



Center Community News

The Newsletter of the Center for Sacred Sciences

A Waxing Moon

The fire god is here looking for fire.

The annual 9-day Fall retreat, entitled "Pointing to the Moon of Enlightenment" was held at Cloud Mountain Retreat Center from October 12-21. A total of 21 students gathered under monastic vows to see whether a series of apparently nonsensical pointers dispensed by our teacher Joel would help guide us to ineffable Truth.

The format of this retreat quickly deviated from previous times. Perhaps in a serendipitously Zen spirit, Joel had managed to leave his notes for conducting the retreat back in Eugene. He decided to just roll on down the line with it, and the distant train whistle so familiar to veteran Cloud Mountain retreatants became a sort of aural theme. The train left the station at an accelerated pace, and by late on the third day, it was comin' round the bend. Having already covered the entire series of sequential practices that are usually built over seven or eight days, Joel announced Monday evening that from then on, we would not be doing any practices whatsoever. Our task was simply *shikan-taza*, or "just sitting." The only instruction we were to receive from this point onward was an occasional pointer – sometimes an ancient zen koan, or perhaps some even less comprehensible clue (for example, an "architecture dance").

Five full days of unstructured, present-centered nondoing... it is impossible to describe in logical prose what this is like. Maybe this is why, by the time the final day arrived and students were invited to share, there was an unprecedented outpouring of whimsical and creative offerings. One poem followed another, interspersed with song and koan responses.

Answers were not arrived at. Ephemerality ruled the day, as always. Yet there was some kind of subtle sense, as we packed up to return to mundane surroundings, that indeed we had all served as perfect embodiments of that oft-sought ineffable Truth:

Not even a Cinder to be found.

— VIP SHORT

**Rain on the mountains,
thunder in the north;
the sun rises in the east,
what is there to teach?
— Joel-roshi**



RETREATANTS: (bottom row from left) Mora Dewey, Bill Hamann, Tom McFarlane, Jack Yousey (middle row) Deanna Cordes, Mike Barkhuff, Joel Morwood, Megan Greiner, Nicole Chabert, Robin Bundy, Clivonne Corbett, Gene Gibbs (standing) Alan Mishchenko, Vip Short, Laurina Peters, David Cunningham, Steve Cummings, Fred Chambers, Jim Patterson, Camilla Bayliss, Rich Marlatt. (Not shown: Michael Strasburger, Bailey Cunningham)

(photo credit: Jack Yousey)

Long-Awaited Book Is Text for Two Center Study Groups

A draft version of **The Way of Selflessness**, the book Joel has been writing for these many years, has been placed in the eager hands of students in both the Foundation Studies class, taught by Todd Corbett, and the Practitioners' Group, taught by Fred Chambers. Both groups started up this Fall on Sept. 26th. The book is still a working manuscript, spiral-bound and fresh from the printer. As the Foundation Studies students are newer to CSS teachings, the two groups will read the book at different paces and with different emphases. As students read and incorporate the teachings and practices, Joel is asking that both groups provide feedback about parts of the book which might require elaboration or clarification – a more than fair exchange for the gift of these teachings.

CSS Members Practice “Just Partying”

This year’s summer party, at Mora and Kent’s home in Cottage Grove, was another smorgasbord of culinary and entertainment delicacies. On the culinary side, Mike Strasburger introduced many of us to cedar-plank grilled salmon; Vinnie and Lou Principe got us all dancing, and Todd Corbett indulged us with his oft-requested magic show. Add to that the poems and songs contributed by a few others, libations, and a bonfire, and you get a pretty good time. We also celebrated the graduations of Holly Saunders (from the Distance Studies course), and of the Foundations Studies class (see photos), who performed an unusual rendition of *MacDonald’s Farm* called “Ole Fred



Chambers Had a Class” punctuated by Tim Bates’ unforgettable bass “EE-I-EE-I-O.” The class presented Fred with a lovely brass gong.

Left: Megan and Clivonne dance the Hokey Pokey.



Foundations Studies graduates (from left) Sally Snyder, Shirley Chase, Mellisa Kaspar, Carol Bates, Tim Bates, Betty Vail, Marga Larson, Sylvia Hawley.



(Above) Holly Saunders, Distance Studies grad, receives diploma and a little advice from Todd Corbett;



(Below) entranced audience looks on as Todd Corbett prepares to transform Bill Hamann in his amazing transcendental magic show.

Sangha – One of the Three Jewels

When people wash potatoes in Korea, instead of washing them one at a time, they put them all in a tub full of water. Then someone puts a stick in the tub and pushes it up and down, up and down. This makes the potatoes rub against each other; as they bump into each other, the hard crusty dirt falls off. If you wash potatoes one at a time, it takes a long time to clean each one, and only one potato gets clean at a time. If they are all together, many potatoes clean each other.

— Zen Master Seung Sahn

New Distance Studies Grad

Congratulations to Bob Trainer, who started the Way of Selflessness Distance Studies course back in January 2005, and has now completed the 8th and final phase of the course. Bob says of the course, “It’s a wonderful source of knowledge and encouragement for awakening to a higher level of consciousness—a sort of metamorphosis of which I’ve had glimpses. I signed up for the course when I learned that Joel was a ‘disciple’ of Franklin Merrell-Wolff, whose outstanding books I had read in about 1980. I am also very grateful for having Tom McFarlane, also a ‘disciple’ of Merrell-Wolff, as my mentor for the course. I see him as my Spiritual GPS. It can’t get any better than that.” Bob lives in Poulsbo, Washington.



(Sketch of Bob by Sue Trainer, Bob’s niece)

Home Again

The Center sangha welcomes home Sharry and Wesley Lachman, who returned on October 10 from a 13-week sojourn in England to support their daughter LouAnne, in treatment for cervical cancer. During their stay in Bristol they accompanied LouAnne to chemo and radiation treatments, cooked, cleaned, talked, walked, and greatly enjoyed their daughter and grandchildren Jove and Enya. With all that good care, LouAnne fared well in treatment (which, she was later told, many people cannot complete). Sharry reports that it was a very intimate experience of family, and it has left them both with a sense of gratitude and a deep appreciation of this amazing daughter.

She Once Was Lost

Spiritual teachers appear in all types of packages—right? How about a furry gray package with no tail and an extra toe on each paw?

When this little gray cat appeared for the first time, she seemed to drop out of the sky onto the road before us. Niraja and I were driving cross-country on our way back to Oregon. In Idaho we stopped at a roadside park. As is sometimes the case when two people have spent too much time cooped up in a car, we were arguing and had finally landed in an uncomfortable silence with a few hot tears—each clinging to our stories about being misunderstood.

That's when a tiny emaciated kitten appeared in the road. She wasn't looking at us. She was wrapped around a chicken bone trying to chew some nourishment out of it. Niraja and I immediately dropped our story of disharmony and rescued the starving waif from the path of a heavy truck heading her way.

Two years later, Callisto Katerina, known as Callie, had grown from under one pound of fluff to a sporty ten-pound Wonder Cat with a Maine Coon face and a funny bump where her tail should have been. The extra toes on her front paws looked exactly like thumbs, and to me she looked as though she were walking on her hands. Needless to say, we loved her dearly. She was a constant reminder to us to drop any recurrent story of disharmony.

That's why I was immediately worried when she didn't come home one day. Where was our little tail-less Wonder Cat? On the second day of her disappearance, I searched the neighborhood. "Have you seen our lost cat?" I asked neighbors I hadn't spoken to before. No one had, and I was overcome with the distinct impression I was being flushed out of my hidey-hole—forced to reach out.

Next, we called all the right places and put up missing cat signs on every pole. Callie wore a collar with our phone number on it. Why wasn't anyone calling? I went on forlornly calling out her name from the front porch and searching nearby bushes. Had she tangled with a raccoon? Had she been hit by a car? Had someone stolen her? The stories raced through my mind.

That's when I emailed an animal psychic, a friend of mine in the Midwest who gave me a free session. "Callie is already on the Other Side," she told me. "It's time to let her go. But she says that she'll come back to you someday in some form."

I didn't like that story. I went to the Center on Sunday and during Questions and Answers told Joel that my heart was gashed open. I did not know where the Wonder Cat had really gone and I knew I was grasping for stories to try to escape the uncomfortable black hole of Unknowing. Joel said the Truth is we *don't* know anything and he advised me to stay in the Unknowing and allow Truth

to reveal itself. I knew that was good advice—but I was not ready to stay there. I wanted answers.

After two weeks of no Wonder Cat, I made the decision to accept the story the psychic had given me. Callie was dead. I would create an altar to her and continue to put food in her bowl as a gift to her spirit.

Oh, how I wept. The pain was pure and deep. "I'm broken hearted," I told a coworker, and I felt vulnerable before the eyes of everyone. I even had to stifle tears as I stood wounded before my students in college classrooms.

Then one morning I was sitting at my computer at home when I heard a distinct *mew*. I had already stopped calling for Callie and had stopped watching every bush hoping she would emerge. Now I sat at the computer listening.

Suddenly I flew to the door and swung it open. In ran the Wonder Cat, clean but skinny. She dashed to her bowl—now a memorial site.

I fell down on the kitchen floor crying—shrieking—as she ate and ate. "Oh God!" I called out. "Oh God oh God oh God!" My crying and laughter blended into one ridiculously pure response to the Great Mystery of it all.

I will never know why the Wonder Cat disappeared. Maybe she did die and then got resurrected. Who knows? Doesn't matter. What matters to me is that she tore open my heart, flushed me out of my nest, and made me see that the Truth is that *we don't know*. Just like Joel said.

— MERRY SONG, *the author of this story, has been attending the Center since 1993.*

(Ed Note: CSS members shared Merry Song's sorrow as she reported her loss at Sunday talks in questions to Joel, and online via the Practitioners internet forum. We also shared her joy at Callie's return, singing this song posted online by Tom McFarlane [to the tune of Amazing Grace]. Not a dry eye was found that Sunday.)

Amazing cat
How dear her soul
That stole my heart from me
She once was lost, but now she's found
Feared dead, but now, with me

This cat, she broke
My heart so wide
But now it soars so high
She teaches me the depths of love
In fear and joy I cry.

(Repeat first verse)



Thanks to Miriam!

The CSS community, and especially the CSS Board, would like to thank Miriam Reinhart for her two years of diligent service on the CSS Board of Directors as Secretary. During her tenure, she contributed substantial time and energy to several important projects. We wish her the best in all her future adventures!

CSS Welcomes New Board Members

In September, Todd Corbett and Robin Bundy joined the CSS Board of Directors. Todd has been a Center member for over twelve years and has served as a teacher of the Foundation Studies course. Since his Awakening three years ago, Todd has also given Sunday talks, led retreats, and taught the Practitioners Group. Robin has been a Center member for five years, the past four of which she has shared her professional expertise on the Center's Library staff. She has also welcomed the congregation on Sunday mornings as a member of the illustrious group of Sunday introducers. We are very pleased to have Todd and Robin join the Center's Board.

Outgoing Editor Will be Missed

As responsibilities continue to shift and change at CSS, Vip Short, triumphantly unbesmirched by scandal, has stepped down from his position as CNN editor.

Asked about highlights of this career, Vip waxed reflective: "I would say my association with old Doc Gnosital. The man was a towering font of wisdom, and many days I stood right by his side, watching him work. There's just no substitute for that kind of experience."

Vip credits Publications Director, Tom McFarlane, the CSS Board of Directors, and his ever-faithful proofreaders "because they kept me within the bounds of propriety as well as readability." Vip now passes the flame to Mora Dewey, who has attended the Center for two years and hopes to resurrect former writer/editor skills in an attempt to replace the irreplaceable Vip.

Joel Performs Nuptials for Old Friend

In August Joel and Jennifer traveled to Santa Cruz, CA, where Joel officiated at the wedding of his old Viet Nam buddy, Mo Moscovitz, and his beautiful bride, Doro. It was Mo's first marriage and, after meeting Doro, Joel and Jennifer knew why he waited — they seem to be perfect soul-mates in every respect. It was truly a joyous occasion, and all of us here at the Center wish them a long and rewarding life together.



CENTER FOR SACRED SCIENCES STAFF

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Fred Chambers
Todd Corbett
Jennifer W. Knight
Thomas J. McFarlane
Joel Morwood

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Newsletter Editor
Mora Dewey
Publications Assistant
Vip Short
Proofreading
Karen Fierman
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Wayne Leeds

Spiritual Director

Joel Morwood
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Megan Greiner
Mike Strasburger

Retreat Coordinator

Jack Yousey
Retreat Assistant
Mike Strasburger

Office Assistant

Maggie Free

Joel Speaks at Two Spiritual-Interest Venues

IONS Meeting

On October 9, Joel addressed the Institute of Noetic Sciences in Eugene on the topic of Gnosis. Drawing from testimony of mystics of many religions, he explained that it's difficult to describe what it is, but easier "to say what it ain't." Gnosis is the knowledge that all delineations are false, he said, but the knowledge is not conceptual, nor is it experiential, or scientific. Instead, it is based on direct, immediate perception. "The Tao that can be spoken," he reminded the group, "is not the true Tao." Words can only serve as "fingers pointing to the moon." Tom McFarlane, who videotaped the talk, said that there are plans for it to be available in our library as a DVD.

— Megan Greiner

Conference on Nondual Wisdom and Psychotherapy

Joel gave a talk entitled "The Path that Self-destructs" at the 2007 Conference on Nondual Wisdom and Psychotherapy in San Francisco on October 26. Based on his own Gnostic Awakening and twenty years subsequent experience as a spiritual teacher, Joel shared his insights into the path's paradoxical dynamics — how it first transforms and then destroys the one who travels it.

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 donations to the library of books, tapes, CDs, computer components, and/or money, we thank: Camilla Bayliss, Bill Carter, Maggie Free, Sylvia Hawley, and Tom McFarlane.

For contributions to the Scholarship Fund, we thank: Carol and Tim Bates, Camilla Bayliss, Lewis Bogan, Bill Carter, Todd Corbett, Steve Cummings, David Cunningham, Barbara Dewey,

Mora Dewey, Lois Diller, Ellen Finneran, Bill Hamann, Cathy and Steve Jonas, Melissa Kaspar, Sharry and Wesley Lachman, Rich Marlatt, Carol Mizera, Mary Moffat, Pat Munden, Jim Patterson, Ken Paul, Laurina Peters, and Michael Strasburger.

For other special monetary gifts we thank: Georgia Connon, David Cunningham, Mo Moscovitz, Della Perry, Anita Runyan, and an anonymous donor.

Special thanks go to Mike Barkhuff, Bill Carter, Mora Dewey, Miriam Reinhart, and Tom McFarlane for assisting George Mottur. We would also like to thank Mike Barkhuff, Mora Dewey, Megan Greiner, Wesley Lachman, Vip Short, and others for many tasks great and small, too numerous to mention.

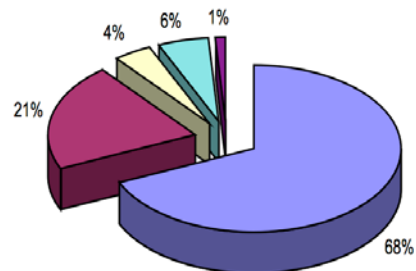
SUMMARY OF OPERATING PROGRAMS

Fiscal Year September 1, 2006 to August 31, 2007

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.

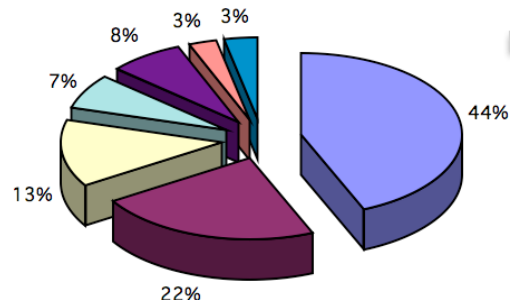
Income

Membership Dues	22,234	68%
Special Gifts/Memorials	6,758	21%
Sunday Offerings	1,353	4%
Interest Earned	1,854	6%
Other:	335	1%
Library User Fee — 310		
Newsletter Donations — 25		
Total Income	\$32,535	100%



Expense

Meeting Facilities	10,480	44%
Organizational/Admin.	5,401	22%
Library Exp & Acquisitions	3,211	13%
Center Community News	1,650	7%
Program/Meeting Expenses	1,850	8%
Digitizing A/V Recordings	655	3%
Web Site & HoloS	784	3%
Total Expenses	\$24,031	100%





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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 ongoing 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:

Publications Director, Center for Sacred Sciences
1430 Willamette St., #164, Eugene, OR 97401-4049

To update or change your subscription preferences online, please visit the Publications page of our website and click on the link to the "subscription and address form."

CSS CALENDAR

JAN. 2008 – MAY 2008

JANUARY 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
		1 CLOSED	2 CLOSED
6 Video* 11 am	7	8 CLOSED	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
27 Talk 11 am	28	29 Library 6:00–8:30	30 Practitioner 7:30 (ALL)

*** PEMA CHODRON & ALICE WALKER in Conversation**

In this remarkable video, Buddhist nun Pema Chodron and famed author Alice Walker engage in a face-to-face dialogue about the meaning of suffering and the mystery of joy.

MARCH 2008

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	24/31	25 Library 6:00–8:30	26 Practitioner 7:30 (ALL)
30 CLOSED	31		

*** Zen and the Art of African Initiation**

This video documents a fascinating conversation between Buddhist teacher and author Joan Halifax, and African shaman and diviner Malidoma Some, held during a lunch hosted by Bokara Legendre.

MEETING ADDRESS:

1571 BUCK ST., EUGENE, OREGON



PHONE: (541) 345-0102

FEBRUARY 2008

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
24 Talk 11 am	25	26 Library 6:00–8:30	27 Practitioner 7:30 (ALL)

*** ISAAC SHAPIRO: An Ecstatic Love Affair**

In this Satsang, western-born Advaita teacher Isaac Shapiro talks about his ecstatic love affair with Truth, and how anyone can discover it by letting go of fixed beliefs and allowing themselves to simply be.

APRIL 2008

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

*** Reluctant Saint: Francis of Assisi**

Shot on location in Italy, this colorful film re-creates the life and times of one of Christianity's greatest and most beloved saints, Francis of Assisi.

MAY 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
4 Video* 11 am	5	6 Library 6:00–8:30	7 Practitioner 7:30
11 Talk 11 am	12	13 Library 6:00–8:30	14 Practitioner 7:30
18 Talk 11 am	19	20 Library 6:00–8:30	21 Practitioner 7:30
25 Talk 11 am	26	27 Library 6:00–8:30	28 Practitioner 7:30 (ALL)

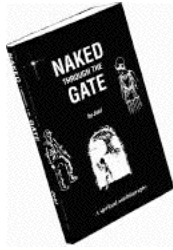
*** JOSEPH GOLDSTEIN: Gateway to Wisdom**

American-born Buddhist meditation teacher Joseph Goldstein discusses such topics as spiritual freedom, karma, transformation, and how to integrate meditative wisdom into our everyday lives.

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

Consciousness Unveiled: Fred's Awakening

Fred Chambers, March 29, 2006

Tape# 1915; CD# cd450; 61 minutes

Four Kinds of Practice

Joel, June 26, 2005

Tape# 1898; CD# cd400; 59 minutes

The Feminine Face of Mysticism

Joel, July 31, 2005

Tape# 1903; CD# cd413; 45 minutes

Drop the Story

Joel, July 9, 2006

Tape# 1920; CD# cd465; 58 minutes

Take Up your Cross

Todd Corbett, June 11, 2006

Tape# 1919; CD# cd462; 68 minutes

Truth Has No Name

Todd Corbett, November 12, 2006

Tape# 1928; CD# cd476; 69 minutes

Awareness of Neediness

Todd Corbett, January 21, 2007

Tape# 1935; CD# cd477; 62 minutes

Devotion #1: Verbal Prayer

Joel, October 16, 2005

Tape# 1908; CD# cd416; 60 minutes

Devotion #2: Prayer-in-the-Heart

Joel, October 17, 2005

Tape# 1909; CD# cd417; 62 minutes

New MP3 Audio CDs

MEDITATION SERIES

Talks by Joel on an MP3 CD, from the Fall 2003 Retreat:

- #1: Concentration Practice; #2: Choiceless Awareness**
- #3: Liberating Thoughts, Desires, and Aversions**
- #4: Returning to the Source; #5: Doing Nothing**

Joel, October 2003, \$20.

DEVOTION SERIES

Talks by Joel on an MP3 CD, from the Fall 2005 Retreat:

- #1: Verbal Prayer; #2: Prayer-in-the-Heart**
- #3: Purifying the Heart; #4: Entering the Spiritual Heart; #5: Unceasing Prayer; #6: Silent Prayer**
- #7: Doing Nothing**

Joel, October 2005, \$28.

INQUIRY SERIES

Talks by Joel on an MP3 CD, from the Fall 2006 Retreat:

- #1: Preparation Meditation; #2: Impermanence and Emptiness; #3: Causes and Correlations; #4: Are You a Body?; #5: Are You Emotions?; #6: Are You Thoughts or Will?; #7: Are You the Experiencer?; #8: Doing Nothing**

Joel, October 2006, \$32.

DVD Publications

Universal Principles of Mysticism and a New Paradigm

Joel, 2006 DVD, 67 minutes [no VHS available] \$17.95*

*Please note that, while the audio portion of this DVD is completely intelligible, sounds from a lecture being given in the next room can occasionally be heard in the background.

Here and Now News Service:

Joel Interviews Franklin Merrell-Wolff

Joel, June 21, 1983; Great Space Center, Lone Pine, CA
DVD-30; 70 minutes \$17.95

Readers of **Naked Through the Gate** know that during the final months of Joel's path he took to the road, visiting spiritual communities and teachers to record the video magazine "The Here and Now News Service."

Meeting Franklin Merrell-Wolff, Joel recognized that he was someone special and dropped the 15-minute "Here and Now" format for a longer interview. Today Joel says of this recording, "I didn't know the right questions to ask Dr. Wolff. I wish I'd thought to redo this video after my awakening." This film also has some spots of snow and segments of hand-held camera work. Even so, it's a fascinating document for those familiar with Dr. Wolff's work, or interested in the formation of Joel's teachings.

QUAN YIN VOW:

Never shall I seek nor receive
Private individual Salvation;
Never shall I enter the final Peace alone;
But forever and everywhere shall I
Live and strive for the Redemption
Of every creature throughout the world.