



Portland Center FOR Spiritual Living

JANUARY 2012

COMMUNITY NEWS

2012: THE NEW YEAR

ALLOW THE PROMISES TO UNFOLD BY JUNE GUMZ

PCSL is starting the New Year with its regular seating arrangement. The services which gave us a chance to ponder what we want to release in 2012, and what we want to experience, are over. The candles have been lit and extinguished. The blessings given and received. It is time to allow the promises of 2012 to unfold.

Unlike wishing on birthday candles, I don't believe it is bad luck to reveal what I chose to release. There is an aloofness about me which is a bit uncomfortable. Oh, I can be funny and I can be helpful, but a good share of the time I try to look involved without actually pulling it off. Shades of school, when I was accepted by several cliques but not a charter member of any of them. So this year I choose to be one of the gang wherever I am, not someone hanging around the fringes keeping myself safe.

The other side of the coin is what I chose to accept in my life this year. Like many of you, abundance and love made the top cut. Who wouldn't want more of each? It isn't as easy as it sounds or we would all be manifesting money, stuff and loving relationships all of the time. Life would be one joyous, prosperous experience. Most of the blockages to our good are self-imposed, or the result of that old boogie man, race consciousness. In 2012, I choose to demonstrate the principles I have learned from our teachings to reduce, and hopefully eliminate, impediments to my Good.

Hundreds of thousands of Americans have decided to address ideas from the past and create a more equitable country for everyone. They may not have lit candles or been touched by roses, but they sense the possibility of change. The 99% have decided they are as valuable as the 1% which will certainly change the dynamics

of economics, government and education. No longer are people willing to accept the inequities which some of the 1% would like to perpetuate. There seems to be a global sense that progressive change is possible now. Of course it has always been so, but now people are accepting their power and race consciousness is elevating. **It is an exciting time to be alive.**

*Releasing and Receiving
at the Golden Bowl ritual.*

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*...a global sense that
progressive change is
possible now.*





Rev. Larry King

*The more nonchalantly I
"passed," the less I had
to deal with.*

SPIRITUAL LEADER'S MESSAGE

I'LL PASS ON THE LIVER, THANKS BY REV. LARRY KING

The smell alone announced the menu. The smell of liver and onions would begin to fill the house and my mind would begin to fill with objections. Long before we sat down to eat, I was planning my protest:



"It tastes awful."

"None of my friends have to eat liver."

"Why does it smell so bad?"

"Can I skip it this once—I'll clean my room instead"

But inevitably, the plate began its orbit around the table and it ended up in front of me. Though I resisted, someone would give me a piece and I would have to eat it.

I even tried appealing for help. We often had extended family at meal times and I would appeal to the group. I quickly found out that the United Liver Council had gotten to all of them. Instead of discussing whether I had to eat it—it turned into how much I should eat!

I did notice that my grandmother managed to avoid the liver, though. I observed that when the plate came around, she would smile and say, "I'll pass on the liver, thanks," and just move the plate along. No hesitation, no proclamations and no elaboration.

I tried it—and it worked! Not always. Sometimes someone would notice and I would be required to "try" it again. I found that the best course of action was to politely take the smallest piece myself and eat two bites. The rest stayed on my plate (if there were mashed potatoes, they could be used to disguise the leftover portion).

The more I fussed—the more I ate. The more nonchalantly I "passed," the less I had to deal with.

This story is perfectly true and I present it as a life lesson and as a parable. I dish it up for you without further comment for your dining experience.

With love, of course.

Larry

CELEBRATING REV. SHARON'S ORDINATION



GET TO KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY BY JUNE GUMZ

DIANE THOMAS – Family and Spirituality

You may have noticed a couple who sit on the right side of the sanctuary most Sundays, sometimes accompanied by their adult daughter and her two children. Diane Thomas is the matriarch of the group and a member of our CORE Council. Diane saw our church sign on her way to work one day and decided to look us up on the internet. She liked what she saw and decided to give us a try. "My first visit was awesome and I loved the message and the music." Her family started coming because they saw how much she enjoyed her time at PCSL.

Diane has worked for Stark's Vacuums for the past 14 years. Her title is impressive – Vice President of Finance. She enjoys her work and likes the fact that some of the employees have been there for a very long time. Women are treated well and the company continues to grow.

When asked what would be a perfect day for her, she responded that going to the Rose City Classic Dog Show by herself would be high on her list. In the past, she has gone with her family but they never wanted to spend as much time as she did. Last year she went on her own and spent two whole days "hanging out and looking at all the beautiful dogs." Perfect.

Diane felt honored when asked to join the CORE Council. She realized it would be a good way to serve and get to know people better. The council members are "awesome" to work with and laugh a lot.

Diane's future plans revolve around her family and her personal spiritual growth. Last fall she included her daughter and grandchildren in our Community Retreat at Menucha. It made for a livelier weekend for all. When she retires she hopes to travel with her husband, Kenny.

As you can see, family and spirituality are everything to Diane.

Diane's daughter, Shannon, and grandchildren at PCSL's Community Retreat at Menucha.

Diane enjoys the "after party" at Rev. Sharon's ordination.



Diane Thomas

"I loved the message and the music."



DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA OR STORY TO SHARE?

Our newsletter is evolving. I know that PCSL is abundant with creative folks with ideas and stories to share. Our newsletter seems to be a natural place to try them out. So, if you have something to share send it to greetingsjg@comcast.net. I am excited by the prospect of exposing some of our writers to the Community News audience.

– June Gumz, editor

*Opening Hearts
Igniting Minds
Making a Difference*

JOIN US AT THE CENTER

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WE HAVE EXCITING PLANS FOR 2012! UPDATE FROM REV. LARRY

We're kicking things off with "Back to Basics." It's a review of the basics of Science of Mind by our founder Ernest Holmes. Then we'll move right into a discussion of "Love" in February. We'll use *True Love* by Thich Nhat Hanh as our inspiration and feature a re-commitment ceremony for our couples the Sunday before Valentine's Day.

The leadership team is in full planning mode for 2012 and we have lots of intentions for deepening our spiritual connections, education and just plain fun. Rev. Sharon has completed the education calendar for the year. It's filled with heart- and mind-transforming classes and workshops, and I've outlined a years' worth of compelling Sunday talks. Linda Rossi is booking some amazing musical talent. Lexy Dillon has some changes ahead in Youth Church.

I know that whether you're joining us on Sunday, attending a class, workshop or other activity, catching up via a podcast or a subscriber to the "Igniting Minds" blog—you're in for a treat in 2012. **Stand up and get ready for "A Year of Transformation."**

COMING ATTRACTIONS / EVENTS LATEST UPDATES: WWW.PCSL.US/CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

TEA AND TRANSFORMATION

Sun, Feb. 5th, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Join Rev. Sharon Lee Foley and the retreat team for tea, hors d'oeuvres and a taste of what's to come at the PCSL annual women's retreat. Celebrate Spirit as Woman 2012. All women are invited to attend this free event. **RSVP** to Rev. Sharon at 503-668-9806 or email her at sharonleefoley@mac.com

RECOMMITMENT OF LOVE

Sun, Feb. 12th – During 2nd Service

You'll want to be present to support our couples as they recommit their love during our 2nd service. If you and your spouse/partner would like to be part of the ceremony, **sign up** at the back of the sanctuary so that we'll be ready for your participation!

All events held at the Center unless otherwise noted.

ON-GOING ACTIVITIES

BREAKFAST WITH THE MINISTER: Sat, 9:00am

To make your reservation or for Info, contact Dee Hartman at 360-831-8033.

MARCH

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Sundays, March 4th & 11th, 12:30 - 2:30pm

Have you been wanting to become a full member in our loving community? Join Rev. Larry for two afternoons exploring the basics of what we believe, where we fit in and how we serve. Everyone is invited to become 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 March 11th.

ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING

Sun, March 18, 12:30pm – 1:30pm

Everyone is invited to review our progress for the year, including a full financial report by our CPA. Members will also be asked to vote on a proposed slate of new and renewing CORE Council Members.

DRUMMING CIRCLE: 2nd Fri, 7:00pm

TRANSCENDENCE 12-STEP: For information, contact Nancy Ashley at 503-880-0308.

W.O.W. WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY: Thur, 10:30am

GET INVOLVED

PAID POSITIONS AVAILABLE

YOUTH CHURCH TEACHER

If you have a desire to work with kids while teaching Science of Mind principles, please contact Lexy Dillon (503) 663-5817, or Rev. Larry King (503) 460-2623. We are looking for regular and substitute teachers.

SHOP SAFEWAY FOR PCSL

SIGN UP for eScrip and we'll link your Saway card to PCSL. A small portion of each purchase will come to support your Spiritual Home. Sign up at the back table or call Nicki Minaker for more info at 503-261-0677.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

HOSPITALITY TEAM: One Sunday a month, 9:00am service. Contact Pat Lloyd 360-253-9779.

CLEAN TEAM: Cleaning and light maintenance for three hours, once a month. Contact Anette Bolster 503-970-4116.

FORWARD FLOW - 12 MONTHS OF GIVING:

For info, Suki McDonough 360-624-5615; Annette Sanders 971-227-9050.

HEART TO HEART: Support during an illness, loss or other transition. Contact Rev. Sharon Lee Foley 503-668-9806 or Lexy Dillon 503-663-5817.