

APRIL 2024

NEWSLETTER

President's Message

Doug VanOrsdall

Dear Beloved Community,

March has been a busy and fun month for all of us here at Spiritual Light Center of Franklin! We've hosted a wide variety of wonderful speakers and watched the winter weather morph beautifully into a radiant Springtime here in the western North Carolina mountains.

Recently, our center hosted our first annual Oscars/Academy Awards party on Sunday evening, March 10th, to celebrate this iconic tradition held each year in Hollywood. We had our big screen TV tuned to the Academy Awards show as it was being televised live from Hollywood. Our fellowship hall was turned into a celebratory space that was nothing short of a glamorous Hollywood venue, including our very own red carpet waiting for you to walk across as you entered the doors and got transformed in time to a glamorous Hollywood party. We are so grateful for all the volunteers who turned out ahead of time to help transform our space for this evening of celebration. The turnout for the party was far better than anyone expected, and there were outfits spanning time, including the all black gangster outfit worn by Larry, a flapper girl dress worn by Larry's beautiful wife Nancy, Betty Davis was represented by Denise Andrews, Joan Crawford was recreated by Gail, Leonardo Decaprio from the movie "Killers of The Flower Moon" and his little dog were done up by Bill, Loretta Young was there and beautifully recreated by Pam, Ken from the movie "Barbie" was there, trapped inside his display box worn by Doug, a beautiful Egyptian Goddess was represented by Jean Logan, Rhonda touted a fancy outfit in black and white, Frank was a cowboy, Oppenheimer was there represented by Craig Eister and many other amazing outfits and dress-ups by the remainder of our spiritual community and their guests. This was a celebration enjoyed by everyone; and if you missed this inaugural celebration, be sure and mark your calendars for next year when we do this all over again! We don't have an exact date yet for 2025, but it will be on the Sunday evening in March, held at the same time as the live event in Hollywood, California. All guests were given an opportunity ahead of time to complete a ballot of questions to guess who would win awards for each category of the show. The winner, Pam Keyser, with 16 guesses correct out of 22, was followed close behind by both Sue Ditch and Denise Andrews, each with 15 guesses correct. Watch out Pam.....Denise and Sue are out for the win next year!

Amidst the glitz and glamour of our recent Oscars/Academy Awards party, where our

(Continued on page 2)

UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

- April 7. Special Baptism Service.....
Jeannine Johnson, officiating
- April 14.....Dee Daley
- April 21.....Becky Whitehead
- April 28.....Barbara Jeffries



Continued from page 1

spiritual community came together to celebrate in style, we were reminded of the beauty of collective joy and celebration. As we transition from the excitement of Hollywood's iconic tradition to the profound reflections of Easter, let us carry forward this spirit of togetherness and reverence as we delve into the deeper meanings of renewal and resurrection.

As we end out the month, we gathered together on the last radiant weekend in March, amidst the burgeoning beauty of spring in the majestic embrace of the western North Carolina mountains, to hear a special message delivered by our own Bill Groves, while our hearts resonated with the pulsating rhythm of life.

As we delve into Spring, each day stretches longer, adorned with the warmth of the sun's embrace and the cerulean expanse of the sky above us. It is a time when nature itself seems to be whispering secrets of renewal, of resurrection, echoing the timeless truth that within every ending lies the seed of a new beginning.

On Easter Sunday, the world over heard a myriad of talks and sermons, and rose in celebration of Easter, a time of profound significance for many faith traditions. In countless churches, temples, mosques, and sacred spaces, leaders and speakers imparted their wisdom, seeking to illuminate the path of enlightenment for those in attendance.

And here, in our eclectic spiritual community, we too come together, drawn by the shared yearning for a deeper understanding, for connection and for divine inspiration. Our congregation here at SLC is a tapestry woven from threads of diverse beliefs, each strand imbued with the essence of individual journeys toward truth and enlightenment.

It is here, inside our beautiful yellow building, painted on the exterior like the daffodils stretching upwards to celebrate the arrival of Spring, we will honor the mosaic of human experience, embracing Christians, Hindus, Muslims, Jews, Metaphysical practitioners, Agnostics, and seekers of every path. For in the symphony of our collective consciousness, each note, whether traditional or non-traditional, finds its place, harmonizing to create a melody of unity and reverence.

As we basked in the radiance of this Easter weekend, we contemplated the essence of resurrection, not merely as a historical event cloaked in the vestments of religious tradition, but also as a timeless symbol of the eternal cycle of life, death, and rebirth. For in the unfolding drama of existence, we witness the perpetual dance of creation and dissolution,

the ceaseless interplay of light and shadow, of joy and sorrow. In the embrace of spring's gentle caress, we are reminded of the miraculous power of renewal that permeates all aspects of existence. The barren branches of winter yield to the tender blossoms of spring, as life emerges from the womb of darkness, bursting forth with vibrant exuberance.

It is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit, to the indomitable force of life itself, ever surging forth in an endless cycle of regeneration. But amidst the celebration of Easter, let us not forget the deeper truths that lie veiled beneath the surface of religious symbolism. Easter, at its core, is a celebration of hope, of transcendence, and of the triumph of light over darkness. It is a reminder that even in the darkest depths of despair, there exists a flicker of divine grace, a spark of inner illumination waiting to be kindled.

As we move forward into Spring, beneath the azure canopy of the blue sky, surrounded by the verdant embrace of nature, let us heed the silent whispers of the universe, calling us to awaken to our true essence. For in the tapestry of existence, each of us is but a thread, weaving our own unique pattern into the fabric of reality.

And though our paths may diverge, and our beliefs may vary, let us remember that ultimately, we are all bound together by the ineffable bond of universal love. It's a gentle reminder to always celebrate life with hearts open wide, with minds attuned to the sacred symphony of life unfolding around us.

Let us embrace the spirit of renewal, of rebirth, and of resurrection, as we journey together along the path of enlightenment. And may the radiant beauty of springtime serve as a reminder of the eternal truth that within each of us lies the divine spark of creation, waiting to be ignited by the flame of awareness. In the words of the poet Rumi, "Let the beauty we love be what we do. There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground." If you are so guided, let us kneel together in reverence, and let us kiss the sacred earth beneath our feet, honoring the divine within ourselves and within each other.

With boundless love and infinite blessings~~

Doug

Let yourself be drawn by the strange pull of what you really love. It will not lead you astray.

Rumi



ACADEMY AWARDS PARTY GRAND PRIZE WINNER for selecting the most Oscar winners was Pam Keyser, arriving at the party with her husband Tim.

(more pictures on page 5)

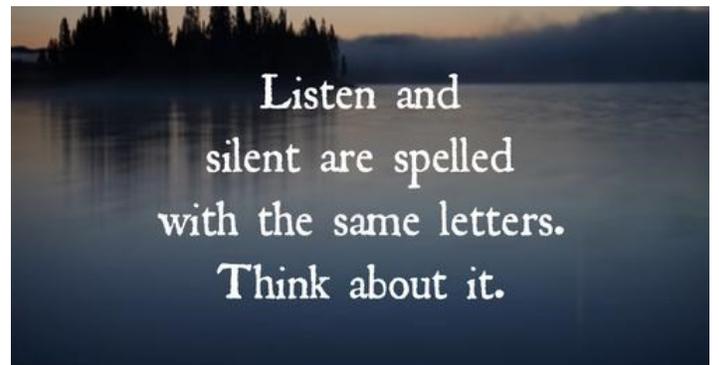
RUMMAGE SALE PLANNED

We are collecting donations for a fundraiser this spring. The sale will be for one week-end only with the date to be determined.

Please drop off donations in the Fellowship Hall's Healing Room for now. Thanks!!!

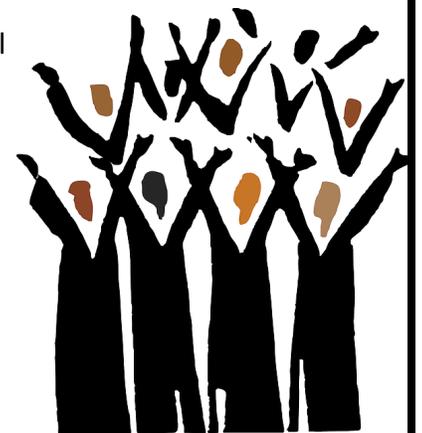


SLC members enjoyed Sunday lunch out at Sakura in Franklin with Kim May, following her talk on authenticity on a recent Sunday.



Our Vision

The Spiritual Light Center is a peaceful and joyful fellowship of individuals, centered in love, dedicated to the God within, and honoring the many paths to truth.





The Clivia in the sanctuary is showing off. It was donated by Richard Ferrannini oh so many years ago.

SLC Member Offering Energy Work

Jeannine Johnson, RM, CHT, who is a Reiki Master and teacher, offers ultimate deep relaxation, stress reduction and balance of mind, body and spirit through Reiki. Her office is above Mountain Valley Health Food in Franklin.

Contact her at (828) 421-9567.

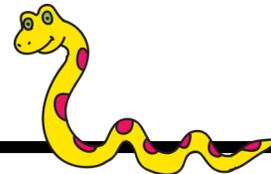


(If you are a member of the Spiritual Light Center and would like to have your services listed in the newsletter, please contact us at slcfranklin@frontier.com)

Deter Snakes from your Yard

SnakeAway and mothballs do not work! According to experts, we are just wasting our money. And in some states like Florida, it is illegal to place mothballs outside. So what can we do? They do not like the smell of ammonia, so it's good to keep some in a spray bottle when you want to encourage a snake to move on.

Proactive steps include keeping your grass mowed short and your landscaping plants trimmed as most of their predators come from above. Stack wood well away from your house and don't let debris piles accumulate. Bird feeders attract snakes because they attract rodents as well as birds. They need water so beware of standing water like puddles and ponds and be cautious in damp areas.



THURSDAYS AT 3:00

Join us in the Fellowship hall for thought provoking videos and conversation, followed by supper and more fellowship at a local eatery. Everyone is welcome, members and nonmembers alike.





SLC Academy Awards Party

Hosted by Craig Eister and Doug VanOrsdall



No Wrong Door Is Helping Our Community in So Many Ways

No Wrong Door for Support and Recovery provides support for those who are transitioning from detention or treatment facilities by enlisting the aid of Peer support, Pastoral ministries and Municipal and Community Organizations as well as other agencies and providers who support and assist persons suffering from substance use and/or mental health challenges.

No Wrong Door *also provides support for family members who have been affected by a loved one's struggles and community-based peer support and education.*

Their director Shiela Jenkins took time out from her busy schedule to meet with members of the Heart Centered Book Club to thank them for their volunteer efforts and explain more about the program. She said that where they see a need in the community, they try to find a way to meet that need. The Downtown Door is a good example of that. The facility located at 381 East Main St. in Franklin provides comfortable shelter for the unhoused on cold nights in addition to their regular services as a free daytime place to shower and do laundry, obtain clothing, counseling and psychological support.

No Wrong Door offers **Prime for Life** and **Prime Solutions** for inmates at the Macon County Detention Center. These programs are geared towards those who want more effective prevention, education and treatment services.

Evidence based practices (EBP) help reduce the risk of health and impairment problems related to substance use while maintaining ongoing remission from substance use disorders.



SERVICE PROJECT—*Members of the Heart Centered Book Club volunteered at Downtown Door, recently as their service project.*

No Wrong Door offers peer-led groups for male and female population at the Macon County Detention Center including: WRAP Skills, Parenting with Love and Logic, Peer Support, One on one and group sessions, and Alcohol and Drug Assessments.

Additional services include One on One Support from a Peer Support Specialist, Drug and Alcohol Counseling, Recovery Education Groups, Resource Navigation for Detox and Rehabilitation, Sharing Our Stories Support Group, Wellness groups such as Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP), Prime for life, Love and Logic Parenting Class, Creative Recovery, Walking group, Woodworking, and Veterans Purpose Social.

If you are interested in volunteering, donating to support their work, or need their services their main office is located at 102 Thomas Heights Rd. in Franklin and they welcome visitors. Their mailing address is P.O. Box 1594, Franklin NC 28744. 349-3366



PROGRESS ON DIVERTING THE RUNOFF that was undermining the support piers under the Fellowship Hall. Bates Concrete has trimmed the asphalt and poured the concrete barrier along Heritage Hollow Drive, now that we have been blessed with warmer temperatures. Removing the old lattice has revealed more problems to be addressed, but we are making headway on this project.



Newsletter Submissions Wanted

This is your newsletter. Help us to improve, be current, and shape it into something you look forward to receiving every month. We are looking for member generated articles, poems, quotes, photos, recipes, tips, event announcements and anything else that you feel might be of general interest.

Looking forward to hearing from you at
slcfranklin@frontier.com

SAVE YOUR STUFF



We are planning to hold a one-weekend-only indoor Rummage sale this spring to help rebuild our treasury. Any and all donations will be gratefully appreciated. Things may be dropped off any time.

Our Mission Statement

We are developing our highest selves by continuous sharing of spiritual ideas in an environment of unconditional love and respect for others.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance on 1/31/24.....\$11166.04
 Income.....1501.37
 Expense.....2513.94
 Balance on 2/29/24.....\$10153.47



The **Spiritual Light Center** is located at 80 Heritage Hollow Drive in Franklin (28734) right behind the Gazebo Restaurant in Heritage Hollow. 828-369-3065
slcfranklin@frontier.com www.spirituellightcenter.com

If you would like to contribute to SLC, we have a PayPal account, <https://tinyurl.com/SLC-donate>. This link takes you to a page where you can easily donate one time or make a recurring donation.