



Our Mission Statement

To create the opportunity for people of all ages, backgrounds and spiritual beliefs to deepen our love and understanding of others and ourselves within a welcoming and supportive community.

PROOF

"At the heart of each destiny is hidden a unique life calling.
What is it you are called to do?"

– John Donahue

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Northfield Conference Executive Committee

Board of Directors

Wendy Desmarteaux, President • Caroline Jestin, Secretary
Ron McClain, Treasurer • Tracey Briscoe, Registrar

Executive Committee/Conference Coordinators (Troika)

Harry Blackman • Pierre Ragot • Nancy Taylor,
Kara Colvin, EC Scribe

Program Chairs

Caroline Jestin & Julie Osherson

Workshop Coordinators

Gail Ferris & Frank Grillo

.....

~ People You Want To Know ~

Afternoon Sports: Pierre Ragot

Announcements: Alan Lauderdale

Annual Appeal: Caroline Jestin

Arts & Crafts Coord: Julie Osherson

Basket Bonanza: Chantal Bassous & Friends

Booklet Editor: Nancy Taylor

Club Northfield: Hellmold/Stafford & Friends

Coffeehouse: Julie Osherson & Mimi LeClair

Comm. Living Coord: Tracey Briscoe

Comm. Meeting Facilitator: Bill Milford

Conference Hour Recording: Frank Grillo

E-mail Group Administrator: Peter Bloch

Family Facilitators Coordinators: Scott Giarla,
Donna Moore & Rob Yager

Food Liaison: Cathy Grigsby

Grapevine Editor: Nancy Taylor

InGathering: Betsy Hays & Joah Donaldson

Logo Design: Kelly Rochford

Mediator: Peggy Andreas

Midwinter Coordinators 2025: Peter Bloch
& Kathy Lowe-Bloch

Morning Gentle Yoga (M-Th): Various Hosts

Morning Meditation: Betsy Taylor

Morning Sound: Kathy Lowe-Bloch

NMH School Liaison: Wendy Desmarteaux

Nametags: Josh Friedman, Carol LaBella &
Ryan D'Esopo

Newcomers Coordinator: Ellie Weinstein

Nominating Committee Chair: Greg Grigsby

Opening Ceremony: Chantal Stafford-Abbott &
Matt McClain

Rose in Winter: Debra Lovio-Samson

Sacred Circle: Jim & Jean Peters

Singer Songwriter Circle: Kara Colvin

Snail Mail Coordinator: Caroline Jestin

Sound System - Chapel: Steve Schuch

Sound System: Frank Grillo & Matthew D'Esopo

Sunshine Committee: Carol Costello &
Cathy Grigsby

T-Shirt & Notebook Sales: Carol LaBella
& Ryan D'Esopo

Talent Show Coordinators: Frank Grillo, Fern
Giarla, Matthew D'Esopo, Kara Colvin

Teen Talk Facilitator: Keri Pitcher

Twenties Talk Facilitator: Chantal Bassous &
Bill Milford

Theme Dance Coordinators: Ella & Keri Pitcher

Webmaster: Dahna Weber

Youth Program Coordinator: Keri Pitcher

Zoom Coordinator: Bill Milford & Friends

~ ~ ~

WELCOME

~ ~ ~

Welcome to our week at Northfield, an oasis where each year we connect with an intention to live with open hearts and open minds.



Who could have anticipated when a group of Northfielders gathered last September in a church basement in Nelson, NH, that they would come up with the ideal and timely theme for this week! As Program Chairs, we spent the ensuing nine months exploring this theme as we considered and planned. And, gratefully, we were not alone! From the amazing Workshop team of Frank Grillo and Gail Ferris to the our outstanding Board, as well as a host of Northfielders who answered our call "yes!" when asked, we felt completely supported.

So where did the theme of "answering the call" take us? It took us to examining all the ways one can answer a call and where that journey can take us. We ended up with five Conference Hour speakers whose stories promise inspiration and deep thought, 25+ workshops to explore, and evening activities that ask us to answer the call to dance, sing, listen, share, perform! We welcome you all to this marvelous week and hope you learn more about your own response to "answering the call!"

Your 2025 Program Chairs,
Caroline Jestin & Julie Osherson

~~~ GENERAL INFORMATION ~~~

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, contact Campus Security

(0 or x3544 from school phone) and they will assist you with safety or ambulance needs. If an emergency occurs that prevents you from contacting Campus Security, please dial 8-911 from a school phone. Please contact Security if you have called an ambulance.

LOCKED OUT OF YOUR ROOM? Contact Security at above numbers from a school phone or call 413-498-3544 for assistance.

HOSPITAL: Franklin Medical Center, Greenfield (413-772-0211)

Directions: Turn left out of Mt. Hermon driveway onto Rt. 10 and follow to Interstate 91 South. Take the Greenfield Exit. Follow Federal Street to Sanderson Street. Turn left onto Sanderson. Medical Center is on Sanderson.

POOL: Sun/Mon/Wed 2-4:30. Tues/Thurs 1:30-3:30pm. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

GYM: Hours: 6:30am - 7:00pm (You must be 16 years or older to use the weight room alone – younger folks need adult/parent supervision). Please do not interfere with the basketball team playing indoors; outdoor courts are available for our use.

VENDING MACHINES: Drinks available in Blake and the Gym.

STORE AND POST OFFICE:

New England Store: On Main Street, Northfield, MA

U.S. Post Office: On Main Street, Northfield, MA

CHECK-OUT TIME: 10:00AM, FRIDAY. IT IS REQUIRED that we all be out by 10AM, after making certain that our rooms are cleared and all furniture is returned to its original place.

CLOSING CIRCLE will be at 8:45am inside the Dining Hall on Friday morning.

LOST AND FOUND: Please bring found items to Blake during the week. Please be thorough in collecting your personal items. If you leave something behind, please contact **Wendy Desmarteaux, 514-895-3278 or wdesmarteaux@gmail.com**, who will contact the school and see if the item has been found. The school will not hold onto items such as water bottles and lawn chairs.

Please do not call the school directly. If our volunteers find an item (even those of little value), they will bring it home and send out a group email to find its owner. If you have lost something, please send an inquiry email out to our e-group.

CONFERENCE RULES & REGULATIONS

LEAVING CAMPUS: Conferees under 18 may not leave without permission of parent or designated adult sponsor. Parents retain responsibility for the supervision of their minor children at ALL times.

Continuation of the Conference depends on EVERYONE observing the following rules:

- 1. Expected Behaviors:** Attendees understand and agree to abide by all Conference Rules and Regulations put forth by the Northfield Conference and the Northfield-Mt Hermon School. As a member of this community, we treat each member of the Conference with respect, dignity, and with the utmost consideration. The list of rules, regulations and expected behaviors included in this Booklet can be referred to at any time. Failure to follow these stated rules will result in consequences determined by the Board, up to and including dismissal from the Conference. If you feel uncomfortable with anyone's behavior, please speak immediately with the Conference Mediator, Peggy Andreas.
- 2.** The State of Massachusetts, the School and the Conference prohibit ANYONE from using, providing or being present during the use of ANY illegal drug. Any adult (a) providing or being present at the use of alcohol by a minor (state law defines minors as under the age of 21); (b) any Adult providing or being present at the use of alcohol by a minor, and (c) witnessing the use of alcohol by a minor will be asked to leave. Adult offenders will not be allowed to attend Midwinter or Summer Conferences immediately following the Conference at which the offense occurs. Consequences for minors are the same as for adults as determined by the Board. This applies to all violations, whether discovered during or after a Conference.
- 3. THE SCHOOL IS A NO-SMOKING, NO-VAPING CAMPUS:** Smoking OF ANY KIND, legal or not, is **NOT** permitted anywhere on the Northfield-Mt. Hermon grounds.
NOTE: Fire laws prohibit burning of candles and incense anywhere on campus.
- 4.** Please park only in designated parking areas; not doing so will disrupt your Conference experience and create additional work for administration.
- 5.** Everyone is assigned a dorm room and is expected to sleep there. This is necessary in order for us to know who and exactly how many people are in the building. **IN CASE OF A FIRE DRILL**, exit your dorm immediately and gather in front of the Dining Hall.
- 6.** Any damage to personal or school property will result in disciplinary action (including possible dismissal from the Conference). Full payment for damages will be required.
- 7.** Recording of Conference Hour Speakers is **NOT** permitted except by the Conference-designated person.
- 8.** Please note that complete security of the grounds cannot be guaranteed. School authorities ask Conference members to stay in the general Conference area after dark and to walk with a friend at night. Since we share the campus with other groups, it is recommended to not leave valuables unattended in your room as we do not have permission to lock the doors.
- 9.** Shirts and shoes must be worn at all times in the Dining Hall.
- 10.** To preserve the restful "unplugged" quality of our Conference for yourself and others, we strongly encourage you to disconnect from your cell phone during the week. If you must use your phone, please remove yourself from community spaces. ***Please be sure your phone is turned off during Conference Hours, workshops and other gatherings.***
- 11.** Please be mindful that some members of our community are sensitive/allergic to scents and aromas. ***Please refrain from using ANY scented products this week***, including fabric softeners/dryer sheets; even so-called "organic" scents can cause serious reactions.

~ ~ ~ NORTHFIELD MEDIATOR ~ ~ ~

The role of the Northfield Mediator is to help Conferees resolve interpersonal differences, concerns or issues. Members of our Northfield Community are encouraged to be open and honest with each other and to come to an understanding on their own. We recognize, however, that sometimes an objective third party can be of great help in bringing about resolution when there is difficulty in communication between Conference members. The Mediator is appointed by the Executive Committee to be available to those who need help in resolving interpersonal issues. Issues concerning any area of the Conference itself should be brought to a member of the Executive Committee or brought up at the Community Meeting.

2025 Conference Mediator: **Peggy Andreas**

~ ~ ~ COVID PROTOCOLS ~ ~ ~

NORTHFIELD CONFERENCE SUMMER 2025

In May 2023, Northfield Mount Hermon issued a change in its COVID policy which eliminated the requirement of COVID vaccinations while on campus. Subsequently, the Northfield Board has presented the following guidelines for our June, 2025 Conference.

1. No COVID vaccinations are required to attend.
2. Every person must take a COVID home test the morning of their departure to Northfield. If you test positive or if you feel ill, **do NOT come**; please notify Tracey Briscoe by email at northfieldregistrar@gmail.com right away. If you forgot or did not have a test kit available, there will be kits at Registration and you will be asked to test then.
3. Masking and distancing are optional for all. Let YOUR comfort level regarding distancing and others masking near you be known without embarrassment, guilt, or judgment. Respect others if you have chronic coughing or sneezing by masking, even if not Covid-related.
4. One or more tables will be designated for those wanting social distancing during meals.
5. If you develop a cold or COVID symptoms during our week together, you must take a COVID test and leave the campus as soon as possible if you test positive.
6. If someone tests positive during the conference, anyone with close contact with that person must take a COVID test and consider masking or keeping an appropriate social distance during the rest of the Conference.

PLEASE BE KIND AND RESPECT EACH OTHERS' PERSONAL CHOICES.

'I am making a home inside myself where grace blooms in grand and glorious abundance, a shelter of kindness that grows all the truest things'

from *The Most Important Thing* ~ Julia Fehrenbacher

~ ~ ~ SATURDAY MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ~ ~ ~

REGISTRATION

Grandin, 1:00 - 5:00pm

FAMILY FACILITATORS

TRAINING

Library, Big Room, 2:00 - 4:00pm

WORKSHOP LEADERS and CONFERENCE HOUR SPEAKERS

Blake, 3:30 - 4:30pm

NEWCOMERS MEETING

Hayden Lounge, 4:30 - 5:30pm

DINNER

Dining Hall, 5:30 - 6:30pm

DORM MEETINGS

In Your Dorm's Lounge, 6:45 - 7:15pm

OPENING CEREMONY

In Front of Rhodes Arts Center (RAC)
and Heffernan Hall 7:30pm

TEEN-PARENT MEETING

Blake, after Opening Ceremony
For all parents of teens participating in
Teen Talk to discuss boundaries,
confidentiality and any concerns, and
to answer your questions about Teen Talk.

TEEN TALK

We will gather after the Teen/Parent Meeting

TWENTIES TALK

We will gather after Opening Ceremony
to decide daily meeting time/place.

~ ~ ~ DAILY PROGRAM ~ ~ ~

MORNING YOGA

7:00 - 7:30am, Blake Atrium

Start your day with a nourishing focus
on breath-work, alignment, gentle hand
stretches and mindful presence.
Please bring a mat if you have one.

Led by Various Practitioners

MORNING MEDITATION

7:00 - 7:30am, Blake Downstairs

Each morning there will be time for
meditation and reflection to begin
the day with centered peace.

Led by Betsy Taylor

MORNING SOUND MEDITATION

7:00 - 7:30am, Chapel

Tuesday • Wednesday • Thursday

Led by Kathy Lowe-Bloch

LABYRINTH

Sunday Morning, 6:00 - 7:30am

come any time

Tuesday Morning, 7:00 - 7:30am

please arrive promptly

Labyrinth near Solarium, please see map

Led by Audrey Kern & Sarah Melasecca

IN-GATHERING

BEGINS PROMPTLY at 8:30am

Blake Downstairs

Music (8:30) and Announcements (8:45)
If you have something to share, please see
Alan Lauderdale (Announcements)

or

Betsy Hays (Music)

***Ingathering ends at 8:45am sharp so
Announcements can begin on time.***

~ ~ ~ YOUTH PROGRAM ~ ~ ~

(Ages 3 to 13 years)

9:00am - 12:00pm, daily

Keri Pitcher, Youth Program Coordinator

"In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations."

From the Great Law of Haudenosaunee (Iroquois Confederacy)

IMPORTANT SUNDAY MEETING

For All Families With Children under the age of 14

Sunday Morning, East Dining Hall, 7:45am

This meeting is for ALL families with children under the age of 14. This session is your opportunity to meet the staff, learn about the programs for the week, make babysitting arrangements, discuss the rules and guidelines for children at Northfield, and bring up any issues or concerns you have. **ATTENDANCE IS ESSENTIAL. PLEASE BE ON TIME.** You will be notified who the teachers are at the Sunday meeting.

Mornings will begin with the community at Ingathering in the Blake Lounge at 8:30am. After Daily Announcements, children will meet outside where attendance will be taken and, if need be, final application of sunscreen and/or bug spray will be done before we depart to our base (TBA). **PLEASE NOTE:** To avoid losing items, children should bring only what is necessary to be comfortable. Dress for the weather as time will be spent outdoors, rain or shine. Water is always available and we supply mid-morning snacks with milk or juice.

Children's Afternoon Activities: There are numerous activities after lunch that are fun for kids. In past years, parents have found that they can creatively manage the afternoon using available intergenerational workshops and existing activities for children, connecting with other families and sometimes arranging childcare with Northfield teens or with babysitters who might be available during the day.

Youth Sports, led by Pierre Ragot, will take place daily. **Children under 12** must be accompanied by an adult. There's a ping-pong table in Blake. Kids are also encouraged to take part in Sacred Circle planning which takes place at 1:00pm each day.

Workshops and other activities are NOT childcare programs like the morning program. Parents/guardians are responsible for their children in the afternoons and evenings. Please be sure that your child is mature and responsible enough before leaving them at any location.

WALKING THE LABYRINTH

*Audrey Kern & Sarah Melasecca.
Labyrinth near the Solarium*

This early morning event invites you to journey along the path of the labyrinth and explore your inner world. Unlike mazes, which are designed to confuse and disorient, the labyrinth's pathway gently guides the walker and can inspire contemplation and reflection.

Join us to walk the labyrinth in silence, accompanied by the sounds of the drum and the dawn chorus. You may arrive at any time during this 1½-hour open event beginning at 6am on Sunday, June 22. This experience will be led by Audrey Kern and Sarah Melasecca.

On Tuesday morning, from 7-7:30am, Sarah Melasecca will hold the space for any who would like to walk. The labyrinth will remain available during the week for use at other times. The Labyrinth is located behind the infirmary and adjacent to the solarium.

Sunday, June 22nd: 6:00am-7:30am

Tuesday, June 24th: 7:00am-7:30am

You are invited to walk the labyrinth at any time during the week.

Approaches to Walking the Labyrinth:

- Come to the Labyrinth with an open mind
- Announce your presence by softly speaking your name
 - Hold an intention as you prepare to walk
- focus on a life question and open yourself to guidance
 - walk in a state of gratitude
 - ask for healing
- simply be open to whatever comes
- Repetition of a word/phrase/prayer
- Body prayer – moving, speaking, singing spontaneously
- Bring a dream – stay with a particular image or sense of the dream
 - Be aware of metaphors as you walk – be open to insights
- Thank the Labyrinth in your own way as you complete your walk

Labyrinth Walk

Sunday Morning, Beginning at 6:00am-7:30am, arrive anytime during the 90 minutes

Tuesday Morning, 7:00am-7:30am, please arrive on time

~ ~ ~ CONFERENCE HOURS ~ ~ ~

9:00am - 10:25am, Blake Downstairs

Each day a speaker will share personal stories and insights reflecting their experiences and life choices as they relate to this year's theme: **answering the call**

Connie Walsh

Serving My Country: Then and Now

Connie is a Light Bearer who answered the call to Northfield in 1982 and has been coming and morphing ever since.

Keri Boehne Pitcher

Answering the Call: Can Your Hear Me Now?

Keridwyn Boehne was born into a hotbed of activism in 1973 in Boston's South End. With parents and friends who were activists, community leaders, lawyers, preachers and teachers, it's no wonder she was called to service. Keri began attending Northfield with her family in 1980 and found a place where young people felt heard. With this support, Keri began as a community organizer at 14, speaking around the city. Politics soon became a passion and she moved to DC to work at the DNC, where she met her husband, Corey Pitcher.

Keri decided that teaching would fulfill her desire to empower young people, to have a family, and to answer the call to service. She and Corey moved to western Massachusetts and had two amazing kids, Ella and Max. Keri is now in her 20th year teaching high school students about history and government.

Mike Bradley

Evolution in Context – Intentional and Unintentional

Mike is Dr. Sam Bradley's dad and composer of the song "Christmas Shopping at the Dump." He has worked as a Licensed Counselor at a community mental health center in New Hampshire for 35+ years, so believes positive change is possible. He is half of the folk trio, Fortune's Favor, specializing in progressive protest songs. He is an introvert but strives to connect meaningfully with his fellow human beings.

Phyllis Lewis

Water, Soil, Sun & Spirit

Phyllis was born in the mountains of Clarendon, Jamaica, and has been answering the call ever since. A storyteller, filmmaker, gardener, educator, and cultural worker, her path has wound through Toronto, Montreal, heartbreak, reinvention, and healing. From editing an Oscar-winning film to teaching Anne Frank's story across North America, Phyllis brings light to hard truths and creates space for youth, memory, and growth. A master gardener and writer, she sees stories as seeds, and survival as sacred art. She is currently writing her first screenplay and tending the ground – inner and outer – where new life takes root.

Jenny White

It's Déjà-Vu All Over Again

You know the stage kids go through where they can't stop asking "why"? Jenny never outgrew it. That insatiable curiosity to understand the world and human nature led her to explore the intersections of philosophy, physics, somatic psychology, holistic health, and sustainability – always seeking new ways to foster positive change. As a child she wondered what she could possibly do to help people be happier and healthier, and though her varied interests molded her into a bit of an academic and professional mutt, it was that early thread which has continued to weave it all together. Through life's twists and turns, she finds herself at another crossroads – wondering, yet again, what "answering the call" and finding her voice might look like this time around. Her lifelong quest: Embody integrity. Follow her joy. Live to serve.

Please remember to turn off cell phones and other electronic devices during Conference Hour. At the request of speakers, we record their talks and one copy is made and given to them. To respect the confidentiality of our speakers, however, we require that no one else record all or any part of the talks.

~ ~ ~ FAMILIES ~ ~ ~

Scott Giarla • Donna Moore • Rob Yager
Families meet from 10:30am – 11:55am, each day

A Northfield "Family" is a group of approximately ten-to-twelve Conference participants who meet together each day after Conference Hour. The groups are designed to include people of different ages and interests, and who come from different families of origin. For many of us at Northfield, this is the heart of the Conference. Families gather together each day to get to know each other, to talk, to listen, to share, and to PLAY!

Each small group includes a "Family Facilitator", whose role is to help the Family run smoothly. However, everyone is encouraged to know and support the principles that guide the "Family" experience. We refer to these as our **C.O.R.E.**:

C - Confidentiality - What happens and is discussed in the Family stays in the Family and is not shared outside of the group.

O - Ownership - Try to speak for yourself and not for others - let them find their own voice. This is helped by using "I statements" - which is simply talking about what you think and/or feel.

R - Respect - "Honor your family...." by showing up on time, speaking one at a time and understanding that we have all had a unique journey that has led us to our beliefs..and to Northfield!

E - Empowerment - To be empowered is to have the courage to create change. Help empower others by allowing them the time and space in the Family to explore this for themselves. And feel free to seek and/or ask for these opportunities for yourself!

The list of Families will be posted in Blake on Sunday morning. If you have questions regarding the lists, please see one of the Family Coordinators (Scott, Donna or Rob) before Sunday's Conference Hour.

FAMILY FACILITATORS MEETINGS

Coordinated by Scott Giarla, Donna Moore & Rob Yager

Library, Way Back Room: Sun/Mon/Weds, 4:30pm-5:30pm; Tues/Thurs 1:00pm-2:00pm

Family Facilitators meet daily as a group with the Family Facilitator Coordinators. Encouragement, wisdom and support are offered as well as a variety of ideas for group facilitation. An effort is made to create an open, safe, warm space in which Facilitators, old and new, can learn and grow. Attendance not necessary but gently encouraged.

"When you find what you are called to do, your life takes on a focus and a purpose.
You come into rhythm with the deeper longing of your heart."

~John Donahue

~ ~ ~ SACRED CIRCLE PLANNING ~ ~ ~

Coordinated by Jean & Jim Peters
All Ages Welcome. 1:00 - 2:00pm, Small Dining Room

Sacred Circle is a time at the end of the day to allow for conscious connection to emerge. A connection to ourselves, our community, to nature, to spirit, to the future, to the past. We connect through music, through words, through poetry, through ritual, in personal, traditional and innovative ways. Everyone is welcome to contribute. Each evening's Sacred Circle is planned that day in one of the small dining rooms. Please join us.

~ ~ ~ RECREATION ~ ~ ~

Recreation 1:00 - 5:30pm

This time may be used for attending workshops OR games, tennis, napping, sunbathing, walking, biking, talking, writing...*but there's still NO swimming in the river!*

This is a SCHOOL rule and we must abide school rules.

AFTERNOON CHILDREN & YOUTH ACTIVITIES

There are numerous activities after lunch that are fun for kids. In past years, parents have found that they can creatively manage the afternoon using available intergenerational workshops and existing activities for children, connecting with other families to share trips to Laurel Lake or arranging childcare with Northfield teens or with babysitters who might be available during the day.

SPORTS & GAMES

(All Ages): 1:00 - 2:00pm. There will be organized sports each day. Watch for the daily schedule in the Dining Hall for notices of activities such as soccer, Frisbee, capture-the-flag, softball and other non-competitive games.
Coordinated by Pierre Ragot.

POOL HOURS (IF AVAILABLE)

Sunday/Monday/Wednesday, 2 - 4:30; Tuesday/Thursday, 1:30 - 3:30.
Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

THE GYM

Open every day from 6:30am - 7pm. Minimum age of 16 years in the weight room.
People younger than 16 **MUST** have adult supervision.
Basketball court available if not being used by another group.

AFTERNOON & OTHER ~ ~ ~ ACTIVITIES ~ ~ ~

NORTHFIELD T-SHIRTS SALES

Carol LaBella & Ryan D'Esopo

T-shirts, hats and other swag on sale in the lunchroom and each evening at Club Northfield!

SUMMER FUN-RAISER: BASKET BONANZA

Chantal Bassous & Friends, Dining Hall

BASKET RAFFLE runs from 5:00pm Tuesday 12:45pm Thursday. Bid on one basket! Bid on all the baskets!! Tickets for sale at registration and right up 'til the drawing. Each basket will have an accompanying can to drop your raffle tickets (name and phone number required). *Drawing and winners announced at lunch on Thursday.*

SINGING IN THE CHAPEL

Steve Schuch, Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, 4:30 - 5:30pm, Chapel

Come lift your voice in a wide range of songs old and new. Each day we will start out with songs and harmony parts taught by ear, some a capella, some with guitar. Lyric sheet handouts will be provided. Several of the songs may be part of Sacred Circle. You are welcome to record any of the songs on a cell phone if you'd like to review parts and take the singing home with you! See Steve's bio on page 22.

TEEN TALK: Keri Pitcher, TBD

Teen Talk is for teens, aged 13-18, to gather at Northfield to talk about common interests and . . . well, whatever is on their minds. The group is a chance to listen, be heard, to understand, and to connect. And, of course, to laugh!

TREE SESSIONS Daily, 4:30 - 5:30pm, TBD

A time for anyone wishing to lead/sponsor/initiate a 45-minute pop-up mini-workshop on something dear to their heart, an expression of a deep part of oneself that wants to be shared, or something fun to share and do with others. Conference Hour speakers may also use this time for an informal further exploration of their talk, a time for questions and sharing. Those wishing to offer a Tree Session can inform people each morning at Announcements.

"The golden opportunity you are seeking is in yourself. It is not in your environment; it is not in luck or chance, or the help of others; it is in yourself alone."

~Orison Swett Madden

~~~AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES~~~

TWENTIES-SOMETHING TALK

Chantal Bassous & Bill Milford, 4:30 - 5:30pm, Small Dining Room

We gather after Opening Ceremony. Twenty Something Talk is for 19 years and up to get together, hang out, share, actively listen to one another and get the support and perspective of others in your age group. Facilitated by two cool "beyond twenties", it is a safe space to be together in a fun and easy atmosphere, Northfield style, ultimately morphing into what you need it to be.

COMMUNITY MEETING

Facilitator: Bill Milford. Tuesday. 4:00 - 5:15pm, Blake

The Community Meeting is a time when issues concerning the Conference as a whole are discussed. This meeting provides the opportunity for anyone to raise topics they would like to be discussed by the community. Please see Bill to place an item on the agenda. This is different than the Annual Meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING

Facilitator: Harry Blackman. Thursday, 4:00 - 5:15pm, Blake

This is the business meeting of the Northfield Conference. Officers are chosen and plans are made for future Northfield Conference programs. Each year, a new member of the Troika (Executive Committee) is chosen for a three-year term. Program Chairs for next year (chosen by the Executive Committee) are also announced; suggestions or volunteers for next year's Conference Program Chairs should be given to Harry Blackman. We will also discuss other Northfield events coming up throughout the coming year. Attendance is important.

..... EVENING ACTIVITIES

EVERY NIGHT: Club Northfield

Grandin, every night after evening activities. Refreshments: Hellmold/Stafford Clan

Fruit juices, soft drinks and snacks will be sold as a fund-raiser for Northfield. There's also comfortable seating with various activities occurring in adjoining classrooms. Those 21 and older wishing to consume alcohol may do so if beverages are held in opaque containers (e.g. thermos, covered coffee mug, etc.). Please refill with discretion.

SUNDAY NIGHT ~ Salsa Dancing ~

8:00pm, Beveridge Dance Studio

Get ready to shake, shimmy, and smile!
Join Tracey Briscoe for a lively session of Salsa and Bachata where you'll learn some easy, feel-good moves.

No partner? No problem—you can dance solo or bring along someone who loves to groove with you.

Come for the steps and the laughs.
Let's light up the dance floor together!



~ ~ ~ EVENING ACTIVITIES ~ ~ ~

MONDAY NIGHT: Original Works

~ **COFFEE HOUSE**, 8:00 - 10:00pm. Julie Osherson & Myléne Leclair, Grandin

Our annual Coffee House welcomes and encourages anyone to read their original poetry or prose, including short fiction or nonfiction. Story telling will be included. Short Musical Acts are for the TALENT SHOW on Wednesday. Since all ages of Northfielders are invited to attend the Coffee House, please be respectful in your choice of content. We strongly urge a four (4) minute limit to each person's contribution. Risqué prose must wait until after intermission.

~ **ARTS & CRAFTS SHOWCASE**, 8:00 - 10:00pm. Julie Osherson, Grandin

A chance for the immensely creative members of our community to show off their original wares, for sale during intermission and after Coffee House. As always, a donation to the Conference of 20% of sales is tradition to support all the wonderful things that can happen at Northfield.

TUESDAY NIGHT: A Night of Singing & Storytelling

~ **RAINBOW POINT** 7:00 - 7:45pm. Rainbow Point (outside the Chapel)

Song books are available and we will sing the best-loved songs from the long-standing traditions of the Northfield Community...while always looking for rainbows!

~ **SLEEPYTIME STORYTELLING & SONGS**

8:15 - 9:00pm. Crossley Lounge. Steve Schuch & Jonathon Kruk

Remember the delight in hearing a story at bedtime, or singing goodnight songs around a campfire? Put on your pajama and slippers and bring a favorite stuffed animal for this Northfield tradition! Fantastical dragons and animal friends...voices singing and laughing together...all are part of this magical evening for kids and grownups alike.

~ **SONGWRITER CIRCLE** 9:00pm until... Kara Colvin. Blake

A chance for songwriters to come together and share their original work. A respectful, supportive circle, where songwriters can share a new song for the first time. It's meant to be a great opportunity to hear some beautiful music in an informal setting. All are welcome!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT: The Northfield Talent Show (All Ages!)

8:00 - 10:00pm, Rhodes Art Center, Raymond Hall

Talent Scouts: Fern Giarla, Kara Colvin. Sound Technicians: Frank Grillo, Matt D'Esopo

If interested in participating in the Northfield Talent Show, see Kara Colvin and/or Frank Grillo by Wednesday morning to register. A limited number of acts will be presented. A workshop has been scheduled for performers to rehearse with the coordinators Wednesday afternoon at 1:45pm ON STAGE. Solo acts limited to THREE minutes; skits/scenes to FIVE minutes. Participants limited to one performance. **WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE TALENT SHOW!** (see Wednesday's Grid.)

THURSDAY NIGHT DANCE PARTY:

Thursday, 8:00pm. Blake. Keri & Ella Pitcher

Have you answered the call? How have you shown up as a superhero in the lives of others? Use your imagination and come as your best superhero to the 2025 Northfield theme dance! Bring your superpowers and be ready to save the day. Villains also welcome.



~ ~ ~ WORKSHOPS ~ ~ ~

Gail Ferris & Frank Grillo, Workshop Coordinators

*Get ready to dive into a week of creativity, movement, and inspiration at this week's workshops! We have an amazing lineup designed to nourish your heart, body, and soul. There's something for everyone. Embrace the opportunity for intergenerational connections, creative exploration, and incredible discussions. All workshops are optional and, unless otherwise noted, are open to all adults and teens. There are workshops for all ages offered each day as indicated in the descriptions that follow (children under age six must be accompanied by an adult). Intergenerational workshops are indicated on the Grid with an asterisk**

Accepting Your Inner Healer (Teens & Adults)

Bob Fellows. 2:15pm - 3:45pm

My personal journey has taken me from an interest in conjuring to faith in logic, and finally to a world view that embraces the mysterious. Our culture influences us to seek outside authority, but we can relearn the ancient art of healing ourselves. In this workshop, we will do exercises to practice self-responsibility, find our inner adviser, and do "real" magic.

Bob Fellows presented this workshop at the 1993 100th Anniversary Northfield Conference. It seems appropriate again in these times and it supports the theme of "answering the call." For years, Bob was the yoga teacher at Northfield. Since 1993, Bob continued as a magician, mentalist, and wellness speaker; and became ordained as a pastor in the UCC church.

Aging, Retirement, and the Good Life (Adults 16+)

Bill Milford. 2:15pm - 3:45pm

This workshop will be a discussion of the physical and development processes that can be involved in aging, preparing for retirement, and creating the "good life" by your own definition. It will explore contemporary research and survey responses but will mostly focus on participants comfort with, and exploring, development tasks in retirement and sharing strategies toward making your own personal "good life" possible.

Bill Milford (MSW) is a newly retired (May, 2024) social work professor (Thomas University) and folk musician. Over the past year, Bill and a colleague (Leslie Ganley) have been gathering resources (theories, surveys, videos) in order to help themselves and others explore this time of life.

The Art of Home Swapping (Adults)

Susan Lewis. 2:15pm - 3:45pm

Join Susan for an insider's guide to home swapping—an exciting way to explore the world while saving on accommodation. With experience swapping homes in over 25 countries and a partner who has traveled to 107, Susan shares practical tips, personal stories, and expert advice on finding the right exchanges, creating a standout listing, and ensuring a smooth, secure experience. Whether interested or new to home swapping or looking to refine your approach, this workshop will answer questions and help unlock a new way to travel authentically and affordably. Don't miss this chance to rethink the way you see the world.

Susan Lewis has been calling Mexico home since 2009, embracing a life of adventure, creativity, and reinvention. A seasoned home exchanger for over 15 years, she has traveled extensively across the globe, always seeking authentic experiences and meaningful connections. In recent years, she has shared her passion for wellness and culture by hosting culinary and yoga retreats and has been an active contributor to local theatre productions for over eight years. A proud single mother, her son fondly jokes, "What's Mom going to be this year?" With countless journeys behind her, she's eagerly anticipating her next adventure through the Baltic region and the five "Stans" this fall.

Behind the Mask: Facing Our Calling (Adults 15+)

Maggie Sullivan and Kathy Lowe-Bloch. 2:15pm – 4:15pm

In this experiential art workshop, we will decorate two (wearable) papier mâché masks; one represents our “outer/public” face, the other our “inner/private” face. What is the face of our authentic self? How might we integrate our outer and inner masks to better receive/respond to our unique calling? *Workshop is limited to 16.*

Maggie is new to the Northfield Community. She is passionate about unmasking human potential and the power of the arts to transform lives - and the world. Maggie holds degrees in both Music and Theatre Education and enjoys making masks and small face sculptures. Kathy is a singer/songwriter/sound healer/photographer/children's book author/ and visionary. She lives and loves in NH with her husband Peter Bloch. Together, they have come to Northfield for 29 years. Being new grandparents is a huge joy as they look forward to aging gracefully with creativity and family abundance.

Biodanza: The Dance of Life (Teens & Adults)

Rebecca Foster. 2:15pm – 4:00pm

The word “Biodanza” literally means the dance of life. Weaving together music (ranging from rhythmic to restful) and dance invitations (accessible to anyone, always “at choice”) with group encounters that stimulate connection, Biodanza “reestablishes the conditions that nourish life.” Following an arc that respects our human physiology, we'll dance with joy; rest with tenderness. Now more than ever our survival depends on this nourishment. Bring an open heart and your curiosity.

Rebecca is an internationally certified mindfulness meditation teacher & coach, conscious dance facilitator and lifetime laughter-yogi. She presently teaches Mindfulness-Based Emotional Intelligence at the Men's and Women's Correctional Facilities in Rhode Island and is the Wellness Cultivator at Gather Farm. Rebecca is also an emerging Biodanza Facilitator through the Rhode Island School of Biodanza Systema Rolando Toro.

Fairy Houses (Intergenerational)

Donna Moore. 2:15pm - 3:45pm

This is an opportunity for children and adults to create fairy houses around the trees by the Dining Hall. I will bring some supplies, but participants are welcome to bring shells, bark, ferns, flowers, rocks, pine cones, sticks ... anything that would make a good fairy house.

Donna is a retired psychotherapist. She has been coming to Northfield for 15 years. This popular fairy house workshop has been offered four other times.

“Ask yourself the same questions you've been asking everyone else.
Be still until you hear the answers. Trust me - they will come”

from *Instructions for 'Today'* - Part II, ~Julia Fehrenbacher

Fanning the Flames of Authenticity (Adults, 13+)

Morgan Hellmold. 2:15pm - 4:15pm

We will view the movie **Smoke Signals** which follows Thomas and Victor who live on an Indian reservation dealing with the historical trauma that has left them with a legacy of poverty and alcoholism. Despite this legacy, they are trying to rise above the pain in their lives by finding connection with others. They are working to “answer the call” of how to forgive and honor both strangers and loved ones who may have wronged them along their journey. And by doing that they are working to “answer the call” of living authentic lives where they accept and love all parts of themselves.

While this movie does focus on the Native experience and what has happened to Indigenous Peoples due to oppression, this is not necessarily the lens we will be focused on in our discussion. This movie can be experienced on a very personal level since we all have difficult relationships in our lives...just like these characters. Many of us are also struggling with the political divide in our country and how to navigate that respectfully and authentically.

Morgan is a High School English teacher in Seekonk, MA and a long time Northfielder. In addition to a love for all types and time periods of literature, she loves puzzles, board games and Broadway musicals. Little do you know how often a passing comment results in Broadway lyrics playing in her head. Luckily her family (John, Gareth and Lily) can finish the tunes!

Grounding Yourself in Difficult Conversations (Adults, 13+)

Miles Sherts. 2:15pm - 4:15pm

Seeing the radical departure from our democratic norms and the alarming degree of animosity generated in the past several months, many of us are upset and moved to action. While it may feel good to react with anger, this approach compounds the problem and further divides us in the end. It doesn't work to fight fire with fire. Communication skills offer a different way to respond.

The antidote for animosity and polarization is understanding and connection. The key is that we don't have to agree in order to understand and connect. There is a way to put yourself in another person's shoes, without compromising your values, beliefs, or needs. These skills enable us to establish healthy boundaries with another person, without blaming, judging, or closing our hearts to them. They enable us to hear another person and validate their basic emotions and needs without surrendering our own. This introduction will include a short presentation of the skills, along with live demonstrations, and practice in role plays.

Miles Sherts is a professional mediator and facilitator who has studied Conscious Communication and Conflict Resolution skills since 1978, and taught since 1990. He is also a teacher of Insight Meditation, a Couples Communication Coach, and author of Conscious Communication, and Conscious Communication for Couples. Learn more at www.PracticalPresence.org

Kindness Rocks (Intergenerational)

Nancy Young & Margret Costello. 2:15pm - 3:45pm

Come join us as we create kindness rocks – the art of painting inspirational sayings/pictures on rocks and pebbles. All materials will be provided, or you can bring your own rocks too! All ages encouraged!

Nancy and Margaret love to host Northfield Workshops! We love to help people unleash their creativity!

Letters Never Sent (Adults)

Debra Lovio-Samson. 2:15pm – 3:45pm

Life is filled with good intentions, like writing a thank-you note, a letter of congratulations, a condolence—or an apology. Time, however, can get away from us. If you've meant to send a heartfelt message in the past but didn't get around to doing it, this workshop can help you write that expression of gratitude, admiration and love that will fill the recipient's heart with what you are feeling. Please bring a pen or pencil, some paper and the belief that good intentions are powerful. They have a very long life, indeed.

Debra's career began in high school as a sports columnist for local newspapers, which soon led to articles for trade magazines and speeches for business executives. Recent projects include the history of a 100-year-old company and—her favorite—collaborating with people on their memoirs. Her Northfield workshops have focused on the joy of writing, from thank you notes that are driven by genuine emotion, to short stories that come alive with the senses.

Open-Hearted Listening (Adults, 14+)

Peter Bloch & Kathy Lowe-Bloch. 2:15pm – 3:45pm

Imagine being truly heard and understood by your partner, who has created a safe nonjudgmental space for you to share your difficult feelings. Imagine doing that for your partner and other people. Open-Hearted Listening is both a philosophy and a set of techniques for communication that Kathy and Peter have been practicing for 32 years. While this practice is primarily focused on couples, it is applicable to any relationship. Peter and Kathy will describe Open-Hearted Listening, demonstrate how it works, and facilitate others in trying it out.

This is Peter and Kathy's 29th year at Northfield and it has been a great joy for them. The rest of the time, Peter is a nature-loving videographer, a mushroom grower and forager, and a devoted spouse, father and grandfather. Kathy is a singer/songwriter/sound healer/photographer/children's book author/ and visionary. She lives and loves in NH with her husband Peter. Being new grandparents is a huge joy as they look forward to aging gracefully with creativity and family abundance.

Partner Dance (Adults, 13+)

Joey Stafford-Abbott & Myléne LeClair. 2:15pm – 3:45pm

Join us for an exciting introduction to partner dance, where you'll learn the fundamentals of leading and following in a fun and welcoming environment. Whether you're new to dance or looking to refine your skills, this workshop will cover essential techniques for smooth and coordinated movement. By the end, you'll be ready to hit the dance floor with confidence and connect with your partner through rhythm and flow.

Joey & Myléne (Mimi) have studied Bachata and Salsa in Colombia and Zouk in Brazil. They love to dance.

Rounds, Catches & Partner Songs (Adults, 13+)

Joanne Hammil. 2:15pm – 3:45pm

All voices "answer the call" of the 1st lead voice in these delightful song forms! We'll create gorgeous, humorous, serene, and empowering pieces by blending our voices in these wonderful genres for singing in harmony.

Joanne Hammil is a composer/songwriter, choral director, music educator and performer. Her passions for singing in harmony and creating community through music infuse her songwriting and teaching. She directed the Greater Boston Intergenerational Chorus for 20 years, The Choral Connection for 30 years, and has presented many hundreds of workshops and concerts for national conferences, institutes, community sings, schools and festivals throughout the country. Her own songs have been performed and recorded by many artists and have become exciting standards in songbooks, harmony circles and choir repertoires.

Singing in the Chapel (Adults, 13+)

Steve Schuch. 4:30 - 5:30. Sunday, Wednesday. Chapel

Come lift your voice in a wide range of songs old and new. Each day we will start out with songs and harmony parts taught by ear, some a capella, some with guitar. Lyric sheet handouts will be provided. Several of the songs may be part of Sacred Circle later in the week. You are welcome to record any of the songs on a cell phone if you'd like to review parts and take the singing home with you!

In 1980, Steve was happily studying baroque violin and biology at Oberlin College, when his life was turned around by a Pete Seeger concert. Steve bought his first \$25 used guitar the next week, and never looked back. As a singer/songwriter, storyteller and multi-instrumentalist, he has delighted audience of all ages across the US and Europe. Credits include a Grammy nomination, PBS soundtracks, and five national book awards for his musical story, A Symphony of Whales. A former Peace Corps volunteer, Steve (AKA "Pablo") works closely with Project Home NH helping immigrant families seeking asylum. His "America the Dream" project offers free sheet music for schools and children's choruses up through college and community choirs: AmericaTheDream.org

Songs Without Words (Intergenerational, 13 & Younger, with Adult)

Steve Schuch. Monday, 4:30-5:30. Chapel

While so much of our modern lives revolve around screen time and the word-processing parts of our brains, music can touch us on many other levels. It is an older language, from a time before we had words. This workshop will explore mindful "deep listening" to diverse music across the ages, from humans to songbirds and whales, all in the sonic glory of the Chapel. Bring your deepest listening (and optional yoga mat) on this musical and spiritual odyssey.

See Steve's Bio above.

Sounding the Whole Self (Intergenerational)

Kathy Lowe-Bloch. 2:15pm - 3:45pm

People are invited to sit or lay down in the Chapel and just listen with the whole body as I offer varied sounds all around in the space. Sound is made by drums, bells, chimes, bowls, rain stick, Sruti box, shakers, guitar, and my voice.

See Kathy's Bio on page 21

Storytelling through Dance (Adults, 13+)

Harry Blackman. 2:15pm - 3:45pm

In this class we will play with physical expression as a way to explore story, characters and emotions. We will see how the elements of movement including body, space, time, energy, melody, rhythm, harmony and relationship affect the story we are telling. In this class we will find new ways to express ourselves and connect with the language of our bodies. Remember the greatest story you will ever tell is your own! No dance experience necessary. If you can move, you can dance!

Harry is the Professional Practice Manager of the Mergers & Acquisitions department at Skadden Arps, an international law firm. He has been a teacher, soccer, ice-hockey and lacrosse coach, construction worker, truck driver, restaurant worker and bicycle messenger among other crazy jobs, as well as a professional actor and is a member of SAG, AFTRA and AEA. He took three years of dance at Middlebury College and one year at Circle-in-the-Square in NYC. He lives in the beautiful Hudson Valley and has two wonderful kids, both in their early twenties. He loves camping, hiking, canoeing, kayaking, generally mucking about in the great outdoors, sports, music and researching family history. Family, friends and Northfield are essential components of Harry's circle of life.

Supporting LGBTQ+ Youth: Understanding the Acronym and the Importance of Being an Ally (Adults, 16+)

Kerry Rochford-Hague. 2:15pm - 3:45pm

This workshop will explore the LGBTQ+ acronym, the evolving language for gender and sexual identities, pronouns, and how we can show up as allies—in our families, friendships, work circles and wider communities. We'll discuss some of the risk and protective factors for LGBTQ+ youth and the vital role of trusted, caring adults. Now more than ever we need to open ourselves to understanding the experiences of the LGBTQ+ community and commit to taking steps to grow as allies. We'll share resources and tips to help us answer that call together!

Kerry has worked for more than two decades teaching healthy relationship education and abuse prevention for youth of all ages. She also provides a comprehensive sexual health program for middle and high school students. Kerry believes in empowering youth with information and skills to help them build strong, healthy relationships. She has continued to grow in her work because she learns from her students as much (and sometimes more!) than she teaches. Outside of work, Kerry is an activist at heart, showing up and speaking up for social and environmental justice issues. Nature is her healer and when not working, you can find her (camera in hand!) chasing waterfalls and sunsets, delighting in the spinning of the seasons, and dreaming of being by the sea.

Talent Show Preparation (Intergenerational)

Kara Colvin, Fern Giarla, Matthew D'Esopo, Frank Grillo. WEDNESDAY 1:45pm - 3:45pm

One of the main events of the Conference is the Annual Talent Show. This workshop will take place on the very stage of the evening Talent Show. It gives everyone the opportunity to rehearse their act, get comfortable with the microphone and lighting; their instruments, coordinate staging items (such as tables or music stands) and have some fun. Bring along any music you may need for your act either on a thumb drive or phone.

NO REPEAT ACTS FROM THE COFFEE HOUSE PLEASE - See Coffee House rules, page 17.

Frank is a retired Audio/Visual/Multimedia Designer & Engineer. He had been attending Northfield since 1998 and has provided music for the Theme Dances for over 25 years. Frank lives in Cromwell, CT with his lovely wife, Gail Ferris.

Matthew is an 8th Grader and he has run sound systems for numerous school events, and famously here at Northfield. He is active with Boy Scouts and as a musician. He plays piano outside of school, as well as keyboard and trombone for his school and a regional jazz band. This is Matthew's 4th year at Northfield.

Kara has been a Northfielder her entire life. She is a recent graduate from Colby-Sawyer College and she is an accomplished singer/songwriter with a CD issued along with multiple You Tube videos. She plays piano, guitar, ukulele and violin.

Fern has been going to the Northfield Conference since they were four years old. A soon-to-be high school graduate going into psychology at the University of Maine, Fern spends their free time playing guitar and singing and expressing themselves through various other creative outlets.

Tie Dye (Intergenerational)

Tuesday, 1:00-2:00, outside Manchester.

Need a little colour in your wardrobe? Are your whites feeling a bit low? Then why not renew them? New clothes, a New you! Even 'gently used' clothes could use some TLC. So come tie-dye, bring your t-shirts, socks, pants, sheets and whatever else needs a splash of colour. 100% cotton white-colored material is best for this so don't forget to bring your "palette"!

Trash to Treasure (Adults, 10+)

Betsy Hays. 2:15pm - 3:45pm

Turn your broken necklaces or earrings into new and wearable jewelry. You do not have to bring all or even any materials. Everyone should be able to complete at least one item during the workshop.

Betsy has been attending the Conference since 1970, when she was 17. She has been making jewelry for over 20 years and has offered this fun workshop before.

Two Minute Musings (Adults, 13+)

Julie Osherson. 2:15pm - 3:45pm

Usually writing workshops get their juice for “free writes” from verbal prompts. In this workshop we are going to use visual prompts and see where they take us. The prompts are little collages on playing cards which I made in a mixed media class and they have turned out to be a ton of fun to react to. Bring a small pad or journal and pen or pencil.

Julie has been coming to Northfield for too many years to count. Primarily a songwriter, she has been preoccupied with mixed media projects in the past several years. She will be using her tiny collages in this workshop.

Yoga for Stress Resilience (Adults, 13+)

Tracey Briscoe. 2:15pm - 4:30pm

In this workshop, we will discuss the Five Causes of Stress according to Yoga and the ways in which the Five Points of classical Yoga offer solutions to help us reduce stress through the integration of conscious lifestyle choices into our daily lives. As Yoga claims, "We are our own healers". These lifestyle choices give us agency, through knowledge and specific tools to help us mitigate the stresses and anxieties in our lives.

Tracey first came to Northfield in 2011, through Montreal's contingent of beautiful women. It has since become a beloved part of her life's focus. She has been honored to be your Registrar and a Board Member since 2015. It is a task she loves, as it keeps her in touch with all of our lovely members and brings joy to her heart. Tracey is now a Sivananda Yoga Instructor and studying to become a Sivananda Yoga Health Educator. This knowledge has expanded her field of service in a deep and meaningful way. It is with humility that she offers this workshop to our community. Her gratitude to all of you for sharing your beautiful selves with her.

"Stand still. The tree ahead and bushes beside you
Are not lost. Where you are is called Here.
And you must treat it as a powerful stranger,
Must ask permission to know it and be known."

-from 'Lost', David Wagoner

A Rose in Winter

A tradition at Northfield has been to find a time during the week in which to write yourself a letter describing the feelings and experiences you are having at the Conference.

In the dining hall there will be a box marked "A Rose in Winter," along with paper and envelopes. If you choose to write a letter, please put the letter in an envelope and address it to yourself.

You will receive your letter in the chilly month of February to remind you of the warmth of Northfield.

Rose in Winter Coordinator:

Debra Lovio-Samson



"If you ask me what I came to do in this world, I, an artist, will answer you:
I am here to live out loud."^m

~Emile Zola

2024-2025 ANNUAL FUND REPORT

Our community continues to thrive because of all the ways every one of us contributes to make it happen – by our service and our contributions. Both keep our conference strong and healthy! We acknowledge here those who made a monetary donation and express deep gratitude. These monies help support the fees paid to the Northfield-Mount Hermon School and Pilgrim Pines, financial aid, the Children's Program teachers and materials, Newcomer Conference Hour speakers and Workshop leaders, Special programs, Golf carts . . . the list goes on. We greatly and deeply appreciate the donations made this year – your generosity proves how strong our community is!

During our 2024-2025 fiscal year, 59 individuals contributed \$9159



Chantal Bassous	Dorothy & Andy Jeffrey	Suzanne Rametta-Todd
Maria & Bob Bishop	Caroline Jestin	Kelly Rochford
Harry Blackman	Jon Kelly	Debra Samson
Peter Bloch & Kathy Lowe-Bloch	Audrey Kern	Barb Siftar
Tracey Briscoe	Edith Lauderdale	John Stafford & Morgan Hellmold
Judi & Roger Bunker	Holly & Ron McClain	Betsy Taylor & Lindsay Freese
Kara Colvin	Sarah Melasecca	Nancy Taylor
Libby Friedman	Bill Milford	Lynnette Tucker-Colvin
Linda Giarla	Donna Moore	Connie & Steve Walsh
Cathy & Greg Grigsby	Kate Munger	Ellie Weinstein
Frank Grillo & Gail Ferris	Julie Osherson	Josh & Melissa Weinstein
Kerry Rochford Hague	Jean & Jim Peters	Anne & Rob Young
Joanne Hammil	Kim Post	7 Anonymus
Janet Miller Haines		



~ GIFTS MADE IN LOVING MEMORY ~

Liam Boehne • Ardyth Cacavo & Karen Bishop • Connie Chandler-Ward • Ron & Doreen Cooke
Alan G. Cummings • Kay Flanagan • Sarah Bradley Gamble • Bob Giarla • Sam Osherson
Veronica Pelicarić • Terry Scheinzeit • Jason Walsh • Lorry Weinstein • Ruth Weiss

~ AND IN HONOR OF ~

Maeve Blackman • Peter Bloch & Kathy Lowe-Bloch • Wendy Desmarteaux
Andrew Mason • Northfield Community • Nancy Pearson • Betsy Taylor

If your name was accidentally left off this list, please let Caroline know and kindly accept our sincerest apologies!

*Our current fiscal year ends March 31, 2026.
Please consider supporting our Conference again with your generous donation. Thank you!*

PROOF

"It sounds like life is calling you to do something BIG and you haven't picked up the phone yet."

- anonymous

save THE DATE!

MIDWINTER

January 16-18, 2026
Pilgrim Pines Conference Center
Swanzey, New Hampshire

For further info, check our website:
www.NorthfieldConference.org



"Come, come whoever you are.
Wonderer, worshiper, lover of leaving
It does not matter. Ours is not a caravan of despair
Come, even if you have broken your vow
a thousand times, come, yet again, come, come."

~ Rumi