

## October 2011 News from the Circle

By Ched Myers

A busy month began by finishing up permaculture projects with **Melissa Shank** and **Chris Grataski** (see last month's *News from the Circle*). As they were departing we received almost 24 hours of rain, unseasonably early, but great for the new plantings. **Elaine** had an **Abundant Table Farm Project** board meeting and prepared to be gone most of the month. I spoke at a social justice conference at nearby **Cal Lutheran University**, which featured theologians **Joerg Rieger** and **Rosemary Radford Reuther**. Joerg spent a night at our place, and we shared dinner with Pasadena friends **Bob** and **Marty Coleman**, visiting our place for the first time.

Then we were off to Detroit for **Lydia Wylie Kellermann** and **Erin Fahey's** wedding (*right*). It was a spectacular event, presided over by **Joyce Hollyday** and Lydia's dad **Bill**, with the reception catered by the **Jeannie Wylie Community**, complete with homemade wine and beer! It was a time of great joy; yet Bill may be brought up on charges in both the Methodist and Episcopal systems for performing a same-sex marriage, a reminder that the struggle for equality continues. The next weekend was with the **Christian Peacemaker Teams** 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary Congress in Chicago, a wonderful gathering of past, present and prospective activists hosted by **Reba Place Fellowship**. Thanks to **Rick** and **Helen Hudgens** for their hospitality! Elaine and I facilitated four storytelling circles and preached at the closing worship service (watch for the sermon in next month's E-News). We also took the opportunity to meet with some of the young leaders we have been working with these past few years. After speaking to a Conflict Transformation class at **North Park University**, we were off to **Stony Point Center**, where **Rick** and **Kitty Ufford Chase** and the **Community of Living Traditions** (see [www.stonypointcenter.org](http://www.stonypointcenter.org)) hosted two overlapping events: the mid-year retreat of the **Word and World Mentoring Program**, and the opening of the **Center and Library for the Bible and Social Justice** ([www.clbsj.org](http://www.clbsj.org)). We leave you on the next page with a **photo essay** on both very successful events. From there Elaine went on to Halifax, N.S. for the **Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Commission** hearings on the legacy of Indian Residential Schools. It was a painful time of testimony, yet native peoples' determination to survive those past horrors was also inspiring. Thanks to **Russ Daye** for hosting Elaine and Joyce Hollyday.



Finally, we're encouraged at the way the "**Occupy Wall Street**" demonstrations have gone viral around the country and world. Please keep in mind our **Sabbath Economics resources** as you educate and agitate around the revived public conversation concerning economic justice. All Saints blessings!



All photos by Tim Nafziger.

**Left column:** Grand Opening of the Center and Library for the Bible and Social Justice. **Top to bottom:**

- L to R: Laura and Norman Gottwald; Mary and Herman Waetjen; Jack and Linda Elliott at the opening roundtable.
- L to R: Laurel Dykstra, Ched and Norman introduce the anthology celebrating the opening of the CLBSJ, entitled *Liberating Biblical Study*.
- Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb (right) explains the history of her 500 year old Torah scroll that she shared during the CLBSJ open house. The festivities coincided with the Jewish feast of Simcha Torah!
- Anthology contributor Andrea Ferich (middle) of the Center for Environment-al Transformation in Camden came up to join us. At left is Will O'Brien of Philadelphia's Alternative Seminary.
- Folk singer Charlie King led us in a rousing song about Dorothy Day.



**Right column & below:** Word and World Mentoring retreat. **Bottom to top:**

- Kara Bender, Melissa Shank and Danielle Miller work on "Tree of Life" installation;
- Liz Nicolas and Bethany Loberg examine the stacks at the CLBSJ;
- W&W women praying and laughing;
- Elaine and Ched surprised with an anniversary cake (thanks Theresa Tensuan!);
- W&W board chair Mike Boucher shares a musical moment with Sylvie Foran-Borla;
- Teyvn East talks about her new performance piece, which debuted during the weekend.

