



Center for
Spiritual Living™
 Tucson
 ...A Spiritual Alternative

Annual Gathering Reports

Annual Gathering Date: October 1, 2017

Board Members: Keith Gorley – President, Holly Baker – Secretary, Renee' Mezzone – Treasurer, Carla Hodge, Leah Hamilton, Sheila Campbell – Members, Rev. Janis Farmer – Spiritual Leader

- Report on the previous 12 months September 2016 - August 2017 -

Financial Report / Funding Team

The following data are unverified income and expense values:

	Sunday Offerings	Total Income	Total Expenses	Facility Fund Contrib.	Net Income	Total Year Attendance	Average Weekly Attendance	Weekly Offering per Person
9/2016 - 8/17 Actual	135,113	155,421	161,382	1,282	<5,961>∇î	3,965	76	34.07
9/2016 - 8/17 Budget	170,400	199,152	196,783	608	2,369 ∇	4,940	95	34.49
2016 Actual thru August	120,589	146,521	151,308	2,102	<4,787>∇	3,201	91	37.67
2015 Actual	166,569	211,900	229,746	1,160	<17,846>	5,015	96	33.21
2014 Actual	181,584	231,070	231,453	27,084	< 383>	4,128	79	43.99
2013 Actual	177,392	202,575	191,831	9,207	10,744	4,021	77	44.12
2012 Actual	156,551	212,878	196,112	9,275	7,564	5,162	99	30.33
2011 Actual	163,723	217,310	188,800	21,651	6,860	7,453	143	21.97

∇ Designated Funds are not included as available income. They can only be used for their intended purpose.

î While the net income for the year looks troubling, four of the last five months have been net positive, and we expect that trend to continue.

Reverend Donald Graves surprised us all when he recognized it was time for him to retire from pulpit ministry on December 31, 2016. His last Sunday was January 29, 2017. Fortunately, Reverend Janis Farmer had been in place as Associate Minister since August 2015 and had been functioning as Operations Minister. Following extensive discussions with the Board, she agreed to step up as the Spiritual Leader for CSL Tucson. We anticipated the potential for a slight reduction in contributions and attendance with his retirement, but the differential (as shown below) has been minor.

September 2016 - January 2017 (Rev Donald)		February 2017 - August 2017 (Rev Janis)	
Average Attendance	Weekly Contrib./Person	Average Attendance	Weekly Contrib./Person
81	34.43	73	33.54

During this past 12-months, we purchased a 5-acre undeveloped parcel on 22nd Street just east of Swan. This major event was the first real step in creating our own consolidated facility, which has been imagined and envisioned since 2006. We have received verbal acknowledgement of our non-taxable status by the City of Tucson and await final (written) verification of the same. An *ad hoc* team has been visiting 'our dirt' each month to clear it of debris and unwanted vegetation. Our Practitioners and Spiritual Leader intend to hold a property blessing on our property in the New Year. Watch for details and tell your friends!

Seven people completed the 10-week curriculum for Prosperity Plus II, celebrating the benefits of camaraderie and personal engagement in enhancing each individual's abundance consciousness. We look

forward to engaging an even larger number of congregants with our spring/summer 2018 offering of the Prosperity Plus II curriculum.

We are on track for our fun/fundraiser Gourmets for God this fall, as well as our annual pledge campaign and our community solicitation for the local charity, which we will support during 2018 with a portion of our Sunday contributions. During our Gourmets for God program last fall, 27 people donated over \$900 during 5 enjoyable congregant-hosted events. Through our charitable giving program, we donated \$2,289 to Youth On Their Own, our 2016 charity and so far this year we have donated \$4,496 to our 2017 charity, Sister Jose Women's Shelter.

The Board of Trustees, Keith Gorley, Board President

In the last year, each Trustee served as liaison to at least two teams/circles or events. That meant that in addition to specific board activities, each board member supported other groups within the Center. Notably:

- Carla Hodge, Member – Community Builders, Hospitality and Lunch Bunch, Sacred Cinema.
- Holly Baker, Secretary – Teams: NewComers Team and Membership
- Leah Hamilton, Member – Ushers, Compassionate Heart, Videography and Photography.
- Keith Gorley, President – Board of Trustees, Facilities, Relationship with The Gregory School and the landlord at the office
- Renee' Mezzone, Treasurer – Teams: Bookstore and Host Team
- Sheila Campbell – Altared States, Marketing and Communications, Youth Ministry
- Sue Mason served a partial year on the Board as its Vice President, terminating her service effective July 1 because she recognized her spiritual path had taken her in an alternate direction.
- Rev Janis Farmer, Spiritual Leader – Teams: Practitioners, Visioning, Day-to-day Operations, Funding Team, Music, and responsible for the overall Sunday Celebration Experience. Focus Area: Education.

Key activities of the board this past year included:

- 1) We purchased an undeveloped 5-acre parcel of land on 22nd Street near Swan.
- 2) The Board hosts the rescheduled Volunteer Appreciation Patio Jam later this month, which honors and recognizes all the many volunteers who keep our center operational. As with last year's celebration, the tasty, heavy appetizers will be catered by an outside supplier. Music will be provided by our own CSLT Orchestra and as many singers and other musicians who are available and want to 'play'.
- 3) The Board held an informational pizza lunch in July that was attended by a half dozen curious congregants, which was intended to increase awareness and understanding about the qualities and training that are required/desirable for those interested in Board service.
- 4) We hosted Victoria Castle, author of *Trance of Scarcity*, on April 2nd for a Sunday service and an after-service workshop that was attended by 30+ individuals.
- 5) We hosted the PosiPalooza the end of January with Harold Payne, Freebo and Richard Mekdeci, which, while delightful, was attended by only 48 persons. Attendance was lower than desired at this concert, which led the Board to be more thoughtful about hosting musical events and contractual agreements.
- 6) The Board decided not to continue our participation in the Tucson Festival of Books. In the five+ years we have participated in this marketing event, we have not been able to correlate our participation with any additional attendance, or name recognition.
- 7) The Board joyfully welcomed two new Licensed Religious Science Practitioners who successfully completed their studies in May, their written exams in June and their oral panels in July. One additional

practitioner student will retake her oral panels next summer, having successfully completed the other steps.

Education Team - Board Liaison, Rev Janis Farmer

During the last 12-months, sixteen students have completed CSL Certificated Classes, which included:

Foundations of Science of Mind	Practitioner - Year Two	Visioning
Meditation is More Than You Think...	Power of Your Word (in process, not counted)	

Wednesday nights' "The Journey" series included workshops and short classes offering spiritual practices, experiential activities, as well as opportunities for expanded perceptions, inspiration, and information; each class was designed to facilitate participants in their Journey of life. "The Journey" brought in 449 students during the year. A diversity of facilitators and instructors shared their knowledge and gifts during this 12-month period on a wide variety of topics. A few of the instructors have also spun off additional classes on other days/nights beyond Wednesdays.

Karen Kiester presently hosts monthly Sacred Feminine Dance groups. Keith Gorley has facilitated two different groups with Karen Armstrong's *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life* and is currently finishing up a 7-week study of Napoleon Hill's *Think and Grow Rich*.

Guest Speakers during the year included Rev Donna Mauer (with workshop), ministerial student Lezli Goodwin, and Victoria Castle (with workshop, in coordination with a very well attended 6-week Wednesday night book study on Victoria Castle's *Trance of Scarcity*). This 12-month period also saw the retirement of Rev Donald Graves and the shift from Associate Minister to Spiritual Leader for our own Rev Janis Farmer. What an amazing year!

Community Inreach/Outreach

Routinely we offer: 1) a bookstore, 2) open Wednesday night Journey classes as well as other educational opportunities, 3) a Facebook community, 4) monthly First Sunday Potluck, monthly Lunch Bunch and monthly Sacred Cinema, 5) our weekly electronic newsletter, 6) a website and 7) advertise our services and events (including special musical artists and speakers) in Natural Awakenings Magazine, a local monthly publication, as well as spot advertisements in other online magazines such as Tucson Happenings and *Caliente*.

Additionally, we actively tithe and support a local program, which was selected by our congregants, Sister Jose's Women's Shelter, and receives the benefit of 5% of our financial prosperity each month as part of our contribution to our local area. We will be asking for the congregation to identify local self-determining charities in the months ahead and selecting the 2018 recipient from congregant recommended options, in January 2018.

Internal and External Events

- **Music Team Fundraisers.** We supported a number of Music Team Fundraisers last fall and winter in support of three members of our Music Team attending PosiFest in Tampa in February.
- **Creativity Fair.** A creativity fair was held October 30 with the intent to encourage greater creative expression throughout the congregation. A number of individuals who had not participated in the previous prosperity fairs joined the fun
- **Gourmets for God.** We held our first annual Gourmets for God with 5 congregant-hosted events and 27 participants. This fun fundraiser happens again this fall.
- **Community Envisioning.** Serendipitously, we had previously scheduled a Community Envisioning weekend with Rev Kathleen Sibley (CSL Prescott), Rev Donald's last weekend as Senior Minister. Rev Kathleen led us in creating a covenant and in deciding what topics we wanted to focus on in the year

ahead. Two new teams created as a result of this weekend's work were the Community Builders Team and the NewComers Team.

Our covenant reads:

OUR 2017 COVENANT WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH THE DIVINE:

We the people of the Center for Spiritual Living in Tucson hereby enthusiastically agree to congruently show up with integrity as receptive, trusting, creative expressions of Love.

THE DIVINE'S 2017 COVENANT WITH EACH AND ALL OF US:

In return, the Divine/God will provide: Love, An Abundance of Good, Expansive Growth, Inspiration, Wisdom, Flow, Transformation, Joy, Presence, and even more!

- **In-House Ritual Celebrations.** We held the Celebration of Light during Winter Solstice, the Endings and Beginnings Ritual on New Years Eve and the Reaffirmation of Vows on Valentine's Day. Plans are in place to continue these practices, and possibly add more rituals into our community practices.
- **PosiPalooza.** We hosted Harold Payne, Freebo and Richard Mekdeki in concert in January. The musical offerings were great, and attendance was disappointing. Follow-up conversations occurred with the emPowerMA on what would need to be different if we were to host a PosiPalooza event in the future.
- **Victoria Castle.** Author and somatic coach Victoria Castle spoke on Sunday April 2 and hosted a Sunday afternoon workshop, which was attended by 30+ people. Victoria's workshop came on the heels of a six-week Wednesday night book study of her text *Trance of Scarcity*, which was well attended.

--- Team Reports ---

Altared States Team – Po Lui Frank, Team Leader, Sheila Campbell, Board Liaison.

Altared states functions well beautifying our stage each and every Sunday. Additional members would be welcomed as there are a few holes in the schedule. The new Board Liaison joined the team, providing flowers for 5th Sundays.

Upon inquiry and request, Trader Joe's has offered to provide 3 bouquets each Sunday morning for our use at no charge. We have to pick them up at 9am. Multiple locations of Trader Joe's participate in this beneficial, cost-effective activity.

Bookstore Team – Wendie Arison, Team Leader, Renee' Mezzone, Board Liaison.

Our Bookstore team delights in bringing new titles to the congregation as well as providing materials for classes and independent study. Net sales for the time period was \$726 and included class texts, books of general spiritual interest, childrens' metaphysical books, music CDs, Sunday service CDs, and Science of Mind magazines. We continue to look for luminous individuals who love books, and talking about books, to join our team.

Community Builders – Carla Hodge, Board Liaison

As a result of the January 2017, CSLT Envisioning, the Community Builders Team was developed. The Community Builder's collaborated and developed a one-page informational flyer that describes available services, social functions, volunteer opportunities and educational events. Our informational flyer was made available to the congregation for their distribution and was also distributed to various service outlets located on Davis Monthan Air Force Base and Ft Huachuca.

Compassionate Heart – Leah Hamilton, Board Liaison

Compassionate Heart, previously led by Britt Mbuthia, is in its 7th year of service. The team experienced normal ebb and flow with membership of our team and currently has 6 active members. We held two team

meetings meetings in the November and June, and have decided half-yearly meetings are adequate at this time. Total services provided during this time period: 110 calls, 78 emails, 15 cards, 19 visits, 12 meals, 4 flower bouquets, 4 errands, and 6 rides, plus 45 volunteer hours at Sr. Jose's Women's Shelter. Compassionate Heart is open to welcoming new team members, and, if a team leader is deemed necessary, also open to welcoming a new team leader.

Facility Team – Dick Laird, Team Leader, Keith Gorley, Board Liaison

We continue to operate at our current Office and Education Center on a month-to-month basis at its current rental rate. Our contract at The Gregory School is being renewed at existing rates with a 90-day termination clause. Our sound team, comprised of two high school students, has begun to look for their replacements as they move into their junior years of study. We continue investigating suitable properties, including facility-sharing opportunities, without yet seeing anything more cost-effective than we presently have. The 22nd Street property continues to be attended to by an *ad hoc* group of congregants.

Host Team – Renee' Mezzone, Board Liaison

Our vibrant Host Team with five active members continues to welcome and inform our growing congregation on Sunday mornings. The host team continues to represent CSL Tucson, and has executed brilliantly the new opening language suggested by the Board. We feel blessed by this high-quality service team welcoming everyone to CSL Tucson on Sunday mornings.

Hospitality Team – Carla Hodge, Board Liaison

The Hospitality Team provided setup and cleanup for Potluck Sundays throughout the year. Due to fewer volunteers particularly during the summer months coffee service was not provided on Lunch Bunch Sundays or during June, July and August. The team held several socials at Monterey Court and other locations around town as well as organizational and decision-making sessions at the office. The team ended the year with 10 volunteers including 3 on call and 3 seasonal residents leaving 4 fulltime members. The team would like to see this grow to at least 12 plus the on-call members.

Lunch Bunch – Carla Hodge, Board Liaison

Carla Hodge leads the monthly Lunch Bunch as part of the extended Hospitality Team. This unstructured affiliation meets at a local restaurant following the Sunday Celebration Services on the third Sunday each month. A wide variety of restaurants have been selected, including several vegan options, and visited to appeal to the diverse tastes of our congregation. Attendance varies from as few as 4 to as many as 25.

Marketing/Communications Team (MarComm) – Rev Janis Farmer, Admin Liaison

Marketing/Communications serves our community as a virtual team functioning well without a defined team lead, or consistent contributing members. It becomes an interface between many of the operating teams, fulfilling communications functions as needed. Everyone has a chance to increase our visibility in Tucson. We continued our regular advertising with “Natural Awakenings” and have discontinued our coverage from Dex Yellow Pages. We provide both electronic and paper promotional materials for speakers and musical events to New Thought Centers throughout southern Arizona and collaborate with our sister center, Unity Spiritual Center of Peace on musical, as well as other, activities and events.

Our electronic newsletter is a success in part because, each week, we have had an article written by a board member, a practitioner, and often photographs of our community. After culling approximately 100 subscribers who have not opened the newsletter in at least a year, we still have over 670 sign-ups for our weekly electronic newsletter. We have also gained 41 (net) additional “likes” on our Facebook page, to bring our total to 692. Also, we remain on the look out for new writers, marketers, and creators to add their own brand of marketing and communication magic to MarComm.

With Sheila Campbell stepping up as a new board member with an avid interest in marketing, we have begun discussions on how to increase the power of our marketing activities. Watch for exciting changes as we bring plans forward.

Membership Team – Holly Baker, Board Liaison

Membership has taken a bit of a back seat this past year as The Board continues to discuss the relative value of being/becoming a member. Two membership classes were held this past year, one in concert with a certificated Foundations class. Rev Janis facilitated both classes. Three members were added. Guest packets are always available at the Information Table for persons interested in finding out more about our organization.

Music Team – Rev Janis Farmer, Board Liaison

Three volunteers from the music ministry team represented CSL Tucson at the 2017 PosiFest Awards and Conference in February in Tampa FL. Attending were Anna Mello-Lewis, Aimee Wheeler & James Jarvis. Other regular volunteer musicians have included: Abbie Small, Leona Freeman, Anna Mello-Lewis, Anita Summers, and Joni Olson.

Paid Guest Musicians have included: Heather O'Day, Mark Holdaway, Harold Payne, Pat Watson, Puca, and Freebo.

The CSLT Orchestra. The CSLT Orchestra experienced some changes this year. Michael Freeman remains on Bass, Chris Wheeler on drums and David Prouty on keyboards. Our electric guitar player has changed a number of times during the year. We are delighted to welcome Michael Zimmerman, a local musician and music teacher, to our stage orchestra in the position of electric guitar.

NewComers Team – Rebecca Bushner, Team Leader, Holly Baker, Board Liaison.

This new team makes a big splash in our lobby Sunday mornings. The NewComers team actively engages with all guests, ensuring they receive a warm welcome, and lots of information about us. This team has welcomed 84 guests since their inception in early February. An interesting tidbit of information about our guests is that about 46% of them find us on the internet, 46% are invited by someone and the remaining 8% of them find us in Natural Awakenings Magazine.

Photographs and Memories – Serina French, Team Leader, Leah Hamilton, Board Liaison

Our primary photographer moved his membership to the Sonoran Desert CSL after he successfully purchased a house in Green Valley, so the majority of the photographs taken this year have been shots captured serendipitously by any number of individuals with phone cameras. Exceptions have been shots of Victoria Castle taken by Mariann Moery and Bill Spurgeon.

Practitioners – Rev Janis Farmer, Board Liaison

During the last 12-months, our licensed spiritual practitioners and practitioner students participated in each Sunday Celebration Service by providing a pre-service 15-minute Sunday meditation, evocations, high watch, and the opportunity for individual prayer during and following each service. Our Practitioner Core changed dramatically this year with our licensed practitioners either relocating and transferring their licenses, or recreating themselves in a whole new way. Our Practitioner Core is being recreated by our own practitioners-in-training, two of whom became Licensed Practitioners during this year. In this 12-month period, over 454 took part in the Sunday morning meditations, over 206 individual 1:1 prayer treatments were shared, and the Truth was known for more than 101 written Ministry of Prayer requests and more than 40 web prayer requests. These spiritual leaders recorded demonstrations (answered prayers) through Good News Reports, wrote Practitioner's Corners for our Newsletter and compiled the monthly Thoughts

and Affirmations. They are always available individually for affirmative prayer or spiritual counseling, or anonymously through the on-line prayer request, or by placing a prayer in the Ministry of Prayer box.

Sacred Cinema - Tom Bacon, Team Leader, Carla Hodge, Board Liaison

Carla Hodge temporarily took over the role as Team Lead, as well as Board Liaison. Gratitude goes to Tom Bacon, for his welcomed assistance with this socially valuable team and for volunteering to take over as the Team Lead. Current film, available through Amazon and Netflix, has been well received. Movies for the next several months are already in place. Love offerings averaged about \$21 per showing. Our lending library of previously shown films continues to grow.

Usher Team - Donna Hall, Team Leader, Leah Hamilton, Board Liaison

Our team members are superb, and our retention rate off the charts! We have worked very well with the recently-formed Newcomer Team, developing a synergistic relationship with their members. We are happy to identify, to the best of our capabilities, all first-time visitors and introduce them to the Newcomer table folks for more welcoming and an information exchange. We are blessed to have great continuity among ushers, eliminating the need to recruit and train any new team members this year.

Videography Team – Leah Hamilton, Board Liaison

This team remains a glimmer in our collective imagination as we continue to be open to volunteers to run video-recording equipment, which we have not yet acquired. We have prepared but not submitted a proposal to the Hefferlin Foundation (A CSL affiliated funding non-profit organization) for purchase video-recording equipment. A Gourmets-for-God fundraising activity has been created to solicit funds for purchasing equipment. The Hefferlin Foundation will match funds that we generate on our own. All details remain to be worked out, including personnel to run the camera and edit the digital footage, so that everything runs easily, perfectly and smoothly.

Vision Core – Rev Janis Farmer, Board Liaison

The first Thursday of each month, the Vision Core visioned on “the highest vision, highest ideal for CSL Tucson”. All are welcome to observe the process; anyone who has been trained in the visioning process is welcome to participate. More than half our Vision Core participates virtually at this time.

Volunteer Coordination

Volunteer service is coordinated by individual team leaders and via the Sacred Service form on the website, which is also available on Sundays on the Information Table, included in the New Member Orientation packet and offered during Prosperity Plus II. Each individual is encouraged to find his/her niche through volunteering in our Center. We know each individual has an opportunity to experience a greater sense of connectedness through belonging to a service team and/or a social group.

Youth & Family Team - Sheila Campbell, Board Liaison

We await interested, qualified, congregants who have a heart for youth, have completed Foundations of the Science of Mind and can pass a Background Check to step forward with the intention to work with youth (ages 4-10). The Gregory School has provided space to us for this use. Stay tuned!

-- 2017-8 Planned Events and Activities --

- The Journey Continues, although the format may change, slightly.
- Plan to hold a property blessing at our 22nd Street property in February.
- Community Envisioning Weekend, January (To Be Scheduled)

- Gourmets for God fun fundraiser
- Prosperity Fair, December Potluck Sunday
- Endings and Beginnings Year-End Ritual
- Prosperity Plus II, Spring/Summer 2018
- Multiple guest speakers, some with workshops
- Open to potential musical guest performers. None have been scheduled at this time.

- Election of Board Members -

We have two open seats. Both are three-year terms. Parties interested in serving on the CSL Tucson Board will briefly address the congregation during the Annual meeting on October 1.

To be considered qualified for Board service (from the Bylaws, posted on the tucsoncsl.org website), a candidate must: be loyal, financially supporting and an active member of the Center; be willing to accept the responsibilities of membership on the Board of Trustees; not be related to, nor have a live-in relationship with a member of the Board of Trustees, or with an employee of the Center; have completed 60 hours or its equivalent of Science of Mind certificated class work, one class of which must be "Foundations of the Science of Mind," or as determined by the Minister (it is strongly encouraged that the prospective Board members have also successfully completed "Visioning"); not be compensated for their Board service (except for the Minister); and have been a member of The Center no less than 6 months. Board members must also successfully complete a criminal background check, which will be paid for by the Center.