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TNS Proof-Readers

Valerie Miller
Micheline Corbin
Cover Art & Graphics by A.Thomas

Send Inquiries/Comments to:

TNSsummit@earthlink.net

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Anne E. Thomas TNS Editor

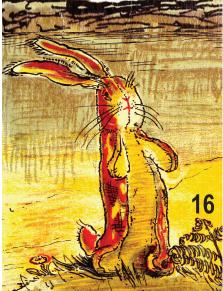
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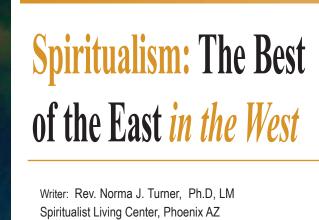
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s a professor of religious studies, I spend a great deal of class time comparing Eastern religions to Western religions. Because I teach adults, this topic always generates much discussion on some of the New Age religious movements, Eastern medicine, and practices such as yoga and tai chi as well as the martial arts. Eastern religions bring a new dimension to the practice of religion that Western religions do not manifest. My interest is in some of the differences between Eastern and Western religions and how

Spiritualism, in my opinion, offers the best of the

East among the religions of the West.

The five characteristics of religion are a transcendent (God or Infinite Intelligence, Allah, Brahman), Sacred Books (Scriptures, Koran, Bhagavad Gita), Sacred History, Symbols, and Mythology. Every religion has these five characteristics to a greater or lesser degree. In the West, the concepts of religion have developed on the left side of the brain, the rational, apologetic, explanatory side of our nature, thanks to the influence of the Greco-Roman philosophy on Christianity. In the East, the concepts of religion have developed on the right side of the brain: the inner self, the more

intuitive side of our nature. Of course, there is much more depth to this discussion not only with regard to the influence of Greco-Roman thought on Christianity but also with regard to the whole concept of the left and right hemispheres of the brain. But for our purposes, this brief introduction will do.

Most religions in the West share some of the same patterns, although the practices and symbols may differ in degree. In Methodism, Catholicism, Lutheranism, Episcopalianism, the Baptist and Presbyterian religions, as well as the religious groups derived from them, we find certain traits. They all have a doctrine, a role for authority, an established structure, a code or rulebook or list of prescriptions or restrictions, and celebration of special moments in history, such as a founder's birthday or a significant journey made by the founder.

We also notice that while meditation and mysticism were once a strong part of Western religions, they have receded from a place of importance for religious laypeople. The expectation now is that practices such as



meditation are reserved primarily for religious professionals such as priests and nuns, religious brothers and sisters. An occasional retreat for ordinary men and women is certainly considered honorable and worthwhile. Still, the focus in Western religions will be on practices, rituals, and rules and policies.

On the other hand, the fascination of the Eastern religions for Westerners lies in the richness of spiritual development of the individual through meditation and mental and physical discipline. We can talk about the Hindu religion as an example. The Hindu religion is flexible and inclusive, which means there is something for everyone. There are hundreds of deities in Hinduism representing every aspect of human life that a person could wish to honor in life.

There are four yogas or disciplines—one for each major type of human personality. When teaching the four yogas in class, the students always fall into one of the four types of yogas.

What is it about the Eastern religions that is so appealing to the Western mind? Let us look at the development of Western religions.

They became more organized as groups broke away from the central Roman group. They became more dogmatic and systematic to clarify who was in and who was out of each group. They became more theological and theoretical as the church professionals argued and debated the finer points of religious belief.

As a result, the elements of meditation and mysticism soon lost their place as powerful pathways to spiritual development and insight. As an example, the beauty of Western mythology was soon replaced by the more rigid acceptance of a literal understanding of the stories and parables found in the Scriptures. The depth of the mystery was lost and replaced by literal reading of the words. I have had students stand up and leave the classroom over the story of

Adam's rib or the Mediterranean whale that ate Jonah. So much is lost in the retelling of the stories when one starts arguing over the species of whales found in the Mediterranean—or the Dead Sea or whatever body of water is determined to be Jonah's location.

In the Eastern religions, the meditative and mystical realms of belief remain important aspects of religion. Even the followers who do not practice the higher forms of discipline respect and honor the gurus, the teachers, and the yogic masters. But what does this mean to us?

Who of us is not tired of the rat race of our culture? Who of us does not often feel we have lost our own identities as we move from one situation to the next—meeting expectations and demands not our own. Even our religions seem to set forth expectations—becoming another set of duties and responsibilities rather than an opportunity to sit, be quiet, and listen to the world within. Even when I was in the convent, I never heard anyone say, "Oh, no, I cannot go with you on the trip because I get to attend Mass on Sunday!" Nope, I never heard that.

Spiritualism has the thread running through it that emphasizes that we are Spirit first! We must get in touch with that inner self in order to be who we are. We talk about being grounded. What does that mean? I think it has to do with knowing who we are, experiencing what we are about, being in touch with our own goals then following our inner path according to our best insights. How do we do that? That is the role of religion. Re-ligio means to tie us together, to tie us back to ourselves, to unite me with me, to unite you with me, and us with all the people we meet during our daily routines. Spiritualism has that as its objective for you and for me. The development of the inner self so that we can reach out to support others with the heart and hands of Spirit. That is why I believe Spiritualism offers the best of the East in the West.







Morality

Some people might assume that our Spiritualist organization, the NSAC is nothing more than a union of mediums who banded together in a legal structure in order to protect themselves against legal persecution. If one looks at the history of Modern Spiritualism, they will see that persecution from other groups is part of it, but protection from persecution is not the reason Spiritualism became a religion. Modern Spiritualism started as a new form of morality. It is above all other considerations, a religion based on its moral message to the world, which is its foundation.

Turn back the clock to March 31st of 1848, the date of the beginning of Modern Spiritualism. The United States was still a slaveholding country. Women had a secondary status with few rights and no right to vote. Despite the fact that the United States was a Christian country, there was little movement to correct vast moral deficiencies in the culture. 1848 was the time of Manifest Destiny, when the United States doubled in land size and assimilated the West all the way to the Pacific Ocean and opened huge new territories to its jurisdiction. There seemed to be little concern about correcting or even acknowledging these cultural moral failures back then. But as bad as the Christian response was to slavery, its response to the Native American owners of the vast new territories was even worse. Their lands were invaded and their ownership of the land wasn't even considered a legitimate concern. There were dozens of treaties that the Native Americans were forced to sign. All these treaties were lies. Not one of them was ever kept.

I would like to explore the culture that the Christians replaced for a moment. The morality is in some cases the same. The basic difference is that the Native Americans found it a part of their morality to not steal from the natural environment but to live in harmony with it. Their morality told them to live their lives without

leaving a trace behind and keeping the land Sacred. The basic principle of "do not steal," however, is part of both cultures, just not looked upon the same. The misconception was that the Native Americans were too primitive to grasp the ways of the modern world or modern technology. The truth is that the rejection of modernism and its code of morality was a conscious choice. There were large modern-looking native American cities in the past. Cahokia in Missouri was one of them. Cities in South America like Macchu Piccu were built with technologies still unknown to modern science. The difference between our cities and their cities was that once their cities served some mysterious religious function, they were torn down and the land restored. The Native Americans made the conscious decision time and again based on their concept of morality to not steal the land from their Creator.

If we go back to the Judeo-Christian morality it seems to say the same thing, although in practice seems to be more greed based. The Ten Commandments can all be boiled down to one—though shalt not steal. If you murder someone, you steal their life. If you commit adultery, you steal the affections from someone's life partner. If you covet your neighbor's goods, it means you want to steal them. If you lie about someone, you steal their honor and good name. Nevertheless, let's face facts, from the time the Conquistadors set foot in the New World, for the colonial powers of Europe, theft was the name of the game. Somehow the words "thou shalt not steal" morphed into "though shalt loot and shoot as much as thou shalt like."

As late as 1848, the advent of Modern Spiritualism, this morphed distortion of the moral code was still in effect. Stealing still was the thing to do. If you can double the size of the country overnight, then who cares about moral codes? Just put a donation in the collection box on Sunday and the padre will forgive you. But as Spiritualism swept across the country as it did at this time, so did Spiritualist morality. Hollywood has always portrayed Spiritualism in a negative light by exhibiting us as shameless self-seekers (which is what they in fact are) or by altogether omitting our contribution to this

society and culture. In the movie, *Lincoln*, for example, there was no mention made of Nettie Colburn Maynard—who she was, or the advice she gave to Lincoln concerning the Emancipation Proclamation. Spiritualist morality is not a stagnant set of creeds and codes that can be set aside when convenient. It is based on service to others. It believes in the divinity of the individual and in giving to others not stealing from them what is rightfully theirs. Spiritualists were in the forefront of the abolitionist movement and the woman's rights movement as a protest against theft—the theft of labor from the slave—the theft of the God-given rights of women. Spiritualism recognizes that giving is the basis of all good morality and that theft is the basis of all evil. We all contain the Divine spark of Infinite Intelligence and are not the property of any state or individual. Spiritualism is a religion where the highest good and the highest morality entails treating others with kindness, fairness and an attitude of service, not self-seeking.

When people come to our churches, they may get the impression that our religion is all about the messages. Messages are important in that they prove life is all one entity, both spiritual and physical. But that's not enough. It's what comes next that is the most important. Morality is what comes next. When we realize the oneness of life, we also realize the futility of everything that goes against goodness and kindness. What good is physical wealth in the Spirit World? So why do we sell out our principles and our natural goodness and kindness in order to get it? That seems pointless. On the other hand, as we pass into the Spirit World from this world, with good works and our integrity intact, that seems to be the bank account that we should be adding currency to-because money and wealth don't last beyond this lifetime, but good works, virtue, service to others and a clean conscience last forever.

Material victories and intellectual victories are shallow ones limited to this time and place in the physical world. Only moral victories last forever because they are of the highest possible vibration. They are the light and love of spirit. The eternal vibration of the Spirit World is love—so why all the fighting in the world over wealth, power, and fame? Mindless greed is based on ignorance of who we are—spiritual beings, beings who hold the light and love of the universe and are on temporary sabbatical here on earth. The dogmas and creeds that we cling to are evil illusions that mask our light with shadows.

Many years ago when I went to college, I studied world history. One day I pulled my head out of a history book and exclaimed to my teacher that human history seemed to be nothing more than a long history of warfare—and endless

series of wars. There was the 30 Years War, the 100 Years War or the War of the Roses, the Great Northern War, the War of Spanish Succession, the English Civil war, the War between the States, the French and Indian War, World Wars I and II, and on and on and on. My teacher just said to me, "Yes, you are correct, but don't let it ruin your semester."

It wasn't until I came to Spiritualism that I was able to finally explain it all and put it into perspective. Both sides in warfare have to rationalize that God is fighting on their side. The German Army in WWII had written on their belt buckles "Gott mit uns" or "God with us" over the eagle and swastika. The leaders of all armies want to make sure that their men think that they are fighting for God. And the tragedy is that unless we connect with true morality, history will just keep repeating itself. Modern Spiritualism recognizes this and gives the world a bold new challenge. It teaches us that might does not make right. This is our truth. Only the light and love of Spirit last forever and are the guides to truly righteous behavior. Spiritualism challenges us to leave the dogmas and the creeds of the past behind. Stop listening to the so-called leaders and start listening to Infinite Intelligence. Trust the spirit of the light and turn away from the voices of the shadows. The highest good for the human race is found not in the physical and intellectual victories over nature but rather in its moral victories. Life is about building bridges of love and light to each other through kindness, truth, and understanding.

Much time has passed since March 31st, 1848. The time of the Native American tribes west of the Mississippi and their sovereignty has come to an end. The dispensation of light from Infinite Intelligence that animated their way of life has come and gone. But the dispensation of light from Infinite Intelligence that animated western and eastern civilization from the time of the classical period, over two thousand years ago, to this day has also gone past its prime and is now into its last acts on the stage of history. The advent of Modern Spiritualism, despite its troubled beginnings, is the first ray of light of the New Dispensation. I am reminded that the Christians suffered extreme persecution for 300 years before Rome finally accepted them. Even though the Christian churches have given us a hard time over the years, forgetting about their humble beginnings, even though we get ignored by the media or short shrift when we do get recognized, make no mistake-Modern Spiritualism is the light of humankind for the future. We here today work for light of the new dispensation and as soon as we embrace who we really are and that our mission is to spread our moral virtues, then the sooner will the period of the shadows over the world come to an end.

The Law of Abundance

The WINNING LOTTERY TICKET

Writer: Writer: Rev. Rita O'Connor Center for Spiritual Enlightenment, Falls Church VA

"I'm a Winner!!" I shout excitedly, as I hold up my lottery ticket.

(In my dreams!)

Lottery tickets are not an everyday part of my life. But every once in a while, as I'm picking up milk at the convenience store—I feel lucky. Why not? It's only a dollar!

I'm not likely to win. Hah! That's an understatement. I've done the math—the odds are astronomical that my \$1 ticket will bring me the jackpot. And yes, I'm familiar with the joke that the lottery is a tax on the mathematically challenged.

So why do I buy a ticket if I don't expect to win? Well, I'm buying a daydream. I get to dream about what I would do if I did manage to win. (Dream-sequence music begins to play in my mind.) I imagine how nice it would be to spend some time at the beach—as much time as I want—anytime. I could replace the roof on the house without worrying about the cost. There would be people I could hire to make my life easier—dog walkers, gardeners or accountants. I could pay them well. Or perhaps I could retire.

And here's the best part of my dream: I could throw a fabulous week-long party on a chartered cruise ship for all my family and friends—you could come, too!

Daydreams are fun. And as the winning numbers are drawn... I find that I have lost totally and completely—not

even one number matches!

You might think that this experience would be discouraging, but the end result is just the opposite. I find that the disappointment has the unexpected consequence of turning my focus to all that I have. Turning away from the dream somehow snaps me back into a new awareness of my taken-for-granted good fortune.

Riches are nice, but after all, what do I really need? Many years ago, before I was a Spiritualist, when I was first realizing that mediumship existed, I attended a message service where a medium told me, "You will never be rich, but you will always have enough."

And so far, her words have proven to be true

There is a prayer in *A Spiritualist Book of Prayer* that says, "Help us to know that right now, this minute, we are perfectly all right. Each of us has everything we need to live in this moment. We do not lack anything."

Yet we are told all the time that we have to work HARD to be successful. "Put the pedal to the metal" or "Put your nose to the grindstone." *That's* the way to have all that you deserve in life. Whoever would imagine that it is this belief that actually makes it hard for us to have abundance?

Yet there it is. And that is exactly the point I want to talk about.

A well-known Spiritualist author, Marilyn Awtry, is actually a member of my church in Virginia. She lives in Florida so we don't see her very often, but she has written many books. Her book, *River of Life or How to Live in the Flow* weaves together the ways that living in accordance with Natural Law allows us to live in the flow. She outlined the following basic ideas and is quoted in several places herein.

Natural Law, sometimes called Universal Laws, Spiritual Laws, Laws Of Nature, or the Laws of God, is our name for the unwavering and unchanging principles that govern every aspect of the universe. They are the rules of the game, the means by which our world and the entire cosmos continue to exist, and thrive, and expand.

In this world today, there are so many people who are unaware of these Universal Laws. As Spiritualists, however, we are fortunate. We understand the gifts that flow from consciously harmonizing with Universal Law.

Her book lists 76 spiritual natural laws and 35 physical natural laws (gravity, for example). They each manifest different aspects of the One Law. This article focuses on just one of them, the Law of Abundance, along with three others that are closely related—the Law of Thought, The Law of Attraction, and the Law of Cause and Effect.

The Law of Abundance presents to us the simple fact that our world contains an unlimited Source of everything we need or could ever want. And just as that idea begins to sink in, we are told that this great abundance is already ours, and is infinitely available to all of us all the time.

To grasp this concept, think of the sun—a light that shines all the time, in all directions. It illuminates everything, bringing clarity, giving life. It is infinitely available to us. Likewise, the Law of Abundance is about infinite energy, constantly flowing.

At this point I'm crumpling my worthless lottery ticket, and asking how I can tap in to this unlimited abundance. As it turns out, according to Awtry, "it

depends on your ability to LIVE in the conscious awareness of the Source of all things."

Meditation is probably the best way to become aware of the Source, but it takes a regular meditative practice to lay down the neural pathways that embed this awareness into one's consciousness. Besides meditation, opening to The Law of Abundance involves becoming aware of your thoughts, and noticing where you focus your attention and what you believe to be true.

This is where The Law of Thought comes in. Natural Laws are all interconnected and interdependent. The Law of Thought is absolutely essential for applying the Law of Abundance because our abundance comes down to where we focus our attention.

We know that everything is energy, including us. We are always vibrating with this energy, but how we focus our attention changes how we are vibrating. If you learn to live in harmony with Natural Law and think in terms where everything you need is in abundant supply, you will draw a different energy into your conscious awareness.

Conversely, when you give more attention to the expectation of *lack* of what you want rather than the fulfillment of what you want, you are actually blocking yourself from attracting abundance. "Gee, I don't have a flat-screen TV." Or "I don't have any friends. I lack friends." By the principle of like-attracts-like, you are reinforcing the lack of what you want.

The concept of like-attracts-like sounds very familiar because it is a simplified definition for the Law of Attraction, which is very closely connected with the Law of Abundance. Like attracts like. As you bring the Law of Abundance into your daily life, your energy will draw others to you who are in sync with your energy and your vibration. They, too, are seeking abundance, spiritually and materially.

Under the Law of Attraction, when you give attention to the lack of what

you want rather than the fulfillment of what you want, you do more than just block yourself from attracting abundance. You are actually changing your vibration to attract and draw to you the lack of what you want.

Years ago, in a class on Silva Mind Control, I learned to replace any negative thought immediately with a positive thought or a better outcome. For example: having tripped on a step in the past, I might get a flash of tripping as I approach the step the next time. In class, however, we learned to consciously cancel the thought, banishing any image of tripping, and replacing it with an image of taking that step confidently and safely now and in the future.

The Law of Thought and the Law of Attraction both play an important role in manifesting abundance in your life. Perhaps we should take a closer look at what Abundance is. It's not about money (although it doesn't exclude material riches). It's about an increase in love, light, joy, well-being, creativity, exuberance, prosperity, and gratitude—an abundance of all good things, and an ever-deepening, awe-inspiring awareness of who we really are.

Abundance is huge!! It encompasses your friendships, your health, your peace of mind, your relationships, and yes, even your connections to those in Spirit. Raising your vibration is important to developing mediumship, for you strive to align with the vibrations of the unseen.

And who controls your abundance or supply? You do! Your abundance is really an outer expression of your inner being. "When you come into attunement with the source, you will find that you continually manifest your needs, as well as your desires."

There is just one caveat related to the Law of Abundance. Continuous flow is necessary for this to work in your life. You must have "proper intent" in applying the Law of Abundance, remembering that greed and hoarding, and otherwise stashing your abundance away, will block this flow.

A desire for abundance in one's life, far from being a self-centric wish, embraces the world. As you open to abundance, you will find yourself being more open to helping those in need, materially and otherwise. You will find that your heart will be more willing to listen and you will have greater compassion for others.

Continuous flow is necessary for this to work in your life. It requires putting yourself in the flow of the great cycle of giving and receiving. As you demonstrate this law of abundance in your own life, you are teaching others the way by example.

The final, closely related Natural Law that is involved here is the Law of Cause and Effect. Every action has an appropriate reaction. Although you may find this law to manifest in different ways in different situations, please realize that there are no exceptions. Every action has an appropriate reaction. In terms of its impact on the flow of abundance in your life, keep in mind that allowing negativity to enter into your thinking means that there will be consequences.

Open up and let the sun shine in. Let the Law of Abundance work in your life to bring what you desire. You control your own abundance or supply. It all starts with you and the following three components:

- 1. Consider where you focus your attention, either on the fulfillment of abundance or on the lack of it; either on positive thinking or negative thinking.
- 2. Accept the truth that there truly is an unlimited Source of everything you need or could ever want.
- 3. Consider what you believe about yourself—embrace the knowledge that you deserve infinite abundance.

A realization has just dawned on me at the close of writing this article. I've got that winning lottery ticket I dreamed of. I've had it all along, but just didn't see it.





The Velveteen Rabbit was written by Margery Williams, illustrated by William Nicholson, and published in 1922. It is a beloved and popular children's story about how toys become real, and when I re-read it recently, I saw in it parallels with becoming Real Spiritualists.

A toy rabbit, clothed in velveteen (cotton cloth made to imitate velvet) and stuffed with sawdust, is given as a Christmas present to a small boy. The toy rabbit is alive and inquisitive on the inside, yet appears to all the rest of the world as a simple construct for a child's amusement—nothing fancy (not made with real velvet) nothing special (not made with modern mechanics), and without back legs for hopping (certainly not a real rabbit). The boy at first is quite taken with this new toy rabbit from his Christmas stocking, but as the day progresses, and more relatives arrive with more gifts, the boy soon sets aside his toy rabbit and forgets all about him.

As just one of many playthings in the boy's nursery, this shy toy rabbit faces confusion and insecurity when he is snubbed by other toys. Those expensive modern mechanical ones feel superior to old-fashioned sawdust-stuffed rabbits. This rabbit could sense that these other toys were just pretending, claiming to be far more than they actually were, but he felt insignificant and commonplace anyway. The only kindness in the nursery shown to this rabbit was from the toy Skin Horse.

The Skin Horse had lived longer in the nursery than any of the others. He was old, but he was also wise, for he had seen a long succession of toys arrive to boast and swagger, only to pass away when their moving parts stopped moving. The Skin Horse knew that such toys would never turn into anything

else, because even though their insides moved, they never noticed anthing beyond themselves—they never aspired to anything (other than bragging). The Skin Horse knew that such toys could never become real, not without real love.

The velveteen rabbit grew curious and wanted to understand what being real was. He wanted to discover that world and be a part of it. So begins an especially poignant exchange between the Skin Horse and the ever-curious rabbit:

"What is REAL?" asked the Rabbit one day, when they were lying side by side near the nursery fender, before Nana came to tidy the room. "Does it mean having things that buzz inside you and a stick-out handle?"

"Real isn't how you are made," said the Skin Horse. "It's a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but REALLY loves you, then you become Real."

"Does it hurt?" asked the Rabbit.

"Sometimes," said the Skin Horse, for he was always truthful. "When you are Real, you don't mind being hurt."

"Does it happen all at once, like being wound up," he asked, "or bit by bit?"

"It doesn't happen all at once," said the Skin Horse. "You become. It takes a long time. That's why it doesn't happen often to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or who have to be carefully kept. Generally, by the time you are Real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in the joints and very shabby. But these things don't matter at all, because once you are Real you can't be ugly, except to people who don't understand."

"I suppose you are real?" said the Rabbit. And then he wished he had not said it, for he thought the Skin Horse might be sensitive. But the Skin Horse only smiled.

"The Boy's Uncle made me Real," he said. "That was a great many years ago; but once you are Real you can't become unreal again. It lasts for always."

As the rest of the story goes, you may remember, in the year following that Christmas, this velveteen rabbit does become the boy's favorite toy, the boy does love the rabbit for himself, just as he is. In fact, the boy loves the velveteen right off the rabbit, as well as whiskers and eyes. The boy does exclaim the realness of his rabbit friend to his Nana, and the rabbit does become real—really real, just as the wise Skin Horse said was possible! Thanks to the magic of the nursery, this worn and weathered velveteen rabbit becomes *The Velveteen Rabbit!*

Within this charmingly heart-warming story are ideas that ring true regarding our humanity. We come into this world unknowing (or un-remembering), and we learn along the way. We may find teachers who, like the Skin Horse, tell us unadulterated truths gently, and want for us our best, who give us time to become our best selves. We may find others who taunt us carelessly, without thought or consideration. Chances are we've all encountered a mixture of friend and foe along our journeys—and we can learn from both. None of us escapes pain, and real love is for always. None of us is ugly, and real love is for always. I think it's what's inside us, our sense of wonder and curiosity about what's real, so poignantly expressed in this story, that teaches us the most. As we look inside ourselves for what is real about us, we have the opportunity to understand ourselves, to be real from within, to become our true strong and spiritual selves.

When we study Spiritualism's Philosophy, we learn about Infinite Intelligence, Spirit, Natural Law, and Progression. We learn that our yearning from within to express our true natures helps us develop spiritually. We learn that we are responsible for our own happiness, or unhappiness, as we obey or disobey nature's physical and spiritual laws, which are God's Laws. We learn that love and service are the reasons we exist.

Sometimes, when I'm making things too difficult for myself in life, I'm forgetting how simple these lessons are—that knowing myself, being true to myself, and expressing myself authentically make me real. Love makes me real, and I aspire to be a *real* Spiritualist.

When next you read, or re-read, Margery Williams' *The Velveteen Rabbit*, notice how you feel inside as the rabbit's story unfolds. Notice if you yourself feel the sensation of unfolding spiritually, becoming "A Velveteen Spiritualist!"

Words that Heal Focus on the Good

Writer: Rev. Drew Vogt Sarasota Center of Light, FL

We all know the power of the spoken word because we've had rich experiences hearing something heartwarming—such as, "I love you," or "I believe in you." These are words that heal! We have also had painful experiences with harsh words and know the pain they caused. What about learning to use them to Heal?

To me, growing spiritually means taking more and more responsibility to "own" my words. I want to be accountable for them. Several Spiritual Laws are related to the use of our words since our words rise from an emotional and spiritual place. They are the Laws of Love, Magnetism, Cause and Effect, and others. I have begun and ended many conversations by saying "you know I love you."

A Spirit Guide by the name of Dr. Charles Davis, who worked with a Florida Medium, Rev. Dorothy Flexer, had some interesting comments on Paul of the New Testament. Dr. Davis says that Paul speaks with an understanding of Spiritual Law. When referring to Paul's attitudes on "sin," Davis says, "...he meant that transgression of Spiritual Law results in the death of your hopes, ideals, and goals. Unless you live in harmony with the spiritual Law, you cannot be sure of making progress." Certainly our words must be a part of what could bring "death" or healing!

One of my favorite verses from Paul's writings touches on the subject of the power of words. I feel that his wisdom suggested here would, if practiced, heal many a hurt and allow progress: "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

So as a Spiritualist, I do not want to say a harsh word, but instead bring healing by focusing on good.



Writer: William Patridge, C.M. New Vision Spiritualist Center, Orlando FL

or many years now, there have been numerous people who have claimed that various electronics have been useful in communications with the dead. In this article I will spotlight the two geniuses of electricity and their private race to communicate with those in the Spirit World.

Nicola Tesla, the genius inventor, wrote that he had received mysterious signals from beings who he thought were from outer space. These signals could now be considered to be among the first instances of EVP (electronic Voice phenomena). Tesla wrote in 1918: "The sounds I am listening to every night at first appear to be human voices conversing back and forth in a language I cannot understand. I find it difficult to imagine that I am actually hearing real voices from people not of this planet. There must be a more simple explanation that has so far eluded me."

In 1925 Tesla then wrote: "I am hearing more phrases in these transmissions that are definitely in English, French and German. If it were not for the fact that the frequencies I am monitoring are unusable for terrestrial radio stations, I would think that I am listening to people somewhere in the world talking to each other. This cannot be the case as these signals are coming from points in the sky above the earth."

Tesla was among the very first scientists who were experimenting with the necessary electronic receiving equipment that could have received any communications at all, let alone those from the Spirit World. The very same equipment that Tesla used, having been updated with today's electronics, is being used today to receive EVP.

Tesla may have been the first to receive these electronic voices from another realm of existence. But there have been a history of researchers and perhaps Tesla himself, who have

been misled by mischievous spirits masquerading as aliens from other worlds. Inventors such as Tesla and Marconi, who experimented with early radio, were the first to report their findings about the strange voices and sounds that they received. They truly paved the way for the later EVP researchers.

There is ample evidence that Thomas Edison was a Spiritualist as his parents reportedly were. Edison documented and shared many of his ideas of life after death.

If our personality survives, then it is strictly logical and scientific to assume that it retains memory, intellect, and other faculties and knowledge that we acquire on this earth. Therefore, if personality exists, after what we call death, it is reasonable to conclude that those who leave this earth would like to communicate with those they have left here. Accordingly, the thing to do is to furnish the best conceivable means to make it easy for them to open up communication with us, and then see what happens.

I am working on the theory that our personality exists after what we call life leaves our present material bodies. If our personality dies, what's the use of a hereafter? What would it amount to? It wouldn't mean anything to us as individuals. If there is a hereafter which is to do us any good, we want our personality to survive, don't we?



I am proceeding on the theory that in the very nature of things, the degree of material or physical power possessed by those in the next life must be extremely slight; and that, therefore, any instrument designed to be used to communicate with us must be superdelicate—as fine and responsive as human ingenuity can make it. For my part, I am inclined to believe that our personality hereafter will be to affect matter. If this reasoning be correct, then, if we can evolve an instrument so delicate as to be affected, or moved, or manipulated—whichever term you want to use—by our personality as it survives in the next life, such an instrument, when made available, ought to record something.

It is more widely known that Edison and his assistant, Dr. Miller Hutchinson were working on a device for Spirit communication. Edison was interviewed by the founder of Forbes magazine on the subject. Tesla wrote in his own journals that he knew that Edison had his ears to the ground and had heard from other electronic engineers that Tesla had been receiving mysterious broadcasts of voices and sounds in frequencies that don't carry the human voice through his early radio receivers.

While Edison always was looking for an angle, or an edge to present something new for the public to purchase, he publicly mocked and criticized Tesla for believing such nonsense. Privately though, Edison theorized that Tesla had stumbled upon the correct frequencies that would allow for Spirit communication. Ever the businessman, Edison would have been determined to be the first to get a "Spirit Telephone" produced and ready to sell.

Edison's assistant, Dr. Miller Hutchinson, wrote; "Edison and I are convinced that in the fields of psychic research will yet be discovered facts that will prove of great significance to the thinking of the human race than all the inventions we have ever made in the field of electricity."

Edison ultimately lost that battle with Tesla as he did not live long enough to produce such a device. Tesla later wrote in his journal that Edison was trying to use Tesla's own patents to talk with Spirits.

In 1967, the West German trance medium, Sigrun Seuterman, brought Thomas Edison through, and Edison talked about his Spirit communication experiments and even

made suggestions on how to modify TV sets to the correct frequencies in order to both hear and see Spirit communications. Should this be true, then it will definitely require more research to bring this incident to light. Imagine if it were just that simple to "dial" into the Spirit World.

In 1998, a Canadian medium, Alice Cromley, brought through Nicola Tesla, using the same basic equipment that Tesla himself had used. Tesla said that in his early years he had very little patience with those who believed in Spirits and psychic phenomena; however, since his earthly time, he had a change of heart. Ms. Cromley received several communications from Tesla in this manner and he granted this following quote: "Physics extends beyond what is scientifically known today. The future will show that what we now call 'occult' or the 'supernatural' is based on a science not yet developed, but whose first infant steps are being taken as we speak!" Again, this is incredible on the face of it, and is also in need of further investigation.

It's remarkable the number of varied sources information about Spirit communication can come from. Currently, there is a great deal of information coming forth from the Internet concerning a Tesla Spirit Communication device. Tesla is enjoying a revival through a video game which requires the player to build and tune a spirit communication device in which to win the game.

The Steampunk movement, a fantasy and role-playing lifestyle, is finding an interest in rebuilding or creating machines which conform to "steampunk" ideals. (Steampunk refers to a fantasy where technology advances, but is "stuck" in the Victorian era. Therefore, any futuristic machinery is based on steam power and everyone dresses like Albert and Victoria.) One of these machines is a Tesla spirit communication device which can either be purchased or assembled if you're handy enough. There are a great many videos on the Internet which show this particular device being used for spirit communication.

There is a great deal of investigation and experimentation both in America and abroad dealing with electronic communication with Spirit. If Tesla is correct, then someday, perhaps soon, psychical researchers will discover a foolproof and reliable method of communication. We can readily add the results of this research to our repertoire of methods for communication and prove to the world the truth that we already know.



here is a story about a spiritual teacher who had a great number of followers. His disciples wanted to be in his presence constantly. The teacher longed for a brief period of time to be alone, to become spiritually reinvigorated. One day, early in the morning, the teacher sought to get away by taking a walk alone in nature. Within minutes, several of the teacher's disciples were following behind him, interrupting his peaceful meditation. The teacher bent down and picked up a handful of stones, and without saying a word, threw them at those following, attempting to drive them away so that he could continue that morning's solitary walk. The action angered many of the followers, some saying that they didn't understand why the teacher was trying to drive them away. Outraged, some of the followers drifted away while the teacher continued his walk. Others bent down and picked up the stones he had thrown, only to arrive home and discover that the stones had turned into gold

The most recent price for an ounce of gold is nearly \$1800. An ounce of silver is a little over \$40. But I'm not writing about the value of, and investing in, the minerals of silver and gold. The subject is the value of spiritual silver and gold.

Spiritually speaking, the color of silver is the symbol of spiritual protection; light and truth, of psychic abilities, intuition, reflection, illusion, and the divine feminine.

Gold is the symbol of higher thoughts and mind, spiritual advancement, wisdom, the divine masculine, higher consciousness, love, and something divinely bestowed upon you; great treasures within.

Let us open that spiritual treasure chest that is always available to us. Let's look at some of the silver and gold tools within and discover how we can put them to work for our spiritual progression.

First of all, in order to unlock our spiritual treasure chest we must have a key. For many, meditation is the key. Betty Bethards writes that "meditation is the freeway to enlightenment." It helps us get in touch with the teacher or God within. Meditation opens us to higher energy sources and recharges the body, mind, and spirit. Our perception depends upon our energy level, and meditation is the way to keep our energy at its peak.

After using the key of meditation to unlock our spiritual treasure chest, what do we find as we lift the lid? The first treasures that we see are silver words of wisdom (speech is silver, silence is golden). The silver words are: "Kinship with all life," followed by a saying: "My soul bows to your soul," a translation of the Hindu greeting Namaste.

The next silver words we find are, "live, love yourself, and your joyfulness will inspire your family and friends."

I'm often asked the question: "How can I become a spiritual person?" To be spiritual simply means being of God, holy, and divine. Each one of us is spiritual. When we were conceived we were given that God spark. God is a part of us now and forever. We are holy and divine. We become more spiritual by being aware—there is a deep, enduring wisdom that can elevate every person, every thought to a higher spiritual level. Practice the presence of God within you. Infinite Intelligence is that presence within you and throughout the universe. Just be aware! Love the God that is within you—love yourself, and your love and joyfulness will shine and inspire others.

As Spiritualists, we understand the presence of Infinite Intelligence within us, knowing that this presence, this unique, personal Spirit continues through all of our passages and progressions in this life and our life in the Spirit World, after the overcoat of our physical being is discarded.

Spiritual gold is within this treasure chest, similar to those stones that turned to gold nuggets as in the story above. Before we pick up one of those spiritual golden tools, let us for a moment reflect on that golden-yellow light of our solar plexus



chakra, shining in the sun like the jewel, topaz. We want to be aware of this powerful center of spiritual energy. We find in this chakra, the plane of mental consciousness—providing clear thinking. As we look at these golden spiritual tools we want to be clear in our thinking. We as Spiritualists must figure out how we may put these spiritual tools to work for our progression and, by example, for others.

Our golden tools

Send out only thoughts of love and good will. See the good in others, and acknowledge that good. Expand love through friendship. Friendship is unselfish, loyal, good cheer in need, true and sincere respect. Do unto others as you would do to yourself. Be kind. There is an ancient Russian saying that one kind word can warm three winter months. Prayer equals understanding; cultivate greater awareness of others. Peace and harmony: As part of our daily spiritual practice send peace and harmony to others. Send peace and harmony to ourselves more often.

Three more golden treasures that provide a further spiritual gilding to those above are the following:

Do not judge anyone else for what they seem to be doing. The law of sisterhood and brotherhood is based on tolerance and loving understanding. Live by the Law of Love in your understanding of other people's relationships and of your own. Always be guided by the wisdom of your inner light, as to what is right or wrong for you, what is truth, what is the truth for you; but do not try to impose your ideas upon others.

To quote Shakespeare, "This above all to thine own self be true, and it must follow, as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man or woman."

The following are a few paraphrased words from *Peter Pan*, written 110 years ago by Scottish novelist J.M. Barrie—useful advice that relates to our spiritual silver and gold treasures as we progress toward upliftment and enlightenment.

Just keep an open mind and suddenly you'll find never, never (Spirit) land. It's not on any chart; you must find it in your heart. You'll have a treasure if you stay there, more precious far than gold. For once you have found your way there, you will never, never grow old.

Think lovely thoughts. Think of your spiritual treasure chest containing all of that silver and gold, and think lovely thoughts.

Pioneers

Speech by Paul Spencer, 1893 to 1993 101st Annual NSAC Convention Centennial Anniversary—October 1, 1993

e give thanks in joyous measure to our early pioneers who have fashioned this great union, that has stood a hundred years now, as we who hold the banner that has brought us to this day, can we lead as those before us, to a brighter, better way?

Is there any here among us that can match what they have done? Have we lived a life of service, in the race that we have run? Are the standards that we live by worthy of their praise and cheers? Is the measure of our service fit to match our pioneers? Or has ego stalked among us, and pulled down what they have done?

Has our selfish satisfaction clouded o'er their praises won? Is this union better or stronger just because we made it so, or has where our weakness led us taken brightness from the glow?

Are the ones that we call leaders still uplifting all the rest? Can they still bring inspiration, can they pass the simplest test? Do their actions still remind us that they truly love, indeed, or must we look to others for the comfort that we need?

As we stand here at the crossroads of our first one hundred years, as we search for inspiration, words to calm over sullen fears, must we look back in our history to bring vigor to our day? Or are there those among us who will rally to the fray?

We need writers, we need speakers, we need those who will lead the way. We need workers in our vineyard like they had in yesterday. We need vision and inspiration. We need bold and valiant ways and leaders who uplift us as we toil through endless days. We need poets, we need singers, we need silver, we need gold. As we march into the future, to the next one hundred years, let us not fail those behind us as we become the pioneers.

Submitted by: Rev. Bradley Gosselin



Writer: Kevin Mullican Jacksonville, Florida

In the Your life has many purposes. ■ Many are fulfilled in your day-today life and you do not think of them as purposes. Yet you could say meaning and purpose motivated each choice, each experience, and each role you have played that taught you lessons about yourself, your relationships, people and how life works. The learning and growth that has or is taking place from each experience moves you forward to greater awareness and can be seen as a purpose in your life. Some of you may choose to look broader and see the major theme or spiritual reason for your life. Knowing your spiritual purpose is a motivating and exciting force in one's life. Do you know your spiritual purpose or are you ready to take on another assignment?

Destiny calls some people in a direct, clear fashion and others in a nonspecific way. Some people seek their spiritual purpose actively and others simply allow life to direct them not giving it much thought. Some do not have the need to define what they do as a spiritual purpose, but as Spiritualists, we are guided to seek deeper meaning and purpose for our lives, beyond involvement with family or work.

To self-actualize further, some of us may feel the urge to make a contribution to society, to help humanity and the world by using the wisdom gleaned from our life experiences and by using our gifts and talents.

Some of you do not recognize that your spiritual self, soul, God or Infinite Intelligence has called you to express your life in a certain direction. Without defining it as a spiritual purpose, you may have had a lot of inner drive to accomplish certain goals or to develop and use certain talents many times as an avocation. If you were to turn around and review your life, you might see some important patterns that point in the direction of seeing your purpose. Maybe you had a strong desire to build or refinish furniture, to raise orchids, to know the names of local trees and birds, to write letters to the editor in your local paper, or to start your own business. The desire to develop and enjoy one's interests and talents can be viewed as actualizing a spiritual purpose. If it happens to benefit others that is great; however, the fact is, if it brings more joy, peace, and love into your life, it benefits the world.

How do you reach deeper to find spiritual meaning and purpose that will motivate, stimulate, and enrich your life at any age? Let us look at two processes. There is a yin, or gentle, passive, or flowing approach, which allows your spiritual purpose to find you. Then there is the yang,

directive, active, or seeking approach to finding your spiritual purpose. Many of you have experienced a combination of both processes.

Some of you may have had defined experiences where life handed you your spiritual purpose.

Timing is very important in living your life and fulfilling your missions. You can get answers from Spirit when you ask, yet the time to actualize them depends on so many things: your maturity level, your ability to assimilate and integrate your experiences, and your degree of understanding the language of your soul, which is intuition and inner knowing.

Honor your resistances and the times when you feel no willpower to put into practice what you know you need to do. Listen and you will find you probably need some nurturing or to finish some loose ends in your life. You are not backsliding if you go through a period of needing help.

Remember it is just as valuable a spiritual purpose to raise a child, to grow a garden, to uplift friends and family when they need love and encouragement, to develop one of your talents, to get to know your self, or to heal a problem, as it is to be president of your club, a musician, professional athlete, to teach a class, or write a book. The important thing is to be your true Self and actualize your spiritual purpose.

Whether you receive one step at a time or are given the big picture as you discover your spiritual purpose, it matters not. Just go with whichever way works for you. Your spiritual self knows you and how to reach and motivate you. Thank goodness you do not have to be in charge, so relax into the process of discovering your spiritual purpose. Each of us has a special purpose that only we can fulfill or we would not be here. The greater whole of humanity needs our particular note in the symphony of life.



Reprinted from

The National Spiritualist Compiled by Miss Ava Whiston

November 1st, 1943

ne of the most essential departments in the advancement of any movement is publicity. Without some means of apprising the public of its standards and purpose, no movement, whether business or fraternal, can make much progress.

Spiritual Telegraph

Realizing this the pioneers of Spiritualism began the publication of the Spiritual Telegraph, edited by S.B. Brittain, in New York, in 1853, four years after the first public meeting was held by the Fox sisters in Corinthian Hall in the city of Rochester, N.Y. This magazine was composed of articles on Spiritualism, accounts of messages, poetry and topics of the day. Among its contributors, we find the names of S.B. Brittan, C.D. Stuart, Robert Dale Owen, Hon. N.P. Tallmadge, William Denton, Judge Edmonds, and many other prominent people of that time.

American Spiritual Magazines

After the Spiritual Telegraph, many other magazines were published. Among them was the American Spiritual Magazine, edited and published by Samuel Watson in Memphis, Tenn., about 1874. This maga-

zine contains interesting accounts of several State Associations which were born and died several years

> previous to the present State Associations. We find an account of the eleventh annual meeting of the Pennsylvania State Spiritualist Association, held in Philadelphia on March 31, 1877, on the Twenty-ninth Anniversary of Modern Spiritualism, in which the First Association Spiritualists o f Philadelphia (the oldest Spiritualist Church functioning in 1943) took part. We

also find references to the State Associations of Arkansas, Tennessee, and New Hampshire and much discussion concerning the advisability of organizing a National Spiritualist Association.

Spiritualists at Work and Other Magazines

In July, 1874, E.V. Wilson edited and published a magazine in Philadelphia which was called The Spiritualist at Work.

Other periodicals between the years of 1874 and 1900 were the Religio-Philosophical Journal, The Progressive Thinker, The Spiritualist Scientist, The Banner of Light, The Light of Truth, The Sunflower, Reason, The Better Way, and The Carrier Dove. In these magazines we find interesting accounts of such well known workers as Dr. J.M. Peebles, Lyman G. Howe, Hudson Tuttle, Moses Hull, G.W. Kates, former Secretary of the National Spiritualist Association, and Mrs. Kates, Rev. and Mrs. E.W. Sprague, the Bangs sisters, Lizzie Doten, Will G. Hodge and many other prominent workers of that time.

The Twentieth century brought other publications, among which were *The Banner of Life*, *The Messenger*, The Spiritualist monthly, The Occult Digest, The Psychic World and The National Spiritualist.

The National Spiritualist

Of all these magazines, few are now in circulation. Each has had its place in the Spiritualist field and each has done its share of work in promoting the Cause of Spiritualism.

The National Spiritualist was first published in January, 1919, in accordance with instructions given at a previous convention. It is owned and controlled by The National Spiritualist Association of Churches, its management and policies being left in the hands of the National Board, and thus it is the official organ of the National Spiritualist Association, in which all of its members are equally a part and equally involved in its welfare and success.



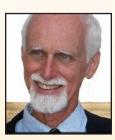
Belief in the Afterlife

Nearly three-quarters of the people surveyed in a new study said they believed in a life after death. This number has remained the same since a survey taken in 1976. Another study of 1,000 Presbyterians looked at the relationship between religious beliefs and fears about death and dying. The survey found that "More frequent church attendance, involvement in church activities outside of worship and belief in life after death were all associated with less fear of the unknown beyond this life." Parents of children with life-threatening conditions said that "Religion and spirituality were important sources of support and comfort." Of course, individual believers respond differently to death anxiety. "Some faithful parents found it helpful to express their anger toward God, but some parents moved away from their faith."

See: "Secularism is spreading, but belief in afterlife lives on" by Peggy Fletcher Stack, The Salt Lake Tribune, sltrib.com/blog/

Afterlife Cafes

Stafford Betty is a professor of religious studies at California State University in Bakersfield whose interests



include the near-death experience, deathbed visions, spirit communication, reincarnation memories, and terminal lucidity among Alzheimer's victims. He says that there is a library of information and research that points to a world that doesn't require us to have a physical body to be alive. He says

that, "one of the most intriguing social movements in recent years is the Death Café. People come together to talk about death. Taking it out of the closet, they say, helps remove the fear of it." Betty says that perhaps it removes the fear for some, "but for me, and most of my audiences, talking about death no more removes the fear of it than talking about a large asteroid heading our way. We need Afterlife Cafés, not Death Cafés."

From: "The Misguided Quest for Physical Immortality" by Stafford Betty, Huff Post Wired News, huffingtonpost.com



Near-Death Research

Scientists at the University of Southampton in England spent four years tracking and interviewing 101 survivors of cardiac arrest, whose hearts had completely stopped while they were in hospital. Some of the interviews were conducted while the survivors were still recovering; others took place shortly after they were discharged. The majority of survivors were men and their average age was 67. The researchers found that nearly 40 percent of the survivors could remember something from the time their hearts were stopped and they were being revived, but most couldn't recall any explicit details. Nine percent described experiences that could be called "near-death experiences," meaning they had memories and emotions such as fear during the event, but couldn't recall specific things they saw or heard. Two patients reported full awareness compatible with an out-of-body experience. One accurately described people and activities that took place during his resuscitation.

The high proportion of patients who perceived having vague memories and awareness was unexpected. Having visual memories of a near-death event and experiencing emotions such as fear could explain why some cardiac arrest survivors develop post-traumatic stress disorder and this possibility deserves more study.

From: "Near-death, out-of-body experiences rare but possible, study finds" by CTV News staff, CTV News, ctvnews.ca/health/health-headlines/

Near-death Experiences

NDE's are getting more attention. The 2014 movie *Heaven Is for Real*, about a young boy who told his parents he had visited heaven while he was having emergency surgery, grossed a respectable \$91 million in the United States. The book it was based on was published in 2010 and has sold some 10 million copies. It spent 206 weeks on the New York Times best-seller list.

Two recent books by doctors, *Proof of Heaven*, by Eben Alexander, who writes about a near-death experience he had while in a weeklong coma brought on by meningitis, and *To Heaven and Back*, by Mary C. Neal, who had her NDE while submerged in a river after a kayaking accident, have spent 94 and 36 weeks, respectively, on the bestseller list.

From: "The Science Of Near-Death Experiences" by Gideon Lichfield, The World Post, huffingtonpost.com



Afterlife Accounts Removed

AThe publishing arm of the Southern Baptist Convention has stopped selling popular accounts of the afterlife like *Heaven is for Real* and *90 Minutes in Heaven* at its national chain of Lifeway Christian Bookstores. At their annual convention, they warned that such books and films can lead people astray with "Personal testimonies that cannot be corroborated" and that these accounts sometimes conflict with scripture. They overwhelmingly passed a resolution declaring "The sufficiency of biblical revelation over subjective experiential" accounts of heaven and hell. Lifeway stopped ordering personal afterlife accounts last summer and the remaining heaven visitation items have been removed from their stores and website and will not be replenished.

From: "Personal afterlife accounts removed from Baptist bookstores," by Staff, WBNS-10TV, 10tv.com

Teleportation

In the People's Republic of China, a September 1981 paper was published in the journal Ziran Zazhi (Nature Journal) tilted "Some Experiments on the Transfer of



Objects Performed by Unusual Abilities of the Human Body" (Shuhuang et al., 1981) The paper reported that "gifted children," were able to cause the teleportation of small, physical objects from one place to another. Objects included watches, horseflies, other

insects, radio micro-transmitters, photosensitive paper and more. The participants never touched the objects beforehand and the experiments were done under both blind and double-blind conditions.

More research was done by the Aerospace Medicine Engineering Institute in Beijing, in July of 1990. It was published in the Chinese Journal of Somatic Science (Kongzhi *et al.*, 1990: Jinggen *et al.*, 1990; Banghui; 1990). This study reported several experiments involving high speed photography videotaping, which was able to capture the transfer of test specimens like nuts, matches, nails, pills and more through the walls of sealed paper envelopes, sealed glass bottles and tubes, sealed plastic film canisters and more without the walls of any of these containers being breached. All of these experiments reported using gifted children and adults to cause the teleportation of various materials. In all of the examples, it

was reported that the test specimens remained in their original state after teleportation, including the insects.

Different research groups designed different experimental methods, used gifted psychics, different sealed containers and test specimens that were to be teleported. The experimental results were all repeatable. The conditions for fraud and sleight of hand were totally eliminated, and multiple outside witnesses (technical and military-intelligence experts) were present at all times.

From: "Scientists Report Teleportation of Physical Objects From One Location To Another" by Arjun Walia, Collective Evolution, collective-evolution.com.

Our Unconscious Mind

An earlier issue of Media Watch included a report about James Carpenter's First Sight Theory. In it, he described parapsychological research indicating that we unconsciously sense our physical and psychic environment before we are consciously aware of the information. Everything produces a psi signal which we sense, but we only consciously experience what our unconscious mind thinks of the information.

Because this theory is based on psi functioning research, it seemed likely that mainstream science would reject the concept. However, articles about unconscious mental processing are beginning to show up in the mainstreams media ... without reference to psi, of course.

From the Introduction of "Our Unconscious Mind": "When psychologists try to understand the way our mind works, they frequently come to a conclusion that may seem startling: people often make decisions without having



given them much thought—or, more precisely, before they have thought about them consciously. When we decide how to vote, what to buy, where to go on vacation and myriad other things, unconscious thoughts that we are not even aware of typically play a big role. Research has recently brought to light just how profoundly our unconscious mind shapes our day-to-day interactions."

From: "Our Unconscious Mind," by Bargh, John A., Scientific American, January 2015, pages 30-37. And, Carpenter, James C. First Sight: ESP and Parapsychology in Everyday Life, firstsightbook.com

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

Living Life As A Spiritualist

Writer: Jennifer Neumann
First Spiritualist Temple of East Aurora, NY.

very Sunday we, as Spiritualists, come together in our churches to meet of like mind. A big part of that meeting is the Declaration of our Principles. Then we socialize, go our separate ways, and follow our routine for the next 6 or so days until we join together again. Yet these principles are not intended for just reciting on Sunday, but for daily living. The very term, Principle, denotes "an accepted or professed rule of action or conduct." By definition, it is of no use to merely express an understanding of a principle, without also putting it into action.

Today we are living in a time where it is more important than ever to Live our Lives as Spiritualists by going back to our Principles, understanding them, and incorporating them as a way of being, a rule of action or conduct—by living them! It is a time to reconnect with our true selves and the Universal Source through the teachings of our philosophy.

What if you took on a course of action that would really change your life, really make a difference—one that could give you infinite rewards, in this life and hereafter? Would you consider it? Would you accept it?

I'm asking you to consider making the same resolution that each and every one of our Spiritualist Pioneers made at one time or another: Embrace our Philosophy, put the Principles into Action in your life, and Live Life as a Spiritualist!

So let's review our first three principles, deepen our understanding of them, and see what effect putting them into action may have on your life.

Principle No. 1: We Believe in Infinite Intelligence.

The Infinite flow, the Divine Energy—you may call this Universal Source by any name you wish: Jehovah, Buddha Nature, Christ Consciousness, Cosmic Consciousness, Allah, Infinite Intelligence, Infinite Spirit, The Source, Great Spirit, Mother, Father, God. Whatever name used, Spiritualists putting this principle into action in their lives realize their one-on-one relationship with divinity in their life, and embrace their complete inner relatedness with this universal flow of energy. We as Spiritualists are fortunate to realize this concept as truth: as the God of our Understanding. God is Spirit, and Spirit, like everything else, is energy.

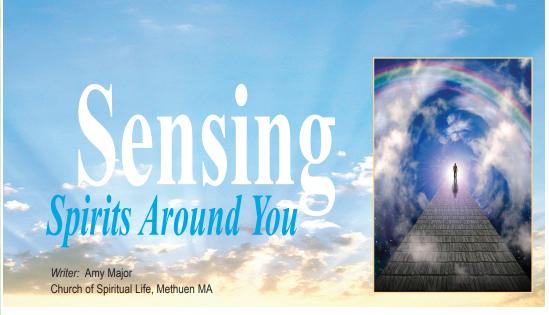
Since the dawn of man all peoples have been driven to develop a relationship with the God of their Understanding. Yet despite all of this searching, the vast majority of today's contemporary religions continue to direct their followers to place God *OUTSIDE* of themselves, and teach man that they are created "in God's image." Many spend their entire lives searching to "see the face of this God in whose likeness they are created," never feeling complete because they simply

cannot find it. They are looking for an external God, living in a place called "Heaven" sitting on a throne with a beard. No wonder why so many people feel disconnected from God.

When we look within, we find the God of our Understanding. patiently waiting for us, presenting in a way we can personally identify with. We feel this energy in our breath, in our organs and tissues, in our mind, with our Soul and Spirit. We sense this energy and the vibrations that run through our being. We become conscious and aware that we too are a divinity, a spirit, energy, and are also an integral part of the universal or divine flow that is "The Source" expressing in all creation. When we experience this flow, embrace it and understand it, we realize the power of our creation too is vast—and we strive to remain in harmony with it. When you take time to find the flow of God daily and dip deeply into the energy that surrounds you, and resonate with it, you set yourself on the path to living this Principle, to Living Life fully as a Spiritualist. You not only change your perception of yourself, but the entire universe. You rest in the comfort of oneness, and open your heart and mind to your true connectivity with all creation. Think on it, meditate on it, feel the energy in and around you, and come to the point of understanding in your own way. This will allow you to open up to living a more balanced and harmonious life and step through the doorway to a meaningful understanding of the other aspects of our Philosophy. It all starts with not only believing in Infinite Intelligence, but experiencing it for yourself and accepting its presence as part of the fabric of your being.

So, let's go on with the flow and look at Principles No. 2 and 3: We believe that the phenomena of Nature, both physical and spiritual, are the expression of Infinite Intelligence, and affirm that a correct understanding of such expression and living in accordance therewith constitute true religion.

Let's talk a little more about what exactly "is" this "God" and its expression. Universal life force is the energy that moves through all time and space, creating and sustaining all things in the universe. Without it, nothing could exist. The ancient Hindu tradition calls this life force "Prana." There are many other names. You are nothing but Energy and the Universe is nothing but Energy. These fields all interconnect and intermingle, manifesting as creation. At an Energetic level, the separate energies lose their definition and everything merges into each other. The fundamental energy in expression flows through every organism and allows for all systems in the universe to operate, at all levels of consciousness. It is the energy of awareness. It is the energy of atoms. It is through Nature that manifestations of this universal life force energy become most evident to us, and this manifestation becomes our reality. Spirit (energy) always functions through matter, producing life. As Spiritualists, we embrace this understanding and see God as omnipotent organized energy, shown to us in the operation of the universe. God is in every rock, tree, and person, speck of dust, molecule, and atom. Continued on page 29



The answer is you. Your awareness and understanding of different levels of Spirit communicate with Spirit in so many ways.

Most of us, before being trained, would have brushed off these feelings as coincidences or unexplainable events. These feelings from Spirit would make us question our environment, emotional state, even our sanity. But as we continue to develop mediumship skills, we quickly realize that these unusual feelings and encounters are Spirits and energy sources, trying to communicate with us.

Two special ways that Spirit communicates with us is through physical and non-physical contact. Nonphysical contact through our psychic senses seem to be the most common as Spirit is of a non-physical energy source and interaction through our minds is the simplest form of communication. Physical communication would involve much more concentration and heavy energy stimulation to manipulate a physical reaction. Spirits can communicate physically with us, though I find higher level beings have a hard time "coming down" to the heavier vibration needed to create this physical reaction. Young Spirits, newly departed Spirits, Spirits still in transition, and earthbound Spirits would have an easier time communicating physically with us.

Non-physical senses

During childhood, daydreaming and our imagination allowed our mind to exercise our visualization abilities. These visualizations would strengthen our 5 senses of seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling and feeling on a non-physical level. Though we knew that we weren't physically using these senses the way we normally would do, they were still strongly felt through the use of our mind. And it's with this development that we connect to Spirit in the non-physical Spirit World.

Seeing Spirits within your mind is the most common type of mediumship. This type is called Clairvoyance. Seeing them in your mind can be related to visualizing a daydream. You see it in your mind with flashes of images, colors and possibly even a bright vivid picture or scene. The clarity of your image depends on your mediumship development and whether clairvoyance is a strength for you. People with strong clairvoyant abilities can see Spirits with their physical eyes, just like they were looking at you and me. This type of mediumship is rare but can be developed over time. Most psychics or mediums will see Spirits physically, though it's usually through their peripheral vision.

Hearing Spirits on a non-physical

level will also occur like a vivid daydream. Mediums may hear singing, talking, music, chimes, bells, knocking, buzzing noises, etc. All of these sounds occur in your mind, and feel similar to memories. Sometimes the noises are faint and other times they will be loud and very direct. If Clairaudience or "clear hearing" is a strength for you, you will hear these noises frequently and clearly.

Feeling Spirits around you is a very common ability for mediums. This type of ability is called Clairsentience. With clairsentience, you can actually feel the different Spirit vibrations around you. Mediums with strong Clairsentience ability will sense and feel Spirit energy around them often. Learning how to protect yourself on a psychic and spiritual level is important as it will help you learn to set limitations.

Two other non-physical abilities would be through psychic smelling and tasting. These types of abilities are called Clairalience (smelling) and Clairgustance (tasting). Spirits may share these sensations with you, and may often associate a particular smell or taste with a specific memory. Tastes of your favorite foods are fun to experience. Smells such as flowers, perfume or the ocean may come through easily especially if it was a strong memory for the Spirit.

The last form of communication is less from the Spirit and more of a psychic sense from the medium. This ability is Claircognizance. This ability is clear-knowing. The medium will pick up on non-physical emotions and thoughts from the Spirit such as "I can sense the Spirit is confused, or the Spirit feels joy when they are around you."

We all have the ability to communicate with Spirit. Once you've understood your psychic senses and how Spirit can connect to them, you can learn to effectively communicate as a medium.

The NSAC Post

EXAMINATIONS & CREDENTIALS:

All future correspondence related to the processing of examinations and credentials will be handled by the NSAC Department of Education. Please send to:

Rev. June E. Killmer, Director NSAC Department of Education 1635 Old Hart Ranch Road, Roseville, CA 95661 Email: JuneKillmer@surewest.net

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CALL FOR CANDIDATES:

NSAC Board of Trustees Election
Call for Candidates Response due July 24th

A *Call for Candidates* for election to the NSAC Board of Trustees at this year's Annual Convention was included in the NSAC mailing to auxiliaries in May and has been posted on the NSAC website. (nsac.org). Members wanting to delcare their candidacy should obtain a copy of the *Call for Candidates* from auxiliary secretaries, from the NSAC webpage, or from the Nominating Committee (nsacnominations@nsac.org).

Only statements in proper format and received by July 24th will be accepted.

The NSAC Nominating Committee will receive candidate statements and publish them in a *Candidates for Election* document several weeks prior to the Annual Convention. This will give members notice of candidates and their qualifications prior to the Convention.

ACC

Writer: Rev. Delilah Kieffer, Church of Eternal Light, WA

re you open minded and open hearted? Do you readily accept people at face value, or are you close-minded? Is it difficult to meet people where they are? Just because someone does not speak or act the way you may expect them to, or because a person does not dress the way you do, or is down on their luck and is different, does not mean that they are deranged, dangerous or not acceptable to our ideal of society.

Recently I was given a wonderful opportunity to attend a meeting where the LGBQT participants gathered.

For those of you who do not know what this stands for it is the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Queer Gender, and Transgender Persons community of which I am an ally.

While taking part in this meeting I learned so much about these brave individuals. I found great courage mixed with sorrow and some bitterness. Lots of laughter, and hope impressed upon their beautiful indomitable souls.

Though many have tried to hurt them, they are unconquerable, they do not give up in the face of what seems like insurmountable odds stacked against them. It is their soul that makes them who they are, just as our soul makes us who we are. It is not the window dressing, the clothes are not what makes the person who they are.

Our physical body is just that, window dressing. It is not the amount of money in our bank accounts, or what type of car we own. It is not what degree we carry if any, nor is it the career. It is not the home we live in or who we know that makes us who we are.

It is our soul and that amazing God spark in each of us. We are unique individuals. Each of us has dreams, talents, hopes, aspirations. Yet we are all one in the Universal Spectrum and the eyes of our Creator. We all as a country, as a people, as a nation, as a world need to come to the realization that it is ok to be different.

To be who we are in our soul, and to respect and encourage each others differences.

This is what we are here to do. We are here to learn our life lessons, to teach others about Infinite Intelligence, our Great Creator, Source of all things and the gift of Unconditional Love.

There is more to being a Spiritualist than just proving the continuity of life and healing. We are to be of service to our fellow human beings. Service is a major part of what we do here and later in the Spirit World.

We need to reach out to those who need us most. We need to be that shining light for Spiritualism and open our doors, our hearts, and our churches to those that are considered different, even though we are all equal, we still have a long way to go toward Equality for all.

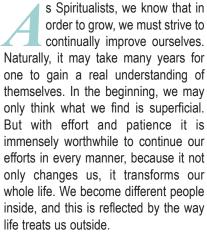
So I ask you once again, Are you open minded and open hearted enough to teach, show, and give of yourselves and demonstrate our Creator's greatest gift, Unconditional Love?

Church of Eternal Light, NSAC is a safe space, nonjudgmental atmosphere, where *ALL* are welcome to come and learn about Spiritualism and grow in Spirit. We have opened our church doors to the LGBQT community and hope others will do the same.

The National Spiritualist Summit

EPTANCE

Writer: Diane Edwards, MPI Student



No matter how entranced in our personality we think we are, the amazing thing is that those aspects of ourselves begin to change rapidly as we bring awareness to the compulsive aspects of our personalities. The more we allow ourselves to feel the pain of our self-criticism; the essential qualities that we have been longing for begin to arise within us. The unfinished business of childhood begins to resolve itself in our psyches and our hearts begin to heal.

Of course, the very fact of being receptive to spirituality can vastly accelerate the process of healing the deficits in our early development, provided we not use spirituality as an evasion for going through the whole healing process. And, by the same token, using the tools of psychology to heal the gaps in our development gives us the capacity to sustain spiritual states of consciousness. These two processes—the psychological and the spiritual—are therefore connected and need not be considered separate things; they are really stages in the full development of the complete human being.

From this perspective, saying that one is interested in spirituality but not psychology (or vice versa) is like saying that you want to learn to be a writer but are not interested in spelling or grammar, or that you want to be a doctor but do not care about biology. Psychology

that does not address peoples' spiritual hungers is not going to lead to any type of complete and satisfying result. It is like climbing only half way up a mountain, or taking a dish out of the oven when it is only half-baked. We still get some benefits, but do not achieve the final goal. Psychology without spirituality is dry and ultimately meaningless, while spirituality without grounding in psychological work leads to vanity and illusions. Either way, disappointment and deception result. To be most effective, spirituality and psychology need to go hand in hand to reinforce the best in each other.

As Spiritualists, I believe that the Serenity prayer fits our philosophy very well. I've always been drawn to the serenity prayer and wanted to more fully understand the meaning behind it. So I did some research. The prayer is most commonly associated with the American theologian and writer Reinhold Neibuhr (1892–1971). It first appeared in print form in 1950, although his wife recounts that it may have been in existence as early as 1934. Did you know that there is a whole other stanza to this prayer that isn't widely publicized? It was added later on by an unknown author.

The Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things I can;
And wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time;
Enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
Taking, as He did, this sinful world
As it is, not as I would have it;
Trusting that He will make all things right
If I surrender to His Will;
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life
And supremely happy with Him
Forever and ever in the next. Amen.

The first two lines are a prayer for peace to accept what cannot be changed in oneself ("serenity"). The third line is a request for strength to overcome that which is possible to achieve or overcome ("courage"). The fourth line is a prayer for

insightfulness to know when to accept a situation or when to challenge it ("wisdom").

The second part of the prayer is a prayer for the acceptance of hardships and a prayer of trust that Infinite Intelligence will bring us peace and happiness while we are on the Earthly plane and life everlasting beyond the grave.

As you may know, this prayer is at the very heart of *Alcoholics Anonymous*. They have incorporated it into their *Twelve Step program*. The program emphasizes one's recognition of a problem, recognition of their inability to change it on their own, and a recognition and belief in a power greater than themselves that is able to help them. It is also the cornerstone of many other groups devoted to the recovery of people suffering from behavioral addictions, such as Debtors Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous.

Here is a five-minute meditation on the serenity prayer that you may find useful:

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change." Serenity is the place where we are calm, peaceful, and free from stress. While stilling your being for one minute, offer Infinite Intelligence anything that may be heavily weighing on your mind.

"The courage to change the things I can." Bring to mind any areas in your life where you want to see change. Ask Infinite Intelligence for courage and strength to overcome these problems and allow light to flood your being with strength and hope.

"And the wisdom to know the difference." *Give thanks and allow Infinite Intelligence to lead you in the areas where change is possible.*

From wisdom we are led back to serenity, and a place of rest and calm.

GROWTH

GROWTH The Central Law



s Spiritualists, we know that growth is the central law of our being and should be made the object of all our exertion.

Growth is the result of all experience. Such experience and efforts will and do receive the benedictions of higher Intelligences, even as good deeds attract admiration and cooperation from the generous and noble of every age in every country.

Many people hold the belief that just because they go to services and meditate or pray regularly, they have become spiritual. Following a religion such as Spiritualism and performing meditation and prayers, no doubt is one of the ways to connect with oneself, but on its own, being religious does not make one a spiritual person, or a Spiritualist. It simply means that a spiritual person can be religious but it is not necessary that a religious person be spiritual.

Some people strongly feel that in order to be considered a spiritual person, one should give up their family life, their possessions and everything that is dear to them, and that they should retreat to some faraway mountaintop and pray. Only then will they attain enlightenment and become a truly spiritual being.

As Spiritualists, we know that being spiritual does not necessitate that we need to separate ourselves and live in solitude. On the contrary, maintaining growth as the central law of our being makes us understand how we are part of this whole universe and that each and every one of us has our own place in it. It tells us that all our actions and thoughts, whether positive or negative, ultimately affect us and every-

body else around us because we are all, after all, an interconnected whole. Our most important life lessons are gained through shared experiences with those around us, not through solitude.

To make growth the central law of our being allows us to continue to learn and teach new and better ways of being kind and caring to ourselves, and others. Growth shows us our kindness should not only be reflected through our actions, but through our words and thoughts as well.

In Spiritualism, making growth the central law of our being means to continue to learn to inculcate love, truthfulness, positive thinking, peace, kindness and happiness within ourselves. It means to realize that everybody—all humans, animals, insects, plants and all other living beings are connected to one another. Therefore when harm is done, all are affected. A spiritual person has learned to be helping, caring and considerate of others and thus, chooses their actions, words and thoughts consciously.

Growth will show that being spiritual and a Spiritualist is not a state of being that comes quickly. No amount of praying or participation within any religious group, or quantity of time practicing meditation, is going to make one a Spiritualist or spiritual. The central law of our being is growth; growth in our learning, our knowledge and our way of life. Spiritualism and being a Spiritualist is something which one chooses to be, by being helpful, caring and kind to others.

The day you feel that you wish happiness and success to even those whom you once considered your enemy, the day that you feel that you have forgiven those who hurt you once, the day you have only kind and good thoughts—that's when you will feel spiritual in the true sense.

Never stop learning, never stop growing. The central law of our being is growth; growth in our faith and understanding that we are indeed our own religion. Continue to grow each day and be a beacon of light for Spiritualism.

Summertime

Writer: Rev. Marilyn J. Awtry, NST Center for Spiritual Enlightenment, Falls Church VA

eorge Gershwin's production of the song, *Summertime And The Living is Easy* rang through my mind as I thought of the July/August issue. As Spiritualists, we know that living in accordance with Natural Law fulfills those words. Let us look back and grasp the truths that have paved our way forward.

The second Sunday in August we celebrate Spiritualism as a Science. Ernst Thompson, wrote in his book, *History of Modern Spiritualism and Its Scientific Foundation*, that Spiritualism commenced first and foremost as a science. Somehow through the 20th century, we seem to have gotten off track. Awakening to this realization, the delegates assembled for the 119th Convention of the National Spiritualist Association of Churches voted to revive the Science of Spiritualism as well as celebrate Science Day. It is mandatory that if we are to be a science we must engage in research and fully demonstrate that part of Spiritualism's trilogy.

The American Psychical Research Society (ASPR) is still in being; however, the question asked is, "What activity is taking place in scientific research today?" How is Spiritualism involved? As we review the last century, it becomes apparent that little research has taken place in Spiritualism's arena. It is also apparent that the kind of mediumship demonstrated in the past is rarely demonstrated by the mediums of today. Back then, its purpose was to demonstrate communication with those in the world of Spirit in order to prove there is a continuity of life. It was to link with a Spirit entity and give to humanity "evidential communication" proving that life goes on. Today, we find that psychic messages often replace Spirit communication. Spiritualist mediums of today must go back into home circle and hone their skills for linking with Spirit in order to prove beyond a doubt there is a continuity of life.

The time has come to open our doors of research into the emerging phenomena dealing with the energy of the universe. Such phenomena as electronic voice has moved forward in its direction of not only hearing the voice of Spirit but carrying a conversation with that Spirit. It is the revival of what was named many years ago as a "Spirit Box." Today, just as in days of old, when something new came on the horizon—skepticism was high. For example, when spirit photography was demonstrated by William Mumler beginning in 1869, the skepticism and negativity that followed caused him to be charged as a fraud. (He was later vindicated.) As time passed, many others followed in his footsteps, but Mumler has gone down in history as the "Ace of Spirit Photography."

We need to move forward and investigate, analyze and classify the facts of "Spirit Box" communication so that everyone may someday converse with Spirit. Other subjects also need to go into the laboratory of Spiritualism such as, after-death studies, dowsing, slate writing

(independent writing), and out-of-body travel. It is important that we investigate and analyze energy—the source of everything.

As we continue our travel through summertime, the name of Andrew Jackson Davis comes to mind. He was born on August 11, 1826 in Blooming Grove, New York. His spiritual experiences began when he was a young man. We are aware that in his sequel to his autobiography he tells us that he was not a Spiritualist. Then why is he important to Spiritualism? Davis founded the Harmonial Philosophy in 1852. He said that he in no way was involved in a science, philosophy or religion. He focused on harmonizing society by first harmonizing the individual. The Brotherhood was founded on principles he observed in the structure of the human body as being the most perfectly developed structure in all of nature; and with the analogy of its parts, Davis constructed a list of individuals to manage the Brotherhood. He did not choose Spiritualists.

His full expression of understanding is found in his *Spiritual Declaration of Independence* written May 31, 1851. To briefly sum up the declaration, he stated: "We all believe that the destiny of all men is immortality; endless happiness and eternal progression," and, "We believe in accordance with the interior and material constitution of the human species that there is a general mission."

His next great achievement was founding of the "First Children's Progressive Lyceum," on January 25, 1868 at Dodsworth Hall in New York City. His speech revealed he did not take credit for this idea as it was given to him from the Spirit World. He felt this Lyceum was higher than the regular Sunday school. He is known as the Father of the Children's Lyceum. He authored *The Children's Progressive Lyceum Manual* published by Colby & Rich, 1893. Six years later in 1899, the National Spiritualist Association formed a Spiritualist Lyceum. Davis provided us with a wealth of knowledge in the many books he authored. Twenty-eight of them are in the library of the N.S.A.C.

Summertime is a time when Spiritualists visit and study at the various camps in the United States. Each of them offers us a way to step back in time to our beginnings. Some camps continue to maintain some of the original structures built by our pioneers. Many provide the opportunity to go through their libraries and museums as well as view a pictorial history of pioneers on their walls. Yes, this is the time to recall all the wonderful pioneers who paved the way through the rugged forest of thought. Upon filling their largest available halls, they moved their all-day philosophy sessions onto the beautiful grounds surrounded with trees and bordered by lakes.

Today, we are the pioneers for those that follow after us, and it is our task to leave them a history of which they can be proud and promote Spiritualism as they stroll along the highways and byways singing, *Summertime, where the living is easy.*

2015 NSAC Annual Convention

Phoenix, AZ October 11th through the 16th



Enjoy the Beautiful Grand Canyon, lovely lakes & the best Golf courses around!

Come to Arizona & enjoy our fantastic weather & great company at this year's 2015 NSAC Annual Convention, held at the Hilton Hotel in Mesa, Arizona.

For \$99.00 a night, free wi-fi, free parking, and free breakfast up to two people per room. The cut off date for reservations is September 13th. Book online or by phone: http://www.hilton.com; enter: Phoenix, Mesa (date of first night) (three letter code: NSA) By phone: 1-480-833-5555. When callling, ask for "in-house reservations" to avoid any confusions with making your reservations. Hilton is open 8am-5pm.

Monday's workshops: \$50. Presented by Mr. Robin Hodson and Reverend Janet Tisdale.



The Monday morning workshop: TRANCE PRESENTATION by Mr. Robin Hodson

This workshop is designed to provide a basic understanding of theoretical aspects of the trance states as well as practical exercises designed to further the development of trance. Using

audio visual presentations and practical knowledge of the subject, our presenter will cover the following:

Understanding perception & control.

Practical exercises designed to develop trance.

Explore our perceptions of trance.

Mechanics of trance mediumship.

Insight into the various states of trance.

This workshop is part of a full workshop giving not only the theoretical but also the practical development and exercises to encourage and stimulate the process involved. Due to high numbers and time restraints, the level of practical exercises will be minimal.

The Monday afternoon workshop:

CAPTURING PHENOMENA USING CAMERAS

Presented by The Reverend Janet Tisdale, NST



In this workshop you will get ideas of capturing phenomena and ectoplasm on cameras in red light. The cameras are regular cameras with no special lenses, with and without using tripods. You will see how different positions capture the phenomena and ectoplasm and will also capture transfiguration that is occurring. A CD will be available at convention showing a table tipping session with the phenomena, (rods, etc.) being filmed.

Robin Hodson is an English Medium with 28 years experience serving Spiritualist Churches and Centers both in his native Britain and America, Canada, Finland, Iceland and Sweden. Robin is the President of the International Spiritualist Federation and President of Seafordspirit, an independent Spiritualist center. In addition to the church and public platform presentations of mediumship, Robin is an experienced tutor in the various forms of mediumship, his main area of interest is trance and physical mediumship, having run physical circles for the past 22 years.

Janet Tisdale is an Ordained Minister, who has her National Spiritualist Teaching Degree; she is a certified Medium, Commissioned Healer, Pastor of the Church of the Living Spirit, and was a Trustee of the NSAC for three years. She has put on multiple conventions and helps other states with their conventions. She is an accomplished Trance Medium and works on Physical Mediumship on a daily basis with great success and has captured the physical phenomena on camera on multiple occasions.



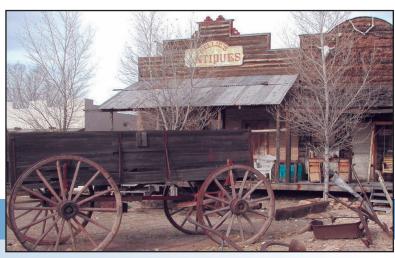
Join us for our wonderful

Monday evening Convention Banquet! Wear your best dress, have great food and enjoy great company!



Thursday's tour is of the Museum of International Music (The only one of its kind in the United States.)

Then enjoy an Italian Buffet!



At the end of this exciting convention there will be a Saturday

Tour to Tombstone.

So come to Arizona, enjoy the good company and fun at the 2015 NSAC Annual Convention!

Contact the Convention Committee; 3736 W. Wahalla Lane, Glendale, Arizona 85308, if there are any questions, please feel free to email Reverend Havivah Richards at reverendhaviness@gmail.com, or call at 602-859-6132.

Email Reverend Havivah Richards at reverendhaviness@gmail.com, or call at 602-859-6132.

Unexpected Benefits of Mriter: Susan Barth, MPI Student

Writer: Susan Barth, MPI Student The Center for Spiritual Enlightenment Falls Church, VA

"God writes straight with crooked lines." That's a sneaky one, isn't it? The crooked lines are the life plans that didn't work out.

Things don't always turn out as we intended, and sometimes we have to simply turn our crooked lines over to God. That isn't always easy. Because we are living the consequences of our own decisions, sometimes the crooked lines are our own fault. Other times they appear through no fault of our own.

When I began an assignment as a Foreign Service Communications Officer in Saudi Arabia in 1992, I was agnostic to the core. I couldn't imagine that I was there for a good reason—I wanted an African Assignment—but God and Spirit had other plans.

Unbeknownst to me, this divine plan was going to play out in three phases. The first was, "desperation in the desert." The second was, "becoming teached." And the third was, "creating space for problem solving."

Desperation in the Desert

Saudi Arabia certainly made an awful first impression on me. The day I arrived in the Kingdom, the temperature was over 120 degrees, with zero percent humidity. The women were dressed in black from head to toe, and the men wore floor length white robes. It looked like the 12th century—truly strange.

Everything about Saudi Arabia seemed to make me angry. This strange country, culture and heat made me ill. Within days of my arrival I mentally planned to leave the Embassy and return home to Virginia. After two months of mental anguish I felt like I was going to die. Rage was eating me alive. Without a solution to this mental obsession I would perish.

Out of desperation, I chose to meet with a spiritual group that I was referred

to that met weekly at an American community center. It didn't feel like a good solution to me at the time, but I thought my options were to either resign from my career, commit suicide, or go to the dumb meeting on Friday.

The meeting was a small gathering of American and Canadian expats who explored a different spiritual topic every week. One of the men said you don't have to believe in God to join the group. (That was a relief. I would have run screaming into the desert if I had to believe in some bearded deity somewhere in the clouds.)

Becoming "Teached": A willingness to try something new without a guarantee of success.

I attended the meetings for several weeks, and tried what others there had said worked for them—I was becoming "teachable." I began exploring new patterns of behavior discussed by the group and was beginning to feel happier, so I kept attending the meetings.

Some months later, the group topic was on the practice of meditation. One woman described how she meditated by sitting upright in a quiet room with her eyes closed while listening to her own breathing. The process sounded simple enough and I was willing to try it. After all, I have to breathe all the time anyways, and I certainly knew how to close my eyes and sit upright.

That evening I tried meditating just as she had instructed. I sat in a quiet room, closed my eyes and focused on my breathing. Within seconds I sensed a presence and felt I wasn't alone. There was something in the room with me as my body was filled with peace and awe. The invisible God I had never believed in suddenly became real. I had a experience that night that converted me, but I didn't know what-in-the-world I had converted to.

From that day forward meditation became a daily practice for me. Spending time with this invisible force and developing that connection was my primary purpose.

A relationship with this invisible source of solutions makes us more sensitive to God's direction for us. Near the end of my assignment, I was scheduled on a flight to Yemen for business. I already had my ticket and visa, but every time I thought about that trip, I felt a crushing heaviness in my chest. I felt bad. Something was wrong. Two days before my departure, I told my supervisor that I felt bad about going so I was cancelling. I was sure he thought I was acting flakey.

I was scheduled to fly out on Tuesday and return on Thursday, but didn't go. Friday night my Supervisor called. He said "your instincts were right." I had no idea what he was talking about.

But it turned out that Yemeni rebels took over the airport on Wednesday. No one could leave the country! I would have been stranded. I was shocked. My jaw dropped I was speechless. How did I know that? How could I possibly know what would happen? At that point I'd been meditating for a year. It seems I was strengthening my connection with the Divine by creating space for intuition.

Creating space.

Visualizing the end result is asking for Divine intervention. The end result is your goal, and the Divine provides the path and takes care of the details to make it happen.

Meditation and visualization creates space for Divine Intervention. Give God and Spirit the space to do the work. The problem will be solved in a manner you cannot imagine. God and Spirit continue to astonish and me with creative solutions.

TIME TO REST

Written by: Rev. Joel Bjorling, DD

We talked about the old days, Of bikes, games, and shows; Now, with dimming eyes, Was it so long ago?

My legs aren't as strong,
I fell doing the wash;
It seems each day
There's another river to cross.

I'm not afraid
Of the shadows of night;
There are clouds,
But soon the sun will shine bright.

Life has been gentle and sweet, It's hard to say good-bye, But, look, there's a sunbeam Waiting in the sky.

The day is done,
It is time to rest;
I am weary
But I have met the test.

This is not good-bye, Why the tears? Morning will come When the shadows clear.

Closer And Closer

Written by: Laura Lee Perkins, CM

Smile if you can, even a little And open your heart to receive The presence of Spirit—deep in your soul And all negativity will leave. Know that you are never alone, Feel the warmth of accessing love. Ask from the very depth of your needs And receive peace from Spirit above. We become what we choose in life, Our priorities determine our fate. Do you support, through presence and love, Your family, your friends, your mate? Nothing brings more peace in the soul Than when we give from the heart. We are God's voice here on earth. And we each can do our part To spread trust, love and forgiveness, To offer a helping hand, To care deeply about all whom we meet As we do everything that we can To make others' paths a bit smoother, To inspire, but still share their pain. When we know that we are never alone Each step forward is another gain. As we move closer and closer to Spirit, Closer and closer to Love, We envision the beauty of Summerland As we trust messages of Light from above.

Continued from page 20

When we come to know God as Spirit—as Energy, and see this in all things, we step into a phase of living true religion. True religion is neither rules-based nor ritual-based. When living a life of true religion, we harmonize with all creation in the universe as we realize that we are all one, and no true conflict needs to occur. All creation is existing in an eternal co-cooperative rhythm and without one form of life, there cannot be another.

We all serve each other's purpose, and we all contribute to each other's health, well being and life force, be it organic or inorganic. Through this understanding, we experience personal growth and transformation we never dreamed of.

When living this Principle and putting it into action, we explore every aspect of our lives and come to know our own wisdom and place in the universal energy. When we feel our oneness with all creation and resonate with it, we receive the highest teachings through inner guidance. Our response to life becomes different. We find a clearer understanding and perception of difficulties and challenges and find that we have the tools to help in facing these challenges more quickly and adeptly.

The first changes we experience will be in our perception and reactions to people, places, and things, and there we will find peace. Peace is not the absence of conflict, but our response to conflict. Opening up to the truth of this Principle and living it daily sets forth the opportunity for a completely new way of life.

So, once again, what if you took a course of action that would really change your life, really make a difference, one that could give you infinite rewards, both in this life and here after? Will you make a resolution to take our Principles beyond just a mere recitation on Sunday, and put them into action? Are you up to the challenge of Living Life as a Spiritualist?





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Transition & Change

Recently, several members of our church made their transitions to the other side, and naturally, there were a number of people who struggled with their passing. It reminds us that even though we are Spiritualists, and we know that there is no such thing as death, but rather a change from a physical state to an etheric state, we still feel a loss.

As Spiritualists, most of us have the understanding that the one who has passed is still connected with their loved ones on the Earth Plane, and that they may will continue to play an active role in their lives from the Spirit side of life. Perhaps the loss for us is actually the physical loss. We understand their connection with us, but they are no longer here physically to continue on our journey with us.

Where we once saw our loved every day in the physical world, their passing has caused us to

yearn for their physical presence.

I believe that as we grieve the loss of a loved one, those on the other side grieve as well, but their grief is not for themselves-it is for us. Grief is a natural part of life, but having faith in Spirit and the continuity of life most certainly eases some of the pain of losing a loved one.

There are many wonderful books in the NSAC Bookstore that help individuals understand what happens when we or our loved ones cross over. There are books for both children and adults that you may share with those who do not carry our Spiritualist beliefs. These books may offer a stepping stone to their new understanding of the continutity of life.

As a Spiritualist, you have learned the importance of cherishing your life and of expanding your awareness to learn as much as you can before moving on to our next phase of our journey from the physical to the spiritual side.

The NSAC Department of Lyceums By Rev. Haviyah Richards, NST Church of the Living Spirit, NST



KNOW! Education is the training of the mind to clearly receive and perfectly express ideas... Inspiration, or the sensitive state—mediumship—may be made most helpful in education.

-Mediumship and Its Laws, Its Conditions and Cultivation, Hudson Tuttle, Spiritualist, 1835-1910

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The NSAC Healing Center

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Prayer for Spiritual Healing -

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

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

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

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

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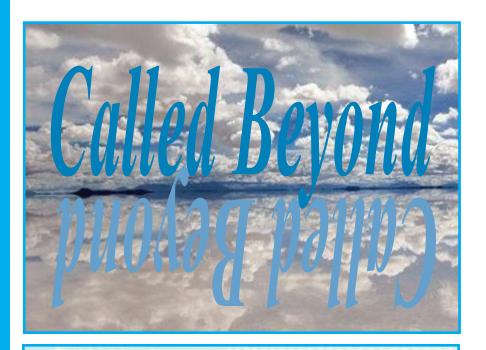
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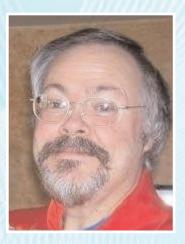
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Called Beyond:

Wayne C. Harvey
August 28, 1953 – April 23, 2015
Summerlands Lakeview Spiritualist Church
Madison, Wisconsin

Wayne C. Harvey, age 61, passed away unexpectedly of natural causes on Thursday, April 23, 2015, while on his way to fulfill his dream of becoming an NSAC ordained minister. He was born in Stoughton on August 28, 1953, the son of Toni and Muriel Harvey. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1973 and proudly served his country over a 15 year period. Wayne is survived by two daughters and many colleagues and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Joni; and an infant brother, Marc.

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

AUBURN • The Spiritualist Chapel of the Pines • 457 Grass Valley Hwy.#7, 95603; Sun. Service 10am.; Rev. George Brenner, Pastor Emeritus; All Message Svc Fri. 7pm; Pres. Al Freitag, afreitag@pacbell.net; Int.Sec. Terri Freitag; spiritualistchapelofthepines.com SAN FRANCISCO • First Spiritual Temple • Svc: 2nd & 4th Sundays, 10am; 33 Banbury St., 94132. Unfoldment/Development classes. Healing, private & group. Rev. Elsie Ann Soria, NST, Pastor. mail: 370 F Street, #309, Colma, CA 94014. (650)731-4490 or cell (650)922-4389. Rev. Alfred A. Conner, NST, Pastor Ereritus. Pres: Ben Santiago.

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

SACRAMENTO · Central Spiritualist Church · 2500 Marconi Avenue Suite 209 95821; Sun. Service 10am: Classes (see website) Healing all Message Svc, last Sunday of the month at 10am. Pres. Paul E. Cook, paulecook@gmail.com; Rev. Sandra Dawson, NST (916)962-7700 / sgdawson91@gmail.com; Sec. Amy Deinken, amyson09@live.com; www.centralspiritualistchurch.com

SAN FRANCISCO • CelebrateLIFE Spiritualist Community – Joyous Spiritualism to a modern world • 4530 18th St., 94114; Sunday svcs 11am; 1st & 3rd Wed at 7pm. Visit: celebratelifesf.org; Email: contact@celebratelifesf.org

SAN FRANCISCO · Golden Gate Spiritualist Church · 1901 Franklin St. (corner of Clay) 94109-3414; (415)885-9976; ggspiritualistchurch.org; Service Schedule, Sun. 9:30 Lyceum (classes) Sept. - May, Healing 10:30, Devotional Service 11:00; Wed. Healing 7:30, Devotional Service 8:00; Classes available (See Website); Pastor Rev. Del Lauderback; Assoc. Pastor Rev. James Ehrhart

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., (Deaf Comm. Center) 94577; Sun. Service Healing 10:30am., Reg. Service 10:45-noon; Co-Pastors, Rev.'s Betty & Don Nauratil, (925)283-1449; Pres. Rev. Sandi Deckinger; All mail to Sec. Rev. Betty Nauratil, 1048 Via Roble, Lafayette, 94549-2925.

SANTA BARBARA · Summerland Spiritualist Church of The Comforter · 1028 Garden St., 93101; (805)965-4474; Pastor Rev. Judy Campbell-Clark, NST; pastorjudycc @verizon.net; Sun. Healing svc. 10:30am., Regular Svc 11am; Wed. Message Svc 6:30pm., Sun. Unfoldment Class 1-3pm.

CONNECTICUT •

CONNECTICUT STATE SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION • Pres. Verline Eldridge, 110 Pukallas Ave. A1-15, Norwich, 06360; Sec. Rev. Jackie Randall, 60 Ward St., Norwich, 06360 / cincyada@aol.com; Mailing address: 29 Park St., Norwich 06360.

MYSTIC • The Spiritualist Church of Peace & Light • Hyatt Place, 224 Greenmanville Ave. 06357; Sun Svc 11am; Mail to: 70 Dell Ave. #B5, New London, CT 06320. Visit: www.scpeacelight.net. Press. Rev. Lynn Gaffin; heart_860@yahoo.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

• DELAWARE •

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

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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

• FLORIDA •

ORLANDO • New Vision Spiritualist Center, NSAC, Inc. • spiritualistchurchorlando.com, meets at 1700 Edgewater Dr.; Sun. 1:30; Healing, Sermon, Messages at all services; Children Lyceum Dir. Fionnula Davis-Patton; Classes by Pastor Rev. E. Ann Otzelberger, NST, 4332 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, NSAC · 3210 N. Chickasaw Trail; Mail: P.O. Box 4010, Winter Park, FL 32792, (407)678- 3688; spiritualistchurchofawareness.org / news@myscoa.org; Sun. healing 10:30 a.m., service/messages 11:00 a.m.; Wed. healing 7:30 p.m.service/messages 8:00 p.m.; Rev. Jeannie Kerr Lerch; Pres. Annette Brown, (407)690-1743; Sec Chris Jackson: 407-399-3450.

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

BURNHAM • Puritan Spiritualist Church • 13906 Greenbay Ave., 60633-1614; (219)926-6884. CHERRY VALLEY - Cherry Valley Spiritualist Camp, Inc. 8002 Service Rd; 61016; (815)332-5359. Visit us at CVSC.me, or on Facebook. Email: cherryvalleysc@frontier.com. 9:30am Lyceum; 10:30am Healing Meditation; 11am Worship Svc., Messages & Pot Luck every Sunday after syc.

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. Linda Kelly.

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

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

INDIANAPOLIS • 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: reverendbob@direct2spirit.com or crumbaughchurch@live.com. Facebook: JT & EJ Crumbaugh Memorial Spiritualist Church, NSAC.

• INDIANA •

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

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

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

DIRECTORY OF NSAC CHARTERED CHURCHES & AUXILIARIES

• ARIZONA •

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

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

• CALIFORNIA •

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

SACRAMENTO · Central Spiritualist Church · 2500 Marconi Avenue Suite 209 95821; Sun. Service 10am: Classes (see website) Healing all Message Svc, last Sunday of the month at 10am. Pres. Paul E. Cook, paulecook@gmail.com; Rev. Sandra Dawson, NST (916)962-7700 / sgdawson91@gmail.com; Sec. Amy Deinken, amyson09@live.com; www.centralspiritualistchurch.com

SAN FRANCISCO • CelebrateLIFE Spiritualist Community – Joyous Spiritualism to a modern world • 4530 18th St., 94114; Sunday svcs 11am; 1st & 3rd Wed at 7pm. Visit: celebratelifesf.org; Email: contact@celebratelifesf.org

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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

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

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

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

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

• DELAWARE •

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

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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

• FLORIDA •

ORLANDO • New Vision Spiritualist Center, NSAC, Inc. • spiritualistchurchorlando.com, meets at 1700 Edgewater Dr.; Sun. 1:30; Healing, Sermon, Messages at all services; Children Lyceum Dir. Fionnula Davis-Patton; Classes by Pastor Rev. E. Ann Otzelberger, NST, 4332 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, NSAC · 3210 N. Chickasaw Trail; Mail: P.O. Box 4010, Winter Park, FL 32792, (407)678- 3688; spiritualistchurchofawareness.org / news@myscoa.org; Sun. healing 10:30 a.m., service/messages 11:00 a.m.; Wed. healing 7:30 p.m.service/messages 8:00 p.m.; Rev. Jeannie Kerr Lerch; Pres. Annette Brown, (407)690-1743; Sec Chris Jackson: 407-399-3450.

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

BURNHAM • Puritan Spiritualist Church • 13906 Greenbay Ave., 60633-1614; (219)926-6884. CHERRY VALLEY - Cherry Valley Spiritualist Camp, Inc. 8002 Service Rd; 61016; (815)332-5359. Visit us at CVSC.me, or on Facebook. Email: cherryvalleysc@frontier.com. 9:30am Lyceum; 10:30am Healing Meditation; 11am Worship Svc., Messages & Pot Luck every Sunday after syc.

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

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

INDIANAPOLIS • 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: reverendbob@direct2spirit.com or crumbaughchurch@live.com. Facebook: JT & EJ Crumbaugh Memorial Spiritualist Church, NSAC.

• INDIANA •

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

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

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

• MAINE •

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

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

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

HARTFORD - Pinpoint of Light Spiritualist Center & Camp — Mail: 546 Town Farm Rd., 04220; Meetings Sun. 10:30 a.m., 1190 Main St., Hartford, ME; Pres. Robert Foster, pinpointoflight@live.com / pinpointoflight. org; Sec. Rev. Stephanie Frobese 207-515-1016

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

NORTHPORT - Temple Heights Spiritual Camp • 4 Park St., 04849; June 15 – Sept. 15; Private Readings, Healings 9-4pm.; Message Circles Wed. & Sat. 7:30pm.; Workshops/50+ Classes; Camp: (207)338-3029; Pres. Becky Grant; Sec. Mike Grant (207)650-3880; thsc@mainespiritualism.org / www.templeheightscamp.org

NORTHPORT - Temple Heights Spiritualist Church • Sun svc 2:20pm at THS Camp. 4 Park St., Northport; May 1 to Oct 31. 11/1 to 4/30 at Excelsior Lodge; Sat. Cove Rd./ Shore Rd. Northport. Pres. Jean Bower (207)338-1355, Sec. Diana Kimball (207)338-6275.

PORTLAND - Portland Spiritualist Church • Mailing addr: PO Box 6551 PTS, 04102; Sun. Svc 6:30pm.; Fri. Class 7:30pm.; (207) 797-2039; info@portlandspiritualistchurch.org; Co-Pastors Rev. Beth Carter, 2007spiritualist@peoplepc.com & Rev. Chris Owen.

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

• MASSACHUSETTS •

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

METHUEN - The Church of Spiritual Life, Inc. • 126 Merrimack St.; Sun. Service 10:30 a.m.; Mail to: P.O. Box 115, 01844; www.churchspirituallifenh.org

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

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

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

• MICHIGAN •

CHARLEVOIX - Northern Lake Michigan Spiritualist Camp • 07444 Old U.S. 31N. 49720; Sec. Janet Norris; secretary4nlmsc-grsc@hotmail.com; Open July 1st thru Aug 31st; Sunday svcs 10:30am. Wed Svcs at 7:30pm followed by bonfire fellowship time. CHARLEVOIX - Golden Rule Spiritualist Church • 07444 Old U.S. 31N. 49720; Sec. Janet Norris; secretary4nlmsc-grsc@hotmail.com; Open in Spring. (dates vary according to weather) Closed for Winter. Sun. services 10:30am with fellowship immediately following svc.

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

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

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

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

• MINNESOTA •

ROCHESTER - Third Spirit of Life Spiritualist Church • 1500 First Ave. NE, Ste. 112, 55906; Service Mon. 7:00 p.m.; Pastors, Rev. Joyce E. Young, NST, and Rev. John E. Young, NST, Sec. (507)775-6358.

ST. PAUL - Spiritual Science Spiritualist Church • Conference Rm. - 411 Main St., Labor Union Hall; Sun. Service, 10:00 a.m.; Pres./Speaker, Joan LeDuc, 2169 Scheffer Ave., 55116-1255, (651)699-4858; Sec. Gerald Kemling; Church phone (651)225-4609.

• MISSOURI •

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

• NEBRASKA •

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

• NEVADA •

LAS VEGAS - Spiritualist Desert Church, NSAC • 3305 Spring Mountain Rd., Suite 51, 89102, (702)876-8783 (message line only), spiritualistdesertchurchIV.com; spiritualistdesertchurch@yahoo.com; Service Sun. 11am. & 6:30pm., Thu. 6:30pm. Healing/Meditation Svc, Development Circle follows. Vicky Homann, Pastor (702)234-1147. RENO/Sparks - Spiritualist Society of Reno • Meeting place: Larry D. Johnson Community Center, 1200 12th Street, Sparks, NV 89431, (775) 323-1114. Sunday meetings include a talk, guided meditation, spirit healing and spirit greetings: 11am; President, Jannet Caywood; SpiritualistSocietyofReno.org; FaceBook.com/SpiritualistSocietyofReno. Address: Sec. Rev. Lisa Butler, 3415 Socrates Dr., Reno, NV 89512, tomalisa2@aol.com

•NEW JERSEY •

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

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

• NEW YORK •

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

• OHIO •

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

PENNSYLVANIA •

PITTSBURGH - First Spiritualist Church of Greater Pittsburgh • Sun. Svcs 11am-1pm. Healing, Lecture, Msg svc.; Tues. Circle 7-9pm; Rev. Carol O'Hare, NST., & Pres. Michele Saling. (412)672-1272; Visit: www.1stspiritualistchurch.org

• TEXAS •

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

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

SAN ANTONIO - Louise Scholtz Chapel • 3740 Colony Dr. Ste LL100; Sunday Service 8:00am-9:30am.; P.O. Box 762231, 78245; (210)401-1713; visit: SanAntonioSpiritualists.com

• VIRGINIA •

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

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

• WASHINGTON •

MILTON - Church of Divine Grace, NSAC • Held at Camp Edgewood, NSAC – 1228 26th Ave. Ct.; Sun. Service 2:00 P.M. (Mail to 11113 SE 323rd St., Auburn, 98092); Student Minister Atira Hatton; Pres. Bernie Allers (253)833-4850; Sec. Karen Wennerlind; churchofdivinegrace@gmail.com

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 and a variety of classes. For more info contact Denice Chapman Tues.-Sat. 11-4pm.

MILTON - Church of Spiritual Unity, NSAC • Held @ Camp Edgewood, NSAC - 1228 26th Ave Ct. Church Service Sun @ 2:00 PM Sep-May. Mailing address c/o Pres. Colleen Mohler, 1210 26th Ave Ct 98354, (253)927-2365. Pastor Rev. LaVerne Pemberton Ph: (253)833-9279. Sec. Jill Mohler, 1015 Emerald St., 98334; (213)568-0333; i.m.mohler@hotmail.com

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

• WEST VIRGINIA •

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

WISCONSIN

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

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

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

WONEWOC • Western Wisconsin Camp Association, Inc. NSAC, (Wonewoc Spiritualist Camp) • P.O. Box 187, 53868, (608)464-7770; Open June-August; www.campwonewoc.com

• CANADA •

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

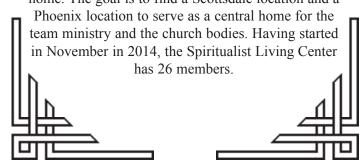
ONTARIO - First Spiritualist Church of Galt • 72 Grand Ave., Cambridge, Ontario N1S 2K9; Service Sun. at 11am.; Wed All Message Service at 7pm.; Rev. Karen Charles; www.firstspiritualistchurchofqalt.ca

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



Phoenix, AZ April 25th, 2015

Word spread quickly among the members of the Spiritualist Living Center that we had received our NSAC charter. The Spiritualist Living Center with Rev. Dr. Norma J. Turner, NST as pastor, celebrated its new status at its first annual meeting on May 16 at Pastor Turner's house. The center consists of two locations in response to Rev. Turner's mission: "To serve the unserved." One center is in Sun City West, and the other is in Mesa; both locations are from Pastor Turner's home. The goal is to find a Scottsdale location and a Phoenix location to serve as a central home for the team ministry and the church bodies. Having started



Hands

Writer: Rev. Sandra Allen, NST First Spiritual Temple, Royal Oak MI



ome time ago I received this wonderful unauthorized story, and because I was so moved, and Grandmothers are special people in our lives, I would like to share this beautiful story with you.

Grandma, some 90 years old, sat feebly on the patio bench. She didn't move, just sat there with her head down staring at her hands. When I sat down beside her she didn't acknowledge my presence, and the longer I sat there I began to wonder if she was okay.

Finally I asked and she raised her head, looked at me and just smiled. Softly grandma said, "Have you ever looked at your hands? I mean, really looked at your hands?"

I slowly opened my hands and stared at them. I turned them over, palms up then palms down. "No," I said, "I guess I have never really looked at my hands," as I tried to understand the point she was trying to make.

Grandma smiled and related this story...

Stop and think for a moment about your hands, how they have served you so well throughout the years. These hands, though wrinkled, shriveled and weak, have been the tools I have used to reach out and embrace my life.

When I was a toddler, they caught my fall before I crashed to the floor. As a child

they put food in my mouth, helped me to get dressed, tied my shoes, pulled on my boots, and my mother taught me to fold them in prayer.

They decorated my wedding band, held my husband, wiped away my tears as he went off to war, and wrote letters to him every day. They were uneasy and clumsy when I held my newborn child, and trembled and shook when I buried my parents, and years later my husband.

They have been dirty, scraped, swollen and raw from hard work. They have raised my children and held my grandchildren, consoled my friends and neighbors in time of need, and shook in fists of anger when I didn't understand my life.

They have covered my face. combed my hair, and washed and cleansed my body. They have been sticky and wet, bent and broken... and today, when not much else of me still works, these hands hold me up, lay me down, and continue to fold in prayer.

These hands are the mark of where I have been, and the ruggedness of my life, but more importantly... it will be these hands that Infinite Intelligence will reach out and take as I transition to Spirit.

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