

PARKER J. PALMER & CARRIE NEWCOMER

Two extraordinary voices hosting a new kind of political conversation



Carrie Newcomer and Parker J. Palmer have come together to create an evening concert and day-long retreat experience. Both events are designed to encourage a new kind of political conversation—one that bridges our divides and helps restore civic community. The concert and retreat can be scheduled separately or in combination. In a time when it is easy to feel overwhelmed, discouraged or cynical, Carrie and Parker offer a journey of mind and spirit characterized by thoughtfulness, realism, vulnerability, good humor and hope.

THE CONCERT

Healing the Heart of Democracy -A Gathering of Spirits for the Common Good

An evening of song and spoken word that invites us to imagine and live into “a politics worthy of the human spirit.”

Can we set free what Lincoln called “the better angels of our nature?” In an era of “the politics of rage,” can we seek the common good across all that might divide us, coming together as friends, neighbors, citizens, and members of a larger community upon which we all depend? Join Carrie Newcomer and Parker J. Palmer in an evening of song and spoken word as they take us on a three-stage journey of hope:

- Celebrating “We the People”
- Exploring the power of “The Broken-Open Heart”
- Inviting us to reflect on “How Then Shall We Live?”

THE DAY-LONG RETREAT

Democracy from the Inside Out- A Circle of Trust Retreat

In this day-long experience, 30 to 40 people will examine their own citizen “habits of the heart,” guided by themes from Parker J. Palmer’s new book, *Healing the Heart of Democracy*, and by “Circle of Trust” ground rules that create a safe space for exploring challenging topics.

Facilitated by Parker Palmer and Carrie Newcomer, participants will spend time in large-group exploration of meaningful questions, in silent and solitary reflection and journaling, and in small-group dialogues rooted in personal storytelling. Toward the end of the retreat, participants will be invited to imagine how they might take the insights of the day back to the familiar settings of their own lives: families, neighborhoods, schools, religious communities, the workplace, and the larger reaches of public life.



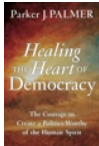
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Biographies

Parker J. Palmer

is a writer, teacher and activist whose work speaks deeply to people in many walks of life. He is founder and senior partner of the Center for Courage & Renewal. His books include *A Hidden Wholeness*, *Let Your Life Speak*, *The Courage to Teach*, *The Active Life*, *To Know as We Are Known*, *The Company of Strangers*, *The Promise of Paradox*, *The Heart of Higher Education* and, most recently, *Healing the Heart of Democracy*. He holds a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of California at Berkeley, as well as ten honorary doctorates, two Distinguished Achievement Awards from the National Educational Press Association, an Award of Excellence from the Associated Church Press, and major grants from the Danforth, Lilly, and Fetzer foundations. In 1998, the Leadership Project, a national survey of 10,000 educators, named him one of the thirty most influential senior leaders in higher education and one of the ten key agenda-setters of the past decade. In 2010, he was given the William Rainey Harper Award (previously won by Margaret Mead, Marshall McLuhan, Paulo Freire, and Elie Wiesel). *Living the Questions: Essays Inspired by the Work and Life of Parker J. Palmer*, was published in 2005. He lives in Madison, Wisconsin.



*“We have been trying to bridge the great divides in this great country for a long time. In *Healing the Heart of Democracy*, Parker J. Palmer urges us to ‘keep on walking, keep on talking’—just as we did in the civil rights movement—until we cross those bridges together.” —Congressman John Lewis, recipient of the Martin Luther King Jr. Nonviolent Peace Prize and the Presidential Medal of Freedom*

Carrie Newcomer

has been described as a “prairie mystic” by the *Boston Globe*, as one who “asks all the right questions” by *Rolling Stone*, as “a voice as rich as Godiva chocolate” by *The Austin Statesman*. One of the definitive voices of the heartland and progressive spirituality, Carrie recently released her twelfth album on Rounder Records, *Before and After* (featuring Mary Chapin Carpenter on the title track). She has toured with Alison Krauss and Nickel Creek recorded Newcomer’s song “I Should’ve Known Better,” on their Grammy-winning album, *This Side*. Carrie facilitates workshops internationally on the topics of writing and spirituality, vocation and activism, at colleges, universities, spiritual communities, and retreat centers. In the fall of 2010, she served as a cultural ambassador to India, invited by the American Embassy in India to tour the country performing for Indian audiences and working with community service organizations. In October 2011, Carrie will release *Everything is Everywhere*, a collaboration with Amjad Ali Khan by *The Times of India*. USA sales will benefit The Interfaith Hunger Initiative.

*“To my mind—a writer’s mind—Carrie Newcomer is much more than a musician. She’s a poet, storyteller, snake-charmer, good neighbor, friend and lover, minister of the wide-eyed gospel of hope and grace.” — Barbara Kingsolver, author of *The Poisonwood Bible*, *The Bean Trees*, and *Animal, Vegetable*,*