



JUNE 1, 2021
VOLUME 12 | ISSUE 3



Words Matter

by June Gumz, newsletter editor

The arborist and the sliding glass door installers came at the same time on the same day. The noise of the saws chopping away at my trees and door openings was chaotic. I am not 'into' chaos but I am a realist and know that noise is a necessary part of both processes.

When the arborist gave me an estimate last month for the work on my Japanese maple and birch, he was enthusiastic about saving both trees. The birch had several very large branches hanging down from the ice storm in February and I considered having it removed. As he stood in my backyard, he seemed to be envisioning a new better birch. As he moved and gestured with his hands and tilted head, he used the words Habitat tree. Squirrels, doves, and sparrows were occupying the tree at the time so I thought habitat meant saving the tree for them. Visions of a happy tree ran through my head.

I left the backyard and was concentrating on the sliding glass doors while the Japanese maple was being reshaped. I was very pleased about how it looked. The doors were progressing on schedule with Boris in charge. He and his partner worked methodically as they talked in Russian. When they finished, I went through the doors and almost fell on my face onto the patio. It seems that the reason the doors slide so well is that the slider thingy is an inch above the door sill—ready to catch heels and send folks sprawling. I now have a sign on my beautiful new doors to remind me and others to watch their step.

It was then I saw the birch tree with amputated branches, no leaves and no shape. Every shaping branch was gone. I was so upset that I couldn't talk. My housemate had no such compunctions. She raced out with hair flying and demanded an explanation. She was told to look up habitat tree. She did and there were pictures of dead looking trees just like mine.

So, folks, whether it is a single word like habitat or a "watch your step" sign, words do matter!



*"It was then I saw the
birch tree..."*

“Do you have a big dream...?”

“You don’t have to know ‘how’ your vision is going to play out. God will take care of the ‘how.’”



Last Year’s Nasturtium Seeds

by Rev. Larry King

When we were planning our summer garden last year, I bought some Nasturtium seeds. I remembered them from when I was a kid—the jewel tones, the vining habit, the sweet smell; even the taste of their flowers and leaves in a summer salad. Mom and I used to plant them together. Last year I had a whole vision of sight, smell and taste.

And then I never planted the darn things!

I have no particular excuse that I can remember. I just let that vision of nasturtiums go.

I bet you have a particular vision of how things might be different for you, too. Is it an idea of going back to school or learning how to kayak? Is it a picture of home improvement or an improvement in your primary relationship? Do you have a big dream of a better job or a wonderful vacation?

On Fridays, I host “Lunch with Rev. Larry” using Zoom teleconferencing. Last week I asked the group of people how they went about claiming their vision.

Here are some of the wonderful ideas that were shared:

- You don’t have to know *how* your vision is going to play out. God will take care of the “how.”
- You don’t need to plan *everything* out—but you do need to plan to take the next (or the first) step.
- Putting some energy into your dream every day is important.
- If your dream seems complicated (or overwhelming), concentrate on just the next step.
- Listen to your intuition on what to do next (Will this course of action take me closer to or further away from my dream?)
- Plan for backward and sideways steps. Don’t take it personally if there’s a setback, just reenergize yourself with the vision. Allow the vision to “pull” you through difficult times.

Enough writing! It’s the perfect time to plant whatever seeds and visions you have for the future. I looked it up and my seeds are perfectly good for planting even a year later. It’s never too late to enjoy a better life and it can start with that first small step.

Happy spring and “good planting,”



In Loving Memory

Laura Bradley

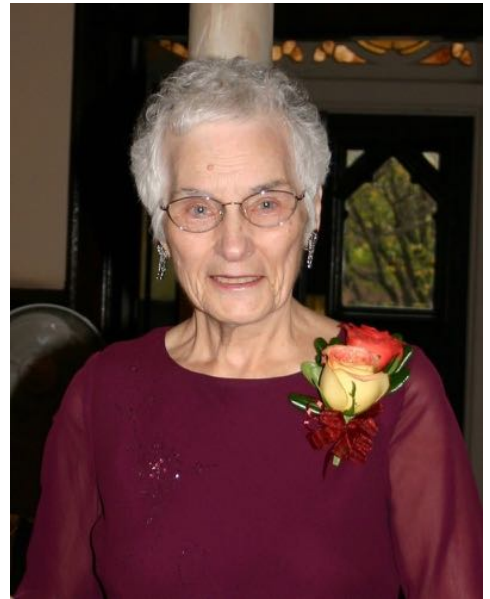
May 25, 1926—March 29, 2021

If you were a member of the Center almost any time in the last 35 years, you met Laura Bradley. She was the one who loved hugs—and was always eager to return the favor!

During her 94-years of living, she fulfilled many roles: daughter, sister, friend, dance instructor, office manager, wife and mother, farmer, campaigner, mentor and friend.

You can read more about her amazing life on our memory page for her at:
<https://cslportland.org/remembering-laura-bradley/>

What you may not know about Laura, is that she was also a writer. Enjoy one of her more philosophical New Thought essays featuring Popeye the Sailor:



I Hear You by Laura Bradley

“I yam what I yam and that’s all that I yam!”

Well, yes, Popeye. But that’s all there is, dontcha know? I AM is you and you are all that I AM is and nothing that I AM is not. One. All. There is One in all and all in One—what else could you be?

Oh, so you think that spinach-gobbling, that muscle flexing, that fixing all wrongs with your fists, that brawling with Bluto over the affections of your dear Olive Oil and your loving concern for li’l Sweet Pea and your friendship with the hamburger-wolfing Wimpy makes you different?

Only in shaping your hard-scrabble, seven-seas salin’ experience, my friend! It doesn’t touch the real you, the YOU of you, your basic Spirit, your true Power, your IS—your I AM.

You are just the same as I, the same as the rest of your fellows. Our Essence is THE I AM. Always was. Always is. Always will be. No beginning. No end.

Now, Sir, put *that* in your pipe and smoke it!

*We’re missing those
great hugs...*

*“Our Essence is THE
I AM.”*

*A call to service at
the Cambodian
Buddhist Temple*

Social Justice Book Club

by Kate Barrett, RScP

Our Book Club received a “call to service” this past month. We went to a Cambodian Buddhist Temple, in West Linn, to show our support for their community and to provide ‘eyes and consciousness’ to keep their New Year Celebration safe from harassment and vandalism. We were welcomed and appreciated and honored to witness and participate with our Buddhist neighbors in welcoming in the new Year of the Ox. Grace, Strength and Imagination are the words that we and members of other Faith Communities continue to hold in consciousness for this Cambodian Buddhist Community. It was a call to service that was a gift to give and to receive.



We have been reading *Minor Feelings* by Cathy Park Hong this month, so it was easy to say yes to call to service. This book gave us some understanding of how difficult it is for the elders to ask for our help, and to believe that we would respond. Asian Americans have not felt accepted by the general American public. The minor feelings that Cathy Park Hong refers to are, in reality, any personal feelings at all. Our Asian American neighbors have been viewed by Americans as invisible, the model citizen, or worse. This past year has exposed a level of hate that we must respond to. We know that Love is the answer and so we pray with and for all Americans and all peoples who live among us. We are honored to recognize them as citizens, neighbors, and friends.



*Welcoming the Year
of the Ox with our
Buddhist neighbors*

I think that *Minor Feelings* is well written and a pleasure to read. Ms. Hong creatively uses her words to create new images and understanding, in this book of essays. She also has books of poetry that are available. Next month we are reading *We Do This Til We Free Us* by Mariame Kaba. Whether you are a reader or just a believer in social justice for everyone, please join us for the discussion. We discuss what is happening and books, movies, and events. It is held every first Saturday of the month from 12:30 until 2:30 PM, on Zoom. Read more about the Center’s efforts toward social justice and our Social Justice Book Club online at <https://cslportland.org/social-justice/>

*Starting June 13, you
can join us in person
or online.*



*Oregon Health
Authority requires
verification of
vaccination.*

Board Report—Reopening June 13!

by Nadine Moller, Board President

I have been reveling in nature's beauty as it springs to life with the changes of seasons. Waking to birds' songs and walking in the scent of flowers while knowing it will all be more vibrant and more abundant in a completely different way, inspires me.

I know that with this beautiful weather, we are all pining to meet in person again. At the end of May, our center completed 13 months of virtual services. Now for the good news: recently, the Oregon Health Authority has lifted social distancing for fully vaccinated teens and adults. This will finally allow us to reopen for in-person services starting on Sunday, June 13.

To begin with, we will just have the 11 o'clock service. Youth Church, the bookstore and food/coffee services will remain closed for now.

With our sanctuary layout, *the Oregon Health Authority requires us to verify vaccination prior to entry*. You must bring your vaccination card (or a copy/picture of it) with you. Mask wearing is optional for fully-vaccinated individuals. You can read more about the O.H.A. vaccination requirements on our website: <https://cslportland.org/vaccination-status/>



For those of you who wish to remain at home or who are not vaccinated—no worries. We'll continue our Facebook Live, YouTube and audio podcast facilities. We're not going to leave anyone out!

Jason Hutchison and Diane Thomas have rotated off the Board (thank you for your service) and Kristin Amundson, Albert Chen and Helen McCann have been elected as new members.

I feel hopeful and inspired by the number of people being vaccinated, knowing that each vaccine brings us closer to being fully together again. Our world has changed and we are changed by it.

In Loving Memory

Anne Holmgreen

October 16, 1953—May 8, 2021

We dedicate this issue of our newsletter to our dear friend and Center member, Anne Holmgreen, who made her transition suddenly on May 8. Anne was a member for many years and most recently had been the Art and Layout Director for our newsletter. You can leave a message of condolence for her family online: <https://www.attrells.com/obituaries/Anne-Holmgreen/>

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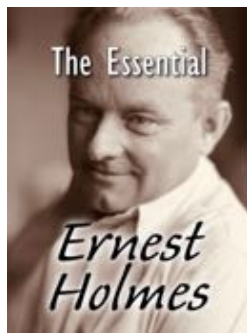
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Planning a meeting, event
or special occasion?
Contact Jason Hutchison for
rental info at 503-807-1227.

Upcoming Classes



The Essential Ernest Holmes

Facilitated by Rev. Marilyn Sprague

10 Weeks; Tuesdays, 7/13/2021—9/14/2021;
5—8:00 PM PT

This online CSL class features Ernest Holmes' quiet, devotional writings as well as his impassioned teaching for future leaders. His love of people and facility for seeing past problems, blends modern psychology with our ability to make conscious mental choices for a better life.

Get more information or register online:

<https://cslportland.org/events/essential-ernest-holmes/>



More on Emma Curtis Hopkins

*Facilitated by Kate Barrett, RScP
and Rev. Marilyn Sprague*

8 Weeks; Thursdays, 7/22/2021—9/9/2021;
5—8:00 PM PT

Emma Curtis Hopkins is referred to as the Metaphysical Teacher of Teachers. Through readings, discussion and experiential exercises, this online Spiritual Study Course features Lessons 7 through 12 of her twelve lessons in Truth.

Get more information or register online:

<https://cslportland.org/events/more-on-emma-curtis-hopkins/>

Ongoing Daily, Weekly and Monthly Programs

Check our website at <https://www.cslportland.org/> for the latest zoom links and meeting times for the following:

Daily “[365 Ernest Holmes](#)” affirmations available for your email or on social media.

Weekly [Wednesday Night Meditation](#) Service

Weekly Friday “[Lunch with Rev. Larry](#)”

Weekly Saturday “[Transcendence](#)” 12-step program for women

Weekly Sunday Service on [Facebook Live](#), on [YouTube](#) and via [audio podcast](#) (note: you do not have to be a Facebook user to watch the live Sunday Service.

Monthly [Social Justice Book Club](#) Meeting

