

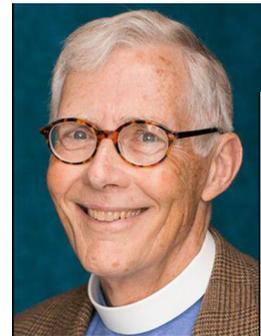
# Bloy House Spring Formation Classes

## Open to Clergy and Laity

**THURSDAYS, JAN. 12, 19, 26 & FEB. 2, 7 – 8:30 p.m.**

### **Episcopal Identity**

How would you describe the Episcopal Church - its theology, its worship and community, its history, and what you love about it - to a friend who has never experienced it? Would you like to know more about this beautiful and welcoming church that we minister in and share together? We will discuss the Book of Common Prayer and worship, the history of the church and its relationship to the Anglican Communion, our authority structure and model of decision making, Episcopal theology and spirituality, and our place and mission in the modern world. Class fee: \$25. Register [here](#)



**Dean Linda  
Allport**

**President  
Gary Hall**



**Rev. Dr. Mary  
Tororeiy**

**MONDAYS, FEB. 6, 13, 20 & 27, 7 – 8:30 p.m.**

### **Reading Ruth: The Politics of Identity, Location, and Change**

The book of Ruth is a kind of a Cinderella story. The thing with Cinderella stories is that they have a beautiful ending, something that gives the reader a welcome sigh of relief, a Hollywood ending. But what about the real story? The story before the end? A famine. Migration. Death. Nothingness. A return. Navigating these changes involves negotiating identities, location, and change. No Old Testament book does it better than the story of Ruth. We will examine the story of Ruth whose foreign-ness reshapes the nature of identity in post-exilic Israel. Using the tools of context and authorial intentions, we will carefully read and re-evaluate the narrative by studying its literary function within the Israelite politics of identity and change. Class fee: \$25. Register [here](#).

**ALTERNATE SATURDAYS, mornings** (click [here](#) for dates)

### **Episcopal History and Polity**

The purpose of this course is to give students a working knowledge of the history (histories), ethos, and cultures of the Episcopal Church: an appreciation of both the highlights and the challenges of our Anglican North American heritage; and, the ability to apply these insights as religious leaders to pastoral and teaching contexts. The course will survey the more generally acknowledged sources and major issues of Episcopal History. The course intentionally includes the generally acknowledged figures and sources in the western North American tradition, as well as those outside the traditional canon, such as women, people of color, people from the “majority” world, and the LGBTQi community. Audit fee: \$250. Register [here](#).



**The Rev.  
Dr. Sheryl  
Kujawa-Holbrook**



By Your Side trains volunteer community members to be a compassionate presence.

While we continue to develop teams of people to serve in hospital settings, since 2013 we've also trained residents and neighbors of our ECS communities to be even more present with one another. Residents have companioned their peers having difficulty with changes in their lives, with challenging diagnoses, sometimes with increasing frailty, and notably with adjusting to life in our Courtyards memory care. Staff have had the opportunity to deepen their understanding of what it means to really be “with” the residents they support, and residents, staff, and members of the larger communities all gain tools for taking care of themselves while being there for others.

The pandemic brought all of us to an acute awareness of life's fragility, realizing that what is most important is connection. As we move back into greater physical closeness, we take with us a renewed commitment to being with one another, no matter what.

Please join us in this exploration. Our next trainings will be hybrid (in-person and Zoom). There is no obligation to volunteer at the completion of the training.

Enroll in either of the next 10-hour, 5 week courses. The first will be at MonteCedro in Altadena from Jan. 24 to Feb. 21, Tuesday evenings, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The second will be at the Canterbury in Rancho Palos Verdes from March 7 to April 4, also Tuesday evenings, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

To enroll, email [sbrown@ecsbyyourside.org](mailto:sbrown@ecsbyyourside.org) or call 818.822.6044 for more information. Enrollment is limited to 30 people. A fee of \$70 (which includes all materials) is due by the second class. Scholarships are available. CE (12 hours) for nurses is available for an added \$30 under California Board of Registered Nursing Provider Number CEP 16239.

*Susan Brown is administrator of By Your Side, a ministry of Episcopal Communities & Services.*