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*Looking at life
with new eyes.*

SPRING!

TIME TO LIGHTEN AND BRIGHTEN BY JUNE GUMZ

Just as the lawns, plants and trees are awakening again, I, too, am looking at life with new eyes. It is time to get rid of winter's accumulation and do a thorough spring cleaning. The garage is my first target and will require a friend with a pick-up for a trip to the landfill. Do I dare ask the neighbor across the street to sully his new (to him) pick-up acquisition? Hmm.

Lately, I have noticed that my thoughts need a bit of brightening too. One way I have of balancing out my attitudes is to keep the classical radio station on more and political stations on less. The constant negativity, even on my favorite left leaning station, tends to bring me down. Imagine how I'd feel if I listened to the right!

The other night my grandson spent the night at my house and everything was fine and dandy until bed time. He has become concerned about bad guys and feels safer at night when his dad is around. Somehow his 72 year old grandma doesn't seem like a great line of defense. We talked and reasoned together for about 45 minutes and were getting nowhere, when I heard myself saying "you are giving the bad guys way too much power."

"What do you mean?" "Well they aren't even here and you are afraid of them." "Let's not think about them unless we actually see one. Let's think about something else." "Like what?" he asked. "How about the thousands of tulips you saw last week in Woodburn." I know that was a grandma thing to say but he bought it. We also came to the conclusion that when he got older he would invent a force field to keep the bad guys out. He turned over and went to sleep thinking of tulips and force fields.



*Wooden Shoe
Tulip Festival,
Woodburn...
or "force field"
for good.*



Sandra Clark

"The [PCSL] community is like an extended family for me."

GET TO KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY BY JUNE GUMZ SANDRA CLARK – SERVICE PERSONIFIED

There is a quiet, but spunky, woman who has done almost every service job in our Center: Core Council member, book store proprietor, singer in the Friends Chorus and book club participant. Her name is Sandra Clark. Service is a trait Sandra attributes to her mother.

Sandra was part of a first-generation immigrant family in an immigrant neighborhood. Her mother was the person folks relied on for a place to live or occasionally for birthing their babies. There was one bathroom for 6 to 8 people, so cooperation was imperative.

Sandra was introduced to PCSL by her step-daughter. She felt it would be a good spiritual home for her, and she was right. "I had not been a churchgoer for many years and it was a joy to find a place of hope and genuine faith and renewal." Sandra appreciates the music and the inspiring Sunday talks and social activities. "The community is like an extended family for me."

The field of work that Sandra chose was nursing. She has done variations on the theme. Transport nursing was the most challenging and exciting. Intravenous therapy was the most steady work. She was always pleased when patients asked for her. She was an ARMY nurse and served a few active duty tours. Quite a work record.

Sandra grew up on the East Coast and later travelled to Costa Rica. It was her home for two years and in the '90s she lived in New Mexico for two years. She enjoyed the Latin culture and then the beautiful high desert country where she could bicycle year round.

Portland's Center for Spiritual Living benefits from Sandra Clark's presence.



Sandra on active duty as an Army nurse.



Travelling in Costa Rica.

SPIRITUAL LEADER'S MESSAGE BY REV. LARRY KING

1,200 NEW POSSIBILITIES

I was a bit saddened when I heard that Pluto had been de-planetized. Too small, too distant, too erratic, Pluto now joins 44 other asteroids and astronomical objects called dwarf planets.

"Why sad," you might ask?

I suppose it's because other planets--outer space in general--represent such possibilities to me. I'm so used to looking at life on the personal side--my house, my Center, my car, my problems, my small victories. Anything that opens up my mind to something bigger is a wonderful thing.

In my mind, outer space is a wonderful thing.

It's made even more wonderful by the idea that somewhere out there, even as I look up into the night sky, someone else might be looking back. We talk about the Infinity of God on Sunday in the abstract, but what if part of that infinite nature of God is typing out a newsletter article right now from across the universe. That makes the infinite nature of God seem so much more real. God's not just about us on this small planet. It's certainly not just about me with my small concerns. God is Infinite. Inclusive. Intelligent.

This last week I was heartened to see some of the early results of the new Kepler Telescope Satellite. The telescope can only survey about 1 four-hundredth of the sky, but in four months has already found over 1,200 new planets orbiting stars near us.

Imagine the vastness that this represents. Imagine the possibilities of life elsewhere and the infinity of God's grace and love. Knowing that I'm a part of all this--knowing that everything is part of my own unity with God--is liberating!

Now when I start thinking that the Universe has closed in and is bound up with my small sphere of influence and troubles, I can think about Pluto--and 1,200 new possibilities!

All my love and blessings,
Rev. Larry King

Larry



Rev. Larry King

*Imagine the possibilities
of life elsewhere and the
infinity of God's grace
and love.*



De-planetized Pluto.



The Kepler mission has come in with big results, including the announcement of a six-planet system, for now known as "Kepler-11." Infinite possibilities to come...

Opening Hearts
Igniting Minds
Making a Difference

JOIN US AT THE CENTER

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NEWSLETTER CREDITS

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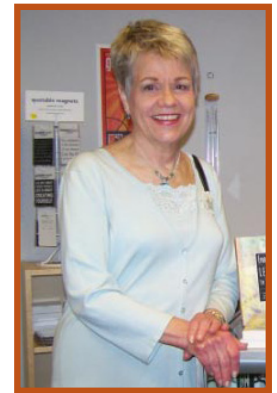
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MAKING A DIFFERENCE BY JUNE GUMZ

A few years ago, PATRICIA TAYLOR heard about a group teaching metaphysical principles at *Coffee Creek Women's Prison*. While she was a bit leery at first, she met women there who were anxious to turn their lives around. Attending the weekly sessions was probably the first time many of them had felt heard in a non-judgmental way.

The women are on a spiritual journey, just as we all are, but theirs is accelerated because of choices they made in the past. Now they need to make decisions which will assist them when they are released. Patricia has been a mentor for three years and has one-on-one sessions with women close to being released. She helps them reenter society with a new outlook and an ability to make better choices. Patricia says, "As you can imagine, I know this ministry is making a difference, most especially to me!"



COMING ATTRACTIONS / OPPORTUNITIES

JUNE

CELEBRATE SPIRIT AS WOMAN RETREAT
 Thur, June 16, 3pm – Sun, June 19, 12pm
 Facilitators Rev. Sharon Lee Foley, Maggie Cole, RScP
 All women, 18 and over, are invited to our
 annual retreat at Silver Falls Conference
 Center – Limited space! Register by May 31.

CLASS: THE ESSENTIAL ERNEST HOLMES
 Wed 6:30, June 29-Aug 31
 Instructor Rev. Sharon Lee Foley
 Ideal for everyone, from the future Practitioner to the inquisitive newcomer, using Ernest's words as a foundation from which to build your own future, one belief at a time.

JULY

MANTRA WORKSHOP
 Sat, Jul 9 11am – 2pm
 Starr Sheppard-Decker, RScP & Marci Beck
 The workshop will give guidance in creating your own personal chant or mantra for use in your spiritual practice.

ANNUAL PICNIC
 Sun, July 10, 12:30pm – 3:30pm
 Peninsula Park, 700 N Rosa Parks Way
 Join us for family fun at our annual picnic.
Bring a friend to grow our community!
 Share your favorite picnic side dish – PCSL will provide burgers, vege-burgers and "dogs."

All events held at the Center unless otherwise noted. Get latest updates/details at www.pcsl.us/calendar.

ABOUT US PORTLAND CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL LIVING is a community of people dedicated to **Opening Hearts** by knowing that the Divine Presence of Good lives in and as every person; **Igniting Minds** by teaching people how to use this Power for Good to create the life they want; and **Making a Difference** in the world by using love to remember that we are One with all of life and with each other. We enrich global consciousness by demonstrating the Wisdom of Spiritual Principles in all our affairs.

SNEAK PEEKS (Details to come)

DIVINE DINING July – Sept
 Watch for opportunities to create an event and/or sign up to dine. Good food – great fun!

COMMUNITY RETREAT Sept 23-25
 Good food, good times, and lovely views of the Columbia River Gorge during this weekend of spiritual living, workshops and entertainment. Get ready to bloom!!

ON-GOING ACTIVITIES

- DRUMMING CIRCLE:** 2nd Fri, 7pm
- LUNCH BUNCH:** 2nd & 4th Sun, 12:30pm
- MEN'S GROUP:** 1st & 3rd Sun, 12:30pm
- WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY:** Thur, 10:30am
- FORWARD FLOW:** 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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

HOSPITALITY TEAM: Duties include making coffee, setting up treats 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.