

## The Blessed Marriage Project

John Williams, Josie Hauer and Kate Pugnoli  
February 20, 2015

The Blessed Marriage Project (BMP) is an independently funded, grassroots initiative by Blessed couples for Blessed couples. It seeks to provide marriage enrichment to enhance relationship satisfaction, resiliency and vitality among Unificationist spouses at any stage of marriage.

The primary offering of the BMP is its *Energize! Couples Retreats*, which are meant to allow Blessed spouses to experience God's love through a well-deserved mini-vacation, learn useful information and tools, bond and enjoy each other as spouses, and to connect with other Blessed couples.

The purpose of the BMP includes training young Unificationists as retreat staff to learn to carry out such programming in the future. In addition, to extend the benefit of the weekend retreats, the Project provides for training volunteers to facilitate Small Groups and Seminars among past participants and other married couples in their local church communities.

The BMP donor couple generously gave \$100,000 to launch the project in 2014. The retreats are organized and led by professional marriage educators John R. Williams, MFT, and Josie Hauer, EdD, and three young couples—Mari and Richard Curry, Crescentia and Leighton DeGoede, Christof and Lena Yasutake. Kate Pugnoli serves as community liaison, and Kenny Wolfenberger helped launch the Project. The team is looking for other young people with a passion to support couples to *join our staff*.

The Blessed Marriage Project is offering several Energize! Couples Retreat throughout 2015. The number of retreats depends upon what hosting communities contribute in terms of funding and local staff, and how their open dates coincide with the availability of BMP staff. Several church communities have already expressed interest in hosting an Energize! retreat in the near future.

The next *ENERGIZE! Retreat* is in the Seattle area April 10-12, 2015

***Early Bird Rate of \$349 until Sunday February 22nd! (Tomorrow)***



<http://www.blessedmarriageproject.org>



John began his fascination with Unificationist and scientific perspectives on love, marriage and sexuality at the age of 20, in reaction to his own parents' divorce, and has been giving presentations on these topics since then. He helped develop the American church's marriage preparation and enrichment curriculum, and has taught related courses at the Unification Theological Seminary and the University of Bridgeport. John has also developed teaching materials on the Unification Principle and he is the co-author of *Educating for True Love: Explaining Sun Myung Moon's Teaching on Morality, Family and Society*. As the director of the Blessed Marriage Project, he seeks to not only raise up a new generation of relationship educators, but to also help make marriage education a normal part of our church culture at every stage of life. With the support of his wife, Cathy, whom he wed in 1982, he also hopes to develop a uniquely Unificationist relationship education curriculum. John has a Masters in Marriage and Family Counseling from Liberty University, and a Masters in Religious Education from the Seminary, and is a license-eligible Mental Health Counselor. He presently works with offenders, and enjoys gardening, fiber crafts, and collecting music in his spare time. John and Cathy live in Clifton, New Jersey. They have an adult Blessed daughter.



Josie has been integrating Unification teachings on love, spirituality, relationships and marriage in her personal and professional life since the early 1980s. She currently works for the Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families as a Family and Marriage Specialist and teaches graduate courses in educational psychology and research part-time. Josie has been a mentor, counselor and instructor of marriage and relationship education for over two decades and has developed and led seminars, workshops and online programs for faith-based and professional audiences. Married to Konrad Hauer in 1982 and residing in Fairfield, Connecticut, she enjoys the depth and breadth of life's journey as wife, mother of three sons, and lover of equestrian arts and aficionado of fine coffee. Josie's role in the Blessed Marriage Project is trainer, presenter and coordinator. She hopes to pass on key skills and knowledge to younger couples seeking to enhance their lives and help others. Her academic degrees include: BA in Philosophy of Religion, Boston University; Masters of Theology, Harvard Divinity School; Masters of Religious Education, Unification Theological Seminary; and, Doctor of Educational Leadership from the University of Bridgeport, 2001.



Kate serves as the BMP Community Liaison. A Unificationist since 1978, she graduated from the University of Arizona with a degree in English literature. She also has a Masters of Religious Education from the Unification Theological Seminary where she took a keen interest in counseling courses and their practical application to life. A former journalist, Kate is also a certified Montessori teacher and has been an educator for the past 17 years teaching a diversity of age groups and subject areas. Additionally, she has participated in and facilitated sharing groups in her local Tucson, Arizona, church community including a couple's support group. The proud mother of two sons, she is happily married to Simon Herbert, who works in historic preservation. Her hope in working with the BMP is to connect with communities across the country in order to make the Energize! Couples Retreat available to as many couples as possible. When not moving the retreats forward, Kate can be found indulging her passion for the marine environment through diving, snorkeling and kayaking in any salty sea she happens to be near.