



Bench Markings | The Alcyon Center Annual Report 2017-2018

For anyone who wishes to hear what is true and real, every voice must for once be still. Silence, however, is not merely the absence of speech...it is something in itself. It is a depth, a fullness, a peaceful flow of hidden life. Everything true and great grows in silence. Without silence we fall short of reality and cannot plumb the depths of being.

– from *God Is With Us* by Ladislaus Boros

Dear Friends

After ten years, we're still trusting and learning here at the cove—and we're always grateful for you, the contemplative community we call home.

With training programs taking root over the last five years, we are engaging more in **contemplative cultural research**—long loving looks at world and self. The portal we trust in this research is the mystery of silence—its nature is indeed to 'plumb the depths of being'. It allows us to hear new voices, seek out what's been hidden and ask "*How then shall we live in these times?*".

So what does it mean to add **contemplative** to our vocabulary and way of being in the world? Among other things, it means becoming radically present to exactly what is—not flinching, not refusing, not 'falling short of reality'. Instead we take interest in what's not readily visible or known—in other words, in the **hidden workings** of the world.

Just as the Lady of the Cove in the photo above remained hidden to us until last summer when a guest pointed her out one still morning at high tide—what is hidden reveals itself to those who wait and listen. – *The Directors*

Silence + Sound

In David Whyte's new volume of poetry, images of life-knells are tendered: 'Asking us to wake into this life or inviting us deeper to one that waits.' Whyte's images of what calls us deeper into life are the spring call of the Blackbird, the reverberation of a struck bell. At Alcyon where Silence enfolds us, sound enters sparingly, yet unmistakably calling us to awaken.

Yesterday morning a Common Loon yodeled from a wind-whistling Cove. Purple Finches warble as Red Maple buds burst open. Brooklet waterfalls cascade indistinguishable from Winter Wren's lyrical exuberance. Solomon's Seal sunders the frost-bitten soil. Rattling Kingfishers daily cleave tranquil waters. A choir of Peepers percuss the local Woodcock from his repetitive *beent beent beent* to a whirring of wings high in the air. Last before sleep, falls on the ear that heaven-sent nocturne from the Hermit Thrush.

Silence enfolds us at Alcyon. Sound deepens the Silence. Taken together they are inseparable, elemental forces unleashed in what author/naturalist Nan Shepherd calls 'a traffic of love.' In mutuality and exchange they arrive. In luminosity and vastness they empty us of all that does not lead to new life. – JYG

Coming this Summer: Alcyon Festival + Publications

Join us Friday, July 27, 2018 to celebrate ten amazing years at Alcyon! We will have an **Open House** (4-7pm) with board members, alumni, and friends on hand for tours and conversation. Look for fresh off the press copies of the anniversary publication, collecting history and insights from the first ten years of the Alcyon Center—as well as the first folio in a contemplative research series. Our colleague Piers Kaniuka will offer an **Evening Talk** (7-8:30 pm) "*From Dislocation to Communitas: Spirituality and the Challenges of the 21st Century*" based on his years of work and cultural research on the spiritual roots of recovery from addiction, incarceration and trauma.

Building centers

Thank you, Donors May 2017 - April 2018

Anonymous ‡
Jeffrey Ackerman
Mitchell Albinski
Jean Alexander
Nancy Allen
Erika Allison
Denise Anderson
Sharon J. Anderson
Mary Susan Anghinetti
Anna Aresi & Chin Hin Leung
Brenda Armstrong-Champ
Lorraine Aronson
Mary & Ron Baard
Peter Bacon
Duane & Robbin Bailey
Kay Bailey
Jeanne Bamforth
Ann Barry ‡
Bernard Bartick
in memory of Dick Jordan
Laurence & Rosanne Becker
Judy Belasco
Katherine Muhlfeld Bell
Virginia Berwick
in memory of Dick Jordan
Deborah J. Blood
Joanne Booth
Cynthia Bourgeault
Kathleen Bowman
*in memory of Ann Sewall
& in memory of Dierdre Roche*
Jami Boyle
Ann & Charlie Bradford
Chris & C. H. Breedlove
Judy Brook
Ken & Ellen Brookes
Tony & Donna Burkart
Andrew Cadot
Barbara & Mark Campbell
Carole Carlson
Connie Carter & Ed Brazee
Patricia Chanterelle
Janice Church
Kathleen Clark
Melanie Clauson
Bob & Janet Clifford
Stephanie & Peter Cooke
Rickey & Anna Cotton
Sarah Coupe
Barbara Craighead
Nancy Crowe
Bill Crowther
Anne Cushman ‡
Dixie Dahmen
Kenneth Dale
Maria L. de Ris
Michele DeCoste

Marilyn DiBonaventuro
Ann Diller
Patricia Donahue ‡
Mark & Charlotte Dooling
Nataly Dragoi
Patricia Dubois
in honor of Mary Rich
Michael & Jeanette Erard
Eric & Liz Erickson
Spencer & Floy Ervin
Alice Eschholz
Barry Fernald & Sarah Ballingal
Benjamin Fox
Mary & Glenn Freitas
Katharine Garland
Dee & Dave Gautschi
Emily Geoghegan & Leanne Tigert ‡
Cynthia Gill
Robin Goodwin
Linda & Roger Gray
Louisa Gray
Jack Greene
Gerry * & Wayne Gregersen
in memory of Dick Jordan
Debra Haffner
Lisa Beth Hammer
Jennifer Harris
Richard Harrison
& Sarah Lincoln-Harrison
Holly Hartley
David Hawkes *
Deborah Hawkins
Anne Heisey
Dean Henry
Elaine & Mike Hewes
Frances Irvine
Roxanne Jansen
Mary Jellison
Constance Jenkins
Clay & Sarah Jones
Danny Jones
Nancy Jones *
Glenn & Nancy Jordan
in memory of Dick Jordan
Paul & Barbara Jordan
in memory of Dick Jordan
Piers & Jessica Kaniuka
Patricia Kaplan
David Kessner
Dennis Kiley
Joel Krueger & Kate Winters
Jean Kuebler
Amy Kurman
Raymond & Beth Lambert
Cordelia Lane * ‡
Ellen Lankhorst
Elizabeth Laverack

Elizabeth Leuthner *
Jay Levin
in memory of Dick Jordan
Ellen & Lewis Lukens
Margaret & Stan MacDonald
John MacDuffie *
Susan MacKenzie
Ella Mahler
Brian Mantle *
Peter & Lisa Marcus
in memory of Dick Jordan
Jean Matlack
Joan Maxwell
in honor of Anne Cushman
Mary McAuley
Paul McNulty
Lisa Merchant
Carol Meredith
Donna Merkle
Jack Merner
Susan Mesner
Carolyn Olds Mikels
Kathryn Austin Milair
Emilie Miller
*in honor of Nancy Jones
& in honor of Kim Ribbens*
Victor Stanley & Howard Monroe
Robert & Kay Moore
Judy Mullins & Neil Macmillan ‡
Marianne New
Darlene Nolin
Cynthia Ocel
in memory of Dick Jordan
John & Amy Orr
Deborah Page
Mary Anne Pendola
in memory of Dick Jordan
Marisue & John Pickering
Suzanne Picurro
Julia Polter
Rosanne & John Power
Virginia & Robert Radle
Dana Reed
Gail Reiber
Brad Rendle
Martha Resotko
David Reynolds
Kim Ribbens
Elizabeth Roberts
Jean Rohrer ‡
Gregory Rose
Susan Ryder
Elizabeth Salsich
Michelle Scott
Lyta & Bob Seddig
Pamela Shellberg *
Eleanor & Beury Simons

Molly Singerling
in honor of Nancy Jones
Inge Smallidge
Pamela Smith ‡
Christopher Soeller
in memory of Dick Jordan
Diedre Sousa
Dawna M Spence
James Squires
Wanda J. Stahl *
Sherburne Stidfole
in memory of Dick Jordan
Susan Stonestreet
Elizabeth & Noel Paul Stookey
Emily Blair & Robert Stribling
Nancy Strickland
Somesville Union Meeting House
Katharine O. Swenson
Frank Talbott
Elaine & Bob Theriault
Rebecca Traub
Sarah Traub
Elizabeth Trocki
Joanne Turnbull
Dalyne Tuttle
Chris Upton
David Vanderlinde-Abernathy
George Voland
Bryan Vosseler
Katharine Wagner
Christian & Evelyn Walter
Margaret Whalen
Mary Whiting
Richard Wile
Woody * & Holly Wood
Helen Wright
Donna Yellen *
Angelika Zollfrank

* current Alcyon board members
‡ Alcyon Companions Initiative

Every effort has been made to provide a complete and accurate listing of all donors. If we have made an error, please accept our sincere apology and let us know by emailing us at office@alcyoncenter.org.

that can hold

Thank you, Grantors

The Maine Conference UCC Resourcing the Local Church Fund for a \$4975 grant to create a short video about Alcyon & what it is that people find here, on its grounds & in themselves, by local student Rosie Avila & staff member Grey Burkart.

The Kathy Yoselson Fierce Determination Fund (of the Community Foundation of Tompkins County, NY) for \$1000 grant to our scholarship fund, in memory of Cheryl Sanders-Sardello, to support the next generation of lovers of Silence.

The BTS Center for the remainder of our \$20,000 Cairn Grant to support our Contemplative Spiritual Direction Training Program.

Somesville Union Meeting House for a \$1500 grant for scholarships.

Thank you, Volunteers & In-Kind Donors

Our board members* help with office work, marketing, maintenance, retreat leadership, and new initiatives. Their help and that of these friends keeps us healthy and happy—thank you!

Judith Blake	Judy Mullins
Barb Booth	MJ Penn
Janet Booth	David Putnam
Haela Booth-Howe	Gail Reiber
Mark Cevoli	Brad Rendle
Megan & Brian Charette	Lyta & Bob Seddig
Mo Doyle	Pamela Smith
Bill & Thayer Fanazick	Elaine & Bob Theriault
Terry Given	Katharine Thompson
Ben, Emery & Lydia Grant	Joanne Turnbull
Ben Kapelson	Chris Upton
Steve Lyman	Holbrook Williams
Kevin Martin	

Thank you, Alcyon Companions

The Alcyon Companion Initiative took flight in 2017 to seed the next ten years. We created a circle of sustaining Companions who pledge between \$1,000 to \$10,000 per year support for the next 5 to 10 years. We took our vision and dreams on the road, visiting longtime supporters and others who share our passion for a robust and contemplatively rooted response to our times. Eleven visionary people (‡ in the list to the left) became our first Alcyon Companions in 2017—and we hope some of you will join us as Companions in 2018!

Thank you, Heidi Daub—our first Artist-in-Residence

In February, Blue Hill painter, writer and musician Heidi Daub spent a wintry week in the cabin as our inaugural Artist-In-Residence. Our goal for this program is to offer a completely open week with no expectations—for soul and spirit nurture of artists. Come meet Heidi at the Alcyon Festival Open House on July 27. Here are some words from Heidi:

Dusk descends, the air full of mist. Smoke from the chimney wafts among evergreen branches, billows around the tidy cabin like a white cape. High above the colorless sky the fierce sun keeps burning. Grounded in greens and greys, bark of poplar and birch, boughs of pine and spruce, I am rooted on the edge of this snow covered ravine, where cold water trickles beneath the icy surface, and flows to the cove, the enduring mottled mud flat of sea at low tide, sheltered by tall sentential trees, deep blue and black... My heart is here, but waiting, still, to look into the ancient eye, hum the long ago tune, I've know for thousands of years.

– Heidi Daub, February 2018

From the place where we are right
flowers will never grow
in the spring.

The place where we are right
is hard and trampled
like a yard.

But doubts and loves
dig up the world
like a mole, a plow.

And a whisper will be heard in the place
where the ruined
house once stood.

– “The Place Where We Are Right”
in *The Selected Poetry of Yehuda Amichai*,
translated by Block & Mitchell



The Alcyon Center

www.alcyoncenter.org | PO Box 40, Seal Cove, ME 04674 | office@alcyoncenter.org | 207-244-1060

Kathryn E. Booth, Director Joan Jordan Grant, Director Grey Burkart, Office Manager Elizabeth Trocki, Guest Support

Cultivating Contemplative Community for the Sake of the World

In all that we are doing at The Alcyon Center, we're cultivating and encouraging what Ladislaus Boros calls the 'peaceful flow of hidden life'—and working to bring it out of our prayer rooms and into the fray of modern life. Along with the contemplative gesture comes spaciousness, depth, and kindness into a world that's lost its center and heart. Inaugurated three years ago, we now have 24 graduates of the Contemplative Spiritual Direction (CSD) training program. We asked some of them how the training is unfolding in their lives and work.

Ben Kapelson, recovery counselor, writer, Portland, Maine

What comes together at the Alcyon Center that compels me is a contemplative community willing to engage the challenges faced both individually and collectively as we forge a spiritual path that answers the call of our times. This, too, is my work now.

Susan Staley, herbalist, Burlington, Vermont

The Alcyon Center is like a stepping stone which emerges from a mountain stream; supportive both materially and spiritually as we step forward in our lives and work. Through my studies at The Alcyon Center I am developing more language and capacity in listening to the soul... both the collective soul, and my own.

Pam Shellberg, The BTS Center, Portland, Maine

The training program matters because of its integrity and coherence; its content is a tangible invitation to practices that order life at the Alcyon Center authentically and persistently (whether witnessed or not), those practices themselves following the proximate tidal rhythms; and so, thankfully, my life and work grows in integrity and coherence - through the training itself, in being bound to a community ordered toward silence and presence, and for ever having matched my breath to the cove's ebb and flow.



CSD I Graduating Class

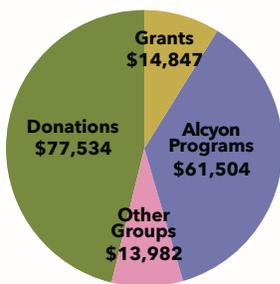
October 2017



CSD II Graduating Class

August 2018

2017 Income
(\$167,867)



Alcyon in 2017

Programming at The Alcyon Center includes:

- Spiritual leadership training programs
- Workshops and retreats
- Personal retreats and spiritual direction
- Use of center by other groups
- Spring and fall volunteer work weeks
- Alcyon Community Life: Silent Sitting, Bible Study, Quiet Days and Soul Friends

2017 Expenses
(\$169,155)



The fifth month of the year draws gently to a close. This May will never come again. Will we remember it when it has passed, or will we merely go on to the next thing? The tranquility of a May day suggests the underlying peace of the world, "Something holds at the center."

– from *The Almanac of the Soul* by Samuel Martin