



Dear Sisters of Women at the Well~ March 2017

Hello to you all in this snowy March about to become Spring! God-willing. My name is Joyce Long, Pastor of Casco Village Church UCC, and your new Dean~2nd Year! (I've been attending Women at the Well Camp for 15 of the last 16 years!) First let me say “Thank You” for a most wonderful first year of being your Dean. I'm trying very hard to carry on the wonderful traditions and sacred rituals of our beloved weekend, and at the same time offer us all something new to inspire our spirits. Our Theme: “To Know our Neighbors is to Love our Neighbors.”

We have two special guests coming this year to our weekend. First is Shirley Hamilton, a very interesting woman I know from Otisfield, Maine. She and her husband Henry were Development Workers and lived amongst various Muslim practicing Cultures from 1987-2003. The last year, when they lived in Afghanistan, Shirley was very helpful to her husband in gaining the trust and insight of the guarded Muslim women. They now attend the Unitarian Universalist Church in Norway, Maine, and intentionally inclusive community. She will be spending the entire weekend with us. It was Shirley and her husband who suggested the book for our weekend.

Our second guest will be with us for Saturday evening and hopefully through Sunday. Her name is Maha Jaber. Maha was born in Michigan and therefore has an American Birth certificate and passport. She was raised in Ramada, Palestine. She has the unique perspective of living in two cultures, as an American Palestinian, in her 30's, now in Portland. I believe Saturday evening will be very special, and perhaps a heart-soul-mind- opening encounter. Please join us.

This year's book is: “Reading the Muslim Mind” by Hassan Hathout.

Some details to know: Let's all try to bring a **GREEN COLORED SHIRT** in your favorite hue, the color for Muslim and in celebration of Pilgrim Lodge Camp as it continues to grow. I can't wait to see all the beautiful expressions of Green! “i thank You God for most this amazing day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees” e.e.cummings

For those of you who may be attending for the first time, BRING: bedding or a sleeping bag (don't forget the fitted sheet to cover the mattress!), a towel, clothing that can be layered, swimwear, a flashlight, rain gear, bug repellent and sunscreen. If you have special dietary needs or special food, they may be left in the kitchen refrigerator. Things NOT to include: drugs, alcohol, or pets. (Service animals are welcome but we need to know in advance.) Pilgrim Lodge is a tobacco free zone as are all Outdoor Ministry sponsored events. Regarding cell phones: disconnecting from the world is part of the joy/challenge of a retreat event. If you need to keep cell contact, please keep phones on silence and use them privately so as to respect everyone's experience.

Our time together will begin with supper on Friday June 2nd and ends with brunch on Sunday June 4th. You may arrive at camp anytime after 4pm on Friday June 2nd to get settled in your cabin and start enjoying Pilgrim Lodge! Please do your very best to stay for the whole weekend ~ for your sake as well as the community as we gather together.

Please let me know if you are wanting or willing to participate in worship or in any other way. On Saturday we will be offering crafts this year. I know many of you missed having things to do with your hands and artistic spirits! If anyone has any great arts/crafts ideas/offering please call or email me! Also if digging in the dirt is what you enjoy, we can help with that. For the past few years many of you have blessed PL with gifts of potted annuals and perennials. Others have share their skills in planting. This effort to beautify PL is always appreciated.

If you have special housing requests please let me know at the email below. Please remember to send in your payment to the PL office at least two weeks prior to camp. You do not need a doctor's signature but we do need to have you complete and submit the health form.

So now that's all there is to it! Just come, enjoy and relax on Cobbosseecontee Lake. Bring a friend as well! Dinner will be served at 6pm Friday Night. Please let me know if you will need to arrive at a later time. I am very excited, as always, and look forward to seeing all of you
~ Sisters at the Well, Rev. Joyce Long

Call Joyce @ Church 207-627-4282 or Cell 207-240-3378

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