

December 2018

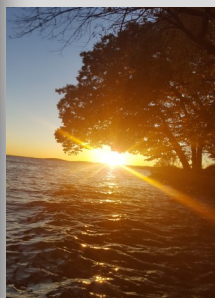


# WISCONSIN

## CHAPLAINCY ASSOCIATION

### Highlights:

- State of the Union Address
- 2018 Summary & Comments
- 2019 & 2020 Conference Details



Sunset on Green Lake

**We are a known and respected entity [with] a history of offering a quality conference....[and] our networks are far more extensive than we realize.**

### Future Conference Dates:

**2019:**  
**10/27—29**

**2020:**  
**10/25—27**

*Around the banquet table on Monday October 15, 2018 at Heidel House, we heard from a number of attendees that they would value hearing from the WCA in-between conferences to stay connected to one another. Also interest was indicated in reading the President's "State of the Union" address. So this newsletter includes an edited version of that address as well as upcoming information about our future conferences.*

#### **State of the Union Address by Out-Going President Sue Rhodes**

One of the attributes I most treasure about our WCA fellowship is the diversity within this community. We are of all different faith backgrounds, and serve in very different ministry settings. This diversity is also represented in your WCA board membership. I know more about you as WCA constituents because the board meets in one another's facilities, which are representative of WCA membership. This also enables us to better serve you. I'm grateful for that privilege.

We continue work towards having a more interactive, engaging **social media presence**. We value the existing and potential relationships available through these means and continue to sow seeds for deeper use of technology in building our WCA networking community.

To this end, we tapped into the APC for our **email blast** in announcing this year's Fall conference. We worked directly with the APC and through my connection with them, was able to send an invite to almost 800 chaplains. I heard from several indicating their pleasure in having the personal invite and I'd like to share one with you:

*... thank you for including me in your email blast about the October conference. It was*

*great to find out at the APC conference [in 2017] that the Wisconsin chaplains are...still having the annual conference at the Heidel House. I was on the Wisconsin Chaplaincy Commission from 1992 to 2002, and was the president from 1994 to 2002 ...it is...nice to see...*

I include this snippet because I attended the 2017 APC Conference on behalf of the WCA as its President. I handed out 2017 conference flyers, volunteered as well as attended seminars related to our 2017 topic where I was able to mention some details of our upcoming WCA conference to my peers at the seminar. It was through one of these purposeful networking efforts that I met **Major General Razz Waff**, US Army, Retired, whose email is quoted in part above.

In doing research for our 2017 WCA conference, I found publications by **Dr. Jan McCormack**, who has 22 years' experience as an Air Force chaplain. At the 2017 APC conference, I personally sought her out and received her permission to place a PowerPoint presentation on **Moral Injury** of hers on our website as preparatory information for our attendees.

Following is an edited piece of the **APC Forum**, November 2018 written by its current President, Ronald C. Oliver

PhD MBA BCC,  
with permission:

*"[The] APC has many friends. The APC President-Elect and I attended the Military Chaplains Association. There we had the opportunity to meet with their Executive Director Dr. Razz Waff (Major General, U.S. Army, Retired) and many of their leaders and members. We also spent quality time with Dr. Jan McCormack who has been a colleague on the APC Board."*

I include this from the APC Forum because of the inter-connectivity the WCA has with the APC and their networks.

We are a known and respected entity that has a history of offering a quality conference, which is confirmed in the NACC continuing to provide CEU accreditation for our conferences year after year. To me this is proof that we have a solid foundation in our leadership going back a long way, and that our networks are far more extensive than we realize.





Renee and Mark in "Tales to Delight the Soul" at the Monday nite banquet

*Historically the board has brought themes and presenters that come from within our own communities and relationships. We also look for you to provide ideas for future topics and presenters as we envision together our future.*



### **(State of the Union, Continued)**

**President-Elect Jeff Uhler** was trained through his denominational network in **ROI** methodology, and will be sharing his expertise with the WCA. R.eturn O.n I.nvestment is language that our administrative leaders can understand as we talk about the work we do as chaplains and the value we bring to the interdisciplinary team within a facility. Given the massive changes in healthcare and the impact it might have on chaplaincy, I for one am very interested in what Jeff can teach us for not only our organization, but for me in my own worksite.

We continue to invest in the future of chaplaincy through offering limited number conference **scholarships to CPE students**. Through board member Sue Kruger (ACPE Certified Educator), we have garnered a number of grateful students, and the word continues to spread through attendees of the merits of attending WCA conferences.

I attended the **APC National Conference** in LA this past summer as our WCA representative. I intentionally chose to sit on certification committees as a means to better understand our profession, to deepen the ties the WCA has with the APC and to better my own practice. I also brought 200 of our flyers to distribute, to hand out as well as placing them strategically. We have no idea how deep our connections go, or who might

attend our conference. I hope for the best as I bring the flyers and network at the conferences. I know that the WCA became more known to the APC because I have had more personal communication with them this year as a known entity. This has been an overt effort on my part to enlarge our influence in the region.

In closing, I'd like to reflect on what I've consistently heard, and read from the APC, other chaplaincy organizations and in my own research. Healthcare is in great upheaval. Chaplains provide a real yet soft service that can powerfully impact the bottom line: we can prevent lawsuits, protect staff from physical danger and we often aid with retention of both patients as well as staff. We provide a needed service that often isn't recognized as fully as it ought. One of the ways that we can stand firmly with other clinically trained staff is through our documentation. While I come from the business world and am very familiar with metrics and justifying decisions/costs, it's still challenging to put into concrete terms some of the spiritual work we do. And yet, we must. The WCA is itself looking to do this through Jeff's ROI work that uses metrics and very business-oriented language to bring greater awareness of our value to our own department heads, our C-Suite administrators and into hospital systems as we also look for a very bright and solid

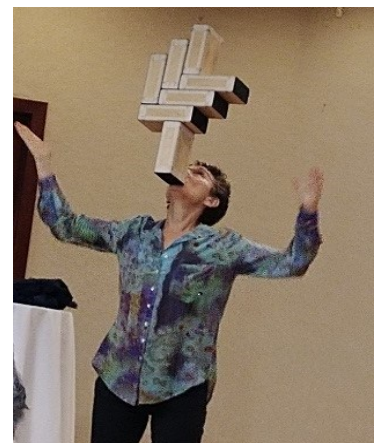
future for our organization, the WCA. We are an extension and support for your chaplaincy. We too need to protect our bottom line and so what is happening in our own facilities is also taking place for us. Look to hear more about this in the year to come!



*From a four-time attendee:*

*"Each one has offered something I've needed at the time I needed. Don't know how that's happening, but with the blessings of God..."*

Renee performing classic juggling act



<https://www.wisconsinchaplains.org/>

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with **Renee Brachfeld and Mark Novak**

This year, we welcomed the theme of “Sacred Storytelling” for our gathered group of attendees, coming from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois and Michigan. Our diverse group represented a variety of chaplaincy settings, including hospitals, elder care, hospice, home care, behavioral health care, corrections and pediatrics. Here’s just a sampling of some of the enriching experiences realized by attendees this year:

**Enhancing our Skills**

Holding stories, understanding stories, and telling stories are all part of our profession. Facilitators Renee Brachfeld and Mark Novak, founders of the Multifaith Storytelling Institute in Washington, D.C., introduced the group to methods and techniques that encouraged memorable and discerning approaches for holy storytelling and listening.

**Learning through Community**

Each of us brought to the conference our own experiences from our ministries and shared them as we considered the topics “We are the Stories we Tell: Listening for the Divine” and “Integrating Storytelling in Our Holy Conversations” to help us facilitate deeper conversation and healing for and with those in our ministry of care. Together, we affirmed one another’s diverse backgrounds and traditions.

**Connecting with Other Professionals**

Attendees had several opportunities to gather in groups and pairs to share their stories, including their experiences, challenges, and inspirations from their vocational calling. We supported and affirmed one another as we reflected upon our gifts.

**Encouraging Self Care**

Free time was built into the agenda for attendees to integrate their learnings and be inspired by the views and peaceful setting upon the shore of Green Lake. Additionally, our evening entertainment welcomed facilitators Renee and Mark, who offered “Tales to Delight the Soul”, with refreshing awareness of stories from the Russian Jewish traditions that were filled with irony, wit, wisdom and surprise — including Renee’s juggling and balancing acts and Mark’s talent on the guitar.

*“I wasn’t quite sure how storytelling would fit in my work, but this has been very helpful. It...stretch[ed] my thinking...”*

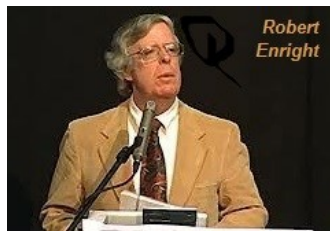
**Phil Chard, 2020 Speaker**



**Looking Ahead:**

**Nobel Peace Prize Nominee, Robert Enright, to Headline 2019 Conference**

Mark your calendar for next year’s annual meeting, because you won’t want to miss this one! We’re welcoming **Dr. Robert Enright**, known by *Time* magazine as the “forgiveness trailblazer” and often introduced as the “Father of Forgiveness Research.” Dr. Enright is the pioneer in scientific studies of forgiveness. His 25-year academic commitment to research and programming is extraordinary, including his implementations both nationally and internationally. He has traveled the globe, sharing his message of forgiveness in places like Rome, the Holy Land, Ireland and the United Kingdom. His work has appeared in the *LA Times*, *Chicago Tribune* and *20/20* (just to name a few !)



In addition to Dr. Enright, we’ll be welcoming to the conference **Dr. Gayle Reed**, who has been working on forgiveness research for more than 20 years with Dr. Enright and has been part of the International Forgiveness Institute team since its inception in 1994. One of her areas of interest is women recovering from emotional abuse by a spouse. In her work and research, Dr. Reed has found high correlation with forgiveness levels and psychological health, demonstrating meaning-making in suffering.

See their website at <https://internationalforgiveness.com>

Be sure to watch for early-bird registration for this conference, which is October 27-29, 2019 at Heidel House Resort in Green Lake, WI.

**2020 Conference with Phil Chard: Mindfulness: The Art and Science of Well-Being**

Many caregivers struggle with chronic stress, burnout, compassion fatigue and poor self-care. Collectively, these challenges undermine emotional well-being, relationships, life satisfaction and, too often, our sense of meaning and purpose. Recent behavioral and neuroscience research has identified mindfulness as a critical attribute for optimizing well-being, increasing emotional intelligence and cultivating spiritual renewal. We will examine specific, actionable approaches to creating and sustaining a healthy mind and spirit through mindfulness and other applied contemplative practices.

**October 25—27, 2020**

*“...loved learning the Hebrew....[and] unpacking the OT...”*

*“This was a fabulous program with opportunity to learn, share and be rejuvenated.”*

*“Good use of group building and get-to-know-you activities.”*

*“We were able to grow in our ability to better listen to others who are outside of our tradition.”*