



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

Annual Gathering Reports

Annual Gathering Date: October 7, 2018

Board Members: Leah Hamilton – President, Sheila Campbell – Vice President, Pat Masters - Secretary, Renee' Mezzone – Treasurer, Dick Laird, Mariann Moery – Members, Rev. Janis Farmer – Spiritual Leader

- Report on the previous 12 months, September 2017 - August 2018 -

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
8/2018 - 9/17 Actual	124,331	141,273	139,538	1,611	1,735	3328	64	37.36
8/2018 - 9/17 Budget	135,880	156,980	161,524	--	<4,544>	4160	76	34.38
8/2017 - 9/16 Actual	135,113	155,421	161,382	1,282	<5,961>∇↑	3,965	76	34.07
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

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

↑ 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.

During this past 12-months, we had evaluated more than 20 congregant or board-identified potential properties for interim use as a consolidated campus. As of this writing, none had been determined to fully meet our needs. We have received written verification of our non-taxable status by the City of Tucson for our 22nd Street acreage. An *ad hoc* team visited our land regularly to clear it of debris and unwanted vegetation. We blessed our 22nd St property as part of the Community Envisioning in January.

The Board, at the recommendation of the Funding/Stewardship team, decided to offer a community book study on Eric Butterworth's *Spiritual Economics* instead of hosting a *Prosperity Plus II* class this year. The home study groups met at 8 locations around town and were attended by 50 persons, and were considered to be quite enjoyable and successful.

We are gearing up for our fun/fundraiser Gourmets for God this fall and our community solicitation for the local charity, which we will support during 2019 with a portion of our Sunday contributions. During our Gourmets for God program last fall, 22 people donated over \$700 during 5 enjoyable congregant-hosted events. The hosts raised funds for the Music Team, the Facility Fund, Altared States, Website improvements and the General Fund. Through our charitable giving program, we donated \$6,236 (between September 2017 and August 2018) to our community-selected charity, Sister Jose Women's Shelter.

Our social and community circles begin to take hold. A men's group that meets twice-monthly for breakfast and an artists' group that meets monthly and plans to participate in the Fall Tucson Art Studio Tour have both established themselves this year. A seasonal meditation group has also formed and several additional groups begin to build up steam. Other prospective social groups wait to be birthed.

The Board of Trustees, Leah Hamilton, 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:

- Leah Hamilton, President – Ushers, Compassionate Heart, Videography and Photography.
- Sheila Campbell, Vice President – Altared States, NewComers Team, Youth Ministry and eBay Store.
- Pat Masters, Secretary – Membership, Sacred Cinema, Volunteer Appreciation Party, and Pet Blessing co-coordinator.
- Renee' Mezzone, Treasurer – Bookstore, Host Team, Pet Blessing co-coordinator.
- Dick Laird, Member – Funding Team/Stewardship, Hospitality and Lunch Bunch, Facilities.
- Mariann Moery, Member – Community Builders, MarComm (electronic survey), Fall Event/PosiPalooza and Gratitude/Recognition.
- Rev Janis Farmer, Spiritual Leader – Practitioners, Visioning, Day-to-day Operations, Music, and responsible for the overall Sunday Celebration Experience. Focus Area: Education.

Key activities of the board this past year included:

- 1) This year we were able to seat a full complement of board members when Mariann Moery, Renee' Mezzone and Pat Masters joined our group that already included Sheila Campbell, Dick Laird, myself and of course, Rev Janis. With such thoughtful and experienced members, our board discussions this year went both deep and wide. We were open to trying out new ideas and new events.
- 2) The first of these was our Community Envisioning, led this time around by our own Rev Janis. The result of our community meeting was a new Credo for our Center: **CSLT inspires and celebrates spiritual expression of joy as forward movement and growth in open, accepting sacred space, expressing Life and Love, inclusive of ALL.** Many of the Center's activities came from our commitment to implementing this credo on behalf of our community. We followed the Envisioning with a Land Blessing for our property on 22nd Street with a view to acknowledging it as sacred space for our future growth.
- 3) Celebrating our animal companions, we also held the first CSLT Pet Blessing in March, with Rev Janis and the participation of practitioners Carla Hodge, Shelly Dunn and Leah Hamilton. A dozen or more animals and their humans attended either in person or through photographs.
- 4) An innovative idea by Sheila Campbell led to fund-raising through donations to an eBay store that netted the community over \$1000.
- 5) Likewise, the Center offered innovative educational opportunities, beginning with an online class taught by Rev Janis and Carla Hodge called "Contemporary Applications of Science of Mind". Additional small group book studies followed as Pat Masters facilitated Michael Singer's *Untethered Soul* and Jeff Olson's *The Slight Edge*, guest Noreen Poli facilitated Emmett Fox's *Sermon on the Mount*, and Keith Gorley twice facilitated Eric Butterworth's *Practical Metaphysics*. In the spring, approximately 50 people participated in our home book circles of *Spiritual Economics*. The success of that community-wide study was celebrated with a party at Pat Masters' home in June.
- 6) Several other small groups formed this year, including a Men's group led by Keith Gorley, a gardening circle led by Jeannie Graham, and artists' group led by Cynthia Spencer, a meditation group led by Leah Hamilton, and a seasonal meditation group led by Marsha Merten.
- 7) We were honored to host Daniel Nahmod in September for a Sunday celebration that was followed by another Posipalooza musical event that included Richard Mekdeci and Sue Riley.
- 8) We look forward to hosting another appreciation for our CSLT volunteers with a Volunteer Appreciation Party at Pat Master's house on October 27th.

- 9) With the help of Mariann Moery, we completed a Community Survey to learn how our congregants view our Sunday celebrations, classes, and what they would most like to see as our community's future.
- 10) The Board offered an informational lunch in July, intended to increase awareness and understanding about the qualities and training required/desirable for those interested in Board service.

Highlighted Results of the 2018 Community Survey - Mariann Moery

The Fall Survey had 53 responses - an increase over the prior survey. A very grateful board thanks everyone who took part. We learned that most find us online or by word-of-mouth. The Community has a balance of newcomers (0-24 months) and long-term attendees (5+ years). Most important in the Sunday Celebration is the Reminder, followed by the Practitioner's Prayer, Music and Greeting in a virtual tie. Physical space fell far back in importance.

The Center earned highest marks for supporting individuals in their understanding of Science of Mind, spiritual growth, self-awareness, and abundance. Also supported are improving emotional wellbeing and achieving personal goals. Unsurprisingly, the more highly social activities were seen as less supported, which is appropriate as they were reported as being less important overall to the respondents. Book studies, workshops and opportunities to learn were most important to the community. Participation in classes was good overall (65% attend 2-3 times/year), but attendance is limited due to scheduling and cost. The Board is exploring options on both including online classes and daytime classes.

CSLT volunteers are amazing – 65% volunteer. A quarterly report on CSLT status was requested in the Newsletter: January, April, and July with the Annual Report in October. As a reminder, minutes of each Board meeting, all of which are open, are published each month in the Newsletter.

Other than the newsletter, CSLT is not an active online community. Website options are not utilized, Facebook is not visited and interest in video recordings of Sunday Service is evenly split. Videos will continue to be pursued as support: money, people and time, become available. The many personal comments are being reviewed.

Education Team - Board Liaison, Rev Janis Farmer

During the last 12-months, 22 students have completed CSL Certificated Classes, which included:

Foundations of Science of Mind Visioning Power of Your Word

Two additional classes were attempted and did not come to fruition due to lack of participation. One was an online-only 'Contemporary Applications of the Science of Mind' and a certificated in-person class on 'The Essential Ernest Holmes' on Tuesday evenings.

"The Journey" series has expanded to include other days and times, and additional facilitators, providing non-certificated classes. A diversity of facilitators (Keith Gorley, Pat Masters, Noreen Poli, Elaine Rockhill, Holly Baker, Karen Kiester and Carolyn King) shared their knowledge and gifts during this 12-month period on a wide variety of topics. Additionally, the 8 Spiritual Economics home study groups were facilitated by Leah Hamilton RScP, Mariann Moery, Jeff Jackson, Larry Cochran, Cynthia Spencer, Pat Masters and Michelle Amado. There were over 825 points of engagement and connection in these many and diverse classes.

Guest Speakers during the year included Rev Donald Graves, ministerial student Karen Lewis, and Rev Laura Hallett (with workshop). Additionally, Daniel Nahmod spoke as part of the 2018 PosiPaloosa weekend.

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) regularly advertise our

services and events (including special musical artists and speakers) in Natural Awakenings Magazine, as well as spot advertisements in other online magazines such as Tucson Happenings.

Additionally, we actively tithe to and support a local program, selected by our congregants, currently Sister Jose's Women's Shelter. The selected charity receives 5% of our financial prosperity each month as part of our contribution to our local area. We will ask our congregants to identify local charities that encourage self-determined living in November, hear from the three top charities in December and select (by paper ballot) the 2019 recipient in January 2019.

Internal and External Events

- **Gourmets for God.** We held our second annual Gourmets for God with 5 congregant-hosted events and 22 participants. This fun fundraiser happens again this fall.
- **Community Envisioning.** Rev Janis led our envisioning practice this past January. We reaffirmed our intention for growth, formation of additional small groups, and added a request to gather together what is known of possible, suitable construction techniques.
- **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. We also held a Pet Blessing and a Property Blessing in the spring.
- **PosiPalooza.** This event was scheduled for September 9, which is after the end of this operating period, but before the Annual Meeting. As is our usual practice, we shared this event with Unity of Peace. Daniel Nahmod, Sue Riley and Richard Mekdeci performed for an audience of approximately 85. Daniel also spoke and sang at our Sunday morning service on September 9.
- **Volunteer Appreciation Party.** We celebrated and honored our beloved volunteers at an October 2017 catered event at the Office & Education Center. Our CSLT Orchestra and a number of our volunteer singers provided joyful entertainment. We are on track for a similar event, with tastier food, later in October at Pat Masters' home, celebrating this year's volunteers.
- **Spiritual Economics Afterparty.** Following a suggestion of one of our home study group facilitators, we held a celebratory potluck/party during the heat of the summer with music by our own CSLT Orchestra.

--- Team Reports ---

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

Altared States is the team that sets up the altar table, beautifies the stage and provides the arrangements for each Sunday community service. The team members are Po Lui-Frank, Barbara Arissa, Silvia Cueto, and Gerry Crow. The team has been wonderfully consistent about maintaining the schedule of the assigned Sundays. Po has been the coordinator for the team, and will leave the team at the end of September 2018. The team needs more members to share the responsibilities and the joys.

I have enjoyed my time with the flower team. Thank you, Barbara, Silvia, and Gerry. Love, Po.

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. Sunday bookstore sales totalled \$3,640 and included class texts, books of general spiritual interest, childrens' metaphysical books, music CDs, Sunday service CDs, audiobooks, t-shirts, and Science of Mind magazines. Net sales for the time period were \$490. We welcome a few more luminous individuals who love books, and talking about books, to join our team.

Community Builders – Mariann Moery, Board Liaison

The Community Builders team has existed about 21 months, developed and distributed a one-page informational flyer throughout Davis Monthan that describes available services, social functions, volunteer

opportunities and educational events. This flyer was also part of the packet we send to the Science of Mind magazine mailing list purchased from Home Office. (More on this under Marketing/Communcation).

Compassionate Heart – Wendie Arison Team Leader, Leah Hamilton, Board Liaison

Compassionate Heart held two team meetings in November and June, and reaffirmed that semi-annual team meetings are appropriate at this time. Total services provided during this time period: 85 calls, 67 emails, 17 cards, 33 visits, 19 meals, 19 errands, and 78 rides, plus 168 volunteer hours at Sr. Jose's Women's Shelter. Compassionate Heart is open to welcoming new team members.

Facility Team – Dick Laird, Team Leader & Board Liaison

We continue to operate at our current Office and Education Center on a month-to-month basis at its current rental rate. We continue investigating suitable properties, including facility-sharing opportunities, without yet seeing anything more cost-effective than we presently have. Our 5-acre parcel on 22nd Street continues to be visited regularly and tidied 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 – Dick Laird, Team Leader & Board Liaison

The Hospitality Team provided set-up and clean-up for Potluck Sundays throughout the year. The team finished the year with 11 lively volunteers, including 4 seasonal residents.

Lunch Bunch – Carla Hodge, Team Leader, Dick Laird, 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 vegan options (often), 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, Mariann Moery Board Liaison

Everyone has a chance to increase our visibility in Tucson. We continued our regular advertising with "Natural Awakenings. 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.

This year we purchased the Science of Mind magazine subscribers list for the greater Tucson area and sent a letter inviting them to attend the September 9th PosiPalooza, as well as some information about us. We do not yet know whether this direct mailing activity will produce fruit. Congregants were also encouraged to take postcards advertising the September 9th event and place them in coffee shops, yoga studios, or any place they frequented, in an additional effort to get the word out.

Our electronic newsletter is a success in part because, each week, we have had an article written by a board member, frequently an inspirational quote and a spiritual practice, and often photographs of our community. After culling well over 100 subscribers who had not opened the newsletter in at least a year, we still have more than 570 sign-ups for our weekly electronic newsletter. We have also gained 29 (net) additional "likes" on our Facebook page, to bring our total to 721. We remain open for new writers, marketers, and creators to add their own brand of marketing and communication magic to MarComm.

Membership Team – Pat Masters Team Leader & Board Liaison

One membership class was held this year and three new members were added. Plans are being formed to host a Membership class in January.

Music Team – Rev Janis Farmer, Board Liaison

Our beloved regular volunteer musicians have included: Abbie Small, Leona Freeman, Anna Mello-Lewis, and Aimee Wheeler.

The CSLT Orchestra remained stable this year with Michael Freeman on bass, Chris Wheeler on drums, Michael Zimmerman on electric guitar and David Prouty on keyboards.

Paid Guest Musicians have included: Rebecca Hopper, Mark Holdaway, Amber Ikeman, Susan Artemis, and Michael Zimmerman stepped up twice as a guest musical director for David Prouty. We held a house concert at the Office with Jan Garrett & JD Martin in January. Daniel Nahmod sang/spoke the morning of our 2018 PosiPalooza event. That evening he was joined by Sue Riley and Richard Mekdeci.

NewComers Team – Rebecca Bushner Team Leader, Sheila Campbell Board Liaison.

This mighty 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 105 guests in the last 12 months. An interesting tidbit of information about our guests is that about 31% of them find us on the internet, 38% are invited by someone, 13% belonged to another CSL, 4% found us through social media, 2% through Natural Awakenings and the remaining 11% of them didn't share how they found us.

Photographs and Memories – Serina French (until she moved) Team Leader, Leah Hamilton Board Liaison

The majority of the photographs taken this year have been shots captured serendipitously by any number of individuals with phone cameras. Hey, it works!

Practitioners – Rev Janis Farmer, Board Liaison

During the last 12-months, our licensed spiritual practitioners and practitioner student participated in each Sunday Celebration Service by providing a pre-service Sunday meditation (now extended to 20-minutes), evocations, high watch, and the opportunity for individual prayer during and following each service. Our Practitioner Core continues to recreate itself. One member of our Practitioner Core has taken a leave of absence until she finishes her business degree, and then she'll decide whether she desires to continue as a Practitioner or not. Our Practitioner-In-Training continues to deepen in her spiritual practice and expand her practitioner skill-sets. In this 12-month period, almost 300 individuals took part in the Sunday morning meditations, over 119 individual 1:1 prayer treatments were shared, and the Truth was known for more than 47 written Ministry of Prayer requests and more than 40 web prayer requests. These spiritual leaders recorded demonstrations (answered prayers), and compiled monthly Thoughts and Affirmations in support of Rev Janis and the Sunday Reminders. These prayer practitioners 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, Pat Masters, Board Liaison

Gratitude goes to Tom Bacon, for his insight into movies of interest and for serving as the Team Lead. A wide variety of films have been viewed. Our lending library of previously shown films continues to grow.

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

Current members are Barbara Arissa, Nancy Greene, Peggy Jo Hays, Janie Hooper, Jeff Jackson, Carol Nigut, Rob Robbins, Linda Simpson, and Larry Wichman. We all enjoy warmly welcoming everyone on Sunday

mornings, and introducing first-timers to members of the Newcomers Team. It is a privilege to serve our Center in this way.

Videography Team – Leah Hamilton, Board Liaison

This activity did not move forward this year with other considerations, such as evaluating potential locations taking a higher priority. It remains on our agenda, and remains deferred, for now.

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. The form is also available on Sundays on the Information Table, included in the New Member Orientation packet and offered on an as-needed or as-requested basis. 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!

-- 2018-9 Planned Events and Activities --

- The Journey continues, subject to change.
- Volunteer Appreciation Party, October 27.
- Community Envisioning Weekend, January (To Be Scheduled)
- Gourmets for God fun fundraiser
- Candlelighting for Solstice, Endings & Beginnings Year-End Ritual, ReAffirmation of Vows, among others
- Multiple guest speakers, some with workshops
- Only one guest musician has been scheduled at this time, Cerise Patron in January, although others have been contacted.

- Election of Board Members -

We have two open seats. Both are three-year terms. We'll be taking nominations from the floor from interested, qualified parties. Those interested in, and qualified to, serve on the CSL Tucson Board will briefly address the congregation during the Annual meeting on October 7.

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.