

The Coordinating Circle Today

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Fran Anderson, SCF, MS has lived in rural New Mexico since her retirement as an independent consultant in 2004. Her education was at Oberlin College and the University of California at Sacramento, with advanced coursework in early care and education, management, philanthropy and grantsmanship. Her professional work included being a consultant to communities, national organizations and foundations. She is the author of numerous publications for Children's Defense Fund, Federal Child Care Bureau, foundations, and nonprofit organizations.



Since retirement, Fran has focused her skills and energies on conscious aging, as a trained SCF, member of planning committees for 2010 and 2012 Sage-ing conferences, past member of Education Committee, current member of Outreach Committee, and Steering Committee member for Conscious Aging Network of NM, a chapter of SI. She leads a circle of women elders in her community. With husband Reed Anderson, she attended Ron Pevny's Conscious Eldering retreat, teaches tai chi, and helps lead a community Buddhist Sangha.

Lynn Bledsoe, CSL is a certified Sage-ing leader and a Presbyterian (U.S.A.) teaching elder from Birmingham AL. She and husband Bill Ryan are parents to four adult children and one precious grandson. She enjoys cooking, gardening and being near the water. She loves dogs and does pet therapy with her wise elder poodle (Sandra) and agility with her



youngster terrier (Kris). Simultaneously working for culture change in long-term care, she and colleague Mary Porter founded the nonprofit *Ruth and Naomi Senior Outreach* to serve elder orphans and isolated elders. It is within the context of nursing home ministry that Lynn realized the importance of conscious aging and subsequently embarked upon the path of Sage-ing. Currently, she works as a music practitioner, playing harp at the bedside for a community hospice.

Lynn is currently Secretary of the Coordinating Circle.

Anne Boynton, CSL, MS is a Certified Sage-ing® Leader and has co-facilitated Sage-ing Intensives and workshops in Canada, Maine and Massachusetts during the past four years. She was on the 2012 Sage-ing Conference Planning Committee, serving as Site Liaison, Rituals and Celebrations Chair, and Publicity. Anne received degrees in Interior and Textile



Design from the University of Tennessee, and has taught Art and Design at universities in Tennessee and Massachusetts. She was Textile Sales Manager for Knoll International, and has owned a restaurant and catering company. For the past fifteen years she has been a practicing artist. Anne weaves creativity into her Sage-ing® sessions and uses creative exercises as a contemplative tool to explore the core elements of Sage-ing. Anne lives with her husband, Martin Halper, in Osterville, MA on Cape Cod, sharing his two children and four grandchildren.

Anne is Chair-Elect and Liaison to the Council of Honored Sages on the Coordinating Circle.

Brian McCaffrey, M.Div. is a visually impaired 60 year-old married midwestern, ELCA Lutheran Long Term Care Chaplain at LutheranCare in Clinton, NY. He has served in specialized pastoral care for 25 yrs. In 1997 he graduated from a two year certificate program through the Center for Aging, Religion, and Spirituality (CARS) at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, whose director-my mentor, Mel Kimble was a student of Viktor Frankl. It was at this time that he read *From Aging To Sage-ing*. From 2000-2003 he was Dr. Kimble's teaching assistant as he pursued (but did not catch) a Ph.D. in Pastoral Care and Gerontology. In 2003-2006 he served as the chair of the Older Adult Ministry Team for the Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA. During this time he had the privilege to visit with Reb Zalman.



Currently he is the chair of the Upstate New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Second Half of Life Ministry Team which is presently manifested as the Northeast Forum on Spirituality and Aging. NEFOSA is an ecumenical partnership with the Upstate New York Conference of the United Methodist Church and other denominations, faith traditions, churches, organizations, and individuals who wish to work together to bring the wisdom of Reb Zalman and Sage-ing to faith communities.

For more information, please visit

www.nefosa.org and www.nevertooold.net

Facebook: The Northeast Forum on Spirituality and Aging

LinkedIn: Aging and Spirituality -- Second Half of Life Ministry

Anne Murray, SCF, lives in Kennebunk, Maine on the Mousam River with her husband Ken and diabetic cat Patches. For over 30 years she's been involved in elder services of one sort or another: activity coordination in nursing homes and adult day centers, supporting senior volunteers in the Foster Grandparent Program, and coordinating health-related evidence-based programs for an area agency on aging. Prior to that she was an elementary teacher and media specialist, starting out her life in Hillsdale NY in the foothills of the Berkshire Mts.



She loves singing with The Harbour Singers (bedside a cappella singing), volunteering with Hospice, participating in a play called "BOATING" (readers' theatre on the burden of treatment at end-of-life), Sage-ing Circle facilitation, and she has had experience with Sage-ing for several summers at Ferry Beach in ME. She finds strength and joy in circles of family and friends, music, spiritual community, animals, books, the beauty of nature, her local consignment shop, laughter and chocolate.

Anne is responsible for maintaining the Policies and Procedures Manual for the Coordinating Circle.

David Rozell, CSL, SCF has been a member of SI since 2010. David retired in 2003 after long careers in the nuclear, renewable energy and environmental protection fields. Since retiring he has dedicated his life to creating a different model of aging in the world. David is a certified



professional retirement coach with clients throughout the U.S. and is an adjunct instructor in Gerontology at Marylhurst University where he teaches an Intentional Aging course. David also leads retirement planning workshops and developed and taught Aging as A Spiritual Path courses in Portland. He is an "intermittent" blogger at The Intentional Aging Collective. Among his most recent involvement with non-profit organizations he is an advisor to the Geezer Gallery, the Volunteers of America, and was a co-founder and Director of the Make Music Project, all in Oregon. David lives in Portland, Oregon.

David works on the Sages in Service Committee for the Coordinating Circle.

Carol Scott-Kassner, CSL, Ph.D., has been a certified Sage-ing Leader since 2005. Carol regularly presents Intensives in the Seattle area with her business partner, Pat Lewis. They have a business called "Aging With Wisdom." Carol also works as a mentor for new CSL's and pairs with Gary Carlson to train CSL's. She writes articles for a quarterly paper in Seattle on the spirituality of



aging. She is a commissioned minister of the United Church of Christ to a ministry of the spirituality of aging and of spiritual direction. She lives and works in the Seattle area. Prior to this work, Carol was a professor of music education and has written many books in that field. She has served on numerous non-profit boards and is happy to bring that experience to SI.

Carol is past Chair of the Coordinating Circle and is Chair of the Organizing Committee for the 2014 SI Conference.

Cindy Siemers, CSL, SCF, MS came to the United States from Pingtung, Taiwan in 1983 to attend graduate school at the University of Nebraska. She obtained two Master degrees (Economics and Actuarial Science) in 1987.



After working in the insurance industry for twenty years, Cindy looked ahead towards the second half of her life and did not feel comfortable with the way Western society viewed aging. In a search for a viable path to grow older in the United States, Cindy went back to school to obtain another Master degree in social work to help create an age friendly society that would respect and treasure elders just like her homeland in the East . During her last semester at school, Cindy encountered Sage-ing® International and finally felt at home. After graduation, Cindy went on to work for a hospice agency and incorporated many sage-ing® concepts into her caring for bereaved clients.

Cindy is currently a Licensed Master Social Worker whose practice focuses on aging issues and spirituality in the second half of life. Cindy is also a regression therapist and energy healing practitioner. Her passion is to synthesize wisdom from Eastern traditions with Western teachings to invoke a paradigm shift from Aging to Sage-ing®. She serves as Treasurer on the Coordinating Circle.

Eston Williams, SCF, MDiv: A Buddhist proverb says, "When the student is ready, the teacher will appear." Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi's book appeared as Eston realized that he had more years behind him than ahead of him. As pastor of a small rural church in East



Texas, each Sunday morning he looked into the faces of others who were even further down the road than he and wondered how he would minister to them in the years to come. "Spiritual eldering has given me a challenging new vision of growing older and the tools which can enable me to grow personally and to assist others along their spiritual journeys."

Eston has served as pastor of Aley United Methodist Church in Seven Points, Texas, since 1998. He uses the skills and resources he gained as a Sage-ing Circle Facilitator to lead classes in "Spiritual Eldering" in churches, libraries and community colleges. He hopes to inspire other pastors to share this program of spiritual growth with their communities. Eston earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1971 from Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas and his Master of Theology degree from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, in 1975. Eston and his bride, Cathy, live in Mabank, Texas on the same block as their two daughters and their husbands. They welcomed their first grandchild into their lives on October 25th of 2011.

Eston serves as Chair and is on the Membership Committee of the Coordinating Circle.

Bob Wood, CSL, SCF, M. Div., is a Certified Sage-ing Leader and an Episcopal Priest, serving forty years in parishes in Virginia, Tennessee, and Missouri. He held leadership positions in The Dioceses of Tennessee and West Missouri and was twice a member of the House of Deputies in the General Convention of the National Episcopal Church. He retired in 2006 as Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Day School, Kansas City and was named Rector Emeritus. He holds a BS degree from Tennessee Tech



University and a Master of Divinity from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Presently Bob is a

member of the Board of Directors of Kansas City Hospice & Palliative Care and the Advisory Committee for Clinical Pastoral Education at Saint Luke's Hospital in Kansas City. He has led Sage-ing Workshops in the Diocese of West Missouri, currently incorporating sage-ing concepts in his training for Hospice volunteers and didactic presentations for the Chaplain Interns and Residents at Saint Luke's Hospital. Bob and his wife Sheri have four adult children and four grandchildren.

The Coordinating Circle Staff

Paul Severance, CSL, SCF, MS serves as Co-administrator of SI. In 1979, he founded United Senior Action (USA) of Indiana, and served as its Executive Director through 2004 when he retired. USA had over 14,000 dues-paying members and was the premier senior public policy advocacy organization in the state.



Paul has served on the Board and Executive Committee of the National Coalition of Consumer Organizations on Aging (NCCO), a constituent unit of the National Council on the Aging; and on the Consumer Action Board of the Medicare Rights Center.

In addition to his work with SI, Paul has founded the **Center for the New Elder** dedicated to inspiring elders to make a difference for future generations. Through the Center, Paul conducts workshops, teleseminars and Mastermind groups for elders.

Paul serves as Co-administrator of SI with his wife Robin and is also Membership Committee Chair. He is a non-voting member of the Coordinating Circle