



# New Beginnings

Center For Spiritual Living, Glendale

Vol VII - Issue 6: November-December 2014

Timeless traditions:

- Principles of Religious Science
- Teaching Science of Mind

## Awakening Humanity to Its Spiritual Magnificence

### Mission Statement:

To be a spiritual home which provides an Acceptance of Self, an Awareness of One, a Sense of Belonging, an Experience of Love, an Awakening to the Power Within and a Passion to Consciously use It.

Services are held at the Chapel of the First Congregational Church 2001 Canada Blvd. Glendale CA 91208 North of Glendale College Between Wabasso & Hillside Convenient Parking

Phone: 818-244-1404  
E-mail: [cslglendale1@gmail.com](mailto:cslglendale1@gmail.com)  
<http://www.cslglendale.org>

Mailing address:  
P. O. Box 10008  
Glendale, CA 91209

The Center for Spiritual Living supports the positive transformation of both our personal lives and the world itself. At the Center for Spiritual Living, we teach people how to have a personal relationship with God. When we are deeply connected with Spirit, other areas of our lives fall into place—we can do more for others, be better stewards of the Earth, and bring more peace and harmony to the world.

The Center for Spiritual Living in Glendale is a member of the Centers for Spiritual Living: a worldwide organization of spiritual communities dedicated to awakening humanity to its spiritual magnificence.

*Theme for the Year: Living Wholeheartedly for God*

*Focus for the Season: Gratitude and Acceptance*

*Thought for the Season:*

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend.

Melody Beattie

Abundant Greetings and Blessings from your Board of Trustees

### *Gratitude As a Way of Life*

The traditions of Thanksgiving make this one of our culture’s most elaborately celebrated holidays. With all of the grandure, there may be a tendency to place the spirit of Gratitude on a pedestal rather than embody it in our everyday, moment-to-moment existence. As Religious Scientists -- or otherwise spiritually aware persons -- we know and understand the relevance and importance of maintaining a year-round consciousness of Gratitude. But how to do this more effectively seems to be a perennial question.

In the text, *The Science of Mind: The Definitive Edition*, Ernest Holmes defines Thanksgiving (in part) as follows:



When we speak the words of thanksgiving to the God within, knowing “before they ask will I answer,” there is something in this attitude of thanksgiving that carries us beyond the field of doubt into one of perfect faith and acceptance, receptivity ... realization. Appreciation, gratitude and thanksgiving—the motive power which attracts and magnifies the hidden potentialities of life.

**“... gratitude and thanksgiving—the motive power which attracts and magnifies the hidden potentialities of life.”**

Bzzinga! Do you see this is as a cornerstone concept? And, did you notice the word “acceptance” in that sentence? Thanksgiving is the vehicle that brings us to acceptance and receptivity. The act of giving thanks solidifies the feeling that “this” (whatever it is) belongs to me. My expression of thanksgiving allows me to KNOW it is mine. Acceptance is inherent in the true spirit of Gratitude. I suggest you write down in your own longhand, the above excerpt on Thanksgiving. Keep it handy and refer to it often as a reminder of this powerful means of tapping the “potentialities of life.”



*Living in the State of Gratitude*

We are blessed to live in a bountiful world filled with amazing beauty in nature, creativity in expression, boundless opulence and marvels. We surely give thanks not only for the things of this world, but for the limitless potential available for ALL. By incorporating this into our daily affirmations of Thanksgiving, we open avenues of potentiality in consciousness. And consciousness is where all things made manifest begin.

In addition, our Gratitude must extend beyond the beauty, grace and kindness of the world. It is necessary to include the whole enchilada, my friends. It requires being grateful and full of thanksgiving when the chips are down -- in the midst of sorrow, confusion, and pain. Not an easy menu to follow, but no way around it. The Universe is One Impermeable Whole. There's a whole lot of manifestation in infinite variations going on, and some parts of that enchilada are difficult to swallow. Again, Dr. Holmes provides a beacon to understanding. (Hint: it has to do with freedom.)

*Science of Mind* - Chapter Six - Man's Relationship to the Spiritual Universe:

The only way God can evolve a spontaneous individual is to let him alone and allow him to awaken to himself. ... So man must be created with the possibility of limitless freedom and let alone to discover himself. On the road to self-discovery he must be subject to the Law of Reality, and if in ignorance he violates this Law, he must thereby suffer. This is not, however, because any Divine decree ordains suffering but simply because it is the necessity of the case. God never intended man to suffer. Suffering may be salutary in that it leads us to a place where we learn that it is unnecessary! We shall cease to suffer as we more and more comply with the Laws of the Universe, ... [and] we come to understand that all human limitation, from the standpoint of the Divinity within us, is unnecessary.

*Opening Up to the Infinite*

The above explanation of our relationship to the Infinite gives great hope for an end to suffering. And as we read earlier, Gratitude has the potential to be the vehicle that brings us through the abyss and opens us up to the "hidden potentialities of life."

Let's approach this holiday season with a renewed and deepened commitment to make a consciousness of Gratitude the permanent number one on our "to-do" list.

One way to show gratitude is by sharing with others - take the opportunity to participate in the Holiday Food Drive. We are collecting non-perishables for those less fortunate. For more details, see our collection basket on Sunday.



Wishing you and yours all the blessings of the holidays,  
Your Board of Trustees

**Take a Stand - Lend a Hand**

(It's fun, and you'll be glad you did!)

As a member or participant at the Center for Spiritual Living, Glendale, you could make a huge difference, and make your presence felt by contributing a little of your time to assist with day-to-day tasks of running the center. You'll enjoy being involved; you will be a catalyst for the continued growth of the center, and you will allow the Board the time it needs to focus and plan more speakers and events for your enjoyment and spiritual growth. For more info contact Rev. Meredith Gray at 626-358-8188.

**Birthdays**



**NOVEMBER**

- 5 - Alicia Mauricio
- 16 - Rev. Cassy Spencer
- 20 - Kris Aristakeessian



**DECEMBER**

- 12 - Bob DeWees
- 13 - Mel Dangcil
- 14 - Freddy Torres Garcia
- 25 - Barbara Greenlaw
- 26 - Julie Engelmann

**Practitioners**

Rev. Marilyn Jensen-Johnson, Pastor Emeritus  
323-255-8835

Rev. Barbara Adams  
818-244-5181

Rev. Meredith Gray  
626-358-8188

Patricia Gilmore

John Trip

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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- Rev. Meredith Gray, President
- Eula Warren, Vice-President
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- Carol Weiche, Treasurer

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- Colleen Caamaño
- Pat Gilmore
- John Trip

**Musical Director:**

Mel Dangcil

**Newsletter Editor and Design:**

Colleen Caamaño



### To Beloved Friends and Family

The leaves have turned color  
 Time for a sweater  
 The furnace comes on  
 The stores have turned red and green  
 Time to think about Christmas  
 and all that means  
 Grousing about the true meaning  
 being lost in the sale pitches  
 Remembering Christmases past  
 Midnight Mass perhaps  
 The long wait for Santa  
 The excitement of Christmas morning  
 The fragrance of dinner cooking  
 Friends and family over  
 Or maybe a different time  
 spent at a different place  
 with comrades as family  
 Memories still invaded  
 as you stood guard  
 Whatever the memories  
 good and not so good  
 It's the season of love and giving  
 and acceptance of those that we  
 perceive as different  
 having a different store of memories  
 There is a chill in the breeze  
 A busyness seems to permeate the air  
 Time to ship, wrap and send  
 Stamps to buy, cards to get out  
 Take time to sit back and reflect  
 watch the leaves turn color  
 And remember the reason for the season

**Merry Christmas and Make it a  
Happy New Year!**

Mary Coolman © 2013

## A Merry Christmas Celebration

*Sunday, December 21*

*10 am - 1 pm*

*Music - Candlelight*

*Singing and Surprises*



*Followed by fellowship and good food*

*Join us for a Holiday Treat*

### A TIME FOR SHARING

In the spirit of this teaching philosophy, the Board would like to include a brief time during our regular Sunday Service that we may learn from each others' experiences. This is a strictly voluntary opportunity to share demonstrations, inspirations, testimonials or other spiritual awakenings ... what you might call an "AHA" moment! This new segment of our service will occur for a few minutes between the musical inspiration and the offering.

*Guest Speaker*  
**Paulette Jones**  
**November 16**

Transforming seemingly complex and highly technical information into meaningful stories is the magic Paulette Jones uses to touch hearts and change lives. Engaging participants in soaring imagery, the mysterious becomes familiar and the familiar becomes mysterious.

A student of Theatre Arts, Paulette has coached actors, performed on stage, in motion pictures and on television. Switching from the arts to the sciences, she then went on to earn both a B.S. in Computer Science and an MBA. She has held a variety of senior management positions in technology.

In addition to a public speaking career, Paulette is the President and Chief Technology Officer of Creative Web Dreams, an internet consulting, web development and marketing company. Paulette is a long time member of MENSA International.

Join us on November 16, for a spiritual adventure with a talented and engaging speaker.

### Guest Speaker Spotlight

## Rev. John Lusk - December 7



Rev. John Lusk Attended Ernest Holmes School of Ministry and is now a Staff Minister with Center for Spiritual Living, Westlake Village.

John's vision is a world of peace, assurance, gratitude, and love. Among other services, his spiritual practice includes Individual and Group Coaching, Speaking and Workshops. His practice is multi-dimensional: as a proliferate blogger and tweeter he spreads the word of his vision. From his blog: "My mission is to be the example of this peace, assurance, gratitude, and love that I see possible in the world." <<http://4pillarsofpower.blogspot.com/p/services.html>> With over 70,000 views on his blog page, it looks like his vision is being viewed!

On December 7, John joins us in Glendale to tackle the topic: "Forgive - Accept - Surrender - Trust," and we are sure to be in for an inspirational and uplifting time.

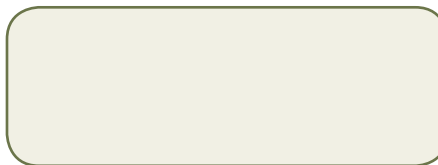
Please join us in welcoming John to our Glendale center.



Center for Spiritual Living, Glendale  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 10008  
Glendale CA 91209



*Prepared with love for:*



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Please inform us if your address has changed or you wish your name removed from the mailing list.

CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL LIVING, GLENDALE  
Sunday Service: 10 a.m. - First Congregational Chapel  
2001 Cañada Blvd., Glendale, CA 91208  
Phone: 818-244-1404 - [www.csjglendale.org](http://www.csjglendale.org)

Please let us know if we may e-mail future newsletters to you. Please send your e-mail address with your request to [csjglendale1@gmail.com](mailto:csjglendale1@gmail.com)

## NOVEMBER Topics

- 2 – Rev. Aubrey Lynn  
“A Grateful Heart”  
Music – Mel Dangcil & Jessica Buda
- 9 – Rev. Paul Braden  
“What the Heart Already Knows”  
Music – Mel Dangcil & Jessica Buda
- 16 – Paulette Jones  
“The Origin of Consciousness ”  
Music – Mel Dangcil & Jessica Buda
- 23 – Rev. Paul Braden  
“Thanks Giving is more than A DAY”  
Music – Mark Warren & Jessica Buda
- 30 – Rev. Meredith Gray  
“What You Will Be Will Be Your Choice”  
Music – Mel Dangcil & Jessica Buda

## DECEMBER Topics

- 7 – Rev. John Lusk  
“Forgive - Accept - Surrender - Trust”  
Music – Bryan Miller & Jessica Buda
- 14 – Rev. Paul Braden  
“The Heart Of Christmas....”  
Music – Mark Warren & Jessica Buda
- 21 – Rev. Meredith Gray  
“All I Want For Christmas”  
Christmas Candlelight Service and Program
- 28 – Paul Braden  
“What New Kid?”  
Music – Mel Dangcil & Jessica Buda

Sunday Service - 10 am - Meditation 9:30-9:45 am  
Chapel of the First Congregational Church UCC - 2001 Cañada Blvd., Glendale, CA 91208  
North of Glendale College - Between Wabasso & Hillside