

On Line and On Point

marymotherofjesus.com

MARY MOTHER OF JESUS INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



MINDY LOU SIMMONS—The “Chirp” is silent now yet joined in everlastingly with the celestial choirs and orchestra as they sing and play the many wonderful, melodic, deeply spiritual songs created by Mindy Lou Simmons throughout her short lifespan. She left us February 18, saying, “I guess my space suit is worn out.” A horrible disease ended her life on this earth.

From Kathryn Shea who first notified our community: “Mindy went from feeling well and doing a beautiful performance on Jan 27th to leaving this Earth in just two short

weeks. Mindy is now singing with the angels. “Be at peace, dear Mindy.” The Simmons family is planning a celebration of her life -- Mindyfest -- to be held at Mindy’s Manor so to utilize the stage she built in her backyard. The tentative date is April 9. This celebration will be for any and all of her friends who would like to attend and participate in the festivities. More details on this event will be forthcoming,

Regarding memorial gifts and donations, Mary Montavon posted this on Monday: “As many of you are aware, our former music minister, Mindy Simmons, passed away last week. Kathryn & Lee will dedicate the liturgy to her this coming Saturday, February 26. We also wanted to assist her family with health care and funeral costs.

“At our MMOJ meeting this morning, the board decided to make a \$500 contribution from MMOJ to Mindy’s family. Rather than contribute to a GoFundMe page where almost one third of the donation is taken in fees, we will contribute directly to her family. Kathryn has been in contact with her sister and provided us with name and address. If you would like to make an additional individual donation to accompany this community donation, please make a check payable to Mylinda Woodward (Mindy’s sister) and send it to me - Mary

Mary Mother of Jesus Inclusive Catholic Community Mission Statement

We are a Christ-centered community of equals, consisting of women and men, ordained and non-ordained, empowered by the Spirit whose mission is to worship, to serve, to promote compassion, justice and care for creation. Come join us.

Montavon at 1215 E Peppertree Dr., Sarasota, FL 34242. I will forward your check along with the MMOJ check to Mylinda. Please send your check by Thursday, February 24.”

[My favorite song]

I WISH YOU PEACE

I lay my head on the pillow down,
And I say a prayer for the world going round.

You, my friend, will be on my mind;
May the human race treat each other kind.

**And I wish you peace;
and I wish you well.
Peace to the world;
peace for ourselves.
And I wish you love
and I wish you friends;
Peace to all people,
Until we meet again.**



May each of them be one to our very end.
May our spirits soar 'til we earn our best.
Give an equal chance to ev'ry boy and girl.

One Love, One God ...

**And I wish you peace;
and I wish you well.
Peace to the world;
peace for ourselves.**

**And I wish you love
and I wish you friends;
Nameste, [shante, shalom, peace]
Until we meet again.**

Carry all the young in our children's time,
Let us all stand firm for basic human rights.

May we learn to mend all broken minds.
May we work for justice and freedom in our time.

And I wish you peace...

[Help me find what I missed along the song; thank you.]

OFFERINGS— If you have made a recent donation to our community, we thank you for your generosity. We are most grateful for your demonstrated care and concern. Please remember to make your regular donations to MMOJ by sending your check to MMOJ % St. Andrew UCC, 6908 Beneva Road, Sarasota, FL 34238.

Remember: MMOJ continues to donate 5% of all received offerings each month to Outreach, which will continue to focus on real issues of food and hunger in our surrounding communities.

OUTREACH—The current recipient of our offered financial support continues to be **All Faiths Food Bank of Sarasota** [AFFB] in its task of providing food for hungry and needy families and children. *CHANGES ARE COMING.* We will soon adopt a more expansive list of recipients, including Coalition of Immokalee Workers, The Community Foundation, Meals On Wheels [Sarasota].

101 WAYS TO FOSTER NONVIOLENCE IN YOUR LIFE

81. Question assumptions.
82. Truly concentrate on what someone is saying to you.
83. Don't hold grudges.
84. Write to someone in prison.
85. Slow down.
86. Be more aware.
87. Express your feelings before you reach the stage of anger and hostility.
88. Start a study circle on nonviolence or a related topic.
89. Cultivate awe.
90. Become aware of your own biases.—
to be continued

STAFF—Russ Banner, editor; Joan Pesce, Lee Breyer, Anna Davis, text review; Beth Ponce and Dotty Shugrue, features

Send articles/info by Wed to be published on weekend: rjbannerusa@gmail.com

MOVIE CORNER

Recently we watched a one season, three episode miniseries of **Agatha Christie's The ABC Murders**. It starred John Malkovitch as Hercule Poirot and Rupert Grint as the young police inspector who were supported by a superb cast. I found the performances of Anya Chalotra as Lily and Bronson James as Megan to be especially well done. For the most part it is an intelligent who-dun-it set in 1933, relying on analysis of subtle clues and an understanding of human prejudice and weakness. Although there are some bloody scenes, being a murder mystery, there are interesting flash backs into Poirot's past and surprising twists and turns. It is available for streaming on Amazon Prime. Send your comments, criticisms, suggestions, to ponce.beth@gmail.com —*Beth Ponce*

[Because of an interruption in production of the last issue of OLOP, several articles have been eliminated in order to move on. The following is a summary and conclusion of an interrupted series.]

THE 10 MOST IMPORTANT BLACK WOMEN IN U.S. HISTORY—a list compiled by Jone Johnson Lewis, Dec. 31, 2020.

1. Marian Anderson (Feb. 27, 1897–April 8, 1993)
2. Mary McLeod Bethune (July 10, 1875–May 18, 1955)
3. Shirley Chisholm (Nov. 30, 1924–Jan. 1, 2005)
4. Althea Gibson (Aug. 25, 1927–Sept. 28, 2003)
5. Dorothy Height (March 24, 1912–April 20, 2010)
6. Rosa Parks (Feb. 4, 1913–Oct. 24, 2005)
7. Augusta Savage (Feb. 29, 1892–

March 26, 1962)

8. Harriet Tubman (1822–March 20, 1913)
9. Phillis Wheatley (May 8, 1753–Dec. 5, 1784)
10. Charlotte Ray (Jan. 13, 1850–Jan. 4, 1911)

Lewis, Jone Johnson. "10 of the Most Important Black Women in U.S. History." ThoughtCo, Dec. 31, 2020, [thoughtco.com/notable-african-american-women-4151777](https://www.thoughtco.com/notable-african-american-women-4151777).

[From a poem composed by Donnamarie Marcantonio]

WINTER GONE

Winter taught me about death
and letting go
The cold freeze came to
Florida's eve
By 7 a.m. twenty-eight degrees
I watered the bamboo, bananas
And mustard greens
And three days prior
And three beyond
Reinforced them with
The flow of life
Then covered them with sheets
And pillowcases, what I could,
A king-sized case over each
The Lychee and canistel,
Clipped closed with clothespins
Safe from their first season's child
Four top sheets over tilted grates
Of climbing Kentucky green beans
I picked the ones that hung
And ate them that night
The guava got a pillowcase too
I went to bed
The next day didn't seem so bad
Into the forties, mid-thirties at night
I removed the sheets
To wilted buds on the Pickering mango
And dark, green leaves on top the guava
and the rest
Tall, reaching papayas left uncovered

Brownd leaves crunched closed and
 hanging
 As days went by the injury developed
 The sweet potato vines, all brown
 Better dig up what's grown below lest
 they rot
 Three-quarters of the string bean vines
 gone
 Most leaves atop the lychee, curling
 brown
 Towering banana leaves, brown
 I went about breaking off dead leaves
 And limbs so the remaining growth
 Could garner forces to survive
 Clip, clip peripheral branches of the
 guava
 And leaves on lychee and canistel
 Pull out dying tomatoes and
 sweet potato vines
 Leave soil's nourishment for the living
 Baby papaya leaves sprouted soon
 Above their withering, dangling cousins
 Banana pups were shaltered below
 towering dead leaves
 Hearty cherry branches remaining,
 thrived
 It became clear
 Let it go
 There's no more activity in the dead
 What's living grows on
 Maybe the lychee, most leaves now gone
 Wasn't meant to bear Florida's winter
 Plant what grows here
 What can survive
 You can't protect them all
 Now I know shat "frost tolerant"
 And "don't sow before the last frost"
 means
 On seed packets
 I didn't think it applied to Florida farmers
 Now I know that winter freezes
 prune and clip, the dead is gone
 And let it go
 Life resurges
 Donna Marcantonio c 2022

LENTEN GEMS—seasonal treasures
of inestimable value

**WHERE THERE IS HATRED, LET ME
SOW LOVE**—A Lenten Retreat on the
Spirituality of Nonviolence—"Forgive
them Abba, they know not what they do."
These are the profound words of a dying
man, sowing love in the face of hatred
and violence. In these times of extreme
polarization, when fear, division and
hatred dominate our daily experiences,
Pace e Bene offers a Lenten Retreat that
explores the power of radical Gospel love
as a spiritual tool capable of freeing us
from this destructive impasse. Saturday,
March 19, 2022. 10:00 AM 3:00 PM
[with a one-hour break in-between]. Cost
\$40. This four-hour retreat will include a
morning session (10am - 12pm) and an
afternoon session (1pm - 3pm). The
morning session will focus on Gospel
Nonviolence and unpack other examples
born out of this tradition. The afternoon
session will be devoted to the spiritual
principles essential to living nonviolence,
as well as the function of love as a
redemptive and transformative spiritual
force. Register: paceebene.org

**SARASOTA CONFERENCE ON
SPIRITUALITY, COMMUNITY AND
SOCIAL CHANGE**—The Thought and
Spirituality of Howard Thurman: His
Historical Legacy and Relevance to the
Issues of Today. April 1-2, 2022 at First
Congregational UCC, 1031 S. Euclid Ave.
Although this event is scheduled months
from now, it would be good to mark your
calendar. Tickets for the Fri-Sat
afternoon event are \$38.00, and can be
reserved through the website provided:
[HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM/E/
SARASOTA](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sarasota)

Two solid reasons for attending: Learn about an important man and his contribution to our Christ Life, as well as meet/mingle with our neighbors who have the same desire.

JOAN CHITTISTER LENTEN OFFER—

Perhaps more than any other contemporary poet, Mary Oliver sought to uncover what St. Bernard of Clairvaux called “the real behind the real.” Her explorations of nature, insights into human nature and her keen perception of creation bring us not only into contact with “the soul of the world,” but with the very nature of God and that spark of the divine within us. Using her poetry as a guide, we will refresh our spirits, deepen our kinship with all of creation, and perhaps even answer the challenge one of her most famous poems poses to us all: “What is it you plan to do / with your one wild and precious life?” Join us on Zoom on Saturday, February 26, 10-12 p.m. ET. You must be a Monasteries of the Heart member to register. [Go to MONASTERIES OF THE HEART website.]

FUTURECHURCH LENTEN OFFERING

—We will hold a series of 1 hour sessions on the six Wednesdays of Lent focusing on a different topic each session. As we discuss and discern together, we will ask each participant to complete a survey that allows each person to convey their most cogent ideas for our final report. After the sessions are completed, we will compile the final report between Easter and Pentecost and send that report off to Rome (copying our bishops and the papal nuncio) in the Spirit of Pentecost.
TWO SESSIONS EACH WEDNESDAY
FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE
MARCH 2 (12pm EST or 7pm EST)
The Eucharist & Parish Closings

MARCH 9 (12pm EST or 7pm EST)
The Future of Priesthood

MARCH 16 (12pm EST or 7pm EST)
Women as Co-Equals

MARCH 23 (12pm EST or 7pm EST)
Lay Leadership

MARCH 30 (12pm EST or 7pm EST)
Racial Justice

APRIL 6 (12pm EST or 7pm EST)
Faith & Political Life

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE SESSIONS
ARE HELD AT 12:00pm & 7:00pm EST.
EACH WEDNESDAY, CHOOSE THE
TIME THAT IS BEST FOR YOU!

Each session will include:
Prayer/song - Scripture - Short
presentation on the issue - Breakout
sessions
Participant completion of survey form..
For further info and registration:
futurechurch.org

Themes for Lenten Reflection as We Journey in the Silence—Spiritual Essentials for Life’s Second Act—by Janet Schaeffler, OP, 23rd Publications, CT, 2020. This was introduced to us by Katy last year. I thought I would present during Lent.

The Twelve Needs of the Eldering

The Need to Live a Life of Meaning and Purpose
The Need for Love and Relationships
The Need to Ask and Explore Questions
The Need to Continue to Learn and Grow
The Need to Navigate Change and Transition
The Need to Cope with Losses
The Need to Be Grateful
The Need to Forgive: The Need for Forgiveness
The Need to Give
The Need for Spiritual Integration
The Need to Let Go: The Need to Simplify
The Need to Prepare for Dying and Death