

EUU Fall Retreat 2014 Program Booklet



17-19 October 2014
Sol Cress, Spa, Belgium

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Welcome to the EUU Fall Retreat 2014!



We are so pleased that you have been able to join us. I am particularly pleased that we are gathering in Spa, a special location in the Ardennes forest that is one of my favorite retreat sites.

If this is your first retreat, a special welcome to you! We are looking forward to getting to know you. If you have questions about EUU or about Unitarian Universalism in general, please look for the Welcome Table or ask anyone for more information. We will do our best to answer your questions and to help you feel at home.

For the rest of you, whether this is your second retreat or your twenty-second, welcome back to your EUU home!

We are grateful to the organising committee from the Netherlands Unitarian Universalists Fellowship, who have been working for months to prepare this retreat.

We are also grateful to the Rev. Meg Riley, our guest minister and theme speaker for the weekend for coming all the way from Minnesota to share her wisdom with us.

We hope that this will be a transformative weekend for us all: a weekend of new and renewed friendships, a weekend of worship, fun, and inspiration!

In faith,
Dorcy Erlandson
President, European Unitarian Universalists

About our speaker: the Reverend Meg Riley

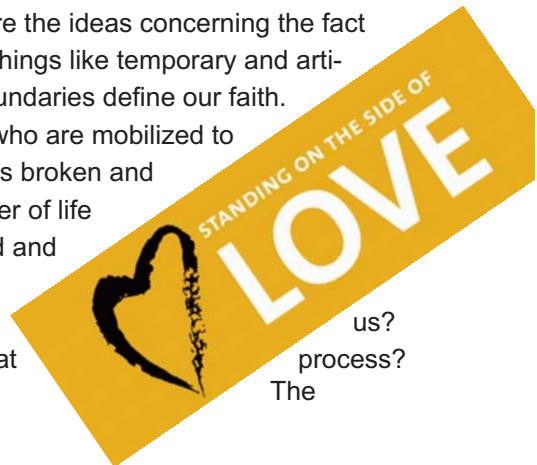


The Reverend Meg A. Riley is Senior Minister of the Church of the Larger Fellowship, a 3,500-strong 'Church Without Walls'. She has worked at the crossroads of religion and culture in a variety of contexts, including serving as Director of the Unitarian Universalist Association's Advocacy and Witness staff group, Office of Lesbian, Bisexual and Gay Concerns, Washington Office for Advocacy, Youth Programs, and as a religious educator in several Unitarian Universalist congregations.

Rev. Riley was the founding director of Standing on the Side of Love (Harnessing Love's Power to Stop Oppression, Exclusion and Violence). She was founding President of the Board of Faith in Public Life: A Resource Center for Justice and the Common Good, and of Equal Partners in Faith.

She has served on the national boards of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, the Interfaith Alliance, and too many working groups to name.

Her theme over the weekend will explore the ideas concerning the fact that the planet's just too small to let little things like temporary and artificial national, ethnic or even religious boundaries define our faith. It's a struggling world that needs people who are mobilized to love one another and help to heal all that's broken and cherish those in need! This truly is a matter of life and death. Can technology help us to find and connect to one another? Can those connections grow deep enough to sustain us? And if so, how? And what is our role in that process?



CLF

A Unitarian Universalist Congregation Without Walls

The Program

Friday 17 October

3 p.m. Arrival, registration & settling in
6 p.m. Evening meal
8 p.m. Kick-off + Intergenerational Icebreaker
9 p.m. Sharing of Joys & Concerns
10 p.m.§ – WCS* Unstructured fellowship

Saturday 18 October

9 a.m. – 12 noon: Theme talk: Rev. Meg Riley
12 noon – 1:30 p.m. – Lunch
1:30 – 3 p.m. – Workshops 1
3.30 p.m. – 5 p.m. Workshops 2
(Nature walk #1 starts at 1:30; nature walk #2 (if sufficient interest) starts at 2:15
6 p.m. Evening meal
19.30 RE presentations
20.00§ Talent show
22.00§ - WCS Unstructured fellowship

* Religious Education for the children provided through much of Saturday. See separate information sheet for parents and guardians.

Sunday, 19 October

10 a.m. – 11 a.m. – Service
11 a.m. Close and Presentation of Spring Retreat 2015

§ = Time approximate
WCS =Who can say?

EUU Membership information

European Unitarian Universalists is a unique organisation that is made up of affiliated fellowships and actual members. Members do not have to be part of a formal 'bricks and mortar' European fellowship, but can also be members or adherents of the Church of the Larger Fellowship, a UU church, fellowship, chapel or other organisation outside of Europe, or be an 'at large' or solitary from anywhere. Membership in the EUU does not conflict with membership in any other Unitarian or Universalist community.

What it does do is provide you with a community that meets twice a year physically and has a variety of other real and virtual contact moments throughout the rest of the year.

In addition to the networking, personal contacts and retreat opportunities, membership also gives you a chance to participate in some of the social justice and other activities that the EUU sponsors or is engaged in. You will hear more about some of those over the weekend.

If you would like more information about becoming a member or what membership entails, please drop by the Membership Welcoming table near the registration area. Or speak to EUU Vice-president Matt Gilsenan over the weekend.

There will be a brief membership ceremony on Sunday for those who decide they would like to become a member of the EUU.

Even if you decide not to become a member, we are still glad to see you and would like to see you again.



Join the EUU Pledge Drive!



The EUU needs the support of all members to be able to keep going. To help you give us this support, we run our annual pledge drive. Many of you have already pledged and paid, others have not yet paid but have pledged, and we are grateful to all of you.

Many have not pledged yet, however, and the time to do so is now upon us.

Fill out the pledge form to tell us how much you think you can promise to give, and make your payment whenever it's convenient between now and December 31st.

It's important that you know that the pledges we need from you are not just financial ones – equally important is your pitching in to help run EUU. You could help out on one of our committees, like social action or publicity, stand for election as an officer or fellowship representative, or help run a retreat.

So even if you're in a tight financial situation and can't see your way to giving much in the way of money this year, please remember that your volunteer work is just as important to us.

Let us know what kind of service you can pledge – what you think you can and would like to do for EUU. You can just write a little note on the pledge form telling us. And this isn't just for people in financial difficulty – we need everyone to join in the work that makes us a vital community.

John Hertz, Treasurer and pledge drive chairman

Workshop descriptions



Merry Monks: "The Trappist Beers of Belgium" This workshop will focus exclusively on the beers made by the Trappist Monasteries of Belgium, regarded by some as the best beer that can be made... or tasted. A small entrance fee, but a surprise awaits! Presenter: John Keating

Workshop based on the DVD "The Wisdom to Survive: Climate Change, Capitalism & Community." Climate change is taking place. Will we have the wisdom to survive? The film features thought leaders and activists in the realms of science, economics and spirituality. The focus: how we can live creatively and even joyfully in the face of this catastrophe. Presenter: Alison Laborderie:



"Life and Death Café" We plan and celebrate birth, work hard to live the best we can and never talk about how we want the end to be. A rare opportunity to explore this major event in our finite lives and to create our spiritual legacy in a safe setting. Presenter: Janie Spencer

Hatha yoga with a strong focus on integration of breath and

movement. Teacher: Christina Tomlow-de Muinck Keizer:

“Sense and Perception” This is a fun, hands-on science workshop that explores how we experience the world around us through our senses and, further, our perceptions of those senses. We’ll reverse our tastebuds to enjoy the sweetness of lemons, stimulate our reflexes to move our muscles involuntarily, test the sensitivity of our touch receptors, revel at the precision of our own olfaction, see colors on a blank sheet of paper, and play around with many other little tricks that unravel the miracles of the human body and mind. Presenter: Julienne MacCall



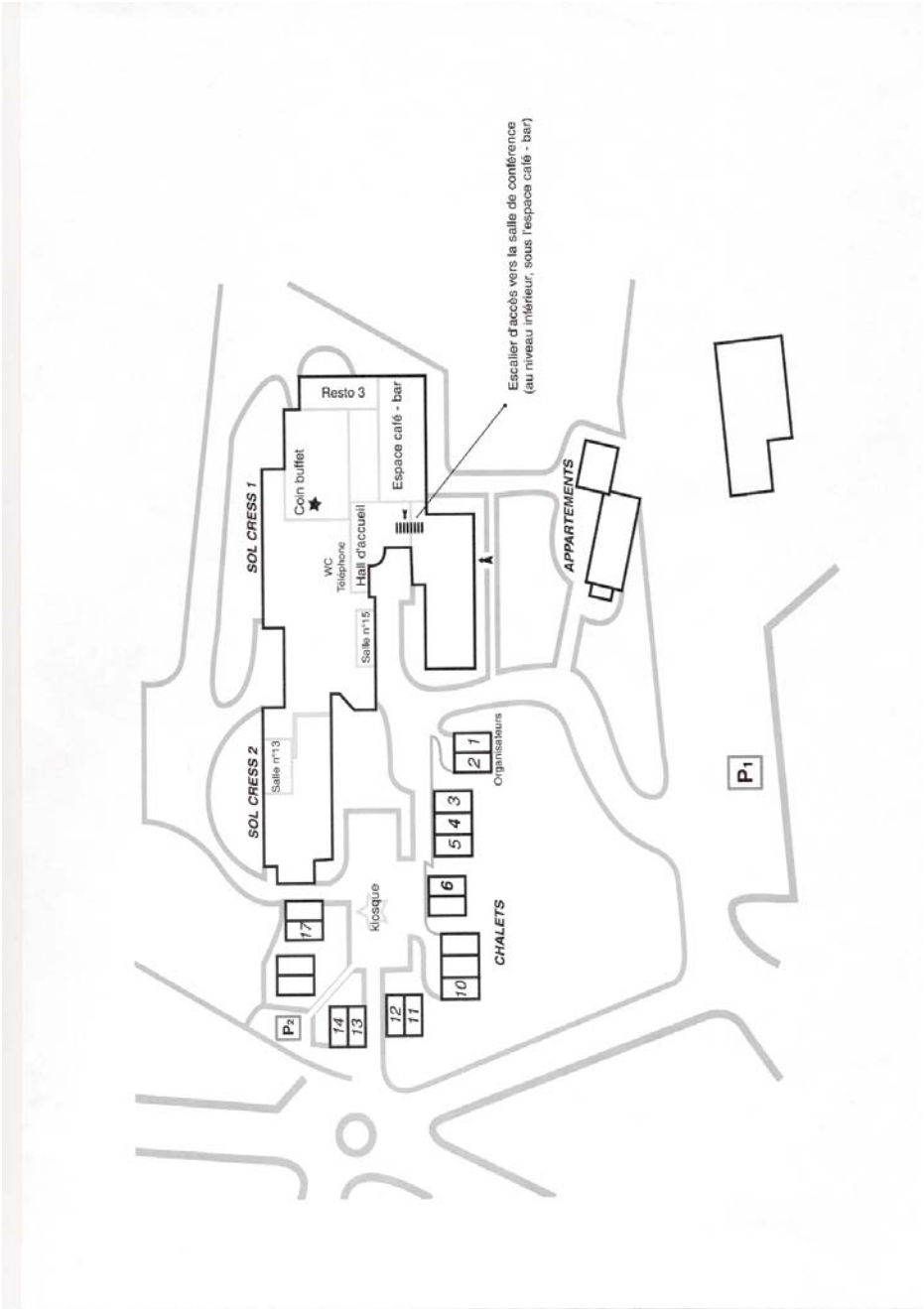
"Interaction Between Retreats." A workshop for all those who want to explore setting up some online groups such as Small Group Ministry, a book group, or whatever else people are interested in. Presenter: Dorcy Erlandson



In addition, there will be two nature walks led by local guides. Walk #1 will commence at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday afternoon. Walk #2 will commence at 2:15 p.m. on Saturday afternoon. The walks will last between 2-2.5 hours. If you are going on a walk and have children in RE, please make arrangements for the children during the coffee break between workshop sessions.

Sign-up sheets for the workshops will be found in the reception area.

Nearly complete map of the Sol Cress site



List of participants

Barbour, Brenda
Beveridge, Liz
Bienvenu, Maggi
Blanc, Denise
Blondel, Katherine
Blondel, Pascal
Boggiano, Tina
Bourguignon, Joel
Bowe, Susie
Bowe, Robert
Boyers, Chet
Brandes, Elke
Brayman, Adrienne
Burkhardt, Casey
Burkhardt, Dave
Burmedi, Carolyn
Campbell, Phil
Conrad, Emma
Conrad, John
Crider, Kay
Crozier, Kate
Cudd, Karin
Deimler, Logan
Eichrodt, John
Erlandson, Dorcy
Euvrard, LeRoy
Fees, Monique
Frale, Traci
Frey, Karen
Frey, Dave
Friedmann, Bonnie
Gilsenan, Matthew
Goff, Ray
Gover, Deirdre
Hamm, Jutta
Harrison, Claire
Heinrichs, Chris
Heinrichs, Peggy
Heisler, Eva
Henson-Boyers, Donna
Hertz, John
Hertz, Gevene
Hillgartner, Deb
Huesing, Tina
Huyghebaert, Alexandra
Jarrett, Emilie
Jarrett, Peter
Johnson Jullian, Catherine
de Jong, Michael

▶ heartseekerb@mac.com
▶ intqbm@gmail.com
▶ archermgb@gmail.com
▶ denise.blanc@wanadoo.fr
▶ katherine.blondel@orange.fr
▶ pascal.blondel14@orange.fr
▶ tinaboggiano@gmail.com
▶ joel-b@club-internet.fr
▶ bowecountry@gmail.com

▶ chet.boyers@mac.com
▶ elkebrands@web.de
▶ adrienne.brayman@gmail.com
▶ caseycuciti@yahoo.com

▶ carolyn.burmedi@as.uni-heidelberg.de
▶ campbellpc@yahoo.com
▶ emmaconrad3@gmail.com
▶ jconrad1008@gmail.com
▶ kaycrider@me.com
▶ katecrozier@hotmail.com
▶ klcparis@hotmail.com
▶ logan@wyrwood.com
▶ jeichrodt@sfr.fr
▶ dmeparis@gmail.com
▶ leroy.euvrard@sfr.fr
▶ moefees@yahoo.com
▶ tracifrale@gmail.com
▶ karen@graycrane.net
▶ potatoihave@gmail.com
▶ bonnielynnfriedmann@gmail.com
▶ mattgilsenan@gmail.com
▶ raygoff@compuserve.com
▶ deirdregover@yahoo.co.uk
▶ juttahamm@redenundrituale.de
▶ claire@jarrett-net.com
▶ PCHeinrichs@gmail.com
▶ PeggyChris@aol.com
▶ evaheisler@yahoo.com
▶ dhensonb@mac.com
▶ hertz@nbi.dk
▶ gevenehertz@gmail.com
▶ tangierene@juno.com
▶ Tina.Huesing@t-online.de
▶ alexandra.huyghebaert@hotmail.com
▶ emilie@jarrett-net.com
▶ peter@jarrett-net.com
▶ cajullian3@yahoo.com
▶ mbgdejong@gmail.com

de Jong, Brenda	▶ mbgdejong@gmail.com
Keady, Sylvia	▶ sylvkeady@aol.com
Keating, John	▶ keatmalo@gmail.com
Keller-Wilke, Laura	▶ laurajk-w@gmx.de
Kelso, Jenifer	▶ jen_kelso@yahoo.com
Kiecolt, Helene	▶ hkiecolt@aol.com
Knoester, MJ	▶ mknoester@yahoo.com
Kusterer, Volker	▶ vkusterer@gmx.de
Laborderie, Alison	▶ alisonlaborderie@yahoo.com
Leroy - van Lidth, Marie-Helene	▶ guy-leroy@scarlet.be
Levine-Helleman, Shulamit	▶ shulamit.levine@starbirds.nl
Levine-Helleman, Alinda	▶ alinda.helleman@starbirds.nl
Mac Nair, Janet	▶ janet.macnair@gmail.com
Maerkle, Frederic	▶ UUFPMaerkle@gmail.com
Magniere, Esther	▶ rethsem@gmail.com
Malone, Elizabeth	▶ keatmalo@gmail.com
Manders, Albert	▶ albertmanders@hotmail.com
Marshall, Sharon	▶ mpconsultandcoach@gmail.com
McCall, Julianne	▶ julianne.mccall@gmail.com
McGaughey, Marcie	▶ mcmouse54@yahoo.com
McGinn, Caitlin	▶ cmcginn83@gmail.com
McGinn, Ryan	
Mitchell, Michael	▶ datdaddy@gmail.com
Mitchell, Kim	▶ kim.manaster.mitchell@gmail.com
Moellendorf, Darrel	▶ darrelmoellendorf@gmail.com
Moher-McIver, Mary Louise	▶ marylouisem8@gmail.com
Murphy, Tonja	▶ t_s_murphy@hotmail.com
O'Connell, Beth	▶ mboc14@gmail.com
Radamaker, Dallis	▶ dallisradamaker@cs.com
Roper, Lizzie	▶ lizroper@hotmail.co.uk
Sánta-Jakabházi, Réka	▶ jakabhazireka@gmail.com
Shaw, Craig	
Sievers, Tom	▶ sievers-birkenau@t-online.de
Silbereisen, Markus	▶ markus.silbereisen@noowana.de
Smith, Diana	▶ DIANALSMITH@wanadoo.fr
Smith, Macey	▶ smitfeld@gmail.com
Spencer, Janie	▶ janierspencer@yahoo.com
Stolzenbach, Jodi	▶ jodi@stolzenbach.org
Stolzenbach, Simon	▶ simon@stolzenbach.org
Suchard, Derek	▶ djsuchard@gmail.com
Suchard-de Vries, Liesbeth	▶ liesbeth05@gmail.com
Tomlow-de Muinck Keizer, Christina	▶ ChristinaTdMK@live.com
van Lidth de Jeude, Aude	▶ aude_bouraoui@hotmail.com
Vass-Rhee, Freya	▶ itsfreya@gmail.com
von Westernhagen, Caroline	▶ von-westernhagen@gmx.de
Wierzynska, Aneta	▶ awierzynska@gmail.com
Wild-Sievers, Jeanette	▶ sievers-birkenau@t-online.de
Zamparutti, Tony	▶ zamparutti@gmail.com
Zink, Teresa	▶ teresa.zink@gmail.com
Zink, Michael	▶ mdzink@yahoo.com

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