

AFTERCARE INTERNET GROUP  
9-2020

Dear Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Participant,

I wish you healing and peace in Christ's forgiveness and mercy. I attended my Rachel's Vineyard Retreat in April 2004 in Oregon. I live in a small rural area and I live alone. My retreat leader was a bit concerned about my post retreat healing process given my relative isolation. City dwellers can isolate, too. That seems to be one of our shared post-abortion traits, along with our denial and silence. So, after your retreat, please don't isolate.

Until just this year (2020), we had a private Yahoo group called Companions on the Journey (COTJ). Yahoo has discontinued the features of the Yahoo Groups, and it has become extremely difficult to maintain the group. We have closed down the Yahoo group. Instead we have created a private, closed group on Google. The Google group is up and running. We are still pretty new at it and it isn't yet as active as the old group.

There are 2 ways of joining the new google Companions on the Journey group.

1. Send your email address to one of the 3 moderators (listed below). Please include where and when you attended your retreat and who the facilitator was. You will then receive an invitation from the group to join it. You can click on the button "Accept this invitation" and once you do, you'll be a member of the group. (As soon as you are a member there, you can start posting and emailing through the group.)

2. You can also join the group by clicking this link:

<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!pendingmember/rvcotj/apply> and following the steps listed there.

The 3 moderators are:

Leslie Graves -- [lbgraves@aol.com](mailto:lbgraves@aol.com)

Susan Swander -- [sueswander@gmail.com](mailto:sueswander@gmail.com)

Patricia Pulliam -- [patpulliamjmj@gmail.com](mailto:patpulliamjmj@gmail.com)

Being part of this kind of a group has been a blessing and a joy for me. It has provided me with an instant "family" of understanding, loving, generous people. The COTJ group is specifically (and only) for post abortion, post retreat people. We understand each other and help each other with our respective journeys. The group has been a mix of many faith traditions: Catholic, Protestant, Nondenominational, and those without a particular faith community - making it truly an Interdenominational group. We have continued these parameters in the new Google format.

We invite you to join us for friendship, compassion and understanding.

May you find peace,

Susan Swander

Oregon Rachel's Vineyard

(past retreatant & current Oregon team member)