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**"Life is good
and I know it."**

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

(to keep grandma in her home) BY JUNE GUMZ

Lately, I have been the recipient of many thoughtful and helpful gifts of time and talent. Situations that were at first glance expensive and inconvenient became examples of a willingness to serve. In a month and a half one of my fences blew down, my TV died as did my printer. Those were the major situations, but there were others.

The fence: As a 75th birthday present, my brothers, son and friends replaced my downed fence as well as the other one which was on its way out too. The Amish quality of the process lost a little if I looked too closely at the lack of organization, but I was so grateful for their enthusiasm and the final product. My job was to keep them fed and their thirsts quenched.

The TV and printer: A friend bought me a new TV from Costco (I repaid her, of course). Her house guest helped set it up for me. He also set up my new printer. I could have done this myself but it would have taken days instead an hour.

The speakers: I happened to say in jest one day, in front of my daughter and her friend, that people on TV were starting to mumble. Well, the friend had some speakers he would set up for me. It was a funny process because there is a Mexican radio station with a strong signal in our area which travels through the house wiring even when the TV is off. A simple process took days to refine.

As Rev. Larry says, "Are you beginning to see where this is going?" Every time I needed help, it was there. I didn't beg, wheedle or bribe folks to help me. As a Science of Minder, I know my needs are met and I am grateful. Perhaps it helps to be 75 and perceived as carpentry and technologically challenged.

Oh, I forgot to say that the reason I could afford to replace my TV and printer is that my tax refund popped up in my checking account just in time.

Life is good and I know it.



*Family and friends
rebuilding the fence.*



Rev. Larry King

*There's something about
our sweet Spiritual
Center, our "sanctuary,"
that reaffirms the divinity
of human existence.*

SANCTUARY

MESSAGE BY REV. LARRY KING

I've been thinking about how I encounter God. In the Science of Mind we believe that God is everywhere—but it doesn't always seem that way. God present at work? God at war in the Middle East? God at the supermarket?

Technically speaking, yes, God is in all those places; but it's not where I think of God. At least for now, they're not part of my typical encounter with God. For that I have my sanctuaries.

I looked up "sanctuary" in the dictionary and the definition is just perfect for me:

Sanc-tu-ar-y [sangk-choo-er-ee] noun

1. A place of refuge or safety
2. A nature reserve, such as a bird sanctuary
3. A holy place; a temple or church

My main sanctuary is an "inner" place. I meditate most days and it is from this sanctuary, this refuge, that I ground myself. I can easily manage the complex outer world and its troubles from the calm of my inner life. Meditating recharges me spiritually, renews my connection to God and allows me to be centered and confident as I go about my day.

Another sanctuary for me is nature. Even the Northwest, rain does not deter me from hiking in the woods, working in my garden or enjoying other forms of nature. It's not that I don't also enjoy busy city life—but nature reminds me of a simpler time and the effortless grace with which plants and animals approach life. In nature, even for an afternoon, I release stress and get a better perspective on my true priorities.

And, of course, there's the sanctuary that we share with each other.

The Portland Center for Spiritual Living is where I get to practice my faith with others. There's something about our sweet Spiritual Center, our "sanctuary," that reaffirms the divinity of human existence. We come together and sing, study, make and renew friendships, share stories and live our lives as a demonstration of God in action. By ourselves we certainly enjoy a connection to God. Together we celebrate and bear witness to a power greater than ourselves and a divine connection of Love.

Enjoy the sanctuaries in your life—and thank you for being a major part of mine.

Rev. Larry



YOUR SPACE

GRUMPY EIGHT BY LAURA BRADLEY

I scrunched down a little further in my chair. It was too embarrassing. Why'd they keep doing that? It made them sound just DUMB!

At about the same time that I heard Daddy say, "Laura, sit up in your chair and be quiet," I felt disapproving adult eyes on me from all 'round the room.

I sat up briskly and put on my best face. Disapproving looks sometimes led to somewhat more unpleasant circumstances.

But I hadn't said a word! How did they know? Had I frowned? Maybe I groaned? I thought what I thought, alright, but I sure didn't mean to show it to them.

Quietly and with a sweet, innocent smile on my face (I hoped) I went on thinking defiantly, "Well and good! Where I come from, we disapprove of each other! You people should listen to how silly you sound."

HMMPH!!!!

Somebody asked Daddy how old he is now. What do you suppose he answered?

"Well, let's see. This is 1934 and I was born in '04.... by gosh, that means I'll be 30 this year, in July!"

That's what he ACTUALLY said, including the exclamation mark!

Then someone else chimed in, "Yeah! Well, now, I was born in '99, so I got a few years on ya. I'm 35 years old in a coupla weeks. Whaddya know?!"

Uncle snorted. "Just kids" he said. Lemme see1934, you say? I's born in '83 ... that's 17 and 34 makes 51! Last April, already!"

I really cringed this time. But I thought that maybe I could understand Uncle; he's REALLY old. If it were me, though, if I ever got to be over 50, I wouldn't be mentioning it right in front of everybody like that, for sure.

But, all of them! Whenever the old people got together, they'd start talking like this. What was all that bornin' and figgerin' and 'sclaimin' all about? Embarrassing! All they had to do was just holler it right out.

Heck! I KNEW I was EIGHT!



Laura Bradley

*"You people should
listen to how silly
you sound."*

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. I am excited by the prospect of exposing some of our writers to the Community News audience. If you have something to share send it to greetingsjg@comcast.net. – June Gumz, editor

THOUGHTS: LIFE IS GOOD BY REV. SHARON LEE FOLEY

Our founder, Ernest Holmes, wrote that “there is a power for good in the Universe and we can use it.” Doesn’t that make all the difference in how we live our lives? So often we are told there is a force that can measure out goodness or wrath depending upon its mood. That creates a completely different environment of life, right? A power for good means the Universe is for us.

To the extent we remember that Truth, we can proceed to live our lives with confidence in the awareness that the world is essentially a safe place. We then make choices based on the idea that we are always supported – and supported in love. I think of it as a cosmic cheerleader that is always encouraging us to step up, step out, take a chance, remember who we are, we can do it, whatever it is. That’s not only an optimistic worldview but a life-enhancing way of living life.

We can trust that the force of life itself consistently and constantly conspires to offer up the very best and highest for us. We can know that as part of that highest and best we are organically programmed to act upon it in a way that enriches our lives and the lives of those around us. **Life is good. Live it, Learn it!**



Rev. Sharon Lee Foley

*Life is good.
Live it, Learn it!*

CORE COUNCIL UPDATE: BY DEE HARTMAN, CHAIR

We recently held our annual CORE Council Retreat where we reviewed PCSL’s Purpose, Vision, Mission and Values for our new CORE Council Members. I wanted to share this information with our Membership and readers:

Our Purpose: To provide Spiritual tools for personal transformation.

Our Vision: Opening hearts, igniting minds and making a difference in the world.

Our Mission: Promoting a way of life honoring all paths to God.

- **Opening Hearts** through inspirational services; affirmative prayer and community programs and events.
- **Igniting Minds** through teaching Science of Mind principles and providing classes and workshops.
- **Making a Difference in the World** through Spiritual practice, personal transformation and global consciousness.

Core Values: Faith and Spirituality; Joy/Fun; and Education. (These values are from a congregational values survey of desired group values in February, 2010.)



Dee Hartman, RScP
CORE Council Chair

*Working to create and
maintain a wonderful
environment for
Spiritual growth.*



2014-15 CORE Council: (l-r) Rev. Larry King, Diane Thomas, Jim Buix. Sara Frandsen, Dee Hartman, Kathy Batten, Karen Kettler, Jessica Livesay, Joan Brown-Kline, and Molly Pierce.

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

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NEWSLETTER CREDITS

EDITOR
June Gumz
GreetingsJG@comcast.net

DESIGN
Cheri Smith

CONTRIBUTORS
Rev. Larry King
Rev. Sharon Lee Foley
Dee Hartman
Laura Bradley

COMING EVENTS • GET THE LATEST UPDATES ONLINE AT www.pcsl.us/calendar

MAY

SPRING CLEANUP

Sun, May 18, 12:15 – 3pm

Come join others in the Community as we tidy our Spiritual home, inside and out. Wear your "grubbies" to the Center and help make things clean and fresh. A light lunch will be provided. For more information contact Kathy Batten at 360-931-0371.

JUNE

WOMEN'S RETREAT: 10th Annual "CELEBRATE SPIRIT AS WOMAN"

Thur, June 19 – Sun, June 22

Silver Falls State Park, OR

Facilitated by Rev. Sharon Lee Foley & Team
"A sacred, safe, nurturing, loving place."

Included: Meals, Lodging, Activities –
Hiking, Games, Drumming, Chanting,
Meditation; Retreat Info: email retreat@pcsl.us
or call 503-261-0677

CLASS: THE ESSENTIAL ERNEST HOLMES

Wed eve, June 25 – Aug 27, 6:30 – 9:30 pm

Rev. Sharon Lee Foley & Kate Barrett, RScP

Join us as we explore what some consider to be the best of the writings of Ernest Holmes, founder of Science of Mind. Become part of the discussion as we consider the meaning and the relevance of some of his more provocative thoughts and how we might apply the principles in our own lives today.

Prerequisite: Foundations

All events held at the Center
unless otherwise noted.

JULY

COMMUNITY PICNIC

Sun, July 13, 12:30pm – 3:30pm

Peninsula Park, 700 Rosa Parks Way

Join us for family fun at our Center's Annual Picnic. Bring a friend to grow our community. PCSL will provide the burgers, veggie-burgers and "dogs." You provide your favorite picnic side dishes to share.

SUMMER RAFFLE

In an effort to raise funds to offset our 2014 budget deficit, we're requesting donations of personal and/or professional services valued at \$200 or above for a Summer Raffle. Please contact Molly Pierce at 503-330-2345 if you're interested in making a donation.

ON-GOING ACTIVITIES

BREAKFAST WITH THE MINISTER: Sat, 9:00am

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

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP: If you enjoy taking pictures and would like to share your experience with others, sign up on the interest sheet in the sanctuary. For more information call June Gumz 503-653-7132.

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

WOMEN OF WISDOM BOOK STUDY: Thur, 10:30am.
For more information, contact Sandra Clark at 971-275-7111.

eSCRIP: Link your Safeway card to eScrip and a small portion of each purchase will support PCSL. Sign up at back table or call Jessica Livesay at 940-616-4678.

GET INVOLVED

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 – younger group is from 0-6 and the older group from 7-12. If you have a desire to work with either group please contact Sean Larkin 530-228-3515. We are looking for regular and substitute teachers. Both receive stipends to offset expenses.

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SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

HOSPITALITY TEAM: One Sunday a month, 9 or 11am service. Call Kathy Batten 360-931-0371.

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 call Suki McDonough 360-624-5615.

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.

USED SCIENCE OF MIND MAGAZINES NEEDED:
If you're finished with old copies of the SOM magazine, the Center would like to "recycle" them in our visitor packets. Please drop them off in the Center office or contact Laura Bradley for more information: 503-465-0015.