

20th Anniversary!



2005 - 2025

A Brief History of CSL-Olympia

- Began as study group in Spring of 2002 by Gary & Denise Merz. Denise had been a practitioner at CSL-Seattle. The study group was advertised in the SOM magazine and attracted over 11 people. The members of that group met with Rev. Sue Oliver in June 2004 to begin visioning for the new center.
- July 2004 Olympia Center — First meeting place for Center for Spiritual Awakening (CSA)
- September 2004 — Rev. Sue Oliver starts as first minister; ordained while at CSA
- September 2004 Olympia Ramada Inn conference was the second meeting place for CSA
- April 27, 2005 — Incorporated as Center for Spiritual Awakening
- May 16, 2005 — Non-profit status established with IRS
- July 2005 NOVA School — Becomes third meeting place for CSA
- December 31, 2006 — Rev. Sue Oliver resigns
- January 2007 to April 2008 — Various Guest speakers
- April 2008 — Michael Auch, Rev. Deborah Day, and Rev. Marla Mason hired as interim ministerial team. Michael was a ministerial student and was ordained during this time.
- August 2008 — Rev. Marla Mason resigns
- March 2010 — Rev. Elizabeth (Libby) O'Day hired and transitioned in by interim ministerial team
- September 2010 — Filed with the State of Washington to operate under the name Center for Spiritual Living-Olympia
- March 2014 — Rev. Libby O'Day resigns after a two-month sabbatical for health assessment
- March 2014 to March 2015 — Various Guest speakers
- May 22, 2014 — Rev. Penny Macek from Home Office led the Co-Creation Process at CSL-Olympia
- March 2015 — Rev. Robert Brzezinsky hired
- October 2015 — Rev. Robert Brzezinsky resigns;
- November 2015–February 2016–Various Guest speakers
- February 2016 — Rev. Michael Auch hired as interim minister
- May 16, 2017 — Rev. David Robinson hired
- March 15, 2020 — COVID-19 shutdown results in online Sunday Celebrations, meetings and classes

History of CSLO (continued)

- April 21, 2021 — Informed of possible new home facility; CSL community members participate in tour and Q&A with realtor on April 22, 2023
- May 13, 2021 — Buffie & Mark Finkel, Kathy & Larry Gilliam, Carol & Denny Kautzmann, and Karyn Lindberg form Libby Road Partners, LLC with the goal to purchase Libby Road property and offer affordable lease and terms to CSL-Olympia
- June 11, 2021—Libby Road Partners, LLC close on property located at 3437 Libby Road NE
- June 21, 2021—Libby Road Partners, LLC hires 4th Dimension Construction as General Contractor for the property renovation
- July 10, 2021 — Garage Sale fundraiser for the New Home Fund
- July 27, 2021 — Exited rental agreement and moved out of NOVA
- February 9, 2022 — CSL Design Team formed to collaborate with Libby Road Partners on colors
- February 27, 2022 — Clearing & Blessing Ceremony of the new home on Libby Road
- March 29, 2022 — Permit approved to begin renovation process
- May 28, 2022 — New Home FunDING event
- June 21, 2022 — First Summer Solstice celebration outside at the new home
- August 26, 2022 — Lease agreement signed between Libby Road Partners, LLC and CSL-Olympia; moved into new home on August 27, continuing to prepare for use
- September 17, 2022 — Gratitude Celebration for completion of the renovation
- September 18, 2022 — First Sunday Service & Celebration in new home on Libby Road
- June 10, 2023 — Center for Spiritual Living-Olympia Reunion & Gratitude Celebration
- May 3, 2025—20th Anniversary Celebration (You are Here!)



MINISTERS—REV. SUE OLIVER 2004—2006



I'm so grateful and honored to be asked to share a few words about CSLO's 20th anniversary! It's awesome and humbling to know that it's been two decades since the launch of this beloved, thriving community.

As a few of you may remember, we began formal visioning for CSLO in an Olympia community center well before its formal launch. We used Rev. Michael Beckwith's formal visioning process, as he was one of many mentors along my ministerial path, including Rev. Sage Bennet, Rev. Rainbow Johnson, and Rev. Nirvana Gayle. What a blessing to be journeying along with them!

Sometimes there would be several folks for the CSLO visioning...and sometimes one or two. It didn't matter, because the vision had already been cast by many who had come before, including those still in the community. So, all we were and did was to catch the magnificent CSLO vision and help to shepherd it into manifestation!

I'm eternally grateful to so many who generously contributed their time, talents, and treasures to launching CSLO and supporting its growth and fruition. The early days were not necessarily easy, yet they were rich and fulfilling as we saw the unfolding of this beloved community.

Over the past years, I continued to serve in a variety of CSL roles, assisting at Amazing Grace in Seattle, CSL Seattle, Seaside Church in Encinitas, CA, and Unity of Tucson.

Recently, I've connected with CSL Tucson as a volunteer minister.

Needless to say, it's been a joy and tremendous blessing to be part of CSLO's heritage and to continue to actively support our wonderful New Thought movement in so many ways. My primary passion these days resides in the intersection of spirituality, environmentalism, and animal advocacy, while I continue to work full-time as a director of innovation and small business development at the regional community college here in Tucson.

God is the Flow that we are - here, now, always, and in all ways. So it is!

Peace and blessings!

Sue Oliver

MINISTERS—REV. ELIZABETH (LIBBY) O'DAY—2010—2014



Dear Center for Spiritual Living Olympia,

Congratulations on reaching this milestone celebration of 20 years! When I arrived on March 1, 2010 it had been five years that the Center in Olympia had been going. What I found was a wild mix of creatives, many with advanced degrees in Organizational Development, which is what my B.A. was in too. So, it seemed like I had found my people.

There was a general feeling of freshness, of new beginnings and hope as we all started the adventure of building the Center together. As a result, we did an enormous number of programs to become clear on who we were and how we wanted to be together. Looking back, it seems like an endless parade of conversation cafes, visioning circles, Learning

Organization tips and U point gatherings as we sought consensus in building our structure.

As well as the organizational development workshops, gatherings and meetings, I immediately established a program of Sacred Circles. Using a book as a focus each time, we did a series of home classes, led by facilitators trained and ready to lead their groups with a workbook as a guideline. After the first few series, Ann Marie Stuart became my co-leader in preparing curriculum and training facilitators. We did ten of these series in the four years!

We did solstice gatherings, the Women's group was going strong, there was an influential but exclusive (not open to the new members) couples group that met monthly. It was a full schedule in so many ways.

Personally, I loved the personal friendships that formed. We went on many walks with our dogs, enjoying the beauty of Olympia, the wild Orca dreams in the Sound Garden as we walked and chatted and chased dogs. The lunches and celebrations, the movie nights and random moments of connection and heartfelt conversations - those are my favorite memories with YOU.

Many who were key to our community then have already passed, and my Mom Barbara Hart was one. Olympia was where my great grandfather's ashes were released into Budd inlet near the location his yacht was moored in the 1930's. My Mom died on August 8, 2013, and I had breast cancer surgery two weeks later. It was the end of an era for me, and I had to leave and find myself anew.

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REV. ELIZABETH (LIBBY) O'DAY (Cont'd)

There are so many wonderful CSL Olympia members gone now but they have undoubtedly left their mark. You newer folks step into the legacy of remarkable individuals, each perhaps eccentric and absolutely unique but leaving that pathway for you - open to deepen into your own fabulous, idiosyncratic path.

When I left on March 1, 2014, I believed that you would continue to grow and prosper. And you have. You have found your forever home on Libby Road and created a place of beauty! But most important of all - you have lived, loved and shared this journey together.

In perfect divine timing! Out of the gifts of this community and their solid commitment, has come the home we were all looking for back then. You have demonstrated as a community that you can and do manifest your dreams.

The first 20 years are done! I am honored to have been a small part of it and know that the legacy of your love, my love, and all those who have gone before, continues to manifest in beauty, truth and magnificence.

Rev Libby O'Day



MINISTERS—ROBERT BRZEZINSKI — 2015



It is a true honor to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Center for Spiritual Living, Olympia. Though our time together was relatively brief, the depth of connection and transformation I experienced with you was truly remarkable.

From the very beginning, my family and I felt welcomed into a community that radiated warmth, authenticity, and a genuine commitment to spiritual growth. In those months, I witnessed how quickly hearts could open and how powerfully a sense of family could form. The willingness of this community to embrace change and step into new possibilities inspired me deeply.

Our children were touched by the kindness and inclusion they received, and Lara found encouragement and support that helped her grow in meaningful ways. Even in a short time, we all felt uplifted by the love and spirit that define your community.

As it turned out, Spirit had other plans for my ministry and for your community. In the end, everything is working out just as it should—perfectly, in its own way.

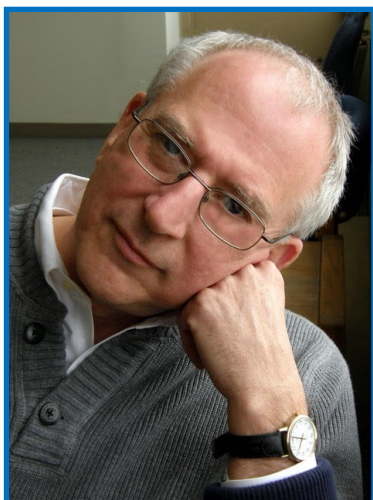
Some of my fondest memories are of the laughter, music, and honest conversations we shared. The lessons and love we found in Olympia continue to guide us, wherever we go.

Congratulations on 20 years of transformation, connection, and spiritual service. Thank you for welcoming us so fully into your family. You will always hold a special place in our hearts.

With gratitude and love,
Rev Robert Brzezinski D.Div



MINISTERS—REV. MICHAEL AUCH—2008 AND 2016-17



I have served as the Interim minister at CSL Olympia in 2008 and again in 2016. I have also served as an Executive and consulted on organizational and board development, facilitated retreats and classes. I am known to speak from my heart.

I am married to my husband, Scott, for 44 years and live in Seattle in the Capitol Hill neighborhood.

In February 2016 my second time as the Interim minister for Olympia CSL began with a major conflict. The Senior minister left under duress. Good news, bad news, who knows? The books I of the Storm and Winds of Conflict helped the community through the drama as they found the

gifts to move forward.

Of course, there was the Come to Jesus Sunday. I righteously, but calmly declared I could support your surviving, but could also shut you down with respect and grace. Commitment was required now. Income increased by 15% and all volunteer spots were filled within the week.

And there was the Sunday when I foolishly offered to teach Foundations. 35 of you foolishly signed up. It was transformational for our community as deep connection happened between everyone.

It was a transition for the community as well as for me. I was a minister of passion, power, prosperity and purpose. As we grew together, the community loved me through my doubts, my shame of not being enough and my unworthiness. You loved me and that was your gift to me as we powerfully co-created a successful transition with the hiring of your new Senior minister, your David.

As I made my farewell, the celebration was over the top. I was honored and the community was ready to embrace Rev. David. All had ended well and such is Life.

Reverend Michael Auch



MINISTERS—REV. DAVID ROBINSON—2017 TO PRESENT



It has been a deep joy and honor to have served as the minister here at CSL Olympia for 8 years (and counting!) I came into this community that has been supported by a succession of wonderful ministers and many growth challenges and successes. Everything this community has faced in the last 20+ years has gone into creating the strong, loving community that it is.

During these last eight years, we have faced a pandemic, yet grown in our ability to reach out beyond our local facility through the miracle of Zoom. We have gone through the loss of our long term meeting place (it wasn't really *home* but it was the foundation for much of the growth that has come since.) And found not just a meeting place, but a home, through the love and commitment of a team of partners and a focused community. We have survived financial challenges, and increased our financial stability through the gift of wonderful investments.

Today, we stand stronger than ever, even though we have challenges. The deep commitment of a core of people, as well as the support of those who have come and gone, have resulted in a vibrant, dynamic community that is rich in so many ways!

When I first arrived in Olympia—happy to be back in my native Pacific Northwest, I had been carrying around a maple tree I bought while at my first center in Clarkston, WA. For 5 years, it had lived in ever growing pots, but I never felt like I had a place where I could plant it in the ground. Within six months of arriving here, I knew this was *home* and planted that tree, which is now thriving in my front yard.

I am so grateful for all the people who have made this Center what it is and who have supported my ministry here—some by being so easy to be with, some by being difficult, but all being a support to the growth of a minister and of a community. I look forward to many more years here in my *home*.

Blessings,

Rev. David Robinson



YOUTH AND FAMILY



Sixteen years ago, CSL Olympia's Youth & Family Ministry was born from a deep, unwavering knowing: If we build it, they will come. Guided by this inner conviction, our current Youth Director—then a parent with two young children—laid the foundation for a thriving, heart-centered program where youth would not only be welcomed but celebrated as vital voices in our spiritual community. And come they did.

Throughout the years, through seasons of change and the arrival of several ministers and interim ministers, the Youth Department remained a constant beacon. From annual community picnics designed to bridge generations, to nurturing weekly classes and community celebrations, our mission has been clear: to give youth and teens a voice, a sanctuary, and a place to grow into their highest expression.

At its height, our Youth & Family program served 22 vibrant young souls. Even during the pandemic's challenges, our commitment never wavered. We pivoted to Zoom classes, personal visits, outdoor gatherings, and heartfelt gifts on Mother's and Father's Day, ensuring our connection to families remained strong. When in-person classes resumed, nearly all of our youth returned—proof that love, consistency, and Spirit transcend any distance.

Today, with the support of Rev. David, our Youth Director Adrienne feels inspired and empowered to help our youth play an integral part in making the mission of CSL Olympia a living reality. We are blessed to have a new thriving teen class, several teens attending their first teen camps, and two permanent youth classes supporting elementary and middle school students. To meet the growing needs of our community, we've also added a separate time slot for teens, making space for their continued spiritual evolution.

Beyond our own center, Adrienne holds a personal vision: to assist other CSL communities in launching or growing youth programs, ensuring every young person within reach has a place to feel connected, honored, and celebrated for who they truly are.

We are a community of inspiration, growth, outreach, and joyous connection to Spirit. CSL Olympia continues to expand its vision, living the truth that every soul, no matter their age, is a vital expression of the Divine.

Adrienne



MUSICIANS



Brent Pendleton—Composer • Producer • Performer

Brent Pendleton brings decades of experience in music, video, and audio production to everything he does. He's the Musical Director at the Center for Spiritual Living in Olympia, WA, since 2014, where he creates original New Thought music and helps shape meaningful Sunday experiences.

He's played keys for LeAnn Rimes, toured nationally, and appeared on shows like Letterman, The Tonight Show, and Good Morning America. His work has shown up in indie films like What the Bleep Do We Know!? and Pregnant in America, and he's produced tons of sessions in the Dallas/Ft. Worth scene — from local bands to national ad spots.

Whether on stage, in the studio, or behind the scenes, Brent stays focused on connection, creativity, and good sound. Brent is also the creator of the wonderful videos we see on Sunday morning through his company All One Productions—www.all-one-productions.com/



LaVon Hardison

LaVon was CSLO's first regular vocalist. She is a dynamic vocalist and artist whose musical journey has taken her across the globe. In 2023, she was a featured performer at the prestigious Brecon Jazz Festival in Wales, captivating audiences with her compelling voice and artistry.

She was a featured performer at the 2009 Festival of World Sacred Music in New Delhi, India. She won the 2016 Seattle-Kobe Sister City Jazz Vocalist Audition at Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, which led to a three-city performance tour of Japan. Her talent and dedication earned her the title of Earshot Jazz 2017 Vocalist of the Year.

Currently, LaVon is a soloist for churches in and around Seattle. Beyond music, she is deeply committed to creativity and self-expression. LaVon has co-facilitated and solo-facilitated workshops on poetry and self-discovery, blending her love of the arts with personal growth and connection.

When she's not making music, LaVon expresses her creativity through visual arts, and learning new recipes with her husband Scott.

You can learn more about LaVon and listen to her music at www.lavonhardison.com and lavonhardison.bandcamp.com

MUSICIANS, CONT'D



Amy Shephard

Amy Shephard has been CSLO's longest regular vocalist, retiring in 2024. Amy is a theater artist, vocalist, choreographer, aerialist, and playwright whose work has been enjoyed throughout the Pacific Northwest for over a decade. Known as Olympia's "Diminutive Spitfire", Amy makes her home in Olympia Washington with her family where she strives to bring unique and high quality art and performance to the greater Pacific Northwest.



Heather Matthews (not performing tonight)

Heather is CSLO's current regular vocalist. She is a local singer, actor, instrumentalist and educator. She has appeared on stages large and small up and down the I-5 corridor and around the South Sound including Capitol Theater, Harlequin Productions, the Washington Center for Performing Arts, and the Minneart Center for the Arts. Heather teaches music at McKenny Elementary and plays piano, guitar, drums, woodwinds, accordion, and harp. Always up for more musical collabs!

Web: www.heathermatthews.com Instagram: @hedderschmidt_arts



THE BAND



David Broyles (he/him) - Guitar

David is a self-taught axeman who excels in a wide variety of styles and has been applying his craft in the Northwest music scene for over 35 years. He has played with funk groups Bump Kitchen, Sweatband, and Mother's Friends; the improv jazz-rock group Jam Camp; and the swing group The Hot Five. Currently, he plays in the classic rock/country band Sugar and the Spitfires and Pontiac Alley, a diverse Americana outfit. He has also done numerous musical productions working with Harlequin Productions.



Rick Jarvela - Bass Guitar

I have been involved in many musical organizations playing many styles locally on electric and upright bass. Past partners include Tacoma and Olympia Symphony, Olympia Chamber Orchestra, Jazz Senators, Harlequin Productions, Capital Playhouse, Sugar and the Spitfires, Sweatband, Hot Five, Size Three. I have always enjoyed contributing to worship services especially with this fine group of musicians that I have had the pleasure to work with for years.



Andy Garness

Andy has been a part of the South Sound's music community for over 20 years — many of his most cherished memories are shared with the very musicians on stage tonight! He regularly collaborates with musicians, producers, and theater groups, locally and abroad, and has just wrapped composing duties for Harlequin Production's *R&J* with CSL alum David Broyles. Andy remains active in local groups Sugar & The Spitfires and Thief In Time, as well as a standby percussionist for other groups and companies in the PNW. Andy began his journey with CSL way back in 2018 and is so pleased to have been a part of its growth and development over the years. Happy 20th CSL!!!



MEMORIES



MORE MEMORIES



Our Mission is to be an open, expanding, and welcoming community that learns, lives, and shares spiritual principles.

Our Purpose is to reveal our wholeness and connection with all that is.

Our Vision is to live as Love in a world of Love.

2025 CORE COUNCIL

Carrie Barrett, President

Kathy Gilliam, Vice-President

Andrew Craig Francis, Treasurer

Cherie Gordon, Secretary

Susan Strobel, Member at Large

Rev. David Robinson, Spiritual Director

THE COMMITTEE

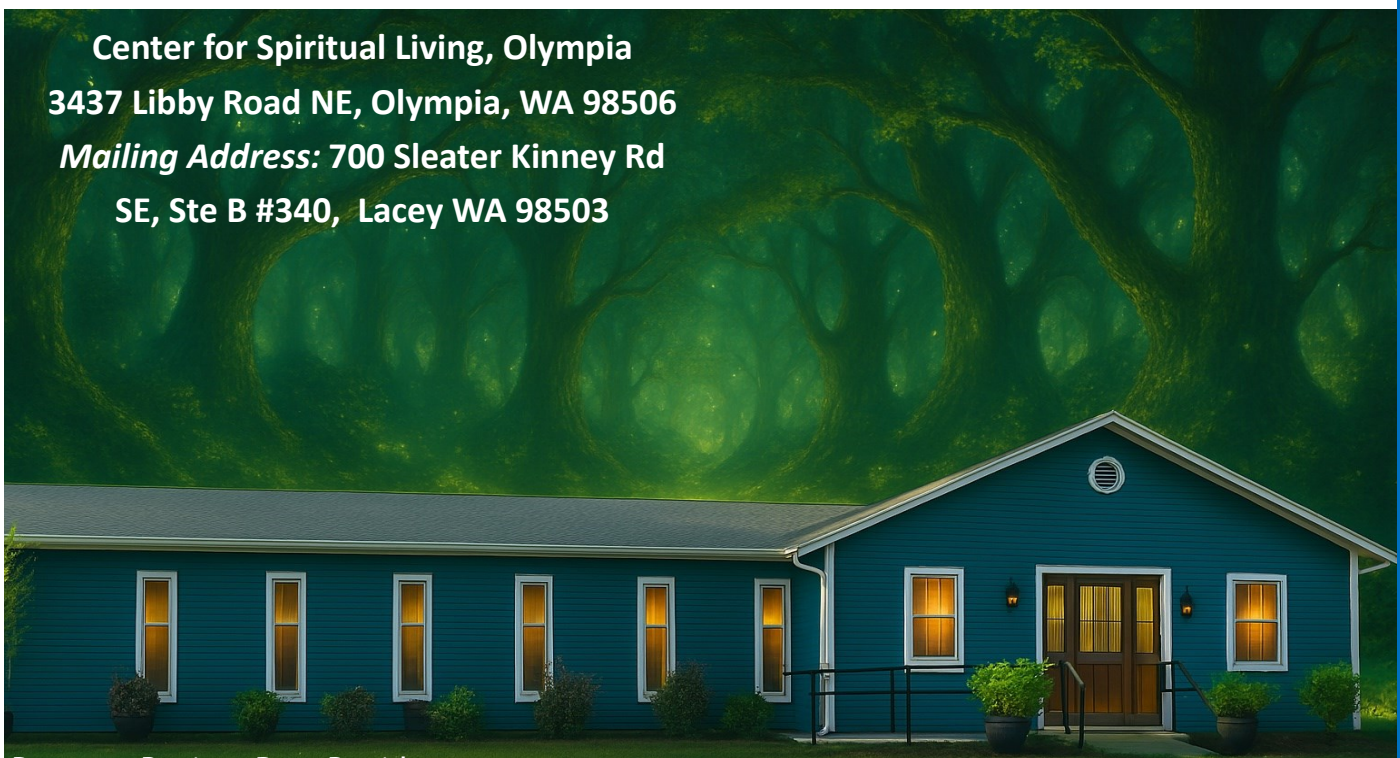
It has been a labor of love to create this event. A huge shout of gratitude to our hard-working Anniversary Committee: Kathy Gilliam, Cherie Gordon, Jennifer Howie, Lynn Elliot, and Rev. David Robinson. And more gratitude to all the volunteers who made this wonderful event happen!

Center for Spiritual Living, Olympia

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