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Wide Array of Ideas in New *Journal of Space Philosophy*

By Walter Putnam

Ideas ranging from space solar power as the energy of the future to the spiritual movement behind extraterrestrial development are contained in the next issue of the *Journal of Space Philosophy*.

The fourth installment of the Journal, a semiannual online collection of thoughts that drive humankind's reach for the stars, also features essays on the political feasibility of space missions, the nature of "Celestial Values," and a tribute to one of the founders of KSI, the late Dr. Richard S. Kirby.

Also in the issue due April 1 is a new feature on Space Art, providing glimpses of the work of artists inspired by the natural works of the universe. The first display will include a memorial to the wife of space art pioneer and longtime KSI associate Lowry Burgess. Janet Burgess died March 8 after a brief illness.

And, there also is a preview of a new book by Professor Yehezkel Dror, a leading scholar of policy sciences. Dror's *Avant-garde Politician: Leaders for a New Epoch*, explores the critical need for new thinking in political leadership, including "looking beyond our current tribalisms to a pan-human commonality."

Former U.S. Air Force civilian engineer James Michael "Mike" Snead begins the spring *Journal* with a provocative argument for ensuring the global energy future through the development of satellites to capture the Sun's radiation.

Comparing the planet to the Titanic sailing into an ice field, Snead uses a wealth of facts and figures to demonstrate that America faces economic and cultural ruin by reliance on fossil fuels through the remainder of this century.

"Consequently, absent the building of substantial sustainable energy sources, in time to transition smoothly from fossil fuels, our American culture will undergo disaster," writes Snead, who argues strongly for U.S. leadership in space development.

“The facts supporting this contention are quantifiable and easily understandable. The conclusion is simple arithmetic showing that the U.S. energy ledger is substantially in the red.”

He then lays out that arithmetic in a compelling argument for SBSP.

William Mook, a past contributor to the *Journal*, the brainchild of KSI President Robert Krone, also adds to the case with an essay titled “Solar Power Satellites for a Sustainable Industrial Future.”

On a different note, Madhu Thangavelu writes of “Human Space Activity: The Spiritual Imperative,” and Walter Putnam has an essay titled “Astro-Humanism: Space as a Spiritual Movement,” in which he suggests that the international political will for extraterrestrial development might come only through a global spiritual thrust.

In a similar vein, Stephen Wolfe explains “The Evolutionary Impulse to Expand Beyond Earth,” Arthur Woods expounds on “The Space Option: Our Cosmic Choice,” and Kim Peart delves into the realm of “Celestial Values.”

Among other essays, Gordon Arthur describes “Richard Kirby’s Inspiration,” Krone and Snead consider “Political Feasibility and Space Missions,” and Stephanie Lynne Thorburn outlines “The Promise and Wisdom of Nanotechnology.”

Readers of the spring *Journal* also will be treated to an account of how American prisoners of war in Vietnam learned of the Apollo landing on the Moon in 1969, “The Happiest 20 Seconds of Our Lives,” by Leo Thorsness.

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