

Happy New Year!

“The maturity of a community is determined by the way it cares for its elders.”

Flora Ruth

by Perry Robinson

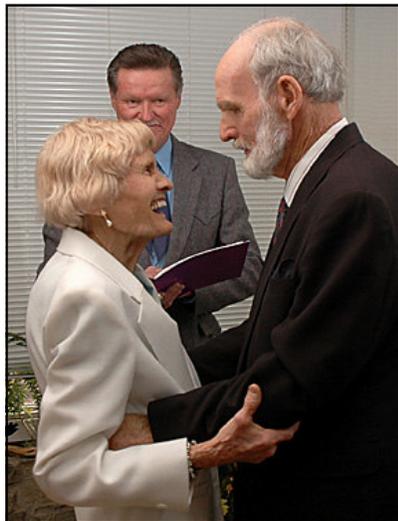
Flora Ruth is the person who along with the late Mary Zollars donated their home and property to the Center for Peace in 1992. Every day we live here and do our spiritual work here, we are grateful to these two wonderful women who have done so much for us.

As some of you know, Flora Ruth suffered a massive stroke back in the spring. By the time news of her condition got to us here at the Center, social services in Arizona had been given legal charge and were handling all of her affairs. [Her husband Dick was already in a managed care facility at that time.]

Ula Rae Mynatt and Alpha McClellan visited her in the summer, as did Cary Hall, who lives in Colorado.

They reported that she seemed to be receiving good care and that her mind was mostly quite clear, with some drifting; but she had difficulty talking [partly because of her lack of teeth, partly because of the stroke]. They also felt sadness that she could not have been cared for in her home, which was at that time in the process of being sold, along with all other personal assets, to defray medical and care costs.

The social worker has indicated to me that Flora seems to become disturbed, when some people have tried to talk with her on the telephone. It is unclear to us, who know Flora, what we can do, if anything, to make life as good as possible for her in what seem to be her declining days. I suspect that you join me in wishing that she, who took such good care of Mary and Martha Zollars, could have been cared for in much the same way -- in a loving home among understanding and like-minded people, where she would be kept actively engaged in life.



Nursing homes can offer wonderful care but cannot substitute for family.

Some people have sent her cards; one person sent her a live plant to care for. I am sure all of these are deeply appreciated. Please also support Flora with your prayers of love and support. Whatever you do, do not "worry and wring your hands" for Flora, for her lesson to us all was to keep the positive, empowering attitude, because worry is "praying for what you don't want"!

At the present time the only address we have is that of the social worker who is responsible for her affairs:

Jane S. Berg
Childers & Berg, LLC
10211 W. Thunderbird, Suite 101
Sun City, AZ 85351
Phone: 623 972-3568

Those of us who know her will never forget her. Flora, we love you, we bless you!

~ Perry

Flora Memories

Cheryl Rose Patterson

Yesterday, I heard that Flora Ruth had been struck with a massive stroke and has paralysis. Her niece placed her in a nursing home in Sun City, Arizona. While I am saddened by Flora's affliction, my prayers have shown me that she is now in a position to receive all the loving care she showered on others over the years.

I met Flora over 20 years ago, when my family bought property next to hers and built the house where I still live. Flora was living with her close friend, Mary Zollars, in the house which is now the Center for Peace. I felt drawn to her from the beginning. I always seemed to be wandering up the hill to her house, usually at dinnertime, to see her feeding Mary (who had cerebral palsy) and herself, talking all the while.

She had a JFDI frame of mind, was very compassionate, but very proactive. I tended to be somewhat of a whiner (still can be) and her get over it attitude was just what I needed to hear.

(Continued on page 4)

Events

January

January 18
Thursday Night Sweat
Lodge

February

February 3 -4
Core Shamanism—Basic
Course

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February 8
Thursday Night Sweat
Lodge

February 10
Saturday Sweat Lodge

February 24
The Queen of Heaven is
Calling

Page 3

The Center for Peace is an international community focused on ancient wisdom traditions applied in the modern world.

We are located on sixteen acres in Seymour, TN, in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains. Our facilities include a Peace Sound Chamber (a building used for chanting, ceremonies, and vision quests), a sweat lodge, a medicine wheel, dance arbor, open meadow, some peaceful woods and a gift shop.

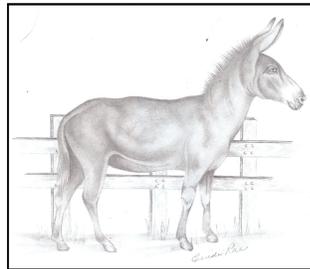
Wednesday Night Gatherings

January

February

January and February Evenings of Personal Growth will be described on the website, or call 865-428-3070 for information.

Donkey Medicine



Donkey is versatility and a willing worker with gentle intelligence. They teach us to bear our burdens in an honorable way.

Some donkeys have marks on their backs that appear to be a cross and stripes on their legs. Some believe that the donkey carried the Lord on its back and received the leg stripes from walking through the palm branches that were laid in its path. Others be-

lieve the donkey was sent from God to carry the Prophet to heaven.

Donkey medicine has the quality of perseverance and servitude. They are tireless workers with a strong dedication to spirit. They have an undying faith and a willingness to take on burdens and responsibilities.

Donkey people are not fond of change and can act very stubborn when faced with it. But they know when they can or can not handle something. They teach us how to honor our personal knowing.

Donkey asks us to stop and look at what is challenging us and to find a way to move forward safely. When donkey appears in your life it is asking you to awaken, develop and apply your own gifts in more areas of your life.

Contrary donkey is taking on more than you can carry leading to physical and emotional problems. Donkey asks that you learn to say no and be responsible for your own wellness first.

-Cindi Rae

Directions:

From Sevierville

Go toward Knoxville on Chapman Highway [US441/US411].

7.0 miles from the Junction of Hwy 66 Turn Left onto Sugar Loaf Road.

Go 1.6 miles to Graves-Delozier Road.

Right up Hill, stay to the Right, CENTER FOR PEACE on Right at top of hill.

Directions:

From Knoxville

Go toward Sevierville on Chapman Highway [US441].

From the Henley Street Bridge go 11.3 miles to the junction of US 411 (Maryville Highway)

Continue on US 441/US 411 4.8 miles

Turn Right onto Sugar Loaf Road.

Go 1.6 miles to Graves-Delozier Road.

Right up Hill, stay to the Right,

CENTER FOR PEACE on Right at top of hill.

The Queen of Heaven is Calling

Saturday February 24, 2007

11 am

For some time I have been receiving information from one who calls herself the Queen of Heaven. She has come to me offering a teaching about her life's lessons. There were seven gateways to power that she passed through in her lifetime.

They are:

- 1) Before the Beloved,
- 2) Encountering the Other,
- 3) Following the Master,
- 4) The Anointing,
- 5) Following the Cross,
- 6) Removal of the Stone,
- 7) Walking the Path Alone.

Using the Gateways, we go into the Cave of Self and prayerfully find the parallels in our own lives. The evening will end with a MAGDALENE MASS, adapted from the Mass of the Mother from the Gnostic Church, bringing women back to their equal place as celebrants and ministers of faith.

After the Crucifixion, Mary Magdalene left Palestine and traveled, some say to Britain, but it is generally believed she ended her days in a cave in France near Carcassonne, a hermitage similar to those she was familiar with from Qumran, the Essene community in Israel. Since we are unable to retire to a cave, we will create the cave using the sweat lodge and invoke her presence. Please bring clothes in which to participate in a lodge as well as celebratory clothing for the Mass. Also bring food to share for the feast, as well as flowers and candles to create the altar for the mass. The monetary offering is suggested to be \$44, numerically an 8 = infinity, as we want the energy of this ceremony to spiral outward infinitely.

All are invited to attend:

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2007 @ 11 AM--
UNTIL WE ARE COMPLETE!**

Ceremonies led by Cheryl Rose Patterson, Minister of the Center for Peace.

Did You Know?

You can now make donations to the Center for Peace from our website via PayPal.

Go to www.centerforpeace.us
and simply click on



And securely use your checking or savings account or any credit card from your own home.

Thank you for your support!

Core Shamanism

Introductory Workshop

February 3-4, 2007

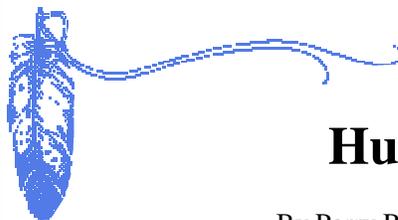
*Awakening to the
Living Wisdom
in the Universe and in you*

led by Jeanne Robinson

Shamanism is not a religion. It is a method or practice. It is a way of connecting with the Spirit of Life in all things and using that connection to help themselves and others.

In this workshop Jeanne will instruct you in the basic practices of Core Shamanism [including but not limited to]: journeying with the drum, connecting with your power animal, meeting your spirit teacher, receiving information from a rock.

See enclosed flyer for further information, call Jeanne [865 428-3070] or email her at empresschief@yahoo.com.



Huna

By Perry Robinson

When it comes to experiencing and practicing the presence of Creator Spirit, the "old time religion" is literally the "new kid on the block". People have always participated in the wisdom and healing of Creator Spirit. Even the term "shamanism" is of relatively recent origin. The study of shamanism in our day is simply a way of helping people of our culture to grow up into a more "adult" way of participating in this world as co-creators with Creator Spirit.

I now have been studying and practicing the Huna way for some eighteen years; and I feel really good about what this study has brought me. When I was in Hawaii, I ran into the humbling understanding that all of the studying I have done helps me to start embracing ideas which are "old hat" to the traditional Hawaiian! The work of Serge Kahili King and others in our time has been to create a bridge of understanding, so people like us can enter into a richness which people in the Pacific basin have been practicing for thousands of years!

I am guided to offer another Huna workshop early in 2007. Right now it looks like it might be the first weekend in March. Check your calendars and watch the web site www.centerforpeace.us for further announcements.

Book Review

THE INVISIBLE GARMENT

"30 Spiritual Principles that Weave the Fabric of Human Life."

by Connie Kaplan

RESURRECTION by Tucker Malarkey. I read this book a couple of months ago from the library and liked it so much I had to buy it. The setting is after the second World War and in Egypt. A young nurse, Gemma Bastion, is notified that her father is dead. An archeologist, he died mysteriously in his office in a museum in Cairo. Gemma flies to Cairo and stays with an old friend of her father's, David Lazar. David has two sons, one was a pilot during the war who is now permanently disabled and the other an archeologist working with Gemma's father.

Against the backdrop of Egypt's pyramids, there are rumors of an amazing new find having to do with secret gospels. Gemma finds that her father's research had veered mysteriously into arcane and somewhat pornographic material about women. Hidden in his office are pictures of naked women from all the traditions including Isis, Kali, and even Mary Magdalene. He seemed to have been obsessed.

Gemma wonders if her father was losing his mind. However, there seems to have been forces against him. A mysterious man in a roman collar shows up in her apartment even before she leaves London looking for something her father might have mailed her. When she reaches her father's office in Cairo, a mysterious man had been searching the office and flees when she arrives.

Michael Lazar, the scarred pilot, seems to take Gemma as his own personal rescuer, a role that she has played to many injured men in her service as a nurse during the war. The other son, Anthony, keeps his distance, in spite of her need to

know about her father's work and the part he played in it. But as she continues to search for the truth about her father's death, she comes closer to understanding why her father was so obsessed with feminine archetypes. In the desert near Cairo, there was a great find in Nag Hammadi, of which there are whispers that it will completely overthrow Christianity as it is known. And where there is that danger, there are those from the Church who will stop at nothing to suppress this information. Gemma comes to believe her father was murdered and that she herself is now their target and they will stop at nothing in order to keep her from truth.

An amazing book, well researched and well written. Question: Since the Gnostic gospels were discovered in 1945, why has Christianity not been changed by the information included? Why were they not generally released to the public immediately, but held in Cairo for 20+ years and only released to certain scholars? Why were women not returned to the roles of Christian ministers and priests as they were in Jesus' time?

CRose

The Center for Peace is a non-profit religious corporation in the State of Tennessee. Donations to the Center for Peace can be claimed as deductions from income for income tax purposes.

Active Council Members of the Center for Peace:

| | | |
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| Candy Barbee | Knoxville | 865-933-3925 |
| Steve Citty | Knoxville | 865-212-4800 |
| Margarita DiVita | Jefferson City | 865-475-3799 |
| Al Fletcher | Norris | 865-494-9950 |
| Katy Koontz | Knoxville | 865-693-9845 |
| Dennis Ogle | Seymour | 865-577-5848 |
| Cheryl Patterson | Seymour | 865-453-3869 |
| Shannon Ray | Knoxville | 865 654-7933 |
| Jeanne Robinson | Seymour | 865-428-3070 |
| Perry Robinson | Seymour | 865-428-3070 |
| Marcus Wese-man | Clinton | 865-463-1002 |

Internet Musings

Our own Reverend Rose (Cheryl Patterson) has a blog spot on the internet! "All Things Spiritual" can be found at:

www.CRosenotes.blogspot.com

Flora Memories

(Continued from page 1)

One of my favorite Flora stories is about lotus flowers. She and Mary were followers of Baba Muktananda who had an ashram in Los Angeles where they had lived. They had always wanted a pond with lotus flowers and Flora went to a nursery in West Knoxville and bought bulbs. The nurseryman told her lotus' were tropical plants and would not survive our East Tennessee winters, so the bulbs should be planted in half-barrels so that they could be removed from the pond in the winter.

Charles and I climbed into the pond and dragged the lotus flowers in their barrels all around the pond to properly position them for best aesthetic value. It ranks up there with my worst fears, being in muddy pond water up to my chest, unable to see where my feet are, and fearing holes and snapping turtles, etc. But somehow we always did what Flora wanted.

The lotus flowers thrived and far from being the fragile plants we were warned about, they took over the pond, dropping their seedpods into the water and sprouting in great profusion.

Finally when there was no water left to be seen, Flora decided we had to get them out before the pond was totally strangled. It was planting in reverse, dragging all the plants out of the pond and then putting some sort of weed killer in the water to kill the seeds.

So ended the great lotus experiment.

Much of what Flora taught me was about listening to Spirit and doing what you are guided to do. She took relative strangers into her home when they needed a place to be and helped them through her great practical compassion to find their way in the world again.

Wherever her soul now resides, I know that she is in a good place, for no one is more deserving.

CRose

If you would like to be included in our email list, go to our website

www.centerforpeace.us

And click on "email list".

Perry's Ponderings

Your Faith Has Made You By Perry Robinson

Have you noticed that every year Christmas seems to bring forth a whole bunch of personal crises and relationship problems? I have a theory about that, which I will address a little later.

When Jesus healed someone, he would often say something like, "Your faith has made you well." It was so. The person was healed; because the power of faith is unlimited.

Let us look at a flip side to this for a moment: Is it not equally true that it was the person's faith in something else that caused the illness in the first place? Literally, I think, our faith has made us just as we are right now. Our world is the way it is, because we believe it is the way it is. When we change our belief system, we change the world.

The person that was written up in the Bible, had faith in Jesus; and that faith made him/her well. Were there other people just as sick who believed that Jesus was a rabble rousing troublemaker? I'll bet there were. But we don't read about them; they were not healed. But, look at this: they would have been right in their belief about Jesus.

What we experience has nothing to do about the correctness of our faith. [Who is more correct than a Presbyterian or an Orthodox Jew?] It has everything to do with our desire and our faith that Spirit is able to fulfill. Do you want to be right or to be happy?

Every experience we have is offering us an opportunity to accept a piece of healing or another piece of the same old stuff. When all our thoughts are on "what someone else did", we are doing the "victim sidestep" as if to say, "I'm just the victim here; I don't have to do anything but lick my wounds and maybe forgive my victimizer."

Joseph Rael, Beautiful Painted Arrow, has been a good teacher about this. One time Joseph was teaching in our Peace Chamber, when two men came in to disrupt him and "nail him" as a "false teacher". Some of the people present could have throttled the two men! But Joseph didn't miss a beat. He addressed the most civil part of the question, as I recall, and continued. With his words coming from his heart, the two men knew they had no audience here; and they left.

By continuing to focus on what he came here to offer and share with the people, Joseph showed that it is not necessary to "get sidetracked into other people's stuff". When I asked him later about this incident, he told me that he always takes these occasions to examine himself about what he did or thought to make this happen. He said [again, the best I can remember], "It is always about what's going inside of you. That is what makes these things happen. Some idea that I had been harboring or something I did caused it, so I would have a chance to do something about it."

The most profound way that faith in negative things messes us up is when a loved one does something that we think is "out of character" with our love relationship. "Anyone who can do that, could do anything!" kicks in and we're off and running. If some-

one ticks us off, we will suddenly remember everything that person did that ticked us off. When relationship breaks down between husband and wife, suddenly the loved one becomes the enemy! What happened? Faith changed. I have seen this dynamic happen in relationships countless times. When we remember the love, we get entirely different data from our memory bank.

I believe that faith in negative or unworthy principles is our main problem today.

Another for instance: mistakes, we all make them. When we make "mistakes", we get to learn something. With a positive belief, a mistake offers an opportunity to move to deeper, clearer understanding. With a negative belief a mistake can be devastating. Where did the love go? Can a mistake wipe out all the good that went before it? It is always up to us. Healing or same old same old, the choice is always before us.

[It is the law of attraction. If you want to learn more about how it works, see the video: THE SECRET. I now own a copy and have seen it twice.]

In recent months I have mentioned several times how we need to look carefully at the "fundamentals" we live by. You know what? It has nothing at all to do with which beliefs are "right". They are all "right". The real question is: what does that belief do for you?

Now, I believe the reason so much of our "stuff" comes up around Christmas is because the season reminds us how much Light we have been offered by the masters. Light is for healing; and it doesn't matter from whom it is reflected; Light is Light. What will you do with it? More of the same? "That person is a rabble rousing troublemaker"? Please heal me? You get healed or not, according to how you respond to the Light.

Here is a test: What is your life like right now?

Are there points at which you are turning from your healing and seeing a rabble rousing troublemaker instead? Your faith has made you. The law of attraction is true, because it works. It does not depend upon anyone believing in it; it works whether we believe it is true or not.

You can test it. Choose something you would like to experience. Make it so big that its manifestation would be a surprise! Several times a day focus on it and get into the feel of its being fulfilled. [This is exactly what you are doing, when you nurture old wounds! Do it for something you desire, instead.] Make it a prayer. Even if you feel silly at first, keep doing it. Even in the Bible Spirit says something like: "Try me. Put me to the test; and see if I will not support you!"

Don't you think it would be fun to try it? We don't need to overcome all those old worthless beliefs. They'll just disappear, when we EXPERIENCE the Love, Wisdom, and Grace of the Divine Presence in which we live.

Your faith has made you. Creator Spirit will support you in your faith, whichever way it goes; because you are Its child and It loves you that much!

If you don't believe any of this yet, I "d-double dare you" to try it! I am working on seeing every one of us happy, healthy, and rich, . . . if we are willing to accept it, that is!

Happy new life!

Core Activities

Sweat Lodges

— See calendar for dates of Thursday and Saturday sweat lodges.

A sweat lodge, or a stone people's lodge, can be an intensely rewarding experience. By entering the mother's womb (the lodge) we seek purification and a deeper spiritual awareness through prayer. The steam, heat, and darkness help hold our prayers and add to our personal introspection. The pourer (leader of the lodge), with help from the fire tender, strives to hold a place of safety and security while setting the intent of the lodge. The medicine of the pourer and of each participant helps to enrich the lessons of the lodge.

Times for Saturday sweats reflect the approximate time the fire will be started. Times for Thursday sweats reflect the approximate earliest time participants will enter the lodge. We suggest participants arrive early to gain the full benefit.

Bring two towels, modest clothes for the sweat (clothes you don't mind getting dirty), change of clothes (for afterwards), food (for the feast), and a flashlight (for evening sweats). Gifting the Center, the lodge, the fire tender, and/or the leader is appropriate but not required.

NO CHARGE—donations appreciated

For more information, call the Center (865) 428-3070

An Evening of Personal Growth

—Wednesday Nights from 7-8:30 pm;

Greetings fellow seekers! The Center for Peace hosts weekly meetings aimed at furthering our spiritual growth.

November: TO BE ANNOUNCED

December: Jeanne Robinson is host.

NO CHARGE—donations appreciated

For more information call the Center at (865) 428-3070 and we will put you in touch with the host for the month.

Native Nurturing

—2nd Sunday each month 3 pm



Native Nurturing is a gathering focusing on making available to our children the teachings of the Old Way. The children learn about ceremony, drumming, the four directions, and chanting. The monthly workshop is taught by our community teachers who share their lessons with the children.

Twice each year we host a young people's sweat lodge, and in May we hold the Young People's Dance for children and their sponsors. We base these lessons on the teachings of Joseph Rael, Beautiful Painted Arrow, a native visionary.

Native Nurturing allows us to be a part of the giving to and the receiving from our children, helping keep us connected to the universal truths of God's plan - providing growth for everyone.

NO CHARGE—donations appreciated

For more information, call Nan Citty (865) 405-6809

Council Meeting

—See calendar

This is the gathering of the board of directors to discuss new ideas, future projects, and events. Feel free to come with suggestions and comments.

January 21 – visitors welcome

February 11– visitors welcome

NO CHARGE

For more information, call the Center at (865) 428-3070.

Work is Worship

—Scheduled for Feb 17

There is always plenty to do. Lunch provided.

Steve Citty (865) 212-4800 or Perry Robinson (865) 428-3070



Chanting in the Chamber

Chanting in the chamber is discontinued for January and February. You are encouraged to either come to the chamber and chant (the chamber Spirits love it), or chant for an hour at home.

We hope to begin again in March.

Fire Ceremony

— 7th of each month, 7 pm

This ceremony came from a vision Joseph Rael had in 1984. Its purpose is to heal and purify both the planet's physical oceans and the oceans of cosmic thought. Through healing our own confusion, Joseph was told by Oceanus (creator spirit of the ocean), we can heal the confusion of the physical world.



At 7 pm local time, fire elders light ceremonial fires at each of the Peace Sound Chambers around the world. Those present watch the fire in silence until it burns out, giving to it what we want to transmute in our lives and staying open to the messages and teachings it brings. All are welcome. We suggest you arrive around 6:45 pm.

NO CHARGE—donations appreciated

For more information, call Katy Koontz at (865) 693-9845.

More information is available for each month at our website:

www.centerforpeace.us

January/February 2007

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|-----|---|---|---|--|
| 29 | Jan 1 10 am—New Years Day Sweat | 2 | 3  7-8:30 pm—Evening of Personal Growth – | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 7-8:30 pm—Evening of Personal Growth— | 11  | 12 | 13 |
| 14 3-5 pm Native Nurturing | 15 | 16 | 17 7-8:30 pm—Evening of Personal Growth – | 18  7 pm - Sweat Lodge led by Steve Citty | 19 | 20 |
| 21 5pm Council Meeting | 22 | 23 | 24 7-8:30 pm—Evening of Personal Growth – | 25  | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 7-8:30 pm—Evening of Personal Growth— | Feb 1 | 2  | 3 9:30 - 5 pm Core Shamanism Basic Course |
| 4 9:30 - 4 pm Core Shamanism Basic Course | 5 | 6 | 7 7-8:30 pm—Evening of Personal Growth— | 8 7 pm - Sweat Lodge led by Steve Citty | 9 | 10  10 am - Sweat Lodge |
| 11 3-5 pm Native Nurturing 5pm Council Meeting | 12 | 13 | 14 7-8:30 pm—Evening of Personal Growth - | 15 | 16 | 17  |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 7-8:30 pm—Evening of Personal Growth – | 22 | 23 | 24  11 am -The Queen of Heaven is Calling - 11am |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 7-8:30 pm—Evening of Personal Growth – | Mar 1 | 2 | 3  Total Lunar eclipse @ sunset |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | Do you ever wonder exactly what the moon phase is today? Visit us online! www.centerforpeace.us And see for yourself! | |

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Basic Workshop**

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**"The Queen of Heaven
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**January & February
Activities**

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*Did you know that you can register online for
most activities at
The Center for Peace?
Printable map and directions also available.
Visit: www.centerforpeace.us*

Book Review

THE INVISIBLE GARMENT

by Connie Kaplan

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**Coming Soon:
March**

Huna Workshop

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Drum Workshop (tentative)

For more information see
www.centerforpeace.us

We offer many opportunities, such as:

- Visionary dances
- Sweat lodges
- Fire ceremonies
- Chanting/drumming gatherings
- Young people's ceremonies and activities
- Core shamanism
- Huna shamanism
- Vision quests
- Firewalks
- Teachings on drumming and working with fire
- Workshops on various topics like numerology, fire walking, Druidic traditions, sound healing and chanting, shamanic studies, and many more
- Book groups
- Ceremonies of initiation
- Supporting ceremonies in the local, regional, and international communities
- A safe, family-like environment to grow in

For more information, call
865-428-3070.

Peace Talk

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