

Soul-Link, Inc.

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

Volume V, Issue III
2007

Soul Link Board

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SOUL LINK
Together on the Spiritual Path

Soul-Link, Inc.

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SOUL LINK RETREAT

“Thomas Merton: Guide for a Seeker’s Soul”

As we seek to grow spiritually we must learn, by means of silence and solitude, to enter into the depths of our own soul. But this is only the first step. Because we are, at the center of ourselves, one with all humanity, spiritual maturity moves us toward, not away from others, especially those who are in need. Thomas Merton, monk and mystic, author and poet, prophet and reformer, has been a teacher and guide to people of every religious tradition since the mid 20th century. He both nurtures and challenges his readers to discover their true selves and to recognize their solidarity with all people. We will explore his life in an attempt to gain direction and inspiration for our own.

Date: September 22, 2007

Place: Julie Penrose House (Mesa Rd. behind the Broadmoor)

Time: 8:30 (registration), 9:00 - 2:30 (retreat)

Cost: \$25 early registration, \$30 at the door. Scholarships available

Information: 776-2672

From Thomas Merton: Essential Writings

In *The Seven Storey Mountain* (Merton’s autobiography), he chronicles the spiritual awakening that led him to the Catholic Church and drew him to the monastery of Gethsemani. Though relatively few would follow him into the monastery, many who read his autobiography would resonate with his restlessness, his searching, and his discovery of life’s deeper meaning. Merton showed his readers that there was another dimension to life, that life could be lived on a deeper level if one allows oneself to be discovered by God. This is life’s contemplative dimension...Contemplation is awakening to “a new level of reality: and to “the new life of the self.”

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By the late fifties, Merton had, in a real way, returned to the world that he had left behind when he entered the monastery in 1941. In 1958, in a now well-known experience, Merton had a vision at a street corner in Louisville that symbolized a transformation in his sense of himself, his understanding of his vocation, and his relationship to the world at large... News shared by his correspondents and friends as well as what he learned from his reading helped to make him an informed observer of the world around him. But it was through eyes opened wide by prayer that he saw through the illusions and myths that blinded so many others to the realities around them. In the early sixties, the monk whose popularity as a spiritual writer made his a voice to be listened to, turned from writing about religious topics such as contemplation and prayer and began speaking out on social issues with prophetic urgency.

Quote Corner

The Red Sea only parts when you are in water over your head.

A prophet isn't someone who tells a slave s(he) should be free, but someone who tells those who think they are free that they're slaves.

My life is noisy, filled with the racket of my own imperfections and passions, and the wide open wounds left my sins. I am filled with my own emptiness and yet, ruined as my house is, you (God) live there.

Prayer is more about passion than procedure.

All quotes by Thomas Merton

Books For the Journey

***The Seven Storey Mountain* by Thomas Merton (Harcourt, Brace)**

...Without exaggeration, it may well be called the greatest and most influential spiritual book written in the twentieth century. It has given direction to the spirituality of countless men and women who, whether they have any institutional religious ties or not, have found in *The Mountain* a beacon drawing them to a life deeper than any they had ever known before.

Later in his life, Merton wrote the following disclaimer: "I'm doing my best to live it down. "The Seven Storey Mountain" is the work of a man I never even heard of...a superficially pious, rather rigid and somewhat narrow minded young man I was 20 years ago...It is too simple, too crude...everything is laid out in black and white."

It's still a good read!

***Thomas Merton In Search of His Soul* by Robert G. Waldron (Ave Maria Press)**

Countless thousands have found in Merton's autobiographical writing a mirror in which their own deepest driving aspirations come more clearly into focus. In this book, Robert Waldron polishes that mirror by clearly demonstrating how Merton's life exemplifies Carl Jung's notion of individuation. We learn not only about Merton, but also about our own ongoing journey to transformation.

***An Introduction* by William H. Shannon (St Anthony Messenger Press)**

"He was something of a legendary figure among the old boys of his generation and he was clearly something of a rebel." That description of Thomas Merton by his English headmaster influenced this captivating introductory look at the monk-writer and his works. Merton scholar William H. Shannon presents Merton's life story "to suggest that this mid-twentieth-century writer can speak meaningfully to women and men now several years into a new century, to develop... some of the themes that make their way through his writings, and to suggest a possible order for reading his books."

Soul Link Happenings

Thomas Merton: Playboy, Monk, Prophet, and Mystic

This three-session "course" will explore the various aspects of Merton's life and work that have made him a mentor for so many seekers. We will meet on Wednesday evenings (Oct. 3, 10, 17) from 6:30 - 8:00 at the Soul Link House. A \$25 tuition charge will cover all three sessions; to register, call 776-2672.

Thank You and Farewell

Many of you know Jim and Pat Francek who have served on the Soul Link Board. They have recently moved to Connecticut to be near their daughter and grandchildren. We wish them well and extend heartfelt gratitude for their contribution in furthering Soul Link's mission.

Centering Prayer Introductory Workshop

Designed for those who hunger for a stronger contemplative dimension in their lives, this workshop will be held at Benet Hill Monastery on Sunday, September 9th from 1:15 - 5:15pm. Call 633-0655 for information and registration.

Spiritual Direction Colorado

SDCO is a group of practicing spiritual directors who support professional colleagues and encourage greater awareness of spirituality and accessibility of spiritual companionship throughout Colorado. They provide continuing education, spiritual conferences and retreats, and more...Contact spiritualdirectioncolorado.org to learn more.

Finding Your Center

Learn and practice practical ways to feel more relaxed, centered and focused at work and in your everyday life. Michelle Hair, BS, LMT will lead Friday morning sessions (Sept. 7&21, Oct. 5&19) from 9-11am. Contact her at 510-5096 or michelle@insightjourney.com for information and to register.

Movement and Dance as Spiritual Practice

Dance until you shatter yourself. - Rumi

Soma, Ltd

Offering movement, art and ritual opportunities for groups and individuals. For more information, please contact Jenny Finn at 291-3120 or visit Soma on the web at www.somamovement.org.

CommuniDance

Creating community through movement, music and dance. Saturdays, 9-10 am
During the summer- Colorado College Labryinth
Beginning in the Fall- First Congregational Church, 20 E. St. Vrain
Visit us on the web at www.communidance.com.

Coming Events

Sept. 10, Oct 8, Nov 12, Dec 10, Jan 14
Potluck Discussion
(Soul Link House, 6:30pm)

Sept 19
Board Meeting
(Soul Link House, 5:30pm)

Sept. 6
Book Club
Slaughterhouse Five
(Soul Link House, 6:30)

Aug 29
Video Group
Seabiscuit
(Soul Link House, 6:30pm)

Sept 30
Spiritual Support Group
(Soul Link House, 1:00pm)

Oct. 3, 10, 17
Merton Class
(Soul Link House, 6:30 - 8:00pm)

There are currently 337 names on our mailing list. If you know anyone who would like to receive the newsletter, have them call the office at 776-2672. If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please call and ask that your name be deleted. Each newsletter is also posted under the Newsletter tab on our website at www.soullinkonline.org.



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“Thomas Merton: Guide for a Seeker’s Soul”

Saturday, September 22, 2007

Mail In Registration Form - *Clip and return with registration fee no later than
September 18, 2007*

Please complete information below, and send it along with your payment of \$25 per person to:

Soul Link, Inc.
2413 N. Cascade Ave
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

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 \$30 per person. We hope you will invite a friend to join us for this time of reflection and conversation.