



Life Off A Star Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 2, December 2015

www.lifeonastar.org



We hope all of you have been doing well and are having a wonderful Holiday Season.

2016 is almost here and the chairs for LOAS I and LOAS II have been working on organizing exciting and fun-filled conferences for this coming August. Registration for the conferences will open up shortly after Jan. 1st.

To register go to www.starisland.org/registration/2016conferences.

LOAS I, 2016

Saturday, August 13 to August 20, 2016

Meg Gurley & Geoff Attardo – Chairs

loas12016@gmail.com

The Nature of Star: Our relationship with the world around us

The goal of this week on Star is to explore how we have developed as human beings and what that means for the world around us and our future.

Theme Speaker

We are thrilled to have David Mangold Heiser as our theme speaker for the week! He will be giving a series of talks based around the theme of Evolution and the Paradox of Human Nature.

David's talks will cover various aspects of Evolution, the central organizing principle of biology. Evolution is among the most widely supported and accepted scientific theories. So why has it generated such controversy? We'll review the key principles and mechanisms of evolution, reflect on the beauty of the evolutionary process and the remarkable diversity of life, address questions about how humans fit into the picture (How has evolution shaped human nature? Are we a unique species? Are we still evolving?), and consider the compatibility of evolution and religion.

Minister of the Week

Our minister of the week will be the Rev. Megan Lloyd Joiner. Megan is the minister at the Unitarian Society of New Haven (USNH) and brings to her ministry a passion for worship and theology that is relevant to people's lives.

Workshops

We have also planned a number of exciting workshops that we hope will be fun, enlightening and will mesh in different ways with our theme of the week.

- Book Club on Island Time: David Whitford
- Landscape Art: Chris Mir and Karen Dow
- Americana Music: Rob Brereton
- Investment: Aram Khavari
- Basket Making: Patti Emmons
- Yoga: Bill Banick
- Intergenerational Science: Gail Henry and Sam Francis



LOAS II, 2016

Saturday, August 20 to August 27, 2016

Nora Schmidt & Alison Green - Chairs

loas2.2016.chairs@gmail.com

Creating a Pandemic of Global Compassion through Education and Social Media

Theme Speaker

The theme speaker for the week will be David Lehman, PhD. David is an educational consultant, founder of two alternative schools and long-time UU who will discuss how global compassion is critical to emotional and societal health.

Minister of the Week

Minister of the week will be Rev. Frank Clarkson, from the UU Society in Haverhill, MA.

Nora and Alison are currently putting together their workshops. Jen LeBair will be the youth coordinator.

2017 LOAS Chairs

The chairs for LOAS I 2017 are Emily and Brian Levine.

The chairs for LOAS II 2017 are Peter Shoults and Sue Penny.

The following people were elected at the November 2015 LOAS Chairs meeting:

Treasurer for 2017 – John Pustell

LOAS I Registrar 2016 – Patti Emmons

LOAS II Registrar (2016 & 2017) – Mary Heafy

LOAS I Provisioner 2016 – Tom Kennedy

LOAS II Provisioner 2016 – Matt King

Coordinating Committee:

- Jill Brody, Chair (off in 2016), eastorchard@verizon.net
- Gifford King (off in 2017), giffordking@msn.com
- Jamie Jensen (off in 2018), jamiesuejensen@gmail.com
- John Pustell – Treasurer, jpustell@verizon.net
- Mary Heafy – Registrar, maryheafy@gmail.com
- Patti Emmons – Registrar, patti@emmons.org

Scholarship Committee:

- Bob Bader, Chair (off in 2016)
- Michelle Kunz (off in 2017)
- Stephanie Ronco (off in 2018)

Child Abuse Committee

- Nancy Witherell, Chair
- Mary Heafy
- John Hoffman
- Julie Mabey
- Deb Keller Wood

Council of Conference Delegates for 2016:

LOAS I

Jill Brody
Rebecca Armstrong
Nancy Witherell – alt.

LOAS II

Phil Sears
David House
Diane Shiver – alt.

Webmaster - Darren Grebe, webmaster@lifeonastar.org

At the past fall LOAS Chairs Meeting, there were 37 former and current LOAS chairs present and Becky Friedkin was the moderator. The chalice was lit by Judy Crawford and the 2015 and 2016 chairs gave reports for their conference. LOAS I had 283 conferees and LOAS II had 278 conferees. The scholarship committee awarded \$14,971 in scholarships for 2015. It was voted the Lee Reid Scholarship Committee will give out a maximum of \$17,250 in scholarship money for 2016.

The following changes were approved:

1. Starting with the 2016 LOAS conferences, the LOAS program fee for adults will increase from \$100 per adult to \$130 per adult. The program fee for youth under the age of 18 will increase from \$75 to \$80 per youth. This increase was necessitated in order to balance our budget. The program fees were last increased in 2012.
2. A town hall meeting will be held at each conference with a facilitator and a recorder for the meeting.
3. In 2016 half of the proceeds from the auction will go to the Lee Reid Scholarship Fund and the other half will be donated to the Star Island Corporation specifically for improvements to the Kiddie Barn.
4. LOAS delegates to the Council of Conference do not need to be past chairs. Shoalers with a history of attending LOAS can be elected as delegates. Conferees should let it be known to former chairs and/or the coordinating committee they would like to be delegates to the Council of Conference.

If anyone has questions concerning the above changes, you may contact any member of the Coordinating Committee. If you have questions concerning the Council of Conferences, you may contact Phil Sears at pcsears@optonline.net. Questions concerning the Lee Reid Scholarship fund should be directed to Bob Bader at baderbro@aol.com. Questions concerning the Child Abuse Committee should be directed to Nancy Witherell at nancy.witherell@gmail.com.

Passages:

LOAS I conferee Herb Emers, passed away on August 14, 2015 at the age of 85, he was the loving husband of Jill Brody.

The LOAS website is www.lifeonastar.org and is updated throughout the year.

Editor of the newsletter is Patti Emmons, patti@emmons.org. If you have any news for the newsletter, please send it to the editor. If you no longer would like to receive the newsletter, please inform the editor. All photos by Patti Emmons.

