

Loving Language: How to sustain life-giving conversation amid the controversies
Led by Marilyn McEntyre on Saturday, March 3

Women’s Lenten Retreat 2018 Registration at **The Bishop’s Ranch, Healdsburg, CA**
Friday, March 2 (Starts w/ Potluck Dinner) – Sunday, March 4 (After Lunch)

Return registration and deposit by February 14. Overnight accommodations limited to 25.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____ Email _____

If you would like to share a talent or gift with the group on Friday or Sunday, please indicate. We’ll contact you.



We live in a minefield of loaded language: words have been contaminated and compromised, expropriated for profit and pressed into the service of partisan agendas. On our Saturday together we’ll consider some of that language, what language barriers we face when we try to “speak across boundaries” or even speak “across the aisle,” and how to speak peace and make our conversations places of authentic encounter. Each session will include short exercises for reflection and small-group conversation. See page 2 for schedule details.

Saturday schedule subject to adjustment

Check all that apply:

- I will attend on Saturday only. (Flat Day Use fee is \$100. Includes 3 meals and facilitator fee.)
- I have enclosed a **non-refundable deposit check for \$100** made out to “*St. John’s*” with a “*Women’s Retreat*” memo. *(Final cost will be based on the number of participants. Please plan to bring your checkbooks with you to the retreat. Estimated cost for the weekend is \$280. All rooms are double occupancy. **No proration for one night stay is possible. Please consider attending for Saturday only.** Partial and Full Scholarships are available. Contact Rev. Scott Denman to discuss.*
- I would like to carpool on Friday. Driver Rider Approx. departure time from St. John’s _____
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- I will be driving on my own.
- My preferred roommate(s) is/are _____
- I require ADA compliant facilities.
- Any dietary restrictions? Y / N If “yes”, please explain. _____
- I want to schedule a massage. (Fees and gratuities are paid separately to masseuse.)

We accept donations to support scholarships for participants. Your generosity is appreciated so all women of St. John’s can participate in this very special experience. Yes, I will make a donation in the amount of \$ _____

We have 25 beds, and will start a waiting list if needed. All accommodations are shared rooms – usually 2 people to a room. Please return your registration to Anne Meyer – hand it to her or mail to 5023 Cochrane Avenue, Oakland, CA 94618
If you have questions after reading page 3, contact Anne Meyer at (415) 385-3225 or Laurie Bennett at 562-5666.

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Marilyn McEntyre

8:00 Breakfast in the Refectory

9:30 Opening Circle of Prayer and Introductions in the Swing Pavilion

10:00 **Loaded Language: Words to Reclaim, Words to Reframe, Words to Relinquish**

Public discourse, congregational life, and family circles are riddled with code words, key words, and words that trigger knee-jerk responses. Words have their own “magnetic fields.” In this session we’ll consider some of the “trigger words” that have to be re-examined in light of contemporary conversations. We’ll consider how to use them with grace, wit and kindness, or, in some cases, whether to use them at all. We’ll also consider, and practice, ways of introducing “metaconversations” – conversations about conversation – into shared life in ways that invite deeper reflection on the sacred gift and power of language.

12:30 Lunch

2:00 **Practicing Life-giving Conversation in the Midst of Controversy**

In this session we’ll consider and practice moves in conversation that may serve to unlock, unblock, and open up the places where people who need to talk with one another become paralyzed over differences. We’ll look at some of Jesus’ own conversational moves, and at ways others among the great communion of saints and speakers have left a legacy of language from which we can still learn.

4:00 Free time

6:00 Social half hour

6:30 Dinner

7:30 **The Life-Changing Magic of Word Lists (short final exercise)**

We’ll take a little time this evening to conclude the day’s conversation with an easy practice that can keep our conversations lively, engaging, honest, and surprising – sometimes to ourselves as well as others!

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You can learn more about Marilyn McEntyre at <http://marilynmcentyre.com/>

ST. JOHN'S WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT, MARCH 2-4, 2018 at BISHOP'S RANCH

We look forward to our annual weekend together at Bishop's Ranch where we will enjoy the beauty of the Healdsburg countryside in early spring. *Bring stories of powerful women, miracles, and/or transformational events to share after dinner on Friday night.* We plan spend early Sunday morning enjoying hikes, art projects and sharing with each other. Our service in St. George Chapel begins at 11:30 on Sunday. We have the Ranch House this year for accommodations and the Swing Pavilion for Saturday's programs. Check in at the Ranch House upon your arrival on Friday and at the Refectory on Saturday. You will get your room assignment when you arrive. If you have not already indicated your roommate preference on the registration form, please let Anne Meyer know. No rooms are in Webb Lodge this year.

You are welcome to arrive early and enjoy the Ranch before our 6:30 dinner on Friday. Generally the common spaces are open in early afternoon, but the bedrooms may not be ready until around **3 or 4 p.m.**

We start Friday evening with a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. and a pre-dinner social time at 5:30 p.m. Please let us know if you will have dinner on your own and will arrive after the potluck.

We divide up tasks/roles among the participants over the weekend. Please look for the signup sheets in the registration area of the Ranch House. This is our retreat and flexibility is always a key component.

WHAT TO BRING

Food/Drink

We need volunteers to bring food for Friday dinner. **If your last name begins with A-L**, please bring potluck dishes for Friday dinner (main dishes, salads, sides, desserts). We always have an enormous feast, so please refrain from bringing a dish that feeds more than 8. There will be a maximum of 25 on Friday.

If your last name begins with M-Z, please bring: healthy snacks (not too many tangerines!) and drinks/or wine/non-alcoholic drinks and hors d'oeuvres to share at the Saturday social time.

Other things to bring:

Bible, journal, writing materials, any books or games that you would like to share

Camera, flashlight, water bottle

Rain gear; layer clothing; rain boots/hiking shoes/boots

Earplugs

A full tank of gas!

Your checkbook to pay balance due (final amount will be determined at the retreat)

Meal times: Breakfast 8:00, Lunch 12:30, Dinner 6:30

For more info and directions to Bishop's Ranch, go to their website: <http://www.bishopsranch.org>

Questions or suggestions? Contact any member of your organizing team:

Laurie Bennett (lebennett1950z@gmail.com)

Anne Meyer (Anne.Meyer5023@gmail.com)