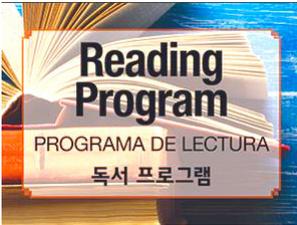


MISSION LINK ON

United Methodist Women, California Nevada Conference, El Camino Real District, Vol. 30, No. 1, February, 2019



Wonderful books to help us

- * *grow spiritually*
- * *gain understanding of our world*

BY CAROLYN BIRCHER, SECRETARY, PROGRAM RESOURCES

THE 2019 UMW READING PROGRAM offers another list of wonderful books to help us grow spiritually and gain understanding of our world. I always look forward to the new list each year because these books are so informative and readable.

In an effort to be financially and environmentally responsible, the national UMW has made a couple changes in how we purchase the books.

1. The book catalog is no longer provided as a paper brochure. You can read the book descriptions and print your own copy of the brochure at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram. The book descriptions can also be found in the December 2018 issue of **response** Magazine. On our district UMW website, www.elcaminorealumw.org/unit-resources/readingprogram/, there's a link to a printable 2-page list of the books which also contains information about which of them can be found in Santa Clara County public libraries.
2. The UMW Service Center will no longer stock the books. If you purchase them through the www.UnitedMethodistWomen.org/readingprogram website, they will link you to Amazon.com and UMW will receive a percentage of your purchase. We will have some books for sale at district UMW events, but since other booksellers don't offer the generous return policy that we used to have with the Service Center, we will not be able to offer *all* of the books.

For all reading program plans, you will read **response** Magazine plus books from each of the five categories (Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth). All of the books may be selected from the lists published in 2014 through 2019, as long as you didn't count them as read in previous years. Children and youth titles may be counted for any of the plans.

Plan I: Read one book from each of the five categories.

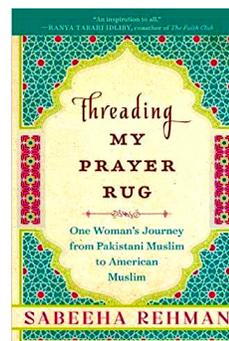
Plan II: Read two books from each of the five categories.

Plan III: Read two books from each category and five more from any category.

Plan IV: Read two books from each category and ten more from any category.

Book Review

BY CAROLYN BIRCHER



Threading My Prayer Rug: One Woman's Journey from Pakistani Muslim to American Muslim

by Sabeeha Rehman

I FOUND THIS BOOK to be a well-written memoir that touched on a number

of topics that interest UMW women:

- What it's like to adjust to life in the USA, coming from another country.
- How to go about creating a new faith community when you move to a place that doesn't have one for you.
- How to keep your children engaged in your faith community.
- Differentiating between cultural and faith traditions
- Building interfaith understanding and cooperation.
- Dealing with a schism within your faith community.
- Basic understanding of the Muslim faith.

Many of our local public libraries have this book on the shelf. I gave it five stars on Goodreads www.goodreads.com/ and highly recommend it.

If you like social media, consider using Goodreads.com and joining the "United Methodist Women" group there to connect with others reading from the Reading Program list.

There will be a discussion of this book at Almaden Hills UMC on Monday, February 25, at 6:45pm. Contact Bonnie Home through Almaden Hills UMC.



Music at the Mission

BY LYNN HERMOSO, VICE PRESIDENT AND RETREAT EMCEE

AT THE ANNUAL **SPIRITUAL RETREAT AT MISSION SPRINGS**, we enjoy holding a talent show on Saturday evening. This year, we are going to the musicals. Broadway! Movies! Opera! When you arrive at the retreat for registration, sign up for the “Gifts and Graces” Talent Show too.

Here are the guidelines:

- Sign up!
- Come!
- Enjoy!

With the theme of “musicals,” prepare any musical song/number from any musical that ever existed! Are you a Phantom of the Opera fan? How about Madame Butterfly? South Pacific? The Wizard of Oz? Sound of Music? There are endless songs out there to perform. I think I’m going to prepare a song from “Funny Girl”!

Join me for a magical, enchanting night of music.

See pages 9-11 in this newsletter for registration forms and scholarship information. For more info, contact me at <vicepres@caminorealumw.org>.

PURPOSE

United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

MISSION LINK is published quarterly. Each issue is also available on the El Camino Real District UMW website <elcaminorealumw.org>. Please send address changes to El Camino Real District UMW President K Stone.

Please direct items for publication in Mission Link to Wanda Garrett, Communications Coordinator. If you provide photos of recognizable individuals, please be sure you have obtained permission from those individuals to publish their picture. The next issue will be published in May, 2019. The deadline for articles or photos to be submitted for this issue is Monday, April 16, 2019.

MISSION LINK

is published quarterly by
**EL CAMINO REAL DISTRICT
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**
<elcaminorealumw.org>
Wesley United Methodist Church
Attn: K Stone, President
El Camino Real District UMW
566 North Fifth Street, San Jose, CA 95112

2019 DISTRICT TEAM

PRESIDENT: K STONE

VICE PRESIDENT: LYNN HERMOSO

TREASURER: DEBBIE OW

SECRETARY: SUZANNE DOUGAN

SECRETARY OF PROGRAM RESOURCES:
CAROLYN BIRCHER

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR,
WEBSITE EDITOR: WANDA GARRETT

MISSION COORDINATORS

SPIRITUAL GROWTH: SANDRA NESHEIM

MEMBERSHIP NURTURE & OUTREACH:
CAROLYN LAMCKE

SOCIAL ACTION: KATHERINE KIM

EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION:
(OPEN)

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

CHAIRPERSON: BETTY SPENCER DICKEY

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Elizabeth Antolin
Kat Teraji
(open)

To contact any District Team member, send an email to <communication@elcaminorealumw.org>. Please include on the subject line, the Team member to whom your message should be directed.

To subscribe to the District UMW “Quick News” emails, please send a request to Wanda Garrett at <communication@elcaminorealumw.org>.

Notes from the President

Wow, Year #2!

I'M GRATEFUL for each of you, our Legacy of 150 years, and how we are all still learning. I'm also very excited to see what 2019 will bring for us, in my second year of being your District UMW President!

We are multidimensional beings. Isn't that great fun and thought-provoking, inspiring? I'm glad we're not a rubber stamp of each other. *That would be boring...*

I'm privileged to see the world through your eyes, your words, and experiences.

I want to learn that with which I'm not familiar. Learn from women of all kinds of life experiences; especially experiences of our foremothers, who put their mark on the world, for human rights and justice.

I recently heard a Sister share about being authentic, honest, and sincere. When we share our own dimensions, our worries and vulnerabilities, working through any differences, supporting others toward fulfilling their life-affirming paths, then we are giving back to a world that has given us so many blessings.

In reading a blog by Christopher Fenoglio, Managing Editor for <UMC.org>, the denominational website of the United Methodist Church, I learned we are in the midst of an "Ordinary Time". There are two periods of "Ordinary Time" in the liturgical year, according to the United Methodist Book of Worship. One begins on Epiphany Day and ends the day before Ash Wednesday, and the second begins the day after Pentecost and ends the day before the first Sunday of Advent. The days before and after Ordinary Time include the high energy, exciting times we thrive on, which we love to share with friends, family, and

Facebook!

However, I'd like to suggest it's the Ordinary Time that we should really enjoy, take selfies, remember and share with our Sisters, family, and friends. It is this time that gives us the meaning of our lives and bonds us together, amidst our daily life-issues. We should see each ordinary day as a new opportunity to be a Christian and spread God's love. *"To be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church."*

I look forward to many ordinary days in 2019, filled with experiences with you, my United Methodist Women Sisters!

K Stone, President
UMW, El Camino Real District



Bienvenido UMW

Abril 6, 2019, 9am-12pm

**Salinas First United
Methodist Church**

NUESTRAS HERMANAS que hablan español están invitadas a ser parte de un servicio de adoración en español, y aprender cómo ser parte de Mujeres Metodistas Unidas. Se servirá café y pasteles por la mañana. Almuerzo ligero será proporcionado. Se enviará más información a las iglesias en nuestro distrito en español. También puede enviar un correo electrónico a Lynn Hermoso, a <vicepres@elcaminorealumw.org>.

(Our Spanish-speaking sisters are invited to be part of a Spanish-language worship service, and learn how to become part of United Methodist Women. Coffee and snacks will be served in the morning. Light lunch will be provided. More information will be sent to our District Spanish-language churches. You may also contact Lynn Hermoso, at <vicepres@elcaminorealumw.org>.)

K visited the Monterey Bay Aquarium, where she found this beautiful artwork composed of ordinary household items found in the Pacific Gyre.





Treasurer

DEBBIE OW

AS THE NEW TREASURER for El Camino Real District UMW, I would like all new and continuing treasurers of local units to feel free to contact me with any questions you might have. I will be going to training on Feb. 1 - 3 where I hope to learn everything there is to know about being a District UMW treasurer. Until then, I would ask for your patience as we learn together.

Please send all remittances, including Five Star Giving, to me at my address listed on page 2 of Mission Link newsletters.

Communications Coordinator

WANDA GARRETT

Stay in touch with United Methodist Women

In this electronic age, we have many options for getting information about what's happening with United Methodist Women. Here are two ways.

El Camino Real District UMW Quick News

One or two emails a month include:

- Announcement of District and local events
- Information about District and local UMW activities
- Notification that "Mission Link" newsletter is available online
- You can manage your subscription (change preferences, unsubscribe)

To sign up, send me an email at <communication@elcaminorealumw.org>.

United Methodist Women News

You can choose to receive emails on these topics:

- Climate Justice
- Criminalization of Communities of Color
- Economic Inequality
- Maternal and Child Health
- Monthly Newsletter
- Other Interests
- Racial Justice
- Response Newsletter

Sign up for news from United Methodist Women at <unitedmethodistwomen.org/getemails>.



Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture and Outreach

CAROLYN LAMCKE



A video is available on the Census 2018 webpage, to assist in filling out the Census form.

The UMW 2018 Annual Check-In

The growing UMW wants you to be **COUNTED!!!**

Our El Camino Real UMW Team is asking all PRESIDENTS of units to provide information for the 2018 Census. We like to call it the "Annual Check-In," a term that better describes the information being requested. This information will enable the organization (National, Conference and Districts) to meet our members' needs more efficiently, as well as measure our growth, outreach and impact.

The UMW 2018 Census

Units need to report online' by March 30th, 2019. Click on the following link to begin filling out your unit's form: <www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/census2018>. On this page you will also find a helpful video by Khia Shaw, executive for Membership Cultivation, on the importance of the census. It will give you tips on filling out your form. If you have trouble filling out the form please email me and I'll help you do it.

Membership Log

In addition to completing the census form, please help ensure that individual members fill out the "myUMW" Membership Log at <www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/myumw>. When this is done, each member will receive a printable personalized membership card.

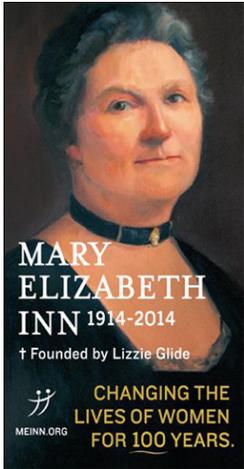
The National UMW is asking all leaders charged with inputting the census data to send the Membership Log information to each member so they are accounting for in the census. Please be deliberate in creating time for women to gather to collect information, and let me know if help is needed. There is a brief video on the Membership Log page to provide guidance on filling out the form. There is no deadline for filling out the Membership Log.

Any questions? I'd love to hear from you.

Mary Elizabeth Inn

1040 Bush Street
San Francisco

Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors



Mary Elizabeth Inn Holiday Open House

BY LYNN HERMOSO, MEI BOARD MEMBER

On January 14, 2019 MEI opened their doors once again, to help celebrate another prosperous year for the House and the Residents.

MEI Board Members, UMW District Members across the five districts, and the local community joined together for cheerful conversations over cheese and fruit trays, hot appetizers, and beverages. The guests were led on a tour of the three-story Victorian house.

One of the most spectacular rooms is the rooftop enclosed sun deck. On a clear day, you have a 180 degree view of San Francisco.

On the MEI Christmas list was “Gifts of Warmth.” El Camino Real District UMW donated 120 gifts of beanie hats and gloves to the residents.

Melanie Long, MEI Board Member, was overjoyed in receiving our gifts. She thanks El Camino Real District UMW and UMW members for their generous donations

If you are looking to hit at least ten of the 21 requirements of Mission Today, won’t you consider Mary Elizabeth Inn as one of your requirement fulfillments?

Do you have computer skills? Are you a wizard in the kitchen? Handy at knitting? These are just samples of the many activities that your local UMW can volunteer to do at MEI with the residents. How about planning a gathering and doing a Bible study at MEI?

A potential local unit or group activity would be a “field trip” to San Francisco. You could enjoy the sights around the City, visit MEI Home, share a meal, engage in uplifting conversation... There are unlimited ways to expand our boundaries outside our UMW walls.

For more info, contact me at <vicepres@elcaminorealumw.org>.

El Camino Real District UMW donated hats and gloves to MEI clients as “Gifts of Warmth



Lynn Hermoso (second from left), Melani Long (at right), with other MEI Board members at the Holiday Open House



Beyond memorial services and potlucks

BY WANDA GARRETT, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

At the January Connect & Learn workshop for Presidents, Secretaries, and Communications, the 18 participants asked questions and expressed their concerns:

- How can we bring women into UMW when their lives are already fully scheduled?
- How can UMW be meaningful in today’s society?
- How can we get more participation?
- How can we get the “spark” back?

In the ensuing discussion, the group came up with a lot of good ideas, and things that have worked for their local groups.



Above: President Kim Donaldson (seated left) and ladies of Genesis UMC



who can speak at programs and describe the difference they are making in the lives of their residents.

Left: Connect & Learn participants joined in song.

Far right: Unit Presidents and Secretaries meet for training

Be inclusive. Find meeting times that fit the lives of the women you want to include. Maybe that’s Saturday mornings, weekday evenings, or after the Sunday service. If you want to include women with children, then provide child care or activities/programs for the children.

Learn how UMW makes a difference. Invite representatives who can tell our story.

- Climate Justice guide Betty Spencer Dickey is available to help local groups be better stewards of resources, and advocate for our planet. See more at <elcaminorealumw.org/unit-resources/green/> .
- Event program handouts can include a listing of missions supported by your group. Attendees may not realize your group is mission-based.
- Mary Elizabeth Inn <meinn.org/> and Gum Moon <www.gummoon.org/> are UMW National Missions in San Francisco. They have representatives

Collaborate. Connect with other local units or groups, co-host programs, or invite them to join in a project or event. All groups represented in our session were interested in partnering with others. Check the annual District UMW Directory for contact information for other units. And be sure your contact information is up to date!

Do something for someone. When you meet, do something that benefits others. Ideas included:

- making food kits for “Rise Against Hunger” <www.riseagainsthunger.org>
- making bag lunches for nearby homeless folks
- collecting and bagging toiletries and other items for a women’s shelter
- gathering funds to pay for a child’s Boys & Girls Club membership
- making scarves or lap blankets (and praying over them).



My recollections of the UMW “Connect & Learn” leadership training event

BY BONNIE HOME, ALMADEN HILLS UMW

Pastor Mariellen Yoshino, keynote speaker for this year’s District UMW Leadership Training Event, led our district leaders to discern and move toward “la gloria de Jesus” (the glory of Jesus) in our UMW ministries.



Mariellen reminded us that while there are so many good things going on in our district, our communities and in our world, there is much to throw us off track. In these times, the issues of our country, our world, our denomination, and even our local churches can certainly weaken our ministries. We can, in our leadership roles with the UMW, become overwhelmed or dissuaded from any action to keep moving forward. “In those times, we can get lost,” Mariellen reminded us. “We can make that wrong turn. We can get off track. And in those times, we need that GPS lady to say what?” she asked us. And we all replied, “Recalibrating!”

Mariellen went on to relate how God enables us to “recalibrate” through music, Bible study (a must for UMW leaders, she reminded us), prayer, actions of mission, and through good questions. The one question that she emphasized and gave many examples of was this: “Who told you that?”

Mariellen encouraged us to pose that question any time we think the world has told us we aren’t good enough, or when there is someone who says that we cannot be welcoming, or when our own rational mind says there is no hope. We must ask that question especially when, as UMW leaders, we do not feel our UMW units can affect change, or that there is little that our UMW needs to do, or that no good will come from any action we are able to do.

Mariellen told us stories of the miracles that can happen when we ask ourselves, “who told you that?” when we discern what it is that God is telling us, and then, when we respond to God’s will and Word for us. These stories spanned those of her life, the Civil Rights Movement, the Church and those stories found in the Bible.

We realized that when we do so listen to God, and when we “rise up” with trust, love, and purpose, we will know “la gloria de Jesus.”

We ended our time with all of us singing the powerful song, “Unidas, Unidas” reminding us of the world-changing power of “la gloria de Jesus.”

Let technology work for you. To minimize time spent for business meetings, take advantage of technology. For example, hold telephone conference calls or “Zoom” online meetings <zoom.us/>. Create shared documents using Google Docs <docs.google.com/> and Google Sheets (for spreadsheets) <sheets.google.com/> .

Show up. There are many UMW events through the year, as noted on the District UMW Calendar. They offer opportunities for Social Action, Spiritual Growth, interaction with other women, and more. We have amazing women in our District (and throughout United Methodist Women), and connecting with them is one of the best ways to regain that “spark.”

Above: Connect & Learn keynote speaker Rev. Mariellen Yoshino advised us to listen for God’s messages, and if we hear negativity, ask ourselves, “Who told you that?”

Below: At Connect & Learn, the Program Planning workshop was led by Vice President Lynn Hermoso. (3rd from left) and Program Resources Secretary Carolyn Bircher (center back).



El Camino Real District UMW
**MISSION SPRINGS SPIRITUAL RETREAT
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM^o**

See News & Events at <www.elcaminorealumw.org>

El Camino Real District UMW
MISSION SPRINGS SPIRITUAL RETREAT
REGISTRATION FORM

March 15-17, 2019

Mission Springs Retreat Center, Scotts Valley, CA

See News & Events at <www.elcaminorealumw.org>

El Camino Real District UMW
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REGISTRATION FORM

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See News & Events at <www.elcaminorealumw.org>

Be Just. Be Green

My “Why” Why are we there? Why am I in church? Why am I involved in UMW?

BY BETTY SPENCER DICKEY, WESTERN JURISDICTION GUIDE

I have found that any “mission” we are involved in, including church in general, needs us to ask “why.”

- Why are we there?
- Why am I in church?
- Why am I involved in UMW?

Those questions might not have the same answer, and they certainly won’t have the same answer for every person.

I was asked that question recently when I went to the Jurisdiction Guides meeting for Climate Justice: “Why are you doing this job, why do you care about Climate Justice?”

I thought about it for a short time, and came up with the name of my new grandson, and children everywhere. They are why I care about what is happening to the

climate. Regardless of how long I remain here, I want them to have a livable planet to reside on. Given the statistics I have been reading, the climate we have now is not what we will be living in, in the next ten to 20 years.

Many people think that “climate change” won’t affect them, but that is a myth, according to Katharine Hayhoe, a climatologist and a professor and director of the Climate Science Center at Texas Tech University. She is a lead

author on Volumes 1 and 2 of the Fourth National Climate Assessment. In her Washington Post article from November 30, 2018, “Five myths about climate change,” she writes: “We often think the most widespread myth is that the science isn’t real. But according to public opinion polls by the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication, the most prevalent misconception — one that the majority of us have bought into — is that climate change just doesn’t matter to us. While 70 percent of American adults agree that climate change is happening, only 40 percent of those surveyed believe it will harm them personally. Sure, it’ll hurt polar bears, and maybe people who live on low-lying islands in the South Pacific. But the world has warmed by just one degree Celsius, or 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit, since 1900. What’s the big deal?”

“Climate change is a threat multiplier that touches everything, from our health to our economy to our coasts to our infrastructure. It makes heat waves stronger, heavy precipitation events more frequent and hurricanes more intense, and it nearly doubles the area burned by wildfires. It supercharges natural disasters like Hurricane Harvey and the Camp Fire, as those suffering the effects of these events know firsthand. Climate change is no longer a distant issue in space or time: It’s affecting us, today, in the places where we live.

So why wouldn’t I want to get involved? Why wouldn’t you?

I know that many of us have children and grandchildren, and when I leave this earth, I want to know that I did all I could to save it for my family and all of yours too. Join with me and let’s get busy! We have lots to do to save this earth from the polluting of our air, rivers, oceans and land by fossil fuels, plastics and other toxic substances. Think about that they next time you buy something, and think about how you spend your money. Do you need that plastic straw, that throwaway cup, that plastic toy? Who benefits from that purchase over the long run? Mainly it’s the polluters. Do you really need that throwaway item, or can you think of a better way to keep our planet and our grandchildren safe? I hope so.

Resources:

- Katharine Hayhoe will be a special speaker at the next Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial Event, April 17-19, 2020, in Tempe, AZ.
- Get more information about the Fourth National Climate Assessment: <www.globalchange.gov/nca4>.
- Visit our new “Climate Justice: Be Just. Be Green” webpage, <elcaminoalumw.org/green/> for more resources, including “13 Steps to Sustainability.”

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Intentionally Plans Events

that **REDUCE OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT**

Offer carpooling, choose venues with public transportation, turn down the air-conditioning and heat and look for venues that use renewable energy.



Extraction and production of nonrenewable energy disproportionately affects the lives of those already suffering from economic injustices.

UMW CALENDAR

Spiritual Retreat at Mission Springs

March 15 - 17

**Mission Springs Conference Center
Scotts Valley, CA**

Bienvenido UMW

April 6 * First UMC Salinas

California Nevada Conference UMW

Social Action Event

May 4 * Sacramento First UMC

Theme: *School to Prison Pipeline*

Spkr: Dr. Charles Tinsley

El Camino Real District UMW

Social Action Event

June 1 * Location tba

Two-day Mission u Event

June 7 - 8 * Quincy UMC

One-day Mission u Event

August 3 * Santa Rosa UMC

Weekend Mission u Event

August 16 - 18 * South Reno UMC

Gum Moon Gala

August 24 * San Francisco, CA

California Nevada Conference UMW

Annual Celebration

October 19 * Location tba

El Camino Real District UMW

Annual Celebration

October 26 * Location tba

Wesley United Methodist Church
Attn: K Stone, President
El Camino Real District UMW
566 North Fifth Street
San Jose, CA 95112

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United Methodist Women

February, 2019

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*Please share this
newsletter with the
members of your
Local Unit*



El Camino Real District UMW website
<elcaminorealumw.org>



Mission Springs Spiritual Retreat

March 15-17, 2019

Mission Springs Retreat Center
Scotts Valley, CA

Information and registration forms page 9,
and at the District UMW website
<elcaminorealumw.org>

Mission Springs Spiritual Retreat

March 15-17, 2019

OUR 2019 SPIRITUAL RETREAT will be held among the redwoods of the Mission Springs Retreat Center in Scotts Valley, CA. Retreat Leader Jo Neish will guide us in the theme, "Bold Discoveries: God's not finished with me yet!" We recently enjoyed her musical leadership at our 2018 District UMW Annual Celebration, and are looking forward to her energy, enthusiasm, and passion leading the retreat program.

In addition to the program, we will have many other favorite activities, including "Wake Up / Warm Up," morning matins, nature walks, the Saturday evening "Gifts & Graces" talent show, and a "Show 'n Tell" area to display your arts and crafts.

Scholarships are available for first-time attendees as well as returning participants. The scholarships cover the program, meals, and lodging in the lowest-cost housing option, after the applicants provide a modest share of the cost. Lodging upgrade (to one of the other housing options) may be contributed by the local UMW. See the scholarship form for details.

Registration is requested by March 1, 2019. The information flyer and registration form and scholarship form are available at
<elcaminorealumw.org/retreat-2019/> .

JoAnne Neish, Retreat Leader

