

# THE NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST

Summit Magazine

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## Inside this Issue:

**Mindful Living &  
Winning Attitude**

**To be a Good  
Spiritualist**

**Authentic  
Human Experience**





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# The Curious Case of *Hubbell vs. Hiron*

Writer: Kathleen Riley, LM; Center For Spiritual Enlightenment, VA



Clara Barton, 1875



Clara Barton (seated) & staff, 1900  
Dr. Julian Hubbell is 3rd from left.



Barton house & headquarters for the American Red Cross  
in Glen Echo, MD

The world knows of Clara Barton's life's work; she served as the "Angel of the Battlefield" during the Civil War, founded the American Red Cross, and fought tirelessly for equal rights. She brought about positive change for America and the World. After dedicating her life to the care of others in need, Ms. Barton is still well known and well respected—she was and is—heroine to many. There is more to her story than is often told, and it involves Spiritualism.

Ms. Barton transitioned on April 12, 1912, at her home in Glen Echo, Maryland, a location that also served as a supply house with offices for the Red Cross. She left the home to her trusted colleague Dr. Julian Hubbell, who had served alongside her since the 1881 inception of the American Red Cross. Dr. Hubbell was the first American Red Cross Chief Field Agent, and directed day-to-day relief operations. He was often placed in charge of related field work when Ms. Barton was unable to travel to stricken areas of the country. Between 1881 and 1900, Dr. Hubbell and Ms. Barton worked tirelessly during the Michigan forest fires, the Ohio and Mississippi River floods, the Johnstown Flood, and the disastrous Galveston hurricane. These and many other emergencies prompted a response by the Red Cross, and Dr. Hubbell dutifully answered the call of his colleague, Clara Barton.

As Clara Barton built the foundations for the American Red Cross, Hubbell was her unwavering supporter, her valuable partner in the organization, and an indispensable member of her staff. It made sense for her to bequeath her home to him, because she could trust that he would carry on faithfully. Upon Ms. Barton's death in 1912, Hubbell remained in the home with a commitment to perpetuate the memory of her great accomplishments and preserve the mementos of her life. He established *The Clara Barton Memorial Association*, and set about raising funds to preserve the home so that it may stand as a museum to Barton's legacy. Dr. Hubbell transitioned on November 19, 1929 in the very same home which is now the Clara Barton National Historic Site. But what transpired between 1914 and 1926 in this home is the less well-known story which involved Barton and Hubbell as the victims of an unfortunate swindle.

Between 1912 and 1914, Dr. Hubbell's efforts to raise funds for Barton Memorial Museum didn't reach expected heights; thus the anticipated memorial to Clara Barton was taking longer than desired. As a result, several newspapers were contacted to help publicize the endeavor. Enter Mabelle Rawson Hiron of North Oxford, Massachusetts. On May 3, 1914, she paid a visit to Dr. Hubbell in Glen Echo, Maryland. Hiron said that her



father had sent her to see how the memorial was coming along (though she already knew of the struggles that Hubbell was facing because of the newspaper articles). She said that she had come to help, and claimed to be as dedicated to memorializing Barton as Hubbell was. Hirons shared that she and Barton had once been neighbors. She explained to Hubbell that she was from the same area of Massachusetts as Clara Barton, and her father's home adjoined Ms. Barton's summer residence in Oxford. To Dr. Hubbell, it seemed a sign of providence for someone known to Barton's family in Massachusetts to arrive in the nick of time to assist with the memorial in Maryland.

Hirons knew that both Barton and Hubbell were followers of Spiritualism—knew that they were genuine Spiritualists—so to manipulate Hubbell, she pretended to be a medium in order to gain access to the home and surrounding properties in Glen Echo. Through a calculated misrepresentation of supporting of the memorial, and claims of being a medium able to communicate with the spirit of Barton, Hirons convinced Hubbell that she would accomplish his goal in good time, but only if he put the house and all of its contents in her name. This, she swore, was the directive from Clara Barton's spirit. Hirons told Hubbell that Barton's spirit said to trust no medium or advisor other than Hirons herself. Dr. Hubbell believed Mabelle Hirons, and he conveyed everything to her on May 14, 1914, which included a considerable amount of land, buildings, livestock, and items from Red Cross.

While she made some initial gestures that seemed to assemble support for the memorial, Hirons over time proved to be dishonorable. Between 1914 and 1920, Hubbell witnessed Hirons selling off Barton's personal belongings and furniture. She rented rooms to boarders and tenants of questionable character who likewise helped themselves to Ms. Barton's possessions. Hirons traveled extensively for her own pleasure, and any accumulating funds she raised were used not for the memorial, but for her own comfort and luxury. Hirons allowed the house to deteriorate around her, paying no attention whatsoever to maintenance or repairs. It was after hearing Hirons boast of her success while claiming that she never had any intention of honoring Clara Barton with a memorial, that Hubbell took legal action.

Dr. Hubbell filed suit against Mabelle Hirons in May of 1920 to recover the Glen Echo property, citing as evidence that he had been conned, and there had been a lack of any progress for the memorial in six years. This caused Hirons to banish Dr. Hubbell from the property, and for a time he was homeless and lived in the woods before being taken in by some kindly Glen Echo residents. With dogged perseverance, Dr. Hubbell litigated for five years and restored the Barton property to his name and legal

holding on January 14, 1926. He quickly went to work fixing the property, and attempted to buy back all that had been sold under Hirons' deceptive control. Dr. Hubbell resumed his mission of memorializing Clara Barton with the same dedication that he had given to her during her life. Though he died three years after regaining control of the home, he left it to his two nieces with the directive to continue preserving Ms. Barton's legacy. While upgrading the house, they found a considerable collection of Barton's diaries, letters, and photographs stashed inside one of the walls. These papers are now at the Library of Congress as part of Clara Barton's manuscripts.

Hubbell's nieces sold the property to a friend who then sold it to the newly formed "Friends of Clara Barton," which had it designated a National Historic Landmark in 1965. In 1975 it was turned over to the National Park Service, bringing us the establishment of "The Clara Barton National Historic Site." Thousands of people each year visit 5801 Oxford Road in Glen Echo, Maryland to learn about Clara Barton and Dr. Julian Hubbell and their steadfast goal to help millions during their lifetime.

The deception master-minded by Mabelle Hirons in the early part of the 20th century helps explain the delay in preserving this landmark. Uncovering her story is challenging. Hirons may have been born a Newman or a Rawson in North Oxford—it's unclear which—just as it is unclear how many times in her life she was married. She is known to have married an 80-year-old widower from Frederick, Maryland in 1922. He was 31 years her senior, but whether that was her third or fourth marriage is unknown. Likewise, it is unknown how many other people she may have defrauded. Perhaps she committed other crimes involving misuse of the sacredness of Spirit communication.

Hirons dishonored Spiritualism by falsely claiming to be a medium in order to fraudulently procure conveyance of property, and she was found by our legal system to have exerted undue influence over Dr. Hubbell by manipulating his beliefs under false pretenses. She therefore had no legal rights to the property, and was ordered to vacate and make restitution in the amount \$60,900.00.

What is both fascinating and remarkable in this story is learning that both Clara Barton and Julian Hubbell were Spiritualists, and Spirit communication was discussed in open court in the 1920s as documented in the legal proceedings in the state of Maryland. The Court of Appeals of Maryland decreed that "belief in Spiritualism is not sufficient to establish incapacity..." The Clara Barton Papers at the Library of Congress hold many more interesting details relating to Barton and Hubbell's involvement with Spiritualism, including their collaboration with Mrs. Warneke, a trusted Washington, DC, medium. These papers are well worth reading.



# with a Winning Attitude

Writer: Rev. Tom Butler  
Spiritualist Society  
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How is it that some people seem to go through life winning while the rest of us struggle? What does it take to be lucky? Is there a genetic trait that predisposes people to win? You know the ones I mean. All of us had one of those “most likely to succeed” golden boys in school. Too often at work there is one person who does everything right. How does one train to be that person?

What enables a person to have a winning attitude? It has always seemed certain that a person cannot simply decide to have a winning attitude, but why not? It also seemed doubtful that a person is born with one, so can a person train to have a winning attitude? Current research is indicating that the capacity to win, or at least to be all that we can be, depends on the ability to be consciously aware of the environment. As it turns out, we are unconsciously much more aware of our environment than we are consciously. Even more interesting, everything in our environment appears to emit a subtle energy signal which our unconscious mind routinely examines. Conscious awareness of those signals may be the key to having a winning attitude.

### **“Call my number!”**

One of the very best examples of this I can remember came about when Lisa and I were sitting with friends, waiting for numbers to be drawn for a lottery at our annual club gathering. There were only a few of us left waiting to see if we would win the remaining prizes. For each drawing a man reached into a bucket to pull a ticket then handed it to another to call the number out. Frustrated, one of our group shouted “Call my number!” Just as she shouted her request, the man reached in for the

next ticket—pulled one out—and it was her number. Sure, she had commented many times during the drawing that she hoped her number would be drawn. The difference was that she meant it that last time. She wasn’t hoping—it was a demand!

To me, that was an expression of a winning attitude, and to this day, I have wondered what made her request more effective than, say my pleading with the gods for success.

On the surface, “winning attitude” is a good term for what I am trying to describe because it is the winning that we tend to notice. But what I am driving at is the underlying attitude that distinguishes a person who seems to always be on top as a winner while everyone else seems more like supporting actors.

### ***Psi sensing***

Today, we know a lot more about how our mind and psi functioning works. From James Carpenter’s *First Sight Theory*, we know that people psychically sense things in their environment before becoming consciously aware of them. Is it possible that our winning friend psychically sensed her number was about to be drawn? You see, research is showing that we do not directly know information we receive from the environment. Instead, we subconsciously process what we physically or psychically sense and it is the result of that processing that determines if we will become aware of the environmental information, and what we will think of it.

Here is a really important point: When we hear something, we naturally assume the sound came to our ears and was changed to a nerve signal for our brain to recognize as that sound. Our body does convert the sound into a representative signal, but contrary to what we were taught in school, that signal is

not compared to some gigantic library of sounds in our brain, identified and sent to our awareness with the necessary label. Research is indicating that the sound must go through a number of steps before it is presented to our aware self. Even then, what we become aware of is what we think of the sound and not really the sound.

Once the sound is converted by the brain into a signal the mind can process, it is passed through what might be described as an “attention limiter” in our unconscious mind. This is a process that compares information in our worldview about what is happening around us to determine whether or not we need to respond, and if so, how urgent it is. Think of it as an executive secretary that organizes the front office and determines who is allowed into the inner offices.

This process is shared with your body, so the decision about what will be relevant is based on both the needs of your body and what is important to you. Your worldview provides the filter for this process, so that what you have learned is used to identify the sound. As an example, if you are preoccupied with hummingbirds, the sound of hummingbird wings will be given a higher relevance within your attention limiter than, say, a passing airplane. In a similar way, a sound that is like that made by a hummingbird’s wings will probably come to your attention as mental image of a hummingbird.

The same is true for psychically sensed information. Every thing and every event has a psi signature and it really does not matter where in reality it comes from. According to “first sight theory,” it is likely my winning friend psychically sensed her number was about to be drawn. In this view, she



became aware that something about her number was eminent. “Call my number” could be a way for her to express the otherwise unconscious sense that it was about to be called.

### ***Personal Confidence***

The effect of personal confidence is present in everything we do such as trusting we are able to cook dinner or make it to work in the morning. I am addressing the way a person interacts with their personal reality, or mindfulness. It is all about being true to yourself, but doing so with full understanding of what that means. A house mom or dad raising the kids and keeping a home for the family can be every bit as much a winner as a top-ranked player if the house maker has the sense of personal fulfillment. Being a winner is all in the attitude. What I am talking about here is really mindful living.

### ***Personal styles***

Is personal confidence the same as having a winning attitude? Before we can answer that we have to factor in the idea of personal styles—ways in which a person is accustomed to interacting with the world. There are probably as many styles as there are people, but the majority of them are variations on the four discussed here.

Styles are like astrological influences, and are described here in terms of personal confidence.

*Analytical:* These people resist taking action or making a decision until they know all of the facts. They make excellent statisticians. Analyticals can be determined researchers, as it is the content of their worldview “database” that they depend on to guide their perception.

*Driver:* Driver personalities will make a decision with minimum information but have the confidence of being able to make it work should the situation change. A dominant characteristic is their single-minded determination to accomplish a goal. They are warriors and risk-takers.

*Amiable:* Motivated by a desire to make things work, the present is more important than the past or future, and lessons learned are more important than the task at hand. They are successful counselors and spiritual leaders.

*Expressive:* To this personality, the facts are not as important as how they are understood. Once an understanding is reached, the expressive will see to it that everyone understands in the same way. Expressives can become community builders, teachers or ministers.

People tend to have one dominant personality style which is influenced to some extent by the other three, so that one might be seen as a “driver-analytical” or an “amiable-expressive.” It is the objective of mindful living to develop a balance of styles with any one becoming dominant as circumstances warrant.

To understand the winning attitude, it is necessary to understand that people unconsciously process information, and are only consciously aware of the end results of that processing. The way people interact with their environment, their personal style—establishes the criterion for that processing—what is important and what to ignore.

### ***Functional trance-channel***

In theory, information is passed into the unconscious mind for processing and is examined to determine whether or not it agrees with what the person already thinks is true. This process can be described as a “perceptual loop.” It is thought to be a repetitive process something like “Okay worldview, this is what the information looks like. Do you agree?” If the information agrees with what is in the worldview, then it will emerge into consciousness. The important point is that we only become consciously aware of the information as it is understood by worldview and not necessarily verbatim as it is received at the attention limiter.

Most of us become aware of physical information because that is what we

have grown to expect. What we mean by being psychic is when a person becomes consciously aware of the information being processed by the subconscious before it emerges into consciousness, and is able to translate that into meaningful information.

A person who is able to enter into a light trance as an inspirational speaker is thought to be able to express information as it is being accessed psychically. In terms of first sight theory, this speaker more directly senses psychic and physical information as it is being processed by the normally unconscious mind in the perceptual loop.

Accessing information in our head is an automatic processes. The four styles can give us a hint as to how we are each different. For instance, an analytical person is likely to consciously wait for understanding, or a point of view to emerge from their unconscious perceptual loop before taking action. The loop is an iterative process that hones in on an acceptable perception. A person who is learning to consciously examine each action, and make an effort to assure that it is for the greater good, is also a person who is learning to more directly access their perceptual loop. This is living mindfully. If our understanding is correct, mindful living is the stuff winners are made of.

### **Notes**

To clarify, all of this happens in our minds, not our brains. If it was happening in our brain, it would be limited by what the brain is able to access. Your brain is just a transmitter/receiver for your mind, and because the processing of information is occurring in your mind, it is part of an etheric or subtle energy process which is able to include input from virtually all of reality.

We are speculating based on metaphysical concepts suggesting it is likely your etheric organism will not detect or react to psi information that has no relevance to you. In a matter of speaking, the psi information is only in “energetic agreement” with minds that are interested or have a need for contact.





Who

We Are

Writer: Rev. Dr. Norma J. Turner, NST  
Spiritualist Living Center, AZ

If you go to Amazon.com and look up the number of books on the topic of self-esteem, you would find 119,492 books listed. Those are books written from a psychological, sociological, and educational perspectives as well as from the perspective of self-development or confessional relief. There are also books on self-esteem or self-worth written from a religious perspective. Actually, I believe that the religious perspective is the most important because it is based upon the accepted belief that I am loved by God. For most of us, we learn that we are loved by God through the love we feel from our parents. If that is missing, we may have some difficulty feeling loved. If we do not feel loved or lovable, how can we believe we have self-worth? That is why some of us are what we call “late bloomers.”

I grew up in a normal household of the ‘50s. So, yes, of course it was a dysfunctional home because most homes were dysfunctional. *Love* was interpreted as a roof over our heads, food on the table, and a birthday cake on our birthday. But all of those things have nothing to do with how lovable or valuable I am as a person. I’m sure all of us can remember things we did as children to try to earn praise—whether at home or at school. We were all searching for something that would let us know we were lovable.

To hear that God loves us just doesn’t cut it when we don’t have any experience of love. I would ask you: How many people do we meet on an average day who have not experienced real love? The type of love that lets us know that we are lovable? I’m talking about *unconditional love*.

There are two Spiritualist Principles that point to this very thing: “We believe that the phenomena of nature, both physical and spiritual, are the expression of Infinite Intelligence.” And, “We believe that the highest morality is contained in the Golden Rule: ‘Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.’”

As Spiritualists, we believe that the phenomena of nature, both physical and spiritual, are the expression of Infinite Intelligence. That includes us—you and me. We are expressions of Infinite Intelligence. We are not perfect—we cannot be; otherwise we would be clones of

Infinite Intelligence and in no need of growing or developing, reaching out to one another or even being compassionate because no one would need our help or understanding. Instead, we are *reflections* of Infinite Intelligence. And we *do* need one another. As reflections or *expressions* of Infinite Intelligence, we are absolutely lovable, but do we know that?

When I was a nun at the age of 24 or 25, one of the first lessons I had was on the statement “God loves me.” I had never really dealt with this statement before, though I had heard it since I was a toddler. A friend of mine and I spent almost three weeks on that one statement. How were we to begin to comprehend what that concept meant?

One of our Spiritualist Principles states: “We believe that the phenomena of nature, both physical and spiritual, are the expression of Infinite Intelligence”—we are the best of the best—each one of us—and not only that—each person we meet is the best of the best. You may think, “if everyone is the best of the best, how come so many of them bug me so much?” Well, it’s because we need to grow and develop. We need people in our lives who “bug us” so we can grow and learn how to handle people who are different from us. People who rub us the wrong way are only helping us to shine like diamonds in the long run.

“We believe that the highest morality is contained in the Golden Rule: ‘Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.’”

Just as I would like other people to treat me as a lovable, personable, talented person, so I need to treat other people as lovable, personable, talented people. That person who is a thorn in my side is there for a reason—I can recognize that I have something to learn. And if I think I have recognized the lesson and have learned it only to find that the person is still bugging me, then I need to dig deeper to find the core of the lesson I need to learn. Once I have learned that lesson,



then the person will no longer bug me. So that is what we need to do—meditate on the lesson to be learned instead of complaining and whining about the irritating individual who somehow landed in our circle of experience.

If only we didn't have so many lessons to learn! And what does all this mean to us as Spiritualists? It means that we can have a more expanded perspective when we talk about self-esteem. Our self-esteem is not based upon what others think about us. Obviously, as little babies, we need to learn the meaning of love in very human ways, but as adults, we understand that our self-worth is based upon our nature as Spirits walking this Earth in human bodies. We are love, we are compassion, we are acceptance, we are those things that we talk about—and as we are gifted with them, so we can gift them to other people.

There was a song that was very popular in the early 1960s by the Byrds called “Turn, Turn, Turn.”

*To everything - turn, turn, turn  
There is a season - turn, turn, turn  
And a time to every purpose under heaven  
A time to be born, a time to die  
A time to plant, a time to reap  
A time to kill, a time to heal  
A time to laugh, a time to weep  
To everything - turn, turn, turn  
There is a season - turn, turn, turn  
And a time to every purpose under heaven*

If you are in one of those moods when you just don't feel like being the prince or princess of the mountain of joy and delight, then just be as pleasant as you can and stay calm. Always do your best to be your best.

And even when you don't feel your best, you may still be just the person another person would look to for a boost, a mentor, or a model just when they need it most. We are rarely given the gift of knowing how many people we affect. That is the beauty of love. And that is why we come together—to support one another. We need to remind each other just how special we are—because each one of us is special. We are the best of the best because of our awareness of who we are and what we are about.

# Gratitude

Writer: Rev. Elaine Hager, NST  
New Vision Spiritualist Center, FL

**A**s Spiritualists, we have so very much to be grateful for, don't we? I, for one, could not imagine a life without the religion of Spiritualism.

All of us who read and write for *The National Spiritualist Summit* magazine are seekers, aren't we? Some of us were drawn to this religion because we were intrigued by its philosophy and teachings. Some of us found the scientific aspect of Spiritualism the draw. But in addition to that, almost all of us can also say that we came to Spiritualism as we sought comfort over the death of someone close to us. Through Spiritualism and mediumship we found that comfort—and the confirmation that life continues beyond death. I for one, feel blessed every day to have the gift of this knowledge.

The holidays are set aside as a time for reflection for our blessings, but for many it can be a sad and difficult time of the year because it sparks so many memories of loved ones who are no longer with us on the physical plane. As Spiritualists, we know that our loved ones who have passed are living and well in the Spirit side of life. We cannot see them, or hug them and we dearly miss their physical presence. It is understandable to be sad about that loss. But we understand that we have a purpose to continue on our lives here in the physical plane until which time we too take our place in the Spirit World.

So how do we balance our sadness for their loss with gratitude? We do this by choosing to focus our thoughts on what we know to be true. We know that our loved ones are fine in the Spirit World—free from having to face the challenges they may have experienced in the physical world. There is great comfort that comes with that knowledge.

We know that one day, we will see them and be with them again. It can be compared to imagining that you are simply separated from your loved ones geographically. If they live in a distant land, you understand that you cannot be with them, but you can take comfort in knowing that they are there. Our separation is temporary, and one day we will reunite.

Every day, take care to focus upon the “haves” in your life, not the “have nots.” What may seem like small comforts such as warmth on a cold night, food and shelter, and clothes on your back are not things to be taken for granted. Believe it or not, they are blessings. Turn your thoughts to your friends and family members and fill your heart with gratitude for them.

Celebrate your abundance. And celebrate your knowledge of Spiritualism and of the fact that life continues. Adopt an attitude of gratitude every day because life is truly a special occasion here, and hereafter, forever more.



## PUTTING MEANING TO THE PHRASE

# “To Be a Good Spiritualist”

**D**on't fall prey to your initial reaction to the phrase, for the process of doing so is not an easy one, two, three. Devotion to the faith, which many loyal members in attendance say is enough to be a good Catholic or good Protestant, is really not enough. Occasionally, comes the requirement to maintain healthy communications with loved ones.

It is easy to consider an ivory perch sufficient, but, in reality, can you achieve good standing so simply? As Spiritualists, we frequently call upon our loved ones in Spirit for assistance. We, on occasion, address those close family members who have left this expression of life. In doing so, we honor those who strive long and hard to assist us daily in all things we desire. Must it always be a one-sided communication in which we seek only when we desire, and adhere to only when the message meets our approval and interest?

In life, attitudes which generate entirely selfish interests ultimately fail as they do not willingly consider the needs and wishes of others. These attitudes quickly degenerate friendships and lead to loss of friends, community isolation and labels which suggest to others that close contact could be costly. The personalities of our parents did not alter in their passing. Perhaps just as before, their patience is abundant, but now they possess a new faculty—sight, that enables them to see the implications of their tireless acts and the fruit it has or has not produced. After they observe the reality of their actions—those which may have only served to waste time or energy—future similar efforts may be diminished accordingly. Of course, when the desires of all are unified, their energy and patience of those in Spirit will be great. But we seldom listen with the sincere intent to do their bidding or resolve that which goes against the grain of our personal lifestyle. The problem is simple enough: we still remain individuals, possessing our own wills and desires and goals. What will satisfy one will rarely satisfy another. And since their presence is absent from our expression of life, the need to obey or give forth a sincere ear can hold little value for many after the warmth of the communication has been exchanged.

In a way, it is sad that life must come to the parting, which,

*Writer: Rev. Melvena Haffner  
Reprinted from TNS 1982  
Church of Spiritual Life, NH*

through age, distance, disease or physical death, creates a kind of hearing barrier. Yet, each time the hand is extended and the words expressed, they and our band come closer, hoping, with what remaining love and energy abounds in the heart and mind, to help. Can we truly feel right in calling upon them and yet disregard their comments so often? Do we accord them the stated title of superior minds, wit and knowledge after the passing as we did when they stood above us acting as parent, friend, counselor and protagonist? Do they not now deserve the same respect?

And what of our Spirit Band? In accepting their presence, we supposedly accord them credit for being wiser, more capable than ourselves. Should not the wisdom and information of the higher laws of life be studied and whenever possible mastered? Is it not our duty and obligation to journey part of the way when a greeting is desired? Perhaps, just perhaps, we, as practicing Spiritualists, would see more clearly the images and information passed along. Our progress might also be swifter and greater if we but met our guides and spiritual helpers half way.

More is demanded of a Spiritualist, for he or she who dons the garment of this religion is expected to be knowledgeable in explaining the formulas which unveil the Law of Nature and of God. And to be capable of rendering some proof, if only the simplest form of demonstration. The true Spiritualist seeks ever to learn more and to understand. Those proofs and explanations which have been handed down must be passed along for the common good of man and the promise they afford to all. Still more is demanded, for the promise of a true practitioner is enlightenment—enlightenment that all may see, and without explanation, realize that the smile outside is a smile from within. When the armor is less than that described, can you call yourself in good faith and believe your standing to be adequate? I hope not. The by-products brought by the study and application of Spiritualism frees the individual from many of the chains of man-made ideas.

Tradition and history recount splendor and tragedy, glory and happiness. The dark periods of destruction are there with the chaos and the shameful burning of martyrs and the wars of ignorance and injustice. Even today, the right to express the ever-searching desire to free the soul can fall under fire from the many laws placed on the books to assure freedoms and opportunities. However, since the threat of dominance stands primed and awaiting the change to express its rights, restraint and conformity are the guide words. On the one hand, we see the need to compromise, yet fail to see the obvious suggestion every



where hinted at. Due to the need to balance all rights and services fairly, there is today a common calling for cooperation from all and the demand which, in fact, supplies what others sometimes are not willing to do on their own merits. So, while this age appears riddled with problems, the obvious calling of cooperation grows stronger with each passing hour.

Churches are not immune from this calling, and in order to maintain their attendance, standards have been borrowed and special differences have been accepted. All denominations have recognized the need to change, to grow, and to appeal more broadly. When action has not been taken freely, legal suits have caused churches to waver in their once iron-clad attitudes. There is a deep purpose underneath all these changes, a purpose—general in application—which moves periodically like a revolution sweeping and, for a time, purifying the land in its wake. Wrong and false ideas are often cleansed to move closer toward the crystallization of God's truths of one universal brotherhood or religion. Of course, each attempt, each change, does not necessarily advance a faith into perfect alignment with God's wisdom. Man is not perfection, nor is his environment ideal. However, a journey of a thousand miles begins, simply, with the first step. What was said long ago by the Chinese remains true even today. All man-made creeds shall be routed out. Until then, each step must be sufficient.

Perhaps the urges growing within the souls are the sole driving force causing so many of our people to see and search in wild abandonment for something to appease their inner dictates. Can it be that the restlessness is beginning to stir awake the fire of knowledge? It would not be the first time that the urges have been misunderstood, and man ran amuck in his pursuit of a great calling. Unfortunately, the desire must enter before acquisition of knowledge, and eventually love can come to pass. If we but realize the wisdom of coming slowly, carefully, and with solid information, then the journey will not carry pock marks as its pattern of growth and re-birth.

Life does not stand still. Idleness itself becomes a bore when carried into eternity. For this reason and many others, the intelligence of man's spiritual forces progress along the upward path. A backward sliding soul cannot long resist the desire to also gain enlightenment. A year, a decade, a century, an eternity is a very long time, and within that period the light of heaven shines radiantly on all, pulling them ever higher in the spheres of energy and love.

The Spiritualist must have a divine belief, a philosophy unique in the trivia which fills the passage ways along the roads of most religions. Spiritualism bends to no dogmas, nor is it limited by any. Its one guiding creed can be called The Golden Rule. Every attempt is made to destroy the common belief in a personal god. It addresses the Bible as the word, subject to error, since it is the work of man. Even inspired man can misinterpret the urges of greatness. The curse of eternal damnation is wiped away by its teachings along with the weak inadequacies of vicarious atonement and the immaculate conception of Jesus.

What remains is strong in the tests of man and his reasoning

mind, for Spiritualism has built its foundation upon three giant pillars: religion, philosophy and science. Together, these three forge a truth which is solid, convincing and, in the current education of man's knowledge, subject to question but not ridicule. Most of its teachings can be proven and observed, as all truths should be, so they come to the common people as well as the gifted and favored. A few remain hypotheses to be reckoned with as science removes another doubt in the mystery of life. But, the three pillars are interwoven throughout the teaching, and each of the three is an integral part of the whole. Each contributes its supporting share to the beauty and glory of this great belief called Spiritualism.

Let these truths be self-evident, for they are, if you are a good Spiritualist. If you are not wavered by these words and still attest to being a good Catholic or a good Protestant, then I have this to say: you claim to believe in the communion of saints, as all Catholics and Protestants do. You must also believe in the teaching that all master teachers and Spirit entities bring forth the same messages to those of the Earth life. ALL!

A title, or the garb you wear in the name of clothing, does not free you from ignorance. Spiritualism speaks softly and its words are plain. Books are being written daily under the phase of mediumship known as automatic writing. Many are the prayers of mankind. The words, the intent differ from time to time, but occasionally, in unison, one common thought reaches on high, as they suggest that ideas are not truths. Often words are tools to inspire the mind, thrill the intellect and beckon man to continue the cause. But an idea implied is not a truth. One day a signal will come, a word, a description, which due to a different, more settled condition in the future, might be stated in another fashion. Can we as mortals expect to demand the absolute truth when we find so many telling it differently?

Spiritualism is not the only path to Heaven, for the journey depends not on religious affiliation, but on individual merit and actions. Nevertheless, Spiritualism is the simplest, clearest and most direct truth to the final path of light which calls to all. Its teachings never waver from point to point in their message through the course of life. They remain consistent and speak to the heart and the mind equally, giving in to neither about the lessons of Infinite Intelligence.

#### ***A Comparison Is In Order***

Look about you. The men and women of God are not all saints. And many of the saints were once little more than rabble. The touch of God is within all. The talents of God can come forth from a child, an elder, or a common laborer. It may readily be that the prayer of a child who knows not the words to call attention knows better the road to his maker.

God is loving and gives freely of both material and spiritual abundance. However, in our personal growth, with each new thread of wisdom comes a greater responsibility to live and act wisely in all things, so that we may each be faithful stewards of all which has been entrusted to our keeping. "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much...."





# Spiritualism in Surprising Places

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

As an amateur sociologist, having studied the subject in college, I try to keep a keen eye out for examples of Spiritualism which appear in social settings, especially media. I am constantly amazed at how the precepts of Spiritualism are woven into the very fabric of our society and the majority of the general public still casts a blind eye towards it.

I will forgo the obvious examples which make a public display of Spiritualism on TV reality shows, or drama series such as *The Ghost Whisperer* or *Medium*. An entire book could be written about the moshing of Spiritualism and most of Eastern mystical philosophy in the *Star Wars* movie franchises. As this is written, Disney World now features “Jedi” training academies for children to help them develop their spiritual “Force” abilities. It truly will be years before we can really measure the impact of Spiritualism on modern society as it is portrayed in these movies. *Star Wars* may or may not stand the test of time. Therefore I will deal with literature which is truly timeless. How many of you know about Spiritualism as it was presented by Charlotte Bronte in her novel *Jane Eyre*?

When *Jane Eyre* was first published, the howl of critics could be heard around the world. It was dismissed as a celebration of perceived “heathenism” and “anti-Christian” thought. This was the knee jerk reaction by the religious purists of the Victorian era. In truth, it is a great homage to Spiritualism even before it was introduced to Great Britain.

*Jane Eyre* was published in 1847, but many conventions and literary devices found within its pages foretold the age of Spiritualism. Charlotte Bronte was fascinated with mesmerism and phrenology. *Mesmerism* was in essence the method or power of gaining control over someone’s personality or actions, as in hypnosis or suggestion. This was the time period when Mesmer séances were well documented with instances of healing, clairvoyance, and Spirit communication. Phrenology was a theory of personality developed in the 18th and 19th centuries. It postulated that particular skills or characteristics are represented by particular regions of the brain, and the size of these regions determines the extent of the correlating ability or characteristic.

Mesmerism and phrenology were considered “spiritual” science at the time, until phrenology was swept up in the winds of racial bigotry and discredited theories. There are many instances in the book where phrenology was used in describing a character’s moral bearing and intelligence. Mesmerism included Spirit communication and the will of one person over another.

As recorded in her biography *Unquiet Soul*, Charlotte Bronte visited a phrenologist in London in 1851 under an assumed name. Elizabeth Rigby, a noted literary critic, used this as evidence for charges of Bronte being “anti-Christian” in

her statement that mesmerism and phrenology are practices firmly rooted in the occult and are contrary to the precepts of traditional religion. Rigby felt that a belief in the occult signified a move away from the belief in the sovereignty of God which leads to “the tone of mind and thought which has overthrown authority and violated every code human and divine.” These were the charges leveled at Bronte.

Of course, once we get past the hysteria which Bronte’s novel caused, we can see that it is not really a story of the occult at all; but it does display Bronte’s interest in apparitions, clairvoyance, clairaudience, mesmerism, fairy tales and dreams. I suggest that she wove these themes into her novel, not just to amuse her readers, but to explore her own beliefs in these subjects. Obviously, the novel runs very contrary to her Calvinistic indoctrination as a child, but she does regress to her Christian upbringing at the very end of the novel as to not completely alienate her audience.

Through the lens of today’s modern eye, we can see *Jane Eyre* as an accurate description of the status of women in that era. Nineteenth-century women were very much like ghosts, and assertive women may be viewed as “demonic.” Jane’s first encounter with the “other,” as Bronte framed it, was when she was locked in the room that Mr. Reed had died in. Her experience with the mirror suggested both scrying and Spirit communication. The passages that followed strongly suggest the spirit of her uncle visiting her. From this point on, Jane had inadvertently opened a portal into a Spiritual World.

In Chapters 8, 13, and 23, Bronte uses phrenology as a vehicle for character development. In Chapter 30, the character St. John Rivers makes use of both phrenology and Mesmerism in exercising his control over her. Jane displays clairaudience in hearing the cries of Rochester which breaks the spell that Rivers has over her.

Ultimately, this early use of Spiritualism was not just a device for a romantic novel. *Jane Eyre* embodies the driving force of Spiritualism as the lightning rod of the 19th century to rail against the social mores and taboos that women were beginning to rebel against. The right to independence, a career, to vote and freely voice opinions were the rallying cry of Spiritualism. The early followers of Spiritualism rebelled against the norms of the day which struck fear in the religious controlling authorities. These were the very same fears that Charlotte Bronte caused in the Victorian public.

When we find a piece of literature, or a movie, or music that expresses the hidden themes of Spiritualism, we should celebrate them and exalt them as examples for everyone to experience. It is truly amazing how fiction can bring such sublime truths to the forefront of people’s imagination. From *Jane Eyre*, to *Harry Potter*, or *Star Wars*, we should adopt these media and use them as a teaching tool to bring others to the light of Spiritualism. Perhaps we could organize our Churches to sponsor book clubs or conduct viewing nights to highlight the invisible aspects of Spiritualism which surrounds us. What wonderful tools these can be at our disposal.



# LOVE

Writer: James Johnson  
Spiritualist Church of Awareness, FL

What does your heart feel when there is absence of love? Heartache. When there is absence of love, your heart goes about the task of trying to find it—it must seek what it is missing. Many try to satisfy the needs of the heart through a connection with one significant person. But finding the love one seeks through their connection with one particular individual can be the greatest cause of heartache. We are taught as children that we will grow up then marry our “heart’s desire.” How many people never find the lasting, unconditional love they seek on this very narrow path?

I believe that the love we yearn to reconnect with from the Spirit side of life is so pure, that many of our attempts to feel the same intensity through a singular relationship here may be the reason so many relationships fail. Love in the Spirit World is not a singular love, but a powerful universal love. Our unconscious expectations for finding that love upon meeting “Mr. or Mrs. Right” can set us up for relationship failure. The closest we will get to the sensation of universal love we feel disconnected from is by expanding our expectations of where we can give and receive love—in everyone and everything.

When one first discovers this connection, it is subtle. It is not the kind of love that comes with fireworks like our parents told us we would find. But it grows, and once the connection is made, it stays with you and satiates your heart’s need for love for the rest of your life.

Satiate your need for love through your connection with your Higher Self, Spirit, and those people in the physical world that you connect with on any given day. In your heart you are being called to be loved, do you answer the call? Your Spirit is in your body and has remained connected to universal love, but do you feel it?

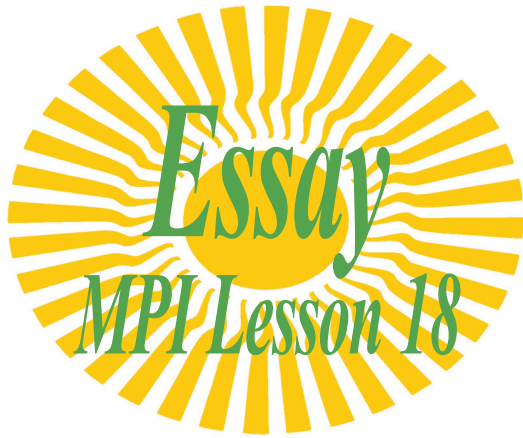
As Spiritualists, we believe in a “Greater Spirit.” So as we ask Spirit for help, are we not also asking for love? Are we asking for God and Spirit’s love to fill our bodies and more significantly our hearts? Because when we feel it within, we know it, and we share it. Then we smile, because it is *heartfelt!*

Many people in this country choose to spend their Sunday mornings at church to hear a sermon, or a talk, or in some rare cases—a “production.” Nevertheless, many go for an amount of time at least once a week to be filled with a heartfelt message to carry them through until the next Sunday. *Heartfelt.* This is where those going to church seek to feel it—not in their brains—not in their stomachs. Those particular organs are fed differently. The brain seeks to be fed knowledge which it uses to move the body. The stomach seeks to be fed with food which it uses to nourish and move the body. But what about the heart? What does the heart seek?

Of course we know that the heart needs the vital blood it pumps through our bodies for our physical survival, but I’m talking about feelings. *Heartfelt feelings.* Each of our hearts has experienced the power of eternal unconditional love before we came into being, and in this physical life, our hearts yearn to reconnect with that love. Our hearts can’t help but seek out a steady diet of love.

All of us have experienced brain overload at some point and know that it can result in headache. Similarly, our stomachs can be overfilled, resulting in a painful stomach ache. So, if your heart were to be overloaded with love, would that result in heartache? Of course not!





# MEDITATION

MPI Student: Michael C. Richards, Fairmont, WV



The focus on meditation, its history, practices, and applications in this lesson was exceptionally accurate and important to the larger context of the discussion and study of psychic phenomena. As the course rightly noted, meditation is not a forum for psychic phenomena, but the capacity of one to meditate—with the solitary goal of self-knowledge and self-awareness—does open one's life to a deeper interiority that is conducive to expressing what I believe are our true, innate psychic gifts. As such, no psychic could expect to channel his or her gifts as authentically as possible without the intentional and ongoing work of creating an inner spaciousness within which Infinite Spirit may dwell and be expressed.

Equally important was the assertion that the techniques of meditation are meant to eventually transcend themselves and their use. *Doing* is only a temporary movement on the path to *being*. To practice the tools of meditation until true meditation-as-state-of-consciousness emerges is central. At the same time, one cannot confuse the means with the end. The lesson did a superb job in isolating this crucial realization. This is not to say, as the lesson reiterates, that the discipline of meditation does not require hard work—it does. But, the fruit of this work is ultimately effortless, which is the inherent irony of the process.

What these principles teach us, is that the consummate human goal is to plumb the depths of that humanity, via consciousness. As consciousness is explored, one becomes aware of the

radical oneness of it. Consciousness is the same reality at its most macrocosmic expression—Infinite Spirit, or God—or its most locally available expression—my own conscious awareness. This does not even begin to touch upon the way in which this consciousness pervades the most un-imaginable microcosmic realities down to its most irreducible expression—pure consciousness. Ironically, this brings us back to the same singular point as the macrocosmic expression, wherein all things dance with the vibration of pure consciousness. (I imagine Spirit or this consciousness is what makes the strings of string theory vibrate to constitute and sustain matter.) Meditation is simply a way of plugging into this reality. As one routinely experiences this level of consciousness, one becomes a more open channel for it. This is the heart of the Spiritualist view of the universe and our connection to it, even if, historically, it has not been stated in these psycho-scientific terms.

Essentially, then, meditation is a tool to foster the integration of the Self, which is synonymous with integration within the singularity which is the ground of being for the universe. It is the means whereby we step outside the illusion of matter around us—it is Spirit vibration appearing to be material form—and experience, to whatever degree within our capacity and to whatever measure of time accessible to us, pure being—the “I Am.” This is our truest nature, but one which is seldom accessible to our waking consciousness. Meditation provides a window to this reality.



# Healing in the Moment

# JOY

Writer: Anne Thomas  
Spiritualist Church of Awareness, FL

Joy brings more light into our lives. No matter the circumstances you have drawn into your life, pay attention when you catch yourself smiling and enjoying the small things. As you learn to focus on the simple pleasures around you, the easier it is to let go of allowing the unpleasant things to spoil your day. Enjoying a sunset, hugging a loved one, saying hello to a smiling neighbor or petting your dog or cat has incredible power to improve your day. Experiencing joy in the moment builds your positive mindset, and affects how you live each day. We hear all the time in church that working to improve our attitude not only helps us enjoy our life, it also improves our interactions with others and makes us better role models.

As Spiritualists, we know that the thing we have the greatest control over in life is our inner world. Our thoughts and attitudes color all that happens to us, and they have the power to influence those around us as well. Learning to enjoy our life more and boosting our feelings of inner worth and value are things nobody can do for us. The more we appreciate the small things that make us happy and nourish us, the better our thoughts and interactions with others will be.

As we spend more time noticing the small things that make us smile, it affects our overall well-being and adds more joy, love, and peace to our lives. This in turn boosts our enjoyment of our day, and ultimately, our self-esteem. As you remind yourself that you are responsible for what you experience in your world, pay attention to what you like, who you like to spend time with, and what activities bring you pleasure. This shift to an internal focus of control supports conscious living, which improves the quality of your life, even when those around you don't share that understanding. The more you stay in your place of inner peace, the less others affect you negatively. Focus on your joy and watch those around you change.

Build your reserve of happy memories for an extra boost for moments when you feel you are moving outside your comfort zone, whether it is traveling, going

shopping at a crowded mall, spending time with teenagers, or watching your grandchildren for extended periods of time.

Notice the small stuff. Look back and mentally list as many things as you can that made you smile or feel happy inside. Better yet, when tomorrow gets here, coach yourself into noticing more of the small things that deserve your appreciation: the smell of your bath soap, the flavor of your coffee in the morning, or in my case, how wonderful it is to be here to enjoy yet another day of Florida sunshine.

Spiritualism teaches us that it is not the events outside ourselves that bring us experiences of joy or stress. Rather it is our beliefs, perceptions, and interpretations of these events that affect how we experience our reality.

## Affirmations for Inner Healing, Building Self-Esteem & Spiritual Awareness

Submitted by: Jackson Pitts, FL

I am at peace with myself & accept my oneness with all life. I draw from the wellspring of the Source to fill my heart with love, joy, peace, beauty & grace. I have more than enough to nourish myself & others.

I feel safe & secure, knowing the greater wisdom of Infinite Intelligence is always there to listen, comfort, guide, teach & heal me. As I learn to connect more & more with my true Self, I release all pain & suffering that I have caused myself. I accept responsibility for my life & see deeper meaning behind my experiences. I accept the power of Love to heal all pain & suffering so I can extend love to all others.

I draw to me situations that support my highest good & spiritual intentions. In my world nothing is a mistake. I take full responsibility to be the gardener of my life, continually planting new seeds of transformation.

Today is a new beginning in consciousness & I use my creative power to draw to me situations that help me actualize my potential. I rejoice in my life as I live from the full place of unconditional Love, Light & Power.





# Spiritual Footprints

Writer: Debra Malison  
First Spiritualist Church of West Allis, WI

Our world is a complicated and difficult place to navigate. It is cluttered with decisions and events that are new and unique to this time, affording us no foundation or past experiences to help us cope. It is a world where potentially every move we make is documented by an electronic device of some type.

Most of us do everything electronically. Our banking, our shopping and communications with friends and family members—our lives are recorded and documented whether we want them to be or not.

We live our lives on the worldwide web and because we do it from the privacy of our homes, we feel safe. Because of this false sense of privacy, we don't visually see the effects of how our spending habits, opinions, and internet surfing can influence thousands around the globe who can access these private details of our life. We make the mistake of not realizing how businesses and corporations make world-changing decisions based on the thousands of keystrokes we execute each day.

We may randomly post a thought or feeling not considering the fact that our thought remains permanent on the web, and years from now when we have moved on from that situation or event, it is still out there. We may still be defined by that action.

We forget the possibility that anyone can seize upon that thought or opinion and use it to define us anytime they want. In this new age of electronic everything, we are learning that thoughts or feelings we had years ago can come back to us. They can affect decisions others make in regards to our character. An employment opportunity may be lost all because of an impulsive feeling we had to record our thoughts on a website.

If you think about it, the electronic age is good preparation for life in Spirit. It is teaching us, metaphorically, that everything we do in our lives has a consequence, and by default, we are all connected. Which is exactly what



messages from Spirit are always trying to teach us. Everything and everyone is connected. Every action has a reaction.

Spiritualism teaches us that our life in Spirit will depend on what we learned or didn't learn during our time in the physical. It will matter what we did for others and how we treated those around us. We will look back upon our lives and decide if we progressed during our journey on the Earth plane, or if we just kept making the same poor decisions over and over again, never really moving forward and never taking responsibility for our choices.

Human beings are visual, first and foremost. It is our downfall and it is what makes us the most vulnerable. We like to say we are not superficial, that we make decisions about something or someone by how it or they make us feel, but we don't. Most of the many large and small decisions we make each day are made the second we lay eyes on whatever or whoever it is. If we are thoughtful and want to be a better person and change that visual conclusion, we need to be convinced. It then becomes a secondary decision. We may pacify ourselves by saying "we have changed our mind" or, "we're not going to judge on looks," or however you choose to qualify it. But what we really mean is, "our visual decision was the right one; however, we are willing to explore other options."

Now take away that visual image completely. Imagine getting to know someone only by their online identity. Imagine that you are given information about someone you are thinking of hiring to care for your children, your elderly parents, or someone you are considering as a new roommate. You have no idea what they look like, no idea about age. You are told you will make this decision based solely on information available about them from the internet. You are given a list of every comment or thought they shared on any social media site. You are given records of their spending habits, emails, texts, who they communicate with most and what is said. How would you feel about making that decision?

Now imagine that person is you. Would you hire yourself based on the information available about you on the world wide web? Now think about your presence here in the physical. What have you said to others? How have you treated them, and what have you given back to the world? Without a visual, would you hire yourself? Would you want to spend eternity with yourself based on the spiritual footprint you have left on this world?

This process is similar to how we find our place in the Spirit World. It won't matter what we look like or how we present ourselves when we get there. We won't be able to talk our way out of things we did in the past, or blame others for our misfortune. Our lives will just be out there for us to observe and decide what we did or didn't learn.

This perception of our life can change everything we know about ourselves. Have we left a footprint, either spiritually or on the web that we are proud of? Will we be able to look back on our lives with pride? Or did we live our lives always thinking "I'm just too busy, too tired, too lazy to go that extra mile? Too busy to help that person in need—to reach out to someone whose life could be changed if they just had a friend—someone to talk to or someone to care?"

There are so many tragedies in the news that we read about or hear of every day. So often when you look closer and read between the lines—search for the reasons behind the tragedies, it comes down to one person feeling so alone and so misunderstood, they make the worst possible choices.

As Spiritualists, we are taught to embrace and accept individuality. As Spiritualists, we should be making the effort to reach out to those who are struggling. We are a religion that states we love and accept all people. We do not judge nor lay down rules for acceptance. We do not insist that someone hold our beliefs in order for us to accept them. Our purpose on this Earth is to learn about humanity and to leave this world better a better place because we were here.

It is easy to be kind to those whose problems are "clean" and easy for us to deal with. The challenge and the growth of our souls happen when we reach out to those whose problems make us uncomfortable, force us to step outside of our comfort zone. When those problems make us see things we don't want to know about, the work begins. That is when we grow.

If we could all step outside of our comfort zones just a little and reach out to someone—let them know we care—let them know their lives do matter, then we can make a difference. We can leave this world better because we did our part.

As you navigate this journey called life, try to remember to do more, to be more, and to do your part for humanity. Make your spiritual footprint one you will proud of.



by The Revs. Tom & Lisa Butler, NST

### **Belief in Life After Death Brings Hope**

A recent set of studies showed that beliefs about the afterlife colors one's worldview hopeful or hopeless. Two University of Kent psychologists, Arnaud Wisman and Nathan Hefleck, set out to establish, in several studies, whether people lose hope when thinking about death. The research was based on the premise that self-awareness among humans has been shown to create the potential for hope—or the general expectation and feeling that future desired outcomes will occur. Researchers established that thoughts of mortality reduced personal hope for people low in self-esteem, but not for people high in self-esteem. However, positive afterlife beliefs helped to preserve hope, even among those with low esteem who experience hopelessness when faced with the prospect of their own mortality.



In two studies, the team tested to see if “immortality” would help people with low self-esteem remain hopeful when thinking about death. In one, half the participants read a (bogus) statement indicating that scientists are convinced that there is life after death or a statement arguing that there is no life after death. In the second, the researchers required that people read either a (bogus) statement that there was an identified gene that promises greatly elongated life or a statement arguing that no such gene has been identified. Both promises of immortality (life after death or elongated life on earth) preserved hope for people with low self-esteem when they had just thought about their own death.

*From: “Death and Afterlife: Beliefs about Afterlife Can Color Your World Hopeful or Hopeless, Recent Study Suggests” by Kimberly M. Aquilina, Headlines & Global News, May 17, 2015, hngn.com.*

### **Spirituality May Be Tied to Easier Cancer Course**

In an analysis of previous studies of spirituality involving more than 44,000 cancer patients, higher religious or spirituality scores were associated with better overall health. The studies varied in many ways, but religion and spirituality were associated with better health regardless of specific religion or set of spiritual beliefs. A sense of connection to a being larger than oneself was associated with better physical function and fewer, or less severe, symptoms of cancer or treatment, according to patient reports.

*From: Various articles from November 2015 issue of Cancer, <http://bit.ly/1UyJuT2>*

### **Coincidences More Frequent for People Who Have Had Near-Death Experiences**

Bruce Greyson, a professor of psychiatry and neurobehavioral sciences at the University of Virginia, used the Weird Coincidence Scale (WCS), developed by Stephanie Coleman and Dr. Bernard Beitman, to measure coincidences in the lives of near-death experiencers. He found that meaningful coincidences increased in people's lives after a near-death experience (NDE). Greyson writes, “The major finding of this study was that, among NDErs, the incidence of meaningful coincidence before the NDE was slightly less than that among the general population; meaningful coincidences after the NDE were significantly more frequent. These data suggest that prior tendency to recognize coincidences and to analyze or interpret them do not lead to spiritual experiences such as NDEs. Rather, spiritual experiences such as NDEs, and the increased spirituality that typically follows, lead to increased experiences of meaningful coincidence and increased analysis and interpretation of these coincidences.”



*From: “Coincidences More Frequent for People Who Have Had Near-Death Experiences” Study, by Tara MacIsaac, Epoch Times, September 2015, [theepochtimes.com](http://theepochtimes.com)*



## **Survey Shows How People Connect to Faith Using Mobile Devices**



In a recent survey sponsored by AT&T, 4-in-10 (41%) respondents said they use a mobile phone, tablet or laptop to connect to faith-based organizations or inspiration sites. The survey found that among those who attend services regularly, 1-in-4 (25%) report using a mobile device as part of that experience.

The use of mobile technology to connect with faith differs among ethnic groups. Blacks are more likely to use technology to connect with their faith. The study found that 57% of blacks use mobile devices to connect to faith and inspiration sites. That compares to 46% of Hispanics, 38% of Asians and 37% of whites. People using mobile devices in faith practices say they:

- Listen to or download music (42%)
- Stream services (38%)
- Research or study (32%)
- Access holy or song books (29%)
- Keep up with religious holidays/holy days (28%)
- Give (24%)
- Use prayer/meditation apps (22%)
- Use faith/self-improvement apps (19%)
- Keep up with dietary guidelines (10%)

Across all groups, 72% of those who use mobile technology to connect with their faith report using social media to do so, with Facebook and YouTube used most.

*From: "Survey Shows How People Connect to Faith On Mobile Devices," from AT&T, PR Newswire, prnewswire.com.*

## **Atheists Have Near-Death Experiences too**

Nicole Lindsay, a Massey University PhD, is researching near death experiences and had an NDE when she was a child. Contrary to popular opinion, Lindsay says religious beliefs do not have much of a part to play in near death experiences.

"An atheist is just as likely to have the experience as say a Christian... most research has been done overseas particularly in North America, they are quite a religious society compared to New Zealand. New Zealand is quite a

secular society so it's been really interesting interviewing people, all of whom have been from atheist or agnostic backgrounds, to see how they interpret the experience." She said the experiences were "surprisingly common" with up to a quarter of survivors of life-threatening situations reporting them. She will be sharing her results at a conference in the US in September 2015.

*From: "Motueka woman shining light on near death experiences" by Stacey Knott, Nelson Mail, [stuff.co.nz/nelson-mail/news/](http://stuff.co.nz/nelson-mail/news/)*

## **More People Choosing Natural Alternatives over Coffins**

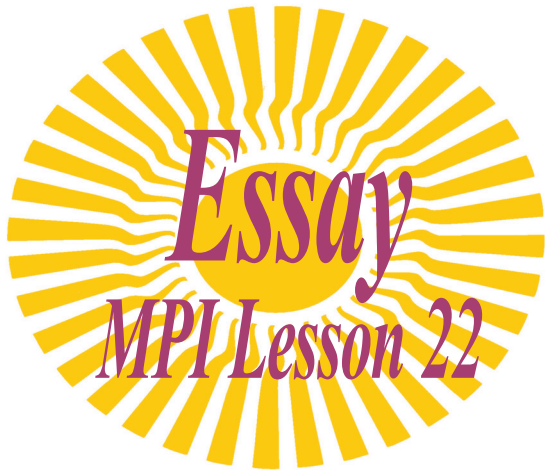
Were you the sensitive type, prone to tears at the slightest provocation? You'd make a great weeping willow. A loyal Leafs sports fan to the grave? How about another shot as a magnificent maple? An Italian company is giving the dearly departed a second chance at life as a tree, putting a new spin on the growing trend of natural burials. The Capsula Mundi project involves planting your body like a seed in an organic, egg-shaped, biodegradable capsule. A tree of your choice is then planted on top of the body. As you slowly decompose, your nutrients feed the roots. The idea has yet to be realized due to legal hurdles in Italy, but many people have expressed interest on the company's Facebook page.



In the Greater Toronto Area, zoning bylaws have hampered efforts for new eco-friendly burial grounds, but existing cemeteries have started providing natural burial options. According to its website, Mount Pleasant Group of Cemeteries opened the region's first natural burial section at Meadowvale Cemetery in Brampton in 2012. In 2013, a natural burial section was added at Duffin Meadows Cemetery in Pickering. "In order to promote the natural process, embalming with formaldehyde or non-biodegradable solutions is not permitted on burials in this section, nor are burial vaults or outer containers. Caskets, shrouds and urns must be biodegradable, and caskets and urns may not contain varnishes or lacquers," the Mount Pleasant Group outlined on its website.


*From: "Trending: Forget the coffin, enjoy your afterlife as a tree," City News, September 2015, [citynews.ca/](http://citynews.ca/)*

Tom and Lisa Butler are interested in your personal experiences with after-death communication. Please send your experiences to [Tom-Lisa@atransc.org](mailto:Tom-Lisa@atransc.org).



# SPIRITUAL HEALING

MPI Student: Myrna Westgate, Spiritualist Church of Brockton, MA



**D**o we really understand healing? We have theories and anecdotal data that suggest it is about restoring the body to function in an optimal way. We strive to remove pain, distress, and physiological imbalance through allopathic, pharmacological, surgical and spiritual means. The theory and the knowledge we work with is centered in “human” concepts and understanding; what we perceive as results is only a part of the picture. If the entire paradigm were understood and available to implement, we would experience healings in each instance of disease and disability, whether physical or psychological. Perhaps the Christian Science model has a clue to guide us in the search—true health is the reality and sickness is a belief to be eradicated and replaced.

A full understanding of spiritual healing may be a step to eradicate the belief in illness and disease. A spiritual healing closes the circle of understanding and completes the picture. The circle begins with God, and also those healing doctors and helpers in Spirit that choose to assist the medium or healer in bringing the energies and forces to the recipient that restore health. The healing guides diagnose and use the energies that are in accord with Infinite Intelligence. The recipient receives what is needed to alleviate the condition to be healed. The guides, the healer and the recipient are always in tune with Natural Law and the ultimate source of healing God; this creates a divine circle, an act of love.

The common denominator that is apparent in the different types of healing is faith and belief. Psychic-spiritual

healing, psychic surgery, faith healing, modern Christian healing, occult healing and traditional medical healing all require faith. The practitioners and recipients need to believe that what is taking place will bring about a cure. Even medicine has agreed that the belief the patient holds that they will get well produces better results than a pessimistic outlook. The missing element is the attunement of all parties and procedures or energies used by Infinite Intelligence, and the Natural Laws of this world and the Spirit World. We are still partially in the dark as to the specifics of the energies used by the Spirit World. We do know that the forces used in healing are grounded in “Love.” We also know that harmonious attunement of all the participants of a healing produces good results.

Through the groundbreaking work of Walter Kilner and Semyon and Valentina Kirlian, we know that the body is an energy field that can be mapped and diagnosed. The aura shows heightened and healthy energetic activity and it shows areas of dullness where distress or disease is evident. Further investigation and data are the hope of the future to fill in more specifics of the energies and forces that make up the Spirit World of healing. Approaching healing from both the scientific and the spiritual aspects is becoming a more widely considered approach to healing and will enhance our knowledge in this area. Adding spiritual healing to the treatment plan also brings about the benefits of spiritual illumination and advancement.



# Healing in God's Hands

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

There are times in life when all of us have felt we simply cannot deal with situations, cannot handle what is going on, cannot reconcile our physical and spiritual lives. We have tried, we have prayed, we have done our very best yet things still seem out of control.

Those are the times to realize when we can put things under the jurisdiction of Infinite Intelligence, and learn to leave them there. If we had been able to “fix” the situation, we would have already done so. If we had been able to bring about change, we would have already accomplished that. If there was a remedy we would have already reached the solution—would have “been there—done that.” Prayer sometimes doesn't seem to be working.

Most of us are aware that worry is a very negative energy. In times of stress we do not need to send out thoughts of concern or worry which will only exacerbate the situation. We must stay positive if we are to help.

I am reminded of the old story about the farmer who planted his seeds. He doesn't go out every morning and pull the seed out of the ground to see if it has rooted yet, does he? That would defeat the purpose. Had they rooted, he would have uprooted them and they wouldn't grow! He plants them, then trusts nature to take her course and gives the time needed for germination to take place. The seeds (NOT mysteriously—but by Natural Law) do germinate, and the tiny plants begin to push through the soil toward the sunlight. Yet another crop has begun to grow.

Likewise, when we place things in the Hands of Spirit, we should act like the farmer—exercise patience and work with Natural Law by trusting Infinite Intelligence. We must allow time for Spirit to work.

There is an exercise or prayer that we can use to help bring about change. Chances are things didn't get to the point where they are in your life overnight, so its likely they won't be resolved overnight either. If you wanted to learn a new skill, you would need to practice—whether you chose to play an instrument, a sport like baseball, sewing or woodworking. In the same manner, if you practice working with this regularly, you will bring about improvement in your life.

Always remember that we don't have the power to change anyone except ourselves, we can only pray for the highest and best good for all! Keep this in mind when you use the following exercise.

What is this “magical formula?” How can anything solve everything? Well, give this a serious try while you leave the seed in the ground for

Natural Law to germinate!

“I place myself and \_\_ (specifically name the problem) in the Hands of the loving Infinite Intelligence and only that which is for my/our Highest Good will come to me/us. Bless and protect me/us, may Spirit's face shine upon me/us, and keep me/us healthy, and help me/us to find the correct way to find the highest and best for all concerned. In the name of Spirit, as this is spoken, so shall it be done. Amen.”

When using this prayer, visualize the hands of Spirit extended from the clouds of the white light of Infinite Intelligence, opened as a cup to receive the problem you are placing there. Whenever you feel yourself begin to worry again (negative energy) or the “what-ifs” creep in, act like a mother cat—pick that problem up by the nape of the neck just as she would pick up her kitten, and put it back in the hands of Spirit. If you are aggravated, mentally throw the problem back where it came from. Sometimes you will have to forcibly throw to it back, but by doing that you are exercising your ability to stay positive, curtail the negativity of worry, and remain consistent in working with the problem all the while keeping yourself and your ego (and personal wishes toward solution) out of the way.

Don't try to work everything out at one time. Prioritize! Take the direst most immediate situation and stick with that one until you find a permanent solution. Then start over again, working on the next area you would like to see changed for the better.

This is a powerful prayer that can work without fail—but only if you work with it. Just as practice makes perfect when learning any new skill, practice also makes perfect when learning to work with Spirit!



*Gospel Hymn*

# DARE TO BE A DANIEL

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

*“Dare To Be A Daniel” is a well-known gospel hymn. It was written by Philip P. Bliss, (1838-76) a Chicago Sunday School Teacher to teach his students about The Book of Daniel.*

Although the hymn is about standing firm in your Christian beliefs, I think the words of the chorus are applicable to all of us. It talks about courage and our willingness to stand up, often alone, for what we believe is a good purpose, and to make that purpose known while trying to change the rules. In our world today we are under constant pressure to accept other’s ideas and ways of doing things. Perhaps deep down we don’t agree with these ideas and methods, but we don’t want to offend or be rejected so we “go with the flow.” It takes a certain amount of courage to stand by your own convictions, especially if you are young, for we all want to be one of the crowd. How many people today started smoking because their contemporaries did, and how many go for a drink after work when they would prefer not to? “Oh come on, don’t be a spoil sport” is a phrase many of us have had said to us when we have demurred at taking a certain action. To be a vegetarian in a carnivorous society is difficult when it would be so much easier to just eat the same as others. We are always under pressure to conform to the ideas of others.

Our parents have a great deal of control over how we grow up. They often expect us to be just like them, and efforts to control that can result in their stifling our natural gifts and talents. In other aspects, we have religious leaders who will not let us make our own decisions about what we believe. There is a saying, “God has no grand-children” which means we must all find God or Infinite Intelligence for ourselves and not inherit Him from our parents. Many Spiritualists have turned away from established beliefs and the churches they once attended. They have dared to discover the truth for themselves and be different. I think it takes courage to say you are a Spiritualist. How much easier would it be to simply attend the local church with neighbors and friends? It takes courage to push beliefs of the church which you find unacceptable to the back of your mind.

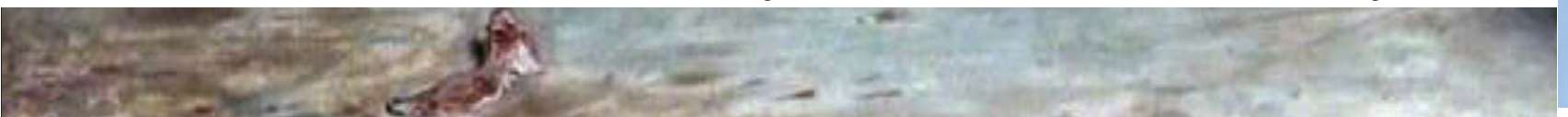
Yet it is those who have “dared to be different” and who have gone against the establishment who have brought about the greatest good in our society. Years ago society saw nothing wrong in sending small boys up the inside of

chimneys to clean them. It saw nothing wrong in small children going underground into cold, dark coal mines to open various gates as coal passed through. Lord Shaftsbury did. He dared to raise his voice against such practices and succeeded in getting a law passed to make it stop. Dr. Barnardo inspired many as he helped homeless street children by finding homes for them. Florence Nightingale spoke out against the appalling nursing care of wounded soldiers and brought about changes in the nursing profession. Long ago, Elizabeth Fry initiated reform in the treatment of prisoners, and William Wilberforce campaigned for the abolition of the slave trade. General Booth, who founded the Salvation Army, said it was important to “feed bodies before feeding their minds.” Of course the greatest “darer” of all was Jesus. Born a Jew, he dared to challenge his church officials and said that God did not want them to have petty rules and regulations. He paid for his courage with his life, but consider the revolution he brought about in religious thinking. All of these people and many others like them dared to be different. They stood alone while filled with a purpose to change the way of the world.

All Spiritualists believe in the continuity of life. We know that there is no such thing as death—it is just a doorway into the next world. We know that everyone goes into the next world—even animals—and that heaven is not reserved for the exclusive few who accept certain beliefs. We believe in a God of Love not a God of wrath. We believe that we are personally responsible for our own experiences in life, guided by our beliefs and expectations. And, we alone will answer for wrongs we have committed, with knowledge that eternal progress is available to all.

This is a wonderful message that we can bring to the world. Let us not be afraid of being different. Let us be willing to stand up for what we believe in and let us “Dare to make it known.”

Dare to be a Daniel,  
Dare to stand alone!  
Dare to have a purpose firm!  
Dare to make it known.







# A Christmas Scene

Rev. Ernest Leard  
Memorial Spiritualist Church, VA

I would like to share with you a Christmas scene. It came to me in a dream, during the holiday season—on the night of New Year's Day, January 1, 2016.

Out walking, I came upon a group of people gathered around a Christmas tree. It was an odd sort of tree—it appeared to be only the lower portion of a fir tree, as if it had been sawn off to make a smaller, perfect tree of the top portion. It stood only about three feet high, but had plenty of full, green boughs stretching out from the trunk.

Those gathered seemed to be a family, with youngsters, middle-aged folks, and even a few elderly people. They worked together peacefully and harmoniously. They were smiling and cheerful as they went about their task of placing bright-colored baubles and glittery tinsel on the tree. Here and there could be seen the light of small candles nestled on the branches. In and amongst the boughs were small images of loved ones who were not present. At the base of the tree, an older man was laying out the track for a Christmas train, just as he had done for his children many years ago. No star adorned the top of the tree, for there was no place for one, but beautiful starlight flooded the skies above.

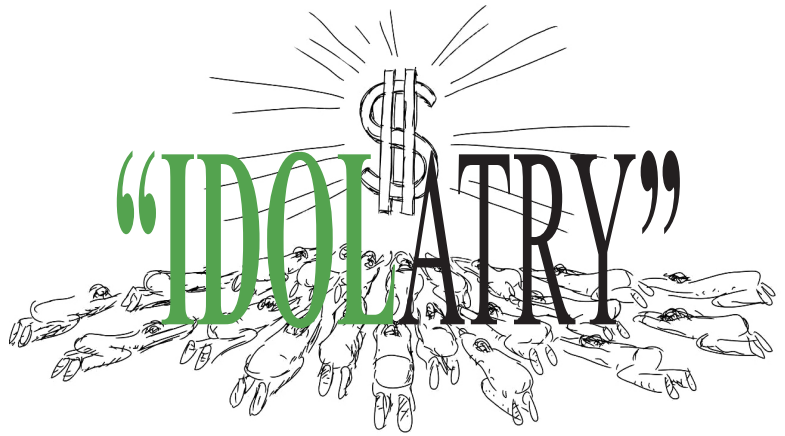
When the tree was finished, they brought out gifts and began to place them around the tree. Some went under the tree, others were placed directly on the branches. None of them were wrapped, but all were being given in the hope of bringing surprise and joy to the receiver.

One person brought a book. Another laid a letter on the tree, carefully tucked inside an envelope and tied with a colorful ribbon. A man laid a pipe and tobacco on a branch, while others gave gifts of clothing and personal items. Several mothers and fathers put small children's toys where they could be easily found. As they were set into place, each gift seemed to glow, as if lit with an internal light.

After all the presents had been placed within the tree, each person was asked to tell for whom their gifts were intended. As they spoke, it became clear to me that these people were Spirit Beings, and that their gifts were for those still in the physical world. They were expressing their love, support, and best wishes for those they had left behind. I recalled that none of the gifts had been money, for those in Spirit understand that money cannot bring us happiness. Just as we celebrate the season of love and giving with tokens of our love and caring, so they were continuing the tradition they began here on Earth.

The shortened form of the tree was symbolic of those Spirits whose lives on Earth had been cut short. It was symbolic for the children who did not live to grow, mature, and bring their own contributions to the world. It also represented the parents, siblings, and friends who had not lived the fullest of lives, and the older folks who were not able to share their full measure of knowledge, wisdom, and love.

The gift they gave to me was the renewed awareness that even after we die, life goes on. In Spirit, we continue to love and cherish those still here on Earth. Those in Spirit still celebrate with us, and continue to give us love, guidance, and support, just as they did when they were here with us.



Guest Writer: Gordon Ray  
Brisbane Spiritualist Church, Queensland, AU

The definition of "Idolatry" is the belief in and worship of human creation as though it were God. Sports are idolized by many in Australia. One current advert here says, "life is a sport, get the right fuel." I hold that life is a necessary experience which must be lived as consciously as possible.

The Bible warns us to have no other Gods before the one God. There are a growing number of people who do not attend church. Personally I do not think this matters. Church fosters a focus on praying, singing and listening to a sermon, but it does not necessarily encourage those who attend to become spiritual.

Spirituality is a process that arises within a person and allows a personal alignment with God or Infinite Intelligence. Religion can be practiced without any spirituality at all merely by going through the various motions that religion entails. In fact, for some, being absorbed in a religion may actually detract from that person's spirituality.

A person may enjoy and accept a feeling of being elevated by the music and a connection to others, and yet leave with their soul untouched. People search for meaning in life and may accept those that are handed to them by others. For instance, our jobs, hobbies or even sports can become idols to certain individuals to the extent of being placed before one's own spirituality. In this case it is a material thing that has the power to give one meaning in life. They have not yet discovered that their soul's true search is not for something that lies outside themselves, but it is within themselves that both the search and answer lies.

To quote Silver Birch: "Men and women devote all their efforts to gain baubles and possessions far beyond what they need and sacrifice the eternal realities which are their greatest assets the human being can have"... "those who worship things of matter are bowing to false idols. There is no reality in them. Their existence is but temporary."

The slogan "life is a sport" is a classic example of focusing upon a false idol. It provides one with a false sense of meaning and sense of purpose. Yet it is fully transient and God-eclipsing. This in no way means that you should deny yourself a wide range of human pleasures, but you should be conscious of your true heritage and purpose and keep your life in perspective.

# Authentic Human

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

**W**hat does it mean to be authentically human? What does it mean to lead an authentic human existence? Most people never ask themselves this critical question. Why? Because they are too busy leading lives that are programmed by others. People get too busy trying to satisfy their basic needs. They are controlled by their bosses and authorities of all kinds. They don't have the time to consider why they are here living in the physical world. The reality is that we are all part of an intricate divine plan whether we want to believe it or not. We can either accept our part now and save ourselves trouble later, or we can go on in denial that we have a part to play in the divine plan.

Cora Richmond, first Vice President of the *National Spiritualist Association of Churches*, revealed the divine plan to us through her inspired writing in 1888. She wrote a book called *The Soul and its Embodiments*. The soul is the primary spiritual building block in the universe. The soul is never satisfied until perfection is achieved in every direction. Life as an expression of Infinite Intelligence was not intended to illustrate imperfection, but rather to provide an avenue to seek and attain perfect expression. The work of the universe of life is understood when Divine Love and wisdom are attained. Without the promise of the perfect victory in any and all directions, human life

would be a dismal failure.

We've all witnessed the perfect victory and we have all admired it—whether it was the baseball pitcher who pitched the perfect baseball game; the gymnast who achieved the perfect score at the Olympics, or the symphony by Mozart. We have all admired examples of perfection such as these. It gives us chills when we see it. It takes our breath away when we witness it. This is what it means to be authentically human. It is the hope and the promise that we too can achieve perfection.

There are two challenges in the attainment of our own perfection. The first is inspiration. The second is interfacing the inspiration we receive from Infinite Intelligence with our physical world to achieve a level of perfection that we aspire to. The process of developing our own gifts is what it means to be authentically human and to achieve an authentic existence. We are out to be all that we can be as a part of human nature while tempered by Natural Law. The process is ongoing and inevitable.

Cora Richmond spoke about Angels that dispense inspiration from Infinite Intelligence that we use to create our world. She described 12 spiritual ages which the Earth must go through to reach a point of spiritual perfection. At the beginning of each and every dispensation, Angels of Light infuse us with all of the spiritual knowledge we require to achieve this perfection and authentic

human existence. The problem that arises in these dispensations is that we are not evolved enough to maintain or hold that light all at once. That's why there are twelve infusions of light or dispensations of the divine light.

We see evidence of this amazing burst of light and knowledge in archaeology. The Great Pyramids of Egypt, for example, were constructed with forms of high technology that we are still unfamiliar with thousands of years later. The architecture of Machu Picchu was constructed by a method of welding stone together to such a perfect extent that scientists today are unable to explain it or duplicate it. There are many such pieces of evidence that historians, archaeologists and other experts have found concerning ancient societies that were built due to the light of the initial dispensations.

Cora Richmond explained that between the dispensations are the times of the shadows. This is when people through their institutions, governments and religions try to keep the light from slipping away. These institutions become crystallized by dogmas and creeds. The governments and churches become tyrannical and the world sinks into a new dark age of tyranny and death. The initial triumph of the dispensation turns to tragedy and the world awaits its new period of messianic rebirth.

After each period of dispensation the survivors have an increased ability to hold more light



# Existence

than they were prepared to do after the last period. We are currently caught in between the fifth and sixth periods. The last dispensation ended after the period of the Vedas, the wisdom of Confucius, the periods of Moses, the Buddha and Jesus. We have weathered the storm of two thousand years of the time of shadows, when darkness came over our world. We are awaiting and living in the time of the New Dispensation, when the old dogmas and creeds fall away and the new period of light brings us to a new world and a clearer connection to Spirit. This time we will experience a new spring, a new period when gifts of the Spirit, signs and wonders will become common place again. Allopathic medicine will become one with spiritual healing. A more perfect form of communication with the Spirit World will come about and mediumship will become the primary source of our knowledge. The floodgates of life and light will open and the dawning of the New Age will bring us to a new time of openness and freedom, devoid of selfish pursuits. Humanity will advance on a whole new level of morality when swords will be beaten into plowshares and people will rejoice in the perfection of the universe and the principles of Natural Law and the love of Infinite Intelligence, which will be embraced by all.

But we don't have to wait for the complete enfoldment of the New Dispensation from Spirit to take effect—we have all the tools necessary to bring humanity out of the darkness now. The advent of Modern Spiritualism is a sign of the New Dispensation to come. Furthermore, it is the birthright of every human being as a divine spark of the Creator to live an authentic human existence which includes the manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit.

This time is here now. Look for its signs. Know that the dark period that we witness in our world today is quickly coming to an end. Dogmas and creeds are fading away. The period of secrecy and conspiracy of the tyrants is coming to an end. The trumpets of the Angels of Light are about to sound—they are sounding now every time people discover their connection to Spirit. A new dawn is upon us. The light is beginning to burst over the horizon. Embrace the light and know that your freedom is at hand.

## *I See the Light*

It took almost fifty years to discover who I am.  
It didn't happen in a gentle or easy way,  
It didn't happen in just one moment or even in a day.  
It took me by surprise,  
when my life turned dark and upside down.  
I felt alone, lost and confused, was this my demise?  
My life suddenly lacked meaning and purpose,  
I didn't know what to do.  
I got down on my knees and prayed for help,  
it was all I knew I could do.  
Then through the darkness I saw a light,  
I stayed focused on the light and the light grew brighter.  
The light lifted me up and wrapped me in love.  
I stayed focused on the light,  
and the light brought me joy,  
until one day the darkness was gone and all I could see  
was the light.  
I felt loved and supported like never before,  
I began to see all that I could not see before.  
My heart began to open, though I was afraid,  
I knew the light would guide me,  
I knew that I could pray.  
My prayers were being answered,  
my way became clear.  
First I believed then I could see,  
my life began to change, along with me.  
I felt my worth and good came to me.  
Now I knew my purpose, what I needed to do,  
I need to share this light with you.

*Contributed by: Marcia Ketelhut  
Spiritualist Church of Peace & Light, CT*



# The Power of Hope

Writer: Kindra Phillips, Spiritualist Society of Reno, NV

**M**y husband decided to leave the physical world. It wasn't unexpected, I knew it was coming. By the time he died, I was a shell of my previous self. I was drained and exhausted. My favorite song that we sing (in Society meetings) is Water by Daniel Nahmod. My favorite phrase of this song is "have you ever seen an eagle head straight into the wind." I like this phrase because this is what I was doing for many years—struggling to keep us going—struggling to keep him going.

It was in this state of exhaustion that I had to deal with other people's perceptions of my husband's death. Some people didn't know what to say so they ignored me, other people made suggestions on how they would have handled the situation, and others just blamed me. I know that these people were dealing with their own issues, but it was hard not to take in the criticism.

I felt like my life was one of those "choose your own adventure" stories. In a choose your own adventure story you read a scenario and then have to choose what option you would take given the situation. For example, if you choose Option A, you would be instructed to turn to Page 15, and if you choose Option B, you would be instructed to turn to page 20. I thought of my life as a choose your own adventure story gone horribly wrong, and I wasn't able to flip the pages back to start again.

On a recent trip to Arizona, I saw a tree that had sores all over the trunk and it looked like blood was dripping from them. I was told that it was a bleeding tree, which is in the family of the weeping willow originating in Australia. (I was drawn to this horrible looking tree because I had felt like that before.) I was told that each year the tree's trunk bleeds

dark red sap which afterwards turns to a beautiful amber color. The amber trunk protects the tree from the harsh rays of the Arizona sun.

I believe that when we go through great diversity, it makes us stronger just like the bleeding tree. But how do you get from a place of pain and suffering to a place of abundance and joy? The answer might be different for everyone, but for me it was hope. I chose to have a reading for answers, and hope.


The medium shared insights into what would have happened if I'd chosen to deal with my husband's problem differently. That put to rest all the what ifs and should haves that were constantly swirling in my mind. That was a blessing. The medium then asked me if I wanted insights about my future. The question shocked me because I was still trying to understand my past. It wasn't the particulars of what he shared with me about my future that made such an impact. It was that the distant ethereal hope that I had lost was brought back to me through this reading.

I used to work for a pharmaceutical company. In their studies, each drug was compared to the effects of a placebo. In some cases, the effects of the drug were not much greater than the effects of the placebo. One online blog author suggests that the definition of a placebo is a lot like the definition of hope. It is to wish for something with expectation of its fulfillment. It is well known that the placebo effect can greatly improve a patient's health, so why not hope? The Japanese believe that anyone who folds a thousand origami cranes in one year will be granted a wish. Isn't this hope being put into action? Just like the expectation of getting well from a placebo? The power of hope is strong because, according to this author, hope is energy.

In *The Anatomy of the Spirit* by Caroline Myss, the author states that the physical body is surrounded by an energy field. This energy field is our perceptual system and an information center. It surrounds us and carries emotional energy created by our experiences and







influences the physical tissue within our bodies. I believe this to be true because after my husband died my hair fell out. My emotional trauma caused a physical one. (The neurobiologist Dr. Candace Pert demonstrated that neuropeptides, the chemicals activated by emotions, are thoughts converted to matter. Practitioners of energy medicine can detect an area of the body that is not transmitting at its normal healthy frequency and this can indicate a problem.)

Myss goes on to state that it is vital that we maintain our own sense of power because it fuels our internal energy and emotional resources. To increase our power, we can focus on the essentials that can help recover our energy. Every choice we make motivated by faith or fear directs our Spirit and affects our power. I choose faith. (Budda states, “Since everything is a reflection of our minds, everything can be changed by our minds.” I believe that the energy of hope can transform the mind and body and bring us to a place of happiness, protection, and beauty.)

According to Thich Nhat Hanh in his book *No Mud No Lotus*, there are five steps we can follow to find our joy and happiness. The first step is to cast off or leave behind those beliefs that are obstacles to joy and happiness. These beliefs may include your ideas on how things *should be* or what you *should have* in your life. If something was obtained, it may be even more difficult to let go. Hanh refers to this as “fearful attachment.” Letting go is too difficult because of the fear of the unknown. Practicing a meditation where you place your fears, hatred, anger and problems away for a while may help you take leave from these blocking beliefs.

The second step is called “inviting positive seeds.” It is a practice of watering those positive seeds that are inside us and around us. These seeds can be things like compassion, understanding, and kindness—any positive quality you would like to incorporate into your life. For example, if you want to be more grateful for the people, circumstances, or things in your life, take time to acknowledge what you are grateful for—water your gratefulness seed, and invite more of the same. Learn to focus on the opposite of those thoughts and feelings which you do not like. Identify negative self-talk, and create a positive affirmation out of those beliefs. Your thoughts and feelings create your life, so why not create a good one?

The third step is mindfulness based joy. Mindfulness is an energy that we can use to touch happiness and joy that are already available for us. Hanh states that when we walk it can be a celebration, and when we breathe with awareness, it can also be a celebration. What we are celebrating is life. The conditions of happiness that we have are already sufficient as we are aware of the fact that we are alive. Examine those things that bring you joy and happiness and use mindfulness to be fully present in those activities.

The fourth step is concentration. Worries and anxiety about the future are always there, ready to take us away from happiness and joy. We can see them, acknowledge them, and use our concentration to return to the present moment. When

we concentrate, we have a lot of energy—energy that can help us refrain from getting carried away by visions of the past or fears about the future.

In *The Power of Now*, by Eckhart Tolle, the psychological condition of fear is divorced from any concrete and true immediate danger. Fear comes in many forms like unease, worry, anxiety, nervousness, tension and phobias. This kind of fear is always about something that *might* happen, not of something that *is* happening. The mind can cope with the present moment but cannot cope with the future. Therefore, utilizing mindfulness to concentrate on the here and now can eliminate fear and allow our minds to concentrate on watering those seeds so that they may grow.

The fifth step is insight. If we have insight, it can liberate us from negative feelings such as anger, jealousy and fear. According to Gordon Burroughs in *Becoming a Spiritualist*, mediumship opens the door between the physical and spiritual worlds, and in doing so, the other side of life gives us valuable knowledge. Without insight, it is easier for us to be left feeling confused, lost and uneasy as we navigate through our lives.

In the *NeuroLeadership Journal*, Mark Beeman states that “an insight is often a long forgotten memory or a combination of memories. These memories don’t have a lot of neurons in our brains involved in holding them together. We only notice signals above whatever our base line of noise is. Everyday thought might involve millions of neurons speaking to each other. An insight might involve only a few tens of thousands of neurons speaking to each other.”

He goes on to state that “just as it’s hard to hear a quiet cell-phone at a loud party, it’s hard to notice signals that have less energy than the general energy level already present in the brain. Hence, we tend to notice insights when our overall activity level in the brain is low. Insights require a quiet mind because they themselves are quiet.”

Psychologist Stellan Ohlsson’s *Theory of Inhibition* states that we need to “inhibit the wrong solution for the right ones to come to our attention because the non-conscious processing resources are so much greater than our conscious ones.” These psychologists agree that you have to let go of the problem for the solution to come to you.

Since the physical death of my husband, I have stopped trying to fly into the wind, and just let life unfold. I assure you that this was no easy task for me, as I was holding on to the past for dear life. I knew I had to surrender to live life again. This surrendering was not an act of defeat like I once thought, but an act of hope for transformation to come.

Since I have learned to let go, many blessings have flowed into my life. I have many people that have supported me. For me, the impossible did indeed become possible. I am still working on casting off beliefs that do not serve me—watering positive seeds—practicing mindfulness based joy, and using concentration and insight. But I know that with the power of hope I am transforming into my happy, protected, beautiful, vibrant self, just like the transformation of the bleeding tree.

# The NSAC Post

## News from The First Spiritualist Temple of East Aurora, New York

We are very proud of our two older members Gladys Kellerman and Commissioned Healer Susan Blessing. We are so fortunate to have these two ladies still active and working in our church!



Gladys Kellerman, 83



Susan Blessing, 87

Gladys and Susan are continually serving the First Spiritualist Temple here in New York. Gladys is the younger of these two wonderful ladies at 83 years young! She teaches many different classes, gives informative lectures, and contributes to our community in so many ways. She is past president of the Board of Directors of The First Spiritualist Temple, and currently heads up our Reception Committee. She is always there to greet visitors and members as they enter through the doors at our church. Members will be pleased to hear that she will be speaking again soon!

Commissioned Healer Susan Blessing is a very young 87! She has taught healing classes for many years and actively serves as a lecturer at our church. She contributes to our church in so many ways. Recently, she worked tirelessly all day selling tickets for a basket raffle during our Christmas Bazaar.

Our members are pleased that Susan is offering another healing class for students starting in March, and will serve the First Spiritualist Temple on Valentine's Day! In between functions at the church, she finds time to visit her children and friends throughout the country.

We at the First Spiritualist Temple of East Aurora are so blessed to have these two ladies to keep us on our toes!

Thank you Gladys & Susan!



The Ordination of Marie Gaines  
By The Church of the Living Spirit

Church of the Living Spirit in Glendale, Arizona had a great celebration shortly after the 2015 NSAC Convention in Arizona. One of our members took her test at the convention and passed her ordination with flying colors. Her name is Marie Gaines. This is a lady who has a huge heart and wonderful compassion for every individual in our church. She studies hard and has great dedication for Spiritualism as a whole. She transferred to our church from another auxiliary and decided that she wanted to complete her testing with us.

After the convention her Ordination ceremony was held with family and friends. Her Ordination was on November 8th, and she now serves our church and the organization as a whole. Members of our church are very proud and honored to have Marie Gaines in our church.



The Ordination of Nancy S. Ryall  
at the Spiritualist Chapel in the Woods

On Sunday, November 28 the Ordination Service for Nancy S. Ryall took place as part of the Sunday morning service at the Spiritualist Chapel in the Woods, Cherry Valley, Illinois. The Rev. June Killmer, NSAC Trustee, presided.

The Ordination Service included a meaningful, beautiful flower ceremony where family members each presented the Rev. Nancy Ryall with a flower while its significance was explained. A solo of one of Nancy's favorite songs was sung by her daughter, Melissa Ryall Haynie, accompanied on guitar by Gary Ryall, Nancy's husband. Following the service a turkey dinner was served to all in attendance. Many friends and family members joined a full congregation for this special service of ordaining their Pastor.



# Our Two Worlds

Writer: Kevin Mullican, Spiritualist, Jacksonville, FL

One of the problems with our busy materialistic world is that we seem to get very little time to think more deeply about what is going on in our lives. Everyday is made up of all sorts of practical and physical activities. We go to the shops and buy food. We cook our meals and wash up. We clean the house and read the newspaper. We mow the lawn or put our feet up in front of the television. We go to work by car or bus or train and come back late and tired. So much can get crammed into one day that we begin to feel unable to cope, or, at the other end of the scale we may have so little we can do that we feel lonely and cut off from the world around. If we are blessed with all our senses, we can see the world around us, we can hear it, touch it, smell it and taste it. And particularly in spring and summer, when all sorts of flowers are coming into bloom, the physical world around us offers a wonderful array of stimulants for our senses. And we mustn't forget our interactions with other people: a wave across the street, a smile to a passerby, a chat over coffee, a lengthy phone call, a letter from a friend, a kind word or a loving kiss. There is so much going on in our physical world that it is not surprising that many people live as though there is nothing else—that everything that goes on in our lives can be explained in physical terms. But is this really so?

Imagine you are holding a fragrant rose in your hand. You see the wonderful color and texture of the flower, you touch its soft and smooth petals and you smell its intoxicating fragrance. So far you have been involved in a physical way with this rose but how does it make you feel? Do you feel happier and a little brighter inside, does a smile come over your face, does it evoke distant memories, do you feel more peaceful, do you feel more loved or more

loving? In a wonderful way that rose, out there in the physical world around us, has touched something deep inside you and you have responded.

Or imagine that you have just received a letter from somebody you knew a long time ago. You open the letter, see who it is from, and read the first few lines. They are just ink on paper but how do you feel? Do you feel surprised and pleased, does a feeling of warmth grow within as you recall your past friendship, are you transported back to another time and place, do you now feel close once again? Just like the rose, something as physical as ink and paper has touched you deep inside and you have responded.

These are just two examples of the countless situations we can find ourselves in when we realize that there is something much deeper to our lives than our physical being. Whilst our lives appear dominated by the physical world around us, there is another world within us of feeling and thought where our deepest experiences take place and where we develop our real character. It is our inner world where, for example, we can feel deep joy when we are very close to someone we love and deep pain when we are separated.

Throughout the ages wise people have recognized that we live in two worlds at the same time, a physical outer world and a deeper inner spiritual world. The problem is that we get so absorbed by the state of our physical outer world that we don't spend enough time on the spiritual world within us. For example, how much time does the person struggling in a gym to improve their physical well-being spend on spiritual exercises to help them develop their inner world? Is this not a distorted view of our priorities?

Do you steer by the light of the stars or the lights of each passing ship?  
Are you the captain of your destiny or is your ship adrift in the sea of life?  
Have you carefully charted your course or are you aimlessly following others?

No wind can help the ship that is bound for nowhere. And at the end of your voyage, you will not be asked about the storms you weathered along the way, but rather about how carefully you chartered your course.

As Spiritualists, we know that there is no growth that results from the process of blaming our circumstances or our lack of success on others, because blame does not serve to teach or advance us. We cannot control the actions of others, we can only control the thoughts and actions that are our own. It is time to assume accountability and take responsibility for the course our ship is on, and for the level of success we will be able to enjoy in our lifetime.



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## DO YOU KNOW?

**Spiritualism** is defined as the state of being spiritual.

**Spiritualism**, philosophically speaking, is the opposite of materialism. A materialist believes that matter is all that there is.

**Spiritualism** states that all that exists is spirit.

**Spiritualism** is the Science, Philosophy, and Religion of continuous life, based upon the demonstrated fact of communication, by means of mediumship, with those who live in the Spirit World.

**KNOW!** March 31, 1848: *About daylight this morning a warm breathing passed over my face and I heard a voice, tender and strong saying, Brother, the good work has begun—behold, a living demonstration is born.* —Andrew Jackson Davis, Prophet of the New Revelation

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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

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

### • MISSOURI •

#### ST. LOUIS

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

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

### • MONTANA •

#### KALISPELL

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

### • NEW YORK •

#### FOREST HILLS

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

#### LILY DALE

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

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

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

### • OHIO •

#### DAYTON

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



• **PENNSYLVANIA** •

**MUNHALL**

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

• **VIRGINIA** •

**ALEXANDRIA**

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

**FALLS CHURCH**

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

**PORTSMOUTH**

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

**VIENNA**

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

**VIENNA**

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

**VIRGINIA BEACH**

**LEARD**, Rev. Ernest; 313 Hospital Dr., 23452; 757-340-1231

• **WASHINGTON** •

**TACOMA**

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

• **CANADA** •

**MONTREAL, QUEBEC**

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



Have you been considering the idea of writing an article for *The National Spiritualist Summit Magazine*?

Then do it!

We would love to hear from you, and share your inspirational contributions with our readers in future issues.

Send your written submissions to the editor at: [TNSsummit@earthlink.net](mailto:TNSsummit@earthlink.net) (or you may mail it to the address printed on the inside front cover.)

We look forward to hearing from you!

March/April 2016

## LET'S GO BACK TO: CHURCH MEMBERSHIP CLASS!

Writer: Rev. Charlene Kleinschmidt, Kalispel MT  
Center For Spiritual Living

**D**o you occasionally review your Church Membership book? If you do you will probably be amazed at what you have forgotten. The longer you are in Spiritualism the less you may actually think about our teachings, believing you know the basics—but there is so much more to learn.

May I encourage you to consider the very basis of why you became a Spiritualist? Too often we get caught up in petty personality issues or differences of opinion. We become so involved with our own issues we forget to take a breath, calmly look at the situation, and ask ourselves if it is worthy of our efforts.

We seem to forget a very basic teaching from Andrew Jackson Davis, "Under all circumstances, keep an even mind." How often are we guilty of not putting forth the effort to keep the peace among our parishioners, or contributing to discord? Are we so certain we are right that we are unwilling to listen to other view points? Are we willing to ask forgiveness if we have offended another? Do we recognize that each party may be a little right and try to work toward a compromise? To quote John 14:20 "I am in the Father and ye are in me and I in you... we have all the potentials of God, if we but choose to unfold them. We also realize that through this oneness with God and with each other there is and can be no separation from each other."

We are all a part of each other and what happens to one happens to all. We can feel this blending if we are attuned to others. Remember The Golden Rule before you judge another or gossip, even if someone is doing something of which you disapprove. If you treat someone rudely it is your responsibility to apologize, regardless of their reaction.

Sometimes we become so impassioned about being a medium or healer we make the mistake of thinking everyone should and does develop at the same pace, particularly if they are fellow students sitting in unfoldment class. But not all Spiritualists desire to be either a healer or a medium. They may simply want to understand the processes.

My mother world have been a wonderful medium, and though people tried to encourage her, she had no desire to do so. One very enthusiastic pastor tried to insist that my mother come up to give messages. Though she quietly refused, he persisted until she became too embarrassed to say no. After that experience, she never attended that church again. Be attuned to the other people's feelings and treat them with respect. If they tell you they aren't interested take them at their word. Perhaps, later on they may decide they want to serve but let it be their decision.

Remember that a church builds around the church not a person or a group of people. This mistake has been the downfall of many a church and religion. If you decide to join the church, it has to be because you believe in the church and its religious philosophy and not for any other reason. The church is not the building, nor the pastor, nor the governing board. It is the harmonious attunement of everyone who enters its doors whether they are a member of that church or not. The church is made up of all those who practice it's philosophy and its religion.

*The National Spiritualist Summit*

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## DIRECTORY OF NSAC CHARTERED CHURCHES & AUXILIARIES

### • ARIZONA •

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

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

### • CALIFORNIA •

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

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

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

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

**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

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

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

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

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

### • CONNECTICUT •

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

**GROTON • The Spiritualist Church of Peace & Light** • 15 Thames St. (Bailey Agencies bldg) Sun Svc 10:30am; Mailing address: 70 Dell Ave. #B5, New London, CT 06320. www.sceacelight.net. Email: sceacelight@yahoo.com; Rev. Lynn Gaffin, heart\_860@yahoo.com; Rev. Rich Terpe, richterpe@att.net. (860)442-1709.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### • DELAWARE •

**NEWARK • Spiritualist Church of Harmony and Light** • 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** • 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, 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 Woodlynn Ln, Orlando FL 32812; (407)826-0807 reveao@yahoo.com; Pres. William Partridge; Rev. Ann Otzelberger, 4332 Woodlynn Ln., Orlando 32812.

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

### • ILLINOIS •

**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: cherryvalleyesc@frontier.com. 9:30am Lyceum; 10:30am Healing Meditation; 11am Worship Svc., Messages & Pot Luck every Sunday after svc.

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

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

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

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

### • INDIANA •

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

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

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

### • MAINE •

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SABATTUS - Spiritualist Church of Eternal Life** • 352 Crowley Rd Sabattus, Maine; Pres. Rev. Catherine Sabine (207)376-5318. [crsabine@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:dstpierre7@verizon.net). Visit: [healinghandsoflightspch.com](http://healinghandsoflightspch.com)

**ONSET - On-I-Set Wigwam Spiritualist Camp** • P.O. Box 1556, 02558; Summer schedule [www.onisetwigwam.com](http://www.onisetwigwam.com) / [info@onisetwigwam.com](mailto:info@onisetwigwam.com)

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

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

#### • MICHIGAN •

**CHARLEVOIX - Northern Lake Michigan Spiritualist Camp** • 07444 Old U.S. 31N. 49720; Sec. Janet Norris; [secretary4nlmsc-grsc@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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; [rstraus52@yahoo.com](mailto:rstraus52@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](mailto:jboyergoodwin@yahoo.com).

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

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

#### • MINNESOTA •

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

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

#### • MISSOURI •

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

#### • NEBRASKA •

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

#### • NEVADA •

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

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

#### • NEW HAMPSHIRE •

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

#### • NEW JERSEY •

**WESTVILLE - Church of Eternal Life** • 243 W. Olive St., 08093; Sun. Healing, Worship & Msg Svc 11am; (856)456-2196. [thechurchofeternallife.org](http://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](http://www.firstspiritualisttemple.com); Email: [FSTofEastAurora@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://lilydaleassembly.com) / [lilydaleassembly@netsync.net](mailto: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](http://www.lilydalespiritualistchurch.org); Sec. Lynn Forget. Pres: Carol Gasber.

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

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

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

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

**ROCHESTER - Plymouth Spiritualist Church** • 29 Vick Park A, 14607; Voicemail (585)234-2362; Sun. Svcs 10:30am; [Plymouthspiritualistchurch.org](http://Plymouthspiritualistchurch.org).

#### • OHIO •

**DAYTON - Spiritual Life Center, NSAC** • 609 Watervliet Ave., 45420-2544, Rev. Frances D. Montgomery, (937)252-3299; [fdm742@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fdm742@sbcglobal.net); visit: [sunflowerchapel.org](http://sunflowerchapel.org)

#### • PENNSYLVANIA •

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



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

**• TEXAS •**

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

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

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

**• VIRGINIA •**

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

**NORFOLK - Memorial Spiritualist Church** • 307 W. 37th St., 23508-3207, (757)622-5070; www.memorialspiritualistchurch.org; Sunday Service 11am.; Wed. 7:30pm.; Healing available at 10:30am. Sun. and 7pm. Wed.; Adult Lyceum Sun. 9:30am.; Children's Sun. Lyceum 11am.; Ministers: Rev. Lelia E. Cutler, NST, (757)480-3799; 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** • Held at Camp Edgewood, NSAC – 1228 26th Ave. Ct.; Church svcs Sun. 2pm; Sept-May; (Mail c/o Sherry Valentine, 11113 SE 323rd St. Auburn, 98092); Pres. Bernie Allers (253-833-4850) Sec. Karen Wennerlind; Email: churchofdivinegrace@gmail.com

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

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

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

**• WISCONSIN •**

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

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

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

**• CANADA •**

**MONTREAL, QUEBEC - The First Spiritualist Church of Montreal** • 2186 Saint Catherine St. West, Montreal, Quebec, H3H 1M7; (514)365-0661.

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

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

## NSAC Missionaries

Missionaries were appointed by the Board of Trustees at the post-convention meeting and were assigned to territories they can assist.

The goal of the Department of Missionaries is to promote the general interest of the NSAC by strengthening relationships and establishing working contacts between NSAC and its churches, camps and state associations.

This year, the department will be focusing its efforts on creating an active communication network between the department and YOU. The number one job of NSAC Missionaries is to reach out, ask you what you need, and do their best to provide you with the resources you need to succeed.

Fifteen regions have been established so that we may assure that all auxiliaries have a dedicated contact person ready to assist them.

In the very near future, the NSAC Missionary for your region will be reaching out to you to establish contact. If you have a success story to share—Congratulations! Please let our missionaries know what is working for you! Your success stories can help other churches to grow.

If you have any pressing questions or concerns, or do not hear from your assigned missionary in the near future, please do not hesitate to contact our Director of Missionaries, Jennifer Neumann, at any time using the contact information below.

Jennifer Priel-Neumann, NST  
Director NSAC Department of Missionaries  
[justjen114@yahoo.com](mailto:justjen114@yahoo.com)  
77 Kirby Avenue, Lackawanna, NY 14218

716-860-1077



# LYCEUM



## HELPING YOUR COMMUNITY

Most of our Spiritualist churches are small and we have a small community around us. Living by Natural Law of equal exchange, we can get back what we put out in the world. Not only does it help the church but it helps each and every one of us as a whole.

The church I attend helps the community by collecting food for the local food banks, and by shopping at local stores that give back a percentage of their earned profits to local charities or non-profit organizations. You can enjoy eating at your favorite restaurants such as Chili's—and know that a percentage of what you purchase goes back to the church! (Chili's offers a "Give Back Night" fundraiser where Chili's "gives back" 10% of the sales to a specific local not-for-profit organization when you present a voucher.) What a fantastic idea!

Your church can help children in need by collecting clothing, toys, and anything needed on their wish list. There are a number of organizations that perform emergency rescues for children that have been abused or need to be removed from dangerous family situations. Most of the children have only the clothes they were wearing, and are traumatized and in desperate need for someone to help them through a very difficult time.

If you offer assistance to these organizations, understand that they will very likely want to know more about the church. It becomes a win-win situation. Not only are you helping out individuals in your community, but you are spreading the knowledge of Spiritualism and possibly helping your church to grow and become more prosperous. Isn't that a wonderful thing?

### *The NSAC Department of Lyceums*

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

Church of the Living Spirit, AZ

#### **– The Lyceum Spotlight –**

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##### **THE LYCEUM SPOTLIGHT**

Rev. Cosie Allen, NST, Editor  
P.O. Box 93252, Las Vegas, NV 89193  
(616) 292-6559

#### **– NSAC BOOKSTORE –**

The NSAC Bookstore has many titles available that were specifically written or published for Lyceum use. Visit the Bookstore pages at [nsac.org](http://nsac.org).

Titles can be ordered by mail, or by contacting the NSAC Bookstore at the email address listed below.

##### **NSAC Bookstore**

13 Cottage Row  
PO Box 217  
Lily Dale, NY 14752, USA  
**716-595-2000**

[nsacbookstore@nsac.org](mailto:nsacbookstore@nsac.org)





## Declaration of Principles

NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES

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