

Soul Link

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

Volume XVI, Issue 2

Fall 2017

SOUL LINK
together on the spiritual path

Soul Link Board

Charlie Coon
Sheilah Shapiro
Patrick Smith
Tom Stella

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

719.648.3939
soullink@soullinkonline.org



SOUL LINK RETREAT *Spiritual Journey: Adventures on the Road Less Traveled*

Journey' is a term often used to describe the evolution of our thinking/growth regarding matters of religion, faith, spirituality, God, and the like. When we look back at our life most of us realize we no longer believe many of the notions we were taught about such things. We may or may not have replaced old ideas with new ones, but hopefully we feel good about the fact that something has moved us to question/doubt/challenge conventional religious teachings. Our retreat will give us the opportunity to focus on our journey, examine our beliefs, and hear from one another about the people, places, and things that have fueled their quest for a faith worth believing. Our retreat will offer the opportunity to reflect on and dialogue about our hopes, fears, and faith in the face of the unknown.

Date: October 28, 2017
Place: Broadmoor Community Church (315 Lake Ave.)
Time: 9:00a.m. (registration), 9:30-2:00 (retreat)
Cost: \$30 early registration (by October 24), \$35 at the door.
Lunch is included.
Scholarships available.
Information: Tom Stella (719) 648-3939

Excerpt from *For the Time Being* by Annie Dillard

"Spiritual path" is the hilarious popular term for those night-blind mesas and flayed hills in which people grope, for decades on end, with the goal of knowing the absolute. They discover others spread under the stars and encamped here and there by watch fires, in groups or alone, in the open landscape: they stop for a sleep, or for several years, and move along without knowing toward why or why. They leave whatever they find, picking up each stone, carrying it a while, and dropping it gratefully and without regret, for it is not the absolute, though they cannot say what is. Their life's fine, impossible goal justifies the term "spiritual." Nothing, however, can justify the term "path" for this bewildered and empty stumbling, this blackened vagabondage – except one thing: They don't quit. They stick with it. Year after year they put one foot in front of the other, though they fare nowhere. Year after year they find themselves still feeling with their fingers for lumps in the dark.

Their feet catch in nets; they untangle them when they notice, and keep moving...Decade after decade they see no progress. But they do notice, if they look, that they have left doubt behind. Decades ago, they left behind doubt about this or that doctrine, abandoning the issues as unimportant. Now, I mean, they have left behind the early doubt that this feckless prospecting in the dark for the unseen is a reasonable way to pass one's life."

QUOTE CORNER

☞ The Red Sea only parts when you're in water over your head.

Thomas Merton

☞ When you have completed 95 percent of your journey, you are only halfway there.

Japanese Proverb

☞ We're all just walking each other home.

Richard Allport (aka Ram Das)

☞ A happy person is someone who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

Anonymous

☞ Two roads diverged in a wood, and I – I took the one less traveled by. And that has made all the difference.

Robert Frost

BOOKS FOR THE JOURNEY

The Sacred Journey by Frederick Buechner (Harper & Row)

In this unique spiritual memoir, the author reflects on key moments of the first half of his life, from childhood memories to his decision to enter a theological seminary. As the narrative unfolds, he traces a journey of self-discovery and unexpected revelation that has taught him how to listen to God's "incarnate language" in the everyday sounds of nature, children's laughter, even the mysterious silence of death.

Being Christian in the 21st Century by Sam Gould (Wipf and Stock)

This book was written to help struggling and doubting Christians develop an understanding of Christianity that avoids literalism, creeds, and doctrines – all factors which seem to be driving people away from the church. Being Christian is scholarly, yet readable, interesting, and often provocative. By building upon progressive thought available today and throughout history, it offers an important resource for Christians and would-be Christians seeking a more fulfilling and thoughtful faith journey.

CPR for the Soul by Tom Stella (Wood Lake Publishing)

We all know that too much of our existence is lived with something less than full vigor. Too much of the brief time we have to walk this earth is spent stumbling at half-speed, going through the motions, more asleep than awake to the magnificent mystery of life. The brief reflections that comprise this book are meant as a wake-up call, an invitation to get in touch with the sacredness that lies at the heart of ourselves, others, and all creation.

EVENTS OF INTEREST

SOUL LINK BOOK CLUB

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. 25, Oct. 23, Nov. 27, Dec. 18, from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Agia Sophia bookstore, 2902 W. Colorado Ave. For more information contact Vicki Rector (719) 229-9868.

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.sanctuaryoftherose.com or contact Ann Benson at thesanctuaryrose@aol.com.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

• **CASA** seeks volunteers to advocate for victims of child abuse and neglect – 447-9898 ext. 1033 or casappr.org. • **Care and Share** seeks volunteers to assist in one-time events and on a regular basis – 528-1247 or volunteermail@careandshare.org. • **Compassus Hospice and Palliative Care** seeks caring volunteers for patients with life-limiting illnesses – 265-1100 or optumhospice.com. • **Project Angel Heart** needs volunteers to help deliver free, nutritious meals to those living with life-threatening illnesses – projectangelheart.org

SAND MANDALA

Watch Buddhist monks create a Green Tara Sand Mandala that represents relief from suffering, and generates compassion, love, and peace. Wednesday through Friday, September 20-22 from 10 am to 4 pm. On the 23rd, the mandala will be swept away in a dissolution ceremony and the sand will be ceremonially released. This event will take place at **Unity Spiritual Center**, 1945 Mesa Rd.

CABO SERVICE PROJECT

Through **Travel with a Purpose**, *Soul Link* will once again offer the opportunity to serve the poor of Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Participants will serve people in hospitals, day-care centers, orphanages, and community kitchens. The group will leave on December 29, 2017, and return on January 4, 2018. Contact Steve Shapiro 719.495.3400. Learn more at www.thetravelconnection.info

COMING EVENTS

BOOK GROUP

SEPT. 25, OCT. 23,
NOV. 27, DEC. 18,
6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
AGIA SOHPIA
BOOKSTORE
2902 W. COLO. AVE

SOUL LINK BOARD MEETING

Oct. 18,
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.

SOU LINK

together on the spiritual path



.....

**SPIRITUAL JOURNEY:
ADVENTURES ON THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED
October 28, 2017**

Mail-In Registration Form

Clip and return with registration fee no later than October 24, 2017.

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.