

# THE NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST

Summit Magazine

Sept/Oct 2015

## Inside This Issue:

Space, Science  
Mind & Spirit

Tolerance

Your Spirit Band  
& You



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The National Spiritualist Summit  
Magazine





# The Most Famous “Haunted” House in America

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

In America, spirits can be found everywhere. If you were to throw a dart at a map of the USA, it would likely land on one out of thousands of possible locations which has a history or tradition of sightings and hauntings. Historically, the reports of haunted places are perhaps too numerable to count. But in all of American history there is really only one place that deserves the title of being the most haunted house in America—the White House.

The White House is hardly anyone’s definition of a creaky, spooky old abandoned mansion, yet the amount of psychic or paranormal events that occur in and around the White House are staggering. The White House has been home to all of our presidents since 1800, and of those former presidents, at least 20 have been seen or sensed (as well as their family members) within the White House or around Washington’s historical sites.

There have been 25 presidential administrations to report paranormal events taking place within the White House. The majority of these reports came directly from the presidents or First Ladies. There were at least 15 reported sightings of spirits of various former First Ladies, but the most commonly reported spirit to walk through the halls of the White House over the years has been Abraham Lincoln.

One of the other most routine spirits to make an appearance in the White House is Abigail Adams, the wife of our second President, John Adams. When they were living in the White House, the building construction was incomplete. As the First Lady to ever live in the White House, she had to make the best of its damp and poorly lit interior.

She had her household duties to attend to, and she found that the East Room was the driest room in the mansion. This is where she chose to hang the laundry, and seemed to have developed an affection for the room. 109 years later, President Taft re-assigned the room for official and state functions, but Mrs. Adams couldn’t care less. During the Taft years, several reports were made about Abigail Adams standing at the doors to the East Room, still holding loads of laundry to be hung. Her apparition was also followed with the scent of wet laundry and soap.

Perhaps the First Lady to have made the most dramatic impact on the appearance and function of the White House as a spirit was Dolly Madison, who lived there from 1809 to 1817. Large portions of the White House were rebuilt after the British burned it during the War of 1812. Shortly after, Dolly Madison planted a rose garden as a legacy gift for future residents.

During the administration of Woodrow Wilson, his wife, Edith decided to have the garden moved and relocated. Evidently, Dolly’s reaction proved to be a good example of a ghost having an old-fashioned “hissy fit.”

It is reported that Dolly materialized before the gardeners just as they were about to put their spades and shovels into the earth. The gardeners reported that she stomped around the garden as though protecting it while waving her arms wildly. It is said that she used language that was not of a proper nature in public, especially



in that day and age.

Thereafter, to appease Dolly's Spirit, hundreds of roses were planted in her honor and the garden has never been disturbed again. To this day, the famed rose garden of the White House is considered a national treasure.

There have been at least four Presidents and six First Ladies that have consulted healers, psychics and mediums within the walls of the White House. Perhaps the most famous of this band of First Ladies to experience spirits in the white House is Mary Todd Lincoln. Not only an avowed Spiritualist, she also possessed some mediumistic abilities of her own. One of her encounters involved the Spirit of Thomas Jefferson. He was fond of the yellow oval office on the second floor, which is next to the Lincoln Bedroom. This was the room where Jefferson relaxed and entertained company. And as an accomplished violinist, he would play for visitors in this room whenever the opportunity arose. During Mrs. Lincoln's stay in the White House, she was heard to make the remark, "My, my, how that Mr. Jefferson does play the violin."

Mary Lincoln also received the Spirit of our 7th President, Andrew Jackson. His bedroom, now known as the Rose Room, seemed to be his favorite haunt. Mrs. Lincoln spoke of his cursing and stomping about his bedroom late at night. The Rose Room has since had a known "cold spot" which the White House cannot seem to explain.

During the late 1940s, a maid reported President Jackson's appearance in the Rose Room. In the 50s, a seamstress named Lillian Rogers Parks also reported seeing Jackson, and wrote about it in her book, *Thirty Years Backstairs at the White House*. In 1964, President Lyndon Johnson is reported to also have had an encounter with President Jackson.

In 1991, George H. W. Bush reportedly saw LBJ. (Interestingly enough, the first President Bush was head of the CIA during the 70s and oversaw the remote viewing program and other psychic research projects.)

Abraham Lincoln is the President who has returned to be seen within the White House the greatest number of times, and for the greatest length of time. President Theodore Roosevelt spoke of Lincoln walking the hallways of the White House, "...all the time, I see him in the different rooms and in the halls." During the administration of Calvin Coolidge, his wife Grace saw Lincoln standing at a window of the Yellow Oval Office, staring out into the distance. During his own time, this room served as his library.

Lincoln's spirit was reportedly the most active during the FDR administration. During WWII, Winston Churchill stayed in the Lincoln Bedroom one night and then refused to stay in the room again. Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands also visited at the White House and stayed in the Lincoln Bedroom. She reported hearing a knock at the door and answered it, anticipating a message. Instead it was Mr. Lincoln who was standing at the door, causing her to faint from fright. When she told FDR about this incident, he replied that he wasn't surprised, as he has seen Lincoln many times himself.

President Truman, at one time, decided to play a practical joke on guests that were staying in the Lincoln bedroom. He asked his doorman to impersonate Lincoln and scare the people. On the day of the prank, the doorman backed out and refused to do it. However the spirit of Lincoln did make an appearance and got the attention of a Secret Service agent.

President Eisenhower once met Lincoln in a hallway as they passed each other going in different directions. He told his story to his press secretary, who then broke the news to the public on a network TV show.

First Ladies Jacqueline Kennedy and Lady Bird Johnson also saw the manifestation of Lincoln within the White House. Most of the sightings of Lincoln were around or within the Lincoln Bedroom. During his time in office, this room served as his Cabinet room. This was the room in which he signed the Emancipation Proclamation, which we, as Spiritualists, believe was inspired by Spirit. (Note: It is only now referred to as the "Lincoln Bedroom" because his bed was more recently moved into it.)

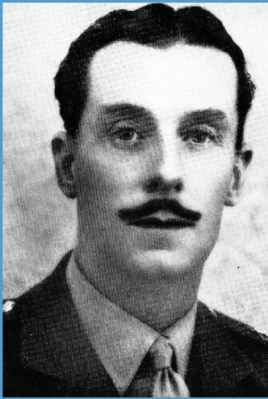
President Gerald Ford's daughter, Susan, once saw Lincoln's spirit in the Lincoln Bedroom and swore that she would never set foot in that room again. President Reagan and First Lady Nancy both reported seeing Mr. Lincoln in the bedroom staring out a window. In 1987, she confirmed the story of his sighting in Newsweek.

This is but a brief overview of the apparitions which have been experienced in the White House. The testimony of these witnesses, who were often the leaders of this great land, seems to have not been adequate evidence to convince anyone of the truth of life after death. The haunted history of the White House is a great tool at our disposal to help teach the sublime truth of our faith. These experiences are a gift for us, as Spiritualists, to use to help enlighten the world. We should be familiar with the broader scope of our history and use it for the betterment of all.



# Not “Till Death Do Us Part,”

## But Beyond



Roy Dixon-Smith



Betty Dixon-Smith



Minnie Harrison

As Roy Dixon-Smith, a British career military officer serving in the Indian army, came to see it, the marriage vow, “till death do us part,” does not apply to everyone. After the death of his wife, Betty, he continued to hear from her, communicate with her, and even see her. He told of his continuing romance with Betty in his 1952 book, *New Light on Survival*.

Suffering from a condition called bacterial endocarditis, Betty passed into Spirit in India on August 23, 1944, during her early 30s, after some five years of marriage to Roy. “Exhortations to prayer and faith and assurances of a future reunion in a vague sort of heaven, supported by biblical texts, were of no use whatever to me,” Dixon-Smith recorded his initial despair, adding that at the very most religion offered him nothing more than a gray tinge to his black despair.

After returning to Scotland and depositing their four-year-old daughter, Cherry, with her aunt in Falkirk, Dixon-Smith went to London and began exploring mediumship. Over the next five years, he had numerous evidential sittings in which Betty communicated. They came through clairvoyance, automatic writing, trance voice and even the direct voice, but as of July 1948 he had not yet experienced the materialization phenomenon he had read so much about. He therefore sent a letter to *Psychic News* requesting information on a genuine materialization medium.

The letter resulted in an invitation to the home of a Mr. and Mrs. Patterson of Buckie (Scotland) for a July 31 sitting with a medium, who for privacy purposes, he refers to in his book as “Mrs. D.” Dixon-Smith took with him a dark red rose and Betty’s wedding ring. A minute or two after the members of the circle took their seats, a red light was turned on and a male voice (the medium’s control) addressed the circle.

He began introducing materialized figures before they emerged from the materialization cabinet. “The first few visitors were for other sitters,” Dixon-Smith wrote. “They spoke clearly, naturally, and intelligently, and were very apparently recognized. Each only lasted for about a minute, sinking swiftly to the floor as he or she withdrew within the curtains.”

The male voice then announced that he had a lady present for the “gentleman by the door,” and asked him to call her out. Dixon-Smith responded by asking her to come out. “A tall slim figure thereupon emerged from the left edge of the curtains, stretched out a hand, picked up my rose, crossed the floor to my chair, walking outside the curtains and in full view of the circle, and threw the rose in my lap,” Dixon-Smith continued. “I stood up to peer into the face dimly seen in the enveloping ‘cowl’ whereupon Mrs. Patterson exclaimed, ‘Don’t touch her!’”

The materialized figure stepped back toward the curtains and “said in a voice and accent exactly resembling Betty’s, ‘He won’t do that. He knows better.’” While the voice seemed like Betty’s and the shape of the head and face appeared to be hers, Dixon-Smith could not make out her features well enough to confirm that it was Betty. He was certain, however, that it was not “Mrs. D” masquerading as Betty, as she was a much shorter and stout woman. As the materialization lasted only about a minute, Dixon-Smith deemed it inconclusive.

It was pointed out that the heat of the evening made for less than ideal conditions. The group met again the following night when conditions were cooler. “After a few visitors had come and gone, the guide asked the sitters to sing, ‘I’ll Walk Beside You,’ [Betty’s favorite song],” Dixon-Smith wrote. “At the close of the song, the same slim figure as before emerged from the left edge of the curtain, groped for the ring (which he had placed on a sideboard), and in doing so, knocked the torch (i.e., flashlight) off the sideboard on to the floor.” Mrs.



Patterson picked up the ring and gave it to the materialized figure, after which the figure slipped it on Dixon-Smith's little finger. "I felt the touch of her fingers as she put it on, and they were warm and seemed as normal in all respects as any physical ones."

A torch was then permitted by the guide. "I was standing up within a few inches of Betty's form, and I peered closely into her face which was on a level with my own," Dixon-Smith continued. "My critical faculties dominated my emotion as I took in every detail of the features; yet it was not till the following day that the full wonder and joy of this experience came over me."

Dixon-Smith further explained that the "ectoplasmic wrapping" made it difficult to clearly distinguish the features, but he was now certain that it was Betty. "Speech combined with materialization is very rarely possible, since the 'power' is generally used up in the forming of the figure," he explained what he later came to understand. "That is why materialized people can say so little, and the more they talk the shorter the time their forms can last."

Soon after the Buckie sittings, Dixon-Smith arranged a sitting with Minnie Harrison at the home of Sydney and Gladys Shipman in Middlesbrough. "For evidential reasons I revealed no details of my private life before the séance was over, and for the same reason they would have refused to have listened to them, since they were just as anxious as I for genuine evidence," he explained his approach to such sittings.

His first sitting with Mrs. Harrison took place on October 9, 1948 with 10 people, including the medium and himself. Tom Harrison, Minnie's son, was one of those present and confirms the validity of the Dixon-Smith sitting in his 2004 book, *Life After Death—Living Proof*.

The first phase of the sitting included "direct voice" whereby a trumpet hovered in front of the sitter to be addressed. Some voices came through loud and clear, while others were difficult to understand. When the trumpet settled in front of Dixon-Smith, the circle guide gave an "excellent description" of Betty and then allowed her to speak directly. "Betty then attempted to speak to me," Dixon-Smith recorded. "After prolonged and seemingly painful effort and a few exclamations to the effect that she couldn't do it, she managed to say, 'I am your Betty.'"

At the conclusion of the direct-voice phase, the red light was turned on and the room was well illuminated, so that Dixon-Smith had no difficulty in observing forms and faces.

Minnie Harrison, who had been in the circle and not in trance during the direct-voice phase, then took her place behind the curtain.

Dixon-Smith observed a half-dozen materializations of friends and relatives of the other sitters. "I rose from my chair, walked up to them and shook them by the hand, and we made conventional remarks to each other just exactly as everyone does when first meeting a stranger," he wrote. "They were swathed in white muslin-like draperies and cowls... They were solid, natural, and except for their apparel, exactly like ordinary living people. In fact, had everyone been dressed similarly, it would have been quite impossible to distinguish these materialized forms from the rest of the company. Their hands felt perfectly natural and life-like in every respect and their handgrips were very firm. They smiled, laughed, and chatted to me and the others; all their features, complexions, and expressions being perfectly clear in that ample light... There were mutual cheery good-byes as they departed, sinking apparently through the floor in precisely the same manner as the forms at Buckie."

Then the guide announced the arrival of Betty and asked them to sing, "I'll Walk Beside You." As they sang, Betty emerged from the curtain and stood silently in full view. "I rose from my chair and walked up to the figure, taking the extended hand in mine," Dixon-Smith further recorded the experience. "I examined the hand, and it was just like Betty's and quite unlike the medium's. I stared into the face, and recognized my wife. We spoke to each other, though what we said I cannot remember, for I was deeply stirred and so was she and her voice was incoherent with emotion."

One of the sitters asked if Dixon-Smith could kiss her and Betty responded in the affirmative. "I then kissed her on her lips which were warm, soft, and natural," Dixon-Smith went on. "Thereupon she bent her head and commenced to weep, and in a moment or two she sank. I watched her form right down to the level of the floor at my feet where it dissolved, the last wisp of it being drawn within the cabinet."

In concluding his book, Dixon-Smith wrote that he realizes that the reader will find it difficult to believe such amazing accounts of life after death as he has related. "Yet why should these accounts be so incredible when all professing Christians must believe in the similar materialization of Jesus to His mother and disciples, as I can now quite easily do?"





# Beauty

Writer: Rev. Judy Campbell-Clark, NST  
Summerland Spiritualist Church of the Comforter, CA

**H**ow do we define beauty? Clearly, it's subjective. Each of us experiences beauty differently. We all have our own aesthetic intelligence, our own faculty of perceiving beauty.

The one commonality of beauty is its ability to touch all of our senses. Beauty is far too multidimensional not to. For instance, we can enjoy the ocean from a distance and marvel at its vast beauty. Or we can choose to walk barefoot on its shores, smell the salt air, become immersed in the sound of the rhythmic waves coming onshore, and allow ourselves to fully engage in the experience of beauty.

"Wabi-sabi" is a Japanese aesthetic of beauty that has come to mean "flawed beauty." *Wabi* means rustic simplicity, freshness or quietness. It can be found in natural or man-made objects that have quirks and anomalies, such as a sentimental chipped coffee cup or a well-worn hearth. *Sabi* means patina and wear, and the beauty that comes with age shown on a rusty gate or a favored spoon. Wabi-sabi acknowledges three simple realities that can be a metaphor for life: Nothing lasts. (Our physical bodies do not last.) Nothing is finished. (We continue growing.) Nothing is perfect. (Acceptance of what is.)

In his book, *Care of the Soul*, Thomas Moore argues that beauty is absolutely essential for the health of the soul. He said, "If we lack beauty in our lives, we'll probably suffer from depression, paranoia, meaninglessness and addiction." That's a pretty strong statement. If true, isn't beauty a preventative prescription for good health? Beauty itself is a kind of medicine. It lifts our consciousness, gives us relief, heightens our senses, and helps us heal. Architects know this, for as they design new hospitals, they incorporate specific features that help create a healing environment.

There is a relatively new science called neuroesthetics. It studies how and where our brains respond to the experience of beauty and our appreciation of art. While this may be a new approach to understanding our perception of beauty, there is a much older approach. Science refers to it as "biological ornament." This refers to animal species which have decorative characteristics that are not utilitarian, and serve only to attract a mate. It's common among birds whose males are generally more colorful than the females. Think of a plain peahen compared to a peacock.

Yet there is one plain male called the bowerbird who attracts his mate by building elaborate and colorful nests made of twigs, colored rocks, iridescent husks, shells and shiny objects. So precise is their construction, that if something gets moved, the Bowerbird puts it right back where it came from. So what does nature tell us about beauty? It attracts.

Recently, a small group of us were leaving a church meeting at night. When we arrived outside and looked up at the sky, the light and the clouds and the moon were so strikingly beautiful it stopped us in our tracks.

Then and there we decided to do something in response. On the count of three, we howled at the moon. This visceral expression of gratitude was exhilarating. Though it was our way to connect with beauty, it also connected us to each other for a moment in time, perhaps later forgotten, but captured forever within our lives' experience.





Moore also said, “The soul craves beauty.” Why is it so important in our lives? Because beauty is a connective force. It can link friends and strangers when they share moments of awe. It can link us to our physical senses, to nature, to our own Spirit, and to the Divine.

It also heals, inspires and transforms. Even one small moment of beauty adds to the sum of who we are. It is a sacred gift that is always within our grasp if we make the effort to perceive it with our physical senses.

Yet we aren’t limited to just those senses. There’s another kind of beauty that is not visible. We can’t touch it, see it, or hear it. But we can feel it with our sixth sense. It is the beauty of another soul.

When we’re on the same frequency, we’ll be able to recognize it. That frequency is love. Love is the soul’s eternal beauty. As Rumi said, “The only lasting beauty is the beauty of the heart.”

The Navajo have a philosophy called “Walking in Beauty.” This is their Prayer:

I walk with beauty before me  
I walk with beauty behind me  
I walk with beauty above me  
I walk with beauty below me  
I walk with beauty all around me  
Your world is so beautiful, Oh God.

“May you walk in beauty.”

Most importantly, an awareness of beauty is gratitude made manifest. May we realize our blessings and give thanks.

# Conflict

## A Different Point of View

Writer: Rev. Wayne Harvey, NST  
Summerlands Lakeview Spiritualist Church, WI

It has been said before that where two or more are gathered together, there will be conflict. While it would be nice to believe that the environment within our churches are free of conflict, it is inevitable that conflicts will come to pass.

Conflict is not necessarily a bad thing; sometimes we just have differing points of view. Disagreements and discord are simply a part of the human condition, and as long as the church is comprised of humans, there will be conflict. While conflict can be beneficial, it has the potential to be damaging to both the church and the individuals involved. Often the real damage results not from the issue in conflict, but by how the conflict is handled. As with adversity, conflict can either make us better or bitter. How we approach conflict may be the determining factor whether a church is strengthened or disrupted and shattered.

Disharmony and fighting among the leadership may occur within any kind of church. Power struggles emerge, egos take over, and with what started as unified harmony in spiritual teaching and guidance quickly becomes a divided camp. Services become a platform of debate on who is right and who is wrong, polarizing the congregation.

Disharmony may also be caused by a member or members of the congregation as a result of gossip, rumors, false accusations, or misconceptions about another member of the congregation or leadership of the church. Members will struggle against each other, with an “us against them” mentality setting in. Selective perception both confirms and fuels their negative stereotyping. Parties may begin to avoid each other and assume the worst of one another.

If messages, announcements and other communications from the platform are vague or inconsistent, it can cause a sense of uncertainty and discord among the congregation. Special events are not passed on and services seem to be conducted with a lack of control or preparation.

In all situations mentioned before, one of the worst things a leader of a church can do when he or she recognizes there is discord is to ignore that it exists. Conflict does not go away, people do. People usually don’t leave churches because they see something they like better; they leave because they are unhappy where they are. And, if those who leave are in close relationships with others in the church, they often aren’t the only ones who leave. Discord of any nature can be poison to a church; I would not ignore the issues and hope they go away. I would gather the facts from both sides and bring them together to hear both sides from a neutral position. Take sides with neither party, and recognize that reconciliation is the ultimate goal.

I would not approach the issue with an authoritarian attitude. Do not “pull rank” and impose a verdict on the issue. Refrain from enacting a “don’t talk” rule, or labeling any discussion on the topic as “gossip.” Efforts to silence the opposition will only add fuel to the fire. It is essential that the mediator remain completely impartial and remain so.

In matters where the dispute is between those in the congregation and the Pastor and/or leadership, it may be impossible to find a true neutral party within the church. Perhaps it may be beneficial to bring in someone from outside the church, not in a position of authority, but as a servant, one whose job is to facilitate communication, resolution and reconciliation.

The main goal should be reconciliation. The restoration of understanding between people in disagreement should be the primary goal in resolving any dispute between Spiritualists.





# SPACE



# SCIENCE

## *Mind & Spirit*

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

Having just experienced a presentation at Cape Town Planetarium, I feel fascinated but also frustrated. I am fascinated by the technology and the incredible pictures of our neighboring planets and even more so by the Hubble telescope photographs of distant stars and nebulae. However, the presentation seemed hollow and something vitally important was missing. What could that be?

My frustration is, I suppose, partly due to my knowledge of the spiritual dimension we each possess. The presentation, though full of interesting facts and suppositions, was equally full of “we don’t know” and out and out guesswork masquerading as scientific expertise, even allowing for the obvious influence of Hollywood. It was hollow because it was so superficial. Whilst I can just about forgive physicists for being so materialistic because they are dealing purely with matter, I find it impossible to excuse astronomers and astrophysicists. Surely what they see should produce a greater sense of awe than they evince.

To my simple mind, the vast distances and dimensions involved call for a recognition that only by conceiving a methodology that goes beyond the brain, and the physical reaction to what we experience and see, can sense be made of the universe as revealed by space probes and telescopes. It is impossible to imagine all this being the result of blind chance or “only give us time to develop more sophisticated instruments and vehicles and all will be revealed.” I lost count of the number of times the commentator spoke of our children and our children’s children being able to do what we find impossible. Whilst this is undoubtedly true, and even recognizing the

need to simplify astronomy to meet the audiences’ ability to understand, I found the approach condescending.

In the majesty of the Heavens lie all the verities of human life: Its grandeur, its boundlessness, its endless variety, its complexity and yet also its simplicity. When reduced to its basics, the universe and all its millions of worlds and suns is the result of a few, but incredible, Natural Laws. Laws that for their comprehension demand the overwhelming and overriding presence of *Mind*—Mind through which the Spirit shapes not just the physical worlds and all that is in them, but also those unseen Spiritual Worlds. (Unseen by our physical eyes at least). *Mind* casts the shadow that humanity imagines as reality, and is the essence of the true, inner self and that Great Spirit we know to be God.

What we imagine is our reality here is just a shadow—a shadow cast by the Spiritual World that is our true home and to which we all will return. All physical manifestation originates as a spiritual manifestation. Every physical world is a duplicate of a spiritual original. This is a truth that one day particle physicists will discover. We need to recognize that the immortal, invisible portion of human beings, the part that gives us life and consciousness, the part that we share with God, is both Mind and Spirit.

If only scientists would abandon their myopic insistence that everything can be measured by using either physical instruments or purely physical observations and that the mind is part of the physical brain. Abandon this way of thinking and our understanding of all things would grow by leaps and bounds. It would grow because in abandoning their prejudices, scientists would open their minds. Open them to the influence of those in the Spiritual World





who understand so much more about everything than even the most knowledgeable amongst us. Once the Mind is accorded its true importance, it can be studied intensively and its power recognized. We could learn how to harness that power in the way earlier civilizations did and those in the Spirit World do every day. The power of the mind, properly focused, can literally move mountains. Equally, it can devise ways, using its power, to explore the physical universe without the need for rockets and spaceships. As with any power however, the greatest caution must be exercised to ensure access to it is universally available.

Many of the mysteries of the universe, which have puzzled humanity for ages, could be de-mystified. If only we all accepted and sought to understand more fully that life, animate and inanimate, is more about Mind and Spirit than it is about its physical envelope. It demands a sea of change in human perception but unless this is achieved, humanity will continue to wallow in fear and stagger from one materialistic disaster to another. This world of conflict need not be so. Given a real understanding of our spiritual dimension, conflict can be seen in its true perspective; i.e., the means whereby the individual Spirit learns to develop character and realize its true potential. Once this is accepted, humanity will no longer see conflict in terms of “us and them.” Fear and hatred would be replaced by understanding and love.

What an opportunity this presents to us! Though we would need to take care, the study of Mind is used to bring greater freedom to all and not a means for a few to enslave the rest. Must we destroy much of what we have achieved in making physical life more tolerable before we turn away from materialism and embrace a philosophy that more closely reflects the totality of human existence? All the competing religious philosophies can be reconciled and peace prevail everywhere, if we would only accept Mind as a spiritual faculty and use it as it should be used. There would be so much to learn and so many wonders to be seen and experienced we would no longer waste time over petty feuds and religious bigotry.

# If Only

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

Have you ever said to yourself, “if only?” If only I had more money. If only I had a nicer house. If only I was married. If only...

“If only” thinking is an illusion that something outside of yourself will make you happy when, in fact, only you have the control to create your own happiness. Only you can make you happy and you do it with your thoughts.

Happiness is a choice, and you have the tool to choose it. That tool is your thoughts. Your thoughts are yours alone. Thoughts are the birthplace of your outer expression. First you think something, then you do it. It then becomes a part of your physical expression. You can choose to see things from any number of different angles. We have all heard the expression of the glass half full or half empty. How one chooses to think about the glass has direct impact upon one’s ability to live life in a state of happiness. Yes, happiness is a state of mind.

Happiness is not circumstantial. Again I will refer to the “if only” game we play in our minds. If only my significant other did this, or didn’t do that. Your happiness is impacted by the way you think of what your significant other did or didn’t do, not the act itself. We are the responsible party for what we choose to think about.

So if happiness is a choice, what about enjoyment? Can you be happy but not enjoying yourself? Enjoyment is a responsibility. It is linked to doing whereas happiness is linked to thinking. Inner and outer. I am happy and enjoy myself when I am able to go for a walk or read a book. Enjoyment is directed from events such as taking a hot bath, watching a football game, visiting with a friend.

The 7th of our Declaration of Principles affirms both happiness and joy. “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”

As human beings, we are personally responsible for our thoughts and consequential actions derived from our thinking. We are also responsible for seeking those events that create an atmosphere of enjoyment for ourselves.

The teachings of Spiritualism help us understand the Natural Laws. It is our moral responsibility to align ourselves with these laws to live a happy and joyous life.





# Tolerance

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

This has been a tumultuous summer. Social change is in the air: the legalization of same sex marriage, the removal of the Confederate battle flag from the State Capitol of South Carolina, repeated protests over alleged police brutality with respect to African Americans and the recognition of Olympic athlete Bruce Jenner as transgender are just a few events. Inevitably, all of these incidents (and many more I don't have room to mention) have occurred amidst controversy. People hold their opinions dear. Over and over again I have heard the word "tolerance" tossed back and forth, with every group claiming that it has a right to its beliefs and practices.

I'll admit that times like these are never easy. As well shielded and grounded as we can be, it's hard not to be affected when emotions around us run high. This is true of the general population, all of us humans—who are subtly influenced by the currents of feelings around us. It helps to be aware, to know that our thoughts are impacted by the pain, joy, or indignation present in our communities. If we are cognizant of that, it makes it a bit easier to sort out what we know is within the stillness of ourselves and what is external. My personal challenge has always been to tread the middle road, to try and be objective and balanced about events occurring in our society. There are two sides, at least, to every issue. I've always been left brained and logical, so examining what I feel makes sense and helps me organize my thinking. In the interests of that, I went looking for what "tolerance" really is and what it means.

Tolerance, as defined by Webster, is "the ability or willingness to accept something, in particular the existence of opinions or behavior that one does not necessarily agree with." OK, let me think about that. Many people define tolerance in a very uneven way, as in "You need to accept my viewpoint, but I think yours is horse manure and I intend to

say so. If you don't agree with me you're a bigot and a bad person." That particular definition has become prevalent and tolerance has come to mean, basically, if a belief or practice offends someone it must not be allowed. I saw a Facebook post that sums up my thinking on this: "Just because you are offended, doesn't mean you're right."

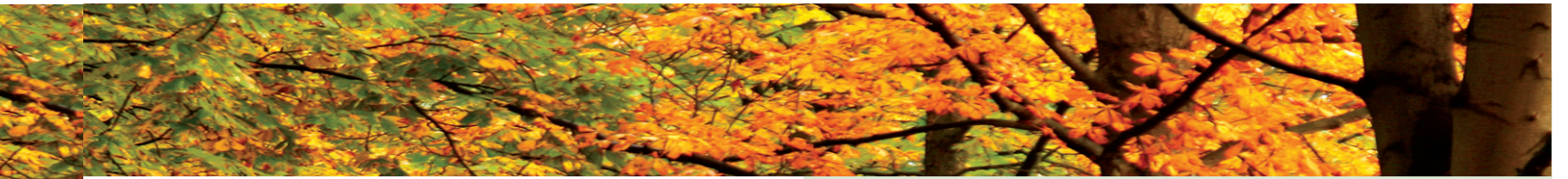
There has been a lot of this type of definition going around, hasn't there? Such as, "I find same sex marriage offensive, and it shouldn't be allowed." "I find people who don't support same sex marriage to be abhorrent; they should put their religious beliefs aside." "I find the Confederate battle flag to be offensive; it is a symbol of hate." "I find those folks who don't know enough history about the flag or the Civil War to be ignorant; we shouldn't give in to them." Back and forth it goes.

When I lived in Alaska my son's school didn't allow Christmas decorations because they showed a lack of tolerance, since everyone wasn't Christian. At the time we were a Pagan family and I and my coven mates thought this was nuts—winter festivals are cross-cultural and many of the symbols interchangeable, but in the name of tolerance no one was allowed to celebrate, thus proving intolerance of everyone's beliefs. To this day if someone wishes me a "Merry Christmas" I thank them for the kind thought. What's my alternative? Reject a good wish because it isn't my "brand?"

So, what is missing? By definition very few people are actually practicing tolerance the way it is defined. Many of us are all too busy trying to cram our personal points of view upon everyone who may dare to disagree with us. Some even resort to violence, litigation and verbal mud-slinging to do it.

Compassion is defined as "the human quality of understanding the suffering of others." Synonyms include "empathy, fellow-feeling, care and concern." Aha, maybe that's what's missing? Sure seems that way, I didn't see much concern or fellow feeling in the South Carolina legislative





debate over the Confederate battle flag, just a lot of emotional rhetoric meant to make one side or the other feel as though they were thoroughly bad people.

Maybe we did a little better with same sex marriage legalization, but there were still a lot of folks on both sides spewing hatred. That's the first thing we go for, righteous indignation. And, let's face it, once someone is in your face it's a tough task to even listen, let alone admit that they might have a point.

Spiritualism's Fifth Principle reads "We believe that the highest morality is contained in the Golden Rule, 'do unto others as you would have them do unto you.'" The Sixth Principle states "We affirm the moral responsibility of the individual and that we make our own happiness or unhappiness as we obey or disobey Nature's physical and spiritual laws." Not much ambiguity there. The Law of Attraction—are we sowing the seeds of love and cooperation, if we want those things to manifest in our lives? How about the Law of Harmony, all things working together for the better good? Or are we poised and puffed up, just waiting for something we can take offense to? Are we truly compassionate toward others or are we judgmental, dismissing any thought or actions that don't fit our personal code of right and wrong? Maybe the discord in our lives has something to do with us?

In the July/August Issue of the *National Spiritualist Summit*, in an article entitled "Spiritual Silver and Gold," Reverend James S. Ehrhart says: "Do not judge anyone else for what they seem to be doing. The law of sisterhood and brotherhood is based on tolerance and loving understanding. Live by the Law of Love in your understanding of other people's relationships and of your own. Always be guided by the wisdom of your inner light, as to what is right or wrong for you, what is truth, what is the truth for you; but do not try to impose your ideas upon others."

Well, that's pretty definite. I did a little more digging and found the teachings of White Eagle from *Spiritual Unfoldment I*: "Be kind...be kind to one another. Analyze this message and you will be amazed how often we all fall short of being kind. The mind can be arrogant and the mind says, 'I have a right to reason; and this man, or this woman, is wrong.'" When you feel this way, look within and ask, who is wrong? Maybe it is you.

If someone injures you, we beg you to change your viewpoint. Whatever the circumstances, however acute the seeming injustice, there can be no injustice in life. You are but working through your karma, reaping what you have sown, or you are being given an opportunity to learn a valuable lesson. When you can look upon injury with a thankful heart and are grateful for the lesson you have learned, you take a very big stride upon the path. However difficult you find it to accept our words, life circumstances and conditions will teach you to say, "My God and my brother, I thank you."

For this very reason we would have you readjust your attitude towards life and just be kind—kind in your thought—kind in your words, and kind in your actions. If you cannot give constructive criticism don't criticize at all.

As Spiritualists we have access to these teachings and many more from beyond the veil. We know that this mortal life is "practice," a chance to learn, grow and work on perfecting ourselves for the life to come. We also know that when we arrive there, after physical death, how we conducted ourselves on this Earth will be shown to us and our assessment of our actions will make a difference in our progression. Knowing these things to be true sets us to a higher standard—we cannot complain that we did not know what was expected of us now what we can achieve. Spiritualism gives us a "leg up," helping us to chart our course here on Earth.

Can you and I still get steamed by things we see on TV or hear in public places? Sure. And sometimes we open our mouths when we shouldn't. Still, we should pause and think, and to consider that we might not have the whole picture or we might, in fact, be wrong. In the face of blind hatred we can choose to walk away. There are other positive things we can do—set intentions, work for a cause we believe in, do what we can to help others, and pray. It isn't our job to make everyone think as we do, even on days when we're terribly irritable. Our guides are a source of wisdom and comfort, and they can get us through the tough spots. Spirit is always with us.

Spiritualists have always been free thinkers. Within that framework, with grace, we can continue to be a positive influence in this world while remaining compassionate and caring people. The world needs us now more than ever.





# *He Who Gives When He is Asked* Has Waited Too Long

Co-writers: Jackson Pitts, Anne Thomas  
Spiritualist Church of Awareness, FL

**I**mmediately following grave disasters, the world generally comes rushing to the aid of those affected. After all, people are generous by nature and willingly help those that are obviously in need. Strangely, the needs of people in far-off lands have often become more known than those near at hand. What about the countless others who suffer silently and go unnoticed? Members of our own families, coworkers, and countless others that we interact with on a daily basis have needs that we somehow overlook.

Just because they are not trapped beneath collapsed buildings, does not mean that their needs do not scream out for our attention. Many are crushed by the weight of low self-esteem and lack of confidence. They feel unappreciated, unloved, and unsure of themselves. Some are out of touch with the grandeur of life. They are lost souls, far out of touch with the grandeur of life. They are wounded warriors in need of our help. They need to be inspired, uplifted and encouraged to get up after falling so far. Here is where you come in with your ability to make a difference in their lives. And when you do, you make a difference to life itself.

What can you do? Listen to what they have to say with interest and recognize their accomplishments with praise. Don't scold, but smile. Mend their broken spirits with kindness. Remember, no seed ever sees the flower it will become. Your presence is needed because you have the ability to nurture their spirit with inspiration and encourage them to grow.

You may have heard someone say, "I NEED to know what my purpose in life is. Why am I here? How can I find my purpose? It's all so confusing." Well, it DOES become confusing when we focus on what WE need, but the answer generally appears as we put our attention on what the WORLD needs. It needs our help. We are here to contribute to life, to make a difference.

You must not underestimate the significance of your contribution. For when you pick up the torch and lead the way, people will follow, passing on the torch to others. Each day we can make the choice to start a chain of positive action or continue a chain started by another. Every day we have a choice to contribute to hope or despair. Which will you choose? Which is it that the world needs? Philosopher Noam Chomsky once said, "If you assume there is no hope, you guarantee there is no hope. If you assume that there is an instinct for freedom—that there are opportunities to change things, then there is a possibility that you can contribute to making a better world." The choice is yours.

We all want to become successful. The truth is, it's very easy to do. You see, if we measure success by the contributions we make to life, we can easily play a vital role. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968) explains, "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace—a soul generated by love."

You don't have to do anything earth-shattering to make a difference. The smallest things will often have the greatest effect. Offering a smile, a kind word or a little encouragement to others are some small steps you can easily take every day. When you contribute to the self-esteem and self-confidence of another human being, you are offering a priceless gift.

There is a story about a prince who went deer hunting alone. When he came face to face with a deer, he raised his bow, but before he





could shoot, the magical deer spoke to him. The deer asked, "Is this why you are here?" Each day we need to stop, become aware of what we are doing, and ask ourselves the same question. Then ask yourself, "What can I do today that would make a difference in my life and the lives of those around me?" You are unique, with unique talents and strengths. No one else can contribute to life exactly as you can, so if you fail to act, you will be denying the world your unique gift.

We can choose to do great things and relieve the suffering of others through acts of kindness. We should view each interaction as an opportunity to make a difference. It is within our power to make everyone who meets us feel better. Each morning we should wake up with anticipation and excitement because of the many chances we will have to contribute to life. As Norman B. Rice elegantly expressed it, "Dare to reach out your hand into the darkness, to pull another hand into the light."

So, why should we care about contributing? Mainly, so that we share a connection with something much greater than ourselves. Here is how others have expressed why:

"To be a man is to feel that one's own stone contributes to building the edifice of the world." (*Antoine de Saint Exupery*)

"We are not here to merely make a living. We are here to enrich the world, and we impoverish ourselves if we forget this errand."  
(*Woodrow T. Wilson*)

"The purpose of life is not to be happy—but to matter, to be productive, to be useful, to have it make some difference that you have lived at all." (*Leo Rosten, 1908~1997*)

"There is no greater calling than to serve your fellow men. There is no greater satisfaction than to have done it well." (*Walter Reuther, 1907~ 1970*)

We contribute to others for ourselves. Mohandas Gandhi was serving the people of a remote village when he was asked why he was doing it. "Are you doing it for humanitarian reasons?" he was asked. Gandhi answered, "Not at all, I am here to serve no one else than myself, to find my own self-realization through the service of these villagers." Every time we help another, we help ourselves, for when we dig another out of their troubles, we find a place to bury our own.

We contribute in order to return to life the many blessings it freely offers us. As another has said, "We have all drank from wells we did not dig and have been warmed by fires we did not build." So, isn't it only right that we give back?

Robert L. Payton said, "We are temporary stewards with an obligation to manage the inheritance in such a way that it can be passed along even better and stronger than it was when we received it."

Not to give back is not to live. Or, as it was put by Eleanor Roosevelt, "When you cease to make a contribution, you begin to die." Ethel Percy Andrus agrees: "The human contribution is the essential ingredient. It is only in the giving of oneself to others that we truly live."

We contribute to leave a legacy. Albert Pike (1809~1891) clarified: "What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal."

We contribute to experience peace and happiness. World renowned expert on stress, Hans Selye said, "If you want to live a long life, focus on making contributions."

Stephen R. Covey says, "There are certain things that are fundamental to human fulfillment—the essence of these needs is captured in the phrase 'to live, to love, to learn, to leave a legacy.' The need to live is our physical need for such things as food, clothing, shelter, economical well-being, health. The need to love is our social need to relate to other people, to belong, to love and to be loved. The need to learn is our mental need to develop and to grow. And the need to leave a legacy is our spiritual need to have a sense of meaning, purpose, personal congruence, and contribution."

Contributing to life satisfies all these needs while helping to build a better world. In a word, the measure of a man or woman is the degree to which they make a difference in the lives of those they touch. Wouldn't you agree? Our goal as Spiritualists is to see the needs of others, recognize our obligation, and become the solution. But we mustn't wait too long before we act, and he who gives when he is asked has waited too long. Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something. So, act like you make a difference, because you certainly do!







# Disappointment *in Life*

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

One of the most common experiences we all share is disappointment. Who has not been disappointed in someone, something, or even in oneself at some point?

When I began teaching high school in my 20s, I would hear the stories of how disappointed the students were in their parents who could not understand them, were out of touch with the times, and certainly how disappointed the students were with their useless teachers who all should have retired years before.

When I began teaching adults, I heard very similar stories—only this time, I would hear the stories of how disappointed the parents were in their children whom they could not understand, with whom they felt totally out of touch, and certainly they felt disappointed with their own experience of life because life was certainly not a bed of roses. When talking with my friends in Sun City, I heard their stories about their grown children who had literally turned on them, abandoned them, and even stole from them.

What a disappointment these children were for these individuals!

Why do we feel such disappointment? There are two reasons. First, disappointment is always a reflection of our love or passion towards something or someone. If we didn't care about a person or thing, we wouldn't feel that disappointment, but when we have invested 12 or 15 years in a job we love only to be laid off, we feel extreme disappointment and even anger. Our feelings about our neighbor's son who is a shiftless ne'er do well is very different from the disappointment we feel toward our own son. We care. As Martin Luther King Jr. put it, "There can be no deep disappointment where there is no deep love." So this first reason for disappointment represents the first natural law of cause and effect: "You care, you have expectations, the person or thing does not meet your expectations, and you will be disappointed."

When I am disappointed, I need to realize that the disappointment resides in me—not in the other person or situation. When someone says something or makes a fool of himself or herself, does that other person feel disappointment? No—that other person is just being who he or she is. I am the one feeling the disappointment.

So who is hurt? Me! So what can I do about it? Absolutely nothing in terms of fixing the person or situation. The only thing I do is adjust my own expectations.

Sometimes, I think as we grow older or take a class or read a book, we develop these expectations about other people or ourselves. The problem is we are the only ones with those expectations. No one else is reading that book or taking that class. So why do we set ourselves up for that disappointment? Why do we make ourselves the great decider in terms of how things should be done or how people should behave or how events should happen?

Now, let's step back a bit: as a parent, I would have a responsibility to set expectations for my child. As an instructor, I have a responsibility to set expectations for my students. As a manager or supervisor, you would have a responsibility to set goals for your employees. We all have reasonable expectations when living or working with others in certain situations. However, those expectations have boundaries—even with children. At some point, they become adults and live on their own.

Do you know people who are disappointed with everyone and everything? I mean, nothing meets their expectations. These people are so morose! Nothing pleases them. Even the best meal could have been better. A marvelous outfit purchased at a super price—was probably just a shade too



dark in color—or too light—or whatever. These people live in expectation that nothing will be acceptable or up-to-par. That was my family! Nothing was every good enough. I always thought it was an Irish thing until I discovered it operating in other homes that were not ethnically Irish. Now the problem with the fact that everything and everyone was a disappointment was the concomitant belief that you should just leave that person or situation. After all, why hang around a disappointment? Why keep such a disappointing outfit or car or house? You wouldn't want everyone to know what a disappointing school you were attending. So withdraw from that school and enroll in another.

To begin, there are two pieces to this puzzle. The first is changing our own attitude and expectations to let people be who they are and accept things as they are. We need to examine our expectations—are they realistic? These expectations are our responsibility. In other words, do we have the right to lay these expectations on the person or situation or even ourselves? Let's think about that a minute. Who do we think we are?

The other piece to this puzzle involves determining how we are going to deal with that disappointment. Are we going to harbor that disappointment, reject the person or situation, feel and nurture that anger, and walk away from the source of the disappointment? Is that fair? Or reasonable? Because I have a certain expectation, I should think clearly about whether that person or situation is supposed to meet my expectation. I mean, how realistic is that?

When you are disappointed, ask yourself this—what is it that I am getting hung up over? To what false perceptions

am I still clinging? What am I expecting from the reality that it is not giving me? Seek these illusions out, one by one. Question yourself about how and when you came to have the expectations. Become aware of them and release yourself from them. These expectations may be giving you an inaccurate view of reality. They may be preventing you from acting constructively in your situation or living your life the way you should.

There is a Principle at work here—“We make our own happiness or unhappiness as we obey or disobey Nature's physical and spiritual laws.”

So maybe rejecting someone for not meeting my expectations is not a good idea. I need to examine my expectations and realize that while they are great goals, not everyone is going to make it to the top of my pedestal. Nor is every situation going to meet my expectations. Instead of allowing ourselves to be pulled down into a lower state of consciousness rooted in fear, sadness, grief, anger, or apathy, we need to bring our consciousness up to a more neutral or positive level that will allow us to react more positively to the situation. After all, we are positive Spiritualists.







by The Revs. Tom & Lisa Butler, NST

### Direct Revelation

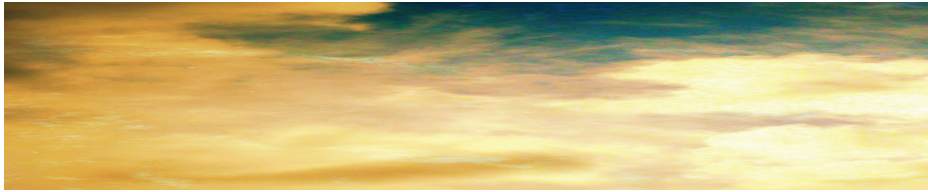
Near-Death Experience researcher David Sunfellow says “Unlike spiritual paths that arose from the ideas and inner experiences of lone, isolated human beings, the path presented by near-death experiences is emerging as a direct, grassroots revelation that millions of people from all over the world are receiving and sharing. If we explore this newly emerging path deeply enough, we discover that all religions, philosophies, and cultures are honored; that science and spirituality are celebrated; that both the human and spiritual side of our natures are cherished and embraced. In short, near-death experiences present us with a universal, all-inclusive, perfectly integrated spiritual path that revolves around three core truths: 1. We are all one. 2. Love is the essence of life. 3. We are here, in this world, to become perfect embodiments of the divine.”

*From: Near-Death Experience Network, nhnnearddeath.ning.com*

### Touching Heaven



Touching Heaven is a television interview of Dr. Eben Alexander that will be broadcast throughout Latin America. Eben Alexander is the neurosurgeon who fell into a coma while suffering from bacterial meningitis. He had a transcendental Near-Death Experience (NDE), which he says allowed him a glimpse of heaven, as well as proof of the existence of God and the afterlife. He insists his experience was not a hallucination, as his brain was comatose and incapable of any activity. He wrote about his NDE in the book *Proof of Heaven*. His latest book is called *The Map of Heaven*, which touches on meditation and the path to transcendence. “It’s all about how the answers lie within us all,” he says. “Before the coma, I wanted to believe what I’d heard in church. But like so many who had grown up in the 60s and 70s, I knew full well that science is the pathway to truth. And I’ll tell you, I am more of a scientist now than I’ve ever been in my life, and I realize that what is happening now is that science needs to greatly expand



its boundaries to fully encompass the fundamental role of consciousness and acknowledge that the soul exists.”

*From: “Touching Heaven,” MST Lifestyle, The Standard, manilastandardtoday.com/mobile/2015/04/04/touching-heaven/*

### Different Types of Near-Death Experiences

Dr. Sam Parnia, director of resuscitation research at Stony Brook University School of Medicine in New York along with several colleagues, has interviewed 101 heart-attack sufferers who were “brought back from the dead,” in order to better “understand...the mental and cognitive experience of death” Patients reported dream-like or hallucinatory scenarios that Parnia and his co-authors categorized into seven major themes. The seven are: Fear, Seeing animals or plants, Bright light, Violence and persecution, Déjà vu, Seeing family and Recalling events post-cardiac arrest. Parina says “Most of these were not consistent to what’s called ‘near-death’ experiences. It seems like the mental experience of death is much broader than what has been assumed in the past.”

*From: “There is More Than One Type of Near-Death Experience” by Robbie Gonzalez, io9.com/there-is-more-than-one-type-of-near-death-experience-1699822112*

### Near-Death Experiences are Real

Dr. Jeffery Long was featured on the *Today Show* in April. He says that when he started researching near-death experiences nothing in his medical training could explain the accounts he was hearing. “I’ve researched nearly 4,000 near-death experiences, and I’ve come to believe that near-death experiences are real. There is currently more scientific evidence to the reality of near-death experience than there is for how to effectively treat certain forms of cancer.”



*From: “Is there an afterlife? Louisiana doctor tells TODAY show ‘yes’: do you believe?” by Renita D. Young, The Times Picayune, nola.com/news/baton-rouge/*

### Belief Survey

In March the *Today Show* conducted a weeklong series called “Do You Believe?” which included a survey of 1500 viewers. 68 percent of respondents said they are certain God exists, and of that group, 54 percent believe that God is a force or spirit that does not take a physical form. A majority of those surveyed believe the power of prayer is real and 76 percent said it can heal. While 87 percent of respondents believe that you can believe in a different religion than those you love, in practice, 73 percent share the same religion as their spouse. Looking at the



news every day, I am sure most people will find it reassuring that 76 percent surveyed said they believe that it is important to raise a spiritual child.

*From: "Does prayer work? Is there an afterlife? TODAY's survey offers snapshot of faith, spirituality" by Scott Stump, today.com/news/there-afterlife-does-prayer-work-todays-survey-faith-spirituality-2D80574883*

### **Can We Please Get God Out of Religion?**

An article in the Daily Beast by Barrett Holmes Pitner asked this question. Pitner says that Millennials—soon to be the largest generation of Americans, surpassing the baby boomers—are fleeing organized religion in droves. According to a study by the Pew Research Center, about 35 percent of millennials have no religious affiliation and thus are categorized as the “nones.” Approximately 56 million Americans are religiously unaffiliated, and the number of “nones” grows every year. The looming question just over the horizon centers on how millennials will educate their children regarding religion.

A new book by Lisa Miller, *The Spiritual Child: The New Science on Parenting for Health and Lifelong Thriving*, provides a unique approach to this dilemma. Miller proposes that spirituality—which she describes as religion minus the belief in dogma, the veneration of prophets and deities, and the fixation on the afterlife—is an innate human trait that needs to be encouraged and developed. Through extensive research, Miller asserts that spirituality encourages children to believe in something greater and more powerful than themselves, and as a result they develop more resilience and less anxiety throughout life. People who engage in spirituality, she finds, are 40 percent less likely to use and abuse substances, and 60 percent less likely to be depressed.

*From: thedailybeast.com/articles/2015/05/24/can-we-please-get-god-out-of-religion.html*

**The Dalai Lama** turned 80 in July, and as he has advanced in years, he and the Chinese government have both probably kept in mind the example of the succession of Panchen Lama, another senior figure in Tibetan Buddhism. After the 10th Panchen Lama died in 1989, the Dalai Lama confirmed a boy in Tibet as the next reincarnation in 1995. But the Chinese government hid away that boy and his parents and installed its own choice as the Panchen Lama. The Dalai Lama has indicated that he does not want to experience the same fate and because of this has said that he may not reincarnate. This upset the Chinese Communist Party who has told him in no uncertain terms that he will reincarnate and under the



Communist Parties terms. Since 1995, the Chinese authorities have claimed an increasingly active role in the succession of the Dalai Lama and other Tibetan Buddhist leaders. As difficult as this is for the western world to understand the Party has ended up deciding whether people can reincarnate or not.

*From: "China's Tensions With Dalai Lama Spill Into the Afterlife" by Chris Buckley, New York Times, March 2015, nytimes.com/2015/03/12/world/asia/chinas-tensions-with-dalai-lama-spill-into-the-afterlife.html?\_r=0*

### **Afterlife Privacy**

Seventy percent of Americans feel that their private communications should remain private after they die. They also feel that the law should err on the side of privacy when someone dies without documenting their preference about how to handle their private communications and photos. However, a bill recently introduced in Florida would turn over all our most private communications to our next of kin unless we specifically prohibited it in our will. The bill recently passed the Senate Judiciary Committee with the support of a group that stands to benefit the most if we have no afterlife privacy—the Florida Estate Attorneys. Opposing the bill was the online industry and privacy advocates.

*From: "Privacy should have no expiration date" By Carl Szabo, Tallahassee Democrat, February 2015, tallahassee.com/story/opinion/2015/02/18/szabo-privacy-expiration-date/23610775/*

### **Skyrocketing Property Prices Go to the Grave**

The pressure of skyrocketing property prices is now extending to the afterlife for city dwellers in China. People in Beijing are struggling to find affordable final resting places for their loved ones. Costs have more than tripled in the last 3 years. The lowest priced tomb is the equivalent to \$11,000 for a 3' by 3' plot. This is more than the average yearly income of most Beijing residents in 2013. To afford a burial site for their loved ones people have to buy sites in nearby provinces 60 miles away.



Last year there were an estimated 10 million deaths on the mainland, with the figure expected to top 20 million sometime between 2025 and 2030. There is clearly money in death. The surging price of tombs has seen the burial business become one of the most profitable sectors on the mainland.

*From: China's property boom spreads to the afterlife as tomb prices soar, scmp.com/news/china/article/1756302/sky-high-property-prices-go-grave*

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





# Your Spirit Band And You

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

Some of the things which have greatly puzzled the novice in Spiritualism are the unfamiliar guides and helpers brought to them by various mediums. A proper understanding of the relationship which exists between those living on the Earth Plane and the helpers from the Spirit World is therefore of importance to every student.

Whether the individual is aware of it or not, Spirit guidance begins at the very hour of birth and continues through our transition into the Spirit World. Those living on Earth are continually being guided either knowingly or unknowingly, by those in Spirit. Many worthwhile things which man has prided himself on having achieved would have been impossible to accomplish had it not been for this unseen guidance. Thus, knowledge of the work and influence of our invisible guides is helpful in revealing more of the laws which govern our lives.

Beginning at the hour of birth, we have a Guardian Spirit, often known as a Guardian Angel. Children in peril often have told authenticated stories of

seeing such Spirits, and having been saved by their intervention. Children also see and talk with their “so-called imaginary playmates.” They actually see and interact with Spirit until the world takes their attention away from Spirit, interrupting the interaction and directing the child’s attention to things of a more worldly nature. In the Spirit World, as on Earth, Spirits have work to do, each being assigned to tasks in alignment with their aptitude. Often Spirits who have been deprived of the joys of motherhood are given the task of caring for and teaching children who pass into Spirit. Or, they may be assigned to assist children living on the Earth Plane. When a life has been lived and deprived of something for which it greatly yearned, it may find this desire fulfilled in the Spirit World. Thus, the great and wonderful Natural Law Of Compensation works to bring balance into all lives.

It should be remembered that from its first breath until its last, a human soul is never entirely alone because Guardian Spirits are always watchful and there to help us. However, no

Spirit advanced in knowledge will attempt to force decisions upon those they guide, for Infinite Intelligence gave the power of free will to each and every person. This is not something to be taken lightly. Guardian Spirits will (same as mothers and fathers on Earth) try to influence a soul away from danger and towards proper lines of action. Many think this is just their conscience—and a part of it is—but it is also our Spirit band working to protect us from making unwise decisions, in conjunction with our own God-given inner voice of guidance and conscience. Though we have two forces attempting to keep us on the straight and narrow, many of us unwisely continue to make incorrect choices. That freedom of choice is our avenue to learn the lessons we came to Earth to learn. Yet, in the final analysis, such decisions must be either helped or hurt by the karma such decisions entail. With their far-reaching insight, Guardian Spirits know that each soul must have certain lessons in life that will help it find its purpose.

Every soul born into life has a goal



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and a purpose, which is understood by their Guides. They attempt only to show the best way to reach that goal.

Like our Earth parents, they do not condemn us for our failings, for their love and care are all encompassing. They see our human need, our human suffering, and seek to help alleviate it as best they can. When we do wrong, they grieve. When we overcome an obstacle and have grown in spiritual stature, their joy is great.

Aside from our Guardian Angels who are with us from birth, other Guides may be with us at various times in our life as well. Some guides are with us only when we are undergoing particular kinds of experiences. When their work for that time is done, they go on to others who need their specialized help.

A medium often will tell one for whom they are reading that they have a certain Spirit as a Guide or helper. Another medium will tell of yet other Spirits and unless we understand the laws which govern their association with us, this diversity of Spirits can be confusing. Knowing that such Spirits come into our lives to help us through a specific task and move on to assist someone else when this is accomplished, sheds light on such situations and clearly defines them. We might call this type of guide a “specialist” in their chosen field.

As each Soul progresses spiritually, it gathers about itself a band of workers. This band normally consists of some twelve Spirits, each with a different ability and a special task to perform. In the case of persons in high office, or in a position wherein they are to do great and universal work, they may attract several bands of workers, thus broadening their scope of influence.

The relationship of the Earthly and Spiritual bands is like a closely knit organization. Guides who assist someone generally do so because, in helping the one on Earth to advance, they themselves make advancement in Spirit. Often their love for the person draws them to this service and this is particularly true when the Spirit Guide formerly has been a beloved relative or friend who reaches back from

Spirit to help those they love. Often too, the Earth Soul and the Spirit Guide or helper are drawn together by mutual interest, having the same ambitions, the same goals, desires and characteristics. Thus the co-mingling or inter-communion of one with the other strengthens them both.

In every band there is a doctor who works for and with the student for the healing and help of both themselves and others. There is also a chemist whose job it is to keep the minerals balanced in the body of the student and to add such minerals and elements as may be necessary from time to time for the student’s chemicalization and spiritual unfoldment. They also assist the student in the healing of others. Then there is the “Joy Guide” whose function it is to prevent the close proximity of Spirits to communicate through or to the student. Often Spirit children are a part of the band, bringing their innocence and joy to brighten the heart. These Joy Guides, and other guides—controls, teachers, healers, and others that comprise our Spirit Band, come to us for specific purposes and then leave us. It must be remembered that “Guides” and “controls” are different. While a Guide is more or less a permanent fixture, a control works with a person only so long as that person offers him a proper channel through whom to work. When such a channel ceases to be effective, the control moves onto others through whom he or she may work more advantageously.

There are many other subtle nuances in the working of Spirit with those on the Earth plane, but we have tried here to clarify some of the general ways in which your spirit band works with you. Always remember that those who choose to work with you are always a step above your own understanding and development so that their position as a teacher or influence in your life is constantly leading you on an upward journey as you proceed through life. Being Spiritualists, I urge you to listen to them, heed their impressions, follow your “gut” instincts, so that you and your guides are always on the road to Higher Ground. God bless you each on your trip through this life.







# Mary (Merci) E. Cadwallader

## The Grand Dame of Modern Spiritualism

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

M. E. Cadwallader, as she is often referred to, was born on September 3, 1868 at Johnson Ward 5, Cambria, Pennsylvania. Her mother Annie Hill was the daughter of a well-known inventor of the time, Benjamin B. Hill.

In 1880, she married Harry Cadwallader who was well known in the publishing business and was an editor for various journals. M. E. was ordained a Spiritualist Minister by Rev. Adaline M. Glading at the First Association of Spiritualists of Philadelphia. The official Certificate was given under the hands and corporate seal of the First Association of Spiritualists of Philadelphia on the twenty-first day October, Signed by J. D. Steinmetz, President and F. H. Morill Secretary.

She attended every National Convention save for one when she became seriously ill. For over 20 years, M. E. traveled miles across the ocean as a representative to the International Congress of Spiritualists.

If you ever hear someone speaking about a very pretty, tall, blue-eyed woman who was immaculately dressed, you can be assured they were speaking of “Dearest Merci.” (her family nickname). Along with her fine looks, it is recorded she had a striking personality and a great amount of intellect, allowing her to hold her own in any debate on a variety of subjects.

In Spiritualism, she is often spoken about highly because of all that she did for the promulgation of Spiritualism right up until her very last breath. In 1896, she and Harrison D. Barrett dedicated much time and effort to the founding of the Educational Protective Union, which was in part a defense league for mediums who had been arrested. They had very often stood before judges supporting the truths of Modern Spiritualism and mediumship, as well as defended for true, honest mediums who had been hauled into court by authorities. Barrett and Cadwallader were known for this effort throughout the movement. In a long letter written to Dr. Mary T. Longley, M. E. wrote “Think of it. Our mediums all acquitted today. The responsibility for me is nearly past. I shall soon cease to suffer from the misunderstandings and misjudgment of those who have sought to prejudice the public in regard to my work in regard to our mediums. My heart is so full, seven of them all free! Can you understand the heartaches I have borne through their defense? Can you understand what this thanksgiving means to me? Yours fraternally, M.E.C.”

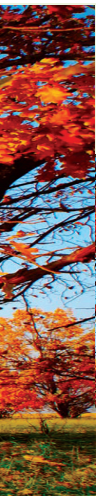
In 1893, when Spiritualists from the United States came together in Chicago to form an umbrella organization for all Spiritualists, she was nominated for the Board of Directors. In her most just and humble manner, she declined the nomination since she felt that since all of the proposed members were from east of the Mississippi someone from the west coast of the United States should be afforded a place on the Board. She said, “I decline the nomination for consideration of someone from the West. It would only be fair for the West Coast to have representation.” In her statement declining the nomination, she also requested that she be made a Missionary for Modern Spiritualism. Her request was honored once the full board was in place. As a Missionary, few could compare with Dearest Merci. She traveled near and far serving wherever needed and never failed to collect and forward a pretty hefty purse into the new organizations coffers.

On March 2, 1910, J. R. Francis made his transition to Spirit and his wife took on the job of editor of *The Progressive Thinker, An American Spiritualist Weekly*. Finding it too much to handle, she sold it to Dearest Merci. As owner and editor of *The Progressive Thinker* Publishing House, she now had another venue where she could spread the truths of Spiritualism. She was very successful in this endeavor. The National Spiritualist Association also benefitted greatly from her editorship. She not only printed articles from other Spiritualists but was always ready to praise the new organization and the growth of the movement through education by the written word. She presented both the pros and cons on any issue. She also printed a great deal of material for the NSA and while giving a great deal only charged them costs for documents they ordered.

As an author, among her writings are two very important pieces of literature, one being prepared for the Diamond Jubilee April 18–30, 1922 entitled *Historical Spiritualism—The First Association of Spiritualists of Philadelphia Founded 1852*. Her next piece of work that became a classic was *Hydesville in History* written by her and published in 1917 by *The Progressive Thinker*. Both documents are an asset to any library.

M. E. was a very close friend of William T. Stead. At the Pennsylvania Spiritualist Society’s Convention on April 24, 1912, she announced she had just received a letter from W. T. Stead who had just recently gone down in the sinking of the Titanic. It





appeared to be the last letter written before he boarded the ship. She withheld the content of the letter announcing she would read part of it at the Memorial Service the next day.

On April 16, 1916, Harry Cadwallader made his journey to the Higher Life leaving M. E. a widow at age 48. She continued to keep her focus on Spiritualism and its organizational needs. Her life revolved around Spiritualism and the *National Spiritualist Association*.

In 1927, M. E. donated the monument that was placed in front of the Fox Cottage in Hydesville, New York, and the plaque in Memory of the Hydesville Rappings and the Fox Sisters that proudly proclaimed to the World "There is no death and there are no dead."

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle suggested a monument in reference to the World Congress meeting in Rochester. Along with Dr. Mary T. Longley, Secretary of the NSA, M. E. was instrumental in having the Obelisk placed in the church yard of the Plymouth Spiritualist Church at Rochester, New York as a monument of Spiritualism. After the church was sold, the monument was moved to Troup Street and later relocated to the Plymouth Avenue clover-leaf. Its plaque reads "Erected December 4, 1927 by 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 and there are no dead."

M. E.'s name became synonymous with the Lyceum work of the Spiritualist Movement. She loved children. In her own life, she was mother of one son. But, to many children from across the land, she was Mom and grandma. She worked diligently to present the A.J.D. Memorial Lyceum Building and the Children's Acre to the Lily Dale Assembly.

The park today has been totally re-outfitted with activities for the children. Continuing that which she started many years ago is the activity known as "Children's Week at the Dale." At least once during each season she held what was called the "Dorothy Doll Party." She would bring her rare collection of dolls from many lands around the world and allow each child to select one as their own for the day. Her favorite doll was "Dorothy" and it was recently on display in the Auditorium as part of a seasonal activity.

Hers was a full life lived well. As she lay unconscious, Mrs. Burgess stayed close by her side through the night. M. E. Cadwallader made her Transition at the home of Mr. Charles & Mrs. Burgess in Chicago, Illinois on December 24, 1934. Her funeral was on December 28th and interment made next to her devoted husband in the Cadwallader Plot in Northwood Cemetery, Beechwood Section, Lot 3, Philadelphia.

Many more pages could be written of the life and work of Dearest Merci. Our memory of M. E. will linger in the minds and hearts of all who knew her and all those who studied her as one of the really great Spiritualist leaders of both the late 19th and early 20th century.

# MYSELF

"I have to live with myself, and so  
I want to be fit for myself to know;  
I want to be able as days go by,  
Always to look myself straight in the eye;  
I don't want to stand with the setting sun  
And hate myself for the things I've done."

"I want to go out with my head erect,  
I want to deserve all men's respect;  
And here in the struggle for fame and pelf  
I want to be able to like myself;  
I don't want to look at myself and know  
That I'm bluster and bluff and empty show."

"I don't want to keep on the closet shelf,  
A lot of secrets about myself,  
And fool myself as I come and go,  
Into thinking nobody will know  
The kind of man I really am;  
I don't want to dress myself in a sham."

"I can never hide myself from me,  
I see what others may never see,  
I know what others may never know;  
And never can fool myself, and so  
Whatever happens I want to be  
Self respecting and conscience free."

- Selected

Reprinted from *The National Spiritualist*  
April, 1937







# Facing

# Life's Challenges

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

Life comes with its challenges. Day in and day out we cannot foresee many of the challenges we will face. They are obstacles only if we allow them to be. How we meet our challenges is a part of who we are. As Spiritualists, we have learned that they can bless us with an abundance of opportunities if we allow it.

Within your own mind, do you see a challenge as a problem or an opportunity? Know that it is a condition of mind over matter. Thoughts continuously run through your mind, and what you choose to do with these thoughts—how you accept them, how you use them—is up to you.

As Spiritualists, we are taught personal responsibility. We know that our life and what we do with it is ours to own. No one can force us to do anything against our will. It is our choice to accept or reject our thoughts, ideas or personal concepts.

We know that there are those in Spirit who are concerned with our welfare. They speak to us at a time when we are receptive to their guidance. It is a time when our minds are clear of everyday clutter. We must listen to their guidance and see where it leads us. We are surrounded by higher beings those whose only interest is in our best welfare. These beings want to see us attain higher levels of achievement.

There is no one in our spiritual band who would try to pull us down. There may be people on the Earth plane who for whatever reason may want to hold us back, but remember where their limiting emotions stem from—earthly matters.

Those from the higher sources—call it Spirit guidance if you like, are always leading us upward. They choose for us and all humanity a life that will bring us to be all that we can be—a life we may have seen in our dreams, but questioned whether it was really possible.

Listen to that still small voice within you and see where it leads. It may be down a totally different path than that which we may have envisioned. Call it inspiration, intuition or whatever you like. Just know that it is there if you will but listen.

We all face turns in the road of life. What we do with those opportunities is our choosing. Analyze your options—don't jump in blindly. Know what you are getting into. Once your inspiration comes, you'll need direction and a plan for the future and the creation of your dream.

We are all capable of such a plan. It is our intellect, or our free will. It is our ability to go within and know whether this is the path we will choose to follow. Is it one that will bring us happiness? Is it one that will bring us joy and fulfillment? Each individual must decide this for themselves.

Is age a factor? Perhaps, but we know that Spirit would not lead us to a direction in which we were not capable of going. We often surprise ourselves in what we are capable of achieving when challenged.

There is a time and place for everything. We can determine the appropriate timing. It may not be today or tomorrow—not even next week or next month, but if the thoughts and plans are right for us, so will be the timing. The time

and place will manifest and we will know within ourselves if this is the right time to bring our goals and plans to fruition. Listen to that still small voice—from darkness into light, from plans into action, from action into fulfillment.

Have you ever had the thought, "I've been there before," when you know you have not? Somehow you see something clearly—things become real—a doorway is opened and the path of your dreams comes into the light—the light of fruition.

Great discoveries of science were once just thoughts in someone's mind. We never know until we put in the time and effort to try. Nothing happens by itself. Thoughts become living things.

Allow your thoughts, ideas and dreams to converge and a time will come when everything seems right. A doorway will open for you to seize the moment and turn a corner to make them become a reality. Enjoy the peace and joy of your accomplishment be it little or big.

After, take the time to say, "Thank you God." Take the time to acknowledge your source of power and guidance, as we do not walk alone through life. There is a guiding force that gives us the strength of character and the good judgment to know what is right for each of us.

Our life is ours to make the best of. Make it one of joy, happiness and satisfaction.

Rewards come in different forms. They are not always monetary, but can come in the form of kind words from others. They can come from the self-satisfaction of a job well done. Whatever the means of compensation, it is you and only you who will know its value and meaning.

We may not reach what in our mind is greatness, but every one of our achievements in its own way has its varying levels or degrees of greatness.

Listen! Do what seems best for your own growth and advancement. Go forward with joy in your heart and thankfulness for the source of all goodness, and do in your heart what you know feels right.



# NSAC/STOW MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The **2015 NSAC/Stow Memorial Foundation Scholarship** has been awarded to **SYANNE HINES** of Summit High School in Summit, New Jersey. She will attend Rutgers University. Her winning essay is presented here.



## WHAT SPIRITUALITY MEANS TO ME

**I**n today's generation the main focus is on the items of most worth. Everyone wants the newest iPhone

out, the best Apple laptop, and the most expensive name-brand clothing such as Michael Kors, Versace, Gucci, and many more. Nowadays, it seems that people define themselves and others more by the names stitched to the inside of their tags or by the small logos displayed in the corner of their clothing than for who they are internally. To me, Spirituality is something within a person that is not tangible, it does not hold a worth defined by a numerical value, and it is certainly not something that can be purchased in a store. I believe that a person's spirituality defines who they really are, it reflects your personality and your morals and values.

How do you define a person? Is it by their looks? Or maybe the amount of money in their bank account? Or how about the house that they live in or the car that they drive? Neither of these are correct. That is why you define a person on their Spirituality. This is the part of a person that reflects a greater value that cannot be determined by a piece of clothing or property.

I believe that spirituality goes along with the famous saying, "Don't judge a book by its cover." Spirituality can be compared to the "pages in between." Through one's spirituality you are able to understand what is important to them. More than shoes, clothes, cars, or electronics. The root of spirituality is Spirit. Your Spirit is what defines the type of person you are. Whether you are mean, nasty and parsimonious or light hearted, amiable, and generous. Another way I like to think about it is as if everyone in the world was blind. I know, it sounds outrageous, but this way nobody could physically see what anyone else looked like, the type of clothes that they wear, or any other personal

possessions. They could only be seen for their spirituality, the color of their hearts and souls. Once people are no longer able to hide behind their physical objects, they are forced to open and show the worth of their abstract characteristics.

That is why I believe that many times people automatically group religion and spirituality. I suppose that religion reflects spirituality. Through practicing a religion, people look to a higher source of power, such as God. They do not think highly of themselves or anyone else, everyone is the same under one higher power. I believe that there is a certain way that we are supposed to live. I believe that there has been a path for us to take in order to gain a righteous endowment from God. Through my beliefs, I perform good deeds, I am kind, loving, generous and understanding. I treat others in the same manner that I would like to be treated. These are some of the ideals that make up my spirituality, that someone would not be able to see by just looking at my appearance or any of my personal belongings.

I think that religion assists people in finding or defining their own spirituality, but a person can still have acceptable spirituality without having a declared religion.

Spirituality is clearly not based on someone's looks or net worth. It cannot be defined by how many pairs of Jordan's someone has or how many BMW's are parked in their driveway. It is someone's morals and personal values. The type of person that they are when no one is around to listen or judge. However, it is also the person that they are when everyone is around to judge and listen. Spirituality is not something that is changed like an outfit, or can be flipped like a light switch. It is developed every day through a person's words and actions. Many times it is the people with the least amount of numerical worth that have the strongest spirituality because they value and appreciate the things that most people find of little importance. Spirituality cannot be measured by extrinsic possessions. Even though it is incredibly cliché, it is what's on the inside that actually counts in the long run.

*Syanne Hines*



# 2015 NSAC Annual Convention

## Phoenix, AZ October 11th through the 16th



**Arizona has the beautiful Grand Canyon, lovely lakes, fun people, and the best Golf courses around!  
Come and enjoy our fantastic weather and great company at this year's 2015 NSAC Annual Convention.  
This year's convention will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Mesa, AZ.**

\$99.00 per Night, free wi-fi, free parking, and free breakfast up to two people per room. The cut off date is September 11th for reservations. Booking Link online or if you want by phone: <http://www.hilton.com>; enter: Phoenix, Mesa (date of first night) (three letter code: NSA) Phone Number: TEL: +1-480-833-5555 If you call ask for In-house Reservations. Hours 8 - 5 Arizona time. The Phoenix International Airport and the Mesa Airport are a short distance away. There is **no** courtesy shuttle to and from the hotel. There is a lot to do and friends to see. We kick off the Convention at the Church of the Living Spirit, NSAC. A cute church that has many great people, and qualities of our Spiritualist members that come every weekend to learn more about Spiritualism. Transportation will be provided to and from the church for the Sunday Service. Come and meet all the wonderful people at Church of the Living Spirit. We have a fantastic welcoming reception Sunday afternoon, so that you can catch up with everyone that you have not seen since last year! Monday workshops: fifty dollars(\$50.00) on the day of the workshop.



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

This workshop is designed to provide a basic understanding of theoretical aspects of the trance states as well as practical exercises designed to further the development of trance. Using audio visual presentations and practical knowledge of the subject, our presenter will cover the following:

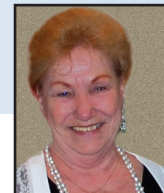
- Understanding perception & control.*
- Practical exercises designed to develop trance.*
- Explore our perceptions of trance.*
- Mechanics of trance mediumship.*
- Insight into the various states of trance.*

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

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

The Monday afternoon workshop:  
**CAPTURING PHENOMENA  
USING CAMERAS**

Presented by  
The Reverend Janet Tisdale, NST



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

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



Join us for our wonderful Monday evening Convention Banquet! Wear your best dress, have great food and enjoy great company!

- Banquet fee: \$45.00 There are several selections for dinner this year.
- Beef – *Grilled Flat Iron Steak with crushed purple potatoes, brocolini, sweet mini peppers, with a Horse radish merlot Jus*
  - Chicken – *Citrus Honey Glazed Chicken Breast with crushed purple potatoes, brocolini, sweet mini peppers*
  - Vegetarian Plate – *Roasted vegetable Ravioli with Roasted Red Pepper Cream Sauce and Fresh Vegetables*
- Gluten Free Plates are available upon request.  
For desert – *Crème brule cheesecake.*





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

Before the tour enjoy an Italian Buffet! Assorted Salads; Grilled Vegetable Pasta Salad; Eggplant and Squash Caponata; Grilled Chicken Breasts, Basil Tomato Relish; and Chef's Assorted Deserts)



At the end of this action-packed convention there will be a Saturday Tour to Tombstone. Transportation will be provided to and from your great western adventure! This is an all-day event returning us to the hotel around 6pm.

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

Please send Checks, or Money Orders to 2015 NSAC Convention; Attn: Convention Committee; 3736 W. Wahalla Lane, Glendale, Az 85308, if there are any questions, please feel free to email Reverend Havivah Richards at [reverendhaviness@gmail.com](mailto:reverendhaviness@gmail.com), or call at 480-297-6502

## CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

### PLEASE PRINT OR WRITE CLEARLY

Name (Last, First)

Address

city, State, Zip

Primary Phone

Email Address

Church Name, City, State

I am a Convention Delegate / Name on Badge

### USE ONE PER PERSON - COPY FORM FOR EACH ADDITIONAL PERSON

Choices (make choice marking boxes on left and enter fee in in column on right

Convention registration and badge fee

Banquet Fee

Select one  Meat  chicken  Vegetarian  Gluten Free

Thursday Outing with Buffett Lunch

Thursday Outing Only

Thursday Buffett only (Italian all you can eat)

Saturday Outing

I need wheelchair access

Cost	My Fee
\$40	
\$45	
\$50	
\$30.00	
\$30.00	
\$40.00	



# Spirit Answers In Their Own Way

Writer: Bob Post  
Church of the Living Spirit, AZ

Remember when you received an assignment in school to write a 500-word essay that was due at the end of the week? Did you sit sat through the entire week sweating it out with writer's block, wondering what to write about? Most of you can relate.

Writer's block can be very frustrating, and it's a common problem that has plagued even the best—including F. Scott Fitzgerald and the cartoonist Charles Schultz of *Peanuts*—and, I suspect, many of you who give talks from your church podium have experienced it as well.

Recently, I drew a blank over a period of weeks while preparing to speak at my church, not knowing what to say. For days I asked Infinite Intelligence to provide me with a clue as to what to share... I found only silence. I called out to loving Spirits to give me a hand... and I found only silence.

While friends wished me well and offered their ideas, sadly they just didn't click. The pressure was on.

As is my early morning practice every day, I sat in silence on my back porch waiting for dawn to appear. Dawn refreshes my hopes everyday as I watch a new creation emerge. One morning this week, it became apparent to me that I had been experiencing the answer to my prayerful request all along. What began to emerge from my mental fog was a memory of two metaphors that I'd like to share.

There are these two young fish

swimming along when they happen to meet an older fish swimming the other way who nods at them and says, "Morning, boys. How's the water?" The two young fish swim on for a bit, and then one of them looks at the other and says, "What the *heck* is water?"

This metaphor addresses "awareness." Awareness is knowledge or perception of a situation or a fact. It can also be defined as an awakening or realization from within that brings a person to take their first steps toward understanding and healing. Solutions in life are dependent on our being aware at one level or another, so that we may begin to take appropriate actions.

In this case, my awareness came from silence. And yet another metaphor surfaced:

A little fish went looking for the ocean. He swam up to a big fish and asked, "Where can I find the ocean?"

The big fish replied, "why little one, you are *in* the ocean."

"This?" replied the little fish. "This is just water. Where can I find the ocean?" The big fish repeated his answer.

Disappointed, the little fish swam off to look for the ocean.

We consciously or unconsciously look for God or happiness throughout our day by means of our choices. We all look for happiness by what we perceive to be fulfilling ways. And yet this metaphor reminds us that Infinite Intelligence is present everywhere, or

"God is All in all."

Why would you suppose that the composers of the Sixth Principle believed that the highest morality is contained in the Golden Rule? Because the spark of the Divinity dwells in others as it dwells in you. Unlike the little fish who swam off to look for the very thing that it was immersed in, we needn't walk off and look for God, in whom we are always immersed in. There isn't anything to look for. All we have to do is look.

Writer's block can be a humbling, if not a crushing, experience—especially when you are under a deadline. A humbling blank mind, or for that matter any humbling problem we may have, can be perceived as a gift. It is an opportunity for Infinite Intelligence to respond to the truly humbled without the interference of a self-centered ego.

We can pray so loudly that we may not hear (or be aware of) the whisper that provides a mustard seed as an answer.

From silence comes what may, and it's up to us to accept that gift in order for Spirit to proceed and help us to the end.

We regard Infinite Intelligence as so beyond the word "vast" that it remains a Mystery to us. As Spiritualists, we know that Infinite Intelligence is everywhere present. We strive to be present to its presence.

The importance of living the sixth principle is that the spark of the divinity dwells in everyone as it dwells in you. Therefore, it is another opportunity to serve Spirit when we treat others well.

Our Spirit loved ones reflect Infinite Intelligence by their love, by their encouragement, and by their help.







# The *Positiveness* of *Negativity*

Writer: Marden L. Pride, RI

As we travel thru this existence it is more and more studied and recommended that we look to be and stay positive. It seems that all we are at deeper levels reacts to our thoughts of positive or negative, continuously. In that light, let's look at negativity.

If it is so that nothing is by chance or at random, then negativity has a place in reason. We tend to view bad things happening to us as unreasonable, not normal and illogical. What if our negative experiences are indeed part of the master plan? This is possible, I contend, because our learning occurs quicker and more thoroughly this way. Do humans learn as much if there is no bad experiences in their life and their wrong doings are not challenged? No.

Perhaps then, we choose to come here with a preset plan of negative or bad experiences to have during our stay that will helps us to grow and be more positive if we so choose.

Negative events that occur in your life can bring about positive change. And it is a gift to have the opportunity and choice to make that change. These events are intentionally placed in a precise spot in time. Choose not to

continue with the pain, suffering and hurt, and then you are working your way to the positive. Lessons will repeat with the same results until an intentional change is made.

That is the ingeniousness of the system. These things are happening to all of us all of the time. To choose to think positive and maintain that as a way of life is one the most important lessons here. If you think that a negative experience is just a learning tool, then you can and do get past it sooner and are less likely to stay in it. Move on by learning the lesson, knowing a negative experience is a positive effort and only a classroom method to teach you. Spirit will guide you if you ask and listen.

Treat the negative as just one of God's expressions of love, and a way for us to learn and therefore grow.

So, transform your reaction to bad situations or circumstances that you experience in life. Do get mad or plot to get even. Recognize the choice of free will along your path. Once you have mastered this, you will increase your tolerance and your love.

More energy is required to be negative than positive. I did not say it was easy to stay calm and manifest this view of things in your world, just that, it is worth the effort. Being part of the universal flow of life here is so much easier if you're in the light, so smile, be well and live in the positive during your visit here no matter what!





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# LYCEUM

## *What Makes You Happy?*

I was asked the other day why I have collected so many different minion figurines. I simply replied that they make me laugh, and laughter makes me feel better and lowers my stress level. This got me thinking, what makes you happy? Is it a silly cartoon, the smile of a child, the sun each day, or maybe no snow for those who are buried by snow in the wintertime.

In today's world we get so consumed by what is going on around us that we forget to appreciate the simple stuff. So much negativity is put out in the news and other media material, that we some-

times forget what makes us truly happy. When I think how the children of our church are excited each Sunday to come and learn and help out with different projects that are provided to them, that makes me happy. To see my grandchild smile and giggle when she sees me—that makes me happy. Happiness is not hard to find, just remember to take the time to enjoy the simple things in life.

Allowing yourself to enjoy the simple things will make you happy, and then the negative things will not seem as bad or overwhelming in our lives. Whatever you do, find your happy place, and share it with anyone around you. Then before you know it, happiness will spread around you.

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

**KNOW!** *This is the song that Spiritualism sings. This is the message that Spiritualism brings. . . . Listen! You can hear them sing: There is no Death. There are no Dead. We live and love you still.*

—Mercy E. Cadwallader, *Spiritualist Pioneer*, 1917

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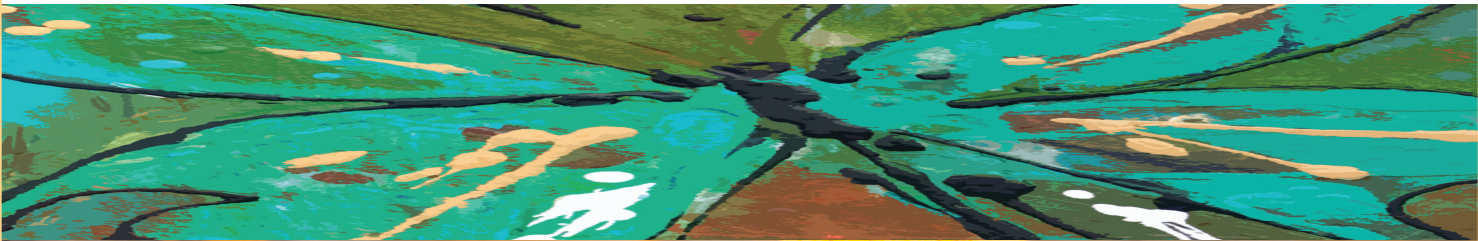


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*serving as a Beacon of Light to bring illumination to those in need.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## • CANADA •

### MONTREAL, QUEBEC

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

Sept/Oct 2015

## EXAMINATIONS & CREDENTIALS:

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

Rev. June E. Killmer, Director  
NSAC Department of Education  
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## DIRECTORY OF NSAC CHARTERED CHURCHES & AUXILIARIES

### • ARIZONA •

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

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

### • CALIFORNIA •

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

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

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

**SAN FRANCISCO • First Spiritual Temple** • Svc: 2nd & 4th Sundays, 10am; 33 Banbury St., 94132. Unfoldment/Development classes. Healing, private & group. Rev. Elsie Ann Soria, NST, Pastor. mail: 370 F Street, #309, Colma, CA 94014. (650)731-4490 or cell (650)922-4389. Rev. Alfred A. Conner, NST, Pastor Emeritus. Pres: Ben Santiago.

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

**SACRAMENTO • Central Spiritualist Church** • 2500 Marconi Avenue Suite 209 95821; Sun. Service 10am: Classes (see website) Healing all Message Svc, last Sunday of the month at 10am. Pres. Paul E. Cook, paulecook@gmail.com; Rev. Sandra Dawson, NST (916)962-7700 / sgdawson91@gmail.com; Sec. Amy Deinken, amysun09@live.com; www.centraalspiritualistchurch.com

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

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

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

**SAN LEANDRO • Spiritualist Church of Two Worlds** • 1550 San Leandro Blvd., (Deaf Comm. Center) 94577; Sun. Service Healing 10:30am., Reg. Service 10:45-noon; Co-Pastors, Rev.'s Betty & Don Nauratil, (925)283-1449; Pres. Rev. Sandi Deckinger; All mail to Sec. Rev. Betty Nauratil, 1048 Via Roble, Lafayette, 94549-2925.

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

### • CONNECTICUT •

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

**MYSTIC • The Spiritualist Church of Peace & Light** • Hyatt Place, 224 Greenmanville Ave. 06357; Sun Svc 11am; Mail to: 70 Dell Ave. #B5, New London, CT 06320. Visit: www.scepeacelight.net. Press. Rev. Lynn Gaffin; heart\_860@yahoo.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### • DELAWARE •

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

### • DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA •

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

### • FLORIDA •

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

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

### • ILLINOIS •

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### • INDIANA •

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

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

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



• MAINE •

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

• MASSACHUSETTS •

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

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

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

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

• MICHIGAN •

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

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

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

**JACKSON - Michigan State Spiritualist Association of Churches** • 2540 Norwood Rd, 49203; Sec. Rebecca Strauss; [rstraus52@yahoo.com](mailto:rstraus52@yahoo.com)

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

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

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

• MINNESOTA •

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

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

• MISSOURI •

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

• NEBRASKA •

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

• NEVADA •

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

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

• NEW HAMPSHIRE •

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

• NEW JERSEY •

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

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

• NEW YORK •

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**• OHIO •**

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

**• PENNSYLVANIA •**

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

**• TEXAS •**

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

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

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

**• VIRGINIA •**

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

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

**• WASHINGTON •**

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

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

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

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

**• WEST VIRGINIA •**

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



**• WISCONSIN •**

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

**MADISON - Summerland's Lakeview Spiritualist Church** • 2932 Waubesa Ave., 53711; Rev. Annette L. Haak, (608)354-2694; Twice a month services on Thu., 7pm.; [SLSCMADISON.ORG](http://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](mailto:firstspiritualistchurchwa@gmail.com);

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

**• CANADA •**

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

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

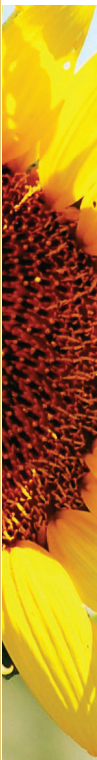
**ONTARIO - Spiritualist Church of Canada** • 3027 New Street, Burlington, Ontario L7R 1K3; Pres. Rev. James Kinneary; [www.spiritualistchurchofcanada.com](http://www.spiritualistchurchofcanada.com)

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# Building Your Field of

# Dreams

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

Imagine for a moment that before you I came to planet Earth, you were a sweet “baby” Spirit ready to come here to experience “the new,” a brand new adventure. Like a bright eyed trekker ready for new challenges, you selected a particular family, in a particular city, in a particular country. Maybe you decided on a real big challenge and chose a family that would show you lots of ways of how not to live, so as to inspire you to even greater clarity as to how to live. You’ve probably observed by now that some of life’s most unlikeable persons can be catalysts for our own transformation.

And imagine that in the depths of your eternal soul, you had dreams of things to come, things to experience with others, and things to create in the world—building your field of dreams. What if these dreams and desires were inspired by Infinite Source? We might then prize these ideas like pearls of God, precious every single one.

In some metaphysical writings, the concept that ideas come from God or Source inspires such reverence that they capitalize the “I”, as in Idea. I love this because it adds honor and respect to something so valuable—gems of Ideas from Source.

*A quick reality check: As we all know all too well, some ideas come from society, and some from the ego self. Those usually feel frenetic, imbalanced and fearful. Feeling the difference helps us to tune in to those that have a grounded, eternal frequency to them. In my experience, the dreams and desires that come from Source feel lofty, empowering, invigorating! Sometimes they’re so intimidating to the ego, that we really really have to lean on Spirit in order to move forward. The ego is quite “cozy” in a fear cave, not so much in moving into the world allowing the Soul of who you are to thrive.*

*As you consider how to build your field of dreams, may I ask you to consider the following four points:*

*How is my soul going to advance with this?*

*How will this bless and uplift humanity?*

*Am I harming anyone in the process?*

*Will the world be a better place because of it?*



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## Declaration of Principles

NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES

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