



Center Community News

The Newsletter of the Center for Sacred Sciences

Exploring the Website

The Center's website (www.centerforsacredsciences.org) is designed to serve everyone, whether local or distant, member or non-member, providing relevant information and resources about programs and publications, our teachers and teachings, as well as our purpose and practices. The website is organized into seven main areas: home, traditions, worldview, programs, practices, publications, and contact.

HOME

The home page is the launch pad for navigating the website with featured links to the current issue of the newsletter, the publications catalog, and the latest events calendar.

TRADITIONS

The traditions page provides an overview of the essential teachings of the mystics of the six major religious traditions, demonstrating their common principles with illustrative quotes.

WORLDVIEW

The relationship between science and mysticism, and the need for creating a new worldview, are discussed on this page.

PROGRAMS

If you want information about Sunday meetings, the library, joining the practitioners group, or enrolling in the distance studies course, this is the page to read.

PRACTICES

The practices page contains a detailed description of the Center's teachings and practices, as well as some information about the teachers at the Center.

PUBLICATIONS

This page provides links to dozens of online articles by Joel and others; many past issues of the newsletter; the *Holos* journal site; and the current publications catalog, which contains a complete list of audio recordings. There are also a few audios available for download, and the complete text of Joel's book, *Through Death's Gate*.

CONTACT

This page contains directions and a map to the Center, the Center's mailing address, a link to an online form you can use to update your subscription preferences or address, and forms to submit messages to the Center's volunteer staff. This page also has information about how to give to the Center, which is a nonprofit organization.

Center Member Creates "Prayer Portal Opening"



(photo credit: Susan Colson)

On May 21, in the height of verdant spring, many Center members gathered at Megan Greiner's home to join in a ceremony dedicating her backyard "Prayer Portal." The event was marked by plenty of food, conversation and music, yet there was a quite serious function as well. A magnificent altar was consecrated in a sharing of poetry, song, words of the mystics (including our very own Joel), and the planting of a tree. In an online description of the personal retreat Megan had undertaken the weekend before to mark turning 50 years of age, she writes:

"I...believe that something magical can happen when people come together with intention and devotion. On the weekend following my 'non-vision quest', I invited dharma brothers and sisters and my immediate family to partake in a 'Prayer Portal Opening' and 50th birthday celebration. We planted a tree, asked the four directions to bless us all, 'fed' our ancestors cornmeal, shared prayers and poems and chants and songs, toasted my life and the opportunities before us with champagne; Joel talked about the spiritual significance of trees, offerings were made at my specially designed altar, home-made prayer flags were hung...and then we feasted."

CENTER FOR SACRED SCIENCES STAFF

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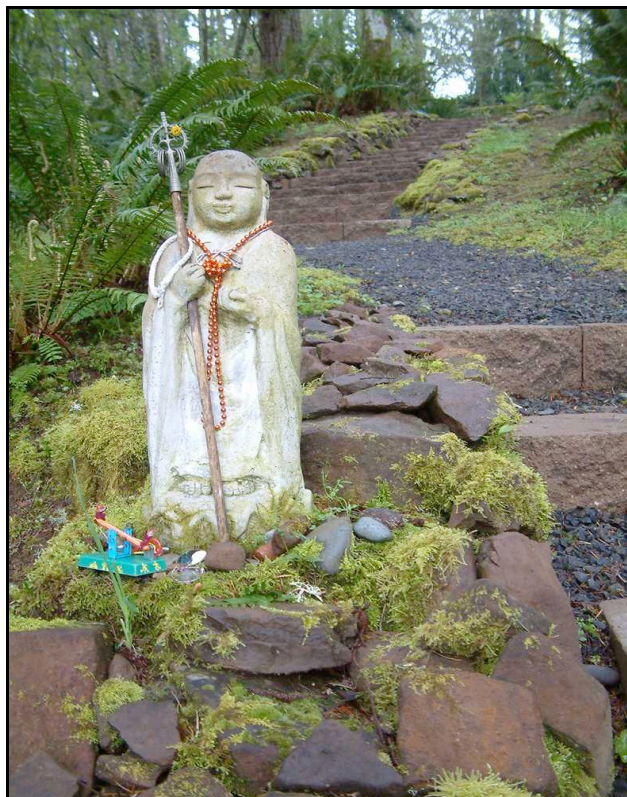
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Practitioners Face Certain Death

During the midsummer, members of the CSS Practitioners Group were treated to a four-week series of teachings by Todd Corbett entitled “Dying to Awaken.” Students received a number of suggested practices designed to help foster “death awareness,” which Todd emphasized can be a direct path to realization of one’s true nature, as confirmed by his own experience.

Turning to face—and even embracing—one’s darkest emotions is a time-honored method for progress on the spiritual path. Todd continued to gently point this out while mentioning written resources such as Pema Chödrön’s *The Places That Scare You*, or Ngakpa Chögyam’s book *Spectrum of Ecstasy*. It seems that due in large part to cultural conditioning, we expend huge amounts of energy in futile attempts to avoid what is really a universal inevitability. If we were to redirect the energies currently caught up in squeamishness around death, we might discover new truths not only about our own psychological habits, but also about the deeper nature of death itself.

To read Todd’s first-hand account of his “Awakening by Death,” navigate to the Publications page of the CSS website and look for the section entitled “Accounts of Awakening.”

Joel claims the truth is right there before our gnosis!

And did you hear about the mystic who ate some tainted pork, then experienced a weird shift with her enlightenment?

Yup, her doctor explained it as a case of “tweaky-gnosis.”

Q: How come there are so few enlightened young folks?

A: Have you ever tried to wake up a teenager?

But seriously folks, don’t be so serious! Intellect has its place, yet sometimes you just have to get up and dance... it’s called “shake your buddhi.”

MY OTHER VEHICLE IS MAHAYANA

Direct from Hollywood: The swami who used to be a commie now throws crumbs to a bunch of dharma bums!



LIBRARY CORNER

Library Hours:
Tuesdays 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

New Books:

Mysticism & the Great Traditions—from Spiritual Classics to the Newest Teachers

**Wild Awakening: The Heart of Mahamudra and
Dzogchen**

Dzogchen Ponlop Shambhala, 2003.

John Main by Those Who Knew Him

edited by Paul T. Harris Novalis, 1991.

**Sankara Source Book Volume 1-6: Sankara on the
Absolute; On the Creation; On the Soul; On Rival
Views; On Discipleship; On Enlightenment**

translated by A. J. Alston Shanti Sadan, 2004.

It Happens by Itself: Satsang with Isaac

compiled by Dick Sinnige Luechow Press, 2001.

**These Are the Worlds: A Vocabulary of Jewish
Spiritual Life**

Arthur Green Jewish Lights Publishing, 2002.

Me and Rumi: The Autobiography of Shams-iTabrizi

translated by William C. Chittick Fons Vitae, 2004.

365 Nirvana: Here and Now

edited by Josh Baran Element Books, 2003.

**Being a Buddha on Broadway: Access the Power of
Your Naturally Peaceful Mind**

Bertram Salzman Inner Directions Publications, 2004

New Books:

Children's Reading

A Walk to the Great Mystery

Virginia A. Stroud Dial Books, 1995.

The Hermit and the Well

Thich Nhat Hanh Plum Blossom Books, 2003.

New Books:

Other Topics

Frithjof Schuon: Life and Teachings

*Jean-Baptiste Aymard and Patrick Laude
SUNY Press, 2004.*

**Hooked! Buddhist Writings on Greed, Desire, and the
Urge to Consume**

edited by Stephanie Kaza Shambhala, 2005.

A Short History of Hinduism

Klaus K. Klostermaier One World, 2000.

**Journeys East: 20th Century Western Encounters with
Eastern Religious Traditions**

Harry Oldmeadow World Wisdom, 2004.

Jung: A Very Short Introduction

*Anthony Stevens
Oxford University Press, 1994.*

**Comparative Philosophy and the Philosophy of
Scholarship: On the Western Interpretation of
Nagarjuna**

*Andrew P. Tuck
Oxford University Press, 1990*

New DVD and Video Arrivals

Father Thomas Keating: The Contemplative Life

*Hartley Film Foundation
Wonderful!*

David Loy: Zen Philosopher and Social Critic

*Inner Growth Books & Videos
Follow up on the Holos interview with David Loy.*

New Audio Cassette & CD Arrivals

Dancing the Heavenly Abodes

*Anahata Iradah & Prema Dasara
Lovely music.*

**Surprised by Grace: A Search for Inner Peace and
How that Search Came to an End**

Amber Terrell True Light Publishing, 2005.

A special treat for those who enjoyed her book. Hear Amber speak the book (expanded version) on CD interspersed with her songs, and Gangaji's original teachings.



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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, 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 three times a year by the Center for Sacred Sciences. Submissions, comments, and inquiries should be sent to:

Publications Director, Center for Sacred Sciences
1430 Willamette St., #164, Eugene, OR 97401-4049
publications@centerforsacredsciences.org

To update or change your subscription preferences on-line, please visit the Publications page of our website and click on the link to the Subscription and address form.

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CONTACT THE CENTER



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Eugene, OR 97401-4049

CSS CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2005 – JANUARY 2005

SEPTEMBER 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
4 * CLOSED	5	6 CLOSED	7 CLOSED
11 CLOSED	12	13 CLOSED	14 CLOSED
18 CLOSED	19	20 CLOSED	21 CLOSED
25 Talk 11 am	26	27 CLOSED	28 Practitioner 7:30 (ALL)

* NO VIDEO

OCTOBER 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 CLOSED	17	18 CLOSED	19 CLOSED
23 CLOSED	24	25 Library 6:00–8:30	26 Practitioner 7:30 (ALL)
30 Talk 11 am	31		

* Pilgrimage to Tibet

This Video, documenting a journey made by the famed Tibetan master Chagdud Rinpoche back to his home country in 1991, gives us a rare insider's look at Tibet.

NOVEMBER 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
		1 Library 6:00–8:30	2 Practitioner 7:30
6 Video* 11 am	7	8 Library 6:00–8:30	9 Practitioner 7:30
13 Talk 11 am	14	15 Library 6:00–8:30	16 Practitioner 7:30
20 Talk 11 am	21	22 CLOSED	23 CLOSED
27 CLOSED	28	29 Library 6:00--8:30	30 Practitioner 7:30 (ALL)

* An Interview with Jane Goodall

Acclaimed for her groundbreaking studies of wild Chimpanzees, in this videotaped interview Jane Goodall speaks about the spiritual side of her life.

DECEMBER 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
4 Video* 11 am	5	6 Library 6:00–8:30	7 Practitioner 7:30
11 Talk 11 am	12	13 Library 6:00–8:30	14 Practitioner 7:30 (ALL)
18 CLOSED	19	20 CLOSED	21 CLOSED
25 Talk 11 am	26	27 CLOSED	28 CLOSED

* Holy Images, Holy Space: Greek Icons

This fascinating video traces the history of Greek icons and their spiritual significance. It includes a contemporary iconographer's explanation of how he creates his sacred works.

JANUARY 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
1 CLOSED	2	3 CLOSED	4 Practitioner 7:30
8 Video* 11 am	9	10 Library 6:00–8:30	11 Practitioner 7:30
15 Talk 11 am	16	17 Library 6:00–8:30	18 Practitioner 7:30
22 Talk 11 am	23	24 Library 6:00–8:30	25 Practitioner 7:30 (ALL)
29 Talk 11 am	30	31 Library 6:00–8:30	

* The Jew in the Lotus

This video tells the story of how author Rodger Kamenetz came to write "The Jew and the Lotus" about an historic meeting between a group of Jewish rabbis and the Dalai Lama of Tibet as part of his own spiritual journey from crisis to redemption.

**MEETING ADDRESS:
1571 BUCK ST., EUGENE, OREGON**

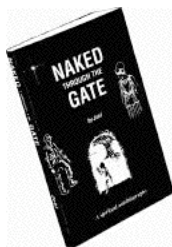


Phone: (541) 345-0102

CENTER PUBLICATIONS

For a complete catalog of our current publications and for pricing and ordering information, please visit our website at www.centerforsacredsciences.org

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.

Audio Publications

The following are audio recordings available for purchase. Patrons of the Center's library may also borrow these audios in CD or cassette tape formats, and they may be heard on the CSS website.

Aspects of Practice

Taking the Bodhisattva Vow

Joel, 2004

The End of Struggle

Todd Corbett, 2005

Enlightenment

Awakened by Death

Todd Corbett, 2005

Mystical Philosophy

Gnosis, Ego, & Love

Joel, 2005

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.

Web Publications

Breaking Through: A Journey to Awakening

by Andrea Pucci, 1998

Joel and Andrea Pucci discuss her spiritual path and her Awakening.

Nothing to Fear but Fear

by Tom Kurzka, 2001

In this interview, Tom recounts the role of fear on his spiritual path and his experience of Gnostic Awakening.

Lack and Liberation in Self and Society: An Interview

with David Loy, February 2005

An Interview with Zen philosopher David Loy on our sense of lack and how it manifests both individually and culturally.

Integrating Science and Religion: An Interview with Alan Wallace

Winter-Spring 2004

Buddhist teacher, scholar, and practitioner Alan Wallace talks with Tom McFarlane about Wallace's lifelong endeavor to integrate science and religion, and his hopeful vision for their future collaboration

The Gate of Unknowing

by Joel, Summer-Fall 2001

Surrendering what commonly passes for knowledge to enter the Unknowing that opens the way to Gnosis.

To Practice or Not to Practice?

by Joel, Winter-Spring 2002

Are your spiritual practices a barrier to Enlightenment?