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*"Connections will radiate throughout Portland and beyond."*

### CULTURAL CAFE

Reaching Out BY JUNE GUMZ

September 27th I participated in an experience called the Cultural Café. When I first heard the name, I thought it might be a collection of artistic types sitting around discussing art and literature in a cozy café sipping wine or exotic teas. Wrong. Actually the Cultural Café took place in the sanctuary of the Portland Center for Spiritual Living.



Joan Brown-Kline spearheaded the gathering consisting of diverse people wanting to discuss issues facing our community and the nation as a whole. About fifty people showed up and formed circles where members of the CORE Council acted as facilitators. Each group worked on the same questions. The object of the questions was to allow the participants to express their feelings and experiences with regard to racial problems with the police and policies which seem aimed at keeping people in their place.



My circle had two African American women, one retired policeman and six or seven members of PCSL. We responded to the questions and expressed the emotions we face daily in response to news stories about police brutality against blacks. I can't be certain, but it seemed to me that the African American women were surprised that we were as concerned about the actions of certain individuals as they were.

Joan received many positive calls after the event. Giving a forum for honest communication between diverse groups is one of the best ways to build trust and understanding. Viable ideas for community and police involvement are possible when people of good will take the time to promote inclusive ideas rather than divisive ones.

There are more Cultural Cafes in our future. The genuineness of the connections will radiate throughout Portland and beyond. PCSL is reaching out!

### YOUR SPACE: Monday Morning Musings BY MARTHA TRACY

Today is Monday and I'm flying in the low fly zone. I mean loow fly zone. 8:30 a.m. and no steam in my step. TV chatter, all chatter. CLICK. It's quiet time I need, not chatter. When flying at low altitude, coffee and absolute QUIET are imperative.

I need space to meditate to loosen the fertile ground of my brain which is constantly pulled in the direction of DOING. A break from the brain chatter ride is needed to pull into a place of quiet rest. Slowly but surely, a spark is ignited and words are propelled forward.

Genius is not the goal, honesty takes precedence. The main thrust of the engine (the thought) allows no detours. At last ease and grace, the gifts lying before me, engage in quiet productivity allowing me to be guided and more powerful.

Now flying on autopilot, I receive this spiritual updraft and soar with gratitude.



Rev. Larry King

*"...a wonderful place to feel the love and energy of diverse people who are in touch with God."*

MESSAGE BY REV. LARRY KING

PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS

I just got back from Salt Lake City and the Parliament of the World's Religions. What do 8,000 people from all over the world and representing 200-plus religious traditions have in common? More than you might think!

To begin with, they have "God" in common. Although called by a variety of names and given a variety of attributes all 8,000 of us were there with a common goal: to celebrate the God of our understanding and to make peaceful and loving connections with each other. I would also say that most of us were also there to:

- Deepen our connection to God
- Experience other ways of connecting to God
- Find ways to make a positive impact on some of the world's current issues (such as poverty, disease, women's rights and global warming)
- Learn ways to create successful inter-faith events and programs

Mission accomplished! This was one of the most personally inspiring and successful "retreats" that I've attended. I've brought back many ideas that we might use in our own Center to create a more diverse and welcoming experience at Portland Center for Spiritual Living. I also have information about a variety of global social justice and outreach projects that might move us to participate in something to uplift the planet beyond our physical center.

Some of the most impactful moments for me?

- Participating in a Jewish Shabbat
- Worshiping with the Sufi in a morning prayer service
- Being served a noontime "langar" by the Sikhs
- Attending a workshop on developing interfaith

- events and programs
- Being purified by Native Americans from the Salt Lake region
- Attending a presentation on ending world poverty

The Parliament takes place about every 5 years and is held throughout the world. This year we were fortunate to have it in Salt Lake City, UT. Thank you for making my visit there possible. You'll begin to see some of my "broader experience" at work in the coming weeks and months.

If you get a chance to attend one of the Parliaments, don't hesitate. More than just a bunch of things "to do," the Parliament is a wonderful place to feel the love and energy of diverse people who are in touch with God.

All my love,  
Rev. Larry



Entrance to the "Salt Palace" convention center.



Inside the Salt Palace.



Tibetan monks creating an elaborate sand mandala.

# "STARLIGHT" TALENT SHOW A SPECTACULAR EVENING OF FUN, FOOD, FRIENDS

2015 Participants: Jim Buix, Jim Solberg, Ken Brewer, Suzi Farmer, Kristin Amundson, Marci Beck, Anette Bolster, Albert Chen, Kaye Cushing, Erica Daniels, Pamela Dillon, Sara Frandsen, Sam Gates, Damon Gates, Cynthia Harris, Roni Hernandez & "Dave", Rev. Lynn Johnson, Sylvia Kearns, Rev. Larry King, Tony Lewis, Suki McDonough, Arlene Mosher, Serge Ouattara, Linda Rossi, Sandra Clark, Sarah Stebbins, Joan Knapp, Sue Livingston, Starr Sheppard-Decker, Janine Stewart, Don Wolf, Ann Cleary.



PHOTOS BY JUNE GUMZ

## THOUGHTS: A BIGGER STORY BY REV. SHARON LEE FOLEY

**We began this year with an invitation into a bigger story.** In SOM we believe there is only One Life, so we are all a part of it. We teach that any creation story is the result of thought. God's thought moves upon itself = galaxies, universes, all life, is created. Using that One Mind, our individual (and collective) thought creates as well. So the story of our lives then is a creation of our thought. We create our own story. We've already been doing it. We know how. We can continue the same story or create a different one. How exciting is that?

In 2015 we've explored living with change, communication, light emerging from darkness, abundance, sufficiency – all of which begins with thought. Thanksgiving and Christmas are approaching. So I've been thinking (of course I have), what's your holiday story? Does it bring you joy? Has it been handed down for generations? Is it even your story? For some, the holidays are warm and loving, a celebration of love and family. For others, it's varying degrees of drama, maybe sadness, even loneliness. The thing is, we can choose. We may have forgotten that. We still get to choose. We can choose what we think, where we go, what we do and with whom. What do you think? So what's your story? Cheers!

## CORE COUNCIL UPDATE: BY DEE HARTMAN, CHAIR

**Attendance continues to increase** at the Center and we are happy to welcome a New Member class of 18 people!

Our Center is busy this fall with a variety of workshops and special programs.

Fall **Connection Circles**, serving about 35 people each week, are underway. These Circles provide connection during the week to reinforce the Sunday message, to present a more personal and interactive approach to what we teach and to support our members in prayer.

A number of **special events** are scheduled through the end of the year. We hope you plan to attend:

<i>Starlight Talent Show</i>	<i>Saturday, November 14 at 6:30 pm</i>
<i>Harvest Potluck</i>	<i>Sunday, November 22 after the 2nd Service</i>
<i>Gratitude Service</i>	<i>Wednesday, November 25 at 7:00 pm</i>
<i>Winter Solstice-themed Service</i>	<i>Sunday, December 20 at 9:00 and 11:00 am</i>
<i>Christmas Eve Service</i>	<i>Thursday, December 24 at 7:00 pm</i>
<i>Golden Bowl Service</i>	<i>Sunday, December 27 at 9:00 and 11:00 am</i>

I'll make a full report in the next newsletter as the **Partners in Prosperity** intentional giving campaign ends (on November 1) and we begin our budgeting process for 2016. Financially, we remain solid for 2015, although somewhat behind 2014. We are maintaining our six-month cash reserves and we have significant equity in our building.

We'll begin looking for **people to serve** on the CORE Council early in 2016. If you are a PCSL member and are interested, please call me and I'll explain further.



Rev. Sharon Lee Foley

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*"So the story of our lives then, is a creation of our thought."*

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Dee Hartman, RScP  
CORE Council Chair  
(360) 831-8033

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

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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](http://www.pcsl.us/calendar)

NOVEMBER

**HARVEST POTLUCK & "BRING A FRIEND" SUNDAY**  
**Sunday, November 22nd, after 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 the beverages, you bring your favorite eats to share for our "Thanksgiving." Let's expand our loving community by bringing a friend this Sunday!

**GRATITUDE SERVICE**  
**Wednesday, November 25th, 7 - 8:00 PM**  
Our annual Gratitude Service celebrates the completion of our Fall Connection Circles and begins the Thanksgiving season. Linda Rossi and Ken Brewer will be providing the music and everyone will have a chance to share their gratitude for this year and beyond.

DECEMBER

**DECK THE HALLS**  
**Sunday, December 6th, after the 2nd Service**  
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.

**WORKSHOP:**  
**SO WHAT'S A PRACTITIONER, ANYWAY?**  
**Sunday, December 6, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM**  
Facilitated by Marci Beck, RScP  
New to Science of Mind? Ever wonder what a Practitioner does? Ever think about seeing one? Join facilitator Marci Beck, RScP as she answers these questions and more in this informative, interactive workshop.

\$20 for members \$25 for non-members  
There are no prerequisites – everyone is welcome.

**WINTER SOLSTICE-THEMED SERVICE**  
**Sunday, December 20 at 9:00 and 11:00 am**

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**  
**Thursday, December 24 at 7:00 pm**

**GOLDEN BOWL SERVICE**  
**Sunday, December 27 at 9:00 and 11:00 am**

**JANUARY (mark your calendar)**  
More info at [www.pcsl.us/calendar](http://www.pcsl.us/calendar)

**THE ART OF MEDITATION SILENT RETREAT**  
**Thu, Jan. 7, 4pm – Sun, Jan. 10, 12pm**  
Ananda Retreat Center

**WINTER CLASS: POWER OF YOUR WORD**  
**Wed., 10 Wks, Jan. 20**

**WINTER CLASS: ESSENTIAL ERNEST**  
**Mon., 10 Wks, Jan. 25**

ON-GOING EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

**LUNCH BUNCH!: 4th Sun, 12:30 pm**  
Meet at Las Primas Peruvian Kitchen, 3971 N Williams Ave. Fellowship, great food and stimulating conversation.

**RIDESHARE PROGRAM: Give-a-ride; Get-a-ride**  
Facilitating rides to Sunday Service or other sponsored events. If you have a spot in your car or need a ride, contact Kathleen O'Higgins at [kathleen.ohiggins.new.email@gmail.com](mailto:kathleen.ohiggins.new.email@gmail.com)

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

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

**SACRED SILENCE MEDITATION: 4th Wed, 7-8pm**  
Connecting with the sacred silence through contemplative reading, chanting & various forms of meditation.

**WOMEN OF WISDOM BOOK STUDY: 2nd and 4th Wed. 10 AM to 11:30 AM** For more info, contact Jan Peters at 503-781-0672.

**HEART TO HEART:** Do you or someone you love need support during an illness, loss or other life transition? Has someone you usually see on Sunday "gone missing?" H2H can help. Contact Rev. Sharon Lee Foley 503-668-9806 or Lexy Dillon 503-663-5817.

All events 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 or Joni Gould at 360-931-8159.

**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 environment. 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 and Fred Meyer can be credited to your Spiritual Center. For more information, call PCSL office at 503-261-0677.