

Corps Connector

Volume 7 Number 4

December 2012

A photograph of an elderly woman with short, wavy grey hair and glasses, wearing a dark blue jacket over a light-colored patterned top. She is standing behind a wooden podium with a microphone, appearing to be speaking. A large, circular gold medal is pinned to her chest. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

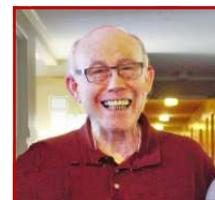
Rose Mary Dougherty facilitates
IVC Fall Retreat

Washington DC/
Metro Maryland
& Northern
Virginia Regional
Council

Mike Goggin
Patricia Holley
Regional Directors

Joseph Dempsey
James Kelley
Pamela Lucey
Dennis Lucey
Joseph McCloskey, S.J.
Francis Murphy
Joseph Raia
Grace Risetto
Richard Urban

Notes from the Editor



A very special welcome to our new Associate Editor for DC/Metro Maryland: Cliff Hackett. Cliff takes on the job of soliciting articles and news stories from his region. Thanks Cliff and welcome aboard.

The other morning I was writing in my journal and something I wrote about reminded me of Rod Knop. Rod was a classmate of mine at the major seminary at St. Meinrad in Indiana. That year some seminarians decided to put together a small vocation magazine to attract young people to think about becoming a priest or joining a religious congregation or order. One day the editor asked me if I would write an article for the magazine. I said sure who do you want me to write about (thinking it would be one of those manly Societies like the Jesuits). “The Benedictine Sisters at Ferdinand, Indiana.” I kind of stared at him disbelieving, gulped a couple of times and did the best I could.

Shortly after the magazine came out, I got a knock on my door. It was Rod. He told me he was really impressed with my article. “And I thought the only thing you ever did was shoot billiards down in the rec. room,” he laughed. From that day on Rod and I became close friends. He helped me greatly to get over my extreme shyness. His kindness, his sincere interest in me and his encouragement changed my life. Rod is one of those special people you look back on and say my life has never been the same since.

Rod didn’t return to St. Meinrad the next year and I really missed his gentle companionship. And I haven’t seen nor heard from him since that first year. I’ve tried many ways to get in touch: searched the Internet, Ancestry.com, the Social Security Death Index in case he’s died, every place I can think of. No luck. And he has no idea how much I want to say thanks for turning my life around.

Getting ready for this issue, I got to thinking about our IVC volunteers. How many lives you touch in the work you do, the influence you have, like Rod. Many people you work with, I thought, have echoed what I said about Rod, saying: “She truly changed my life.” “Does he know how what he said to me or did for me, what effect it’s had on my life?” This is the very essence of volunteering: changing lives. A lot of years may pass and you lose contact. And they never get the chance to tell you thanks. So I’ll do it for them: Thank you so very much for all you do.

Now that they have been thanked. as a Christmas gift to yourself spend some time reflecting on the person in your life that touched you life as Rod touched mine. Share the gift by thanking them!

Dick Bowling

*“I sit silent under a sprawling tree
on a sandy, sun-soaked beach,
completely at peace,
empty of all images,
past and future,
simply present
to the sea, the waves, the sky,
the people nearby....and
to the stillness of this moment
in all its beauty.”*

— Marty Walsh Costa Rica, February 24, 2008

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Corps Connector

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Dick Bowling, Editor
Associate Editor for D/C Metro Maryland: Cliff Hackett

Send submissions or comments to
dbowling@ivcusa.org.

Photos by Dick Bowling unless otherwise noted

Ed McCormack to Facilitate January Day of Reflection

**JANUARY DAY OF
REFLECTION:
JANUARY 16, 2013
DOMINICAN RETREAT
HOUSE.**

TIME: 9:00-3:45

**Theme: Becoming
Contemplative in
Action/Introduction
to Ignatian Spirituality**

The January Day of Reflection will again be held this year at the Dominican Retreat House in McLean, Virginia. Dominican Retreat House is on a lovely tranquil hillside site on Old Dominion Drive near Dolley Madison Parkway (Rt. 123)



**Dominican Retreat House
In Winter**
Retreat House Photo

EDWARD MCCORMACK has a B.S. degree from the University of Scranton, an M.A. in Theology from Immaculate Conception Seminary and holds a doctorate in Systematic Theology from Catholic University of America where he studied under Joseph Komonchak. He has taught high school religion on the island of Ponape in Micronesia and at Seton Hall Prep in New Jersey. He has been on the faculty at Georgetown University, the Dominican House of Studies, St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, and Chair of the Pastoral Studies Department and later Chair of the Spirituality Department at Washington Theological Union. Ed has been involved in retreat work with the Spiritual Exercises for twenty years directing retreats, offering spiritual direction, and guiding others through the Ignatian 19th annotation. Ed has been a Spiritual Reflector for IVC since at least 2005 and has recently retired from this position.



Internet Photo

ON A DAY WHEN THE WIND IS PERFECT

On a day
when the wind is perfect,
the sail just needs to open and the world is full of beauty.
Today is such a
day.
My eyes are like the sun that makes promises;
the promise of life
that it always
keeps
each morning.
The living heart gives to us as does that luminous sphere,
both caress the earth with great
tenderness.
This is a breeze that can enter the soul.
This love I know plays a drum. Arms move around me;
who can contain their self before my beauty?
Peace is wonderful,
but ecstatic dance is more fun, and less narcissistic;
gregarious He makes our lips.
On a day when the wind is perfect,
the sail just needs to open
and the love starts.
Today is such
a day.
~ Rumi ~

(Love Poems From God: Twelve Sacred Voices from the East and West by Daniel Ladinsky)

Silence: A Demanding Discipline by Pat Durkin



Rose Mary Dougherty, Retreat Facilitator

ON SEPTEMBER 18-20, 68 IVC VOLUNTEERS, spiritual reflectors, regional directors and regional council members from Northern Virginia, DC/Metro Maryland and Baltimore gathered on the banks of the Potomac at Loyola Retreat House in Faulkner, Maryland for our fall retreat, “Being with God in All Things”. Tuesday afternoon brought a cleansing downpour followed by two glorious days of sunshine and comfortable temperatures affording participants the chance to revel in the water views and woodland paths that surround the Retreat House.

Marilyn Dunphy, regional director of Baltimore, set the tone upon our arrival on Tuesday morning: let go and see what comes up. She encouraged us to relish the mundane tasks and be in the moment because anything can be an experience of God as Mary Oliver suggests in her poem, *Mindful*: “Every day I see or hear something that more or less kills me with delight.”

After lunch, we entered sacred time with our retreat facilitator, Rose Mary Dougherty, SSND. Bringing thirty plus years of experience in contemplative spirituality, group spiritual direction, and discernment, Rose Mary radiates an aura of peace and calm punctuated by a delightful spark of humor when you least expect it. Following the Ignatian tradition to ask for the grace you desire at the beginning of a time of prayer, Rose Mary began our retreat by posing the same question Jesus asked John’s disciples, “What do you want?” (John 1:35-39)

Our prayer continued Tuesday afternoon with our celebration of Eucharist followed by a social where all enjoyed an opportunity to renew old IVC friendships and meet new members. After dinner, we gathered with Rose Mary in the chapel where she asked us to consider what we needed to let go in order to allow ourselves to be loved. We were beginning to ease into the pace of our retreat: slow down, pay attention, let go...into God’s loving arms.

We abided by our usual format each morning and afternoon; a presentation by our facilitator followed by free time for individual reflection and concluding with small group sharing. However on Wednesday Rose Mary offered us the option of skipping the small group sessions if we preferred to spend the day in silence and solitude. All religions have traditionally sought silence as a path to God. “We discover in the silence that we are loved and loveable.” (John Main) “Silence is the one and only voice of God.” (Herman Melville) “The quieter we become, the more we hear.” (Ram Dass)



Tuesday Evening Social Gathering



Enjoying the option of skipping the small groups

Rose Mary encouraged us to practice “reverent listening” in our small groups for the most part rather than having a discussion. For many of us, silence is a challenge and feels almost unnatural. It is a demanding discipline for us to refrain from connecting with each other in a conversational manner and to just *listen*, but, with patience, a new dynamic began to emerge allowing space for the Holy Spirit to speak.

Eucharistic celebrations were highlights on each of the three days at Loyola and our visiting celebrants, Fr. Frank Kaminski (Loyola Retreat House) and Fr. Paul McCarren and musician, Mark Ohnmacht, infused our communal prayer with inspired preaching and spirited music.

On our second evening we enjoyed popcorn and a movie, *The Education of Little Tree*, an inspiring story of the power of love and the strength of the human spirit. On Thursday morning as our retreat drew to a close, we celebrated our recommitment to the new IVC year by asking God for the special grace we desire for the coming year and an anointing of hands. For you were unable to join us on the retreat, take a moment now to ask for the particular grace you want this year.

Our three days on the river were a time of deepening our relationship with God by reflecting on who we are—*really*, and who is God—*really*. Richard Rohr says that St. Francis used to spend whole nights praying the same prayer: “Who are you, God? And who am I?” Evelyn Underhill claims it’s almost the perfect prayer. Rosemary reminded us as we headed home that it is not important that we come away from our retreat with answers, for it may be that when we no longer know what to do or where to go, our journey begins.

Pat Durkin has been a Spiritual Reflector with the Northern Virginia Region since 2009. She has four volunteers she meets regularly for Spiritual Reflection. She lives in Haymarket, Virginia.





Trying to Open “Doors to Help and Hope” at Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington by Barbara Reck

The three year old twin girls were fiercely clinging to their mother as I was doing the normal ‘intake’ paperwork for her to qualify for DC’s emergency rental assistance program. The grief and deep sadness on her face reminded me of the famous Dorothea Lange photograph from the depression era of the 1940s. But this was 2012, in the middle of a mostly thriving DC community, and I am at my desk at Catholic Charities headquarters doing my job. She was missing a few documents without which we could not help her. She’d brought things like her unpaid electric bill but couldn’t find the birth certificates for the girls and without those, we could not proceed.

That morning I had entered this turn of the century building by walking under two bright blue banners bearing the Catholic Charities name and message of *Opening Doors to Help and Hope*. Charging up uneven stone stairs, I open the heavy wood entry door and move to begin my work as an IVC volunteer working with the Parish Partners Program. I’m in a reflective mood, asking myself how I landed here at this place where we assist in carrying out the words of the Matthew 25 scripture that directs us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, house homeless strangers and do all this in name of Jesus.

My mind flashes back to my Ohio childhood. It is the 1950s and I have just walked home from school and up to my bedroom. We were a family of five kids, our grandfather lived with us. It was a full house. In the bathroom, I run into a complete stranger. Ah, once again, mom forgot to warn me that yet another Hungarian refugee family from the 1956 revolution was staying in one small room that she fixed up with beds, clothing, and so much more. Initially, they were relatives but later they were just strangers who had learned that my mother was willing to be listed as an *official* sponsor. They could use our home as a destination to begin a new life in the USA and free to practice their Catholic faith. I watched as she invited them to our dinner table every night, did their laundry, taught them English, went with them to look for jobs, and took them to her own doctor when they were sick. Some stayed for weeks, some for months and our own front door became a bit of a revolving door for years. Our house was Catholic Charities--we just didn’t have the blue flags flying out front.

This brings me back to why I find myself as an IVC volunteer. I am carrying on the work of my mother, carrying on the work of Jesus. The Parish Partners Program exists as one vehicle under the huge umbrella of Catholic Charities which carries out the incredible ministry that gives our neighbors in need a hand up. When the priests and rectory staff at any of the 140 parishes in the Archdiocese of Washington find an individual or family at their own doorstep and in need of the critical skills often required to



negotiate the complex systems to qualify for financial help with paying a PEPCO electric bill before the lights and heat go off and drugs needing refrigeration go warm, they can call on us. We sort through hundreds of agencies willing to assist those with authentic and immediate needs. My work is the conduit that will allow those twin girls and their brothers to avoid eviction and remain in the own bedrooms. And, that sad face on their mom had multiple causes. I learned she rarely smiled because she had almost no teeth left and no money for dental services. Unkind kids at her children’s school made fun of her when she went to pick up her kids. Her son would get in fights defending his mother’s honor. She didn’t want to even mention this need but I assured her I could identify pro bono dentists to help.

For a full array of resources and activities visit www.CatholicCharitiesDC.org. Meanwhile, my fingers continue to twist and turn my employee badge as I review the rules, fill out the forms and glance up to see heavenly blue skies.

Finding God in the Filing Cabinet

by Mary Frances O'Connor Moriarty

Our father, Ignatius, sought to find God in all he met. All us Ignatian volunteers look for the Face of God in those we serve: the newly-arrived immigrants, the children in remedial reading, the hungry at the soup kitchen, the homeless at the shelter. I also look for Jesus at my own volunteer job. When I think about where I find God in my work, I joke that I find Jesus in the filing cabinet

I work at Langley Residential Support Services. Our organization manages and supports mildly to moderately intellectually challenged adults in six group homes and through assistance and visits to those who live on their own. Professional social workers staff the group homes while still others do the home visits. The staff at Langley's main office on Chain Bridge Road, where I work, oversees and manages the group homes. They make sure that medical appointments are kept, that the residents get to work (yes, they all have jobs), that the homes are kept up (basements get flooded, electricity fails, grass needs cutting), and that all our people are as well taken care of as is humanly possible. Overseeing all of this is a remarkable

woman, Betsy Schatz, who has been in the social work business all of her adult life.

Langley got its start a little more than 20 years ago when members of three churches in the McLean-Langley area realized that families of handicapped adults in their neighborhoods needed assistance in a real and practical manner. Presently Langley, as I said, manages the



six group homes that have a total of 27 residents, and makes 53 home visits weekly. Assisting Betsy at the office are Stephanie Davidson, Maureen Gum, Lisa Barker, and Dawn Gipson. M. E. Kulick directs development and Pat Hellings

keeps the books.

No, I'm not a social worker, nor do I interact with our consumers though now and then I may see an individual who comes by the office with one of the group home supervisors. What is my job? I work on Mondays. I answer the phone, copy, file and shred documents, address envelopes, and perform other duties they ask me to do.

After a couple years on the job, I have come to see the face of God in the women I work with. And in those out in the field. Every day they take up the task of caring for our people. They meet challenges every day: some require a trip to one of the houses in an emergency, a trip to the doctor or dentist, conferences with parents or guardians, basements that flood, a problem at work. There are surprises, frustrations, sorrows, the occasional triumph. They come back day after day. These women are, truly, the face of God.

Back to that filing cabinet: yes, Jesus and His friends are there, all together, A to Z.



Langley Office Staff: Maureen Gum, Dawn Gipson, Mary Frances, Betsy Schatz, Stephanie Davidson, and Lisa Barker





Internet Photo

Desert Island Spirituality

with Dick Bowling, Editor

“If you knew you were to be stranded on a desert island for ten or more years, what five spiritual books including the Bible would you take with you?” I sent this question to the Spiritual Reflectors and selected others in the DC/Metro Maryland and Northern Virginia Regions. These books were to include what Bible translation they would take, a couple of Spiritual “Classics” and a selection of Contemporary Spiritual Books. From time to time I will publish in the Newsletter a selection of the books they said they’d like to have by their side. Here are some of their suggestions:

Bibles (according to the translations used):

- New American Bible
- Jerusalem Bible
- The New English Bible

Favorite Spiritual Classics:

- The Practice of the Presence of God-- Brother Lawrence, a Carmelite Brother*
- The Collected Works of John of the Cross*
- Abandonment to Divine Providence-- Jean-Pierre de Caussade, S.J. (mentioned twice)*

Contemporary Spiritual Books:

- Job and the Mystery of Suffering--Richard Rohr*
- The Return of the Prodigal Son--Henri Nouwen*
- God in Search of Man --Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel*
- The New Earth—Eckhart Tolle*
- When Things Fall Apart--Pema Chodron*



IVC Kicked Off Its National MAGNIFY! Campaign to Raise a Million Dollars and Double Its Volunteer Base in the Next Three Years

THIS FALL THE IGNATIAN VOLUNTEER CORPS (IVC) launched its Magnify! campaign to help secure the resources needed to support and substantially expand the reach of IVC and ensure its future. The \$1,000,000 campaign will be used to magnify volunteer recruitment programs in major metropolitan areas across the country and, thereby, to double the number of IVC volunteers over the course of the next three years. This campaign will magnify itself many times over in service and outreach; will help magnify the ability of non-profit agencies to care for the marginalized; will magnify the ability of retired and semi-retired persons to use their skilled experience and talents for service; and, finally, will magnify God’s love through service to

Continued on Page 9



Jeanette Herbert demonstrates techniques used in Reflector Peer-Group sharing

Spiritual Reflectors Gather for Mutual Support and to Share Skills by Mary Lou Miller

As we began another IVC year the Spiritual Reflectors from the Northern Virginia and DC/Metro Maryland Regions gathered for a morning of community building, learning from one another and welcoming new Reflectors. This year twenty Spiritual Reflectors gathered at Missionhurst in Arlington on October 22. It is good to be together and experience the mutual support and wisdom of the group. Kathleen Curtin from the DC/Metro MD Region and Mary Lou Miller from Northern Virginia facilitated this year's program.

After we prayed, introduced ourselves and welcomed new Reflectors, Kathleen gave a brief history of the beginnings of IVC. She explained that the spiritual component of IVC is what makes it different from other volunteer opportunities, She described the one-on-one monthly meeting between Volunteers and their Reflectors as a gift of IVC to the Volunteers. The Reflectors testified that we all feel very privileged to listen to the Volunteers as they look for the footprints of God in their service and life. We agreed that what we aim to do in our sessions is to be "Reflectors" and that we feel much more comfortable with that term than "Director."

Our focus for the morning was on the benefits to Spiritual Reflectors of participating in Peer or Colleague Groups. These groups give the Reflectors a chance to meet together to examine their role in the Spiritual Reflection session and to offer one another mutual support. In a typical Peer Group a different Reflector takes a turn each month presenting oneself and one's reactions to a particular situation or Reflectee. The Reflector then asks the group for what he/she thinks would be helpful, i.e. Where is my unease coming from?

A model Peer Group was then presented. For purposes of demonstrating the peer group process, Jeanette Herbert agreed to be the "presenter." She talked about herself and some of the problems she was having with her 'Volunteer.' She talked about her feelings of frustration and wondered if there was something more she could do to help her Reflectee experience God's presence in her service and life. They also answered one another's questions, talked about the value of silence and their own comfort level with silence and noted the importance of praying for our Volunteers. This group experience is similar in many respects to a one-on-one monthly meeting. The rest of the Reflectors attending listened and observed the process, spent time in silence and listening for God before they in their turn responded to Jeanette.

By the way everything said in the Peer Group is confidential and great care is taken to assure anonymity: names are changed as are many particulars. We do not focus on the Volunteer; not trying to solve a Volunteer's problem but are concentrating on helping the Reflector become aware of his/her 'unfreedoms' or biases. This isn't a problem solving exercise.



Mary Lou Miller has been a long time Spiritual Reflector with IVC.



IVC Volunteer Rose Mary Lawlor (left) and Mary Agee, president and CEO of Northern Virginia Family Services
NVFS Photo



John Durkin, Mary Agee and Karen Horowitz, Director of Community Partnerships for SERVE
NVFS Photo

On Thursday, June 14, two IVC volunteers received the First Annual Northern Virginia Family Services (NVFS) Volunteer Appreciation Awards. The Presidential Award Winners were:

Rosemary Lawlor

Early Childhood Division

&

John Durkin

Supportive Family Services Division



others. IVC's Select Committee for the Magnify! Campaign has already raised \$600,000 from foundations and major donors, including members of the Select Committee, and continues its vigorous fundraising efforts

Spiritual reflector Kathleen Curtin and former volunteer/regional director Jim Kelley are supporting the Magnify! Campaign among the volunteers and spiritual reflectors in the DC/MD and NoVA regions. They organized and hosted "Launchings" October 27th at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Clarendon, VA, and November 3rd at the Columbia Country Club in Chevy Chase, Md. Afterwards, they mailed campaign materials to those volunteers and spiritual reflectors who did not attend a Launching. Volunteer/spiritual reflector gifts and pledges total \$20,000 at this time. Several volunteers and spiritual reflectors are already fulfilling their pledge actions to recruit new volunteers.

Regional Directors Patty Holley and Mike Goggin have plans to use Magnify! gifts to expand IVC service by doubling the number of volunteers in three years. To achieve this goal, they will need to:

- hire additional staff,
- purchase needed equipment for program and marketing,
- provide alternative and conveniently located office/meeting space for the DC/MD region, and
- increase the number, the diversity, and the geographic representation of the Bi-regional Council members.

JOE JONES: ALONG THE BUMPY ROAD OF SONG AND SERVICE

by Cliff Hackett, Associate Editor, DC/Metro MD

Most Ignatian Volunteers bring a few scars to the task and that may make the work a bit easier. This truism popped up again after a talk with Joe Jones about his new assignment at Friendship Place. Joe has a few scars but he doesn't really want to talk about how they came about. He would rather talk about his life in choral music which began when a wise doctor prescribed singing lessons for a seven year old with a serious lung problem. Seventy years later he is still singing and just back from another European program with his beloved Choral Arts Society of Washington. And still with the lung problem.

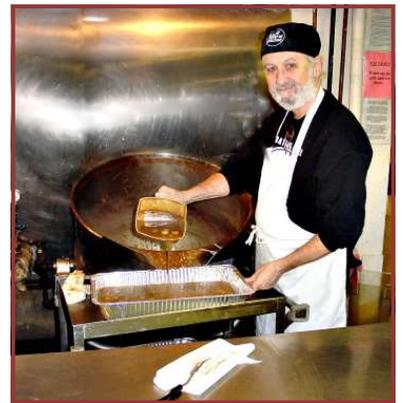
The boy soprano in Dixon, Illinois (the birthplace he shares with Ronald Reagan) went through public schools and a nominal Catholic boyhood before leaving for the University of Illinois. His on-off faith came into better focus at Georgetown where he studied history and then law. Slowly, the Jesuits made a big difference in his life. So did an Illinois Senator who gave him a patronage job so he could finance his evening studies.

But if music gave a direction in Joe's college days his Catholic faith needed a few more years to catch up. He moved into a busy career in non-profit management in Washington, and, later, Dallas, Texas. It took two marriages and a serious health crisis to add a few more bruises. Then it took another wise doctor who told him to slow down before life really opened for him.

A loving pastor at St Joseph's on Capitol Hill directed Joe back to the Jesuits, first at nearby St Aloysius and then to IVC. A sense of service came in his mid-sixties which he could not have imagined forty years earlier. In this, Joe Jones seems to exemplify the IVC approach: You can serve better when your own life has led you up and, sometimes, down a few rocky paths.

Joe's years at IVC began with chopping vegetables at DC Central Kitchen. He then helped some DCCK clients find their way back into the mainstream of urban life. His success led to the four years he just finished as Regional Director for DC/Metro Maryland.

Joe's farewell from the RD post brought (besides two renditions by him of "Danny Boy") personal tributes to the great personal attention he gave to each Ignatian Volunteer. He was never too busy to talk and, especially, to listen to the problems of both the volunteers and of the heads of the agencies where IVC works. In fact, he would still rather listen than talk about anything but especially about himself.



Life is slowing down a bit for Joe Jones. Only one day a week at Friendship Place will provide more time to handle the medical and other issues he and his wife, Julie, bear so well together now. But his eyes brighten when he recalls that his choral director (himself going into retirement) assured Joe that his voice shows only the tiniest bit of decline from its best days.

Not bad considering the other scars life has brought but which Joe has mastered without complaint. He places great value on the need to seize the present moment to act. Even in his latest "retirement" he sets a great IVC example of discernment and service. And he does it with a song and a smile.

Upcoming Events

January Day of Reflection
January 16, 2013
 Dominican Retreat House
 7103 Old Dominion Drive
 McLean, VA 22101
ED MCCORMACK
 FACILITATOR

Spring 2013 Retreat:
June 10-12, 2013
 Loyola Retreat House
 Faulkner, MD.

HOWARD GRAY, S.J.
 FACILITATOR

Evening of Gratitude
April 21, 2013
Gonzaga College High School Commons

Northern Virginia Region 2012-2013 City Groups

Our Lady Queen of Peace 2700 19th Street South Arlington, VA 22204 2nd Tuesday 10:00-12:00	St. Anthony's 3305 Glen Carlyn Rd Falls Church, VA 22041 Room 1 2nd Thursday 9:30-11:30 am	St. John Neumann's 11900 Lawyers Road Reston VA 20191 3rd Tuesday 10:00-12:00	St. Joseph's 701 Columbus Street Alexandria, VA 22314 3rd Wednesday 10:00-12:00
Feb. 12, 2013	Feb. 14, 2013	Feb 19, 2013	Feb. 20, 2013
Mar. 12, 2013	Mar. 14, 2013	Mar. 19, 2013	Mar. 20, 2013
Apr. 9, 2013	Apr. 11, 2013	Apr. 16, 2013	Apr. 17 2013
May 14, 2013	May 9, 2013	May 21, 2013	May 15, 2013

DC/Metro MD Region 2012-2013 City Groups

Bartholomew House 6904 River Road Bethesda, MD 1st Thurs.—11:00-1:00	Wash. Jesuit Academy 900 Varnum St., NE Washington, DC 2nd Tuesday—11:00-1:00	Bartholomew House 6904 River Road Bethesda, MD 1st Thurs.—9:30-11:30
Feb. 7, 2013 Mar. 7, 2013 Apr. 4, 2013 May 2, 2013	Feb. 12, 2013 Mar. 12, 2013 Apr. 9, 2013 May 14, 2013	Feb. 7, 2013 Mar. 7, 2013 Apr. 4, 2013 May 2, 2013



TIRED OF SPEAKING SWEETLY

Love wants to reach out and manhandle us,
Break all our teacup talk of God.

If you had the courage and
Could give the Beloved His choice, some nights,
He would just drag you around the room
By your hair,
Ripping from your grip all those toys in the world
That bring you no joy.

Love sometimes gets tired of speaking sweetly
And wants to rip to shreds
All your erroneous notions of truth

That make you fight within yourself, dear one,
And with others,

Causing the world to weep
On too many fine days.

God wants to manhandle us,
Lock us inside of a tiny room with Himself
And practice His dropkick.

The Beloved sometimes wants
To do us a great favor:

Hold us upside down
And shake all the nonsense out.

But when we hear
He is in such a "playful drunken mood"
Most everyone I know
Quickly packs their bags and hightails it
Out of town.

~ Hafiz ~

(The Gift – versions of Hafiz by Daniel Ladinsky)