**Who — or What— Is your Teacher?**

**Bread of Life Member Connections Brown Bag Luncheon**

**Wednesday, October 16, 12-1:30**

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In our role as soul tenders, we companion others while they seek to make sense of the ups and downs in their lives. Meantime, we ourselves are still growing, learning, aging, exploring, hurting. What and who teaches us to be present with our own joys and struggles even as we nurture others?

We hope you can join us on **Wednesday, October 16th from noon to 1:30** for another brown bag lunch gathering at Bread of Life. We’ll share our experiences and insights about the persons, things, or circumstances that appear to us as teachers, and how we recognize them and the wisdom they bring.

Some questions we’ll ponder include:

1. Who or what has been a recent teacher for you? Was it easy to recognize and accept the messages the teacher brought?
2. Can you share a time when you were surprised by an unanticipated teacher, and how the lessons gained in that encounter shaped your journey?
3. How do you listen for potential teachers in the lives of those you companion?

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**More Musings on the Ways Teachers Appear and What They Bring**

There’s no better inspiration for our life-long conversion than to be sharing life with someone who gets under our skin...God will bring teachers into our lives, teachers in many forms. This is the sometimes-severe grace of life together. -- SSJE 5/1519

What you most need to know can be found in the place you least want to look. ~ Carl Jung

Someone I loved once gave me a box full of darkness. It took me years to understand that this too, was a gift. ~ Mary Oliver

You do not need to know precisely what is happening, or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognize the possibilities and challenges offered by the present moment, and to embrace them with courage, faith, and hope. ~ Thomas Merton

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel. ~ Maya Angelou

Believe me as one who has experience, you will find much more among the woods then ever you will among books. Woods and stones will teach you what you can never hear from any master. ~ St. Bernard of Clairvaux

We can relax and float in the direction that the water flows, or we can swim hard against it. If we go with the river, the energy of a thousand mountain streams will be with us. ~ Elizabeth Lesser

Everyone and everything around you is your teacher. ~ Ken Keyes

Your journey has molded you for your greater good, and it was exactly what it needed to be. Don’t think that you’ve lost time. ~ Asha Tyson

When the student is ready the teacher will appear. ~ Khemetic Saying

Learn to get in touch with the silence within yourself, and know that everything in life has purpose. There are no mistakes, no coincidences, all events are blessings given to us to learn from. ~ Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

Have you learned lessons only of those who admired you, and were tender with you, and stood aside for you? Have you not learned great lessons from those who braced themselves against you, and disputed the passage with you? ~ Walt Whitman

The true teacher defends his pupils against his own personal influence. ~ Bronson Alcott

The best teacher is the one who suggests rather than dogmatizes, and inspires his listener with the wish to teach himself. ~ Edward Bulwer-Lytton

People aren't born strong. People grow stronger little by little, encountering difficult situations, learning not to run from them. ~ Christina Grimmie

We can only teach that which we are. ~ Jean Jaurès

There are times to teach and times not to teach. When relationships are strained and the air charged with emotion, an attempt to teach is often perceived as a form of judgment and rejection. ~ Stephen Covey