



# Portland Center FOR Spiritual Living

MARCH 2018

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### INSIDE

Minister's Message .....	2
Community .....	3
Board Update.....	4
Volunteer Opportunities.....	4
Calendar .....	5

*Life presents us with  
strange experiences  
which make life  
interesting.*

## MAGICAL THINKING

### Stretching Our Belief Systems. BY JUNE GUMZ

**As I look out my living room window** I notice the logo on my car in the driveway. It says Soul. While it is an odd name for a car, it makes me think back to a time when I was a practitioner. A man was having difficulty with his car and wanted it fixed through prayer treatment so that he wouldn't have to pay a repairman. I was comfortable treating for people and animals but not inanimate objects.

We had a discussion about the mechanics of treatment, the dynamics of the work, etc. The basis of his belief in treatment work for cars and other things, is that God is everything therefore it is subject to the Law. He is a lawyer so his belief in lower-case law and upper-case Law may have been stronger than mine. I wish I could tell you whether his car was healed or repaired in a shop. I just remember my consternation at being asked to 'heal' the car. Perhaps if it had been a Soul, my reluctance would have been less.

Life presents us with strange experiences which make life interesting. Another treatment request I received was to make sure that the foal being carried by its mother was a certain color. The owner's belief in treatment was more on the magical side. I was happy to treat for a healthy foal but not to change its preordained color.

Each of us has had experiences which stretch our belief systems. Some people still believe that walking on the moon was created on a sound stage or out on one of earth's deserts, the Holocaust didn't happen or President Obama was born in Kenya.

Accepting these ideas, which don't fit the norm, gain power through repetition. Today social media gives credence to all sorts of paranoia and fake news. It takes persistence to verify what is actually real and consistent with the order of things.

As a member of the Portland Center for Spiritual Living, I get weekly reminders of what is real, truthful and spirit-based. That doesn't mean I can't use my youthful imagination to recapture joy. Magical thinking has its place.



June Gumz, editor





Rev. Larry King

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*We must disconnect our minds from the negative past and move forward with positive expectancy.*

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## MESSAGE BY REV. LARRY KING

### WHY WE GET STUCK And what to do about it

**We've all been stuck at some point in our lives.** Whether it was stuck in a thankless job, an unhealthy relationship or an unworkable living situation. There we were—seemingly immobilized and putting up with it.

Why do we get stuck? There are many reasons, but the primary reason is that we don't see a clear way to move forward. Our old patterns are familiar, sometimes habitual, and we may not see that making a change will be possible or that it will provide real relief. Sometimes we feel that our "familiar pain" is tolerable and that making a change might bring about something worse.

How can we get unstuck? In *Living the Science of Mind*, our founder, Ernest Holmes gives us a formula for success:

*"For every man is the cause of his own experience, whether he knows it or not. We are all carrying the negative experiences of our past into the future merely because we have not disconnected them from our minds. If we are creating a negative future it is because we have not changed our thought about it."*

If we are to get unstuck, we must disconnect our minds from the negative past and move forward with positive expectancy. A key teaching of the Science of Mind is that *Principle is Not Bound by Precedent*. By this we mean that our past does not have to dictate our future lives. In each moment of every day we can have new thoughts and can take positive actions based on that newness. The Divine Creative Process always accepts and acts upon our thoughts and beliefs—when we change them to be positive, our life will begin to change towards the positive as well.

Breaking free requires faith in this creative process as well as some mental risk-taking. Faith helps us to see that God will always respond anew to our thinking. As soon as our thoughts and beliefs switch to the positive, our outcomes will begin to improve, also. Initially this will feel risky. "Will God really help me move into a better life?"

Take the risk. Let go of your past conditions as having control over your life. Be willing to see yourself as successful and loved. Picture your life headed in a positive direction. Put on an optimistic attitude and begin thinking about how good your life is right now.

*Larry*





## GET TO KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY

**Debra and Mark Pettijohn – Center Volunteers.** BY JUNE GUMZ

**Debra and Mark Pettijohn take their service to PCSL seriously.** Together they have hosted a Connection Circle, painted the practitioner room and helped at potlucks. Mark is on the Clean Team and works with Rev. Larry on the podcasts. Debra helps

in the book store and spends her Mondays in the PCSL office preparing the Sunday Bulletin and assisting with other office tasks. They quietly do what needs to be done without fanfare or hoopla.

The Pettijohns checked out PCSL after hearing Rev. Larry speak at their center. When it disbanded, they decided to give our center a try. What they found was a friendly and welcoming community with ministers and practitioners who “walk their talk.” They appreciate the well managed and transparent center finances, the many classes and workshops to deepen their spiritual growth and opportunities to volunteer while being supported in their efforts.

The outdoors is important to Debra and Mark. They walk daily in the neighborhood and explore Portland’s hidden gems. Hiking trails in the Gorge and on Mt. Hood is another favorite pastime. Last year they bought an inflatable kayak which they paddled on the Willamette and Tualatin Rivers. While the Pettijohns are definitely nature lovers, they also have an inside life. Both are avid readers although their tastes vary.

Debra is a natural research person and uses the internet to discover all she can on a variety of subjects. Mark is experimenting with photography and maintains their rental property in his spare time.

Travelling is another outlet for the Pettijohns. One trip in particular stands out for them. In December of 2000, they traveled to New York City for the New Years’ celebration. They spent four days in a snowy wonderland wandering through Central Park, visiting museums, riding the subway and standing for hours in Time Square with thousands of other people. The World Trade Center’s observation level attracted their interest. There they noticed an escalator which took them to the very top of the tower, outside. They could see for miles in every direction and had no way of knowing what would happen September 11th in the exact place where they stood.

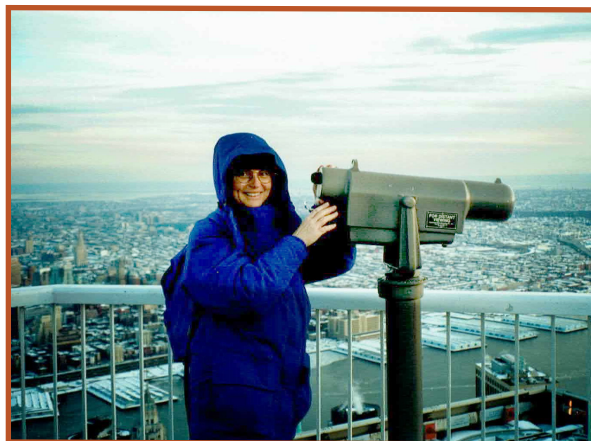
“It might sound corny, but meeting each other and deciding to build a life together has been life changing. We both feel we have been each other’s teachers, through the good and not-so-good times.”

*“We have been each other’s teachers, through the good and not-so-good times.”*



*Debra and Mark on a recent trip to the Oregon coast, 2018.*

*Above right: Debra on the observation deck of the World Trade Center, NYC, 2000.*



## FROM THE BOARD BY SARA JOHNSON

The PCSL Board consists of Rev. Larry, Sara Johnson (president), Janine Stewart (vice president), Doreen Marchetti (secretary), Diane Thomas (treasurer) and Sarah Wheeler, Jason Hutchison, Ron Bixby-McDonald and Ken Cragen.

Many Board members are up for renewal and there are a few openings for new candidates. The renewal process will take place at our **Annual Business Meeting April 9, 2018**. Contact Janine Stewart at 541-359-7552 to self-nominate or to find out more information.

The Board of Directors is the financial entity that oversees the budget for Portland's Center for Spiritual Living. Our budget was a little more liberal last year although tithes were down and the building was used more, we stayed within our means.

This year we are thinking a little more conservatively in preparation for our new spiritual home. We want to make a smooth transition and still be ahead while maintaining the center and contributions to our nonprofits.

Our Annual Meeting is open for anyone to attend, but only members will be voting for new Board of Directors. Members and non-members can show their support and ownership of our spiritual home as we build a loving community.



Sara Johnson  
Board President

*The Center has openings on its Board of Directors for 2018. Open to members only, these trusted volunteers manage the finances and help to guide and shape policy.*

### Volunteer Opportunities: GET INVOLVED!

We are volunteer led and managed and celebrate the many volunteers that help to make PCSL thrive. We are currently seeking additional volunteers in these areas:

**YOUTH CHURCH TEACHER:** *This is a wonderful chance to have fun with kids while teaching Science of Mind principles. There are two groups of children – 0-6 and 7-12. If you desire to work with either age group, please contact Sean Larkin at 503-702-0183. We are looking for regular and substitute teachers. Both receive stipends to offset expenses.*

**IN FULL BLOOM:** *Contribute to the beauty of our sanctuary through the donation and dedication of Sunday floral arrangements. Sign-up calendar and forms are available in the sanctuary.*

#### COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAMS:

*Support PCSL with a portion of your purchases at Amazon.com (Amazon Smile) and Fred Meyer (Community Rewards). For more information, call PCSL office at 503-261-0677.*

**HOSPITALITY TEAM – Home is Where the Heart Is:** *Erin Hurt is looking for a person or two to round out our Hospitality Team on Sundays. Duties include making coffee and setting up treats for either the 9 AM or 11 AM service on one Sunday a month. For more information, contact Erin Hurt at 360-909-4971.*

**USHERS & GREETERS AND THE "CLEAN TEAM" – First Impressions:** *Anette Bolster has an opening for Ushers and Greeters at either Sunday service. Become that friendly smile that welcomes people to our spiritual home. She also has a new opening for people who help to clean our space. The "Clean Team" maintains our clean and lovely environment. For more information, contact Anette Bolster at 503-970-4116.*

#### USED SCIENCE OF MIND MAGAZINES NEEDED:

*Please bring old copies to the office. We would like to "recycle" them in our visitor packets.*

### On-Going Events and Programs

#### First Saturdays, 12:30 - 2:00 PM

##### MONTHLY SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB MEETING

*Join us as we continue our study of racism in America and how we can make a difference. We will alternate months – a book on white privilege with one from the black perspective. Contact Nancy Ashley at 503-880-0308 for more information.*

#### HEART TO HEART – You don't have to do this alone

*Do you or someone you love need support during an illness, loss or other transition in your life? Have you noticed that somebody you usually see on Sunday has "gone missing?" Heart to Heart can help. Contact Kathy Batten 360-931-0371.*

#### Third Wednesdays, 7:00 PM

##### MONTHLY MEDITATION SERVICE

*The PCSL Practitioners present a meditative service on the third Wednesday of every month.*

#### Saturdays, 9:00 AM

##### BREAKFAST WITH THE MINISTER – Connecting at a Deeper Level

*Enjoy breakfast and great conversation at a local restaurant and get to know Rev. Larry in a small group setting. Separate checks provided. Contact Marci Beck at 503-710-4587 for more information and to make your reservation (required).*

#### Saturdays 11:00 AM to Noon

##### TRANSCENDENCE – 12-STEP MINISTRY FOR WOMEN

*We support women attending any 12-Step program as they incorporate the principles of Science of Mind into an understanding of working the 12 Steps. Contact Nancy Ashley at 503-880-0308 for more information.*

#### Sundays, 5:30 - 6:30 PM

##### HAVING HAD A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING GROUP

##### A Mindfulness And The 12 Steps Meditation Meeting

*In this meeting we focus on Step 11 and the spiritual practices of prayer and mindfulness meditation. Each month, we explore one of the Twelve Steps and how prayer and mindfulness meditation can expand our awareness and improve our life in recovery.*

Opening Hearts  
Igniting Minds  
Making a Difference

#### JOIN US AT THE CENTER

### PORTLAND Center for Spiritual Living

6211 NE M L King, Jr. Blvd.  
Portland, Oregon 97211

PHONE 503.261.0677

E-MAIL [info@PCSL.us](mailto:info@PCSL.us)

#### CONNECT ON LINE



#### AVAILABLE WHEN YOU ARE

You can now listen to the  
Sunday message at home  
and on your portable devices.  
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## COMING EVENTS • GET THE LATEST UPDATES ONLINE: [cslportland.org/events-calendar](http://cslportland.org/events-calendar)

### MARCH

#### SPIRITUAL CINEMA CIRCLE: SUMMER CODA This Friday, March 9, 7:00 PM

A night at the movies with films endorsed and produced by some of our spiritual leaders. There will be popcorn and a Practitioner-led discussion after the film. This is a free event, however there will be an opportunity to contribute to Bradley Angle House. Our March movie is Summer Coda. For more information, contact Kathy Marshack or read about it on Meetup.

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL LIVING Friday, March 23, 7:00 PM

Enjoy cake, conversation and even a line-dance lesson as our Spiritual Center celebrates it's 59th birthday. There's no fee to attend this special occasion and everyone is invited.

#### SURRENDER INTO THE MYSTERY Friday, March 30, 7:00 PM

Join the Portland Center's Practitioners for a "good Friday" release of old ways, and a celebration of renewal and rebirth. Everyone is welcome to this special service.

### APRIL

#### ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING Sunday, April 8 2017, 12:30 - 2:00 PM

Everyone is welcome to join us for our Annual Business Meeting. We'll present a full financial report, honor some long-term volunteers and provide a business update on the Center. Members will sign in to vote for a slate of Board of Directors candidates.

### FOUNDATIONS

#### Monday Eve, April 9-June 18; 6:30-930 PM 11 Weeks; Facilitated by Rev. Larry King



Discover your emerging direction and purpose and how to make it happen. Join Rev. Larry for 11 weeks

of self-discovery and revelation within an experiential format of lecture, discussion, sharing and process. Learn the nine spiritual principles that will change your life forever.

Open to everyone--there are no prerequisites. Required books: The Science of Mind by Ernest Holmes.

\$50 non-refundable registration fee

\$275 "Early Bird Special" paid by 3/25

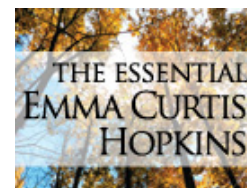
\$295 paid in full by first class

\$315 paid in three installments

### THE ESSENTIAL

#### EMMA CURTIS HOPKINS

#### Thursdays, April 12—May 31; 6:30 - 9:30 PM 8-Weeks; Facilitated by Kate Barrett, RScP



Through readings, discussion and experiential exercises, learn why Emma Curtis Hopkins is considered the "teacher of teachers"

in the New Thought movement. "Foundations" is a prerequisite for this class.

\$50 Non-Refundable Registration Fee

\$225 "Early Bird Special" paid by March 25th.

\$245 Paid in full by first class

\$265 Paid in three installments

### EARTH DAY BOTTLEDROP

#### Sunday, April 22 (both Services)

We will have a short presentation about Earth Day and the Center's participation in the new "BottleDrop" system across the Portland Metro area. Learn how you can return your bottles using the new system and create an income stream for Portland CSL. It's a new way to return your bottles and make the environment cleaner and safer.

### MEMBERSHIP CLASS

#### Sundays, April 29 & May 6, 12:30 - 2:30 PM

Have you wanted to become a full member in our loving community? Join Rev. Larry for two afternoons exploring the basics of what we believe, what we offer and how we serve. Everyone is invited to explore becoming a member—there is no cost. The second class will start with a welcome luncheon. If you've already had "Foundations" you can skip the first class and join us on August 6th. Registration is required (sign-up in the sanctuary).

All activities held at the Center unless otherwise noted.  
MORE INFO at [cslportland.org/events-calendar](http://cslportland.org/events-calendar).