

THE NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST

Summit Magazine

Jan/Feb 2017

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Individual
Sovereignty

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Exists without
Physical Body

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Anne E. Thomas
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The National Spiritualist Summit Magazine





The Principle of *Individual Sovereignty*

Rev. Del Lauderback, CH
Golden Gate Spiritualist Church, CA

When Spiritualism burst upon the North American Continent in the mid-19th century, a liberating era of reform was brought to full flower that challenged the rigid fabric of American culture. Contemporary “mainstream” history reports the reform movement of this time began with the close of the second great awakening in the great religious revivals of 1830 to 1831 held in Rochester, New York.

History does not report that this great awakening continued from 1831 through the next two decades, culminating in the explosion of contact with the Spirit World that began in late 1849 to early 1850. Contact with the Spirit World quickly gained the attention of millions of Americans and continued to gain popularity through the remainder of the nineteenth century. Known as Modern Spiritualism, the “massive popular movement” has been excluded from American history with a few exceptions.

Spiritualists traditionally treat March 31, 1848, as the beginning of Modern Spiritualism. On this day, Katie and Margaretta Fox discovered the noises and raps in their family cottage were in fact intelligent communications from the Spirit of Charles Rosna, a man who had been murdered in the cabin some 5 years before. News of this communication spread quickly. By April of 1848, hundreds from the surrounding area gathered in and around the Fox cabin to witness, participate in, and test this communication.

During the year or more following March 31, 1848, these communications insisted the Fox family accept the duty to take the communication with Spirit before the world in public demonstrations. In mid-November of 1849 Margaretta and Leah began a series of public meetings in Rochester, New York to demonstrate contact and communication with Spirit.

During 1843 to 1844, contact with the Spirit World occurred through an increasing number of people. Fearing ridicule and condemnation in their communities, these manifestations were quietly hidden from others. But as published reports of the Fox sisters’ demonstrations spread, others began coming forward to share their experiences. Spiritualist circles formed around these mediums,

and others began to foster their own abilities, helping supply the ever increasing numbers of mediums through whom those in Spirit could communicate with those on the Earth.

Following the first public paid demonstration held in Rochester, the mediums coming forward primarily demonstrated communication with Spirit through raps or percussive sounds. During the continuing communication that began March 31, 1848, early on the morning of April 1, 1848, David Fox (and possibly Wm. Deuschler) began calling out the alphabet, asking Spirit to rap at the appropriate letter needed to spell a word. In this way, words, then eventually sentences, were relayed from Spirit.

Within a few months, trance mediums came forth in all areas of the country, quickly transforming the way public demonstrations of continuous life were given. Many other spiritual gifts manifested with these mediums. The early rapping phenomena quickly expanded through many of these mediums to include clairvoyance, levitation, automatic writing, and other spiritual phenomena. Contact with the Spirit World through or in the presence of mediums is reported to have quickly drawn in millions of Americans, and to have continued increasing its audience through most of the rest of the nineteenth century.

Along with offering conclusive proof of life beyond the grave, Spirit brought the message of a world and harmonious universe governed by the immutable law of a Great Eternal Presence.

Spirit shared that everywhere in the universe there was only good—only love permeating everything—infininitely present and infinitely conscious—and that our Souls are part of this Ininitely Intelligent consciousness.

Spirit also brought the message that there is no such thing as Hell or damnation, but that life is an eternal progression and journey on which we can embark at any time by turning our faces to the light. Spiritualism knows this wonderful Truth. It is part of our history and is what we teach.

Among these spiritual teachings was the Principle of Individual Sovereignty, which tells us that each person



has within them the same ability and capacity to know Truth, and to know and do what is right. Our individual sovereignty is found by touching the God-Power within us. The Principle of Individual Sovereignty led Spiritualists in mid-19th century America to the understanding that all people are equal, and that no one has the right to impose their views or social customs on anyone else.

Author Ann Braude reveals that when Spiritualists applied their individualist convictions to the issue of women's equality, they recognized a need for drastic changes that allowed women to express their true nature as human beings. Spiritualists recognized that the norms imposed by society dictated both an immoral theology and an immoral structure of relations among human beings. They argued that women needed to be freed from limitations on education that restricted the development of their intellects—freed from unjust laws that denied them access to their property and custody of their children—freed from unequal marriages that subjugated them to men, and from economic restrictions that forced them into dependence. Spiritualists' commitment to the emancipation of women helped to overthrow conventions imposed by church or state between the individual and his or her God-given nature. They denounced the authority of churches over believers—of governments over citizens—of doctors over patients—of masters over slaves, and most of all, of men over women.

Braude best articulated the Principle of Individual Sovereignty or self-sovereignty in the *New England Non-resistance Society* as follows: "They believed that individuals should look within themselves and act according to the convictions placed there by the creator....They coined the term self sovereignty to describe the state of absolute individual autonomy they believed to be God's intention for every person."

Through the Principle of Individual Sovereignty, Spiritualists were led almost immediately to the conclusion that all people are equal and have equal rights, as they pass through this life and continue on through

eternity with the opportunity of eternal progression ever before them.

Mary Fenn Davis was the wife of Andrew Jackson Davis, and a prominent worker for Spiritualism and the Woman's Rights Movement in her own right. She cautioned mediums about the passive acceptance of Spirit she found had developed among many mediums in the 1870s. Mrs. Davis warned against the exaggerated passivity of the new mediumship: "It is an abuse of Spiritualism to yield up selfhood in the absorbing investigation of the phenomena," she told her audience. She cautioned mediums to accept Spirit Guides as friends and teachers only. "If we allow this inward joy to sweep away our strength, if we become entirely passive to the wills of spiritual beings, and instead of cultivating within ourselves positive goodness, content ourselves with negative goodness only, we open the avenues through which low and discordant influences can easily reach our natures." Finally, she called Spiritualists back to the Principle of Individual Sovereignty which made mediumship a source of power in the 1850s and 1860s. "It is dangerous and destructive to lay aside our own judgment in obedience to any authority outside ourselves."

We have to "try the Spirits," and think for ourselves. Ann Leah Fox Underhill, in her 1880s autobiography, cautioned against blindly accepting what is given through mediums, particularly as it related to "business or social concerns." She said further, "Never yield your judgment to Spirits, however good they may be, unless you are sure you are doing right. Obey the small voice within and always bear in mind that the highest gift from God is your own good sense."

Spirits from the Higher Realms of the Spirit World do not often tell us what to do in the living of our daily lives. Those more spiritually advanced are concerned with proving survival of death and teaching of the laws that govern our universe. A prime example is the Principle of Individual Sovereignty, which was instrumental in garnering support for the abolition of slavery, established the social and political equality of all people, and was the philosophical foundation of Modern Spiritualism.

Hollywood & Mediums

Writer: William Patridge, CM; New Vision Spiritualist Center, FL

Let me first comment that because of the incredible amount of information available, this very well may be a continuing series of articles concerning the image of mediums and psychics portrayed by Hollywood. This is part of a larger project concerning the image and marketing of Spiritualism in general, and what we can do about improving our image in the public eye.

From our historical studies we know that Spiritualism is probably the oldest religion or spiritual process on the planet. Although our detractors still refer to Spiritualism as nothing more than ancient animism or “re-hashed” paganism, we have proven over and over again that we are much more than that. Therein lies a great part of the challenge we have with our public image—the constant defense and re-proving of the same ground. It is no surprise that we cannot gain the high ground of acceptability when we keep spinning our wheels!

Outside of direct personal experience with mediumship or psychic phenomena, the majority of people usually get their impression of Spiritualism through media, word-of-mouth, and other religions. Until the advent of social media, via the Internet, the most popular and widely accessed form of exposure to portrayals of mediumship was through a host of movies and literature.

Hollywood, as representing the entire worldwide movie industry, has rarely been our friend, let alone a champion for an accurate or sympathetic image of mediumship. True, there have been a few films which portray mediums accurately and positively, but they are truly in the minority. This includes portrayals of the afterlife (to be covered in future articles.)

The vast majority of entertainment films produced worldwide use mediumship or psychic phenomena as vehicles for horror, science fiction, or fantasy. (TV shows will be the focus of upcoming article.) According to the IMDB (*International Movie Data Base*, containing an exhaustive list of virtually every movie made), it appears that the first film to ever portray a medium was *The Spanish Dancer*, but there is more to the story.

From previous articles, we know that French playwright Victor Hugo was definitely no stranger to Spiritualism, having participated in several séances while he lived in England. He wrote a play entitled *Ruy Blas* which was first performed as a three-act tragic drama stage play on November 8th, 1838, in Paris. The German composer Felix Mendelssohn wrote an overture to it in 1839. It was later adapted by the French composer Jules Massenet into a four-act comedic opera entitled *Don César de Bazan*, which premiered on November 30, 1872.



Pola Negri - “The Spanish Dancer” - 1923

In 1912, the French-American movie company Reliance Films made a silent movie version of *Don César de Bazan*, which was released in America on November 20, 1912. It



did not receive much commercial success. It was remade in 1923 by Paramount Pictures and released on November 4, as *The Spanish Dancer*, featuring the exotic actress Pola Negri in the starring role of (wait for it!)—the “gypsy fortune teller!” Of course, the psychic or medium in this film just *had* to be a gypsy fortune teller!

This film was thought to be lost until it was rediscovered and restored by the EYE Film Institute in the Netherlands. The restored version was shown at the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C. on August 5, 2012.

United Artists film studio competed against *The Spanish Dancer* in 1923 with a movie starring Mary Pickford entitled *Rosita*. Essentially it was the same plot as *The Spanish Dancer* but it was Pickford’s first attempt at an adult role as an actress, and the movie was not well received by the public.

Gypsy fortune tellers from that point on have been a convenient “go-to” character vehicle whenever a mystical figure was called for. This kind of shady portrayal is evident from such movies as *The Wolf Man*, and in the movie *Ghost*, Oda Mae Brown ran her scam looking like a gypsy.

As this article deals primarily with how mediums are portrayed in the film industry, I cannot overlook the vast number of theatrical productions which have included witches, wizards, ghosts, and various other dark spiritual entities which have traipsed across the stage. Shakespeare was the most prominent writer with his characters being witches in *Macbeth*, ghosts in *Hamlet*, and wizards in *A Midsummer’s Night Dream*. Shakespeare fed on the fears and former profession of King James (yes, *that* King James), as a professional witch hunter.

Even those early days of Elizabethan theatre harken back to Greek and Roman theatre, where the amphitheaters were populated with gods, soothsayers, and all types of mystic creatures with paranormal abilities. But the oracles and mediums back then were portrayed in a more sympathetic light.

Future articles will tackle how the Bible and its negative portrayal of mediums have created for all time (in my opinion), an uphill battle to reform our reputation as mediums. It is from this book that other faiths use to challenge and condemn us. In the future, we will explore how we might just be our own worst enemies when it comes to marketing our public image.

It’s been a long road leading to how the public views us today, but it is important to establish some type of timeline so that we can reflect back in hindsight to recognize what we have inherited, and what we have brought upon ourselves regarding our reputation and the image the public has of us.

Soulful ways to Overcome Anxiety

Writer: Cheryl Barber, Spiritualist Church of Awareness, FL

Given the fast pace of modern day life, it’s hardly surprising that anxiety is on the rise. In fact, sleepless nights are becoming so commonplace that it can be tricky to rest our minds at all. So, how do we silence our over-thinking brain? How do we stop worrying about the unknown and rid ourselves of unwanted negative thoughts and toxic energy? Luckily, there are many tools at our disposal to help us feel more grounded, happy and at peace. Here are some favorites.

Anxiety can find us fixating on past hurts or worrying excessively about the future—both of which prevent us from truly living in the present moment. Thankfully, maintaining a regular mindfulness and meditation practice can help us to stand back from our feelings, rather than getting caught up in them.

Anxiety can leave us feeling separated and alone, which in turn can leave us feeling increasingly on edge. Try going for a walk in the nature, or receiving a reassuring hug from a loved one the next time you’re feeling a little removed from things. Both will help you feel more grounded and centered.

It never rains, it pours—and negative thoughts can arrive in a barrage when you’re feeling a little on edge. In fact, anxiety can be seen as a culmination of negative thoughts and emotions, so it’s important to be able to observe exactly what is occupying your mind. Journaling can be a great way of documenting this, for once you see your thoughts on paper, you’re in a better place to be able to notice them, rather than be consumed by them.

Coloring, painting and knitting are all tasks that can calm the mind, and distract it from negative rumination. In fact, the links between crafting and stress relief are numerous, so why not have some coloring pencils in your bag, just in case your mood needs changing?

Sometimes we forget that Spirit is always close by. Connecting with Spirit can help us cut through the energetic attachments to fear that might be crippling us. Be sure to call on Spirit if you’re finding it hard to break out of a pattern of repetitive thought patterns, for they can help you harness more optimism and positivity and boost your happiness levels.

Sleep is a time for regulation and restoration, but anxiety can play havoc with our natural circadian rhythms. While you might find it tricky to get your recommended eight hours of shut-eye, creating a calm and peaceful environment will help you to relax. Choose to keep technology out of the bedroom—candles, soothing fragrances, and chamomile tea can all work wonders to help us get a better night’s sleep.



Spiritual Reformation

Reprinted from
TNS, 1937
Thomas Grimshaw

Change is the order of nature. All movements, whether they be secular or religious, must change. Things that cannot be adapted to the different needs of the people in different ages are destined to die. Change usually involves more or less conflict. The human mind is so constituted that it naturally revolts at new ideas. Christianity was born—or based primarily upon the teachings of Jesus, but the “ism” of Christianity was born because the new thought—the new teachings—which Jesus brought to the world could not be reconciled with the old Jewish or Hebrew thought. Protestantism arose as a result of the protest on the part of Luther and his coadjutors against the corruptions and the formalism of the Roman Catholic Church, but no religion can be permanent or have any power or influence in the lives of the people unless it has something more than protests to offer. It must have a mission; it must have some revelation, if you will, some new ideas that fit in with the needs of the people of that particular age.

Luther found the book upon which the Christians based their teachings chained. It was accessible only to the priests. It was exclusive, the Roman Church claiming to be its rightful possessor and expositor. Luther said “let us give the Bible to the people; let the people read it for themselves and interpret it for themselves in the light, guided by the Holy Spirit.” His translation of the Bible into the German language and its distribution amongst the people was a tremendous influence in the establishment of the Protestant Christian Church.

Well, they discovered in a little while that there was a great difference between

permitting the people to read the Bible and permitting them to interpret it to suit themselves, and so in the Council of Geneva, 1675, the Protestant Church took a great step backward when they declared that the Bible is the literal word of God and that the people should be privileged to read it, but that the Church Council is the only one qualified to interpret it, and the only one who can interpret it correctly. From that day on, Protestantism took a backward step, in the sense that it split up into innumerable parts, or different denominations of Christians.

With the birth of modern science a tremendous conflict arose between the representatives of religion and the representatives of science. Science was investigating the phenomena of nature, and the result of their investigations found them taking a position that was different from that which the church authorities had previously taken. The religionist had presumably interpreted God’s method in the creation and the development of this world, but the method as outlined by the theologians could not be squared or reconciled with the facts which physical scientists had revealed, and so a time of trouble arose in the church in the conflict of ideas that were held. The religionist was almost invariably worsted, because they were forced to fall back upon something that happened nearly two thousand years ago. God had manifested to the people two or three thousand years ago; the religionist said that the people that had been pronounced dead were not dead, but the skeptic said, “if God manifested to the people two thousand years ago, why does he not manifest now?” These skeptics who were now debating with the popular religion were challenging over again the ministers to produce some evidence.

The result of this conflict caused millions of people who had been devout Christians to abandon their faith. They could not discriminate between the true and the false. And so we have been drifting and drifting. We have been drifting away from our faith in the existence of good and a future life into a state of infidelity—into a state of materialism—into that state of mind where the people have been saying, “Let us eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we may die.”

Something had to be done, and so the Spirit World heard the heart cry of humanity for some sign, some token that could be laid down as the very basis of their faith, something that had some



substance to it. The prayer was, “oh Lord, give us a new science,” and the answer came in the movement that we are here representing today.

Modern Spiritualism came into the world not to destroy anything that is good and true and beautiful in other religions, not at all. It is big enough and broad enough and eclectic enough to embrace everything that is good and true in all the religions of the world.

Modern Spiritualism has been here since 1848. It started out as all really great movements start out, in little things. What could be more insignificant than some little girls in a little village like Hydesville. That was an insignificant beginning. What is this new revelation that is bringing into the world this particular demonstration that we are something more than creatures of flesh and blood; that these bodies of ours are really something that we possess and are not we ourselves?

This life beyond the death and destruction of the body is not provisional in any way. You don’t have to belong to any particular church or to have any particular belief to have that experience. You are going to continue to live—not in this shell of a body, but you will continue to live. Spiritualism comes into the world to destroy that ghostly figure we have known as death. It has helped us to discover that life is eternal; that death is but a swinging door that leads into a life infinitely more wonderful than that which we now have.

And Spiritualism is something more. We are able to speak with those who have gone before. Every one of them testifies that they are happy or unhappy, not because of what church they belonged to, or what they believed, but because of how they had lived; what they had done to improve the opportunities that life had afforded them here; whether they had wasted their opportunities; whether they had just drifted along through life.

You have been told, and you have read, that “salvation is free.” Salvation is *not* free. You must work for your salvation; you must work your way out from darkness and ignorance and sin; it is not something that you can overcome through other people’s efforts. It is something that you must earn. God has implanted within us the spark of divinity, and it is our business—our duty—to see that the spark of that heavenly flame is kept alive and radiates in our daily lives more of the Divine power which demonstrates that we are sons and daughters of a living God.

Spiritualism then, has itself lifted the question of whether there is life after death out of the region of doubt onto the broad, solid platform of demonstratable fact. We are not asking anyone to believe in Spiritualism. We are here to ask you to investigate the foundations upon which

Spiritualism rests. “Knock, and the door will be opened unto you.” Those were the words of the great master teacher and are the words we speak to you now.

Oh, if we could only remove the sandals from our feet when we enter a circle or séance and realize that we are in the presence of angels. In my work I have given private interviews where persons would come, and perhaps their mother would manifest herself, and the first question would be, “Mother, can you put me on to something good?” They wanted their angel mother to do for them what they ought to do for themselves. We have thousands of people who believe they can talk with the Spirits, but unfortunately, they are using this precious privilege to talk about sordid and material things. We need men (and women) of courage, with moral stamina, who will stand up and proclaim to the people that Spiritualism is something more than this sordid thing. We need to show that contact with the Spirit World is for the upbuilding of character.

What is this new revelation? What is it going to do with the Bible? Is it going to throw it away into the discard? Not a bit of it. The Bible is a book which contains innumerable jewels of wonderful inspiration and words of wisdom that would be a guide in daily life if properly used. Within it are thousands of spiritual phenomena that have taken place in the past. It is a record of spiritual truths covering a period of more than a thousand years.

But there are many other bibles, and they have wonderful spiritual truths also. And then there is the greatest book of all, the book that is not bound, the book of Nature, with its mountains and rivers and oceans, with the thousands of wonderful ships of fire that are traveling through space. God is revealed there, and if we would only study the revelation of the works of God as revealed in Nature, we would be better men and women than most of us are today.

When you come into Spiritualism, you begin to investigate. It is important that you investigate in the right spirit. Do not hold that supercilious attitude that you can command manifestations and you are going to have them. Do not come into it to merely have your fortune told. Come to it in a spirit of reverence—come to it with a prayer in your heart, inviting the wiser intelligences who have climbed the altitudes of a spiritual life and have acquired an understanding that could not be acquired here. Oh, the joy it is possible for us to know through Spiritualism. My brain has been touched by the fires from the altars of Heaven. I say to those who are just ascending the ladder, “Brothers and sisters, come up higher and you will get a view of the Divine. Come on, let us climb to those heights where we can feel God pulsating through every fiber of our being.”

Spiritual Awareness

Guest Writer: Gordon Ray, AU

At some stage in our journey through life, and particularly in our search for meaning we sense we are becoming spiritually aware. But what does this mean and how can we recognize some of the signs? One often begins by first sensing dissatisfaction within themselves. Next they may begin to consciously ask themselves some fundamental questions about their life. “Who am I? Where do I come from? Why am I here. Where am I going? How am I going to get there? And What will it be like when I get there?” Often experiences such as personal crises including suffering, grief, pain or growing old cause us to ask these vital questions. Deep within each of us is a spiritual center, and as we turn inward in our genuine search for answers, this center begins to awaken. This can be illustrated by Robert Browning’s famous poem entitled “Paracelsus.” Here is a portion of it.

*Truth is within ourselves; it takes no rise
From outward things, what'er you may believe,
There is an inmost centre in us all,
Where truth abides in fullness; and around,
Wall upon wall, the gross flesh hems it in,
This perfection, clear perception—which is truth;
A baffling and perverting carnal mesh*

*Binds it, and makes all error: and to know
Rather consists in opening out a way
Whence the imprisoned splendour may escape,
Than in effecting entry for a light
Supposed to be without.*

Note how the author refers to the material life as the “gross flesh and the carnal mesh” that can choke off the spiritual impulse and “bind it, and make all error.” So, when we look completely outside ourselves rather than within, the imprisoned splendour that is our Spirit stays locked within. Many younger people make their choices based upon material values and neglect the spiritual. Often it is the difficult experiences one encounters in life that can increase our emphasis on non-material things.

Turning one’s focus inward does not mean we should be self-centered and turn inward to the neglect of the world. The truth is that as more conscious and aware individuals we are able to relate more fully to God—to other people—to all sentient beings and to the planet. This means that we come to see God as being everywhere and in all things. This realization increases our natural ability to value others and as a result, all of our relationships are more fulfilling.

Paracelsus



“The beginning of wisdom is the beginning of supernatural power.”

“Thoughts create a new Heaven, a new firmament,
a new source of energy, from which new arts flow.”

“The dreams which reveal the supernatural are promises and messages that God sends us directly. They are nothing but His angels, His ministering spirits, who usually appear to us when we are in a great predicament.”

“Often the remedy is deemed the highest good
because it helps so many.”

Everything Changes

Writer: Rev. Patricia Craig
1st Spiritualist Church of Brockton, MA



Hopefully as you read this, you are well and have enjoyed a beautiful day. If your day didn't start out so well—perhaps you had gray skies, or a little damp drizzle, but it sure ended up well, didn't it? Did you ever think that maybe that was what God was asking you to see? Maybe he wants us to recognize that things change—maybe not as fast as we would like—but if we have faith, trust and patience, our lives can and do become better, just like the weather.

We all realize that we don't have control over some things, but when it comes to how we act in response to certain events or people, we certainly do have control. Our Seventh Principle states, "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." Most of the time the situations we are in are of our own making. So, if we repeatedly find ourselves in unwanted situations, it is up to us to modify our actions and reactions to those things around us. We need to take a look at how we are dealing with our lives. Are we making decisions to make our lives easier or are we putting up road blocks in front of ourselves?

Our Prayer For Spiritual Healing says, "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 now comes the important part], AND I WILL DO MY PART."

As you read this, realize that we all play a huge part in the kind of life we live. We may try to blame our situations on our parents, our upbringing

or what we had or didn't have. But if we are all honest, we know that we are creating the life that we are living through our thoughts and actions. I am not saying we are the cause of everything that happens to us, I am just saying that we do tend to be the cause of many of our own problems.

For instance, a person can have five or six siblings, grow up in the same house and live through the same situations, yet the lives of these siblings play out very differently because of the personal choices each one makes.

An individual may grow up complaining to everyone about how their whole life was tough, or how their mother or father favored their brother over them. "Oh, poor me" is how this person lives their life. This person's sibling came from the same house and went to school and studied hard in order to make a good life for themselves. This is what they chose and created from the same circumstances that they shared with "poor me." Yet another sibling decides he can't deal with the poor childhood that he had and turns to drinking. What we learn from the obstacles in our lives, and how we handle them is the determining factor in our life.

In closing, I would just like to say that I wasn't raised in a rich family, and looking back now I realize that most of us growing up were not rich, but I never felt poor. We had food on the table. It may not have been steak very often, but we didn't go hungry. We had a nice roof over our heads and we knew we were loved. I was very fortunate. I recognize now that my parents were not perfect, but they did their best. I learned from the mistakes they made, and I try to find the lessons in life's bad experiences. That is a tough one. So, like everyone else, I struggle with it, but hopefully I will keep trying to look for the lessons and learn from them. Everyday is different—some days are sunny, and some days it drizzles.

I hope all the situations that come up in your lives are easy and the lessons are clear. Grab all the good that life offers and leave the rest.

A Spirit of Generosity

Writer: Rev. June Killmer, NST, Circle of Love Spiritualist Community, CA

As I pondered the term “generosity,” I could not help but think of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. I think most of us remember that Ebenezer Scrooge was a grasping miser who cared only about money and shut out all people who reflected a sense of warmth and compassion. To him, people were only tools to be used to help him line his pockets.

The dramatic center of this fable occurred on Christmas Eve when Scrooge was visited by three ghosts who conducted what we would today call “an intervention.” They forced him to take an unvarnished look at his life and gave him an opportunity to transform his heart.

The “Ghost of Christmas Past” transported Scrooge back to his youth to glimpse the warmth and happiness he no longer enjoyed. The Ghost took him to the home of Bob Cratchet, whose family bathed themselves in love for each other despite the impending death of their beloved son, Tiny Tim. The “Ghost of Christmas Future” took him to his future gravesite with no one to care that he had lived or died.

The intervention worked. Scrooge faced up to the barrenness that was his life. Awakening on Christmas Day, he was a new man. He bounded out his front door and recognized each opportunity he had to make another person’s life nicer, warmer or richer. Right before our eyes, he became a living, breathing source of generosity. Not only did he spread the gift of happiness to others, but he experienced it himself both fully and fervently.

The spirit of generosity is a wonderful gift to give to yourself and

others! Imagine the positive impact you’d have on others while exuding a willingness to be genuinely generous with them. Imagine the good will you’ll create by being determined to leave no encounter without some small act of generosity. Imagine how happy and fulfilled you’ll feel expressing this throughout your day.

I want to emphasize that generosity does not imply giving tangible things to people, though doing so might indeed be an act of generosity. It is more a gift from the self.

Relationships are sometimes ruined by conflict and ill will. Though many learn to improve their communication skills, that is not the real answer. The answer is found when we begin to adopt the spirit of generosity and see our relationships soar. Without any instruction as to exactly what to do, we begin to go out of our way to express affection and overlook and forgive the slights that once repelled us.

When I think of my daily life, I think of people I encounter every day by accident, such as motorists on the street, sales clerks, the telemarketer that will not take “no” for an answer. I think of family and friends. Whenever I remember the transformed life of Scrooge, my happiness quotient soars!

What about you? Would adopting the principles, “be generous of spirit” aid in creating happiness in your life? I bet it would.

Live it! Happiness is not something the universe will bestow upon you just because you exist. To be happy, you must work at it. Being generous of spirit will go a long way toward helping you achieve the happiness you so richly deserve.

I’d like to offer you several tips. First, be aware of your opportunities. If each person in the world went home each evening and greeted the members of their family with generosity, the world would be transformed. So be aware of the opportunities that exist with the people in your life to express generosity. You do not

need a skill-building course, just a willingness to act accordingly.

Next, recognize the benefit that what you sow, so shall you reap. By acting toward others with the spirit of generosity, they will most likely respond in kind. You most likely do not have the power to transform the planet, but you can make a profound difference within your little corner of the world. Start with your immediate family, then expand to your friends and colleagues, and chance encounters you have with people during your everyday life. You can and will impact them by acting with a spirit of generosity.

Teach it. When we teach something to others, we tend to learn the lesson more deeply ourselves. You will find that in spreading generosity around to family and friends, you will find it easier to live it in your own life.

Appreciate the generosity of others. One of my dear friends never fails to send a note of “thank you” for presents, get-togethers, and even in appreciation of generous acts from others. Note these acts and remind yourself to model them.

Before turning you loose to be generous of spirit, I’d like to offer two suggestions. Be careful not to go forward with the intent of manipulating others to like you. This will be phony and likely backfire. Offer it out of a genuine sense of generosity toward life. Two, *take action!* Following through is the only thing that will bring about change—whether inside you, or in the world outside. You must do what is necessary to bring about that change. So first *think generous*, then *act generous*.



Happy New Year!

Writer: Rev. Frances D. Montgomery, NST
Spiritual Life Center, OH

It is a New Year and again we all start off with a clean slate. At least that is the general mentality of the world at the beginning of January.

January is the first month of the year in our modern day Gregorian calendar, and its predecessor the Julian calendar. It consists of 31 days and the first day of the month is known as New Year's Day. January is named after the Roman god, Janus, the god of doors, because this month is the door to the new year. The Roman god Janus represents all beginnings and possesses the ability to see all things past and future. Janus is pictured as a god with two faces, one looking forward, anticipating the future, while the other face is looking backward, which symbolizes reflection on the past.

As Spiritualists we realize that every day we awaken gives us a clean slate to begin again, to attempt to do and be better than we were the day before. If we can keep that mental image, we can strive to be better people every day of our lives. No one can say they will do anything for "forever," but we do have the capability to sustain our goal one day at a time. We realize we only ever have the very moment we are living with no guarantees of anything else to come on this Earth plane. Everyone has the same opportunity but most don't normally look at it in that manner.

As we do our morning meditation, we frequently recognize the fact that what we did prior to meditation is over, but what we will do later in the day has yet to come. We are only able to be fully certain of the moment we are in. Living in the moment is difficult, yet it really is the way we should attempt to look at life. I would imagine in times past, before everyone was able to enjoy the convenience of lights and electricity, people did live more in the moment. There wouldn't have been quite so many distractions. After dark the chores were pretty well finished because once the sun went down, you couldn't just turn on a light and keep going as we do today. Lives were structured pretty much around the natural rhythm of the cycles of day and night—light and dark. In times when

there was no television or radio, I wonder if people reflected on their day or planned the days to come.

Introspection is a difficult thing to achieve when there is so much going on around us all the time. I doubt there was as much sleep deprivation in days long ago, which would naturally lessen the stress that can build up from the lack of sleep. Stress seems to be a modern day complaint. I don't recall the use of that word in my earlier life but hear it said daily now.

Starting every day with a clean slate is not an illusion, it is a fact. Actually, you can start every hour or minute of your life with a clean slate whenever you realize you have made an error. You can at that moment resolve to not handle things as you have just done. You can at any moment change yourself and the way you deal with the experiences life offers. Life is a project—your project. Handling difficulties and growing your soul forward toward Infinite Intelligence is the very gist of what life is all about.

Infinite Intelligence is always present, for sunlight or darkness makes no difference to Spirit. God simply IS—day or night—dark or light. When we are able to relax and take in that truth, we realize we have the same protection, the same healing power, the same comfort, love, and energy from Spirit regardless of time of day. Carrying that thought further, the same qualities exist regardless of what is going on in our lives and no matter the time. If we were able to totally absorb that reality it would be very freeing.

Take this New Year and do with it the best you can. Stay in the middle of the road and be centered with Infinite Spirit. Recognize that every day—every hour or minute—is a clean slate for a new beginning. We can always grow and be better, take the higher road, and slough off our faults and those of others. Forgive others, but also forgive yourself and resolve to be better as you go forward not only into the New Year, but into rest of your life. Make it your New Year's resolution to live in the moment with Infinite Intelligence uppermost in your life. May your New Year start the most fulfilling spiritual journey of your life.

SPIRITUALISM & *Wayne Gretzky*

Writer: Rev. Chris Owen, CM, CH
Spiritualist Church of Eternal Life, ME

How do we find the key to being successful? We need to ask successful people and listen to what they say.

That is because they have already achieved the excellence we aspire to. Some of these people are willing to tell us their secrets, and some aren't. Some tell us by accident. I would like to focus on particular comments that one person made who countless people have claimed was the all-time greatest in his field. In this statement he has given us the key to success in life.

How many people remember Wayne Gretzky? For those of you who don't remember, he was a hockey player from 1979 to 1999 in the National Hockey League. They called him the "great one," not because the fans and sportswriters said he was great, but because the National Hockey League itself

said that he was the greatest hockey player ever in the NHL. He is the leading point scorer in NHL history. He is the only player to have scored over 200 points in a season and he did so four times. As of his retirement in 1999, he held 40 regular season records, 15 playoff records, and six all-star records. He spoke out many times against fighting in hockey and received many good sportsmanship awards.

So now we have to ask ourselves what was the key to his success? He was not big, strong, or fast, so how did he do it? To the knowledgeable observers, they found that his reading of the game was unmatched by anybody that they had ever seen before. Sportswriters kept saying that he played like someone with "eyes on the back of his head." Instead of him following the puck, it seemed like the puck

was following him. It was mysterious. It was mystical. And it wasn't long before the fans started calling him "the great one."

Gretzky to this day has always denied that he had a sixth sense. He has consistently claimed that the secret to his success as a player was the coaching he received from his dad. Isn't that typical of a devoted son to credit his dad for his success? But one of the statements he has made seems to betray his claims. Gretzky has stated that the key to his success was that he never played the puck where it was going to be. My point is, isn't this the key to success in life, not just in hockey? If we

were able to take all of life's hockey pucks and play them where they were going to be instead of where they are presently, then that would make it impossible to fail at life, wouldn't it? It doesn't matter what Gretzky admits to or not, or is aware of or not. He has stumbled into one of life's truisms. When one starts to listen to their guiding voice, their higher voice, then it's impossible to fail. Isn't this one of the attractions of Spiritualism? The Spirits of loved ones come to us, identify themselves, and then give us a message. Sometimes they try to tell us about where life's hockey pucks are going to be because they want us to be successful.

But let's leave this hockey scene for a moment. There are numerous other situations in history we can point to



with more far reaching consequences. If we knew where the puck was going to be in life instead of where it was, what would have been the consequences? What if the German people could see what was going to happen to them in World War II? Do you think they would have supported Hitler?

What if in World War I, the Kaiser had realized what communism would do to the world? Do you think he would have allowed Lenin to pass freely across Germany into Russia?

During reconstruction in the South, if the southerners could have realized what the Civil War was going to do to their land and their families don't you think they would have gladly turned the clock back to prevent the cataclysm from happening? Of course they would.

These are some of life's hockey pucks on a grand scale. We all want the puck to go into the net for the good guys, not the bad guys. But oftentimes, that's not what happens to us. But because of ignorance or apathy, because of laziness or confusion, we keep letting the puck slip by in our own lives and in other people's lives. If only we could keep turning the clock back, but we can't.


The game of life goes on and on until the buzzer sounds. And when the buzzer sounds, we take the final tally. Were we a success? Who won the game, the good guys or the bad? As a humane person, you would like the good guys to win. As a Spiritualist, you want the good guys to win. But the good guys don't always win the game. WE don't always win the game—and why not? Because some of us play the puck where it is and others of us play it where we think it's going to be. Maybe we can't all play the game like the "great one." But do we even try? Are we happy with our lives as they are, or are we trying to perfect our lives each day? If we know something is wrong the way it is and could be better, then why accept it? This is where our morality becomes an issue.

As Spiritualists our calling is to be moral people and live lives with integrity. That's why we were in the forefront of the Abolitionist Movement and the Woman's Suffrage Movement. We recognize that the substance of life is love and not hatred and intolerance. The definition of a Spiritualist states that we endeavor to shape our character and conduct ourselves in accordance with the highest teachings derived from communication with the Spirit World. Our calling is not to accept the status quo of the material world, but to be healers and prophets to make life better.

In a way, what Gretzky did is very similar to our own mission, except our game is in the larger arena of life. Gretzky's highest teaching was where the puck was going to be in a hockey game. Our highest teaching is where the goals of our lives are going to be. Are our goals the right ones? Are they for our highest good? Are we getting the right guidance? Can we become good readers of the game of life?

We have church halls where we conduct the business of Spiritualism. Sometimes I ask myself, why is our hall not filled with people with standing room only? We offer readings, messages and development classes every week. There is always much of work to do—but what about the people outside of this arena? Are they satisfied with the way things are or are they prepared to find out where things need to be? Are they playing life's game to maintain the status quo or are they playing the game of life to be successful and win? If they were playing the game to win, then our halls would be filled to capacity. It is my hope that despite the size of some of our halls, someday we will need a hall the size of the Boston Garden to conduct our business. Why not think big? If we really want to be like Gretzky with millions of people watching the game just to see him play, than why not give it a try? If a scrawny 160 pound kid from Canada can become a living legend at his game, then why can't each one of us become living legends at our games of life (which we know in the long run is much more important than hitting a hockey puck!).

Let's face it ladies and gentlemen. We in this world are not where we need to be. The problems of our world are formidable but not insurmountable. Too many of us are happy with a status quo that is leading us to defeat and not victory. And the culprit in all this is fear based on superstition and ignorance. The world is skating around in circles as it seems while time keeps ticking off the clock. While we may not be psychically gifted hockey players who can mesmerize millions with their talent, we all are given talents that we can use to shift the focus of our society towards the common good. We first need to take responsibility for our lives—no one is going to live our lives for us. Then we need to remember who we are. We are very gifted beings. Along with our Earthly talents, we have spiritual and psychic talents that allow us to reach out for help and guidance from the Spirit World. This is what we are called to do, and we are called to do it now.



Science Proves Consciousness Exists without a *Physical Body!*

Guest Writer: Rich Haas
First Spiritual Science Church, CO

Have you encountered skeptics who shut their minds to the very idea of Spiritualism? Of course you have. They refuse to consider the possibility, right? Why is that? Perhaps these cynics fear that being open to Spirituality will lead them to have to also evaluate other people's religious beliefs, which they abhor. Perhaps it is simply a matter of indoctrination from our culture's group-think that excludes anything Spiritual from consideration.

Historically, we believed that everything important in the universe was made of matter, molecules, etc., then science discovered that matter is only 4% of the known universe—the rest is the “unseen” metaphysical. Sadly, there are still close-minded cynics who refuse to consider recent scientific breakthroughs.

Luckily, innovative professors are able to measure this spiritual or metaphysical reality when it influences the minuscule 4% materialistic portion of the universe. Researchers at Harvard, the University of Arizona, and the University of Virginia have been able to study this metaphysical and spiritual matter, which is revealing grand scientific breakthroughs.

First, Albert Einstein discovered that matter is simply stored energy ($E=mc^2$). Then quantum experiments proved that the physical universe can be altered by the act of someone consciously observing the interactions at very small levels. If consciousness produces measurable changes at the subatomic level, it also changes all of matter—verifying the metaphysical truism, “we create reality with our thoughts.” There are 10 other scientific discoveries (since Einstein) that have confirmed the predominance of consciousness over matter.

Next, science needed to prove that consciousness existed because there were materialists who desperately wanted to believe that consciousness was a fleeting manifestation of matter (neurons, hormones, etc. of the brain). Research into altered states of consciousness proved the mind could manipulate the physical world. Herbert Benson of the Harvard Medical School proved that the mind cured almost every disease studied. Benson even proved that meditation can change a person's genetics!

Wouldn't you think this breakthrough would be announced on every TV station, and on the pages of every newspaper in the land? It was actually ignored because it goes against the academic group-think that avoids the metaphysical. For example, the placebo effect excludes the influence of the mind from medical research. We know that the mind will cure somewhere between 1/3 and 1/2 of patients simply by the influence of thoughts. Instead of researching why 1/2 to 2/3 of patients are *not* cured by this free, natural procedure, researchers try to completely eliminate the mind's influence! Why? How could doctors, hospitals, or drug companies charge outrageous amounts for their services when it is your mind that is actually curing your body? No wonder most “approved” treatments are pharmaceuticals and surgeries. When you remove the mind from medical research, all you are left with are expensive physical procedures often with negative side effects.

The next advance discovered that consciousness can exist independent of the human body. Dr. Raymond Moody documented Near-Death Experiences (NDE's, and as of 2012, there have been 2 million NDEs recorded by





researchers from all over the world. It has been estimated that a minimum of 210 million people living today have experienced an NDE.

Allowing for differences in terminology, these NDEs have proven remarkably consistent regardless of culture or religious background. Even atheists reported similar experiences as devoutly religious persons. People who have been blind since birth report they were able to “see” during their NDE. How would it be possible for someone to describe what they are “seeing” when they have no knowledge of vision?

Unbelievably, there are still skeptics who want to deny that NDEs exist. For anyone who is cynical about NDEs, I refer them to the appendix in Eban Alexander’s book *Proof of Heaven*, where he refutes all the futile attempts by detractors to deny the reality of NDEs.

The next breakthrough was the incredible research done by Gary Schwartz, which he detailed in his book, *The Afterlife Experiments*. He proved that consciousness exists after the body dies, and can be accessed (read) by living persons. His statistical significance was 2.5 billion to one. Normal statistical significance to publish is usually hundreds to one, so billions to one significance is almost unheard of. What did the academic community do with this irrefutable science? Of course they ignored it because it did not fit with the close-minded group-think of the academic communities. This one study alone proves the scientific basis for Spiritualism, but there is much more!

At the University of Virginia, Dr. Ian Stevenson studied 5,000 children from all over the world who reported memories of a “past life.” After documenting the children’s memories, they studied census and other records to verify that these recollections were real. This proved that the consciousness of a “dead person” is available to living persons, which again verifies Spiritualism. Scientists cannot say that past lives exist, but they did say that it was the most likely explanation.

Joel Whitton and Joe Fisher reported their findings in

their book entitled *Life Between Life*. The conclusions were later verified by Dr. Michael Newton in his books *Journey of Souls* and *Destiny of Souls*. These masterminds found a way to examine the “afterlife”—from research, not religion. Again it is very consistent regardless of culture or religion. The critical part is that now these two independent researchers have arrived at similar conclusions—another scientific threshold that proves the existence of consciousness after death.

Is there any research revealing how *you* can also access this knowledge? Both Albert Einstein and the famous inventor and visionary Nikola Tesla reported they gained their amazing insights from a vast non-material reservoir of knowledge which modern scientists often call the “zero point.” Edgar Cayce, “America’s sleeping prophet,” told people his amazing medical cures came from a source where all knowledge was stored. He called it the “Akashic Records.” Whatever name we use, the important part is that there is a central knowledge storehouse that people like us can tap into at will. For Spiritualists, this means it is entirely possible for someone to tap into the personality of a person who has died—perhaps through the Akashic Records.

What does all this mean? Science, through differing scientific breakthroughs, has confirmed that Spiritualist communication is not only possible but entirely understandable. Now, when people around you express skepticism, you can use these scientific breakthroughs to counter their arguments against it.

I find it especially helpful to challenge doubters to read the book, *The Afterlife Experiments*, and then find a way to refute the amazing science, if they can. Very often, “skeptics” will desperately avoid opening their minds to the research. This will give you an opportunity to tell them to look at the scientific evidence before they make up their minds. Sound familiar?

More information may be obtained from
www.SacredQuantumMetaphysics.com.



by investigating the role that one's religious views might have in understanding this relationship and the value of pets."

Another notable finding: Of 12 different animals presented to the research participants, dogs, cats and horses were rated the most likely to experience an afterlife. Those rated least likely: insects, fish and reptiles.

From: "Exploring Belief In An Animal Afterlife," by Jordan Bartel, Veterinary Medicine News, 8-2-2016, cvm.ncsu.edu/exploring-animal-afterlife/

Changes in Belief

A new study analyzes responses to four decades of data compiled in the University of Chicago's General Social Survey. The survey shows that the number of Americans who say they pray or believe in God has hit a new low since the early 1970s. However, nonreligious people are twice as likely today to believe in an afterlife as those in the 1980s.

The findings show that from the early 1980s to 2014 that those who identified their religion as "none" increased from 7 percent to 21 percent. Those who never attend religious services doubled to 26 percent. Those who say they never pray leaped from 3 percent to 15 percent. Those who say they don't believe in God climbed from 13 percent to 22 percent. And those who believe in an afterlife stayed at 79 percent, but non-churchgoers who believe in an afterlife increased from 7 percent to 15 percent.

From: "Research Shows Big Drop in those who Pray, believe in God," by Scott Travis, The Orange County Register, 3-26-2016, ocregister.com/articles/percent-709735-religious-study.html

American's Beliefs about an Animal Afterlife

A new study titled "Do All Dogs Go to Heaven?" done by three North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine professors is believed to be the first to systematically explore American's beliefs about animal afterlife using a national sample of participants.



Of the 800 research participants, the groups more likely to believe in the existence of an afterlife for animals are females (51 percent), American Indian/Alaska natives (71.4 percent), African-Americans (58.5 percent), Buddhists (77.3 percent), people living in the South (50.3 percent) and pet owners (45 percent).

"The notion of the human-animal bond is pervasive in the United States," said Dr. Royal. "Yet, Americans are incredibly diverse in terms of their backgrounds, experiences and views. We wanted to explore this issue further

Former Sceptic Claims Existence of Afterlife

Alastair Bruce Scott-Hill is a retired engineer who won the Mind Body Spirit Literary Award with his book, *The Paranormal is Normal*. The book uses "solid science" to claim the existence of reincarnation, the paranormal and immortality. He said that his 15-year journey to write the book had changed his beliefs. He replicated science experiments as the base for his investigations into reincarnation, the paranormal and the possibility of an afterlife and immortality. The awards are unique in New Zealand for their encouragement of writing in the mind, body, spirit genre.

From: "Former Sceptic Claims Existence of Afterlife," Press Release: Ashton Wylie Charitable Trust, 8-21-2016, scoop.co.nz/stories/CU1608/S00226/ormer-sceptic-claims-existence-of-afterlife.htm

Terminal Lucidity, Mindsight

In addition to NDE studies, studies on the phenomena of terminal lucidity and mindsight also support the conclusion that the mind may engage in complex conscious activity even as brain functioning severely deteriorates. Dr. Alexander Batthyany of the University of Vienna has studied terminal lucidity in Alzheimer's patients. This is a phenomenon in which patients who have been completely incoherent for many years seem to suddenly return to their senses shortly before death. When the brain is at the furthest stage of degeneration, the expectation would be that the ability to make coherent connections between memories and various thoughts and emotions would be so far gone that a "whole" person could no longer emerge. Yet at this time, the whole mind seems to flash through, with all its connections intact.





“Mindsight” refers to the phenomenon in which blind people report being able to see during NDEs. This has been studied, for example, by Kenneth Ring at the University of Connecticut. Ring found that 15 out of 21 blind participants reported some kind of sight during NDEs.

Bethyany’s study, “Complex Visual Imagery and Cognition During Near-Death Experiences,” was published in Volume 34, No. 2, of the Journal of Near-Death Studies and can be read at: philpapers.org/archive/BATCVI.pdf.

Future Hope

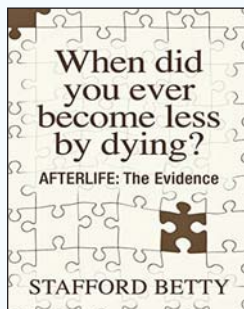
Research has shown that, when depressed people get to read about profound experiences of the world beyond, they become less suicidal. It seems like the hope that is involved in these three thoughts gives strength to carry on.

There is a life after death. This life after death is fantastic. We meet again with people who are important to us in the after life.

From: “Helpful and Hopeful Thoughts,” by Kjetil Mellingen, Mad in America, 9-13-2016, madinamerica.com/2016/09/helpful-hopeful-thoughts/

When Did You Ever Become Less by Dying?

Stafford Betty has been teaching a highly successful course at CSUB titled *The Meaning of Death*. The author says “one of the keys to its success is the discussions we have on what happens at death and what might happen after. Most students are turned off by the idea of becoming nothing at death, and I show them the various types of evidence suggesting this won’t happen. I share my students’ discomfort at the thought of personal extinction. For the most part I enjoy life, and any evidence that suggests it goes on is very welcome news. My books explore this evidence.”



The book, *When Did You Ever Become Less by Dying? Afterlife: The Evidence*, was released this summer and is available on Amazon. Betty, a professor of religious studies, says his research relies on scientific and philosophical analysis of the evidence, which falls under nine areas: deathbed visions, the near-death experience, apparitions or ghosts, poltergeist phenomena, Spirit communication through mediums, Spirit attachment, reincarnation memo-

ries by very young children, Spirit communication using electronic instruments, and unaccountable clarity by advanced Alzheimer’s victims just before death.

White Crow Books, 2016, ISBN-13: 978-1786770042

Take part in an Online Psychic Research Study

As part of an on-going research project, part-funded by the Society for Psychical Research, Dr David Vernon of the Canterbury Christ Church University is interested in exploring the nature of extra sensory perception, or ESP. This is a fascinating and contentious subject with some people reporting experiences while others argue that such things are impossible. However, as a scientist Dr. Vernon's job is to remain open minded yet critical—and examine the data. With this in mind Dr. Vernon has put together an on-line study that takes about 15 minutes that will help him examine a particular aspect of ESP.

Take part by visiting: ccusocialsciences.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_1EKCFAPdkV3aVSZ

The Bangs Sisters

Lizzie and May Bangs are famous psychic artists whose work appeared in the early part of the 20th century. They sat before easels with blank canvas and without touching or handling any brushes or paint produced images that were instantly recognizable by members of the congregation who witnessing the phenomenon. The Bangs sisters form of psychic art is called Precipitated psychic art.



For an interesting view of some of their work go to: youtube.com/watch?v=_rYmNnjVHvI

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 2016 CONVENTION

St. Louis, Missouri



2017 Board of Directors

Rev. Christine Krithades
Rev. Jacquelyn Randall
Janet Watson
Rev. Havivah Richards
Carol Luetkens
Rev. Barbara Starr
Rev. James Ehrhart
Rev. June Killmer
Rev. Cosie Allen



NSAC Elections

At the election for members of the Board of Trustees on Friday afternoon, Micheline Corbin withdrew from candidacy for NSAC Secretary, and Carol Luetkens was elected for the position. Luetkens is a founder and pastor of the *New Beginning Spiritualist Church* in Wonewoc, Wisconsin. She also is director and secretary of the *Western Wisconsin Camp Association*, known as *Wonewoc Spiritualist Camp*.

Rev. Cosie Allen was re-elected as NSAC Vice President, and Rev. Jacquelyn Randall was re-elected as NSAC Trustee.



Carol Luetkens
Newly Elected Secretary

REGISTRATION



THANK YOU!

NSAC Convention 2016 was held in St. Louis October 9th through 14th and was attended by 115 delegates. A number of visitors were present during the evening services, many of whom were members of the Fifth Spiritualist Church of St. Louis, the hosting church for this year's convention.



The Sheraton Westport Chalet proved to be an ideal venue for the Convention. It was located at Westport Plaza, in the Maryland Heights section of St. Louis.



Attendance was high for the Sunday service which was held at The *Fifth Spiritualist Church* of St. Louis. Attendees nearly filled the sanctuary to capacity!

Pastor Marilyn Kalna presided, with Convention Host Committee Chair, Kevin Folsom, delivering the address.



Attendees enjoyed the consistent, excellent planning that was provided by the Hosting Committee for this year's convention. A big thank you goes to each member of the St. Louis Hosting Committee!



Delegates enjoyed the Welcome Reception followed by a religious service Sunday evening.

The Rite of Ordination took place following the service on Thursday for Pamela Bollinger, *Spiritualist Church of the Comforter*, Santa Barbara, California.

WORKSHOPS



Brandon Hodge



Rev. Jean Kerr Lerch

Monday Workshops included a morning presentation by Brandon Hodge on planchettes and other early Spirit communication devices. Jean Kerr Lerch gave the afternoon presentation, "Catch the Spirit."

Other Presentations included:

"Best Practices for Using Parliamentary Procedure," by Marguerite Gutt on Wednesday.



"You Can, An Overview of Fundraising" by Rosemary Calderalo on Wednesday.



"Saving Our Spiritualist Churches," by James Ehrhart & Christine Krithades on Thursday.

AWARDS

The Following Awards were Presented during the Monday Evening Banquet:



Bonnie Darby



Rev. James Ehrhart



Sue Blessing

Teacher Awards:

Susan Blessing, 1st Spiritualist Temple, NY
James Ehrhart, Golden Gate Spiritualist Church, CA

Literary Award:

Bonnie Darby, The Spiritualist Church of Indianapolis, IN

Outstanding Achievement Award:

Elaine Calhoun, Church of the Living Spirit, AZ

Lifetime Service Awards:

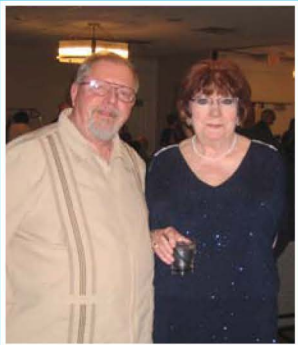
Louise Peruch, Spiritual Science of Life Church, CA
Elizabeth Simpson, Harrison D. Barrett Memorial Spiritualist Church, ME

Auxiliary Achievement Award:

1st Spiritualist Church of West Allis, WI

BANQUET









Auctions



Evening Services



Sunday Svc: Rev. Cosie Allen, Rev. James Ehrhart, Rev. Havivah Richards, Rev. Christine Krithades, Rev. Jacquelyn Randall



Tuesday Svc: Rev. Lelia Cutler, Rev. Sharon Watson, Rev. Graham Connolly, Rev. Christine Krithades, Rev. June Killmer, Rev. Havivah Richards



Wednesday Svc: Rev. Marilyn Awtry, Rev. Sandra Dawson, Rev. Carol Leutkens, Rev. Rosemary Calderalo, Rev. James Ehrhart



Thursday Student Service



Friday Svc: Michael Pillsbury, Mary Beth LoVecchio, Stacy Kopchinski, Janet Watson, Nancy Ryall, Rev. Patricia Craig

NSAC Service Clubs:



National Spiritualist Teachers Club: Rev. Sharon Watson, Rev. Rosemary Calderalo, Rev. Marguerite Gutt, Rev. Christine Krithades, Rev. Betty Hutt



Ministerial Association: Rev. Mary Beth LoVecchio, Rev. Havivah Richards, Rev. Sharon Watson, Rev. Nancy Ryall, Rev. Marilyn Awtry



Spiritualist Healers League: Rev. Jeannie Lerch, Rev. Sharon Watson, Rev. Havivah Richards, Rev. Rosemary Calderalo, Rev. Cosie Allen



Licentiate Ministers & Certified Mediums Soc.: Rev. Jeannie Lerch, Rev. Sharon Watson, Rev. Rosemary Calderalo, Rev. Havivah Richards, Rev. Delilah Kieffer

NSAC

President's Report

2016



To the Delegates of the 124th NSAC Convention and the Members of the NSAC:

This has been an amazing year, and I would be remiss if I did not say "Thank you" to the Delegates of the 123rd Convention for bestowing on me the opportunity and honor to serve as your President.

Congratulations to the following individuals who received Awards at our NSAC Convention Banquet:

Outstanding Achievement Award:

Elaine Calhoun, Church of the Living Spirit, Glendale, AZ

Literary Award:

The Reverend Bonnie Darby, The Spiritualist Church of Indianapolis, IN

Teacher Award:

Susan Blessing, First Spiritualist Temple of East Aurora, NY

The Reverend James Ehrhart, Golden Gate Spiritualist Church, San Francisco, CA

Lifetime Service Award:

The Reverend Louise Peruch, The Spiritual Science of Life Church, San Jose, CA

Lifetime Service Award:

The Reverend Elizabeth Simpson, Harrison D. Barrett Church, Bangor ME

For the first time the Board has awarded a *Community Service Award*. This award was given to the First Spiritualist Church of West Allis, WI.

As you may have read in the NSAC News, we have changed the dress code for women platform workers at the Convention from "dresses and skirts" to professional business attire.

Following the April 2016 Spring Board meeting the Trustees visited two churches, The First Spiritualist Temple in East Aurora, NY, and The Plymouth Spiritualist Church in Rochester, NY. We all enjoyed the opportunity to meet with members and answer their questions.

I have had the pleasure of serving on the NSAC web site redesign committee, and the revamped web site will be presented to you later during the Convention.

For those of you seeking the credential of National Spiritualist Teacher (NST), the Trustees have added a requirement that the candidate prepare and teach a class to the examiners. We feel that the experience of preparing class materials and actually teaching the class is a better method for assessing teaching skills.

A substantial amount of my year was spent working on our finances and investments. After analyzing the portfolio and the large losses we sustained, I recommended that our investments be moved to a different investment advisor, and the Trustees agreed. The new investment advisor was charged with these goals: reduce risk, reduce our volatility, increase performance, and reduce our costs/fees. The previous investment company placed over 30% of our assets in several aggressive market sectors. Those included commodities, emerging markets, and international investing. These areas contributed heavily to the severe losses we experienced. Our new advisor has realigned the accounts to a more appropriate asset allocation of 54% equities and 46% fixed

income, as well as eliminated the more aggressive and volatile sectors. Performance has improved dramatically. During the 16 weeks we have been with the new company, the accounts are up a "net" of 5%. That is not an annualized figure, but an actual return. When you consider the SP 500 is up 6.84%, we have been able to capture 73% of the market "upside" while taking only 54% of the risk.

It came to the attention of the Board that proper notice of the proposed bylaw amendments was not sent in a timely manner as outlined in the NSAC Bylaws. The Board spent a great deal of time discussing this matter. The Board solicited the opinion of the parliamentarian. It is the unanimous opinion of the Board that the proposed bylaw amendments cannot be considered at this Convention because proper notice was not given to our auxiliaries. The Board is committed to making sure the same mistakes are not repeated in the future. The Board is committed to making sure the 2017 Bylaws Committee presents all of the proposed bylaw amendments submitted to date at the 2017 Convention unless otherwise requested by the maker. The Board above all must comply with the NSAC Bylaws.

In conclusion, there has not been a single calendar day in the past year that I have not worked on NSAC matters with the assistance of your Board members. However, just like a physician bound by the HIPPA regulations, we cannot always share with you what we are doing. Just know that we are working for you, under the guidance of Spirit, and for that I am grateful for the presence of Infinite Intelligence in my life.

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Christine Krithades,
J.D., NST, CH
President

Day Trip

Excursions:

Local tours for Convention attendees took place on Thursday afternoon and on Saturday as arranged by the Convention Host Committee. Tours were enjoyed by all of those that attended!



**Convention
Photography
by
Valerie Miller**

Additional Images by
Bill Patridge &
Sharon Watson



NSAC Secretary's Report



As the Secretary of the NSAC, I would like to present the following report on the NSAC General Headquarters and the statistical report.

I thank the Fifth Spiritualist Church of St. Louis, the many volunteers, family and friends for all the hard work put into making this convention a success. Everyone works

so hard for several months before convention so we can gather together in this space. Together for each member, for our churches, for our organization, for Spirit, and always for the highest and best. Please extend your warm wishes to everyone who has worked on this endeavor. I thank the delegates for attending this Convention to show your interest, to be a part of the process and to have your voices heard. Without you we cannot exist. We are each a part that makes us whole! I sincerely thank each and every one of you!

Headquarters:

Some of the shingles on the exterior of the building are cracked and need to be replaced. That should be done in the next year before the damage increases. There are several trees that are touching the building that may need to be trimmed before they cause damage to the roof. There was a buildup of moss on the roof which was recently removed.

The basement mildew continues to be a problem and needs to be rectified this year, or we will continue to lose books from mold. A couple of quotes to reduce the humidity and build up of mold have been submitted in the \$3,000.00 range, but we will continue to look for a more economical solution.

There have been eight new books added to the Book Store:

- Medium Mastery* by Stephen Hermann
- Sunflower Series Booklet 1, *Spirit Photography*
by Marilyn Awtry
- Sunflower Series Booklet 2, *The Home Circle*
- Sunflower Series Booklet 3, *Table Tipping*
- Sunflower Series Booklet 4, *Voice Phenomena*

In the Lyceum section we have added:

How Do I Know God Loves Me
by Melanie Richardson Dundy

DVD's:

Exploring Trance Mediumship with Robin Hodson
Evening Services - NSAC 2015 Convention

In the interest of cutting costs, we have one copy of most books in the bookstore available at the book table for you to review. Book catalogues and an order form have been included in the delegate folders. Browse the catalogue, make your list and hand in your book order form at the book table. The order will be forwarded to the NSAC Bookstore for immediate processing and delivery. Your package should be there when you return from convention.

The Executive Church membership has primarily remained the same. The NSAC Executive Church membership has twelve members. The Student Membership continues with four members.

Our churches can be strong and continue serving its members even when the membership and Board members change. The leaders in our churches need to mentor and share their knowledge and information to others so that the church survives when they can longer do the work that is needed.

The auxiliaries that closed their doors this year: *The Pinpoint of Light Spiritualist Center* located in Maine closed in March of 2016. The *1st Spiritualist Church of Harmony, Unity and Truth* located in Chicago, Illinois closed in July 2016. The *Illinois Spiritualist State Association* no longer met the requirements to operate as a State Association and had to close June 2016. The *Church of Spiritual Science* located in Michigan City, Indiana is no longer functioning and a decision has to be made regarding the building.

There has been positive activity with our auxiliaries as well. I mentioned these churches in last year's report but they should be mentioned in this fiscal year. *New Beginning Spiritualist Church* located in Wonewoc, Wisconsin chartered in August of 2015. The *Church of Spiritual Life* moved from the state of Massachusetts to Derry, New Hampshire in September of 2015. *Cherry Valley Spiritualist Camp* in Cherry Valley, Illinois went direct charter with the NSAC in January of 2016. The *Church of Spiritual Growth* located in Burlington, Massachusetts newly direct chartered with the NSAC in February of 2016. The *Church of Eternal Light* recently changed their name to *Eternal Light Spiritualist Community*. The *Spiritualist Church of Truth* located in Chicago, Illinois went direct charter with NSAC in June of 2016.

The DeMarco Scholarship is still available to members and six new scholarships were granted this year.

I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you, this organization, and Spirit.

Sincerely,
Micheline Corbin
NSAC Secretary



Spiritualism & Mediumship

Although Spiritualism is much more widely accepted as a religion today, many do not regard it as being equal with mainstream religions of the world, and often it still receives criticism from the general public. In the UK, Spiritualism is a religion according to an act of Parliament in the early 1950s. In fact, Cosmo Lang, Archbishop of the Church of England received so many letters of complaint about Spiritualism and its unusual claims that in 1936, he appointed a committee of ten signatories to investigate it. The committee was made up of people from all walks of life, who then investigated Spiritualism and decided to continue on within the Spiritualist Church. The report which resulted was in fact stored away for ten years, its findings kept secret from the public. The *Psychic News* journal eventually obtained the report and published it. It was called "The Majority Report," and stated very clearly that, if we were to disregard the phenomena of Spiritualism, clairvoyance, mediumship and healing, then we would also have to disregard the phenomena of the New Testament, which was in essence the same.

Whether it was a direct result of the Majority Report or not, in 1952 Spiritualism in the UK was made a recognized religion by an act of Parliament. This meant that Spiritualist meetings no longer had to be conducted in the shadows and

those who had an interest in Spiritualism no longer had to hide the fact that they did. The door of the Spiritualist Church was now wide open, and everyone was invited.

However, today this news is "old hat," so to speak, and there are Spiritualist Churches everywhere. Although this is the case, a primary attraction of Spiritualism is in fact the demonstration of mediumship. If one were to remove such phenomena from the Spiritualist services, church attendance may suffer. The general public is primarily interested in the phenomena, and very often greatly misunderstands what the role of a medium actually is.

Because of the lack of education about the beliefs of Spiritualism and the intention of its mediumistic ambassadors, people very often wrongly assume that as well as receiving information from the so-called dead, mediums also foretell the future. This is incorrect. A medium is a person who endeavors, or should endeavor, to prove the continuity of the life beyond death, no more and no less. Predicting the future events of someone else's life should be left to the skills of a fortune teller or card reader. Maintaining a focus on obtaining evidential information from Spirit helps mediums avoid common pitfalls. In many cases, recipients of "fortune telling" readings only hear what they want to hear when it relates to foretelling details of their future.

Maintaining a focus on proving the continuity of life helps remove the obvious scrutiny that awaits a medium who routinely delves into prophecy during a reading.



B O O K S

- Spiritual and Related Subjects -
A Wonderful Way To Grow...

- LITERATURE & SUPPLIES FOR MODERN SPIRITUALISTS -

A Complete Book List is available FREE from NSAC.

NSAC SUPPLIES

Andrew Jackson Davis Post Cards15
Centennial Book - 100 Years - Thurman	1.00
NSAC Bylaws, 8 1/2 x 11	10.00
Index of Names and Calendar Dates Associated with Spiritualism	10.00
Ministers Service Book	4.50
Spirit Healing (booklet)	1.00
Spiritualist Manual (black)	25.00
Lyceum Manual	15.00
Spiritualist Hymnal (hardcover)	17.00
(HC Spiral Bound/Musicians copy)	15.00
(Large Print 3-ring binder)	15.00
Year Book - Church listings	
Ministers, Healers, Mediums, etc.	10.00
Public Relations Handbook	10.00

NSAC - Church Membership Classes -

By Rev. S. L. Snowman	10.00
Healing Prayer Cards (25)	2.00
Declaration of Principles For Hymnals (Stickers)	N/C
NSAC Book List	N/C
Slates - (2 slates, chalk, rubber bands, cotton bag)	20.00
Trumpets - Student 30"	25.00
Professional 42"	30.00
Illuminated Bands	4.95

Available to NSAC Churches

Application for Charter	no charge
Application for Membership	no charge
Certificate of Marriage (each)	3.00
Certificate of Consecration (each)	3.00
Certificate of Church Membership (each)	3.00
Membership Cards (25)	3.00

- Literature & Supplies -

A complete book list is available free from
National Spiritualist Association of Churches
 P.O. Box 217 • 13 Cottage Row • Lily Dale, New York 14752
 Phone: (716)595-2000 Fax: (716)595-2020 E-Mail: nsacbookstore@nsac.org

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BOOK ORDER INFORMATION: Small orders will be sent by regular mail. Larger orders generally go U.P.S.
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Mail to:
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 Rev. Cosie Allen, NST, Editor
 P.O. Box 93252, Las Vegas, NV 89193
 (616) 292-6559

The NSAC Bookstore has many titles available that were specifically written or published for Lyceum use. Visit the Bookstore pages at nsac.org. Titles can be ordered by mail, or by contacting the NSAC Bookstore at the email address listed above.

National Spiritualist Association of Churches

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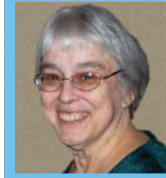
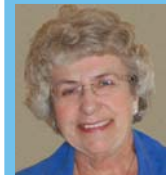
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522 SW 79th Terrace, Ocala, FL 34474

Forgive Me

Writer: Nancy Grady
First Spiritual Temple of Royal Oak, MI

Have you ever been deeply offended in your life? Can you accept that this offensive person was a “gift” to you?

I have experienced the “role” of being the offensive person, although I know I am *not* a mean person, and I believe people act-out “Soul Contracts” (Carolyn Myss, *Sacred Contracts*) for the simple, and unconscious purpose of helping fellow souls to evolve.

I believe that life’s natural design requires these painful encounters, to prompt the soul’s evolution. It is not a question of *if* we evolve. It is a question of *when*.

Evolution is not our choice. It is our Destiny. It is the main reason we are here on Earth, and these painful relationship encounters are just the prompting we need for our higher evolution!

When you are hurt, ask yourself whether you took the high road. The low road could be delving into rage, drama, coercion, hysteria or revenge.

It often takes effort to elevate yourself into choosing to take the high road, but it does just that. It elevates you. In so doing, you will develop higher standards. So, you see, your painful experience was a gift!

It is entirely possible that an offensive person you have encountered may be carrying out an ancient contract between your souls to help you to evolve. So be grateful! Respond by making the highest use of this excellent opportunity.

NSAC 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 website at www.nsac.org by clicking on Healing and fill out a form, or you may email 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 the Healing Center and information will be forwarded to you on how to get started. While there is no charge for this booklet, any donation that is received will help offset printing expenses and postage fees.

You may 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 & 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 select from the following options, and provide the appropriate contact information as requested.

To request a copy of the **Healing Brochure** to be mailed to someone in need, please provide their Name, and full address along with your written request to the Healing Center Director at the address listed below.

To request information on “**How to form a Spiritual Healing Prayer Group**,” please provide your Name, and full address along with your written request to the Healing Center Director at the address listed below.

Donations: Please make your donation to the NSAC Healing Center, and mail to the address below. We thank you.

NSAC Healing Center, Director: Rev. Vicky Homann, NST
Email: Vickyvjean@yahoo.com / 2856 La Casita Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89120

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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. Dr. 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.

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LAUDERBACK, Del, Ordained Minister, Comm. Healer, Golden Gate Spiritualist Church, San Francisco, Home address: 126 Camelia Dr., Daly City, 94015; (650)757-6653; dlauderback7@aol.com; Healing & Ministerial svcs.

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

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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

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

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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

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LEWISTON

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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; gconnol1@maine.rr.com

SEARSPORT

PERKINS, Laura Lee, CM; PO Box 37, 04974; (207)567-3183; spiritualquest@fairpoint.net

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

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

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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, Joan, LM; Spiritual Science Church of St. Paul; (651)699-4858; Church: (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 •

FOREST HILLS

RUIZ, Rev. Hugo, Pastor, TMS, NST, Certified Medium; 9506 72nd Ave. 11375; (718)793-8434; ruiz@nyc.rr.com

JAMESTOWN

RILEY, Rev. Kathleen S., NST; PO Box 101, Lily Dale, NY 14752-0101; 202-321-1063; revriley@outlook.com; Keep calm & Spirit on!

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

Forget, Rev. T. Lynn; 20 Second St., 14752; (716)595-2194; lynneforget@yahoo.com

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

STRANAHAN, Rev. Patricia A., NST, Certified Medium, 1717 Besley Rd., 22182 - (703)938-2512

VIENNA

O'CONNOR Rev. Rita; 8334 Idylwood Rd., 22182. (703)204-2821. Finder912@earthlink.net

VIRGINIA BEACH

STREEPER Rev. Lynn M., 714 Gemstone Ln. 23462. (757)687-6660.

• WASHINGTON •

TACOMA

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

• WISCONSIN •

BROOKLYN

HAAK, Rev. Annette L., NST, Pastor of Summerland's Lakeview Spiritualist Church. Certified Medium, Comm Healer; Classes, private consultations. 317 N. Rutland Ave. 53521 - (608)354-2694; Revannettehaak@slscmadison.org; Web: SLSCmadison.org.

• CANADA •

MONTREAL, QUEBEC

ROSSNER, Rev. Dr. Marilyn, Ph.D., Pres./Pastor, Spiritual Science Fellowship, 1974 de Maisonneuve W., H3H 1K5 - (514)937-8359; www.iiihs.org; mrossner@111hs.org

LYCEUM

CHANGE IS GOOD FOR EVERYONE

In today's world everything is changing so dramatically. What could be popular and everyone is into one day, is way old and not cool the next day. As individuals we strive to be on top of everything that is going on around us, even if we do not like the change.

One thing that will always stay the same in many people's lives is religion. Religion is one place that grows, but still it stays the same and therefore is a place where most people feel comfortable with. We must grow, however, and as Spiritualists we strive to change what we are doing so that we can grow and learn.

We help others while helping ourselves. We learn more about ourselves, and if we are willing, we can make the changes that are needed for our spiritual advancement. Personal responsibility is part of our daily lives and if we want to see our lives get better and more productive, we must have personal responsibility and change things for the better. This is not always easy, and sometimes we just want to give up. But as we learn, we grow and start to see that change was really not that bad, it was really just "different."

The NSAC Department of Lyceums

Written by: **Rev. Havivah Richards, NST**

Church of the Living Spirit, AZ

"It is Done!"

Writer: Rev. Marilyn J. Awtry, NST

At 1:30 P.M. on Wednesday, September 14, those words were transmitted to me by e-mail from Frank Kotowski. How great is that? The Fox Sisters finally have a headstone on their grave that can be read clearly by anyone passing through or stopping at the gravesite.

It all began in 2007 and was revived in 2014. Persistence pays off! After our 2014 Convention in Hauppauge, Long Island, New York, a group of 30 visited the site and were dismayed with their findings. We stood in a circle around the stone placed there in 1909 by the New York conference, said a prayer and watched the phenomena of a rock on the headstone fly off into the center of our circle. We accepted that Margaretta and Catherine were delighted that the stone would be re-carved. We all agreed to raise funds and get the job done!

It wasn't a simple matter. Approval from the cemetery administration had been granted in 2007. Years had passed, staff changed, rules changed—so we met our first challenge. While we acted on that challenge, we went ahead with the Fox Headstone Project Fundraiser. We also sent out over 100 letters to many Spiritualist organizations. Another challenge, for at first we wondered if anyone cared. Then, day-by-day more positive

comments appeared on Facebook and more and more checks came. The Fundraiser on Line also began to grow. Spiritualists around the world did care! The *Psychic News* of England printed a beautiful article entitled "Grave Concerns about Fox Sisters' Headstone."

While in state of joy, we received word our request to the Cemetery Administration was denied. Did we give up? Never!! Once again we took action by sending letters to several authorities in high places. We never doubted that the stone would get carved. On June 6, 2015, the e-mail we patiently waited for arrived. It stated the stone could be re-carved. We were ready and immediately sent out Requests for Proposals. After the proposals received were evaluated to assure they met our request, we began negotiations. Award was made within a week. The proposer sent us five samples of the font for the inscription on the stone. Choosing one was not a simple as it might sound... but after each making our list, we came to agreement. The Davydove Monuments company did their job well and today Spiritualists can be proud of the headstone on the Fox Sisters grave in Cypress Hills Cemetery, Section 3 Lot 355. (Incidentally, Cypress Hills Cemetery was founded in 1848.)

The final and most wonderful addition is that the Fox Sisters are now listed with the "notables" and their grave is listed as site #32. For pictures of the new stone and garden, go to Facebook and enter search words, "Fox Headstone Project."



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, (480)510-2581; 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 • Canyon View Community Ctr; 471 Maidu Dr. 95603; Sun. Svc 10am; All Message Svc Thurs 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. Svcs 10am; Rev. George Brenner, Pastor Emeritus; All Message Svc Fri. 7pm; Pres. Al Freitag, afreitag@pacbell.net; Int. Sec. Terri Freitag; spiritualistchapelofthepines.com; (530)823-1816

SAN FRANCISCO • First Spiritual Temple • Svc: 2nd & 4th Sundays, 10am at 33 Banbury St., 94132. Healing at svc & privately by appt. Spiritual Development. Rev. Elsie Ann Soria, NST, Pastor. (650)731-4490. Pres: Ben Santiago. Tamara Polly, Sec. (707)303-5617. Canyonrivers1967@gmail.com; Mail: 202 University St. Apt. B, Healdsburg CA 95448.

SAN JOSE • The Spiritual Science of Life Church • "The Friendly Church" 729 Morse Street, (Corner of Morse St. & Naglee), 95126; Sun. Service 6:00 p.m., 2nd & 4th Sunday; Pastor Rev. Louise Peruch, NST; 1327 W. Hedding St., 95126; (408)615-0214; PeruchLise@aol.com; Sec. Colleen Page, P.O. Box 1863, San Mateo, 94401; (650)245-9919; splendaura@gmail.com

SAN LEANDRO • Spiritualist Church of Two Worlds • 1550 San Leandro Blvd. 94577; Svcs: Sun. Healing at 10:30; Devotional 10:45am to noon. Pastor Betty Nauratil, NST. (925)930-6663; Pres: Sandra Deckinger, NST. sandi_dckngr@yahoo.com; (415)350-5522. Classes Available.

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 Cook, paulecook@gmail.com; Rev. Sandra Dawson, NST (916)652-4568 / sgdawson91@gmail.com; Sec: Pat Carey.

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 early Sept. thru late 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, Pastor; LM, CM, CH.; Sun. Healing svc. 10:30am., Sun Svc 11am; Unfoldment Class 1:15-3:15pm. Spiritualistchurch.newsletter@gmail.com

• CONNECTICUT •

Connecticut State Spiritualist Association • Pres. William Keith; Sec. Rev. Jackie Randall, 60 Ward St., Norwich, 06360 / cincyada@aol.com; Mailing address: 29 Park St., Norwich 06360.

GROTON • The Spiritualist Church of Peace & Light • 15 Thames St. (Bailey Agencies bldg) Sun Svc 10:30am; Mailing address: 70 Dell Ave. #B5, New London, CT 06320. www.scpceacelight.net. Email: scpceacelight@yahoo.com; Rev. Lynn Gaffin, heart_860@yahoo.com; Rev. Rich Terpe, richterpe@att.net. (860)442-1709.

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; 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.

NIANTIC • New London Spiritualist Church • Sleep Inn, 5 King Arthur Dr. Niantic; June-Sept: Pine Grove Spiritualist Camp, 34 S. Pine St Niantic. Svcs 10:30am; Mail to: PO Box 15, Niantic CT 06357; Pres: Natalie Villar (860)368-1972; 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; Services 10:30am Sundays; Visit: www.firstspiritualistchurch.org.

• FLORIDA •

ORLANDO • New Vision Spiritualist Center, 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 Woodlynne Ln, Orlando FL 32812; (407)826-0807 reveao@yahoo.com; Pres. William Patridge; Rev. Ann Otzelberger, 4332 Woodlynne Ln., Orlando 32812.

ORLANDO • Spiritualist Church of Awareness • 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 •

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.

LERROY • 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 •

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/

• 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 – Seasonal day camp June - Sept., Mail: 546 Town Farm Rd., 04220-5115. Email: pinpointoflight@live.com; Web: pinpointoflight.org; (207)515-1016; Sec: Rev. Stephanie Froese.

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; For program information & events, visit madisoncamp.org; find us on facebook, or email: info@madisoncamp.org.

NORTHPORT - Temple Heights Spiritual Camp • 4 Park St. (TH), 04849; June 26-Sept 9, 2017; Private Readings 9-4pm daily; Workshops Sat. 9:30am & 1pm. Circles, message & table tipping W-F-Sat. at 7pm.; Church svc: Sundays 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 Svcs 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 •

BURLINGTON - The Church of Spiritual Growth • Services held at 16 Lexington St. Please check website for details: www.churchofspiritualgrowth.nsc-churches.org, or call Pastor Lorraine Radice at (781)270-0383.

CHICOPEE - Healing Hands of Light Spiritualist Church • 465 Granby Rd. MA 01013; Worship Svcs 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. • Services 10:00 a.m. Sun. at Anawan Grange Bldg., junction Rts. 44 & 118; Mail: P.O. Box 145, 02769, firstspiritualistchurch.com

• 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.

FERNDALE - 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

ROYAL OAK - First Spiritualist 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.

• MINNESOTA •

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

RENO/Sparks - Spiritualist Society of Reno • Meeting place: Masonic Lodge, 2425 Pyramid Way, Sparks NV, 89431. Sunday meetings include a talk, guided meditation, spirit healing and spirit greetings: Meets 11am to 12:15pm; President, Jannet Caywood; SpiritualistSocietyofReno.org; FaceBook.com/SpiritualistSocietyofReno. Address: Sec. Rev. Lisa Butler, 3415 Socrates Dr., Reno, NV 89512, tomalisa2@aol.com. (775)329-5980.

• NEW HAMPSHIRE •

DERRY - The Church of Spiritual Life • 58 East Broadway (Masonic Temple) NH 03038; Sun. Service 10:30 a.m.; All mail to: PO Box 593, Derry, NH 03038; Visit: churchspiritualiffenh.org

• NEW JERSEY •

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

• 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 - Labor Day; Pres: Lynne Forget; Sec: Roberta (Bobbie) Casswell; 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; Pres: Carol Gasber.

LONG ISLAND - New Horizon Spiritualist Church • 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 • 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, Summerlandchurchofflight.org

LONG ISLAND - Temple of Metaphysical Science • 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

ROCHESTER - Plymouth Spiritualist Church • 29 Vick Park A, 14607; Voicemail (585)234-2362; Sun. Svcs 10:30am; Plymouthspiritualistchurch.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, Wilkensburg, PA; Sundays 11am-1pm; Healing, Lesson, Messages. Tues: Home Circles; Thurs: Mediumship class 7-9pm; Pastors: 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 • 2115 Turner Dr., 77093; Sun. Service 10:30am.; Unfoldment classes Wed. 7:30pm & Fri. 8pm; Pres. Liana V. Liles; lianailles@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 • 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 • 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; Pres. Margie Briggs (757)421-9631; Sec. Rev. Lynn Streeper, (757)687-6660; Lyceum Dir. James McMillan.

• WEST VIRGINIA •

WHEELING - First Spiritualist Association of Wheeling - Way Memorial Temple • 27 Maryland Street; 26003; (304)233-5065/ www.waymemorial.org.

• WASHINGTON •

MILTON - Church of Divine Grace • 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 Unity • Held at Camp Edgewood, NSAC – 1228 26th Ave. Ct.; Church svcs Sun @ 2pm; Sept-May; Mailing address c/o Pres. Colleen Mohler, 1210 26th Ave Ct. 98354, (253)927-2365. Sec. Jill Mohler, 1015 Emerald St., 98334; (213)568-0333; j.m.mohler@hotmail.com

MILTON - Church of Spiritual Truth • 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.

MILTON - Camp Edgewood, NSAC • 1228 26th Ave. Ct, Milton WA 98354; (253)927-2050/ fax: (253)927-7531. Pres. David Chapman Sr.; Sec. Denice Chapman; email campedgewood@yahoo.com. Located on beautiful Lake Surprise. Historic camp offers healing, meditation, Spirit greetings & a variety of classes. For info contact Denice Chapman Tues.-Sat. 11-4pm.

TACOMA - Church of Eternal Light • Svcs 5:30pm Wednesdays at Crescent Moon Gifts. 2502 6th Ave. 98406. 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.

BROOKLYN - Summerland's Lakeview Spiritualist Church • 317 N. Rutland Ave., 53521; 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; (514)365-0661.

ONTARIO - First Spiritualist Church of Galt • 72 Grand Ave., Cambridge, Ontario N1S 2K9; www.firstspiritualistchurchofgalt.ca

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

Have your Listing Fees been paid?

Fees are past-due for 2015 - 2016.

Please contact the TNS Editor for information.

Listing Renewal Fees: \$25

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Spiritualist's Poetry

The Time is Growing Near

Nancy Grady

First Spiritual Temple of Royal Oak, MI

The Spirit World is a world in waiting.

Unseen, unheard, denied by most.

A mysterious world, striving for connection

Often considered merely a ghost.

So the veil is thin at Dawn and Dusk.

This information is helpful to know.

Turn off the TV, computer and phone

..... Our vibration is no longer low.

The word "Spirit" derives from "Spiritus."

And the word is Latin for "Breath."

Somehow we need to breathe deeply

Touching Peace so close to Death.

Conscious breathing, Pranayam

Often helps to shift our gears.

Set our intentions, unveil our hearts.

We're connected with open ears.

Essence

Audrey Williams

I sensed your essence

flow through me

and my spirit rose.

I knew it was you who

opened visions of truth.

I felt blessed to share

a part of your greatness.

Untitled

Audrey Williams

Put on patience

Ride with wisdom

Talk with Spirit

Listen to creativity

Explore greatness—and see the Divine in everything.

KNOW!

But a better day is dawning. Midnight darkness has forever passed away. Glints of rosy light illumine the edge of the sky. This dawning light will increase until the most intelligent as well as the most spiritual. . . will rejoice in a reasonable religion, which will bind the two worlds in one, because life there as well as here will be subject to the same great laws of Infinite Intelligence.

—Abby A. Judson, *Spiritualist*, 1894

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Wonewoc, WI (Western Wisconsin Spiritualist Camp), June 10-23, 2017
(register by April 7), Rev. Bunny Starr, NST, Instructor

Milwaukee, WI (Morris Pratt Institute), 2 one-week sessions, August 20-25,
2017 and February 10-16, 2018 (register by June 16), Rev. Cosie Allen,
NST, Instructor



Morris Pratt Institute

11811 Watertown Plank Road | Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53226
www.morrispratt.org | 414-774-2994 | info@morrispratt.org

THE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION UPON WHICH SPIRITUALISM IS BUILT



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.