

A Grand Rising

January

2 0 2 4

Here we are, poised on the rim of the year, ready to enter. Do we fall, dive, or cling to the rim? I suggest we walk confidently into this new year.

The CSL global theme this year is “A Grand Rising.” It is an alternative way of saying “Good morning.” So let us open to a grand rising for ourselves. This month’s themes are taken from a song made famous by Nina Simone - “Feelin’ Good.” “It’s a new dawn, it’s a new day, it’s a new life for me, and I’m feelin’ good.” As the new year begins, let us welcome the possibility and potentiality of a new life - and move it from possibility to probability.

The seasons reflect our lives; the changes, the lightness or darkness, warmth or cold. In January, as the light begins to grow ever so slowly greater, as each day we climb a few more inches up the ladder of light, let us set our intentions on a year of greater growth. The trees around us may still be barren of leaves, but there is life moving quietly within which will burst forth as new and greater life in Spring. All of nature grows a little bit each year. Let us do the same. Let us be confident of the new growth, even if we can’t see it yet. The Zen poet Ikkyu wrote:



Sunday Mornings

Meet in person at
3437 Libby Road NE
Meditation: 10:30 a.m.
Service: 11 a.m.

Zoom Meditation: 10:45 a.m.
Zoom: 789 699 326

Senior Minister

Rev. David Robinson

*“I can’t smell a thing,
can’t see their pink,
but they’ll find branches
next Spring.”*

Let us walk confidently into this new year, knowing that, even if we can’t see it, smell it, the movement of Spirit expressing through all of nature, including ours, is guiding us into new growth, guiding us into A Grand Rising.

~ Rev. David, Senior Minister

Sunday Talk Titles: A Grand Rising

January 7: It's a New Dawn

The sun has set on the old way of thinking. As we rise into this new year, let us shake off the dust of yesterday to emerge into a beautiful world that truly works for everyone.

January 14: It's a New Day

The past doesn't define us. Now is the time to apply the lessons learned and put our teaching into practice. We are the heroes that the world has been waiting for.

January 21: It's a New Life

Changing the world is not for the faint of heart. The challenges in front of us may seem insurmountable. But with the power and love of Spirit, expressing Itself as us, we can do anything!

January 28: Feelin' Good

Serving as an example of love and light in the world feels so good! As we bring the energy of "A Grand Rising" into the rest of the year, let's remember that our voices matter. Collectively, we are changing the world.

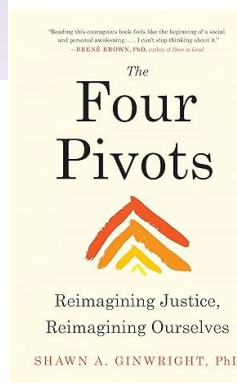
Dr. Ernest Holmes - 137th Birthday Party!

SUNDAY, JAN. 21, 2024, 5 - 6:30PM

A virtual Birthday Party celebrating the birth of Dr. Ernest Holmes. Join us in CSLO Social Hall and enjoy cake and sparkling cider while watching the online broadcast. Free to attend.

Details: <https://cslolympia.org/ernest-holmes-137th-birthday-party-1-21-24/>

Book of the Month



We need a fundamental shift in our values—a pivot in how we think, act, work, and connect. Despite what we've been told, the most critical mainspring of social change isn't coalition building or problem analysis. It's healing: deep, whole, and systemic healing, inside and out.

Here, Shawn Ginwright, PhD, breaks down the common myths of social movements—a set of deeply ingrained beliefs that actually hold us back from healing and achieving sustainable systemic change. He shows us why these frames don't work, proposing instead four revolutionary pivots for better activism and collective leadership:

Awareness: from lens to mirror

Connection: from transactional to transformative relationships

Vision: from problem-fixing to possibility-creating

Presence: from hustle to flow

Supplemented with reflections, prompts, cutting-edge research, and the author's own insights and lived experience as an African American social scientist, professor, and movement builder, *The Four Pivots* helps us uncover our obstruction points. It shows us how to discover new lenses and boldly assert our need for connection, transformation, trust, wholeness, and healing. Are you ready to pivot?

The Four Pivots Book Study

Are you ready to reimagine yourself and your impact for the new year? [Register here](#) for the no-cost public book study of "The Four Pivots." Begin 2024 with your global CSL community on Tuesday evenings, January 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, beginning at 4 p.m. PT. Sessions will be supported by CSL practitioners and ministers who recently completed their own transformative version of this book study. Questions? Email Communications@CSL.org

January Classes and Events

Rap with the Rev

January 7th
After Service (12:30 to 1:30 pm PT)
In the Center's Sanctuary

Open Discussion with Rev. David
on the first Sunday of the month.

Center for
Spiritual Living



Bring a Friend Sunday followed by [Rap with the Rev:](#)
Sunday, January 7th,
12:30 to 1:30 pm in the sanctuary.

This is a great way for new and old members to connect,
share the story of their spiritual path, and ask questions.

Meditation First Wednesday of the month

January 3rd
7 to 8:00 pm PT
at the Center

Center for
Spiritual Living
Olympia



[Wednesday Evening Services:](#)

Meditation: January 3th 7:00 pm

Poetry & Prose—Christian Mystics
January 17th, 7:00 pm PT
(Zoom option available)

Mystical Poetry & Prose Third Wednesday of the month

January 17th, 7 to 8:00 pm PT
at the Center and on Zoom

Center for
Spiritual Living
Olympia

A Grand Rising

2024 INTENTIONS RETREAT

Date & Time: Friday, Jan. 5th 6:30—9:00 pm &
Saturday, January 6th, 9—4

Place: CSL—Olympia, 3437 Libby Road NE

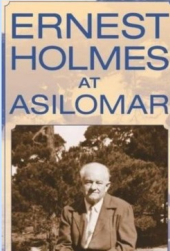
Registration: \$55 by December 31; \$75 after, at
www.csolympia.org.

[A Grand Rising Intentions Retreat](#)

Friday, January 5th from 6:30 to 9:00 pm PT

Saturday, January 6th 9:00 am to 4:00 pm PT

Begin your New Year with conscious intention setting! This
popular retreat supports you in releasing what you don't
want to bring forward into the new year, then planting
consciously chosen intentions.



6 Week Study Group

Saturdays, Starting Jan.
13th through Feb. 10th,
9:30 – 11:00 am PT
Meet at the Center
or on Zoom
Cost \$25,
Facilitator: Rev. David
Book available at Amazon
or www.shop.csl

Center for
Spiritual Living
Olympia

[Ernest Holmes at Asilomar Study Group](#)

Saturdays, Jan. 13th to Feb. 17th, 9:30 - 11:00 am PT
1954 to 1959, Ernest Holmes delivered talks on mysticism.
We will spend 6 weeks on the lectures of each year.
Zoom option is available.



Dances of Universal Peace

Sunday, December 17th at 12:30 pm PT
following Service (Donations appreciated)



3437 Libby Road NE,
Olympia, WA

[Dances of Universal Peace](#)

Sunday, January 21, 12:30 - 2 pm PT

Simple movements to live music. No experience
necessary, dances are taught to the whole group.

Prosperity Plus II Harnessing Your Invisible Power



Facilitated by
Rev. David
Mondays,
Jan 22nd – April 1st
6:30 – 8:30 PM

Register for this class on Sundays or online
For more information, see the website under Classes
and Events

Course Materials – \$60.00 by Jan 7th; \$75 after
Location: CSL Olympia. Limited to 10 students.
If there is sufficient interest, there will be a separate, online only
class.

www.csolympia.org

[Prosperity Plus II](#)

Starting Mondays January 22nd at 6:30 pm PT

Harness your invisible Power with Rev. David and, on
video, Mary Morrissey. In person only.

JANUARY YOUTH PROGRAM: The Grand Rising Adventure Awaits!

Throughout January, we will delve into the core essence of "A Grand Rising," exploring the power of faith, the courage to lead, and the magic that happens when we move with intentional action. This expedition of the spirit is an odyssey of self-discovery, and a celebration of collective growth. The world is ready for the light we carry, and together, we shall illuminate the path to a brighter, more harmonious future.



January 7: It's A New Dawn

Our New Year objective is to inspire and empower youth to embrace daily intentions and the power of positive thought, fostering a sense of personal and collective growth. Youth share their personal affirmation for the day based on the meaning of A Grand Rising and then create vision boards focusing on self-expression and daily practices.

January 14: It's A New Day

Youth are introduced to the concepts of new beginnings, equality, and the power of love through kindness and sharing their gifts. Youth learn that each day is an opportunity for some new beginning and that even one person has the power to make positive changes in the world. We'll have fun making our own superhero capes to show off our unique superpowers.

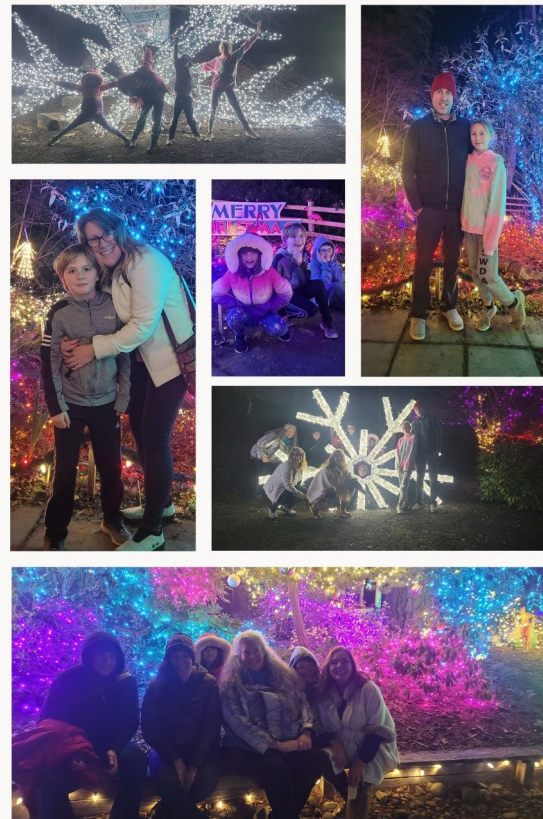
January 21: It's A New Life

Youth discover the power of intention and faith in shaping their lives. We create positive "Wishing Stars," reflect on instances where patience led to positive outcomes, and create "Patience Flowers." We share the story of Luke Skywalker about a hero's journey of strength of Spirit. Youth decide on one vision for a better world from our vision boards and create daily action steps to follow up on the following week

January 28: Feeling Good

We start our final week with a "Feeling Good Dance." Youth learn the power of

feeling good and its impact on creating positive change by exploring how love and acceptance can be practiced daily. We share how the internet and global connection contribute to a collective Grand Rising and create different focused groups that create art that symbolizes how to foster a diverse community within our youth program.



CSL Olympia families enjoying the magic of the holidays.

Council News from Our President

In a conversation with friends several weeks ago, I shared how I've changed; how I've never been happier, and I feel more connected to Spirit than at any other time in my life. I attribute this to the teachings at our Center and the CSL classes I've taken. My friends agreed that I had made profound changes. This intrigued them; they wanted those same changes in their lives. As a result of that conversation half the group came to our service the following Sunday.

We have a special gift in the philosophy of CSL. Our teachings are what the world needs right now to create "a world that works for everyone". We have the antidote to the divisiveness, the fear, and the greed that we see around us. Personally, I feel compelled to share this. And our greatest area of influence is where we live and to those we know and meet.

"Bring a friend" once a quarter on the first Sunday of the month starting in January. That's the same Sunday as "Rap with the Rev", so if people are interested, they can stay to connect and learn more.

To support you in inviting friends/family, we are creating a brochure that will contain a brief and simple explanation of our teachings. Find it at the New Here/Info table.

Council Nominees -- We are looking for addition members for the 2024 Core Council. Come serve your community and help build it stronger and more vital. You can nominate yourself or someone else. Nominees must be members of the community for at least 6 months. Elections

will be held at the March Annual Meeting. If you are interested, or have suggestions for someone who would be great, please see Laura Farris, Kathy Gilliam, or myself.

January Community Meeting – Let's Vision together for 2024 at our Community Meeting on **January 14 at 12:30**. Visioning is a powerful process to listen to Spirit's highest idea for yourself and for our Center. Additionally, we'll have reports from our Youth and Family director, Adrienne and from our Treasurer, Buffie.

~ Angelina O'Connor



Exploring Roots Of Science of Mind

Rev. David is teaching the Exploring Roots class online only through home office, starting January 17 through March 27, from 4:00 to 7:00 pm PT.

The Roots of the Science of Mind is a transformational course and a fascinating journey through the minds of New Thought luminaries who greatly influenced Ernest Holmes, the founder of Religious Science.

More information and registration on our website:

<https://cslolympia.org/exploring-roots-of-science-of-mind-1-17-24/>



Practitioner Corner with Linda

"We must have a spiritual rebirth. We must be born out of the belief in externalities into the belief of inner realities, out of the belief that we are separated from God, into the belief that we are part of a Unitary Wholeness."

— Ernest Holmes

Let the new year be a time to dust off our dreams - a time for rebirth!

When I was 9, I spent each Saturday helping my mom make tamales - LOTS of tamales. Yes, I was pretty darn good at it. During these times together she would tell me about our ancestors - our family's history, how she and my dad met, how their faith supported them, and how they manifested their dream of building a new home. Little did I realize that I was learning much more than mere facts and figures. She was passing along a great legacy - illustrations of wisdom, of making choices, of commitment and of making dreams come true. Why am I being reminded of those days? I guess the start of a New Year has proven to be a provocateur.

As I have studied Science of Mind, I have learned so much about how each sunrise is a fresh new opportunity. In the here and now, spiritual principles are beacons that light my path from within - from my very

essence! When I listen, I intuit my grandeur. Let us affirm together:

*It is easy to realize that just as a flower knows how to bloom,
Just as a butterfly knows how to metamorphose,
Just as a cloud knows how to rain,
And just as my blood knows how to nourish my cells -*

I too know that my life's expression is all that it must be.

*I know this, for I am one with Source, the fountain of life, of the cosmos, of all...
It is crystal clear to me that I am magic!
Today, I have an opportunity to restore, revitalize, refresh, and renew my dreams!!! A sacred potential for rebirth!*

Let's dust off those dreams that got put on the shelf. Let's restore their gloss and use them to fly. This could be fun looking at life with relish and crafting an even greater masterpiece! I can ask, "What one thing can I do to magnify my contribution to me? To those around me?"

¡Les deseo un próspero
año nuevo!

I wish you a prosperous
New Year!

~ Linda Bremer, RScP



Practitioners

Teresa Bielenberg
Linda Villegas Bremer

Sandy Dell
Susan Einhorn
Buffie Finkel

Tim Robinson
Sylvia Schroeder

Call the message phone: (360) 255-7878, ext. 4 to listen to a prayer recorded each week by a Practitioner.





THE Words Within

BY HEIDI CONNOLLY

Linda Bremer: Powerhouse

Talk about strength of character! Linda Bremer's entry into human form this time around began in a small town in Texas on the border of Mexico where she first learned the true meaning of community. "Everyone on our side of tracks spoke Spanish. We went to Catholic school, but our parents were life learners, not book learners. Church wasn't about bible and priest, but about being here for God and spirit. We prayed every night as a family, and everyone was a friend."

From thinking she'd follow in her sister's footsteps and become a nun, to college in San Antonio, to Chicago, Linda's life took unexpected twists and turns—all leading to an ever more interesting life path. Having worked in her family grocery, bakery, and tortilla business and developed a strong work ethic, Linda set out with a degree in chemistry in 1969 anticipating a job with one of the big organizations in her field. Instead, following a surprising lead from her younger sister, she was offered work as a computer programmer trainee and never looked back. "I brought dedication to the table. I was hardworking and accurate. I learned to fight back in a work environment dominated by men."

It was after a couple more moves that Linda arrived in San Diego, where she married and birthed her son, and then eventually moved to Olympia. It seems that all along the way, starting with

"personal development" Life Spring classes—classes she originally felt were unnecessary yet still attended—and resultant professional career opportunities, Linda has spent her life setting priorities and always asking the question, "How do I practice what I've learned as I go forward?"

I asked Linda how she sees the apparent polarities that exist in the world today. "As a human being," she says, "here on this planet, it's not about being right or wrong. This has been the human condition from the beginning. I'm not going to change it, but it's the people who make a difference. I don't have to accept what others do, but it's not up to us to judge but to go beyond the polarity. We are here in community. I choose to live according to my life's purpose. The more I do that, the more consciousness grows.

Living in an ocean of emotions, it's up to me to find that space that is open and understanding. CSL brings us together to find ways to spread those feelings of acceptance and working and being together, to contribute to the world."

Every day Linda writes down 5 of God's gifts that she'd like to show up, such as creativity, gratitude, and prosperity, and asks, "Based on the principals I'm learning, how will I live my day? How do I show up? I use those things as a guide to live my highest and best."

Linda's knowledge may come from the fields of aerospace, government, computers, and manufacturing, but her heartfelt wisdom comes from her passion for community and life.





WOMEN'S GROUP NEWS

The Women's Coffee meets Tuesdays at 11 AM at Panera near the Capitol Mall. All women are welcome to come, chat, and connect. For more information, contact Jennifer: Jennifer@cslolympia.org

The Women's Circle meets on the third Saturday of the month. Contact Carol for more info or to be added to their email list.

MEN'S GROUP NEWS

CSL Men's Coffee & Conversation - Wednesdays at 4 pm upstairs at Bayview Thriftway. The Men also meet on the second Saturday of each month, beginning with a potluck at noon at the Center.

Contact Denny Kautzmann at CSLDenny@gmail.com for more info.



Our Compassionate Care Ministry's 'Helping Hands' Team is seeking volunteers to help and assist members of our congregation facing

issues and events where service and support would be helpful. Look for the sign up sheet at the Center on Sundays and/or for more info contact:

Teresa Bielenberg at tbielenberg.csl@gmail.com

Core Council

Angelina O'Connor, *President*
Buffie Finkel, *Treasurer*
Kathy Gilliam, *Secretary*
OPEN—*Member at Large*
Rev. David Robinson, *Spiritual Leader*

January Birthdays

Jan. 2 - Stephanie Arendall
Jan. 14 - Steve Romance
Jan. 20 - Susan Kibbey
Jan. 23 - Caroline Fenn

Center for Spiritual Living, Olympia
3437 Libby Road NE, Olympia, WA 98506

Mailing Address:
700 Sleater Kinney Rd SE, Ste B #340,
Lacey WA 98503

STAFF

Brent Pendleton, Amy Shephard,
Scott Kissel
Music Team

Shani Banai, Crow
A/V Team

Adrienne Cherry,
Youth Director

Marlisa Johnson,
Bookkeeper

Tiffany Merkel,
Administrative Assistant

Sandy Dell,
Website & Newsletter

Darshan Gregory
Custodian

Open
Groundskeeper

Message Phone: (360) 255-7878

Website: www.cslolympia.org

Facebook: CSLOly

Email: cslolyoffice@gmail.com