



### Spring 2014 Retreat: *Cultivating Emotional Wisdom*

Our last retreat, led by Matt (and accompanied by Fred's stable presence, Shirley taking the reins as new CSS Retreat Coordinator, and Jack, ever-ready to kick attendee butt as required), offered an opportunity for over two-dozen of our faithful to enjoy five awesome, meditative days at St. Benedict's Lodge, our official new retreat location.



Matt went above and beyond the call, offering us enough information and insight to provide for years of future reflection. (Also be sure to read his really good, complementary article on effortlessness, beginning on page three.) And it appears that St. Benedict's will work out fine for us, with its powerful river stimulating the mind for deep practice (24/7!), Linda's delicious food and meal hall beautifications, and some inspired blanket-work after we discovered that the draft coming back down the large chimney needed to be dampened before too much phenomena choked us all out! It was, in short, awesome.

This participant thought the words on the shirt Amos was wearing on our last day ("Kalyana Mitta" – *Spiritual Friends*) communicated well the feeling of the group, and it seems (once again) a good idea to let the attendees speak for themselves here, in their own ways. So, enjoy throughout this edition the poems, photographs, and personal testimonies to the teachings and practices we are so fortunate to receive. Also feel free to "hit up" anyone else (listed under the picture) for their experience of what they got from the retreat. I'm sure they'll be glad to tell you!

—Mark Hurwit, Editor

**Back row:** Deste Gem, Vip Short, Jack Yousey, Luke Weiss, Sharry Lachman, Kristen Cummings, Steve Cummings, Laurina Peters  
**Midde row:** Clivonne Corbett, Mark Hurwit, Betty Vail, Elizabeth Midwinter, Linda Wylie, Aileen McNamara, Amos Burr, Carla Crow, Liba Staff, Sally Snyder  
**Front row:** Nancy Miller, Karen Wesson, Hiromi Sieradski, Matt Sieradski, Fred Chambers, Shirley Chase, Ellie Parsons, Pat Mundon

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### SAVE THE DATE! *for Soup & Parodies* Sunday, October 12, 6 pm

Kick off the Fall reconvening of the Center with a great dinner and social gathering. Fill your bottomless soup bowl with ladles of 8 varieties of homemade soup (bread, tea & desert included — BYOB if you like).

Annie O'Shea and Michael Augden will entertain with musical parodies and familiar songs, reinvented with spiritual themes, written by our own sangha members and performed by musicians who promise to rehearse this time! (Contact Annie if you have one to offer.)

Tickets need to be purchased in advance, and will be available for \$15 at the Center on Sept. 28, Oct. 1 and Oct. 5. All proceeds go to the CSS Building Fund.

## Retreat Offerings I

memories and song by Ellie Parsons • photo by Deste Gem

*We lay down our burdens,  
down by the riverside...  
down by the McKenzie Bridge,  
down by the Riverside.  
We lay down our burdens,  
down by the riverside...  
ain't gonna study fear no more.*



So we have our emotions swept down the river by Matt, our River Pilot, and Shirley and her team, who boldly conquered aversion to smoke, fire and ash. And don't forget Fred, who gave his arm to fix the "hole in the dike," so we weren't so in dire need of the fire to keep warm. Thanks also to Hiromi, our brave and faithful Bell Ringer.

### Perception at St. Benedict's

Oh! A Headless torso in the grass! Can it be? There is a body, bottom protruding in fetal position. Yes, the arm truly is flesh color, but the head is missing! Has this person lost all thought and transformed to only body? — Oh, such ridiculous thoughts. It's just a sleeping bag or aged roll! But that arm... it looks so real!

It is! As real as all conventional phenomena. Up comes Sally's head where the feet "should" be... blue top, red bottom, and lo... the "torso's arm" is her leg!

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## Another Successful CSS Rummage Sale Under Our Belts!

by Barbara Dewey

This year's sale was both similar to and different from the one we held last year. The most substantial differences were that the sale wasn't held at the Center, and that the inventory was vastly reduced, compared to last year. Though many people were disappointed about the relocation of the sale, it turned out that the size of our inventory fit nicely into the space in Deanna's yard, and would have been dwarfed in CSS's large space. And having a much smaller space for early drop-offs, and also providing our own tables (to save the cost of renting them), also turned out not to be a problem.

But similar were the things that make events at the Center such a joy for me. Sangha members are simply incredibly generous in so many ways. Everyone banded together and managed to get all the tables and large donations delivered in plenty of time for set-up on Friday. A core of about six people spent six hours on Friday organizing and pricing the donations, returning on Saturday to be joined by twelve additional volunteers who filtered in and out and back throughout the day to arrange tables, keep the inventory freshly and appealingly displayed, interact with customers, manage the money, dismantle, pack up the donations, and clean up Deanna's yard.

Amidst all that work everyone was unfailingly supportive

of each other, good-natured, and flexible. I hope I speak for all the volunteers when I say that we just had a whole lot of fun together. The event was as much about community-building within the Sangha as it was about fund-raising. To me that is the real beauty of our group fundraising activities.

The sale netted close to \$900. The intention to stand firm on marked prices until after 2 p.m. actually turned out to be a non-issue, as our pricing trio (Gene, Rich and Todd) channeled the perfect price for each item and buyers apparently thought the prices were completely fair. People didn't make lower offers or try to dicker, even on the highest priced items! Amazing!

There were advantages and draw-backs to the smaller venue and lessons to be learned, as there always are. Thinking ahead to the 2015 sale, I recommend that members of the Sangha start setting aside rummage sale-appropriate items right now. The more inventory we have to offer, the greater our money-making potential.

Thanks again to everyone who contributed in any way to this year's rummage sale. All the big and little efforts made for an impressive, supportive and indescribably rewarding event.



## The Effortless Bliss of No Mind

by Matthew P. Sieradski

*“In the pure effulgence of divine bliss, peace is born from the death of the mind.”*  
— Sri Muruganar, Hindu Advaitist<sup>1</sup>

*“The total bliss of non-action is realized through the non-conceptual state and the absence of desire.”*  
— Dzogchen Tantra, Tibetan Buddhism<sup>2</sup>

*“In the view of the Tribe, wujūd is finding the Real in ecstasy, but you do not witness the Real in that state, for it is witnessing Him which annihilates you from witnessing yourself and witnessing those present...”*

*“The object of vision, which is the Real, is light, while that through which the perceiver perceives Him is light. Hence light becomes included in light. It is as if it returns to the root from which it became manifest. So nothing sees Him but He.”*  
— Ibn al-'Arabi, Sufi Master<sup>3</sup>

The Hindu Advaitists have a term, Sahaja Samadhi, to describe the ultimate state of spiritual enlightenment. *Sahaja* literally translates as: spontaneous, natural, simple, or easy. *Samadhi* is a term that refers to a higher state of consciousness. Samadhi has been used in different ways by different authors, Hindu and Buddhist, but in the context of Sahaja Samadhi, it refers to the non-dual state of transcendental consciousness. Taken together, *Sahaja Samadhi* has often been translated simply as *the natural state*.

This natural state, which in truth is simply the realization of our divine nature as Consciousness Itself, is the goal of all spiritual pursuits. It is an effortless state of supreme relaxation, absorption in the recognition of the Truth, and an overflowing of profound bliss beyond all threat of extinction. It is the spontaneous arising of undifferentiated existence-as-awareness. As such, it is also the revelation of the actual condition of the cosmos, of things as they are, in Truth.

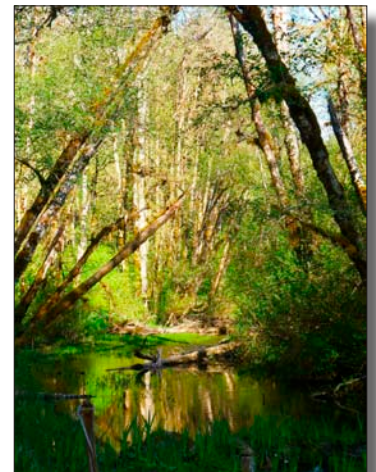
Things — all phenomena, great and small, inner and outer — are revealed in the natural state to be modifications of the One Light of Pure Consciousness. This conviction comes not through a process of mental reflection, however. The process comes via the elimination of the mental modes of reification — the habit of taking mental objects to be real. This leads ultimately to what Sri Muruganar calls “the death of the mind,” what Ibn al-'Arabi calls “annihilation,” and in Dzogchen terms is “the non-conceptual state.”

Conditioned consciousness — all experience under delusion — involves overt or subtle resistance. Sometimes termed “desire,” this resistance is the “clinging” that Buddha blamed for dukha, or the “unsatisfactoriness” of samsara, or cyclic existence. Gross forms of resistance such as lust, greed, hate, and fear are obvious sources of suffering. Much of the spiritual path is followed by learning the lessons taught by these demons. But deeper and more subtle forms of desire remain, until the root of the mind is cut off completely.

Spiritual practice is the process of becoming aware of the subtle levels of resistance that remain for the seeker. Spiritual progress is the gradual releasing of this resistance, and spiritual liberation is the sudden, final, and complete severing of that conditioned mode of consciousness which involves clinging and its resultant reification of objects.



It must be remembered that the concept of a subject also involves the objectification of consciousness. The only true subject cannot have any connection to sensory and cognitive forms, such as the body, memory, self-image, etc. The *ultimate* subject is identical to pure Consciousness Itself. In fact, the entire cosmos, and all beings, circumstances, and possible events are contained within — and as a seamless unity with — Consciousness. This sudden jump from gross and subtle object-identification to the recognition of no-mind is often preceded by many experiences of partial release. Final liberation transcends all progress, however, and



Retreat photos (1 & 2) by Betty Vail

— continued on page 4

*Bliss — continued from page 3*

alone propels the seeker into complete absorption in the natural state... an effortless condition of supreme bliss in which all suffering ceases.

Effortlessness does not entail indolence. Indulgence in sensory forms requires an enjoyer to partake of and grasp at the experience. Beyond the triad of experiencer, experience, and experienced is the condition of relaxed openness requiring no constriction of consciousness to enjoy. Rather than enjoying experience, one's experience relaxes into enjoyment itself.



Retreat photos (2 & 3) by Deste Gem

Effortless bliss is not identical with pleasure. Pleasure is a coarse form of enjoyment that involves the movement of subtle energy (*prana* in Sanskrit or *qi* in Chinese). Either movement — of subtle energy in an area of former restriction, or greater movement than usual in a sensitive area — is usually experienced as pleasure. On the other hand, restriction of energy movement is usually experienced as pain or discomfort. And pleasure, often associated with desire or clinging, is always subject to change.

***“Bliss is inherent in  
Consciousness Itself  
and, as such, cannot be  
created or destroyed.”***

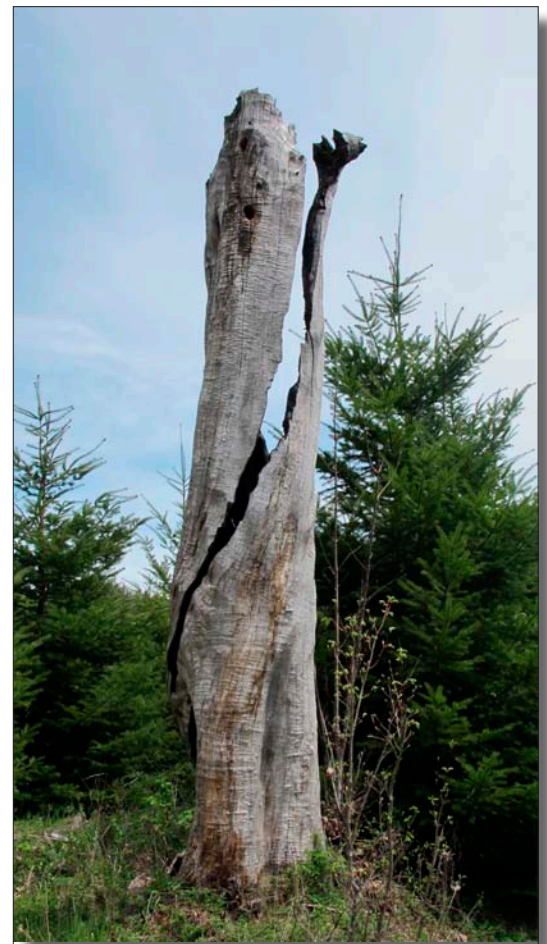
Neither is effortless bliss an experience of positive emotional charge. All possible emotions are implied within the body-mind expression of Consciousness, and are also subtle expressions of energetic movement. The natural state witnesses all transitions, but without clinging they are experienced in their pure form as love, clarity, creativity, equanimity and the like. During the course of the spiritual path, the heart experiences all shades of both exhilaration and despair. These are merely aspects of the process of disengagement with object-identification.

Even the refined exultations of worship do not approach the bliss inherent to it, regardless of any relation or condition. Ultimately, the heart takes on the condition of peace, and this allows the recognition of true bliss.

Effortless bliss is not the result of movements of subtle energy or the modification of any objects of awareness. Bliss is inherent in Consciousness Itself and, as such, cannot be created or destroyed. Under the conditioned mode of consciousness (delusion), it is blocked — partially or wholly — by the resistance to subtle and gross mental objects. Once the supreme stage of no-mind has been reached, it is recognized directly that Consciousness Itself, identical with the True Subject, is the supreme bliss already.

This simple recognition of effortless bliss will not inhere in a mind that is subject to the vicissitudes of desire, clinging, and resistance. It is only, as the Dzogchen Tantra says, “realized through the non-conceptual state and the absence of desire.” Desire, as was mentioned, can only be transcended through the recognition of misidentification with subtle objects, and these include very subtle concepts regarding the presumed relationships between supposed entities and objects. In Truth, all entities and objects are intrinsically non-existent modes of Light — Consciousness that has been seemingly dimmed from itself due to habitual conditioning.

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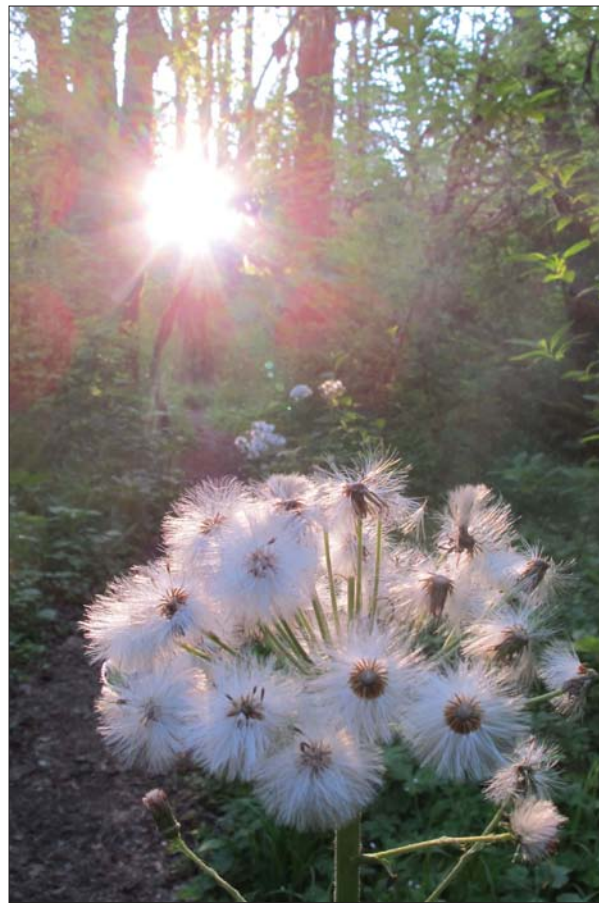
## The Peace of Wild Things

by Wendell Berry (from Selected Poems )

*When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life  
and my children's lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water,  
and the great heron feeds.*

*I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.*

*And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.*



Retreat photo (4) by Deste Gem

*Bliss — continued from page 4*

The state of no-mind does not entail the extinction of mental objects. A state absent of mental forms is found in deep sleep and in formless samadhi, both of which are temporary conditions of consciousness. In the supreme effortless condition, thoughts are free to come and go, but no longer have the power to bind attention and constrict awareness to the conditioned subject-object mode of consciousness.

Only through the death of the mind, in the state of no-mind — the concept-free state — can bliss manifest as the light beyond and through which all thoughts and apparent objects arise. This bliss is natural — it is obvious and unmodified. This bliss is total — nothing exists or can exist outside of it. This bliss is completely satisfying — all desires having been extinguished, nothing is left but peaceful rest. This bliss is freedom — nothing can oppose or confine it. This bliss is the supreme, effortless, divine self-disclosure, bringing to an end all struggle, all seeking, all doubt.

Having achieved the supreme goal, all duality is dissolved in effortless bliss. The effortless abidance of supreme bliss resides timelessly — as past and future are only mental constructs. The effortless abidance of supreme bliss spontaneously gives rise to all phenomena. The effortless abidance of supreme bliss transcends all activities of the body-mind. The effortless abidance of supreme bliss annihilates concepts of self and other, inner and outer. Thus, the effortless abidance of supreme bliss culminates the spiritual path, is the fount of all true knowledge, gives birth to all worlds, and is the True Body of all beings.

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### SOURCES:

- 1) *Non-Dual Consciousness: The Flood Tide of Bliss* (Sri Ramana Anubati); Sri Muruganar; p.88, v.513.
- 2) *The Supreme Source: The Fundamental Tantra of the Dzogchen Semde (Kunjed Gyalpo)*; Chogyal Namkhai Norbu and Adriano Clemente; p.195.
- 3) *The Sufi Path of Knowledge: Ibn al-'Arabi's Metaphysics of Imagination*, William Chittick, p.212, p.215.

## Retreat Offerings

by Nancy Miller

### #1

What poems of insight can come to this poor mind  
Rattling constantly in its cage of ideas, concepts,  
sensory candy,  
Restless to have it all.  
What deep silent consciousness watches  
without comment,  
A far away kernel of energy  
and who knows what else.  
When will it burst into spacious awareness?  
And when will the mind find peace?

### #2

The power of the frothing river thunders by.  
The expansive blue sky, delicately wisped by clouds.  
Evergreens stretch high above  
and  
Nothing is there. All is beautifully empty.

### #3

Let go, let go of anger  
Watch it pool in blue ponds on concrete floors,  
then evaporate.  
Let go, let go of fear  
Feel it spiral up and thru the body,  
freeing the choked throat.  
The space holds it all,  
dissipates it into nothingness  
Openness remains.

### #4

Stillness, stillness,  
Breathe in, breathe out  
stillness still  
Always there, always still.  
Quiet compassion,  
informing every rising, every falling  
Always there, always there.

### #5

The song runs so deep  
Sinks into each person  
Touching the source of true connection  
The Heart.

And here we are,  
Chords in this precious song  
Playing with such beauty, such perfection  
It takes the breath away.

## Oneness with Nature

quote from Albert Hoffman, Ph.D.,  
the venerable Swiss chemist who first synthesized LSD

*"I share the belief of many of my contemporaries that the spiritual crisis pervading all spheres of Western industrial society can be remedied only by a change in our worldview. We shall have to shift from the materialistic, dualistic belief that people and their environment are separate, toward a new consciousness of an all-encompassing reality which embraces the experiencing ego, a reality in which people feel their oneness with animate nature and all of creation."*



Retreat photo (3) by Betty Vail

## Devotion

quote from Lama Dechen Yeshe Wangmo  
*Translator and Teacher in the Tibetan Nyingma Tradition*

The Sanskrit word bhakti is derived from the root *bhak* which means, among other things, to partake in or to receive one's share. The Tibetan for bhakti is *mos-gus*. *Mos* has a wide range of meanings. Basically, it refers to orienting the mind towards something desirable or appropriate. It also means actively striving and moving towards that desirable something while remaining focused and undistracted. *Gos* means "with respect." In English, bhakti and mos-gu have come to be translated as devotion or love.

This could be okay and maybe even helpful as a counterbalance to over-intellectualization, but let's not forget that devotion in our tradition is not only a heart connection. It must include the mindful practice of keeping our mind directed towards enlightenment. Beyond that, how devotion manifests is unique to each person.

— submitted by Andrea Pucci

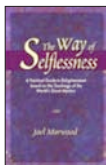
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## Center Publications

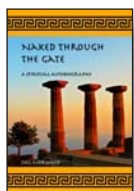
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### **The Way of Selflessness: A Practical Guide to Enlightenment Based on the Teachings of the World's Great Mystics**

By Joel Morwood, Center for Sacred Sciences, 2009, Paper, 364 pages  
(Available from [www.Lulu.com](http://www.Lulu.com))



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. (Available from Lulu, Amazon, and directly from CSS.)

This is the new 2nd edition of Joel's personal account of his remarkable spiritual path, ending with a Gnostic Awakening. With a beautiful new cover and nice looking font, one might say it's the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary (of Gnosis) edition, published a bit early.

### **Through Death's Gate: A Guide to Selfless Dying**

by Joel Morwood, Center for Sacred Sciences, 1996. Paper, 83 pages.

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



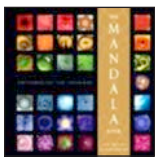
The above three books may be ordered at  
<http://www.centerforsacredsciences.org/catalog.htm>

*We're able to offer the lowest prices when ordering direct from our printer, Lulu.com.*

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## Book Publications by Members

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### **The Mandala Book: Patterns of the Universe**

By Lori Bailey Cunningham  
Sterling Publishing, 2010. Hardcover, 320 pages. (Available on Amazon.com)

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: <http://www.mandalaproject.org>.

### **Peculiar Stories**, By Mora Fields

O Street Publishing, 2010. Paper, 94 pages.

Youth Fiction, age 6-10 & up, [www.ostreetpublishing.com](http://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. (Available at [www.ostreetpublishing.com](http://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.

(Available at [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com) and [www.amazon.com](http://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.

(Available at [www.amazon.com](http://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.

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The catalog of all the library's audio is now on the CSS website, including a full reading of *Through Death's Gate*.

### **See the new and improved:**

[www.centerforsacredsciences.org/index.php/audios.htm](http://www.centerforsacredsciences.org/index.php/audios.htm)

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## **New and still-popular 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 of Joel's Talks from the Fall 2011 Retreat (also available as an MP3 set)**

Learning to Listen	Oct. 8, 2011 – 61 min
Impermanence	Oct. 9, 2011 – 58 min
Emptiness of Objects	Oct. 10, 2011 – 56 min
Emptiness of Self	Oct. 11, 2011 – 59 min
The Nature of Consciousness Itself	Oct. 12, 2011 – 59 min
Universal Sameness	Oct. 13, 2011 – 59 min
No Goal, No Boundaries	Oct. 14, 2011 – 59 min
The Great Perfection	Oct. 15, 2011 – 57 min

# Enlightenment Day Celebration (August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014)



( more pictures  
on page 10 )

## CONTACT THE CENTER

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Eugene, OR 97405

## MISSIONS 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 which 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 given by the Center's spiritual teachers; monthly Sunday video presentations; and — for committed spiritual seekers — weekly practitioners' groups, and monthly and semi-annual meditation retreats.

The Center also maintains an extensive lending library of

books, audios, videos, and periodicals covering spiritual, psychological, philosophical, and scientific subjects. In addition, the Center provides a website containing a great deal of information and 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 this newsletter providing community news, upcoming programs, book reviews, and other contributions 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. Submissions, comments, and inquiries should be sent to: <[newsletter@centerforsacredsciences.org](mailto:newsletter@centerforsacredsciences.org)>, or mailed to CENTER FOR SACRED SCIENCES, Attn: Newsletter Editor, 1430 Willamette St., #164, Eugene, OR 97401-4049. To update or change your subscription preferences, please visit our website and select the subscription form under the Publications Menu.

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# CSS Calendar: September 2014 – January 2015

Please check the website for the most updated schedule information:  
<http://centerforsacredsciences.org/calendar.htm>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Public Talk 11 am–1 pm  Video on 1 <sup>st</sup> Sundays  Library open 1–3:30 pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays  1–2:00 pm 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sundays	Practitioner's Group (Matt) 7–8:30 pm at his home	Practitioner's Group (Todd) 7–8:30 pm  Library open 7:00–9:00 pm	Practitioner's Group (Todd) 3–4:30 pm  Foundation Studies (Fred & Annie) 7–8:30 pm  Community Nights Oct. 1 & Jan. 28	Hunyuan Taji and Chan Si Qigong with Luke 6:00–8:00 pm  (Drop-in class is for all experience levels. Great for meditation practitioners.)		Full-day Meditation 10 am–4 pm  October 4 (Fred) November 8 (Annie) December 6 (Todd) January 10 (Tom)  Holiday Party December 13

## Schedule Notes

- All classes and meetings to be held at the Saratoga address unless otherwise specified.
- There are no regular classes on the weeks of Community nights: October 1 and January 28.
- All CSS activities will be suspended during the summer break, August 11–September 22; (Library re-opens for members on October 7); for the Fall Retreat, October 27–November 5; as well as Thanksgiving week, November 24–30; and Christmas break, December 22–January 3, 2015 (except for December 25).

## Sunday Videos planned for this calendar period (all part of the Foundation Studies Course curriculum):

### October 5 – *A Fire in the Forest: The Life and Legacy of the Ba'al Shem Tov!*

This video documents the life of the Ba'al Shem Tov, one of the most beloved and celebrated figures in Jewish history. Founder of Hasidic spirituality, he is revered by both Jews and non-Jews as a profound mystic and extraordinarily creative teacher. (DVD-0883; 58 min)

### November 9 – *Pema Chodron interviewed by Bill Moyers*

In this video, Bill Moyers speaks with Buddhist nun Pema Chodron about how to apply the Buddha's teachings on wisdom and compassion to the everyday situations of contemporary life. (DVD-0122; 57 min)

### December 7 – *Karen Armstrong: The God of All Faiths*

In this talk, Karen Armstrong, former Catholic nun and author of *The History of God*, describes with humor and humility her personal search for an experience of the Divine. Recorded at the *God at 2000* conference in Corvallis, Oregon. (DVD-0284; 60 min)

### January 4 – *Beads of Faith*

This stunningly-photographed video chronicles how prayer beads are used, in conjunction with the repetition of a Divine Name or mantra, by a variety of spiritual traditions to activate the heart and awaken devotion. (DVD-0232; 35 min)

# Enlightenment Day Celebrations

2013

2014

