



June Gumz, editor

I asked the important question – “do I feel a spark of joy from this?”

UNCONSCIOUS CLUTTER BY JUNE GUMZ

One day I was eager to watch something on Netflix that wasn't silly, violent or mushy. Since I had already watched all of the British Baking Shows (many of them twice) I opted for one called Tidying Up. I clicked on it mainly to see who could make tidying up entertaining. To my surprise a delicate little Japanese woman pulled it off. She assisted people in decluttering their homes and garages with a gentle approach that didn't rely on judging and ridicule. Her technique involved having her clients take each piece of clothing or item in their hands and ask themselves if it brought joy into their lives. If not, they were to give it away or sell the item. The process took time but at the conclusion people were less stressed and more comfortable with their surroundings. Things were organized by categories and there was room for everything. Fine for them I thought, but too much trouble for me.

Later that week, I opened my entry way closet to get a coat and what I saw horrified me. My consciousness had obviously been raised by Tidying Up because I saw clutter, grimy shoes I hadn't worn in years and pieces of games that hadn't been played in over a decade. Feeling a little silly, I held each coat, game and shoe in that closet and asked the important question – “do I feel a spark of joy from this”? Two garbage bags later I have an orderly, clean, almost spacious entry closet.

Drawers became my next target. In the kitchen I had two junk drawers which needed intensive organization. And in the living room four drawers were calling me. Now I know where all my emergency items are (flashlights, candles, batteries and matches). If I need tape, stickers, or wrapping paper I can go directly to the appropriate drawer. I have lived in this house for forty years and never had just one place for like items. The garage is next. I am half way there but it has been too cold to finish that project.

Our lives can be like cluttered closets. Friendships, organizations and beliefs which no longer serve us can block our view of wholeness and joy. I plan to treat myself to a life of rewarding friendships, organizations which support my ideals and experience the joy of releasing the chaff of beliefs which are archaic and unproductive. That way I will know the joy of a tidy life. Thank you, Netflix.

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MESSAGE BY REV. LARRY KING

VALUES-BASED LEADERSHIP



Rev. Larry King

*We just keep moving forward,
checking our alignment with
Purpose, Vision, Mission and
Values.*

We recently completed a values assessment exercise with the congregation. Given a list of 100 common values, we asked everyone to “circle the top five ideal or desired values that should guide our Spiritual Center.” About a third of our regular Sunday attendance completed the survey (that’s a great response rate for a small community). Here are our top three values:

SPIRITUALITY
EDUCATION
LOVE/LOVING RELATIONSHIPS

How do we use this information? It’s helpful in a number of ways. First of all, it shows us what people think is important. You can bet that we will focus on these three themes as we plan Sunday messages, educational programs, workshops and events.

It also helps with day-to-day decisions. Our Values, in conjunction with our Purpose, Vision and Mission, represent the compass by which we move forward as an organization. Our Board of Directors must use these guiding values as we make leadership decisions.

OUR PURPOSE...

is to open hearts and awaken humanity to its spiritual magnificence.

OUR VISION...

is a world that works for everyone!

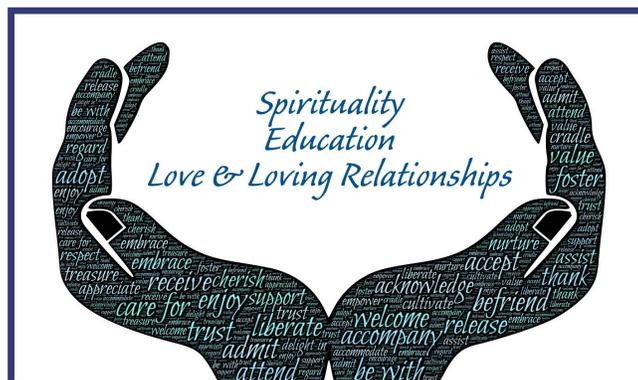
OUR MISSION...

is to provide spiritual tools, practices and an environment for transformation.

Our contract with Spirit is to keep these high intentions in our hearts and minds. We hold the vision of how we are to help humanity unfold. Then we use our values to ensure the steps we take toward these intentions are in alignment.

Spirit’s part of the contract is to provide the “how.” We can let go of figuring out how success in these endeavors will be achieved—that’s God’s job.

We just keep moving forward, checking our alignment with Purpose, Vision, Mission and Values.



Larry

GET TO KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY

SIMONE MATTEUCCI BY JUNE GUMZ



Simone Matteucci

Before they entered PCSL for the first time, they already loved his messages.

Simone Matteucci and Doreen moved from Santa Rosa, California to Battle Ground, Washington. They belonged to CSL in Santa Rosa which has a very large congregation. Before they moved, they googled CSL centers in Washington and Oregon and were directed to Rev. Larry's podcasts. Before they entered PCSL for the first time, they already loved his messages. The welcoming greeters immediately won them over. They were home.

Spiritual growth has been a major theme in Simone's life. She was a practicing Catholic into her forties and emulated her mother who prayed and said the rosary daily. "It was just something you did-you prayed." In her forties she realized she was considered a sinner because of her lesbianism. It spurred her on to check out new thought beliefs which began to make sense to her. "My spiritual growth took many turns, but it was always the theme of my life." Simone continues to develop a deeper spiritual life as the most recent practitioner graduate at PCSL.

A perfect day for Simone includes a visit to the beach with a blanket and a good book; Jones Beach with its white sands and Pebble Beach and its sand dunes are special to her. A few years ago, she visited Tuscany, Italy. Simone walked where her father walked as a boy in the town of Lucca with its wall surrounding the village. She felt more connected to her dad after that.

Simone's parents were devoted to each other for over fifty years. Her father was the family hero who worked during the depression and supported his immediate family, his wife's family and his family. She sincerely believes that wherever family is, there is home. "My four daughters are priceless. They are each different and I value their uniqueness." As the matriarch of her family, Simone thrives on the energy of family gatherings.

Simone is the organizer of a lesbian social service group called L-Connection, which is 150 strong. The group wants to increase lesbian visibility in the Vancouver, Washington area. Triple Point, which is an organization for LGBT youth, receives 10% of L-Connection's contributions. The group provides community and social gatherings for lesbians, and for many, the organization is family. For Simone, it is a spiritual venture.



Sara Johnson

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A BOARD MEMBER

BY SARA JOHNSON

For the past five and a half years I have been privileged to be a member of the Board of Directors/Core Council. The experience has given me a greater appreciation of our center.

The main goal of the Board is to allow Spirit to work through us for the best and highest good of the center and its community. We make sure that all the financials including budgets, bills, building maintenance and committees are supported.

Acting through love and prayer, the Board allows Divine Guidance to direct us to make decisions which are best for PCSL and helps us thrive as a community and individuals.

As a member, and president of this Board, I have grown spiritually and have gained the confidence of a leader. Thank you for giving me this wonderful experience.

Supporting Our Center

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

Hospitality is a very important volunteer service area at PCS. When being present to prepare refreshments to share with other members, we illustrate through the Principle of Reciprocity (giving and receiving) demonstration of the action of Love. We also make connections with individuals as we visit and get to know them. When we are nourished physically, we can think clearly and be even more ready for the enriching spiritual experience we have come to receive.

I am pleased to honor Sharon Perigo as the Volunteer Spotlight for March. She has steadfastly served at the 11:00 service monthly for many years. She radiates joy from her activity and is so enthusiastic in supporting her spiritual home in many ways. I love and appreciate Sharon for all she does and always being ready to help.

Thank you, Sharon!



Sharon Perigo



*Opening Hearts
Igniting Minds
Making a Difference*

JOIN US AT THE CENTER

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Spiritual Living**

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COMING EVENTS • GET THE LATEST UPDATES ONLINE: cslportland.org/events-calendar

MARCH

Sunday, March 10th, 12:30 PM
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
Everyone is welcome to join us for the annual business meeting. Members will sign-in for voting on a slate of Board candidates. We will also present a full financial report and an update on our programs.

Saturday, March 16th, 9:00 AM—1:00 PM
SETTING INTENTIONS THROUGH SOUL-COLLAGÉ*
Presented by Erin (Rhonda) Hurt

Have you ever wondered if there is a spiritual practice which can combine your creativity and deep inner wisdom? SoulCollage® is that practice. In this workshop, participants learn how to combine images, intuition and imagination to explore and bring out the deep beliefs and values held around the subject of setting intentions. \$45.00 per person (\$35.00 for connection circles members). \$5.00 materials fee also due on day of workshop.

Saturday, March 30th, 9:00 AM—3:00 PM
THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS
Presented by Marilyn Sprague, RScP and Kathy Batten, RScP

Free your life and open your heart. This workshop will teach you how to: Release hurts (big or small) in an instant, release victimhood and embrace personal peace, free your heart to love unconditionally and free your mind to embrace unlimited power. \$75.00 per person (\$60.00 for connection circles members).

APRIL

Saturday, April 6th, 9:00 AM—12:30 PM
4 WAYS OF EMBODYMENT
Presented by Kathryn Richer, RScP

This workshop offers 4 practices to deepen your respect for and connection to your sacred vessel; It is for anyone who desires a closer, more loving relationship with their star-created body. This particular day will have a special bonus #5, too! \$45.00 per person (\$35.00 for connection circles members).

Friday, April 19th, 7:00 PM
SURRENDER INTO THE MYSTERY
Join the Center's Practitioners for a service of music, ceremony, surrender and release. Enjoy our "Good Friday" service as the culmination of our Winter Connection Circles and lead up to Easter.

MAY

May 23rd—26th, 2019
THE CREATRIX!
At Still Meadow Retreat Center, Damascus, OR

Join us for our 15th annual women's retreat. Enjoy the company of like-minded women for this transformative weekend. More information and registration materials available in the back of the sanctuary.



All activities held at the Center unless otherwise noted. MORE INFO at cslportland.org/events-calendar.

WAKE UP AND MAKE YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE

BY PATRICIA PALIN

Many of us have been given a wake-up call and we are on the journey of realizing our full potential of spiritual maturity.

Once we have begun to awaken spiritually, we seek to know the Truth.

We are hungry for the bread of life...We are in a state of bliss and we draw others of a like mind into our positive vibration to share our joy...to heal with us.

Upon our glorious spiritual awakening, we no longer have to 'wander in the wilderness,' spiritually unconscious.

As we become acclimated to the light we are to follow, we are ever amazed at the serendipitous consequences that are forever crossing our path. There are showers of blessings and they come in so many different forms.

As we attain an attitude of gratitude, we become more aware of our spirit guides. They draw close to us and become intertwined with our love vibration.

What a grand awakening to be fully awake and make all of your dreams come true.