



THE NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST

Summit Magazine

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Spiritualism

Clearing the
Channel

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Electricity

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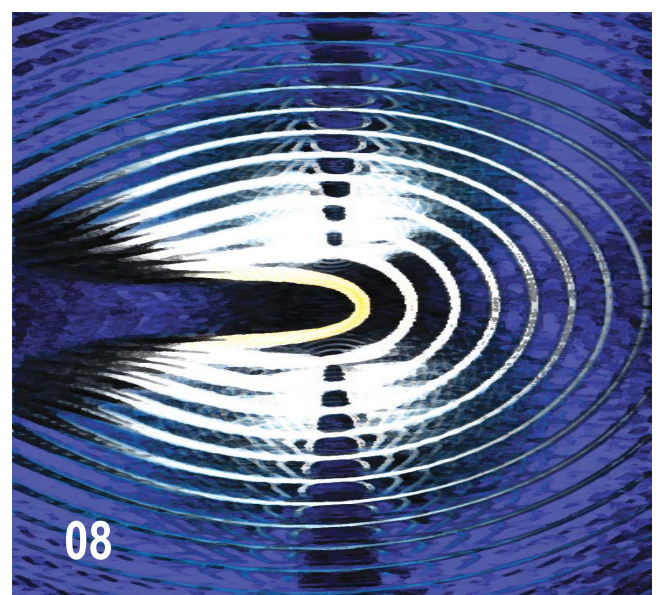
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**The National Spiritualist
Summit Magazine**

Spiritual Opportunity



While it may be sage advice to never discuss politics and religion, it is true that religious communities are often at the forefront of social change, and Spiritualism has a strong and rich history of supporting progressive reform movements. For example, early Spiritualists supported the abolition of slavery, women's suffrage, and worker's rights. They worked alongside Quakers in the mid-19th and early 20th centuries for social reform, for the advancement of justice and equality, for the protection and education of children, and for the betterment of society as a whole. For both Quakers and Spiritualists, these social change movements were and are rooted in personal transformation. In this regard, Spiritualism is a religion of social progression as well as spiritual progression.

Spiritualism teaches us that life is continuous and eternal, that there is no death of the spirit, because we are Spirit and Spirit is infinite. We learn as Spiritualists that life is energy with its own vibrational frequency—constantly in motion and constantly changing to ensure our progressive evolution (whether or not we are aware). And it is in this vein of evolving spiritually, of evolving progressively, that I mention our “spiritual opportunity.”

Spiritualism encourages us to learn by doing, to grow in understanding, and to live in accordance with Natural Law, which is God's Law. We humans are in this life together, no matter our differences of opinion. And as Spiritualists, we know that love matters—love fuels the engine of Natural Law that provides constant order in our Universe. You may be familiar with an expression I learned in my MPI Lessons that is an especially intriguing thought: the universe is propelled by law and impelled by love.

In consideration of Natural Law and Love, I ask, What can we do if we happen to be discouraged by life's events? I answer: “We must go within, examine our own hearts and minds, and determine what actions will produce positive results for everyone.” We still have much to do to ensure that everyone in our country has nutritious food, clean water, shelter, and medical care, and in the tradition of social progress, these pursuits are for the public good.

After all, we are the public, no one is inferior and no one is superior. Spirit teaches us of the unity of humankind, that we are all one and that we are all equal—this gives every human every reason to be kind. Jesus of Nazareth, whom Spiritualists respect as the Master Teacher, advised us to love our neighbors as ourselves. When we do so, every consideration, both material

and spiritual, is inclusive.

I ask also, what can we do if we happen to be delighted by life's events? I offer the same answer: go within, examine our own hearts and minds, and determine what actions will produce positive results for everyone. We've come a long way since the days of slavery, suffrage, and worker exploitation, yet we must still shine the light of love into the corners of our minds that would have us exclude some and elevate others, or that would have us regress rather than progress. Spiritualism turns the face of humanity toward the light of truth—the truth of Infinite Intelligence, the truth of the Golden Rule, the truth of personal responsibility, and the truth of Spirit's healing love. Truth-seeking is the same, no matter from what perspective we approach it. At this time in our country, several questions arise: how are we going to come together as a nation, in peace, love, and understanding? How are we going to move forward in the face of the divisiveness we're experiencing?

A friend and I were discussing this, and she shared her wisdom with me: "We all just need to pray for guidance for our country's leaders. We know Natural Law and must live it. Don't let fear creep in—fear is false evidence appearing real. All those in the light must pray for our country's highest and best good. When things seem out of balance, we require a lot of good judgment." In the interest of good judgment, I'm reminded that to be the change I wish to see in the world, I must change me. I must invest in my own personal transformation. The very definition of a Spiritualist from the NSAC Manual supports this: "A Spiritualist is one who believes, as the basis of his/her religion, in the communication between this world and the Spirit World by means of mediumship, and who endeavors to mould his/her character and conduct in accordance with the highest teachings derived from such communication." This endeavor is transformative, and such change comes from within. The truth is, we change the world from the inside out.

I've heard it said that prayer changes things. Understanding this as a Spiritualist means I'm not praying for others to change, or praying to steer circumstances beyond my control toward any particular outcome. Rather, I'm praying for understanding and my own

personal transformation, because prayer changes me! As I aspire to this change and progress along my spiritual path, I join with those who are likewise transcending difficulty, and together we contribute to a collective transformation that helps us evolve progressively as a species. I venture a guess that many of us feel misunderstood in life, and the more misunderstood we feel, the more polarized we may become. We're actually much more similar than different, and by holding civil conversations, however challenging, we may discover enough common ground to place ourselves in alignment with a spirit of democracy. It may not be easy, but it may be necessary.

Author Terry Tempest Williams wrote a book in 2004 titled *The Open Space of Democracy*. When interviewed recently, the author said that "these election results remind us, quite strikingly, of who we are, and therein lies our opportunity." She further stated that "our power lies in our love, in the energy of love, because the heart is the first home of democracy." In her book, she wrote that "our strength lies in our imagination, and paying attention to what sustains life, rather than what destroys it." The power of love and the strength of our imagination are what will carry us forward, and I sense we have now a profound spiritual opportunity to examine our thoughts, our motives, and our actions, and to transform what was hidden in our hearts so that we may heal our divided nation. Williams' book called for the integration of social and spiritual values, and I believe that through this integration Spiritualism will continue its tradition of social and spiritual progression. William's idea of spiritual democracy is inspirational and hopeful, and in keeping with the healing comfort that Spirit provides, I trust that any bitterness or sweetness we experience in life will be transformed into spiritual progression through our heartfelt aspirations to be in tune with Infinite Love. By cultivating compassion and banishing thoughts of separateness, we raise our consciousness; we generate from within our God-given light, and we radiate healing love to all. It is through inclusion, not division, that we become whole.

May the spiritual opportunity of going within and transforming ourselves, together, help heal our nation as we move forward, and may the blessings of Infinite Intelligence be upon us.



SPIRITUALISM & Electricity

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

There seems to exist an “undercurrent” (pun intended) among the connection of psychic phenomena, Spiritualism, and electricity, and it’s time for a little “jolt” of history.

In 1704, Sir Isaac Newton was among the first in recorded history to raise the question of how “animal motion” was created. He believed that somehow “ether” or willpower was responsible for creating muscle movement, though many of his students felt he was really writing about electricity. By this point in time, many people were aware of electricity and the strange phenomena it could produce with static charge and magnetism.

In 1746, Frenchman Jean-Antoine Nollet used electricity to make a line of more than one-hundred hand-holding Royal Guardsmen to jump in the air. King Louis XV was amused by this and caused Nollet to perform this experiment a second time with eight-hundred hand-holding Carthusian monks.

“Animal electricity” was announced to the world in 1791 by the Italian Luigi Galvani. He had experimented with electrical impulses on living tissue and concluded that all animals, including us, created our own innate electricity. (Many of us can remember our science teacher’s experiments that made a frog’s legs twitch.)

While striving to disprove Galvani’s theories in 1800, Alessandro Volta ended up creating the electric battery. At roughly the same time, Franz Anton Mesmer developed his own theories about “animal magnetism.” He claimed that all bodies contained a magnetic fluid which could be manipulated or “magnetized” though electrical ether in the air. He demonstrated that “magnetized” subjects could be completely controlled by others. These Mesmer experiments would lead to later changes in political philosophy.

During the great political upheavals in Europe during the 18th century, both mesmerism and galvanism gained a sinister political reputation. Jacobin revolutionaries portrayed them as tools which could be used by secret groups to control mankind. A great anti-electrical backlash was


threatening to take hold in Europe. By 1803, Giovanni Aldini, a cousin of Galvani, visited London to defend electricity. He went so far as to perform galvanic experiments on an executed prisoner for the Royal College of Surgeons. He was sponsored by the Royal Humane Society to create ways of using electricity to bring drowned sailors back from the dead.

Mary Shelley used Aldini’s experiments as the basis of her novel, *Frankenstein*. When *Frankenstein* was published in 1818, another attempt was made in Glasgow, Scotland to try to revive the body of a convicted murderer. In 1844, Robert Chambers published a bestselling book in which he argued “the absolute identity of the brain with a galvanic battery.” William Robert Grove, inventor of the fuel cell, said the electric battery was “the nearest approach man had made to an experimental organism.” In 1849, Alfred Smee wrote that “the brain was a battery” and the nerves were “bio-telegraphs.” Smee argued that the electrical arrangement of the brain was proof of the existence of God. He believed that the extra bit of circuitry within our brains allowed us a connection with the Divine. By this time, the growing field of medicine was ripe with electronic gadgets, both good and bad, to cure all types of ailments. Electricity had finally found a home in medicine and science.

Just twelve years before, in 1837, the electric telegraph was invented at King’s College in London by Charles Wheatstone and William Cooke. We know from our modern viewpoint that this one device changed the world forever. It also changed Spiritualism and the process for how Spirit communication took place.

Spiritualists during the Victorian era sought to bridge the gap between science and Spiritualism. They had a broad interest in electrical phenomena and many Spiritualists argued for an electromagnetic telegraphy which they thought could be the foundation of Spirit communication. They likened the concept of a “spiritual telegraph” to be the counterpart of the mechanical telegraph.

The term “spiritual telegraph” was widely used in



Spiritualist circles to support the concept that whatever existed physically also had its counterpart in the afterlife. The *Spiritual Telegraph* was also the name of a Spiritualist newsletter which Charles Partridge began publishing in 1852.

Spiritualists described electrical current as a form of “universal fluid” which connected to a medium that was then used for communication and phenomenal manifestation. Compare it to Reichenbach’s “Odic Force” or ectoplasm.

Sir William Crookes, noted chemist and Spiritualist, theorized in 1892 that there might be electrical organs inside the human brain that could allow thoughts to be transmitted from mind to mind through the electromagnetic ether. This was the basis of how he envisioned Spirits being able to communicate and manifest. Sir Oliver Lodge, of the Society for Psychical Research reflected on how Marconi’s newly invented radio was a physical manifestation of how Spirits could communicate. Frederick Myers, also of the SPR, coined the term “telepathy” to describe mind-to-mind communication by both the living and the spectral, with universal electrical ether being used as a medium.

In 1870, Thomas Edison was rumored to have begun construction of a “necrophone” which would allow the living to talk to the dead. In the October, 1920 issue of *The American Magazine*, he was quoted as having said, “I have been at work for some time building an apparatus to see if it is possible for personalities which have left this Earth to communicate with us.”

Another interview with Edison published in the same month and year by *Scientific American*, quoted him as saying, “I have been thinking for some time of a machine or apparatus which could be operated by personalities which have passed on to another existence or sphere.” So in two interviews conducted around the same time we have two very similar quotes, one in which he says that he has been at work “building” the device, and in the other that he has merely been “thinking” about it. Somewhat contradictory, the *Scientific American* article says, despite Edison’s quote, that “the apparatus which he is reported to be building is still in the experimental stage...” as if there was a prototype.

“I don’t claim that our personalities pass on to another existence or sphere,” he told *Scientific American*. “I don’t claim anything because I don’t know anything about the subject. For that matter, no human being knows. But I do claim that it is possible to construct an apparatus which will be so delicate that if there are personalities in another existence or

sphere who wish to get in touch with us in this existence or sphere, the apparatus will at least give them a better opportunity to express themselves than the tilting tables and raps and Ouija boards and mediums and the other crude methods now purported to be the only means of communication... I believe that if we are to make any real progress in psychic investigation, we must do it with scientific apparatus and in a scientific manner, just as we do in medicine, electricity, chemistry, and other fields.” Edison refused to divulge any more than that, but clearly he had in mind a ghost hunting tool. Edison went on to say that one of his employees who was working on the device recently died and that if the invention worked, “he ought to be the first to use it if he is able to do so.”

As revealed in these interviews, Edison did not subscribe to conventional notions of life after death. He surmised that life was indestructible and that “our bodies are composed of myriads of infinitesimal entities, each in itself a unit of life.” Moreover, he saw the interconnectedness of all living things: “There are many indications that we human beings act as a community or ensemble rather than as units. That is why I believe that each of us comprises millions upon millions of entities, and that our body and our mind represent the vote or voice, whichever you wish to call it, of our entities... the entities live forever... death is simply the departure of the entities from our body.”

Our desire for an electrical device that could speak with the dead is still strong today. Edison’s ideas gave birth to experiments in the early 20th century with electronic voice phenomena (EVP) and instrumental trans-communication (ITC), now the staple tools of today’s ghost hunters. (Frank’s Box and the myriad of “shack hack” devices). The basic idea of these devices is to supply the Spirit World with raw audio signals (electromagnetic waves) which they can then use to create audible signals or speech for us to hear. There is ongoing research in Europe dealing with the use of video signals to achieve communication with Spirits appearing on TV screens.

I do not yet foresee the day when mediums will be replaced by electronic devices. Though NSAC mediums are trained not to use devices, tools, or other artificial means to accomplish Spirit communication, we should not turn our backs on this subject. Because of the long history in which electricity and the spectral have been intertwined, there just might come a day when your dearly departed “Uncle Joe” could have his own YouTube channel!



Clearing the Channel

Rev. Tom Butler
Spiritualist Society of Reno, NV

As a longtime student of personal improvement with a focus on theory, psi phenomena and mediumistic ability, I have been taught numerous techniques which, in hindsight, were based on essentially the same assumptions. Look closely at what you are being taught. Is it based on things believed to be true at the beginning of the 20th century? How much has Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung or Frederic Myers influenced your teachers?

These old views are not entirely wrong, but much has been discovered in recent years that make them mostly obsolete. This discourse provides a brief overview of how you can apply more contemporary research toward your personal development. Supporting material is offered at ethericstudies.org and in the book: *Your Immortal Self*.

Have you wondered about your purpose in life? Yes, of course, it is to be a good citizen, family provider, faithful mate and trusted parent. Success in these satisfies your body-centric instinct to perpetuate the human species. But what of your Spirit-centric needs? If this lifetime is a temporary experience that was initiated by your immortal personality, it is safe to argue that it is a deliberate experience and not just a whim or an accident of nature to perpetuate the human species.

Years of seeking have left me with no doubt that this lifetime is intended to help me gain understanding about the actual nature of reality. In this regard, we likely share the same primal urge to gain understanding, an understanding with which organized Spiritualism is very familiar. Paraphrasing that understanding in terms of contemporary thought, Spiritualist Philosophy is based on three assumptions:

1. *Duality*: Mind is not body. Mind existed before this lifetime and continues after his lifetime in a conscious, living form.

2. *Connectedness*: Parapsychologists refer to this as the psi field or psi functioning. You probably know this as psychic connectedness as in we are all one. The interconnectedness of psychic functioning is a fundamental characteristic of life, which as a collective, Spiritualists refer to as Infinite Intelligence.

3. *Progression*: What you do matters here and hereafter. Increased understanding of the nature of reality leads toward greater spiritual maturity and wider access to the secrets of reality. This is thought to be an inherited purpose for existence. The ultimate objective of this purpose is sometimes referred to in Hinduism as God realization, as the seeker finally sees all of reality as it is, rather than as it is thought to be.

A Way of Progression:

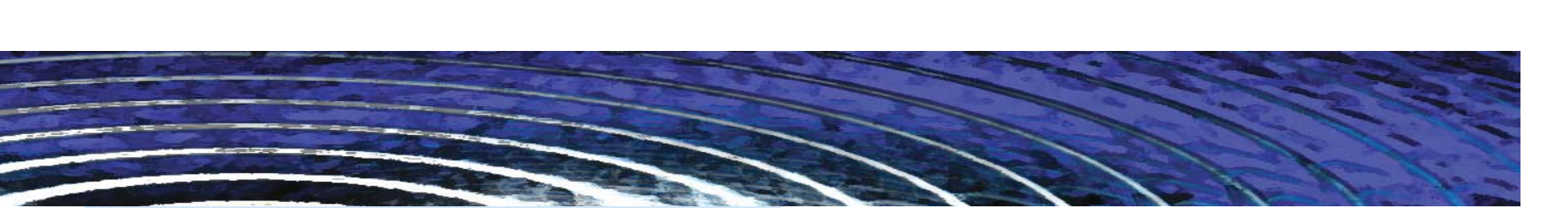
Many of the people who research things paranormal have speculated about the implications of their discoveries. For instance, James Carpenter's last few corollaries in his *First Sight Theory* include the "so what" statements: "Someone who has become skillful in interpreting them is thought of as relatively psychic." (concerning consciously interpreting reaction to unconsciously sensed psi information.) "In other words, habitually paying attention to subtle information emerging from your unconscious can lead to more direct awareness of what has been psychically sensed from psi space."

One point to clarify here is that increased lucidity, mediumistic and psychic ability, even healing intention, are all part of being a seeker. For seekers, these natural abilities are more or less developed along the way toward understanding. As such, seekers are always practitioners.

Call It Mindfulness:

Your Immortal Self has the subtitle of *Exploring the Mindful Way*. The book title is a reference to the reality that our immortality is purposeful, as a continuing process of gaining understanding.

Mindfulness and mindful living have come to signify right living. As stated in the book, "not in a pretentious way or in an attempt to tell us what to do. People speak of mindfulness almost in a reverent tone, as if the concept relates more to God than to daily living. Always it is used to offer guidance



in how to improve our life, how to be all that we can be.”

First Steps:

Recognize the difference between simply living and following a spiritual path: It is true that simply living your life will bring experiences that inevitably teach you important lessons. However, the assumption is that the life lessons will be random or repeated until you decide it is time to deliberately enter the mindful way. Consciously making the decision to gain understanding signals your unconscious mind to be more open to the less obvious aspects of your daily living.

Make a commitment to seek understanding: You must first recognize there is such a thing as progression toward spiritual maturity and then decide it is something you deeply desire. It is not necessary to change much in your daily habit. The few items listed here will help you turn your attention toward awareness of your daily habits for better understanding of their effect on you and your community. This is a lifestyle change rather than a single event.

Much of my recent writing is concerned with giving you reason to deeply desire spiritual maturity. As a pragmatist, the realization that what I do now matters here and hereafter, and that the resulting greater understanding leads to wider access to the secrets of reality makes it impossible for me not to seek greater understanding. If you can imagine your immortality, then I expect you will agree.

Find a way that fits your style:

Not all ways fit everyone

As a technical metaphysician, my way is more suited to people who like to analyze their experiences. A good minister is one who is more amiable and expresses ideas in more feeling terms. A younger person might be more interested in a community approach. Examine the kind of lifestyle you desire and find a way that fits.

Learn to normalize concepts. With your own background and approach to learning, you may need to translate what I say here into terms to which you can better relate. The ability to normalize concepts into more familiar terms is an important tool for personal growth. Different cultures sometimes have important lessons for you, but may have described them in terms that do not make sense on first examination. Learn to take the time to consider other perspectives. An example of how normalization helps is in *The Hermetic Concepts Discourse*.

The Rest is Deliberate Thought:

Stop and think. Some of our most detrimental habits show as automatic responses. Make it a habit to pause for a moment to consider if your response is appropriate. This will give you the opportunity to self-edit. With practice, it only takes a moment to ask if your response is appropriate and to consider the consequences.

Consider how your actions affect others. The responsibility of citizenship is a personal responsibility for the greater good of the community. Just because you *can* does not mean you *should*. Deliberately seeking to be a good citizen represents an important step on the mindful way. Respect for the rule of law is a sign of spiritual maturity, as it demonstrates understanding of the concept of intended order. Now or later, you must accept responsibility for your actions.

Be open to unexpected outcomes. Our worldview is the keeper of what we unconsciously want and the source of the reality we create. As we consciously intend a version of reality, our conscious mind is the channel through which a version of that reality is sent into the ethers. That version of what you intend is influenced to some extent by your intention, but it is mostly formed out of habit and what amounts to a best fit solution based on your needs. Good, bad or indifferent, your unconscious mind always expresses your unconscious understanding. As it is also influenced by your friends in Spirit, it often works in your best interest, so be open to the possibility of something other than what you imagined.

Suspend judgment, for everything you do for self-improvement will have little lasting effect until you learn to avoid making decisions about what you believe or do not believe. Yes, living life requires many daily decisions such as what to eat, where to work and such. However, making a believe-disbelief, accept-don't accept or understand-don't understand decision tends to solidify that point of view in your unconscious mind. By suspending judgement, you send a more ambiguous signal to your unconscious mind, enabling it to be more open to other possibilities.

A second reason for suspending judgement is the fact that you may not have all of the information necessary to make an informed decision. Suspended judgement is a “wait and see” approach to problem solving that can help you avoid those embarrassing errors.

Pay attention to an important functional area in your unconscious mind that I refer to as the “attention limiter.” It makes the decision to pay attention to or ignore both physical and psi information coming from the environment. Your conscious intention to pay more attention to your world is a signal to your attention limiter to be more open to new ideas.

The Perceptual Loop in your unconscious mind acts as a second filter of information. Your expressed intention to pay more attention to your world biases the agree, disagree or maybe decision you face more toward the maybe result, making it possible for more new ideas to be incorporated into your worldview.

(Continued page 27.)



FEATURE:

GLOBAL Spiritualism

Contributed by: Robin Hodson
President of the *International Spiritualist Federation*

As the President of a small Spiritualist Church in rural Sussex, England, much of my time is taken up in the day-to-day affairs to keep our beautiful church a vital, welcoming, thriving church. Each year the pressure to comply with regulations or requirements grows heavier and often I become absorbed by the sheer time involved in our little contribution to Spiritualism. It is easy to forget that there's a big wide world of Spiritualism out there.

In my position as President of the *International Spiritualist Federation*, I am responsible to our membership which covers 37 countries. To highlight a few of the numbers involved, the United States of America has an estimated 164,000 confirmed Spiritualists, Canada has 20,000, Australia has 10,000 and the United Kingdom has 39,000. All are under one percent of the total population, but still very important. There are many other countries with smaller numbers of supporters to Spiritualism, but due to the fact that it is not recognized as a religion there, figures are not available.

Spiritualism doesn't have the public face that other perhaps, more organized religions or belief systems carry, yet if we examine the spread of Spiritualism, there is hardly a place on the globe where it is not followed or accepted. What we do have is pockets

of ardent Spiritualists each working hard—often struggling to keep the banner flying. Many are unaware of the Spiritualist community worldwide. The broad spectrum of talent, practices and methods of mediumship, varied by culture and history—this is the bedrock of our movement, and the heritage we need to embrace and build upon for the future. Far too often it is either ignored or dismissed, and yet often within those facts comes the keys to the future. How can we find those keys if we don't communicate?

Communication is the key. This can be achieved without losing the individual autonomy we enjoy. A good working example is Finland, a small country in the world of Spiritualism. Finland is a country where Spiritualism is not recognized as a religion, so Spiritualists work under the banner of "friendly societies." Each area or town has their own individual, autonomous society which maintains their own identity and operational differences, yet they share a newspaper that covers all the societies countrywide. This newspaper allows them freedom of expression, and perhaps more importantly, assists them in sharing details of special events, speakers and requests for help, thereby maximizing their impact on all Spiritualists in the country.

Finnish Spiritualists structure two National events each year hosted by a different society for all to attend. Like-minded Spiritualists from across the

country gather to share ideas and find solutions for problems they may have encountered individually. Communication is the key.

Can you imagine for a moment how a small example like this could translate to world Spiritualism? An opportunity to help each other, to promote and to steer the progress of our movement without the barriers we often create for protection or bias.

To take Spiritualism into the future I believe that we must get back to the dedication and sincerity that our Pioneers had. Can you imagine, for a moment, the courage, determination and resolve required of those pioneers—often a single voice facing a sea of criticism and scorn? How many of us would be prepared to stand alone for our cause? Have we lost that fight for the truth of Spiritualism?

Today, we do not need to stand alone, we must recognize our common goal and embrace the fact that we are not one voice, we are part of a huge movement. We must work together—learn from the past, and embrace the future whilst holding firm to the true message of Spirit... life is eternal. The principles appear to have been lost in the rules and regulations laid down in recent years. A good start would involve going back to basic principles of Spiritualism for each individual and organization in order to stand strong together. We are all of Spirit and linked by that spiritual essence, so why do we not embrace and enhance that link to increase awareness of the values of life, and take the movement forward into the future for the younger generation?

We are beginning to see the first signs of cooperation between Spiritualists worldwide. A new Council for World Spiritualism has been formed to communicate, promote and assist in the support for Spiritualism worldwide. Links are being forged between organizations and individuals to promote the concept of a world of Spiritualism where geographical barriers are broken down. Spiritualism is far too important to be lost. Only through unity and support will we thrive!

I want to leave you with the words of a past President of the *International Spiritualist Federation*, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. These words were part of his closing address to the *International Spiritualist Congress* in 1928:

“I hope you will all go back to your various countries buoyed up with new strength and hope. You will feel that you are not isolated and alone, but that you are the parts of one great brotherhood. It is true that in each country we are in a minority, but then the cream is always in the minority as compared to the milk. We carry a message of enormous importance to mankind, the greatest message, the most important one that any body of people have ever carried. There have, in my opinion been only three great ideas that have come to the human race. The first is the idea of the one great central power—God. The second is the idea that gentleness, unselfishness, virtue are greater things than violence, selfishness and vice. The third idea is the one to which we are bearing witness—that death is not the obstacle it has been thought to be.”

This statement is as important and vital today as it was then. “Strength in unity.”

It All Starts with You

Peaceful Choices

Writer: Georgia Woodward
Spiritualist Church of Norwich, CT

“I have lost control over everything,
even the places in my head.”

*From the novel “The Girl on the Train,”
by Paula Hawkins*

“The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation, a sensitivity and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen.”

– Elizabeth Kubler-Ross

A sound sense of self-esteem is a feeling of total acceptance and love for yourself just as you are.

I believe that everything wonderful, and every spiritually uplifting experience I have ever had starts with thanking God for what already *is*. They began with letting go of what I had no control over, which is just about everything, except for myself, the view I chose to take on things, and the choices I went on to make.

Be thankful for having a roof over your head, and a warm place to rest yourself at night, or love in your life in the form of a partner, a friend, a pet. It all starts with acknowledging where you are right now. Even if that place is painful and scary, it starts with thanking the Universe for the smallest thing or the most important thing, and that is namely your life. Be thankful for the ability to take a breath and feel the tingle of the cold breeze on our face as you walk outside, see the leaves falling from the trees, or experience the first snow of the season. Feel and appreciate the wonder and

awe of another morning, the sun on your face, and the inhale of your next breath. “Yes, I am here. I am alive to experience another day.” Many souls who have crossed over long for just one more of this kind of human experience.

When you are grateful for what you already have, you place yourself outside the realm of negativity and complaint. You ground yourself in the positivity of faith. This alone provides the needed correction in your course and moves everything in a more positive direction.

The way out is peace. The way forward is love. It is so simple yet so true. Sounds easy right? But unfairly or not the simplest exercise in being human is far from simple. As author Joseph Campbell would say, we are on “a hero’s journey.” It began with our entrance into the human condition at birth...and goes forward with our chronological growth, and through all the many peaks and valleys along the way.

I have been in a state of loss many times in my life as I am sure some of you have. The pain of loss can feel like it will crush you. The fact is, once we move to the other side of that pain, the opposite happens. We learn to live again, and be a bit more *open*. With loss we gain a deeper kind of awareness that this is not the end of our story. A new story is awakening within us. A new braver tale. It can be our opportunity to open our spiritual senses to the sixth-sensory world.



Spiritualists are *Made* for Times Like These

Writer: Kenneth W. James, Church of the Spirit, IL

How can we maintain a spiritual perspective during this time of anger and polarization? People can't discuss differences in social or political positions any more; it seems they can only fight about them. It is yes or no, rich or poor, liberal or conservative—it seems like we all have to choose one side, and then we most often get angry when someone from the so-called “other” side tries to enter into our space.

How can we maintain a spiritual perspective during this time of wall-building and the concretization of so-called “national” identity? How can we remain centered in spirit when boundaries are made into borders, and borders become armed barriers that restrict freedom and cause acts of mutual destruction, also known as war? Does it even make sense to embrace Spiritualism at a time like this?

Actually, I believe that Spiritualists, and Spiritualism, are made for times like these. Throughout its history, Spiritualism has been an active force in movements that strive for equality, open dialogue, and an active attitude that questions not only the evidence of our very limited senses, but also the assumptions and conclusions that this limited evidence seems to support. Spiritualists were involved in the emancipation movement long before it was a popular cause. Spiritualists were also influential in the women's suffrage movement, often taking personal and professional risks to march in favor of women's right to vote. Once you understand that Spiritualism is not about matter versus spirit, but instead is about matter infused

with spirit, it becomes clear that Spiritualism alone has the capacity to bring balance and equilibrium to each of us and to our communities during these times of polarization, hatred and self-righteousness.

In a way, it is easy to see why we have come to this very dangerous point in our cultural history, and perhaps our global history. In a misguided attempt to bolster the shrinking self-esteem of humanity, we have been forced to cope with the fact of our individual insignificance. Our social philosophies and religious traditions have become more and more concretized—more and more fundamentalist in their interpretation of world events. Always in the service of making one group superior or “chosen,” we decide that everyone else is wrong, inferior, marginalized or lost. Strengthened by their self-proclaimed superiority, each side attacks the other, feeling fully justified in doing so because they perceive themselves to be better than the other. This is the story of human history, and we see it happening all over the place. I'm better than you because I recycle everything—I'm better than you because I eat grass-fed meat from farm-raised livestock—I'm better because I like vintage wine while you drink wine from a box—I'm better because I have granite countertops and you have soapstone...the list goes on and on. It isn't the content that matters, it's the polarization.

Where does Spiritualism come in? Well, first of all, because we teach that death, which most individuals and groups

consider an end, is not an end at all, but a transition of the personality from one dimension to another. These dimensions penetrate each other as our mediums and healers demonstrate. Spiritualists call into question the so-called “opposites,” the “polarities,” and ask the simple question, “what if these things are not mutually exclusive, but just different ways of looking at the great circle of life in which we all exist and can never separate? The unity of Spirit and matter that Spiritualism investigates and on occasion proves, can be a powerful corrective force to the polarization that we may find ourselves embroiled in.

We have been taught by our popular culture that death is an end, and even though there is an increasing amount of pious God-talk, people continue to behave as though there were no consequence to acts of evil, hatred, aggression or neglect. Even in traditions that support the teaching of karma, there appears alongside that teaching some of the most repressive class distinctions found anywhere in the world. They include the justification that those in the lowest class are being forced to atone for past misdeeds, while those in the highest class are being rewarded in this life for the merit they acquired in their former lives. No matter how you express it, our collective and individual actions seem to imply a belief that after we die there is nothing, so you might as well do whatever it takes to get ahead here on the Earth plane.

How sobering, then, is the Spiritualist, who says that after so-called death, the personality lives on, and has the opportunity to reflect and reconsider decisions made while on the Earth plane! If death is not an end, then acquiring as much material goods as possible while we forsake other sentient beings that share the planet with

us, becomes an empty quest. Oh, sure, taken from the perspective of the world of matter, wealth is better than poverty and more stuff is better than lack. But from the Spiritualist perspective, these distinctions are part of a game of smoke and mirrors that help us avoid the fear that the tyranny of belief in death as an end of us can bring. If the “me or you,” “us or them” distinctions are illusions, then we truly exist with and for each other and with and for the whole. From this awareness, compassion springs naturally, and the idea of helping those who experience misfortune becomes a simple extension of helping oneself.

Spiritualism reveals that we live with and for all, all the time, and our Spirit friends come to us with messages and healings not for our individual benefit alone, but also to wake us up to the fact that we had better reconsider our attitudes of separation from and rage against the other, because not only are these attitudes harmful, they are idiotic.

Spiritualists were made for trying times, and indeed we have always stepped up during times of tragedy, such as war and disease, to give evidence for hope and reorientation while still on the Earth plane. Rather than retreating into our safe places, wherever they may be, and hoping that the craziness of the present moment will pass without too much damage to our lives, let us boldly step forward and be witnesses to the truth of Spiritualism. We are connected with all beings, whether on the Earth plane or in Spirit, across all time, boundaries and cultures. We communicate with them and they with us, in the service of the realization that there is no such thing as death, and no absolute reality to boundaries, borders or national and political divisions.





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



Recently, I attended a university graduation where I knew perhaps 10 of the 750 graduates. I've attended many of these graduations where families, including moms and dads, brothers and sisters, and children and grandchildren gather to congratulate loved ones for having earned the long-awaited degree. Every one of these graduates had a story to share—everyone could write a book about his or her years trying to earn a degree while raising a family, working a job or two, and doing all the things expected of an adult in this society. But as the ceremony progressed and the speeches wound down, the distribution of the diplomas was about to begin. This meant almost two hours of listening to names called while two columns of students took turns approaching the stage from opposite sides to receive that little rolled up piece of paper that said, “Your diploma will be mailed to you.” (Just joking.)

So what do faculty do during that time? Well, out come the I-phones and Androids to do some texting, play some games, read, or clean out the inbox. Then there are those of us that study shoes. This can only work if you are sitting in the first row or have a clear view of the front. Watching students as they descend the stage is an event all its own. With the men, the basic difference is those who wear sneakers and those who

wear dress shoes. Sometimes, a fellow will wear some weird color and faculty will get a kick out of that, but generally the men are not the ones we watch. It is the women that steal the show.

The diversity of shoes that women will wear is absolutely incredible—what insight their footwear gives us into their personality! When we see them in the classroom, they wear comfortable, daily wear shoes, unless they have just come from work. Here, at this special time, we see them as they want to be remembered. For women, their shoes are like a sign saying, “See, this is who I really am.” From watching the shoes of a woman in her best outfit, one can see how she sees herself.

Because the women are wearing graduation gowns, the most important element from our perspective are the shoes. This identifying importance of shoes may also be true of men, but I do not see the diversity of shoe styles for men. Some will wear yellow athletic shoes; some will wear spats or shiny black dress shoes; others will wear sandals with shorts showing through the slit in their gowns. One wonders where they will be going after the ceremony. So we'll focus on the women and their shoes. Invariably, I think of Principle No. 4: “We affirm that the existence and personal identity of the individual continue after the change called death.” Yes, we each have distinct personalities—and while we may not give much thought to it, when we go to something important like a graduation or an ordination, we show who we are.

Some people are stars. I marvel at the way some women can work in those four and five-inch heels. Other women wear the latest trends, even though they look clunky and awkward, while those shoes with all the threads and weaves half way up the calf must take these ladies a half-hour to put on!

I love the women who wear shoes that look like they were purchased at a thrift shop but are perfectly good and almost match their gowns. That shows good sense.

Women who wear flats remind me of the tall girls in high school who always wore flats instead of enjoying their God-given height. I would have given anything to split the difference with them! At 4'9", who wouldn't?

Now consider your own style. Your dress, your hair, your facial expression. When people look at you, do they see a happy person? A dour person? Someone with that inner glow? What do they see? What do you see when you look in the mirror?

If that inner glow is not there, the question is, why not? I often wonder why a Spiritualist would not be happy. We have the most wonderful knowledge and understanding of life and afterlife. That knowing brings us hope, generosity, healing, compassion and community—what could be the problem? Well, for one, we are human, and we need each other.

I know that many of us like that song, “We are all angels,” by Karen Drucker. It speaks to the fact that we are not all we want to be—but we would like to be known as the kind, generous, well-meaning individual whom others find personable, attentive, and wholesome. Is that perfection? I say, yes! Because it is Spirit that is working within us to call us into becoming who we are meant to be. Each of us is unique, with special gifts, skills, and personalities that distinguish us as special. This is who we are now and who we will still be in our next stage of living—this is how people will know us and identify us.

Our fourth Principle states: “We affirm that the existence and personal identity of the individual continue after the change called death.” Every action we perform, every word we choose to use, every intention we put forth is a sign of who we are. We choose the act, the word, and the intention. So, what kind of shoes do you have in your closet?

March/April 2017

Called Beyond



Reverend E. Ann Otzelberger, NST

The Reverend E. Ann Otzelberger made her transition to the Spirit side of life on December 6, 2016. She was a founding member and Pastor of *New Vision Spiritualist Center* in Orlando, FL.

Ann is very well known to members of the *National Spiritualist Association of Churches* and the *Morris Pratt Institute*. She has a long and fruitful forty-five year history with the NSAC, and has served our organization in many capacities.

Ann was Ordained in December, 1992 and she proudly held all certifications offered by the NSAC. Ann served on the Board of Trustees from 2005 through 2011, and had strong dedication to the organization. Ann served as head of the *Department of Missionaries* from 1993 to 2006, and traveled extensively to many Spiritualist camps and churches where she taught classes on all the aspects of Spiritualism. She authored two published works: one on Natural Law and the other on platform decorum. Ann’s dedication earned her the NSAC’s “Teacher of the Year award” and the “Lifetime Service Award.” Her keen interest in education was most evident during her affiliation with the *Morris Pratt Institute*. She was invited into membership in 1993, and from there went on to become a Board member in 1999. As Chair of the Education Committee, Ann assisted with revisions of the MPI correspondence and Pastoral Skills courses. She served as NSAC Vice President from 2002 to 2016.

Perhaps Ann’s greatest teaching attribute is her ability to connect with her students and lovingly encourage them to reach the fullness of their individual potential. Ann loved education and her teaching skills were extraordinary. There is no doubt that Ann will continue to work as diligently from the Spirit side of life as she did while here to encourage, enlighten and celebrate the teachings of Spiritualism and the continuity of life.

The Spiritual Path

Writer: Rev. Lionel Owen, South Africa
Norwich Spiritualist Church, UK

I recently read an interesting internet article that talked about what was referred to as “The Spiritual Path.” While the article contained some very interesting and useful information to help people with relationship issues and other emotional problems, the majority of the article seemed to focus on theosophy and New Age philosophy which has always seemed too “airy-fairy” to me. It got me thinking and I should like to share with you the thoughts that came to me upon reading the article.

New Age practitioners expect one to accept spiritual messages purely on trust, without any attempt to provide meaningful proof of where such messages originate. For instance, messages are often allegedly received from other planets or solar systems. Indeed, I am of the opinion that so-called New Age thinking has damaged Spiritualism by encouraging people to accept such “messages” even when said messages do not contain one jot of evidence to prove that the individual bringing forth the information is really the person the medium claims it to be. Conversely, the greater

willingness of sitters and congregations to accept information without requiring proof, has made mediums lazy. Far too many appear in public to demonstrate mediumship before they have developed their psychic gifts to a competent level from which they can fulfill the true requirements of a medium: specifically, the need to prove beyond reasonable doubt that life continues in a Spirit World after we leave this one. It is different when a medium is giving a private, one-to-one, reading. Then the need for proof, though important, is less essential, especially where the medium is using his or her gift to help the sitter with an emotional or spiritual problem. During public demonstrations, the need for proof is paramount, in order that people, other than the recipient of the message, can also be satisfied that genuine communication between the two worlds is taking place.

In my view, there is a need for a return to basics where the training of platform mediums is concerned. Every aspiring medium should be required to provide proof that the communicator they claim to be receiving information from really is that person. Such proof will include detailed information such as physical description, relationship to the recipient of the message, a description of any physical infirmities, personality, reason for passing to the Spirit World, where they lived, details of friends, neighbors or relatives and many others. To obtain such information the medium must not only be sensitive and alert to information being transmitted from the Spirit World to any of his or her five physical senses, but also maintain two-way communication with the communicator by asking mental questions. This requires time and a level of dedication and hard work from the student that seems lacking in many today.

The other focus of the article I read was on Madame Blavatsky’s Theosophy, which as a Spiritualist, I have always found far too intellectual and exclusive, the fact that Madam Blavatsky was at first a Spiritualist notwithstanding. The concentration on becoming a

“Master” by communing with “Arisen Masters” always seemed to me to be ego driven and elitist.

I have always believed that we, as individuals, choose to come to live on Earth in order to learn spiritual lessons through our interactions with others that share the planet with us. We try to learn tolerance, understanding and how best to help one another. Our learning is aided enormously by having convincing proof of our immortality through contact with those close to us who have passed on.


I believe we should be striving to be the best physical person we can be, but also recognize that sometimes we will fall far short of the ideal. We should always try to guard against becoming judgmental. At the same time, we should try to understand the true relationship that exists between us and all other life on the planet, not focusing on trying to become some kind of esoteric “master.” While I think mystics have contributed a great deal to our understanding of God and our place in the scheme of things, I have never thought one should encourage people generally to lead lives insulated from the physical world to a greater or lesser degree. For instance, I have always questioned the true value of the contemplative life chosen by nuns and monks in both the Christian and Buddhist traditions. I believe nuns and monks are sincere in their convictions and many are truly good people, but I have always wondered about the wisdom of cutting oneself off from normal physical life when it is the very thing we have chosen to come to Earth to experience! I know they still have their human challenges in the nunneries and monasteries, but can it be the same? This is not to say that I disagree with encouraging contemplation and meditation, but I believe such practices should not take over our lives. They should instead, take their place alongside the rest of what life on Earth requires of us.

In many ways the early Spiritualists, with their insistence on treating Spiritualism as a science that required proof of its claims, were in advance of many modern Spiritualist mediums today. Returning to basics in my view means reverting to their approach. After all, they were operating in societies with a far less liberal attitude towards their religion than is the case in many places today. We are much more liberated in the practice of Spiritualism than they were allowed to be. Ideally, we should be at least as rigorous as they were in the practice of mediumship.



Stars in My Crown

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



At a recent Spiritualist church service I attended, the medium said we were all born with two bodies—a physical body which we would lose when we crossed to the next world, and a spiritual body which would last us throughout eternity. St Paul in one of his letters to the Corinthians says that man possesses two bodies, one physical and the other spiritual. The medium spoke about the necessity of nourishing both our bodies. Of course, I had learned years ago that the body is the temple of the soul, so I had always thought of keeping my physical body in the best health possible. We are given plenty of advice today on how to nourish our physical body, so no one has an excuse to be unaware of this. Eat 3 square meals a day, don't smoke, don't be obese, keep your body and mind active, etc. However the medium's words made me think—what was I doing to nourish my spiritual body?

Our Spirit Guides tell us that our life on this Earth plane is a school of learning and it can be a hard school! We are sent here to learn lessons to make us ready for the next world. Although I am very much in favor of a good education, this is not what our Guides mean. We are here to help our souls to grow. During our earthly life we will experience suffering, grief, disappointments, harmful acts by others, hurtful comments and unfairness. But it is how we handle these things that will contribute to our soul's growth and give nourishment to our spiritual body. We have to try and be a good person and “turn the other cheek” when perhaps everything inside us wants to hit back. Every good action we take in life will add to our soul's growth,

and conversely, every intentionally cruel action we take will stunt our spiritual development.

According to how well we learn these lessons, the more advanced will our position be in the Spirit side of life. Therefore, we need to know the best rules for living. God gave us His rules of living when He gave us the Ten Commandments. In addition God provided us with a role model in the greatest of evolved souls—Jesus.

Do you remember from your school days how you were given “gold stars” when your lesson assignments were well done? This merit system has been carried over into adult life. I used to attend an exercise class and we were given stars when we had lost a certain amount of weight. The star system has always indicated “well done.” Perhaps many of you may remember a hymn called “Will there be any stars in my crown?” Whenever I am told of a kind action by someone I often say, “Well there's another star in his or her crown.”

Know that this is how we nourish our spiritual body. We live as good a life as possible, overcoming “the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune” and collect stars for good behavior as we go through life.

Here is the chorus of that lovely hymn. The words are by Eliza E. Hewitt and the music by John R. Sweney. There are a number of various recordings of it available on the internet.

*Will there be any stars, any stars in my crown
When at evening the sun goeth down?
When I wake with the blest
In the mansions of rest,
Will there be any stars in my crown?*



Consciousness After Death

Sir Roger Penrose is a highly respected English mathematical physicist, mathematician and philosopher of science. He received the 1988 Wolf Prize for physics, which he shared with Stephen Hawking for their work in showing the necessity for cosmological singularities. Penrose is now convinced there is human consciousness beyond the grave, and his conclusion is based upon scientific evidence.



Penrose “believes” he and his team have found evidence that protein-based microtubules—a structural component of human cells—carry quantum information stored at a sub-atomic level. Sir Roger states that if a person dies, this quantum information is released from the microtubules and into the universe.

Researchers, from the renowned Max Planck Institute for Physics in Munich, agree and state that the physical universe we live in is only our perception and once our physical bodies die, there is an infinite beyond. Dr. Hans-Peter Durr, former head of the institute, has said: “What we consider the here and now, this world, it is actually just the material level that is comprehensible. The beyond is an infinite reality that is much bigger.”

From: “Scientists Announce Consciousness Beyond the Grave” by Dan Delzell, November 2016, The Christian Post, christianpost.com/news/scientists-announce-consciousness-beyond-grave-171519/#X68Yy8eo6taZmZa.99

Mental Clarity During Near-Death Experiences Suggests Mind Exists

If the mind is just a function of the brain, it stands to reason that the worse the brain is injured, the worse the mind would function. While this is what much of current brain research is finding, a body of evidence exists suggesting otherwise: under extreme circumstances, such as close to death, the mind may function well—or even better

than usual—when the brain is impaired. This suggests the mind may function independently of the brain.

One of the researchers who has been studying such cases is Dr. Alexander Batthyány, a professor of theoretical psychology and the philosophy of psychology in Liechtenstein and at the cognitive science department at the University of Vienna. In his most recent study, published this month in the *Journal of Near-Death Studies*, Batthyány and his colleagues reviewed thousands of accounts of near-death experiences (NDEs) to determine the quality of vision and cognition. He reported: “The more severe the physiological crisis, the more likely NDEers are to report having experienced clear and complex cognitive and sensory functioning.”

From: “Complex Visual Imagery and Cognition During Near-Death Experiences” by Alexander Batthyány, PhD, Journal of Near-Death Studies, Volume 34, No. 2, <https://iands.org/research/publications/journal-of-near-death-studies/past-issues/volume-34.html>

Mindfulness Reduces Depression

Imagine if you could cure depression with a therapy that was more effective and long-lasting than expensive drugs, and which did not have any side effects. These are the claims being made for a form of mindfulness meditation.



Psychologists from the University of Exeter recently published a study into “mindfulness based cognitive therapy” (MBCT), finding it to be better than drugs or counseling for depression. Four months after starting, three quarters of the patients felt well enough to stop taking antidepressants. Mindfulness also reduces relapse of depression to 37%, where those without a mindfulness class had a 66% to 78% relapse possibility.

From: “Curing Depression with Mindfulness Meditation” by Danny Penman Ph.D., Psychology Today, October 2011, psychologytoday.com/blog/mindfulness-in-frantic-world/201110/curing-depression-mindfulness-meditation

Journal of Exceptional Experiences and Psychology (JEEP):

This new journal is inspired by the late Dr. William Roll, who started the research journal *Theta* in 1963 with the Psychical Research Foundation. Founding editor Erika A. Pratte wrote “I hope that *JEEP* is at least one brick in the



bridge between the scholarly study of exceptional experiences and the people with the experiences.” Co-editor Jacob W. Glazier added “...interest in using a variety of methods like art, poetry, or stories to aid in making meaning out of exceptional experiences.”

Exceptional experiences psychology (EEP) is a relatively new approach to the study of personal experiences with things paranormal such as after death communication, psychic sensing and mediumistic contacts. It appears that Dr. Christine Simmonds-Moore is the primary inspiration for the approach.

Be aware that, unlike parapsychology which does at least allow for the possibility of survival, EEP emphasizes a mental explanation for these experiences. However, unlike anomalistic psychology, it does appear to allow for the reality of psychic phenomena (psi function).

Download JEEP at www.exceptionalpsychology.com

Catholics Fear New Age Ideas of Pantheism

In 1963, the Vatican loosened its long-standing prohibition against cremation. Dust-to-dust was acceptable again, with a few qualifications. Although the Catholic hierarchy maintained that burial was preferred, cremation was acceptable as long as “it does not demonstrate a denial of faith in the resurrection of the body.”



Under the published guidelines, approved by Pope Francis in March 2016, “the ashes of the faithful must be laid to rest in a sacred place.” Such places are mostly limited to cemeteries or certain church areas. “Only in grave and exceptional cases” can loved ones keep ashes in a domestic residence. Warning against appearances of “pantheism, naturalism or nihilism,” the church does not permit anyone “to scatter the ashes of the faithful departed in the air, on land, at sea or in some other way, nor may they be preserved in mementos, pieces of jewelry or other objects.”

For Catholics looking to emulate Pope Francis’ climate-minded messages, cremation may appear to be a greener alternative to the traditional formaldehyde-based embalming process. But as the *Atlantic* noted in 2014, cremation is not perfect, burning the fuel equivalent of two

SUV gas tanks. Of the most eco-friendly options, a method called green burial, which eschews formaldehyde embalming in favor of burial in a biodegradable shroud or plain cedar box, has generated a small but growing interest among Americans. Catholics, too, have taken note. In 2012, the Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery in Albany, N.Y., designated 260 meadow graves for green burial, one of the first U.S. Catholic cemeteries to do so.

From: “Pope forbids scattering of human ashes in fear of New Age ideas of ‘pantheism or nihilism’ about afterlife” Ben Guarino, National Post, October, 2016, news.nationalpost.com/news/religion/pope-forbids-scattering-of-human-ashes-in-fear-of-new-age-ideas-of-pantheism-or-nihilism-about-afterlife

Research on Psychic Ability

The Institute of Noetic Sciences is conducting a research study on the genetics of psychic ability. The purpose of this study is to discover if extended human capacities run in families, suggesting a genetic component. This online survey will take approximately 20 to 30 minutes to complete. In this survey, you will answer questions about yourself and your family. If you find some of the questions too personal or wish not to answer you may leave them blank. You may or may not find personal benefit from being in this study. However, by serving as a participant you will help IONS learn how to benefit others in the future.

You can participate in the study at surveymonkey.com/r/psigenes1

Explore the Extraordinary

A conference featuring Eben Alexander and Bruce Greyson and others will be held August 3rd through 6th, 2017 in Westminster, Colorado. The conference title is “Love, Light and Healing Energy: Affirming Near-Death Experiences.” The focus on this conference suggests that love and healing energy from the Light are the most frequent and powerful messages brought back by the near-death experiencer. Reservations will open March 2017. See conference.iands.org/ for more information.



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

Tom-Lisa@atransc.org.

Gratitude

Rev. Frances D. Montgomery, Sunflower Chapel, OH

As Spiritualists, we understand the importance of appreciating our lives and the things that make life comfortable. Let us consider gratitude, and what it means.

Gratitude is a word that apparently does not appear in the Bible. At least not so far as is listed in *Strong's Concordance*. But gratitude is a word that has been on my mind lately.

Over last year's holiday season, I took time to consider the many things in my life that I appreciate. I thought about my parents' lives and the chores they had to take care of before going to bed at night in the wintertime. They had to shake down and remove the ashes from the heat chamber to the bottom of the furnace and then shovel them into a metal bin so any that were hot would not catch fire; stoke or load the furnace—it was coal—and shovel it into the furnace belly so that it would hold the fire during the night without getting too hot; adjust the damper on the exhaust pipe to limit the draft intake yet keep the embers hot enough in the morning to catch and light the morning load of coal to keep the house heated. They also had to carry the ashes outside—sometimes using them on our icy sidewalks instead of salt.

Today we enjoy gas or electric heat with a thermostat set at a comfortable temperature and voilà—the house holds at that temperature. We have no coal to shovel or load, no ashes to carry anywhere—just a comfortably heated home. We can certainly be grateful for our heat in winter!

I am also grateful for the electricity in my home which nearly never fails. I have no candles to light my home that will burn down or have to be carefully watched for the sake of safety. I just flip the switch and can have light in whatever location of the house I wish to sit.

I am grateful for my hot water and indoor plumbing. Most of us enjoy warm bathrooms, nothing like the primitive things our parents and previous generations had to deal with. Adults most often went outside to the “privy” and children frequently in winter or during the night would use containers which had to be carried out and emptied in the morning. Let's be grateful for our indoor plumbing and hot water!

When I was in my teens I stayed on a farm in Union County Ohio, just outside of Plain City. Gusty, a friend of ours, had a cast iron wood burning cook stove. She could cook anything without burning it. It projected heat throughout the kitchen and adjacent areas in the winter. She also had a freestanding propane gas heating stove in the living room.

In summer she used a propane stove that didn't add too much heat to the house when she cooked. There wasn't air conditioning except maybe in commercial buildings in those days.

Mom had a gas range that stood on four legs with the oven on the left side and the burners on the right side in our kitchen when I was small.

Today, we enjoy electric ranges with self-cleaning ovens, and central air conditioning in our homes. We should be grateful for both!

There are many things that have changed our lives drastically in just a generation or two. We take things like television for granted these days. The younger generation can't imagine a black telephone with a dial and a cord on the receiver, much less the cord that attached to a little box on the wall where the “service” came into the house.

Over the holidays we give thanks for the people in our lives, the “harvest” that provides a filling meal and camaraderie with our friends and families. We remember those who aren't with us in person at the table, and reminisce about times past. But we often forget to have gratitude for the other marvelous things that make our lives so easy.

We enjoy automatic dishwashers, washing machines and dryers—how many of you can remember wringer washers?

Every-thing has evolved very rapidly in our lifetime, and it continues to do so.

Do we take the time to be grateful for our blessings? Certainly our lives are much less strenuous these days. Today for exercise people pay to visit a gym for a work out. In “those days” just plain living and getting anything done was a workout!

I am grateful for the things that my parents and grandparents would have thought impossible. I don't take them for granted! And yet with all of this, it is important to remember it is all just “stuff” as compared to our realization that Spirit lives and communicates with us. As Spiritualists we know that Spirit is around and about us every day of our lives and we are never alone, that there is no death. These teachings are miracles in our lives and we shouldn't take them for granted any more than we take our modern conveniences for granted.

I am most grateful for what we have been taught and accepted and affirmed as truth. I am grateful for the interaction we have been blessed to have with Spirit, and the knowledge life does go on and our loved ones are always around us and still love us. Infinite Intelligence is always here to guide us, and we need never be lonely. I am most grateful for that knowledge. May you relax and feel confident that Spirit is close to you, and be grateful for the knowledge you are always protected and loved.



The Hidden Benefits of

Trance Mediumship

Rev. Nancy Ryall
Spiritualist Chapel in the Woods, IL

How does Trance help your Mediumship?

Trance mediumship is a much valued, often pursued and highly misunderstood phenomena of Spiritualism. Most of us are fascinated with the idea of communing with a higher being who can offer us increased vision and foresight, but many of us are plagued with fears and trepidation at the thought of the loss of control and trust that it requires.

So, what are the benefits of attempting such a practice? What could be the attraction beyond the initial idea of being able to attain the state to begin with? Why try it at all? Well, my answer is that trance mediumship has changed my life so tremendously that I can only begin to hint at the positive effects that I have garnered. Many of which I never imagined or thought possible.

Trance is an altered state of being, produced by techniques designed to intentionally blend your consciousness with that of a Spirit from the other side of life. The benefits we gain from this blending are multifaceted. The intention is to bring through a higher Spirit teacher who agrees to this relationship for the purpose of guiding and educating the medium and others involved. It is a contract between the channel and the Spirit teacher for the purpose of bringing benefit to all involved.

The techniques used to successfully learn trance often require some work. Although I have heard that some are natural channels, it took some work and concentration for me. Learning to concentrate at this level is actually one of the benefits. It increases your ability to focus and concentrate on a desired intention, just as meditation schools you in concentration. It hones your ability to block out other things and to focus on a specific desire or intent. At times, this intent is just simply to relax and allow.

As you begin to relax and allow, the next step is trust. That is a big step, and it is an important one. As you establish a level of trust with your Spirit teacher, you will be able to let go completely and maintain the knowledge that

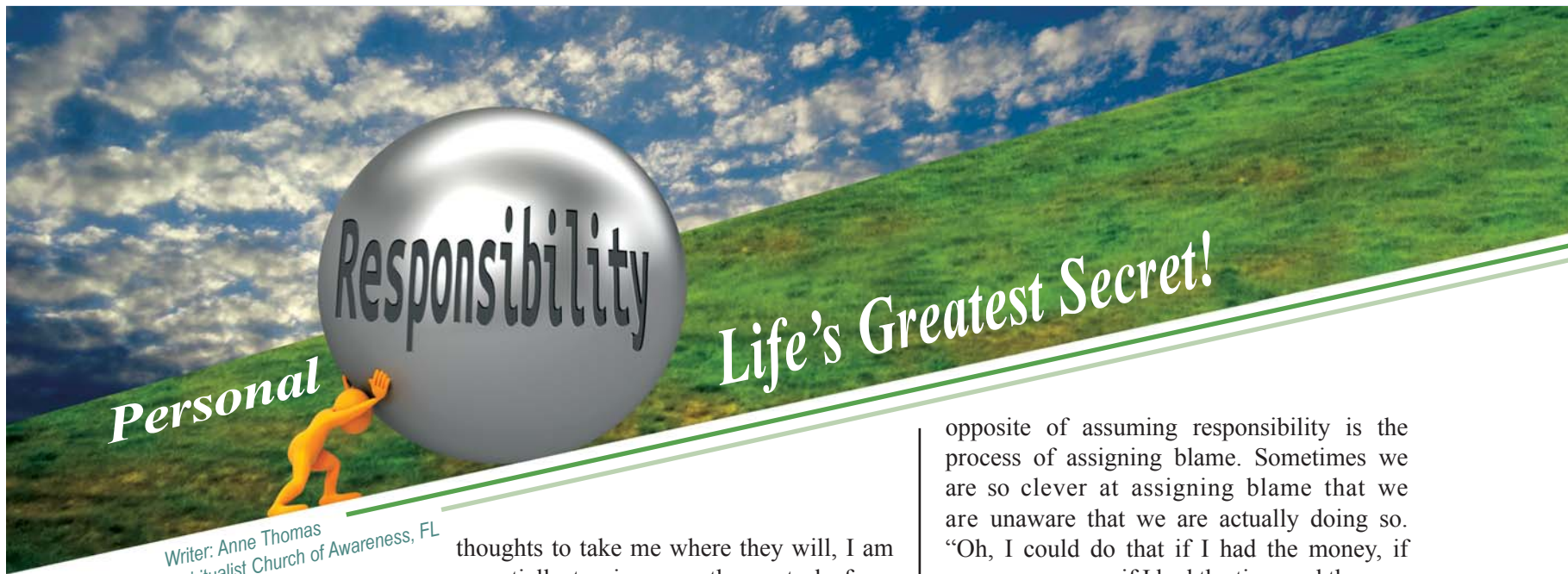
all will be well and that you are safe. This step establishes a relationship that will soon blossom into an incredible spiritual journey, one that will begin to allow you to reap the many amazing benefits of trance!

Robin Hodson, the President of the ISF and one of the world's leading educators on trance, explains the level of control in trance as a percentage. He says that as you allow your presence and control to decrease, Spirit's control increases. The higher percentage given to Spirit, the more clearly Spirit is able to communicate. This allows Spirit a level of freedom to express and convey messages, philosophy, and healing that they are not able to convey at a lesser level. So, as you increase your blending you allow clearer and more succinct messages to come through.

It stands to reason, then, if Spirit is giving you clearer and more accurate messages, *all* aspects of your mediumship will benefit! Evidential mediumship grows and is enhanced by the practice of trance. It flourishes as your growing relationship with Spirit opens up new avenues for expression. Your messages become more poignant and personal as your connection increases. It nurtures and enhances every aspect of your clairvoyance, clairsentience, clairaudience, etc.

Your healing abilities benefit in the same way. Even if you are not doing trance healing, your "hands on healing" ability increases because of the pathways opening up to you and the trust relationship that you are developing with Spirit. Your healing teachers also benefit from these new pathways of trust and connection. The depth of your commitment solidifies your contract with Spirit and you see changes occurring on every front.

Trance mediumship opens you up to your potential in a way that nothing else can. It is like opening the flood gates and dissolving all obstruction and resistance between the two realms. If you are looking for a pathway to advancement, give trance a try. With a good trance instructor and a willing, loving heart and mind... nothing will stand between you and your desires to grow!



Writer: Anne Thomas
Spiritualist Church of Awareness, FL

Did you ever dream of becoming an author? Well, guess what? You are! You are the author of your life. It's exciting to realize how much power you have. But there's a price for that power. The price is called *responsibility*. Here's what I mean. If I'm unhappy with my present situation, I have no one to blame but myself. After all, I'm the one who got me here. How can I be surprised by the way the story is developing when I am the one who wrote the script? If I don't like the way the story is heading, I can change the script and arrive at a new ending.

The script I'm referring to is the collection of thoughts we have. That's how we write our script. Our thoughts lead to action, and our life is created by the actions we take. Obviously, our thoughts have immense significance. If I just sit back and allow my

thoughts to take me where they will, I am essentially turning over the control of my life to the whims of fate.

My mind is not a container to fill with thoughts, but a fire to forge and shape them! After hammering my negative thoughts on the anvil of awareness, I have to shape them into positive thoughts. How else can I create my own destiny?

So, how do we begin creating? We start out by tuning into what's troubling us, or what's holding us back and preventing us from being happy. What painful emotions or negative thoughts are plaguing you? Don't give in to them! Instead, use them to create a better you.

What is the best way to create a new me? Let's look at an example. Suppose I'm a shy person, and I'm unhappy about that. Merely repeating an affirmation that "I am very confident" or "I am growing confident" cannot help me much when the statements are not true. What I really need to make progress is to have an experience of success. Affirmations are fine to begin with as they point the way to where we want to go, but what we really need is a few dips into genuine positive experience, which we can obtain only by taking action.

The first steps we can take are reflection and questioning. Ask yourself, "what can I do to become more confident?" This question shifts your focus away from your immediate problem toward possible solutions. Asking the question causes ideas for actions you can take to immediately come to mind. "Join a support group, take a public speaking course," etc. Next, I make a plan and start initiating real change.

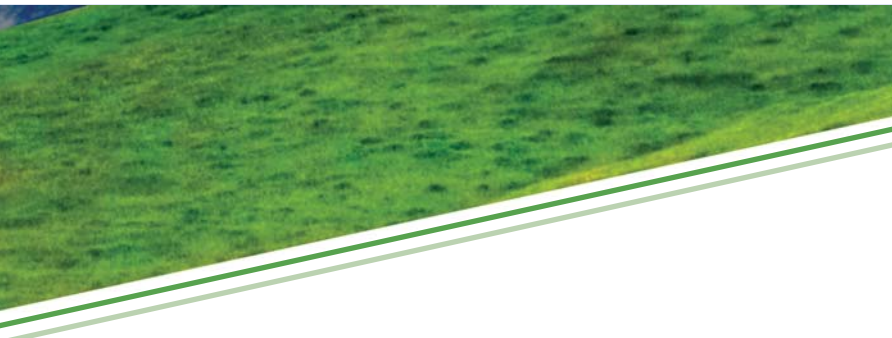
Being the author or sculptor of our lives is all about taking responsibility. The

opposite of assuming responsibility is the process of assigning blame. Sometimes we are so clever at assigning blame that we are unaware that we are actually doing so. "Oh, I could do that if I had the money, if I were younger, or if I had the time and the support of others." Have you had thoughts like these? They are unproductive and certainly don't lead us anywhere. The cure for assigning blame is to shine a spotlight on these irrational thoughts by asking ourselves probing questions. For instance, "Isn't it true that many people have achieved success when they were poorer, older, busier, or had no support from others?" As we ask this question, it becomes clear the fault doesn't lie with fate, but with our own reluctance to master it.

Human beings are incredible creatures. If we want to lead rewarding, happy lives, all we have to do is follow the guidance of our very own personal life coach, the mentor that is always at our side and eager to help. This mentor is referred to as our Higher Self, Soul or conscience. The problem is, we often don't hear, don't listen, or turn a deaf ear to the wisdom of our Higher Self. To neglect its advice is folly and to heed it is the beginning of acquiring wisdom.

The main reason for our failure to listen to our Higher Self is the competing voices in our head. One is urging us to do what is best for us, the other is urging us towards what is "safest" for us. The second voice is that of our subconscious. Our subconscious does a magnificent job when it comes to storing our memories and regulating our body. Its wish to protect us from harm and pain is commendable; however, it is entirely incompetent when it comes to offering us guidance.

If we follow the advice of our Higher Self, whether we are aware of it or not, we are on a path to success and greatness. We make innumerable decisions each day, but most of the time they are made reactively, impulsively, thoughtlessly, and automatically. With each



decision you make, actively seek out the wisdom offered by your Higher Self. The more you call upon it, the stronger its voice will be.

When following the advice of your Higher Self, expect resistance from your subconscious. Refrain from fighting or struggling with the resistance because what we resist persists. Rather, welcome any resistance, discomfort, or fear that you feel because it is a sign that you are on the path of growth. Consider keeping a journal to record your actions, triumphs, and learning experiences to further strengthen the bond between you and your Higher Self.

Caveats and Tips

Don't be frightened by any suggestions of your Higher Self that would force you to take a giant step out of your comfort zone. It will never suggest something you cannot do. You may not be aware of all your capabilities, but your Higher Self most certainly is, so learn to trust it.

Your Higher Self is the gateway to a magnificent life. It offers its guidance without asking for anything in return. For you to blossom as it wants you to, you need to completely accept self-responsibility and surrender to its guidance. Although little will be asked of you, you will be expected to persist and work hard—both of which will prove to be a very small price to pay for the rewards that life will bring you.

Your subconscious is an expert at rationalizing. Don't let yourself be fooled. For instance, if you find yourself thinking, "I would love to do what my Higher Self is suggesting, but I cannot because of a mental, physical, or emotional handicap that I have." That is just your subconscious creating a convenient excuse. Remember that your Higher Self will never lead you toward a goal that you are incapable of reaching.

If, despite what you have read here, you still feel that you are incapable of carrying out your Higher Self's suggestions, please understand that it doesn't require any special ability, it merely requires your willingness to try. Your willingness will create and enhance your abilities. Keep in mind that in order to gain what you don't have, or achieve goals you have never before achieved, you must be willing to do what you haven't done before.

The path to greatness is simple. All we have to do is follow the guidance of our Higher Self. Although the path is simple, it is, nevertheless, difficult because it requires a considerable amount of our initial effort. However, regardless how much of your effort may be required, know that you have more than enough inner strength to follow through!

MIND

It's a mystery great of human kind, Hidden from probing eyes,
That search within the brain to find, The mind, that elsewhere lies.

Though 'prisoned in our mortal flesh, Mind's made of finer corn,
It came with us from Heaven's crèche, On wings of Spirit borne.

It dwells within that special place, Where soul and body meet,
A place that shows the human race, Has more than clay clad feet.

It is the captain of our ship, That sails Earth's stormy sea,
Ensuring that this special trip, Will teach us how to be.

When we think we're fast asleep, Mind does not doze or roam.
It is alert, our soul to keep, Aware of Heaven, its home.

Mind is our link twixt God and Man, It knows we are divine.
Mind is aware of His great plan, Who drew that grand design.

Mind gives the lie to those who say, "Eternal life? No never."
Listen now, your fears allay, Your soul lives on forever.

The mystery really is not mind, But Man's persistent error,
In thinking that at death we'll find, Nought but fear and terror.

Your mind it is more truly you, Than what the glass reflects.
Keep fed and prized, whate'er you do, It's fine in all respects.

Be still, for that's when mind excels, And links you with that power,
That comes from where the angel dwells,
Who tends you every hour.

Some there are who cannot know, The beauty of their mind,
There is no link within to show, What you and I can find.

But with that link the Heavens ope, And show us life eternal.
With active mind there's always hope, Of knowing love supernal.

*By Rev. Lionel Owen, South Africa
Norwich Spiritualist Church, UK*

Natural Law

A Review

Writer: Rev. Elsie Ann Soria, NST
First Spiritual Temple, CA

The religion of Spiritualism encourages all humankind to learn and practice living in accordance with God's Laws. These laws are also referred to as Nature's Laws or Cosmic Laws, but they all refer to the same law which we as Spiritualists call Natural Law.

The study of Natural Law is very beneficial to all. Spiritualist pioneer Peggy Barnes stated "Natural Law is that law that God set in motion to govern all that was created. It is immutable and unchangeable. We know of no instance where God has set a side that law in response to human appeal or for any other reason." Scottish writer and lecturer, Rev. Henry Drummond stated "Natural Law is an ascertained working sequence of constant order among the phenomena of nature."

All things in life interrelate and so it is with these laws. Natural Law is the law by which the universe operates and is both physical and spiritual. We can use these laws to choose love, light, peace, growth and joy. The universe is propelled by law and impelled by love. We may think of two separate laws, spiritual and physical, when in fact they are the same constant laws, and are really one absolute law beyond space, time and change.

There are many laws, each having a very specific purpose. Rev. Alfred A. Conner, taught that the paramount law for him was the Law of Order and System.

The Law of Order and System

Nothing happens without a

reason, nor without being preceded by something else. Everything is predicted by Natural Law.

Let's review a few of these Natural Laws.

The Law of Attraction: Like attracts like, so if you create an environment of negativity, you should expect just the same condition to be created for you.

The Law of Vibration: Affects everything, for everything is in a constant state of vibration, whether we can see it or not. Of course, the rate of this vibration determines what is attracted, so we must keep our vibrations at the highest level possible.

The Law of Cause and Effect (or the Law of Sequence): For each action there is a reaction. Nothing happens by chance. This is always the case whether those actions are positive or negative. However, the type does determine what the reaction will be.

The Law of Truth: Constitutes right thinking, right acting and right living. Truth will always rise triumphantly over evil and wrong doing, and is ever leading us onward toward a better and higher understanding of life.

The Law of Harmony: This law is closely associated with vibration. It is a flowing order and a rhythmic consistency which produces specific manifestations.

The Law of Retribution (Karma): This law refers to the fact that you will reap what you sow. What you give to the world will be returned to you in like kind.

The Law of Cyclicity: This law describes the concentric manner of nature, the planets orbiting the sun, and the recurring phenomena of the

seasons. It describes continuity and that everything moves according to this law.

The Law of Love: Describes the principle of the action of giving and its reaction of re-giving. It is the highest of all vibrations and provides us with freedom from all negativity, leaving us free to enjoy the positivity for ourselves and others.

The Law of Thought: Thought is the incalculable energy force of the universe. Positive thoughts create the higher positive vibrations, while lower ones create lower vibrations.

The Law of Prosperity: Nothing is impossible if you have the will to control your life. If you accept negativity, poverty, and other such things, they will be yours. On the other hand, if you accept positivity, that will be yours.

As the seeker strives to understand Natural Law, they are presented with the Truths of the universe. Again, God's Law is immutable and we know of no instances for which it has been set aside. Therefore, "there are no miracles for all" is in accordance with the operation of the Spiritual Laws.

Infinite Intelligence has given us these constructive, progressive patterns to guide our existence now and forever. These same laws operate in the Spirit Realm to a much higher degree.

It is important to remember that thought is vibration, because thought is how we communicate with Spirit.

Man, being the Master of his thoughts, is literally what he believes as a truth.

- Rev. Betty Crews

Writer: Rev. Elaine Hager
New Vision Spiritualist
Church, FL



Love Bugs

I want to talk to you about love bugs. Are you familiar with those pesky little bugs that come out in May and September in the South? They're called "love bugs" because the male and female are attached. The female flies forward and the male faces backward. Have you ever had them clinging to your windshield? They can be messy and extremely hard to clean off.

I was watching a pair on my windshield one day and was inspired by what I saw. They'll ride on your windshield down the road with you doing 70 miles per hour, while clinging desperately to the glass for dear life not knowing that their very clinging is going to be their demise. A quick squirt from of water before turning the windshield wipers on and life is over! SPLAT! Done! If only the little bugs could understand that their desperate clinging is their ultimate destruction and if they would only let go they would be free to live and do whatever little love bugs do.

It's March, so we've made our way well into a new year. What is it that you want? Are you hoping for a different life, a better life? What are you willing to do or not do anymore to acquire the chance to improve your life?

It has been said that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over in the same way and expecting different results. How many of us are like those little love bugs clinging to the glass? We cling to what we think we know with everything we've got, hoping that something will change and it never does. If we could only see from a broader perspective and realize that if we just turn loose, if we just allow ourselves to trust in the process of what feels like a freefall, we might just land on our feet once the wind stops

blowing.

Are you willing to let old ways go that obviously don't serve you any more? Let go of the windshield and give yourself a chance. Yes, it can be scary and uncomfortable, but it might just be the best decision you ever made.

So how do you move from where you are now to the life that you envision for yourself? I had a resolution. It was my New Year's resolution. I resolved to work from three ideas this year. Trust, Faith and Hope. In that order.

First of all, I will *trust* that Infinite Intelligence will provide an orderly universe. I will trust that the Natural Laws of God will not falter. Secondly, I will have *faith* that if I do my part and act in accordance with those Natural Laws that I will reap the rewards of my efforts. Thirdly, I will have *hope* that the positive steps I take will bring about my heartfelt desires.

Sometimes the experience of change can feel like stepping off a cliff. Trust that eventually you'll stop the freefall and come to rest safely. Have faith that Infinite Intelligence is always working towards the right.

Hope that because of your efforts, your tomorrows will be ever brighter, happier, and more peaceful while holding secure all that you have worked to gain.

So don't be like the little love bugs on my windshield desperately clinging to a false security. Be strong enough to let go and freefall while trusting and having faith that God and Spirit are always with you helping you land exactly where you need to be. That is my hope for us all.

Go With God, my friends and trust, faith and hope for the rest of this year, and for the rest of your life!

Honor is Given

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

March is the special time of the year when we recall the amazing story recorded in our history of two young children who brought the message to the world day-by-day and year-by-year. It began in the hamlet of Hydesville, New York. From there it went to Rochester and on to various cities and states... and finally Dr. Marie B. Haden took it to England. From there, it reached out to the whole world.

In March, Spiritualist's interest turns to Spiritualism's many historical facts in the many moons that have passed, and then to remembering those who served it so very well.

We begin with the birth of Catherine (Katie) Fox on March 17, 1839 in Concedon, Canada. If you recall, she made the first response to the murdered peddler's rappings in the cottage in Hydesville on March 31, 1838 by snapping her fingers and making the simple statement "Now, do as I do."

The peddler responded in like manner with raps. Her sister Margaretta (Maggie) then joined in the communication.

Katie made her transition in 1892. Due to the fact that the only living family member was her brother David, who was not financially endowed, their dear friend Titus Merritt had her physical remains placed in holding vault identified as Receiving Tomb No. 8840 in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York July 5, 1892. This cemetery is where Leah Fox Underhill was interred in the Underhill Family Plot. Seventeen (17) months after the transition of Katie's dearest sister, Maggie, Mr. Titus had Kate's physical remains moved from the holding vault and had her interred in the grave with Maggie.

Margaretta (Katie) Fox Kane had made her transition on Wednesday morning March 8, 1893 at the home of her dear friend, Mrs. Emily Ruggles at 492 State Street in Brooklyn, New York. Her funeral services were held at Bradbury Hall, 292 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, New York. It was conducted by Rev. Dr. Charles Hicks, Titus Merritt, and several other prominent Spiritualists. She was interred in Cypress Hills Cemetery in a plot donated by Joseph La Fumee, a noted employee of the prominent newspaper of the day, The Brooklyn Eagle, and a dear friend of Maggie for many years.

Years rolled by and from just after the turn of the century, the subject of importance amongst Spiritualists was the unmarked grave of Maggie and Katie. The New York State Conference of Spiritualists took the lead and deemed it important that the grave be identified. In an attempt to acquire necessary information, many letters were exchanged with Titus Merritt and Dr. Mary T. Longley, the Secretary of the NSA. On Jan 20, 1903, Mrs. Elizabeth La Fumee gave her consent for a durable granite stone.

Things were finally finalized and in 1909, the New York State Conference of Spiritualists provided the funds and a very expensive granite headstone was purchased, engraved, and placed on the grave site of Maggie and Katie in Cypress Hills Cemetery, Section 3, Lot 355 Contemplation Park, Brooklyn, New York. The Stone prominently identified the girls by the introductory words, "Mediums of the Advent of Modern Spiritualism."

In 2014, the gravesite was visited and the inscription on the headstone was barely visible. Once again, some concerned Spiritualists proceeded working on the situation. On September 14, 2016, the newly engraved original Headstone once again proudly hailed the "Mediums of the Advent of Modern Spiritualism." The additional glory of Spiritualists around the world was the fact that after many hours of conversation with the administration of the Cemetery, the Headstone also had an additional prominence, a tour sign identifying the Fox Sisters amongst the notables of history. It stands just next to the Headstone and reads "No. 32." Spiritualism is on the map!

Rochester, New York had gained the name of the "Spiritual Capital of the World" as Spiritualism demonstrations were held in Leah's home on Troup Street, and the first public demonstration took place at Corinthian Hall. Having been suggested by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, in 1927, Spiritualists of the world erected an obelisk in the famed church yard of what was then the largest Spiritualist Church edifice that reads: "Erected December 4, 1927 by the Spiritualists of the World in Commemoration of the Advent of Modern Spiritualism at Hydesville, N.Y., March 31, 1848, and in Tribute to Mediumship, the Rock upon which Demonstrable Spiritualism Forever Stands. There is No Death—There are No Dead." Once the church was sold, the obelisk was moved to Troup Street in front

of the house once occupied by Leah and her sisters. Just a few years ago, the city felt it was not the best location and relocated it east of the Plymouth intersection, south of I-490, now a part of the inner loop of the Plymouth Avenue cloverleaf. It is clearly noticeable to the passersby.

Some thirty miles away, on the corner of Hydesville and Parker Road stood the Fox Cottage. In memorial, Mary (Mercy) E. Cadwallader placed a stone in front of the Cottage which read "The Birthplace of Modern Spiritualism. Upon this site stood the Hydesville Cottage, the home of the Fox Sisters through whose Mediumship Communication with the Spirit World was Established March 31, 1848. There is no death and there are no dead. Dec. 5, 1927." While the property acquired by the NSAC was being converted into a memorial park, the stone stood proudly at the entrance of the Mississippi Valley Spiritualist Camp. Once the Memorial Park in Hydesville was completed, the stone was returned to the grounds.

To preserve the Fox Cottage, Benjamin J. Bartlett had it moved from the countryside of Hydesville to the grounds of the Lily Dale Assembly and had it set on the space where the tepee of Chief Os-ke-non-ton once lived. He was the famous Mohawk singer and desired medium. Bartlett felt the cottage would be protected in a Spiritualist Camp. Years passed, then in 1955, a mysterious fire burned the cottage to the ground. All that was saved was the metal Peddler's Pack. In honor of the Fox Family and Hydesville, a monument was erected that reads "Memorial to the Fox Family who lived in the Cottage at the time Margaretta and Katie Fox, aged 9 and 11, received the first proof of the continuity of life which was the beginning of Modern Spiritualism March 31, 1848. The cottage was bought and moved from Hydesville, New York its original site to Lily Dale, New York in March 1916 by Benjamin F. Bartlett."

Many Spiritualist Churches and Camps have memorial plaques placed appropriately on their property. Let us always remember to give honor where honor is due.

To my sister Kate: I present thee a rose.

Kate. A rose I present unto thee. I know it is sweet and 'tis pretty; Then wilt thou accept it of me? 'Tis e.-t from the stem where twas blooming And filled all with nectar and dew. Its fragrance, how sweet and perfuming. Its blushes remind one of you. From your sister. Maggie Cleveland, June 6. 1851."

The remaining print is that of the International Shrine Memorial which spires to the heavens from the dooryard of the Church, where it was unveiled on December 3, 1927. The monolithic obelisk was erected through contributions from Spiritualists the world over, pennies from the poor and many dollars from the generous donor Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The enterprise was championed by Mercy E. Cadwallader, publisher of "The Progressive."

Clearing the Channel Continued.

Be informed. A foundation concept implicit in ancient wisdom schools is that, as a seeker, you should seek to learn everything you can about everything. The idea is that an informed person is more able to recognize natural principles.

Be curious, for everything, everyone and every event has the potential to further your understanding. Examination resulting from curiosity leads toward greater understanding while ignoring because of indifference tends to assure stagnation. Being curious is a natural way to send a message to your unconscious mind to pay attention.

Engage your world and interact with the people, things and events around you. Being careful not to send a decide signal to your unconscious, examine how you think about things happening around you. Making a habit to interact in some way with the world around you sends a message to your unconscious mind to pay attention.

Be a student, a teacher or an activist. Accept that, more than a student, you are a seeker of understanding. Then accept that a seeker is always a teacher. Good, bad or indifferent, you are always a role model for others. The process of forming your thoughts into a meaningful statement to express to others, is a valuable exercise for your self-education. By doing so, you teach others, and as they respond, you gain a degree of insight as to the reasonableness of what you say.

"I found when adopting a certain attitude that I made contact with this (the Divine) power. It was an attitude of curious, childlike devotion to the great Spirit and if held for an unusual length of time, contact would manifest. I would become the operator of the Spirit Power."

—Paul Twitchell, *The Flute of God.*

Organizing Principles

Recognize that nature is organized in a systematic way based on a few simple principles. Your mind thinks in terms of concepts, so rather than memorizing a long list of principles, focus on the underlying concepts. A measure of progression is a person's degree of understanding of underlying concepts and integration of that understanding into daily living.

All of the ancient religions I have studied appear to have evolved from the same dispensation of knowledge we attribute to Hermes of Egypt. Much of the spiritual teaching in modern religions share that same truth. It all comes down to a reminder that we are spiritual beings in a physical lifetime, that it is our spiritual responsibility to understand our immortality and to live in accordance with the actual nature of reality. We are told to find a teacher and seek understanding through mindfulness. Our purpose is progression no matter where we live. So here, now, it is for us to use this lifetime as an opportunity to gain understanding.

Building Sound Communication

Writer: Kevin Mullican, Spiritualist
Jacksonville, FL

There is more to good communication than simply expressing your views and opinions or hearing another's words during conversation. Studies show that only 10% of communication is actually the words spoken. Roughly 40% of the message sent is one's tone of voice, and 50% is body language. When you need serious communication with another, do it in person, or you'll miss half of the message.

Let's define good communication, where a deeper level of relating takes place, what blocks good communication, what active listening is. The emphasis of this article is about improving communication skills and relationships within and among our churches.

Good communication is much like a circle—one sending a message and the other receiving it. Simply talking does not cut it. The circle is not complete until some level of emotional connection is made between people. A dialog and discussion that moves back and forth builds understanding. Expressing and being heard are paramount.

Communication takes place on two levels. One is the content level where the focus is on the words spoken. However, when there is conflict between two people, simply emphasizing the words spoken ignores the underlying meaning in a conversation. Feelings and emotions must be considered before good communication can take place. Many barriers in communication stem from a failure to appreciate the dual nature of interaction between

people. Your understanding of others improves by paying attention to both levels.

Why does communication fail many times? There are many reasons, some you have control over and some you do not. As the sender of a message, pay attention to your timing. Just because you have a clear understanding of what you need to say, you have to learn there are good times and bad times to open a specific conversation.

Besides your timing, you have to control the tone of your voice and your body language. Standing too close to someone, squarely facing them, with strong eye contact, for example, is aggressive and puts the other person immediately on the defensive, essentially closing communication. Emphasizing only your point of view closes communication as well. Learn the difference between being aggressive and being assertive.

Being assertive is respecting both parties and promotes equality in human relationships. It enables us to act in our own best interest, to stand up for ourselves without undue anxiety, and to express honestly and comfortably our feelings, desires, goals, frustrations, opinions, etc. It is accepting and encouraging the same from others as well. To open communication, assertiveness requires us to try out new patterns of thinking and behaving. The more we think before we speak, the better. And when you mess up, get back in the ring and practice new skills. Admit any poor choices of words that may have hurt or closed your communication. Apologize if necessary. Then reopen the dialog with what you wanted to say. Over time, you will get better and better at healthy communication.

One thing that gets in the way of good communication is being unclear of the position you are taking. You can send double messages when you say one thing and unconsciously mean another. Taking time to think about your point of view and what you want to say empowers you to express more clearly.

There are communication blocks that relate to the receiver in communication as well. For example, they may not know what they think about a subject. Someone in this position can become defensive or angry and back off when deeper issues surface in a conversation. It may take time for them to build trust and express what they think and feel. You should attempt to model good communication skills for them to mirror.

Active listening is helpful when dealing with defensive people. This requires "hearing between the lines" to ascertain the message when they have become angry or withdrawn. Verbalize what you think they are trying to say. "It sounds like you feel ..." or "If I were you..." Sometimes it is best to restate what they have said so they can respond more positively after they feel they have been heard, even if there is not agreement.

The following is a list of fair communication rules to take to heart.

1. Be non-judgmental.
2. Be empathic.
3. Take responsibility for self.
4. Do not give advice.
5. Do not interpret, finish sentences, or assume anything on behalf of others.
6. Stick to the subject & stay in the here & now.
7. Be silent when others are talking.
8. Problem solve—attack the problem not the person.

Active listening opens communication. Remind yourself of these fair communication rules often. Practice one or two of them at a time to make small improvements in the way you communicate with others.



Spiritualism as a Global Experience

Writer: Rev. Nancy Ryall
Spiritualist Chapel in the Woods, IL

My experience with Spiritualism began in a sleepy little village in Northern Illinois, not far from the Wisconsin border. For years, my vision wandered no further and I had no awareness of how far the arms of our beliefs stretched, for I was content to grow as far as I could on my own.

A few years ago, I attended the NSAC Convention in Arizona and my eyes took in the national arena. I had become a newly ordained minister and was just beginning to understand the impact that Spiritualism currently had on our nation as I met representatives from all over the country. My vision was about to grow exponentially!

One of the speakers and workshop presenters at our Convention was the President of the ISF, Robin Hodson. So what was the ISF, and how could it possibly mean anything to me? I listened to Robin explain how the ISF works throughout the world in 37 countries and how in some of these countries, it is illegal to practice mediumship. Shocking! How could someone actually be arrested for doing what we take for granted every day in our churches?

I listened intently during both the introduction to the ISF and to Robin's amazing workshop on trance mediumship. I was growing again! During the next year I pursued development of trance and I also became a member of the ISF. Both of these things would change my life dramatically.

I decided to take another leap and signed up to attend the ISF Convention in Holland this August. I wanted to see first-hand what Spiritualism looked like in other countries. It was a great leap for me as I had never been outside of the country before and I was both excited and nervous at the prospect. What an amazing experience it was! There were people from all over the world with different stories, backgrounds, and visions, each a fresh new version of Spirit expressing itself in a different culture. The opening day of the Conference included a candle ceremony where a representative from each country attending was chosen to light a candle for their country. I was given the great honor of lighting a candle for the United States, representing Spiritualism in our country. I met many new friends and was able to take part in classes, workshops, and demonstrations that were offered by expert

instructors from across the world. What an amazing opportunity it was!

What did I bring away from that Conference? I learned many new things, but most importantly I brought away a vision of Spiritualism as a worldwide power to bring people together in love. Our belief is something that extends far beyond our own backyard, far beyond the overtures made to the Fox Sisters in their little cottage in New York. It is much too golden to keep to ourselves!

There are small groups of people in other countries whose only source of information and education is the ISF. The ISF continues to pave a pathway of learning and education throughout the world.

The NSAC is the largest member of the ISF. Some of our forward-looking NSAC members have already joined in the effort. NSAC Minister Rev. Richard Schoeller was recently elected Vice-President of the ISF. Richard teaches classes abroad as does Robin Hodson, both helping to reach out to other countries with needed information.

Our NSAC Rev. Rosemary Calderalo serves as the ISF's Assistant Secretary and Steve Vogel, also with the NSAC, is the Corresponding Secretary. The ISF is also supported by our NSAC President, Rev. Christine Krithades, who is a member. Each who participates with this outreach gains even more than we give. Our faith is taking hold in other countries and the ISF is sewing the seeds.

I, for one, want to be a part of the hand that reaches out to our world, and to participate in the nurturing and expansion of Spiritualism globally. It is a worthwhile and lofty pursuit. What can *you* do to foster and spread the good news that Spiritualism has brought us? Get excited about what you know and what you are learning. If you don't wish to personally reach out, then support and sustain their efforts by your involvement on whatever level is comfortable to you. Support your local church and camp. Support our national association and representatives. Attend the next NSAC Convention. Support the ISF and its global outreach by becoming a member. You *can* participate and you *can* make a difference! Help to move us forward into a time of love and peace, into a world where we can manifest and create a higher vibration—one of harmony and openness—one of love and respect for each other. The ISF is attaining what our governments cannot. They are helping to bind us together in brotherhood. Their motivation is that of love and education. The ISF are planning an event in the Spring that will be in the United States. Do not miss the opportunity to partake.

We *can* change the world...step by step, soul by soul, consciousness by consciousness. And we start with our own. Don't be content to let your faith lie dormant and still. Get excited! Share it! We never die! We have proof! Shout it from the rooftops!

INVICTUS

“I AM THE MASTER OF MY FATE
I AM THE CAPTAIN OF MY SOUL”

Reprinted from TNS 1932
Writer: Rev. Ollah Toph



What can conquer sorrow and bereavement? Not philosophy, not religion alone—religion has tried it for nineteen hundred years and there are still as many tears, as many sighs, as when His Mother Mary cried at the foot of the cross. No, not religion; not science alone, can tell us that after separation there is reunion.

How should philosophy, which harks with the mind only, reasoning, calculating, analytical, holding a formula of cold facts and figures, know? How should philosophy, which has brain but so little heart, know?

How should religion know that there is reunion after separation? Religion has heart, emotion; and brain; but brain which is limited in its reaches for infinitude by the portals of death, by dogma, creed, ritual. Religion is not afraid of the process of dying. Neither is philosophy. Did not Socrates drink his hemlock? Religion holds its banner before fading eyes. It shouts its onward song so that men on the battlefield, marching down into the Valley of the Unknown, in mystic way, even in that grim marching, touch the confines of the stars for a breath and bring back the overtone of the un-conquered in their singing. But religion itself is afraid of death. It is conquered by death. Else would it penetrate beyond the portals. It does not. It leads a soul into the Valley of the Unknown. It leaves him there. And for those who, farther down the road, away from the valley await religion's return, it has platitudes, sophistries.

“It is well with his soul.” As if that settled it. How can religion, which has held the candle of faith, not the lamp of knowledge, know?

“He will arise at the judgement day, clothed upon with majesty.” Cold comfort for a mother whose little child is out in the blasts of a strange

country which men call death. And who shall judge a man but himself? After all, what judge so stern yet so fair?

No, give him the spiritual counterpart of his own fireside, the beloved of his heart beside him, the singing of the winds foregathered from many countries at his door, the beauty behind the lace—which is to say, the imperishable beauty of Spirit—to his view.

Religion alone cannot prove that there is reunion, that there is life. And these days are proof demanding, questioning days; and no longer the age of miracle but of revelation. The age of light, spiritually and physically.

The nimbus of religion is dim, for all that is created by man is perishable. Such glorification as religion wears is of man's bestowal and not of its own. True religion has the inner radiance shining through its countenance. Yet not that shining alone can comfort those who stand where the Valley of the Unknown has receding footprints at the edge.

How should science say that there is reunion after separation? Science is saying it. Science says that beyond the Valley of the Unknown is the frontier of the known. That beyond the dream of a city not made with hands is the reality of that city. That beyond death is life unconquerable. That beyond the night is the day into which we step after the folding of our hands in sleep.

But not all the proof of science in the matter of continuity or immortality could comfort the soul in bereavement were it unsupported by philosophy and religion. Science attracts. It cries—Stop!

Philosophy and religion answer: “Yes stop. And then—“go on.” Go on because of the understanding of life we give, not only exploration of the country beyond, but in exploration of life here and now.

Go on until men become interpreters of the universal beauty, the harmony beating at their souls. Until, having dwelt in conscious moments in the light of the stars, having reached celestialty, they shall bring back from the land of the unconquered something to glorify the commonplace; to make life more livable here. And in that day every man shall exclaim truly with William Earnst Henley: “I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul.”

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Healing Services: 10 a.m.

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Fellowship & Refreshments: 11:30 a.m. with a special
program following entitled, “*Demonstration of Trance
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12:45 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. - Cost: \$25



Robin Hodson & Rev. Richard Schoeller will be
available for readings by appointment on Tuesday, March
28th. Contact Rosemary Calderalo at 203-536-6620 to
arrange an appointment.

Robin Hodson, President of the ISF, will be visiting the
following churches in June:

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Church of the Spirit

June 8 - June 10

Contact: Cher Dyle

773-489-5422

churchofthespirit123@yahoo.com

Camp Wonewac, WI

June 15 - June 17th

Contact: Carol Lutekins

nsacsecretary@nsac.org

608-697-8852

Cherry Valley, IL

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815-623-7763

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Events and workshops are being planned at each location.
Please contact individual churches for more information.

For more information and to register visit: <https://www.theisf.com/event/usa-2017/>

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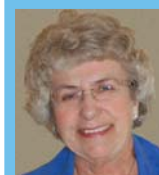


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NSAC Healing Center

Serving as a beacon of light to bring well-being to those in need

Request Spiritualist Healing

To request Spiritualist healing for someone, contact the NSAC Healing Center. Go to www.nsac.org/contact for an email request form or send an email with your healing request to nsachealing@nsac.org.

In order to respect personal privacy, you first must obtain permission from the person, or from their caretaker, to be placed on the *Spiritual Healing Requests* list. Then notify the NSAC Healing Center. Absent Spiritualist healing is directed to a specific individual. To list more than one individual from a household or group, send first and last name of each person. Names will appear on the *Spiritual Healing Requests* list for two months unless removal sooner is requested. Names may be resubmitted if need continues.

What Is Spiritualist Healing? Spiritualist Healing is a simple, safe, and supportive energy therapy that aims to bring balance to mind, body, and soul, as well as to stimulate the body's own natural healing ability.

The spiritual healer links to the healing energy (*Spirit Healers: doctors, surgeons, researchers, scientists*) in a method called *attunement* and is a channel through which the healing energy flows to the person who may or may not be present.

—Harry Edwards*

What Is Absent or Distant Healing? Absent Healing is another modality of healing practiced in Spiritual-

*Harry Edwards is a noted 20th Century authority on Spiritualist Healing.

ism. Spirit healings result from law-governed forces being put into operation following the sending forth of a thought directive (*prayer*). Spirit guides and doctors will diagnose the trouble and its cause, attention being directed to overcoming the cause, and then removing the symptoms.

The healer or group of healers should sit in the silence and attune to spirit, asking the spirit healers to work on behalf of the blending of healing energies being transmitted to the recipient.

An individual can participate in absent healing: simply quiet one's self, attune to the higher entities (*Spirit Healers*), and mentally transmit that energy to the recipient.

Love and compassion among the healer, recipient, and spirit is the basis of harmony, true attunement, and rapport.

—Harry Edwards*

Prayer for Spiritual Healing

I ask the Great Unseen Healing Force
To remove all obstruction from my mind and body
And to restore me to perfect health.
I ask this in all sincerity and honesty
And I will do my part.
I ask this Great Unseen Healing Force
To help both present and absent ones
Who are in need of help,
And to restore them to perfect health.
I put my trust in the love and power of God.

NSAC Healing Center, 13 Cottage Row, PO Box 217, Lily Dale, NY 14752 | nsachealing@nsac.org

Creed of A Medium

By Rev. Melvena V. Hafner

I am a medium—the link that binds heaven and Earth.

It is my privilege to prove the spiritual nature of man.

I draw aside the veil of the physical senses, giving glimpses of life eternal.

I strive to be always in tune for the noblest musicians.

I do not knowingly “tune-in” with the frivolous or unworthy spirits, whose communication would be harmful or valueless.

I would rather die than to deceive anyone, for by my mediumship Spiritualism is judged.

In my hands I hold the Holy Grail. No act of mine shall tarnish its brightness.

In temporal things my Father cares for me.

I do not debase the quality of my gift by coveting ever material rewards.

I am a mouthpiece of the higher spheres, through whom are spoken divine love and wisdom for the blessing of the Earth plane.

I hold myself above all petty personal feelings and strive to let nothing hurt me.

Though misunderstood and sorely discouraged,

I do my work, for my message is greater than I.

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

LILY DALE

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

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

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

PIROG, Cyndi; CM; 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

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

VIRGINIA BEACH

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

• WASHINGTON •

TACOMA

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

• WISCONSIN •

BROOKLYN

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

DIRECTORY OF NSAC CHARTERED CHURCHES & AUXILIARIES

• ARIZONA •

GLENDALE • Church of the Living Spirit • 3736 W. Wahalla Lane, Glendale, AZ 85308; Pastor Rev. Janet Tisdale, NST, (480)510-2581; Sun. Svc 10:30am.; www.churchofthelivings.wix.com/community-church.

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

• CALIFORNIA •

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

AUBURN • Circle of Love Spiritualist Community • Canyon View Community Ctr; 471 Maidu Dr. 95603; Sun. Svc 10am; All Message Svc Thurs 7pm; For class schedule contact Pastor, Rev. June E. Killmer, NST; JuneKillmer@surewest.net; (916)783-3546 Pres. Katrina Thompson; Secy: Marti Carr. Visit: circleoflovespiritualistcommunity.org.

AUBURN • The Spiritualist Chapel of the Pines • 457 Grass Valley Hwy #7, 95603; Sun. Svcs 10am; Rev. George Brenner, Pastor Emeritus; All Message Svc Fri. 7pm; Pres. Al Freitag, afreitag@pacbell.net; Int. Sec. Terri Freitag; spiritualistchapelofthepines.com; (530)823-1816

SAN FRANCISCO • First Spiritual Temple • Svc: 2nd & 4th Sundays, 10am at 33 Banbury St., 94132. Healing at svc & privately by appt. Classes, Lectures. Rev. Elsie Ann Soria, NST, Pastor. Pres: Ben Santiago. (650)731-4490. Email: 4kateri@gmail.com. 370 F St. #309, Colma CA 94014.

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

SAN LEANDRO • Spiritualist Church of Two Worlds • 1550 San Leandro Blvd. 94577; Svcs: Sun. Healing at 10:30; Devotional 10:45am to noon. Pastor Betty Nauratil, NST. (925)930-6663; Pres: Rev. Sandra Deckinger, NST. sandi_dckngr@yahoo.com; (415)350-5522. Classes Avail. Mail to: 1271 Washington Ave. #140, San Leandro 94577

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

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

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

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

• CONNECTICUT •

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

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

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

NIAN TIC - 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.

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

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

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

WILLIMANTIC - The First Spiritualist Church of Willimantic • 268 High St., 06226, (860)423-5774; Services 10:30am Sundays; Visit: www.firstspiritualistchurch.org.

• FLORIDA •

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

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

• ILLINOIS •

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

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

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

LEROY • J. T. & E. J. Crumbaugh Spiritualist Church • 102 S. Pearl St., PO box 174, IL, 61752; 309-962-9076. Sun-Lyceum 11am; Church svc: 12pm; Fellowship after svc. Sec: Dorothy Kopaskey. Visit crumbaughchurch.com; email: crumbaughchurch@live.com. Facebook: JT & EJ Crumbaugh Memorial Spiritualist Church, NSAC.

• INDIANA •

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

• MAINE •

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

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

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

HARTFORD - Pinpoint of Light Spiritualist Camp – Seasonal day camp June - Sept., Mail: 546 Town Farm Rd., 04220-5115. Email: pinpointoflightcamp@gmail.com; Web: pinpointoflight.org; (207)515-1016; Sec: Rev. Stephanie Frobes.

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

NORTHPORT - Temple Heights Spiritual Camp • 4 Park St. (TH), 04849; June 26-Sept 9, 2017; Private Readings 9-4pm daily; Workshops Sat. 9:30am & 1pm. Circles, message & table tipping W-F-Sat. at 7pm.; Church svc: Sundays 10:30am & Ths 7pm.; Camp: (207)338-3029; www.templeheightscamp.org; Pres. Jean Bower (207) 338-1355. Sec: Mandy Everett (207)462-0268.

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

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

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

• MASSACHUSETTS •

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

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

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

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

• MICHIGAN •

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

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

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

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

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

• MINNESOTA •

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

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

• MISSOURI •

ST. LOUIS - Fifth Spiritualist Church of St. Louis • 6026 S. Kingshighway Blvd., 63109-3558; Sun. Service 10:30 a.m.; Healing, Meditation & Message, 1st Wed. of month 7pm.;

Pastor Marilyn Kalna, (314)707-3934; Pres. Kevin Folsom, 636-377-2109; 5thspiritstl.com

• NEBRASKA •

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

• NEVADA •

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

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

• NEW HAMPSHIRE •

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

• NEW JERSEY •

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

• NEW YORK •

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

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

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

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

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

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

• OHIO •

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

• PENNSYLVANIA •

PITTSBURGH - First Spiritualist Church • Mallenwood Manor, 1318 Singer Place, Wilksburg, PA; Svcs 1st & 3rd Sun. 11am-1pm; Healing, meditation, lesson & messages followed by social. Tues: Call for info on home circles & mediumship classes. Pastoral committee: Rev. Carol O'Hare, NST. & Rev. Michele Saling, MREdEdJD. 1stspiritualistchurch.org. Facebook: PittsburghSpiritualistChurch. 412-672-1272 Ofc. 412-245-1438 fax.

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; Pres. Margie Briggs (757)421-9631; Sec. Rev. Lynn Streeper, (757)687-6660; Lyceum Dir. James McMillan.

• WEST VIRGINIA •

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

• WASHINGTON •

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

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

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

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

TACOMA - Church of Eternal Light • Svcs 5:30pm Wednesdays at Crescent Moon Gifts. 2502 6th Ave. 98406. Community projects following svcs. Rev. Deliah Kieffer; visit spiritualistanswers.com.

• WISCONSIN •

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

BROOKLYN - Summerland's Lakeview Spiritualist Church • 317 N. Rutland Ave., 53521; Rev. Annette L. Haak, (608)354-2694; Twice a month services on Thu., 7pm.; SLSCMADISON.ORG

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

• CANADA •

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

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

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

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LYCEUM

HEALING

Healing is a wonderful thing—be it physical, emotional, financial, or mental. Healing has been proven to work on people. They have to be willing to be open to receive and do their part, and then healing starts to occur for the individual's highest and best. We have all heard of documented cases where healing has been proven to work. I am no different, and I know that the healing energies of Spirit, and Infinite Intelligence work.

When I was young, I was very badly injured by a horse. My entire face was crushed and I was not supposed to have survived. Luckily with the help of wonderful surgeons, doctors, nurses, parents and Spirit, I was healed. Because of my age, I was lucky enough not to have any pins, or metal plates put in my face to reconstruct it. I did have multiple surgeries over the years, due to my face growing and due to the injuries the bones had to be moved into the correct place so nothing would collapse.

I have had many scans showing the facial fractures over the years, however last time that I had a scan an amazing thing happened. There were no signs of fractures, scar tissue or even surgical evidence of any kind. The doctor that performed the scan knew my history, but could not explain why there was no evidence of the accident on the scans. Because I did my part, and was aided by the help of the healing energies, I am able to demonstrate to others that healing really works.

The NSAC Department of Lyceums

Written by: Rev. Havivah Richards, NST

Church of the Living Spirit, AZ

KNOW!

Spiritualism teaches continuous progressive unfoldment. It does not project to the aspiring mind: *Be content; remain where you are. . . . Rather it teaches, use your mind, cultivate your skill; develop your soul powers, climb the heights and fear not; the universe and its glories are your heritage—build your home among the stars.*

—attributed to *Emma Hardinge Britten*

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

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



Morris Pratt Institute

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THE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION UPON WHICH SPIRITUALISM IS BUILT



Declaration of Principles

NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES

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