concord. It will be a year long program. So being asked to serve will depend on whether I get accepted or

I am excited about the opportunities through RCA.

- Elmar DeOcera



He would like to build a home somewhere near Sacramento. He may enjoy a fourth or half time appointment and pulpit supply. His ministry has been joyful and fulfilling.







March

DEBBIE ABRAHAMSON

GAYLE BASTEN
JEANIE BEHREND
DAVE BENNETT

NANCY BOWMAN

BOB BUCKNER SARA CARTER

JOHN DAVENPORT
GAIL EATOUGH-SMITH

PED ESTOLAS

DENIS EUCALYPTUS

PAUL EXTRUM-FERNANDEZ

SAMUEL FABILA
DONNA FADO IVERY
JOHN FIREBAUGH
MIKE FRIEDRICH
JOHN FUJIMORI
PAUL HENSHAW
NORMA HORTON

DIXIE JENNINGS-TEATS ROB JENNINGS-TEATS LOU JOHNSTONE MABEL KAZATO

PHILIP KIM

WE-WOONG KIM LIZABETH KLEIN LEA LOUMOLI

LORRAINE McNEAL PETE NELSON

DAN NEUMANN
MARJORIE PATZER
NORMA JEAN POWELL

LYNN RHODES
KRIS SACHEN
DAVE SCHLAGER
GERRY SCHLINTZ
LINDA SCHNIEPP

ALTA SCOTT
CHRISTINE SHIBER

NAM HEE SONG JOHN SUBLETT OLIVE TANGONAN MAGGIE TAYLOR **DELORES TIBBS**

DONNA VAN MAANEN JOAN WHEELER-ASH

POYEE YANG SUZANNE YOSHII

April

DICK BAYARD
JUDITH BITHER
BOB BLANEY
NIDE BOUCK
ARLAINE BRYANT
FLOYD CASTILLO

BOB CHICOU NADINE De WITT GREGORY FLOYD

JOHN CHAMBERLIN

KATHY FOX KATE JOHNSON

HOPE KAWASHIMA

HONG KI KIM
MAILE KOLOTO
CAROL LEAMY
FRANCES LEIBERT
JON MARCUS
BARBARA MARK

MACY McCALLISTER MARLEBA McCORD JOHN McLAUGHLIN KATHI McSHANE

ELVIRA MENDIOLA

JAN MISHLER
KERRY MIXIE
DAVID MOSS
LINDA MOWERY
MARTY MURDOCK
DOUGLAS NORRIS
PAMELA ODO-GOTO

KAY PRITCHARD-WARD

DAVID RABENAU ARDYS SANDELL DAVID SCHILLING

KATHY PARSONS

KLARA SCOTT
SIOSIFA SETOKI
DOROTHY STRAKS
BUD TILLINGHAST JR.
CHRIS TURGEON
GARRET WALTHER
HERB WHITE
ROSE WHITE
ARLENE WILLIAMSON
MARGARET YOUNG





March **DAVID & SHERRY ATKINS** MARY ELYN BAHLERT & JEFF KUNKEL DR. TOM & CAROLYN BUTLER PAUL & VIRGIE CABOTAJE FLOYD & DANA CASTILLO ANNE & LANCE CHOY JIM CRAWFORD & DIVINA CUNLTA KATHRYN & ROB DUNNING **SUSAN & STAN GARMENT VICKIE & JIM HEALY** JEFF KUNKEL & MARY ELYN BAHLERT LEA & MELE LOUMOLI JOE & JULIA MAJOR DOUG & EDIE McCOY JIM & JAN MISHLER LARRY PATTEN & JEANIE BEHREND **GARY & SYBELLA POPE-SEARS GARY PUTNAM & GILLIAN MURPHY** CHUNG-MYUNG & NAM HEE SONG **BUD & KATHLEEN TILLINGHAST**

April **BOB & LAUREL BLANEY** LISA CARTER-NORDLANDER & JEFF NORDLANDER **GAIL CHIEW & JASON ONG RON & SUSAN DUNN** MIKE FRIEDRICH & LEE MARRS **ALAN JONES & LINDA PICKENS-JONES ERNET & CELIA KAN KAN** TAECK-KYU & SARAH KIM PETER & JASMINE LAU **CAROL & GEORGE LAYTON** MICHAFI & DOLLY LOVE MARK & KATHY PARSONS LINDA & BOB PRENDERGAST KIM SMITH & LINDY WEST **ROGER & MARY SPENCE** TIMOTHY & VERNA TAM WILL & JUDY TRAVELSTEAD



ZOOM Lectures

THURSDAYS 3:30-5 PM

Our Thursday lecture series is exclusively online via Zoom. For these online lectures, registered members will receive a Zoom invite on a weekly basis. Recordings will be sent in the same manner the day after the lecture (with permission from the speaker). Lectures are available to GOLD and SILVER members only.

The World on Fire: US Foreign Policy in Troubled Times

FEB. 8 | Gene Bigler, Former Diplomat and Retired Professor

Joseph Goebbels: The Man Who Seduced a Nation!

FEB. 15 | Anette Isaacs, German Historian

Caves, Stones and Rocks Part II

FEB. 22 | Stephenie Slahor, Professional Writer

Rhythms of the Road: A Musical Journey with Planes, Trains and Automobiles FEB. 29 | Mike Agron

Humanities, Cultural Heritage, and the Arts in Stockton - a History

MAR. 7 | Phillip Merlo, CEO of San Joaquin County Historical Museum

The Human-Animal Bond - An Attachment to Our Pets

MAR. 14 | Linda Hollis, Assistant Professor of Practice; Innovation in Aging

Pacific: 100 Years in Stockton

MAR. 21 | Nicole Mountjoy, Academic Support Librarian for Innovative Programs



Along with a grant from the Conference Claimants Endowment Board, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UOP is offering a 50% discount on their "SILVER STAR membership includes LECTURES only (includes recordings)". Normally \$65, but only \$32.50 for RCA members. Thanks to the Endowment Board for making this possible

This was previously announced in an email blast, so be sure you are on our list for breaking news!

Enroll in OLLI by going to this specific website for RCA Members: https://style="background-color: blue;">https://sty

The Status of the Educational System in Our Current Society

MAR. 28 | Belkis Choiseul-Praslin, Teacher Education Program Lead and Assistant Professor & Charlane

Starks, Teacher Education Program Lead and Assistant Professor

The Hidden Risks of Hearing Loss

APR. 4 | Celia Zhang, Assistant Professor, Audiology

Putin's Russia: Two Years Into the War

APR. 11 | Asya Pereltsvaig, Language Expert & Historian

Liverpool Beyond the Beatles

APR. 18 | Asya Pereltsvaig, Language Expert & Historian

Pundits, Polls and Politics-The '24 Election APR. 25 | Douglas Stowell, Principal Consultant

A World War II Story through Sketches

MAY 2 | Janet DeVries, Retired Student Career Counselor and World Traveler

California-Nevada Annual Conference of the

United Methodist Church

Retired Clergy Association

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Find us on Facebook! https://www.facebook.com/groups/RetiredClergyAssociation

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Fling

April 24-25, 2024

>Christ The King Citrus Heights

Annual Conference Session

June 7-10, 2024

> Sacramento Convention Center

Annual Luncheon

June 7, 2024

>Sacramento Convention Center Rooms 9 & 10