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NEXT POSITIVE AGING CONFERENCE

The 9th International Conference on Positive Aging, will be held in Philadelphia, PA, on Apr. 3-4, 2018. The Conference this year is hosted by the Masterpiece Living and is sponsored, as in the past, by Fielding Graduate University and its Creative Longevity and Wisdom Program. Sessions at the conference include papers and workshops around four tracks: Wellness, Lifespan Development, Community, and Later Life Creativity. Sessions are expected on life-review, holistic health, spirituality and age, conscious caregiving, legacy work, intergenerational relationships, working against ageism, and many others topics.

Proposals are invited with a deadline for submission of Jan. 15, 2018. To submit a proposal, provide a 250-word abstract, plus a 100-word statement of biographical background and contact information. Proposals should be submitted to: lyceum@mymasterpieceliving.com

For more about this 9th Positive Aging Conference, visit the website for the last Conference at: <http://www.csa.us/?page=PositiveAgingConf>

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HOMECOMING

At age 83, less than a year before he died, Kurt Vonnegut wrote:
"I've written books. Lots of them. Please, I've done everything I'm supposed to do. Can I go home now?"

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THE CALL OF THE SACRED

"How often I have had a dream of coming before a parchment that is clearly sacred, but in a language I cannot recognize? Part of me wants to know what it says. Another part is completely glad for the fact of its being and doesn't need to know..."

We see sacred moments out of our peripheral vision. Like a half-glimpse of a tail disappearing around a corner that leads us on. And then an energy fills us and we stay awake, creating names and making maps."

Joshua Boettiger, "When We Can Let it Shimmer: Meditations on the Sacred," *Parabola* (Fall, 2017), special issue on "The Sacred"

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AWAKENING IN OLD AGE

"Awakening is a natural human process that dawns in old age. Many cultural forces are aligned against it in our society. Ageism, the explicit and implicit devaluing of old age, does not support heroic elders undertaking this task. The Western world does not see that elders doing life review are creating the essential seeds of human culture. We old people are the makers of myth. If you are young, sit down with an elder and ask them to tell you a story. If you are old, gather the young ones around you and start talking."

Victoria Howard, "The Psychological Tasks of Old Age," *The Shambhala Times* (2015)

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THREE SILENT MONKS

Three Buddhist monks resolved to spend the evening together in silent meditation. After a while, the first monk spoke out "The candle has gone out." The second monk then said, "We weren't supposed to talk!" Finally the third monk said "I'm the only one who hasn't talked!"

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WEB SITES TO SEE

AGEISM. Read " Why Ageism Never Gets Old" (in *The New Yorker*), featuring two of our favorite gerontological writers: Ashton Applewhite and Margaret Gullette, at: <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2017/11/20/why-ageism-never-gets-old>

FILMS ON AGING. Great recommendations from the Elder Spirituality Project at: <http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/projects/elder-spirituality/films>

HUMANITIES. Don't miss the journal "AgeCultureHumanities," published by the North American Network in Aging Studies, at: <http://ageculturehumanities.org/WP/>

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