



Center Community News

The Newsletter of the Center for Sacred Sciences

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Uncovering One-Taste Consciousness Spring Retreat at Cloud Mountain April 2012

— BY LASSE GUNDERSEN AND MARI WERNGREN

After starting the distance studies course and receiving a lot of help and warmth from our masterful mentor Todd Corbett, we decided to travel from Norway to literally the other side of the world for our first retreat with CSS. Motivation was high and expectations, too. Even massive jet lag and the long drive from San Francisco didn't dampen our spirits. We were energized by the beautiful Pacific NW and really looking forward to practicing with people from the CSS sangha, perhaps even getting to savor One Taste.

Expectations can be a tricky affair, because they often take you away from Truth into imagined worlds of grandeur and success, only to ultimately let you down if you actually buy into them, feeding them thoughts and energy. With this in mind, we tried to be open for that which arises without judging or comparing—something that was not going to be very difficult, we realized, when we met the loving eyes of Fred and the other participants. We harmoniously dove into silence together after the liberating noise of the ceremonial circumambulation of the meditation hall.

Fred led us all confidently through the initial sessions with concentration meditation through choiceless awareness to spacious awareness and simply sitting. We found his style of teaching attentive, light and humorous as he wove the theme of the retreat with a loom of precise meditative instructions, while enlightening us on the nature and scale of the generative organs of fleas, among other things...

What we appreciated above all else was the emphasis on non-dual practice and the confluence of the different practices into the one taste of just sitting, to use the metaphor of Dogen (and Fred). We felt as though we had received an experiential overview of the main practices of the entire path during these 5 nights of silence. And it worked! There was a progressive deepening of the meditative experience and a simultaneous expansion of

consciousness actually imbuing the many rivers that constitute what is referred to as "me" with the one taste of the Ocean of Consciousness. May It turn us all into indulging fools!

The last day of independent practice gave us a chance to practice at our own level. Much of it was spent outdoors, trying out the meditations in vivo. Although it might ultimately be a distraction, there is a certain joy in being choicelessly aware of musky forest smells, the taste of the humid air, bird chirps, squirrels rummaging about and Babaji's no-cave on the Cloud Mountain grounds, rather than the muted sensory impressions of an indoor environment.

The final sharing had an air of openness and joy even though most of us had been through rough times and spaces during the retreat.

It is not possible to write about the retreat without mentioning Cloud Mountain itself. The natural environment, facilities, raccoons and other sentient beings of this retreat center certainly contributed enormously to the retreat experience and depth of the practice. We were even blessed with three sunny days in a row!

Awaiting One (more) Taste,
Lasse and Mari



Back from left: Jan Staf, Mike Pooler, Jim Patterson, Kristen Cummings, Steve Cummings;

Row 3: Laura Betty, Laurie Iaccino, Aileen McNamara, Ellie Parsons, Jack Yousey;

Row 2: Audrey Desjarlais, Nancy Miller, Sally Snyder, Fred Chambers, Mari Werngren;

Front: Mark Hurwit, Michael Augden, Hiromi Sieradski, Lasse Gundersen

Photo: Jack Yousey

Sunday talks have a NEW LOCATION:

Saraha Nyingma Buddhist Institute
477 E. 40th Ave (at Donald St.), Eugene, OR
(former Unitarian Universalist church)

Join us for Sunday talks and videos at 11 a.m. in this lovely, light-filled hall. Please remove shoes before entering.



Foundations Studies and Practitioners Groups will meet at 7 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Eugene, 1685 West 13th (on the northeast corner of 13th and Chambers), *except for Community Nights (Sept. 26 and Jan. 30), which will be held at Saraha.*

Embodying Compassionate Awareness: a Workshop Intensive with Andrea Pucci and Matt Sieradski



Center-goers were treated to a unique opportunity on the weekend of April 6-8, 2012, courtesy of veteran teacher Andrea Pucci (Joel's first student and "first-born" awakened teacher), and Matthew Sieradski (the most recently recognized CSS teacher). This potent combination of teachers, spanning the lineage of CSS to date, made for a remarkable journey through the territory of psycho-emotional-spiritual scripts!

Andrea presented material gleaned from work she has been doing with her group of students in Bishop, California. Drawing from Zen teacher Cheri Huber's book, **What You Practice Is What You Have**, the centerpiece of the workshop was the utilization of the mindfulness practice we

call *choiceless awareness*, as a tool to see—and then witness the self-liberation of—our various pieces of “egoic karmic conditioning,” or EKC. As anyone who has done a bit of self-investigation can attest, most of us walk around with a perpetual internal script that is judgmental and incriminatory. We were invited to recognize that all the judgments we place upon external agents—other people, organizations, circumstances, and random events—have their basis in our own personal self-critiques. So the task before us is to discover our own tendency to, in Andrea's words, “keep getting fooled by hateful voices.” And the good news is that the medicine for this malaise is quite simple: we merely have to see this habit for what it is, to look directly at it, and witness its self-liberation.

The weekend, attended by 23 students, was punctuated at just the right intervals with Hunyuan Qi Gong practices led by Matt. Essentially an energetically-centered form of standing and moving meditation, these simple routines helped to both stabilize and deepen the sitting practice. This augmenting effect was reported by several students, and the mix of silent sitting, movement and talk was well-received by all.

Participants were inspired by the encouraging spiritual authority of Andrea's and Matt's sharings. Andrea: “Until the inner beatings stop, spiritual work cannot even begin. ... There's nothing I need to learn that Love cannot teach me.” Matt: “The only difference between Buddha and any other sentient being is that the sentient being sees a difference.”



And finally, Andrea again: “Only one distinction needs to be made: between Awareness, and the content—all the phenomena that arise within Awareness.”

— VIP SHORT

Workshop photos courtesy of Hiromi Sieradski

Tom McFarlane to speak at SAND

Dozens of nonduality teachers will be gathering in San Rafael, CA October 24-28, 2012 for the annual Science and Nonduality Conference (SAND). There will also be a few scientists there. Tom is scheduled to give a talk entitled “The nonduality of observer and observed in physics and direct experience.”

Visit CSS on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CenterforSacredSciences for the latest on Center events, meeting locations, links to relevant videos, articles, publications and more...

Enlightenment Day Celebration 2012

August 11 in Cottage Grove

Every year we list pretty much the same accolades and superlatives describing an enjoyable day partying with CSS-ers and friends, socializing with Joel and the other teachers, memorable foundations studies grads, great food, sweet company, and lively entertainment. It's all still true! Thanks to Jo Chambers for the great photos.



Foundations Studies grad Aileen McNamara talks about finding the Center and the year-long course taught by Fred Chambers(left). Other grads were: Michael Augden, Laura Betty, Matt Branham, Joshua Corbett, Anna Hults, Laurie Iaccino, and Mike Pooler (right).



Robin loves grapes



Schmoozing on the deck



Mina



Ole Smokey



Megan and Mora



Graduate Josh Corbett

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Congratulations

to Tom McFarlane and Agnieszka Alboszta on the birth of their son, Henry Anton McFarlane, on June 29, 2012. Henry made his social debut at the Center's Enlightenment Day Celebration on August 11, receiving a warm welcome from everyone and wishes for a successful sojourn on the planet. At this point, his shining Buddha-nature is hard to miss.



Vinnie, Lou, Jack, Fred



Sangha – One of the Three Jewels

Who's running the Center, anyhow?

MEGAN GREINER, our roving reporter, received a suggestion from a distance studies student that we introduce the board members to the reading public. We aim to please, so...



Joel Morwood

On August 13, 1983, I had a Gnostic Awakening. At the time, I had no idea of becoming a teacher, but in the months that followed, I started to feel an obligation to write an account of what had happened as a testimony that such an Awakening was possible. Serendipitously, that autumn I paid a visit to

the 96-year-old mystic-philosopher Dr. Franklin Merrell-Wolff and discovered that one of his students had a cabin for rent on the property. I spent the next year-and-a-half living in that cabin six thousand feet up in the High Sierras of California, writing **Naked Through the Gate**.

Several times during that period Amit Goswami, a physics professor from the University of Oregon, and his wife Maggie came to see Dr. Wolff. Amit began teaching me about quantum physics (about which I knew next to nothing) and I ended up telling him about my Awakening. Eventually, Amit, and later Maggie, asked me to be their guru. I had no reason to refuse, and so they became my first formal students.

By the time I finished writing **Naked Through the Gate** in the spring of 1985, my savings had run out, and so I moved to Los Angeles to find a job. I got hired as a clerk at the Bodhi Tree bookstore and rented a studio apartment nearby. Over the next year or so, Amit and Maggie made several trips down to Los Angeles to visit me, but it was burdensome for them to do so. Finally, in the fall of 1986, they asked me to come live with them in Eugene, Oregon. Their children were grown and they suggested we could turn their house into a spiritual center of some sort. Again, I saw no reason to refuse, so I packed up and moved to Eugene.

In 1987, Amit, Maggie and I formed the Center for Sacred Sciences and became the original board members. From the beginning, the Center had two basic missions: 1) to disseminate the teachings of the world's mystics and 2) to explore a new worldview in which science and mysticism are seen as different but compatible ways of pursuing truth.

The first few years were experimental. Amit and I gave a short course on various aspects of quantum physics and mysticism. We held dream workshops, meditation classes, and had a small chanting group. We also had teachers from other organizations come to give presentations. Over the next few years, however, Amit felt called to concentrate more and more on the worldview work, while a number of my students wanted to focus more on long-term spiritual practices. As a result, we eventually went our separate ways: Amit resigned from the board, and I moved into a tiny apartment with my future wife, Jennifer (who by now was

also a board member). I began meeting with a handful of students twice a week in our living room, while Jennifer started to build the Center library. It was from these roots that the Center has grown to be what it is today.



Jennifer Knight:

After meeting Maggie and Amit Goswami, who had co-written the book **The Cosmic Dancers: Exploring the Science of Science Fiction**, at a Brazilian feast given by my mother-in-law, a science-fiction writer, I

decided to attend a class, "Quantum Mechanics and Eastern Mysticism" that Amit was co-teaching with some other fellow. It turns out the other fellow was Joel Morwood, who, along with the Goswamis, had just founded the Center for Sacred Sciences. The class must have made an impression, because I've been at the Center ever since. I started volunteering in the library the next year, 1988, then became a board member in 1989, and Treasurer in September 1990.

There were two early influences that informed my decision-making as CSS Librarian. One was Bill Moyers' interviews with Joseph Campbell, "The Power of Myth." I found both his mystical view of myth, and his cross-tradition references compelling. I also picked up a love for the stone-age cave paintings in France. So I was delighted this year when we added to the Center's library Werner Herzog's film "Cave of Forgotten Dreams" about the Chauvet Cave.

Another strong influence was prodding by early board member Linda Daniels and feminist Julie Rogers to seek out the women mystics. We now have a nice collection of women mystics in the Center Library, including women from those traditions where their works are hardest to find, or not widely published. Two films on women mystics that I would encourage people to see are Shohreh Aghdashloo's film "Mystic Iran" and "Working with Difficult Situations in Life" with Lama Kathy Wesley.

Performing my various duties for the Center has been both a lot of hard work and a very rewarding experience.

Tom McFarlane

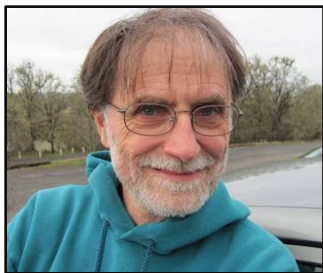


I grew up in a small town in northeast Oregon. I met Joel over 25 years ago when the Center was first started. At the time, I was a 23-year-old physics student with a desire to know reality. I attended a physics seminar at UO with physics professor Amit Goswami, who invited me over for dinner one evening to

Sangha – One of the Three Jewels

“meet a mystic.” To my surprise, the mystic was not an Indian guru with robes but a guy from New York with jeans. Just a few months later, I attended Joel's first retreat, which was held in Lone Pine at Dr. Wolff's Great Space Center.

During the '90s I lived in Seattle to study mathematics and in Palo Alto to start a career as a patent agent, but I continued to travel up to Cloud Mountain to attend retreats with Joel. In 2000 I moved back to Eugene and have been closely involved with CSS ever since. About ten years ago I joined the CSS board to serve as the publications director. I manage the CSS website, the production of CSS books, and supervise the CSS newsletter. In my role as a CSS teacher, I have led the foundation studies course and two spring retreats. I also give occasional Sunday talks and am collaborating with Joel on the development of a new sacred worldview. I currently live in Springfield with my wife Agnieszka, our new-born son, Henry Anton, and a family of four cats.



Todd Corbett

I originally heard about the CSS library in 1991, while living in a cabin in the forest of Umpqua, Oregon, about 70 miles to the south of Eugene. At the time I was grieving the death of a son and the dissolution of a 20-year

marriage. The library offered many resources regarding the realm of grief and suffering and provided an array of books with practices designed to work with these.

Due to a strong skepticism, I visited the library for a few months and avoided Joel's Sunday morning talks. Finally, one afternoon, while researching a sublime topic, Jennifer, the librarian, quietly recommended a talk by Joel, which I hesitatingly checked out. I was amazed to find that when I did eventually listen to it, Joel was able to clarify several topics I had been struggling to understand for months. After this, I rarely missed a Sunday for at least a decade.

Within the first year of attending Sunday meetings at CSS, I developed a relationship with Bonnie Linn, a member of the Wednesday evening practitioners group at CSS. Just as we were becoming intimate friends, she was diagnosed with liver cancer, and I stayed with her most of the time during the next month until her death. This was my initiation into the CSS practitioners group. Originally I began attending the Wednesday group simply to take notes for Bonnie, who could not attend, and then continued attending in her place after she departed.

Over the next decade amidst a number of deaths and life calamities, I continued to make the trip to Eugene on Sundays and Wednesdays and attended biannual retreats. Finally I did begin living in Eugene part time, caring for my younger brother in 1999, after he had a debilitating stroke. Within a couple of years after his death in 2002, I recognized the nature of Mind while on a CSS retreat, and was thereafter asked to teach. Since then, I've been living in

Eugene with my wife, Robin, and working a couple of days a week as a staff nurse at a Roseburg hospital. I have been a CSS board member since 2007.



Fred Chambers

I live a few miles west of Cottage Grove on a small acreage. My wife, Jo, and I moved there nine years ago and built our home with the help of our friend, Abdullah. It is beautiful, and feel free to stop by and visit sometime. Our neighbor

just clearcut his property; it was sad to see and hear the trees falling, but we now have a partial view of the sunsets.

I first attended the Center 20 years ago, when a friend invited me to go along with him one Sunday. I was struck by the clarity of truth in Joel's teachings, and how most of the things I had heard in the Christian church I grew up in suddenly made sense for the first time. I joined the practitioners group and eventually became the retreat coordinator for several years. I joined the CSS Board in the mid or late 1990s. I feel honored to be of service and to help promote the vision of CSS in any way I can.



Barb Dewey

Over twenty years ago I attended CCS for the first time when meetings were being held in the living room of Joel's and Jennifer's upstairs apartment in South Eugene. I had been searching for an elusive something which at the time I

couldn't even name. There was an announcement in the alternative newspaper for a Jack Kornfield video being presented at this address on a Sunday morning. I was familiar with that name and desperate for direction, so I ignored the butterflies in my stomach and have been involved with CSS ever since.

I became Board secretary about four years ago after veering off in other spiritual directions a couple of times, but always returning to CSS. My practice has matured consistently over the years and I am confident that enlightenment is attainable. The Center provides invaluable resources, including Joel's practice book, **The Way of Selflessness**, the selfless service of several awakened teachers, a remarkable library, and a history of integrity in management by the Board.



Michael Strasburger

Hi, I'm Michael Strasburger, perhaps our youngest board member and Facilities Director for the Center. I joined the board in February of 2010. My wife, Cathryn Cardellino, and I moved to Eugene from Austin, Texas in early 2002. We live in Eugene about 1/2 mile

from the Willamette River, and enjoy taking walks along the river. I enjoy landscaping and gardening, especially growing tomatoes and garlic.

Shortly after we moved to Eugene, Cathryn discovered the Center when she went to a talk Joel gave at OASIS. She started attending the Center, and I reluctantly tagged along a few times. I was having a tough time adjusting to our new life here, and experienced a great deal of suffering. I stumbled around searching for some relief, eventually had a bit of a breakthrough, and joined the Foundation Studies group in the fall of 2004.

At that time I was very self-centered and prideful, and I felt a desperate need to try to do something for others to counteract it. The constant emphasis on “myself” was driving “me” crazy. I started volunteering with the Shelter Animal Resource Alliance (SARA), doing heavy lifting and working in their thrift store, where lots of rescued cats were in residence. One day I was trying to clean up some cat poop behind a cabinet, and I thought: “This sucks—I really don’t need this!” Then I was struck with an insight: “This is exactly what I *do* need!” Service became a big part of my practice. At the Center, I started helping Fred and Gene with the Enlightenment Day Celebration, and other volunteering opportunities began appearing. In addition to my facilities duties at the Center, I also coordinate the Holiday and Enlightenment Day celebrations, and occasionally help out on retreats. It’s a great pleasure to serve my spiritual brothers and sisters whenever possible.

David Loy Workshop in Eugene



Photo courtesy of Hiromi Sieradski

CSS and the Green Phoenix Institute co-hosted Buddhist philosopher and author David Loy for a Friday lecture and Saturday workshop on May 18-19, 2012. Dr. Loy’s presentation focused on the interaction between Buddhism and Western culture, proposing insightful forms of cross-fertilization. On the one hand, Buddhism can contribute to the West’s ideal of social justice by shedding light on the deeper causes of institutionalized forms of the “three poisons” of greed, ill-will, and delusion. On the other hand, the West can contribute to Buddhism the broader call to work not only toward individual transformation, but toward social transformation as well. Among the participants was Hiromi Sieradski, who generously has shared with our readers her personal experience and response to these fascinating ideas. Her account follows:



Hiromi Sieradski

I had a great opportunity in spending extra time with Dr. Loy since I was part of the Green Phoenix Institute staff. Although he is a well known public figure, he was friendly, charming, down to earth, and humble.

Realizing he was somewhat more ordinary than he appears in public made me feel more comfortable to listen and participate in his teachings. Because of my True Pureland Buddhist upbringing, I had more religious practice than spiritual practice while growing up in Japan. As a Japanese native, I was very curious to meet someone who spent more than 20 years studying Buddhism in Japan. Also, I was intrigued to see how he was going to present Buddhism, healing ecology, and transforming self and world together.

I was amazed. I came to feel that by my own individual spiritual practice, I am contributing to positive world change. Dr. Loy skillfully drew a picture of how our society is constructed and how our individual sufferings are constructed. He helped me see how personal transformation links to larger social transformation. I have never seen social issues as something I could do anything about. I was able to make a connection: social suffering is also my suffering because that is my world, part of me, too. I felt like I understood another quotation I’d heard. *I become nothing and I become everything*. Like Zen Master Dogen said. “I came to realize that the Mind is no other than the mountains, the rivers, great wide earth, the sun, moon, and the stars.”

Summer Lone Pine retreat

After a very long drive from Eugene, we navigated our caravan of cars through the desert and finally arrived at Dr. Wolff’s ranch. Andrea showed me Dr. Wolff’s room. Walking into the space, I felt an awesome presence.

“Identifying and Liberating Negative Narratives” was this year’s theme, based on author Cheri Huber’s books, **What You Practice Is What You Have** and **There Is Nothing Wrong With You**. Huber explores the incessant voices in our heads telling us *There is something wrong with me...I should be more/better/different*. She explains that this judgmental voice is not “me.” Willingness to practice mindful attentiveness and kindness for ourselves can assist in overcoming self-hate. She describes learning to direct attention to the life experience we choose.

Joel wove Huber’s content into his teachings and went deeper. Suffering is created and maintained in a mental conversation. We learned to look for the narrative and see when conditioning is running the ship. We had plenty of opportunity to practice watching thoughts dissolve and experiencing our true nature, when we step free of the conditioned sense of self. These teachings help us recognize when we’re not living in loving kindness and unconditional acceptance and our attention has been hijacked by suffering. They help us drop the suffering and direct attention to the experience we want and the life we choose



Joel in Dr. Wolff’s chair

— AMY GREENWOLD

The Precept of Honesty

By Todd Corbett

Fifth Precept: Not to deceive myself or others by word or deed. The following elucidation of honesty—the fifth precept at the Center for Sacred Sciences—was offered as instruction to Todd’s practitioner’s group in its investigation into compassion last term.

In working with the precept of honesty, we look to see how we are *dishonest* with others and with ourselves. Working with dishonesty is no small undertaking. This is because it is the force that holds all our beliefs in place in the form of deep emotional attachments to ideas of self, and it is the force that obstructs true self-knowledge. Vigilance is required, since passive attention has been trained to *ignore* aspects of experience which do not support the “story of I.” In essence, in practicing honesty we are practicing all of the precepts rolled into one.

Honesty may be practiced in specific situations where we find ourselves repeatedly dishonest with others or with ourselves—or, in a more global fashion, as a practice of mindfulness in which we allow witnessing of naked experience and notice self-identity wherever it arises.

Honesty amounts to acknowledging our direct experience within this moment, in the same way we have been practicing noticing how we blame others for our own sense of unhappiness. The power of the practice lies in experientially discovering the nature of deception in the moment of its arising, the attachment to the picture of “I” we believe is true.

For example, we may be averse to seeing suffering in others. We can’t bear it because it is so painful. Yet turning away from what is painful, even subtly, constructs a wall around our hearts to protect us from these images, which then becomes a pattern. This limits the expression of our love. To practice honesty in this circumstance, we must first recognize how we are creating suffering by identifying with this one who is averse to pain. Then we can take it as a practice to allow this one to be seen, and the pain to be felt. Now when we see someone suffering, we can practice at least giving them some kind of acknowledgement, rather than just quickly turning away. Honesty is a cutting-through of our limited view, and in so doing, allows our inherent love to open in this moment.

We often begin the practice of honesty by noticing when we are dishonest with others. We resist even acknowledging this at first because, although we do it, we tend to ignore the mechanism of it. Deceit does not fit our image of self, and so we do not want to see it. But as we see it more and more, the desire to deceive naturally dissipates. This is the process of the dissolution of the story of I, seen very concisely.

This can be revealing, but we have to be careful not to be dogmatic about being honest. Because honesty is a manifest expression of Love and Compassion, its nature is

rooted in kindness. As many of us have discovered in our own experience, there may be times when telling a lie is the compassionate thing to do within worldly life. This is still honesty in its deepest sense. We remain true to the honesty of our deepest truth of compassion when telling a lie in such a circumstance. In the words of philosopher Robert Brault, “Today I bent the truth to be kind, and I have no regret, for I am more sure of what is kind than I am of what is true.”

But despite all the nuances of perfect or failed skillfulness in dealings with others and within our meditation or contemplation practices, honesty amounts to remaining true to our own direct and immediate experience. Truth is the immediate awareness of what arises in consciousness, without embellishment. It is feeling what is felt, and this includes identification with the “story of I” or being caught up in expectations or thoughts about it. If expectations of practice do arise, then this is exactly what you are experiencing and thereby, you are acknowledging it, just as it is. In this regard, Tsoknyi Rinpoche tells us: “Regardless of whether we are new or advanced students, we should always be certain not to fool ourselves. If somebody else fools us, there’s not much we can do about it. But to fool ourselves is much worse.” And in the words of Marcus Aurelius: “I search after truth, by which man never yet was harmed. But he is harmed who clings to his deception and ignorance.”

The practice of honesty returns us to our immediate experience beneath the chattering stories of the mind. Wisdom, in essence, is honesty manifest. It is through honesty that we penetrate the conditioning of mental ignoring. It allows us to develop faith in practice as we discover truth within direct experience. Without honesty, faith can only be blind; doctrinal; mental.

Honesty is an acknowledging of what is true, but it comes about through discerning what is not. It is a radical questioning of the answers we cling to in the “story of I.”

So set aside a few minutes to examine the issue of honesty and see if you can come up with a means of remembering to practice with it through the course of the day.



Todd Corbett is a Center teacher and on the Board of Directors.

Tom McFarlane gives Wolff keynote

The annual Franklin Merrell-Wolff Conference took place from August 2-5, 2012, at the Great Space Center near Lone Pine, California, where Dr. Wolff lived for many years. Tom McFarlane, who was celebrating 25 years since he first attended the conference, gave the keynote presentation on the topic “Philosophy as a Way of Life.” The conference included group readings from Wolff’s aphorisms on Consciousness-Without-An-Object, as well as presentations by Ron and Doroethy Leonard.

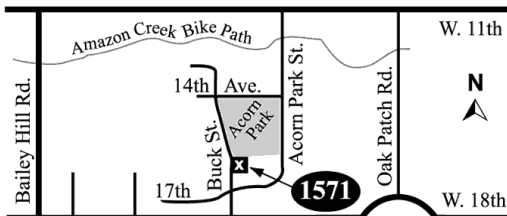


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MISSION AND PROGRAMS

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 teachers, monthly Sunday 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 teachers give their teachings freely as a labor of love and receive 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

SEPTEMBER 2012 – JANUARY 2013

SEPTEMBER 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
2 CLOSED	3 CLOSED	4 CLOSED	5 CLOSED
9 CLOSED	10 CLOSED	11 CLOSED	12 CLOSED
16 CLOSED	17 CLOSED	18 CLOSED	19 CLOSED
23 Talk 11 am	24 CLOSED	25 Library 6:00–8:30	26 •Community Night 7:00
30 Talk 11 am Library 2-4:30 pm			

* NO VIDEO

OCTOBER 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	1 Practitioners 7:00	2 Library 6:00–8:30	3 Practitioners 7:00
7 Video* 11 am	8 Practitioners 7:00	9 Library 6:00–8:30	10 Practitioners 7:00
14 CLOSED	15 CLOSED	16 CLOSED	17 CLOSED
21 Talk 11 am	22 Practitioners 7:00	23 Library 6:00–8:30	24 Practitioners 7:00
28 Talk 11 am Library 2-4:30 pm	29 Practitioners 7:00	30 Library 6:00–8:30	31 Practitioners 7:00

* The Angel That Stands by Me

In this video, Minnie Evans, an African-American folk artist, explains how all her vivid and colorful paintings are guided by an angel who, as a child, commanded her to “paint or die!”

NOVEMBER 2012

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

* Coleman Barks: Sounds of Poetry

Coleman Barks, famous for his modern translations of the ecstatic Sufi poet, Rumi, discusses his work with Bill Moyers. Periodically during their conversation, professor Barks reads from both Rumi's and his own poems.

• Community Nights on September 26th and January 30th will meet at Saraha, 477 E. 40th, Eugene.

DECEMBER 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
2 Video* 11 am	3 Practitioners 7:00	4 Library 6:00–8:30	5 Practitioners 7:00
9 Talk 11 am Library 2-4:30 pm	10 Practitioners 7:00	11 Library 6:00–8:30	12 Practitioners 7:00
16 Talk 11 am	17 Practitioners 7:00	18 CLOSED	19 Practitioners 7:00
23	24	25	26
The Center will only be open this week on TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25, CHRISTMAS DAY, for a talk at 11 am			
30 CLOSED	31 CLOSED		

* Meinrad Craighead: Praying with Images

This documentary explores the life and art of Meinrad Craighead, from her childhood in Arkansas through her studies in Italy and Spain and her years as a nun in England. Her paintings focus on the Divine Feminine and combine imagery from her visions with Catholic and Native American traditions.

JANUARY 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
		1 CLOSED	2 CLOSED
6 Video* 11 am	7 Practitioners 7:00	8 Library 6:00–8:30	9 Practitioners 7:00
13 Talk 11 am Library 2-4:30pm	14 Practitioners 7:00	15 Library 6:00–8:30	16 Practitioners 7:00
20 Talk 11 am	21 Practitioners 7:00	22 Library 6:00–8:30	23 Practitioners 7:00
27 Talk 11 am Library 2-4:30pm	28 CLOSED	29 Library 6:00–8:30	30 •Community Night 7:00

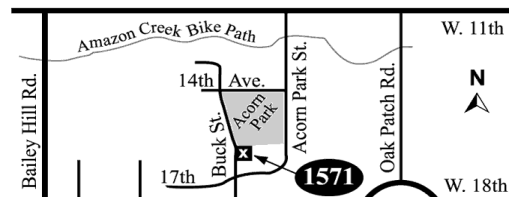
* Werner Herzog: Cave of Forgotten Dreams

This documentary, by renowned film-maker Werner Herzog, captures the wonder and mystery of the remarkably sophisticated Chauvet cave paintings in France, created over 30,000 years ago at the very dawn of human culture.

View the calendar on the web!

<http://www.centerforsacredsciences.org/gcalendar.htm>

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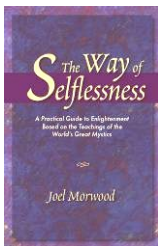


Phone: (541) 345-0102

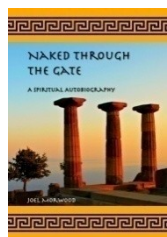
Center Publications

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

By Joel Morwood, *Center for Sacred Sciences*, 2009, Paper, 364 pages, \$27.95 (or from www.Lulu.com for just \$18.00)



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

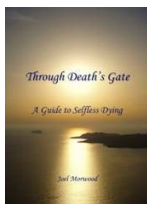
by Joel Morwood, *Center for Sacred Sciences*, 1985. Paper, 262 pages, \$11.95

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. Paper, 83 pages, \$6.95

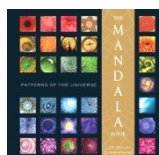
A guide to death and dying from a spiritual perspective, including teachings and practices from the world's great mystics.



The above three books may be ordered at

<http://www.centerforsacredsciences.org/catalog.htm>

Book Publications by Members



The Mandala Book: Patterns of the Universe

By Lori Bailey Cunningham, *Sterling Publishing*, 2010. Hardcover, 320 pages, \$24.95
<http://amzn.com/1402762909> (\$16.14)

The Mandala Book is a visual symphony, filled with 500 stunning mandalic images from nature and civilization. Drawing from history, science, religion, and art, Lori Bailey Cunningham leads a journey that spans from prehistoric petroglyphs to Carl Jung, from tiny particles of matter to entire galaxies. She explains the concepts of mandalas, showing how they are at the root of life itself.

More Mandala resources available on her website www.mandalaproject.org.

Peculiar Stories

By Mora Fields, *O Street Publishing*, 2010. Paper, 94 pages, \$6.95 youth fiction, age 6-10 & up, www.ostreetpublishing.com

A book of teaching tales that are plain spoken, absorbing, and layered with depth. These stories delve into such topics as where do thoughts come from, how do we deal with things like emotions, fear, and peer pressure, how to experience spaciousness, and the meaning of life.

The Shortest Way Home: A Contemplative Path to God

by Wesley R. Lachman, *O Street Publishing*, 2008. Paper, 136 pages, \$10.95, www.ostreetpublishing.com

An introduction to the contemplative mystical path for those seeking a radically new and deeper way to God. A step-by-step presentation of the path of spiritual realization. Each chapter ends with a You find out exercise so the reader can test what has been read against his or her own experience.

Bringing Home the Mountain: Finding the Teacher Within

By Cathy Rosewell Jonas, *Free Heart Press*, 2010. Paper, 224 pages, \$16.95, www.lulu.com and www.amazon.com

"Cathy Jonas's exciting account of her spiritual journey, *Bringing Home the Mountain*, overflows with an abundance of experiences and insights. Any genuine seeker should find plenty here to both inspire and instruct on his or her own path to Awakening." —Joel

Einstein and Buddha: The Parallel Sayings

by Thomas J. McFarlane, *Ulysses Press*, 2002. Paper, 176 pages, \$14.00, www.amazon.com

This remarkable book contains sayings from the founders of modern physics paired with parallel sayings from the works of Buddhist, Hindu, and Taoist contemplatives. *Einstein and Buddha* challenges us to think deeper about the relationship between modern physics and mystical insight.

New Recordings

<http://www.centerforsacredsciences.org/catalog.htm>

New CDs

Investigating the Nature of Time

Tom McFarlane, 11/13/2011, 44 min

How to Be Happy in the Hospital

Joel, 9/11/2011, 52 min

Introduction to CSS: Mission, Programs, Teachings

Tom McFarlane, 9/18/2011, 55 min

Striving for Happiness

Todd Corbett, 6/26/2011, 45 min

Spiritual Ignorance

Todd Corbett, 5/22/2011, 56 min

Oneness

Todd Corbett, 2/27/2011, 51 min

What Is Spiritual Realization

Matthew Sieradski, 2/8/2011, 63 min

Listening to the Stones Series: 8 Talks from the Fall 2011 Retreat (also available as an MP3 audio set)

Learning to Listen, Joel, 10/8/2011, 61 min

Impermanence, Joel, 10/9/2011, 58 min

Emptiness of Objects, Joel, 10/10/2011, 56 min

Emptiness of Self, Joel, 10/11/2011, 59 min

The Nature of Consciousness Itself, Joel, 10/12/11, 59 min

Universal Sameness, Joel, 10/13/2011, 59 min

No Goal, No Boundaries, Joel, 10/14/2011, 59 min

The Great Perfection, Joel, 10/15/2011, 57 min