

Center for Sacred Sciences

(503) 345-0102

1990 WINTER SCHEDULE

SUNDAY:

8:30 a.m. on 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month:
2-hour Sitting/Walking Meditation
11:00 a.m. Meditation and Talk
on first Sunday of month: includes
Potluck and Video

MONDAY: No public schedule

TUESDAY: No public schedule

WEDNESDAY:

10:30 a.m. - Center Library open
5:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m. Practitioner Group

THURSDAY: No public schedule

FRIDAY: No public schedule

SATURDAY: No public schedule

NOTE: Private consultations with Joel are available by
appointment (345-0102).

Dear Friends of CSS,

It has been a little over six months since we moved to our new location (at 1486 East 25th #B),* and with this move has come a shift in the focus of our activities. As most of you know, CSS has always been dedicated to preserving and promoting the core wisdom of humanity's great mystical traditions in forms compatible with our contemporary scientific culture. We have sought to carry out this task in two complementary ways.

The first has been to educate the general public about what mystics really teach and how these teachings relate to the current crisis in our materialist worldview--a crisis brought about by the advent of quantum physics. To fulfill this part of our task, we have offered over the last three years a variety of introductory classes and workshops on the new physics and the ancient wisdom, as well as hosted a number of speakers representing different spiritual traditions.

A true understanding of spiritual wisdom, however, does not come through intellectual knowledge alone. It comes via direct, nonconceptual insights into the real conditions of our lives--insights that can only be gained during the course of a personal spiritual practice. Helping people who are interested in undertaking such a personal spiritual practice has always been the second part of the Center's task, and it is this part that has come to the fore in recent months.

We now have an on-going group of committed spiritual practitioners who meet once a week to meditate, study the specific principles which govern a spiritual path, and discuss how these principles can be concretely applied in everyday life. As this is the first such truly disciplined group I have had the privilege and pleasure to lead, it is especially gratifying to me to see how quickly real transformations are wrought in people's lives when they "take the teachings to heart." This experience should remind us all that, for spiritual organizations, success can never be measured in arbitrary quantities--the size of its membership, for instance--but must be gauged by the living quality of its teachings: Has suffering decreased? Have joy and compassion increased? If the answer is yes, then our existence is justified.

May the pure light of Consciousness Itself shine on you all in the coming year!

Joel

*Remember, our mailing address is 1430 Willamette #164, Eugene, OR 97401.

(Joel is also facilitating two dream groups this winter. Although they are as yet unscheduled, both groups seem to be full at present.)

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

HOURS: Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
also after Sunday meditation or by appointment
phone 345-0102

In addition to selling copies of Joel's book NAKED THROUGH THE GATE, the library also has available for purchase tapes of Joel's talks. Some recent titles include:

WHAT IS LOVE?
WHAT IS SPIRITUAL LOVE?
SOLITUDE: THE LABORATORY OF THE SOUL

We also have meditation pillows available for sale, and can order other meditation supplies for you, such as incense and gongs.

Book Drive '89 has raised \$125 so far for new acquisitions; this year's focus is to increase our book offerings in the areas of Jewish mysticism and Taoism. New titles include:

HASIDIC THOUGHT by Lewis Jacobs
ERANOS LECTURES: JEWISH AND GNOSTIC MAN by Scholem
THE INNER TEACHINGS OF TAOISM translated by Thomas Cleary

Watch for these coming attractions:

IN PRAISE OF THE BA'AL SHEM TOV
NINE GATES
KABBALAH: NEW PERSPECTIVES
TRACT ON ECSTASY