

Spiritual Life Committee Annual Report

Date Submitted: 05/13/2022

Chairperson(s): Atala Toy

Members:

Active members: Atala Toy (chair), Lowell McMullin, Lathie Gannon, Judith Greene, Manya Bean, Sue Kelly, Randy Lyons, Peter Lane, Elizabeth Rhoads, Diane Hulse, Debby Kern, Thomas Swain, Loan-Anh Small. Rosemarie Carpenter is available as needed. An additional fourteen are on our committee list, asking to keep informed of organizational details.

How many Crosslands residents benefit from this committee's activities? How often?

We serve Crosslands residents primarily but our events and resources are open and available to all four communities; this includes a re-activated Spiritual Library (housed in the meditation room) open to all. We started our presentations last December and these events have each been attended in person by around 30 people, our Zoom count an additional 20, we are now being carried as an activity for Firbanks/Audland (managed by Jeri Iacono) and we also have a Channel 13 audience and an archive audience. When carried on Zoom, we show attendance by members of the other three communities.

Accomplishments:

We are a new committee as of late fall 2021. We serve all four campuses of the KCC community; our events are open to all, are archived for future viewing, and we widely publicize our events by all possible means. Our mission is to provide our communities with materials to enrich their personal spiritual lives. We define "spirit" as that which rests behind and animates matter; this can be secular or religious.

1. Organized committee. Liaised with leaders of similar committees that existed in the past, to cull information and procedures from them
2. Set up sister relationship with the Kendal Spiritual Life Committee, with whom we share resources
3. Supported formation of a Dream Group by Randy Lyons, which continues under the umbrella of the SLC.
4. Restarted a spiritual library for the Crosslands Community, which is housed in the Meditation Room. Culled through books there, organized and put out call for more books. Over 500 titles are currently listed. Located more bookshelves for the collection. Librarian is Rev. Judith Greene
5. Invited the DEI to house their library collection in this room and helped them to acquire larger shelf space.
6. Working to re-establish the Meditation Room as a spiritual retreat area for Crosslands, including conferring with Audland staff.
7. Hold a monthly organizational meeting at which planning occurs; 27 residents and staff have requested to be a part of the committee and planning meetings are attended regularly by 7-10 core members.
8. Hold a monthly public event Sept-May at which residents and outside experts share information. When possible, given the format of the event, we have the presentation recorded for later viewing from the Crosslands archive.
 - a. Our first event was December 2021 and we offered three programs on different understandings of the term "What Does it Mean to Be Spiritual?" We then offered a March program on Dreams; our April program on Music of Spirit was cancelled due to Covid; our May program is on Hope. We resume this fall with a September program on Quaker Land Stewardship, an October program on Soul Collage (to be followed by a three-week workshop), a November program on Gratitude and a December program on the Festival of Light in different world

traditions. When possible, the presentation is followed by break out groups where in-person attendees discuss the topic among themselves.

b. September and October presenters are from outside our Crosslands community, and they are speaking gratis. We would like to bring in at least one fee-based speaker in 2023, with CRA funding.

9. Have scheduled a three-part Soul Collage Workshop for the fall

10. Participation events are scheduled for the Audlands/Firbanks activity room, where Jeri Iacono leads residents in break out discussions.

11. We are now examining gaps in information on spiritual topics within the Crosslands community, and the year to come will see our committee working to fill these in.