

Annual Gathering Report Annual Gathering Date: October 2, 2022

... A Spiritual Alternative

Current Board Members: Maria Schuchardt, Board Chair; Chris Wheeler, Vice-Chair; Madeline Pallanes, Secretary; Janet Salese, Treasurer; and two open positions.

- Report on the previous 12 months, September 2021 - August 2022 -

Financial Report / Funding Team

The following data are unverified income and expense values:

	Sunday Offerings	Total Income	Total Expenses	Facility Fund & Opp. Fund Contrib's∇	Net Income∇	Total Year Attendance	Average Weekly Attend.	Average Weekly Offering /Person
Est. Budget 9/22-8/23	126,000	134,960	148,412	47,479 [©]	<14,252>	2,600	50	48.46
9/2021-8/22 Actual	125,003 &	131,680	126,634	39,531 ⓒ⊚ 10,832 ፟¥	5,046	1,643	32	76.08 🌤
Est. Budget 9/21-8/2022	126,000	140,880	154,224	47,479 [©]	<13,344>	2,600	50	48.46
9/2020 – 8/21 Actual	122,132	128,227	110,203	47,499 ☺ (<6,461♣>)	18,024 §	2,101	40	58.13
9/2019 - 8/20 Actual	131,153	144,886	116,077	47,479 ☺ ₩	28,809	2,596	49	50.52

 $[\]nabla$ Designated Funds are not included as available income. They can only be used for their intended purposes.

- More than \$13,000 of net income was from Sunday rent 'forgiven' (use not possible) and no paid administrator. § More than \$19,900 of net income was from Sunday rent 'forgiven' (use not possible) and no paid administrator.
- © The Board placed \$25,000 of our Facility Fund with the Science of Mind Foundation as an endowment investment. The market has had a tough year. We expect it to recover and grow. At this moment, it is running a deficit.
- We benefitted from a number of very generous donations this past year, as well as not spending funds we didn't have on a paid administrator, or Sunday Celebration Service space (until June 2022).

The Board of Trustees, Maria Schuchardt, Chair

In the last year, each Trustee served as liaison to a number of teams/circles and/or events. That meant that in addition to specific board activities, each board member supported other groups within our Center.

Specific Areas of Focus:

- Maria Schuchardt, Chair: Trustees, Hospitality, Wall Calendar, Youth Ministry, Hosts
- Chris Wheeler, Vice-Chair: Newcomers Team
- Madeline Pallanes, Secretary: Marketing and Communication, Outreach, Videography, Photography,
 Membership, Bookstore, Social celebrations, Liaison to CSL Member Council & Spiritual Circles
- Janet Salese, Treasurer: Sacred Cinema, Full moon labyrinth walk, Funding Team/Stewardship (with Rev Janis), Directory, Greeters, Prosperity Mastermind Group.

[©] Annual payment on promissory note for sale of 4961 E 22nd St

[♣] An additional designated fund, The Opportunity Fund, was created by the request of anonymous donations of \$12,000) for enhancing our marketing presence in Tucson. Additional funds continue to be added. We redeveloped our website from this fund and have increased our marketing presence by purchasing advertising in several different publications. We also purchased video equipment for livestreaming.

Rev Janis Farmer, Spiritual Leader: Ecclesiastical Core, Practitioner Core, Visioning, Education
 Programming, Day-to-day Operations, Funding Team/Stewardship (with Janet), and responsible for
 the overall Sunday Celebration experience, incl. Music and Altared States. Focus Area: Education.

Key events this past year included:

- We returned to in person services after being virtual (only) for 27 months. Because of the skill and commitment of a few key individuals, we have a cozy Sunday location, and also the ability to create quality live-streams and zoom each Sunday service.
- During May, we heard Sunday talks from a diverse group of speakers (two ministerial students, one chaplain, one social worker, and one focus ministry leader), while Rev Janis took a much-too-brief, overdue, sabbatical month.
- Maria Schuchardt completed her practitioner training, passed her written and oral panels, and became a licensed practitioner with CSL, joining Sharon Whealy in practitioner service for/with us.
- We continued with most classes and gatherings online. We have active participants who do not reside within Tucson's city limits. Beginning in June, we resumed the monthly gathering of the Lunch Bunch in person after our 4th Sunday service.
- Our stage band continues to amaze and delight with new music and old favorites every week.
- Attended an introductory gathering of the Interfaith Community in support of LGBQTIA+ youth.

Education Team - Board Liaison, Rev Janis Farmer: We successfully fielded two certificated classes in early evenings this past year, entirely online. We intend to resume certificated classes (online only, which allow us to reach beyond the city limits of Tucson) in January 2023.

One of the perks of membership in our Center is a 10% discount on certificated classes.

During the last 12-months, 15 students have completed CSL Certificated Classes, which included:

Revealing Wholeness Visioning

Our non-certificated classes continued on other days and times, and with additional facilitators. A diversity of facilitators (Keith Gorley, Sharon Whealy, and Rev Janis) shared their knowledge and gifts during this 12-month period on a wide variety of topics (primarily online). Books included: Dennis Merritt Jones' *The Art of Being*, Frederick Bailes' *Hidden Power for Human Problems*, Edwene Gaines' *Four Spiritual Laws of Prosperity*, Thomas Troward's *Creative Process in the Individual*, *A Simplified Bhagavad Gita* written by Dr Edward Viljoen, and Brene Brown's *Atlas of the Heart*. Rev Janis also facilitated an online Gratitude series during November 2021 and the Science of Mind basics in January 2022. There were over 400 points of engagement and connection in these many, diverse classes.

Ecclesiastical - Rev Janis Farmer: Since we were entirely online through May, we had funds to support guest speakers and guest musicians many consecutive months this year. Speaking (only) were our own Sharon Whealy RScP, Dr Karmen Smith, Jeff Hargis and poet John Roedel. Speaking and singing were: Jami Lula, and Daniel Nahmod.

Rev Janis took a brief sabbatical in May. Speaking on Sundays in her absence were: Rev Carol Lotts, ministerial student Sarah Forbes RScP, Rev Steph St Amand, ministerial student Joseph Gabrielson RScP, and Dr Karmen Smith.

The Gregory School let us know late in 2021 that they had decided to terminate all outside use of their facility. We began searching for a new Sunday place to meet within our price range and were introduced to the Live Theater Workshops. We began in-person services at Live Theater Workshops on June 12th, concurrently broadcasting or livestreaming to YouTube and zoom, as well as recording the talk for later

viewing on YouTube. Many hearts, minds and hands were involved in making this transition back to inperson services relatively seamless, and uneventful. A special shout-out and thanks to Michael Zimmerman, and our primary sound/lights/recording technical specialist Kyleigh Sacco, and also our Sunday host, Live Theater Workshops.

During our Sunday Celebration Services this past year we also explored Lissa Rankin's *Mind over Medicine* and Edwene Gaines' *Four Spiritual Laws of Prosperity*. In October 2022, we welcome Rev Karen Russo to begin our in-person, over zoom and on Sundays study of her book, *The Money Keys*.

One of our beloved teachers and speakers moved on to his 'greater next yet to be' this past year. We honor Keith Gorley's memory and his contributions to our Center in time, talent and treasure. Over his many years with us, he served on our Board of Trustees, taught a number of courses (teaching was his first love), started the men's group, and occasionally spoke on Sundays. He was scheduled to offer Eric Butterworth's *Practical Metaphysics* when he transitioned. We hosted his Celebration of Life at the Office and Education Center on March 26th with ~ 30 individuals in the room, and another 30+ joining us through the technology of zoom.

Daily Morning Spiritual Practices continued on zoom with a wide variety of committed volunteer leaders (local and not so local), and became a true daily practice (7 days/week), until we began meeting in person on Sundays. This represents an astonishing 354 days of practice with 6-10 persons attending and participating in each daily morning practice.

In-House Rituals & Celebrations. We held two Celebration of Light rituals near Winter Solstice with 13 attending the in-person candlelighting held outdoors at the Unity of Tucson's labyrinth and 11 attending the zoom candlelighting. Twenty-two persons attended the Endings and Beginnings Ritual on New Year's Eve (zoom only).

Community Inreach/Outreach – Rev. Janis, Maria Schuchardt and Madeline Pallanes

Community Envisioning - Rev Janis again led our envisioning practice this past January with 14 people in attendance for the first day and 7 for the second. We continued to look for ways to connect and interact in this most unusual time.

These were our ideas for 2022:

Things we are already doing virtually (on zoom), which we'll continue as long as there is interest:

- Monthly Movie Discussion Group Marya Wheeler took over as leader
- Prosperity Mastermind Group meets monthly
- Have our zoom room hosted on Sundays once we get back in person.
- A variety of classes with different facilitators

In-person, (masked and socially distanced, if applicable and needed):

- Monthly full moon labyrinth walk continue, Janet facilitating
- Lunch Bunch re-convened, 4th Sunday at Basha's (Ft Lowell & Swan) after Services
- The men's group meets at the office again, at least sometimes
- CSLT Creatives met monthly at several participants homes
- Attending theater productions at Live Theater Workshops together in a group
- Office watch parties held at least monthly before we got back in person on June 12th

Other ideas to consider and explore:

- Are we interested in exploring Living Room Conversations either in person or online?
- Look for more *fun* things to do and coordinators willing to step up and lead them

- Individuals reaching out to other CSLT people we haven't seen in a while to connect with them, and engage.
- Look for opportunities to advertise, or better yet, connect with people who are not actively part of our community
- Discover ways to encourage and inspire prospective leaders and coordinators.
- Refurbish, or reprint, our informational cards which can be placed in yoga studios, coffee shops, libraries, and on other such community bulletin boards.
- Encourage congregants to 'tell their story' about what living the Science of Mind philosophy has meant to them in their lives.

Considering the year(s) we've experienced, we did pretty well in creating what we intended.

Our Credo: CSLT inspires spiritual expression in community with all and offers an accepting, loving and peaceful way of living a joyful, healthier, and more abundant life.

The **2023 Community Envisioning** date will be announced in December, once we figure out how we are best able to meet.

Community Outreach in the time of Covid remains challenging. We know the best way to share with others is to bring/invite them to a CSLT event. Now, the invitations are to our zoom rooms for daily practice, book studies, special events, and for classes, and/or to our in-person Sunday Celebrations.

All of which have seen new people joining in. The second-best way for people to find us is on the internet through our website, our Facebook page, our Instagram page, and our YouTube channel.

We've added more ways to learn about both CSLT and CSL, in general. The calendar on our webpage highlights current as well as upcoming events. Thank you, Maria and Mariann, for all you contribute. You can find multiple resources on our site, including Board Minutes, Blog essays and current event information at tucsoncsl.org.

--- Team Reports ---

Administration – Rev Janis and a cast of "dozens": Rev Janis continues to serve as the primary administrator for our Center. She continues to receive support for many administrative tasks. Maria Schuchardt provides calendar and blog upload services. She, with help, also created the 2022 wall calendar featuring art and photographs of our community participants, and is in process with the 2023 wall calendar. Mariann Moery created our marketing materials used in our advertising, and took over production of our weekly electronic newsletter. Madeline Pallanes is the primary administrator for our Facebook page. Janet Salese assume the Treasurer's duties, and hosts the community directory. We enjoy our competent remote bookkeeper, Kim Reeves, and her assistant Lisa Besst. Rev Janis very much appreciates each of these regular administrative supporters.

Facility Team – Rev Janis (for now): A loosely arrayed group of individuals maintain the office and education center at 911 S Craycroft; they assist in weeding the parking lot, trimming the bushes, changing furnace filters and light bulbs. We hired a plumbing company to repair a leaking toilet, and an air conditioning tech to service the air conditioner.

Funding Team – Rev. Janis & Janet Salese: Part of the charge of the Funding Team is to assist the congregation in choosing a local charity that CSLT supports with 5% of our regular donations each year. Each November, members of the congregation are encouraged to identify local organizations that they believe support self-determined living. Then the top three are identified to speak for a few moments on a Sunday during December. The first Sunday of January, the congregation selects the organization CSLT supports that year.

This year, we heard from three organizations: Literacy Connects, Old Pueblo Community Services and the Community Food Bank. The congregation voted to support Old Pueblo Community Services again during 2022. We will be seeking nominations for the 2023 year in November.

Altared States Team – Barbara Arissa, Team Leader: With our return to in-person services our Altared States team is back in action, creating order and beautifying our stage with fresh flowers or live plants every week. If you'd like to join this team, and participate in this way, you'd be most welcome.

Music Team - David Prouty, Team Leader

<u>Our beloved in-house volunteer singers</u>: One of the joys of returning to in-person services is the relative ease with which our volunteer singers can perform with 'da band'. We've appreciated having Beryl Varno sing several Sundays since we've been back in person.

<u>The CSLT Orchestra</u> remained stable this year with Chris Wheeler on drums, Michael Zimmerman on electric guitar, James Gunn on bass (and once, on tuba!), and David Prouty on keyboards. The Orchestra provides weekly inspirational music. This was accomplished with difficulty while we were virtual, and it's not a small feat to continue to produce quality music in person every week in person.

<u>Paid Guest Musicians included</u>: Jami Lula and Daniel Nahmod sang and spoke during Sunday services. Michael Zimmerman stepped up as Guest Musical Director so David Prouty could have a little time off.

Practitioners – Rev Janis Farmer, Board Liaison: We remain grateful for Sharon Whealy, who transferred her practitioner license in June 2021 from CSL Bakersfield. Since joining us, Sharon has assumed Sunday morning practitioner services two Sundays a month, provided 5th Sunday practitioner coverage, delivered a Sunday talk, and taught a class on the *Bhagavad Gita*. We celebrate the support that Sharon provides for our Center and look forward to her continued blossoming.

Maria Schuchardt, our newly licensed practitioner, serves on the Sunday platform once/month, leads meditation 1-2 times each month, in addition to other behind-the-scenes practitioner duties as well as her other duties as board chair. She also desires to serve as a youth facilitator. We celebrate Maria.

We welcome an addition to our Sunday morning meditation line up beginning in September. Rev Janis has been knowing that an additional trained-and-qualified volunteer would arise who would be willing to lead the Sunday morning pre-service meditations once a month, and she has! Welcome Tamara!

Our record keeping became a bit irregular for the online Sunday morning meditations. We'll do better now that we are back in person.

The Truth was known for 37 web prayer requests, plus a conversation and handful of requests that didn't come in through prayer@tucsoncsl.org. These spiritual leaders recorded demonstrations (answered prayers) and compiled monthly Thoughts and Affirmations in support of Rev Janis and the Sunday Reminders.

Prayer practitioners are always available individually for affirmative prayer or spiritual counseling, or anonymously through the on-line prayer request.

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. Vision Core currently meets on zoom, the sorts of visions gleaned, and the quality of the visionings changed. Approximately 1/3 our Vision Core participates independently at this time.

We would be remiss to not mention the passing this year of Barbara McGill, a long-time, very private, participant in our Center, who remained part of the Vision Core, as well as assisted us with property acquisition over many years. We will miss her presence.

Maria Schuchardt, Board Chair – Team Reports

Hospitality Team – Maria Schuchardt, Team Leader: Since we are not meeting in person the hospitality team has nothing to report. We look forward to getting together and the eventual return of potlucks.

Our CSLT Annual Wall Calendar: A beautiful CSLT wall calendar was created with photographs by Cheri Anderson, Ethel Lee-Miller, Mariann Moery, Susan Seid, Beryl Varno, artwork by Carolyn King, and photos of the pets we have grown to recognize and love during these years of virtual connection; also featured were poetry/prose by Beryl Varno, Gregg Molzon, and Susan Seid.

Host Team – Marya Wheeler, Team Leader: The Host welcomes the congregation to our service and sets our intentions for the service by repeating the Opening statement concerning our sacred space and shared One Life. The Host also shares announcements and prompts the congregation to greet each other in person and on zoom, asking everyone wave and give virtual hugs. Team members over the past year: Jeff Jackson, Pat Masters, Beryl Varno, Nicole Miller and Marya Wheeler. Linda Bullock joined this team this year.

Youth Program – Marya Wheeler, Team Leader: With our return to in-person services, it is possible for us to have youth services on Sunday mornings. We'd love to attract three additional youth facilitators who truly have a heart for supporting our youth in growing in the Science of Mind principles, and in developing as wise, grounded, young people aware of their wholeness.

Chris Wheeler, Board Vice-Chair – Team Report

NewComers Team – Rebecca Bushner Team Leader: No newcomers welcoming program has been in effect even since we have begun meeting in person (per Covid protocols). We look forward to the day when that is a different experience.

Chris also participates in the Men's group and has filled in for Rev Janis in leading Vision Core, and in leading the visioning practice for the Board meetings when Rev Janis was unavailable.

Madeline Pallanes, Secretary – Liaison Team Reports

Bookstore Team – Wendie Arison, Team Leader: There was no active bookstore as long as we were online only, and now with our return to in person, the Covid protocols discourage us having a regular bookstore on site. Books, calendars and Science of Mind magazines were still sold through the office. We thank Wendie for her dedication to Bookstore.

In-person Celebrations: Since we were still following Covid-protocols our in-person celebrations were limited. We did honor and celebrate our major donors with an outdoor picnic at Ft Lowell Park on March 19. Twenty-eight delicious meals were ordered from Tasteful Kitchen for major donors and their guests.

Marketing/Communications Team (MarComm) – Mariann Moery, Team Leader: Our weekly email newsletter continues to thrive and serves as our most direct communication source. In it, we continue to publish a blog post written by a board member, Rev Janis frequently provides inspirational quotes, a spiritual practice, links to supporting practices and readings and (currently) links to other sites for online communities. We continue to be open to hearing from other individuals who have a story to share with the community about their personal growth, success, or experience in our teaching.

Currently we have 536 active newsletter sign-ups. We regularly remove those that have not opened a newsletter in over a year. 49% of those who have signed up typically read our newsletter (a significant

improvement since Mariann Moery took over production of our newsletter), and 30% of those typically click on a link. We have also gained 42 additional "likes" on our Facebook page, to bring our total to 880 (and we have 962 'followers'). We remain open for new writers, marketers, and creators to add their own style of communication magic to Marketing Communications.

Our ad in "Tucson Weekly" did not appear to increase our visibility in Tucson. We continue to advertise in "Natural Awakenings Magazine" for regular and special events, and have had a few people find us from our Natural Awakenings ads. Our amped-up presence on Facebook (led by Madeline Pallanes), our enhanced presence online with zoom and YouTube livestreaming seems to be drawing more likeminded persons to us.

We continued to produce coordinated releases for each special guest (speaker/musician) we enjoyed this past year, which was shared across multiple platforms – our website, Natural Awakenings, our Facebook page and our newsletter.

Videography & Photography – Mariann Moery, Team Leader: We purchased video-equipment suitable for us to broadcast from Nickerson Auditorium, and when that venue became unavailable to us, and a new smaller venue was found (thank you Janet Salese), we realized we had the wrong equipment. Thankfully, our supplier took back the unusable equipment, and we were able to gather what we needed to livestream and broadcast from our present Sunday location. The grant we received from the Hefferlin Foundation did cover part of the cost of the videography equipment. One of the main reasons they exist is to promote the Science of Mind teaching on livestreaming.

Membership Team – Pat Masters, Team Leader: We welcomed 2 new members during this past year in an online membership class. We can host membership classes in-person, or online.

Membership classes are a two-part process. The first class is an introduction to the principles of the Science of Mind. The second class is about how CSL Tucson operates. Those who have successfully completed 'Foundations of the Science of Mind' needed only to attend the second of the two classes.

<u>Janet Salese, Board Treasurer – Liaison Team Reports</u>

Greeters - Donna Hall, Coordinator: Donna had taken the responsibility of determining how the greeters would operate once we began having in-person services at our new location in June. Donna decided she will be the greeter each Sunday until attendance grows to where more than one person is needed. Jeff Jackson assists on his hosting days and Altared States members also help out as needed.

Sacred Cinema - Marya Wheeler, Leader. This is an online Sacred Cinema Discussion Group. Participants watch the movie on their own, then come together on the 3rd Sunday of the month via Zoom to discuss the movie. The movie of the month is announced in the weekly newsletter. The time was changed to 3pm to accommodate those attending in-person services. 3-4 participants attend regularly.

Prosperity Plus Alumni MasterMind Group - Shelly Dunn & Marya Wheeler, Leaders. Group continues to meet twice a month on Zoom on the 1st & 3rd Sundays at 2pm. Shelly Dunn and Marya Wheeler take turns facilitating. 4-5 individuals participate regularly. Good results have been experienced by all participants. The group name was changed to Prosperity MasterMind in September to encourage all alumni of any prosperity class to join in.

Full Moon Labyrinth Walk: Janet Salese continues to lead these walks that take place at the Unity of Tucson's outdoor labyrinth on full moon evenings. Attendance has been increasing with non-CLST participants finding us through Natural Awakenings and Unity Church notices, along with regulars bringing friends and neighbors. Since it began in October 2020, only on one very cold February night did

no one join Janet for the walk. The December walk was preceded by an early Solstice Celebration led by Rev. Janis. Shelly Dunn led the July walk when Janet wasn't available.

Directory: 32 individuals are now included in the CSLT directory. The directory is updated and sent out quarterly by email. Janet Salese heads up this project.

CSLT Creatives: Ethel Lee-Miller, Leader. The CSLT Creatives was formed after the completion of Foundations by class members who wanted to come together to encourage each other's creativity. After taking the summer off, the group will resume in October meeting on the 4th Thursday of the month from 12:30 - 2pm at a member's residence to work on individual projects. The group is open to new members wishing to share their creativity who are willing to follow the host's Covid protocols.

Volunteer Coordination: Volunteer service is coordinated by individual team leaders and encouraged during membership classes. Each individual is encouraged to find his/her niche through volunteering in our Center. We know each person has an opportunity to experience a greater sense of connectedness through belonging to a service team and/or a social group.

-- 2022-2023 Planned Events and Activities --

- Rev Karen Russo, author of *The Money Keys* speaks on October 2, 2022
- Continuing to meet in-person on Sundays as well as livestream and zoom.
- Certificated and non-certificated classes, book studies, other educational opportunities
- Daily Morning Meditation Practice (as long as individuals are willing to host the daily sessions)
- Madeline Pallanes and Sharon Whealy intend to start an online Spiritual Circle where the contents of the current month's *Science of Mind Magazine* (aka *Guide for Spiritual Living*) will be discussed.
- Marya Wheeler continues as our liaison to the CSL Youth and Family Ministry
- Madeline Pallanes continues as our liaison to the CSL Member Council.
- Janet Salese continues to host our monthly full moon in-person labyrinth walk.
- Opportunities to socialize virtually, and in-person
- In-person and/or virtual celebrations, rituals, shared practices
- Community Envisioning Weekend, January (date to be determined)
- Multiple guest speakers, some with workshops

- Election of Board Members -

We have two seats open for 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 may briefly address the congregation during the Annual meeting on October 2nd.

To be considered qualified for Board service (from the Bylaws, posted on the <u>tucsoncsl.org</u> 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.