

SUMMER AT A GLANCE

"Thank you for your vision for the ministry of the Ecclesial Literature Project writing workshops and for convening such an engaging group in such a convivial way. On one level, what you do seems simple. On another, it's masterful. On every level it has been a blessing to me as pastor, person, and writer."

Summer 2013 workshop participant



INSIDE THE

COLLEGEVILLE INSTITUTE

FOR ECUMENICAL & CULTURAL RESEARCH

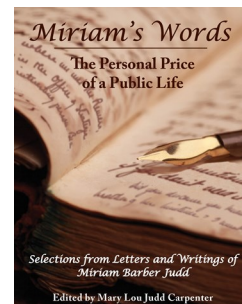


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An interview with short-term scholar, Mary Lou Judd Carpenter about *Miriam's Words: The Personal Price of a Public Life*

With a box piled high with smudged, torn, and cherished letters, Mary Lou Judd Carpenter arrived for the first time at the Collegeville Institute in the winter of 2007 as a short-term scholar. Over the subsequent years, Mary Lou returned several times—a couple weeks here, a few weeks there—with more and more boxes. **The project?** To compile selections from the 2,000 letters and other private writings of her mother, Miriam Barber Judd, wife of missionary and Minnesota Congressman Dr. Walter H. Judd. **The purpose?** To share the story of her mother's life as the spouse of a civil servant in the mid-twentieth century, detailing her wealth of experiences from war-torn China in the 1930s and her life in the political whirl of Washington, D.C. **The result?** *Miriam's Words: The Personal Price of a Public Life* (Createspace, 2013), a collection of writings that give an insightful, first-person account of the private price paid for public service.



The book project began simply enough when Mary Lou, in her fifties at the time, began asking her mother questions about her childhood. She recalls, "One day I asked questions about my life as a youngster in China, and my mother went to her files and brought out letters she'd written describing us fleeing from communist bandits and evacuating when the Japanese military were approaching our town." Mary Lou notes, "I was aware of the fact that my mother wrote regular letters to family and friends, but it wasn't until then that I discovered the quality and quantity of her writings."

According to Mary Lou, the letters were compiled in manila folders according to date. Her mother often used carbon paper to make copies for friends and family when she thought the stories would be of particular interest to others. "When my mother was 38 and she and my father moved to Washington, she began keeping a carbon copy for her own files." Rejoicing, Mary Lou says, "This was fortuitous for me!"

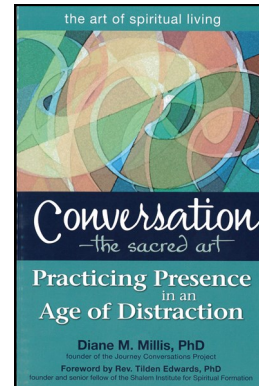
As the book project unfolded, Mary Lou made a clear decision to publish the letters as-is rather than as narrative or historical fiction. She notes, "My mother's words were so strong, lively and compelling that I saw no need to restate or reframe her words. The original words gave her observations and feelings a legitimacy and urgency that my rewording or fiction could not claim."

Now, with the publication of the book behind her, Mary Lou heartily acknowledges, "My 23 weeks at the Collegeville Institute were foundational to this project, and I am very grateful!"

For more information about *Miriam's Words*, visit: www.miriamswords.com

The Book Nook

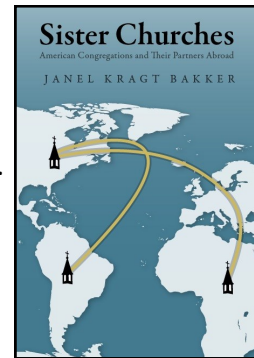
Diane Millis (1996/97), former resident scholar and current consultant for the *Called to Life* seminars, authored *Conversation—The Sacred Art: Practicing Presence in an Age of Distraction* (SkyLight Paths Publishing, 2013). Patrick Henry, former executive director of the Collegeville Institute, writes, “Diane knows that our conversation reveals us to others, and, done right—caring more important than understanding, talking balanced with restraint and periodic silence—reveals to us depths we didn’t know we have. She has learned much from others, and shares her own practical wisdom, most forcefully and poignantly demonstrated in the transition from ‘broken apart’ to ‘breaking open.’”



News to Note: Collegeville Institute Staff

Janel Kragt Bakker, Associate Director, completed her book *Sister Churches: American Congregations and Their Partners Abroad*. It is slated for release by Oxford University Press in October 2013.

Janel’s book explores relationships between congregations in the U.S. and their partners in Africa and Latin America. Drawing on extensive fieldwork and interviews with participants in these partnerships, she describes the growing sister church movement as an outgrowth of a model of mission based on mutuality, rather than a more outdated “sending” model. Joel Carpenter, Nagel Institute for the Study of World Christianity, Calvin College, writes, “This is a solidly researched and fascinating look into the new reality of world Christianity in America.” Congratulations, Janel!



Fr. Mark Thamert, Director of the Benedictine Institute, and Carla Durand, viewing the Benedictine Column, located on the grounds of Metten Abbey.

Carla Durand, Program Manager and Communications Associate, participated in the Benedictine Heritage Study Tour, sponsored by the Benedictine Institute of Saint John’s University, in June 2013. Carla, along with 12 other campus employees, toured several sites in Italy and Germany associated with the Benedictine origins of both Saint John’s and Saint Benedict’s campus communities.

In Rome, the group visited Sant’ Anselmo, The Church of San Benedetto, and Saint Peter’s Basilica and Necropolis. From there, the group traveled to the historic Italian Benedictine sites of Subiaco and Monte Cassino. The tour ended in Germany after visiting Saint Walburg Abbey in Eichstätt and Metten Abbey in Bavaria.