

KIRKRIDGE



Where Is God? by Mark Nepo

It's as if what is unbreakable-
the very pulse of life-waits for
everything else to be torn away,
and then in the bareness that
only silence and suffering and
great love can expose, it dares
to speak through us and to us.
It seems to say, if you want to last,
hold on to nothing. If you want
to know love, let in everything.
If you want to feel the presence
of everything, stop counting the
things that break along the way.

Last weekend, many hearts were broken in Charlottesville, Virginia and across the nation. We watched as hatred and bigotry played out before us like an ancient Greek tragedy. The veil of our innocence was torn in two as we looked into the cracked mirror of our nation.

How hard it is not to count "the things that break." How hard it is not to "re-count" our brokenness in each morning's headlines. How hard it is not to count the deaths of young black men on our streets and want to act out in rage. How seemingly impossible it is to read the statistics of the men of color in our prisons and not realize that the justice system is deeply tilted against so many. We must count them: each and every one; lives that mattered and lives that do matter.

We must feel it all: anger, sorrow and despair. We must feel and then let go, lest we become embittered, frozen, or immobile in our rage. Then we must lean into forgiveness, love, and possibility. We must move forward leaning on the presence of God, the sacred presence that is far greater than ourselves. A divine Presence that exists within us, around us, and through us calling us to be greater beings than we ever imagined we could be in this world.

*If you want
to know love, let in everything.*

This week I am letting "everything in" while praying for forgiveness and holding onto hope. Knowing in this kairos moment it is the time to "To act justly, love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

With love,
Jean Richardson, Director of Kirkridge





Bread for the Journey: A Celebration of Poetry and the Human Spirit

October 4th - October 7th

This retreat engages participants with poetry as a dynamic way to reclaim the fertile ground of metaphor and image. It offers time to deeply listen and to ask open and honest questions of ourselves and one another in order to better understand our lives and renew our spirits.

Together, we create a safe and welcoming space in which to experience and explore the beauty of living in the presence of wonder and awe. These four days will serve as a reminder that poetry, by harnessing the power of the imagination, can make ideas felt, serve as a means of better understanding both ourselves and others, and point us toward a vision of a better world.

Poetry serves us as a vessel for exploration, reflection and conversation. It nurtures us, as Lucille Clifton claimed, toward greater compassion and justice by asking the question, "What is the human here?"

Our time together will encourage us to engage with poetry as a means of helping us more fully understand how our lives and our choices might better embrace both what is most meaningful to us, as well as the mysteries that surround us. By inviting participants into a safe space for clarity and courage, we will engage with the richness of language as a means of deepening our capacity to hear, write and appreciate the value of poetry for our lives. We will also explore ways in which we can more effectively carry poetry out into the world.

Register today!



Upcoming Programs



Thursday, Sep 7, 2017
Sisterly Conversations
2017 Nurturing Our
Spirits – Our Spirits
Growing Older: Joyful
Aging and Wisdom
Aplenty
Kirkridge



Friday, Sep 8, 2017
Celebrating Our Lives,
Faith & Love: LGBT
40th anniversary at
Kirkridge
Kirkridge



Wednesday, Oct 4, 2017
Bread for the Journey:
A Celebration of Poetry
and the Human Spirit
Kirkridge



Friday, Oct 20, 2017
Compassionate
Listening: Healing Our
World from the Inside
Out
Kirkridge



Friday, Oct 27, 2017
75th Kirkridge
Homecoming
Celebration
Kirkridge



Friday, Feb 9, 2018
Allies in Recovery: A
Weekend Workshop for
Sexual Abuse Survivors
and their Partners
Kirkridge



Monday, Mar 19, 2018
Thin Places A Circle of
Trust® for Finding The
Courage to Live in a
Divided World
Kirkridge



Friday, Apr 13, 2018
Sacred Activism
Kirkridge





Recipes from the Kirkridge Kitchen

Roasted Salmon with Kale and Cabbage

Ingredients:

- 1 bunch Tuscan kale, tough stems removed, leaves thinly sliced (about 5 cups)
- 1/2 head Savoy cabbage, cored and thinly sliced (4 cups)
- 6 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- Coarse salt and pepper
- 4 skinless salmon fillets (4 to 6 ounces each)



For the full recipe, [*click here.*](#)

STAY CONNECTED:

