

Center for Spiritual Living Tucson's Community Envisioning, June 6-7, 2014

Facilitated by Dr John Waterhouse, President, Centers for Spiritual Living

Attended by 27 individuals on June 6th and 18 individuals on June 7th.

Held at Center for Spiritual Living Tucson's (CSLT's) Office and Education Center
3895 N. Alvernon Way, 85718

Group Visioning Practice

WHAT IS THE HIGHEST VISION, THE HIGHEST IDEAL FOR THE CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL LIVING TUCSON?

- White flag waving from a height
- Many lights are turned on. The city at night after blackout, all lights are on.
- Song: "Hello, Hello"
- The "World of CSLT"
- Sacred Community
- Loving, challenging, comforting place for growth.
- Home: In a Home, a permanent place
- Diverse supportive community; healing, growing, building dreams & wholeness
- Safe community for all with music & fun
- Pinnacle of attraction, above all other structures, Lighthouse with a turning light
- Unity, oneness within our community and the community around us - rippling out into the universe
- White castle on a hill, turrets, flags flying, lights shining.
- Hundreds of families with young children. Diverse, generationally too.
- Light, expansive, flowing boundaries, bright space, ever-expanding community, attractive to seekers, nurturing, vibrant, every individual honored.
- Felt strong surge of light through arms and hands reminding me of the energy workers in our midst, doing classes, sessions with congregants and each other, classes, classes, classes - art, writing, food, not just meditation and CSL classes
- Warmth, expressed to all
- Education and learning and engagement in the Tucson community (beyond the funding of YOTO for example)
- Brighter blue sky, top of mountaintop
- Love, service, education
- White puffy clouds in blue sky. Communication "out there"
- Thrival in every way
- Macro- and microcosmic orbits all aligned and operating harmoniously, radiating out, including more
- Yellow, happiness, love, community, balance, home.
- Perpetual expansion, expression & love.

WHAT CHANGES, EVOLVES, BECOMES FOR THIS VISION TO COME INTO EXISTENCE?

- Open hearts and readiness, a white brick road
- Everybody sings in harmony
- A yoga group, Laughing yoga
- Respect for community and we find a home and joyously create through the move.
- More sacred service
- Kids, kids, kids
- A facility that brings people together in a peaceful environment
- New central location
- Pond with ripple effect, flooding and covering old weeds
- We must begin with ourselves, letting go sometimes of our personal expectation and accepting others -- more, greater
- Attic filled with trunks, old books & papers, window at the end with sunshine streaming in
- Infrastructure and open to new energy
- Welcoming new people in structure.
- Young people are drawn to community and families; outreach expands

- Flowers, garden, beauty, open to general community.
- White flash of light, then blue skies.
- People sit close to each other at Sunday Celebration Services. CSL Community members offer classes and services related broadly to spiritual development.
- Willingness to work
- Growth, more programs, outreach, abundance
- “Good” becomes “Great”
- Limits reduce and expansion is the order of the day
- The shell cracks on a egg and the “something” emerges. Opening, Spaciousness.
- Tranquility, peace within
- Open-mindedness, love, peace, joy, purple, cooperation
- Center of joy. This is a happy place. Everyone knows it. Everyone feels it. Everyone loves it.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE THAT WANTS TO BE KNOWN ABOUT THIS VISION?

- Frank discussion necessary
- Let go, loosen up and be daring
- Go forward without fear
- Through the ONE comes the play, A unicorn in the rain, Daisy chain
- Healing circles and opportunities to share
- Challenges in context of spiritual principles
- Classes for Generation Y & Z, understanding what different generations want
- High energy, speakers, events, the love is palpable; all input honored
- "Imagine", we are all one
- Opening doors, terrace with a beautiful view
- Sacred service toward the seemingly needy to grow love and compassion in our community
- Power hose washing a brown walkway leaving it white (dust and mud below)
- Allow, no fear.
- A place of our own. This is coming.
- Bench under a real tall tree in the shade, to sit and meditate
- Our own home (Oracle property)
- Let greatness be: Let You Be!
- Willingness
- Sunflowers sprouting and growing, reaching toward the light
- Work together, coordinated teams
- Rainbow
- Everyone has a place to play, to learn & to grow.

Reports from Open Spaces (Self-Selecting Teams) ... In No Particular Order

Childrens' Group Discussion, Phyllis Grimes, Lead

Simultaneous desires: Get and train teachers and a space/room for them to meet, then call in the children. Curriculum exists.

Leaders: A minimum of one teacher and one teacher assistant for each age group. Ongoing training for teachers; Parents must get committed and participate in program.

Sources of curriculum: Centers for Spiritual Living (Michelle Lang, RScP, mlang@csl.org 720.279-1632), Carol Lotts (Holmes Institute Student) and Debbie McDonnell (recent Holmes Institute graduate)

Developing system for youth program: educational materials, supplies, assistance, support and structure.

Fundraiser and Attractor: Youth concert featuring local kids from local schools.

Community Outreach, Elaine Rockhill, Lead

Places we play now, or could play and partner with another group or solo: Tucson Festival of Books; Body and Sol; CSL's Day of Community Service; Food Bank 1X/month; Loaves and Fishes (food collection); YOTO collection (they have a list of needs); Habitat for Humanity, multiple opportunities, help build houses, brush with kindness (repair or refurbish houses); Sustainability efforts; an Edwene Gaines-type class opened up to community; the fall's mini-POSI music concert;

Good to focus on our pre-selected charity (YOTO): Angel tree (gifts needed/wanted by children; Rep from YOTO to speak more than once/year at Sunday Service. Offer YOTO classes for the kids, focusing on and designed for YOTO in specific.

Intention of Outreach Programs: introduce ourselves to the community; attract potential new participants/friends/families/members.

Wholeness Circle, Alan Hutton, Lead

Desiring to start a group to work on healing prayer in a group setting. Recognize that there are limited opportunities for individual treatments because of our location. Idea for a wall of prayer, but it is awkward at present facility. Spiritual Tune-ups will be held on July 6th during Potluck for mini-practitioner sessions. Offered on a love-offering basis.

Short term solution: Wholeness Circle. An opportunity to receive affirmative prayer for a family member, yourself or a world situation in a small group setting. Begins Sunday, July 15th in the Dining Hall at 10am.

Welcoming/Retaining Newcomers, Pat Masters, Lead

How do we retain newcomers? Some Ideas: Be a place of attraction; Have a permanent home; Demonstration for each person, share stories from the platform, establish small groups for personal connection; pastoral minister follows up with new people after the 2nd or 3rd visit; New person mentor/sponsor; Train all regular attenders to talk with three people you don't know before or after service (not just a leadership responsibility, though the leaders need to do it too); Bless what we have; Make it fun for regulars, like a treasure hunt, meet six people in their first month's visit; Host to acknowledge newcomers and repeaters for the first three times, plug them into a group or ministry.

What is the difference between people who stay and those who leave? New thought people are independent thinkers and explorers; An affirmation on why people stay?; Build from a place of love, not lack; Welcoming back those who return, without judgment or questions; Celebrate birthdays and anniversaries of regular attendees; Like Bodhi Bar (talk about groups & how to plug in)

Do we need a Newcomer Welcoming Committee? Host introduces Newcomer Ambassador from the Platform; In the spirit of radical simplicity, is this something another team (like membership) could take on?

Ideas on presenting testimonials of value received from belonging?: As part of Sunday Service, Pre-recorded, 2-3 minutes max. Congregants' stories, Practitioner Good News reports; Possibility of monthly testimonial meeting (not during Sunday Service); training for speakers, working with a coach to facilitate/model how it should go, present from stage, not from audience.

CSL Tucson as the Metaphysical Center of Excellence, Elaine Rockhill Lead

Offer classes after major events, somehow tied to that event.

Have people write testimonials after classes for use in publicity and advertising

Ask for article in Natural Awakenings about CSLT's classes

Share our class schedule with other CSL centers in town

Invite a radio station

Start a Spiritual Adventurer's Circle with monthly outings to other groups such as Global Chant or the Buddhist Center.

Embolden the circulation consciousness. In the spirit of giving, offer all CSLT classes on a love-offering basis. We are asking people to give more; this is CSLT's way of giving more. Participants are given a disc with course materials on it.

Sacred Economics & The Gift Economy, Ginny Lynns, Lead

Based on the writings of Charles Eisenstein's *Sacred Economics*, this Circle will investigate and explore a new paradigm of economic valuation and exchange, which differs from the present form. Sacred Economics Small Group: First Meeting will be June 26th at 11am at Got2B Gluten Free, 5407 East Pima Street, Tucson, AZ 85712 (cross street: N. Craycroft).

Facility Team, Sue Mason, Lead

Discussion around buying or leasing property: Advantages of buying - Feel landed and grounded with a place of our own; Build equity with purchase; Beautiful permanent place; Revisit status of properties where office is located

Ideas to expand as a "virtual" facility: Use small group model to keep people connected with classes and groups locally in homes for education and connection; Expand search area beyond current borders and boundaries; access to I-10 would help access.

Different ways to think about selection criteria: Bookstore and hospitality essential. Can be used as classroom, open space can be created by accordion doors to divide space in sanctuary or hospitality.

Now for something completely different: Use refurbished airplanes near the airport; Need dirt to build out own church inside airplane fuselages, two planes, one for sanctuary and one for office space.

Reviewed history of facility search, issues, budget, etc. What next?