

Soul Link, Inc.

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

Volume VIII, Issue 3

Fall, 2010



Soul Link Board

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SOUL LINK RETREAT

Revival IV: Uncovering the Spiritual Meaning of Religious Truths

Most people are born into families that identify with a specific religious tradition. Many find meaning, comfort, and security in the beliefs and practices they were raised with and they continue to embrace them throughout their lives. Others, for a variety of reasons, no longer find formal religion life giving and they either search for another church/tradition to nourish their souls or they turn away from religion altogether.

The conventional interpretation of religious truths can lose their power when what we learn through study and experience exposes their inadequacies. But rather than rejecting these teachings, many find that there is another way to understand them—one that is enriching, empowering, and meaningful. With the creative musical talents of **Joe Uveges** to bring life to our gathering, Revival IV will be an opportunity to consider alternative ways to understand timeless religious truths such as God, faith, prayer, and morality.

Date: October 16, 2010

Place: Broadmoor Community Church (315 Lake Ave.)

Time: 8:30 a.m. (registration), 9:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m. (retreat)

Cost: \$30 early registration (by Oct. 11), \$35 at the door. Lunch included.
Scholarships available.

Information: 648-3939

From *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor

If I had a dollar for every time I heard someone say, “I am spiritual but not religious,” then I might not be any wiser about what that means—but I would be richer.

In that context, people are usually trying to tell me that they have a sense of the divine depths of things but they are not churchgoers. They want to grow closer to God, but not at the cost of creeds, confessions, and religious wars large or small. Some of them have resigned from religions they once belonged to taking what was helpful with them while leaving the rest behind. Others have collected wisdom from the four corners of the world. Plenty of them are satisfied, too, even as they confess that they are sometimes lonely.

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I think I know what they mean by “religious.” It is the “spiritual” part that is harder to grasp. My guess is they do not use that word in reference to a formal set of beliefs. It may be the name for a longing—for more meaning, more feeling, more connection, more life. They have drawn close to this “more” in nature, in love, in art, in grief, but when they visit the places where such knowledge is supposed to be found, they often find the rituals hollow and the language antique.

Those who belong to communities of faith have acquired a certain patience with what is sometimes called organized religion. They have learned to forgive its shortcomings as they have learned to forgive themselves. They do not expect their institutions to stand in for God, and they are happy to use inherited maps for some of life’s journeys. They do not need to walk off every cliff all by themselves. Yet, they too, can harbor the sense that there is more to life than they are being shown.

Quote Corner

Religion can be a defense against the experience of God.

~C.J. Jung

Religious people believe in hell; spiritual people have been there.

~Anonymous

Every tradition begins in the white heat of transcendent realization, but over time, experiences hardening of the religious arteries through the unavoidable process of institutionalization.

~Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi

Seek not to follow in the footsteps of men of old; rather, seek what they sought. ~Gautama Buddha

Books for the Journey

***Honest to God* by John A.T. Robinson (Westminster Press)**

“All I can do is to try to be honest . . . Honest to God and honest about God.” So writes the author of this highly controversial book. Bishop Robinson speaks not only for himself but for all those who find their integrity strained by the conventional thought patterns of the church. He believes the church in our time is now being called to nothing less than a revolution that will question many of the basic assumptions which Christians have held in the past. The book is frankly disturbing—but it will make you think.

Health, Money, and Love and Why We Don’t Enjoy Them by Robert Farrar Capon (Eerdmans Publ. Co.)
In this deliciously twisting, engaging narrative, the author explores three areas of life that concern us all, pokes fun of the religions we make of them, and trumpets the radical gospel of grace, the only alternative that can free us to be truly happy. Capon discusses religion and happiness in the light of “holy luck,” the notion that God uses chance as her normal device for running the world. He argues that in espousing false religions such as health, money, and love we reject God’s holy luck for the illusion of our own control.

***A Faith Worth Believing* by Tom Stella (Harper San Francisco)**

The faith of our childhood does not always survive into adulthood. What seemed obvious and convincing at an early age looks askew after encounters with suffering, illness, different religions, modern science, or dozens of other challenges contemporary life throws in our path. This book questions various doctrines of faith—from God, Jesus, and the Trinity, to faith, charity, and heaven and hell. It invites us to move from a faith based on what we are told to one that our souls know to be true—one based on the recognition that God is mystery.

Books for the Journey (continued)

Doubt & Reassurance by Don Ray (CreateSpace)

This book weaves a continuous tapestry of deeply personal spiritual relevance by employing threads of bite-sized entries of thought provoking insight, encouragement, enlightenment, inspiration, and the occasional kick in the spiritual backside. *Doubt & Reassurance* calls to every corner, rattling liturgical cages and invoking surprising science.

Events of Interest

Contemplative Connection

Our fast-paced and noisy world often kidnaps us from the “still point” at the center of our being. When we are out of touch with that center we can lose a sense of meaning, connection, passion, and compassion. One of the ways to avoid this loss 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/discussion/reflection group whose intent is to fan the flame of our spiritual longings. Meetings will be held every other week on Wednesday nights, 7:00-8:30 p.m. (Sept 15–Dec. 15) at Broadmoor Community Church. Call 648-3939 for more information.

Bridges to Islam

There is a great deal of misunderstanding about and antipathy toward the Muslim faith in our country. “Bridges to Islam” is a four-week course on Islam in partnership with the Muslim community of Colorado Springs. These sessions are presented with the hope of furthering our knowledge and appreciation of this ancient faith tradition.

For more information, contact Steve at 632-6189 or dynamic@ppjpc.org.

Journey 2010

The spiritual journey is a matter of going from surface to center; that is, from an understanding of our selves based on appearances, roles, titles, etc., to one that is rooted in God/Spirit/Soul. You are invited to further your journey by participating in a group that will meet weekly on Tuesday afternoons, 1:00-3:00 p.m., beginning September 21 through November 9, at Broadmoor Community Church. The group will focus on various aspects of the spiritual life such as prayer, presence, and silence. Contact Tom Stella (648-3939) for more information.

Meditation Class

David Gardiner, Chairman of the Religion Department at Colorado College, will lead three meditation classes at Broadmoor Community Church on Tuesday evenings, 7:00-8:30 p.m. (Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov 9).

There is a \$10 charge for each session.

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@soullinkonlline.org or call the office at 648-3939 and leave your full name and email address.

Coming Events

Book Group

September 28

October 26

November 30

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Agia Sophia

Bookstore

2902 W. Colorado Ave.

Board Meeting

October 6

5:30-6:30 p.m.

Soul Link Office

Save the Date

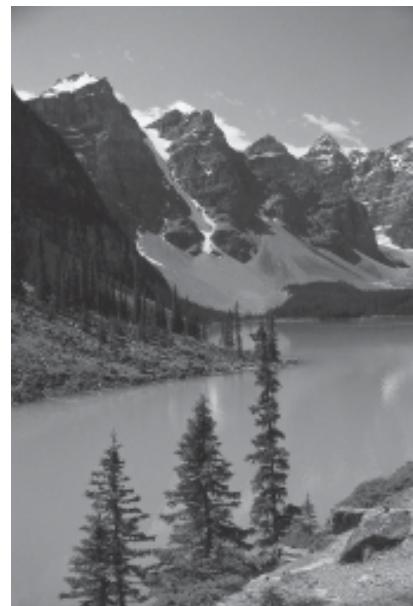
Soul Link

Winter Retreat

Sat., January 22, 2011

Soul Link, Inc.

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SOUL LINK

Together on the Spiritual Path

***Revival IV: Uncovering the Spiritual Meaning
of Religious Truths***
Saturday, October 16, 2010

Mail In Registration Form

Clip and return with registration fee no later than October 11, 2010.

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.