

Nancy M. Thurston



History meets personal

Euro-American Baby Boomer born in 1954, the same month and year *Brown vs. Board of Education* outlawed racially “separate but equal” schools.

“Trickle-down economics,” crafted in 1981 when I was 27 years old, began an earthquake that widened the economic gap between wealthy individuals and the rest of Americans. Shortly thereafter, I understood this as a spiritual and economic problem and began my cross-class activism.

Well trained in academics, problem solving, linear and rational thinking, I learned to distrust “wishy-washy” intuition and emotion-based information. I was almost 50 years old before I discovered that my primary ways of knowing and leading were those very aspects of myself I had long dismissed, which I now see as feminine, intuitive and worthy.

Education

Trinity University

BS Biology 1976

University of Texas Medical Branch

BS Physical Therapy, 1976

Stanford University

MS Physical Therapy, 1985

Academy for Spiritual Formation

Upper Room Ministries, Burlingame, CA, 1991-1993

Trip of Perspective to Haiti

Journey Into Freedom, 1996

National Training on the Issues of Race, Gender, Power and Class

Be Present, Inc., Atlanta, GA, 2003-2004

Board service

Journey Into Freedom Board member

1996-1999

Harvest Time Board member

2005- present, Board Chair since 2007

Be Present, Inc.’s Vision Based, Social-change Fund Development Team Chair

Capacity Building Campaign Team (member since 2004, co-chair since 2005)

This team merged with the Board and Staff Fundraising team in 2013.

Publications

"Economic Injustice: Fire Burning in the Bones," in *Preaching as Prophetic Calling: Sermons that Work XII*, edited by Roger Alling and David J. Schlafer, (Pennsylvania: Morehouse Publishing, 2004)

Big Topics at Midnight: A Texas Girl Wakes Up to Race, Class, Gender and Herself
(Portland: Rosegate Press, 2012)

Public speaking

Licensed Lay Preacher

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Klamath Falls, OR, 1997-2004

Guest Preacher, Klamath Friends Church, 2003-2004

Keynote Speaker, "How to Live Justly and Soulfully in a Deeply Divided World"

28th Annual Presentation Prayer Center Fundraiser, Fargo, ND, October 2013

Facilitation Experience

Churches in Arlington, TX, Boise, ID, Palo Alto, CA, Fargo, ND, Klamath Falls, OR

Facilitated classes, led retreats and offered workshops on a variety of topics including Spiritual Formation, Bible study, Faith in Action, Social Justice, 1977-2004

Journey Into Freedom, Co-facilitator for multiple workshops on aligning spirit, justice and money, 1997-2001

Trip of Perspective to Haiti,

Journey Into Freedom, Facilitated daily small group reflection gatherings, 2000

Be Present at the Table: Effecting Sustainable Change in Philanthropy

Be Present, Inc., On leadership team, Atlanta, GA, 2005-2007

National Training on the Issues of Race, Gender, Power and Class,

Be Present, Inc., On leadership team, IONS Center, CA, 2014-2016 (just began)

Sustaining a Community of Practice for Engaged, Transformative Philanthropy

One-Day Trainings co-sponsored by Be Present, Inc. and Harvest Time

Atlanta, GA, On leadership team, February 2011

Portola Valley, CA, On leadership team, April 2011

***Big Topics at Midnight* Book Events**

Using excerpts from my book and inviting creative conversations in response, I offered these events across the country on the following "big topics":

Tending the Fire: Feminine Wisdom Needed for Midnight Times

Menlo Park, CA, September 2012

In Other Words, Portland, OR, February 2014

A.C.T.O.R. --A Continuing Talk on Race

Busboys and Poets, Washington, DC, March 2013

Race Discussion Table

Potter's House, Washington, DC, March 2013

Wake Up Calls

Atlanta, GA, November 2012
Heart and Soul Center of Light, Oakland, CA, January 2013
Mercy Center, Burlingame, CA, April 2013
Presentation Prayer Center, Fargo, ND, October 2014

Listen to the Past; Find Your Way Forward

Eastern Shore, VA, March 2013
Newport Visual Arts Center, Newport, OR, May 2013

How to Live Justly and Soulfully in a Deeply Divided World

Wonderworks, Toronto, Canada, June 2013
Fordham Law School, New York, NY, June 2013,
First Church Unitarian, Littleton, MA, June 2013

Tikkum Olam: Heal our Lives, Heal the Earth

Toronto, Canada, June 2013

Standing in the Gap ... Together: A Conversation about Race and Class

Hosted by McKenzie River Gathering Foundation
Co-lead with Sharon Gary-Smith, Portland, OR, September, 2013

Collective Leadership in Community Organizing and Public Policy

Be Present, Inc. , Co-lead with Cynthia Renfro, Atlanta, GA, November 2013

Tackling Tough Conversations

Klamath County Library, Klamath Falls, OR, February 2014

Future meets personal

The Epilogue of *Big Topics at Midnight* is a letter to Grace, my imagined granddaughter seven generations in the future. I seek to live today in ways that will serve her generation two hundred years from now.

Living into a new economic and spiritual paradigm now: Participating in a process of giving away a farm in Mississippi originating from an individual to the community in one non-profit to two other non-profits. Simultaneously, we find ourselves navigating issues that arise due to our diversity of race, class and gender in a way that lets "each party become the giver and Gifted many times over, and our relationship to the Land and to each other transcends the roles of who gives and who receives title." (from our Memorandum of Understanding).

Recognizing that we can't walk into the future with the same hyperactive busyness that consumes us today, I facilitate conversations and engage in experiments where together we can practice how to walk steadily and open heartedly from our vision for the new, as the old crumbles around us.