

NEWSLETTER JANUARY, 2016

When pondering on the vastness of the cosmos please keep in mind that it goes even farther inward from where you now sit, than outward.

Yeah, you're deep.
Mike Dooley

Today marks the beginning of my second year as your minister and it's been an incredibly rewarding year for me. I love my job and love each and every one of you! You have been such a great support to me this past year as we went through so very many changes.

I send my heart-felt blessings to you for a truly meaningful New Year! May you be blessed with all the wondrous gifts your heart desires, and may the afterglow of Christmas live on in your hearts through all the months ahead.

We in Religious Science are embarking upon an exciting new time in our history. Never has our spiritual practice been more important – but we are being urged, world-wide – to treat and move our feet, as the saying goes. This is the year we are being asked to put our words into action – to reach out to the world and demonstrate our love and commitment to Creating a World that Works for Everyone!

Uriel Buchanan wrote:

"It is love that makes existence' sweet, love that builds the nation's, homes and fills the world with all the comforts and luxuries of life. It is the influence of love that refines and elevates the heart and makes sacred the circle of a happy home. Love is as natural as the heart-beat, universal as the law of gravitation, sweet as the perfume of the rose, and beautiful as the dawn. Love is the flame that lights, the eyes with an unfading lustre and paints the cheeks with a magnetic glow. The spirit of love that throbs in every heart enables man to see some ray of light in regions of deepest darkness, some spark of intelligence in the mind of the most ignorant, some gleam of hope in the bosom of the most depraved. The man who is dominated by the spirit of love is like the magnet to fragments of steel; his thoughts are deep and pure; his words are like the music of a stream."

We commonly don't think of ourselves as being the creator of world peace, but we are. We are the seed, the soil and the nurturing energy that move all things in life. Our power is the power of Divine Love manifesting through us. Governments are lost in ego and power consciousness and therefore have no real tools with which to create unity and therefore peace. As individualization of the Divine Source, we each have the power of Spirit's Love manifest as us, but we must be the conduit of that love and not the restrictor of that love. We must be the light bringer not the light filter. How we choose to approach each day will determine the love that is shared in the world and how much is withheld.

As Jesus said we can't bring our gift to the alter when we are holding something against our brother (whoever our brother may be) . We must bring peace and love with a clean heart and mind and we have the power to do that. There is a consciousness of love and it knows no duality, it knows only love. As we grow spiritually we begin to embody that consciousness and we bring God's light of truth into the world. Each and every one of us becomes a focal point of loving light and as we do, we create a different energy in our lives and then in the community, then in our region and then the world.

This is our time, together with a quarter of a million other Religious Scientists, to shine our light and our love into the world, and to take action! It's time for each of us to choose something we can do to make a difference and then commit to that! Individually and collectively, we are on a path to a world that works for everyone.

And so it is.

With love,
Carrie

AFFIRMATION FOR JANUARY

My heart is centred in peace and love and I send this vibration out to the world. The world awakens to the truth that Divine Love prevails and the hearts of all humankind are opened to giving and receiving love and to holding the vibration for a world at peace.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Rev. Carrie Hunter has been with us now for one year. Many changes have been made and I am sure we will see more in the coming year. It is all good.

In February we received our official status as a CSL Centre, and held our annual AGM. In April many of us attended the Circle of Love on Quadra Island. This was truly a great experience.

We have enjoyed many social events over the year, several Pot luck lunches (including our summer picnic at Rev. Joanna's and our always successful Christmas Turkey Lunch).

We have had several fundraising events, including our monthly Treasure Table, a goods and services auction, and after obtaining a license from the BC Government, we are able to hold 50/50 draws.

Thanks to our Music Director Louise Eldridge, we held a wonderful concert in October. In September we celebrated our 25th Anniversary as a Centre. That same weekend, we held Rev. Carrie's Installation Ceremony. It was a wonderful evening, with many guests from out of town.

This past month Rev. Carrie introduced our newest program "Cosmic Kids" We look forward to seeing this grow.

Our membership has grown by eleven new members this past year. Welcome to all of you. Our latest new member is Irene Drean. Welcome Irene.

We also said goodbye to two members Norma Schmidt and Thelma Dann. These members moved to other cities in the Province.

Well that is a quick overview of the past year. We now look forward to good things in 2016.

That's all for now.

All is Good.

Love and Blessings
Anne Millar

KOSMIC KIDS

Our Kosmic Kids program has been launched and we are thrilled to have Jessica Lucas lead our children's program. Jessica has a wonderful consciousness and is steeped in our teaching!

If you have children or grandchildren – or even neighbours children who would enjoy this program, do bring them along Sundays for 11 o'clock. The Kosmic Kids meet down in the social room while our service is conducted upstairs.

SPIRITUAL MIND TREATMENT/AFFIRMATIVE PRAYER

Our prayer team has been offering treatment following Sunday services and this is proving to be extremely popular with those attending. Many are reporting exciting results!

We are a prayer-based faith and our professional practitioners are happy to offer this service free of charge on Sundays. For longer sessions and spiritual counselling and coaching, feel free to book an appointment with one of our practitioners/ministers. Speak with them personally about their fees.

REV. CARRIE'S TOPICS FOR JANUARY

January 3 – Just Say Yes!

January 10 – Ask and It is Given

January 17 –Bloom Where You're Planted

January 24 - Free at Last!

January 31 –You are One of a Kind!

NEW VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Phyllis Comrie has taken over the position of Volunteer Coordinator for our Centre. She brings with her a wealth of organization skills and great commitment and we are so grateful for her generous heart!

Phyllis and Rev. Carrie will be approaching you one-on-one during the weeks ahead to discuss volunteer positions with you! It's always a great way to make new friends and to enjoy the bonds of community with others.

MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC!

NELSON IS OFF TO CUBA FOR A FEW MONTHS

Our heartfelt thanks to Nelson Brunanski for the work he has done leading our chorus on Sundays. Nelson is basking in the sun in Cuba and returns to our Centre March 13th.

THANKS TO LOUISE

KUDOS to Louise Eldridge for her dedicated leadership of our music program and her work with so many talented soloists who add such joy to our Sunday celebrations!

Soloists for January

January 3 – Elizabeth Adams

January 10 – Jenny Rhodes

January 17 - Darlene Haynes

January 24 – Merissa Cox

January 31 – Jenny Rhodes

TREASURE TABLE

Our Treasure Table will be offering items for sale for the first two Sundays in December. Bring your treasures along to share. It's a great place to Christmas shop!

POT-LUCK

January has five Sundays, so we will be having our pot-luck lunch on the 31st! It's a great Sunday to bring friends to the Centre – and to bring along your favourite dish to share with everyone!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Co-op Number:* Don't forget to use Michelle Marier's Co-op number when getting gas as the rebate is coming back to the Center. **29857*

Thrifty Foods Gift Cards: A wonderful way to support the financial health of our Centre is to use a Thrifty's Food Card. We have lots of them! Please see Pat Alfke Wright if you don't yet have one. When you load up your card and use it to buy groceries, the CSL Victoria receives 5% of everything you spend!

Pastoral Care Cards: Do you know someone in our congregation who is ill or in need of a pick me up? Contact Jeni Hillier at 250 598-8802 or j.hillier@shaw.ca. She would be happy to send a card.

Prayer Scarves: We provide prayer scarves or shawls to members of our congregation who have lingering illnesses or challenges. Irene Parkinson and Bonnie Youngman have created several of these and they are so appreciated by those who have received them! Rev. Carrie attaches prayers to the scarves before gifting them. If you know of someone with a serious illness who would benefit from one of these gifts, please contact Jeni or Rev. Carrie.

Please note: From time to time we will take pictures or videos of people at services or events to put on our Website or Facebook. Please let us know if you do not want to be included in this.

ONGOING EVENTS

Amazing Grays: This women's spiritual discussion group meets on the 2nd Friday of each month. For information, please contact Christine Rerrie at crerrie@shaw.ca