

# Blessed Are You

Newsletter of The Blessed Foundation 6605 River Styx Road – Medina, OH 44256 - 330-725-5456

Website: [www.Blessed-Foundation.com](http://www.Blessed-Foundation.com) E-mail: [DeeCurci@Blessed-Foundation.com](mailto:DeeCurci@Blessed-Foundation.com)

Volume VII: April 2011

## Emergence Emergence

*At long last the last vestiges of winter seem to be losing their grip and we can again rejoice at the blooming daffodils, the budding of the trees and the greening of grass.*

*In the words of Hildegard of Bingen.*

*"I am the breeze that nurtures all things green.*

*I encourage blossoms to flourish with ripening fruits.*

*I am the rain coming from the dew that causes the grasses*

*to laugh with the joy of life."*

*Come and allow time to experience this emergence, not only of the new seasons of warmth and growth, but also to listen for the quiet breeze of God's life within us and continue our life process to be a "feather on the breath of God".*

It was with this intention that the following offerings are being made for the 2011 season. Details follow this list.

- ✚ Dancing on the Outside, Dancing on the Inside  
With the "Spirit of Life Dancers" performing artists and CeCe Miller
- ✚ The Untethered Soul – a book study invitation  
Presenter: Lily Jean Haddad
- ✚ Circle of Sacred Space  
Presenter: Lily Jean Haddad
- ✚ Summer or Autumn Beauty with Thomas Merton  
Presenter: Debra Classen

We are grateful for your participation and sharing these offerings with others.

# *Spirit of Life Performing Arts*



Invites you to a workshop entitled  
***“Dancing on the Outside, Dancing on the Inside”***

Explore your relationship to the earth, to trees,  
to all of nature’s gifts in summer.

This workshop is based on the book “Like A Tree —  
How Trees, Women, and Tree People Can Save the Planet”  
by Jean Shinoda Bolen.

How we *dance on the inside*, metaphorically,  
as strong and positive women, and  
how we *dance on the outside*, as spiritual activists,  
will be experienced through dance, poetry, chant, and art.  
Colorful veils, drums, rattles, and art supplies provided.  
No dance experience necessary.

Saturday, June 11, 2011 - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Kairos Retreat Center on the grounds of The Blessed Foundation  
6605 River Styx Road, Medina, Ohio 44258 330.725.5456

For directions and parking information: <http://www.blessed-foundation.com/contactlocationmap.html>

Workshop Fee: \$40

Beverage provided: Water, iced tea - Please bring Brown Bag Lunch

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 28, 2011**

**SPACE IS LIMITED, SEND EARLY!**



**Workshop Director CeCe Miller**, is a certified pastoral minister, Executive Director of Sacred Space, educator, spiritual director and dances to discover the beauty and strength that lie within. She has created dance and ritual for over 20 years and is the artistic director of Spirit of Life Performing Arts. Since 2007, the Spirit of Life Performing Arts have shared their vision with over 30 performances in dance and music from around the world.

They have performed on stage at CSU and Cleveland Public Theater, in libraries, senior centers, schools, churches and national conferences. The Spirit of Life Dancers are the recipients of the 2008 Tyrian Artists of the Year Award for their artistic and peaceful contribution to the community.

*May we soar with freedom and dance with the gift of newfound hope, our inner wings, like a veil, stretched wide. – Rosina-Fawzia Al-Rawi*

**Spirit of Life Performing Artists:** Pamela Bennett, Terri Collura, Toni Kline, Linda Haffner, Linda Krasienko, CeCe Miller, Renee Pastor, SND, Virginia Poirier, Rebecca Rocco, Donna Sheridan, Julianne Sliwinski, Kathy Quintus, Sharon Vrettas, Theresa Weedon. (Not all dancers perform in every performance.)

*Several hundred thousand years ago, our ancestors danced. It was one of their forms of communication – with each other, with nature, with the universe, and with the great force of life. Dance was their main medium to explore and express their search for meaning. – Jan Phillips*

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** [cecem44130@cox.net](mailto:cecem44130@cox.net)  
Sacred Space Web Page: <http://www.sacredspacecleveland.org/>

### WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM

#### “Dancing on the Outside, Dancing on the Inside”

Saturday, June 11, 2011 - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Please clip and mail: Check to CeCe Miller – Spirit of Life Performing Arts – 10395 Terrace Court – Cleveland, OH 44130-6059**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

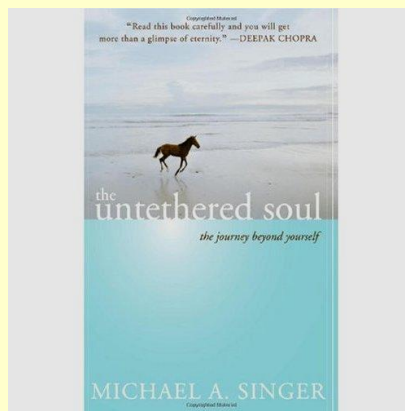
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# The Untethered Soul

*a book study invitation*

**PRESENTER: Lily Jean Haddad**



**About the book:** What would it be like to be free from limitations and soar beyond your boundaries? What can you do each day to find this kind of inner peace and freedom? *The Untethered Soul* offers a simple, profoundly intuitive answer to these questions. Whether this is your first exploration of inner space or you've devoted your life to the inward journey, this book will transform your relationship with yourself and the world around you.

**Lily Jean** will lead by discussing and expanding the seeing of symbols and ways of understanding and watching the flow of energy through our life process.

There will be sharing in a secure and privately held environment.

**When: Wednesdays (4 sessions):** June 8, June 29, July 20 and August 10.

**Time:** 7 to 9PM

**Where:** Kairos Retreat Center on the grounds of The Blessed Foundation

6605 River Styx Road Medina, OH 44256 (Directions: [Click Here](#)) 330-725-5456

**Fee: \$25** Your Fee is tax deductible. Lily Jean is donating proceeds to The Blessed Foundation

(Beverage provided: water, tea)

**Registration must be received by: May 25th**

Please order your copy of *The Untethered Soul* prior to the first study group session.

If possible, please read Chapter 1 before the first session. (If you do not have the book by then, come anyway.)

To order online use the links [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) [Barnes&Noble.com](http://Barnes&Noble.com) [Booksense](http://Booksense)

Please feel free to call Lily Jean if you have questions/wonderings:

Email: [ljh4848@aol.com](mailto:ljh4848@aol.com) Phone: 330-952-0513

## About Lily Jean Haddad



I have studied the Ancient Wisdom Teachings through various disciplines through reading and studying the great Master Teachers.

I am an Ordained Minister in the Order of Teleos. Teleos is the individualizing pattern within each of us seeking to be recognized and honored in the world. We endeavor to know ourselves as Spirit in Flesh.

Teleos Institute is a non denominational entity. There are no walls, no rules, no doctrines. It is all inclusive to everyone and encouraging of the work of consciousness. <http://www.consciousnesswork.com/abouteleos.htm>



### Registration Form – Book Study Group – *Untethered Soul*

Please Clip and Mail with your payment to:

The Blessed Foundation, 6605 River Styx Road, Medina, Ohio 44256

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

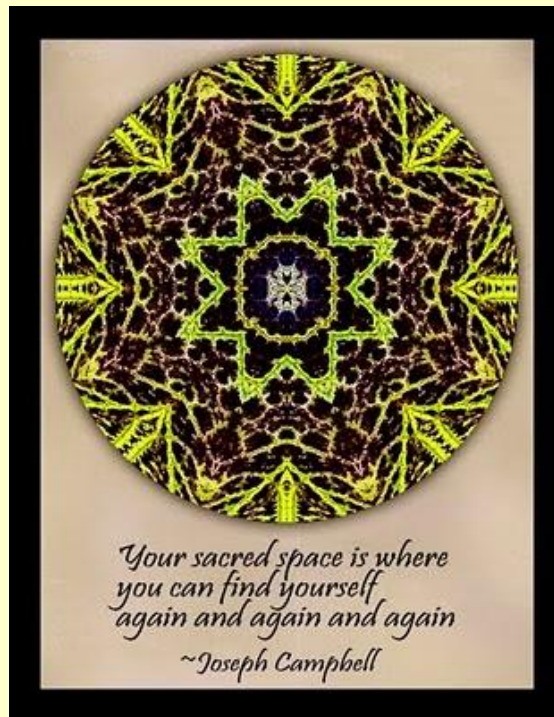
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Encl: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Due by May 25th. You will be notified as soon as your registration is received.

# Circle of Sacred Space

**PRESENTER: Lily Jean Haddad**



Mandala by Sue O'Kieffe

*Circle of Sacred Space* is an *ongoing* gathering of individuals to discover more about the individualizing process and to recognize the spirit at work within and without our lives.

We will be working with the stories of our past and discovering more of what this history is telling us. This will be a building of awareness!

It is a Circle of honor, caring, and loving. There is nothing to be fixed or changed only understood through seeing and sharing.

All participants will keep what happens at the Circle in the circle. If you want to share your own story, go ahead. No one else's story is for sharing.....ever! This is a totally safe environment for exploration.

Please feel free to call Lily Jean if you have questions/wonderings:

Email: [ljh4848@aol.com](mailto:ljh4848@aol.com) Phone: 330-952-0513

**When: (Monday Evenings for 6 sessions)** June 6, June 27, July 11, July 25, August 15 & September 19

**Time:** June & July: 7 to 8:30PM – Aug, Sept, Oct & Nov: 7 to 9PM

**Where:** Kairos Retreat Center on the grounds of The Blessed Foundation

6605 River Styx Road Medina, OH 44256 (Directions: [Click Here](#)) 330-725-5456

**Fee:** \$50 *Your Fee is tax deductible. Lily Jean is donating proceeds to The Blessed Foundation*

(Beverage provided: water, tea)

Registration must be received by: May 25th

## About Lily Jean Haddad



I have studied the Ancient Wisdom Teachings through various disciplines through reading and studying the great Master Teachers.

I am an Ordained Minister in the Order of Teleos. Teleos is the individualizing pattern within each of us seeking to be recognized and honored in the world. We endeavor to know ourselves as Spirit in Flesh.

About Teleos Institute: It is a non denominational entity. There are no walls, no rules, no doctrines. It is all inclusive to everyone and encouraging of the work of consciousness. <http://www.consciousnesswork.com/abouteleos.htm>



Registration Form – Circle of Sacred Space

Please Clip and Mail with your payment to:

The Blessed Foundation, 6605 River Styx Road, Medina, Ohio 44256

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Encl: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Due by May 25th. You will be notified as soon as your registration is received.

# Summer or Autumn Beauty with Thomas Merton

**PRESENTER: DEBRA CLASSEN**



Swan in Water & Flight at Sunset  
by Debra Classen

**When:** Two opportunities to attend:

**Summer, Sat., June 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Autumn, Sat., September 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Time:** 9am to 5pm

**Where:** Kairos Retreat Center on the grounds of  
The Blessed Foundation

*Summer and Autumn are seasons of abundance, fruition, reaping and a celebration of the beauty of the earth.*

*Come celebrate and reflect in the richness of the season, while exploring the writings of Trappist monk, Thomas Merton. Immerse yourself in the beauty of nature, taking time apart to rest and reflect in God's beauty before us.*

*Come and explore the beauty of Ohio and walk with one of the greatest spiritual writers of the twentieth century, Thomas Merton. You will see the season with new eyes.*

*For twenty years Debra has studied Merton's works on contemplative prayer and his journal writings of God's beauty in nature from his hermitage. Debra has made her own annual silent retreats to Merton's home in Kentucky, at the Abbey of Gethsemane since 1996, and lead workshop/retreats, and speaking engagements on Merton and beauty.*

6605 River Styx Road Medina, OH 44256 (Directions: [Click Here](#)) 330-725-5456

**Fee:** \$40.00 includes all materials and light lunch. Debra has also created a journal of art, reflections and prayers celebrating the writings of Merton. The Journal (\$10.00) can be ordered in advance. All proceeds will benefit The Mute Swan Outreach program.

The Mute Swan Ministry is a not-for-profit 501(C) (3) organization

(Provided: Water, tea and a light lunch)

**REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED:**

**by June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011 for the summer offering**

**by August 31, 2011 for the autumn offering**

**Note: Each session will be limited to 12 participants, so please register early to assure your place.**

# About Debra Classen



## Education

- Undergraduate degree in Psychology and Sociology, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio
- Graduate degree in Counseling, John Carroll University, University Heights, Ohio
- Graduate degree in Theology at St. Mary Graduate School of Theology, Cleveland, Ohio
- Qualified in Myers/Briggs Type Indicator

Debra is a gifted artist, writer, facilitator and speaker. She has facilitated numerous retreats and workshops on spiritual topics since 2003. She has also led retreats on the following topics:

- “Thomas Merton and the Beauty of God”-Bethany Spring Retreat House in Kentucky, and International Merton Society, Cleveland Chapter.
- “The Beauty of A Faith” –Thesis topic presented to Catholic Churches.
- “The Beauty of the Crucifixion” –Lenten Journal, Lenten Presentations
- Myers/Briggs Type Indicator - Assessments and Workshop for corporations, religious communities and couples.

To Contact Debra: Email: [debraclassen@aol.com](mailto:debraclassen@aol.com) Phone: 216.832.4445

To learn more of Debra’s ministry, please visit The Mute Swan website:  
<http://www.themuteswan.org/media.html>

## Registration Form – Summer or Autumn Beauty with Thomas Merton

Please Clip and Mail with your payment to:

The Mute Swan, P.O. Box 23251, Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44023 Phone: 216.832.4445

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

For June: 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011: Fee: \$40 Journal \$10: Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Encl: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

For September 24th: Fee: \$40 Journal \$10: Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Encl: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The Blessed Foundation's mission is the ministry founded on the Biblical Text

Matt. 25: 35-40

"For I was hungry and you gave me food,

I was thirsty and you gave me drink,

A stranger and you welcomed me,

Naked and you clothed me,

Ill and you cared for me,

In prison and you visited me.

Amen I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least,...  
you did for me."

### **HOW TO CONTACT US**

Board of Directors

Founding Directors

John & Dee Curci

Directors

Connie & Dan Cevasco

Anne Marie Diederich, OSU

Lily Jean Haddad

Peggy Hegbar

Michelle Pingor

- **Our Address:** 6605 River Styx Road, Medina, OH 44256

- **Our E-Mail:** [DeeCurci@Blessed-Foundation.com](mailto:DeeCurci@Blessed-Foundation.com)

- **Our Web site:** <http://www.BLESSED-FOUNDATION.com/>

- **Our Phone:** 330-725-5456

**The grounds are open daily from sunrise to sunset year round.**

**Reservations are necessary to use "Kairos" retreat house. It is available from May through October, weather permitting. Please contact Dee to reserve time.**

The Blessed Foundation was established as a public charity and organized under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Therefore, contributions are tax deductible.

The foundation commits to use 100% of your donation to help others through the work of the foundation, no salaries are ever paid.