

Rooted in Spirit: Growing in Gratitude... Growing in Joy



Dr. Ernest Holmes, the founder of Religious Science, wrote with great insight on the subject of gratitude in the *Science of Mind*. Contemporary writer and author of *Spiritual Economics*, Eric Butterworth, expanded on Dr. Holmes' insights, and wrote that God will still provide for us and love us whether we give thanks or not, but it does make a difference for us. Thanksgiving, Butterworth writes, is a causative energy, not just a reactionary emotion. Giving thanks is a state of consciousness that keeps us in an awareness of oneness with divine flow. A grateful heart actually opens the way to the flow and becomes an attractive force drawing to itself great things. Butterworth writes that for us to pray out of a sense of complaint or discouragement compounds our problems. The ungrateful heart, characterized as discouraged, complaining, or covetous levels of thought, will draw to itself limited things.

For us to unify and expand the experience of the divine flow in our lives is to practice gratitude, and to learn to think, live and speak as the apostle Paul suggested: In all things, give thanks.

As we move into the divine flow, and allow it to fully express through us, we grow in our faith of the Infinite, and come to expect our good to continually manifest in our life. Dr. Holmes defines this feeling of anticipation as Joy, an emotion excited by the expectancy of continued good. As the French writer and philosopher Teilhard de Chardin wrote, *Joy is the most infallible sign of the presence of God*.

As 2011 draws to a close, we invite you to join us in giving thanks for this year, and all its gifts. May all the joys of this holiday season fill your heart and your home, that you may know infallibly the presence of God.

With great love and blessings,
Rev. Alice and the Board of Trustees

Dates to Remember

November- Rooted in Spirit: Growing in Gratitude

6th: Rev. Alice Carpenter
13th: Karie Hillery & Band
Everything Pumpkin
18th: Spiritual Cinema, 7 p.m.
20th: B.J. King, R.Sc.P.E.
Thanksgiving Bingo
27th: Rev. Jane Holt
Tree Trimming Party

December - Rooted in Spirit: Growing in Joy

4th: Rev. Mary Jo Sparry
Serendipity Singers
Mrs. Claus' Holiday Food Crafter's Workshop
11th: Rev. Sherry F. McCreary
Forgiveness Workshop
16th: Spiritual Cinema, 7 p.m.
18th: B.J. King, R.Sc.P.E.
25th: Rev. Alice Carpenter
Christmas Service

Everything Pumpkin

Sunday, November 13th

Join us on Sunday, November 13th for *Everything Pumpkin* as the Center for Spiritual Living Los Gatos provides a harvest luncheon. We will feature fall comfort foods and an array of tasty delights highlighting nature's favorite squash – the pumpkin. Make your way through the buffet table for homemade pumpkin bread, hot pumpkin soup, pumpkin cookies, pumpkin ice cream, bagels with pumpkin cream cheese and more – even pumpkin seeds! And you will even get to try *Art Smith's Sweet Potato Salad*. If you don't know who Art Smith is, be sure to attend the luncheon and find out.



Thanksgiving Bingo

Sunday, November 20th



Bingo is back! Sunday, November 20th is the day we will be hosting Bingo games in the fellowship hall beginning at 11:30. Play Thanksgiving bingo as well as diagonal, four corners and caller's choice. The last game will be a blackout bingo for a grand prize.

Laugh at the many jokes and be the first to yell **BINGO** to win one of the many donated prizes. It is so much fun you will want to invite your friends and family for an afternoon of crazy Thanksgiving Bingo and a hilarious time.

For a suggested donation of \$10.00, bingo cards and markers are provided by the Center. A set of bingo cards will be given to each player for all games. You may exchange your cards between games as you wish. Bring snacks to share. A variety beverages will be provided to help make your game playing a fun-filled memorable occasion.

Community Service

Second Harvest Food Bank

October 30th through November 20th



This is the time of harvest, the time for abundance and the time for sharing.

We have so much to be thankful for that our church has decided to share with those who are less fortunate. We will be collecting non-perishable food items through November 20th for the Second Harvest Food Bank. A box for your donations will be available. An alternate way to help would be to make a check out to Second Harvest and leave it in the labeled can at the Usher's Table.

Tree Trimming at CSL

Sunday, November 27th

It's that time of year again – time to decorate our Christmas Tree! We will set up and decorate the tree in the sanctuary on the Sunday after service. We have a wonderful supply of ornaments and lights on hand, so all we need are Santa's helpers. Hot drinks will be served and we welcome finger foods to share. See you there!



The Serendipity Singers Are Back

Sunday, December 4th



The Serendipity Singers are a group of happy people who like to spread joy to all who love music. They will be showcasing their talents at our Sunday

service on December 4th. This talented group has been invited to sing at over 40 New Thought Churches as well as many of the senior centers in the Bay area. We look forward to their Christmas presentation. Invite your friends and family and get into the holiday spirit with the Serendipity Singers.

Mrs. Claus' Holiday Food Crafter's Workshop

Sunday, December 4th

Participate in the *Mrs. Claus' Holiday Food Crafter's Workshop* on Sunday, December 4th at 11:45 am. This creative and fun workshop will be held in the fellowship kitchen, right after service. We will be preparing some creative holiday favorites to enjoy.



Mrs. Claus' Cookbook includes recipes that were developed in her kitchen at the North Pole. Participants, also known as *Santa's Elf Assistants*—that's you, will be preparing Sugarplum Mary's favorite Christmas sandwiches, Alabaster Snowball's Holiday Elf Salad and Santa's favorite drink, the famous Fireside Sipper. Elf Assistants will be in teams of three and will pick a recipe to prepare in our very own holiday kitchen.

Registration for Mrs. Claus' Holiday Food Crafter's Workshop includes recipes and supplies. Elf Assistants are required to follow Mrs. Claus' rules for the kitchen that require washing their hands before touching any food, bringing an apron and to clean up when finished. The suggested donation is \$10 per person.

Workshop: The Freeing Power of Self-Forgiveness for Women

Sunday, December 11th



Once again, we welcome Rev. Sherry F. McCreary as she presents another workshop on forgiveness. Rev. Sherry invites us to remember who we are and will help us to work through any issues we have with self-

forgiving. We will meet after Sunday service. Bring your lunch. The fee for this dynamic workshop is \$20.00.

For more info on Rev. Sherry F. McCreary, read her bio on page 5 of this newsletter.

Christmas Day Service

Sunday, December 25th

Christmas Day falls on Sunday only once every seven or eight years – and this is the year! Rev. Alice will be facilitating a beautiful candle lighting ceremony, and provide us with a holiday message and Christmas blessings. Our Christmas service will be at our regular time of 10:30 a.m. so you'll have the rest of the day to spend with family and friends.



Harpist, Verlene Schermer will join us for our celebration, leading us in the day's carols and sharing some of her own compositions. Please plan to join us and share the warmth and the spirit of the season.

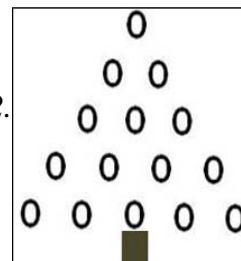
Holiday Song Riddles

What are the titles? (answers below)

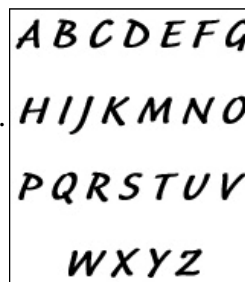
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2.



3.



4.



» Answers on page 7

Upcoming Guest Ministers and Speakers



Reverend Alice Carpenter

Rev. Alice received her ministerial training in Redding where she served as Staff and Assistant Minister for two and a half years. She became Pastor of the Center for Spiritual Discovery in 2001 and was ordained in 2004. She served as co-chair of the RSI Asilomar Conference in 2005. Retired as Pastor of the Center for Spiritual Living-Los Gatos in December 2007, she continues as a member of the Board of Directors. She currently serves as Chairman of the Church Chartering Committee for International Centers for Spiritual Living, and continues to provide guidance and spiritual support to the Los Gatos Center, as well as instruction in Science of Mind principles.

Speaking dates: November 6th, December 25th



Karie Hillery

International recording artist Karie Hillery has spent her life bringing her uplifting music to every imaginable venue worldwide. Her work as a musical *peace ambassador* has grown to include speaking engagements combined with musical performances. Designed to empower and increase awareness, Karie's presentations highlight the interconnectedness of all cultures and belief systems, and inspire a deeper respect for the Mother earth. She is accompanied by Will Norcutt and Del Penny.

Speaking date: November 13th



Reverend Jane Holt

Rev. Jane Holt is a staff minister at the Center for Spiritual Living in Fremont, CA. She serves in various capacities: teaching, speaking, event coordinating, and facilitating spiritual empowerment workshops. She says, *This teaching made sense to me on all levels and changed my life when I began to apply what I was learning.* She received her ministerial license in 2003 and was ordained in 2010. Rev. Jane brings a wide range of skills and experience to her ministry. She has worked in both the profit and non-profit fields and in areas such as leadership development in a variety of multi-cultural venues.

Speaking date: November 27th

Upcoming Guest Ministers and Speakers (continued)



B. J. King, R.Sc.P.E.

When I walked into First Church of Religious Science 26 years ago, the first words I heard spoken by Dr. Scott was, “Something great and wonderful is happening today and you are a part of it.” I knew I had found my right place to be one with a loving, supportive GOD. I felt called to become a Practitioner and began that course of study. I am in my 19th year of being a licensed Practitioner and I am so grateful I answered the call. I have been honored to pray and counsel with individuals and families, present motivating workshops, facilitate classes, being a guest speaker at other churches.

Speaking dates: November 20th, December 18th



Reverend Sherry F. McCreary

Rev. Sherry F. McCreary is a nationally-known inspirational speaker, spiritual counselor, personal/forgiveness coach, healer, teacher and workshop facilitator. With more than 30 years experience in both the New Thought arena and also as an attorney, she utilizes the unique combination of her spiritual consciousness and legal training to deliver powerful, yet practical, tools to help people transform their lives. In the early 1990s, Rev. Sherry became a licensed Religious Science Practitioner at the Agape International Center, studying with Michael Bernard Beckwith. She was later ordained through the Fellowships of the Spirit School of Spiritual Healing and Prophecy in Lily Dale, New York. She continues her work as a guest speaker, counselor, and workshop facilitator on a regular basis. She currently conducts a weekly Wednesday Evening Service from 7 til 8pm at the Center for Spiritual Living in Santa Cruz, California.

Speaking date: December 11th



Reverend Mary Jo Sparry

Rev. Mary Jo is an ordained Minister, serving as an Assistant Minister at the Center for Spiritual Living in Fremont. She has facilitated workshops at the RSI Asilomar Conference, and is often published in Creative Thought magazine. Rev. Mary Jo has taught accredited Science of Mind classes, and speaks monthly at the 9:30 am Sunday service at Center for Spiritual Living-Fremont. Currently, Rev. Mary Jo is teaching SOM 300 for the fourth time and loves it. In addition to that, she is a Bay Area career consultant.

Speaking date: December 4th

Spiritual Cinemas

The God's Must Be Crazy II

Friday, November 18th

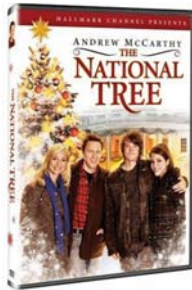


Xi is back again. This time, his children accidentally stow away on a fast-moving poachers' truck, unable to get off, and Xi sets out to rescue them. Along the way, he encounters a couple of soldiers trying to capture each other, a corporate lawyer and biologist and a pilot who have been stranded in the desert when their plane is blown off course. This is a worthy sequel to the successful movie *The Gods Must Be Crazy*.

The National Tree

Friday, December 16th

Corey and his teenage son, Rock live in rustic Oregon country. When Rock was a day old, Corey planted a tree for him that has now grown quite large. Unknown to his father, Rock entered the tree in a contest to be chosen as the official National Tree for the holiday season. He wins! Now the tree has to be transported across country. Corey insists that he drive the tree to it's destination while Rock rides shotgun. This is a great film for the holidays.



Movies are shown at the Center and start at 7 p.m. Cold drinks, popcorn and candy will be available for a donation of \$7. See you there!

Flowing Acceptance

I realize that what I have is enough. That it is all I need to have, here and now, to take the next step on my path. And I realize that what I am is enough. That it is just the way I need to be, here and now, to take that step. So I am happier here with what I have. I'm happier now with what I am. And I'm happier with my life and where I am on my path.

~Wingate, Tilling the Soul ~

Namasté Bookstore

Featured Books

Bob Griffiths' *Do What You Love for the Rest of Your Life* is a book that includes a step-by-step guide to identifying your passions, fears, family concerns, what you do well, and ways to see your financial picture by differentiating between your needs and wants.



The book helps you analyze what you like best and helps you plan for the change to do what you really want in your life. It is an excellent guide and tool that offers a new light on a new way of life.

There is also a section included in the book about people who actually made life style changes and are now doing what they love. If you need a new way of seeing how things can be different, this book is for you.

This month's children's selection is a colorful interactive felt picture book - *Life on the Farm*. This is a great book for teaching small children about life, farm animals and items you can find around a farm house.

The animals, family members, and household items are made of felt pieces that young children can place on each page to interact with the story. Each page in the book depicts a picture of an event, an outdoor scene, or room within the farm house. The kids will enjoy such stories as a day at the swimming pond, helping mom around the kitchen, feeding the animals, collecting eggs, making cookies, bringing in vegetables from the garden and enjoying a hay ride with friends and family.

Books are available in the bookstore before and after Sunday service.



Season for Giving



As the year comes to a close requests for support of the charitable organizations in our community, as well as those who provide global services, flood our mailboxes. The U.S. Internal Revenue Code provides that donations to IRC 501(c)(3) organizations are tax deductible, and certain charitable organizations, including churches, fall within that category. While there are many worthy organizations deserving of financial support, we would ask you to remember the Center for Spiritual Living Los Gatos as you plan for your year-end charitable gifts. Whether you are currently an active member of CSL Los Gatos, or a member or friend we haven't seen for a while, your financial support allows our Center to maintain its operations and provide ongoing classes, workshops and community events in keeping with our philosophies. An envelope is enclosed for your year-end gift. Thank you for keeping us in mind.



Holiday Puzzle Answers: 1-What Child is This 2-Oh Christmas Tree 3-Noel 4-Silent Night

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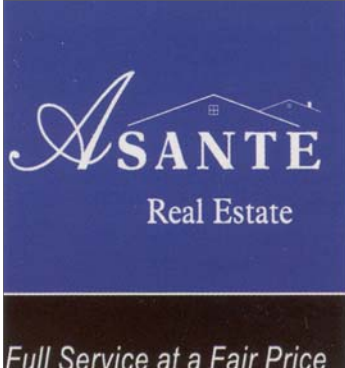
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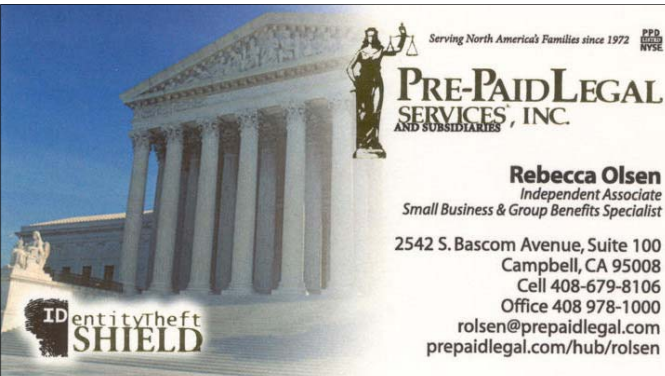
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