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The Gathering

A Celebration of Tao and Defiant Women Everywhere

April 2008



Dear Tao and defiant women,

April is here and spring has, as the saying goes, "sprung". The end of the basketball and hockey seasons make way for the beginning of baseball and the American Idol finals. And the green – that wonderful green - amidst the flowers that are beginning to pop up in our world here in Connecticut .

This is a season of rebirth and renewal and the perfect time to introduce you to my good friend, Prill Boyle. Prill's book, *DEFYING GRAVITY*, is all about women who, in their middle years and older, have redefined themselves. They have brought about their own rebirth. And so, too, has Prill.

Keep reading, meet Prill and see all the other new and exciting information waiting for you in this edition of "The Gathering".

CJ

This month's Gathering features:

- The Wisdom of the month
- Meet Prill Boyle
- A listing of my April travels – Please come say hello when I'm in your part of the country.
- Three very special events
- A few final, thought provoking words

Spread the word – please remember to forward this issue of THE GATHERING to your friends!



APRIL'S WISDOM OF THE MONTH

“The best way to predict the future is to invent it.”
- Alan Kay

MEET PRILL BOYLE



Like the women she writes about in *Defying Gravity*, Prill Boyle is a late bloomer.

After graduating from college at 38, she became an English teacher. Then in January of 2000 she read an article in *The New York Times* about a 65-year old Kentucky woman named Wini Yunker who had waited 39 years to join the Peace Corps.

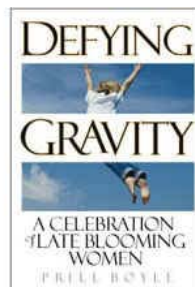
Inspired by this woman's persistence and courage, Prill decided to write a book about late bloomers--even though she had never written anything before.

At age 47, she left her teaching job to write full time.

Since publishing *Defying Gravity*, Prill has given over 80 talks, including at the United Nations and a series of speeches in Africa. She continues to be a voice of encouragement for all women through her speaking engagements and blogs. And, as if she isn't doing enough already, Prill is hard at work on her new book - a novel this time, set in part in Africa.

I am so proud to be a colleague and friend of Prill's and please to have been able to introduce her to you.

ABOUT PRILL'S BOOK DEFYING GRAVITY



Defying Gravity recounts the stories of 12 "ordinary" women who've done extraordinary things later in life. One woman didn't graduate from high school until she was 42 and is now a professor at an Ivy League university. Another was a shy housewife until she was 52 and is now the CEO of a multi-million dollar corporation. Connecting these first-person accounts together is the story of the author, herself a late bloomer. *Defying Gravity* is her first book. (To see photos of the women and read their bios, go to the "[WOMEN](#)" page on Prill's website)

Defying Gravity has been translated into Chinese and published in both Taiwan and China.

You can find *Defying Gravity* in bookstores nationwide in both hardcover and paperback and available at www.Amazon.com.

APRIL TRAVELS

Pennsylvania

FRIDAY and SATURDAY, APRIL 11 and 12 2008 - workshops at 8:30pm both nights
HAWLEY, PA

for more information please email cj at thepath@taogirl.com

THE LODGE AT WOODLOCH
workshops and book signings
109 River Birch Lane
www.thelodgeatwoodloch.com

Keep checking the Travels Around the Country page of this website for current updates.

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THREE VERY SPECIAL EVENTS

APRIL 5 2008

"Finding Your Voice on the Page"

A few spaces are still available for the "Finding Your Voice on the Page" creative writing workshop scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, April 5, at Café Atlantique, 33 River St., Milford.

Finding Your Voice on the Page class description:

Gain the inspiration, self-confidence and know-how needed to put pen to paper, or fingers to keyboard. Whether you've previously written or have always wanted to (but didn't know where to start!), this workshop is for you. By tapping into the observation, imagination and language skills you already have, we'll get you writing—and believing in your writing voice—through lectures, small-group discussions and hands-on exercises.

Another workshop, "Writing Your Family History," will run from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, June 7, also at Cafe Atlantique in Milford.

Writing Your Family History class description:

Get family stories—or the start of your own memoir—on paper, applying such writing elements as character, plot, description and dialogue. With the help of writing prompts, solid instruction and your memories, you'll write a chunk of your story during the workshop, and leave with the information and inspiration needed to continue at home.

In each workshop, you'll enjoy:

- * The chance to learn from a high-energy, award-winning writer
- * Exercises to get you writing
- * The chance to meet, and talk with, others interested in writing
- * Time for Q&A
- * A supportive, non-judgmental atmosphere
- * An overview of publishing options and opportunities

Led by award-winning writer and editor Cindy Wolfe Boynton, each workshop will be limited to 15 participants and feature a mix of lectures, writing exercises and small-group work. Publishing options and opportunities will also be discussed.

Fee for each workshop is \$99, which includes continental breakfast, choice of lunch, writing pad, pen and hand-outs. Register for both and receive a 10% discount. Advanced registration required.

For an electronic registration form or flier, visit www.cindywolfeboynton.com or call (203) 214-7554.

APRIL 26, 2008

Ignite Your Potential!

A Retreat for Decisions & Transitions - April 26th to 27th

Join Bloom's Barb Scala and Kari Henley of Gather Central as they present a phenomenal weekend dedicated to you. This retreat is the ultimate mini get-away with life transforming programs for revitalization and rejuvenation, especially if you are:

- At a turning point in your life?
- Questioning your career or relationships?
- Feel stuck and can't find the answers of what to do next?
- Want to gain life balance, clarity and a new direction?

On Saturday, pamper yourself at **Water's Edge Resort & Spa**, a classic, turn of the century New England shoreline estate with breathtaking views overlooking Long Island Sound with its own private beach. Spend the afternoon settling in and unwinding by taking a beach stroll, indulge in spa treatments to help center your body, or just simply enjoy the views and relax. At night, get to know one another and engage in a cutting edge program to help you set your intentions and move forward in your life. Spend Sunday, at a nearby horse ranch retreat, SomeDay Farm, complete with a labyrinth walk for emotional balance and a Native American sweat lodge to purify body and spirit.

This retreat includes:

- **Overnight stay at Water's Edge**
Amenities include use of the fitness center, indoor pool, private beach and The Shops at Water's Edge. Spa treatments booked separately through Water's Edge Spa for additional charge. Please call and schedule in advance for availability. Rooms with water views also subject to availability. Please request when booking. Dinner on your own on or off the premises or at the reserved retreat table at The Restaurant at Water's Edge (dinner not included in price).
- **Saturday evening group program**
Clarify your purpose, build camaraderie with other women who are also seeking inner guidance and create awareness to move forward in your life with vitality and power.
- **Full day Sunday program at SomeDay Farm**
Group program, labyrinth walk, sweat lodge ceremony, continental breakfast (at Water's Edge), lunch and light dinner fare (at SomeDay Farm).
- **Pre and post retreat coaching sessions**
One-on-one individual phone conversations with either Barb Scala or Kari Henley for additional personalized attention and support before you come to the retreat (to establish your starting point, intentions and transitions and fill you in on what you can expect) and once the retreat is over (how you can continue working on your life decisions and goals).

"You will leave with a new sense of center, peace and grounding to ignite your potential!" Barbara Scala and Kari Henley

Saturday to Sunday • April 26th- 27th
Water's Edge, Westbrook, CT

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL OFFER if you register by March 15th!
<http://bloomcoach.com/happenings.htm>

JUNE 13-15, 2008

~Healing through Connection~

~4th Annual Women's Retreat~

Incarnation Center, Ivoryton, Connecticut

June 13-15, 2008

Presented by Donna F. Ferber, LPC, LADC, psychotherapist and author of

"From Ex-Wife to Exceptional Life: A Woman's Journey through Divorce"

with Margaret Kirschner, Kripalu Yoga and Meditation Instructor.

Please join us for this very special two night retreat. Through connection and introspection, we will draw inspiration from Natasha Bedingfield's words

"The rest is still unwritten."

The Retreat will be held at the Incarnation Center in Ivoryton, CT. We have exclusive use of a lodge, complete with a fireplaced community room, deck and kitchen. Bedrooms are located off the main room. The Retreat will begin officially on Saturday morning at 7:30 AM, but you can arrive on Friday night between 6-9 PM for informal connection and relaxation. The retreat will end on Sunday morning at 10 AM.

Incarnation Retreat Center is set in a lovely wooded area of Ivoryton. The facility offers many wonderful areas for self reflection and relaxation including ponds, lakes, hiking trails and an animal farm.

The cost per person-double occupancy is \$285.00. This includes all facilities, activities and four meals. For a single room add \$75.00. (These are limited) There are ample community bathrooms. There is also a "commuter option". The charge is \$175.00 and includes four meals.



[For a printable registration form, click here](#)

Registration form (enclose with payment). **Space is limited!** Please register early!

Name.....

Address.....

Telephone.....

E-Mail.....

Please specify accommodation preference and if you prefer vegetarian meals. You may reserve your place with a deposit of 50%. Final payment is due by May 15th, 2008

Make checks payable to Donna F. Ferber, LPC, LADC, LLC

322 Main St. Farmington, CT 06032 860-678-8855. Or you can register and pay on-line at www.donnaferber.com. You will receive a list of things to bring with you approximately two weeks before the retreat.

A FEW FINAL WORDS

Just as Prill and the amazing women who she writes about did; just as we all are capable of doing; let us take this season and think about how we might invent our own futures.

Perhaps, over the long winter months, you had decided you wanted to sing, or write, or go back to school, or begin a business. It is all possible, you know - but only when you commit to taking that first step. Thinking and dreaming are quite fine. The leap from dreaming to reality is the exciting part.

It takes faith, initiative and, sometimes a bit of encouragement from supportive friends and family members. Share your dreams with them and let them help show you the way to success.

Share your dreams with the Tao and defiant women right here - email and lets start a dialogue thepath@taogirl.com

Here's to spring and all the good and exciting things to come!

CJ

Send me an email and let me know who you'd like to see featured in an upcoming edition of The Gathering.

thepath@taogirl.com

CJ
