



December 2021
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OUR BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

CHRISTMAS LETTERS

I am moving my bedroom and office downstairs – just the furniture that is. It is a process which is requiring many decisions about what to keep and what to release. Before email and texting became so useful, I used to send annual Christmas letters. Recently I found copies of decades of those letters. Below are some direct quotes from them ranging from the 70's to 2000's.



Parents – June and George Kids – Julie and Steve (now 58 and 55)

See if you can relate to these entries from the past:

- Oil painting classes continue to be fun. I painted a picture of our dog and got the courage to show it to the family at Thanksgiving. Big mistake. Oh well. Mom said she liked it – shades of my youth.
- Brother, Paul, was hoping to get a job this Christmas. Since that fizzled, he did the next best thing and bought a set of golf clubs.
- If you would like statistics and pictures of George's fishing conquests this year, send a self-addressed envelope to George Gumz FISH Milwaukie, Oregon 97222.
- Steve is fourteen and the tallest member of our family. Granted the competition wasn't too tough, but he did it at thirteen.
- The Cambodian fellow we are sponsoring is adjusting to American life. English is becoming his 5th language.
- Julie is going through early teenager. Her moods range from "What can I do to help" to "Why me?"
- Julie is a neat kid. I mean that literally. Obviously, she didn't inherit that trait from me.
- Steven is not a neat kid and I accept full responsibility.

Happy Holidays, one and all. Thank you for sharing some of my family memories.



By June Gumz,
newsletter editor

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Life, The Universe and Everything

This last week we spent a few days down at the Oregon Coast. Away from the light-pollution of the city, the sky opens up like blue-black velvet sprinkled with blazing stars. Across the middle, stretched like a pale sash, our galaxy is, indeed, the Milky Way.

We took advantage of the clear skies two nights. The first night we played “Tron” with the dogs on the beach. They have lighted collars and it was exciting to see them zooming up and down the shoreline chasing each other with just the lights from their collars. What crazy fun!

The second night was for star gazing and I sat out for some time enjoying the show.

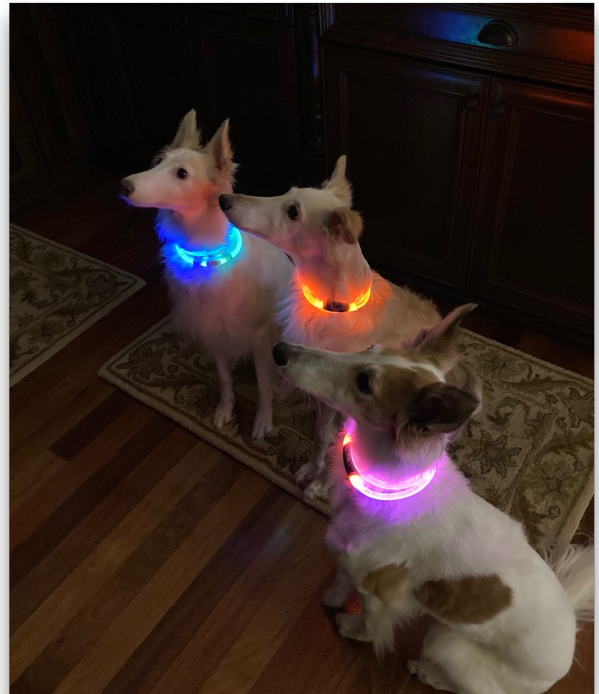
At first, it made me feel lonely.

In the vastness of the Universe, here I was — so small and so vulnerable. Then I remembered that the vastness of the Universe is just another way of thinking of God — that same God that is as close as my own heart and my own breath. I wrapped up in a blanket. The stars seemed a little friendlier when I was warmer.

I also remembered that in the infinity of the cosmos, in some other galaxy, on some other planet circling another sun, someone else is probably having thoughts just about the same as mine.

That made me smile. It also enlarged my sense of who and what God is.

I hope to share that sense of expansiveness with you as we go “Back to Basics” in January. On January 2nd, I’ll talk about “The Thing Itself” and give you a better idea of my personal beliefs about God. Please join me in-person at the Center or during our Facebook Live broadcast.



**Much Love and Many Blessings,
Rev. Larry**

PRACTITIONER SPOTLIGHT

Laura Perkins RScP



1. Path to Portland CSL?

"I first became familiar with PCSL years ago, when Rev. Larry was a practitioner headed to ministerial school. I've known and sometimes sung with LaRhonda about that long too."

Expanding Laura's spiritual guidance made it natural to embrace PCSL.

2. Responsibilities at the Center?

Laura works with Rev. Larry in marketing, primarily creating graphics which are used online. She is currently serving in the lead position for the Usher/Greeter Team as well.

3. Favorite hobbies and activities?

Laura is a camper with a tent trailer and does Dutch oven cooking much like the pioneers did. "I usually have my guitar with me. There's no time or place I enjoy playing and singing more than the outdoors." She is from a musical family, so there are often multiple instruments and harmonies. Other interests include photography, crochet, cross stitch and design, stained glass and working on the house and yard. A very versatile individual.

4. Love of Nature

During her college years, Laura worked in Glacier and Yellowstone during the summers. When she returns to either place it feels like going home, much like the family cabin on a lake in Alabama. There are only two states (Maine and Alaska) she has yet to visit on her numerous cross-country trips. "Perhaps the deepest mystical experiences I've had were in the backcountry of Kings Canyon National Park in the Sierras."

5. What would be a perfect day for you?

"A perfect day for me is one that I awaken free of an alarm clock, spend some quality time with my sons and/or friends, do something creative (inside or out) take the opportunity to observe/appreciate/experience the awesomeness of nature whether it be in the wilderness, the yard or on the deck, and fall into bed tired, but not too tired. Well, my perfect day doesn't have to include ALL that. A couple, in any combination, will do it for me nicely."

*I call forth this
Power within each
and every life form
to demonstrate
Love, Joy and Peace
in and through all.
~Kate Barret RScP*

BOARD REPORT



**By Nadine Moller,
Board President**

The season of Light and Love is upon us. I like to think of Love as a year-round practice and not just something we indulge in during the holidays. The Portland Center for Spiritual Living Board of Directors 'walk the walk'. Each month we meet to discuss and implement ways to expand the Love we feel for our Spiritual Center, its teachings and our community. We encompass Spirit principles, empowering people to embrace the teachings and put them into action. Our BOD also volunteers in a number of areas, from ushers and greeters to sound board operators.

PCSL is open for in-person services on Sundays. We are following the Oregon Health Authority Covid guidelines and require everyone who enters the building to wear a mask. We are also practicing contact tracing by requiring attendees to sign in before services. Our goal is to maintain a safe and welcoming environment for our in-person congregants.

Each Sunday service calls for a number of volunteers (both virtually and in person) to keep things moving effortlessly. As the year progresses, our need for new volunteers will increase. PCSL is successfully and joyfully expanding our message to more and more who are willing, open and receptive to our message of love and unity.

In individual practical terms, what talent, treasure or skill can I contribute to help PCSL to thrive and grow? And we are growing! We ask you to give graciously to the glorious expansion of consciousness as we continue to spread the message of a world that works for everyone.

For volunteer opportunities please call the office at 503.447.7802.

The "Word" Gift Cards \$3.50 ea

Order a "Word Card" to contemplate for the coming year. The cards are pre-wrapped and were created knowing that Divine Wisdom will guide the right word and quote to the right person. Word cards are fun Holiday and New Year's gifts for family and friends. They also make great stocking stuffers.

Order online at: cslportland.org/theWord/



We rent our space!
Planning a meeting,
event or special
occasion?
Contact Jason
Hutchison for rental
info at 503-807-1227

-  **Make a donation online: cslportland.org/donate/**
-  **Become a fan on Facebook: facebook.com/cslportland**
-  **Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/portlandcsl**
-  **Interact with Rev. Larry's Blog: cslportland.org/blog**
-  **Listen to a Podcast: cslportland.org/podcasts/**



COMING EVENTS

*Serenity is loving
and knowing that
Love is appropriate.*
~ June Gumz



Christmas Eve: Home for the Holidays

Friday, December 24th, 7:00 PM (In-Person and on Facebook Live)

Come "home" for our Christmas Eve service. We'll be in-person and also on Facebook Live. Let's finish out 2021 with good music, uplifting readings and a candle lighting ceremony to warm your heart and appeal to your senses. Happy Holidays from the Center for Spiritual Living! Message by Rev. Larry and live music by Mark and LaRhonda Steele and featuring the Steele family. The service will also be recorded for later viewing on YouTube.



The Golden Bowl Service

Sunday, December 26th, 11:00 AM (In-Person and on Facebook Live)

Go beyond the typical "New Year's Resolution" and learn to create lasting changes in your life. Participate in our "Golden Bowl" service and have your desires for newness clarified and witnessed by our Ministers and Licensed Practitioners.

WINTER CLASSES



2022 Intentions: Empowering My Best Self

Facilitated by Rev. Marilyn Sprague

1-Day Saturday Workshop, January 8, 9:00am-3:00pm PT

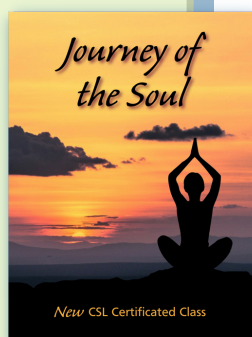
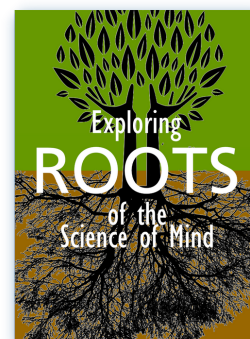
The beginning of a new year symbolizes opportunities for new beginnings. Join us as we explore the metaphysical dynamics of beginning anew. Give yourself permission to strengthen your confidence in your creative power so you can express your best self as vibrant health, abundant prosperity, harmonious relationships, and increased wellbeing.

Exploring Roots: The Roots of the Science of Mind

Facilitated by Kate Barrett, RScP Emerita

10 Weeks, Tuesdays, January 11-March 15, 6:00-9:00pm PT

Come and explore the historical roots of Ernest Holmes' philosophy The Science of Mind. In this CSL-certificated class, specific emphasis is given to the works of Thomas Troward, Emma Curtis Hopkins, and Ralph Waldo Emerson.



Journey of the Soul (New CSL Certificated Class)

Facilitated by Rev. Marilyn Sprague

6-Weeks, Thursdays, February 3-March 10, 5:00-8:00pm PT

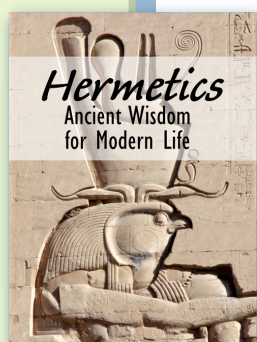
This CSL certificated class offers the principles of Science of Mind with an emphasis on daily meditation, emotional healing, soul presence, self-love, practical application, and life direction. Combining the integrative principles and techniques from spiritual psychology with the power of the Science of Mind philosophy, this class offers a dynamic opportunity for exploring and expressing your authentic self.

The "T" Word

Facilitated by Nancy Ashley, RScP

1/2-Day Saturday Workshop, February 19, 1:00-4:00pm

In this workshop, participants explore the spiritual practice of tithing, and how it is part of establishing and reinforcing our faith in Spirit. The Universe is filled with Loving Kindness and Giving of Itself. As we give, it returns to us pressed down, multiplied, overflowing. We will look at how we can enhance our faith and belief in the Laws of Cause and Effect and of Circulation, as well as in our lives as Receivers of God's Love.



Hermetics: Ancient Wisdom for Modern Life

Facilitated by Rev. Larry King

5-Weeks, Mondays, February 21-March 21, 6:00-8:30pm PT

The Law of Attraction was just one of seven spiritual principles taught in the Egyptian Hermetic tradition. We will cover all seven. Learn what Moses may have been taught in this interactive case-based online class. Before Christianity, there were the spiritual teachings of Hermes Trismegistus.