The Jewish festival of Sukkot begins at sunset Wednesday, October 8 (today) and ends at nightfall October 15. Sukkot commemorates the 40-year period during which the Israelites wandered in the desert. Sukkot is a harvest festival that celebrates the joy of a bounteous harvest. Sukkot (pronounced “Sue COAT”) means “booths,” and refers to the temporary dwellings that are constructed during this holiday.

Special decorations, fruits and materials are used to construct the Sukkah. Each year (since the Sukkah is made each year) the LC Spiritual Life Center’s lawn. Hillel builds a Sukkah on the campus. It’s a Sukkah!

What’s the tent in the front yard of Spiritual Life? It’s a Sukkah!

Aging Well

This fall break I will be visiting my 85-year-old mother in Wyoming as she continues to recover from a broken leg. Her injury was sustained as she rode her beloved moped around the neighborhood. Last Friday night I had the privilege of attending a dinner honoring a 92-year-old parishioner from my husband’s church for his lifetime achievement in the glass industry. The thin glass we all take for granted on cell phones, lap tops and flat screen TVs was this man’s invention. Earlier in the week we had dinner at Westminster Canterbury where our hosts, all in their late 80s and early 90s, regaled us with tales of their life adventures. One visited Central America in the volatile 60s, another traveled all over the world as an agronomist setting up projects for the World Bank, and another keeps up with the latest political and religious happenings, locally and around the globe.

As someone who spends most of her waking hours working with young adults, I found this past week to be enlightening and inspiring. The wise elders that surrounded me had so much still to offer. While their physical bodies may be beginning to diminish, their spirits were lively and energizing. I was reminded of the theory of Episcopal priest and theologian, Matthew Fox:

Fox wants to retire the word retirement (there is a hint of tiredness in the term itself) and substitute “refirement.” For him that means tapping into the fire in the belly, the passion that spurs creativity and compassion, the zeal that makes every day an adventure.*

This fall break many students will be returning home to visit family members, including grandparents and other older relatives. I hope that time will be made in busy schedules to literally sit at the feet of these wise ones. To listen well to their stories, to recognize the richness of their life experiences, and to thank them for their many contributions to family and community life. And as I visit with my mom, I will pray for patience, recognizing that aging also carries with it special challenges that I can’t begin to understand, but that I can at least attempt to appreciate. For should I live a long life myself, I will one day be an elder surrounded by the young. May I live my life now in such a way that when re-tirement becomes an option, I will choose instead to be re-fired up about those issues I hold dear and those relationships I treasure.

Peace,

By Anne Gibbons

Associate Chaplain and Director of the Bonner Leader Program

*from SpiritualityandPractice.com

Welcome to the Chaplain’s Corner newsletter. If you have a joy or concern you’d like to share with our staff, send an e-mail or give us a call at Ext. 8348. We only share concerns with the campus community, via newsletter or e-mail, with permission. You can view previous and current issues of our newsletter (in PDF format), on the Spiritual Life page of the Lynchburg College website—www.lynchburg.edu/spirituallife.

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

For a list of our regularly scheduled meetings during the academic year, go to the Spiritual Life webpage and click on “Spiritual Organizations on Campus.”

Campus Worship Opportunities

Sundays
- Quaker Meeting—10:30 a.m. at the Center for Spiritual Life.
- InFaith [IF]—Campus Protestant Worship, 3 p.m. Services will resume on October 26th.
- Roman Catholic Mass—4:30 p.m. Mass will resume on October 26th.

Chaplain’s Corner

Sympathies are extended to: Alyssa McGowan (senior, Arlington, VA) whose grandfather died, Brooke Niblett (senior, Lynchburg, VA) on the death of her grandmother, Nina Salmon (English) on the death of her grandmother, Nina Cauthorn Jarvis. Link to obituary.

Date/Time/Location Event Description
Sunday October 12 5:30 p.m./CSL Sukkot "Pizza in the Hut"
Wednesday, October 15 3-5 p.m. The Dell Doggies in the Dell
Wednesday, October 15 5 p.m. Friendship Circle Blessing of the Animals

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