



# Center Community News

*The Newsletter of the Center for Sacred Sciences*

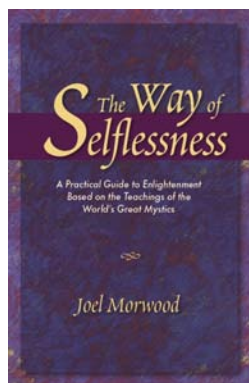
## Inside

*CCN Readers Share Creative Spirit  
Two Cloud Mountain Retreats  
Buddhist Leaders on Climate Change  
Holos Explores Negative Theology  
Doings at the Center  
New Class Slated for Fall*

### Joel's New Book Published

*It must have been providence that directed Joel Morwood to dig in the right place, for he struck a lode of pure gold, as wide (comprehensive) as it is deep (profound). What he mined from that lode is a spiritual treasure.*

—Huston Smith, author of *The World's Religions*



The Center is happy to announce publication of Joel's latest book **THE WAY OF SELFLESSNESS: A Practical Guide to Enlightenment Based on the Teachings of the World's Great Mystics**. This book grew organically over the past twenty years from Joel's experience guiding students on the spiritual path and from his extensive study of the mystical classics of the world. It is a comprehensive and practical guide to the mystical path,

systematically taking the seeker through all the stages of the spiritual path while demonstrating the harmony among the testimony of the mystics. Preliminary drafts of the book have been used by the Center's practitioner groups, and the book will provide a basic text for the Foundation Studies course for years to come. Now available to the rest of the world, **THE WAY OF SELFLESSNESS** will help seekers in any tradition understand and appreciate the teachings in other traditions, and it will also benefit those seekers who do not belong to any religious tradition. To read a sample chapter of the book or learn how to order the book, please visit <http://www.centerforsacredsciences.org/wos/>.

—TOM MCFARLANE

### Surrender for the Jnani

**DATELINE: Great Space Center, Lone Pine, CA...June 2009...**

At the behest of Andrea Pucci, one of our three CSS Associate Teachers, a summer retreat was given by Joel at The [Great Space Center](#), the ranch home of the late Dr. Franklin Merrell-Wolff, in the Sierra foothills near Bishop, California. The location is nothing short of spectacular: a series of dwellings perched along a creek that flows down the slopes of the foothills. There were 23 participants for this retreat, some coming without even knowing the theme. (For this writer, it was enough to know that I'd be with both Joel and Andrea in their original ashramic setting.)

When Joel announced on the first day that devotional practice would be the centerpiece, several in the group almost bolted, according to their sharings at the end. Indeed, we each set about choosing a mantram to use for "prayer in the heart," a simple concentration practice that would be the anchor for this retreat. For five days, we linked our particular mantra to the breath, in the heart-space. We sought to sink down from the head into a sensation of the physical heart, into the emotional heart and then beyond to the spiritual heart. Ultimately, we were instructed to open to the Radiant Heart, synonymous with Truth Itself.

Although the group consisted chiefly of Andrea's students, there were a few from elsewhere, including four connected to CSS: Clivonne Corbett, her son Josh, Ellie Parsons, and me. It is not possible to convey fully the impact of the natural surroundings. Clivonne termed it a "pilgrimage", and no other word really suffices.



*Joel and students listen to sound returning to Source*

We ended with the traditional Solo Day, rich with possibilities due to the vastness of our setting. I wound up hiking thousands of feet above the ranch, finding the  
*(See Lone Pine, p. 2)*

*(Lone Pine, cont. from p.1)*

remains of an old medicine wheel amidst balanced boulders bigger than houses. To say that we each found our heart's desire is almost a pitiful understatement, evident in the final sharing on the last day. I give the strongest encouragement to my CSS colleagues to take advantage of this unique place which has figured so deeply in our own dharmic legacy. It is a spiritual home that calls to us through the fabric of space-time.

—VIP SHORT

### **Steady As She Goes – CSS Spring Retreat 2009 with Fred Chambers**

This past spring, Fred piloted the Cloud Mountain CSS Retreat vessel again, and for the first time as a solo captain. With a boat including Foundation Studies students, seasoned old-timers, and those of us somewhere in between, he navigated us through the paradoxical waters of mystical teachings with the keen eye and confident hand of one who has crossed over before.

The mantra of the retreat seemed to be, “Steady as She Goes,” as Fred neither hedged nor hurried, but simply pointed our motley crew in the direction of Home and put us to work doing the practices to keep us on our way. Concentration tightened our riggings and kept us undistracted from the mainstay of the journey: this present moment of awareness. Choiceless Awareness hoisted our sails into the wind of God’s breath – the rhythm of moment-to-moment perception and cognition. Self-liberation of thought into Spacious Awareness was the warm current that nourished and invigorated us to continue our vigilant voyage homeward bound.

All aboard agreed that Fred’s expertise in handling our approach was efficient and inspiring. (Not once was mutiny threatened.) Something in his calm stability was deeply reassuring that there is indeed another shore to reach – perhaps just over the next breaking wave.



*From back left: Matt Sieradski, Mike Strasburger, Jerry Daly, David Cunningham, Steve Cummings, Mel Bankoff, Laurina Peters, Marleen Marshall, Robin Bundy, Sophia Malkasian, Fred Chambers, Vip Short, Jim Patterson, Jack Yousey, Mark Hurwit, Steven Pologe, Clivonne Corbett, Pat Munden*

Inspired by Fred’s confidence, our diligent practice was enlivened. During this silent sailing many of us undoubtedly smelled the mind-breeze of our destination, or perhaps glimpsed the far shore through thought’s mist. Truly a magnificent enterprise it was and is: this archaic maiden voyage.

—MATT SIERADSKI

### **Resting in Not Knowing – Summer ‘09 Retreat**



*From back left: Marleen Marshall, Gene Gibbs, Mike Strasburger, Jim Patterson, Todd Corbett, Carol Bates, Barbara Dewey, Mora Dewey, Rich Marlatt, Clivonne Corbett, Ellie Parsons, Candy Brumitt, Laurina Peters, Shanon Wylie, Suchi Kumar*

For me the message of this retreat, led by Todd Corbett, was to allow ourselves and the whole world some kindness, some gentleness, to just rest.

We began by examining the veil that obstructs the path to Truth, the veil that consists of beliefs, which are made up of thoughts and emotions. Attempts to not believe them are futile, giving rise to more grasping as we ask things to be different than they are.

What, then, to do?

Rest.

Initially we allow attention to rest on our meditation object—shamatha meditation. Later we allow whatever arises to arise and subside back to the Source—vipassana meditation.

Yet a “me” still seems to be present, so we ask “Who am I?” thereby giving rise to a barrage of suffering. We find ourselves unable to answer, and sorrow, frustration, longing and distraction appear. Oh, yes, these are also just phenomena arising. We give them our attention and watch as they, too, pass away.

What, you cannot see this rough, dirty stone as shimmering, radiant awareness?

Are we efforting here? Allow effort, too, to self-liberate. All that is left is to hang out in radiant non-meditation. Resting.

—MORA DEWEY

Gems from Todd:

*As long as a phenomenon arises to you it will suffer, and you will interpret that as “my suffering.”*

∞ ∞ ∞

*There is no destination.*

∞ ∞ ∞

*We do not know anything, but we construct reality to make it seem like we know something.*

∞ ∞ ∞

*Whenever we’re striving for something other than what’s here now, we’re creating time.*

## CENTER FOR SACRED SCIENCES STAFF

### Directors

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

### Special Projects

#### Director

Todd Corbett

### Spiritual Director

Joel Morwood

#### *Associate Teachers*

Andrea Pucci  
Todd Corbett  
Fred Chambers

### Library Director

Jennifer W. Knight

#### *Library Assistants*

Camilla Bayliss  
Robin Bundy  
Barbara Dewey  
Paul Flashenberg  
Sylvia Hawley  
Wesley Lachman  
Peggy Prentice  
Sally Snyder  
Betty Vail  
Jack Yousey

### Office Assistant

Maggie Free

### Publications Director

Thomas J. McFarlane  
*Newsletter Editor*  
Mora Dewey  
*Publications Assistant*  
Vip Short  
*Proofreading*  
Karen Fierman  
Maggie Free  
*Mailing*  
Melissa Kaspar

### Website Editor

Thomas J. McFarlane

### Retreat Coordinator

Jack Yousey  
*Retreat Assistant*  
Michael Strasburger

### Sunday Introductions

Bill Carter  
Megan Greiner  
Steve Jonas

### Audio-Video Engineer

Damien Pierce

### Publicity

Ken Paul

### Activities Director

Fred Chambers  
*Event Organizers*  
Megan Greiner  
Michael Strasburger

## *The Time to Act Is Now* A Buddhist Declaration on Climate Change

“Today we live in a time of great crisis, confronted by the gravest challenge that humanity has ever faced: the ecological consequences of our own collective karma.” This is the introductory sentence from *The Time to Act Is Now*, a pan-Buddhist declaration that outlines the grave environmental climate-change predicament facing humanity today.

This two-page document, signed by the Dalai Lama and other Buddhist leaders, describes the crisis using Buddhist as well as scientific terms. It points out that craving and ignorance are at the root of our collective as well as our individual suffering and suggests that the Four Noble Truths offer a way to understand and address the issue. It states “There has never been a more important time in history to bring the resources of Buddhism to bear on behalf of all living beings.”

The declaration lists specific behaviors we can adopt to address our predicament, including halting the construction of coal plants, ending deforestation practices, reversing the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to below the 350 ppm “tipping point” (which we have already exceeded, as we are currently at 387 ppm and the level is rising at 2 ppm per year!) and reducing meat consumption. The declaration calls on us to take personal responsibility in this issue, saying “If political leaders are unable to recognize the urgency of our global crisis, or unwilling to put the long-term good of humankind above the short-term benefit of fossil-fuel corporations, we may need to challenge them with sustained campaigns of citizen action.”

The document reminds us that “The key to happiness is contentment rather than an ever-increasing abundance of goods. The compulsion to consume more and more is an expression of craving, the very thing the Buddha pinpointed as the root cause of suffering.”

*The Time to Act Is Now* was composed by Zen teacher Dr David Tetsun Loy and senior Theravadin teacher Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi with scientific input from Dr John Stanley. The document can be viewed and signed online at [www.ecobuddhism.org](http://www.ecobuddhism.org). Click on the “Buddhist Declaration” link.

### Science and Nonduality talk

Joel will be giving a talk at the Science and Nonduality Conference which takes place October 21-25, 2009, in San Rafael, CA. For more information visit the website at: [www.scienceandnonduality.com](http://www.scienceandnonduality.com)

### Website Changes

Soon the CSS website will be online with a new look and much easier navigation, thanks to the efforts of Per Kielland-Lund. The redesign contains beautiful graphics and a welcoming overview for new visitors, in addition to many other features. Keep checking the website at [www.centerforsacredsciences.org](http://www.centerforsacredsciences.org) to catch the debut.

### Holos Explores Negative Theology



The Center's *Holos* journal has recently published an interview tracing the life and work of Professor Deirdre Carabine, author of *The Unknown God: Negative Theology in the Platonic Tradition: Plato to Eriugena and John Scottus*

*Eriugena*. Considered by many readers to be the best *Holos* interview yet, in this issue Carabine shares her insights into the mystical teachings of Christianity and how they have influenced her own life, from sacred music and philosophy in Ireland to ethics and university-building in Uganda. She also shares with us the wider significance of these teachings for our world today. Professor Carabine is currently Vice Chancellor of the International Health Sciences University in Kampala, Uganda. To read this interview and other past *Holos* interviews visit <http://www.holosforum.org/>

—TOM MCFARLANE

# Creative Energy in the Sangha

All objects point to the Ultimate and a real work of art actively brings whoever sees or hears it to his real nature, which is beauty. The difference between an ordinary object and a work of art is that the object is passive in its pointing towards the Ultimate whereas the work of art is active."

—Jean Klein, *Neither This Nor That I Am*



clouds part, revealing moon.  
clear light illumines the path.  
this heart, too, is full.

—Megan Greiner, Eugene, OR

Deep in the realm of the cave  
Lie old bones  
and radiant forming crystals

High in endless space  
Black holes  
Absorb Everything  
and radiant stars are born

\*\*\*\*\* I am It already is  
Here and now  
Bright and dark Whole and Part  
Here is Everywhere  
\*\*\*\*\*

On this Journey together Deep within  
and far beyond in spaciousness  
as planets of a solar system Within the Heart

As children humble and teachable

As spirits light and movable

As a spiral galaxy of lights  
people and animals in dance, spiral out  
with rhythm and radiance  
Being in the heart  
chanting, dancing, drumming from the heart  
spiral out in joy and celebration  
in sorrow and dedication  
together in separate oneness

—Debra Nielsen, Bishop, CA

Personally, as a former teacher of poetry & poetry writing, I have always maintained that creativity doesn't stop when the poet publishes a poem. We all bring our unique experiences to the reading of a poem, and the poem speaks to us, offering insights and feelings beyond that which the poet may have seen or intended.

—Jane Harrison, Eugene, OR

## Being Love

There was a time that I needed Love,  
then I thought I wanted Love,  
but now I know there is nothing sweeter than Being Love

—Rich Marlatt, Creswell, OR

**Dig what you're feeling and  
see what's in front of you,  
It's never out of your sight.  
You know It's true  
We all know that It's true.**

—lyrics from The Moody Blues  
submitted by Mo Moscovitz,  
Ben Lomond, CA

# Creative Energy in the Sangha

## Sandcastles

Our scorpion embrace becomes a sandcastle by the sea.  
 The tossing of the waves is music for our melting hearts.  
 Our starlit bones holding half-amnesiac-machines,  
 Salt-sea-tears of islands in deep water.

Imagination sailors drawn toward the endless void,  
 Return without the burden of knowing,  
 Now believing the world is their oyster.  
 Wave after wave our bones become sand  
 And happiness beyond our wildest dreams.

—John Gallagher, United Kingdom



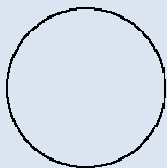
Dingle Peninsula by Blasket Islands

Jane Harrison 6/14/09

Dingle Peninsula

—Jane Harrison, Eugene, OR

*The Truth is not exclusive  
 But all-embracing.  
 It comprehends all views  
 And yet is comprehended by none.*



*Reality is immanent, within all form.  
 Intellect reaches up via negativa.  
 Heart reaches out via positiva.  
 Together they walk the middle way*

*To the depths of Truth.*

—Tom McFarlane, Springfield, OR

## Mystery

Have you ever thought it odd that you are alive at all?  
 Has it ever seemed strange to you that you exist?  
 Have you ever wondered how this miracle could be so?  
 Has this naked fact of reality ever struck you with terror?  
 Has it ever made you laugh?  
 Has it filled your being with deep and gentle joy?  
 Has it ever perplexed you that you can wonder about this mystery at all?  
 And, even more perplexing, that I wonder it along with you?

Isn't it odd that you are alive, having arisen from an unknown mystery?  
 And that you will die, returning once again to that same unknown mystery?  
 And that this mystery is at the heart of my life as well as yours?  
 Isn't it indeed a miracle that we both recognize this mystery as the same?  
 That these words reach from the heart of my existence to the heart of yours,  
 Crossing all boundaries of space and time, all divisions of culture and custom?

Isn't it marvellous that every person,  
 From thousands of years ago and thousands to come,  
 Has wondered at this single mystery at the heart of life,  
 And that this wonder unites us in the most real way?  
 Just as we all gaze up at the starry heavens and,  
 Forgetting the earth beneath our feet,  
 Lose ourselves in the infinite ocean of space.

—Tom McFarlane, Springfield, OR

## The "Now" Cola

Give up your old six-shooter and remove that trail-dust-laden hat,  
 and spend your last dollar on a fizzy drink.

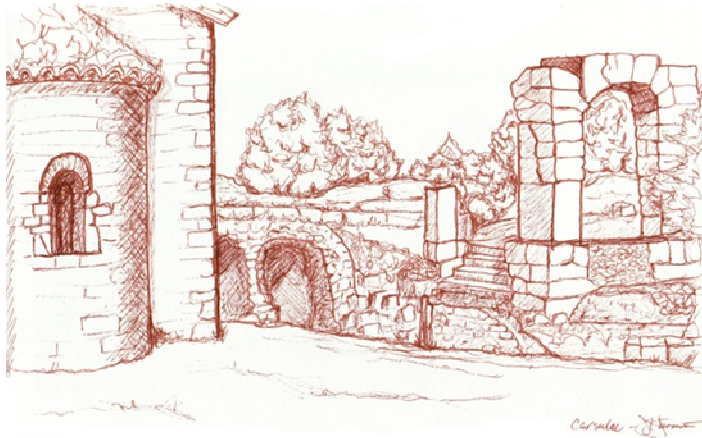
Focus on the bubbles as they jostle down the throat,  
 and the last little bursting tingle takes you to nowhereville.

—Rich Marlatt, Creswell, OR

Right, *Yelling at God*, watercolor by Megan Greiner, Eugene, OR



# Creative Energy in the Sangha



Roman ruins in Carsulae, Italy

—Jane Harrison, Eugene, OR

## THE GOBLET

I am a goblet floating in the ocean  
 The goblet receives all the emotional wines  
 of the Infinite,  
 for me to taste  
 As the goblet is swayed by the ocean, it says,  
 "Ah eh oh, ah ay ah," and "OM" . . .

Letting the goblet drop down  
 Little self recognizing each delusionary wave  
 and yet  
 Surrendering now, filling with NO-thing;  
 They call it Space.

—Ellie Parsons, Scottsdale, AZ  
 [written at Great Space Center retreat  
 led by Joel, June 2009]

## County Park Haiku

Driving in circles.  
 Shadowspot breezes gust through  
 windows blown to bits

—Mora Dewey, Cottage Grove, OR

I'm getting  
 damn  
 suspicious  
 that there's  
*nothing actually out there*  
 to want.

Until the jury's in,  
 that junior management kid  
 whose job it is to want it  
 is outta here  
 on unpaid leave.

—Mora Dewey, Cottage Grove, OR



King Estates

—Margaret Prentice, Eugene, OR

May you be bathed in the warm sunshine of love,  
 Showered with a gentle rain of contentment,  
 And may the soft breeze of wisdom and joy  
 Blow away the fog of ignorance and discontent.

—Fred Chambers, Cottage Grove, OR

† Paper Subscribers – check out the online version of this issue to read two longer poems (by Jennifer Knight and Steve Cummings) that were too lengthy for the paper edition: [www.centerforsacredsciences.org](http://www.centerforsacredsciences.org) -- click on the publications link, then the newsletter link.

# Creative Energy in the Sangha

## Solitude

A trip log to be read as a dream or metaphor

Dreams of little white mice that cross the road,  
running through my headlights to safety on the other side,  
jack rabbits flanking the car as I drive the washboard roads,  
wide open places uncomplicated by trees and buildings.

The time to go is here, parting is grief,  
yet, the adventure calls.  
I'll go where I want, do what I want, eat when I want,  
freedom, rebellion.

Each thought is an amazing insight,  
as fresh and fascinating as the desert wild flowers,  
Indian Paintbrush blooms in every imaginable color of warm,  
where have I been all my life.

The sun blazes white and hot,  
the altitude knocks the breath from our chest,  
gasping we (dog and I) live like vampires,  
venturing out only at dawn and dusk.

Then the adversities come,  
cougar, rattlesnake,  
evil, persistent biting gnats that  
leave bleeding pocks all over my face.

Doubt, self-loathing,  
loneliness, piteous loneliness,  
why have I left home-homesickness,  
crying.

We venture down, onto the desert floor,  
6,000 feet elevation, old rusted bits of metal,  
broken pottery shards,  
white soil so fine it's like talcum powder.

Each morning the earth spreads out in every direction rushing toward the horizon,  
each evening the moon rises soft and full,  
then the stars, so many stars,  
then the deep dark night.

What color is the earth shy forest flower?  
Doug Fir brown say I.

Ha, says the sage, it's white, it's tan, it's red.  
Ha, says the lake, it's endless, sandy and black, or white, talcum powder white,  
Ha, says the Jeffrey Pine, it's dove gray, and pine needle red,  
like a landscape you've never seen before.

Ha, says the coyote, its all these, and pink and orange too.  
Magpie, owl and raven agree,  
and besides coyote, the true traveler,  
always gets the last ha.

It rains,  
    though hardly a drop reaches the ground the earth smells clean,  
        we venture to 8,000 feet where the mule deer live,  
            the breeze is refreshing,  
                the aspen bark is so white, and the little leaves dance.

space and being, baby,  
    even without the capital letters (Space and Being).  
        That's why we're here,  
            space and being.

Venture out into the sage love,  
    the treasures await you.  
        You think Yosemite is a National Park with boundaries,  
            Ha, Yosemite is vast and waits for you in every valley, peak and canyon.

Here the willow puts down deep roots next to the creek,  
    here thoughts come and go, but the wildflowers truly dazzle,  
        oh, this place, field after field of blue iris blooming in the lush green grass,  
            floating like an alpine lake, in the dry hills of sage.

Come, come, come to 9,000 feet  
    The canyons here are steep and rich,  
        full of rushing water, sub-alpine lakes, and meadows,  
            endless flowers and aspens

Look to the peaks, love,  
    now we're amongst them  
        snow fields melting into cascading water falls,  
            waterfalls that plunge under snow fields and into lakes.

So much beauty it stuns the mind,  
    how can I expand to meet another moment of it,  
        how can God stand to live here,  
            how can anyone stand to not live here, love.

The end is here,  
    time to clean, pack, and return.  
        Family and friends wait,  
            We're refreshed and ready to meet them.

Remember love, trust and don't cling.  
    What's meant to stick and transform, will surely stick and transform,  
        let the rest pass.  
            they're already rusting artifacts on the desert floor.

So, when the white mice and jackrabbits,  
    or other desert creatures appear in your dreams,  
        this is my advice to you:

Go see America love, while it's still possible,  
    go on retreat love, venture to the inner country,  
        time is the thing you can never buy,  
            so when you find some, no price is too dear.

Venture into the endless sagebrush love,  
    Yosemite waits for you in every valley, peak and canyon.  
        space and being baby, go seek some space and being.

—Jennifer Knight, Eugene, OR, June 2008



# Creative Energy in the Sangha

## Smells Like Zen Spirit

*Introduction: Don't Linger, Don't Rush*

This writing was conceived on Friday, October 19, 2007, and emerged the following afternoon, at the conclusion of a 10 day more-or-less silent retreat led by Joel Morwood. Attending were roughly 20 of Joel's students, including two who are now themselves teachers. We sat about 6 or 7 hours a day, and then on the final Sunday morning talked about our retreat experiences. That's when I gave the poem aloud.

By way of acknowledgement, I offer up this work to Zimmer Das Fred Ji who inspired its peculiar exuberance. Joel, of course, is the ground from which it arose, but any faults or errors of dharma, doctrine, or understanding are entirely my own. But it was specifically the sound of Joel's voice, recognized and pointed out to me by my wife Kristen Callahan, that pushed me over the edge.

The work is dedicated to Bill, he the most handsome of our handsome company of men, he who brews the brew that is true. As Bob-Roshi teaches, "One more cup of coffee for the road."

-----

### **Round one: Our Flesh, Our Bones**

People get ready , there's a slow train coming, up around the bend.  
Woooooo            Wooooo

Suffering or surrender, take your pick.  
Liberation or death, take your pick.  
Tick, tick,  
Tock, tock. Every second, nearer comes that last breath  
          In, out            In, out  
Twenty-nine, twenty-eight, twenty-seven, 26 ...  
So, nose to the grindstone we polish our bricks  
And strive to beat death to the finish line.  
I shall cut loose every last thing I hold dearest before Goddess Kali pries it out of my cold, dead hands.  
I think I can,    I think I can

I think,  
If I'd have been there, I would have saved that cat.  
I would have put my own head on the chopping block.  
Nice try. Too late.  
I lose my nerve when the blade falls and throw every part of me before it.  
Undivided,  
A stone egg,  
I deflect every stroke of the master's cleaver.  
You might say, of the cat and me, ah, two birds with one stone saved.

But we have both missed that train,  
That train that I hear coming, it's rolling round the bend.  
Pah! I pity those poor emigrants , those Buddhas who've caught that south bound express  
And are leaving this country forever, rolling right over the cliff,  
Over the edge, to the far shore.  
Let them have their fancy dining car, their big cigars, their jugs of God's finest wine.  
I bet it tortures them,  
To know already how the story plays out,  
The cat out of the bag, the mouse hole abandoned,  
The punch line given away.  
Don't say I never warned you when your train gets lost!

And anyway, who can afford the fare  
On the measly wages I earn just sitting here,  
Year after year,  
Polishing this brick to make it a mirror.

Tick, tick.

So take this, all you Bodhisattvas:  
I vow to practice this one senseless precept:  
I Shall Never Attain Enlightenment  
Do you hear?

I Shall Never Attain Enlightenment  
Do you hear?

I Shall Never Attain Enlightenment  
Do you hear?

Do you hear the despair? The defiance?  
The very truth,  
Bare naked, out the window  
I Shall Be Free.  
Any Day Now.

So ask yourself:  
Who, or what hears the sound?  
Who, or  
What is the sound of  
One  
Second  
Hand  
Ticking?

Who? Who?

### ***Round Two: Burning Man***

The Fire God comes looking for fire.  
The Fire God Comes Looking For Fire.

He's not fooling anyone, he knows what he's made of.  
A master practitioner of homeopathy ,  
Like curing like,  
If you're a-kinde he'll burn your whole house down.  
But if you haven't a spark he'll put you out.  
Spewing Sulphur,  
That universal remedy,  
The perfect medicine, homeopaths say, for that type of person  
Who takes old junk as precious ,  
Who hoards knick-knacks and souvenirs in the garage,  
Who out of thin air  
Forms sticks, and bricks, and girders  
And builds whole cities of castles in the sky,  
Twenty-odd stories high  
Each one story of I.

Anyway, architect of the cure, our boy dancing sets it all ablaze.  
Bring your buckets of rain, buckets of moonbeams,  
You can't quench this baby  
Even if all the bottoms burst out,  
A total loss.

So Fred, you tell me if Joel doesn't sound like Bob Dylan ,  
if you lean your head out far enough :  
"When the morning star flames at the break of dawn,  
Look out your window and you'll be gone." You'll be gone.

Do you hear?

Joel: Does a man have Buddha nature?

Mmuuuuuu!                      Mmuuuuuu!

***Round three: god dog (for Camilla, with thanks for the tip )***

Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy will be done.  
Thy train whistle come.  
Hallowed be thy name.

For your in-form-  
ation :  
Every raindrop  
Every stone  
Every bullet  
Every bomb  
Has your name on it.  
Allah,  
They all sing your praises.  
Every diamond sunrise  
Every spouse gone bad  
Every hunger fed  
Every broken body  
All without exception and unceasingly praise Allah.

Do you hear?

It takes a lot to laugh, it takes a train to cry.

At the bottom of the well a Joseph clings to a rope.  
At the bottom of the well a Joseph still clings to that rope.

And Dr. Wolff and all the holy hounds they won't stop baying,  
Praying

Arrrrraooooo                      Arrrrraooooo

***Round Four: Chicken-Taza***

I have made a nest.  
I am the little red hen.  
I am the night hawk, she whose iridescent green wings span 30 feet , she's got her penetrating wisdom-eye on you.  
I am the Great Garuda Bird.

And here on this nest, my spot, I shall sit,  
For this egg beneath me.  
For this egg,  
Perfectly still, I make a warm and silent space.  
I am infinitely soft, firmly planted, an unbreachable shield.  
I'm not sleepy, and there is no place I'm going to, I've got no place to fall.  
I just sit.  
For in this egg lives a free human being.  
Already hatched, fully grown, completely naked;  
That one for whom this whole creation came into form.

We may yet meet face to face, in the mirror.

Until then,  
I sit, on my spot, and nestle this egg.  
No goal before me. No reward to claim.  
Nothing to accomplish.

No timetable.  
Say,  
Do you hear anything  
About that south bound train?  
What time does it run?  
When we gonna wake up?

Woooo            Woooo

—Steve Cummings, Half Moon Bay, CA

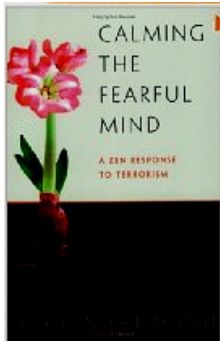
## LIBRARY CORNER

### Library Hours

Tuesday Evenings 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

2nd & 4th Sundays 2:00 - 4:30 p.m.

1571 Buck St., Eugene (see map, last page)



**CALMING THE FEARFUL MIND:  
A ZEN RESPONSE TO TERRORISM**  
by Thich Nhat Hanh, Parallax Press, 2005.

“Only by calming our minds and looking deeply inside ourselves will we develop the insight to identify the root causes of terrorism. With compassion and communication, terrorism can be uprooted and transformed into love.”

Thich Nhat Hanh suggests that terrorism is not something that exists outside of ourselves: it cannot be located and then eradicated. It arises from the anger, fear, misunderstandings and cravings in the mind. Through the practice of mindfulness, we find the awareness and strength to look at these and to face our own suffering, and that of others. Out of this process, appropriate solutions to conflicts can arise.

Nhat Hanh looks closely at relevant aspects of war, torture and terrorism, and offers thought-provoking insights based on his own life experience. He then offers practical steps that can be taken by individuals, couples, organizations, and governmental bodies to address the sources of terrorism and nourish communication, connection and peace. One could conclude that these are naïve and idealistic notions, but he offers concrete examples of them being put effectively into practice.

This lucid and beautifully written book invites us to see clearly that we can take steps in our daily lives which can make a profound difference in the world. We can learn to communicate, even with our enemies, in ways that open up understanding and healing. As Nhat Hanh points out, we can't really be safe unless we care for the safety and well-being of everyone.

—Reviewed by Robin Bundy

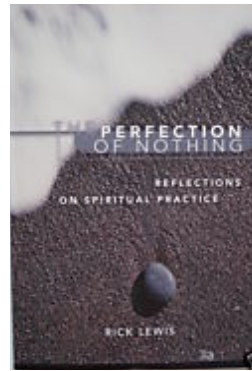
### Send Us Your News...

**News items, Submissions, Comments, Suggestions,  
Questions for Doc Gnositall, Opinions, Gripes**

Email newsletter@centerforsacredsciences.org or snail mail to CSS, address on the back page of this issue

### THE PERFECTION OF NOTHING: REFLECTIONS ON SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

by Rick Lewis, Hohm Press, 2000.



This wonderful text unfolds in four distinct parts, and will serve as a profound tool of understanding for the mid-level or advanced student of Gnosis. Lewis speaks in the vernacular of his current-day Pacific Northwest, for example: "Being neurotic is really no problem--unless, of course, you are a very, or even reasonably, intelligent person, because then you have a means to carry out your very twisted ends. Be neurotic, but be stupid, stumbling, and open about it. Save being intelligent, clever, and sly for when your heart is in the right place."

Lewis sets a good balance between personal confession and impersonal Truth, making the material (at times, from the purely Awakened perspective) still easily accessible to the challenged seeker.

The fourth and final section, entitled "The Truth of the Heart," is full-on *bhakti*, and seems entirely fitting as a crescendo. I "heart"-ily recommend this book, available at the Center Library.

—Reviewed by Vip Short

### Quantum Koans

#### A Seminar for the Study of the Paradoxes of Quantum Theory and their Relevance to Nondual Wisdom Traditions

*Those who are not shocked when they first come across  
quantum theory cannot possibly have understood it.*

—Niels Bohr

What is the relationship between scientific and spiritual worldviews? A new seminar to explore this question is in the planning stages for next fall. It will meet once a week in the Eugene area and will investigate the paradoxes and counter-intuitive features of quantum mechanics, with an emphasis on their relevance to mystical teachings and traditions. Some of the topics include nonlocality and Bell's theorem, entanglement and decoherence, wave function collapse and the measurement problem, and different interpretations of quantum theory.

Students need not have scientific or philosophical backgrounds, but should expect some technical discussions at times and are asked to study some prerequisite materials before enrolling. The seminar will be led by Tom McFarlane, author of *Einstein and the Buddha: The Parallel Sayings*. Tom holds degrees in physics, mathematics and philosophy and is also on the board of directors of the Center for Sacred Sciences. Check the Practitioner's Page on the Center website for more information.



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

**Change Service Requested**

**Non-profit Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Eugene, OR  
Permit No. 185**

## CONTACT THE CENTER



Meeting address: 3575 Donald St., Eugene, Oregon  
Library address: 1571 Buck St., Eugene, Oregon  
Web address: [www.centerforsacredsciences.org](http://www.centerforsacredsciences.org)  
Phone: (541) 345-0102  
Postal address: 1430 Willamette St. #164  
Eugene, OR 97401-4049

## 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  
[newsletter@centerforsacredsciences.org](mailto:newsletter@centerforsacredsciences.org)

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

Copyright © 2009 Center for Sacred Sciences

# CSS CALENDAR

## SEPTEMBER 2009 – JANUARY 2010

### SEPTEMBER 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
		1 <b>CLOSED</b>	2 <b>CLOSED</b>
6 <b>CLOSED</b>	7	8 <b>CLOSED</b>	9 <b>CLOSED</b>
13 <b>CLOSED</b>	14	15 <b>CLOSED</b>	16 <b>CLOSED</b>
20 Talk 11 am	21	22 <b>CLOSED</b>	23 Practitioners 7:30 (ALL)
27 Talk 11 am Library 2-4:30 pm	28	29 Library 6:00–8:30	30 Practitioners 7:30

\* **NO VIDEO**

### OCTOBER 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
4 Video* 11 am	5	6 Library 6:00–8:30	7 Practitioners 7:30
11 <b>CLOSED</b>	12	13 <b>CLOSED</b>	14 <b>CLOSED</b>
18 <b>CLOSED</b>	19	20 Library 6:00–8:30	21 Practitioners 7:30
25 Talk 11 am Library 2-4:30 pm	26	27 Library 6:00–8:30	28 Practitioners 7:30

#### \* **Changing from Inside**

This fascinating video documents a 10-day Vipassana meditation retreat, undertaken by 7 women inmates of an American prison, and how it changed their lives.

### NOVEMBER 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
1 Video* 11 am	2	3	4 Practitioners 7:30
8 Talk 11 am Library 2-4:30 pm	9	10 Library 6:00–8:30	11 Practitioners 7:30
15 Talk 11 am	16	17 Library 6:00–8:30	18 Practitioners 7:30
22 Talk 11 am Library 2-4:30 pm	23	24 <b>CLOSED</b>	25 <b>CLOSED</b>
29 <b>CLOSED</b>	30		

#### \* **JOSEPH CAMPBELL: The Hero's Adventure**

In this video, the first of a six-part series called *The Power of Myth*, renowned scholar Joseph Campbell explains the meaning of the archetypal story of the Hero which is found in virtually all cultures.

### DECEMBER 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
		1 Library 6:00–8:30	2 Practitioners 7:30
6 Video* 11 am	7	8 Library 6:00–8:30	9 Practitioners 7:30
13 Talk 11 am Library 2-4:30 pm	14	15 <b>CLOSED</b>	16 Practitioners 7:30
20 <b>CLOSED</b>	The Center will only be open this week on <b>FRIDAY, CHRISTMAS DAY</b> , for a Special Talk 11 am		
27 <b>CLOSED</b>	28	29 <b>CLOSED</b>	30 <b>CLOSED</b>

\* **MARCUS BORG: From Galilean Jew to the Face of God**  
Professor Marcus Borg of Oregon State University discusses how early Christian views of Jesus before and after the Resurrection continue to shape our modern understanding of Christianity.

### JANUARY 2010

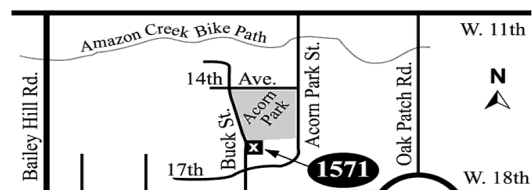
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
3 Video* 11 am	4	5 <b>CLOSED</b>	6 Practitioners 7:30
10 Talk 11 am Library 2-4:30 pm	11	12 Library 6:00–8:30	13 Practitioners 7:30
17 Talk 11 am	18	19 Library 6:00–8:30	20 Practitioners 7:30
24 / 31 Talk 11 am Library 2-4:30 pm (Jan 24 only)	25	26 Library 6:00–8:30	27 Practitioners 7:30 (ALL)

#### \* **An Interview with JANE GOODALL**

Acclaimed for her ground-breaking studies of wild Chimpanzees, in this video-taped interview Jane Goodall speaks about the spiritual side of her life and work.

#### LIBRARY ADDRESS:

**1571 BUCK ST., EUGENE, OREGON**



**Phone: (541) 345-0102**

View the calendar on the web!

[Centerforsacredsciences.org/calendar.html](http://Centerforsacredsciences.org/calendar.html)

---

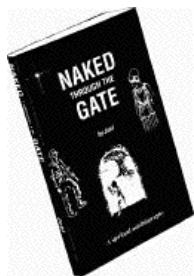
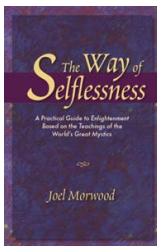
## Center Publications

---

### **The Way of Selflessness: A Practical Guide to Enlightenment Based on the Teachings of the World's Great Mystics**

By Joel, Center for Sacred Sciences, 2009, Paperback, 364 pages, \$18.00 introductory price (order through CSS website)

A distillation of Joel's teachings on the path of selflessness drawn from his extensive study of the world's mystical classics. Will help seekers in any (or no) tradition understand and take to heart the teachings of the mystics of the great traditions.



### **Naked Through the Gate: A Spiritual Autobiography**

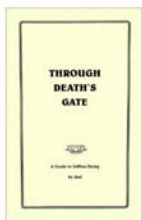
by Joel, Center for Sacred Sciences, 1985. Paperback, 262 pages, \$11.95

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

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



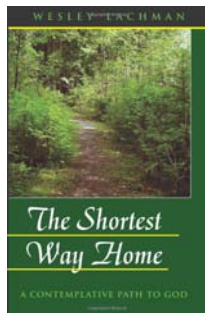
---

## Book Publications by Members

---

### **The Shortest Way Home: A Contemplative Path to God**

by Wesley R. Lachman, O Street Publishing, 2008. Paperback, 136 pages, \$10.95



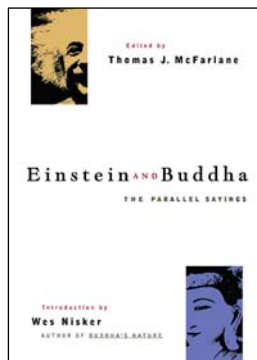
This book provides a short introduction to the contemplative or mystical spiritual way. It is a rare book in that it is based upon the everyday experience of the reader rather than upon dogma or religious concepts. The author lays out the extraordinary spiritual discoveries that can be made by looking at ordinary experience. The chapters

each end with a *You find out* exercise so that the reader can take what has just been read and test it against his or her own experience. The book offers several features to make it easier for the reader. It gives a logical, step-by-step presentation of the path of spiritual realization starting with dissatisfaction and ending with divine union. Written simply and clearly, it assumes only a minimum knowledge of the Christian scriptures and story. The book includes a number of relevant quotes from the scriptures and from contemplatives new and old. **The Shortest Way Home: A Contemplative Path to God** is a book for those seeking a radically new and deeper way to God.

### **Einstein and Buddha: The Parallel Sayings**

by Thomas J. McFarlane,

Ulysses Press, 2002. Paperback, 176 pages, \$14.00



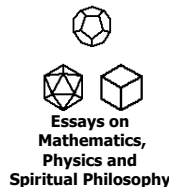
This remarkable book contains over 120 sayings from the founders of modern physics paired with parallel sayings from the seminal works of Buddhist, Hindu and Taoist contemplatives. *Einstein and Buddha* is a fascinating collection of quotes that challenges us to think deeper about the relationship between modern physics and mystical

insight. Although these two ways of understanding and investigating reality have significant differences, the parallels suggest that they share a mysterious and profound connection.

The parallel sayings are organized by theme and touch upon the nature of matter and energy, the relationship between subject and object, the understanding of time and space, the importance of direct experience, the role of paradox and contradiction in our understanding, the limits of language in describing reality, and the interdependence of all created things. Each section is accompanied by a brief introduction to how these concepts relate to the scientific and spiritual ways of knowing. On each page is an insightful quote from an eminent physicist such as Albert Einstein, Niels Bohr, Erwin Schrödinger, Werner Heisenberg, or David Bohm, together with a surprisingly similar statement from a renowned authority of Eastern religion such as the Buddha, Chuang Tzu, the Upanishads, D. T. Suzuki, or the Dalai Lama.

All books listed above may be ordered easily through Amazon.com ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))

### **SACRED SCIENCE**



Thomas J. McFarlane

### **Sacred Science: Essays on Mathematics, Physics and Spiritual Philosophy**

by Thomas J. McFarlane, self-published, 1995.

Tom's book **Sacred Science** may be obtained for free on the internet. A booklet with one essay entitled "The Play of Distinction" may be purchased at the CSS Library. For a complete catalog of our current publications and for pricing and ordering information, please visit the CSS website at [www.centerforsacredsciences.org](http://www.centerforsacredsciences.org)