



## New Beginnings

**T**his year, our theme is “Timeless Wisdom, Evolutionary Vision” and we begin the month with this as our guide. Throughout this year, we will spiral through the spiritual wisdom of the world, anchored in ancient times. Then we will examine the evolutionary vision for living that is spirituality in current times.

This month, we will explore our roots, check in with where we are now and vision a path forward, with connection to Source; kind of a little journey through time. Every journey begins with hopes and fears and this year is no exception. With a new president, a still virulent virus and all the uncertainty, we live in “the best of times, the worst of times.” Remembering those words and the time in which they were written is a powerful reminder of the human ability to learn and move forward, no matter the circumstances.

**“The spiral of life is upward. Evolution carries us forward, not backward.” ~ Ernest Holmes**

That ability to move forward is grounded in a faith and trust in a Source greater than just our own abilities, yet which uses our abilities to express its nature. As we spent the end of December preparing for and acknowledging the rebirth of light in the world and within us, we now get to cultivate that light into growth. I think of wisdom as being the union of intellect, heart and spirit. As we nurture this brand new baby of a year, both individually and collectively, let timeless wisdom and evolutionary vision be your guide. ~ Rev. David

# Happenings

January

## Sunday Mornings

Zoom: 789 699 326

Meditation: 10:45 a.m.

Service: 11 a.m.

## Senior Minister

Rev. David Robinson

### Inside:

**Sacred Circles begin on January 10<sup>th</sup>**

**“Exploring Roots” Class begins on January 13<sup>th</sup>.**

**Gregg Levoy returns to speak and present a workshop:**

**“The Call of Chaotic Times.”**



## Sunday Talk Titles

### January 3<sup>rd</sup> Timeless Wisdom, Evolutionary Vision

Fundamental spiritual principles are ageless and cross many spiritual traditions. Spiritual humility is the path of evolution.

### January 10<sup>th</sup> Grounding Beyond the Beginning

We recognize and remember the ancient traditions upon which SOM is built.

### January 17<sup>th</sup> ~ Here and Now

Using spiritual practice and present moment awareness, we take a genuine and deep look at where we are right now, in ourselves, our communities and our movement.

### January 24<sup>th</sup> ~ Looking Ahead

Having taken stock, we are ready to begin our journey. **Guest Speaker: Gregg Levoy**

### January 31<sup>st</sup> ~ Looking Above

We remember that above and within it all is Spirit. We turn our attention to the Source of all.

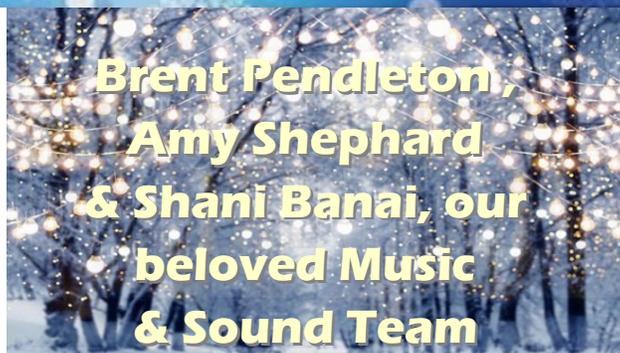
## Core Council

Rev. David Robinson, *Spiritual Leader*  
Buffie Finkel, *President*  
Teri Echterling, *Vice President*  
Larry Gilliam, *Treasurer*  
Jean Hill-Miller, *Secretary*  
Christi Johnson, *Member at Large*  
Barbara Yanagimachi, *Member at Large*

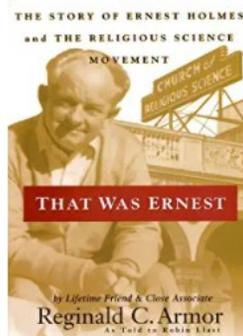
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## Books of the Month



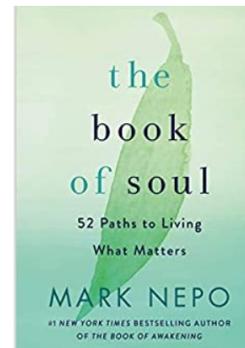
The publisher wrote in the introductory section of this 1999 book, "This personal and informal memoir is unique in the history of Religious Science, Science of Mind and New Thought. Written by the only person to have been beside Ernest Holmes on an almost daily basis from

shortly after Holmes' move from Maine to California in 1912 until his death in 1960."

It examines Ernest Holmes from up close, covering almost a half-century of day-to-day contact. Armor's account of his association with Dr. Holmes began as a twelve-year old when Holmes was only twenty eight, but already well on his way to becoming a master teacher. Armor was truly the first graduate of this great transformative philosophy.

Mark Nepo offers a powerful guide to inhabiting an authentic and wholehearted life. After we are physically born, we must be spiritually born a second time, a process that takes place through the labor of a lifetime as we develop into more fully realized beings. *The Book of Soul* delves into the spiritual alchemy of that transformation in all its mystery, difficulty and inevitability.

*The Book of Soul* is a piercing guide, replete with beautiful truths and startling insight. It leads us deeply into the process of transformation.



## Council Report

### Greetings to one and all,

While I have mentioned this in past newsletters, I want to reflect once again my deep appreciation for the amazing journey this community—this church—has been on. I feel privileged to have played a part in it.

In my research for the CSL-O timeline, I've read every one of the Council meeting minutes. As you'd expect, it is not really gripping material. However, quite often it is very mysterious in a "what the heck does this mean?" kind of way.

What I have gleaned from this research is that we have been building something through trial and error, seeing what works and what doesn't, what fits us, and what doesn't...you get the drift. I feel such admiration for all the love and labor that has gone into making this current enterprise we call CSL Olympia.

As I serve as council president for the second time, I can say that today we are strong with a firm foundation. We have resilient and committed members who readily share their love and support with each other and this community. It actually feels to me like we are ready for what comes next.

In the next few months, we will be inviting more dialog with you about how we can make tangible our Mission, Purpose and Vision statements. These broad-brush goals of ours are ready for flesh. What will we say we have done 15 years from now? From where we are now, we can create something grand. And I am not talking about a building—or am I? I invite you to prepare yourselves to join in this conversation, and in this outward expression of who we are. My thanks to you all, and my best wishes for a safe, healthy and loving January.

~Buffie Finkel  
Core Council President

## Exploring Roots

The first class of the year, coordinates with the theme of "Timeless Wisdom, Evolutionary Vision" for 2021 talks. **Exploring Roots** takes a look at early New Thought teachers who inspired our own teachings, including Ralph Waldo Emerson, Thomas Troward and Emma Curtis Hopkins. There will be lots of deep and fulfilling reading and contemplation for those cold winter days and nights in isolation.

The ten week class begins Wednesday January 13<sup>th</sup>. Rev. David teaches this class. See the website under "Upcoming Classes & Retreats" for more info and the rest of the year's schedule.

## Gregg Levoy Workshop

Author Gregg Levoy (*Callings* and *Vital Signs*) returns to CSL to speak and to present a new workshop on January 24<sup>th</sup>. Gregg's workshop is "The Call of Chaotic Times."

In the central creation story in the Western world. Chaos, with a capital C, is described as the condition of the earth before it was formed. Chaos precedes Creation. Join Gregg and a community of fellow-seekers to explore how your own life and work might grow and evolve as a result of these uncertain yet opportune times.

Through a series of self-reflective questions, sharing and discussion, this webinar will help you clarify what the current chaos—especially the upheaval of the pandemic—is calling forth from you. Whether creatively, professionally, interpersonally, or spiritually where are growth and creation are being evoked?

Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 4 p.m.

Register on our website under Upcoming Classes and Retreats. The fee is \$30.

# Youth & Family Program

**T**imeless Wisdom, Evolutionary Vision: We welcome youth on a journey of higher consciousness centered in timeless wisdom and pulled forward by evolutionary vision. Woven throughout the year are our spiritual principles, our global vision, and our commitment to inclusion, creating a balance of theory and practical application suitable to the present and to the leading edge of our movement. The journey becomes both personal and collective transformation.



## **First Week: We can all be heroes.**

Every hero is prepared for adventure with the thoughts, feelings and wisdom they need to be successful. We can prepare for our daily

We can help ourselves and others to accept and celebrate our differences knowing everyone belongs. Youth explore which are social circles where they feel empowered and draw a super God power that would help them feel free to express their true nature in all communities.

adventures by taking with us a vision: thoughts/ideas; nourishment: spiritual practices; and wisdom: spiritual principles/tools. Youth will create a Superhero Adventure in their life for the new year.

## **Second Week: Grounding beyond the beginning.**

Oneness is the thread of unity and creative connectivity that links us with God/Spirit and to all of creation. We are all connected through a unity of love and at the same time we have the ability to uniquely express ourselves. Youth create their unique superhero power to add to our CSL Youth Superhero Team poster.

## **Third Week: Here and Now**

When we are present, we are in harmony with all that surrounds us and is us. We embrace our oneness while accepting our individual uniqueness. We love everyone and all things.



## **Fourth Week: Making magic with intentions.**

Now that we have identified our superpowers and values we wish to carry us forward in 2021, where do we want to go? What would we like to do to change, learn and grow? Do we have a willingness to take responsibility for our internal and external

choices? Youth create and read **A Day in the Life**, a short story of them experiencing their dream life.

## **Fifth Week: Looking Above**

We end the month with a recap of what we've learned and how we've grown. Youth are encouraged to share their dreams with the community, to always remember to look up. God is our source and our power and from It, all things and all life flows.

## Supporting Gwinwood

Many of us have enjoyed the beautiful facilities and peaceful setting of Gwinwood Retreat Center right in our own back yard. This past year has been difficult for Gwinwood, yet has caused them to reevaluate who they are and the best way to serve. As such, they are releasing their previous identity as a summer camp and converting entirely to a retreat and conference center.

We asked how we could help and received a reply requesting support of materials and some labor. You can find their entire letter with their requests on our website under "Special Announcements." If you are able to help, please contact Rev. David or the CSL Office.

## Sacred Circles

Start your new year by joining a Sacred Circle beginning the week of January 10<sup>th</sup> and continuing for six weeks. These small, facilitated virtual gatherings of five to eight people center around reading and discussion of a single book, this time *Love and Law* by Ernest Holmes. It covers basic SOM principles compiled from some of his early talks given in his own home. The only cost is to purchase the book.

There will be plenty of opportunity for participants to discover new perspectives and go deeper as well. Email Carol Kautzmann at [ckremedy4u@gmail.com](mailto:ckremedy4u@gmail.com) to register.

## Prayer SUPPORT

## World Peace Meditation

On December 31<sup>st</sup> at 4 a.m. (yes, you read that right) you are invited to join over 500 million people around the world to meditate on peace for an hour. Jan and John Randolph Price launched the first World Healing Meditation on December 31, 1986, to achieve a critical mass of spiritual consciousness and usher in a new era of Peace on Earth.

The World Healing Meditation is an immersion in oneness dedicated to restoring the world to sanity by dissolving the sense of separation. It has been held annually at precisely the same time ever since. You are invited to join fellow CSLers from around the world on Zoom: <https://csl.zoom.us/j/97891890353>.

### Sacred Circle Facilitators are:

Buffie Finkel ~ Wednesday 1 to 3 p.m.  
Marlisa Johnson ~ Thursday 1 to 3 p.m.  
Linda Bremer ~ Friday 6:30-8:30 p.m.

## Let's Celebrate Some Birthdays

January 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Stephanie Arendall  
January 14<sup>th</sup> ~ Joy Griffin  
January 20<sup>th</sup> ~ Susan Kibbey  
January 23<sup>rd</sup> ~ Caroline Fenn

## Practitioners

Teresa Bielenberg  
Linda Bremer  
Sandy Dell  
Susan Einhorn  
Buffie Finkel

Marlisa Johnson  
Alex Perlman  
Sylvia Schroeder  
Mary Wilde

**Call the message phone:  
(360)255.7878, ext. 4 to listen to  
a prayer recorded by a Practitioner.**

## Discovering Effective Prayer: Spiritual Mind Treatment

**G**rowing up as a Catholic, my earliest memory of prayer was in concert with the traditional Catholic Sign of the Cross. Every prayer I learned as a child begins and ends with this tradition.

During the 1960's as I got older and attended Catholic catechism lessons—12 years' worth—I learned all the repetitious prayers practiced by Catholics. The repetitious recitation did nothing for me. It did not seem to help me express my needs or wants and I saw no meaningful results.

When I finally started exploring other beliefs and methods of prayer in my early adulthood, one path took me to a non-denominational charismatic church. For the first time, I was introduced to free-form prayer and felt the power and deep intense feelings from praying. It was better but, despite all my pleading with God, I was still not seeing any meaningful results in my life.

After years of religious languishing, I discovered the Centers for Spiritual Living and Spiritual Mind Treatment (SMT). Suddenly, spirituality and prayer made sense.

### **What exactly is Spiritual Mind Treatment**

SMT is a type of prayer that moves us into alignment with what Spirit already has in store for us. In other words, rather than begging or pleading for what we want, we affirm our desires are already manifesting. This effective prayer changed my life.

SMT, officially introduced by Ernest Holmes, adapts five basic steps listed here: <https://spiritualtoolsforhungrysouls.com/spiritual-practices-spiritual-mind-treatment/>

These steps are taught in many of our classes including the Foundations class coming in early March.

### **What happens next?**

When my prayer process is complete I take a few minutes to make sure I have completely and thoroughly let go and turned my prayer over to Spirit. Then I revel lavishly in the results of my new truth and how that feels. While sitting and reflecting on the demonstration of my desire, I feel a deep peace, a sense of opulent happiness, knowing Spirit is moving through me. This creative process is already working. I reflect positively on my prayer and my feelings about the release and the impending manifestation.

Sometimes, it helps to just sit quietly, allowing myself to feel the presence of Spirit wash over me. No need to rush back out into regular life too quickly. Spirit frequently speaks during this reflective moment as new options pop up. Often, I wake up the next morning or after a time of rest with an ah-ha about the direction I need to take. Spirit works wonders through the sleep-on-it process, among many other gateways.

If you are challenged by this process or need further help, take the Foundations class or schedule a session with a Spiritual Practitioner who is trained to guide you through blockages.



~ Sandy Dell, RScP

# Scott Kissel Delights Us

**A** proud dad, a dedicated musician, a lover of racquetball, ping pong, hiking and rain, Scott Kissel is a many faceted member of our community. Scott has been associated with CSL Olympia for eight years, three of them as a member of the core council. He served the final year as president. “The community works together, provides for one another and looks for opportunities to make a difference,” Scott told me when he described his favorite aspects of belonging to CSL.

Scott made a difference when he became an integral part of CSL’s music team. Since he was 12 years old, playing the guitar has been an expression of his creative soul. He has played in many bands including one named *Performance Anxiety* which opened for Jon Bon Jovi at a free concert in Portland, Oregon. We all look forward to seeing Scott and his guitar back on CSL’s stage when our group again meets in person.

Scott makes a difference when he takes on the role of dad which he describes as his biggest passion. “I am extremely proud to be the papa of a wonderful 14-year old,” Scott explained. “He is the joy of my life.” Michael is an active member of CSL’s teen program. It is apparent that an association with Science of Mind teachings plays an important role in both their lives. “One of many principles that have made a difference to me is understanding how the Universe says, yes. I have used this

principle to change circumstances in my life and live with more joy and greater abundance.” Scott’s words are a powerful reminder of the power behind our teachings.



Here are some little known facts about Scott’s background. By the time he was 17 he had hitchhiked from Seattle to California twice. He was his high school ping pong champion. He did admit that in a school of 150 students, few of them played ping-pong.

He was a philosophy major in college and then spent a year and a half in law school. He left in order to be able to take care of a family member. He participated in the St. John’s College-Annapolis Naval Academy inaugural croquet tournament and was on the winning team. At one time Scott owned his own window cleaning business.

In 1994 he found his true passion working in Information Technology. Currently, he and his tech team are fixing 180 computers infected by a virus. In spite of being immersed in this stressful task, Scott was able to very efficiently answer interview questions and wish the newsletter team peace, love and light.

“We are a spiritual community that strives to live what we teach,” Scott declared. Clearly, this has been his focus since joining our beloved community.

~ Linda Sickles

# Men's Coffee

The CSL Men's coffee group will meet on **Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 10 a.m.** Then we'll go back to **Friday mornings each week at 10 a.m.** Log on to Zoom at **701 663 3216** Denny Kautzmann also hosts some meetings in his home. For more info contact: [CSLDenny@gmail.com](mailto:CSLDenny@gmail.com)



The Women's Circle will not meet in January. Please join us in February. All CSL women are warmly invited to attend our gatherings. To be added to the Women's Circle email list please contact Carol Kautzmann: [ckremedy4u@gmail.com](mailto:ckremedy4u@gmail.com)

## Gathering Virtually

Sunday services, meetings and other gatherings are now held exclusively on Zoom. Please join us. Sunday service ID# is: **789 699 326**

Contact [cslolyoffice@gmail.com](mailto:cslolyoffice@gmail.com) for passwords.

**Sacred Sunday Meditation**  
**Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**6 to 7 p.m.**

No cost, no dogma. Just sweet, deep time with Spirit in communion with others. Use Sunday Service Zoom ID#

### STAFF

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Shani Banai,  
**Zoom Support**

Adrienne Cherry,  
**Youth Director**

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*Happy New Year*