

# Planning a Retreat is No Small Feat

IF A SPIRITUAL RETREAT at Bon Secours Spiritual Center is lauded as a success, the credit typically goes to the presenter and the participants. But there's another invisible success – the planning that takes place behind the scenes. Leading that planning effort, in cooperation with Executive Director Thomas E. Little, is Lynn Lieberman, manager of spiritual development and programs.



Lynn has expanded the repertoire of offerings this year, adding a number of artistic events such as Soul Collage and Music at Marriottsville to the programming mix. She draws ideas from listening to participants. “When people tell you what they want, you build it, and you see it become successful, it’s exciting,” she says.

“Event planning is all about knowing the people you serve and knowing your how you can serve them best” she says. “It’s understanding what it takes to make a retreat successful.”

After being in the job for more than a year – she started in June 2008 – Lynn says she has learned to anticipate. “I can see where there is going to be an issue, and I try to take care of it before it becomes a problem.” Some she has learned by experience, such as not booking a silent retreat when a “more expressive” group is also on site.

“You’ve got to be on your toes to adjust when the unexpected happens,” Lynn says. “I am constantly thinking, ‘What can I do to accommodate our guests?’”

Lynn did not come to Bon Secours looking for a career. In fact, she first stopped by to see about a volunteer placement for her daughter, who was being confirmed that year. But after a visit and a follow-up visit to the website, she decided to volunteer herself. She served on a committee planning the Women’s Wellness Retreat. By the time the program ran, Lynn was thinking about looking for a new job. Word traveled fast; 24 hours later, she was hired to manage the spiritual programs.

“I like my job a lot – especially when you see people after they’ve had a great retreat and a relaxing week,” she says. “And once a week, someone says to me, ‘Thank you for this retreat,’ or ‘Thank you for offering this wonderful place to us.’ It’s not often these days that you can have a job where people thank you for what you do.” ♡

## Retreat for One

You need not be part of a group to experience a retreat at the Bon Secours Spiritual Center. Whether you want to come for a weekend, a day, or an afternoon, the Center welcomes individuals who wish to experience a personal retreat or simply want to spend a day or afternoon with us. Spiritual direction is available on request.

To make arrangements, contact the Center at 410.442.1320 or email us at [bssc@bshsi.org](mailto:bssc@bshsi.org). ♡