

Dear Aspen Chapel Community,

The transitional work sparked by - COVID 2+ years ago – continues to steadily improve. Traditional programs and their staff (outreach/Connect, Gallery, Music) are being re-engaged with new business models and fund-raising. (Read elsewhere about Connect!’s breakthrough partnership with the Aspen Public Schools.)

The Board of Trustees--who own & maintain our beautiful Chapel Building--are grappling with decades of deferred repairs and a dispute with the Aspen Jewish Congregation about how to pay for them. The longstanding arrangement has been for the Aspen Chapel Community and AJC to share these costs 60-40, but a reserve fund was never

set up to accumulate money for big ticket repairs. Outside consultants detailed \$1 million in deferred repairs needed now and in the near term. We are committed to working with the Trustees to cover the ACC’s share—and that will take innovation and experiments to close the gap in our budget. Stay tuned!

With Gratitude,



Bruce Merrifield, Administrative Board Chair

P.S. If anyone is interested in volunteering for leadership posts, please be in touch. Otherwise, many thanks for your steadfast support with “time, talent and/or treasure”. Our best work for society is still ahead.

The Entrepreneurial Story Behind Our Chapel's Mandala

The mandala on the front wall of our sanctuary was created by a local Aspen artist using the mandala in the photo as a model. **What is the original story?**

25 years ago, Nicholas and Heather Vesey decided that the UK’s version of “Burning Man” needed some “Christian consciousness”. With great persuasion, Nicholas got permission to set up an unaffiliated, meditation tent which needed some pizzazz. Hence, the original mandala was co-created with friends to incorporate two themes: the holy trinity signified by the three trinitarian, Celtic knots, and three swirls suggesting unfolding cosmic consciousness. The meditation tent was a hit and sparked unforeseen, “interesting” experiences for the Veseys.



When the Veseys later traveled to the New World as immigrants in search of religious freedom at the Aspen Chapel, they brought along the mandala tarp. When you now attend Sunday services for great – messages, music and community – let the mandala speak a bit more to all of us.



Aspen Chapel
a spiritual home for everyone

YOUR IMPACT

English Garden Party HIGHLIGHTS

Thank you to everyone who made this summer's English Garden Parties a huge success. It feels like just yesterday that we gathered in the Chapel Gardens, dressed like royalty, had traditional English Tea, and – of course – **raised nearly \$100,000 for the Aspen Chapel Annual Fund.**

These funds support essential operations and programs for the Chapel, such as Sunday Services and musical guests, Spiritual growth events, Adult Education events, Special holiday services, and The Aspen Chapel Art Gallery. We appreciate the generosity shown at the events so that the Chapel can continue to be a spiritual home for *everyone* in our community.



Thank you to our Host Committee

Maureen Callahan
Kathryn Henderson
Barbara Owen
Linda Sandell
Phyllis Scruggs
Nicole Tarumianz
Bobbi Teliska



Congratulations to Connect!

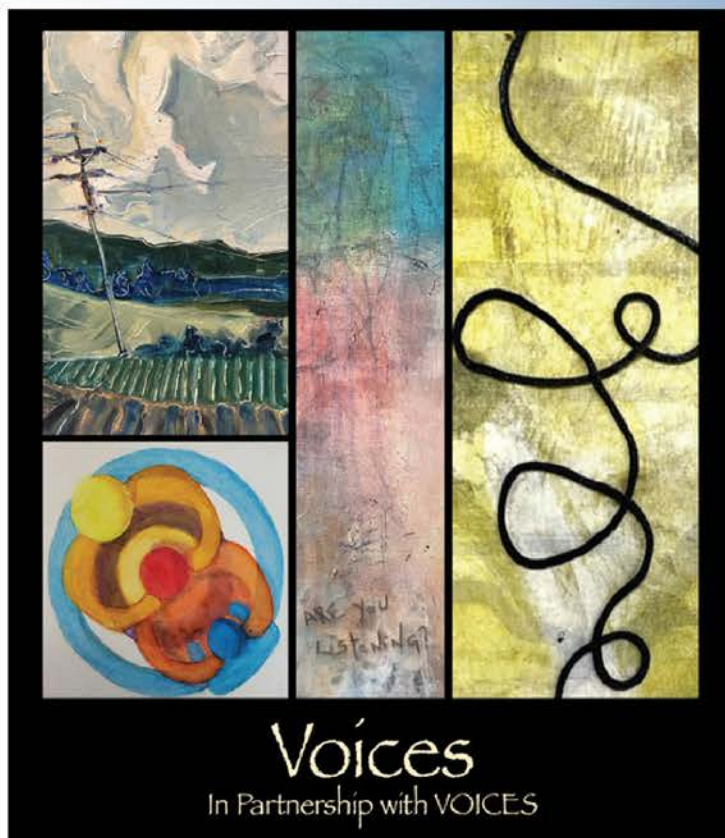
We are thrilled to announce the Connect! program has partnered with Aspen Public Schools and will now host the popular after-school program in the classrooms of Aspen Elementary School. Due to high demand, Connect! has expanded the program to meet two days per week. The first session started in late September.

Now its own designated nonprofit, you can support Connect! directly and learn more by going to their website: sites.google.com/view/kidsconnect.

We have been honored to share a space with this wonderful community program, and congratulate Mimi, Elaine, and the Connect! team on these exciting developments.



YOUR IMPACT



Aspen Chapel Gallery Presents: Voices

VOICES, a mixed media show, opened at the Aspen Chapel Gallery, Thursday, October 6, with a reception for the artists from 4 to 7 pm. It will run through Saturday, November 12.

The show is in partnership with Carbondale's VOICES, a Colorado nonprofit. Their mission is to "Amplify voices in our community through the arts." By collaborating with diverse people and ideas, VOICES participants develop an understanding of self and other, making choices that connect us rather than divide us. Participants are empowered to live their authentic lives, feeling seen, feeling heard.



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The Mandala Built by Monks

This July, The Aspen Chapel once again welcomed the Drepung Loseling monks in our sanctuary. For nearly a week, the group of monks spent their days in the chapel – taking the morning hours for chanting and meditating and then constructing the Mandala.

Nearly 200 community members joined to watch the monks precisely and purposefully plan millions of grains of sand to create this spectacular mandala, which is a Sanskrit work meaning "sacred cosmogram."



YOUR IMPACT



New Sunday School Program

The Chapel has employed a new children's teacher, who started running a Sunday School program in September.

Sabrina Dreffer is an artist and all-round ball of energy. Her purpose is to enable the children to reflect on values that will be useful to them in life, using her creativity.



Welcome, Siam!

A warm welcome to our new music director, Siam Castillo! Siam is an artist and seasoned performer from San Francisco. She has lived in Aspen for 17 years, creating original accessories and singing at live events all over the valley. She is thrilled to be working with Aspen Chapel as the new music director. Her goal is to bring a varied array of local talent to the Sunday services.



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Upcoming Programs & Events

Thursday Satsang Series - Every Thursday
 from 5:00 - 6:30 pm, September 28th -
 November 17th

Meditation with Heather - Every Monday at
 8:00 am

Living the Spiritual Life - Ox Herding,
 Sundays starting September 18th

Animal Blessing and Remembrance -
 11:30 am on October 2nd

John Denver Celebration - Music by
 Mack Bailey, 9:30 am on October 9th

Gift Day 2022 - A Day of Giving, October 23rd

Gong Bath - 6:00 pm on November 9th



Join a Circle of Giving

Like "Sustaining Membership" programs at other organizations, the Chapel's Circle of Giving is a commitment to give an annual gift in any amount and is considered renewable unless you specify otherwise. To learn more, email Development@AspenChapel.org

YOUR IMPACT

Looking to Connect?

**Thursday
Satsang**

at the Aspen Chapel

Join Lead With Love and The Aspen Chapel for a weekly gathering in support of cultivating a personal and community-based spiritual practice.

Each week, we will discuss a topic related to spirituality, engage in a practice like breath work, heart coherence, nature bathing, and yoga, and then have a time of meditation. There will also be a social time afterwards.

**Thursdays, Sept 29 - Nov 17,
5:00 - 6:30 pm**

Facilitated by:



Nicholas Vesey



Anne White



Heather Vesey



Nicole Lindstrom



LEAD WITH LOVE



Aspen Chapel
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Living the Spiritual Life

A 10 week course on the classic Zen text

The 10 Ox Herding Pictures

With music and meditation

Led by Nicholas and Heather Vesey

**Sundays from September 18th
9.30-10.30am at the Aspen Chapel**

Special Events at The Chapel

This year, we were honored to host 12 memorials, baptisms and weddings at The Aspen Chapel and in The Chapel Gardens. The Chapel serves as a sanctuary and a sacred place for anyone to hold a special event.

If you or someone you know is interested, contact us at Info@AspenChapel.org to learn more!

YOUR IMPACT



ROARING FORK INSIGHT Update

For many years, Lisa Goddard and Roaring Fork Insight (RFI) made The Aspen Chapel their home. We are grateful for Lisa and the dozens of Roaring Fork Insight members who joined us for their weekly meditations.

RFI utilizes tools from secular mindfulness and the ancient Buddhist practices of Soto Zen and Insight meditation to support people in navigating change, loss, uncertainty, and eco-anxiety.

Lisa offers online classes and is bringing mindfulness practice to our senior population up and down the valley. Lisa is committed to supporting for-profit and nonprofit businesses that are facing stress, eco-anxiety, and uncertainty.



Lisa is full of light and is a treasured part of our community. Thank you, Lisa for being part of The Aspen Chapel Community!

To learn more about Roaring Fork Insight, please visit **RoaringForkInsight.org**.