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From the back seat I heard him say quietly, "I am confident." In the front seat I was thinking the same thing.



A Goliath birdeater spider (*Theraphosa blondi*) with a 12-inch ruler and a dollar bill for scale.

(Courtesy of wikipedia)

LESSONS

NEVER BET WITH A NINE YEAR OLD BY JUNE GUMZ

The other day my grandson wanted me to allow him to take his jar of change to the bank so that he would have paper money to buy a toy he wanted at *Toys R Us*. He chose a day when I had several appointments and people to see. A trip to the bank and *Toys R Us* wasn't in my plans. He'd have to wait for another day.

Later, we were returning from an errand that was on my list, and my grandson squealed because there was a spider on the back of the car seat. The spider was almost microscopic in size, and not a threat of any kind, but Pierson didn't want anything to do with it. A discussion followed about spiders: their abilities to harm, their artistic webs and the way they eliminate other pests, etc. Pierson then announced that we should be afraid of spiders because they can eat birds. I told him that wasn't possible.

Never one to pass up an opportunity, he said if he could prove that spiders can eat birds then he should be allowed to take the change to the bank and *Toys R Us*. I said OK, since I knew I would win, and if I won he would have to wait to go to the bank until the jar was full to the top. Agreed. From the back seat I heard him say quietly, "I am confident." In the front seat I was thinking the same thing.

When my errands were completed we put "can spiders eat birds?" on the computer and clicked on "Search." Would you believe there is a spider that eats birds? We even got to see a picture of said spider and a bird it was eating. Well, the nine year old boy couldn't keep the grin off his face. Off we went to the bank followed by a trip to *Toys R Us*.

"Never bet with a nine year old," he said. Later, still gloating, "you started your education at age five and are 73 now which means you had 68 years to learn about bird-eating spiders. I am only nine and already know about them. My brain isn't as wrinkly as yours."



After giving him a lesson on the good things about wrinkly brains, we went back to my house where we made holiday cookies. Grandmas may not know everything, but they know when they have met their match.

Pierson basking in his victory.

PCSL THEME FOR 2013: BY REV. LARRY KING PERSONAL REVOLUTION—SPIRITUAL EVOLUTION



Rev. Larry King

On Sunday, Dec. 27th, it was wonderful to see so many people go through the “Golden Bowl” ceremony. We asked each person to make a stand for something to be intentionally different in 2013. For many, I know this represents a personal revolution. People are releasing things that have kept their lives small, fearful or controlling for many years. They are also embracing intentions for amazing new ways of being.

This is how the planet evolves, spiritually. It isn’t done through legislation. It isn’t done through attempting to change mass morality. We change the earth, spiritually, one person at a time. It is through each of our intentions to change ourselves and our own lives for the better that the world gets better.

Of course I like to think that the Portland Center for Spiritual Living helps! We’ve scheduled a variety of classes, workshops, discussion groups and events to provide tools for sustaining and enhancing your “personal revolution:”



- The **AfterWords** discussion group meets every Sunday in January so that you can ask questions and get a personal understanding of the basics of Science of Mind.
- The one-day **MASTS** workshop offers you the opportunity understand and develop your connection to your higher power through Science of Mind spiritual practices.
- The CSL-accredited **Self Mastery** class allows you ample time to understand and deepen your personal connection to God. You will explore feelings, ego, relationships and the process of change while discovering new ways to deepen human love, trust, forgiveness and gratitude.
- My **Metaphysical Alfred Hitchcock** class will be a lot of fun—but you can bet you’ll be learning the basic ideas of Science of Mind (and personal empowerment) along with the movies and popcorn.

Consider participating in one or more of these spiritual development opportunities starting this month at our Center. As you make a commitment to your own personal revolution, you help the planet in its spiritual evolution. You really do make a difference. As you learn new ways to make your own life better, the entire human family benefits.

Find out more about these educational opportunities on the information table in the sanctuary or by asking any of our Practitioners, Rev. Sharon or me.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

All my love and blessings for your 2013 intentions,

Larry

Golden Bowl ceremony...
embracing intentions...
for amazing new ways
of being.

GET TO KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY

ZAYNE MERLIN DECKER: Joy-filled Young Man BY JUNE GUMZ

Zayne Merlin Decker is one of the most consistent members of our PCSL youth program. For most of his 8½ years, he has spent his Sunday mornings upstairs at the Portland Center for Spiritual Living, while downstairs his father runs the sound equipment and his mother sings and prays.

I decided to highlight Zayne for this edition of the newsletter because he has added so much to my enjoyment of the Sunday experience. His look of delight when talking to his Sunday friends is a day brightener. It would take severe clinical depression not to respond to his enthusiasm. Even during the Sunday service, when Zayne is upstairs, we know he is having a great time. We can hear it in his heavy footed joy.

Since Christmas, Zayne, has been wearing a spiffy dark suit to the Center which was “a great big present.” When I complimented him on his sartorial splendor he let me know it will get even better when he gets a hat that matches the color of the suit, shiny black shoes, a pocket square and a belt. As he thought about how wonderful he will look, he pulled a “real silver” ring from his pocket and put it on. The boy has style.

During our interview, I asked Zayne what he envisioned (not the exact wording on my part) for the future. He wants to live in a great big house after he marries Uma. The only hitch is that he will have to find her since she moved to another town and he isn't sure which one. He thinks he will have two jobs. “The first will be a policeman guy and the other a fireman guy because they are helpers.” His future will also include four or five cats.

He loves to play with his brothers, Coi and Derek, when they visit during school vacations. Video games such as *Super Mario Galaxy* are a family favorite. Another playmate is Kitty Aurora, the white, black and gray cat who likes to play with a feather toy. Zayne doesn't let her sleep on his bed because he doesn't want to get scratched.

I asked Zayne what he liked, and what he thought could be improved, in our youth program. He liked that God is and doing things with friends. As for improvement, he likes things just the way they are which should please his teachers.

The Zayne I see each Sunday is a joy-filled, charismatic young man. He enjoys adults as well as his young friends. Whether he is wearing his grown up suit, his fireman costume or his wizard get up, he takes on the persona and lives the parts. Maybe acting is in his future.



Zayne Merlin Decker, life-long PCSL youth program member

[Zayne] thinks he will have two jobs. “The first will be a policeman guy and the other a fireman guy because they are helpers.”



With “Kitty Aurora”



Far left: Parachute play in the parking lot.

Left: Youth church participating in service.

THOUGHTS

BECOMING CONSCIOUS BY REV. SHARON LEE FOLEY

In this **Science of Mind philosophy**, we teach that there is Something, that is everything, expressing Itself in, through and as all of Its creation. This means that each one of us is an individualized expression of this Something. For simplicity's sake, I call it God. We teach, as Ernest Holmes wrote in *What We Believe*, that "...heaven is within us and...we experience it to the degree that we become conscious of it." For me, the practice of this teaching is becoming conscious of it.

This year's theme is "Spiritual Evolution–Personal Revolution" and I don't think one can occur without the other. Becoming conscious of our oneness in God requires a spiritual evolution, an unfolding, a change in direction in how we view ourselves and who we are. Our personal revolution, then, is the fundamental way we revise our view of ourselves, each other and the world. Most of us cannot accomplish this by simply deciding to do so. It requires a real commitment to our own evolution and a revolution in consciousness.

One way to do this is by developing and nurturing our own spiritual practice by partnering with God through prayer and meditation. Another is by taking classes, reading and seeking out other seekers – all the while remembering that what we are seeking is seeking us. We are the body of God. We are how God whispers, "I am here. I love you." That's worth evolving into, isn't it?

Much love,
Rev. Sharon Lee Foley

CORE COUICL UPDATE

GROWING COMMUNITY BY DIANE THOMAS, CORE COUNCIL CHAIR

Just a brief note to update everyone on our finances and attendance. We ended 2012 with strong attendance of our holiday and end-of-year services. We actually broke some attendance records for both Christmas Eve and the Golden Bowl services. It's great to see so many people attending these special holiday celebrations.

Attendance for entire year was also up. We had a 5% increase in people who attended our Sunday services from 2011 to 2012. In particular, we saw a lot of growth in our early ("Inward Journey") service and our Youth Program. Adult attendance at the 11:00 AM service remains steady.

We also ended the year financially stable. Our year-end income for 2012 was within a few hundred dollars of that received in 2011. Although our Sunday tithes were down slightly, we made up for it in other fundraising activities.

We did a great job of managing our expenses and cash flow, coming in slightly under budget for the year.

It's been our pleasure to represent our larger community this year as we help with the business part of running our Center. If anyone has questions or would like more details about finances or other CORE Council matters, don't hesitate to contact me at pollychrome_22456@yahoo.com.

Diane Thomas
Chair, CORE Council



Rev. Sharon Lee Foley

*"...what we are seeking
is seeking us."*



Diane Thomas
CORE Council Chair

*Keep up with PCSL on line!
(see links pg 5)*

Opening Hearts
Igniting Minds
Making a Difference

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

JANUARY

AFTERWORDS Discussion Group Sun, Jan 6-27, 12:30pm

Join Rev. Larry for a time to discuss "Back to Basics" in Science of Mind. Modeled after Oprah Winfrey's After The Show, this discussion group takes up where the Sunday talk leaves off. We discuss Spiritual Principles, ask/answer questions and share from the heart. Everyone is welcome.

MASTS Workshop Sun, Jan 13, 1pm – 3:00pm

Join us in an intention-setting exercise to plan our year for our highest growth and evolving spirituality. We'll explore the five spiritual practices fundamental to the Science of Mind. \$20.00 Members, \$25.00 Non-Members. Scholarships are available.

SELF MASTERY Class

Wed, Jan 16 – Mar 6, 6:30pm – 9:30pm
Rev. Sharon Lee Foley, Kate Barrett, RScP
A deeper inward journey opening the door to reveal the wholeness of self and deepening the experience of Oneness in Spirit. Explore feelings, ego, relationships and the process of change while discovering new ways to deepen human love, trust, forgiveness and gratitude.

THE METAPHYSICAL HITCHCOCK Class Tue, Jan 29 – Feb 26, 6:30pm – 9:30pm Rev. Larry King

5 Incomparable Movies
5 Revelations of Spiritual Truth
You'll learn how to analyze and understand things from a metaphysical standpoint. Enjoy the movies with popcorn and take home some spiritual principles—Hitchcock style.

FEBRUARY

TEA AND TRANSFORMATION Sun, February 3, 12:30pm – 3:00pm

Join Rev. Sharon Lee Foley and the CSAW team for tea, hors d'oeuvres, and a taste of what's to come for the 2013 Women's Retreat. Open to all women over 18, those who have been to one of the retreats, and those who have not.

MARCH

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Sun, March 17, 12:30pm – 2:00pm

Everyone is welcome to join us at the Center's annual business meeting. We'll be covering our 2012 end-of-year financial reports as well as plans for 2013. Members will be asked to vote on any by-law changes and to approve a slate of CORE Council members.

ON-GOING ACTIVITIES

YOUTH GROUP: Sun, 6pm

PCSL is starting a Youth Group! If you are (or you know) a teenager looking to highlight your spiritual side in a supportive peer environment, please join us Sundays at 6 pm. For more information contact Angelica Jackson at 530-228-3515.

BREAKFAST WITH THE MINISTER: Sat, 9:00am
To make your reservation or for Info, contact Dee Hartman at 360-831-8033.

DRUMMING CIRCLE: 2nd Fri, 7-8:00pm

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

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

All events held at the Center unless otherwise noted.

GET INVOLVED

PAID POSITIONS AVAILABLE

YOUTH CHURCH TEACHERS – A wonderful chance to have fun with kids while teaching Science of Mind principles. There are two groups of children—the younger group is ages 0-6 and the older group from 7-12. We are looking for regular and substitute teachers. If you have a desire to work with either group please contact Angelica Jackson 530-228-3515.

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

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

HOSPITALITY TEAM: One Sunday a month, 9 am 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.

SHOP FOR PCSL

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