

Come to Quaker Center for a Very Special Year End Retreat...

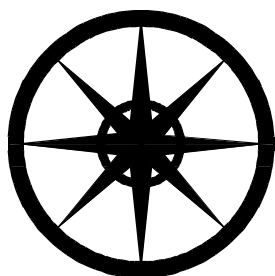
Sacred Compass: Exercises in Spiritual Discernment

December 27, 2008 – January 1, 2009

With Brent and Nancy Bill

“When we are led to the truth it is so we may live by it and do something with it.”

Paul A. Lacey, 1985



What is the purpose of this program? A compass makes a good metaphor for our spiritual lives and the work of discerning God's will for them. God doesn't speak as clearly and as obviously as Mapquest or GoogleMaps or GPS. Maybe that's because we don't navigate the life of faith via anything remotely resembling GPS. Instead, the divine compass points us to the mind and love of God. Keeping our soul's eyes on the sacred compass leads us to the holy discovery that we can move through life with purpose and promise, even in those times when we may not sense with certainty what that purpose and promise are. In a grace-filled way, our compass invites us into a life of continu-

ous experiences of God and of spiritual transformation. As we move toward Divine guidance, we joyfully behold the face of a loving God gazing back at us.

This workshop, based on Brent's book *Sacred Compass*, will be an interactive opportunity to check our compasses and see where God has led and is leading us. We'll use experiences such as drawing Life Maps, charting the call of the Divine in our lives, and more.

Who is this retreat for? We encourage and welcome the participation of all who are seeking to learn more about spiritual discernment or reconnect with vital spiritual practices around the topic of discernment. We invite people of all ages, races, genders, sexual orientations and abilities to use this time and space for this discernment process. Persons of any or no religious discipline are welcome.

Who will be leading this retreat? Quaker Center is pleased that Nancy and Brent Bill have agreed to share their gifts and insights with us at this year-end. Learn about them on the other side of this flyer.

Is there any leisure time during the retreat? In addition to our time together there will be time to relax, walk through Quaker Center's magnificent redwood forest, visit our Labyrinth, and enjoy the fellowship of other participants. *While we hope that participants will want to attend all of Brent and Nancy's sessions each presentation will be useful on its own, even for someone who did not attend an earlier session.*

What is the cost for the retreat? Quaker Center offers a sliding scale of between \$240 and \$410 per person, based on your discernment of your financial status. No one will be turned away because of inability to pay. The program, five nights of semi-private accommodations and fifteen meals are included.

Questions? Call or e-mail us at Quaker Center. We'll be happy to answer any questions you have.

QUAKER CENTER

Box 686, Ben Lomond, CA 95005

(831) 336-8333

mail@quakercenter.org

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Name _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____
I plan to pay \$ _____ (See below for more on this.)
Diet Restrictions/Special Housing Requirements: _____

----- Detach Here and Return -----

YOU MAY REGISTER BY E-MAIL TO MAIL@QUAKERCENTER.ORG, AND MAIL YOUR DEPOSIT. WE WILL HOLD YOUR PLACE FOR A WEEK PENDING RECEIPT OF DEPOSIT: \$50 DEPOSIT PER PERSON, PAYABLE TO QUAKER CENTER. MAIL TO: **QUAKER CENTER, P.O. BOX 686, BEN LOMOND, CA 95005.**

A NOTE ABOUT OUR SLIDING SCALE

- **Comprehensive rate:** The top of our scale covers all our costs. **(\$410).**
- **Standard rate:** We hope most people will pay at least this amount. **(\$350)**
- **Special reduced rate:** The bottom of our scale **(\$240).** No one is refused access to our programs because of lack of funds. Scholarship support is available; please ask if you are in need.

Schedule: You may arrive as early as 4:00 p.m. to register on Saturday, December 27. The program begins with dinner at 6:30 on Saturday and concludes on Thursday, January 1 at 2:30 p.m. after brunch, final cleanup, and worship.

Food: All meals at Quaker Center programs are vegetarian. Participants share in kitchen chores before and after each meal. Please let us know in advance about special dietary needs.

Lodging: Sleeping accommodations will be in the Orchard Lodge, in semi-private rooms adjacent to the dining room, and in the Redwood Lodge (small dormitories). Wheelchair access is available. Bring a sleeping bag or sheets and blankets, pillowcase, towel, soap, flashlight, and slippers. No pets please except for certified assistive animals. For those traveling from a distance, inexpensive housing may be arranged the night before or after the program.

Refund Policy: All but \$15 of your deposit can be refunded if you cancel more than one week before the program. After that the full standard deposit will be retained.

Transportation: See our website www.quakercenter.org for directions. If you need to carpool or are arriving on public transportation let us know and we will provide whatever help we can.

ABOUT THE LEADERS



Brent and Nancy Bill are Friends from Indiana. They live on Ploughshares Farm, where they are returning Hoosier pastureland to prairie grasses, wildflowers, shrubs, and native hardwoods. Nancy and Brent were founding members of the Friends in Fellowship worship group, a Quaker group based in theological hospitality. Nancy is a beginning potter, creates flower gardens, and is Brent's spiritual mentor.

Brent is a recorded minister and serves as the executive vice president of the Indianapolis Center for Congregations, Inc. A graduate of Wilmington College and Earlham School of Religion, Brent is the author of many books including *Sacred Compass: The Path of Spiritual Discernment*, *Mind the Light: Learning to See with Spiritual Eyes*, *Holy Silence: The Gift of Quaker Spirituality*, and *Imagination and Spirit: A Contemporary Quaker Reader*. He is a frequent speaker and workshop leader and may be reached through his Web site www.brentbill.com. His blog, *Holy Ordinary*, appears at holyordinary.blogspot.com