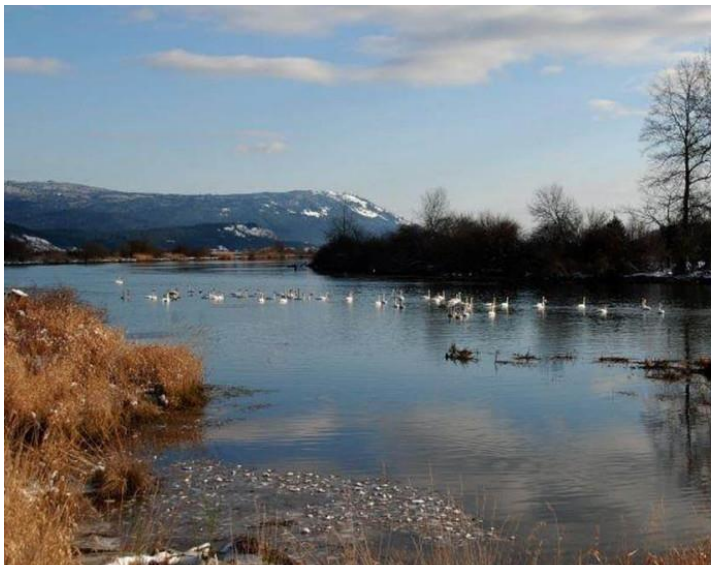


# *Where Rivers Meet the Sea*



*I would love to live like a river flows,  
carried by the surprise  
of its own unfolding.*

*John O'Donohue*

## A Spring Retreat for Celebrants

April 14, 15, 16, 2020 Vancouver Island

In a protected bird sanctuary at the confluence of the Koksilah and Cowichan river on the Cowichan estuary, where the river meets the sea.

Retreat, refresh and re-imagine your Celebrant practice in this 3 day soulful inquiry.

# Where Rivers Meet the Sea



## The Shores on Which We Gather

We gratefully acknowledge our retreat space at Affinity Guest House, located on the Cowichan (Quw'utsun) Tribes traditional territory.

## You, A Tributary

In this gathering of Celebrants, **Where Rivers Meet the Sea**, it is acknowledged and welcomed that each participant (river) brings a body of knowledge, wisdom and imagination to the collective knowing field (the sea), which will flow in collaborative and spontaneous ways as the retreat unfolds. You are invited to enter into a Mystery School, where ceremony is courted, arises, and is welcomed.



## The Flow of Retreat

- ☞ We apprentice ourselves to the elements;
- ☞ enter the senses as portals to fresh ways of perceiving;
- ☞ explore practices of awareness to deepen our relationship with each other and the infinite rhythms of nature;
- ☞ encounter periods of extended silence within our burgeoning village;
- ☞ embody self-care and reflection;
- ☞ experience time out of time in a place where meaning arrives through empirical experience, inquiry and play; and
- ☞ enjoy a time for creating and deepening friendship and collegial connections with fellow Celebrants.

# River Guides



Penny Allport

Fellow Celebrant and intrepid guide Penny Allport will gently, playfully and wisely facilitate and hold space for our gathering.

*"I am moved, inspired and challenged by this opportunity to collaborate with Celebrants as we collectively enter a dreaming field to catch what the land and creatures, humans and beyond humans are calling each of us uniquely and all of us collectively into being in these tumultuous and terribly beautiful times on the planet."*

A Celebrant, stewarding soul and lover of the world's faith, wisdom and mystery traditions, Penny has been creating retreats and offerings in cauldrons of care and creation for almost 3 decades. Schooled in community building as a Yoga Teacher, Continuum Movement facilitator, ceremony catcher & owner of a Metaphysical Bookstore & Yoga Studio in Steveston, BC, she taught and traveled to participate in ritual in Mexico, Bali, Africa, Ecuador, Guatemala, Peru & Canada. Stewarded by nature, the elements, and the ancestors, during after a 10 year apprenticeship to the land, Penny brings an infectious love of mystery and trust in the liminal space between where consciousness and form dance a duet of meaning and magic. For more background on Penny: [movingceremonies.com](http://movingceremonies.com)



Jane Good

A Celebrant, yogi, gardener foodie, and lover of beauty, Jane has been working with a wonderful caterer, Michelle Plain from Art to Eat, to design our fresh selection of meals. Once your registration is complete, should you need any special food requests, contact Jane: [goodjane@gmail.com](mailto:goodjane@gmail.com) At the retreat, Jane will be up at the crack of dawn to lead morning yoga. On our final day, she'll will send us on our way with a special closing ritual. For more background on Jane: [www.circleceremonies.com](http://www.circleceremonies.com).

Barbara Parker

Barbara will take care of Registration, and make sure you get all the information you need for the retreat.

She will be on site to welcome you to Affinity Guest House in April! For more background on Barbara:

[www.thresholdceremonies.com](http://www.thresholdceremonies.com)



# Timelessness in Time: A Fluid Schedule



## Separation: Leaving the World Behind

Welcome! Greet your fellow Celebrants, settle into to your room, explore the property, unwind and drop into timelessness in time. Coffee, tea and light snacks will be available, but please note the first meal is not served until evening.



## Entering the Liminal

We enter the mystery — Tuesday, 2pm, with our first group gathering. Dinner at the Communal Table, followed by an evening session. Two days and nights of dreaming and waking wonder under a waxing gibbous moon. Rise to birdsong, early morning yoga session with Jane, or sleep in. In a collective dreamtime space, a mix of facilitated and open-ended experience unfolds on the land.

Forest Walks.

Drumming

Silence

Conversation

Writing.

Artmaking

Ritual Arising

Awareness

Insight

Joy

Reflection

Community

Inspiration

## Incorporating the Work

Following Thursday lunch, we gather for a completion ritual. By 4 pm, we depart and return home, refreshed and invigorated, ready to embody our work and our place in this precious world.



# On the Shores of Nourishment and Rest



## Eat Well

Beautiful food will be catered by Art to Eat. Two days of build-your-own breakfast, including hot coffee and tea, will be available between sunrise and 9:30 am, to enjoy on your own time. Noon and evening meals will be shared at a communal table. Clean-up will be enjoyed in community, with laughter, song and conversation. Dietary needs can be accommodated with advance notice. [Arttoeatcatering.com](http://Arttoeatcatering.com)



## Play Well

## Rest Well

Held in the warm embrace of Affinity Guest House, we will have private access to the site. Affinity offers a mix of sleeping arrangements; all rooms are shared space.

Luxurious linens and bedding are all provided. Camping is an option. Once full workshop numbers are determined, we may be able to accommodate specific needs regarding sleeping, however there will be limited flexibility for single rooms.

[www.Affinityguesthouse.ca](http://www.Affinityguesthouse.ca)



# Stepping into the River: A Commitment



## The First Step: A Promise to Yourself

Your retreat begins the moment you commit.

Register by email to Barbara Parker, [barbara@thresholdceremonies.com](mailto:barbara@thresholdceremonies.com).

E-transfer information will be provided when your space is confirmed. Once you are registered, watch for pre-retreat inspiration.



## The Fine Print

Full retreat cost is \$425.00 plus gst=\$**446.25**.

Early bird pricing until February 14<sup>th</sup> is \$375.00 plus gst=\$**393.75**

A non-refundable deposit of \$100 will hold a space for you until March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020. All payment is due by March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**Registration closes March 16<sup>th</sup>.** This is professional development for your 2020 taxes; tax receipts will be issued.

## An Intimate Opportunity

Numbers are limited to 18 Celebrants. Register early to secure your place at the table.



*No Celebrant steps into the same river twice, for it's not the same river and it's not the same Celebrant.*

*Heraclitus (adapted)*