

PATH TO LIGHT: Terry Hutchinson



Terry Hutchinson, circa 2008 PHOTO:
Terry Hutchinson

My name is Terrance Arthur Hutchinson. I was born in Bangor, Maine, USA, on 16 June 1954. After shuffling between Maine and New York as my father followed jobs, I moved with my parents to California in May 1966 and graduated from Mojave High

School in Mojave, California, in June 1973. Working for Great Western Cities, the predecessor of California City, and then California City, I was able to attend Antelope Valley College in Lancaster, California, and graduated with an associate's degree in business. I was employed by the City of California City Parks & Recreation Department for eight years. I eventually found steadier work at Revere (Aluminum) Extruders and finally with U.S. Borax as a first-class millwright for thirty-eight years. While with U.S. Borax I was state-certified as a first responder and was part of the Heavy Emergency Rescue Team but was fortunate enough to never have to put those skills to use. During my tenure with U.S. Borax: I was blessed to receive my ordination as a minister with the Progressive Universal Life Church and on 2 October 2000 was awarded two degrees: doctor of divinity and doctor of philosophy in religion.

My spouse Lynn and I have been happily married for thirty-three years and have raised two children, adults at this point, who are successful and doing well. The two of us reside in California City with our dachshund Destiny.

I have been active with the Rotary Club of Rosamond, California, and was honored to be elected club president for two terms, 2003–2005, during the Rotary Centennial. I was fortunate enough to travel to India with the Rotary on a grant-funding mission to finance a hospital, clinic, ambulance, several schools, and a water well. I am also a Paul Harris Fellow, an honor given by the Rotary Club. I was an active member of nearby Edwards Air Force Base Civilian/Military Support Group, the Boy Scouts of America Order of the Arrow, and local Boy Scouting Committee. I am also a former president of the Casa del Sol Estates Homeowners Association in California City. I've been active on our church trustee board and am currently donating time as church secretary with the Community Church of California City.

I have always felt a spiritual connectedness with God and now

hold views closer to that of a Gnostic or Essene. I believe Christ was trying to tell us that we would not need a minister or priest as we are our own minister and priest of God. We need to nurture our own relationships with God and the Divine. We need to make a Conscious choice to choose to follow the Light (Logos) or Darkness (Kalos), to seeing the truth through all the falsehood. As Mark 3:14 says about Christ's choosing of the Twelve: "That they be with him." I remember as a youth, one teacher saying we are born with two guiding angels, an accusing angel and a guardian angel, and that it was up to each one of us to choose which we would follow. I truly believe the Essenes had it right: the idea of greeting each morning sunrise; you never know when you or one of your loved ones might be taken, we need to remember to love those we love while we can! We need to truly walk on that Path of the Way, and not just give lip service to it.

Metaphysics holds a real fascination for me. I studied with the Rosicrucians several years before finding Gene Savoy and his Solar Teachings. I consider myself very fortunate to have discovered Cosolargy. I feel it has taken me further in my studies than what I had on my own. I remember Gene Savoy Sr. writing something to the effect that you better have a system; it didn't have to be Cosolargy, but if you did not have a system or plan of some sort, you'd probably be lost. I have never forgotten that.

I think it an interesting story that in my studies, it took several times of finding Gene and his teachings; to finally read the writing on the wall and realize I needed to get it done. The first time, school sports interrupted that endeavor. The second time in my studies (Rosicrucian at this point), I meant to follow up, but marriage and a family came along and put the kibosh on that. It wasn't till the third time, while in my studies, when I would find once again Gene and Cosolargy mentioned in a *National Geographic* article, that I realized that I truly needed to follow up; which I finally did.

Gene Sr. was still with us the first couple years of my studies in Cosolargy, and I dearly wanted and wished to meet him personally, but only letters were to be; our meeting to be postponed. I tell myself the Lord works in mysterious ways but know that our God is a God of the Living and that I WILL meet Gene Sr. one day. I thank him dearly for his encouragement to me to come and attend! I enjoy the association of like-minded and personable individuals that attend. It is both refreshing and rejuvenating. I personally believe Gene Jr. and Sean have done a wonderful job in picking up the reins. I can honestly say I have never been to a church where so many members truly believe and share so many of the same common beliefs as in our walk on the Path of The Way, and methods to employ in getting there. God willing, I will enjoy this shared family experience for another sixty years. "That they be with him!" Ku-ya!

**Steamboat Healing Center Now
100{1fa2ef75e2e78439128d99df0
3acfe1d8ee3047374abe3d4676fe3
470ff8b909} Green!**



A 24 kilowatt photovoltaic array was commissioned for Steamboat Hot Springs Healing Center & Spa by local company Black Rock Solar (BRS) in July 2014. By October 2014 the system installed by Black Rock Solar was fully operational and now provides 100{1fa2ef75e2e78439128d99df03acfe1d8ee3047374abe3d4676fe3470ff8b909} of the electrical energy needs for the main spa building.

This renewable energy project was undertaken by BRS in conjunction with the state of Nevada to provide a model of sustainability in the area, and is projected to offset 500 tons of greenhouse gases and save the International Community of Christ (ICC) more than \$85,000 over the next 25 years.

In July the solar array was installed but operational until the major electrical panel was replaced, because the old electrical panel could not carry the load. The cost for replacement was \$18,000, but even with that purchase, which has been financed over a period of a few years, ICC began to save money almost immediately because of the high rate of utility payments. Nevada Energy (NV Energy), the regional supplier of public utilities, also needed to change the transformer on the power pole that supplies the main spa building. But once the project was completed, the spa became a 100{1fa2ef75e2e78439128d99df03acfe1d8ee3047374abe3d4676fe3470ff8b909} green facility with the photovoltaic array providing all the electricity and geothermal providing all the heat.

The project began its conception phase in April 2013, when ICC was approached with the idea by local Episcopal priest Rev. Stephanie Schatz, who had converted her downtown church building to solar power and gave Bishop Gene Savoy Jr. the contact information for Black Rock Solar, a local green energy company that works only with non-profit entities.

In May, Gene sent the necessary application information to BRS, and BRS in turn applied to NV Energy's non-profit grants program for solar generation of power , a photovoltaic incentive program available to customers of NV Energy. (***Click on proposal photo above or promotional flyer below to enlarge.***) BRS determined that the main building at Steamboat Spa would be most beneficial to ICC. And according to the grants available at the time, the main spa building was best for the project at the time.

From May through October 2013 BRS did their analysis and presented ICC with their report. By the end of November, BRS and ICC submitted an application to NV Energy to receive a \$69,000 grant. By December 2013 the project was approved by NV Energy and the grant money was awarded to BRS, the company doing the installation, and work began. The company projected that the installation would be completed by the end of June

2014, and their work on the project was actually completed by July.

This Building Is Powered By The Sun!



BLACK ROCK SOLAR HEREBY DEDICATES THIS 24 KW SOLAR ARRAY TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF CHRIST.

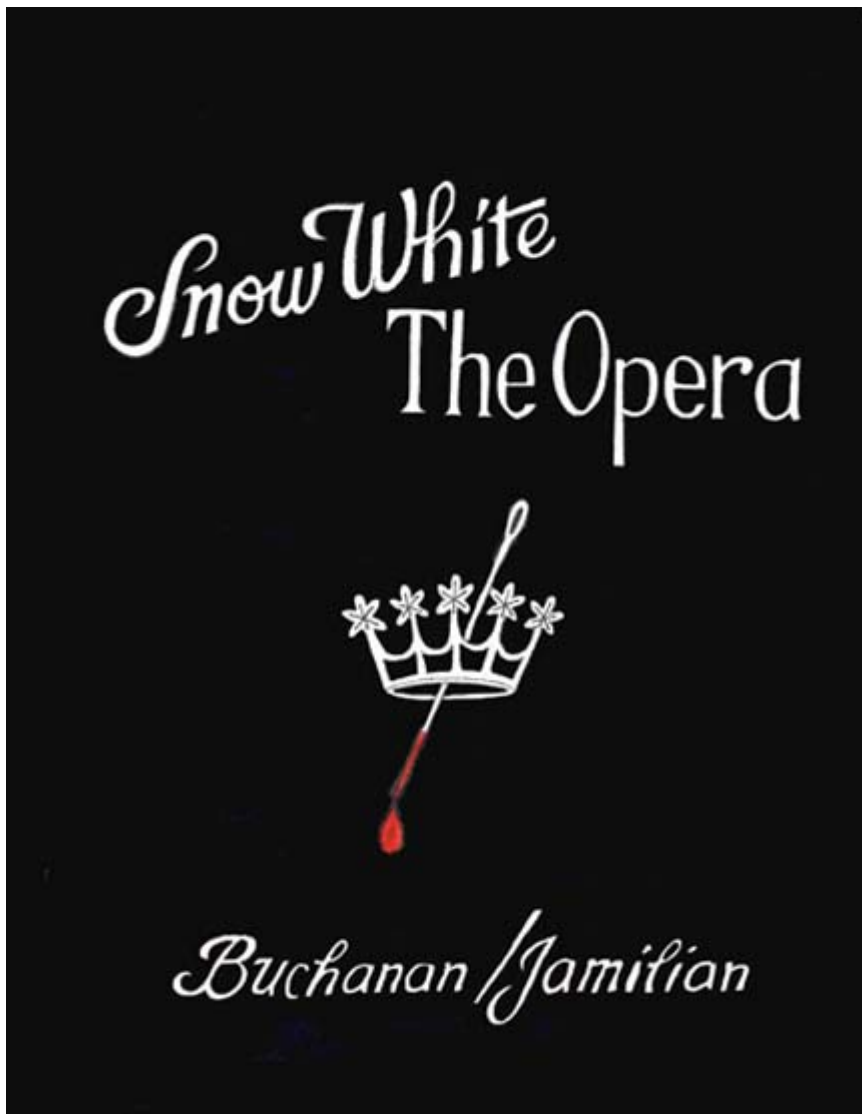
The photovoltaic array on the grounds of this building provides electricity
for the programs and services carried out by
the International Community of Christ – Steamboat Springs for its community.



Black Rock Solar and the International Community of Christ are working together toward sustainability, reducing our carbon footprint and providing a cleaner environment for future generations. This renewable energy project will offset over 500 tons of greenhouse gases and save the International Community of Christ more than eighty-five thousand dollars over the next 25 years.

S Y S T E M C O M M I S S I O N E D J U L Y 2 0 1 4

Snow White Arias Premiered with Full Orchestra



< [Watch the performance of the two arias on YouTube. \(11 minutes\)](#) >

The Reno Pops Orchestra premiered two arias from Snow White: The Opera; For Young People of All Ages on November 8, 2014 at the University of Nevada-Reno's Nightingale Concert Hall. The full-length three-act opera was composed by music students of the Jamilian Parochial School during the 1991–1992 school year under the direction of the Reverend Gary Buchanan. This performance was the first time any part of the opera was performed by full orchestra.

At this premiere, the two arias from Snow White: The Opera were sung by Steven Meyer (Baritone) and Jennifer Probst Hilderbrand (Soprano) with the Reno Pops Orchestra.

Steven Meyer sang the part of the Huntsman who in Act I is sent out by the evil Queen of Fall to take the Princess Snow White into the wood, kill her, and bring back the girl's heart to the Queen as proof of the deed. In the wood the Huntsman finds that he cannot bring himself to kill Snow White and tells her to run away into the dark forest. Following her departure, the Huntsman is at a loss as to what to do because the Queen expects him to return with Snow White's heart. Suddenly, a wild board runs out of the forest in the direction of Snow White's departure. The Huntsman rushes to throw himself upon the boar, cuts out its heart with his dagger, and sings that he now has a substitute heart to present to the evil Queen of Fall.

Jennifer Probst Hilderbrand sang the part of the Queen of Fall at the moment near the end of Act II when the Queen discovers, in conversation with the mirror on her wall, that Snow White still lives and makes her plan to kill Snow White with a poison apple.

< [Watch the performance of the two arias on YouTube. \(11 minutes\)](#) >

2014 Annual Convocation Report and Photo Gallery

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Visitors from Japan for 2014 Convocation PHOTO:
Stephan Fuelling

The 2014 Convocation of members of the International Community of Cosolargy/Christ took place from October 8 to October 12, with a residence training program for members who needed to complete that requirement (or who wanted to review it) beginning on October 8.



Sean Savoy presenting during Residence Training session at Red Rock Sanctuary PHOTO: Stephan Fuelling



Sean Savoy presenting during Residence Training session at Camp Galilee lodge PHOTO: Stephan Fuelling

This was the first presentation of the revised and updated residence training program originally presented in 1978; the updated version was well received. The plenary sessions began on Friday October 10 with registration and orientation at the Chancellery, followed by a trip up the mountain to the Episcopal Church's Camp Galilee conference hall on the shores of Lake Tahoe.



Shinobu Uwataki on the grounds at Camp Galilee
PHOTO: Stephan Fuelling

There, the Clergy Counsels were presented by Head Bishop Gene Savoy, including Community reports on efforts to secure tax-exempt status for Red Rock Consecrated Sanctuary; plans to establish Cosolargy Communities in Mexico, Peru, New Zealand, and Europe; and an audiovisual presentation on his and Rev. Canon Ted Staver's trip to Seoul, Korea, in September for the World Alliance of Religions Peace Conference.



Gene Savoy Jr. presents commentary on Peace Summit held in Korea. PHOTO: Robert Roy

The Bishop reported making several important contacts with representatives of other denominations and religions from around the world, most of whom appeared to be sincerely interested in Cosolargy. Bishop Savoy was also invited to apply to make a presentation at the prestigious Parliament of the World's Religions to be held in October 2015 in Salt Lake City, Utah, a golden opportunity to make The Community's presence and work better known around the world. In light of these developments, the Bishop also announced the reactivation of the Advocates for Religious Rights and Freedoms, a branch of Cosolargy International that has been on hiatus for a few years. After an organic vegetarian luncheon provided by the camp's staff in the refectory, the day's events continued outdoors with a reading by Bishop Savoy of excerpts of the *Prophecy to the Races of Man*. This prophecy has great relevance to The Church's present situation and point of evolution and the direction it is taking. Bishop Savoy's subsequent commentary elaborated on this theme.



Gene Savoy Jr. presenting Counsels commentary on Prophecy to the Races of Man on Lake Tahoe shore PHOTO: Stephan Fulling



First circle of audience members in attendance at Counsels commentary PHOTO: Robert Roy



Elizabeth Reece at Counsels on Tahoe shore
PHOTO: Stephan Fuelling

Afterward, participants caravanned down the mountain and up another to historic Gold Hill, Nevada, site of the famous Comstock Mine, just outside Virginia City. There, participants

gathered at the historic Gold Hill Hotel for the 24th Annual Spirit of Exploration Reception and Awards ceremony of the Andean Explorers Foundation. Foundation president Sean Savoy presented a travelogue of the recent Sacred Sites of Peru tour and pilgrimage while participants sipped wine and savored hors d'oeuvres du chef.



Sean Savoy presenting 2014 Peru Tour travelogue
PHOTO: Stephan Fuelling

As is traditional at the awards ceremony, the passing of supporters of the Foundation during the past year was commemorated and awards to supporters and participants of the tour were handed out.



Sonya Savoy distributes award certificates at Andean Explorers Awards Reception. PHOTO: Stephan Fuelling

After the program concluded, an optional dinner at the hotel's restaurant was enjoyed by almost everyone attending. On Saturday morning, participants gathered at the Chapel of the Holy Child in Reno for a Community Communion Service, followed by the first-level ordinations in the Bishop's Chambers of Consociates Paul Schmitendorf, Syotaro Hagihara, Junko Yamamori, Yukako Kawai, and Hiroko Soejima.



Ordinands pose with Japanese guests PHOTO:
Stephan Fuelling

An informal reception was held in the Chancellery vestibule for the new ordinands. Saturday afternoon saw the final session of the Residency Training program in the Chapel of the Holy Child.



Shinobu Uwataki greets Matthew Fisher in greeting line after Sunrise Divine Service
PHOTO: Stephan Fuelling



Children gathered at Cathedral Church after service
PHOTO: Stephan Fuelling

On Sunday morning, as per usual, a concelebrated Sunrise

Divine Service was held at the Cathedral Church of the Americas at Red Rock Consecrated Sanctuary, followed by a sumptuous outdoor breakfast hosted by Revs. Mary and Peter Foust at the Refectory.



Open-air breakfast table prepared by Mary and Peter Foust PHOTO: Stephan Fuelling



Miyuki, Noriko and Junko in good spirits at breakfast PHOTO: Stephan Fuelling



Jim Elliott's birthday celebrated at breakfast PHOTO: Stephan Fuelling

The Convocation was concluded with the Human Spiritual Rights Reception at the Rectory Abbey on Carmel (the Bishop's residence) on Sunday afternoon.



Human Spiritual Rights banquet table prepared by Jamila Savoy PHOTO: Stephan Fuelling



Helena Savoy visiting guests in the courtyard at Bishopstead PHOTO: Shinobu Uwataki



Joseph Roy visited with guests indoors at Bishopstead. PHOTO: Stephan Fuelling

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**PATH TO LIGHT: Paul
Schmitendorf**



Hawaiian Sunset PHOTO: Paul Schmitendorf

In November 2007 I received an unanticipated email about a man from India who was going to give a lecture on sungazing. I was both intrigued and skeptical.

In the lecture he explained the basic concepts of looking at the sun, how to do it safely, and why it was a valuable practice for those open-minded enough to try it. So one morning, the following April, after a cold Chicago winter, I went out to the beach at Lake Michigan and waited for the sun to come up over the horizon. When it did, I looked at the sun for 10 seconds and then turned around and went home. I continued adding 10 seconds each day and before long I was looking at the sun for several minutes.

Slowly, I started to feel something happening. I felt calm, joyful, and sometimes euphoric. As the time looking at the sun each day grew longer, I started to feel something awaken in me. Around the time I reached 25 or 30 minutes a day I began communicating with the sun. I'd express my gratitude each day

and ask for guidance on different aspects of my life.

Finally, almost 2 years after the lecture, I reached the goal of 44 minutes a day. Looking at the sun had become an important part of my life, but reaching this goal was a bit anticlimactic. I continued looking at the sun but began to wonder if there was something more to this process.

I asked the sun to direct me on a path that would allow me to learn more about this ancient practice. The path led me to the film "Eat the Sun," which I watched in September 2012. Once I saw the sunrise service and interviews, I knew Reno would be on my path.

I read the *Project X* book and then scheduled a visit with Bob Petrovich. Once I met some of the people in the Community, attended my first Sunrise Service, and learned more about the program, I knew I'd come to the right place. I'm grateful for the opportunity to become part of the Community of Cosolargy and continue working with the sun on a higher level.

The Yungay Pilgrimage Experience 2014



During Convocation week, on Saturday, October 11, 2014, Bishop Sean Savoy delivered a brief review of the experiences the pilgrimage group had during their time in Yungay on the 2014 Peru Tour, which Rev. Sean headed.

The city of Yungay will be familiar in name to all readers of *Jamil: Child of Light* as the one-time home in Peru of the Child Jamil and his father, the Most Right Reverend Gene Savoy.

The pilgrimage portion of the tour was undertaken by more than a dozen Community members and friends of the Community.

< [Click here to listen to Sean's report on the Yungay pilgrimage experience \(14 minutes\)](#) >

PATH TO LIGHT: Crystal Rae

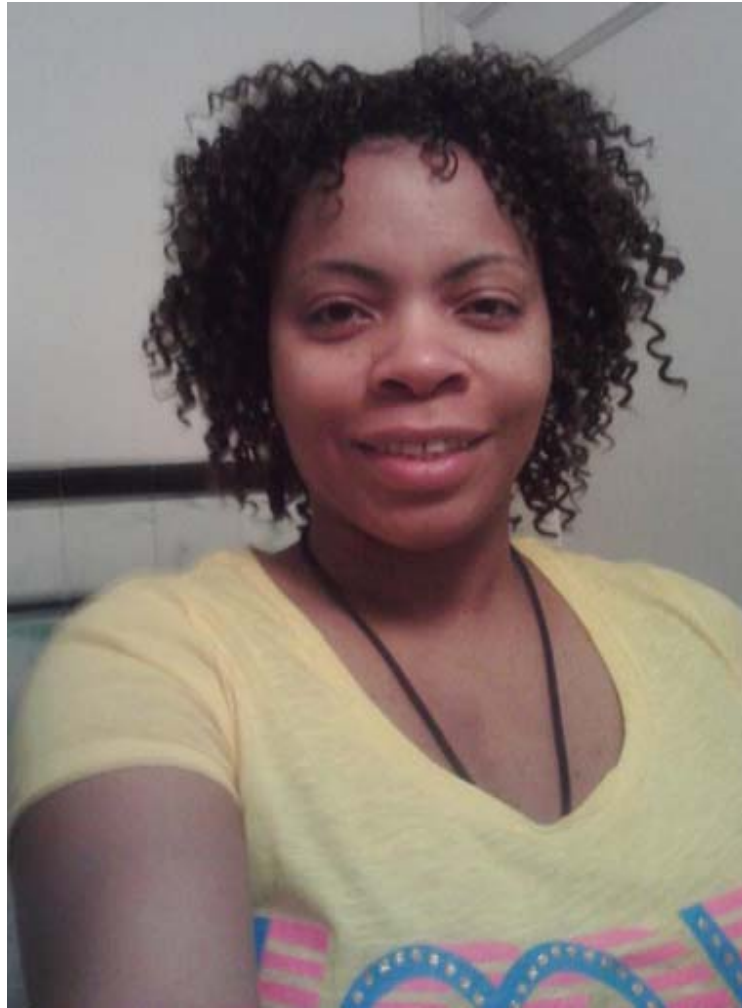


PHOTO: Crystal Rae

Greetings,

I want to give a little background on my spiritual journey. I've been married for almost 15 years, and I had met my husband at a Seventh-Day Adventist conference, about 8 months before we married. I've always been a seeker of knowledge. What had originally guided me to the Seventh-Day Adventists was the subject of the "Sabbath."

As I'd progressed and learned much in that setting, I still sensed that there was more to learn. I had done some research here and there on some biblical subjects, and about 5 years ago—I believe I was approaching the age of 35—I noticed a mark on me that appeared to be somewhat of a birthmark in form, but I didn't have this at birth. I'm a lighter-skinned black woman, and this mark appeared as a brownish tan circle

underneath my left breast bone, but almost centered in the chest. Anyway, what was unusual about this mark was that it started as a full circle, maybe twice the size of a quarter. Well, the full circle started to pull apart and break up into several tiny circles. They spread out and kind of made a link, or chain, of some sort.

I don't recall the time period over which all of this happened, but the circles made a formation and then came back together to the full circle, and then sometime after, the full circle completely disappeared. I thought it was peculiar but didn't think too much on it. Well, as time went on, my curiosity and searching for other spiritual subjects had deepened. If I didn't know better, I would have thought that the mark was some type of activation within me, as I've often reflected upon it.

Well, in my seeking I had come across information that stated that the Bible was mythical stories, as if a lot of the characters hadn't existed or that the stories were taken from "Ancient Egypt." This started a shift for me. My foundation was shaken regarding "Jesus" and the teachings of the Bible. I started seeking all kinds of information for answers.

I've had an experience, as I imagine we all have, where I spontaneously projected outside of my body. One time this happened, early into my marriage, when, somehow, I was in the hallway of my house and in front of our bedroom. I knew my husband and I were in the bedroom that was in front of me. I thought I had died, because I was in one place and also another. I didn't actually see my body but sensed that my husband and I were in the bedroom. It made me afraid because I didn't know about "astral projection" at that time.

I had another experience of hearing some women talking, but my sight was complete blind, as in blackness; I couldn't see anything, but I could hear them discussing something. In my mind, I asked myself, "Why were they discussing this?" and I

wondered, "Who are they?" Then one of the women says to another, "I think she can hear us." That really shook me up, because I didn't know what was going on; it appeared I was somewhere, someplace else. Another time, while in a very relaxed mood, I saw this energy moving from the back of my head, or side of it, and it floated or moved in front of me. It looked like a "spider web" of energy. I just watched it and was amazed. It later dissipated. I had never seen anything like that before; later, I learned from reading, and seeing on the Internet, about an "astral cord" and thought perhaps that is what I had seen.

I have followed some teachings of a certain teacher that have helped me, in some ways to be familiar with energies and beings, etc. I still have no teacher. Some systems are very expensive, and I am unable to afford them at present. I've always wanted to travel to sacred places, meet various beings/teachers, etc.

I had started doing some solar practices and others things that I had learned from Dr. Mitchell Gibson's YouTube videos, and other videos that I had purchased from his website. One time, I had seen these two HUGE beings in my room. The thing is, my eyelids were closed, and I was trying to understand how in the world was I able to see them. They appeared transparent with a bunch of tiny lights throughout their beings. They appeared as if they were statues, but they weren't. I can't even begin to fully express that experience. What I do remember saying to them, by some way of telepathy, was, "You're real, you're really real." I don't know why I was saying that to them, as if I knew them on some level within. I do know that whoever these beings were, they had revealed themselves to me for a reason; one, I think to let me know that they are there and perhaps always have been. They almost looked like two huge cat beings. It's hard to describe them, but it was quite amazing. I also believe spiritual beings can take many forms, sometimes; the same being may be appearing to

us, but in another form.

I had learned about staring into a candle flame, etc. and later was able to see beings around the energy of the candle flame. The head had begun small, then it started becoming bigger; at first, I was a little apprehensive because I didn't know what was going to happen. Oh, initially, the face started out faintly, and then it started to come in much clearer. I grew accustomed to the images. Later, the flames from the candle would emit geometric symbols of all sorts. Some forms I had never seen before. One could have been a blueprint for something, I don't know. What was amazing was that it was golden energy, or plasma or something, that did its thing in the area facing me. Later, the energies had started spinning, clockwise and counterclockwise.

I had seen much activity with the sun gazing that I do around sunset and sunrise. There have been various times, in my meditations while listening to something at very low volume, or listening to attunement, that I was able to hear a kind of garbled speech or someone talking in my left ear. It was always my left ear; never the right ear. Also, for some time now, I have been sensing an energy presence on my left side. Sometimes, around the crown area, as well, but mainly on the upper left side of my body. I have often wondered if some being was checking in on me. I had been told by a couple of people that it was my solar body etc.

For some time, I've been desperately seeking a teaching and direction in my life. I recall on the night of July 6, 2014, how I poured out my heart while sitting in front of my candle flames. There are several faces I'm seeing now and just white flames within the flames as well. I had been saying a prayer, the Ana Beko'ach, and asking for direction, wanting to make sense of the energies I see, and asking whether I have a teacher, and where is my teacher—I had so many questions. The energy of the flames just did its spinning out of energies as usual, but it appeared as if I was heard somehow.

The next day, I heard in a lecture the word *Cosolargy*, and it had triggered a search within me. I was doing some solar work and had seen information regarding solar techniques, etc., on the Jamilian website. I've always been a curious being. I was able to connect with a man named Robert (Bob) at the University. I admit, I do have some financial challenges in my life that I'm working on. My income is limited; however, I am persistent and will do all I can to pursue this chapter in my life with the teachings that this University has to offer me. I believe I'm right where I'm supposed to be at this time. I trust that this Community will assist me further with my spiritual unfolding.

Crystal Rae

“On Being in the Sun”: Confessions of a Japanthropologist



Kazu Tanaka and Echan Deravy, colleagues of Yukinori Mutsuhito, our Cosolargy representative to Japan, visited the

Community during the 2014 Annual Convocation of Cosolargy International. Mr. Tanaka is Chairman of the Kakuichi Corporation, and Mr. Deravy a Consultant to the President of that company. Both were here to participate in Convocation events, experience Sonatherapy at Steamboat Healing Center, and gather information and general understandings about vibrational healing technology.

Echan Deravy will be participating in Cosolargy International's Conference on the Spiritual State of the World to be held in Japan during May 2015.

His impressions in regard to the October 12, 2014 Divine Service held at Red Rock Consecrated Sanctuary are described in a recent article posted at Japanthropologist.com by Echan Deravy. Here is how it opens:

"This was an auspicious day beyond question. It was Sunday October 12th 2014 and somehow I was waking up at 04:50 in the most unlikely of places – a casino-cum-hotel in Reno, Nevada. It was clearly full of some of the strangest beings I have ever encountered. Now I say this without any tongue in cheek. I say this with fierce Celtic exactitude. The hotel was full of beings who appeared to be human but whose bodies and actions unfortunately suggested something else entirely. I had arrived perhaps in that Buddhist underworld called the 'realm of hungry ghosts'..

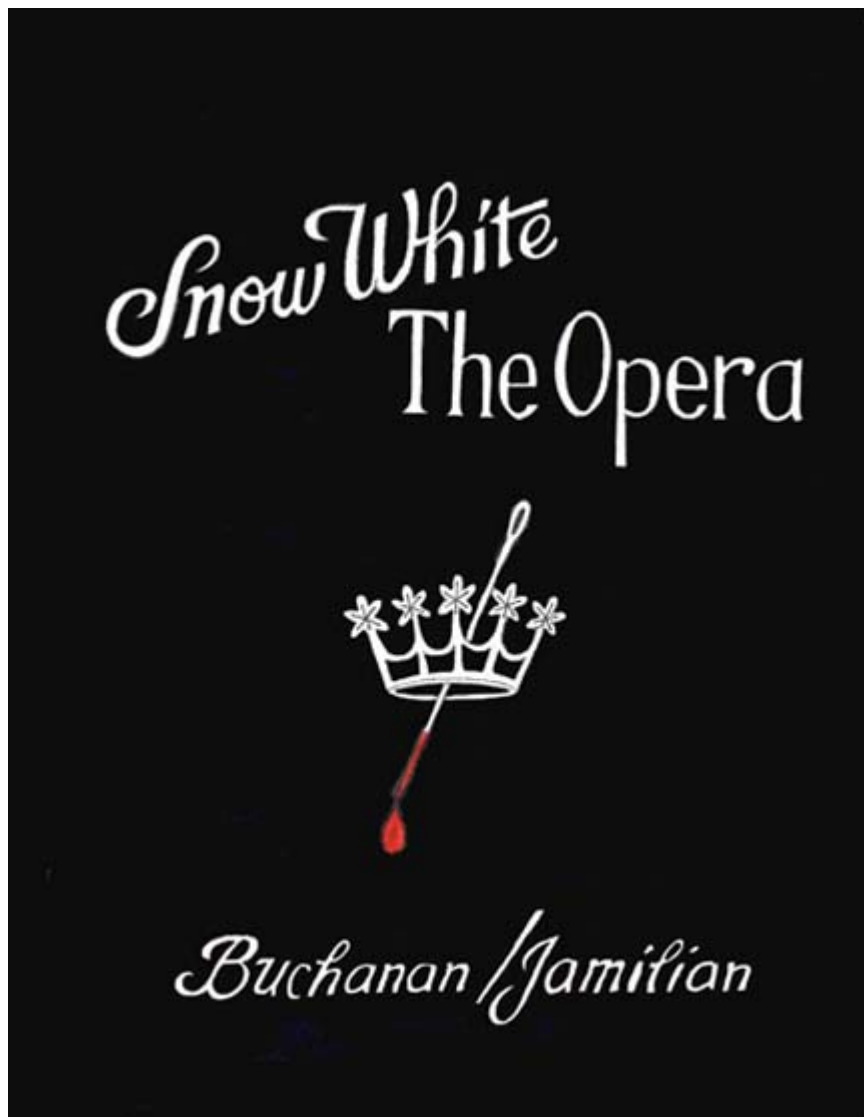
"Their gargantuan forms lumbered from one noisy, toy-like structure to another where they seemed (to themselves) to be 'having fun'. But in reality all I felt was the deep, abiding misery of a dispirited , materialistic civilization. It was one not at the proverbial edge any more, but one now clearly in free fall to God knows where. Here was the American dream in all its glittering obscenity, here was the end of the road weighing 300 pounds on motorized chairs – cruising along the side of the food bar, all before hitting the slot machines. Though a well seasoned world traveler this was about as

bizarre as it gets.

"I share this with the reader not to simply criticize what is obviously only a small part of modern American society. I do so to highlight this bizarre cult of overeating and then dreaming of something better (a fast buck) as an unlikely backdrop to the entirely unexpected, wonderful morning I was about to have. It was an auspicious day because I would be transported from this Hieronymous Bosch nightmare to a place of transcendent beauty. Yes, it was to be a most auspicious day, the day I would meet my maker."

< [Click Here to read the entire article by Echan Deravy online at Japanthropologist.com.](#) >

**Upcoming in Reno: Snow White:
The Opera**



Snow White: The Opera ***For Young People of All Ages***

During the 1991–1992 school year, the Reverend Gary Buchanan, working with students at Jamilian Parochial School, composed a full, three-act opera as part of the school's music curriculum: *Snow White: The Opera*, sub-titled *For Young People of All Ages*.

On Saturday evening, November 8, 2014, two scenes from that opera will be presented with the Reno Pops Orchestra conducted

by Jane Brown. The concert will be at 7:00 p.m. at Nightingale Concert Hall, the University of Nevada, Reno. The soloists will be local Nevada Opera talents Steven Meyers (as the Huntsman) and Jennifer Probst Gourley (as the evil Queen of Fall). The concert, titled "Scoundrels, Villains & Knaves" is free to the public. (For more information, go to: www.renopops.org)

Following this concert, a full concert premiere of the work with orchestra, soloists, and chorus is anticipated for the spring of 2015 in Reno, depending on whether sufficient grants, donations, and other funding via New Music U.S.A. is received.

Snow White: The Opera is based directly on the Brothers Grimm version. As part of the parochial school project students from middle and high school reset the original story line in iambic meter to serve as a libretto. During each class students submitted melodic settings for the key arias and scenes. Those melodies were reviewed, sung, and voted on by the class. Many melodies were combined, modified, and improved upon and serve as leitmotifs for all other music composed by Rev. Buchanan in the score, such as the overture, scene preludes and changes, action sequences, transitions, and the like.

Each week Rev. Buchanan would sit at the piano and while teaching music theory and songwriting, "adjust" rhythms, harmonize the songs, compose additional materials, and lead the students in adapting the libretto, singing, and further developing the operatic and dramatic concepts needed. By the end of that school year an entire opera had been completed and was performed in class by the students accompanied by synthesized backgrounds. The new, full score for singers and orchestra was completed in 2014.

The model used for the opera was Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, and students viewed and studied the 1975 Ingmar Bergman film of that opera's Swedish production. The music of *Snow White* is

clear and innocent singspiel, or “ur-song,” of young people in the Community of Light (Cosolargy International) and combines all major operatic styles, such as Ars Nova, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Impressionistic, Modern and Neo-Classical. Each scene is quite singable, memorable, and dramatically evocative—much in the style of Rev. Buchanan’s former teachers, opera composers all: Vittorio Giannini, Louis Mennini, Robert Ward, and William Bergsma. The work is highly “archetypal,” in the Jungian sense, and is not at all maudlin. Following is a précis of the opera’s story line and action:

Act I

Complete with a Narrator introducing many scenes, the story line begins with the King (Baritone) and Queen (Mezzo-Soprano) of Snow announcing to the People of the Shire (Chorus) a royal birth—that of Snow White.

Following the birth of Snow White (Lyric Soprano) the Queen of Snow dies. Several years later, the People of the Shire (Women’s Chorus) demand that the King remarry—which he does; this time to the vain and deceitful Queen of Fall (Contralto). Following the marriage, the King also dies by poisoning, leaving Snow White an orphan in the care of the evil Queen.

Immediately, the Queen of Fall is informed by her Magic Mirror on the Wall (Basso) that the fairest beauty in the Kingdom of Snow belongs, not to her, but to the innocent child, Snow White. Infuriated, the Queen calls upon her Huntsman (Baritone) to take the Princess into the wood, kill her, and bring back the girl’s heart to the Queen as proof of the deed.

In the wood the Huntsman finds that he cannot bring himself to kill Snow White and tells her to run away into the dark forest. Following her departure the Huntsman is at a loss as to what to do: The Queen expects him to return with Snow White’s heart! Suddenly, a wild board runs out of the forest in the direction of Snow White’s departure. The Huntsman

rushes to throw himself upon the boar, cuts out its heart with his dagger, and sings that he now has a substitute heart to present to the evil Queen of Fall. Upon his return to the court he presents the heart to the Queen—and she eats it!

However, the Magic Mirror sings once again that Snow White is still the fairest in the land, revealing to the Queen that she was not killed after all but ran away into the forest. Once again the Queen goes into a rage. She calls for The Huntsman, questions him, mocks—and then stabs—him.

The end of Act I has Snow White in the dark forest singing her first aria, “I Am So Alone,” after which the curtain closes.

Act II

Snow White approaches a cottage in the forest—that of the Seven Dwarves (Seven-Voice Boys’ Choir). She enters to find the table set for the Dwarves’ dinner. She eats from each of their dishes of food, then tries out each of their beds for comfort, falling asleep on the seventh. Soon, the Dwarves return home from their hard day of work in the mine and discover Snow White asleep.

Significantly, each of the Dwarves wears one of the colors of the rainbow, and each has a name associated with the solfeggio tones of the musical scale. Douglas is “DO” = Red; Raymond is “RE” = Orange; Michael is “MI” = Yellow; Vaughan is “FA” = Green; Saul is “SOL” = Blue; Lawrence is “LA” = Indigo; and, Tyrol is “TI” = Violet. When each of the characters sings, he does so in the proper key: C, D, E, F, G, A, or B. The overall archetype presented is that the Dwarves represent the seven color Force Centers (Chakras) of the higher body fields, with Snow White as the “Crown” Center, which is the color White.

Snow White relates her history and circumstances with the evil Queen of Fall to the Dwarves, and they pledge to take care of

the child and protect her.

The following scenes have the Queen conversing with her Mirror, assuming various disguises, and visiting Snow White at the cottage and making three attempts to kill her. Her first and second attempts fail, as the Dwarves are later able to revive Snow White; however, on the third visit the Queen has Snow White eat a poisoned apple, and the young girl succumbs to a deep, dark, death-like sleep.

Act II ends as the Dwarves return to discover Snow White's crumpled form on the floor. They sing a lament as the curtain falls.

Act III

The curtain rises on Snow White lying in a crystal coffin on a hilltop while the Dwarves sit close by, weeping.

Then enters the Prince of Spring (Heroic Tenor) with his courtiers. He sings, asking who is this beauty in the coffin, and why are these little men weeping? The Dwarves answer him in detail concerning her passing at the hand of the evil Queen of Fall, and this is cause of their weeping. The scene turns into a highly dramatic "duet" between the Prince and the Dwarves.

Next the Prince tells the Dwarves that he is concerned that Snow White's beauty may suffer with the onset of winter and that he would like to remove her to his Kingdom of Spring for safeguarding. The Dwarves, recognizing his sincerity and proper intentions, grant his request, and he takes her to his kingdom to preserve her body there.

The courtiers assist the Prince in removing the lid of the coffin wherein lies the beautiful Snow White. As he leans forward to lift the body, the Prince bestows a light kiss upon her cheek—causing Snow White to awaken!

He identifies himself, and Snow White is overjoyed to recognize him as the Prince she had dreamed of and sung about in her Act II aria, "The Land of Spring." She takes the hand of the Prince, steps from the coffin, and the two perform a love duet in which the Prince asks for her hand in marriage. Snow White accepts his proposal, and the scene ends with a song of farewell by Snow White to the Dwarves.

The last scene of Act III is the royal wedding, taking place in the Kingdom of Spring. Assembled are the Minister, People of the Shire, the Prince of Spring, Snow White, Courtiers, and the Dwarves. The music bespeaks a royal—perhaps even "divine"—marriage. All are singing joyfully.

Then, from out of the dark emerges the Queen of Fall with a dagger in her hand. She makes her way across the stage toward Snow White and lunges at her. Observing the commotion, the Prince steps in front of Snow White, deflecting the dagger, so that the evil Queen stabs herself! As she falls to the ground, the Queen sings her song of death and admits that Snow White is, indeed, "the fairest of us all."

The courtiers carry the Queen from the stage as the Chorus, Dwarves, and Prince sing a final joyful anthem—a "good night" to the audience—in rich trochaic meter and contrapuntal style. And the final curtain falls.

Once funds have been acquired to mount the spring 2015 premiere of the full opera, it is envisioned that a great many young people in the northern Nevada area, their parents and extended families, may wish to attend the performance. The fairytale is widely known and quite appealing, in its original form (due to its archetypal nature), to multiple cultures.

The fundamental archetypes of the opera should be recognized by most consociates of Cosolargy; for example, the higher symbology is of the sun's journey through the seasons, Light and Darkness, the enlivening of the higher-dimensional Force Centers, the transition from Darkness of Ignorance to Christ

Consciousness, and eventual return to the Worlds of Light as a fully restored Being of Light. All students participating in the opera project at Jamilian Parochial School in 1991–1992 were aware of these symbols and metaphorical allusions as they contributed their higher perceptions and inspired creativity to the drama.

Those wishing to support or who may be interested in attending a performance in the spring of 2015 should contact Rev. Buchanan at gbuchanan@communityofchrist.org.

The Reno Pops Orchestra is a wholly volunteer orchestra (www.renopops.org) supported by its member musicians, community foundations and supporters, the Nevada Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

–contributed by Gary Buchanan

Head Bishop Talks about Efforts to Gain Full Tax-Exempt Status for Red Rock Sanctuary Lands



In July, 2014, ICC Head Bishop Gene Savoy Jr. sat down with the editor of the *Community Communiqué* (CC) to discuss the ongoing efforts by the Church-retained attorney/lobbyist firm to persuade Nevada lawmakers to amend the tax exemption law to include The Church's Red Rock Sanctuary, on which The Church must currently pay thousands of dollars in property taxes annually. Following is an edited transcript of that discussion:

CC: Maybe you could talk about what's going on right now, and after that go back and tell a little of the history of it, how it came about that The Church ended up paying tax on the Sanctuary, and then what's happened over the past twenty years with that.

GS: It might be better to switch that around, if that's ok with you.

To do the background first?

Yes, because it's a chronology.

OK.

In 1980, '81, and '82, The Church purchased what is now the North Sanctuary of Revelation. We purchased that first, and then the South Sanctuary of Prophecy, over a period of about two to three years. And in 1982, The Church applied for property tax exemption under the religious property-tax-

exemption law here in Nevada. And we were initially granted a property tax exemption by the Washoe County assessor through the advice of the Washoe County district attorney.

In 1984, the district attorney changed; there was a new district attorney, and the decision was reversed. So The Church tried to negotiate with the county through letters and meetings, and eventually it was determined, later that year, that we would file a lawsuit against Washoe County. That lawsuit lasted until 1992. Initially, we were successful in the county district court. To make a long story short, The Church won the case. Washoe County then appealed to the Nevada State Supreme Court, and that decision was overturned. The Church then had to pay back taxes from the beginning of the purchase of the properties, including penalties and interest, which was a substantial amount of money. If my recollection serves me, it was somewhere in the neighborhood of \$100,000 to \$150,000, through 1992.

We have been paying taxes on the Sanctuary since then. It's a strange situation in that certain improvements are exempt, but nonimproved areas of the Sanctuary, which we would basically consider open space, are taxed. So every five years, the assessor comes out to our Sanctuary and assesses what improvements we've made, which become exempt, and then the rest of the property is taxed. So, to date, from the purchase of the Sanctuary in 1980 through 2014, we estimate that The Community has expended between \$400,000 and \$500,000 over thirty-five years in property taxes and assessments.

Our goal always was to remedy the situation, and there are two ways to go about that. Our first option would be to file another lawsuit against the county, which is a very laborious process involving local agencies. You have to go through the administrative process and hearings. If you are denied, then you appeal to a higher board. If that is denied then you can file a lawsuit in the county district court. You go through that legal process, and it is mostly likely that the loser

will file again at the Nevada State Supreme Court. You have to go through this process before you can then file a federal lawsuit for religious discrimination or to charge that the law is unconstitutional; that is, that the law does not treat all religions in the state equally. That is probably a ten-year process which would cost additional hundreds of thousand of dollars for attorneys and so forth.

The second alternative is to have the current Nevada law changed. And that can only be done through the state legislature. So that always seemed like the better route. So it's been a waiting game. We've been waiting since 1992. In 2012 I was introduced to a lobbyist from the firm Hillerby and Associates, and we began discussing the situation at the Red Rock Sanctuary, and he took an interest in our situation. During that time Hillerby and Associates merged with the law firm Kaempfer Crowell, one of the largest law firms in the state. They have offices in Reno, Carson City, and Las Vegas. The merger of the lobbyist organization, Hillerby and Associates, with the law firm, Kaempfer Crowell, made a very good combination in regard to our particular situation.

We had initial discussions with the new firm, Kaempfer Crowell, in January 2013, and they advised us to begin some initial discussions with some of the legislators. We began discussing some of the issues with legislators, but the legislative session had already begun. In Nevada we have a legislative session for 120 days every two years. While we had support, theoretically and conceptually, from several of these legislators, it was too late to introduce any bills into the legislature to amend the statute. We entered, then, into an agreement in March 2014 with Kaempfer Crowell with the idea of introducing a bill in the 2015 legislature—in fact, you have to submit the bill prior to the beginning of the legislative session in February 2015.

What has transpired is that the first meeting Kaempfer Crowell had was with the Washoe County Assessor's Office . . .

On The Church's behalf.

Yes, on The Church's behalf. And the Washoe County Assessor's Office determined that if it were The Church's intention to have the law changed and to submit a bill into the legislature to that end, they would not oppose it. The next meeting was with the district attorney's office, who also said they would not oppose it. So where we are at this point is discussing the same matter with the legislators themselves. We had to wait until the primary season, the primary elections in June, were over in order to determine who they were going to have to talk to. So at this point they have talked to two legislators, who in the initial discussions are in favor and on board, and we are now in discussion with three other legislators, all from Washoe County. Evidently, the way this works is you get your county delegation on board—since we're in Washoe County, you get the legislators from Washoe County on board—and if they're on board, either one or two people can sponsor the bill, or they can do it as a committee, as the delegation itself, which is more powerful, since every legislator from Washoe County has no problem with it. So that's where we're at at this point in time.

Now, initially, the idea was to rewrite the existing law, but instead of that, I understand, the goal is to amend the law. Can you explain further?

That's correct. The law is very broad, and what we decided—that is, the firm and The Church—is that we did not want to get into a huge “crusade” where we were changing the general property-tax- exemption law for the entire state, which would maybe cause county assessors statewide to oppose that; plus, we are not in the position to be the crusader for other religious organizations.

Nor do we need to be since they're not doing what we're doing.

Exactly. In the Nevada statutes there are almost thirty

individual organizations—whether they're fraternal, such as the Freemasons, or whether they are fraternities like at a university, or the Boy Scouts, for example—that are specifically named in the statutes as being exempt. So that is the route we have chosen to take, which is simply to name The Church, and specifically, the Sanctuary. The buildings that we own are already exempt under the existing law. It is only the raw land that is not. Because we are using the land for religious, educational, and wildlife purposes, we actually qualify for an exemption under those three statutes, and we will make that clear to the legislators. It seems that a simple naming of The Church and the Sanctuary for an exemption, as long as the property is not used for commercial purpose, is the way to approach the issue.

Now, just to clarify some pertinent points for those people who maybe haven't been in The Community for very long or just aren't familiar with this situation, how does the state view or categorize the Sanctuary lands?

Well, the purposes of the Sanctuary are threefold: worship for a religious purpose; educational, as it serves as the campus for the Jamilian University; and wildlife conservation, in as much as we have entered into agreements with the United States Department of Agriculture, some state organizations, the Division of Forestry, the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, and various other entities to protect the wildlife that exists there—and that seems also to be a great incentive for a lot of the younger legislators.

So, it's been since last March that the law firm has been speaking to legislators. What has to be done now? What are the next steps, and if it is successful how long will it take?

My understanding is that once we get the verbal commitment of several legislators here in Washoe County, then the firm will draft legislation to be presented as a bill in the legislative session that begins in February. The final version of the bill

has to be submitted sixty days before the commencement of the session. But prior to that, the draft is submitted to the Legislative Counsel Bureau in Carson City. They are the people that professionally review bills for language, to make sure that it fits into the language of the Nevada statutes. So the firm will draft it, send it to the Legislative Counsel Bureau in Carson City, who will review it. If they make any amendment, we will then alter the proposal, and then it has to be submitted sixty days before the session starts, which would be somewhere around the beginning of December, if not sooner.

Then once the legislative session opens, what happens then?

Well, it's a long, drawn-out process that I'm not really educated on, but once the bill is proposed before a particular committee—this would probably be the taxation committee—it goes through a series of hearings and the lobbyist/law firm is present to make our presentation and our points, and hopefully, the committee passes it along to . . . and again, each house of the legislature has its own taxation committee so it has to be presented in each house, and hopefully, it moves along in each house and is then sent to a vote in each house, and then, if it passes, the governor signs it.

So sometime in May you should know whether it was successful or not? And if for any reason it might not be decided during that session does it carry over or . . . ?

It either goes forward or it dies. And then we'd have to try again in two years.

And I understand the law firm has been asking a certain fee from us over this time, and will they charge a different amount for the different processes, such as the drafting and submission, then the follow up would be another fee or . . . ?

Yes, I believe that's basically correct. My understanding in my discussions with them is that for a fee—a very reasonable fee, I might add—of \$10,000, they will have talked to the

county, which they did; they will attempt to garner the support of the Washoe County delegation, which we are in the process of doing; they will draft the proposal, send it to the Legislative Counsel Bureau, submit it, and at that point, that's as far as our agreement goes at this time. I think we would enter into a separate agreement for them to actually represent us when the session begins.

As lobbyists.

Exactly. And I don't know what that agreement will be.

So that \$10,000, we're still paying it, or is it paid?

We're still in the process of making those payments.

So further contributions would be welcome.

Contributions are always welcome!

And contributions for the upcoming session would, I imagine, be really helpful because it might be a little more active?

Yes, the law firm, at that point, would be actively lobbying legislators from other parts of the state on this particular point. Now, that probably would not be a long, drawn-out process, because we're only talking about our little Sanctuary in Washoe County; it's not affecting any other county or any other assessor or how they collect their taxes. So the idea is that if we can get the Washoe County delegation on board, then it should be a pretty simple process to let other people know, and most likely they would support it. But most of the time that our lobbyists would spend for us is in committee, being present at the committee meetings, making presentations to the committee on why they should approve the bill and pass it on to the full house for a vote.

OK. Any final comments?

Well, I have told the lobbyists that this is a very personal

and emotional issue for the members of this Community, just solely based on the fact that in Washoe County, every religious organization is exempt from property taxes. Of course, the vast majority of those religious organizations merely have buildings, and that was what the law was designed to exempt when it was written in the 1800s. There are other organizations that have "vacant" or "open" lands that are exempt, but they have a little more clout than we do. So for us, as I mentioned to the firm, and will stress again, it's a very personal and emotional issue and to be able to win this, it would put away a lot of hurt from the past, and I think, from a psychological point of view, would allow us to move forward in a different way as we continue in developing the Sanctuary.

Great! Thank you!