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Continued frompage 1

person she meets.

To learn more about Marissa's work in the world see: https://marissametelica.com/ or visit Dreamyard Art Center at www.dreamyard.com.

Inclusion, discernment, and advocacy are the deep values held by Justine Johnson and describe her orientation working toward a world where everyone thrives. She has devoted years of her life to working with those who have experienced sexual and domestic violence, mentoring young women, working for land justice, and crossing cultural boundaries.

Two years ago this month the Governing Board announced her acceptance into this new position and she has been a gift to all of us in the role of Associate Director. At that time not a soul could have predicted what was to follow, yet Justine's answer to her interview question, "Tell us how you function in a crisis?" has served Kirkridge well on more than one occasion. With the physical closure of Kirkridge, Justine's grace, competency and tenacity opened new doors for programming on line that enabled us to broaden and deepen our community. Justine has been the force behind the scenes technically guiding participants with patience and grace. How did develop her wide ranging talents and hone her gifts? Some of the answer come in learning a bit about her.

Justine came to Kirkridge following a year of working in Viet Nam where she served as the International Collaboration Officer with Tra Vinh University. Prior to her experience in Viet Nam, Justine worked at the University of Scranton directing both the Cross Cultural Centers and the Jane Kopas Women's Center. Her years of work dedicated to full inclusion, gender equity, and accessibility are all gifts she offers to the Kirkridge community.

When away from her desk, Justine can be found taking a long deep breath walking in nature, curled up with a good book, or out in her greenhouse garden nurturing this summer's crop.

Together, we are Kirkridge.

The stories of both these future and present women, Justine and Marissa, cannot be told without honoring former board member Patti Smith. Patti passed away last June from a voracious cancer. She was determined in the search for new leaders at Kirkridge so that we could look to future generations. Whether guiding us up the trail on the mountain or sharing her wisdom with the board, Patti led us in the right direction. Thank you Justine and Marissa for saying 'yes" to the future of Kirkridge.

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