

Soul Link, Inc.

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

Volume X, Issue 1

Winter, 2012

SOUL LINK RETREAT (REVIVAL VI)

Religious Journey/Spiritual Path:

Finding the People and Places that Feed Our Soul

SOUL LINK
together on the spiritual path

Soul Link Board

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It is no easy matter to find ways to nurture our soul. We may discover a faith community that supports and challenges us along the way only to realize, after a time, that it no longer does so. And we may stumble upon other seekers who share our concerns and longings but, because we change or they do, we end up parting ways. This is not unusual, nor is it a negative; rather, it is par for the course, it is what often happens as our journey to and with the Mystery proceeds.

During this retreat we will view the film **Higher Ground**. It tells the story of a woman in search of a life of integrity and faith who learns that no matter how many times she loses her footing, she has within herself all that's necessary to find her way. (Popcorn provided!) Quiet reflection and conversation about our own spiritual journeys will follow the film.

Date: January 28, 2012

Place: Broadmoor Community Church (315 Lake Avenue)

Time: 9:00am (registration), 9:30am-2:00pm (retreat) *these are new times

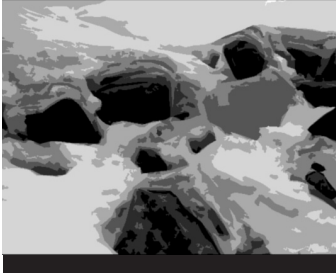
Cost: \$30 early registration (by January 23), \$35 at the door. Lunch included.
Scholarships available.

Information: 648-3939

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 what or why. They leave whatever they find, picking up each stone, carrying it a while, and dropping it gratefully and without retreat, for it is not the absolute, though they cannot say what is.

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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.

The planet turns under their steps like a water wheel rolling; constellations shift without anyone's gaining ground... Their feet catch in nets; they untangle them when they notice and keep moving. They hope to learn where they came from... 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

☞ I'm pressing on the upward way, new heights I'm gaining everyday
Still praying as I'm onward bound, "Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

I want to scale the utmost height, and catch a glimpse of glory bright
But still I'll pray till heav'n I've found, "Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

☞ Be patient toward all that is unresolved in your heart. And try to live the questions themselves.
Rainer Maria Rilke

☞ I'm more comfortable with unanswered questions than with unquestioned answers. *Unknown*

BOOKS FOR THE JOURNEY

The Seeker's Guide by *Elizabeth Lesser* (Villard Books)

In *The Seeker's Guide* Elizabeth Lesser synthesizes the lessons learned from an immersion into the world's wisdom traditions and intertwines them with illuminating stories from her daily life. Recounting her own trials and errors and offering meditative exercises, she shows the reader how to create a personal practice, gauge one's progress, and choose effective spiritual teachers and habits.

Leaving Church by *Barbara Brown Taylor* (HarperOne)

Barbara Brown Taylor describes in rich details her lifelong love of God and her struggles as she has exhausted herself trying to teach others as she moved through different parishes. Reflecting back on her 20-year career as an Episcopal priest, Taylor acknowledges that she is still a priest at heart, and outlines her strong sense of morals, motivations, and beliefs. She details how her own personal views on life and religion conflicted with that of the church majority, and how her love of God and zeal for her faith was able to keep her going through rough patches in her life.

Speaking Christian by *Marcus Borg* (HarperOne)

The language of Christianity is in a state of crisis, warns Bible scholar, Marcus J. Borg. Christian words and phrases have not only diminished in meaning, but they've become distorted and virtually stripped of their biblical and historic meanings. In this book, Borg teaches us how to read, hear, and digest Christian language without preconceived notions getting in the way.

EVENTS OF INTEREST

ALL PEOPLE'S BREAKFAST

To celebrate the national Martin Luther King Jr. holiday an **All People's Breakfast** will be offered on Monday, January 16 from 8-9:30am at the Cornerstone Arts Center 825 N Cascade. The featured speaker is **Rosemary Harris-Lytle**, President of the local NAACP. The theme of the gathering is **"Ending Mass Incarceration and the Death Penalty."** Tickets are \$7 at the door. For information contact Steve at dynamic@ppjpc.org.

JAMES WHITE LECTURESHIP

Joan Chittister, OSB, a Benedictine nun and feminist theologian who has authored numerous books, is the speaker for this years James White Lectureship. The title of her talk is **God and the Evoloutionary Mind: The God that Beckons**. She will speak at Shove Chapel on the campus of Colorado College on Friday, April 20 at 7:00pm. There is no charge for this event. For more information contact: ssct2@comcast.net.

CONTEMPLATIVE CONNECTION

Our fast-paced and noisy world often kidnaps us from the "still point" at the center of our being. One of the ways to avoid this and to heighten our awareness of the spiritual nature of life is to gather with others who value being attuned to the sacred. Contemplative Connection is a support/reflection group whose discussions will be based, in part, on the CD series **"Following the Mystics Through the Narrow Gate"** featuring **Dr. James Finley**. Meetings will be held every other week on Wednesday nights from 7-8:30pm (Jan 18, Feb 1, 15, 29, Mar 14, 28, Ap 11, 25, May 9, 23) at Agia Sophia Bookstore 2902 W. Colorado Avenue. Call Tom Stella (648-3939) for more information

CABO SERVICE PROJECT

Last winter 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, daycare centers, orphanages, and community kitchens. This year's group will leave on February 1, 2012 and return on February 7. The cost is \$895.00 not including airfare. Please contact Steve (495-3400) if you're interested. Learn more at www.thetravelconnection.info.

SOUL LINK BOOK CLUB

Our book club is always open to new participants. Meetings will be held on Mondays (Jan 23, Feb 27, Mar 26, Ap 23, May 28) from 6:30-8:00pm at Agia Sophia Bookstore. The book we'll consider at our meeting in January is *A New Harmony* by John Philip Newell. Call Vicki Rector (229-9868) for more information.

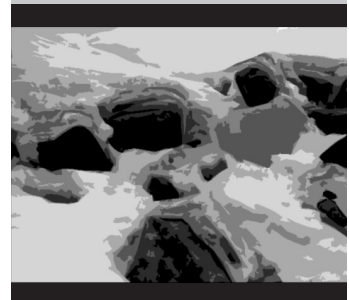
COMING EVENTS

BOOK GROUP

JAN 23, FEB 27,
MAR 26, AP 23,
MAY 28
6:30 - 8:00PM
AGIA SOHPHIA
BOOKSTORE
2902 W. Colo. Ave

BOARD MEETING

Jan 18
5:00 - 6:00pm
Soul Link Office

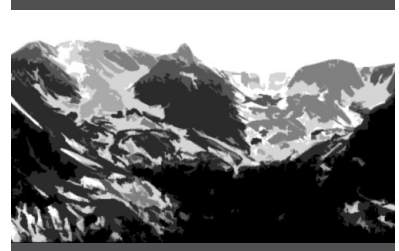


SAVE THE TREES AND THE COST OF PRINTING AND MAILING THE NEWSLETTER

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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RELIGIOUS JOURNEY/SPIRITUAL PATH FINDING THE PEOPLE AND PLACES THAT FEED OUR SOUL

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2012
Mail In Registration Form

Clip and return with registration fee no later than January 23, 2012

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.