



Center Community News

The Newsletter of the Center for Sacred Sciences

CSS Launches a Distance Studies Course

Over the years a number of people living outside of the Eugene area have asked if there is any way they could personally participate in the Center's teachings and practices. To meet these requests we are now offering the *Way of Selflessness* distance studies course. The course is built around eight sets of talks by Joel, giving teachings appropriate to the various stages of a spiritual path. Each set also includes instructions for working with precepts and practicing meditation, and is accompanied by a reading list of books drawn from the world's great mystical traditions. Participants in this program will be paired with a mentor (one of Joel's senior students) with whom they can periodically discuss whatever questions they have or obstacles they encounter. After practicing for a period of time, they will also become eligible to join the rest of our practitioners on five-day retreats. For more details, please go to www.centerforsacredsciences.org, or write to us.

Center Launches *Holos Journal* at www.holosforum.org

Phenomena are continually arising and passing in consciousness, and we are called to be mindful of attachments to any particular form. But if you have missed the feature articles and interviews in the Center's newsletter, you will soon find them reincarnated in the Center's new online journal, *Holos: Forum for a New Worldview* (www.holosforum.org). The mission of this journal is to publish articles and interviews that help promote the development and dissemination of a new sacred worldview. It will include topics related to mystical teachings and their relationship to contemporary society, philosophy, and science. The first issue of *Holos* will appear in early 2005 and will feature an interview with Zen philosopher David Loy. Professor Loy is the author of *Nonduality: A Study in Comparative Philosophy* (Humanity Books, 1997), *A Buddhist History of the West: Studies in Lack* (State University of New York Press, 2002), and *Lack and Transcendence: The Problem of Death and Life in Psychotherapy, Existentialism, and Buddhism* (Prometheus Books, 2000).

Audio Recordings in MP3 Format

Now available on ten CDs or on a single DVD are 80 full-length talks covering all the essential teachings at the Center. These audio recordings are compressed in high quality mp3 format and can be played on your computer or portable mp3 music player. The 80 talks are organized into ten sets, each containing eight talks, and are designed to be used with the *Way of Selflessness* distance studies course. You need not take the course, however, to order these mp3 audios. Details and ordering information about these mp3 sets are on the publications catalog on Center's website.



(photo credit: Lewis Bogan)

*The smallest image is as great as God,
because it hides all of God.
—Meister Eckhart*

CENTER FOR SACRED SCIENCES STAFF

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Sheila Craven
Jennifer W. Knight
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Introducing the Introducers

Diana Morris and Miriam Reinhart have finished their tenures as Sunday announcers. Taking their place in the introductions docket are Shan Ambika and Robin Bundy, with occasional return appearances by Vip Short. Many thanks to Miriam and Diana for sharing smiling faces and sonorous voices at the head of the class.

Foundation Studies Course

The 2004-05 Foundation Studies class is receiving instruction and guidance from Rich Marlatt and Miriam Reinhart, who are taking their first turns as teachers in this capacity. Word is that the group is sailing along!

Donkeys Party Down!

A profusion of donkeys performed, partied, and graduated at the Center's Enlightenment Day party last August. Gene Gibbs once again made his apple estate available as the venue for what was a delightful mix of food, music, and ceremony. Members of last year's Foundation Studies class, all adorned in donkey ears, officially "commenced" into full practitioner status. Great danceable music was provided by Center friends Lou and Vinnie. Then never-famous acts took the stage to premiere various original songs, including the fabulous non-hit by those forgettable moptops, The Donkeys, called "There's No Believer." It was a spectacular finale to a long year of practice for Center-goers, and despite all the hee-haw, it seems no one made an ass of him/herself.



LIBRARY CORNER

Library Hours:
Tuesdays 6:00 P.M.– 8:30 P.M.

Library News

Staff Changes

The Center's library staff are pleased to announce two new volunteers. In September Camilla Bayliss and Bonnie Donahue, both of whom have a deep love of books, started volunteering at the library. We hope you can drop in on a Tuesday evening to welcome them.

Share Your Reading Experiences!

You will notice there are no book reviews in this issue of the newsletter. Readers who may have found a particular book (or any other media) valuable and worth sharing are encouraged to submit a brief review to the Library Director, Jennifer Knight. It ain't the *New York Times*, but who knows, you might see your name in print!



DONKEYS: (bottom row) Clivonne Corbett, Todd Corbett, (middle row) Janet Black, Cathy Jonas, Kiva Michels, Cathryn Cardellino, Bill Hamann, (top row) Jack Yousey, Randy Baker, Susan Colson, Steve Jonas, (not pictured:) Nancy Hager, Janna Latham (photo credit: Gene Gibbs)

Fall 2004 Retreat

The ten-day Fall retreat, entitled “Listening to the Stones,” was led by Joel Morwood and took place October 15-24 at Cloud Mountain Retreat Center near Castle Rock, Washington. Participants, intrigued by the retreat’s title, were perhaps looking forward to hearing such timeless spiritual classics as “(I Can’t Get No) Satisfaction,” “This Could Be the Last Time,” and “You Can’t Always Get What You Want,” ...or possibly having the ultimate experience of the void, “2,000 Light Years from Home.” But instead, all were once again treated to a masterful exposition of the entire spiritual path this time utilizing a hand-picked stone as guru. If we are to see, as Meister Eckhart insisted, “everything as divine,” then we should be able to see Consciousness Itself even in a rock. Students had various levels of success in this, but suffice it to say we all rocked out, Stones or no!



RETREATANTS: (bottom row from left) Todd Corbett, Clivonne Corbett, Bill Hamann, Rich Marlatt, (middle row) Niraja Lorenz, Mike Barkhuff, Megan Greiner, Kimberly Carson, Joel Morwood, Robin Bundy, Carol Mizera, Kiva Michels, Vip Short, Jim Carson, (top row) Camilla Bayliss, Sharry Lachman, Fred Chambers, Lewis Bogan, David Cunningham, Jim Patterson, Ann Everitt, Wesley Lachman, Shan Ambika, (not pictured:) Maggie Free, Steve Jonas, Miriam Reinhart (photo credit: Lewis Bogan)

Some Words on A•ston(e)•ishment:

Gnosis usually occurs when one is in a state of complete wonder at what will be shown.

—Joel

Forsaken, almost human, he sank beneath your wisdom like a stone.

—Leonard Cohen, “Suzanne”

A Tale of Two Dudes

or

You Can Lead a Dude to Water, But You Can’t Make Him Think

On opposite sides of a wide and rather swift river stood two dudes. Eager young Dude #1, spying no bridge, stepping stones, raft, or other conveyance, was nonetheless intent on getting across. Hailing the other dude, he shouted “Yo dude! Can you tell me how to get to the other side?”

Older, wiser Dude #2 eyed his supplicant with disdain as he sagely advised: “Like, duuude—you ARE on the other side!”

*The world is strung on me
like pearls on a string...
I am the flavor in water,
the radiance in the sun and moon...
I am the scent of promise in the earth
and the burning strength in the fire,
The life in all creatures
and the ascetic fire in holy men...
I am the understanding of those who understand,
the majesty of the majestic...
My shape is unmanifest, but I
pervade the world.*

—Krishna speaking to Arjuna
(Hindu)

*I am that living and fiery essence of the
divine substance that flows in the beauty of
the fields. I shine in the water, I burn in the
sun and the moon and the stars. Mine is that
mysterious force of the invisible wind. I
sustain the breath of all living. I breathe in
the verdure, and in the flowers, and when the
waters flow like living things, it is I... I am
the force that lies hid in the winds, from me
they take their source, and as a man may
move because he breathes, so doth a fire
burn but by my blast. All these live because I
am in them and am of their life. I am
wisdom.*

—The Spirit of God speaking to
Hildegard of Bingen
(Christian)

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

The Center relies entirely on donations to support its services. On behalf of all those who benefit from these services, we would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Center. Without the support of these individuals, the Center could not exist as we know it. We wish to acknowledge everyone who has expressed their generosity through membership pledges, Sunday offerings, volunteer labor, and other gifts.

For contributions to the Retreat Scholarship Fund we thank Mike Barkhuff, Camilla Bayliss, Lewis Bogan, Susan Colson, Todd Corbett, David Cunningham, Gene Gibbs, Bill Hamann, Cathy and Steve Jonas, Sharry and Wesley Lachman, Lynn Lambert, Jana Latham, Beth MacKenzie, Rich Marlatt, Doug Martin, Kiva Michels, Diana Morris, Hanna Offenbacher, Miriam Reinhart, Vip Short, and Jack Yousey.

Special thanks go to Jim Zajac, Miriam Reinhart, Sharry Lachman, Judy Morgan, Cathy Jonas, Liz Baldner, Tom McFarlane, Shan Ambika, Gail Marshall, and Mike Barkuff for assisting George Mottur.

For other special monetary gifts we thank David Cunningham, Edwin Holloway, Beth MacKenzie, John and Jan Mackey, and Mo Moscovitz.

We would like to thank Mike Craven for installing the hand rail in the meditation room, and Mike Craven, Vip Short, and Wesley Lachman for many other tasks, great and small, too numerous to mention.

We would like to thank Shan Ambika, Camilla Bayliss, Ed Fuller, Sharry and Wesley Lachman, Rich Marlatt, Barbara and Charles Nugent, Robin Retherford, Dean Schlecht, and Karen Wickham, for giving the meditation room and library a thorough fall cleaning.

For donations to the library of books, tapes, CDs, VHS Videos, DVDs, money, and gift certificates we thank Henry Alexander, Shan Ambika, Sean Arnold, Liz Baldner, Sherrill Bower, Leslie Caulley, Clivonne Corbett, David Cunningham, Maggie Free, Megan Greiner, Bill Hamann, Inner Directions Foundation, Cathy & Steve Jonas, Jennifer Knight, Lynn Lambert, Rich Marlatt, Marleen Marshall, Carol Mizera, Sue Oberton, Miriam Reinhart, Holly Saunders, Catherine Stack, David Waldman, and Kate Waterbury.

We would like to thank Gene Gibbs for his unique apple fund raiser. For translating the Center's brochure into Spanish for distribution at the Parliament of World Religions in Spain, we thank Bhakti Garcia.

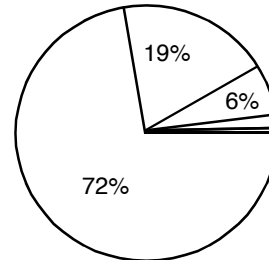
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year September 2003 – August 2004

From its inception, the Center has been run almost entirely as a labor of love by volunteers. Our spiritual director, Joel, receives no compensation and, aside from small stipends for our treasurer, audio engineer, and newsletter editor, the Center has no paid staff. We rely entirely on the continuing financial support of our members to defray expenses as we continue providing services to increasing numbers of seekers. Any donation to help support Center programs and services is greatly appreciated. The Center for Sacred Sciences is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization, and any contribution is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

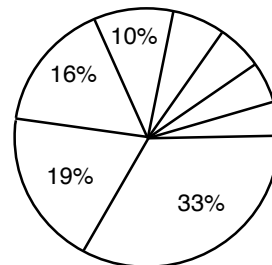
Income

Membership Dues	18,677	72%
Special Gifts/Memorials	4,993	19%
Sunday Offerings	1,650	6%
Library User Fee	418	2%
Interest Earned	301	1%
Newsletter Donations	75	0%
TOTAL INCOME	26,114	100%



Expenses

Meeting Facilities	7,273	33%
Organizational/Admin.	4,237	19%
Library Exp & Acquisitions	3,474	16%
Center Community News	2,191	10%
Program/Meeting Exp	1,370	6%
Parliament of World Religions	1,244	6%
Web Site	1,042	5%
Digitizing Audio Recordings	982	4%
Holos Journal	105	0%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$21,918	100%

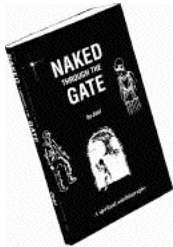


Note: Amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar.

Center Publications

For a complete catalog of our current publications and for pricing and ordering information, please visit our website at www.centerforsacredsciences.org

Book Publications



Naked Through the Gate: A Spiritual Autobiography

by Joel, Center for Sacred Sciences, 1985. Paperback, 262 pages, \$11.95

Joel's personal account of his remarkable spiritual path, ending with a Gnostic Awakening.

Through Death's Gate: A Guide to Selfless Dying

by Joel, Center for Sacred Sciences, 1996. Paperback, 83 pages, \$6.95.

A guide to death and dying from a spiritual perspective, including fundamental teachings and practices from the world's great mystics.

Audio Publications

The following are new audio recordings available for purchase. Patrons of the Center's library may also borrow these audios in CD or cassette tape formats. The meditation series are special practice-oriented talks recorded during a ten-day retreat at the Cloud Mountain Retreat Center.

Meditation #1: Concentration

Joel, 2003.

Meditation #2: Choiceless Awareness

Joel, 2003.

Meditation #3: Liberating Thoughts, Desires, and Aversions

Joel, 2003.

Meditation #4: Returning to the Source

Joel, 2003.

Meditation #5: Doing Nothing

Joel, 2003.

Subject And Object Are One

Joel, 2004.

Cultivating Love And Compassion

Joel, 2004.

Video Publications

A Sunday with Joel

by Joel, Center for Sacred Sciences. VHS, \$19.95.

Spend a typical Sunday at the Center with meditation instructions, a discourse by Joel, and questions and answers.

Who Are You Really?

by Joel, Center for Sacred Sciences. VHS, \$19.95.

Joel speaking in Palo Alto on an essential question in all mystical traditions.

Web Publications

Integrating Science and Religion

by Alan Wallace, Winter 2004.

Buddhist teacher, scholar, and practitioner Alan Wallace talks with Tom McFarlane about his life-long endeavor to integrate science and religion, and his hopeful vision for their future collaboration.

The Function of Virtue

by Joel, Fall 1990.

The importance of morality and virtue from a mystical perspective.

The Function of Meditation

by Joel, Fall 1991.

How meditation helps unravel delusion to reveal the Ultimate Truth.

The Function of Inquiry

by Joel, Fall 1992.

The essential role of direct experiential inquiry on the spiritual path.

The Function of Devotion

by Joel, Spring 1994.

The conversion of the heart, encounter with the divine, passion for the divine, and surrender of self.

Speaking of God

by Joel, Spring 1991.

The nature of the ineffable and how to speak of the unspeakable.

Facing Fear on the Path

by Joel, Spring 2001.

The role fear plays on the spiritual path and advice on how to face it.

Nothing to Fear But Fear

interview with Tom Kurzka, Spring 2001.

Tom recounts the role of fear on his path, and his experience of gnostic awakening.



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MISSION AND PROGRAMS

The Center for Sacred Sciences is dedicated to the study, practice, and dissemination of the spiritual teachings of the mystics, saints, and sages of the major religious traditions. The Center endeavors to present these teachings in forms appropriate to our contemporary scientific culture. The Center also works to create and disseminate a sacred worldview that expresses the compatibility between universal mystical truths and the evidence of modern science.

Among the Center's on-going events are Sunday public services with meditations and talks by the Center's spiritual director, monthly video presentations, and—for committed spiritual seekers—a weekly practitioners' group and regular meditation retreats. The Center also maintains an extensive lending library of books, audios, videos, and periodicals covering spiritual, psychological, and scientific subjects. In addition, the Center provides a website containing teachings, information, and other resources related to the teachings of the world's mystics, the universality of mystical truth, and the relationship between science and mysticism. The Center publishes a newsletter containing community news, upcoming programs, book reviews, and other information and resources related to the Center's mission.

The Center for Sacred Sciences is a non-profit, tax-exempt church based in Eugene, Oregon, USA. We rely chiefly on volunteer labor to support our programs, and on public donations and membership pledges to meet our operating expenses. Our spiritual director gives his teachings freely as a labor of love and receives no financial compensation from the Center.

Center Community News is published three times a year by the Center for Sacred Sciences. Submissions, comments, and inquiries should be sent to:

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CSS CALENDAR

JAN. 2005 – MAY 2005

JANUARY 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
2 Video* 11 am	3	4 Library 6:00–8:30	5 Practitioner 7:30
9 Talk 11 am	10	11 Library 6:00–8:30	12 Practitioner 7:30
16 Talk 11 am	17	18 Library 6:00–8:30	19 Practitioner 7:30
23 Talk 11 am	24	25 Library 6:00–8:30	26 Practitioner 7:30 (ALL)
30 Talk 11 am	31		

*Thubten Chodron: Working With Anger

Western-born Buddhist nun, Thubten Chodron, discusses how to convert the energy of anger into the servant of compassion.

FEBRUARY 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
6 Video* 11 am	7	8 Library 6:00–8:30	9 Practitioner 7:30
13 Talk 11 am	14	15 Library 6:00–8:30	16 Practitioner 7:30
20 Talk 11 am	21	22 Library 6:00–8:30	23 Practitioner 7:30 (ALL)
27 Talk 11 am	28		

*America's New Religious Landscape

This documentary explores how waves of immigration, both of peoples and beliefs, have transformed America into a more religiously diversified nation.

MARCH 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
		1 Library 6:00–8:30	2 Practitioner 7:30
6 Video* 11 am	7	8 Library 6:00–8:30	9 Practitioner 7:30
13 Talk 11 am	14	15 Library 6:00–8:30	16 Practitioner 7:30
20 Talk 11 am	21	22 CLOSED	23 CLOSED
27 CLOSED	28	29 Library 6:00–8:30	30 Practitioner 7:30 (ALL)

*Llewellyn Vaughan-Lee: We Are All One

An interview with western-born Sufi Sheikh, Llewellyn Vaughan-Lee, who integrates concepts of modern psychology and dream-work with ancient Sufi teachings and practices.

APRIL 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
3 Video* 11 am	4	5 Library 6:00–8:30	6 Practitioner 7:30
10 Talk 11 am	11	12 Library 6:00–8:30	13 Practitioner 7:30
17 Talk 11 am	18	19 Library 6:00–8:30	20 Practitioner 7:30 (ALL)
24 CLOSED	25	26 CLOSED	27 CLOSED

*Abraham's Children

Shot on location, this video explores various mystical aspects and practices of the three great Abrahamic traditions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

MAY 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
1 Video* 11 am	2	3 Library 6:00–8:30	4 Practitioner 7:30
8 Talk 11 am	9	10 Library 6:00–8:30	11 Practitioner 7:30
15 Talk 11 am	16	17 Library 6:00–8:30	18 Practitioner 7:30
22 Talk 11 am	23	24 Library 6:00–8:30	25 Practitioner 7:30 (ALL)
29 Talk 11 am	30	31	

*Joseph Campbell: Love and the Goddess

The fifth of the six-part series "The Power of Myth;" renowned scholar Joseph Campbell talks with Bill Moyers about sacred images of woman as Goddess, Virgin, and Mother Earth.

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