



# Portland Center FOR Spiritual Living

NOVEMBER 2016

## COMMUNITY NEWS

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*"Chaos is not  
something I enjoy."*

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### WHO KNEW?

**I Certainly Didn't.** BY JUNE GUMZ

**Have you ever learned something about yourself that changed everything?** Recently I discovered that I fit on the autism spectrum; I have a mild case of Asberger's Syndrome. Having worked in Special Ed. for more than 20 years as a teacher's assistant, this observation was a long time coming. While I suspect some members of my family have Asberger tendencies, it never occurred to me that I do.

One clue to my 'condition' is that I am very literal. Even after 77 years, if you tell me something to my face, I believe you.

Fortunately, I have made allowances for certain politicians and discernment comes into play every four years. Because I say what I mean, I assume everyone does; lots of disappointments over a lifespan.

Life in my brain is relatively simple – pretty black and white. It is amazing that I am not a conservative. For me, things are right or they are wrong – I'm not a nuance kind of person and consequently I don't always get the finer points of a situation or conversation. When someone says, "you know what I mean," I think I do, but often I don't.

Chaos is not something I enjoy. It is imperative that I can depend on quiet times and regular routines. For decades I have wondered why I was always the first to leave a meeting, church service or party. Now that I am familiar with traits of Aspy's, I understand it is a safety valve for me against too much stimulation and not anti-social behavior.

As individuals we each have a cross or two to bear. For some it is weight issues, for others fear of heights or mental quirks such as dyslexia. Conversely, we also have talents to share. Imagine how boring it would be if we were all normal in the same ways. If everyone was artistic, clever, athletic, musical, etc., how would we let our little lights shine?

My new found awareness allows me to be less judgmental of others. Always being right is tiring! Now I can take a minute to examine an idea or situation and think, is this logical? Could the person be implying more than he/she is saying? What questions can I ask for elucidation? Awareness of Asberger's Syndrome is giving me permission to get more information to make decisions and clarify situations. It's a good thing.



*June Gumz, editor*

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Rev. Larry King

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## MESSAGE BY REV. LARRY KING

# WHO ARE YOU BECOMING?

**The trick-or-treaters were at my house last night.** The many costumed kids were eager for candy and equally eager to pet our two dogs as they helped greet the Halloween visitors. I asked everyone "Who are you, tonight?" and I got some expected (and unexpected) answers.

One little boy said, "I'm Superman, silly!" It wasn't clear from his costume, but he was as sure as could be. He told me all about fighting crime, flying to the North Pole and how exactly he would deal with Kryptonite.

A little girl said she was a princess and I asked which one. After all there are many, many princesses! She replied, "The one that gets exactly what she wants!" I think she's ready to start going to our spiritual center!

One little boy looks stunned by this question. He was in some kind of feline costume. Lion King? Tigger? It was hard to say. His mom whispered something to him, but he just turned red and left (with candy, of course). Another little boy who looked somewhat like an accident victim (Zombie? The Mummy?) said, "Me? I couldn't figure it out... so I put on this..."

So, now it's your turn. Who are you tonight? What are you in the process of becoming? You might say, "Not fair! It's not Halloween any longer. Why are you asking?" I'm asking because I think it's important. Do you have an idea of who you'd like to

become? Do you know what you like about yourself and what you'd like to change? Do you have goals to help you make progress in becoming your best self? God will help if you have some good ideas and a commitment to move forward.

We're not that much different from the trick-or-treaters. If we don't have a plan, we'll just drift through life. One day will end up being much like the last. This is fine, if you're satisfied with your life "as-is."

But, Superman had some clear ideas. He may not have had much of a costume, but there was clarity in him

about what it is to be Superman: the strength, doing good things, flying, etc. I bet that God will powerfully help this little guy in his plans for becoming.

In her book "The Four Spiritual Laws of Prosperity," Edwene Gaines explained the criteria for having a Divine Purpose or for becoming someone truly remarkable.

They're not so hard:

- Stand for something
- Make the world better than it was when you came into it
- Have fun

So who are you becoming?

*Larry*





## BOARD UPDATE BY JANINE STEWART, CHAIRPERSON, PARTNERS IN PROSPERITY PROSPERITY

We are so blessed at PCSL! The annual **Prosperity Dinner** was held on October 20 as a thank you from the board and leadership of our community. Rev. Larry shared information about our outreach programs; Ann Forest Burns gave an update on the search for our new building, and attendees participated in discussion regarding what is working and what they would like to see more of. I encouraged everyone to submit their Intentional Giving cards and to consider accepting the challenge to tithe made by Edwene Gaines. Many hands were involved in getting this dinner put together. Please know how much I appreciated all the help with decorations, set up, and clean up.

We also had a very successful **Divine Dining** season. Ten hosts, five of them new to this event, provided food and activities that kept our community engaged and connected all summer long. Thank you to everyone who participated.

A new **Prosperity Team** has been formed (Len Stanley, Corrine Vostal, Sam Gates, yours truly) and will be meeting in the near future with Rev. Larry to calendar events for the coming year. Due to the change in our music program leadership, we are postponing the talent show to this coming spring. Other new ideas are being considered for additional activities that will bring us together.

I am grateful for the opportunity to be on the board and to chair this important team for PCSL.

Yours in abundance!



Janine Stewart  
Board Member at Large



THE PIE-EYED OPTIMIST  
Host: Rev. Lynn Johnson



SWIM, SPLASH,  
COOL DOWN PARTY  
Host: Kathy Marshack



TALK NERDY TO ME  
Hosts: Sam and Damon Gates



FIESTA DEL PARAÍSO  
Hosts: Rev. Larry King and Daniel Hutchison



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

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

### NOVEMBER

#### THANKSGIVING MUMS

##### Order and dedicate yours!

Help decorate the  
sanctuary for our Har-  
vest Potluck Sunday  
and have a Thanksgiv-  
ing table decoration!  
You may also honor a  
loved one in the Sun-  
day program through  
your purchase. Order  
them through Novem-  
ber 13th for display on November 20th. Pick  
up your plant after the second service at the  
Harvest Potluck. The cost is \$15.00. For more  
information call Dee Hartman (360) 831-8033.



#### HARVEST POTLUCK

##### And "Bring a Friend" Sunday

##### Sunday, November 20th, after the 2nd Service

Join us as we gather for a Fall potluck in  
celebration of the bounty of Spirit present in  
our Community. The Center provides turkey  
and ham; you bring your favorite side dishes  
to share for our "Thanksgiving." Let's expand  
our loving community by bringing a friend this  
Sunday!

#### GRATITUDE SERVICE

##### Wed, November 23, 7pm – 8pm

Be a part of this annual service where, through  
music and sharing, we celebrate life and its  
many blessings. Offer gratitude for all of your  
many gifts this year, as well as set your inten-  
tions for future gratitude in 2017.

### ON-GOING EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

**HEART TO HEART:** Support during an illness,  
loss or other life transition. Contact  
Rev. Larry King 503-501-6599.

### DECK THE HALLS

##### Sunday, November 27th, 12:30 PM

Join us after the second service as we decorate  
for the holidays. We'll have eggnog and mulled  
cider on hand to enjoy with cookies and holiday  
music. Together we'll create a lovely space to  
enjoy Solstice, Christmas and beyond! Bring  
an ornament in red/gold/green to put on our  
Christmas tree and cookies that you might share  
with our hospitality team.

### DECEMBER

#### STUFFED TOY COLLECTION

We've partnered with Portland Police's  
"Sunshine Division" to collect new and gently  
used stuffed animals to be given to children in  
distress. Bring them in during December and  
we'll love-them-up  
in our sanctuary  
seats. For more in-  
formation, contact  
Rosemary Teetor  
503-956-5232.



#### SOLSTICE SERVICE

##### Wednesday, December 21, 7pm-8pm

A service filled with light, music, readings  
and a remembrance of the birth of the Enlight-  
ened One that lives within us all. This service  
fills the heart and soul.

### JANUARY 2017

#### GOLDEN BOWL SERVICE

##### Sunday, January 1, 9am & 11 am

On the first Sunday of each year, the Center  
hosts a ritual service where we each release  
something that is an untruth in our conscious-  
ness, and set a focused intention to embrace  
a quality of Spirit during the upcoming year.  
Much more powerful than a resolution.

#### BREAKFAST WITH THE MINISTER: Sat, 9:00am

For Info, contact Dee Hartman at 360-831-8033.

#### TRANSCENDENCE 12-STEP FOR WOMEN:

Sat, 9:00am-noon

All activities held at the Center unless otherwise noted. GET MORE INFO at [www.pcsl.us/calendar](http://www.pcsl.us/calendar).

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: GET INVOLVED!

**YOUTH CHURCH TEACHER:** Have fun with kids  
while teaching Science of Mind principles. There  
are two groups of children – younger is from  
0-6 and the older from 7-12. We are looking for  
regular and substitute teachers. Both receive  
stipends. Contact Sean Larkin 530-228-3515.

**HOSPITALITY TEAM:** One Sunday a month,  
9 or 11am service. Contact Erin Hurt at  
360-909-4971.

**USED SCIENCE OF MIND MAGAZINES NEEDED:**  
Please bring old copies to the office. We would  
like to "recycle" them in our visitor packets.

#### USHERS & GREETERS AND THE "CLEAN TEAM"

Become that friendly smile that welcomes  
people to our spiritual home. The "Clean  
Team" maintains our clean and lovely environ-  
ment. For more information, contact Anette  
Bolster at 503-970-4116.

#### COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAMS:

A free way to support PCSL. A portion of your  
purchases at Amazon.com (Amazon Smile) and  
Fred Meyer (Community Rewards) can be cred-  
ited to your Spiritual Center. For more informa-  
tion, call PCSL office at 503-261-0677.