

# Sun

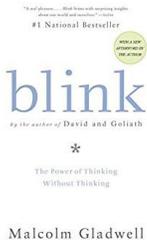
## Snowbirds

As summer comes, the temperatures rise;  
ninety, one hundred, a hundred and ten!  
You fly away to those cool places in the north;  
those places with lakes, and rivers, and green trees.  
You leave behind empty houses and city streets,  
vacant, simmering in the Arizona sun,  
But your presence remains .  
You leave behind memories of winter's fun  
and the essence of your love.  
Yes, your love, we feel it!  
Although we remain here in the Arizona sun,  
we are waiting, waiting for our beloved friends,  
the snowbirds,  
to return.

-Rev. Jim and Rev Sharon

## April Classes

### **Blink** Wednesdays at 10am & 6pm Facilitated by Rev. Sharon



In *Blink*, Malcomb Gladwell revolutionizes the way we understand the world within. *Blink* is a book about how we think without thinking, about choices that seem to be made in an instant-in the blink of an eye-that actually aren't as simple as they seem. Why are some people brilliant decision makers, while others are consistently inept? Why do some people follow their instincts and win, while others end up stumbling into error? How do our brains really work-in the office, in the classroom, in the kitchen, and in the bedroom? And why are the best decisions often those that are impossible to explain to others?

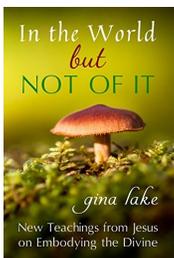
*Blink* reveals that great decision makers aren't those who process the most information or spend the most time deliberating, but those who have perfected the art of "thin-slicing"-filtering the very few factors that matter from an overwhelming number of variables. In this class we will discover our own decision-making skills and how we can improve them.

### **A New Reformation** Sundays at 9am Facilitated by Rev. Jim

We may be on board with the reality we live in the land of opposites where everything splits into either/or: it's either day or night, white or black, right or wrong, good or bad. But still many of us would like to know why it has to be this way. Better yet: is there any way around this? Turns out, there is but it's going to require us to become willing to worm our way through the rough terrain of duality. For the only way out is by going through the darkness and then fully emerging into the light of Oneness. To do this, it can help if we understand the nature of duality and how it came into existence. In Jill Loree's *Holy Moly* we discover the story of how all this began, and how the one who came to save us gave us this precious gift of light. Further, we'll come to see how, by holding this truth gently in our being, we can learn to illuminate the darkness that pervades our world.

## **In the World but Not of It: New Teachings from Jesus on Embodying the Divine**

**Sundays at 12:40pm Facilitated by Karen Diehl, LUT**



In this book Jesus states: "I came to show you the beauty of your own soul and what is possible as a human. I came to show you that it is possible to be both human and divine, to be love incarnate. You are equally both. You walk with one foot in the world of form and another in the Formless. This mysterious duality within your being is what this book is about." In this class we will explore the words of Jesus as channeled by Gina Lake.

Join in the lively discussions as we discover how to fully embody our divine self in the world in which we live.

unity<sup>®</sup>  
Spiritual Center

**We're on the Web at**  
[www.unitysc.org](http://www.unitysc.org)

### **Ministers**

Rev. Sharon L. Bush  
Rev. James Yeaw, D. Div.

### **Licensed Unity Teacher**

Karen Diehl

### **Center Administrator**

Cathy Collins

### **Director of Music**

Mollie Kidari

### **Board of Trustees**

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### **Editor—Karen Diehl**

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Office Hours:  
Tuesday through Thursday  
8:30am to 5pm  
Sunday 9am to 1pm

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## A Personal Prosperity Prayer

I invite the Holy Spirit to take charge of my journey to prosperity. I let go of all that has gone before and I now begin anew. I give thanks for the many blessings that are in my life this very moment.

I am free and forgiven for all the mistakes I have made in the past. I open myself now to expressing a brand-new magnificence, to being all that I can be. I open myself to the infinite possibilities that are mine to choose. I open myself to receiving all the goodness I can have and to all of the greatness I can achieve.

Through the power of the Christ within, I commit to healing my relationships, harmonizing my emotions, and renewing my mind. A mighty faith empowers and frees me to live my divine purpose. With deep gratitude for God's unlimited good, I step out with clarity, focus, ease and grace. I pray this is the name of the Christ Presence, Amen.

## Buy Marmalade, Support the Homeless

Betsy Dreyfus and Norma Dickson have been providing hygiene items to the homeless and domestic violence victims. To date, they have distributed over five hundred bags with toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, and other personal hygiene items. They hope to give out at least five hundred more bags in the next couple of months. The folks receiving the bags have expressed deep appreciation for the gift. Members of Unity Spiritual Center, along with friends, have generously donated to this project.

Betsy and Norma recently held a very successful garage sale to raise funds for purchasing items for the bags. In addition, they are planning a sale of organic, homemade marmalade. They will have a table in the Activity Center the first two Sundays of April with the marmalade for sale.

Thank you for supporting Betsy and Norma and Unity Spiritual Center's Homeless Project. Thank you for buying marmalade. Betsy and Norma say, "Join us. We love doing this. We're having fun making a difference for people."

## Financial Statement Two Months ending February 28, 2018

Income	
Sunday Contributions	\$17,126.00
Less 10% tithe	\$1,712.60
Other Income	\$9,052.57
Net Income	\$24,465.97
Less Expenses	\$37,635.56
Net Operating Loss	\$13,169.59
Interest Income	\$18,507.00
Less 10% Tithe	\$1,850.71
Operating Income	\$3,486.70
Designated Income	\$600.00
Less Designated Expense	\$21.55
Net Income	\$4,065.15

*We are blessed and we are thankful for your support!*

## Women of Spirit Potluck—April 7

You are invited to Unity Spiritual Center's Women of Spirit luncheon where we celebrate our sisterhood, make new friends, get to know current friends at a deeper level, share laughter, and grow together. You do not need to be a member of Unity Spiritual Center to attend our gathering.

The meeting will be held on Saturday, April 7, 2018 at 11:30 am in the Activity Center. We will share a potluck lunch.

We invite you to consider sharing your spiritual journey at this meeting in a twenty minute talk. Please contact Rev. Sharon if you're interested in speaking. We always find the spiritual walk of others in our group to be enlightening. The talks help us get to know each other at a deeper level.

The vision statement of Women of Spirit is: "To be a beautiful source of light, love, spirit, service, and support to women and all whose lives we touch."

Our goal is to provide a social environment of inclusion and belonging as we create opportunities for personal and spiritual development, both in our personal lives and in the life and energy of Unity Spiritual Center. All the women who attend the church are welcome. Please mark your calendars...because it's not the same without you.

# April 2018 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
<b>1</b> 8am—Easter in The Garden—Rev. Sharon Bush with Special Music 9am—Easter Brunch 10:30am—Easter Service—Wake Up! Rejoice 11:45am—Fellowship Potluck (A-D Serve)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10am Tai Chi 10am Prayer 10:30am A Course in Miracles 10:30am AA 6pm Writing Your Story—Tom Graesser	<b>4</b> 10am—Blink—Power of Thinking—Rev. Sharon 1pm—Al-Anon 6pm—Blink—Power of Thinking—Rev. Sharon 6:15pm OA
<b>8</b> 9am—Holy Moly— Rev Jim 10:30am—Divine Order—Rev. Sharon 11:45am—Fellowship Potluck (E-K Serve) 12:40pm—In the World But Not of It—Karen Diehl	<b>9</b> 6pm Choir	<b>10</b> 10am Tai Chi 10am Prayer 10:30am A Course in Miracles 10:30am AA	<b>11</b> 10am—Blink—Power of Thinking—Rev. Sharon 1pm—Al-Anon 6pm—Blink—Power of Thinking—Rev. Sharon 6:15pm OA
<b>15</b> 9am—Holy Moly— Rev Jim 10:30am—Zinging Zeal from Zion—Rev. Jim 11:45am—Fellowship Potluck—(L-O Serve) 12Noon—Singles Planning Meeting 12:40pm—In the World But Not of It—Karen Diehl	<b>16</b> 6pm Choir	<b>17</b> 10am Tai Chi 10am Prayer 10:30am A Course in Miracles 10:30am AA	<b>18</b> 10am—Blink—Power of Thinking—Rev. Sharon 1pm—Al-Anon 6pm—Blink—Power of Thinking—Rev. Sharon 6:15pm—OA
<b>22</b> 9am—Holy Moly— Rev Jim 10:30am—Let's Go and Give Thanks—Rev. Sharon 11:45am—Fellowship Potluck (P-Z Serve) 12:40pm—In the World But Not of It—Karen Diehl 12:40pm—USC Board Meeting	<b>23</b> 6pm Choir	<b>24</b> 10am Tai Chi 10am Prayer 10:30am A Course in Miracles 10:30am AA	<b>25</b> 10am—Blink—Power of Thinking—Rev. Sharon 1pm—Al-Anon 6pm—Blink—Power of Thinking—Rev. Sharon 6:15pm OA
<b>29</b> 9am—Holy Moly— Rev Jim 10:30am—Eternally Alive—Rev. Jim 11:45am—Fellowship Potluck—(All Serve) 12:40pm—In the World But Not of It—Karen Diehl	<b>30</b> 6pm Choir		

Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>5</b> 9am Chair Yoga 10:30am AA 7pm OA	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 11:30am <b>Women of Spirit</b> <b>Potluck</b>
<b>12</b> 9am Chair Yoga 10:30am AA 7pm OA	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9am <b>Garden Trim</b>
<b>19</b> 9am Chair Yoga 10:30am AA 7pm OA	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>26</b> 9am Chair Yoga 10:30am AA 7pm OA	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>

Office Closed

**April Birthdays**

4—Margery Beaty & Lee Ann Robinson-Boswell	17—Sandy Galloway
5—France Allion & Georgia Feiste	24—Rev. Sharon Bush
7—Sid Massey	27—Shirley Bangert, Shirley Compau & Inga Neri-Nolan
11—Betty Jo Johnson	28—Tom Lyle
12—Paul Martodam	
14—Paul Dodsworth & Kalika Graesser	



# Mark Your Calendar

- April 1** Easter Sunday—Two Services—8am and 10:30am
- April 7—11:30am** Women of Spirit
- April 14—9am** Trim the Garden with Bill Gasta
- May 13—9am** Mother's Day Brunch



## The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



**SERMON SURVIVAL TIP:** If during the sermon, you drift off to a peaceful slumber.. and your wife gently nudges you, pretend you were praying, and just quietly say.. "AMEN".

## Sacred Relationships



As I write this, we are only a couple of weeks away from our beautiful Easter services. Easter is a time when we acknowledge that we, like Jesus, can rise to a higher consciousness of love. Traditionally we end our Easter service with the song, "Wake Up Rejoice" and that is my prayer this Easter for all of

humankind. May we all wake up and rejoice to a greater level of love around the world.

Like many of you there is a sadness in my heart over the violence, lack of respect, and separation among the people of our planet. There is "something missing" in the world and in our culture, and we need to join together, in a movement of love to help resolve it. Our Unity spiritual teachings say whenever there is anger, conflict, violence, or turbulence of any kind, it is a sign something is missing that only the heart can resolve. This "something that is missing" is responsible for the mass killings in Las Vegas, Nevada, Parkland, Florida and all the other places where anger and hate reigns.

This "something that is missing" is the reason for the increasing violence in the streets, in our homes, and in the violent combative language of politicians and business people, and the blame game that has spun out of control. It is also the only reason for the very sad abuse that has created the "#Me Too" outcry. People are crying out for that "something" but don't know how to or are not allowed to ask for help; so, they behave in inappropriate ways.

There is "something missing" in the world, and in our culture, and we need to help resolve it. I believe the primary missing ingredient is something I call a sacred relationship. While we often are not aware of it, we have a sacred relationship with each individual we meet, where our soul reaches out to connect with that individual at a soul level.

"When we abide in an awareness of Love's Presence," that Love is extended to every individual we meet because we "abide in God and God in us." When we are not aware of this "Loving Presence," something is missing. We then extend to every individual we meet whatever might be weighing

heavily on our mind. In turn, those individuals then react to our heaviness, respond in kind, and perhaps add the burdens of their heart and mind. We then find ourselves in a conflict we don't fully understand and we blame the whole experience on the other person. The sacred relationship we were meant to have meeting the other individual heart to heart – soul to soul "is missing" and we travel down the path of darkness.

The idea of sacred relationships is actually the grounding principle of the "Golden Rule," reflected at the core of every religion, spiritual discipline, and thriving native culture around the world. Jesus said in John 13:14 this way, "I leave you a New Commandment that you should love one another, as I have loved you." He went on to say, "Love God with all your heart, mind and being, and Love your neighbor as you would love yourself. This is the foundation of all the Law." We live in a culture where this idea has been forgotten; therefore, the opposite expresses itself and we are all calling out to know love's presence.

Most of us understand Unity's Five Principles and most of us also know that they are easier to understand than they are to live. As we try to live them to our fullest, our consciousness is lifted higher and we begin to experience peace in our lives. With peace comes joy. With joy comes a feeling of loving and caring for those we share our lives with.

Humankind shares a collective consciousness. Each thought we think, every feeling we feel is energy sent to the collective consciousness. Yes, positive thinking and the holding of loving feelings for others are the first steps in sending the "something missing" into our world.

I encourage you to invite your neighbors and friends that don't know about living in sacred relationship to come with you some Sunday. Living in oneness with each other and knowing we are one with God does change our lives. As we live in peace, love, and joy we change the energy of the world. We become the change we want to see in our world.

This Easter, a day of sacred celebration, the Christ is risen. This message is full of power and is meant for me, just as it is meant for all. The life of

## Is God a “Him” or a “Her”?



With fairly few exceptions, we in the Western world tend to refer to God as a “him”. This is partly due to the Santa Claus effect where we confuse God with that other white-bearded man in the sky. And it’s partly a holdover from the convention of using masculine pronouns in writing—he, him, his—when referring to a person generically.

But it’s also more than that. Here in Western civilization, we have primarily seen and honor the masculine face of God. This is the active half of the creative process, the “make it happen” side, and we can find this “just do it” approach everywhere we look. But this is a very limited perspective; for if the active side is all we see, we’re only getting half the story.

The facts are, in order for anything to be created, the feminine side must also be present. This is the receptive “let it happen” attitude that gets out of the way and allows it. This is the side of God that people in the East have mostly seen. This helps explain their more contemplative approach to all things spiritual.

If we look closely, we will discover that in a broad sense everything contains these two principles: the masculine and feminine, the active and receptive, the discipline and letting go, the motion and relaxation. They complement one another and coexist in all parts of life.

So if God is not a “him” and God is also not a “her,” how then are we to think of God?

It seems that we are getting closest to understanding God when we’re completely at a loss to comprehend God. When we haven’t the foggiest notion of who or what God is, where God is or why God is, that’s it! It has been said that if we can define God, that isn’t God. But how to put *that* into words?

Perhaps we can best identify God as the force that enlivens life. God is in the very fabric of our existence, the structure that frames this world. Indeed, God can be seen in the spiritual laws that operate like a complex network of nets that keep our wandering souls within bounds and guide us in the direction of the ultimate goal.

In my chapters 27 through 31 of the class book *Perception*, I list these spiritual laws. These are not the same as the Ten Commandments, and they are also not rules. Rules are something the ego leans on so it can avoid letting go. Rules are often helpful for creating harmony but they sometimes keep the ego from learning to trust and align with the divine self—that deepest part of ourselves that is, in fact, an aspect of God.

By contrast, spiritual laws are the framework by which our plane of existence operates. They are nonnegotiable, but since we have free will, we are able to break them. Problem is, when we do, the Law of Cause and Effect kicks in, meaning we will feel the hurt that results from going against the grain. This hurt isn’t a punishment per se, but a motivator to think again about the choices we are making.

In this way, Spiritual Laws help us find the way to cross the finish line. They are the loving hand helping all of us wayward children learn to choose the light. These are the laws we need to understand and follow. For when we don’t, the consequences are unpleasant. But never lose sight of this truth: the choice for how to proceed is always ours to make.

The better question to ask then isn’t who or what is God, but rather how and why am I going against the spiritual laws? Fortunately, this is a question we can answer. To do so, we can look to the many teachings given to us that reveal the nature of the human spirit and advise us on how to successfully navigate day-to-day living on this planet.

## Trim the Garden—April 14



Help us keep our garden beautiful—about 2 hours on a Saturday—April 14 this month, 9am

Sacred Relationships Continued from page 6

the Christ is divine and transcendent, a life that flows through us. Each time we refuse the thought that fear and negativity have a hold on us, Christ-like ideas rise up in our thoughts. We are uplifted in spiritual consciousness, strong and free. The stone has been rolled away. All obstacles to our good are removed.

Through the Christ, we are restored. We have found what is missing. Our lives shine with spiritual glory, and we have the opportunity to rededicate ourselves to walking in the light of the Christ. A new day has dawned. Free and triumphant. We wake up and we rejoice the Christ light is here.

With you in sacred relationship, ~ Rev. Sharon

## Classroom Upgrade

We have been exploring the 12 Powers recently and David Krause is expressing his power of imagination. Because Unity Spiritual Center is a powerful community, learning and expressing together, David, based on his experience in equipping learning centers, saw a vision for a simpler, more powerful way to equip the classrooms. He already has installed a computer, re-installed software and the speakers and has given training to our instructors on the act of creating visuals to accompany lessons.

The next step is to install a big screen monitor to replace the projector. We have matching funds, but need 13 individuals that are willing to donate \$100 to a special fund to finance the project.

Thank you, David. You are a blessing to our community!

## Unity Spiritual Center Identity Statement

We are a creative, loving community, open to all, willing to express and experience oneness with God. Inspired by practicing spiritual principles in our daily lives, we know that God is the one presence and power in the universe.

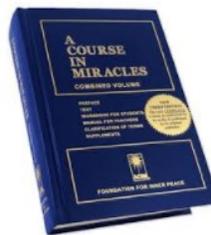
## Special Class... Writing Your Story

**Tuesdays 6 pm—7:30pm Facilitated by Tom Graesser. Class ends April 3rd.**

As older adults we all have stories to tell. If we don't find a way to tell them, our families may never know our memories of the "good old days." Aided by Tom Graesser, a former English teacher with over 30 years of experience, we will end the class with at least one story that we have written and polished till we are pleased with it and eager to share it with others. Students choose whether to share their stories in class or hold till they're ready to share them with family and friends.

## A Course in Miracles

**Tuesdays 10:30am**



As a result of many requests, we are starting A Course in Miracles discussion group on Tuesdays at 10:30am.

The course begins with these words:

*This is a course in miracles. It is a required course. Only the time you take it is voluntary. Free will does not mean that you can establish the curriculum. It means only that you can elect what you want to take at a given time. The course does not aim at teaching the meaning of love, for that is beyond what can be taught. It does aim, however, at removing the blocks to the awareness of love's presence, which is your natural inheritance. The opposite of love is fear, but what is all-encompassing can have no opposite.*

This course can therefore be summed up very simply in this way:

*Nothing real can be threatened.*

*Nothing unreal exists.*

*Herein lies the peace of God*

Perhaps you'd like to explore miracles. Join us at 10:30am on Tuesdays. We will take an in-depth approach, using recorded lectures by Dr. Ken Wapnik, the world's foremost ACIM teacher. Please call Renee 623-332-4981 if you are interested or if you have any questions.