



www.csicarlsbad.org

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Practicing the Presence
March / April 2010

March: Dr. Holmes wrote "The Spirit can do for us only what It can do through us." This month, in a variety of ways, we will experience living from a "Through Me" consciousness.

April: It may or may not rain in April, but this month we will turn our attention to the showers of blessings that are always pouring down upon us, through us, from us and back to us if we but open our hearts to experience them.

Sunday Programs

9:30 AM Meditation

10:00 AM Service

11:00 AM Fellowship

Spanish Service:

Saturday Evenings at 6:30

Newsletter available on line

at www.csicarlsbad.org

Please share this link with others; together we can teach, demonstrate and inspire a positive approach to living.

The Choice of Peace

As I turn my attention on world peace during this Season for Non-Violence, I sometimes feel overwhelmed. What can I, one person not in political office, do to impact world peace? How can anything I do have an effect on the current state of world affairs?

In an interview, Thich Nhat Nahn shared that peace has to begin with oneself and the choices one makes; the act of choosing nonviolence and compassion is the foundation of a peace movement.

In this statement, I realize that my

every thought, word and deed impact peace. Every choice I make can support peace. When I choose to see the glass as half full, I am moving toward peace. Through the choice of harmony, I am choosing peace. Even my decision to smile when someone cuts me off on the freeway is a step towards peace.

Choosing peace means you look to gently nudge someone in a different direction instead of taking them there kicking and screaming. Choosing peace encourages us to listen with an open heart encourages to us choice peace. *Continued on page 2*

Renew! Rejuvenate! Revitalize!

Spring is such a refreshing time of the year for me. Transformation is in the air. It's as if the Universe awakens from a long winter's nap. Flowers bloom, birds sing and the sun shines brightly. Vivid colors light up my life. I appreciate the creative process. It's a beautiful reminder to me that the universe is always at work even when it appears that things are dormant or dead. Just as a seed transforms from a small hard object into a beautiful flower, we are one with the Life

Force, ever creating, ever moving forward.

We too have the power of transformation. At the top of the evolutionary chain, we have free will. What distinguishes us from other living things is the power of choice. An apple tree cannot make a decision to grow an orange or a pear. Its fruit has already been determined by the nature of the seed. In contrast we have the power to change. We can create whatever we want out of whatever we have. *Continued on page 2*

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Seeing the awe and mystery in things that we tend to overlook reinforces peace. Being anchored in the present, calm and relaxed, we are providing a safe place for peace.

Whether it is where we work, how we act or what we say, we are always at choice. By consciously choosing to be more compassionate, we are impacting world peace. It may be one thought or one act at a time but we are having an impact.

We have chosen to do our part in honoring the season for non-violence on Sundays by acknowledging that all people and all faiths come from the One Great Universal Presence, which we call Spirit. We do this by lighting Flames of Faith, and I would like to share with the words we share in this ceremony:

1. We light the candle for the **Tao**, honoring the universal path of harmony and equilibrium, The Natural Way.

2. We light the candle for **Hinduism**, honoring the path of knowledge, action and devotion.
3. We light the candle for **Judaism**, honoring the ethical path of living by sacred Law.
4. We light the candle for all forms of **Buddhism**, honoring the Four Noble Truths and the path of compassion.
5. We light the candle for all forms of **Christianity**, honoring the Christ Consciousness as the path of love.
6. We light the candle for all forms of **Islam**, honoring the path of submission to the will of God as the highest calling.
7. We light the candle within for all forms of **New Thought**, honoring the metaphysical path of wholeness, Oneness and mental healing through the practice of universal spiritual principles.

We are always at choice. Join us as we consciously choose Peace

~ Rev. Debby



"You must be the change you want to see in the world."

~ Gandhi

"At the center of non-violence is the principle of love"

~ M.L.King



Renew! Rejuvenate! Revitalize! continued from page 1

Yes, you can change your life! You have only to think it into creation. Through the power of Mind you can transform your life. You can change your attitude, your finances, your health, the car you drive, or your approach to living. You only have to think it into creation. There are three essential steps to

conscious transformation: intention, attention, and practice. To make a significant change in your life, set your intention, give it your attention through conscious practice keeping in mind that the Life Force is ever at work and *go for it! Spirit is always on the job!*

~ Rev. Matti

"Intention is the energy of your soul coming into contact with your physical reality"

~ Wayne Dyer

The Easter Story

When I was a child, I thought the Easter story was a scary story about crucifying a good God-person to save me from punishment for my sins. Jesus didn't deserve his punishment and I didn't deserve his help. My religion as a child was a scary religion and Easter was a very scary story.

I can still remember the dramatic Stations of the Cross that were in cut glass and set in the church windows. They were beautiful when the light shined through them but I was seeing through a glass darkly. I had been told that the pictures depicted the stages of suffering Jesus went through for my sake. My reaction was that I didn't ask him to die for my sins. But by the time I was seven or eight, I was burdened by a theology that I could not understand. I was unhappy as a child, and the church simply served up another basket load of guilt that I didn't need.

Now that I no longer see through a glass darkly, I understand the Easter story as a mythological representation of the cycle of life and, at the same time, the promise of life everlasting. I do not have to believe it is literally true. I know that the Romans crucified many Jews each year. There is no accurate historical record to prove that "Our Jesus" was among them. Certainly, there is no evidence that "Our Jesus" was killed in the spring or that he resurrected at all.

Historical scholarship tells us that the only record of the story appears in the gospels, which were written around a hundred years later by men who were depending on oral tradition. We also know that the Easter story itself, bears a remarkable resemblance to the story of Osiris, the son of the Egyptian Goddess Isis who was widely worshipped in the Greco-Roman world at that time.

"We must come to realize that God is not in some far-off place, but instead that God is an inward, intimate Presence closer to us than our very breath. God is not nor can ever be separated from us, but too often we separate ourselves from God"

~ Ernest Holmes



It is true that most people have had some belief in an afterlife and while that belief has taken different forms in different places and times, it is an integral part of our collective consciousness. We take our

lessons from the plants and seasons as well as from our stories. We have our faith renewed each April or May as the land bursts into flower.

It is no accident that the early church placed the Easter story in the springtime. It is, after all, a story of resurrection and new life. I believe every culture throughout history has some sort of springtime story that tells the people why plants and crops appear to die in the winter but are only lying fallow so that they can joyously resurrect in the spring. I also understand that most cultures attach a belief in life after death to that phenomenon.

These days, I see very clearly that Easter is a universal story of life and transformation. The lesson to be learned from Easter is not one of guilt or fear but one of rejoicing and belief in the continuation of life.

As I have studied, practiced my spiritual teaching and grown older and wiser, I have come to believe that death is nothing more than an appearance of quiet. Underneath the thing we call death is a dramatic and joyous shucking of the old body and a joyous spiritual change that bursts into new life. We are spiritual beings having a human experience and we are a part of the wonderful, eternal recycling of life.

Consider the lilies of the field...

~ Dr. Jane

March–n–Forward

As spring nears, night and day stand in perfect balance, with light on the increase. Our days grow warmer and brighter. Nights are milder and dryer. Daffodils, Jonquils, Violets, Tulips, Peonies, Irises, Narcissus and all spring flowers grow plentifully. Dark days are over. Yeah! We'll soon see the flower fields of Carlsbad blooming in full color.

We too are blooming and booming. Those winter classes have yielded some wise mental scientists. Demonstrations abound. Prayers are answered and manifestations pour forth as if by magic. But we know it's not magic, it's the LAW. You may call it the Law of Cause and Effect, or the Law of Attraction, or the Secret; but it's not a secret, not magic. Science of Mind principles are being taught right here at the Center for Spiritual Living Carlsbad every Sunday and every other day of the week for those that are ready to accept a more abundant and exciting life. One of our participant's daughter-in-law had been in a coma. Now she's choosing her clothes and speaking. The doctors wanted to give up on her, but we prayed. Her recovery is not a miracle but the LAW.

A Special Thanks to You

We would like to acknowledge all of you who support the CSLC. Your willingness to share your time, talents and treasures allows us to have a place to gather, a place for fellowship, a place to learn and a place to share with others doing good works in the community.

If you would like to be more involved,

Students of **The 5 Gifts** are prospering and flourishing because of a change in Mind. They are all practicing Science of Mind in the form of prayer treatment and meditation. It really works. The daytime classes enjoy a loaves and fishes luncheon. It's amazing how a small amount of food can turn into a feast and feed a multitude of students.

What keeps me in the teaching is not the lunches but seeing the students thrive and grow. Not only is my own life thriving, but the lives of all that use the Science of Mind thrive and are turning from the darkness to the light; turning from doubt to confidence. How blessed we are to have this teaching.

This month of March we move forward with two SOM 200 classes, **The Power of Decision** on Mondays 11:00 AM to 1:30PM. **Este Alto Que Se Llama Tu** (This Thing Called You) Tuesday night 7PM to 9PM. and a book study: **Ask and It Is Given**, Thurs 10:30AM to 1:00PM. Call the CSL Carlsbad at 760 434-9579 or Rev. Cecilia Rodarte at 760 918-6612 for more information or email: crodarte1@mac.com

~ Rev. Cecilia Rodarte

please see Rev. Debby or Rev. Matti. It is through your continuing and ever increasing support that we will be able to expand our community outreach and move to a new location. Now, more than ever before, we must remember that what we give comes back, pressed down and running over.

Nourish the Center that Spiritually Nourishes You

1. Set up an automatic monthly contribution via credit card or bank account
2. Donate \$25 to the flower fund in honor of someone special, including yourself
3. Volunteer at the Center

Call the office at 760-434-9579 or send an e-mail to truthliving@aol.com

"We are uniquely individual to God, and God is uniquely personal to each one of us" ~Ernest Holmes