



# Center Community News



*Newsletter of the Center for Sacred Sciences*

## Report from the 2004 Parliament of World Religions

Joel Morwood, Jennifer Knight, and Tom McFarlane, three members of the Center's board of directors, recently represented the Center at the Parliament of the World's Religions which was held July 7-13, 2004, in Barcelona, Spain. The Parliament is a major interreligious conference attracting thousands of participants representing religious traditions and organizations from all over the world. Formal events included shared worship, interreligious dialogue, workshops, symposia, sacred art and music performances, and panel discussions, all centered around ways to foster peace through the wisdom of listening to others with different points of view and the power of commitment to putting universal spiritual values into action. In addition to attending the formal programs at the Parliament, Joel, Jennifer, and Tom also met informally with a few of the other participants.

## Digital Mastery Attained

We are pleased to announce that Center's entire collection of Joel's recorded talks, as well as those of our guest speakers, have been digitally re-mastered and are now available in both CD and cassette tape formats. The two people primarily responsible for carrying out this project were Damien Pierce and Jennifer Knight. Over a two-year period Damien converted more than 150 taped talks into digital computer files. Each talk was then dynamically compressed, and noise and hiss reduction filters were applied. Finally, the voices of members of the audience who asked questions or contributed to the discussions were amplified so they could be more easily understood. For her part, Jennifer created a database to track the re-mastered talks, designed and printed labels for the new CDs and their cases, and wrote up new checkout cards for the library copies. Thanks to both of you for a job well done!

## Foundation Successfully Laid

The members of the 2003-04 Foundation Studies Group have completed their year of studying and practicing the basic teachings of the mystics, and are welcomed into the Center's community of practitioners. The 2003-04 Foundation Studies Group was taught by Clivonne Corbett and Todd Corbett, to whom we owe great appreciation.

## Kudos to Craven!

Often the greatest contributions take place silently and diligently behind the scenes. Such is the case with Mike Craven, who has recently retired from his six-year post as production editor for the *Center Voice* newsletter (the first year of which he also served as managing editor). With gratitude for his countless hours of work on newsletter layout during the production of twelve newsletter issues and his valuable combination of artistic talent and attention to detail, we extend to Mike our deep appreciation.

## News About the Newsletter

To better serve its readers with more timely information and news, the Center's newsletter is now being published three times a year instead of just twice a year. In addition, the newsletter will no longer include large articles or interviews, but will focus instead on brief news items, activities at the Center, and book reviews. As always, it will contain a calendar of events and current publication catalog as well. To reflect this change to a more streamlined newsletter directed primarily to our local community, the newsletter name has changed from *Center Voice* to *Center Community News*. In addition, Tom McFarlane has turned over the job of managing editor to Vip Short, who will bring his unique style to the newsletter. A related development is the Center's plans to launch a new electronic journal, *Holos: Forum for a New Worldview*, which will be edited by Tom McFarlane. Intended for a worldwide audience, the *Holos* journal will contain original, in-depth articles and interviews like those that formerly appeared in *Center Voice*. The first issue is currently in production and is planned for publication in early 2005. Like the newsletter, the journal will be available in electronic form on the Center's website.

## Spring 2004 Retreat

The five-day spring retreat, entitled *Beginner's Mind*, was led by Joel Morwood and Tom McFarlane and took place April 16-21 at the Cloud Mountain Retreat Center near Castle Rock, Washington. Step by step, retreatants were led through the cultivation of *shamatha* (calm abiding) and *vipasshyna* (choiceless awareness.)



RETREATANTS: (bottom row from left) Bill Hamann, Cathy Jonas, Rich Marlatt, Vip Short, (middle row) Catherine Stack, Doug Martin, Kiva Michels, Joel, Tom McFarlane, Mike Barkhuff, Janet Black, Megan Greiner, Susan Colson, (top row) Steve Jonas, Fred Chambers, Gail Marshall, Dave Cunningham, Jack Yousey, Wesley Lachman, Ann Everitt, Jim Patterson. (photo credit: Vip Short)

## CENTER FOR SACRED SCIENCES STAFF

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## Practice Notes from a Whacked Pupil

The following proposal was made by Wesley Lachman during the students' reporting session at the end of the 2004 CSS spring retreat at Cloud Mountain Retreat Center. It was inspired by our teacher's practice of whacking veteran students with a verbal stick when they asked inappropriate questions during teaching sessions.

Student questions that may cause difficulty may be classified as WMD or UFO questions. Either kind may be a perfectly good question and yet become the occasion for unintended consequences.

The WMD question is any question which elicits a WMD response from the teacher, as in "Won't Make a Difference." This may be followed with:

"How would it help you to know the answer to this?!"

And this may be followed by a taunt, and then:

"I'm not going to tell you even if I know the answer because this will just feed your donkey mind and it will start spinning and you will never find the path!"

And that may be followed by:

"But I will say one thing..." followed by a three-minute lecture of which you understand nothing because you are so unnerved by being whacked in the first place.

I think we can improve the situation in the following manner: When any one of us can hear someone beginning to launch a WMD question, we know there is nothing we can do for them. In a few seconds they are going to be asking themselves, "Why did I ask this question?" And, more deeply, "Why would anyone ask this question?" This is an excellent inquiry and it will be even more effective if asked before launch.

But if you see a WMD being launched, you can warn the rest of us. Just whisper, "WMD!" or perhaps, "Incoming!" to the person seated next to you and pass it on down the line. With any luck we can get the rest of us alerted before the thing detonates, so we can drop and cover. Sensitive people like Cathy may want to actually cover their ears during the impact.

The other classification of questions that may cause unintended consequences is the UFO. The UFO question is any question that can be answered by "You find out!" Thus, UFO. This is usually followed by:

"Trust your own experience!" and

"Why are you asking me these questions?!" or

"Go and practice and find out for yourself!"

Most UFOs will detonate even more resolutely than the average WMD, so the use of the early warning system described above applies here too, only more so.

As a footnote it should be noted that errors are sometimes made. Our dear teacher, being over 60 years of age and with impaired eyesight, may occasionally squeeze off a couple of rounds at a UFO which is still on the launch pad. This is not his fault. I believe that he is doing the best he can.

## Summer 2004 Retreat

The Center's five-day summer retreat, entitled *Exchanging Self for Other*, was led by Andrea Pucci. "Attention is your child, and distracted thought is the kidnapper," Andrea told the retreatants, who later learned a vajra song which begins "Don't wander, place mindfulness on guard." Participants worked with the technique known as *Tonglen*, or Sending and Taking. The retreat was held July 16-21 at Cloud Mountain Retreat Center.



RETREATANTS: (bottom row from left) Clivonne Corbett, Cathryn Cardellino, Andrea Pucci, Sharry Lachman, Maggie Free, Robin Bundy, Bonnie Donahue (top row) Steve Jonas, Camilla Bayliss, Fred Chambers, Vip Short, Dave Cunningham, Emma Leyburn Gail Marshall, Hanna Offenbacher. (Photo credit: Steve Jonas)



## LIBRARY CORNER

**Library Hours:**  
Tuesdays 6:00 P.M.– 8:30 P.M.  
(REOPENS ON SEPTEMBER 28)

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### Book Reviews

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#### **The Teachers of One: Living Advaita Conversations on the Nature of Non-Duality**

by Paula Marvelly. Watkin Publishing. 2000.

This book covers a lot of ground. Written by a self-described frustrated seeker, it contains interviews with fifteen current Advaita teachers, and follows Paula's sometimes exasperating, sometimes breathtakingly clear struggle to understand non-duality. Refreshingly honest; a great introduction to some exciting teachers.

MEGAN GREINER

#### **Invitation to Awaken: Embracing Our Natural State of Presence**

by Tony Parsons. Inner Directions Publishing. 2004.

One of the most engaging of the teachers interviewed in Marvelly's book (above) is Tony Parsons, whose new book is a joy to read. His clear, direct message is simply to stop trying to get enlightened, but to realize that we are already what we seek. *Everything* is a divine manifestation, according to Tony, and as such is an invitation from the Beloved to "come home."

MEGAN GREINER

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### Books in Brief

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Here are some books you might enjoy that are related to the Parliament of World Religions and interfaith dialog.

#### **The Dawn of Religious Pluralism: Voices from the World's Parliament of Religions 1893**

edited by Richard Hughes Seager.

Complete transcript of the talks given at the first Parliament.

#### **Pilgrimage of Hope: One Hundred Years of Global Interfaith Dialogue**

by Marcus Braybrooke.

Interesting history of the interfaith movement. It begins with the 1893 Parliament, covering the development of World Congress of Faiths, The Temple of Understanding, and a variety of other international interfaith movements and groups.

#### **Encountering God: A Spiritual Journey from Bozeman to Banaras**

by Diana L. Eck.

Personal story of Eck's spiritual development and interfaith development. Highly recommended by both CPWR and your librarian.

#### **Global Responsibility: In Search of a New World Ethic**

by Hans Küng.

Küng's book led to the development of the Parliament's Declaration "Towards a Global Ethic," and its historic signing at the 1993 Parliament in Chicago.

#### **Towards a Global Ethic: An Initial Declaration of the 1993 Parliament of the World's Religions**

by Council for a Parliament of World Religions.

The first days of the 1993 Parliament were just for religious leaders to review, debate, modify and sign the Global Ethic. This booklet is the first edition of that ethic along with facsimiles of the signatures, and a printed list of all signers.

#### **Yes to a Global Ethic: Voices from Religion and Politics**

edited by Hans Küng.

A collection of responses to the Global Ethic by world leaders from the fields of politics, culture, and religious traditions.

#### **A Call to Our Guiding Institutions**

by Council for a Parliament of World Religions.

Published by CPWR for the 1999 Parliament in Cape Town, South Africa. Includes specific ethical questions and challenges, invites reflection on "Toward a Global Ethic," and includes the Parliament's Declaration "Towards a Global Ethic."

Download version is available here:

[http://www.cpwr.org/resource/call\\_to\\_gis.htm](http://www.cpwr.org/resource/call_to_gis.htm)

#### **Threshold 2000: Critical Issues and Spiritual Values for a Global Age**

by Millennium Institute.

An edition of this book has been used at each of the recent Parliaments.

#### **Sourcebook of the World's Religions: An Interfaith Guide to Religion and Spirituality, 3rd Ed.**

edited by Joel Beversluis.

Includes: Portraits of more than twenty religious traditions; how and why to build community; articles, prayers; new material from the 1999 Cape Town Parliament; documents such as: *Towards a Global Ethic*, *Earth Charter*, *Code of Ethics Among Religions*, and the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*; explores spirituality and mysticism; directory of 700 faith based interfaith organizations; website links.

There are two books in our reference section that you might find of interest:

#### **The State of Religion Atlas: A Concise Survey of World Religion Through Full-Color International Maps**

by Joanne O'Brien and Martin Palmer.

#### **Historical Atlas of the Religions of the World**

edited by Ismail Ragi al Faruqi; Map Ed. David E. Sopher.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS: SEPT. 2004 – JAN. 2005

### SEPTEMBER 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
closed		closed	1 closed
5 closed	6	7 closed	8 closed
12 closed	13	14 closed	15 closed
19 Talk 11 am	20	21 closed	22 Practitioner 7:30
26 Talk 11 am	27	28 Library 6:00–8:30	29 Practitioner 7:30 (ALL)

There is no video during September.

### OCTOBER 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
3 Video* 11 am	4	5 Library 6:00–8:30	6 Practitioner 7:30
10 Talk 11 am	11	12 Library 6:00–8:30	13 Practitioner 7:30
17 closed	18	19 closed	20 closed
24 closed	25	26 Library 6:00–8:30	27 Practitioner 7:30 (ALL)
31 Talk 11 am			

**\*Adyashanti: *The Truth That IS***

Contemporary teacher Adyashanti points to that Non-dual Reality which constitutes our own True Nature.

### NOVEMBER 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	1	2 Library 6:00–8:30	3 Practitioner 7:30
7 Video* 11 am	8	9 Library 6:00–8:30	10 Practitioner 7:30
14 Talk 11 am	15	16 Library 6:00–8:30	17 Practitioner 7:30 (ALL)
21 Talk 11 am	22	23 closed	24 closed
28 closed	29	30 Library 6:00–8:30	

**\*Healing Dreams**

Author Marc Ian Barasch talks in this fascinating video interview about how understanding our dreams can help us heal physically, psychologically, and spiritually.

### DECEMBER 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			1 Practitioner 7:30
5 Video* 11 am	6	7 Library 6:00–8:30	8 Practitioner 7:30
12 Talk 11 am	13	14 Library 6:00–8:30	15 Practitioner 7:30 (ALL)
19 closed	20	21 closed	22 closed
26 closed	27	28 closed	29 closed

**\*Joseph Campbell: *Sacrifice & Bliss***

Renowned scholar Joseph Campbell explains the symbolism of sacrifice that is found in virtually all the world's great religious traditions. Fourth of the six-part series *The Power of Myth*.

NOTE: Special Christmas Day service Saturday December 25 at 11am

### JANUARY 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
2 Video* 11 am	3	4 Library 6:00–8:30	5 Practitioner 7:30
9 Talk 11 am	10	11 Library 6:00–8:30	12 Practitioner 7:30
16 Talk 11 am	17	18 Library 6:00–8:30	19 Practitioner 7:30
23 Talk 11 am	24	25 Library 6:00–8:30	26 Practitioner 7:30 (ALL)
30 Talk 11 am	31		

**\*Thubten Chodron: *Working With Anger***

Western-born Buddhist nun Thubten Chodron discusses how to convert the energy of anger into the servant of compassion.

## Selected Audio Publications

For a complete catalog of our audio publications, visit our website at [www.centerforsacredsciences.org](http://www.centerforsacredsciences.org)

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author(s)</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Min.</b>	<b>CD#</b>	<b>Tape#</b>
<b>The Five Fundamentals</b>					
1. Consciousness Alone Is Absolutely Real	Joel	1996	68	cd122	1063
2. Ignorance is the Root of Suffering	Joel	1996	63	cd123	1064
3. The End of Suffering Comes by Gnosis	Joel	1996	67	cd124	1065
4. The Way of Gnosis is Selflessness	Joel	1997	62	cd125	1066
5. Selflessness is Perfect Realization	Joel	1997	61	cd126	1067
<b>Four Principles</b>					
Four Principles of the Path	Joel	1998	74	cd111	1134
<b>Practicing the Precepts</b>					
Practicing Precepts: 1 of 4	Joel	1999	71	cd77	1250
Practicing Precepts: 2 of 4	Joel	1999	68	cd78	1252
Practicing Precepts: 3 of 4	Joel	1999	78	cd79	1272
Practicing Precepts: 4 of 4	Joel	2000	64	cd80	1275
<b>Sunday Talks and Questions &amp; Answers</b>					
Thought	Joel	1993	73	cd230	886
Remember to Remember	Joel	1995	70	cd190	983
What Jesus Taught	Joel	1995	53	cd195	996
Three Pillars of Mysticism	Joel	1996	77	cd107	1024
Undertaking a Solo Retreat	Jennifer	1996	73	cd241	1059
The Retreat	Joel	1996	70	cd109	1060
Transforming Relationships	Joel	1996	60	cd108	1062
Mystical Prayer	Joel	1997	76	cd179	1106
Spiritual Interpretation of Dreams	Joel	1998	75	cd92	1129
Meditation in Dreams	Joel	1998	69	cd93	1130
The Journey In God	Joel	1998	48	cd137	1190
I Was a Treasure	Joel	1999	62	cd131	1192
What's Inside My Head?	Joel	1999	78	cd112	1201
Why Morality Matters	Joel	1999	63	cd127	1202
God & Emptiness	Joel	1999	68	cd130	1203

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author(s)</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Min.</b>	<b>CD#</b>	<b>Tape#</b>
Basic Awareness Meditation	Andrea Pucci	2000	66	cd90	1279
The Role of Devotion on the Mystical Path	Joel	2000	54	cd172	1331
Anatomy of Awakening	Joel	2000	75	cd95	1342
Consciousness: Two Worldviews	Joel	2000	65	cd132	1370
To Practice or Not to Practice	Joel	2000	67	cd140	1460
Liberating Emotions	Joel & Andrea	2001	79	cd97	1462
Loneliness: the Heart of Longing	Andrea Pucci	2001	67	cd129	1463
Chain of Conditioning	Joel	2001	77	cd117	1499
Depression and The Dark Night	Joel	2001	52	cd100	1502
The Relationship Between Love and Truth	Joel	2001	59	cd103	1547
Varieties of Mystical Experience	Joel	2002	67	cd98	1550
Mystics of Ancient Greece	Tom McFarlane	2002	48	cd82	1584
Self Inquiry: a Guided Meditation	Joel	2002	75	cd91	1585
Cutting Through Spiritual Attachments	Joel	2002	59	cd99	1586
Deconstructing the Delusion of Time	Joel	2002	66	cd119	1708
What's the Story on "Stories?"	Joel	2002	60	cd120	1709
What Are Sacred Sciences?	Joel	2002	57	cd133	1718
Passion on the Path	Joel	2002	54	cd134	1719
The Great Debate in Quantum Physics	McFarlane et al.	2002	69	cd135	1720
Faith, Practice, and Awakening	Joel	2002	52	cd136	1721
Gnosis and the World	Joel	2003	61	cd242	1832
Logos and the New Worldview	Tom McFarlane	2003	68	cd243	1833
*What Is Love?	Joel	2003	52	cd245	1834
*Spiritual Death	Joel	2003	73	cd246	1835
*Reincarnation	Joel	2003	66	cd275	1838
*Beyond Theories	Tom McFarlane	2004	46	cd280	1839
*Finding a True Teacher	Joel	2004	57	cd297	1840
*Meditation #1: Concentration	Joel	2003	68	cd298	1841
*Meditation #2: Choiceless Awareness	Joel	2003	58	cd299	1842

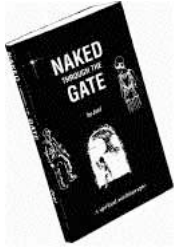
\*New Items

**Prices:**

CDs: \$7.50 each, or \$7.00 each for items in a set when a complete set is ordered

Tapes: \$6.50 each, or \$6.00 each for items in a set when a complete set is ordered

## Book Publications



### **Naked Through the Gate: A Spiritual Autobiography**

by Joel, Center for Sacred Sciences, 1985. Paperback, 262 pages, \$11.95

Joel's personal account of his remarkable spiritual path, ending with a Gnostic Awakening.

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

by Joel, Center for Sacred Sciences, 1996. Paperback, 83 pages, \$6.95.

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

### **Challenge and Response: The Aims and Purposes of the Center for Sacred Sciences**

Center for Sacred Sciences, 1992. Paperback, 22 pages, Free.

An introduction to the teachings and practices at the Center for Sacred Sciences.



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(541) 345-0102

Please mail this completed form to the above address with a check or money order in US funds payable to Center for Sacred Sciences.

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## Video Publications

### **A Sunday with Joel**

by Joel, Center for Sacred Sciences. VHS, \$19.95.

Spend a typical Sunday at the Center with meditation instructions, a discourse by Joel, and questions and answers.

### **Who Are You Really?**

by Joel, Center for Sacred Sciences. VHS, \$19.95.

Joel speaking in Palo Alto on an essential question in all mystical traditions.

## mp3 Audio Publications

### **Core Teachings: Volumes 1**

by Joel, Center for Sacred Sciences. mp3 CD, \$36.

This first volume of Joel's Core Teachings includes twelve full-length talks in mp3 format on a single CD.

### **Core Teachings: Volumes 2-6**

by Joel, Center for Sacred Sciences. mp3 CDs, \$36 each.

Each of these volumes contains twelve full-length talks by Joel in mp3 format on a single CD.

## ORDER FORM

Title	Tape/ CD#	Qty	Unit Price	Total
			Subtotal	
			Shipping	
			TOTAL	

### **Shipping Charges:**

Books: \$1.75 for the first, \$1.00 for each additional.

Audios: \$1.75 for the first, \$0.50 for each additional.

Videos: \$3.00 for the first, \$1.50 for each additional.

Books, audios, and videos sent separately.

Please allow five to six weeks for delivery.



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## MISSION AND PROGRAMS

The Center for Sacred Sciences is dedicated to the study, practice, and dissemination of the spiritual teachings of the mystics, saints, and sages of the major religious traditions. The Center endeavors to present these teachings in forms appropriate to our contemporary scientific culture. The Center also works to create and disseminate a sacred worldview that expresses the compatibility between universal mystical truths and the evidence of modern science.

Among the Center's on-going events are Sunday public services with meditations and talks by the Center's spiritual director, monthly video presentations, and—for committed spiritual seekers—a weekly practitioners' group and regular meditation retreats. The Center also maintains an extensive lending library of books, audios, videos, and periodicals covering spiritual, psychological, and scientific subjects. In addition, the Center provides a website containing teachings, information, and other resources related to the teachings of the world's mystics, the universality of mystical truth, and the relationship between science and mysticism. The Center publishes a newsletter containing community news, upcoming programs, book reviews, and other information and resources related to the Center's mission.

The Center for Sacred Sciences is a non-profit, tax-exempt church based in Eugene, Oregon, USA. We rely chiefly on volunteer labor to support our programs, and on public donations and membership pledges to meet our operating expenses. Our spiritual director gives his teachings freely as a labor of love and receives no financial compensation from the Center.

*Center Community News* is published twice a year by the Center for Sacred Sciences. Submissions, comments, and inquiries should be sent to:

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