



6211 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Portland, OR 97211
503-261-0677
<http://www.cslportland.org>

Presidents Report

November 1, 2023

Happy Autumn!

It has been four months since I have given you an update on the progress at the Portland Center for Spiritual Living. We have had an active summer, and it appears the fall and winter will be just as active if not more so!

Over the past four months we have had multiple community gatherings and a fruitful collaboration with CSL's Camp Cedar Ridge. Members of our community painted large rocks that were placed in the labyrinth at the Camp. Licensed Practitioner Kathryn Richer delivered the rocks after they had been blessed by the entire Practitioner team. PCSL collaborated with CSL's camp Cedar Ridge by helping to rebuild the labyrinth, providing Practitioner support to campers and assisting with educational offerings. Sean AB Larkin, RScP, and Ben Price attended the camp with some of our teens. We are extremely proud and honored to note that one of our teens has been elected to a leadership position with CSL.

In July, we had a successful annual picnic in Peninsula Park. We were blessed with perfect weather and wonderful guests. Our own Jason Hutchinson, grill master extraordinaire, manned the grill and kept those burgers and dogs coming! The fundraising committee hosted a Hawaiian Luau at the Center, featuring an excellent island themed menu including vegan options. We were instructed in the Hawaiian dance, the Huki Luau and entertained by Charlotte Park's incredible dance troop!

In August, LaRhonda Steele, Laura Berman and Lauri Jones performed a fundraising concert titled the "Three La's." It was fabulous! Can you say dancing in the streets? Or at least in the aisles! I want to give a big thank you to our gracious and super talented performers and to Sandy Leybold, RScP and to Rev. Christine Green for hosting.

We also held a new membership gathering that welcomed 3 new members, including a virtual member who resides in Arizona.

Our music Department, headed by the incomparable LaRhonda Steele, has started a new program beginning with last month's "Rock 'n Roll Sunday". The intention is to bring uplifting and powerful secular music that supports the Sunday message. We can look forward to more spectacular music with our upcoming "Soul Music Sunday" at the end of November.

Our Education Department has been creating and innovating new programs and collaborations. Since 2016, Portland Center for Spiritual Living (PCSL) has diligently built and refined its Distance Learning Program with the sole purpose of sharing the Science of Mind philosophy with a global audience. In December 2022, PCSL established a collaborative alliance with Amazing Grace



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Spiritual Center in Seattle, Washington. This led to a pioneering approach that broadens the reach of PCSL's distance learning program and, concurrently, enables Amazing Grace to provide its members with remote educational opportunities. As a result, there has been an increase in class enrollments including a number of students and teachers from as far away as New York State and Hawaii. This innovative collaboration has paved the way for PCSL to introduce its inaugural Advanced Consciousness Studies course in the Fall of 2023. This comprehensive 27-week course has attracted participants from three spiritual centers and individual learners dedicated to spiritual growth. It is anticipated this collaboration initiative will be renewed at the end of the year, and additional collaboration partners will be attracted.

While all these activities and fundraisers were occurring, the new Minister selection committee was meeting weekly to create and finalize our marketing materials so they could be posted by August. Our Sr. Minister Position will remain posted on Open Pulpit until the end of November. I can report that the committee has received a number of applications and is processing them now. Stay tuned!

The Board of Directors has extended Rev. Christine Green's letter of call for six months until February 1, 2024 in order to continue providing consistency and guidance during this time of transition.

This year we have had some extra expenses. As stated above, we are in the midst of a New Minister search. In addition, part of our job as responsible stewards of our finances is the maintenance of our greatest financial asset, our building. We are blessed to have this wonderful space and to have equity in the building. Our roof has reached its life expectancy, and we are in contract for a new roof. We dipped into our dwindling reserves to meet this obligation. As a result, our savings aren't as strong as they were before the onset of the COVID -19 pandemic. We are meeting our expenses on a tight budget and a plethora of volunteers while maintaining a lesser amount in savings. A copy of our most recent budget is hanging on the bulletin board at the back of the church for you to review. You can call or speak with any member of the board if you have any questions.

This month is Partners in Prosperity month. We request that you express your intentions regarding what you intend to contribute to the Center in 2024. This will enable us to create a reasonable budget for next year. It is also a requirement to provide our financial plans to Riverview Community Bank, our mortgage lender. Donations can be made on our website www.CSLPortland.org/pledge/

We will be holding our annual Harvest Potluck, one week before Thanksgiving, on Sunday November 19th. The church will provide the turkey and ham and guests will provide the sides. This is also "Bring a Friend



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Sunday”, so please join us for a wonderful service, a fabulous meal and an opportunity to purchase something special for that special someone at our Silent Auction, which will be held simultaneously in the upstairs multi-purpose room. All proceeds from the Silent Auction will go towards our new roof.

We are also in the planning stages for our Holiday services, including our Christmas Eve Day candlelight service and the Golden Bowl ceremony in the new year.

Our own beloved Rev. Marilyn Sprague, Director of Education, will be officially ordained as a CSL Minister at the CSL convention in Charleston, South Carolina, next February 19th, 2024. Rev. Marilyn will remain as our staff minister and Director of Education. We are so very blessed to have her as part of our leadership at the Portland Center for Spiritual Living.

The Portland Center for Spiritual Living is a vibrant brick and mortar community with a strong Virtual presence. Together we can make the world a better place. You are an integral part of our beloved community and are deeply appreciated!

Much Love, Light and Blessings,

Nadine Moller, RScP
Board President