

THE NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST

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Inside this Issue:

Our Pioneers:
Past & Present

The Silver Cord
& Vagal Nerve

2015 NSAC Convention

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exists to educate readers on the philosophies
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In This Issue:

- 04 Sermons, Spiritualist & Homiletics**
Jeanne Phoenix Laurel
- 06 Carpe Diem! Seize the Day!**
Rev. Ernest L. Leard
- 08 Spiritualist Pioneers: Past & Present**
Rev. Norma J. Turner, Ph.D. LM
- 10 Spiritualism as A Philosophy**
Rev. Janet Bleier, CM, LM

- 13 Law of Attraction: Forecasting our Futures**
Anne Thomas
- 14 Equality for All**
Debra Malison
- 15 A Story of Survival & Trust**
Rev. Bonnie Darby
- 16 The Silver Cord & Vagal Nerve**
Rev. Karen E. Herrick, Ph.D.
- 20-30 2015 NSAC Convention Mesa, Arizona**
Photos by Anne Thomas

- 18-19 Media Watch**
Revs. Tom & Lisa Butler NST
- 33 Form for Spiritual Healing**
- 34-35 Directory of Ministers Mediums & Healers**
- 36-38 Directory of NSAC Churches**
- 39 Lyceum**
Rev. Havivah Richards

The National Spiritualist Summit
Magazine

Sermons, Spiritualists & Homiletics

Writer: Jeanne Phoenix Laurel
First Spiritualist Temple, NY

The Art of Preaching or Writing Sermons

Spiritualists don't like to talk in terms of "sermons" or "homilies." As much as we have 19th century roots in Christianity, we are not Christian. If we say "sermon," are we committing to preach threats of Hellfire and brimstone?

Still—someone stands in front of the church congregation and speaks for twenty-odd minutes during our religious services. Pity the poor speaker! He or she faces a challenge addressing both the young and old, the "seasoned" Spiritualists, and those who may be visiting for the first time that aren't sure we're not loonies. On top of that, our listener's minds are preoccupied with thoughts about traffic, lunch, a sports event later in the day, what to include on the grocery list, or whether the dog can hold it until they return home. The challenge is how to hold their attention.

Spiritualists invited to give the service on Sunday might turn for guidance to one of the thousands of handbooks, scholarly studies, and preachers' aids filed under "Homiletics: How to give a sermon." Scholars can earn a Ph.D. in homiletics, and attend homiletics festivals, where superstar preachers gather to wow their audiences. Ministers who are stressed out by the constant demand for new topics each week can pay a fee to receive creative inspiration, starting anecdotes, and even canned sermon cheats via email.

But we Spiritualists have a problem. All homiletics literature and teaching guides start with the Bible. In some denominations, preachers are given a lectionary and schedule of Biblical texts and corresponding topics to be used throughout the year which are very helpful to them. There are great tips and techniques in standard homiletics resources—but it is difficult for Spiritualists to sift through instructions that begin (and often end) with exegesis of sacred text. Exegesis is the critical explanation or interpretation of a text,

particularly scripture. This includes its translation from the original composition and language, situating text within Biblical history and geography, drawing upon commentary from saints and scholars over the centuries, examining conflicting passages in other books of the sacred text, adjusting for contemporary social and cultural practices, and more. Fidelity to the Bible is the litmus test for whether or not a sermon is "good."

Spiritualists do not hold the Bible or any other written text as "sacred for all times and peoples." We don't measure the truthfulness of our teachings and philosophy by how well they accord with an extensive body of literature accepted as God's word. All we have is nine Principles and the Healing Prayer—and even these are subject to change by a majority vote. So where does that leave us?

In order for a sermon to be truthful, interesting, and also capable of transmitting the teachings of Spiritualism in a way that captures listeners' attention, it must meet several basic requirements.

The first requirement is that it must be truthful to Spiritualist teachings, but what makes it Spiritualist? What is different and distinctive about a sermon preached in a Spiritualist church from any other denomination?

Our Nine Principles, supplemented by the language of the Healing prayer provide an adequate and sufficient basis for determining whether or not a sermon is Spiritualist. The main thesis of any sermon must accord or harmonize with one (or more) of the Principles. Ideally, the Principle invoked should be stated aloud during the sermon as the foundation for the sermon's teaching at least once. As context allows, it may be repeated as the idea is developed and explored.

For instance, a sermon about Natural Law offers an understanding of cause and effect which can promote or inhibit spiritual growth. This sermon may be related to Principle

Seven: “We affirm the moral responsibility of individuals, and that we make our own happiness or unhappiness as we obey or disobey Nature’s physical and spiritual laws.”

One may hear sermons about the same general idea in nearly any religion’s worship service. All organized religions have as one of their aims the promulgation of an ethical code: how to live a good, moral, decent life. However, not all religions base their teachings in Natural Law as we do. Some may ground ethical considerations in “what is pleasing to God.” Others may turn to formal definitions in written form such as *The Ten Commandments*. Still others may couch the reward system for good behavior in concepts Spiritualists don’t recognize such as Heaven, Hell, or rebirth. The language of Principle Seven, however, identifies Natural Law, and our own consequent happiness, as the motivation for understanding and behaving in a certain way.

The second essential component of a sermon is that it be interesting and appealing to a broad range of individual listeners—longtime Spiritualists as well as those who walked in the door for the first time on a whim. Platitudes and generalizations will not capture attention for very long, because they can mean anything and everything, and nothing in sum total. We accept nothing less than specific evidence from mediumship readings and healings; our sermons should follow the same guidelines.

Human beings are hardwired for specifics, stories, illustrations, twists and turns, humor, empathetic sorrow, and invitations to imagine themselves in similar circumstances. For instance, a speaker at the rostrum may intone with deep gravity and seriousness “our loved ones in Spirit are always near.” Spiritualists in the audience will nod in agreement, non-Spiritualists will yawn and shrug, and the statement will be quickly forgotten.

However, take that truism and give it a story, thus: “My sister and I attended my uncle’s memorial service a number of years ago during the fall when the leaves were their brightest. We stayed in a funky little motel, with a picturesque babbling brook in a nearby ravine, and colorful leaves half on the trees, and underfoot. She and I went outside. For some reason, my sister shook her hands in the air—off flew the wedding ring she had inherited from our grandmother. Was it in the leaves? Worse yet, had it rolled down the hill into the brook? We got down on our hands and knees, fluffing leaves. Nothing. My sister was about to give up, when I asked my grandmother: please help us find the ring! Not a heartbeat later, I saw it, propped up gently between the leaves we had been shuffling. Grandma just needed to be asked.”

Clearly, stories about ourselves—our friends—our experiences—must be grounded in a reason for the narrative—they must be related back to the Principles. One should avoid illustrating stories that are shameful to the

person about whom they are told, or ones that are tailored mostly to inflate the ego or reputation of the speaker. The reason for the story must be articulated. It might seem obvious to the speaker—in this example, that sometimes our loved ones in Spirit need to be asked for a specific form of help. However, listeners are not mind-readers; their interpretations might include “don’t walk in autumn leaves wearing heirloom jewelry” or perhaps, “don’t be jealous your sister got the ring and you didn’t.”

Finally, and most importantly, all sermons need to have a “takeaway.” After the church brunch and fellowship, the grocery run, the traffic and the sports scores, it should be possible for the listener to answer the question, “what was today’s sermon about?”—and to be able to give a coherent answer. If the hypothetical listener cannot respond, then he or she hasn’t absorbed anything. The sermon might be truthful to Spiritualism and entertaining to hear, but if it hasn’t offered memorable teaching, the service might have only provided visitors with healing, music and mediumship and a teaching opportunity may have been lost.

No matter how dedicated, intelligent, curious, or well-intentioned any listener may be, everyone will “zone out” during the sermon at least a few times. An itch, hunger, worries, affectionate gestures from one’s pew-mate, last night’s insomnia—the list of potential distractions goes on. The speaker’s job is not only to offer a truthful teaching from Spiritualism in a way that is interesting and engaging, but to make its core message memorable by repetition.

I am not suggesting that the exact same sentences be pronounced over and over within the twenty minutes allotted. That would supply listeners a reason to tune out, rather than in. Rather, just as a musical composition will have repeated refrains or patterns, structure, and variations on the theme, so too can a sermon use devices of familiarity and repetition to offer a memorable teaching.

A speaker might offer several examples that illustrate the sermon’s theme, including light humor, paradoxical material (resolving the tension in the paradox by the end of the sermon), or popular cultural phenomena if examples lend themselves to the theme (Facebook, television or sports). After each example, bringing listeners back to the Principle that the example illustrates will create a pleasing pattern. At key points in the sermon (such as each time the speaker begins a new major idea, or in a segue into the conclusion), the speaker can afford to restate the idea—even in the exact words used previously. Repetition (used sparingly, perhaps with different vocal emphasis) can wake even the drowsiest listener: “oh, I’ve heard that before!”

A well-structured sermon can be the glue that holds the service together. It can explain the teachings behind our religion for those who are new; expand and develop wisdom in older Spiritualists; and can attract new listeners to our church and our teachings.

Carpe Diem!

Writer: Rev. Ernest L. Leard
Memorial Spiritualist Church, VA

Many of you probably already know what the Latin phrase, “Carpe Diem” means. It means seize the Day! It tells us to live life fully, to live in the now, to grab each moment and make the most of it.

Life can give us tragedy and grief, problems and troubles. It can also bring us love, beauty, joy and wonderful things. Such things—good and bad—happen every day to all of us. What matters is how we react to each situation. Natural Law tells us that we each create our world by how we think and act. We can create our own suffering, and we can also create our own happiness. Steve Maraboli said: “Happiness is not the absence of problems, it’s the ability to deal with them.”

I recently heard a quotation that speaks about the power of thought to create. It was once attributed to Norman Vincent Peale and later to Brian Tracy, who expressed it in a YouTube feature. It states, “You are not what you think you are, but what you think—you are.” To me, that means that I am not this physical being or this ego that I all too often think of as “me.” And, what I choose to think is what makes me what I am: positive or negative—open or uncaring.

As I thought about these things, a number of examples came to my attention that reflected these ideas. There was the story in my local newspaper about Lauren Hill, the 19-year old college

basketball player who practiced and played in four games after being diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. The headline for the article read, “She taught us that every day is a blessing, every moment is a gift.” In it, Lauren said, “I’m spreading awareness and also teaching people how to live in the moment because the next moment’s not promised. Anything can happen at any given moment. What matters is right now.” Lauren didn’t think of herself as sick or dying, or deserving of pity; she thought of herself as strong and determined, and an example to others.

I also read a review of a book called *The Love Song of Miss Queenie Hennessey*, by Rachel Joyce. Queenie is under hospice care, dying of cancer. She writes an old friend, Harold, to tell him of her situation. She has been in love with him since they first met years ago, and when he tells her he is coming to see her, she begins to write a second letter confessing her affection for him. Christina Ianzito writes in her review, “...this lovely book is full of joy. Near death, Queenie is able to celebrate (life). So many people going about their lives, millions of them, being ordinary, doing ordinary things that no one notices, that no one sings about, but there they are nevertheless, and they are filled with life... Oh, so much beauty.” She closes her review with the words, “Her love song is for us.”

Another story that touched my heart was the movie titled, *Seeking a Friend for the End of the World*, starring Keira Knightley and Steve Carrell. In the movie, the world is preparing for the apocalypse—a large meteor is going to impact the Earth. The two main characters have been abandoned and they come together to help each other make a final connection before the end—her with her family in England, him with his estranged father. Along the way, they come to realize that in the face of impending doom, with no chance of hope for the future, they have inexplicably fallen in love. Love endures, even when the world is ending.

Also, have you seen a recent Prudential insurance advertisement? In the ad, people post little blue and yellow tags to represent the good and bad things that have happened in the past and that they are looking for in the future. The announcer points out that the past is a pretty even mix of good and bad, while we look to the future to bring us mostly good things. He says, “It’s great to think optimistically, but let’s plan for whatever the future may bring.”

We can plan and work to create the kind of future we want, by the things we do, for ourselves and for others. We can give of ourselves to make others’ lives better. I was reminded of this recently while watching an episode of “Sherlock,” a TV series from BBC. In this episode, Sherlock was

the best man for his partner John Watson, and he did something special for the occasion. He composed a simple waltz for the wedding reception and played it on his violin. Now, I can't write music, or play a violin, but I can do my very best when I perform a wedding ceremony or preside at a memorial service. What can you do to make someone else's day a little better? A famous Nigerian author, Kalu Ndukure Kalu, gave us some words about this, which encourage us to do for others: "The things you do for yourself are gone when you are gone, but the things you do for others remain as your legacy."

We can create our future through our attitude and our philosophy of life. This was expressed in some measure by a simple plaque that my wife brought home and hung on the wall soon after her diagnosis of breast cancer. It hangs where she can see it throughout the day, and it reads, "You never know how strong you are until being strong is the only choice you have." Laurel Ingalls Wilder, the author of the "Little House" series, put it a little differently. She wrote: "The real things haven't changed. It is still best to be honest and truthful; to make the most of what we have; to be happy with simple pleasures; and have courage when things go wrong."

The last little piece of wisdom I'd like to share with you came to me from Ralph Marston. It sums up much of what I have said here. Its titled, "Go ahead right now."

Go ahead and live this day with everything you have. Go ahead and experience your life in the richest, most fulfilling ways possible.

Though you do not know what the future will bring, you can choose right now what you will bring to the future. Choose to bring strength, confidence, love, and a passion for living life at its best.

Go ahead and live as though all of life depends on you. Go ahead and give your best to this and every moment.

Let go of the doubts, step boldly beyond your fears, and do what you know is right. Instead of waiting for things to get better, move confidently ahead from where you are with what you have.

Don't waste your energy worrying about what might or might not happen. Go ahead and do everything you can to bring about the best results.

Go ahead and immerse yourself fully in the richness that is life. This is your grand opportunity to live, so go ahead right now and truly make it great.

Go head now and seize the day!

WHAT DOES SPIRITUALISM MEAN TO YOU?

Guest Writer: *Ada McKay*
Bon Accord Spiritualist Church
Aberdeen, Scotland, UK

This question was asked by David Bruton, the president of the Spiritualists National Union, during his annual address for the AGM in August. I pondered how I would answer it.

To many people Spiritualism means just one thing and that is Spirit communication or, as some might put it, "speaking to the dead!" This is a wonderful part of our religion, but Spiritualism is far more than that. Spiritualism answers many questions: "Why was I born into this world? What am I supposed to do while I am here? What will happen to me when I die?"

We were born into this world because our souls need the experience we can gain from this Earth life. We must endeavour to learn and experience as much as we can of kindness, sympathy, humility and forgiveness. Experiencing suffering and misfortune can add to our soul's growth. We must take advantage of every opportunity that life offers us. In other words, it is character building. We must aim for a good "grade" as it will determine where we will go in the next world.

What does Spiritualism tell us of the world that awaits us when we die? Jesus spoke of "Many Mansions," and Spiritualists interpret this as many levels. "Evil-doers" will find themselves on lower levels among their own kind, but they will have the opportunity to learn and grow. As Spiritualists we know that we continue our path of learning in the Spirit World, and that we will be able to help our loved ones that remain on the Earth Plane. We will continue to learn and work in Spirit, but it will be work we will enjoy.

The Spiritualist teaching most unique among various religious practices is about "personal responsibility." Unlike the Christian churches, Spiritualists do not believe that Jesus died "to wash away our sins," as the old hymn says. Our belief is that people suffer the consequences of their sins. The Bible tells us, "Whatsoever a man sows that shall he surely reap." Spiritualists speak of "cause and effect," and this is an incentive to live a good life knowing we will have to answer for our choices as we enter the next world.

That is what Spiritualism means to me. I could use the modern phrase here, "it ticks all the right boxes." I know why I am here, and I know the purpose of my life. There is no death, and we all meet again in a world of beauty and glorious opportunities. There is a system of divine justice for all. God loves us all equally. We are all members of one huge family and not divided by race, colour or creed.

Yes indeed—I like being a Spiritualist!



PIONEERS *Past & Present*

Writer: Rev. Norma J. Turner, Ph.D. LM
Spiritualist Living Center, AZ

As a community of like-minded individuals, we applaud the efforts of a group of people who dedicated themselves to the work of Spirit during the 19th and early 20th century when the challenges of life were quite different. We know the stories of pioneers like the Fox sisters, Isaac and Amy Post, Cora L. V. Richmond, Emma Hardinge-Britten, Mercy Cadwallader, and William Stinton Moses. Why these individuals? Because these people all had the distinction of standing forth as spokespersons for change by what they did, said, or wrote. For many of us, they are names out of history, but imagine yourself sitting in an audience listening to Cora Hatch (the name Cora L. V. Richmond used when she was most active). While Cora is speaking about Spirits and their presence in our lives, people are hooting and booing at her, mocking her, and breaking into fist-fights in the auditorium. How difficult this must have been for people trying to listen and learn while Cora struggled to be heard.

You see, it was upstate New York, the burned-over region where Christianity has been pumped up by the First Great Awakening in the 1730s and 40s. This surge in Christianity was followed by the Second Great Awakening in the 1830s along with great reform movements of antislavery and temperance. Spiritualism arose during the Third Great Awakening between the 1850s and the early 1900s. During this period, these young girls began talking about raps by Spirits.

Mainstream churches taught that such visits would be most likely signs of the devil and should be avoided at all costs because they were probably acts of fraud. The religious and philosophical ideas of the times certainly did not warm easily to Spiritualist ideas. I believe that is one reason material mediumship was so important—these people had to see in order to believe, and even then, skepticism was dominant.

Consider the fact that these early pioneers traveled into strange towns and cities to speak to groups of people they did not know. They wrote books that they could only hope someone would read. They tested mediums to see if they had the ability or were frauds. Considering those facts, it is clear why we would choose to call them pioneers. They had the task of trying to explain to a culture imbued with certain ideas and ways of being that there was another world that lay beyond in which individuals continued to live, love, and communicate with us. How do you frame your ideas or your identity in such a way that you can explain your vision in a way that can be accepted by your audience? How can *you* refocus who you are and how you live and speak and write so that you can be understood and accepted by others?

I understand the difficulties of such a change in vision in my own life, just as I am certain many of you also can identify with the challenges of making a change in life because of some insight or understanding. I was a Catholic nun, more formally, a member of a religious order of sisters, for about 20 years. As such, I was well trained and well informed with regard to theology, philosophy, ways of behavior, and my purpose in life with regard to my family, friends, work, and activities. But I had a tremendous insight into my own humanity as an individual, and chose to leave the religious order that I had loved for so long.

As I began a new lifestyle, there were many challenges. Do you know what it is like to be 38 years old with no credit history? Without the kindness of a special friend, I would have had no place to live. Having taught exclusively in Catholic schools, I had little “real” experience to support an application to teach, so I had to work as a temp to earn money to live. It was a humbling experience. I had over 15 years of experience in education, a master’s degree, and was earning \$850 per month doing office temp work. I learned that being different and doing different is hard.

Nothing could be taken for granted. I had to learn to work a computer, how to save money, how to deal with vendors, and how to be less trusting—it was a different world. And most difficult, I had lost almost all my friends because I had a new identity that most people from my past

could not accept. I was simply Norma. Moving as a pioneer into a new lifestyle, I was learning to adapt to new demands, new needs, and new ideas. How could I present myself in a way that I would feel accepted for myself and not for my black habit and hood—the things of my past? I was a pioneer.

My story is not unique. Anyone who has gone through a divorce might identify with me. I know people whose families will not acknowledge them because they are now Spiritualists. They might make fun of them or treat them as odd or weird, or perhaps they disown them altogether. Many of us have made life-changing decisions that have not been accepted by the people we love and from whom we seek support. In so many ways, we might experience the need to accept the role of pioneer today.

I shared my story because I see our organization, the NSAC, in somewhat the same place. The 21st century is far different from the 19th century. Just as the pioneers of the 19th century had to communicate new ideas and insights to meet the cultural understandings of the 19th century, we need to be the contemporary pioneers of the 21st century to communicate our ideas and insights to people now.

People today are different from those of the 19th or even the 20th century. Time moves far more quickly. Responses to calls and emails are expected within 24 hours. Time is precious, and wasting it can be a costly mistake. If a decision is to be made, those making the decision are expected to move fast. Communication is the key today—and it needs to be quick, efficient, and effective. And, follow-up is imperative in this new era of the World Wide Web.

Today we purchase our goods online and expect them delivered right away. We expect authority to assume responsibility, but only within their boundaries, and they must remain fully accountable to those who give them that authority. But then we only trust our own authority, so anyone with authority needs tremendous communication skills to convince us to believe in their direction and process. And we still find it hard to give them a chance.

Pioneers need to be strong, secure in their vision, and willing to work with people. Despite the naysayers, the negativity, the frustration, and fears, pioneers need to be able to stand up, just like Mercy Cadwallader or Emma Hardinge Britten—to speak with conviction that is guided by Spirit in order to bring healing and strength to those like-minded individuals looking for the truth. We are those pioneers, so we need to ask ourselves those questions. Do we truly believe Spirit is active within us today—moving us forward in this world of technology-driven individuals geared toward communication by text and media by Internet? In the midst of a culture made too impersonal by Wi-Fi, 50-inch T.V. screens, and six lanes of commuter traffic, can we really offer the healing energy so needed by individuals who find it difficult to cope with today's world? Do we have the inner peace that comes with understanding of how closely Spirit works with us and in us? If we believe so, then we must stand tall and proudly say, "Yes, we are Spiritualists, and we live in the 21st century, and we have a message to share."






Spiritualism as a

Writer: Rev. Janet Bleier, CM, LM
Louise Scholtz Memorial Chapel, TX



Philosophy



When I was in college, a course called “Introduction to Philosophy” was a requirement. To this day I remember very little of that class except for St. Anselm’s theory on the proof that God exists, and some bits of Schopenhauer and Santayana. Looking back, I think I may not even have realized what “philosophy” meant or how the study of it was important. I just remember feeling as though I wasn’t “getting it.” I approached the topic of Spiritualism as a Philosophy a little gingerly. The part about Spiritualism as Religion and Science was easy, but how was I going to speak from a point of view I couldn’t wrap my mind around?

I decided to start with a few simple definitions and see where that led. Webster’s dictionary defines philosophy as: 1. The study of ideas about knowledge, truth, the nature of meaning of life. 2. A particular set of ideas about knowledge, truth, the nature and meaning of life. 3. A set of ideas about how to do something or how to live. Of those three choices, I like the last best, it is the easiest for me to understand. Now plug in the National Spiritualist Association of Church’s definition: Spiritualism is a philosophy because it studies the Laws of Nature on both the seen and unseen sides of life and bases its conclusions on present observed facts. It accepts statements of observed facts of past ages, and the conclusions drawn therefrom when they are sustained by reason and by the results of present observed facts.” Wow, that’s a mouthful. My composite breakdown goes something like this: “Spiritualism is a philosophy because it studies the Laws of Nature, which exist on both the Physical and Spiritual planes.”

We know that philosophy has existed through the ages—mankind has always studied human nature and the laws that govern them. The goal then was the same as it is now—to discover a theory of harmonization in life—how we may live in a way that is at peace with our environment and fellow beings, and in a way that shows meaning and purpose. History is replete with philosophers such as Jesus, Krishna, Buddha—this is a worldwide discipline. These teachers studied natural objects and phenomena, observed the constancy in play, and drew their conclusions from what they saw. If I steal from my neighbor, I have taken something I did not earn and there will be conflict, not harmony. If I wish to live in peace with my neighbor, stealing is bad, both intrinsically (because I know it will upset the balance) and extrinsically (because my neighbor will be offended and that will ruin our relationship). Therefore, stealing is bad. A theory was tested, and results were found to be consistent. So it’s not so difficult after all. As for the question as to how this affects purpose in life, my self-control allows me to help both myself (in terms of growth and care for neighbor) and my neighbor (leaving him his property, preserving harmony and setting an example).

The main philosophy of Spiritualism is contained in our Declaration of Principles, a statement of our beliefs that was begun at the National Convention in Chicago in 1899. This document was expanded in 1909 and again in 1944, and the provisions still exist to add Principles, should new ones be proposed and found to be of merit. These Principles are the result of observation and application and are both similar and different from mainline Christian, Muslim and Jewish beliefs, as well as those of Eastern traditions. We all do agree that we believe in God, though the “face” of that God differs widely—suffice to say that we all believe in a higher power—a Creator. Another commonality is a belief in the Golden Rule—“Do unto

others as you would have them do unto you.” That seems to be a universal recipe for harmony.

Many traditions recognize the existence of an after-life, though the concept of what that entails differs widely within religious systems. One area where Spiritualism varies is in our Seventh Principle: “We affirm the moral responsibility of the individual and that we make our own happiness or unhappiness as we obey or disobey Nature’s physical and spiritual laws.” In terms of philosophy, this makes perfect sense—if I choose to go against the recognized Natural Laws, I will not be in harmony with my environment, nor likely my fellow men. The difference here lies in that the cause of disharmony is laid squarely at my door and it is my job to correct the situation. There is no vicarious atonement. No one can fix the situation for it is my responsibility alone. Take my example of theft—no one can excuse me for stealing from my neighbor. The guy next door cannot be punished for my crime—that argues against the direct line of cause and effect. This is one of the reasons Spiritualists do not believe that our sins (when we disobey Natural Law) can be forgiven through Jesus. We are responsible for our own actions. If there is retribution to be made it is up to us. To me this seems like a particularly good idea in terms of living in harmony. We must consider our actions, knowing that we are responsible for what we do. No one is going to swoop in and save us if we choose to act badly—we must be conscious of our actions.

Spiritualism also teaches that humanity is just as much a spirit entity in the physical life as we will be after we pass through the change called death. The lessons of the Earth Plane are necessary for our physical, mental and spiritual growth. If we ignore the spiritual part of our nature, we are out of harmony with the Universal Plan—which is, ultimately, the unfoldment of our highest attributes. If we recognize and embrace the need to work with our spiritual side, then we will progress and will probably live a happier, more fulfilled life before moving onto the Spirit Plane. The work must be done, if we leave it until after we have passed to spirit, we will find ourselves repeating those lessons on the spirit side of life.

The philosophy of Spiritualism also includes the concept that the Divine Spark exists in all things, that everything is an expression of Infinite Intelligence. Therefore, all humans

are brothers and sisters and have the potentialities of God—we are not separate. This is illustrated by both telepathy (mind to mind communication) and mediumship. The only difference between humans is the degree of spiritual growth and understanding. We are all responsible to God and each other for what we send out into the Universe.

The beauty of philosophy is that it is based in observable fact, it requires proof. The objective is to analyze anything in nature that has either form (like a flower, or a sheep) or force (electricity or magnetism). The form or force that is being examined must be something that can be perceived by the five senses. Those perceptions are then evaluated and conclusions drawn. This involves logical thinking as well as inductive and deductive reasoning. Thinking back to St. Anselm, this even extends to trying to prove the existence of God; it is based on what we observe and what we can infer from what we have observed. Science deals primarily with materialistic concepts and has little patience with spiritual components, but philosophy extends the scope of science and both disciplines agree that there is a positive cause and effect in existence which is immutable and eternal—it always works. Science balks because it is unable to prove the causation behind what is physically visible—philosophy seeks to determine that causation. As Spiritualists, our philosophy embraces science and applies its concepts to afterlife communication, seeking evidential messages to support our beliefs. In this way Spiritualism is a Philosophy that walks hand in hand with Science and Religion.

The late Rev. Sharon S. Snowman wrote, “Philosophy is the science by which reason and revelation find their proof. This is accomplished through a systematized study of everything that is in manifestation of existence. Cause and effect are the Natural Laws which help to formulate our final analysis.”

I almost wish I could go back and retake the *Introduction to Philosophy* course; I have a feeling I would get more out of it the second time around. Far from being confusing or vague, philosophy allows us to test and determine what works, and what will be for the greatest good in our lives and the larger world. The Philosophy of Spiritualism provides tested beliefs and Principles that form a solid foundation for further exploration, and that is a blessing indeed.



MPI Student Essay

Submitted by: Melissa R. Haynie

proved to me not only that I was talking to a Spirit, but it also validated for me without question that life does not end after death. That experience and the certainty it offered of life after death became very important to me as I turned off life support for my infant daughter, and again as I held my infant son as he breathed his last breath. It assured me that while I would never physically hold them again in this world, I could know them both. Death did not end our connection—it simply changed it.

Shortly after my son's death, I went to the Spiritualist church in our area and sat in the pew beseeching those little Spirits to come to me. I would have bargained with anyone for a message that included them. I did not get one. I was nearly heartbroken going home with no message from my children. Spirit had a different plan, as that message came—but it came through my mother. The message offered me an image of my children near me and my angel babies in the message handed me a little girl. "This one you can keep mommy," they said, as they handed her to me. That little girl they handed to me is busy fighting with her younger sister as I struggle to put my thoughts together on death—on the continuity of life—on what the separation means to me in a very real sense. As many thoughts as I have in my head, this is a tough one for me to write. How do I stay within my word allowance? How do I explain how my own life has been shaped both by death and by the certainty of life after death validated by visitations and messages? This is the very subject that brought me to a Spiritualist church, and eventually to study Morris Pratt—all condensed into 500 to 700 words? It seems a daunting task.

I will say this: my certainty that my children on the other side are able to communicate with me offers me the ability to see blessings and appreciate them so much more fully. The sadness of saying goodbye will never leave me. Nine years later I wonder who would they be? What would they be doing had they lived? The certainty of their continued existence, however, offers me a strength and a comfort that is immeasurable.

Death seems scary if you see it simply as an end, and because of the limitations of our physical world it seems so very final. In my opinion it is the thought of that finality that causes people to shy away from death. Interestingly it occurs to me that as we shy away from the change called death, we often become afraid of change in general. Death is not unique to our species. It isn't even unique to the animal kingdom or indeed life on this Earth. Death happens to stars and galaxies, plants and animals. When we expand our understanding to accept death as *change*, not simply as an *end*, we can allow ourselves to experience more fully the world around us, both physical and spiritual.

When I was a teenager, my Aunt Kathy died and I wanted so badly to talk to her. I remember laying on my bed praying that she would come to me. A woman I had never met did come to me, and she told me to tell my mom that she was "my girl." I was half afraid that I had been dreaming, but I went to my mother and described the woman and what she had said. My mother's eyes widened and she told me that there was not just meaning behind what I had seen, but that the woman I was talking to was her grandmother who had died when my mother was five. I had no way of knowing her. There was a moment of deep validation for me, because it

Law of Attraction

OUR EXPECTATIONS FORECAST OUR FUTURE

Writer: Anne Thomas
Spiritualist Church of Awareness, FL

What kind of day will you have today? How about this week? Will it be filled with excitement or tedium, adventure or problems, happiness or misery? Your future can be predicted by the answers you give to these questions because we create what happens to us with our expectations. Our expectations are self-fulfilling prophesies.

An expectation is a belief of which there are two types: core and moment-to-moment. Our daily moment-to-moment beliefs originate from our core beliefs. For example, Tom believes the world is a hostile place, no one can be trusted, and suffering is inevitable. In other words, Tom is a pessimist. His belief that the world is unfriendly is an example of a core belief. Today, Tom has a job interview. But because of his pessimism he doesn't think he will get the job. This is an example of his moment-to-moment belief, or what he believes will happen today. He EXPECTS to fail the interview. So most likely he will, because the interviewer would detect Tom's negativity.

So, our expectations, or moment-to-moment beliefs, forecast our future. But it is possible to fail despite a positive attitude because there will always be things beyond our control. But such failures will occur in the short term only, for positive expectations always lead to success in the long run.

Here's an example: Beth is skillful, knowledgeable, and cheerful. She goes for a job interview and fails. Beth may not experience immediate success, but she isn't alarmed by her temporary setback because her core beliefs as a Spiritualist are that she can do anything, that she deserves success, and that she has a valuable contribution to make. As a result, Beth keeps going to interviews, and eventually finds success.

Think of our expectations as a switch. Not an on-off switch, but a positive-negative switch. You see, the switch is always on, but it is set to either positive or negative expectations. When the switch is set to positive expectations, we experience enthusiasm, excitement, passion, meaning, purpose, serenity, friendship, confidence, happiness, and good health. Yet, when it is set to negative expectations, we experience fear, worry, anxiety, depression, unhappiness, failure, powerlessness, anger, resentment, loneliness, stress, and possibly poor health.

Because we will only manage to live up to our own expectations, it is critical for our success and happiness that we keep the switch set to positive. You may have sailed through stormy seas or been battered about by crushing circumstances, and now find your switch stuck in the negative position. If so, it is time to start cultivating your positive expectations. Consider taking the following steps to lead you to more positive results.

Engage in positive talk and say something positive to everyone you meet. There are several reasons for doing so. It

will force you to look for the good, and when you look for it, you will most surely find it. As you develop your habit of finding the good, you will naturally become more positive. Remember that everything you say to others, you are also saying to yourself. As you speak with others, recognize that in the process of doing so, you are programming yourself to become more or less successful; therefore, watch what you say!

Awaken to your true nature. Spiritualism teaches you that you are a seed meant to grow and flourish. Your nature is to adorn life. You are here not merely to experience life, but to add to it. As you think about how you *want* to flourish, you may unknowingly be creating a block that prevents greatness from appearing. For if you *wish* to flourish, you are denying that you already are. Wishing for something in the future prevents you from having it in the "now."

Feed yourself positive thoughts. If we feed on positive thoughts, we grow positive. Accept that you have control of your life, so don't settle for a life of mediocrity by accepting to live the rest of your life from behind negative core beliefs that you have the power to change.

Stand up for yourself. It is not your nature to allow others to take advantage of you, it is actually your weakness. You see, it is not your nature to be weak, but your nature to act out of habit. If your habit is working against you, change it—for any weaknesses can be overcome with practice. Once you develop the habit of standing up for yourself, it will become part of your nature. Your newly refined nature will then be aligned with your *true* nature, which is one of unlimited potential and power.

If you always do your best, you'll always expect the best. It is only by raising our expectations and doing our best that we can tap into our true nature. Take baby steps. As each step brings you closer to your goal—enthusiasm, confidence, and high expectations will develop. One success creates appreciation—many successes create positive expectations.

Expect the unexpected. Welcome it because it is only by facing an unexpected turn of events that we can hone our skills and cultivate flexibility. Don't allow your present problems to have you frozen in time. Look forward to future solutions and focus on where you are headed, not where you are.

Not everyone sets high standards for themselves—don't lower your expectations to meet theirs. Be patient. Don't give up quickly. Impatience, haste, or expecting too much too fast is destructive. Remember, an optimist expects his dreams to come true, but a pessimist expects his nightmares to come true.

To which position will you choose to set your expectation switch to today—to positive, negative, or infinite possibility?



EQUALITY for All

We talk in our everyday lives about kindness and respect for others. We talk about tolerance and how we should embrace the individuality of others. We have conversations with our friends and claim that we don't expect others to be perfect, for no one is. Most of us like to think we don't judge—we wouldn't do that. But do we really?

Tolerance, by definition, is the acceptance of differing views and fairness toward the people who hold these different views. When we say that we show tolerance for others, aren't we really judging? Who decides what is different? Who decides that our viewpoint is the one that's right?

If we say, I tolerate him or her, aren't we then saying that his or her views are not really the right ones, but "I will put up with that—I will allow them to think the way they do?"

What we need to be saying is nothing. What we need to be doing is listening and developing the ability in ourselves to look at the world from the other person's point of view and understand it.

Stepping outside the lines of our carefully drawn and comfortable way of thinking is challenging. It requires thought and energy and a change in our routine, and that is not easy for us. Humanity as a whole hates change. They hate the disruption of it and they hate the way it makes them look at themselves and the world in a different light.

Equality for all is a huge statement. Most of us like to tell ourselves that we believe everyone is equal and, of course, everyone deserves the same civil rights. But what about when someone sits down next to us in the movies or stands behind us in the checkout line at the grocery store, and we grow uncomfortable, tense up, and perhaps put a tad more space between us and them? Maybe they dress differently, speak another language or their behavior is not what we consider "normal." And we hesitate, and our stand on equality seems to get lost in our fear.

Unfortunately, society seems to define "different" and "fear" as the same. In that secret place inside us that no one likes to talk about, we believe that if that person is "different" than us, there is probably something not right about them. And if we cross paths with someone whose life did

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not follow the journey we consider "regular life," they must be different or perhaps even less than us.

The Sixth Principle of Spiritualism reads, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." It is a Principle we say each week at service, and we believe it when we say it. But are we really practicing that belief? Because that principle includes *all* people, from *all* races, from *all* cultures, and from *all* backgrounds. That belief means that the person behind you who is wearing clothing you wouldn't be caught dead in, or who is a different color or from a different socioeconomic background, is the same as you. They are someone's child. They are Spirit in a physical form with the Divine Spark of God inside them.

In 1848, when the Fox Family spoke out about their young daughters' communication with Spirit, they took a chance. They made themselves different. They asked those around them to change what they knew to be true. They began a movement that said to society, "there is more to life than this." The Fox family asked society to accept "different." And the mediums who came after, the many who stood up for what they knew to be true, were looked at with judgment. They were the ones people stepped away from in stores, looked at with hesitation and judged unfairly. But our pioneers kept going. And because they did, we have the religion, science, and philosophy of Modern Spiritualism today.

In order for humanity to move forward, it will not just involve the tolerance of others, and a conscious decision of "allowing" others to be or think differently. It will be about understanding that we are all different, and we need to embrace those differences and understand that we are all here on the same journey. That journey is to gain knowledge and experience life with all its challenges.

If we all started our journey from the same beginning and lived the same life, we would learn nothing. There would be nothing to make us grow or expand our consciousness. We need and should embrace the differences around us.

For some of us, the journey of life is a difficult one. It can be complicated and full of road blocks, challenges and chaos. As spiritual beings, we need to be helping each other on our journeys and work together to reduce the chaos through compassion and understanding.

The beliefs of Spiritualism are the most pure and simple beliefs a person can have. We believe God is love. We believe that God or Infinite Intelligence is a part of us all and we believe we are equal.

A Story of Survival & Trust

Writer: Rev. Bonnie Darby
Spiritualist Church of Indianapolis, IN

Our Spiritualist pioneers came from very diverse religious backgrounds; hence, many came from Christian backgrounds. Our written history contains Bible quotes and information on Spiritualism and phenomena in the Bible. As an organization we once were required to have a sacred text on our lectern and the Bible was the sacred text chosen. We've moved forward in our thinking and we've changed the words we use in order to bring Spiritualism forward for a more modern audience. Just like other religions we have made adjustments and changed over time.

There is still a popular mindset among many non-Spiritualists that Christianity and Spiritualism mesh together. Interestingly enough, because I am a minister (even though I clearly state I'm an ordained Spiritualist Minister), there is often an expectation that I am a Bible scholar and am able to quote the Bible off the top of my head. Like many of you, I did come from a Christian background and have read the Bible in its entirety more than once, but I am not a Bible scholar.

Another misconception that some Spiritualist ministers are faced with is that being a minister alleviates us from the trials and tribulations of our earthly existence. I can only speak for myself but that hasn't been my experience so far. Within the last few years I've lost several close relatives. First, my husband made his transition from complications of a liver transplant. He spent nearly a year in the transplant ICU before he made his transition. Second, my mother was diagnosed

with Alzheimer's and it became necessary for her to stay with me for periods of time before she made her transition in October of 2015. Also during this span of time my nephew was in an accident causing him to live his life as a paraplegic until his transition in 2015.

The effects of any trauma are life changing for each of us and that is just a simple truth. This was a tiny glimpse into a part of my life as a minister and a human being. Being on a spiritual path certainly does not exempt anyone from the complications of our Earthly life, though being on a spiritual path does teach us how to live the journey as a survivor. Friends have asked me how I managed to survive these events and what kept me sane through it all. They said, "I want to know" or "I need to know." I had no answer for them because I could not even find that answer for myself. The best I could do was share that from the core of my being that I believed in the phenomena of blessings in disguise. I trust in the power of our omnipresent, omnipotent, Infinite Intelligence. I lived one day at a time, one moment at a time, and I continued to exist!

There were times I heard Spirit and felt them close to me. There were times the course seemed so unbearable that I stumbled and became fearful, very uncertain of what was next. There were times I was just too mentally and physically exhausted to hear Spirit. Those were the times I felt closed off. As my wheel of life cycled from periods of intense sorrow then out into the sunshine and

back again, I began re-attuning to Spirit. I was never alone. I survived because I trusted in the power of Infinite Intelligence and all the Natural Laws set into motion for us to live within. Even when I was closed off and wallowing in pain, I was being inspired by Spirit with loving thoughts and words motivating me to believe in blessings in disguise. I learned that if I knew exactly what was ahead of me in life, I could mess up a wonderfully orchestrated plan set in motion by my higher power through Universal Law. In my toughest of moments I was receiving loving healing energy to get me through. I asked Spirit for signs. Sometimes the sign was simply the words "it's imperative..." I learned that in the darkest moments I should never take my eyes off the light at the end of the journey—be careful not to think I can make a perfectly created plan better—and I am never alone.

In those moments of drama and trauma, breathe and connect. Ask Spirit for help and know that it's okay to desire reassuring signs of guidance along the way. Spirit has the task of helping us along our Earthly sojourn. Requesting and receiving signs from the universe can help us remain sane and secure along our path. Always keep focused on the light. Strive to maintain a high level of personal frequency to raise your energy and draw in positive circumstances. Understand that life offers blessings in disguise, and trust in your Higher Power one small step at a time.

The Silver Cord & Vagal Nerve

Connects You to Spirit & Your Immortality

Writer: Rev. Karen E. Herrick, Ph.D
Red Bank, NJ

In metaphysical studies and literature, the silver cord is known as the Sutratma or life thread of consciousness. The Antahkarana refers to a life-giving linkage from the higher self (atman) to the physical body. In this way the soul projects itself into the human body and anchors itself through a spiritual process equivalent to atomic fusion. The silver thread or cord is similar to an umbilical cord in a pregnant woman, which connects the fetus at the navel with the placenta.

The vagus nerve is a bundle of different-sized nerves. It is the tenth and longest cranial nerve, divided into three main strands that enter the brain at the medulla. It runs along the spinal column, extends into the chest cavity to the heart, and ends in the abdomen attaching to the intestines. Eighty percent of the nerve is devoted to relaying information from the body to the brain.

Something esoteric is characterized by being secret, private or confidential and refers to ideas, doctrines or literature that are understood by only a select group and are not intended for the general population. The primary purpose of the vagus nerve has not been a secret, but the esoteric part of this information is that one can breathe by not using the nostrils but by employing the vagus nerve within the body. In deep meditation, the normal breathing mechanism becomes temporarily suspended and an inner breathing mechanism assumes control. The vagus nerve then makes a passage for the internal soul-mind breath, used by yogis and Tibetans who can remain concealed in a cell or box for days. Egyptian initiations were also done by placing the initiate into a cell or box for days, after which they were referred to as "twice born."

The silver cord or vagus nerve provides our connection for mediumship of all types. We feel magnetic pressure in the form of chills and tingling! It is responsible for such things as out-of-body experiences, automatic writing, contacting dimensional planes, dreams, information received during meditation, visits to mediums, psychic knowledge, and many other spiritual and paranormal experiences.

At the time of death, our etheric body soars upward, freed from its mortal body. Through communication with Spirits and Guides from the other side our consciousness experiences the revelation that the soul, the "real self," is indeed immortal.



Once the vagal nerve is cut in both places, it dangles in the air as it returns up into the ethereal body. It does this with each lifetime and perhaps is where our memory is stored.

We are able to control part of the thread of the silver cord by building our mental mind and controlling our thought patterns. This is our thread of creativity. These thought patterns create a bridge. This is a person's PATH—their evolutionary process. One bridge then eventually becomes their path as they continue to increase the habits of positive thought patterns and living.

The thread grows with each life a person has. Like a spider, each person creates their own silken thread. It is how the person achieves deeper and deeper realizations of their connection to the whole. This is called the development of consciousness.

In his book *Journeys Out of the Body*, Robert Monroe describes the silver cord in his own body. "As I reached the back of my head, my hand brushed against something and I felt behind with both hands. Whatever it was extended out from a spot in my back directly between my shoulder blades as nearly as I can determine, not from the head, as I expected. I felt the base and it felt exactly like the spread-out roots of a tree radiating out from the basic trunk. The roots slanted outward and into my back down as far as the middle of my torso, up to my neck and into the shoulders on each side. I reached outward, and it formed into a 'cord,' if you can call a two-inch-thick cable a 'cord.' It was hanging loosely and I could feel its texture very definitely. It was body warm to the touch and seemed to be packed neatly together but not twisted or spiraled. It was flexible and seemed to have no skin covering."

The cord is there for every life, and it grows as people progress spiritually. It gets brighter and stronger. Some will grow faster than others. Some will grow smaller. It's not a judgment. The purpose of a life period is for us to advance spiritually.

Mesmer's animal magnetism has something to do with this electrical process. Mesmer has been quoted as saying that magnetism does not work the same on all bodies because some people's energy is different.

The author would appreciate comments in regard to this article from any of you who wish to share correspondence on the topic.
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A New Beginning

Writer: Marcia Ketelhut
Spiritualist Church of Peace and Light, CT

I recently had a dream that I had to wake up early in the morning to watch the sunrise on the beach. When I got to the beach there were several other people already there waiting to see the sun rise and we all watched together. It was beautiful.

When I awoke from this dream I realized that each day of life is a new beginning, a new start. If there's something we want or need to improve in our life we can begin to make that happen, now. Each day brings new situations and opportunities to us and how we respond to them tells the Universe that we are ready, willing and able to begin.

We can begin by changing our attitude and how we respond to situations. If you are driving along and someone thoughtlessly darts out in front of you or pulls into a parking spot you were making your way to, how do you respond? Do you swear curses at them, wave your arm at them, show them a certain finger, or all of these? When we react this way we are lowering our vibration. Be careful and pay attention to how you respond to the negativity in this world, even with your thoughts. We all want this world to be a better place to live so take everything spiritual you have learned so far and put it to action when these negative situations occur. Sometimes some of the most thoughtless people out there are the ones who need the love and understanding the most. They are the ones who have lost their way and are suffering. Even just backing off and giving them space may be all they need at that time. They have the weight of the world on their shoulders and haven't learned yet how to help themselves. Set an example and show them love and understanding. Some may reject it, that's ok; they're not ready to accept it yet. But for others it may change their day or maybe even their whole way of thinking. Be mindful of what you see, how you see things, and how you use your words. What you think you see may appear negative when instead it may be an opportunity to serve. There is more to serving than just showing up in church and putting money in the basket. Something as simple as picking up a piece of trash you see blowing on the sidewalk and putting it in a trash can, instead of walking by it expecting someone else to do it, is serving. Allowing someone in front of you in line at the store because they are in a hurry or have young restless children or are elderly is serving.

New beginnings and positive changes in our life will happen when we first ask for what we need, are grateful for what we do have and open up to receiving. It is also important to remember to feel worthy of receiving. Then take your focus off yourself and serve. Ask the Universe, the great unseen living force, "How may I serve today?" When you give of yourself the Universe responds by giving to you.

If we can trust that each sunrise brings us a new beginning, we give ourselves the opportunity to improve our life in so many wonderful ways. Today is the day, begin it now, and remember to share the blessings, share the love.

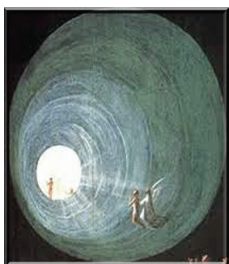


media watch

by The Revs. Tom & Lisa Butler, NST

Near-death Experiences

Near-Death Experiences (NDEs) are quite common. They occur daily, under many different circumstances, in every country around the world. Especially intriguing are cases where the person having the NDE did not know a



loved one had died, yet meets them during their NDE. Some only find out upon regaining consciousness that the loved one had in fact died. Even more interesting are those cases where a deceased other is met during an NDE, but the person is not aware of the identity of the other person. It is only after

the NDE, sometimes decades after, that the person eventually finds out the person they met during their NDE was their biological parent, sibling, or grandparent.

From: "Near-death experiences: what it feels like to die," by Natasha Tassell-Matamua, Independent, independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/features/near-death-experiences-what-it-feels-like-to-die-10249700.html

Near-death Experience Virus

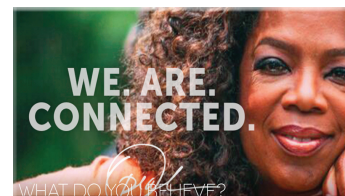
Author and scholar, Kenneth Ring states, "There is a NDE virus. This virus is how people are changed just hearing about near-death experiences and stories of spiritual awakening in others. People are changed just listening and feeling the experience of people's most personal journeys. Meanwhile, death, instead as something to avoid talking about or to fear, is an open door, we all go through, to welcome. There is a great love being discovered and explored." Networker for the near-death experience community, David Sunfellow, says "For the first time in history there is a new religion which does not have a charismatic leader or a sacred book. It is leaderless, with no theology of its own. It is truly grass roots changing what people think about death

and therefore about life itself."

From: "New Heaven, New Earth: Is Religion Being Replaced With Spirituality?" By Bruce Davis, Ph.D. huffingtonpost.com/bruce-davis-phd/new-heaven-new-earth-coul_b_6971536.html

Belief

The search for a spiritual connection among people around the world is the focus of a seven-part series, narrated by Oprah Winfrey, which ran on *OWN channel* in October. *Belief* narrates the often ignored but startling story that the age of top-down religion is over. It is being replaced by an age in which even people who faithfully maintain distinctive religious identities are engaging in do-it-yourself spiritual journeys that often lead in remarkably similar directions of love, healing and justice toward a God (or Gods) close at hand. Opra says the series is an effort to connect the dots of every heart's yearning for something greater than ourselves.



From: Oprah Winfrey's new series shows "How the nature of faith is shifting," by Diana Butler Bass. theage.com.au/comment/oprah-winfreys-new-belief-series-shows-how-the-nature-of-faith-is-shifting-20151025-gkiam0.html#ixzz3ptWt5p80. Picture from beliefin3words.com

A Counseling Approach to Mediumship

From the Abstract: In the last few decades there has been much corroborative research suggesting that exceptional experiences during bereavement lead to improved coping and a healthy recovery from a negative emotional state. Aside from spontaneous exceptional experiences and their impact on the bereaved, "sort" experiences such as mediumship can be an equally rewarding and positive experience for the bereaved. ... [research] Results suggest that those who experience mediumistic counseling produced a high sense of agency, resulting in adaptive coping. Additionally, the findings suggest that areas of counseling, clinical studies and positive psychology would benefit from forming links with the findings of parapsychological research, with regards to the bereaved and their experiences.

From: "A Counselling Approach to Mediumship: Adaptive Outcomes of Grief Following an Exceptional Experience," by Rachel E. Evenden, Callum E. Cooper and Graham Mitchell, The University of Northampton, Centre for the Study of Anomalous Psychological Processes, academia.edu/16544976/A_Counselling_Approach_to_Mediumship

Final Words Project

Lisa Smartt, a poet and linguist, became fascinated by the beautiful, weird, cryptic words of the dying during her father's last days in 2012. "I can't reach, Jack," he said. "My modality is broken." And, "There is so much so in sorrow." And, the one that stunned her, because he was not a religious man: "Lisa, you were right about the angels!" She started the Final Words Project to collect other departing thoughts that people sent her. By nature, it was not scientific. These were anecdotes, words that relatives had taken the time to record and had deemed meaningful.

Her project, though, has spawned a study based at Montgomery County's Bryn Athyn College that will record the words—all of them—of people dying at home in the care of hospice. The goal is to analyze how communication changes in the last six weeks of life, in order to make the process less mysterious and frightening to family members and medical providers.

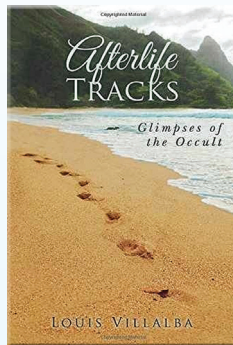
From: "Study aims to decode final words of the dying," by Stacey Burling, Philly.com, September 2015, articles.philly.com/2015-09-28/news/66932661_1_bryn-athyn-college-study-language

Afterlife Tracks

A patient's near-death experience and an eerie series of events spanning 13 years sends a doctor on a search for scientific proof of the afterlife. His findings, he says, will comfort the dying, convince many skeptics, and help relatives and friends who have lost loved ones.

When Connie Calderone was in a deep coma following a traffic accident in 1990 in Chicago, she met her best friend's deceased daughter, Jessica LaCoppola, whom she barely knew. In Connie's near-death experience, Jessica told her she was getting everything ready to receive one of her own close relatives who would soon die. Connie eventually recovered. Six months later, the prophecy came true. One of Jessica's perfectly healthy relatives had died.

All three were patients of Dr. Louis Villalba, a Chicago neurologist who found himself in the middle of a bizarre series of eerie events that spanned 13 years—all interconnected to the afterlife and the prophecy. A professor of neurology and author of 73 scientific papers and book



chapters, Villalba relates this true story in his new book, *Afterlife Tracks, Glimpses of the Occult*. It narrates a series of paranormal incidents in Chicago, where he had a thriving neurology practice.

Read the free sample of "Afterlife Tracks," at TheClassicWriter.com/afterlife-tracks

Spiritual Experiences that Change Lives

In a first for New Zealand, a study will look at spiritual experiences that can't be explained by science, including the well-documented near-death experience. Massey University senior lecturer in counseling and guidance with the Institute of Education, Karen Frewin, is conducting the study with international near-death experience expert Natasha Tassell-Matamua. Any kind of spiritual experience, including out-of-body, past life experiences or even deep meditations are included in the study. Frewin says that "People might think these experiences are weird and not talk about them. We want to know how they integrate the experience into their lives. Studies have shown that therapists feel ill-equipped to deal with people who presented with matters relating to spirituality. There is no training on spirituality for psychologists or counselors in formal training programs."

From: "Spiritual experiences that change lives," by Susan Teodoro, September 2015, Manawatu Standard, stuff.co.nz/manawatu-standard/news/71911160/spritual-experiences-that-change-lives

I Will go to Hell

When Scots were asked "If there were a heaven and a hell, which would you end up in?" 48 percent claimed they would go to paradise, but a staggering 14 percent said they would be sent to hell—4 percent more than the figure for Great Britain as a whole. The survey also showed that Scots were less afraid of death than the rest of Britain and that they were less likely to believe in an afterlife. Freddie Sayers, YouGov editor-in-chief, said: "One thing to remember is that only a minority of people (36 percent) believe in an afterlife at all. So this is really a measure of how people rate their own virtue more than a religious conviction."

Read more: "I will go to hell, one in seven Scots fear," October 2015, The Scotsman, scotsman.com/news/odd/i-will-go-to-hell-one-in-seven-scots-fear-1-3883402#ixzz3ldKv1k2i

Tom and Lisa Butler are interested in your personal experiences with after-death communication. Please send your experiences to Tom-Lisa@atransc.org.

The NSAC 2015 CONVENTION *Mesa, Arizona*



SPEAKERS



Rev. Jacquelyn Randall



Rev. Bradley Gosselin
Rev. Janet Tisdale

Board of Directors 2015



AWARDS

The Following Awards were Presented during the Monday Evening Banquet:

Outstanding Achievement Awards were presented to:

The Rev. Maureen Eslick,
President of the California State
Spiritualist Association

AND

Susan Hazard,
Director of the Department of Public
Relations, & Secretary of the California
State Spiritualist Association



Rev. Maureen Eslick

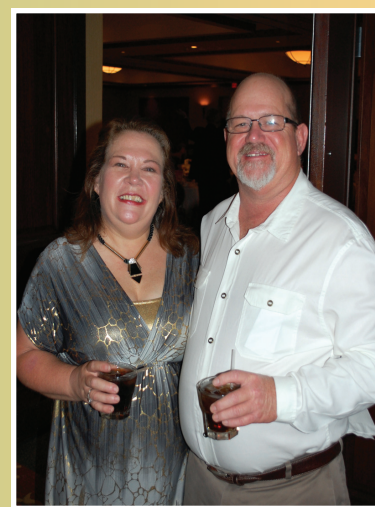


Susan Hazard

BANQUET

Dancing!





Registration



Workshops



Monday's Workshops Presented By:

Robin Hodson

President of the International Spiritualist Federation
"Trance Workshop"

&

The **Rev. Janet Tisdale**, Church of the Living Spirit, AZ
"Capturing Phenomena Using Cameras"

Wednesday's Workshop Presented By:

The **Rev. James Ehrhart**, Golden Gate Spiritualist Church, CA
"Practical Spiritualism: Pure & Simple"

*All Workshops were well attended,
highly educational, and thoroughly enjoyable!*

A huge round of applause goes to the Arizona
Church that hosted this year's Convention!

The Church of the Living Spirit

The chosen venue was a perfect match for the NSAC's size
and events, and the hotel staff was outstanding!

At final roll call, 135 delegates were seated for voting.
Members of local churches and others attended events raising
the estimated overall count to 160.

Convention delegates elected Trustee Christine
Krithades of Alexandria, Virginia as NSAC President. The
Rev. Krithades is a member of the Memorial Spiritualist
Church in Norfolk, Virginia. She served as chair of the
Ethics Code Review Committee for nine years, and most
recently has been Chair of the Conflic Resolution Committee.
She is a practicing attorney, and succeeds The Rev. Bradley
Gosselin of Danvers, Massachusetts.

The Rev. Havivah Richards was elected to fill Christine
Krithades remaining trustee term. Rev. Havivah is a member
of the Church of the Living Spirit in Glendale, Arizona. She
serves as Director of the Department of Lyceums.

Re-elected trustees were June Killmer of California, and
James Ehrhart also of California.

New NSAC Board of Directors



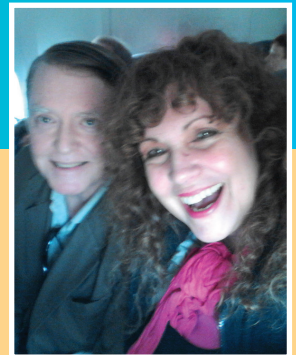
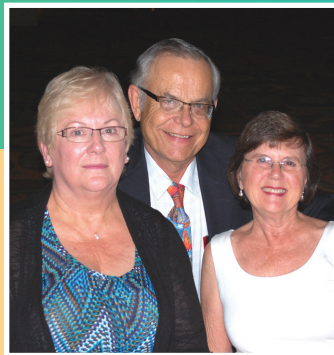
Rev. Cosie Allen, Rev. June Killmer, Rev. Jacquelyn Randall, Janet Watson,
Rev. Christine Krithades, Rev. Barbara Starr, Rev. James Ehrhart,
Micheline Corbin, Rev. Havivah Richards



Rev. Christine Krithades
Newly Elected President



Rev. Havivah Richards
Newly Elected Trustee

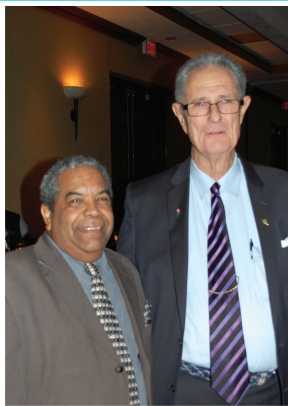


Rite of Ordination took place for four new ministers during this year's Convention:

(Left to Right)

Janet Bleier, Lousize Scholtz Memorial Chapel, TX
 Delilah Kieffer, Church of Eternal Light, WA
 Kevin Folsom, 5th Spiritualist Church, MO
 Barbara Gentry, Spiritualist Church of Indianapolis, IN





The NSAC
Bookstore was
run by
Rev. Jeannie
Lerch, &
Rev. Marilyn
Awtry.



Ways & Means

Quilt Auction

This beautiful hand-made quilt
by Patricia Sabine
displays images of our
Spiritualist Pioneers!



Evening Services



Rev. Marilyn Awtry, Rev. Sharon Watson, Rev. Bunny Starr
Robin Hodson, Rev. Bradley Gosselin



Rev. Maurice Coverson, Rev. Jeannie Lerch, Rev. Gretchen Clark,
Robin Hodson, Rev. Bradley Gosselin



Rev. Jacquelyn Randall, Rev. Loll Washburn, Michael Pillsbury,
Cyndi Pirog, Vicki Homann



Rev. Janet Tisdale, Rev. Betty Hutt, Rev. Janet Bleier,
Carol Leutkens, Janet Watson



NSAC Service Clubs:



National Spiritualist Teachers Club: Rev. Sharon Watson, Rev. Janet Tisdale,
Rev. Christine Krithades, Rev. Rosemary Calderalo, Rev. Margurite Gutt



Ministerial Association: Rev. Mary Beth LoVecchio, Rev. Havivah Richards,
Rev. Marilyn Awtry, Rev. Rosemary Calderalo, Janet Watson



Spiritualist Healers League: Rev. Havivah Richards, Rev. Cosie Allen,
Rev. Sharon Watson, Rev. Sandra Cook, Rev. Rosemary Calderalo



Licentiate Ministers & Certified Mediums Soc.: Rev. Janet Tisdale, Rev. Mary Beth
LoVecchio, Rev. Sharon Watson, Rev. Rosemary Calderalo, Rev. Havivah Richards

NSAC

President's Report

2015



Greetings to all and welcome to the NSAC Convention of 2015, our 123rd National convention meeting this year in Mesa, Arizona.

I want to acknowledge and extend our thanks to the host of this year's convention, the Church Of The Living Spirit NSAC, of Glendale Arizona.

A very special thanks to The Reverend Havivah Richards, and all of the convention planning committee members. Many hours and meetings are involved in hosting our event. Without the tireless effort and dedication of committee members and the host church, it would be difficult to hold conventions as we do.

At the banquet this year two members of the NSAC were honored with awards. Susan Hazard from Summerland Spiritualist Church of the Comforter, CA, and Maureen Eslick from Spiritualist Church of Revelation, CA. They received the Outstanding Achievement Award for exemplary service in promoting Spiritualism and the NSAC.

We have just completed our first full year with the expanded Department of Education under Reverend June Killmer. Approximately thirty new credentials have been issued this year. The NSAC Board has or will have tested by the end of this convention seven Ordained Ministers and two National Spiritualist Teacher candidates. We also have several candidates planning on testing for Ordained Minister and/or National Spiritualist Teacher at our next Spring Board Meeting. This is good and we want to encourage more members to obtain their credentials to carry on and promote the work of our founders and

pioneers.

The NSAC has chartered three new churches and have at least one more group working to charter early next year. It is exciting to charter new churches and we have to remember to take care of our existing churches. The only NSAC church in Oklahoma closed this year. They sold their building and transferred their charter and assets to the NSAC. The assets were placed in the church investment fund for loans to our auxiliaries as needed.

We have a church in Indiana in which the pastor resigned two years ago. I have spoken to some of the church members and they want to keep their church active. They miss their church but they do not have anyone who will step forward and keep the church open. They have no one who will take the MPI courses. They want the NSAC to send them a minister to keep their church open. Our ministers except for rare occasions are not paid, and those who are do not receive enough to live on. All our ministers have regular jobs to support themselves and their families. It would be nice if the NSAC could pay ministers to relocate and pastor churches in need. Maybe this is something we can strive towards.

This is why during my time as Trustee and most recently as President I have continually written about education, not only for our credentialed workers, but our membership as well. We teach the pastor or pastoral committee its responsibilities for the spiritual needs of the church, and the elected board of trustees are responsible for the business of the church. But, it is the responsibility of both to educate and train the membership of the church, to encourage the seeking of credentials. The spiritual needs of a church are fulfilled and embraced by educated and credentialed workers. The business and well being of each church is fulfilled and embraced by educated credentialed workers who work from the platform and fill seats at your services; that can present programs and workshops to help the financing, and to bring new people into your church. This will energize and enlarge your congregation and hopefully lead to new members. Most importantly they are

the future of your church. It is not enough for a pastor or board president to do a good job. What is their legacy? Who are they leaving to carry on the work of Spiritualism and the NSAC? Will they see a church they gave their life's work to close because they did not train and prepare their successors?

The NSAC Board can help, MPI can help, and the Department of Missionaries can help. But you need to ask. We do not walk into a church and take over. We come only when invited to assist to train and to educate. This is our job. Yours is to ask when you need help. Do not wait until the last moment. Be proactive. Ask even when help is not needed. Contact your NSAC Board representative. There are nine members of the NSAC Board of Trustees. Each of us is assigned a certain number of auxiliaries. Some are close enough for travel, some must use phone or email but, we are available. Our contact information is in *The National Spiritualist Summit*. It is also available through our secretary Micheline Corbin. Please contact us. We took these positions to serve the membership.

Members of the Board of Directors are here to serve you. Direct the NSAC Board on how you want to be represented. Every year three board members are elected to serve a three year term. *The National Spiritualist Association of Churches* is for you the delegates. Take pride in its accomplishments and direct its future.

Return home and educate your workers and membership. Do this and we will accelerate our growth with new dynamism and direction.

This is my final presidential report. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the convention delegates and the NSAC membership. I leave knowing that every decision was made with love and the best interests of Spiritualism and the NSAC. My love and prayers will always be with Spiritualism and the NSAC.

Respectfully,

Reverend Bradley E. Gosselin, NST

Day Trip

Thursday's Excursion: The Museum of International Music



Trip photos by Valerie Miller



NSAC

Secretary's Report



As the Secretary of the NSAC, I am pleased to present the following report on the NSAC General Headquarters and the statistical report at this 123rd Annual Convention in Mesa, AZ.

To the Host—Church of the Living Spirit and the Convention Planning Committee—I thank you for all your hard work. The Rev. Havivah Richards and members of the planning committee have worked very hard to accommodate and anticipate the needs of everyone attending this convention. From my experience with the committee, they have been very flexible and I know if you have any questions or needs during this convention, they will be more than happy to help you. Please when you see them voice your support and appreciation for all their hard work. I know this convention is a success! We are all contributing to its success. I thank them, the committee, and you the delegates!

I have to say that my first year as Secretary has been very interesting. My first point of order was to change the staff in the office. I am happy to say Denise Jackson is still the Bookkeeper and Cheryl Rosenquest returned to manage and coordinate the bookstore. We work well together and the energy in the office is wonderful, which I hope emanates to you in your communications with us. I also moved the location of the bookstore in the building. Now when you enter the building you walk straight ahead to the open space that is now the bookstore. There is a table to sit down and look over the wonderful selection of books you want to purchase. The feedback over the change has been very positive.

As you may be aware, many cities and States had a tough winter this past year. Buffalo and upper New York State was hit very hard with the snow and the cold. In Lily Dale, NY, water pipes cracked leaving residents and the NSAC office without water for weeks. Fortunately for our finances, the pipes broke outside of our building thereby relieving the NSAC of the cost of repairs. There was extreme ice accumulation on the roof that did necessitate removal by a professional company. The snow and ice also damaged the bricks and stones at the base of the building that incurred cost of repairs and re-pointing of the bricks. Small cracks were noticeable on some of the walls on the back of the building which required the expense of installing support beams in the basement. The furnace broke down and needed repairs as well.

Did I mention it was a tough winter? With all of this, and even though I couldn't legally ask them to work with no heat, no running water, no toilet facilities, the staff came into work every day. We worked wearing coats and gloves, wrapped in blankets to get what needed to be done—done. They call for a mild winter this year. I hope they are right!

If that wasn't enough—we had a Honey Bee infestation this summer. We noticed this because bees were coming in the building and we would find several dead on the floor for several days. These wonderful, hard-working busy bees discovered a small crack above the window sill and decided to set up shop in between the walls of the building. Honey Bees are protected so we had to find a bee keeper that would come out and carefully extract them. Their hive ended up covering a space of about 4' x 3'. We didn't get any honey, the bees didn't pay rent—but all is well. Basically, the building is in good shape.

This year, we commenced monthly publication of *NSAC News*, our newly designed newsletter. It is posted on the NSAC website's news page,

where several past editions are available, and it is included in our monthly mailing to auxiliaries. Copies of last month's edition are available here on the Bookstore table. Individual email subscriptions of *NSAC News* are available for free. Currently, there are over 550 subscribers. If you would like to receive a personal subscription, please sign up for a copy.

This summer NSAC Camps were asked to provide information of their camp schedules which were sent out in the summer monthly mailings. I will continue to promote all NSAC Auxiliaries in any way I can. Pamphlets were also on display at the office and available to people visiting Lily Dale.

I want to let you know the NSAC Board is aware that updates are needed on the website. Janice Foote, (now Oster) last year stated she wanted to step down from the position and agreed to train a volunteer to learn to maintain the site. It is an intricate website that needs someone with Janice's knowledge. I thank Jamie Tibbetts, who volunteered, and acknowledged the site needed someone with more in depth knowledge of the software and coding used. He expressed his relief, as did I, when Janice agreed to continue working with the website. The board is addressing the website issues and are working closely with Janice.

The NSAC Book Store continues to send copies of its book catalogue by email, by mail and through in person distribution. If you would like to receive a book catalogue, please contact the NSAC Office and we will be happy to provide you with one. The book table here at convention also has several copies available.

Credentialed workers are an asset to our auxiliaries and our organization. The NSAC Board encourages every NSAC member in their course work and every auxiliary Board member in their undertakings. The NSAC Bookstore carries books to help members with their studies and board members with the responsibilities regarding the business aspects of their auxiliaries. The NSAC Board is discussing different avenues of providing parliamentary procedures information to all auxiliaries.

We have updated the cover and reprinted books that are detailed in the Department of Publications Report.

Cheryl, in the bookstore, was able to convince the distributor to start making slates and trumpets again. A few of them are available on the Book Table here at convention.

We also were able to order a Pastoral Record book, which is a great gift for newly ordained Ministers. A couple are available at the Book Table.

Books for children's Lyceums are becoming difficult to find and are increasing in price because shipping costs have increased.

The Bookstore has added one new book for Children's Lyceum this year: *Susan's Suitcase* by Francine McEwen. The Bookstore has added three new books authored by NSAC members: *Cassadaga Where Spirits Meet* by Marilyn Awtry; *Sunflower series Book 1: Spirit Photography* by Marilyn Awtry; *Mediumship Mastery* by Stephen Hermann.

I hope that Marilyn Awtry's *Sunflower series Book 2: The Home Circle*, arrived in time to be offered at this convention. There are other books authored by NSAC members at the book table. I am sure the authors present will be more than happy to sign them for you.

The Bookstore has also added three new books: *Trumpet Mediumship and its Development* by Clifford Bias; *Proof of Heaven* by Eben Alexander, M.D.; *Poems of Spirit* by Ella Wheeler Wilcox compiled by Patricia Price. (This one is so new it isn't in the catalogue yet.)

Unfortunately, the Central Spiritualist Church of Oklahoma in Oklahoma City, OK closed this year. Ms Juanita Oyer, getting on in age, decided to move closer to her family. With no one available to continue the work that she had built in the church, the building was sold.

The NSAC Board has approved re-entry into the NSAC of nine former NSAC members: Spiritualist chapel of the Pines in Auburn, California: Catherine Brimm. Summerland Spiritualist Church of the Comforter in Santa Barbara, California: Donna Lee, Sharon Tenney. Portland Spiritualist

Church in Westbrook, Maine: Marie Villanucci. Harrison D. Barrett Church in Bangor, Maine: Denise Webber. Golden Rule Spiritualist church in Charlevoix, Michigan: Alain Carr, Jennifer Carr, Gregory Crandall, Thomas Norris. It is a pleasure to welcome these returning members back into the NSAC. These auxiliaries have welcomed these returning members and I am confident they will make their new churches their homes.

The NSAC Executive Church currently has thirteen members with three new members having been added. New members of the NSAC Executive Church, Lily Dale, NY include: Rev. Raymond Jones–Wheeling, WV; Fred Anderson–Wheeling, WV., Mariechen Athanas–FL.

The NSAC Student Membership currently has four members with two new members having been added: Carolyn Clarke-Davis from Sarasota, Florida; Peter Briguglio from Williamstown, Massachusetts.

Student Membership and Executive Church Membership are considered on a case by case basis. These forms of membership are usually granted to those individuals seeking NSAC membership, but reside in areas where there are no NSAC auxiliaries.

Three Ordained NSAC Ministers have made their transition this year: The Rev. Donald Nauratil of CA; The Rev. Wayne Harvey of IL; The Rev. Judy Campbell-Clark of CA. Our thoughts and prayers are with them, their families and church families. They have blessed us all with their knowledge and teachings but most of all with their presence.

I also want to extend prayers and healing to everyone who has experienced a loss on a personal level this year. Those close to us have touched our hearts and will be greatly missed.

Three new Charters have been issued: Spiritualist Living Center in Phoenix, AZ; Church of Eternal Light in Milton, WA; New Beginning Spiritualist Church in Wonewoc, WI.

Two Charters were reissued: Summerland Church of the Comforter, Santa Barbara, CA, became Direct Charter to the NSAC. Church of Spiritual Life moved from Methuen, MA to Derry, NH.

There are churches that are forming and will be receiving charters

soon. It is very rewarding to issue new charters for our organization. We need to extend our presence to new areas. We need to touch people who are searching for the truth. After convention, the NSAC Board decides on the appointments for missionaries. If you are an Ordained Minister and wish to serve as a missionary, please contact me.

Currently 18 DeMarco Scholarships have been granted to NSAC members from 12 different churches located in 9 States. This tells me the information regarding the scholarship is reaching our members.

The NSAC Stow Family scholarship has been awarded to Syanne Hines this year. Her essay was in the September/October issue of TNS. This scholarship fulfills our obligation to the city of Summit, New Jersey in accordance with the Stow Family will.

Looking ahead: The NSAC was contacted regarding the possibility of creating a Spiritualism Religion badge for the Boy Scouts. Preliminary contact has been made and I will continue with that goal.

The Library/Archives Project has been working on organizing the NSAC Library and Archives at the Headquarters. I was contacted by IAPSOP, the International Association for the Preservation of Spiritualist and Occult Periodicals, in early April of this year. They wanted to visit the NSAC Library and possibly digitize some of our periodicals. A flyer is in your folder explaining what they do. After meeting a member of their organization and speaking with them on the phone – they are right this minute in Lily Dale, in the NSAC Library digitizing some of our periodicals with the goal of preserving Spiritualist information and making it available to everyone interested. They will digitize the information and put it on their website with a special heading for NSAC. Then they will donate the cameras and equipment for us to continue digitizing our Archives. They are also concerned with the preservation of the information, so they are donating humidifiers and possibly needed air conditioners for each of the rooms. One of my goals is to have the archives information on all of our auxiliaries available to you. This will give you access to the information we have on file of your churches. This history, this information needs to be preserved and available. IAPSOP will help us reach this goal. They are also extending their services to all auxiliaries in the NSAC. They have already worked with Del Lauderback from Golden Gate Spiritualist Church. Please contact them if you have rare books and/or periodicals that should be preserved.

To end my report, I want to thank you again for giving me the opportunity to serve you, the delegates, to serve members of our auxiliaries, to serve the National Spiritualist Association of Churches and to serve Spirit as your NSAC Secretary.

Respectfully submitted:
Micheline Corbin



Spiritualism Has So Much To Teach Us

KNOW! *The world needs the teachings of Spiritualism. . . . Spiritualism is a system of thought and knowledge. . . . The basic facts are the continuity of personality, and the power of communication after death.*

—Arthur Conan Doyle, *The History of Spiritualism*

CORRESPONDENCE AND CLASSROOM COURSES

Educational Course on Modern Spiritualism

Pastoral Skills Course

Continuing Education Courses

Spiritualist Medium • Commissioned Spiritualist Healer
Licentiate Minister • Ordained Minister • National Spiritualist Teacher

Visit our website *Books* page for a great selection of Spiritualist books

Check this out! Register now for 2016 Course.

Pastoral Skills Course: Building on the Foundation

Consider investing in the two-week MPI Pastoral Skills Course. What can you expect?

- ☑ Immersion experience of a focused time, set apart for learning
- ☑ Amiable classroom setting, one-on-one attention
- ☑ Camaraderie among like-minded, interested Spiritualist students
- ☑ Hands-on experience through role-playing of life-like, pastoral situations
- ☑ Knowledge that you can share with your church community
- ☑ Thrive spiritually as you learn
- ☑ Successfully completing the course prepares you for Spiritualist ministry
- ☑ The acquired knowledge is a personal investment in Spiritualism

East Aurora, NY, April 9-22 (register by February 5), Instructor Rev. Barbara Starr, NST
Lily Dale, NY, June 11-24 (register by April 8), Instructor Rev. Cosie Allen, NST
Milwaukee, WI, 2 parts, August 20-26, 2016 and February 11-17, 2017 (register by June 17),
Instructor Rev. Cosie Allen, NST



Morris Pratt Institute

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THE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION UPON WHICH SPIRITUALISM IS BUILT

National Spiritualist Association of Churches

Headquarters: 13 Cottage Row, P.O. Box 217, Lily Dale, NY 14752

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bunny11@earthlink.net 304-258-4861



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Department of Endowments - Rev. Rosemary Calderalo
320 Woodland Road, Pasadena, MD 21122

Department of Lyceums - Rev. Havivah Richards
6220 W. Ocotillo Road #101A, Glendale, AZ 85301

Department of Missionaries - Jennifer Neumann
Yosemite National Park, California

Department of Outreach - Rev. Kimberly Orlowski
P.O. Box 22, Wausaukee, WI 54177

Department of Phenomenal Evidence - Frank Kotowski, Jr.
1034 Fire Island Avenue, Bay Shore, NY 11706

Department of Public Relations - Susan Hazard
121 West Pueblo Street, #3 Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Department of Publications - Joe Owen
66 Corwin Street, #11, San Francisco, CA 94114

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Ministerial Association

Rev. Mary Beth LoVeccio, *President*
17825 N. 7th Street #44, Phoenix, AZ 85022
Rev. Sharon Watson, *Secretary-Treasurer*
522 SW 79th Terrace, Ocala, FL 34474

National Spiritualist Teachers Club

Rev. Sharon Watson, *President*
522 SW 79th Terrace, Ocala, FL 34474
Rev. Marguerite Gutt, *Secretary-Treasurer*
813 E. Evelyn Avenue, Hazel Park, MI 48030

Spiritualist Healers League

Rev. Havivah Richards, *President*
4337 N. 53rd Lane, Apt 254, Phoenix, AZ 85031
Rev. Sharon Watson, *Secretary-Treasurer*
522 SW 79th Terrace, Ocala, FL 34474

Licentiate Ministers & Certified Mediums Society

Rev. Janet Tisdale, *President*
3736 W. Wahalla Lane., Glendale, AZ 85308
Rev. Sharon Watson, *Secretary-Treasurer*
522 SW 79th Terrace, Ocala, FL 34474

Directory Listing Information & Fees:

Annual Fee:

Directory of Ministers & Certified Workers\$25

Directory of Churches\$25

Please provide listing updates as they are needed. Email: TNSsummit@earthlink.net



SPIRITUAL HEALING

The NSAC Healing Center

serving as a Beacon of Light to bring illumination to those in need.

Spiritual Healing, recognized in many ancient religions, has always been a part of Spiritualism. Today, evidence is growing in the medical community about the importance of spiritual healing. It is now accepted that the whole person needs treatment, not just the illness.

It is easy to send a request for healing prayers for yourself or another. You can send your request through the NSAC site at www.nsac.org by clicking on *Healing* and filling out a form. You can e-mail Vickyvjean@yahoo.com.

The NSAC Healing Center has a brochure that includes the Power of Prayer, How Spiritual Healing Works, How to Get Started and the NSAC Healing Prayer. If you are interested in forming a Healing Prayer Group, please contact me and I will forward information to you on how to get started. While there is no charge for this booklet, any donation that is received will help off-set the printing expenses and postage.

You can make a donation to the Healing Center in memory of someone and a letter can be sent to their family, acknowledging your donation.

We all know the power of prayer. Each day, when saying your prayers, please include the names on the NSAC healing list.

Thank you and Healing Blessings,
Rev. Vicky Homann, NST

— Prayer for Spiritual Healing —

*I ask the great Unseen Healing Force to remove
all obstructions from my mind and body
and to restore me to perfect health.*

*I ask this in all sincerity and honesty
and I will do my part.*

*I ask this great Unseen Healing Force to help both
present and absent ones who are in need of help
and to restore them to perfect health.*

I put my trust in the love and power of God.

SPIRITUAL HEALING REQUEST

(PLEASE PRINT)

Healing Need For _____

***Please send Healing Brochure to:**

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

***Please send information on "How to form a Spiritual Healing Prayer Group" to:**

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

***Please make Love Donation out to the NSAC Healing Center:**

Healing Center Director: Rev. Vicky Homann, NST
2856 La Casita Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89120

DIRECTORY OF NSAC MINISTERS MEDIUMS & HEALERS

Qualifications Certified by NSAC . Advance appointments recommended. (See NSAC current Year Book for complete listing.)

• ARIZONA •

GLENDAL

TISDALE, Rev. Janet, NST, Medium, Comm. Healer, private consultation by appointment only; Church addr.: 3736 W. Wahalla Ln., 85308 - (480)510-2581; jtizzy@aol.com

PHOENIX

COOK, Rev. Dr. Sandra, NST, Certified Medium, Comm. Healer, Classes on line, or by appointment, Readings by appt. at (623)277-8408; Readings online at revsandic@msn.com; Phone (623)277-8408; 4337 N. 53rd Lane #254, 85031

RICHARDS, Rev. Havivah, NST, Certified Medium, 4337 N. 53rd Lane, Apt 254; 85031 - revhaviness@gmail.com Cell (623)302-1196.

TURNER, Rev. Norma J. NST, 3019 W. Morrow Dr. 85027; Spiritualist Living Ctr, (623)869-0587; Cell: (623)980-6262; njturner@earthlink.net; web: spiritualist livingcenter.com.

• CALIFORNIA •

AUBURN

KILLMER, Rev. June E., NST, 1635 Old Hart Ranch Rd., Roseville; 95661 - (916)783-3546; junekillmer@surewest.net

SAN FRANCISCO

SORIA, Rev. Elsie Ann, NST; Healing, teaching, Spiritual direction. 370 F St. #309. Colma, CA 94014. email: 4Kateri@gmail.com; (650)922-4389.

SAN FRANCISCO

EHRHART, Rev. James Stewart, NST, Certified Medium, Comm. Healer; classes/workshops, private consultations, lectures, 66 Corwin St., 94114 - (415)621-2223; jimehrhart@earthlink.net

SANTA BARBARA

BOLLINGER, Pamela, Certified Medium; pjobollinger@gmail.com; (805)965-4474.

LAUDERBACK, Del, Ordained Minister, Comm. Healer, Golden Gate Spiritualist Church, San Francisco, Home address: 126 Camelia Dr., Daly City, 94015; (650)757-6653; dlaudback7@aol.com; Healing & Ministerial svcs.

WINNETKA

ESLICK, Rev. Maureen E., CM; Classes, spiritual counseling, revmaureeneslick@yahoo.com; 818-219-4509.

• CONNECTICUT •

NORWICH

RANDALL, Rev. Jacquelyn, NST, Pastor of National Spiritualist Church of Norwich; Lectures, classes, ministerial services, and private consultations; (860)887-0068; cincyada@aol.com

• DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA •

WASHINGTON, D.C.

ABAZA, Rev. Awilda Gonzalez. NST, Certified Medium, Comm. Healer; Phone consultations, Spiritual guidance; (202)309-3960; spiritsageawilda@gmail.com; Web: spirit-sage.com; Hablo Espanol.

• FLORIDA •

CASSELBERRY

LERCH, Rev. Jeannie Kerr, NST, Certified Medium, Comm. Healer, classes, seminars, private consultations, 335 Piney Ridge Rd, 32707 (407)834-5378 cell:(407)719-9790, spirit-knowledge@aol.com

OCALA

HAGER, Rev. Elaine S., NST, Certified Medium, Comm. Healer, classes, seminars, private consultations, 9 Wood Ridge Dr., 34482-6683 (352)873-1951; revelaine@cfl.rr.com

WATSON, Rev. Sharon A., NST, Certified Medium, Comm. Healer, classes, seminars, private consultations, 522 SW 79th Terr. Ocala, 34474; (352)286-6687, sawatson@cfl.rr.com

ORLANDO

OTZELBERGER, Rev. E. Ann, Pastor, New Vision Spiritualist Ctr, NST, Ch, Cm., Private readings, telephone readings, private classes, seminars, lectures, all ministerial svcs; (407)826-0807 or reveao@yahoo.com

SANFORD

AWTRY, Rev. Marilyn J., NST. Medium, Missionary Ministerial Svcs: Grief Counseling, Wedding, Memorials. NST: Seminars, Classes, Oratory, Private Consultations. mjawtry333@gmail.com; 407-687-6207. marilynawtry.com

SARASOTA

VOGT, Rev. Drew L., NSAC Certified Medium, Workshops, Classes, Lectures, Readings, Counseling, 425 S. Euclid Ave. 34237. 941-724-5556. DrewVogt.org. Email: DrewVogtDiscovers@gmail.com

WEEKI WACHEE

ROTTINO, Rev. Kathleen L., NST, Certified Medium, Comm. Healer, Private Consultation, Classes, Lectures, Seminars, Weddings, Funerals, Memorials, Ceremonies; 7288 Blackbird Ave., 34613 (860)642-7976, k.rottino@tampabay.rr.com

• ILLINOIS •

CHICAGO

COVERSON, Rev. Marrice, NST, Certified Medium; Private consultations by appt. only, seminars, 5341 S. Cornell, 60615 - (773)493-1967; spiritssps@aol.com

HEYWARD, Rev. Florence, Comm. Healer, Certified Medium; Pastor, Spiritualist Church of Truth, 6343 W. Cuyler, (708)452-8754

WILLIAMS, Rev. Arsenia J., NST, Certified Medium; Private Consultations by Appt. only. Available for Workshops on Lyceum, Philosophy and Religion of Spiritualism; 10913 S. Pamell Ave. 60628; (773)995-1911.

CHERRY VALLEY

BOESEN, Rev. Marian NST; Certified Medium; Private Consultations by appt. only. Classes, Seminars, Workshops. PO Box 826, Rock Falls, IL 61071. (815)626-5788. Email: marianb1942@gmail.com.

• INDIANA •

INDIANAPOLIS

DARBY, Rev. Bonnie, NST, Certified Medium; The Spiritualist Church of Indianapolis; 317-850-3142; Spiritualism.My.Way.of.Life@gmail.com.

BIANCHI Rev's Robert & Sharon, Certified Mediums & National Spiritualist Teachers, 3109 Rivershore Place, IN 46208; Robert: 317-428-8740, Sharon: 317-945-8437, reverendbob@direct2spirit.com; sharonbianchi2002@yahoo.com

• IOWA •

DAVENPORT

BUCHHOLZ, Rev. William E., Certified Medium, 806 E. Thirteenth St., 52803-4240 - (563)326-3201; wbuchholz@q.com

• MAINE •

HARTFORD

FROBESE, Rev. Stephanie, NST, 546 Town Farm Rd., 04220-5115 (207)388-3436

LEWISTON

SABINE, Rev. Catherine, MEd, NST, Commission Healer, 28 Champlaine Ave. Lewiston, ME 04240. crsabine@gmail.com.

PORTLAND

CARTER, Rev. Elizabeth, Certified Medium, Comm. Healer, 15 Regan Lane, 04103-2047, (207)797-2039; 2007spiritualist@peoplepc.com

RAYMOND

CONNOLLY, Rev. Graham LS, Certified Medium, Comm. Healer, NST, 66 Martin Heights, 04071 (207)655-6673; goconnol1@maine.rr.com

SEARSPORT

PERKINS, Laura Lee, CM (Private Readings, Message Circles, Classes, Speaker) and Ken Green, CH - PO Box 37, 04974; (207)567-3183; spiritualquest@fairpoint.net

• MARYLAND •

BETHESDA

RILEY, Kathleen S., LM; PO Box 629, Glen Echo, MD 20812-0629; (202)321-1063; ministerkath@gmail.com; Keep Calm & Spirit On!

SILVER SPRING

MORNING STAR, Rev. Konstanza, NST, Certified Medium, readings, telephone & Skype readings, séances, workshops, teleclasses & development circles. Tel: (240)543-9414; Website: silverspringoflight.com

PASADENA

CALDERALO, Rev. Rosemary, NST. Certified Medium, Comm. Healer; Rosemarycalderalo@gmail.com; (203) 536-6620; 833 Riverside Dr. MD 21122.

• MASSACHUSETTS •

REHOBOTH

CRAIG, Rev. Patricia A.; Certified Healer & Medium. Email: evroty@aol.com.

• MINNESOTA •

ROCHESTER

YOUNG, Rev. Joyce E., NST, Cert. Medium, Comm. Healer, 4814 115 Ave. NW, Byron, 55920 (507)775-6358; jeyoung2@frontier.com

YOUNG, Rev. John E., NST, Cert. Medium, Comm. Healer, 4814 115 Ave. NW, Byron, 55920 (507)775-6358; jeyoung2@frontier.com

ST PAUL

LEDUC, Rev. Joan, LM; Spiritual Science Church of St. Paul; (651)699-4858; Cell: (651)225-4609

• MISSOURI •

ST. LOUIS

FOLSOM, Rev. Kevin, Fifth Spiritualist Church; Email: FolsomKevin@yahoo.com; phone 636-377-2109.

BOUCH, Rev. Rosemary; Fifth Spiritualist Church; phone: 314-353-4779.

• MONTANNA •

KALISPELL

KLEINSCHMIDT, Rev. Charlene, NST Certified Medium; Albert, certified Medium, Comm. Healer; 172 Wilson Heights Rd. 59901; charlenekleinschmidt1@gmail.com; 406-257-4668.

• NEW YORK •

LILY DALE

BARLOW, Rev. Joyce C., NST, Certified Medium; 5 Cleveland Ave., Box 142, 14752; (716)595-2755; joyce-barlow@sbcglobal.net

CLARK, Gretchen, Certified Medium; email: info@gretchenclark.com; P.O. Box 120, 14752; (716)595-3380

PIROG, Cyndi, Certified Medium, email: cpirog59@gmail.com, web: CyndiPirog.com; PO Box 113, 14752; (716)361-6959.

• OHIO •

DAYTON

MONTGOMERY, Rev. Frances D., 742 Watervliet Ave., 45420; (937)252-3299; fdm742@sbcglobal.net

• PENNSYLVANIA •

MUNHALL

O'HARE, Rev. Carol, NST, 3703 Wayne Rd., 15120-3068 - (412)398-7303; carolthenst@verizon.net

• VIRGINIA •

ALEXANDRIA

KRITHADES, Rev. Christine, J.D., NST, P.O. Box 7071,
22307 - (703)317-1707; ckckck@verizon.net

FALLS CHURCH

O'HARA, Rev. Deirdre; 3101 Worthington Cir. 22044; 703-
241-2529; DOA501@cox.net

PORTSMOUTH

CUTLER, Rev. Lelia E., NST, 109 Tyler Crescent E., 23707;
(757)397-2868

VIENNA

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Besley Rd., 22182 - (703)938-2512

VIENNA

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2821. Finder912@earthlink.net

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KIEFFER Rev. Delilah A, 8201 Sixth Ave. Narrows Glen,
Tacoma, WA 98406; (253)209-5224.

• CANADA •

MONTREAL, QUEBEC

ROSSNER, Rev. Dr. Marilyn, Ph.D., Pres./Pastor, Spiritual
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Jan/Feb 2016

My Story & You

*This is my story loud and clear
God has shown me he is here.*

*I need not fret or fall in the stew
Because the Angel World will guide me thru.*

*What a pleasure it is to know
I'm in the right place to grow.*

*This story of mine is not unique
You too can live on this same street.*

*So get a grip as you journey on
It is a fact we all belong.*

*My story can enter inside of you
You will find this beauty is all true.*

*Going within an understanding more
Is how to open each spiritual door.*

*That's my story and what I portray
This spiritual wealth is my forte.*

By Rev. Loll Washburn

DIRECTORY OF NSAC CHARTERED CHURCHES & AUXILIARIES

• ARIZONA •

GLENDALE • Church of the Living Spirit • 3736 W. Wahalla Lane, Glendale, AZ 85308; Mailing address: 9106 W. Willow Haven Court, Sun City, 85351; Pastor Rev. Janet Tisdale, NST, (623)972-3916; Sun. Svc 10:30am.; www.churchofthelivingspirit.com

PHOENIX • Spiritualist Living Center • Two locations for services: Saturdays 10am at 14465 RH Johnson Blvd, Palo Verde Rm. Sun City West. Assistant Pastor: Maggie Simpson. And, Sundays 10am at 148 N. Center in Mesa. (Back entrance of SW Herb Shop & Gathering Place. Assistant Pastor: John Cain. Phone: 602-510-2326. Mail: 16845 no. 29th Ave. #525, Phoenix, 85053. Pres: Ann Yedger; Qantas523@aol.com. Church email: info@spiritualistlivingcenter.com. Web: spiritualistlivingcenter.com

• CALIFORNIA •

CALIFORNIA STATE SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION • Pres. Rev. Maureen Eslick, (818) 219-4509 Sec: Susan Hazard; (805)618-0354; cssasecretary@yahoo.com. Mail to: 121 West Pueblo, #3. Santa Barbara, CA 93105.

AUBURN • Circle of Love Spiritualist Community • 884 Lincoln Way, #30, 95603; Sun. Service 10am; All Message Service Thursdays 7pm.; For class schedule contact Pastor, Rev. June E. Killmer, NST; JuneKillmer@surewest.net; (916)783-3546 Pres. Katrina Thompson; Secy: Marti Carr. Visit: circleoflovespiritualistcommunity.org.

AUBURN • The Spiritualist Chapel of the Pines • 457 Grass Valley Hwy.#7, 95603; Sun. Service 10am.; Rev. George Brenner, Pastor Emeritus; All Message Svc Fri. 7pm; Pres. Al Freitag, afreitag@pacbell.net; Int.Sec. Terri Freitag; spiritualistchapelofthepines.com

SAN FRANCISCO • First Spiritual Temple • Svc: 2nd & 4th Sundays, 10am; 33 Banbury St., 94132. Classes. Healing at svc & privately by appt. Rev. Elsie Ann Soria, NST, Pastor. Pres: Ben Santiago; email: 4kateri@gmail.com. (650)731-4490 or cell (650)922-4389. mail: 370 F Street, #309, Colma, 94014. Rev. Alfred A. Conner, NST, Pastor Emeritus.

MONROVIA • The Spiritualist Church of Revelation • 200 W. Colorado Blvd., 91016; Sun. Service 11:00 a.m.; Pastor/Pres. Martin Pina, church phone (626)256-3403 secretaryscor@yahoo.com; call for class info.

SACRAMENTO • Central Spiritualist Church • 2500 Marconi Avenue Suite 209 95821; Sun. Service 10am: Classes (see website) Healing all Message Svc, last Sunday of the month at 10am. Pres. Paul E. Cook, paulecook@gmail.com; Rev. Sandra Dawson, NST (916)652-4568 / sgdawson91@gmail.com; Sec./Treas: Denise Bell, denisebellde@yahoo.com;

SAN FRANCISCO • Golden Gate Spiritualist Church • 1901 Franklin St. (corner of Clay) 94109-3414; (650)757-6653; ggspiritualistchurch.org; Services: Sun. 9:30 Lyceum (classes) 9:30am thru mid-May; Healing 10:30; Devotional Svc 11am; Wed. Healing 7pm, Devotional Svc 7:30; Classes available. Rev. Del Lauderback, Pastor; Rev. James Ehrhart, Assoc. Pastor.

SANTA BARBARA • Summerland Spiritualist Church of The Comforter • 1028 Garden St., 93101; (805)965-4474; Pamela Bollinger, CM (Acting Pastor) Sun. Healing svc. 10:30am., Sun Svc 11am; Unfoldment Class 1:15-3:15pm. Spiritualistchurch.newsletter@gmail.com

• CONNECTICUT •

Connecticut State Spiritualist Association • Pres. Verline Eldridge, 110 Pukallas Ave. A1-15, Norwich, 06360; Sec. Rev. Jackie Randall, 60 Ward St., Norwich, 06360 / cincyda@aol.com; Mailing address: 29 Park St., Norwich 06360.

GROTON • The Spiritualist Church of Peace & Light • 15 Thames St. 06340; Sun Svc 10:30am; Mail to: 70 Dell Ave. #B5, New London, CT 06320. Visit: www.scepeacelight.net. Press. Rev. Lynn Gaffin; heart_860@yahoo.com.

NEWINGTON • The Church of the Infinite Spirit • Pastor Allen Noddin, 80 Walsh Ave., 06111; 2nd & 4th Sun. each month; Adult Lyceum 9:15am-10:15am, Svcs 10:30am-12pm. Pres. Corrine Fournier; corfor3@yahoo.com; 860-646-5976; visit: newingtonspiritualistchurch.org;

NIANTIC - Ladies Aid Society, Inc., Pine Grove Spiritualist Camp • 34 South Pine St. Niantic, CT; 860-739-2157. Open June thru Aug. Pres: Maureen Caswell; Sec: Karen Ellis. visit: pinegrovespiritualistcamp.net. PO Box 405.

NEW LONDON - New London Spiritualist Church • Sleep Inn, 5 King Arthur Dr., Sun. Svc 10:30am-noon; 860-447-3498. Pres: David Foulkes; Sec: Katie Beecher; Mail: 14 Birch St. Waterford, 06385; www.nlspiritualist.com

NORWICH - National Spiritualist Church of Norwich, Inc. • 29 Park St. (off Main St.), 06360, (860)886-8522; Sun. Service 10:30am - noon, coffee & fellowship; Pres. Mark Gagne; Sec. Verline Eldridge. FMI call church Pastor, Rev. Jacquelyn Randall (860)887-0068 / www.nscnorwich.net

OLD GREENWICH - Albertson Memorial Church Of Spiritualism • 293 Sound Beach Ave., 06870; (203)637-4615; Pres. Alison Van Dyk; Sec. Leslie Schor; Sun. Service 11am., visit: www.albertsonchurch.org.

WILLIMANTIC - The First Spiritualist Church of Willimantic • 268 High St., 06226, (860)423-5774; Sun. Service 10:30am. Sept.- May; service 2x monthly June - Aug. Visit: www.firstspiritualistchurch.org.

• DELAWARE •

NEWARK • Spiritualist Church of Harmony and Light, NSAC • 125 Rickey Blvd. PO BOX 31, Bear, DE 19701; Pres: Bryan Ross; Sec: Christina Ross. (302) 729-8246. harmonylightde@gmail.com; visit: facebook.com/despiritualists

• DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA •

WASHINGTON • The Church of Two Worlds, NSAC • 3038 Q St., NW, 20007-3080; (202)333-5114; Sun. Healing 2pm, Svc 2:30pm; Message & Meditation classes; Pres. Michael Gallion, LM, (202)237-7659; Sec. Maria J. Wolf; Treas. James A. Longmore (301)739-8227.

• FLORIDA •

ORLANDO • New Vision Spiritualist Center, NSAC, Inc. • spiritualistchurchorlando.com, meets at 1700 Edgewater Dr.; Sun. 1:30; Healing, Sermon, Messages at all services; Children Lyceum Dir. Fionnula Davis-Patton; Classes by Pastor Rev. E. Ann Otzelberger, NST, 4332 Woodylyne Ln, Orlando FL 32812; (407)826-0807 reveao@yahoo.com; Pres. William Patridge; Rev. Ann Otzelberger, 4332 Woodylyne Ln., Orlando 32812.

ORLANDO • Spiritualist Church of Awareness, NSAC • 3210 N. Chickasaw Trail; Mail: P.O. Box 4010, Winter Park, FL 32792, (407)678- 3688; spiritualistchurchofawareness.org / news@myscoa.org; Sun. healing 10:30 a.m., service/messages 11:00 a.m.; Wed. healing 7:30 p.m.service/messages 8:00 p.m.; Rev. Jeannie Kerr Lerch; Pres. Annette Brown, (407)690-1743; Sec Chris Jackson: 407-399-3450.

• ILLINOIS •

Illinois State Spiritualist Association of Churches • Pres. Rev Arsenia Williams, NST (773)995-1911 arsenia9325@hotmail.com; Sec: Betty Frazier 773-324-5225.

BURNHAM • Puritan Spiritualist Church • 13906 Greenbay Ave., 60633-1614; (219)926-6884.

CHERRY VALLEY - Cherry Valley Spiritualist Camp, Inc. 8002 Service Rd; 61016; (815)332-5359. Visit us at CVSC.me, or on Facebook. Email: cherryvalleysc@frontier.com. 9:30am Lyceum; 10:30am Healing Meditation; 11am Worship Svc., Messages & Pot Luck every Sunday after svc.

CHICAGO • The Church of The Spirit • 2651 N. Central Park Ave., 60647-1101, (773)489-5422; Chicago's Oldest Spiritualist Church; Sun. Family Worship: Healing, 10:00 a.m., Worship Svc, 10:30am.; All Message Service, 1st Wed., 7pm.; Call for current Development & Educational class schedule; Pastor Rev. Marrice Coverson; Sec. Nyarai Paweni

CHICAGO - Spiritualist Church of Truth • 6343 West Cuyler (1/2 block north of Irving Pk.)60634; Service 2:45pm., Healing, Lecture, Messages every Sun.; Pastor & Pres. Rev. Florence Heyward; Sec. Judith Galar, 4050 N. Oriole Ave., Norridge, 60706-1117, (708)452-8754.

CHICAGO • Tucker Smith Washington Spiritualist Temple • 6146 S. Ashland Ave., 60636, (773)436-5076; Sun. Healing 11-11:20am., Worship 11:30 -1pm; Pastor Joseph Guice, LM; Asst. Pastor Rev. Arsenia Williams, NST; Msgs at all services; Private messages rev.arsenia@yahoo.com.

LEROY • J. T. & E. J. Crumbaugh Spiritualist Church • 102 S. Pearl St., PO box 174, IL, 61752; 309-962-9076 Lyceum 11am; Church svc: 12pm; Fellowship after svc. Pastor Rev. Robert Bianchi, NST, Sec: Theresa Ciardini. visit crumbaughchurch.com; email: reverend-bob@direct2spirit.com or crumbaughchurch@live.com. Facebook: JT & EJ Crumbaugh Memorial Spiritualist Church, NSAC.

• INDIANA •

GARY • First Spiritualist Church, Inc., NSAC • 2430 W. 11th Ave.; Service Sun. 3 p.m.; Pastor & Pres. Rev. Jesse James, Jr.,1301 Pennsylvania St., 46407.

INDIANAPOLIS • The Spiritualist Church of Indianapolis All Ages Welcome Sun. Healing, Devotional Services & Messages 6:30-8PM: 3020 S. Meridian St., Ste E&F, 46217-3221. Adult Mediumship Unfoldment & Lyceum Classes every Tues, 6:30-8pm. FMI call Pastor Bonnie Darby (317) 850-3142 or visit <http://www.tscoi.org/> <https://facebook.com/http://tscoi.tumblr.com/>

INDIANAPOLIS • New Dawn Spirit of Light Church, Inc., NSAC • 3637 W. 10th St., 46222; Mail: 6707 Heritage Hill Dr., 46237; Sun. Serv: Healing 11am., Devotional & message svc 11:30am; all message svc & carry in dinner every 5th Sun; Classes Thurs 6:30; Pastor & Pres. Rev Mildred Schlagel. 317-291-0799, mildred8355@att.net; Sec. Marilyn Smith: 317-291-9550; visit: newdawnchurchindy.org

• MAINE •

MAINE STATE SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES • Pres. Rev. Graham Connolly, 66 Martin Heights, Raymond ME. 04071. 207-655-6673; Sec. Rev. Betty Simpson, 715 Newburgh Rd. Hermon, ME 04401. 207-848-2273; Treas. Janice Nelson-Kroesser, 46 Homestead Rd. Washington, ME 04574-3620. 207-845-2885. www.mainespiritualism.com

AUGUSTA - Augusta Spiritualist Church • 113 Townsend Rd, Augusta, 04330; Pastor Rev. Nancy Parry, (207)458-6141; Pres. Rev. Pat Pallace, (207)582-6745.

BANGOR - The Harrison D. Barrett Spiritualist Church • 15 State St., Sun. Serv. 10:30 am; Secy., Betty Simpson, 715 Newburgh Rd., Hermon, ME. 04401, (207) 848-2273, <http://www.hdbspiritualistchurch.org>. Gallery Readings second Friday every month at 7pm. Co-pastors: Rev. Patty Palmer, NST & Rev. Betty Simpson, NST.

HARTFORD - Pinpoint of Light Spiritualist Camp – Season is from June - October, Mail: 546 Town Farm Rd., 04220. Email: pinpointoflight@live.com; Web: pinpointoflight.org; (207)515-1016; Pres: Robert Foster. Sec: Rev. Stephanie Frobese.

MADISON - Madison Spiritualist Camp • Located at historic Lakewood Theater Village off Beach Rd., Rt. 201, 6 miles N. of Skowhegan. Season: July & Aug.; Camp ph:(207)474-0124; Pres. Rev. Beth Carter (207)797-2039; Sec. Mike Carter (207)797-2039; For program information & events, visit madisoncamp.org; find us on facebook, or email: info@madisoncamp.org

NORTHPORT - Temple Heights Spiritual Camp • 4 Park ST., 04849; June 25–Sept 10, 2016; Private Readings 9-4pm daily; Healing 9-4pm S&S, Workshops, Circles, message & table tipping W/F/Sat. at 7pm.; Church svc: Sun at 10:30am & Ths 7pm.; Camp: (207)338-3029; www.templeheightscamp.org; Pres. Jean Bower (207) 338-1355. Sec: Mandy Everett (207)462-0268.

NORTHPORT - Temple Heights Spiritualist Church • Sun Svc 10:30am, May 1-Oct 31 Meets at THSC, 4 Park St. (TH); Nov 1 to April 30, we meet at Excelsior Lodge, 57 Cove Rd., Northport; Pres. Jean Bower (207)338-1355, Sec. Diana Kimball (207)338-6275.

PORTLAND - Portland Spiritualist Church • Mailing addr: PO Box 6551, Portland ME 04102; Sun. Svc 6:30pm.; Fri. Class 7:30pm; Meetings at 17 Dunn St, Westbrook; (207)797-2039; info@portlandspiritualistchurch.org; Pastor Rev. Beth Carter, 2007spiritualist@peoplepc.com; Pres: Mike Carter: retrac55@peoplepc.com. portlandspiritualistchurch.org

SABATTUS - Spiritualist Church of Eternal Life • 352 Crowley Rd Sabattus, Maine; Pres. Rev. Catherine Sabine (207)376-5318. crsabine@gmail.com

• MASSACHUSETTS •

CHICOPEE - Healing Hands of Light Spiritualist Church • 465 Granby Rd. MA 01013; Worship Svs 10:30am. Sundays after Labor Day thru June; Ph(413)592-0300; Rev. John F. Sullivan, Sec: Denise St Pierre, PO Box 392, Worthington, MA 01098; or dstpierre7@verizon.net. Visit: healinghandsoflightspch.com

ONSET - On-I-Set Wigwam Spiritualist Camp • P.O. Box 1556, 02558; Summer schedule www.onisetwigwam.com / info@onisetwigwam.com

REHOBOTH - First Spiritualist Church of Brockton, Inc., NSAC • Services 10:00 a.m. Sun. at Anawan Grange Bldg., junction Rts. 44 & 118; Mail: P.O. Box 145, 02769, firstspiritualistchurch.com

SALEM - First Spiritualist Church of Salem • 34 Warren St., 01970; Sun. Early Service 5:30-6pm.; Lunch break 6-6:30pm., Healing & Evening Service 6:30-8pm.; Telephone for weather cancellations, (978)745-2098; Church season is Sun. after Labor Day - June; Pres. Pat Cizewski, (617)745-9840; Sec. Janice Kaplan, 21 Buttonwood Lane, Peabody, 01960 - (978)532-2044; www.firstspiritualistsalem.org

• MICHIGAN •

CHARLEVOIX - Northern Lake Michigan Spiritualist Camp • 07444 Old U.S. 31N. 49720; Sec. Janet Norris; secretary4nlmsc-grsc@hotmail.com; Open July 1st thru Aug 31st; Sunday svcs 10:30am. Wed Svcs at 7:30pm followed by bonfire fellowship time.

CHARLEVOIX - Golden Rule Spiritualist Church • 07444 Old U.S. 31N. 49720; Sec. Janet Norris; secretary4nlmsc-grsc@hotmail.com; Open in Spring. (dates vary according to weather) Closed for Winter. Sun. services 10:30am with fellowship immediately following svc.

FERNDAL - First Spiritualist Temple of Detroit • 2724 Goodrich, 48220; Mailing Address: 321 Spencer, 48220-3544; Sat. Service/Lyceum 6:30 p.m.; Sec. Dianne L. Smith, (248)545-5680.

JACKSON - Michigan State Spiritualist Association of Churches • 2540 Norwood Rd, 49203; Sec. Rebecca Strauss; rstrauss52@yahoo.com

LESLIE - Flower Memorial Spiritualist Church • 430 Bellevue St., 49251; Sun. Service 10:45 a.m.; Summer: June 1-Sept 7 at 10am. Co-Pastors Penny Adams (517)392-7210, & Jinki Boyer (517)512-2091 / jboyergoodwin@yahoo.com.

ROYAL OAK - First Spiritual Temple • 3224 Greenfield Rd. (1 1/2 blocks S. of 13 Mile), 48073-6534; Sun. Service 10am; Pastor Rev. Marguerite Gutt, NST, (248)548-2240; firstspiritualtempleofroyaloak.com.

SOUTH BRANCH - Chain Lakes Spiritualist Camp • 8000 Chain Lakes Rd., 48761; Sec. Mitchelene Weichner, 8004 Chain Lakes Rd., 48761; (989)257-2106.

• MINNESOTA •

ROCHESTER - Third Spirit of Life Spiritualist Church • 4814 115 Ave. NW, Byron, MN, 55920. Svcs 3rd Mon. of month, 7pm; Pastors Rev. Joyce E Young, NST and Rev. John E Young, NST. Sec (507)775-6358.

ST. PAUL - Spiritual Science Church of St. Paul • Pres./Speaker/Pastor: Rev. Joan LeDuc; 2169 Scheffer Ave., St. Paul, MN 55116-1255; Church ph: (651)225-4609.

• MISSOURI •

ST. LOUIS - Fifth Spiritualist Church of St. Louis • 6026 S. Kingshighway Blvd., 63109-3558; Sun. Service 10:30 a.m.; Healing, Meditation & Message, 1st Wed. of month 7pm.; Pastor Marilyn Kalna, (314)707-3934; Pres. Kevin Folsom, 636-377-2109; 5thspiritstl.com

• NEBRASKA •

OMAHA - Spiritual Science & Philosophy Church, NSAC • 321 Hascall St., 68108-2121; Sun. Service 11:00 a.m. and Philosophy Class – Noon when scheduled; Pastor/Sec. Alace Jayne Fanslau, 321 Hascall St., 68108-2121, (402)345-0101.

• NEVADA •

LAS VEGAS - Spiritualist Desert Church, NSAC • 3305 Spring Mountain Rd., Suite 51, 89102, (702)876-8783 (message line only), spiritualistdesertchurchIV.com; spiritualistdesertchurch@yahoo.com; Service Sun. 11am. & 6:30pm., Thu. 6:30pm. Healing/Meditation Svc, Development Circle follows. Vicky Homann, Pastor (702)234-1147.

RENO/Sparks - Spiritualist Society of Reno • Meeting place: Larry D. Johnson Community Center, 1200 12th Street, Sparks, NV 89431, (775) 323-1114. Sunday meetings include a talk, guided meditation, spirit healing and spirit greetings: 11am; President, Jannet Caywood; SpiritualistSocietyofReno.org; [FaceBook.com/SpiritualistSocietyofReno](https://www.facebook.com/SpiritualistSocietyofReno). Address: Sec. Rev. Lisa Butler, 3415 Socrates Dr., Reno, NV 89512, tomalisa2@aol.com

• NEW HAMPSHIRE •

DERRY - The Church of Spiritual Life, NSAC • 58 East Broadway (Masonic Temple) NH 03038; Sun. Service 10:30 a.m.; All Mail to: PO Box 115, Methuen, MA 01844; Visit: churchspirituallifenh.org

• NEW JERSEY •

WESTVILLE - Church of Eternal Life • 243 W. Olive St., 08093; Sun. Healing, Worship & Msg Svc 11am; (856)456-2196. thechurchofeternallife.org.

WENONAH - Stow Memorial Foundation • Muriel De Young, 305 Carnegie Ave., Wenonah.

• NEW YORK •

EAST AURORA - First Spiritualist Temple • 29 Temple Pl., P.O. Box 465, 14052, (716)652-5018, www.firstspiritualisttemple.com; Email: FSTofEastAurora@gmail.com. Sun. Healing Svc 10:30am.; Lecture & Msg Svc 11am.; Social Hour 12:15pm.; Dinner Day 3rd Sun. of month;

LILY DALE - Lily Dale Assembly • 5 Melrose Park, 14752, (716)595-8721, Fax (716)595-2442; Ofc Hrs, Sept -June: M-F 10am-2pm; June-Aug: M-F 9am-4pm, Sat. 9am-noon, closed Sun; Camp Season: Last Friday in June to day before Labor Day; Pres: Donn Smeragliuolo; Sec: T. Lynne Forget; lilydaleassembly.com / lilydaleassembly@netsync.net

LILY DALE - Lily Dale Spiritualist Church • East St. Healing Temple, P.O. Box 1128, 14752-1128, (716)595-3971; Sun. Worship svc 10:30am.; Healing during svc. Worship, Healing & Message Svc each Wed. 7:30pm. Sept–June; www.lilydalespiritualistchurch.org; Sec. Lynn Forget. Pres: Carol Gasber.

LONG ISLAND - A Sanctuary of Infinite Spirit, Inc., NSAC • Mon. Services: Healing 7:00-7:15 p.m.; Service, 7:15-8:00 p.m.; 5000 Expressway Drive South, Holbrook, NY; Wed. Class: Ways of Mastery/Healing and Mediumship Dev. 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Pastor Rev. Patricia Anne Duffield, NST, (631)588-5869; Mail: 10 Ackerly Lane, Lake Ronkonkoma, 11779; kenpatduff@hotmail.com / www.asanctuaryofinfinitepirit_NSAC.com

LONG ISLAND - New Horizon Spiritualist Church, NSAC • Sun. Healing & Worship Service 10:00 a.m.; 1580 Round Swamp Rd., Plain view, (Homewood Suites Hotel); Contact: Mary Ann Clancy, (516)792-5919.

LONG ISLAND - Summerland Church of Light, NSAC • Sunday Silent Meditation 10 a.m.; Healing/Worship Service 10:15 a.m. at 120 Plant Ave., Hauppauge; Mail: P.O. Box 5209, Hauppauge, NY 11788-5209; Sec. Valerie Miller, (631)406-4161; Summerlandchurchoflight.org

LONG ISLAND - Temple of Metaphysical Science, NSAC • Sun. Service Healing and Worship 11:00 a.m.; Pastor Rev. Hugo Ruiz, NST; Terry Difiore-Wachtel, Sect; 12 Baker St. Mailing address: P.O. Box 453, Patchogue, 11772, (800)316-1231; TMS-Li.org

• **OHIO** •

DAYTON - Spiritual Life Center, NSAC • 609 Watervliet Ave., 45420-2544, Rev. Frances D. Montgomery, (937)252-3299; fdm742@sbcglobal.net; Visit: sunflowerchapel.org

• **PENNSYLVANIA** •

PITTSBURGH - First Spiritualist Church • (Formerly of McKeesport) Svcs at Mallenwood Manor, 1318 Singer Place, Wilkinsburg, PA; Sundays 11am-1pm; Healing, Lesson, Messages. Tues: Home Circles; Thurs: Mediumship class 7-9pm; Pastors: Rev. Michele Saling, OM, MA JD & Rev. Carol O'Hare, NST. (412)672-1272, fax(412)291-2777; web: 1stspiritualistchurch.org. Facebook.com/PittsburghSpiritualistChurch.

PHILADELPHIA - Celestial Spiritualist Church • 421 N. Preson St. (215)519-0861; Sun. Svc 2pm; Healing, Lecture, Messages; Wed Eve all-message svc 7:30pm; Pastor Rev. Betty J. Hutt.

• **TEXAS** •

AUSTIN - First Spiritualist Church of Austin • 4200 Ave "D" - Austin, TX 78751-3719, (512)458-3987; Devotional, Healing & Message service Sunday 10:00 a.m.; Pres. Wanda Garcia; Sec. Sonia Dela Torre.

HOUSTON - First Spiritualist Church of Houston, NSAC • 2115 Turner Dr., 77093; Sun. Service 10:30am.; Unfoldment classes Wed. 7:30pm & Fri. 8pm; Pres. Liana V. Liles; lianaliles@gmail.com; Priv. readings by appt., firstspiritualistchurchofhouston.org; (713)695-2550.

SAN ANTONIO - Circle of Angels Spiritualist Church • 3740 Colony Dr. Ste LL100; Sunday Service 6:30pm; P.O. PH: (210)521-2473

• **VIRGINIA** •

FALLS CHURCH - Center for Spiritual Enlightenment, NSAC • 222 N. Washington Street; Mailing address: CSE (NSAC), P.O. Box 6630, 22040-6630; (703) 645-8060; web: TheCSE.org; Email: thecse@thecse.org; www.facebook.com/thecse.org Year-round Sunday Services: Healing Svc 10am / Devotional & Msg Service 10:30am.; Pastors: The Rev's. Konstanza Morning Star, Leonard Justinian, Awilda Abaza, John Otey, Deirdre O'Hara, and Rita O'Connor; Sec. Rita O'Connor; Pres. Steve Vogel.

NORFOLK - Memorial Spiritualist Church, NSAC • 307 W. 37th St., 23508-3207, (757)622-5070; www.memorialspiritualistchurch.org; Sunday Service 11am.; Wed. 7:30pm.; Healing available at 10:30am. Sun. and 7pm. Wed.; Adult Lyceum Sun. 9:30am.; Children's Sun. Lyceum 11am.; Ministers: Rev. Lelia E. Cutler, NST, (757)480-3799; Rev. Ernest Leard, (757)390-1231; Pres. Margie Briggs (757)421-9631; Sec. Lynn Streep; Lyceum Dir. Rev. Ernest Leard.

• **WASHINGTON** •

MILTON - Church of Divine Grace, NSAC • Held at Camp Edgewood, NSAC - 1228 26th Ave. Ct.; Church svcs Sun. 2pm; Sept-May; (Mail c/o Sherry Valentine, 11113 SE 323rd St. Auburn, 98092); Pres. Bernie Allers (253-833-4850) Sec. Karen Wennerlind; Email: churchofdivinegrace@gmail.com

MILTON - Church of Spiritual Truth, NSAC • Sunday Svcs 11am; Located on historic Lake Surprise. 1228 26th Ave Ct. Milton, WA 98354. Pastor Denice (Dee) L. Chapman; Pres. David R. Chapman Sr.; Sec. Denice L. Chapman; Church offers devotional svcs, healing, greetings from Spirit, & educational speakers. Social hour following church, all are welcome to enjoy good food & fellowship.

TACOMA - Church of Eternal Light • Sunday Svcs 10am at Narrows Glen, Reflections Rm, 2nd Floor. 8201 6th Ave, Tacoma 98406. (please sign in at desk) Community projects following svcs. Rev. Deliah Kieffer; visit spiritualistanswers.com.

• **WISCONSIN** •

MORRIS PRATT INSTITUTE ASSOCIATION • 11811 Watertown Plank Road, Milwaukee, WI 53226; (414) 774-2994; www.morrispratt.org; NSAC Educational Auxiliary.

MADISON - Summerland's Lakeview Spiritualist Church • 2932 Waubesa Ave., 53711; Rev. Annette L. Haak, (608)354-2694; Twice a month services on Thu., 7pm.; SLSCMADISON.ORG

WEST ALLIS - First Spiritualist Church of West Allis • 6228 W. Washington Street, 53214, Pastor Rev. Annette Haak; weekly svcs, various events; see our meetup group at: <http://www.meetup.com/First-Spiritualist-Church-of-West-Allis-FSCWA/> for details. (414) 778-0088; Church email: firstspiritualistchurchwa@gmail.com;

• **CANADA** •

MONTREAL, QUEBEC - The First Spiritualist Church of Montreal • 2186 Saint Catherine St. West, Montreal, Quebec, H3H 1M7; English Service - Sun. 2pm. & Wed. 7:30pm.; French Service - Sun. 4:30pm., 2nd & 4th Wed. 7:30pm.; Rev. Mary Amato, Minister (514)365-0661.

ONTARIO - First Spiritualist Church of Galt • 72 Grand Ave., Cambridge, Ontario N1S 2K9; Service Sun. at 11am.; Wed All Message Service at 7pm.; Rev. Karen Charles; www.firstspiritualistchurchofgalt.ca

ONTARIO - Spiritualist Church of Canada • 3027 New Street, Burlington, Ontario L7R 1K3; Pres. Rev. James Kinnear; www.spiritualistchurchofcanada.com

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LYCEUM

DON'T JUDGE

“Don’t Judge” I hear people say, and then those very same individuals will look at what another person is doing and say, “if it were me I would do it a different way.” Isn’t that also a judgement?

In Spiritualism, we teach that each of us has free will and that we should express ourselves, however we do not all do as we “preach.” We are to forgive others and forgive ourselves, for the doorway to reformation is never closed against any soul here or hereafter.

Society is full of you should wear this, do this, don’t do that, if I were you. Times are changing and we are in the electronic age. Have you noticed however, how negative the electronic age is? You cannot view the news with nothing but negativity, Facebook and twitter seem anymore that they are

there to slam or degrade people instead of inform and bring up their spirit’s.

Maybe instead of judging someone on how they look, how much money they have, or how young or old they are, we as Spiritualist can show everyone around us that we follow our principles. We can demonstrate that we do not judge one another, that we work in harmony for the better good of everything and everyone one. Put on your Facebook, your twitter or whatever other accounts that you may have positive statements—one for every day! Change negatives into positives and notice the change around you.

Our Spiritualist churches are here for everyone. Those that come through our doors for the first time, or the hundredth time—make them feel welcome—make them feel that you as a whole are not judging. This will keep everyone coming back and have them saying “I love my church, and I love my religion.”

The NSAC Department of Lyceums
Contributed By Rev. Havivah Richards, NST
Church of the Living Spirit, AZAC

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Declaration of Principles

NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES

1. We believe in Infinite Intelligence.
2. We believe that the phenomena of Nature, both physical and spiritual, are the expression of Infinite Intelligence.
3. We affirm that a correct understanding of such expression and living in accordance therewith, constitute true religion.
4. We affirm that the existence and personal identity of the individual continue after the change called death.
5. We affirm that communication with the so-called dead is a fact, scientifically proven by the phenomena of Spiritualism.
6. We believe that the highest morality is contained in the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."
7. We affirm the moral responsibility of individuals and that we make our own happiness or unhappiness as we obey or disobey Nature's physical and spiritual laws.
8. We affirm that the doorway to reformation is never closed against any soul here or hereafter.
9. We affirm that the precepts of Prophecy and Healing are Divine attributes proven through Mediumship.