



FEBRUARY 2020

COMMUNITY NEWS

“Let’s seek clarity in every activity”

PROMISE FOR CHANGE

by June Gumz

For a week I have been trying to come up with something original for the newsletter. Unfortunately, my little dog was very ill and his problems multiplied until he needed to be euthanized. He was a delightful little Bichon who was fond of mature ladies’ laps. Since I have one of those, we bonded from the beginning.

The new year has real promise for change; some of it good and some of it frightening. On the plus side are the upcoming elections, rallies for climate change, gun control, immigrants and refugees. On the negative side are the prospect of war, congressional dysfunction and the difficulty we face discerning facts from fiction.

As individuals, we have options. We can give up, wallow in the swamp or decide to use what talents we have to improve our prospects this year. If we choose the latter, we can attend rallies, financially support the candidates of our choice and smile more often. This is a time to use our abilities for good.

Are you an organizer, writer, speaker or follow-thru person? If so, our city, state and country need your skills now. People are hungry, cold, sick and living on the street. Needs can be met if we join with others to improve conditions for everyone. It is worth the effort.

20/20 is the term for perfect vision. Let’s seek clarity in every activity and bring to fruition the promise of change locally and nationwide. 2020 can be magnificent if we give it a generous boost of confidence and action.



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Rev. Larry King

20/20 SPIRITUAL VISION BY REV. LARRY KING

Each year our worldwide parent organization, Centers for Spiritual Living, announces its annual theme. This year it's "20/20 Spiritual Vision," and I couldn't be more pleased. It's a theme that the world needs right now.

We spent 2019 learning spiritual tools to move forward. We focused for several months on using the Divine Creative Process and learning how our thoughts become things. We also narrowed our creative focus into specific months dedicated to accepting more prosperity, power and vulnerability into our lives. Using the tools of prayer, affirmation, forgiveness and faith, we explored powerful spiritual techniques that can be used to change our lives.

But to what end?

Our world is a confusing place right now. We're on the brink of creating irreversible climate change. We're strongly divided on how to approach social and political change. We reel from violence in our schools, in our streets, even in our places of worship. It can feel like a fearful time; a time to retreat.

But what if we need a clearer vision? Now that we've learned the tools for spiritual progress, what if we just

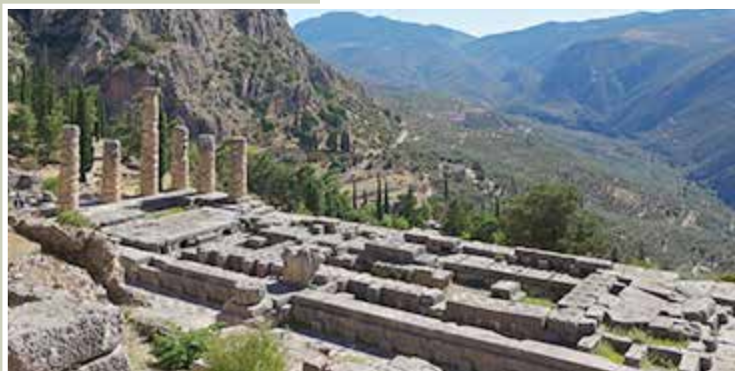
need spiritual direction?

In ancient times, people would make a pilgrimage to one of the great spiritual centers. Delphi, for instance, was an important Greek religious sanctuary where people would come for guidance. The "Oracle of Delphi" had the capability to give divine guidance.

Here's what I believe: Each of us has the power to look inward to seek and receive Divine Wisdom. Sometimes it takes the form of our intuition guiding us to make better decisions. Sometimes it is the illumination that can come from meditation or contemplation. It even shows up in our treasure maps and our visioning sessions.

Whatever form it may take, we have access to the wisdom and clarity of Spirit itself. Through our connection to the Divine we can begin to see more clearly what's ahead for us, for our communities and for the planet. We can use this clarity to make better choices—to give the Divine Creative Process a better goal. We can begin to use all the tools we learned in 2019 for better effect.

Join me in making 2020 the year of "Spiritual Vision." We'll have a variety of talks, classes workshops and events directed in helping you find this inner guidance and greater direction. When we have a clear vision—we'll move forward in confidence and authentic power.

*Delphi-Temple of Apollo*

MY PERSONAL “GAME-CHANGER”

BY MARILYN SPRAGUE, RSCP



Marilyn Sprague

Discovering Science of Mind, becoming a Licensed Practitioner at Portland Center for Spiritual Living, enrolling in Holme’s Institute’s Masters in Consciousness Studies/Certificate in Ministerial Education is a demonstration in allowing Divine Guidance to inspire action.

My first conscious memory of being introduced to Science of Mind was through a copy of the Science of Mind Magazine via a colleague. It was in 2007, I was living in North Carolina, my twenty-one year marriage was crumbling and I knew I was in the midst of a great change.

Divine Guidance led me to the Portland/Vancouver Metro area. I arrived in June of 2010, walked into PCSL the second Sunday after I arrived and knew I had found my spiritual home. A seed was growing from a year long spiritual program prior to my move.

My personal ‘game changer’ came the first hour of the first night of Foundations class taught by Rev. Larry. The instant I saw the Immanent God Diagram and listened to his description of Oneness, I knew I was seeing and hearing Truth. After Foundations I embraced the certified courses in preparation for the Practitioner Studies Program. Four years after the inspiration of Foundation class I became Licensed Spiritual Practitioner. A healthy plant was being nurtured by strong faith and acceptance of greater Good.

“Consciousness, Marilyn, it’s all Consciousness.” Reverend Lynn Johnson, my Practitioner 11 Studies mentor, heavily influenced my decision to enroll in Holme’s Institute after two years of service as a Licensed Spiritual Practitioner. The past four years of studying the Holme’s Institute education program have deepened my understanding of the Principle of Oneness, consciousness and ways to bring Science of Mind Truth Principles to daily living.

As I stand on the precipice of becoming a CSL Licentiate Minister, ten years since I discovered PCSL as my spiritual home, I am embracing the spiritual practice of visioning – a process that helps me listen to the voice of Spirit, which is guiding and directing me in the right next steps. Once again, I am standing in the unknown, knowing this is a journey of surrender, faith and accepting the gift of Life – surrendering life as I know it, faith that I am protected and supported and accepting greater Good. I am opening my heart and mind to a new frontier – to the call of serving as a Truth Teacher wherever Spirit leads me. The plant is thriving.

2020 CREATRIX WOMEN'S RETREAT

The Creatrix Planning Team is excited about our 2020 Creatrix Women's Retreat! The retreat will be held June 4 – 7, 2020 at Still Meadow in Damascus, OR. The planning team this year includes Nancy Ashley, RScP, Kate Barrett, RScP, Marci Beck, RScP, Ann Forest Burns, RScP, Kathryn Richer, RScP and LaRhonda Steele. All women 18 and older are invited to attend a Creatrix Retreat Preview, which will be at 12:30 pm on February 2, 2020, in the sanctuary, where everyone can get a little taste of what the retreat is like.

Any woman who has been to past retreats will tell you that they left the retreat with a renewed outlook on life.

For more information, contact any of the planning team members.



Women's Retreat 2018



STUDENT – TEACHER

By Patricia Palin

We have been told, when the student is ready, the teacher will appear.

However, the teacher could not exist as such if the student did not appear.

Student and teacher become a unit when they bond together.

A partnership forms in the teaching and the learning.

A chain of knowledge is created as they forge their thoughts and questions.

When the student is ready and overflowing with what has been gleaned

From the teacher, then the student shall become a teacher to someone else.

The chain of knowledge adds another link as it continues to grow.

The teacher is ready and so glad you are here.

*Opening Hearts
Igniting Minds
Making a Difference*

JOIN US AT THE CENTER

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NEWSLETTER CREDITS

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COMING EVENTS

Sunday, January 26th, 12:30 PM
POTLUCK AND TOWN HALL MEETING

We're having an informal potluck and Town Hall meeting upstairs at the Center after the Celebration Service. Join us about 12:30 to share food and get an update on the Center's business and plans.

Throughout January
FOOD BANK COLLECTION

We're collecting food for the Oregon Food Bank to distribute to local families in need. Please bring your non-perishable food items. Most wanted foods include those high in protein, such as canned meats, fish and canned or dried beans. Foods rich in nutrients such as canned fruits and vegetables are also desired. You can also donate cash online and have the Food Bank do the shopping for you!

Sunday, February 2nd, 12:30 PM
THE CREATRIX (PREVIEW)

Women 18 and older are invited to attend a free "preview" of our annual women's retreat, "The Creatrix." Join us for an afternoon of music, spiritual practice and connection—a taste of what's to come at the full retreat June 4-7 at the Still Meadow Retreat Center.



**WINTER 2020 CONNECTION CIRCLES
START MARCH 1ST**

Connection Circles are a safe place for discussion and group spiritual practice in the warmth of members' homes. You'll expand upon the Sunday message and connect with like-minded people in a variety of times and locations. Sign-up sheets will be available soon. We will also be hosting a "MeetUp" Connection Circle on Sundays after the Celebration Service and a Virtual/Online Connection Circle via Zoom. Contact Marilyn Sprague, RScP for more information 360-931-0671.

LaRhonda Steele & Karen Haberman Trusty



LaRhonda Steele and Karen Haberman Trusty in concert and spoken word,
Sunday, February 16th at 1:30 pm, at Portland Center for Spiritual Living.

They explore the Southern Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's and its relevance to today's "Black Lives Matter". The narrative is written by Karen Trusty whose story is woven into a narrative which focuses on the struggles of local Black communities in Mississippi. LaRhonda Steele, an award-winning blues and gospel vocalist sings modern renditions of civil rights songs most of which were originally Negro spirituals. "These songs are the Battle Cry against the oppression of my people. I'm deeply moved by this project and its relevance."

Join us at 1:30, Sunday, February 16th, for this wonderful concert and narrative. Suggested donation of \$10 but no one will be turned away.