



# Portland Center FOR Spiritual Living

JANUARY 2015

## COMMUNITY NEWS

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### LITTLE LIBRARIES

#### Promoting Neighborhood Reading BY JUNE GUMZ

**Mark Zuckerberg and I have something in common** and it isn't money or computer skills. We are both interested in promoting READING.\* He thinks including his Facebook fans (approximately 30,000,000 people) in a book club is one way to go about it and I feel that my neighborhood could benefit from a very little library catering to about 30 people. Our goals are the same; the magnitude varies.



Mark's goal for this year is to read a book every other week. Since I am retired I read a few books every week. Over the years I have accumulated many books and have wanted to find a way to share them without dropping them off at Goodwill in a dilapidated card board box. It never felt like a dignified ending for stories I cared about.

One day a friend told me about neighborhood libraries. All over the country neighborhoods have been building little libraries to foster reading and camaraderie. What a great idea I thought, but how could I get one for Molt Street? I have a brother who is creative and crafty so I brought up the idea to him and he said he would do it if I didn't mind if he used scraps from his basement. There is no pattern for the libraries so my brother was free to use his imagination. My only requirements were that the doors should open and close and it had a roof that didn't leak. No one likes soggy books.

I called the zoning commission to make sure such project was legal in Milwaukie. They supported the idea if I kept it 20 feet from the street and 3 feet from my neighbor's property line. Phooey! Then my brother said, "If we put it in a wagon the zoning commission wouldn't be involved." It could be wheeled close to the street and put in the garage at night. Hence the mobile lending library was born.

The grand opening was January 3rd in cold wet weather. I offered cookies and hot chocolate as an enticement to check out the library, but people were so busy choosing books and getting to know neighbors, they weren't interested. Participants are required to donate a book initially and then they may take out one book at a time with no due dates.

Mark Zuckerberg may get more people reading, but my little library is local and free.

More info on little libraries at <http://littlefreelibrary.org>



"Mobile" library designed and built by June's brother.



\*See article on page 3 for more about June and literacy.



Rev. Larry King

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*"...time for connection  
to our "higher power"  
and to self."*

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## MESSAGE BY REV. LARRY KING RETREAT OR ADVANCE?

**I just came back from the Center's first silent retreat.** We called it "The Art Of Meditation" and the parameters for the 3 days were simple: 2 days of complete silence and 4 hours a day of meditation.

Of course there were other activities. The grounds at Silver Falls Retreat Center are beautiful. It's right in the heart of the forest with hiking and walking trails in every direction. The accommodations and food are always excellent at the Center and the Staff was warm-hearted and understanding of our "special silent needs." We also had spiritual readings, a workbook, journaling and some exercises to keep us metaphysically busy and largely content.

The results?

The retreat from the business and "noise" of life was felt as a positive for all of us. The "energy" we expend in

talking and interacting with others is draining. Getting a respite from the hubbub has such a healing effect! At one point another (non-silent) group joined us in the dining hall and their noise seemed deafening and crazy.

The meditation time was also amazing. I think even people relatively new to meditation appreciated the time for connection to our "higher power" and to self. A few people had moments of un-ease and anxiety—after all, prolonged silence is not something we're accustomed to. But the greater awareness of God tends to smooth that out before too long.

In the end, everyone felt it was a worthwhile experience. Everyone had moments of wisdom, contentment, connection, inspiration and insight. Everyone moved forward in his or her spiritual journey.

Maybe "advance" is a better term than "retreat!"

Many blessings, silent and otherwise,  
Rev. Larry





## GET TO KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY

### PERSPECTIVE: How Can I Know? BY JUNE GUMZ

**About forty years ago I went to a Literacy Conference in Seattle.** It was the time of encounter groups and enlightening one's consciousness. I was drawn into a workshop which promised to give me the tools to help my adult literacy students.

The leader of the workshop was an American Indian woman whose presence was immediately powerful. I don't see auras, but I felt hers. With her was a little boy who was her grandson. Soon enough I learned that we "do gooders" were in for an encounter that would shake our beliefs to the core. Almost all of us were white middle-aged literacy tutors who represented the worst to our teacher (she was a college professor). After three hours of being challenged for our actions and beliefs there came time for an intermission.

The little boy had been sitting silently in an uncomfortable adult chair with nothing to occupy his time. Nervously I approached his grandmother to see if I could give him some paper and a pencil to give him something to do. She responded that he would continue sitting there for the next three hour session "because he was capable of it." It was said with an edge of hate. To my knowledge I have never been hated on sight, especially when I was trying to be helpful.

Because I needed clarification and understanding of the grandmother's hostility, I went to the second session. It turns out the boy was the result of a white rapist and she was going to make certain he was going to be a successful Indian. I wonder if the workshop was used as an encounter for him to learn not to trust white ladies who purport to know what is best for him.

I can visualize that day with utter clarity. Minorities are used to being hated for the color of their skin but a group of WASP women got to experience the feeling for the first time. If her goal was to make us uncomfortable and question our motives, she succeeded.

After a sleepless night, I wrote this poem to express my confusion.

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*Would the world  
be so different  
If I were you  
and you, me?*

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"Harmony" by Alima Newton

### HARMONY

*Not born into strife  
How can I know  
Your suffering today and long ago?  
Not robbed of my land  
How can I know  
The emotions of those forsaken?  
Never denied due process and dignity  
How can I know  
The injustice of promises abandoned?*

*Since my way has been smooth  
My heritage free  
Hate is not my destiny.  
I experience the majesty of a sunrise  
The joy of nature's abundance  
And respect the uniqueness of every people.  
There are many paths to the Truth  
But only one Truth – Harmony  
Would the world be so different  
If I were you and you, me?*

## THOUGHTS: CREATING A NEW YEAR BY REV. SHARON LEE FOLEY

**Happy New Year!** Wouldn't it be grand if it really was? What if we could just start over? Wouldn't it be fabulous if a new year meant a clean slate? HAPPY NEW YEAR!! It does. It can mean all that and more.

This is the year of the invitation into a bigger story. The RSVP requires that we let go of the old story (ies) and create a new one. The good news is that we have the technology to do just that. We know this because we've already created several up to now. Right? The only story that has any power is the one (ones) we bring with us. So let's start over. We can bring with us what is life affirming, lifts us up, excites us...and we can leave the rest behind. Science of Mind tells us that we are our own creation story.

What we focus on, what we tell ourselves, our story, is what we get more of. We are making all of this up, so while we are creating, why not create lives that we are excited to live? That which creates universes, galaxies and life itself gives each of us that exact same technology. We create our own lives, our own story with our thoughts and beliefs. What happened before, happened before. The end.

Let's create a bigger story.

## CORE COUNCIL UPDATE: BY DEE HARTMAN, CHAIR

**As we begin the New Year** the CORE Council is ready to begin a few new projects.

The committee is just now in place to take a look at visioning for the future expansion of PCSL. As many of you already aware both of our Sunday Services have been enjoying and experiencing a growth in attendance. In mid-December our total attendance reached an all-time high of 140 people. This committee will be looking at our current needs as well as understanding our future needs.

To be ready for our Annual Meeting on March 15, 2015, our Nominating Committee is looking to fill three positions on the CORE Council, two regular At Large members and the Treasurer's position. If you know of someone, or even yourself, who would be a fit for one of these positions, please let Rev. Larry, or myself know right away to be considered. Requirements to serve on the CORE Council are to be an active member with identifiable financial support of PCSL.

Our energy saving Lighting Retrofit, Green project is now very nearly complete. We just need to replace a few original light bulbs upstairs and have the dimmer switches installed. In this day and age it is good for the environment to be Green.

With Love and Blessings,  
Dee Hartman, RScP



Rev. Sharon Lee Foley

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*"We create our own lives, our own story with our thoughts and beliefs."*

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Dee Hartman, RScP  
CORE Council Chair

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

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*"That which I have been seeking, I already am. All is embodied within my own being."*

—Joel Goldsmith "The Art of Meditation"

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Opening Hearts  
Igniting Minds  
Making a Difference

#### JOIN US AT THE CENTER

### PORTLAND Center for Spiritual Living

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## COMING EVENTS • GET THE LATEST UPDATES ONLINE AT [www.pcsl.us/calendar](http://www.pcsl.us/calendar)

### JANUARY

#### HERMETICS

**Mon, Jan 19-Feb 23, 6:30-9:30 PM**

**5 weeks, facilitated by Rev. Larry King**

Explore the Spiritual Principles of ancient Egypt in a practical and interactive case-based class. Before Christianity, there were the teaching of Hermes Trismegistus.

#### ESSENTIAL EMMA CURTIS HOPKINS

**Thurs, Jan 22-Mar 12, 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.

### FEBRUARY

#### TEA AND TRANSFORMATION

**Sun, Feb 1, 12:30-2**

A prelude...to introduce or reacquaint you with the wonders of our annual Women's Retreat. You are cordially invited to a time of food and music in the company of other women. Rev. Sharon Lee Foley and TEAM, with Linda Rossi and Ruth Beck, will lead you into that place of remembering the beauty and the power that is the truth of you. Come play with us, and explore the possibilities that are alive and well inside of you! No entrance fee ~ please be our guest!

#### PLANNING A MEETING OR SPECIAL EVENT?

Consider having your event at the Center. Contact Pamela Jeanne at 503-720-8999 for pricing and information.

### WINTER CONNECTION CIRCLES

**8-week circles starting Feb 1**

Members are opening their homes for Connection Circles this winter! Safe places for discussion, group spiritual practice, prayer requests and sharing, circles are available at various times and locations throughout the greater Portland and Vancouver metropolitan areas. Sign up at the Center.

### MARCH

#### ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

**Sun, Mar 15, 12:30-2:00 PM**

Everyone is welcome to join us at the Center. We'll cover our 2014 end-of-year financial reports and plans for 2015. Members will be asked to vote on a slate of CORE Council members.

#### 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 in the sanctuary. For 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.

### 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](mailto:greetingsjg@comcast.net). – June Gumz, editor

### SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

**HOSPITALITY TEAM:** One Sunday a month, 9 or 11am service. Call Jaye Hill 971-225-0723.

**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.