



Who knew that a highlight of our trip, could be a visit to the CSL West Hawaii?

Let me preface this with the fact that my wife and I were looking forward to spending our vacation in Kona HI, and I had set my intention to be gaining a greater spiritual connection. I had felt that both being away from work, and being on the Big Island of Hawaii was a great chance to connect with nature and spirit. I was not wrong !

We decided to take the drive up to Waikoloa Village on Sunday morning, to be in person for the service. We were met with welcome arms and hearts to this community. I will admit that it was a smaller group than we are used to in Santa Rosa, however, that simply meant we could not slip in and out unnoticed as we often do at home. We were greeted, and given a warm welcome, invited to sign the guest book and then we took our seats.

A lovely service "Love is all there is" by Rev. Libby O'Day very much reached into the moment for me. I have always known I was born a kind and loving soul, and yet somehow life seems to throw things at you that make you lose sight of who you really are at the core. I have been striving to deepen my connection with spirit recently and feel overjoyed with the experience today. The group being so small meant that there could be real interactions during the service, eye contact, comments you know, the things we lose from zoom. It was very much what I needed to start my journey, not only for my vacation, but for my greater journey in life to find deeper connections with Spirit.

Now here is the thing I love about the Center; it always shows me that I am just where I need to be. When I was young, I was in the youth program and learned the Peace song "Let There be Peace on Earth". Many years later I was trying to give my children a bit of the experience that I had, and brought them to the CSL Santa Rosa, same city, different building. The first day we sang the Peace song, and I assumed it was always a part of the service. Soon afterwards I realized it was not a weekly song, rather it had been chosen such that I could feel the connection I knew best from childhood and to welcome me home. Can you guess which song we closed with in CSL WH?

It was the Peace song, welcoming me home to spirit here on the big island of Hawaii.

My wife and I could not stop talking about what a wonderful experience it was on our drive back. We are looking forward to not slipping in and out of our Santa Rosa services upon our return, rather connecting directly in person, and in spirit.

I write this as a thanks to all the wonderful folks we met today in Hawaii, and to honor the connection that is global, not just our hometown of Santa Rosa.

Mahalo,
With Aloha
John S.