

## Sandy Govan

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The Wintergreen spirit as I see it is tri-fold. First and foremost, it is the calming and restorative spirit of the mountain—of the journey up the mountain—complete with the caring, sharing, teasing, encouraging nurture of a supportive and collaborative spirit once we are all assembled and in place. Secondly, the spirit is one of giving thoughtful constructive support to each other, and to the new women invited to participate with us in a given year, whether the work we share at Wintergreen is a scholarly or creative/artistic endeavor. And third, the spirit involves a love of great food—which we prepare—and the love of enjoying to the fullest a very communal card game, Bid Whist. Said game typically comes with teasing and lots of “woofing.” It is accompanied by boasting and braggadocio, and then of course the inevitable celebration of the victorious.

I am probably the least technologically astute among us and quite likely the least patient. My gifts are a kind of “shoot from the lip” directness or bluntness combined with helpfulness, humor, and whimsy. As a Leo (Zodiac fire sign), I possess an ability to move business and folk “right along” when things go off track. I can recognize other’s difficulties with moving right along efficiently and I do have an ability to either adjust to those issues or remove my sometimes impatient self from the situation. As I used to say following tedious English Department meetings, patience is a virtue I lack.