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...feeling part of a viable, wonderful organization

SPRING

A TIME FOR RENEWAL BY JUNE GUMZ



The crocuses and daffodils have struggled up through the cold hard earth in my yard. All over Portland, in the next few weeks, flowering plants, bushes and trees will be showing off to announce the beginning of spring and the end of winter. I'm ready.

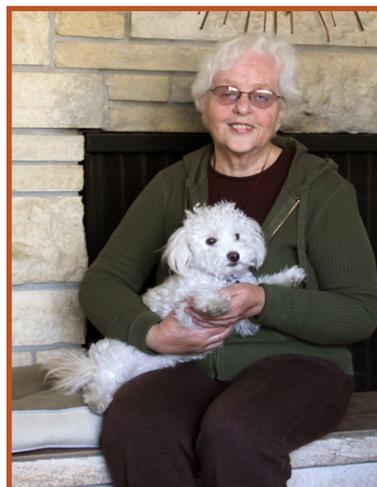
Just as the flowers are renewing themselves, some members of our

congregation renewed their vows to each other. It was a simple ceremony led by Rev. Larry with the congregation as witnesses. Each participant held a single rose and recommitted to each other. It was a lovely meaningful ceremony.

At the time of this writing, the Annual Meeting for PCSL hasn't happened, but it too is a form of renewal. Each year the members of the Center vote for a new slate of CORE Council members. We are given state-of-the-Center talks by Rev. Larry and various members of the council. Our financial situation is discussed in some detail and we leave feeling part of a viable, wonderful organization.

Another form of renewal has come to me in the form of a little dog. Salty is a Bichon/Poodle mix who weighs less than ten pounds. His former "owner" died and Salty was taken to the Humane Society. The commercials of sad, abused or lost dogs finally got to me and I ventured in to see for myself. I

knew within 2 minutes we were meant for each other. Maybe I remind him of his first person, who knows, but he is determined not to let me go and he keeps my feet warm at night.



Salty and June, his "new person."





Rev. Larry King

Beyond what we see for ourselves on Sunday, we really are helping to make a world that works for everyone.

Visit our website at www.pcsl.us and find links to Larry's blog and PCSL podcasts.

IN PERSON AND ONLINE: BY REV. LARRY KING ON OUR WAY TO TOUCHING 100 MILLION LIVES

One of the fun things about being a minister is that I get to hear from the many people who are touched by our teachings. Some of these people, of course, I see on Sunday. It's so rewarding to hear how our community has changed the lives of the people we see every week.

But I also get notes and letters. I'm amazed by the difference we make in the lives of people who are just **visitors** to the Center or who only know us from our **podcasts**, from the *Igniting Minds* **blog** or from our **website**.

During the big Northeast storm, **Mario Leone** wrote, "I listen to you all the way from New England. Your podcasts are awesome! Your jokes are great!" About the storm he continues, "Things are better here! Thanks for the prayers! Despite a window being sucked out and a neighbor's propane tank leaking into our home, I am good and all is well. There is a power greater than me that lifted us up to our highest level."

Deina McIntosh in Oklahoma City writes, "I just wanted to let you know I really enjoy listening to the podcasts of your messages (and others at PCSL). I had listened to the most current ones and now I'm going back to 2010 and listening to them—how inspiring!"

Renne Rosin writes, "Firstly, I would like to tell you what an inspiration and help you have been to me over the last few months. I have been dealing with life changing issues, and I listen to your podcasts everyday. They have helped me in ways that I'm sure you couldn't even imagine."

Darlene Girard posts to a blog entry called *Deadheading The Roses*, "Thank you, this was so rightly timed. I was about to revisit a 'dead' relationship. Your writing gave me a boost of insight, enough to reverse my decision."

And **Linda Pagenkopf** posts to another blog entry called *Let It Shine*, "Thank you for this reminder. It seems so easy to forget that even a little light in the

form of a smile can change a person's day and life. I think sometimes we get too caught up in our own dilemmas of life so need a reminder to shine the Light out to others.

I hope you're getting what I'm getting: **the Portland Center for Spiritual Living is amazing!** Beyond what we see for ourselves on Sunday, we really are helping to make a world that works for everyone. **We're well on our way to touching 100,000,000 lives!**

All my love and blessings,

Larry



GET TO KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY

SCOTT & CHERYL BOND: On a Spiritual Journey BY JUNE GUMZ

Occasionally I draw a blank when it comes to choosing someone or two someones for the Community section of the newsletter. It happened this month, so I asked Rev. Larry and Rev. Sharon to suggest worthy candidates. The Bond couple was their choice.

Scott and Cheryl Bond have been coming to our Center since the summer of 2011 after hearing Rev. Larry on podcasts. They have been responsible for assisting in the physical cleanliness of our building, and after this printing, Scott may be a member of our CORE Council.

Scott was a Texan for the first 18 years of his life and entered the Navy right out of high school. Cheryl was from the San Francisco bay area and lived there for 27 years. They met in the bay area, went to Houston for more schooling and then “landed” in Chesapeake, Virginia where they raised their daughters Allyson and Valerie through high school. In 2007 they moved to Vancouver, Washington.

When I inquired about their interests and hobbies the list was very lengthy. Cheryl cooks vegan, quilts, mentors youth and is interested in animal rights. Family and animals (two dogs and four cats) are very important to her. Scott likes to improve things around the house and yard. Golfing is an occasional pleasure.

Together they enjoy vegetable gardening, hiking, kayaking, camping, travelling and family time with their daughters and granddaughters Bridget and Colleen. Attending concerts and comedy shows and growing spiritually round out the list. Whew!

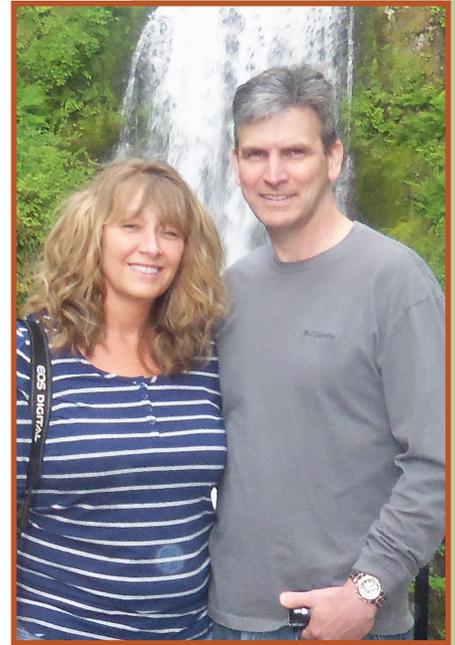
After retiring from the Navy in 2007, Scott found it difficult to be a “normal” husband, father and community member. When he heard the PCSL podcasts, he knew he was hearing what he believed, but didn’t know how to live it. Attending the Portland Center for Spiritual Living was just what he and Cheryl needed to start their spiritual journey together.

I asked each of them what a perfect day would look like to them. Cheryl’s day would be camping on a river with her husband, daughters and granddaughters, drinking lots of strong black coffee, playing games and laughing so hard that her stomach

hurts. Scott’s day would be a bit more comfortable. He likes “warm” sandy beaches, his family and a condo rather than Cheryl’s more rustic vision.

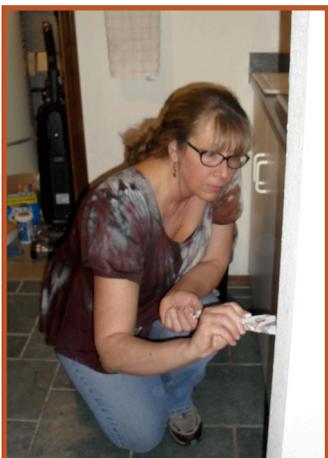
Get to know the Bonds.

Cheryl and Scott pitching in at the 2012 “spruce up.”



Cheryl & Scott Bond

Attending the Portland Center for Spiritual Living was just what Scott and Cheryl needed to start their spiritual journey together.



THOUGHTS

WHAT WE BELIEVE BY REV. SHARON LEE FOLEY

'Tis the season. That's what we are being told, it seems. I'm talking about "Flu Season." It's all over the news, even if one just watches for five minutes. It's all over conversation as well. Someone informed me just the other day that this is the time when children that attend public school bring home the flu. I wonder if that means this does not apply to children attending private school? I submit it does not apply at all. In this "season of the flu" it is the perfect opportunity to examine what we individually and collectively hold to be true.

Because what we believe is what we experience. If we believe there is a flu season, there is.

A basic tenant of our teaching is that thought is creative. Our thought, our belief, individually and collectively, creates our experience. So as we are surrounded by a belief in a flu season, or a pandemic or any other condition that is unlike the wholeness and the perfection of The Divine, which is the truth of us all the time, we have the opportunity to turn away from that condition and turn toward the truth of us. This requires intention and practice. One practice is a mantra of "there is only One Life, that Life is God, that Life is perfect, that Life is my life now." It's the perfect nighttime practice too. Last thing at night, as you fall asleep, repeat that mantra. **Truth is always in season.**

CORE COUNCIL UPDATE

TRANSITIONS BY DIANE THOMAS, CORE COUNCIL CHAIR

I'm writing this just before PCSL's annual business meeting. In less than a week, we'll have new CORE Council members and we'll say "thank you," to some departing ones.

Departing from the CORE Council is Shana Devoréh, who has been our Vice Chair. She has been so helpful organizing agendas and filling-in as Chair when needed. Also departing is Cheri Smith, a "member at large" and part of our Marketing Team. Cheri has graciously agreed to continue working with the Marketing Team—as well as being the Art Director for our Center.

Shana and Cheri (along with LaRhonda Steele and Mike Watters who left the Council earlier in 2012) deserve all our many thanks for their time and participation on the Council. Thank you so much!

We've created a slate of potential new Council members for review at the annual meeting. We believe that they represent some of the most committed and helpful people from our membership: Kathy Batten, Scott Bond, Karen Kettler and Starr Sheppard-Decker. If approved during the annual meeting, they will join the existing Council members for 2-year terms starting this month. We'll have a mini-retreat in April to welcome the new members and set strategy for the rest of the year, as well as develop some longer-range planning.

Currently, your Council has been working on a number of items on your behalf:

- Examination of roof, paint and gutters for potential repair
- Preliminary work on refinancing of building (due in 2015)
- New heating/air conditioning for the Sanctuary and Bookstore
- Planning for annual events such as Summer Picnic, Divine Dining and others

We continue to monitor our revenues and expenses as we work with Rev. Larry to create and maintain a wonderful environment for Spiritual growth.



Rev. Sharon Lee Foley

*"There is only One Life,
that Life is God, that Life
is perfect, that Life is
my life now"*



Diane Thomas
CORE Council Chair

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

Opening Hearts
Igniting Minds
Making a Difference

JOIN US AT THE CENTER

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

MARCH

EASTER LILIES

Order and dedicate yours today!

Help us decorate for Easter and take home a beautiful lily. We'll have a dedication page in the program for those who wish to dedicate their lily to a loved one. Pay for your lily ahead and pick it up Easter Sunday 3/31 after the service. The cost is \$10.00. For more information call Dee Hartman (360) 831-8033.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Fri, March 29, 7pm – 8pm

Join the PCSL Practitioners for "Surrender-Into-the-Mystery," a service where we can release some of our old ways, opening ourselves to a rebirth and renewal in preparation for Easter.

APRIL

FOUNDATIONS Class

Tues, April 16 – June 18, 6:30pm – 9:30pm

Rev. Larry King

Discover your emerging direction and purpose and how to make it happen. Join Rev. Larry for 10 weeks of self-discovery and revelation within an experiential format of lecture, discussion, sharing and process. Learn the nine spiritual principles that will change your life forever. Open to everyone—no prerequisites.

PRACTICAL MYSTICISM Class

Wed, April 17 – June 19 6:30pm – 9:30pm

Rev. Sharon Lee Foley

Practical Mysticism explores ways to connect to the truth of us as we live our daily lives. Join us as we embark upon a rich and transformational experience connecting with the Inner Mystic that dwells within all of us.

Prerequisite Class: Foundations

SPRING CLEAN-UP

Sun, April 21, 12:30pm – 3:30pm

Come join others in the community as we clean-up/spruce-up our beloved Center, both inside and outside.

A light lunch will be provided.

MAY

RETREAT REGISTRATION CLOSES

Sun, May 21

Don't miss out on this wonderful experience! See details below.

JUNE

CELEBRATE SPIRIT AS WOMAN Retreat

June 20 - 23, Silver Falls Conference Center

Three days of coming together as women in the company of women, to remember the love, the light and the power that is the truth of us. Join us and change your life. Information and registration at PCSL, online at www.pcsl.us/SpiritAsWoman.htm or call Nancy at 503-880-0308 or Starr at 503-344-6990.

ON-GOING ACTIVITIES

BREAKFAST WITH THE MINISTER: Sat, 9:00am

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

DRUMMING CIRCLE: On hiatus

SPIRIT AS WOMAN: First Saturdays, 5:30pm

For more information contact Rosemary Teetor 503-956-5232 or Kate Barrett 503-867-2918.

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.