

Network News

Spiritual Aspects of Life (SAL) Group

George Blaker writes: Members may like to have news of the responses evoked by my letter in Review No 74 asking for opinions on the question of whether or not the Network should be guided back to its original aims from which it had become somewhat diverted in recent years. Those original aims can be summarised as how best to contribute to the creation, in the long term, of a world that has, at its core, a spiritual way of living.

The letter aroused a significant surge of interest, much of it joyful and enthusiastic. There have been 72 written replies so far and they are still coming in slowly, as members read their Review. Of those replies, 64 have been in favour, 5 against and 3 indeterminate. "Yes" votes have come from 12 countries including France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Sweden, Greece, Sri Lanka, India, South Africa, USA, Australia and UK. Several included useful written material, articles, copies of lectures, even books.

The "Yes" voters have wasted no time in getting together. They held a preliminary meeting on 17 March in the house of Adrianna King-Hall, at which 18 people attended, exchanged information about each other and their experiences and considered how best to implement the recommendations in the published letter and how to tackle some wider issues. They decided to form themselves into a Special Interest Group within the SMN as proposed by David Lorimer and considered calling it *The Spiritual Aspects of Life (SAL)* group to distinguish it from other groups. They would be self-financed and would retain their freedom to express any views they wished and to make representations occasionally to the Council if they wanted to.

At the end of the meeting they established a small steering committee consisting initially of 4 volunteers to make arrangements for meetings and help the main group to move forward. This group subsequently met the following week and decided to review the correspondence received by George Blaker from the original 'Yes' voters and invite any further responses they might wish to make, to enable them to produce an agreed agenda for future meetings. Such further responses should be addressed to: SAL, c/o Adrianna King-Hall, Old Barn, Caterham, Surrey CR3 7BD. Tel/Fax: +44 (0) 1883 653197. Email: adrianna@mistral.co.uk

Network Council

The Council is elected at the Annual Meeting in July, with members retiring by rotation after a three-year term and sometimes offering themselves for re-election. So far we know that ANNE MILLER and CLARE GOODRICK-CLARKE will be standing down and not offering themselves for re-election so there will be vacancies even if other retiring members do offer themselves.

Network Directory - August Update

Further changes at the office (see inside back cover) have made it impractical to produce a supplement this month so this will now appear in August. The next full Directory is still scheduled for next April. Members will receive a copy of their current entry with the December Review and will be encouraged to update their details online where possible.

Network Book Prize 2000

There were as usual many good entries for this prize - books written by members during the year, and the judges (Max Payne, John Kerr and David Lorimer) decided on *Religion and Scientific Naturalism* by David Ray Griffin, a review of which appears in this issue. Max Velmans' book *Understanding Consciousness* was in second place. The winner receives a cheque for £200. All books written by members during the year are automatically entered.

Web Site - www.scimednet.org

Bernhard Harrer writes: In February and March we finished the relaunch of the SMN website. In the last years our website was hosted by the University of Plymouth. Now it is hosted by DATADIWAN, a network and database for holistic medicine and the frontiers of science. Amongst the improvements to the site, there are now two new faster fulltext search engines implemented. One is for the public area only the other one also includes the members only area, the Members Circle, where many previous volumes of NETWORK can be found in full text. Since login name and password for the Members Circle needed to be changed during the relaunch, we sent them to all members whose email address we had. Please send a request to the office, if you haven't got such an email from the office or need a new login name and password. Please have a look at your entry in the members online directory and see if your address and data are up-to-date. If you wish to make any changes, you can now do them online, they will also be sent to the SMN office. Enjoy the site!

Book Orders through Amazon

A reminder that books marked with an asterisk in the review section can be ordered via the web site through Amazon.

Annual Gathering

Another invitation is enclosed. Those interested and who can come up on Wednesday will be welcome to join me for a round of golf on Thursday morning!

Beyond the Brain Book

This is still scheduled for publication in August by Floris Books. A flier will appear in the August mailing.

Science and Esoteric Knowledge Group

The fruit of the Group's labours appears in this issue. We meet next on 15th May. Please contact the office if you would like to join the mailing list.