

# PRactical WISDOM

THE NEWSLETTER

BY AND FOR PRACTITIONERS

Vol. 3 No. 1 Summer 2012

## Letter from the Chair

Linda Watson, RScP Emeritus, Practitioner Council Chair

Greetings,

Trusting that you are enjoying these summer months, spending time with family and friends, traveling and having great adventures. It was great to see many of you at the Asilomar conference, where our Centers for Spiritual Living family gathered for a week to "Experience Love's Connections" on the beautiful Monterey Peninsula.

Since we initially convened in February at the New Orleans convention, the Practitioner Council has been busy establishing a strong foundation and building our esprit de corps. We began our journey with visioning and prayer, receiving guidance regarding our direction, scope of work and priorities. It

became clear that communication among Practitioners is a high priority. This led to creating a team of Communication Coordinators, led by Baji Daniels and Marianne Giblin. Shortly after the Google site was launched, our Council received training from the Centers for Spiritual Living Technical Support team and we continue to explore the potentials of the Google site and other communication capabilities. Our PRACTical Wisdom newsletter is continuing under the guidance of Council member, Baji Daniels, along with the volunteer newsletter staff, Laura Adler and Shelly Walker.

Our Practitioner Representative Program, created by former PLC members Detra Johnson and Mary McNabb, is being moved forward by Jeanette Vinek and Susan Pahnke who are bringing great enthusiasm to the PR program. It has become quite a considerable project now that the regions have expanded from 6 to 13. In addition to establishing connections with the existing Practitioner Representatives (PRs), Jeanette and Susan are interviewing PRs to fill the additional seven regions. If serving in this capacity calls to you, read their article in this newsletter for more information.

During the Council's monthly conference calls, we are joined by Deborah Gauvreau, the Leadership Council liaison to the Practitioner Council, and Annie Glasgow, the Practitioner Services Coordinator. In our most recent report, Annie shared that about 200 Practitioners are in the process of being licensed!

There are exciting and wonderful things going on at many of our Centers. During a recent visit to Chicago, I spent time with the Bodhi Center for Spiritual Living community, where they are celebrating their move into a new home and the licensing of eight new Practitioners. I love visiting our Centers to support Practitioners and Ministers. Please share with us the great things that are happening at your Center and let me know how I can support your community.

As the Chair of the Practitioner Council, I'm honored to serve in this role and find that it requires tremendous support to represent and provide leadership to 3000 Practitioners. I want to acknowledge the dedicated efforts and support from all the Council members. They all lead busy lives and yet create the time to be in service to our Centers for Spiritual Living organization and to Centers for Spiritual Living Practitioners. I'm also grateful for the support of Rev. Gregory Toole, Dr. Judy Morley, Dr. Kenn Gordon, Dr. John Waterhouse and to Camille Conte (Chair of the former United Centers for Spiritual Living Practitioner Leadership Core).

There are more exciting projects in the works which we will continue to share with you. In the meantime, know that we love and support you.

Love and blessings, *Linda*



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# Practitioner Council

**The Practitioner Council's** purpose is to serve all Centers for Spiritual Living Practitioners and to be the vehicle through which Practitioners can serve their organization and each other. We actively seek ways and opportunities to lift, acknowledge, connect and empower Practitioners and to nurture and deepen their personal and professional effectiveness as representatives of Centers for Spiritual Living. The Council works as a resource in partnerships with all Councils in matters pertaining to Practitioners including policies and procedures, education and professional standards and also serves as a resource to the World Ministry of Prayer.

**We value** holding the highest vision of Practitioners and their work in our organization and the world, building deep community among all Practitioners through service, clear and transparent communication, spiritual practices, leadership opportunities and annual events. We also value harmonious and meaningful partnerships between Practitioners and Ministers.

**Our Guiding Principle** is to embody the consciousness of wholeness and oneness through daily spiritual practices so as to be the place where the Centers for Spiritual Living Global Vision is revealed and demonstrated. The cornerstone of our work is prayer. We align ourselves with our organization's vision, culture, shared values, guiding practices and processes while acknowledging Spirit as our ultimate guiding principle.

**The Leadership Structure** includes an annual election of four Council member officers: Chair, Vice-chair, Treasurer and Secretary. Council members elect officers annually at or following the February conference. The Practitioner Council is funded with 15% of the relicensing fees.

We have met many of you at gatherings and conferences—please allow us to introduce ourselves.

## **LINDA WATSON, RScP**

Practitioner Council Chair  
Practitioner Emeritus  
Southern California

Linda is a Practitioner Emeritus, inspirational speaker and yoga instructor by profession and passion, working at the intersection of spirituality and wellness for 30 years.

As a full-time Practitioner for 20 years, serving at the Agape International Spiritual Center and as a United Centers for Spiritual Living Global Heart Practitioner, Linda has provided spiritual guidance in a variety of settings, from medical offices to movie sets. Her professional work was recognized in 2009 when she received the United Centers for Spiritual Living Professional Practitioner Award and most recently as the recipient of the 2012 Practitioner Meritorious Award.

She travels extensively, supporting and inspiring Practitioners, Ministers and their communities, presenting professional development programs, leadership training and



Images: Courtesy Linda Watson  
New Practitioner Council in NOLA I-r: Marianne Giblin, Jeanette Vinek, Baji Daniels, Linda Watson, Deborah Ford, Susan Pahnke

retreats. As a founding member of Agape, she shares her insights about creating dynamic, successful spiritual community. Trained and mentored by the luminous visionaries Dr. Michael Beckwith and Dr. Jean Houston, their wisdom & teachings have guided her path and are woven into her work. Linda spent the past four years serving on the United Centers for Spiritual Living Practitioner Leadership Core (PLC) and was one of six members of the United Centers for Spiritual Living/International Centers for Spiritual Living Practitioner Integration Design Team. As Chair of the new Centers for Spiritual Living Practitioner Council, she is honored to be providing leadership for Centers for Spiritual Living Practitioners while carrying the legacy and accomplishments forward of the previous PLC. Linda resides in southern California, has two adult children and spends as much time as possible on her yoga mat and the dance floor, celebrating life!

## **BAJI DANIELS, RScP**

Practitioner Council Vice-Chair  
Spiritual Living Center of Atlanta  
Atlanta, Georgia

Baji was born, raised and educated in the San Francisco, CA, bay area. She earned a doctorate in Education from the University of San Francisco, specializing in Organization and Leadership. Professionally, her career began at Contra Costa College where she was employed as an English instructor and administrator for 30 years. In 1999, she retired and moved to Atlanta, GA, where she currently resides.

When marriage and children were her life priorities, she still wanted more. One day, as the song says, "I had a Revelation . . ." That's when she realized she needed a higher life purpose. She found it in 1993 when introduced to Religious Science by Rev. Eloise Oliver at the East Bay Church of Religious Science in Oakland. Later she continued studying with Rev. Paul Gonyea at the Spiritual Living Center of Atlanta. In 2007, Baji became a licensed practitioner.

Today, under the inspired leadership of Rev. David Ault, Baji remains actively involved as co-coordinator of Practitioners at Spiritual Living Center of Atlanta. She also



coordinates the monthly "Movies & More" series and works with the Care Ministry. Her involvement extends beyond Spiritual Living Center of Atlanta and includes active participation with Agape Atlanta, a spiritual community study group.

Baji is devoted to the practices of tai chi and qigong, not just as exercise, but as a way of life. In addition to studying calligraphy and working on her book, she lives on purpose as a Conscious Practitioner. She is blessed with a loving mate who understands, encourages and accompanies her on this spiritual pathway.

### **DEBORAH E. FORD, RScP**

Practitioner Council Treasurer  
Center of Peace  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Deborah believes and knows in her heart that she is here at this time and at this place to serve in any and every way that is available to her and that allows the expression of Spirit to show through her, as her.

She is a charter member of The Center of Peace and has served joyfully in many different capacities. She was the Steward Coordinator on the C.O.R.E. for 6 years, the Practitioner Co-Coordinator for 2 years, and the Bookstore Manager for 7 years. Deborah served on the United Centers for Spiritual Living Nomination Core Council for 2 years. Currently she is focusing her energy in facilitating a support group for care givers which she initiated in January 2010.

But it has been in her 8 years of service as a Practitioner that she has expressed what is her soul's true mission and purpose. Whether Deborah is teaching SOM classes, counseling a client in a session, or facilitating the Care Givers' Support Group, she knows it is a gift, an honor and a joy to help others and witness the expansion of their consciousness as they learn to embody SOM principles and apply these principles to their lives.

### **MARIANNE GIBLIN, RScP**

Practitioner Council Secretary  
Center for Spiritual Living Simi Valley  
Southern California

Marianne's path in Religious Science began at the Agape International Spiritual Center in the early 1990's. She currently serves on Dr. Jim Lockard's spiritual leadership team at Center for Spiritual Living Simi Valley, CA. where she teaches, facilitates the Visioning Team and is initiating an Animal Ministry. She served concurrently as a World Ministry of Prayer call center Practitioner until it closed in June 2011.

A deep love of community and a passion to empower people to help make the world a better place is often how Spirit expresses as Marianne. Her community service highlights in leadership, organizational and fund development, including serving in New Orleans's first African-American Mayoral administration and as a member of the management team that publicly acquired, transformed and secured a permanent funding source for the New Orleans public transportation system. She's been a leader in

the downtown revitalization movement in California and throughout North America, co-founding and/or consulting with non-profit organizations to restore the well-being of downtowns through the creation of business improvement districts. Marianne has been blessed to serve on, develop and work with many boards, commissions, councils, committees and governing bodies in the non-profit, public and private sectors that are local to international in scope.

Today she's a professional Practitioner teaching wisdom, abundance and transformation and a communications adviser and mentor to heart based entrepreneurs, coaches and practitioners who want to serve more people by being seen as the "go to" expert in their field.

### **SUSAN PAHNKE, RScP**

Center for Spiritual Awareness  
Dallas, Texas

Susan has been a Licensed Practitioner since August 2004. She discovered New Thought in Dallas in 1994 and shortly thereafter discovered Science of Mind and the Centers for Spiritual Living. Her life has been in constant bloom since.

She became a member of Centers for Spiritual Living in 1998, taking classes immediately and has not stopped since. Susan also served on several volunteer teams, including Chair of the Vision Core. Currently she is the facilities manager at the Center for Spiritual Awareness, Dallas, and she loves spending time at her church home.

Serving Centers for Spiritual Living as a Licensed Practitioner fills her heart with gratitude and Joy! She loves supporting others in knowing the spiritual truth of their precious selves, when they can't see it for themselves. Susan's "shoot from the hip" style is a pure blast of Love and Compassion. She also enjoys assisting in others' spiritual growth by teaching classes, leading the Visioning process, and assisting people in forming sanghas.

As the owner of SIMS (Spirit Is My Source) Construction and Maintenance, and SIMS custom picture framing, Susan loves working with people to create their heart's desire. Being a farm girl from Wisconsin who loves the outdoors, she enjoys spending time with family and friends. She shares her life with Petra and Jason in the suburbs of Dallas. When not out in the paradise of their backyard, you can either find her at her Center, in her workshop or, as she puts it, "out goofing off with friends."

### **JEANETTE VINEK, RScP**

Centre for Spiritual Living Kelowna  
Kelowna, British Columbia

Jeanette graduated with a BScN from the University of Alberta in 1990. Her 20-year nursing career has spanned many practice areas including inpatient acute care, home care, administration and education. She received her MHSn from Deakin University in 2007. It was through her graduate studies that she began to explore the philosophy of caring science and conscious choice. In 2006, she began taking Science of Mind classes and found these teachings were a

perfect fit for what she was exploring through her graduate research and helped give meaning and make sense of her experiences. She received her Religious Science Practitioner License in 2010. Jeanette currently teaches in the BSN program at the University of British Columbia Okanagan campus. Her teaching focus is relational practice; teaching nursing students the principles of presence, mindfulness, awareness, ethics, and conscious choice. These concepts are all grounded in her understanding of Universal Principles. She was invited to co-author the Spiritual Health chapter in Potter/Perry, *Canadian Fundamentals of Nursing*, (5<sup>th</sup> ed.) textbook. She frequently guest lectures and has delivered several keynote addresses to Canada's Health Authority. She is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Centre for Spiritual Living Kelowna and is the Chair of the Education Committee of the Centre for Spiritual Living Kelowna. This Education Committee is currently working on the development of an Education Institute in Kelowna that will serve the spiritual and secular communities.

### **REV. GREGORY TOOLE**

Director of Member Support and Education  
Centers for Spiritual Living  
Golden, CO

Gregory worked in the computer industry beginning in 1983 as a software developer, eventually earning an MBA from the MIT Sloan School of Management. In the midst of his successful twelve year career, and shortly after completing the SOM Foundational class at East Bay Church of Religious Science in Oakland, CA, Gregory felt a strong pull to be of greater service to humanity. He left his corporate career in 1995 to work with youth as the Executive Director of the National Youth Enterprise Institute, a non-profit for youth development in Oakland.

In 1998 he became a licensed Religious Science Practitioner and in 2001 he entered the ministerial training program of Holmes Institute of Consciousness Studies. He became the Senior Minister for the Center for Spiritual Living in Davis, CA and established a vibrant community and graduated their first class of Practitioners.

In 2008 Gregory accepted the position of Ecclesiastical Leader for United Centers for Spiritual Living where he oversaw and led the activities and programs serving its centers, Practitioners and Ministers.

Upon completion of the integration of Centers for Spiritual Living, Gregory took on the role of Director of Member Support and Education where he is responsible for Education, Licensing and Credentialing, Youth, Regional Support Coordinators, Global Services, World Ministry of Prayer and the Practitioner Council.

He also expresses his spiritual gifts as a writer, speaker, teacher and counselor. He is currently nearing completion of his first book, entitled, "A Simple Guide to Planetary Transformation," which gives practical guidance for using one's personal spiritual practices and growth to transform the planet.

### **DEBORAH GAUVREAU, RScP**

Center for Spiritual Living Cape Coral  
Cape Coral, Florida

Originally from upstate New York, Deborah lived in Los Angeles for many years with Emile, her husband. Now in Cape Coral, Florida, Deborah is a Licensed Practitioner and Emile is the Spiritual Director of the Centers for Spiritual Living Cape Coral. Deborah has the privilege of being integrally involved with the Center. She serves as a Practitioner, leads the Center's meta-model program, teaches classes, sees clients as a spiritual counselor and is in her second term on the Board.

Her career began at a community hospital that grew to a five state health system while she was part of the leadership team. It was here she developed a passion for governance, leadership, social architecture, sustainability and teamwork.

Deborah has served in executive roles in nonprofits including at the Agape International Spiritual Center and she has served on many boards. Realizing the importance of the personal and interpersonal aspects of creating change, Deborah studied practical psychology which led her deeper onto her spiritual path.

With an ah-ha that every person's/organization's life is transformed through grace, Deborah became a Practitioner in 2003 to open her awareness and conscious connection of God's presence in every corner of her life and work.

Currently, Deborah works with foundations and nonprofit agencies to build the capacity of organizations to efficiently and effectively achieve their mission. She has a Master's in Public Health in Human Ecology and a Master's in Clinical Psychology.

Debra enjoys the tropical life of Florida, kayaking and ballroom dancing and her two parrots, and her terrier, Marco.

### **ANNIE GLASGOW, RScP**

Practitioner Services Coordinator  
Centers for Spiritual Living  
Golden, CO

Annie started in Religious Science when she came home to take care of her mother following a stroke. She was just going to take her mother to church, but she got hooked and started classes immediately. It was everything she had been looking for, but didn't know it!

When her mother made her transition, Annie started working at United Centers for Spiritual Living – then United Church of Religious Science – in June, 1999. She also started Practitioner training that year and has now been a licensed Practitioner for ten years, holding the position of Practitioner Services Coordinator for five years. Her job is changing as we move into implementing the new Policies & Procedures for the new Centers for Spiritual Living organization and it's an exciting time at International Headquarters.

She is responsible for the Practitioner licensing and renewal process, changes in status and maintaining a current data base. Basically, Annie does everything related to Practitioners. \*

# Community, Communications and Practice Development

## Top Priorities at New Orleans 2012 Practitioner Mini-Gathering

Marianne Giblin, RScP, Practitioner Council Secretary

The New Orleans 2012 Spiritual Living Convention Practitioners Mini-Gathering welcomed the new Practitioner Council (PC), thanked the outgoing council and highlighted the projects to be carried forward. Half of the gathering was dedicated to colleagues meeting in six regional circles to develop and prioritize ideas for the new Council's focus. The top regional priorities for Practitioners are to:

- Create and deepen community.
- Facilitate training to create thriving professional practices beyond Centers-- locally, internationally and virtually.
- Expand communications.
- Provide continuing education and support curriculum to train Practitioners.

### Community and Connection Face-to-Face in Regions

Creating community and a deeper connection with each other in small face-to-face regional Practitioner gatherings is a top priority for all six regions.

Smaller in-person regional get-togethers, retreats, conferences and networking "just for fun" were events mentioned frequently. Practitioners were invited to connect globally using Skype, Google+, Twitter and by posting photos and bios on the Practitioner Google Site.

### Professional Practice Development to Touch 100 Million Lives

Aligned with Centers for Spiritual Living's global mission to touch 100 million lives, regional circles placed equal importance on professional practice development. Specifically, they want the PC to focus on developing training, networking, best practices, idea and resource sharing to support Practitioners in creating thriving professional practices beyond Centers.

- Expand the Global Communications Network
- Expand external communications about Practitioner services and internally between Practitioners, using social media and promoting searchable online directories.



Image: Courtesy Linda Watson

Outgoing United Centers for Spiritual Living Practitioner Leadership Core l-r: Detra Johnson, Linda Watson, Camille Conte, Christine Betts, Mary McNabb and Lynn Frankenberger

- Expand and improve regular, consistent two-way communications networks between practitioners and Continuing Education for Practitioners & Training Curriculum

### Practitioner Council Listens and Responds

The new Practitioner Council continues to listen and respond to feedback from the field and is working together to create strategies to accomplish this work. Jeanette Vinek and Susan Pahnke serve as Regional Practitioner Representative Program Co-Coordinator. They are continuing to support the existing six regions, while expanding Practitioner Representation in seven new regions. This community-building network is designed to create connection among all Practitioners in their regions, with the Council and the Centers for Spiritual Living organization.

Marianne Giblin and Baji Daniels serve as Communications Co-Coordinator. This new program is designed to promote global communications networks, materials and strategies that create greater connection. The proposed purpose statement and scope of work also focuses on promoting professional Practitioner services.

The PC's voice is now present in the areas of curriculum development, training, continuing education and licensing. Linda Watson serves as PC liaison to the Practitioner Education Sub-committee chaired by Dr. Lynn Connelly and Dr. Arleen Bump. Jeanette Vinek serves as PC liaison to the Ministers and Practitioners Licensing Committee. \*

## Regional Practitioner Representatives Opportunities

Jeanette Vinek, RScP & Susan Pahnke, RScP

As we are now well into our "new" organization we are continuing to expand and learn and grow together. The Regional Practitioner Representative Program has expanded from 6 to 13 regions. Regional Practitioner Representatives (PR's) act as a key communication liaison between Practitioners in the field and the Centers for Spiritual Living Practitioner Council. They assist in building community among the Practitioners. PRs are also a part of the Regional Support Teams. Regional Support Teams are led by a Regional Support Coordinator and include a Practitioner Representative, Visioning Facilitator, Youth Program Support Coordinator, Training Coordinator, Laity Representative, and a Conferences and Events Representative.

As we grow our team of Regional Practitioner Representatives, the existing group of PRs is willing to support and provide mentorship to the PRs appointed to the new regions.

The Regional Practitioner Representative Program is seeking Practitioners who are called to a higher level of service. If you are interested in more information on this program you are invited to contact Jeanette Vinek at [jeanettef@telus.net](mailto:jeanettef@telus.net)



# Vision and Practice: Embodying the Divine

Judy Blaise, RScP

**T** rue to Ernest's declaration to be "open at the top," our Santa Fe Center for Spiritual Living [www.santafeCentersforSpiritualLiving.org](http://www.santafeCentersforSpiritualLiving.org) joined with the Santa Fe Harmony Center to offer a spiritual retreat that invited "you to open your heart and mind to the energy of creation through the energetic partnership of shamanic traditions and Science of Mind spirituality." I was deeply honored to co-facilitate this retreat with two masterful shamanic practitioners, Jim and Jennifer Kinney. They are both active members of our Center in the music department, are on track for Practitioner training and Jennifer serves as President of our Board. For a treat, visit Jim and Jennifer's website, <http://santafeharmonycenter.com>

Over the span of a Thursday evening through Sunday afternoon, this retreat offered the space for personal healing and transformation and powerful healing intentionality for our planet and fellow beings. The physical space was sacred ground in the Cerrillos hills just outside of Santa Fe and our meeting space was a geodesic dome, affording the sense of Circle – infinite yet contained. We opened and closed with Visioning. This gave us the opportunity to align with Spirit's highest vision for our personal retreat and then to be gifted with the vision for our transformed lives as we left the space of the retreat and brought the vision into our lives and into the world going forward.

As the Four Directions were invoked on our first evening, we entered into the first step of SMT, recognizing Spirit as everywhere present, all of the time. The next morning, we stepped into this Oneness that was



invoked the night before and as we journeyed into the Lower World, or subconscious realm, we brought the light of consciousness into the hidden places of our psyche and united with our higher self to receive the gifts that were to assist us in our continued spiritual journey in this life time.

In the afternoon, there was an experiential demonstration of Spiritual Mind Treatment, utilizing the SOM Symbol and its cosmic understanding of the creation process. Both Visioning and SMT are elegantly aligned with the shamanic process of Journeying and similarly bridge the healing processes of the personal and the collective. I was deeply moved by the appreciation expressed by the participants for the powerful combination of the two modalities of Shamanism and Science of Mind.

Over the next two days, we journeyed to the Middle World, the unseen conscious realm, and then the Upper akin to the third step of Treatment, where we speak our word,

allowing the clarity of "conscious dreaming" to flow through our experience. Here we embody the power of intention. In the journey to the Upper World, we experience our Oneness with the Divine, fully embodying our Divinity. We fully surrender to the power of this Divine Source and allow ourselves to be infused with Higher Purpose. Our last journey was one for the Collective, where we Vision for our world. The collective Vision was astounding in its cohesiveness and its embodiment of Peace on Earth: it fully echoed our Global Heart Vision, even though very few participants had a conscious knowledge of that Vision and only about a third of us knew about the Science of Mind.

Having previously experienced very few Shamanic journeys myself, it was a great opportunity for me to expand and deepen my spiritual connection to Oneness on a level that felt both cellular and cosmic. Entering into the unknown, with the safety of masterful guides and an open and receptive community, I was moved further along in my commitment to live my Divine Purpose 24/7. Anchored in visioning and prayer, my life continues to expand and deepen, and my life as a SOM Practitioner soars beyond



my human concepts.

On Saturday afternoon, we were gifted with a trip to "Stardreaming," a 22-acre sacred labyrinth temple complex for the new millennium, remarkably created through James Jereb, an amazing visionary artist. This too was a transformational experience, expanding our spiritual connection exponentially. I could not do justice to this sacred site, so I encourage you to visit the website to get an idea of the power of this place. I will simply say that I only scratched the surface of what is available there. The two places I visited that impacted me deeply were the Temple of St. Germaine of the Violet Flame and the Labyrinth of the Thirteen Grandmothers.

And if all the above was not enough, each night we had a Fire Ring in the Incan tradition, again, for personal and planetary healing, transformation and renewal.

# Review of James Redfield's "The Twelfth Insight"

Dr. Baji Daniels, RScP

It's interesting how much about my life continues to shift as a result of living the Science of Mind philosophy. Twenty years ago the majority of my reading material consisted of novels. I was active in a book club that met monthly and kept up with new novelists as well as some of the literary greats from the past.

Fast forward to 2012. I recently completed James Redfield's novel "The Twelfth Insight: The Hour of Decision."

Prior to this action-packed adventure, most of my reading in recent years had clearly been leaning toward spiritual philosophy, not fiction. So what is it about *The Twelfth Insight* that grabbed my attention so viscerally and drew me into its fast-paced adventure?

So much talk among the mass public this year has centered on the end of the Mayan calendar, with predictions that December 2012 will mark the end of time. Such apocalyptic fears make Redfield's book all the more appealing, for he brings an expanded spiritual consciousness. Our world is not ending and humans are not becoming extinct. However something is dying. The old ways are crumbling, dismantling conflict and competition, and shifting to cooperation and compassion. We welcome and celebrate this shift as Redfield's story emphasizes how we

can create and sustain synchronicity by tuning in to our Oneness. The Insights he reveals in this book prepare us for a new world.

From the book's beginning scenes I was catapulted into the high energy vortex of Sedona, and finally thrust into a potential cataclysmic show-down on Mount Sinai. Each unfolding Insight leads to the next one, until all twelve are eventually revealed.

Redfield's other novels include *The Celestine Prophecy*, *The Tenth Insight: Holding the Vision* and *The Secret of Shambhala: In Search of the Eleventh Insight*.

James and Salle Redfield have established a global prayer project online. They believe that "**Raising our consciousness,**

**individually and collectively, is the key to lifting our planet above a sense of fear and separation.**" On a bi-weekly basis they offer prayer, meditation and discussion. For more information, go to:

<http://www.celestinevision.com/telewebcast.html>

I must admit it was interesting to be re-immersed into the world of fiction and I am choosing to stay open and discover other novels that may grip my attention as powerfully as this one. ✨

*Each person has influence on the people they contact. We can reach other people who are still in fear and anger, distraction and addiction: we can reach those people through a contagion. Consciousness is contagious.*

James Redfield

So much of how we are of service to the world has to do with how we belong to the world. The ultimate service of human life is a kind of vitality and giftedness that comes out of a true sense of belonging.

The universe is holding its breath waiting for you to take your place. No matter how humble that may be, or how small that place may be, there is no other part of creation that can substitute for you belonging to the world.

by David Whyte, poet extraordinaire

VISION/PRACTICE - Continued from page 6

These gatherings were, indeed, deeply experienced by all, on many levels.

There were many more very rich experiences during this Retreat, which I do not have the space to describe. But know that the wisdom and power of Science of Mind truly is in the forefront of the shift taking place in consciousness on our planet, and for this I am deeply grateful. Ho. And so it is. ✨



Judy Blaise, RScP, aspires to a life embodying the sense of Oneness with all beings. As a Religious Science Practitioner she is devoted to accessing her spiritual source as inspiration for healing and growth, combining spiritual technologies with therapeutic methods to assist others in their healing process. Judy serves on the Centers for Spiritual Living Visioning Core, opening to Spirit's Highest Idea for Centers for Spiritual Living, and all beings everywhere. She loves teaching SOM Classes and leading groups in Meditation and Visioning. She engages in ceremonial rites of passage, believing that ceremony opens the space for deep healing.



# God is the Only Employer

Christine Betts, RScP

My background is in Human Resources. When I became a Practitioner in 1994, I realized that I could use my practitioner skills in the office every day. One of my responsibilities was to hire people for the credit union where I was employed. I came across so many people who did not like their job or who were willing to take any job, even one they clearly disliked. My goal was to find the right person for the right job. Everyone, from the individual family to the corporation, benefits if a person actually works in a job he or she loves. My passion for matching people with a job he or she loves has carried over into my work as a Practitioner.

Ten years ago, my practitioner friend, Bill, and I recognized that creating an unemployment support group at our Center would benefit not only the congregation, but might even give us the opportunity to sneak in teaching spiritual practices and helping people realize spiritual truth. We encourage our group members to work with a Practitioner or Minister on their own, but the added support of people in the same situation has been priceless. We remind people that God is the ONLY employer and not to be afraid of 10% unemployment rate because that means that we have a 90% employment rate!

You do not need experience in Human Resources to start your own employment group. Our format is simple, we start with networking, then do a short meditation centered around a topic related to employment (interviews, resume, etc) then discuss the meditation. If you choose to start your own group, there are many resources on the internet as well as published materials to discuss in your group. One of our favorites is Tama Kieves and her book [This Time I Dance](#). She is a local career coach whose book tells her story of being unhappy in her successful position as a lawyer, so she took the leap of faith and is now doing work she loves, including writing, coaching and speaking.

Another great resource we recommend is [The Job Hunter's Spiritual Companion](#) by William Carver. His book offers daily spiritual practices for people looking for a new opportunity.

Of course the greatest resource we have is the people who attend the group themselves. The stories we have gathered over the years are inspirational. For example, we had a woman with a background in accounting, although she was always interested in interior design. She found volunteer opportunities that gave her experience. She was concerned because she did not have a degree, but kept believing in her dream using affirmations and visioning and prayer. She applied for a part time cashier position at a home improvement store and they called to interview her for an unadvertized Interior Designer position, which she was hired for.

We had a piano teacher move there from the east coast. She felt she was too old and it would be difficult to start private piano tutoring during a recession. She started to apply the spiritual principles we discussed and she soon not only had a thriving private practice, but a couple of years later when I ran into her at church she had just been invited to China to be a piano tutor. That might never have ever happened had she stayed stuck in fear or taken a "safe" job.

As Practitioners, we know the power of Science of Mind. I have been blessed to help other people use this power to find fulfilling careers. If you would like to start an employment group at your center, I would be happy to talk with you. It is a great way to bring people into the teachings of the Science of Mind. My email address is [cobetts63@comcast.net](mailto:cobetts63@comcast.net)

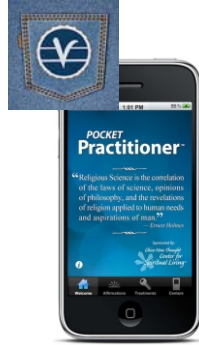
*Christine Betts has been a licensed Practitioner at Mile Hi Church since 1994. She has also served on the UCenters for Spiritual Living Practitioner Leadership Core and on the Mile Hi Church Practitioner*

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## A New App for Practitioners

**P**ractitioners are becoming more willing to use technology, particularly when it can benefit them in their spiritual practice. That's why we are pleased to learn that Rev. Duchess Dale at Chico New Thought Centers for Spiritual Living, recently developed a new iPhone application called **POCKET PRACTITIONER**. Users can access pre-written affirmations and spiritual



mind treatments. They can also follow the format and create their own. Another added feature is a tab called "Centers" that guides users to a Centers for Spiritual Living near them. iPhone users with iOS5 or higher can get this application, and plans are underway to build a version for Android users. Information, contact [revduchess@chiconewthought.org](mailto:revduchess@chiconewthought.org)

## Action Meditation

Elisa Pfister, RScP

*"However many holy words you read,  
however many you speak, what good will  
they do you if you do not act on them?"*

—Buddha

**T**hinking things through over and over, over processing, reflecting and assessing the words can go on and on...but if we never take a step or a leap of faith, then what?

Thought is creative, not paralyzing, so whatever you are thinking about, just do it! Create your new life or...?

Taking action always empowers you to your bigger, higher dreams and it feels so good. It feels better than obsessing and processing.

Jump in and see how it feels. Trust the process of life. Test the waters. You can be pleasantly surprised. You can always change your mind if you don't like it. Many try to keep the life they have but change is inevitable. You might as well go with the flow.

Affirmation: My thoughts are of Infinite Creativity, so I create a brand new day!

Life is abundantly good and I rejoice in it.

*Love always,*

Elisa Pfister, RScP  
Center for Spiritual Living Carson City  
Carson City, Nevada

Elisa facilitates book studies and Spanish language programs.



## Practitioner License Renewal Continuing Licensing and Education Units

**T**he Leadership Council approved the Centers for Spiritual Living Practitioner License Renewal Continuing Licensing Units (CLU) and Continuing Education Units (CEU) policy recommended by the Ministers and Practitioners Licensing Committee in June.

The CLU and CEU category menu includes a strong invitation to Practitioners licensed prior to 2012 to take the newest practitioner curriculum offered by Centers for Spiritual Living to up-level their skills and knowledge base and be better prepared as our teachings move into the world. Specifically, 250 CLU's and 45 CEU's are required in each two-year renewal period. See full license renewal requirements at:

[http://www.unitedcentersforspiritualliving.org/Program\\_GEMS/pdf/practitioners/Practitioner\\_Renewal\\_CLU\\_and\\_CLE\\_requirements\\_eff\\_2013.pdf](http://www.unitedcentersforspiritualliving.org/Program_GEMS/pdf/practitioners/Practitioner_Renewal_CLU_and_CLE_requirements_eff_2013.pdf)

## Practitioners Gather at Asilomar

Linda Watson, RScPEmeritus

**T**he beautiful Monterey Peninsula provided the backdrop for the annual Centers for Spiritual Living summer conference, where we spent a wonderful week at the spectacular ocean side Asilomar Conference Center.



Asilomar State Beach

Image: Courtesy Linda Watson

The Practitioner Council hosted an afternoon gathering where 60 Practitioners had the opportunity to connect with each other at our "family reunion," the theme for the gathering. There were Practitioners in attendance from coast to coast and international representatives, as well. Following presentations from members of the Council about the Practitioner Representative Program and our Communications program, Rev Gregory Toole, CSL Director of Member Support and Education, stopped by to address the group.

We then met in small groups to reconnect with our 'long lost cousins,' establishing and enjoying our connections. The time we spent together was filled with joy, laughter and celebration. ❁

## September 2012 Practitioner Quarterly Conference Calls

<i>Region</i>	<i>Area Covered</i>	<i>June Quarterly Practitioner Teleconference Call</i>	<i>Regional Practitioner Representative</i>
<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>2</b></p>	<p>S. CA &amp; HI ----- Los Angeles Area</p>	<p><b>Saturday Sept. 15, 2012</b> 4 pm PT / 5 pm MT 6 pm CT / 7 pm ET Conference Line: <a href="tel:1-218-862-6420">1-218-862-6420</a> Code # 7577868</p>	<p>Pat Gentry <a href="mailto:patgentry@earthlink.net">patgentry@earthlink.net</a></p>
<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Part of 11 (USA)</b></p> <p><b>12/13</b></p>	<p>San Francisco Area ----- USA-CT-MA-MS-NH- NJ-NY-PA-RI-VT ----- International</p>	<p><b>Saturday Sept. 22, 2012</b> 10 am PT / 11 am MT 12 Noon CT / 1 pm ET Conference Line: <a href="tel:1-605-562-3000">1-605-562-3000</a> Code # 127008</p>	<p>Richard Watts <a href="mailto:richardwwatts@gmail.com">richardwwatts@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>8</b></p>	<p>N. CA &amp; OR ----- AR-IL-IA-KS-LA-MN- MO-ND-OK-SD-WI</p>	<p><b>Saturday Sept. 15, 2012</b> 10 am PT / 11 am MT 12 Noon CT / 1 pm ET Conference Line: <a href="tel:1-661-673-8600">1-661-673-8600</a> Code # 992928</p>	<p>John Ryan <a href="mailto:rscjohn@sbcglobal.net">rscjohn@sbcglobal.net</a></p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Part of 11 (Canada)</b></p>	<p>USA - AK - MT-WA Western Canada AL, BC, MB, SK ----- Eastern Canada NS-ON</p>	<p><b>Saturday Sept. 22, 2012</b> 1 pm PT / 2 pm MT 3 pm CT / 4 pm ET Conference Line: <a href="tel:1-605-475-5900">1-605-475-5900</a> Code # 7475374</p>	<p>Val Benedict <a href="mailto:auntiewow@hotmail.com">auntiewow@hotmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>7</b></p>	<p>AZ-ID-NV-NM-UT ----- TX - CO</p>	<p><b>Saturday Sept. 15, 2012</b> 1 pm PT / 2 pm MT 3 pm CT / 4 pm ET Conference Line: <a href="tel:1-805-360-1000">1-805-360-1000</a> Code # 910654</p>	<p>Gregory Gardner <a href="mailto:abqgent87144@yahoo.com">abqgent87144@yahoo.com</a></p>
<p><b>9</b></p>	<p>AL-FL-GA</p>	<p><b>Saturday Sept. 15, 2012</b> 7 am PT / 8 am MT 9 am CT / 10 am ET Conference Line: <a href="tel:1-712-432-0850">1-712-432-0850</a> Code # 836448</p>	<p>Randy Sutherland <a href="mailto:randy@southwrite.com">randy@southwrite.com</a></p>
<p><b>10</b></p>	<p>DE-DC-IN-KY-MD- NC-OH-SC-TN-VA</p>	<p><b>Saturday Sept. 22, 2012</b> 7 am PT / 8 am MT 9 am CT / 10 am ET Conference Line: <a href="tel:1-712-432-0850">1-712-432-0850</a> Code # 836448</p>	<p>Charlie Sheppard <a href="mailto:charliesheppard@skyrunner.net">charliesheppard@skyrunner.net</a></p>



# PRACTICAL WISDOM



## ***PRACTical Wisdom*** **Editorial Staff**

COORDINATOR  
Baji Daniels, RScP

COORDINATOR LIAISON  
Christine Betts, RScP

MANAGING EDITOR  
Shelly Walker, RScP

CONTENT EDITORS  
Linda Watson, RScP  
Marianne Giblin, RScP

GRAPHICS, LAYOUT COPY  
EDITOR  
Laura Adler, RScP

### ***Mission***

The mission of *PRACTical Wisdom* is to expand the support for all Practitioners worldwide and be written for Practitioners by Practitioners. The goal of this newsletter is to bring together all Practitioners and to create a bond of community, consciousness and upliftment. Participation is vital to its success. If you've never considered yourself a writer, that's okay. Simply share your thoughts and ideas in your best prose. We trust your Divine Nature to write it beautifully through you.

### ***Purpose***

The intention of the Practitioner newsletter, known as PRACTical Wisdom, is to be a communication forum in which articles of interest, education, support and information are disseminated to all Practitioners on a quarterly basis. It is a publication created, written and published by Practitioners.

## ***Guidelines for Submitting Articles for Publication***

### ***Article Submissions***

We invite you to submit articles of approximately 600 to 800 words that you believe will be pertinent to your fellow Practitioners and their practices, activities, education, support and information. Please submit articles as Rich Text Format (.rtf) files.

Articles and poetry, written by active Centers for Spiritual Living Practitioners who are in good standing and who are not also ministers, will be considered for publication. Editors/publishers will review and determine which articles best fit in each publication and will notify the author via email. We wish to include a photograph and short biography of you with your article, please submit both of these as well.

Because *PRACTical Wisdom* is intended to support and uplift Practitioners, not to sell goods or services, we have established the following guidelines for an announcement to be published in this newsletter:

- Pertinent to a Practitioner's practice such as workshops, retreats and events
- Activities sponsored by a regional Practitioner core, or a Centers for Spiritual Living community
- Outside events, aligned with SOM principles such as Centers for Spiritual Living sponsored events for Practitioners, of interest to the national Practitioner community

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### ***Photographs and illustrations***

We invite you to share images you find to be inspiring and appropriate for the article you're submitting. All photographs and illustrations must be unencumbered by copyright issues or you must obtain proper permissions before submittal. All such art must be .jpg files, minimally 200 dpi. Please feel free to ask the editorial staff for help.

***Submit all articles to: Centers for Spiritual Living  
cslpracnewsletter@yahoo.com***

### ***Centers for Spiritual Living Practitioner Council, Publisher***

Linda Watson, Chair — [lindajoy99@aol.com](mailto:lindajoy99@aol.com)

Baji Daniels, Vice-Chair — [baji@bellsouth.net](mailto:baji@bellsouth.net)

Deborah Ford, Treasurer — [deborahford14@gmail.com](mailto:deborahford14@gmail.com)

Marianne Giblin, Secretary — [marianne@mariannegiblin.com](mailto:marianne@mariannegiblin.com)

Susan Pahnke, Member — [hymnzmom@yahoo.com](mailto:hymnzmom@yahoo.com)

Jeanette Vinek, Member — [jeanettef@telus.net](mailto:jeanettef@telus.net)