



Brentwood Unity

Center for Inspired Living

Christmas  *Edition*

Volume 1, Issue 11

December 2016

The Priceless Pearl

An Eastern Legend tells of a fair maiden who was offered a rare gift by the king of the land. The king presented her with a bag of pearls and promised her she could keep the largest, most perfect pearl she could find in the bag. However, he set down some conditions: she must choose only one pearl; she must remove one pearl at a time from the bag and either accept it or reject it; she could not pick that pearl up again once it had been rejected.

So, joyously, she began taking the pearls, one at a time from the bag. In the process, she saw and held many large and perfect pearls. But she was looking for the one gem that would be just a little larger and a little more perfect. So she passed up many special treasures.

As she delved more deeply into the bag, the pearls became smaller and of poorer quality. Occasionally she found pebbles instead of pearls. Not being able to go back to the pearls she had formerly discarded, she had to keep on looking. The pearls continued to become smaller and less valuable. When the maiden reached the bottom of the bag, she sadly went away as empty-handed as when she arrived at the palace.

This legend can also portray us when we may sometimes rush through life seeking to get a better job, a bigger house, a better mate, a more glamorous social life or whatever; we miss the great pearls of abundance all around us every day. We may be searching for the kingdom of heaven, which is right within us all the time, yet often we recognize it not.

Charles Fillmore, co-founder of Unity, said: "When you experience any kind of in-harmony, you can be certain that you are entertaining some kind of false illusion. We have the priceless pearl of truth right in front of us, but are we willing to sell all to obtain it. Are we ready to give up the false illusions and lead straight for truth?"

Affirmation: I claim LIFE now. I use Life to energize and enliven my pursuit of being the best person I can be.

--From the series "The 12 Powers"

Let Life's Light Shine Bright

The very struggles we encounter in the world hold the potential to break us open and allow the Light of God to radiate forth into the world. Our struggles have purpose and meaning; they are not just part of "our story".

Looking at a baby, we experience the spirit of life in its most precious and powerful state. When a newborn enters the world, we come face to face with the Christ, pulled into the magnetic essence of God.

In a short span of years, that infant grows to be spoon fed ideas, rules and emotional defenses to deal with a hostile world- or so most of us are taught. The ego becomes entrenched in all its gathered notions about "life", using them as a buffer to remain safe. This is the structure of the ego, or otherwise known as "don't bother me with the facts; I've already got my mind made up".

If a person ventures outside the comfort zone of their culture and hand me down beliefs, it becomes possible to contrast and compare old beliefs to new ideas. A window of opportunity may appear to discover how many of our beliefs contradict one another. The crux of it is we confuse the world as it truly is, with the world as it is thought about, talked about and figured about- that is to say the world as described by us, and for us. In reality, the difference between those two is vast. Knowing the difference between the two frees us to see the world in an entirely new way, one that allows the heart to guide the mind, and live in peaceful accord with universal harmony.

In the mythology of the Christmas tree, we have a lesson about bringing light into darkness. As the days shrink to their shortest, darkest day, December 21, the evergreen tree is brought in symbolizing that greater light (new ideas) will soon be returning and extinguishing the darkness (old ideas). Where there is light, there can be no darkness.

Let the light shine in our minds to illuminate any old, faulty beliefs that no longer serve us, and help us join in Holy Communion with one another. It is in this bright, shining place where we come into connection with the wholeness of love. This is the song that calls us home.

With Gratitude & Love,
Gregory

Sunday Service at 10am Children's Program Held During Service
50 Sand Creek Road #60, Brentwood, CA 94513 ph: [925.420.5847](tel:925.420.5847)
web: brentwoodunity.org . email: brentwoodunity@brentwoodunity.org

**2017
Invitation to Pledge**

Brentwood Unity is a thriving, caring community, providing spiritual nourishment through valuable programs and workshops, uplifting music, special events, children's programs and more. A vision for our future is emerging, and we are unifying this vision with available resources of time, talents and treasures within our spiritual community.

To better plan for our growth and the financial means to support our mission, the 2017 Invitation to Pledge is being introduced. Brentwood Unity is expanding, and we invite all who are a part of this vision to identify the amount you will contribute in 2017, and pledge that amount. Your pledge will enhance our ability to forecast our growth more accurately so that we may lovingly meet the needs of our spiritual community.

Watch for details on how you can participate.



Mindful Musings

The Scroll was tacked to one end of the board.
A dove took wing with the other end.

The words on the Scroll began with "the wise man said the truth will set you free..." And the truth is "every man is born Good", because his source is named the All Good Creator.

In big letters the Scroll said "Love" is the beginning and the end. But you ask, what is Love? Love is Goodness in motion, but what is Goodness?

Godness is whatever helps a person to thrive and be happy. The wise man finally said, "We are God expressing", and so it follows that our task is to be "Love in the World".

-Don Eggleston, May 2016



Angel Team Prayer & Healing Prayer and Visits

We are here for you or anyone you know who would benefit from prayer or hands-on healing.

One of our Unity Angels will put you on the prayer chain or call to schedule a time to visit with you.

Please call for more information:
Bettie Danley [925.757.8431](tel:925.757.8431)
or email: bdanley3@juno.com

Silent Unity Prayer Line: [800.669.7729](tel:800.669.7729)

Invitation To All Unity Basics Membership Class

**Monday, December 5th
6:30-7:30pm in the Sanctuary**

**Interested in exploring the
"Basics" of Unity?**

Unity Basics is a class developed for both current and new members to share the basic understandings of Unity Principles, as well as an overview of Brentwood Unity and the mission we have for our community.

If you want to make a deeper commitment to the spiritual path of Unity and to your personal, spiritual growth, sign up for the one time membership class and decide to make a difference. Choose to make Brentwood Unity Center for Inspired Living your home. We hope to see you at Unity Basics. Please RSVP

Contact Amy Van Linge: [925.354.8932](tel:925.354.8932)

"Want to keep Christ in Christmas? Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, forgive the guilty, welcome the unwanted, care for the ill, love your enemies, and do unto others as you would have done unto you."

— Steve Maraboli

Brentwood Unity *Weekly Gatherings*

Mondays:

Practical Spirituality

Every Monday from 12:30 – 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary

“We Are Here to Be Love in the World” A discussion group in a safe setting, exploring the teaching of the Christ, along with Unity Principles and their practical applications in the world.

Contact **Leslie Harrold**: [925.240.7589](tel:925.240.7589)

Tuesdays:

Book Study and Meditation

1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesdays at 10 am

Join us for reading and meditation. Afterward, we enjoy lunch together, so feel free to bring something to eat. Coffee & Tea are provided.

Contact **Gail Caruso**: [925.778.2702](tel:925.778.2702)

Abundance Circle

The Abundance Circle, sharing *Spiritual Economics* by Eric Butterworth, is **now full and in progress**.

Final Meetings: Dec 6 & 20 from 1-2:30pm Info on next session, Contact **Jan Knight**: [925.439.3976](tel:925.439.3976)

Be Peace/Connection Practice Group

Every Tuesday from 7:00 - 8:30 pm in the Fellowship Room

Learn how to eliminate unnecessary suffering, and make life-enriching choices. Developed by Rita Marie Johnson, innovator of a method of social-emotional healing, combining empathy & insight to skillfully respond to whatever comes up in life.

Contact **Ray Wilson**: [925.759.8676](tel:925.759.8676)

Wednesdays :

Owner’s Manual- ACIM Condensed

Every Wednesday from 10-11:30am in the Fellowship Room

Using the book, *Owner’s Manual* by Burt Hotchkiss, an in depth, but easy to understand, summary of *A Course In Miracles* is presented. Books are available.

Contact **Karen Mingus**: [925.684.4528](tel:925.684.4528)

Spiritual Medium Healing Circle with Erica

December 7 & 21 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Experience a safe environment to receive messages from Spirit or departed loved ones. Erica will spend time with each person.

Contact **Erica Marisal**: [414.737.1410](tel:414.737.1410)

Thursdays:

Come Experience Hands-On Reiki, Meditation And Alternative Healing Energy Work

Thursdays (1st & 3rd) 6:00 – 7:30pm - Open to All who want a Reiki Hands-On treatment to support a relaxing time of self-care.

Thursdays (2nd & 4th) 6:00 – 7:30pm – Reiki Meditation and Global Healing Service

Contact **Bonnie Daniel**: [925.989.5960](tel:925.989.5960) or **Ray Wilson**: [925.759.8676](tel:925.759.8676)

December Speakers and Workshops

December 4thth

Mary Murray-Shelton
“*What Do We Choose?*”

www.revmary.com

Rev. Mary encourages and engages participants with stories, examples, and thought-provoking new ways of seeing life experiences. She is a dynamic speaker and an inspiring teacher and story-teller with a theatre background. Rev. Mary is known for humor and for making complex ideas easier to understand and apply.

After service, there will be a workshop entitled *Crossing a Threshold: How to Peacefully Navigate Major Life Changes that starts at 11:45am*. For those experiencing an important life change, you are crossing a boundary into a new life. This workshop awakens you to wisdom you didn't know you had, and empowers you to identify which of three types of crossings you are experiencing, so that you can open up to it rather than shutting down.

December 11th

TJ Woodward
“*Wake Up To Life*”

www.tjwoodward.com

TJ Woodward is an accomplished speaker, writer and life coach. His book *Conscious Being* is a wonderful tool to awaken people to new possibilities. His talk is entitled *Wake Up To Life*.

TJ's workshop: *Life 2.0*. Are you ready to create a new version of your life? Would you like to tap into a deeper sense of purpose and possibility? Please join spiritual teacher and author TJ Woodward in this interactive workshop and explore these questions and more. As 2016 comes to a close, many of us are pondering the past year, and starting to vision a dynamic 2017. This workshop will provide tools and practices designed to assist you in releasing 2016 and help you move into a space to consciously create 2017.

December 18th

Joan Steadman
“*Follow Your Star*”

www.revjoan.com

Rev. Dr. Joan Steadman has been an ordained Center for Spiritual Living minister for 19 years. Recently, she reFIRed, releasing her position as Spiritual Leader at the Oakland Center for Spiritual Living where she served for fifteen years.

During this season of light, we are reminded that our essential nature is light. We give birth to the Christ-Light each time we awaken anew to who and what we are, Pure Consciousness that has clothed itself in our unique forms. When we follow the star of our intuition, we make the journey to Christ Consciousness.

December 25th

Verona Garland
“*Where's My Gift?*”

www.oaklandcsl.org

What a treat to have Christmas Day fall on Sunday for our service. We are excited to have Verona share a message of giving. Verona speaks from her heart and brings life experience to the forefront.

As we prepare for the year's end High Holy Days in all faith philosophies, our doings may include giving. Does our giving support our Spiritual Practices? Is it done by habit? What really is the purpose? And, what is the child within experiencing, feeling, and asking? Then, in what way does it all of this activity fuse together?

The answer is, who you are cannot be defined through thinking or mental labels or definitions, because it's beyond that. It is the very sense of being, or presence, that is there when you become conscious of the present moment. In essence, you and what we call the present moment are, at the deepest level, one.

Eckhart Tolle

And Yet, More Announcements!

Board Corner

November has brought a chill in the air, but Brentwood Unity continues to be a warm community, supporting one another in love.

We were blessed to have two concerts. Shasta Song with Anton Mizerak and Laura Berryhill who brought us music from around the globe and Greg Tamblyn who helped us bring our silly to the surface.

Our Thanksgiving Potluck was once again enjoyed by all. We extend a big thank you to everyone who volunteered, and to those who brought food. Florence Cleisz is a blessing. She oversees so much in the kitchen in our behalf.

There are now small items offered for sale in the Inspiration Nook. Speak with Nancy Pimentel about anything you would like to see as a possibility in the future.

Brentwood Unity Board of Trustees extends Love and Gratitude during this season that reminds us all to live in the Heart of Christ throughout the year. When we come from this place, we change the world in a magnificent, beautiful way. We have been immensely blessed in 2016. We see our mission of Love greatly expanding in 2017.

Wishing All A Blessed Holiday Season,
Brentwood Unity Board of Trustees

Brentwood Unity Supports



LOAVES & FISHES

Feeding the Hungry with God's Love.

Let Us All Come Together

To Help People in Our Community
We Collect and Donate Food & Clothing
To Members of Our Community

For more info: Nancy @ 925.437.8107

December

Book of the Month



JESUS CHRIST HEALS

CHARLES FILLMORE

Much has been written and said about the healing methods that Jesus used in His very striking cures of physical ills. The generally accepted theory is that they were miracles, but to this there have been many objections, among them Jesus' promise "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also." to heal others but they have gloried in sickness and finally death under the assumption that it was the will of God

So it has been generally accepted that Jesus' great works were miracles and that the power to do miracles was delegated to His immediate followers only. But in recent years a considerable number of Jesus' followers have had the temerity to inquire into His healing methods, and they have found that they were based on universal mental and spiritual laws that anyone can utilize who will comply with the conditions involved in these laws. This inquiry has led to the conclusion that man and the universe are founded on mind and that all changes are changes of mind.

Now Available for \$9

In the Fellowship Room

Bring A Friend To Movie Night

National Geographic's

Before The Flood

Leonardo DiCaprio

December 9th at 7:00pm

National Geographic's "Before the Flood," produced by Leonardo DiCaprio, has reached more than 60 million people worldwide and surpassed a record-setting one billion minutes viewed across linear, digital, streaming and social platforms — making it arguably one of the most watched documentaries in history and the most watched NatGeo film ever.

In the documentary, DiCaprio is seen traveling all over the world, speaking in front of the U.N. about environmental issues and meeting with influential people like Pope Francis, President Barack Obama and Elon Musk about the importance of protecting the planet for future generations.

"Realizing God as Truth will save you hours of work in research in any field. You will be led to the right book or the right place or the right person without loss of time, or the necessary information will come to you in some other way."

— Emmet Fox, *Alter Your Life*