

Soul Link, Inc.

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

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SOUL LINK
together on the spiritual path

Soul Link Board

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SOUL LINK RETREAT (REVIVAL V)

As Above, So Below: Living Contemplatively in the World

All spiritual traditions teach that there is order in the midst of chaos, a wisdom of sorts that permeates and unites the heavens and the earth, eternity and time, the material and the spiritual. When we live our lives in harmony with this unitive truth we live contemplatively, for contemplation is not merely a form of meditative prayer but a way of being and acting that is the fruit of yielding to the order, the wisdom, the sacred presence that, in the words of Thomas Merton, "sleeps in our paper flesh like dynamite."

With the creative musical talent of **Joe Uveges** weaving its way throughout our time together, this retreat will focus on both the "above" (spiritual truths) and the "below" (the soulful reality of our selves and our lives.)

Date: October 15, 2011

Place: Broadmoor Community Church (315 Lake Ave.)

Time: 8:30am (registration), 9:00-2:30 (retreat)

Cost: \$30 early registration (by October 9), \$35 at the door. Lunch included.
Scholarships available.

Information: 648-3939

from *As Above So Below* by Ronald S. Miller

Thousands of years ago in ancient Egypt, the great master alchemist Hermes Trismegistus, believed to be a contemporary of the Hebrew prophet Abraham, proclaimed this fundamental truth about the universe: "As above, so below; as below, so above." This maxim implies that the transcendent God beyond the physical universe and the immanent God within our selves are one. Heaven and Earth, spirit and matter, the invisible and the visible worlds form a unity to which we are intimately linked.

Explaining this idea further in *Steps to Freedom*, Sufi scholar Reshad Field writes: "As above, so below' means that the two worlds are instantaneously seen to be one when we realize our essential unity with God... The One and the many, time and eternity, are all One."

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When we live this simple but profound truth in our everyday lives, we discover spiritual renewal even when paying bills, shopping for groceries, and helping our children with their homework. Our most mundane activities carry a sense of the sacred because we do not partition life into segregated areas designated spiritual and worldly. Following the dictum “As above, so below,” we unite the sacred and the profane, extending our spiritual practice beyond traditional inner-directed exercises to include loving our families, making a living, serving our communities, and caring for the Earth.

QUOTE CORNER

Jesus Christ is the only Son of God, and so are you and so am I.

William Blake

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.

Gerald Manley Hopkins

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched.
They must be felt with the heart.

Helen Keller

We ourselves cannot put any magic spell on the world. The world is its own magic.

Suzuki Roshi

God is so omnipresent...that God is an angel in an angel, and a stone in a stone, and a straw in a straw.

John Donne

BOOKS FOR THE JOURNEY

AS ABOVE SO BELOW by *Ronald S. Miller* (Jeremy P. Tarcher, Inc.)

This book unveils the variety and richness of our spiritual heritage and furthers the flowering of a new spirituality. It offers a clear and comprehensive overview of spiritual choices available in contemporary America. *As Above So Below* is a roadmap for anyone exploring alternatives to conventional religion; it is rich in insight and common sense.

THE CONTEMPLATIVE HEART by *James Finley* (Sorin Books)

James Finley recognizes the depth and range of today's spiritual yearning and refuses to settle for anything but its most profound possibilities. He opens our everyday living to the contemplative traditions, practices, and teachings that have been traditionally the preserve of the monk, and he does so without diluting them. Finley makes us realize that wherever we live, whatever we do, the richest possibilities of a contemplative life are within our reach – that they are in fact what we have been searching for all along.

CONTEMPLATION IN A WORLD OF ACTION by *Thomas Merton* (Image Books)

In the twenty-one essays that comprise this book, Merton examines his belief that a certain depth of disciplined experience is a necessary ground for fruitful action. Without a more profound human understanding derived from exploration of the inner ground of human existence, love will tend to be superficial and deceptive. Traditionally, the ideas of prayer, meditation and contemplation have been associated with this deepening of one's personal life and this expansion of the capacity of understand and serve others.

EVENTS OF INTEREST

CONTEMPLATIVE CONNECTION

Our fast-paced and noisy world often kidnaps us from the “still point” at the center of our being. One of the ways to avoid this 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/reflection group whose discussions will be based, in part, on *Christian Meditation* by James Finley. Meetings will be held every other week on Wednesday nights from 7-8:30 (September 14, 28, October 12, 26, November 9, 30, December 14)) at Agia Sophia Bookstore 2902 W. Colorado Ave. Call Tom Stella (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 session 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.

CABO SERVICE PROJECT

This past winter a group of people from Soul Link went on a service project to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico where they had a powerful experience serving the poor of that city. Once again we will offer that opportunity through “Travel With A Purpose.” Our own Steve Shapiro will organize this project which will involve serving people in hospitals, daycare centers, orphanages, and community kitchens. This year’s group will leave on January 7, 2012 and return on January 13. The cost is \$895.00 not including airfare. Please contact Steve (495-3400) if you’re interested. Learn more at www.thetravelconnection.info.

SOUL LINK BOOK CLUB

Our book club is always open to new participants. Meetings will be held on Mondays September 26, October 24, and November 28), from 6:30 – 8:00pm at Agia Sophia Bookstore. The book we’ll consider at our meeting in September is *Between Noon and Three* by Robert Farrar Capon. Call Vicki Rector (229-9868) for more information.

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

COMING EVENTS

BOOK GROUP

September 26,

October 24,

November 28

6:30 – 8:00pm

AGIA SOHPHA

BOOKSTORE

2902 W. Colo. Ave

BOARD MEETING

October 3

5:00 – 6:00pm

Soul Link Office



SAVE THE DATE:

The next Soul Link retreat will take place on Saturday, January 28, 2012.

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REVIVAL V: AS ABOVE SO BELOW: LIVING CONTEMPLATIVELY IN THE WORLD

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2011

Mail In Registration Form

Clip and return with registration fee no later than October 8, 2011

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.