

# COMMON GROUND

## SPRING-SUMMER 2018 BULLETIN

### A POST-TRUTH WORLD?

Oscar Wilde once wrote that politicians aren't great liars: "They never rise beyond the level of misrepresentation.... How different from the temper of the true liar, with his frank, fearless statements, his superb irresponsibility, his healthy, natural disdain of proof of any kind! After all, what is a fine lie? Simply that which is its own evidence." (See page 5 of this issue for a deeper look at Wilde's comically ironic view of liars and lying.)

We can easily imagine how Oscar Wilde might respond to the preposterous late-night fabrications and rally falsehoods that characterize the discourse of the current occupant of America's center of government. What we should ask instead is this: how will a sitting president's indifference to the truth affect America's political, social, and even existential future? Is there, in other words, light at the end of the post-truth tunnel?

There is an abundance of reasons to doubt it. Remember that the candidacy of the president was grounded in "birtherism," the outlandish argument that Barack Obama was not born in the U.S., was ineligible to assume the presidency, and was in fact a

Muslim plant. Keep in mind that the alleged conspiracy would have been hatched long before Obama was born. But birtherism offers a critical clue to the truth-twisting of the far-right in America and around the world.

The movement's most essential tropes are all *denialist* in nature. That is, they deliberately misrepresent reality, reject scientific or historical consensus, or create demonstrably false or misleading "evidence" to support insupportable positions. Denialism seems almost always to emerge as a strategy for fending off psychologically uncomfortable truth. Among the most egregious denials concern the Holocaust, the AIDS pandemic, and global climate change. Other manifestations of sociopathology systematically deny the reality of misogyny, social injustice, and racial discrimination. And recently we've witnessed the specter of the democracy-denying "Deep State" conspiracy theories

So, is truth dead forever? Is realism now optional? Many thoughtful cultural evolutionists insist that all is far from lost. Let me introduce just one of them, Steven Pinker (whose newest book, *Enlightenment Now* will be the subject of my Tuesday a.m. workshop, May 22-June 19.)

Professor Pinker, a renowned evolutionary psychologist at Harvard University, sees the current president as merely the latest example of the "anti-enlightenment movement," an antirational rejection of natural law and the rights of human beings. He puts it simply:

*"Trumpism is of course part of a larger phenomenon of authoritarian populism. This is a backlash against the values responsible for the progress that we've enjoyed. Trumpism promotes a kind of counter-enlightenment ideology. That is, instead of universal human wellbeing, it focuses on the glory of the nation, assuming that nations are in zero-sum competition against each other as opposed to cooperating globally."*

You'll find us at CG as enthusiastic as ever for the power of reason, the value of informed discussion, and the reality of progressive cultural evolution.

*Jim Kenney, Executive Director*

*COVER: Sun and Moon Reflections, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. Citation: a paraphrasing of an original teaching of the Buddha.*

### resource persons

**Jim Kenney**, CG Executive Director, Executive Director, Common Ground; former Global Director, Parliament of the World's Religions and Project Coordinator, the Peace Council; author, *Thriving in the Crosscurrent*.

**Linda Kimball**, CG Administrator, former Executive Director, OASIS Chicago; Co-Owner/Director, Great Age Productions; Consultant on Not-for-Profit Management and Development; Licensed Real Estate Broker.

**Laura Bernstein**, MA, University of Chicago; rabbinical studies, Hebrew Seminary of the Deaf; leader and composer of interfaith chants; author of poetry and articles on spirituality; co-author of *Healing the Jewish-Christian Rift*.

**Herbert W. Bronstein**, regular CG faculty; Senior Rabbi Emeritus, North Shore Congregation Israel; editor, *Liturgies for the Reform Movement*; lecturer, Lake Forest College; Shakespearean scholar; expert on religions.

**Rosemary Hurwitz**, MA, PS, Loyola University; twenty years experience in career consulting and in leading retreats for Discovery weekends; over sixteen years studying the Enneagram, certified in 2001.

**Kenneth James**, regular CG faculty; diplomate Jungian psychoanalyst in private practice; Ph.D., Northwestern University; Diploma in Analytical Psychology, C.G. Jung Institute of Chicago; Director of Student Services at the University of Chi-

cago Laboratory Schools.

**Carl Jerome**, regular CG faculty; founding teacher, North Shore Meditation and Dharma Center; Senior Dharma Teacher, Mid-America Buddhist Association; meditation teacher, Cancer Wellness Center, Northbrook.

**Jerrold Leitner**, regular CG faculty; M.A., Theology, St. John University, Collegeville, MN; M.A., English, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL; retired; 40 years teaching English and Theology.

**Pamela Mayers**, MA in Reading Instruction and Guidance and Counseling, Northeastern Illinois University; Ed.D., National-Louis University; 38 years teaching at elementary and college level; Certified Guided Autobiography Instructor.

**Maurice Pickard**, MD, regular CG faculty; medical school, University of Illinois College of Medicine; residency, University of Illinois Hospital, Chicago and the University of California; retired from private practice and currently focused on ethics in medicine.

**Ahmad Sadri**, regular CG faculty; Ph.D., New School for Social Research; College Professor of Islamic World Studies, Lake Forest College; author of several books, in Persian and in English, including *Max Weber's Sociology of Individuals* and his recent translation of the *Shanameh* (the *Persian Book of Kings*).

**Pauline Viviano**, regular CG faculty; Ph.D., Biblical Languages and Literature, St. Louis University; Associate Professor of Theology, Loyola Univer-

sity, Chicago; recently completed a commentary on the Books of Jeremiah and Baruch.

**John Wasik**, regular CG faculty; M.A., the University of Illinois-Chicago; has lectured across the U.S.; author of 13 books including his latest, *Lightning Strikes: Timeless Lessons in Creativity from the Life and Work of Nikola Tesla*.

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# MORNING LECTURES

*Unless otherwise noted, all programs are held at the Deerfield Center.*

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## TUESDAY MORNINGS

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TUESDAYS, APRIL 24-MAY 15  
9:30-11:30 AM (4 WEEKS) \$52

JIM KENNEY

### THOMAS FRIEDMAN— *THANK YOU FOR BEING LATE*

Thomas Friedman's latest book addresses the pace of change in our evolving culture. And he asks us to "slow down." In *Thank You for Being Late*, a work unlike anything he has attempted before, Friedman exposes the tectonic movements that are reshaping the world today and explains how to get the most out of them and cushion their worst impacts. You will never look at the world the same way again after you read this book: how you understand the news, the work you do, the education your kids need, the investments your employer has to make, and the moral and geopolitical choices our country has to navigate will all be refashioned by Friedman's original analysis.

TUESDAYS, MAY 22-JUNE 19  
9:30-11:30 AM (5 WEEKS) \$65

JIM KENNEY

### ENLIGHTENMENT NOW (STEVEN PINKER)

Steven Pinker is an evolutionary psychologist, an expert in human behavior and its evolutionary adaptations. He is the acclaimed author of many books, including *The Better Angels of Our Nature—How Violence Has Declined*. His latest, *Enlightenment Now*, is his finest yet. He argues compellingly that the key values, which animated the 18th-century Enlightenment — humanism, reason, and science — are still active (and even dominant) in human culture. As a consequence, peace, justice, nonviolence, as well as happiness, safety, and prosperity continue to rise for much of humankind. Skeptics beware. Pinker makes a powerful argument.

TUESDAY, JUNE 26  
9:30-11:30 AM (1 WEEK) \$15

AHMAD SADRI

### WHAT TRUMP DOESN'T UNDERSTAND ABOUT ISLAM

Donald Trump's limited and distorted un-

derstanding of Islam is not unique or limited to him. That image is quite typical of the mindset of Islamophobes in US and Europe. We will start with the historical roots of this caricature and follow up its developments in the modern world. We will then explore the tenuous relationship of this image with reality and its dangers for American foreign policy.

TUESDAYS, JULY 3-17  
9:30-11:30 AM (3 WEEKS) \$39

JIM KENNEY

### LOST WORLDS OF SOUTH AMERICA

The dramatic terrain of South America is one of the great and thrilling frontiers of archaeology. Buried by the centuries on soaring mountain slopes and beneath arid deserts and lush jungles, the remains of extraordinary, majestic civilizations—many completely unknown until recent decades—are now coming to light and raising tantalizing questions about what else may be awaiting discovery.

TUESDAYS, JULY 24-31  
9:30-11:30 AM (2 WEEKS) \$26

JIM KENNEY

### SCIENCE AND RELIGION— THE LONG ENTANGLEMENT

The dance of science and religion has been long and often tortured. This workshop will take us first to the early Medieval period and then to the later. We'll witness the Scientific Revolution and the virulent religious response. Then we'll move into the modern period and come to understand the changing relationship of religion and science—sometimes antagonists, often allies.

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## WEDNESDAY MORNINGS "THE HUMAN SEARCH"

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WEDNESDAYS, APRIL 25  
9:30-11:30 AM (1 WEEK) \$15

JERROL LEITNER

### ROBERT FROST— THE POET AS PREACHER

Robert Frost, America's favorite 20th century poet, presented himself as an amiable

grandfather, bristly but cuddly. In reality, however, his poetry searched life's dark and uncertain corners. Beneath the easy surface lay a mind questioning God, relationships, and the meaning of it all. This presentation examines Frost's life, his craft, and several of his most important poems.

WEDNESDAYS, MAY 2-9  
9:30-11:30 AM (2 WEEKS) \$26

PAULINE VIVIANO

### WHERE HAVE ALL THE PROPHETS GONE?

Prophecy arose at a particular time in the history of Israel and died out after a few centuries, but it has lived on in different ways throughout the centuries. Briefly we will explore the task of the prophets of ancient Israel, but our main concern in these two presentations will be on the nature of prophecy as it developed beyond Israel in the early Church and in other religious traditions. We will also center our attention on the question: does prophecy continue today and if so in what ways?

WEDNESDAYS, MAY 16-23  
9:30-11:30 AM (2 WEEKS) \$26

JERROL LEITNER

### ADVICE FOR SPIRITUAL REVOLUTIONARIES

Rabbi Rami Shapiro is widely recognized as one of the most creative figures in contemporary American Judaism. In his new book, *Holy Rascals: Advice for Spiritual Revolutionaries*, Rabbi Rami asks two important questions about religion: are we making all this up, and if so, can we make it up in a more positive and life-affirming way? The book questions God, free will, the stories we live by, faith and doubt, the need to abandon "truth," and more. We'll question these things too—and Rabbi Rami as well.

WEDNESDAYS, MAY 30-JUNE 6  
9:30-11:30 AM (2 WEEKS) \$26

KENNETH JAMES

### JUNG'S APPROACH TO TRUTH— INDIVIDUATION AS DISCERNMENT

Jung has said that we do not become en-

lightened by imagining figures of light, but by making the darkness conscious. Part of this process, which is essential to the process of psychological healing that Jung called Individuation, is the necessary acceptance of our full truth, in all of its dimensions. As this process is engaged, what is true about us becomes more and more apparent, although this truth is much richer than a simple logical definition of truth. In this workshop, we will consider what Jung had to say about the idea of personal, objective, archetypal and transformational truths, as well as the truths that can only be conveyed in myth and other symbolic expressions.

**WEDNESDAYS, JUNE 13-20**

**9:30-11:30 AM (2 WEEKS) \$26**

**AHMAD SADRI**

**THE SUNNI-SHI'ITE DIVIDE—  
THEOLOGY AND POLITICS**

The two main branches of Islam have lived in hidden or apparent tension since the death of prophet Muhammad in the 7th century. This workshop will begin by making political and sociological sense of that divide and its continuing intellectual, social and political ramifications down to the present-day conflicts in Iraq and Syria.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27**

**9:30-11:30 AM (1 WEEK) \$15**

**CARL JEROME**

**BUDDHISM'S THREE  
KEY IDEAS**

The three most important and foundational Buddhist concepts are the Four Noble Truths, the Two Truths and the Five Aggregates. Learn how each of these tenets or doctrines structures our understanding of ourselves and our suffering, THEN learn how to forget that they are true so you can discover the path to reducing and ending your suffering. This is a unique feature of Buddhism: teaching its faithful not to believe its dogmas and doctrines and tenets.

**NO CLASS JULY 4**

**WEDNESDAYS, JULY 11**

**9:30-11:30 AM (1 WEEK) \$15**

**JIM KENNEY**

**GREAT VOICES IN RELIGION  
AND SPIRITUALITY—  
THE DALAI LAMA**

His Holiness, Tenzin Gyatsho, the XIVth

Dalai Lama, is the spiritual preceptor for most Tibetan Buddhists and an inspiration to other Buddhists and many spiritual seekers on a variety of paths. But what makes the Dalai Lama's teaching so intriguing and so powerful? How did he become a "strange attractor" for people of so many religions? Jim has worked often in concert with His Holiness and has some unique insights to offer.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 18**

**9:30-11:30 AM (1 WEEK) \$15**

**JIM KENNEY AND HERBERT BRONSTEIN**

**THE EVOLUTION OF RELIGION  
AND SPIRITUALITY**

Scholars of religion point to the "Axial Age" (roughly the first millennium BCE) as the dawn of the great classical religions that endure in the modern era. These days, it's often suggested by serious students of the religions that we have entered a second great "turning on the religious axis"—a Second Axial Age. In this period, our focus shifts from the individual to the global. This workshop will center on the 21st-century evolution of the human search for meaning. And we'll ask, "what changes lie on the horizon?"

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 25**

**9:30-11:30 AM (1 WEEK) \$15**

**MAURICE PICKARD**

**THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC**

The cause of more deaths than guns and automobile accidents combined, the opioid scourge has become one of America's most urgent social challenges. Addiction troubled communities long before the advent of modern medicine. However, the opioid epidemic had its origin in the pharmaceutical industry and in normative medical practices. In 2015, one-third of all Medicare patients (12 million) were given prescriptions for these painkillers by their physicians. It's clear that we all must be involved in prevention and treatment of opioid abuse and in the reduction of overdoses and deaths.

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**WEDNESDAY NIGHT  
FORUM**

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The CG Forum offers an opportunity for open and interactive discussion with Jim Kenney (and friends) on a variety of timely topics. The format includes opening remarks by Jim (and his guest or guests) and then a lively Q and A segment. There will always be time allowed for "off-topic" questions and discussion. **Forum Presentations will usually be held on the second Wednesday of each month at the CG Center (Deerfield)**

**7:00-8:30 P.M. • \$15/FORUM**

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS ADVISED.**

**MAY 9**

**7:00-8:30 PM (\$15)**

**JIM KENNEY**

**SOCIAL MEDIA, BIG DATA,  
AND THE FUTURE**

How has the rise (and the apparent insidious use) of Facebook, Twitter, and other social media platforms changed American politics, commerce, and life itself? How has so-called "big data" complicated the situation? Is anything being done about the security and reliability of social media? *Can* anything be done? John and Jim will have some intriguing insights. We want to hear yours as well.

**JUNE 13**

**7:00-8:30 PM (\$15)**

**JIM KENNEY AND AHMAD SADRI**

**ISLAM TOMORROW**

What are some possible futures facing the global Islamic community? Which is the likelier scenario – radicalism or reform? Why? Join Ahmad and Jim for some provocative thoughts. Bring your questions and comments.

**JULY 11**

**7:00-8:30 PM (\$15)**

**JIM KENNEY AND PAULINE VIVIANO**

**CHRISTIANITY TOMORROW**

Pauline and Jim, will be asking some of the same questions about Christianity that Ahmad and Jim took up with regard to Islam. Is the Christian world retreating toward fundamentalist isolationism or advancing in a progressive direction? Come join in this fascinating conversation.



# COMMON GROUND SATELLITES

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## CG CHICAGO

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77 West Washington St. at Clark, Chicago. Usually on the first Thursdays of the month, 7-9 pm, \$10. Presented in partnership with the Swedenborg Library. (For information: 312-346-7003.) **Note day change.**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 5 • JOHN WASIK  
PRAIRIE POWER: INNOVATION  
IN ILLINOIS OVER THE PAST  
200 YEARS**

This lecture will show how Illinois seeded (and continues to contribute to) major innovation—from efficient agriculture to tech start-ups—ideas that changed the world. As a recently named Illinois Humanities Council “Road Scholar,” John will be offering this important talk across the state to celebrate the Prairie State’s bicentennial.

**THURSDAY, MAY 3 • JERROL LEITNER  
ADVICE FOR SPIRITUAL  
REVOLUTIONARIES**

Rabbi Rami Shapiro is widely recognized as one of the most creative figures in contemporary American Judaism. In his new book, *Holy Rascals: Advice for Spiritual Revolutionaries*, Rabbi Rami asks two important questions about religion: are we making all this up, and if so, can we make it up in a more positive and life-affirming way? The book questions God, free will, the stories we live by, faith and doubt, the need to abandon “truth,” and more. We’ll question these things too—and Rabbi Rami as well.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 7 • AHMAD SADRI  
THE SUNNI-SHI'ITE DIVIDE—  
THEOLOGY AND POLITICS**

The two main branches of Islam have lived in hidden or apparent tension since the death of prophet Muhammad in the 7th century. This workshop will begin by making political and sociological sense of that divide and its continuing intellectual, social and political ramifications down to the present-day conflicts in Iraq and Syria.



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## CG CRYSTAL LAKE

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First Congregational United Church of Christ, Pierson and Florence Streets, Crystal Lake; usually on the second Monday of the month, 7:30–9:30 pm, \$10. Follow Rte. 14 (Northwest Highway) to Florence St., one block southeast of Dole Ave. Go south on Florence for one block. Parking behind the church. Enter through west side door.

**MONDAY, APRIL 9 • AHMAD SADRI  
THE RISE OF FUNDAMENTAL-  
ISM AND THE DECLINE OF  
REFORM THOUGHT—JUDAISM,  
CHRISTIANITY, AND ISLAM**

Everything was going according to the plan of modernity up until the last quarter of the 20th century. Religion was gradually getting used to its disestablishment, liberal theology was on the ascendant, and the processes of “secularization” and “privatization” of religion were making gradual progress. But the world looks different today, doesn’t it? The US, Europe, Israel, and the Islamic world are all in the grip of a resurgent fundamentalism. This lecture will explore the roots of the return of strong religion with a particular focus on the prospects of Islamic reform in the remainder of our century.

**MONDAY, MAY 14 • JERROL LEITNER  
ADVICE FOR SPIRITUAL  
REVOLUTIONARIES**

(See description under CG Chicago.)

**MONDAY, JUNE 11 • JIM KENNEY  
SCIENCE AND RELIGION—  
THE LONG ENTANGLEMENT**

The dance of science and religion has been long and often tortured. This workshop will take us first to the early Medieval period, and then to the later. We’ll witness the Scientific Revolution and the virulent religious response. But then we’ll move into the modern period and come to understand the changing relationship of religion and science—sometimes antagonists, often allies.

**MONDAY, JULY 9 • PAULINE VIVIANO  
WHERE HAVE ALL THE  
PROPHETS GONE?**

Prophecy arose at a particular time in the history of Israel and died out after a few centuries, but it has lived on in different ways throughout the centuries. Briefly we will explore the task of the prophets of ancient Israel, but our main concern in these two presentations will be on the nature of prophecy as it developed beyond Israel in the early Church and in other religious traditions. We will also center our attention on the question: does prophecy continue today and if so in what ways?

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## CG GRAYSLAKE

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Wildwood Presbyterian Church, 18630 W. Old Gages Lake Road, Grayslake, IL 60030. Park in the lot and use the main entrance. Lectures will be held on occasionally Fridays, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm, \$10.

**THE GRAYSLAKE SATELLITE IS  
ON HIATUS. PROGRAMS WILL  
RESUME IN THE FALL.**



# "THE DECAY OF LYING: A PROTEST"

## BY OSCAR WILDE, 1891

### AN EXCERPT



*Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) was an Irish playwright, poet, and essayist. He is remembered for his passionate commitment to justice as well as for his profoundly ironic style, irreverence, and social daring.*

*His famous essay, "The Decay of Lying: A Protest," is presented as a serious defense of the vanishing art of the lie, "as an art, a science, and a social pleasure."*

*Posing in a way as a disappointed aesthete, Wilde bemoans "our monstrous worship of facts" and fears that "Art will become sterile and fade away and beauty will pass away from the land." One can safely assume that his irony would give way to flabbergasted outrage if he were confronted with the specter of an assault on truth by "true liars" like those now emerging in 21st-century American and global politics.*

*This excerpt is taken from a Socratic dialogue between two friends, Cyril and Vivian. Cyril inquires about the article that Vivian is writing. Vivian replies.*

CYRIL. What is the subject?

VIVIAN. I intend to call it 'The Decay of Lying: A Protest.'

CYRIL. Lying! I should have thought that our politicians kept up that habit.

VIVIAN. I assure you that they do not. They never rise beyond the level of misrepresentation, and actually condescend to prove, to discuss, to argue. How different from the temper of the true liar, with his frank, fearless statements, his superb irresponsibility, his healthy, natural disdain of proof of any kind! After all, what is a fine lie? Simply that which is its own evidence.

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## FEES & REGISTRATION

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### Program Fees

#### Lecture Series

2-, 3-, 4-, 5-, 6-week Lecture Series:  
Entire series \$26, \$39, \$52, \$65, \$78;  
single session \$15

#### Single Lectures

Single evening presentations \$15 or \$13  
with CG Pass;

Satellites: \$10/lecture (no discounts)

Student discount: \$8 for all 2-hour  
lectures

(No other discounts)

#### Lecture Passes

“Lecture Passes” may be used for all CG

Deerfield and CG Satellite (except  
Naples) lecture programs and workshop  
sessions. They are not valid for “Special  
Events” offerings.

Passes may be purchased at the CG  
Center

or by calling or writing.

Passes: 5 Sessions/\$65; 10 Sessions:  
\$130.

If you have questions about the pro-  
gram, please contact Linda Kimball  
at the CG Center

([linda@cg.org](mailto:linda@cg.org) or 847-940-7870).

Unless otherwise noted, programs are held  
at the CG Center (adjacent to the Christ  
United Methodist Church, at 815 Rose-  
mary Terrace, just north of Deerfield Rd.).  
It is one block east of Waukegan Rd. and  
two miles west of Route 41 at the Deer-  
field Rd. exit. You can pre-register for clas-  
ses online, at the CG web site, [www.cg.org](http://www.cg.org)  
or by calling the CG Center.

COMMON GROUND,

P.O. BOX 1435

DEERFIELD, IL 60015

TEL.: (847) 940-7870

FAX: (847) 940-7872

[linda@cg.org](mailto:linda@cg.org)

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(11.29.17-2.24.18)

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## THE CG TRIBUTE FUND

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Celebrate a birthday, anniversary or special oc-  
casion.... Remember a departed friend or loved  
one.... Show your gratitude and admiration for  
the notable contributions of a special person

*In Memory of Richard Campbell*  
Richard and Jean Campbell  
Rhona R. Reagen

*In Memory of Sharlee Frey*  
Marjorie Frey  
Jerrol and Lou Leitner  
Marshalee Frey Ray

*In Memory of Joyce Hewitt*  
George Hewitt

*In Memory of Ron Miller*  
Patricia Connery  
Fran Kapp

Jim and Cetta Kenney

*In Honor of the Common Ground  
Past and Current Board of Directors*  
Marilyn Biederer  
Linda Kimball

*In Honor of Jim Kenney*  
John and Linda Brodson

*In Honor of Marilyn Sternberg*  
Peter Sternberg

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## CG HIATUS

### AUGUST 1-SEPT. 10, 2018

Common Ground will be on hia-  
tus from Wednesday, August 1-Mon-  
day, September 10. Classes will resume  
on Tuesday, September 11th.

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## COMMON GROUND WHERE THE WORLD COMES TOGETHER

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Common Ground, founded in 1975 by Ron and Jim, is a center for inquiry, study, and dialogue. Our primary concern is the human quest for understanding and the human pursuit of significance. While our endeavor began with the study of world religions and the commitment to inter-faith dialogue, our range of program offerings has been greatly expanded over the past several years, and now includes art, history, politics, psychology, and culture, and much more.



CG'S FOUNDERS  
RON MILLER AND JIM KENNEY



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## THE CG EMAIL LIST

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If you'd like to be added to our regular CG email list (you'll receive very occasional notifications about upcoming programs, cancellations, or changes) please send your name and email address, with your request to be added, to [contact@cg.org](mailto:contact@cg.org).

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## SPECIAL EVENTS

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*Unless otherwise noted, all Special Events are held at the Deerfield Center.*

**SUNDAY, JUNE 10  
1:00-3:30 PM \$20**

**JIM KENNEY AND AHMAD SADRI  
ARE WE STUCK IN A POST-  
TRUTH WORLD OR IS THERE  
LIGHT AT THE END OF THE  
TRUMP TUNNEL?**

What are we to make of the Donald Trump presidency? Where to begin? But one clear marker is DJT's reluctant flirtation with truth. From anti-science to "Fake News," the assault has been brutal. But is it working? Will the post-Trump world be ever-marred by the lingering suspicion that nothing is true, not the news, not science, and certainly not American political tradition? In this presentation, Jim and Ahmad will argue that all is far from lost. Join them for an upbeat analysis of the resiliency of truth in an anti-truth moment.



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## SPIRITUAL PRACTICE AT COMMON GROUND

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*All sessions held at the CG Center in Deerfield.*

### MEDITATION

**EVERY MONDAY, 7:00-8:30 PM**

**LAURA BERNSTEIN**

**FREE-WILL OFFERING GOES TO CG.**

Eknath Easwaran was one of the 20th century's great meditation masters. Our ongoing satsang (spiritual community) studies his profound, pluralistic teachings (known as the 8-point program) and practices "passage meditation," a unique method of stilling the mind and translating spiritual ideals into daily living. Contact Laura before attending: [LJBernstein339@gmail.com](mailto:LJBernstein339@gmail.com).

### THE ENNEAGRAM

**FRIDAYS**

**11:30 AM-1:00 PM**

**ROSEMARY HURWITZ**

**FREE-WILL OFFERING GOES TO ROSEMARY AND CG.**

**CALL ROSEMARY FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**847-334-2558)**

What is the Enneagram? The term is derived from the Greek and refers to the "nine-pointed" star-like figure within a circle which represents 9 universal personality types. Left to us by seekers and mystical thinkers well over two thousand years ago, it has within it, a powerful compass which leads us to our essence, and can help us know and anchor our purpose. In this ongoing course, you will gain an in-depth understanding of your own type and of the profound "wellness map" that lies within.

### BUDDHIST MEDITATION

**NOW UNDERWAY, SUNDAYS 6:30-7:30 PM**

**CARL JEROME**

**(FREE WILL OFFERING GOES TO CG)**

### GUIDED AUTOBIOGRAPHY

**THURSDAYS, RESUMING IN MAY**

**PAM MAYERS (EMAIL FOR SCHEDULE AND MORE INFORMATION: [PAMMAYERS@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:PAMMAYERS@HOTMAIL.COM))**

**9:30-11:30 AM**

**6 WEEKS \$60**



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## SPRING-SUMMER 2018

**THE CG WEDNESDAY NIGHT FORUM**  
7:00-8:30 PM (JIM KENNEY AND GUESTS)  
May 9: Big Data, Social Media, and the Future  
June 13: Islam Tomorrow  
July 11: Christianity Tomorrow

**Common Ground**  
*Religion, spirituality, philosophy, and culture  
in the 21st century. Our 44th Year!*

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THREE THINGS CANNOT BE LONG HIDDEN...  
THE SUN, THE MOON, AND THE TRUTH.  
— BUDDHA

