

Soul Link

"...fostering an awareness of and a response to the sacred in nature, human nature, and events of everyday life."

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SOUL LINK
together on the spiritual path

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SOUL LINK RETREAT *The Beyond Within: Realizing the Nearness of God*

In our culture as in many others, the word 'God' usually conjures up images of a Supreme Being, someone (male) somewhere else (heaven) who may or may not – for reasons beyond our comprehension – intervene in response to our prayers. This notion of the divine no longer makes sense for a growing number of people many of whom have thrown out the baby with the bathwater; that is, they reject all belief in God. Quaker mystic Rufus Jones coined the phrase "the beyond within" in reference to God understood as a reality whose presence is omnipresent. The mystery to which the word 'God' refers is both unfathomable and knowable, "out of this world" and the essence of it.

Our retreat will offer the opportunity to reflect on our experiences/images/concepts/beliefs about God and to share them with others who are seeking a meaningful way to relate to their Higher/Inner Power.

Date: September 20, 2014

Place: Broadmoor Community Church (315 Lake Ave.)

Time: 9 a.m. (registration), 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. (retreat)

Cost: \$30 early registration (by Sept. 16), \$35 at the door. Lunch included.

Scholarships available.

Information: Tom Stella (719) 648-3939

Excerpt from *Honest to God* by Bishop John A. T. Robinson

The traditional formulation of Christianity, he (Paul Tillich) says, has been in terms of what he calls 'supranaturalism'. According to this way of thinking, which is what we have all been brought up to, God is posited as 'the highest Being' – out there, above and beyond this world, existing in his own right alongside and over against his creation...

Here God is the supreme Being, the grand Architect, who exists somewhere out beyond the world – like a rich aunt in Australia – who started it all going, periodically intervenes in its running, and generally gives evidence of his benevolent interest in it.

It is a simple matter to shoot down this caricature and to say that what we believe in is not Deism but Theism, and that God's relationship to the world is fully and intimately personal, not this remote watchmaker relationship described by Deists. But it is easy to modify the quality of

this relationship and to leave the basic structure of it unchanged, so that we continue to picture God as a Person, who looks down at this world which he has made and loves from 'out there'...

It is precisely the identification of Christianity – and transcendence – with this conception of theism that I believe we must be prepared to question... I am convinced that Tillich is right in saying that 'the protest of atheism against such a highest person is correct'... What is important is whether such a Being represents even a distorted image of the Christian God. Can he be rehabilitated, or is the whole conception of that sort of God, 'up there', 'out there', or however one likes to put it, a projection, an idol, that can and should be torn down?

QUOTE CORNER

- ☞ Pulling out the chair beneath your mind and watching you fall upon God.
There is nothing else for Hafiz to do that is any fun in this world.

Hafiz

- ☞ God is so omnipresent that God is an angel in an angel, a stone in a stone, and a straw in a straw.

John Donne

- ☞ My means of all created things, without exception, the divine assails us, penetrates us and molds us.
We imagine it as distant and inaccessible, whereas in fact we live steeped in its burning layers.

Teilhard de Chardin

- ☞ To seek divine fulfillment as wholly other than and beyond the concrete immediacy of the present moment is to be blind to the immanence of God's transcendence.

Jim Finley

BOOKS FOR THE JOURNEY

Honest to God by Bishop John A.T. Robinson (Westminster Press)

"ALL I CAN DO IS TO TRY TO BE HONEST...Honest to God and honest about God." So writes the author of this highly controversial book. Bishop Robinson speaks not only for himself but for all those who find their integrity strained by the conventional thought patterns of the church. He believes the church in our time is now being called to nothing less than a revolution that will question many of the basic assumptions which Christians have held in the past. The book is frankly disturbing – but it will make you think.

The God We Never Knew by Marcus Borg (HarperSanFrancisco)

HOW TO HAVE FAITH – EVEN TO THINK ABOUT GOD – without having to stifle modern rational thought is one of the most vital challenges facing many of us today. Marcus Borg traces his personal spiritual journey to the discovery of an authentic yet fully contemporary understanding of God. In a compelling, readable way, he leads us from the distant, authoritarian God of our childhood to an equally powerful, dynamic adult image of God, the life spirit that is within us and all around us that reconciles faith with science, history, critical thinking, and religious pluralism.

God: a Brief History by Paul E. Captetz (Fortress Press)

THIS BRIEF TOUR THROUGH THREE THOUSAND YEARS of religious history shows how the Christian doctrine of God evolved in response to tensions within the insights of monotheism. The very personal, changeable, and involved God of the Hebrew Bible transformed decisively in its encounter with Greek metaphysical concepts and with the emerging trinitarian notions of the early Christian period. Captetz skillfully traces this history and shows how the tensions thus created are still with us.

EVENTS OF INTEREST

PRIVATE RETREATS

Feeling the need to get back in touch with your soul? Are you longing for some silence and solitude? The **Sanctuary of the Rose** might be just the place – and it's right here in our own backyard. The Sanctuary is located in Cascade, CO. For more information check out the website www.thesanctuaryoftherose.com or contact Ann Benson at thesanctuaryoftherose@aol.com

BOOK GROUP

For many people reading is a source of stimulation not only for the mind but for the soul as well. The written word can heighten our awareness of God's presence and motivate us to attend to matters of a spiritual nature. Soul Link invites you to join with others who wish to share insights gleaned from their reading. The group will meet on Sept. 22, Oct. 27, Nov. 17, Dec. 15, from 6:30-8:00p.m. at Agia Sophia Bookstore, 2902 W. Colorado Ave. For the September meeting each participant will bring a book they would like to share with others. Call Vicki Rector (719) 229-9868 for more information.

CABO SERVICE PROJECT Last spring a group of people from Soul Link went on a service project to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, where they had a powerful experience serving the poor of that city. Once again we will offer that opportunity through Travel with a Purpose. Our own Steve Shapiro will organize this project, which will involve serving people in hospitals, day-care centers, orphanages, and community kitchens. This winter the group will leave on December 27th and return on January 2nd. Please contact Steve (719) 495-3400 if you're interested. Learn more at www.thetravelconnection.info.

CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL LIVING

(Events take place at Broadmoor Community Church, 315 Lake Ave.)

- ***Yoga:*** Wednesday, and Friday, 9:00 a.m.
Contact Alison Nicholas at alisonnicholas@gmail.com or 963.5060.
- ***Laughing Yoga:*** Monday, 9:00 a.m.
Contact Gary Foote at 473-0716.
- ***Pilates:*** Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. (beginner class).
Contact Megan Tilma at m3tilma@gmail.com.

FINDING YOUR CENTER AND KEEPING IT

This is the title of a day-long retreat being offered by artist, writer, and speaker Kathy Iwanowski on Saturday, October 11 at **The Sanctuary of the Rose** (see above). Participants will be led in centering/grounding practices through the circle of the mandala and spiral of the labyrinth. Limit 20. Cost \$50 – early registration. For more information see thesanctuaryoftherose@aol.com or call (719) 433-3072.

COMING EVENTS

BOOK GROUP
Sept. 22, Oct. 27,
Nov. 17, Dec. 15
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

AGIA SOHPIA
BOOKSTORE
2902 W. COLO. AVE

SOULLINK
BOARD
MEETING
Sept. 10,
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Soul Link Office



SAVE THE TREES
AND THE COST
OF PRINTING AND
MAILING THE
NEWSLETTER

To receive notice of the latest Soul Link newsletter via email, please contact us at soullink@soullinkonline.org or call the office at 648-3939 and leave your full name and email address.

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THE BEYOND WITHIN: REALIZING THE NEARNESS OF GOD

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2014

Mail-In Registration Form

Clip and return with registration fee no later than Sept. 16, 2014.

Please complete information below and send it along with your payment of \$30 per person to:

Soul Link, Inc.
2514 W. Colorado Ave. Suite 205
Colorado Springs CO 80904

Name(s) of person(s) attending

Phone Number

Drop-ins are welcome the day of the retreat.

The registration fee at the door will be \$35 per person.

We hope you will invite a friend to join us for this time of reflection and conversation.