

# THE NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST

Summit Magazine

Sept/Oct 2016

## Inside this Issue:

Spiritualist Idea  
of Faith

Precipitated  
Psychic Art

Spiritualism &  
Geronimo

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**The National Spiritualist Summit Magazine**

# *A Spiritualist's Idea of Faith*



**W**ithin the scriptures of the New Testament we find these words, “But let him as in faith, nothing wavering, for he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.” I believe this to be a clear and unvarnished truth, for many people do waiver in trying to reach their objective or desire, and by so doing, become negative about the positive law of God or the Spirit World.

For me, the religion of Spiritualism is the most beautiful truth in the world, because faith has been changed to knowledge—blind faith no longer, but a God-possibility which now becomes a reality in every undertaking that we begin. Believing this way, why should we waiver? There are many questions we can ask, “Why do people waiver?” Why do so many in this advanced scientific age keep this wonderful truth locked within? Why do they continue to hold back the demonstrated facts and tests of Spirit power and its phenomena? Can we not see that this is one of the reasons why we do not make greater progress, both as a religion as well as strength in our numbers? Why are so many people afraid to testify for Spirit forces—afraid that others may criticize or condemn them if they do?

The churches of other denominations hold their midweek meetings where people stand on their feet and claim God’s power, yet they have never actually seen a demonstration from Spirit! They say they believe in the unseen forces of God, feel and know they can gather strength and healing from this spiritual source. Yet so many of those who are endowed with psychic ability, who actually see and test this power, fail to testify because of past superstitions and ignorant ideas, which, thank God, are now being disposed of in the incinerator of rubbish collected down through the centuries since the dark ages.

Isn't it true that we have had great poets, philosophers and even scientists who have dared to write, never wavering in their conception of these things? God bless them, for they are still giving the world their knowledge. Their works cannot and never will die, for we know wherever a seed or a spiritual thought is planted, somewhere it will grow on this plane of life. It will develop and blossom forth the works of creative power, something really tangible—the proof that life is everlasting, proof that our loved ones and friends do return. But, they do not actually need to “return,” for they are already here. We are informed that one plane or sphere is actually within another. This is the way of all nature. Are you aware that in the middle of every full-bloomed flower, we can see through a magnifying glass many smaller perfect flowers?

Superstition still plays its part in the minds of so many people. The fear of evil, or the idea of a devil, which could come to deceive, only closes the doorway toward progress and truth. Somewhere within each soul is born a spark of the infinite, just waiting to be ignited through a sense of perception, until it becomes strong enough to see or feel that no one is ever separated from another, except in the level one has attained in his own progression. We must not fail to see how our Creator has wondrously and lovingly fashioned all things according to His plan of design, which shows that all things are relative one to another.

Fear is born of superstition or ignorance. If God has given us a physical body in which we can express our material and spiritual desires for individual fulfillment, does it seem so impossible to believe that God has also created a duplicate body, which enables the soul to continue on when the material body, or physical body, can no longer function? We should and must accept the fact that we are now Spirit, as much as we will ever be. We are here because Nature, and Infinite Intelligence placed us here. We know that whenever a soul is created, it is given a part to play in the wheel of progress. We have become a part of all other expressions of life. No matter the circumstances under which we are born, we will eventually find our purpose in God's eternal plan. How will we find this? No matter what our weaknesses or faults may be, we must

continuously strive to overcome them. We must strive to develop that which is good and in accordance with Divine Law and Natural Law.

We who are living on the Earth plane must recognize the fact that we are living under the laws of nature and the principles and ethics of cause and effect. And through the Law of Attraction, we must understand that every act we commit is the result and effect of actions both good and bad. It is only through these Earth experiences that we can grow in knowledge and wisdom. In learning how to master our own destiny, we find the wisdom and peace that passeth all understanding. These are some of the facts taught in the Philosophy of Spiritualism.

Armed with this knowledge, we Spiritualists must remain patient with those who do not believe in Spirit communication, or remain skeptical even after they have witnessed numerous demonstrations confirming the truth of continuous life. When pressed for an explanation, they will give alibis such as these: Are you careful not to speak too freely to others of Spirit return, for fear of being judged as crazy or deluded? Fear of what others may say is one of the foremost reasons why we do not become stronger and a more cohesive organization and religion. If we cannot be true to the truths of Spiritualism, how can we expect truth to work for us? Do you know of any time that our loved ones ever closed the doorway and refused to give us some kind of message as long as we gave our cooperation in return, helping to bring it forth?

We are certainly wavering in faith when we limit Spirit power; for a thought can blossom into a message of truth, and some day may prove a lesson which is most convincing. We are taught, individually, how to control our own sensitiveness, so perhaps, through wavering, we have interfered and wasted some of our strength and energies. There are many important factors we must study and take into consideration if we are to convince people that we are genuine in our work.

Let us never be weary from well-doing. May we never cease to testify on behalf of our religion. Our show of courage and patience when in the face of criticism will be well-rewarded in strength and growth, which, in time, will build for a united, universal, scientific religion.

# Precipitated Psychic Art

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

Precipitated artwork is a fascinating subject, even for the most experienced of psychic investigators. A great deal of psychic phenomenon was produced during the late 19th century and into the early 20th century. This phenomenon, as well as others, was clouded with accusations of fraud. But the phenomenon stands the test of time and presents itself as clear proof of the manipulation of physical materials by beings from the other side of life.

Precipitated art can be defined as artwork which appears suddenly, or without forethought. It can also be defined in chemistry as a substance which can appear in solid form without warning from a liquid solution. Author Ron Nagy, defines in his book *Precipitated Spirit Paintings* that precipitated artwork is “a work of art, usually a portrait, which appears on canvas without the use of human hands during a Spiritualist séance.”

In 1940, *The National Spiritualist* magazine called this phenomena “Transcendence in oil.” Imagine portraits being created out of “thin air” in amazingly short time without being touched by anyone, save the occasional holding the canvas steady at the edges, and sometimes the canvas was not touched at all. This is what was accomplished through Spirit.

The conditions under which many well known “Spirit paintings” were created were generally in low, but good lighting with numerous witnesses to observe the phenomenon taking place. In general terms, a blank canvas would be placed flat on a table or on an easel. There would be paints of every color supplied nearby, but after the effect is achieved, the paints were never used or disturbed. Brushes were not supplied. The image would begin to appear gradually in several ways, sometimes beginning from the edges, other times from the center outward. There was no distinct style or method used which could be traced back to any physical source.

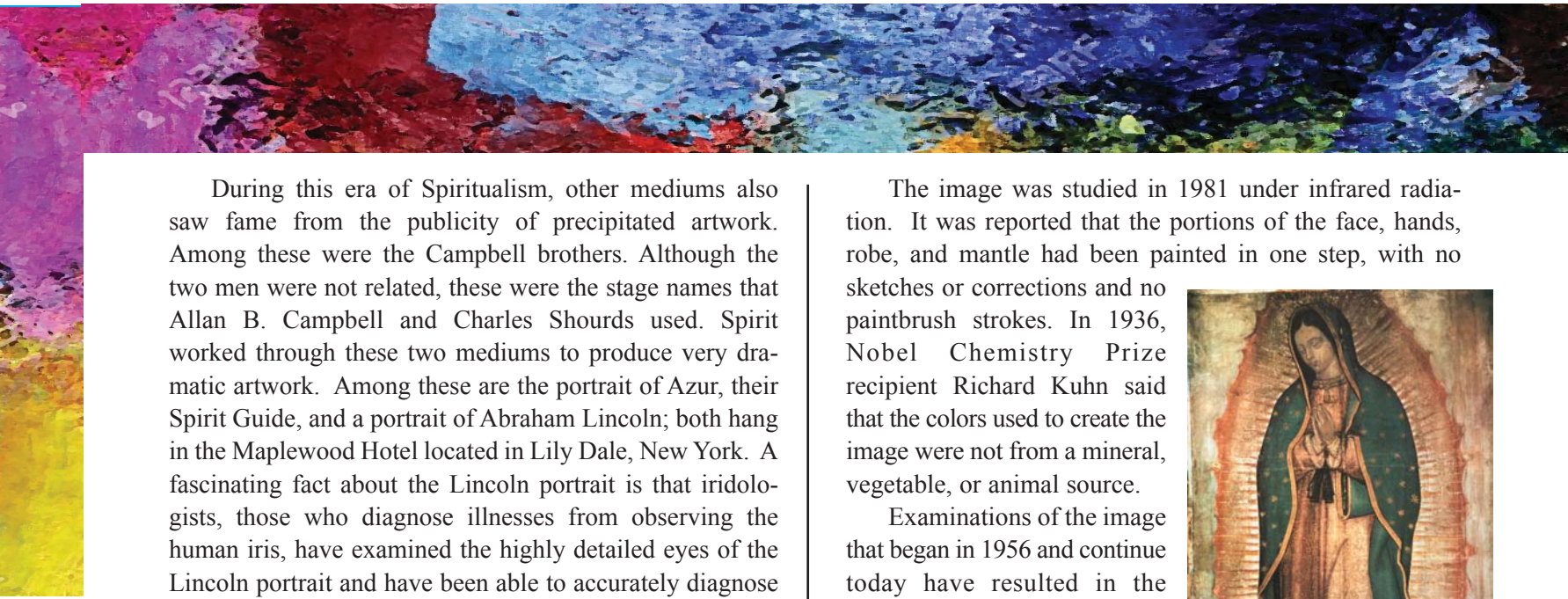
The museum in Lily Dale houses examples of Spirit paintings, and I was fortunate enough to observe these works of art very closely in the company of Ron Nagy. Beyond the skill of whatever Spirit artist was displayed, the amazing detail which stands out is that there are virtually no brush strokes visible on the canvas, and the subjects of the portraits have no eyelashes (as in the case of the Bangs sisters’ paintings.)



Bangs Sisters, May & Elizabeth

The Bangs sisters, Elizabeth and May, were the most famous and closely investigated of this phenomenon. They had begun their careers early as children born in the 1850s and were trained by their mediumistic mother to earn money as a family of traveling mediums. Trained as slate and automatic writers, they first gained fame by demonstrating Spirit communications through the typewriter. The Spirit portraits were first produced in 1894. Perhaps under the best of conditions, an artist might paint a rather poor, austere portrait in 5 hours. As the Bangs sisters were timed during these séances, these painting would appear in a range of twenty minutes, up to three hours. Add to this, an amazing fact, that afterwards, when the portraits were in possession of other people, the paintings would often change, with added details and colors. It was as if the Spirit artist had decided to make additional changes after the initial painting was completed.

Admiral E. Osborne Moore, of the British navy, took on the cause of investigating the Bangs sisters in 1909 after receiving a glowing letter of support from a very influential Canadian citizen. From that investigation, he wrote *Glimpses of the Next State*. When he observed the precipitated artwork, Admiral Moore wrote that whatever the substance was which appeared on the canvas was damp to the touch, felt oily and resembled soot. Art experts, after examining these paintings, stated that the substance used was not charcoal, oils, crayons, inks, water colors, or any other known substances. It was best described as the dust from butterfly wings.



During this era of Spiritualism, other mediums also saw fame from the publicity of precipitated artwork. Among these were the Campbell brothers. Although the two men were not related, these were the stage names that Allan B. Campbell and Charles Shourds used. Spirit worked through these two mediums to produce very dramatic artwork. Among these are the portrait of Azur, their Spirit Guide, and a portrait of Abraham Lincoln; both hang in the Maplewood Hotel located in Lily Dale, New York. A fascinating fact about the Lincoln portrait is that iridologists, those who diagnose illnesses from observing the human iris, have examined the highly detailed eyes of the Lincoln portrait and have been able to accurately diagnose Lincoln's medical condition. This is a superior clarity of work which cannot be accomplished by modern painting techniques.



Painting by David Duguid, Artist & Medium (1832-1907)

The Scottish medium David Duguid produced fairly detailed landscapes in total darkness, while not being permitted to see the canvas, and without the use of his hands. Frank Podmore, an early parapsychologist, witnessed this phenomenon closely and vouched that there was no trickery involved in producing this artist's Spirit artwork.

The earliest piece of precipitated artwork dates back to 1531 and is in possession of the Catholic Church. There is a legend of Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin, simply known as Juan Diego. Diego was an Aztec convert to Catholicism and claimed that the Virgin Mary appeared to him and ordered him to build a church at the site of his vision. When he told the local Bishop, the Bishop thought it was a fanciful tale and told Juan Diego to bring back a sign of a miracle. The Virgin Mary told him to gather flowers from a hill, even though it was winter and no flowers were blooming. He gathered roses that miraculously appeared in a cloak or apron and presented them to the Bishop. When the roses fell from his apron, the painting of the Virgin Mary appeared in the fabric. The image is still known as "Our Lady of Guadalupe."

The image was studied in 1981 under infrared radiation. It was reported that the portions of the face, hands, robe, and mantle had been painted in one step, with no sketches or corrections and no paintbrush strokes. In 1936, Nobel Chemistry Prize recipient Richard Kuhn said that the colors used to create the image were not from a mineral, vegetable, or animal source.



Examinations of the image that began in 1956 and continue today have resulted in the discovery of many new and varying details. Tiny images are said to have been found reflected in the eyes of the Virgin including the image of a group of Native Americans and Franciscans.

Experts from the textile industry have said they cannot understand how the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe has been so well preserved since 1531. Having been exposed to dust, heat, humidity and more, it has not shown signs of wearing down, fading, or discoloration. On November 14, 1921, a bomb was placed a few feet away from the apron. The explosion demolished the marble steps of the main altar and windows of many nearby homes. The blast even is reported to have bent a brass crucifix, yet the image on the fabric suffered no damage.

Since 1993, the apron has been protected by bullet-proof glass in the Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico City. It is said that it has the power to cure almost any sickness.

Although Spirit may have moved on to different technologies to demonstrate the higher side of life, we may continue to enjoy these wonderful examples of Spirit artwork. One day, Spirit may again offer us this incredible phenomenon, but until then, let us celebrate this evidence and show the world what Spirit can do.



Painting by the Bang Sisters

# Spiritualism & Geronimo

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



Frederick Harding is the author of a short booklet entitled *Why Red Indians are Spirit Guides*. In this book he states that the interesting phenomena occurring among spiritualistic mediums over the years is that Native American indigenous people frequently appear as Spirit Guides. The author goes as far as to say that these Native American guides are so dominant in the Spirit World, and he refers to them as the “traffic cops and gate keepers” to the Spirit World.

Harding’s booklet extols the virtues of the Native American Spirits and explains how they guide, protect and strengthen all of us spiritually whether we recognize this or not. He encourages us to understand the Native Americans and their spirituality. Those who do so will find available to them an inexhaustible treasure of wisdom and healing for their lives. He states that our problem is that Western society never took the time to do this. Westerners came to these shores in the spirit of conquest and dominion, and now much of this truth has been lost. It is part of the Native American creed to “leave no tracks and to honor the Great Spirit by leaving the Earth in its natural state”—uncorrupt and uncontaminated by their existence. Our intention here is to discuss Native American spirituality, how they manifested it, why it works, and why many Westerners can’t seem to understand it.

I need to make one disclaimer: The Native American Society was not based on federated states in loose confederations. On the North American continent there were 500 nations of indigenous peoples. There were also many sub-nations. There are estimates that there were as many as 2,000 major tribes, with their own cultures, traditions, and forms of religion and spirituality. Given this fact, I can only do this subject justice by focusing on one people. More specifically, I prefer to focus on one individual. In doing this I can do justice to the overall concept of Native American spirituality without overgeneralization. The individual that I have chosen is one who I feel I know something about.

In the summer of 1981, I spent 10 weeks at a military post that provided a base of operations during the period known as the Apache wars. The individual whose life that I am discussing was a key to the drama of those wars. Born in 1829 on the Arizona and New Mexico border, his name is Goyakla, which in Apache means “one who yawns.” He was given the name Geronimo by hostile Mexicans who greatly feared his presence in battle and were said to have said their prayers to St. Jerome for protection from him. Geronimo was not a chief of the Apaches, but a medicine man with unusual powers and psychic gifts, telekinesis and powers of healing. Chief Naches and the Apaches followed him until their physical strength was exhausted. Geronimo only surrendered when it was apparent that his people were too weak to follow him any longer.

The Apache people relied heavily on the power of Spirits in the Spirit World for guidance and sustenance. In the winter of 1869 and 1870, Geronimo came to pray over the wife of his



friend whose labor was so painful and prolonged that her death seemed imminent. He climbed a mountain to pray alone. For four days he had prayed. On the fifth day at sunrise as he lifted his hands and eyes towards the east he heard a voice from the Spirit World that said: "The child will be born and your sister will live; and you will never be killed with weapons but live to an old age." The baby was born that day and received an Apache name "Daklugie," meaning "forced his way through."

From that time on Geronimo's connection to his spiritual gifts became a key element to his generalship and his war fighting ability, as he seemed to have clear ideas on how and where he should lead his people.

Geronimo's followers give him credit for once performing a miracle on the battlefield. After driving off an attack from a vastly superior U.S. Army force, the Apaches made a long night march moving down a mountainside and across the wide open San Simon Valley. Geronimo was crossing a level place and wanted to reach the mountains before the pursuing enemy could site him. Geronimo sang a prayer and the night sky remained dark for two or three hours longer, according to his followers.

Geronimo also combined powers of prophecy and telepathy in several recorded situations. It was standard procedure for the Apaches to break up into two groups. One group, mostly women and children, formed a base camp. The other group, the warriors that made up the fighting force, would venture out on raids and attacks. One evening during one such raid the men were gathered around the fire, eating. Geronimo suddenly dropped his knife and exclaimed, "Men, our people we left at the base camp are in the hands of US soldiers, what shall we do?" This is likely a good example of Geronimo's mediumship or psychic ability, allowing him to perceive events at a distance that many have previously found unexplainable. The raiding party was at least 120 miles away and completely out of touch. Deciding to return to their base camp the following morning, Geronimo offered yet another prophecy. He said that on the following day's journey a man standing on a hill to the left would report the capture of their camp. His prediction came true. In the middle of the afternoon a man hailed them from a hilltop and came down to report that U.S. forces had indeed captured their camp and taken people into custody.

Geronimo's spiritual abilities were said to have been a central aspect of his life and the source of all his strength and wisdom. Geronimo spent his years as a prisoner in Fort Sill, Oklahoma after the wars concluded. He still could be found in front of a basket holding an eagle feather, an abalone shell, and bag of pollen, treating patients. Here he would beat his drum and sing his songs to the Spirits.

There are many stories of the people he healed. As Geronimo predicted, he did not die from weapons or injuries from bullets. Rather, his body was said to have been covered with healed bullet wounds. To the Apaches his spiritual power was an object not only of reverence but also of fear.

These well-documented stories of Geronimo and the Apaches are a microcosm of the greater whole. But there are many stories throughout Native American history that mirror their intimate connection with the Spirit World.

If we are to take Frederick Harding's advice and to understand Native American spirituality, then we have to ask ourselves why can't we understand it? Why is it so foreign to the average man's way of thinking? Without answering these questions we will never understand our Native American Spirit Guides. I believe a good answer to this question is contained in the book *The Coming of Seth* by Jane Roberts. "Seth" was a channeled Spirit from our time and culture and has offered an articulate answer to this question. It is as follows.

*The basis of the problem stems from the fact that Western culture has created a dual nature for itself, comprised of the outer and the inner senses, in which the inner senses take a subordinate position. The conscious ego, or that which deals with the outer senses and the outer world, assumes the primary position and sits in the power seat. Western Culture only gives the inner senses and the subconscious a grudging, hedging, partial acknowledgement and instead likes to pretend that the conscious ego is everything and that human beings are just a mechanism that is the sum of their physical parts. For this reason, Westerners have cut themselves off from the wisdom of so-called primitive peoples because of their insistence upon an artificial dual nature. Their everyday pattern of existence and cultural values tend to imprison them so that they can view other societies only through the murky maze of misconceptions. When the whites arrived on these shores, they considered native religion to be rather imbecilic, superstitious and prehistoric—a subject for condescension and ridicule, not for learning. But the Native Americans have always understood that humans are born with one nature, one self, not one self that manipulates and does the real important things in life and another lesser self that is best kept hidden in a cage.*

*There is much hypocrisy in the Western belief system. Data received by the inner senses are as vivid, and in fact more vivid, than any other data that you will ever receive. The irony of the matter is that we actually receive this inner data constantly. We utilize it constantly, and yet consciously we do not admit its existence.*

*Western science is also a problem. We are told that this science is the gold standard for our society—that everything worth anything is based on it. But the difficulty arises because Western science does not accept as evidence anything which is not perceivable in one manner or another through the outer senses. But we cannot hold a psychological experience in our hands and examine it. We cannot put an emotion in a petri dish and view it under a microscope in a laboratory. But yet this is the kind of standard that Western Science demands as evidence. To insist upon evidence in terms of outside sensual data is as ridiculous a notion as to expect a camera to play music. Music exists and can be played on a phonograph. Sights can be captured on a camera. But you do not expect music to come from a camera. You do not expect a phonograph to take pictures.*

*If we once allow ourselves freely to receive inner data in a spontaneous, non-critical manner, we will see that these data are as legitimate, valid and varied, and as powerful as any outside stimuli. But to insist upon translating these data into channels that can first be picked up by the outer senses, and then expect strong clear data, is impossible. Until we realize that there is one self, and not one self who does and manipulates and another self who breathes and dreams, we will get nowhere. In the final analysis the outside senses are nothing but fabricators and the material world they produce, nothing but a fabrication. For this reason, inner data is more reliable and permanent. The inner self is our friend, not our enemy as the Native Americans figured out long ago.*

Our agreement that this explanation holds the truth is one thing, but breaking through cultural bias and reforming it is quite another. Spiritualism has been struggling to reform Western culture since 1848. It has quietly introduced many of the ideas that Western culture is just now beginning to accept. Fifty years ago, the term “near-death experiencer” didn’t exist. People who spoke too often about their NDE

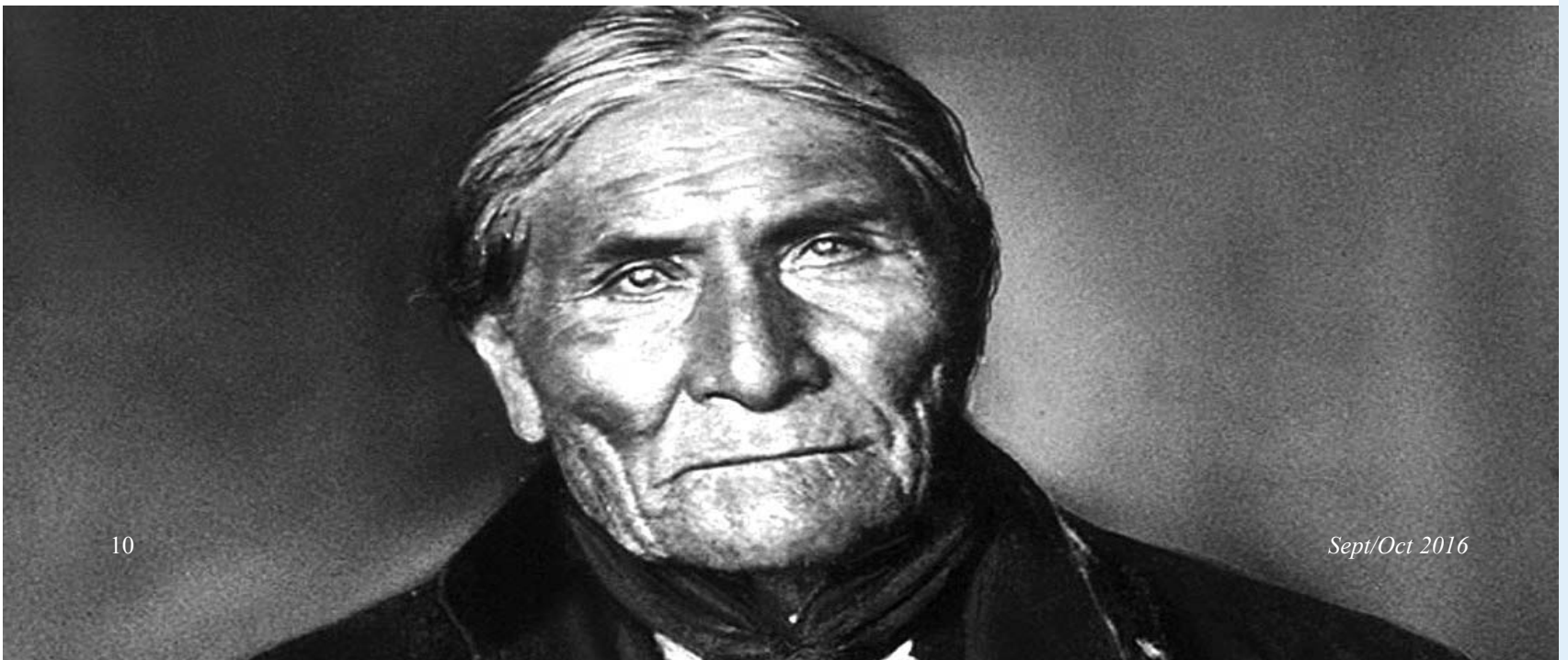
were often referred to psychiatrists and labeled as hallucinatory. Within the Spiritualist Church they found acceptance and support. Today these individuals are out of hiding and have the freedom to share their stories of their walks in the Spirit World.

The TV series *The Medium* and *Ghost Whisperer* have a lot to say about today’s culture and how we are still lagging behind with our cultural beliefs. Both of the heroines in these stories are forced to keep what they do shrouded in secrecy despite their success. They are constantly doubted and are held in suspicion by even their closest friends and colleagues. Even though these shows are Hollywood fiction, they accurately reflect the bias that our Western culture still clings to.

Mary Anne Winkowski, the real life Ghost Whisperer, shares several such stories in her book about the public’s refusal to accept information coming from Spirit. She tells a story about how she used to solve crime cases for the police until one day she discovered that because of the quality of the information she brought forth for one particular case, she herself became a suspect. That is when she decided never again to assist with police cases.

*Seth’s* message was that if we are to understand Native American spirituality, we also need to turn away from our obsession with the outer world and turn our attentions to the inner world. That is where we will ultimately find our connection to our spiritual power. Geronimo was one of those men who were true to the tradition of using his spiritual power in the defense and protection of his people. But most of us are not called upon to perform the legendary feats that Geronimo did. What we are called upon to do is much simpler. We can listen to our inner senses for the voices of our friends in Spirit for guidance, healing and peace.

May all of those Native American Spirits of old strengthen and protect us on our path until the end of our days here on the Earth plane.



## Spiritualist Church *Literally* “Moves

## Across Town!”



On a chilly April morning, Spiritualists in Western Massachusetts gathered at a construction site to watch as their former church building, constructed in 1887 for about \$13,000, was relocated to make room for construction of the \$950 million MGM Springfield casino.

Some members of the congregation joked that they were witnessing a modern “miracle.” The 129-year-old brick structure, aging and in need of repair, was transported about 600 feet without incident. Some joked among themselves about saving bricks as souvenirs when the building inevitably fell apart.

The experts from Wolfe House and Building Movers proved the doubters wrong, thanks to steel support structures placed beneath the church that brought the total weight to about 50 tons.

“I’m happy for it,” the Rev. John Sullivan, who has served as pastor since 1987, told *The Republican*, MassLive reporter. “It was home to a lot of people. It’s a part of history.”

“We’re excited,” added Linn Humel, church organist who worshiped there since 1983. “We thought it would be torn down. So we’re glad they were able to save it.”

“I think it’s great, absolutely great,” said Denise St. Pierre, who has served the church since 1997.

“The congregation had ‘poured money, sweat and tears’ into the Bliss Street church’s upkeep including the replacement of stained-glassed windows to wood-framed windows more in keeping with its original look,” Sullivan said. “We’re so happy to see it survive.”

The move itself took about five hours. You can watch a time-lapse video of the move by searching for “First Spiritualist Church of Springfield” on YouTube or on the church’s website at: [healinghandsoflightspch.com](http://healinghandsoflightspch.com).

Most importantly, the Spiritualist congregation continues to thrive. After selling the building to MGM, services were relocated in 2013 to a much more modern building in Chicopee, Massachusetts, which is known as the Healing Hands of Light Spiritualist Church. The new site, after some renovation, provides the congregation a bright and open space decorated by a member’s portraits of sunflowers, a modern kitchen for serving refreshments after services, dedicated classroom space, a sanctuary, a sound system and giant television screen, is handicap-accessible, and—not to be underestimated by parishioners who had suffered through the sweltering heat at the

former church—air conditioning!

The casino’s plans for the small Gothic building remain unclear. Among the uses that have been discussed include a retail space, a cafe for a planned ice rink and a chapel for weddings. The cost of the relocation was approximately \$800,000.

The church, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, was built as the first French Protestant church in Springfield in 1887, subsequently sold in 1911 to the Springfield Congregational Union. The First Spiritualist Society, formed in 1898, opened its doors to Spiritualism on January 1, 1918. The Society incorporated in 1919 as The First Spiritualist Church of Springfield and became a chartered member of the National Spiritualist Association of Churches (NSAC).

“MGM is pleased to save such a historically significant building,” said Brian Packer, MGM Springfield’s vice-president of construction. “This church in its new setting really lends itself as a unique architectural feature and something we can do that is really special,” he said. The casino project is expected to open in late 2018.

Springfield Mayor Domenic Sarno described the move as an “engineering feat,” and praised it as a part of a major economic development boost tied to the casino project—while also making sure to crack a joke or two.

“Merriam-Webster is another first here in the City of Springfield, but I think if you look at the definition now of ‘Holy Roller,’ that might fit the bill right there,” Sarno said, gesturing towards the church and its wheeled platform.

Some material in this article originally appeared in *The Springfield Republican* & is republished with permission. Submitted by Healing Hands of Light Spiritualist Church, MA.



# Challenges of Life

## How to Deal with Family & Friends

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

As Spirit beings, we seek balance and harmony in our lives, which can be difficult to achieve at times because not everything in life goes smoothly, does it? If your life is like mine, aside from the issues that arise from just living day to day, there are so many people! I love people—I like working with and for people. I draw strength from socializing with them. But I must admit—sometimes I do get a bit irked or frustrated with them. I have often thought, if I could control my feelings, how wonderful life would be—but how does one do that without throwing oneself totally out of balance? After all, feelings are an important part of life—we all have them and they seem to make a difference in how and what we do.

Recently, I read a little book written by Marilyn Lee entitled *Speaking Through Your Heart*, and one particular section resonated with me. The author wrote that our thoughts control our emotions. She wrote that as you change your perspective, you will see an event or person differently, emphasizing that we are not ever a victim of our emotions. So, I thought, all I have to do is control my thoughts and I can


avoid becoming frustrated or angry. As I thought about this, I remembered another book I had read by Karol Truman titled *Feeling Buried Alive Never Die* in which she spoke about single-mindedness.

There is a spiritual understanding of single-mindedness. Single-mindedness is generally defined as being focused on a goal or dedicated to the process. But single-mindedness can also be defined as having a state of mind when our feelings and our thoughts are in sync with one another so that our emotions are appropriate for the situation. In other words, what we think and what we feel are coordinated and reveal themselves in appropriate emotional responses to people and situations. Have you ever said or done something that was really quite innocent when you were just being yourself, and someone became totally irate and frustrated with you? Obviously, you read something incorrectly and were out of sync with the situation. That is the opposite of single-mindedness.

Remember that Lee had said that thoughts control our emotions. Here, Truman is saying that our feelings trigger our thoughts, resulting in our emotions. When our thoughts and our feelings are split, then we become conflicted. You can relate this to the left and right hemispheres of the brain. Most of you are familiar with the difference between the left and right hemispheres—the left hemisphere is organized, sequential, logical, verbal—and more

related to the thinking and conscious side of our life. The right hemisphere is intuitive, divergent, playful, musical, and more related to the feeling and subconscious side of our life. Each of us will have a preference for either the left or right hemisphere of the brain. You may try the thumb test to see. Fold your hands together as if in prayer. Which thumb is on top? If your right thumb is on top, you are most likely left brained. If your left thumb is on top, you are most likely right brained. Now, the scientists among us will smirk at my simplistic approach, but most often it works. By the way, if your thumbs are lined up next to each other, you may be whole-brained.

According to Truman, to experience what we think we desire, our thinking and feeling need to agree. If they don't agree, we need to change the feeling so that the feeling and thinking do agree—then we become single-minded. When we are single-minded about what we want, life works for us because the feeling always wins. Yes, feeling always wins. The feeling comes from the



heart, and we always receive the “prayer of the heart.”

Kinesiology is a process used in holistic health to test our beliefs, to test what is good for us, to test any number of things. Kinesiology is not dependent upon what we think; it is based upon our feelings. As an example, let’s say you are hungry. You have in front of you two plates: a double cheeseburger or an egg salad sandwich. You know which is better for you—you can think it through, but which one will you eat? In the mind-heart, says Truman, the feelings always win.

Obviously, our biggest challenges do not consist in deciding between a cheeseburger and an egg salad sandwich. But the lesson here is that we recognize that what we think may not always be realistic—it may not conform to reality. Let’s use our food as an example. If I want to lose weight, I will choose the egg salad sandwich—on one slice of bread. Why? Because I am accepting the reality of the foods in front of me just as they are. I see them as they are. If I eat the double cheeseburger, I will only be angry with myself later for giving in to my fantasy that eating a double cheeseburger won’t make a difference.

Let’s apply the same process to other people. I will share an instance of a student who walked into my classroom with no book, no paper, and no pen. I became perturbed—this was a 30-year-old male coming into a 4-hour class totally unprepared. Now why am I really perturbed? Because I THINK he should have his book, paper, or laptop, and certainly something to write with. He should somehow show that he is prepared and ready for class. I have this image of what a student should be like. This person looks like he just came in from a softball game.

Did this fellow cause my mental state? No. He has nothing to do with it. I created my own upset. I created it because I did not accept him as he was—I had a mental image of what I thought he should be or do, and he did not meet it. The problem was all mine. I was not letting him be the way he was.

No one makes us feel sad, mad, happy, or fulfilled. We create our own reality. How often during this election campaign season do we become upset or disgusted or whatever because someone does not think the same way we do. Those people have nothing to do with my feelings or emotions—I am the one creating them because I think they should think the way I think. I am not letting them be who they are.

I would bet most of us have experienced situations in which others have become angry or frustrated or whatever with us simply because they expected us to do, be, think, or believe the way they did. From that perspective, we can see that we had nothing to do with their emotional reactions. At least, I would hope we could see that we had nothing to do with them. Sometimes, we tend to take on that guilt, but we need to learn that we do not control others’ feelings.

As a Spiritualist, I know that being single-minded is important to create stability in my life and in the lives of those around me. When I am single-minded, I am conscious of the fact that I am one with those around me. The I AM that I repeat every morning during my meditation reminds me that I AM SPIRIT. I am Spirit with everyone else. I am Spirit with every one of you reading this article. We are all connected. I must accept myself as I am. I must accept each of you as you are. We give each other the freedom to be and to grow.

When we are not single-minded, we often find our thoughts and feelings drive us to react in ways we should not act. We place expectations on other people—sometimes the same expectations we place on ourselves, and how unfair is that? We do create our own reality—and our emotional reaction to that reality can make life pleasant or miserable for those around us.

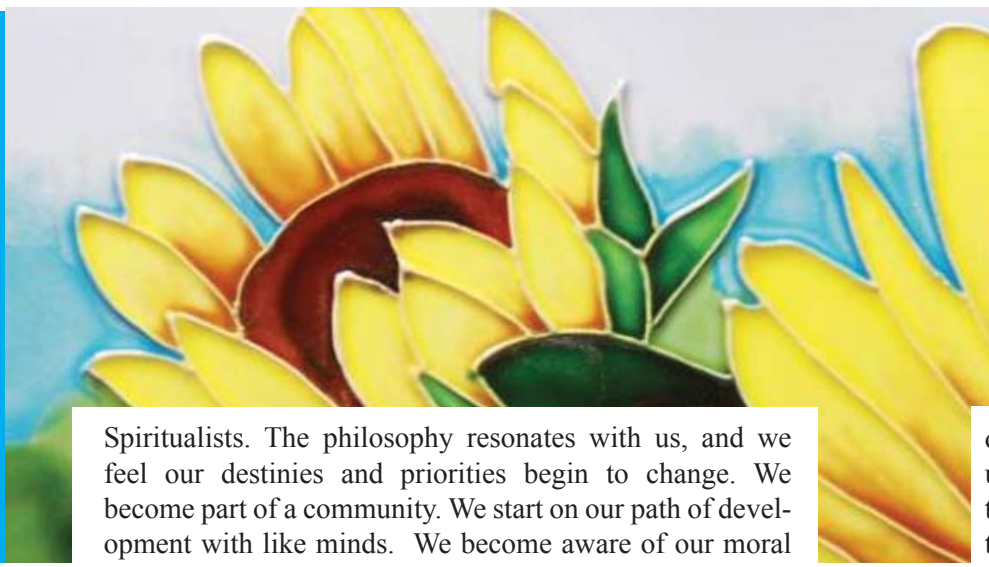
Why become upset? You know this is the reality. So let the feelings and thoughts reflect the reality, experience the stability of sanity, and be peaceful.

Just an afterthought: Common sense must prevail. The situations we all experience usually fall within the range of normal behaviors. I am not referring to dangerous issues such as those involving domestic violence or enduring issues of incorrigibility in children. The main point I am making is that our feelings and our thoughts need to be integrated or coordinated so that we are not expecting something that will disappoint us or frustrate us or create in us superficial happiness or joy.

As we move along our spiritual journey, we set goals for ourselves, accepting ourselves while striving to grow and improve. As Spiritualists, we know we are all Spirit; we are all one in Spirit. As Spiritualists, we let each individual set his or her own goals and accept him or herself while striving to grow and improve, which means we do not make judgments or place expectations on others. Is that easy? No, and that is the challenge. But its also an opportunity.

# Beautiful Teachings *From Spirit*

Writer: Tracey Bolton  
Summerland Spiritualist Church of the Comforter, CA




Spiritualists. The philosophy resonates with us, and we feel our destinies and priorities begin to change. We become part of a community. We start on our path of development with like minds. We become aware of our moral responsibilities as spiritual beings, and we attempt to understand the communication that takes place between our worlds.

What draws us all together in the space of a Spiritualist Church, is our experiences of having had one or more experiences that we couldn't explain with our rational minds. It could have been a coincidence, a dream that came true, a reading we received, a vision, or any number of inexplicable experiences we may have had. Many of us found our way to Spiritualism because we lost someone dear to us and we felt compelled to try to reach out to them. Somewhere inside of us, we sensed that our loved one was not really gone. Perhaps we visited a medium and were forever changed. The common thread for all of us is that something unusual caught our attention in some way. One day we saw the world as ordinary, and then in our own time we each experienced a shift. We have been compelled ever since. All of us in the Spiritualist Church have something deeply in common—the belief in, and the desire to connect with the unseen world of Spirit.

If you've had intuitive or mediumistic experiences in your life, or coincidences that were just too remarkable to explain, you know that Spirit was calling out to you. You know that the unseen Spirit World was whispering, (or shouting), "I'm here...! There's more...!" We come to church to share our indescribable experiences with others that understand, or to try to catch a brief glimpse of another dimension. We crave connection with our Spirit loved ones and with each other.

How does it inform our lives, to begin to know and understand that we are infinite beings that do not die? It's profound and breathtaking. The day we receive a personal, evidential message from Spirit in church, everything shifts. Suddenly we feel more alive and deeply attuned to the present moment. We begin to feel an expanded sense of purpose and wonder. We receive these expressions that prove the continuity of life because our loved ones in Spirit want us to know the truth about our lives and to feel our purpose. They want us to live our lives as fully as possible, and to know that there is more. They want us to know that each moment of this life is a gift.

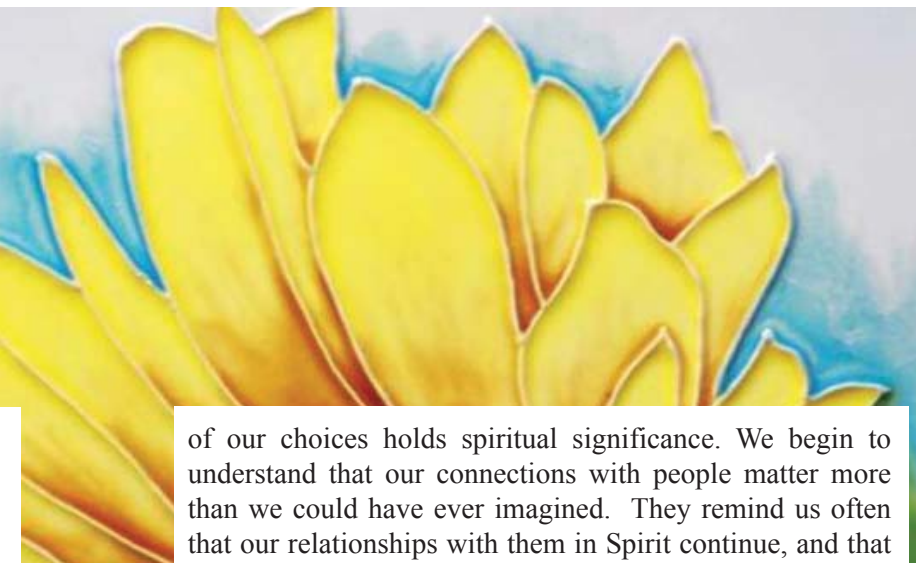
In connecting with Spirit we begin to sense that each



Our Spiritualist Declaration of Principles that we read together every Sunday in church contains the most profound declarations of who we are as members of the Spiritualist faith. We proclaim ourselves to be seekers, searching for, and receiving communications from beyond the material realm. As our Declarations state, we believe in Infinite Intelligence, and we affirm that the existence and personal identity of the individual continue after the change called death.

As Spiritualists, we are all exploring together. We are spiritual human beings trying to make sense of the infinite universe, what it means to be alive, and what happens after death. We are deep thinkers and explorers. We are courageous. We are open-minded. We are humble. We are willing to say, "We don't understand everything, but are willing to learn."

When a person is given the gift of being able to communicate with a living Spirit for the first time, there seems to be no going back. Once we have made a connection with the Spirit World, we are changed forever. If we are lucky, over time we make new discoveries and begin to identify ourselves as



of our choices holds spiritual significance. We begin to understand that our connections with people matter more than we could have ever imagined. They remind us often that our relationships with them in Spirit continue, and that the potential for great healing exists eternally. They express things like: “We haven’t left. We are right here. We love you. We care about what you are doing. We are proud of you. We are fine. We are sorry. We didn’t understand then, but we do now. We wish we could go back and do it all differently. We are sorry for your pain. You are not alone. We are with you. We will be waiting with open arms when your time comes.”

When Spirit comes through in a reading and a medium delivers the Spirit’s profound message, the touching and beautiful sentiment often expressed is, “If I had it to do over again, I’d live my life differently. I wish I had known.” When looking back on their physical lives on Earth, they frequently express with heartfelt love, their gained wisdom about how life is actually meant to be lived. They implore us to understand how wonderful life on Earth is! They want us to recognize how lucky we are to have this experience, and to live it joyfully while recognizing the blessing that it is.

They often wish they hadn’t taken things so seriously. They wish they had redefined their priorities, and put love and relationships before such things as work. They wish to express remorse they feel for not authentically connecting with loved ones. They wish they had said what was in their hearts, and they want us to know that there is nothing to fear.

Spiritualism is a beautiful religion that we are drawn to because Spirit is trying to teach us from their own experience. Their message to us is, “Use your life to the fullest! Don’t settle! Love well! Stop and look at the ocean instead of driving past. See the details in your child’s artwork. Focus on the person talking to you with your entire awareness. Be in the moment. Watch the cream unfurl into patterns in your coffee cup. Enjoy that piece of music with your whole body and soul. Live in gratitude for what you have been given. Laugh often and deeply. Love yourself. Paint the picture you’ve always dreamed of. Look into the eyes of the person you are talking to and see them as infinite. Stay open!”

As Spiritualists, we believe in Infinite Intelligence, and we affirm that the existence and personal identity of the individual continue after the change called death. Our beautiful loved ones in Spirit have so much wisdom to share with us. They are an infinite blessing!

# Spiritualist’s Poetry

Writers:

Nancy Grady & Audrey Williams

## The Time is Growing Near

*The Spirit World is a world in waiting.  
Unseen, unheard, denied by most.  
A mysterious world, striving for connection  
Often considered merely a ghost.*

*So the veil is thin at Dawn and Dusk.  
This information is helpful to know.  
Turn off the TV, Computer and phone  
..... Our vibration is no longer low.*

*The word "Spirit" derives from "Spiritus".  
And the word is Latin for "Breath".  
Somehow we need to breathe deeply  
Touching Peace so close to Death.*

*Conscious breathing, Pranayam  
Often helps to shift our gears.  
Set our intentions, unveil our hearts.  
We're connected with open ears.*

By Nancy Grady

First Spiritual Temple of Royal Oak, MI

## Essence

*I sensed your essence  
flow through me  
and my Spirit rose.  
I knew it was you who  
opened visions of truth.  
I felt blessed to share  
a part of your greatness.*

## Law of Choice

*Put on patience  
ride with wisdom  
talk with Spirit  
listen to creativity  
explore greatness  
and see the Divine in everything.*

By Audrey Williams

NSAC Spiritualist Church, IL



# The Image of *Spiritualism*

Writer: Lynda Lauts  
Spiritualist Chapel of the Pines  
Auburn, CA

The image that Spiritualism presents to the public eye is important, for the generally recognized image of what Spiritualism is reaches far and wide to invite or discourage those who might like to learn more about it. Our image potentially draws newcomers into our churches.


Historically, promulgation of the vision of Spiritualism rested in the hands of the press and even more so, individuals. Spiritualism was a new and noteworthy path to salvation and everlasting life, founded in the death of a peddler and the dramatic story of the Fox sisters. Bright minds of a spiritual bent were magnetically attracted by these new demonstrated findings that there is life for everyone after death.

The attraction of Spiritualism, to so many people from so many walks of life in its early history, highlighted the importance of a uniform image and form for Spiritualism.

As a very provocative and fresh avenue to life after death, it was alluring to those who were tired of the dogma and were seeking demonstrable truth. However, when seekers from varied backgrounds flocked to this new philosophy, religion and science, they brought with them many varied perspectives on Spiritualism, causing confusion as to what Spiritualism really stood for.

In time, a dedicated group of founders who were intelligent and had heartfelt appreciation for Spiritualism devoted their lives to organizing, legalizing and validating its truth and value. They set about building a firm foundation to represent the Spiritualist perspective. The image of Spiritualism was carved into a national organization with official legal recognition, processes and procedures. Churches and camps were chartered, and a bona fide new religion was born.





As times continue to change, the vision of Spiritualism can no longer rest only in expressive, well-informed, soul-stirring speakers or in inspiring printed articles and tributes from columnists in periodicals to attract attendance in the churches. The fact that in more recent times Spiritualist churches are the primary face of Spiritualism, brings home the importance of the manner of its expression within them. Countless spiritual ideologies currently exist in our culture.

Spiritualism now more than ever requires an image that reaches out to attract newcomers. Spiritualism needs an outreach that serves to bring new prospective members into the church in order to serve mankind and grow its membership. This is a challenging task. Whether it be an ad in a periodical or a flash on a computer screen, the onslaught of mass media means we have only seconds to capture the general public's attention and promote an image capable of bringing people into our churches.

Yying for attention, our image has ten seconds to stand out in the media among endless others in order to captivate the inquirer, and at the same time create in them a desire for further exploration. In order to shine in this type of marketing environment, we need branding that succinctly and powerfully conveys a message and seizes the interest of the quester. For example, an exact symbol which is present in every church, every ad, every website, every periodical, and in short, every place that Spiritualism is represented to the public, would help quickly capture the eye of the seeker. Our sunflower logo applied as a representative symbol to be used in all types of mass communication would serve as an anchor to the eyes of spiritual searchers sifting through the media. Repetitive viewing of the exact same symbol would insure that it becomes familiar and credible to seekers.

Instantly connected to our motto, searchers would then read what we stand for in a few words. For example, a short statement might be “honoring the continuum of life after death” or “demonstrating the continuance of life after death” to be placed with the symbol.

In addition, our logo branding could include an accompanying motto stating how we honor the continuum of life after death. It would be a simple, effective statement such as, “Spirit communication through mediumship” also placed below or near the sunflower. A web address and/or phone number might follow, driving interested parties in only seconds to further explore.

Once the logo branding image of Spiritualism becomes recognized by the general spiritual seeking public, more people will likely be drawn to learn more about Spiritualism and trickle into the churches. As an aside, a clear and up to date web presence which supports and magnifies our image and guides the enquirer as to how to become involved would be necessary, as well as a social media presence.

After attracting the prospective newcomer to the church, the presentation of Spiritualism must offer a relevant and meaningful experience. Beginning with platform decorum and continuing through each ritual, prayer, song, and healing event, the essence of Spiritualism should be felt, naturally inviting the aspirant to connect ever more deeply with the truth, wisdom and purpose of Spiritualism through actual experience.

It should be noted that the healing and greeting message portions of our church service are usually attractive to newcomers. However, without an awareness of the foundation of the phenomena, the image of Spiritualism may be weakened. This is where classes, and/or individual members of the church (perhaps in a social setting) contribute to the image of Spiritualism in order to maximize the visitor's experience. Each member should not only have a clear and authentic grasp of how and why Spiritualism exists, but must also be able to communicate the true purpose of Spiritualism through words, actions and deeds to the newcomer.

Here the future of Spiritualism rests on the comprehension of the profound vision that each and every member and participant in the Spiritualist Church projects. Though there are many healers, mediums and psychics these days, there are few organizations which cast healers and mediums in such distinguished light as do our churches. For no other religion champions the existence of a continuum of life in the way that Spiritualism does, demonstrated through the lens of philosophy, religion and science.

Spiritualism contains great insight, substance and scope into the reason for life. It is contingent upon all of us to unify and disseminate the image of Spiritualism in order to offer aspirants an avenue to further explore its depths. It is the providence of the board and members of each auxiliary to impress upon newcomers the relevance of Spiritualism to human life.



by The Revs. Tom & Lisa Butler, NST

### The Visits

People who are nearing transition often see dead friends or relatives who come to comfort them in their last moments of life. The perception of these visits become more frequent as a person approaches the moment of transition. According to a report from the Zee Media Bureau, scientists from Canisius College in New York interviewed 66 patients who were receiving “end-of-life” care in a hospital. The study revealed that most of the patients saw at least one vision each day. These visions can occur months, weeks, days, or hours before death and typically lessen fear of dying, making transition from life to death easier for those experiencing them.



*From: “Real life experiences of people near death—what did they see?” Zee Media Bureau, October, 2015, [zeenews.india.com/entertainment/and-more/real-life-experiences-of-people-near-death—what-did-they-see\\_1815450.html](http://zeenews.india.com/entertainment/and-more/real-life-experiences-of-people-near-death—what-did-they-see_1815450.html)*

### Post-Bereavement Hallucinatory Experiences (PBHE)

PBHE are typically studied with the assumption that the experiences are hallucinations or illusions. A research team conducted a meta-analysis of existing studies with the conclusion: “The available literature appears to support an elevated frequency of PBHEs in bereaved individuals, but further research is needed to increase the reliability of these findings and refine the boundaries between physiological and pathological experiences.”

*From: “Post-Bereavement Hallucinatory Experiences: A Critical Overview of Population and Clinical Studies,” by Anna Castelnovo, Simone Cavallotti, Orsola Gambini and Armando D’Agostino, “Journal of Affective Disorders,” November 2015.*

### Be a Citizen Scientist

The Institute of Noetic Sciences is conducting a research study on the Genetics of Psychic Ability.

You can participate in the study at:  
[www.surveymonkey.com/r/psigenes1](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/psigenes1)

### Findings of Studies Exploring Life After Death

Dr Erlendur Haraldson’s research into deathbed visions with 500 terminally ill patients showed that they had similar experiences of being offered help to the other side. Near-death experiences are reported by an estimated 200,000 Americans a year and surprisingly 59% of American doctors interviewed believe in some sort of afterlife. In a Study by Dr. Alexander Batthyany, at the University of Vienna, 10% of dementia patients were found to have a brief return to lucidity just before death. These patients’ brains are thought to be deteriorated to a point that should make normal mental functioning impossible.

*From: “Studies Explore Life After Death,” by Tara MacIsaac, Epoch Times, March 2016, [theepochtimes.com/n3/1990641-studies-explore-life-after-death/](http://theepochtimes.com/n3/1990641-studies-explore-life-after-death/) by Tara MacIsaac*

Dr. Sam Parnia’s 2008 Study of cardiac arrest patients sharing stories of life after death is still being quoted in the media. In an article this past May,

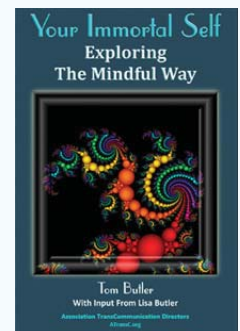
Dr. Parnia explained that while a brain is oxygen deprived, it is unable to recall memories and yet during a cardiac arrest you have a severe insult to the brain but perfect memory. One patient that Parnia interviewed was a toddler whose heart stopped after having a seizure. The little boy’s parents contacted Parnia after the toddler drew a picture of himself looking down at his body. It appeared as though a balloon was attaching himself to his lifeless body. The toddler, not even 3-years-old, explains what the balloon meant. “When you die you see a bright light and you are connected to a cord.” Parnia was intrigued that a toddler was able to share such vivid memories of his “death.”



*From: “Groundbreaking Scientific Study Reveals There is Life After Death,” by Erin Fitzgerald, Inquisitr, May 2016, [inquisitr.com/3098022/groundbreaking-scientific-study-reveals-life-after-death-consciousness-continues-after-death/](http://inquisitr.com/3098022/groundbreaking-scientific-study-reveals-life-after-death-consciousness-continues-after-death/)*

### Your Immortal Self

The new book by Tom Butler, *Your Immortal Self: Exploring The Mindful Way*, has finally been published. The book began as an effort to restate the survival hypothesis in terms of current understanding provided by psi studies and the phenomena of survival. Nearly one-third of the book is dedicated to



explaining the newly stated trans-survival hypothesis. A way of seeking personal progression has naturally emerged from the study and this is defined in the remainder of the book as sections on community and the phenomena of survival.

*You can learn more about the book from the dedicated web page at: [ethericstudies.org/writing/your\\_immortal\\_self.htm](http://ethericstudies.org/writing/your_immortal_self.htm).*

**A Recent Study on Americans' Religiosity** published by the *SAGE Journals*, showed that American adults were less likely to pray, believe in God, identify as religious, attend religious services or believe the Bible was the word of God than they were in previous decades. The decline in religious affiliation found in previous research is now reflected in religious service attendance and personal religious belief and practice. According to the study conducted by a group of psychology researchers from various American universities, the number of Americans who said they believe in God has hit the low point where 22 percent of adults surveyed said they don't believe in God. That's 69 percent higher than those adults who expressed doubt in God when the similar survey was conducted in the 1980s, where only 13 percent said they don't believe in God.

*From: "God To Be Forgotten Soon? Fewer Americans Pray Today – Report," by Jereco Paloma, Morning News USA, June 2016, [morningnewsusa.com/god-forgotten-soon-fewer-americans-pray-today-report-2366689.html](http://morningnewsusa.com/god-forgotten-soon-fewer-americans-pray-today-report-2366689.html)*

### **A Happy Afterlife**

Every year in April, China's cemeteries are more populated with the living than the dead. Millions annually visit the graves of their ancestors to burn items to ensure them a happy afterlife as part of the Qingming Festival, or Tomb-sweeping Day. This 2,500-year-old tradition now includes increasingly outrageous offerings such as cardboard cut-outs of Apple devices, helicopters and luxury cars. Some of the most popular items for burning are paper money, but some burn cardboard homes and plastic servants. Just like China's voracious consumerism, these extravagant offerings appear to be on the rise. There are even retailers offering to carry out the tomb-sweeping duties on behalf of anyone who can't attend the event. Services include everything from cleaning the tombs and burning offerings, live chats at the grave, and even having someone weeping to express the sorrow of the buyer.



*From "Laptops, mansions and helicopters: The weirdest paper offerings Chinese people burn for the deceased to ensure them a happy afterlife," by Qin Xie, Daily mail, April 2016, [dailymail.co.uk/news/peoplesdaily/article-3515806/Laptops-mansions-helicopters-weirdest-paper-offerings-Chinese-people-burn-deceased-ensure-happy-afterlife.html](http://dailymail.co.uk/news/peoplesdaily/article-3515806/Laptops-mansions-helicopters-weirdest-paper-offerings-Chinese-people-burn-deceased-ensure-happy-afterlife.html)*

### **Exploring Life and Afterlife**

A documentary series, "The Story Of God With Morgan Freeman" aired on the National Geographic Channel in April. In the series, Freeman travels around the world to learn more about everything from the mysteries of creation to the possibilities of an afterlife. Freeman produced the six-part program that visits Jerusalem's Wailing Wall, India's Bodhi Tree, the pyramids of Egypt and the Mayan temples of Guatemala. Freeman says that he hopes "The public ... gets the lesson of the sameness of the human condition. We're not as different as we might think we are, we're all seeking the same thing and asking the same questions, and basically coming up with the same ideas about who we are, what we are, and where we are going."



*From "Morgan Freeman exploring life and afterlife," by Yip Wai Yee, The Straits Times, April 2016, [news.asiaone.com/news/showbiz/morgan-freeman-exploring-life-and-afterlife](http://news.asiaone.com/news/showbiz/morgan-freeman-exploring-life-and-afterlife)*

**"The Good Place"** will air on NBC this fall. It is a new comedy show that will follow the story of Eleanor Shellstrop (Kristen Bell), an ordinary woman who, through an extraordinary string of events, enters the afterlife where she comes to the realization that she hasn't been a very good person. With the help of her wise newfound afterlife mentor (Ted Danson), she is determined to shed her old way of living and discover the awesome (or at least the pretty good) person within.



*From: NBC Television, [nbc.com/the-good-place?nbc=1](http://nbc.com/the-good-place?nbc=1)*

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

# Spiritual Success

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

**W**hat does the word *success* conjure up in your mind? Does it mean financial wealth? Perhaps you believe that being successful means that you have a good job. Maybe, for some, success has the face of philanthropy. While to others, finishing in the top ten finishers of a marathon denotes success. Success has many different faces and all its faces are correct. Our individual definitions of success are as varied as we are.

For example, a person who has been practicing conscientiously and is able to improve upon playing a piece of music feels a measure of success. A person who has rented a home for many years and is now able to get a mortgage and purchase their own home feels successful. Conversely, a person who has never played a musical instrument would have no sense of success about it. A person who has always owned their own home probably feels no special measure of success and longs for the day when their mortgage is paid off. Success for one is not necessarily success for another. It is a feeling that is subject to change based upon the individual's perception of the circumstances.

Spiritual success can have just as many faces as material and physical success. The diverse faces of success are simply pathways to the same ultimate pinnacle: being closer to Infinite Intelligence. The secondary gain of a successful venture is a sense of feeling good about oneself. Feeling good about oneself is one measure of spiritual success. The flow of the universe always seeks an upright position or a positive outcome. When something we perceive as bad happens to us, or we experience events that are unfair or unjust, the Natural Laws of the Universe seek to make lemonade out of lemons.

The mother who lost her child to a drunk driver transformed her loss and founded the organization called MADD. The person who lost a limb in a war now teaches others facing similar losses on how to cope and rebuild their lives. The physical world is not without its challenges. We all experience the gamut of emotions while here; grief, sadness joy, frustration, happiness etc. Spiritual success is measured by our ability to "work through" the challenges of life and strive to realign ourselves with the Natural Laws.

In a perfect state of being, one would not get caught up in circumstance, but would remain mentally and emotionally even. I for one, have not yet achieved that lofty ideal.

But what if you feel "stuck?" During our experiences of particularly difficult events, there is greater potential for us to feel we have become stuck. Many of us have heard the story of someone who lost a spouse and decades later still remains in a state of grief, having failed to move forward with their life. There is no virtue in that kind of suffering.

Another thing that can be immensely problematic for some is the issue of forgiveness. Each of us must find our pathway to forgiveness. Forgiving someone is really about trust. If you believe in Infinite Intelligence, and you believe in Natural Law, then you know that it is not your place to retaliate, correct or "fix." A balanced perspective is from a position grounded in love.

Each of us has our own personal journey. Your life is uniquely yours and no one else can occupy your space. That makes you a necessary part of the cycle of life here on Earth. Without you as a piece of life's puzzle, the world would be incomplete. You are divinely important to that cycle and totally indispensable. If you hurt, we all hurt. Feeling good about yourself and having a sense of spiritual success is your natural state of being. Spiritual success is the secondary gain of feeling good about yourself. Anything outside of that is not only counter-productive, it's out of balance with Natural Law. We know that our well-being and happiness is dependent upon our ability to live in accord with the physical and spiritual Laws of Nature.

Each of us was born a spiritual success by nature. Own it, embrace it, and live it every day and in all ways. Claim spiritual success as your very own!

# —“The Dash”—

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

Perhaps you have heard of an American inspirational poem called *The Dash* written in 1996 by Linda Ellis. The poem has become increasingly popular and is often read at funerals. For those who have not heard of it, the “dash” refers to the line between the two dates commonly found on a tombstone (e.g. 1926–1990). The poem explains that while the dates reflect their birth and their passing, the most important element is actually the dash between them, for it represents the life and experiences that occurred between those two dates in that person’s life.

The words of the poem certainly make you think. I have recently attended a few funerals at each of which the minister or a family member would read out an account of the deceased’s life. I found this very interesting as in each case I only knew the departed as a retired elderly person and to hear of their educational achievements, the posts they had held in their employment, their talents and sports at which they had excelled was a revelation. The poem goes on to say that it is not material possessions that are important in your dash rather it is how much we have loved and been loved in return throughout our life that count. Nobody knows how long they will live—our dash may cover only a short lifetime—so it is important that we live life to the fullest. We must treat others with respect, show appreciation and smile more. Remember that we touch the lives of everyone we come into contact with.

As Spiritualists, we all know that our life here on Earth is a school of learning. We come here to learn, gain different experiences and form our character. We know that one day we will have to answer to God for the life we have led. Did we waste our time or did we make the most of what life had given us? This poem has particular relevance to our beliefs. We must all live our Dash to the fullest. Don’t put off till tomorrow because maybe tomorrow will never come. Write that letter, make that phone call. Perhaps the recipient may no longer be around to receive it if you delay too long. Get your priorities right. Enjoy summer days in the open air and keep those home jobs for rainy days. Go on holidays, read books and open your eyes to God’s wonderful world. Work hard and play hard. Give praise and show compassion and look back on a life worth living.



*The Dash*, by Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak  
at the funeral of a friend.  
He referred to the dates on the tombstone  
from the beginning...to the end.

He noted that first came the date of birth  
and spoke the following date with tears,  
but he said what mattered most of all  
was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time  
that they spent alive on earth.  
And now only those who loved them  
know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own,  
the cars...the house...the cash.  
What matters is how we live and love  
and how we spend our dash.

So, think about this long and hard.  
Are there things you’d like to change?  
For you never know how much time is left  
that can still be rearranged.

If we could just slow down enough  
to consider what’s true and real  
and always try to understand  
the way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger  
and show appreciation more  
and love the people in our lives  
like we’ve never loved before.

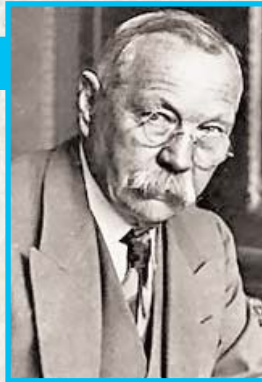
If we treat each other with respect  
and more often wear a smile,  
remembering that this special dash  
might only last a little while.

So, when your eulogy is being read,  
with your life’s actions to rehash...  
would you be proud of the things they say  
about how you spent YOUR dash?

# Stories of Spiritualism

## Part II

Writer: Rev. Rita O'Connor  
Center For Spiritual Enlightenment, VA



Everyone likes a good story, and Spiritualism is full of them. The interesting thing about true stories, is that there is always more to discover. Have you ever been gripped by a documentary or a biography or an historical thriller, to the extent that you find yourself googling certain details about it to resolve unanswered questions in your mind?

In the July issue of the TNS, we looked at some fascinating details about the Fox Sisters that were revealed in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's book, *The History of Spiritualism*. Now we will take a look at a less well-known story.

Many people have no idea who Sir Oliver Lodge was. I noticed that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle dedicated *The History of Spiritualism* to him and wondered "why him?" Taking my cue from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, I found that one question led to another, so I began to dig.

Sir Oliver Lodge was a rather famous man of science. Lest you think that those who investigated and experimented with Spiritualist phenomena were a bunch of amateurs, let me tell you otherwise. Sir Oliver Lodge was a distinguished professor of physics and mathematics at University College, in Liverpool. As a physicist, he was involved in the development of, and holder of key patents for radio.

"He identified electromagnetic radiation independent of Hertz' proof." In other words, he was no slouch, scientifically. His interest in psychic phenomena in the late 1800s led him to study it. It is noted that he was a member of "The Ghost Club." That peaked my curiosity, so I Googled it. It's for real and it's still in existence. "The Ghost Club" is a paranormal investigation and research organization founded in 1862 that investigates ghosts and hauntings. It is widely believed to be the oldest such organization in the world.

Sir Oliver's first experience in psychical research dates back to 1883. His most notable observations in physical mediumship were made with the famous Italian medium, Eusapia Paladino. Ah, there's a story! Her story was an interesting and difficult one, for she cheated at times, and it seemed to make no difference to her that she might be exposed for it (as she repeatedly was). When given the slightest opportunity to cheat, she did so. But at the same time, there were manifestations occurring that seemed to be quite genuine. Over the years, Eusapia continued to baffle many scientists and investigators. Some of the phenomena occurring during her sittings included levitation of tables, musical instruments, and even herself. Chairs often moved about the room, and curtains blew.

During a visit to America late in her life, she was detected performing obvious tricks and offended her sitters so much that they rejected her as a fake. But Howard Thurston, a famous conjurer in attendance, decided to continue the sitting. Just as another well-known

sitter was reproaching her for moving some object with her hand, another object, quite out of her reach, moved across the table.

*The Minerva Scientific Circle* calculated that at least 75 percent of what occurred during the sittings was genuine paranormal activity. Late in her career, Eusapia was investigated by a three-man committee with very formidable credentials, including a former magician who had an excellent record of exposing fraud. They concluded, "It was only through constant repetition of the same phenomenon, in a good light and at moments when its occurrence was expected." They recognized that the phenomena occurred, in spite of all their precautions, and stated, "We gradually reached the conviction that some force was in play which was beyond the reach of ordinary control, and beyond the skill of the most skillful conjurer."

Her career was certainly a peculiar one. It has been said that no physical medium has ever more certainly been proved to have psychic powers, and no medium was ever more certainly a cheat upon occasion.

In the field of mental mediumship, Sir Oliver Lodge spent a great deal of time investigating Boston's famous medium, Lenore Piper. In 1889, Lodge invited her to England for tests. He was an exacting researcher, taking every conceivable precaution to eliminate any possibility of foreknowledge or fraud on Piper's part. He went so far as to temporarily replace his servants with others who had no personal knowledge of the Lodge family or Piper. As their guest, she was kept incommunicado and was constantly watched by detectives. With Piper's permission, her private mail was opened and read. Every questionable communication with others was eliminated, yet Piper's Spirit Guides' accurate communication in every test he devised helped convince him that Spirit phenomena were real.

Aside from his experiments, experiences in his personal life convinced him of the truth of Spirit communication. World War I shifted his focus, for his son Raymond was killed in the war. Sir Oliver visited several mediums and wrote about his experiences in a number of books, including *Raymond or Life and Death*. The book includes letters that share insight into Raymond's life, then documents the various messages Sir Oliver received from him through sittings and automatic writing after his passing.

The last chapter of the book, titled *Life and Death*, was written with his hopes to "help people in general to realize that this subject is not the bugbear which ignorance and prejudice have made it; that it belongs to a coherent system of thought, full of new facts of which consistent study is necessary; that it is subject to a law and order of its own; and that though comparatively in its infancy, it is a genuine branch of psychological science."

Again, "the interesting thing about true stories, is that there's always more to find out." Spiritualism encourages us to read, learn, form our own opinions, and reach our own conclusions. We have a responsibility to seek out answers to the questions that puzzle us. Perhaps reading this will have given you a thirst for seeking out the details that will help you make up your own mind... about everything. Be like Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and keep digging. That is the Spiritualist way.

To answer my question as to why Arthur Conan Doyle dedicated this book to Sir Oliver Lodge? Simply because they were friends with a common bond, and they had both lost a son in the war.

# Personal Growth & Self-Discovery

Writer: Kevin Mullican, Spiritualist; Jacksonville FL

In a technologically driven society, where our attention is constantly being distracted, we rarely stop to intentionally reflect upon our personal growth. It is unlikely that you have had a recent conversation with someone and discussed what you have been learning as a result of life's experiences because these are cumulative subconscious events. However, we can experience personal growth through moments of conscious self-awareness. It is possible to become self-aware during times that challenge us or opportunities that allow us to learn. Spiritualism teaches us that as we begin a process of deliberate or focused self-discovery, we can begin to then experience self-directed personal growth.

The process of self-discovery often occurs through trial and error. If life went according to plan and everything unfolded for you exactly as you hoped it would, you may never have an opportunity to know the limits of your own strength or self-endurance. You need challenges to grow because it lets you know when something you are doing is effective, ineffective, or needs to be revised. You may also discover through this process that you want to try something new. You need new projects to be able to generate brand new ideas. And you need setbacks to experience comebacks.

One of the innate barriers to personal self-growth is our view of life and the world around us. Our worldview is tied closely to our belief system and through that we establish a set of filters to process information that we read or hear. It also determines the sources of information we will seek out. If we continually rely upon that point of view, and

never consider alternative perspectives, we grow mentally stagnant. This is the reason why a formal classroom environment is transformative in nature. Students are exposed to different sources of information and other perspectives. Even students that initially resist the process gradually begin to accept new viewpoints.

Self-discovery is an ongoing process and you can use it to your advantage to experience personal growth through conscious self-reflection. This means examining positive and negative outcomes and interactions each day.



When you experience something positive use it as a source of self-motivation. On the other hand if you have a negative experience don't gloss over it, learn from it. For example, if you are enjoying a walk along a trail and you suddenly trip, what happens? You re-correct yourself and pay attention to where you were walking. It is very unlikely that you will stop and believe that you can

never walk again. The same is true for negative experiences. You can learn to re-correct yourself and become better prepared for the future.

Once you've experienced the benefit of continuous self-discovery you can begin to use it in a purposeful manner. You will likely experience personal growth because you will become self-aware of your strengths and areas of weakness, and you can build from or improve those specific areas. You will also realize that the concept of success is also an evolving process and built from gradual steps and persistent effort. Through every challenge and every opportunity to learn you can use it to your advantage. It will influence every aspect of your life, including your professional growth and development.

# Self-Deception



Writer: Anne Thomas  
Spiritualist Church of Awareness, FL

**W**hy is it that we hesitate to deceive others, but think nothing of lying to ourselves? We all practice self-deceit, sometimes with grave consequences. The most common ploy we use is rationalization. That's just a fancy way of saying we make excuses and blame our lack of success on circumstances beyond our control. We don't like to admit we are the cause of our problems, so we invent reasons for our failures.

When you have discussions with others do you often notice that they are wrong and you are right? Isn't it odd that you are almost ALWAYS the one that is right and NEVER wrong? How can that be? This lie prevents us from learning from others. Why do we feel threatened by different opinions and find it painful to admit we may be wrong? Perhaps we are stuck in "either-or" thinking. That is, EITHER they or I are right, when the truth is, some of what *both* say is right and some isn't. They are sometimes right, but sometimes wrong. Remember that just because another person knows more about SOME things than we do doesn't mean they know more about EVERYTHING than we do. Once we understand this, we will feel less threatened by different ideas and more willing to listen, learn, and remain more flexible.

Some lies people tell themselves allow them to destroy their health with cigarettes, alcohol, drugs, overeating or overspending. A favorite lie for many is, "I can't do it because I don't have the time." But if you didn't have the time to do the important stuff, how come you had time to do the unimportant stuff? Another popular lie is "I'll have more than enough time to do it later." These procrastinators often much later in life wonder where time went and why they failed to reach their goals.

Those who are may fear stepping out of their comfort zone and make something of themselves proclaim, "I'm not afraid, I'm just being cautious." Those who year after year fail to make progress announce, "I can't help it. Its just the way I am. I was born this way." These are lies that don't get us anywhere.

As Spiritualists, we learn that unless we end the self-deception, face our fears, admit our faults, accept responsibility, roll up our sleeves and get to work, things will remain the same. Assuming that it isn't what you want, and that you are committed to stop lying to yourself, let's look at some of the patterns we use to deceive ourselves, for once we are aware of them, they will be easier to change.

*Rationalization:* No results + great excuse = no results. This formula clearly shows that no excuse, regardless how good it is, advances our cause. There's no point in making excuses. Don't waste your time.

It is far better to use that time to take steps, no matter how small, to bring you closer to your goal.

*Justification:* Do you justify your actions, twist the facts, and pretend to yourself that wrongful acts are perfectly reasonable?

*Selective Attention:* When faced with an opinion that we disagree with, rather than consider we may be wrong, we dismiss, discount, and down play its importance. We remain on the lookout for information that supports our beliefs, and automatically reject anything that conflicts with our preconceived notions.

*Denial:* Rather than face the painful truth, we choose to ignore it.

*Wishful Thinking:* One pretends that there is truth in what is not true simply because they want it to be so.

*Projection:* One shifts the blame for their problems on another or even upon "life" in general.

*Regression:* Rather than coping in a mature way, a person under stress or frustration may sulk, whine, or cry with the expectation that others will to rush to their aid.

*Repression:* One buries the memories below their level of awareness. Although repression alleviates pain and allows one to function, the memories remain intact. Until they are dealt with, one may not be able to form healthy relationships.

*Suppression:* Memories are consciously hidden.

*Displacement:* Taking out our frustration and anger on innocent people because you feel you cannot express your anger to the one you really feel anger towards.

Lying to ourselves is a coping mechanism we use to avoid pain. What we must understand is that the pain of *not* facing and handling the truth is greater than the pain we'll experience by actually facing it head on. With that understanding, why do we continue to lie to ourselves? It is one thing to say you understand that it is better to face your problems and quite another thing to FEEL the pain, doubt, and worry that accompanies facing them. In battles between our intellect and our emotions, our emotions almost always win. That is because we usually operate on autopilot, allowing our emotions to run the show. However, with practice, we can interrupt our feelings and ask ourselves "Is the action that I now FEEL like taking really in my best interest?" If it isn't, choose to act differently. When we stop and question our feelings often enough, it becomes habit. Once it is, we will always be acting in our best interests, even when our actions are automatic.

If you don't start acting in your own best interests today, when will you begin? The next time problems erupt, face them. Analyze them and tear them apart. Ask yourself, "What are the best steps for me to take now?" Then do what you believe is best. Study your results, and make further refinements if needed. Don't just talk about it; take action! As author Bernard Baruch wrote, "Approach each new problem not with a view of finding what you hope will be there, but to get the truth, the realities that must be grappled with. You may not like what you find. In that case you are entitled to change it. But do not deceive yourself as to what you do find to be the facts of the situation."

The problem with self-deception is it blinds us to the cause of our problems, thereby making us incapable of solving them. We've got to remove the glasses we're wearing, regardless how bright the light of truth may be. Once we face our problems, we'll be able to overcome them. And that is the truth!



# The Philosophy of Spiritualism

Writer: Rev. Sharon Watson  
New Vision Spiritualist Church, FL

Many people know about Spiritualism and the phenomena that are associated with this religion. How often though, are they aware of the Philosophy of Spiritualism?

The definition of philosophy is “the use of reason and argument to seek knowledge of the causes and nature of things and of principles governing existence, particular system of set of beliefs reached by this personal rule of life. An attitude of rationality, patience, composure, and calm in the presence of troubles or annoyances.”

How many of you remember growing up and being taught rules of right and wrong-programming for your internal guidance system? Those rules were to help you throughout life to cope and hopefully live a better life. You were taught right and wrong and the consequences for your choices. This concept or philosophy has remained with you and you have and will continue to make choices according to these beliefs that you have established within yourselves. If you were taught that life is hard and people are out to get you, you will continue to live according to that belief. If you were brought up in a loving and supportive home, you will feel that the world is a loving supportive place. These ideas can be influenced by others and become your philosophy if you are not mindful.

There is always free will and choice and you can continue to live according to that philosophy or you can grow and release those beliefs. It is your choice to move forward or remain stagnant.

In Spiritualism, it is wonderful that we have proof of the continuity of life and we can come to church and be with like-minded people. The real work comes in living according to the philosophy of Spiritualism. Science and religion are external things you can learn, but philosophy is internal.

The philosophy is one of the foundations of Spiritualism. The whole duty of humanity in a mortal life consists in taking the first steps in the attainment of knowledge and generally developing character and nature to harmonize with the fully unfolded spiritual state. This duty encompasses the entirety of conduct, mentally,

morally and spiritually.

After the Spirit has severed its relations with the physical body, our moral status is the same as immediately before the change, and we enter into a high or low state according to our attainments in the world. By a subtle law, both the good and the ill we have done are fairly weighed. We ourselves hold the scale and render the judgement. This statement is very powerful because as it is here on Earth, it is in the Spirit World and vice-versa.

Good deeds, springing forth from a good heart, have a creative force in building pleasant abodes in our spiritual life and conversely, the negative deeds create their own unhappy environment. The unenlightened must compensate for their negative deeds, here or hereafter, and attain a state of justice before they are prepared to enter upon the path which leads to spiritual happiness and progression. Natural Law always works here and hereafter.

All dwellers in the Spirit World who are willing, may attain a state of complete happiness. But in cases of some people, much suffering must be endured before they can free their imaginations from the scenes of their negative deeds or their souls from the sense of guilt. Spiritual happiness does not depend primarily upon belief or creed, but upon character.

Are you cultivating your character? Being a spiritual person is not just about coming to church, although you can receive instructions on how to do so during a church service and from Spirit. What is your motive or reason for doing what you do? Is it for your own gain, or for helping others? Is it ego driven? You will have all the help you need if you practice the following mental exercise. In the Christian faith they have a saying, “What would Jesus do?” This saying helps direct our thoughts, deeds and actions to what is for us the highest possible. This exercise can promote good character and can be your philosophy to always strive for the highest and best for yourself and everyone around you. When you focus your life in this way, it is exactly what you will attract to yourself in this life.



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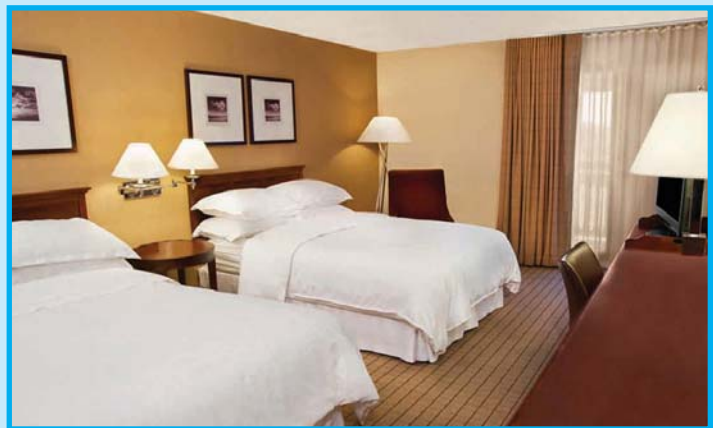
Hotel Lobby



Hall



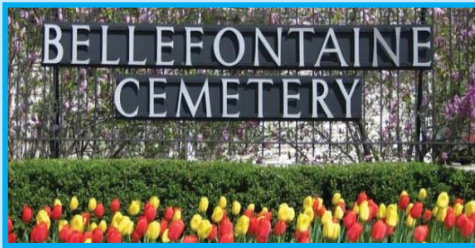
Pool Deck



Suite



Bar/Lounge



### Bellefontaine Cemetery

The Thursday, October 13th outing will be to Bellefontaine Cemetery. This is a wonderful tour you will experience while riding aboard a trolley. There are many famous people buried here in St. Louis. The tour will prove to be very interesting and you are sure to learn a number of wonderful facts that you may not already know. Tour includes lunch.

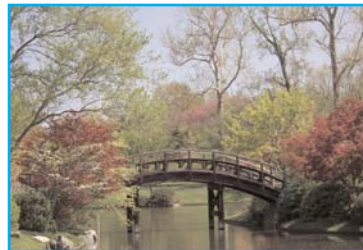
Visit the tour website at [www.bellefontainecemetery.org](http://www.bellefontainecemetery.org).



### There are exciting things to see and do in St. Louis!

The world famous St. Louis Zoo, Grants Farm, the Old St. Charles Shopping district as it was 200 years ago, Forest Park which was home to the 1904 Worlds Fair, there is much to see here, the Botanical Gardens, the Science Center, the Missouri History Museum, the Planetarium, the Art Museum and the Fox Theater. All of this is in and around Forest Park.

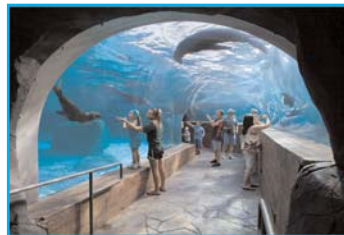
Check out Forest Park's attractions, visit:  
[www.forestparkforever.org](http://www.forestparkforever.org)



Botanical Gardens



Grants Farm



Science Center



History Museum



Our Saturday October 15th outing will be to the St. Louis Arch. This outing includes a ticket to the Arch Museum plus a one-hour long river boat cruise down the Mississippi River which includes lunch.



Please review their web site at:  
[www.gatewayarch.com](http://www.gatewayarch.com)  
for additional information.

For easy booking, registration, and payment of Convention items please visit the NSAC website and click on "Registration." (See page 28 for Registration Form.) We hope you will join us for this eventful and exciting Annual NSAC Convention! We want this to be a wonderful experience for each and everyone of you.

Your Convention Committee Chairperson is Kevin Folsom. Please feel free to contact Kevin if you have any questions.  
His phone number is 636-377-2109.

### Ways & Means

We have organized tables for the Ways and Means fundraising. If you would like to donate an item to sell, please send an email to Kevin Folsom at: [FolsomKevin@yahoo.com](mailto:FolsomKevin@yahoo.com). If you would like to make a donation to offset the costs of the Convention, please send a check to Fifth Spiritualist Church, 6026 S. Kingshighway, St. Louis, MO 63104.

To a wonderful new year for the NSAC. May our religion continue to grow with Spirit guiding us along the way!

# Gateway to Spiritualism

Sunday–Friday, October 9-14, 2016, St. Louis

Register at [www.nsac.org](http://www.nsac.org) to charge to a credit card or to download PDF fill-in form.

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CHURCH NAME, CITY, STATE

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## CONVENTION HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Make hotel reservations directly with Sheraton Westport Chalet, 191 Westport Plaza Drive, St. Louis, 314-212-2134 or <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/book/NSAC2016>. Rate is \$119/night + taxes for one to four per room. Use reservation code "NSAC2016" for contracted rate.

I plan to arrive:  Saturday  
 Sunday  
 Monday

- Arrive other day \_\_\_\_\_
- I plan to attend the Sunday service at host church and need transportation.
- I plan to attend the Sunday afternoon reception

USE ONE FORM PER PERSON — COPY FORM FOR EACH ADDITIONAL PERSON

Choices (make choices by marking boxes on left and enter fees in column on right)	Cost	My Fee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Convention registration and badge fee	\$ 50	\$ 50
Workshops on Monday (advance payment not available; pay at door)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Banquet <i>Select one</i> <input type="checkbox"/> London Broil <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Dijon	50	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cajun Tilapia <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian plate		
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday tour to Bellefontaine and Calvary cemeteries (box lunch included)	40	
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday tour to Gateway Arch (Arch ticket, 1-hour riverboat tour, lunch included)	54	
<input type="checkbox"/> I need wheelchair access		
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>		

Check payable and mail to: Fifth Spiritualist Church of St. Louis, 6026 South Kingshighway Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63109

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**KNOW!** *Spiritualism gives to the world knowledge. . . And in two words solves the difficult problems of all mankind, saying, "I know."*

—Harrison D. Barrett, Spiritualist, 1863–1911

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# Spiritual Awareness

Guest Writer: Gordon Ray, Spiritualist, AU

At some stage in our journey through life and particularly in our search for meaning we sense we are becoming spiritually aware. But what does this mean and how can we recognize some of the signs? We start to sense dissatisfaction within ourselves and perhaps we consciously ask questions of ourselves such as, “What do I consider to be the six fundamental questions in life? Who am I? Where do I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going? How am I going to get there?” And, “What will it be like when I get there?” It is most often growing older or personal experiences that bring about suffering, grief, pain or sorrow that cause us to ask ourselves these vital questions. Also, as we turn inward with a genuine desire to search out new meaning to life, our spiritual centre awakens and answers our call from deep within. This process can be illustrated by a famous poem of Robert Browning’s entitled *Paracelsus*. A portion of it reads as follows.

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

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

Note how the author describes how material life as “gross flesh and carnal mesh” can choke off the spiritual impulse and “bind it, and makes all error.” In other words, as we look outside of ourselves rather than within, the imprisoned splendor that is the Spirit stays locked within. If we make our choices based primarily upon material values, we neglect the spiritual. However, this does not mean we should be self-centered and turn inward to the neglect of the world. It means that as more consciously aware individuals we are able to relate more fully to God. We may then grow into the realization that God is everywhere and in all things. This realization should persuade us to value others and our relationships should be permeated with this knowledge.



# B O O K S

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# The NSAC Post

Ordination Ceremony Held for Lynn Streeper of The Memorial Spiritualist Church in Norfolk, VA.



On Sunday, June 26th the Ordination Service for Lynn M. Streeper took place as part of the usual Sunday morning service at The Memorial Spiritualist Church in Norfolk, Virginia. The Rev. Lelia E. Cutler officiated and gave the ordination charge to Lynn. The Rev Christine Krithades presided with a lovely flower ceremony, presenting Lynn with four roses and a sunflower, explaining the significance of each. The hymns were beautiful and the choir sang *You Lift Me Up* as a special presentation. Many friends joined the regular members of the church for this special service.

## Proudly Announcing:

Additional Certifications have been granted as follows, during the period from April 1st through June 30th, 2016:

### Ordained Minister & National Spiritualist Teacher:

*Kathleen S. Riley of Lily Dale, New York*

### Licentiate Minister:

**Pamela Bollinger of Santa Barbara, California**

**Deborah R. Fox of Patchogue, New York**

**Jennifer K. Priel Neumann of East Aurora, New York**

Congratulations to each of these members for this achievement. It is noteworthy that they have continued their Spiritualist education and, applied for and been granted certification.

## Opportunity to Host

NSAC Convention in 2018 and 2019 Both 2018 and 2019 are available for churches and state associations wanting to host an NSAC convention. Conventions are an excellent way to bring members of your church or association together. Help is available in the form of a convention-planning handbook and a meeting planner, who can help with securing a venue which best meets our needs. For more information, contact NSAC Secretary Micheline Corbin at 716-595-2000 or [nsacsecretary@nsac.org](mailto:nsacsecretary@nsac.org) to discuss.

## NSAC to be Represented at World Congress

The International Spiritualist Federation (ISF) will hold its annual World Congress from July 30 through August 6 in Zenderen, Holland. As Steven Vogel and the Rev. Rosemary Calderalo already were planning to attend, they have been appointed to represent NSAC.

The ISF World Congress week offers well-respected training and educational opportunities. With truly International tutors, the ISF represents 37 countries, with participants travelling from all over the world to meet and learn together. Steven Vogel is ISF Corresponding Secretary, on its Committee with another NSAC member, the Rev. Richard Schoeller. Robin Hodson, ISF President, attended and presented at NSAC Convention 2015 in Phoenix. For more information about ISF, visit [www.theisf.org](http://www.theisf.org).

## First Spiritualist Temple, East Aurora, NY Hosts Pastoral Skills Course April 9-22, 2016

The First Spiritualist Temple of East Aurora, New York, hosted for the first time in its over 100 year history the two week Morris Pratt Institute's Pastoral Skills Course in April 2016. The church transformed its dining hall into a classroom for the twelve students for the course. The church hosted a class of twelve students from across the United States, with seven students from the First Spiritualist Temple. The class was led by the instructor Rev. Barbara Starr, NST. The students welcomed guest speakers from the local community to educate them on a variety of topics and they even had the opportunity to visit a local business in relation to the course. The class studied a variety of Pastoral topics, from dealing with illness to Pastoral duties of a church. As part of the course, each day, a student prepared and performed a church service.

Graduations were held on the last day, and the class was honored to have Michelin Corbin, NSAC Secretary as their special guest. Hopefully, the students will take the lessons learned and bring back to their churches to assist their congregations.

(Continued on page 33.)

# National Spiritualist Association of Churches

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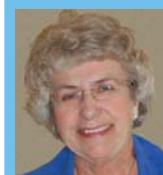
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**Photo in Front:** Rev. Barbara (Bunny) Starr, NST  
Great Cacapon, WV

**Photo 2nd Row:**

Minerva Barber, First Spiritualist Temple, NY  
Tracey Bolton, Spiritualist Church of the Comforter, CA  
Beverly Burke, First Spiritualist Temple, NY  
Rina Salvemini, First Spiritualist Temple, NY

Cristy Sixt, First Spiritualist Temple, NY  
JoAnn Santonocito, First Spiritualist Temple, NY

**Photo Back Row:**

Lynda Lauts, Spiritualist Chapel of the Pines, CA  
Diana Moore, First Spiritualist Temple, NY  
Thomas R. Schickling, Plymouth Spiritualist Church, NY  
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of the Pines, CA  
Debra Malison, First Spiritualist  
Church of West Allis, WI

Post Submitted by JoAnn Santonocito, First  
Spiritualist Temple, NY



# NSAC Spiritual Healing

## The NSAC Healing Center

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

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

It is easy to send a request for healing prayers for yourself or another. You can send your request through the NSAC website at [www.nsac.org](http://www.nsac.org) by clicking on Healing and fill out a form, or you may email [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 the Healing Center and information will be forwarded to you on how to get started. While there is no charge for this booklet, any donation that is received will help off-set printing expenses and postage fees.

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

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

*Thank you & Healing Blessings,  
Rev. Vicky Homann, NST*

## Prayer for Spiritual Healing

I ask the great Unseen Healing Force to remove all obstructions from my mind and body and to restore me to perfect health. I ask this in all sincerity and honesty, and I will do my part.

I ask this great Unseen Healing Force to help both present and absent ones who are in need of help, and to restore them to perfect health. I put my trust in the love and power of God.

## Spiritual Healing Request

Please select from the following options, and provide the appropriate contact information as requested.

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

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

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

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

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# LYCEUM

## COMMITMENT

To whom are you committed? When you think of commitment, does it weigh you down, or does it make you feel encouraged that you are progressing in something exciting? Commitment is defined in the dictionary as “the state or quality of being dedicated to a cause, activity.” When you do something with dedication and see the results from it, it makes you feel wonderful, and accomplished.

So are you committed to yourself? Are you doing the best for you to strive to do something greater for your well being? Being committed to yourself is not always EGO, it is proving to everyone and to you that you are willing to go the extra mile, and that you are not willing to give up.

Are you committed to people and activities around you? Are you willing to make sure that the best happens for others around you and in the best interests of the community around you? Help others and put aside obstacles in order to help others so that they may have an easier time in their daily lives. That could be running an errand for groceries or even giving them comfort in their time of need. As Spiritualist we should be committed to ourselves, to others, to our churches, or camps, and the community around us. Once we are committed we can make our lives and everyone else's' around us a better place and a better world.

*The NSAC Department of Lyceums*

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

Church of the Living Spirit, AZ

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## The Power of the Chair

Writer: Marden Pride, First Spiritualist Church of Brockton

We begin our church services with healing services during which we use chairs. A place to sit for self, or other people's healing. The men and women who stand behind the chairs are the ones allowing the universal force of good to pass freely thru them to the sitter and sometimes beyond. Those on the other side wait for a chance to send energy through the sitter. Sometimes Spirit waits for some time for a particular person to choose to sit for healing. Even though they have asked for healing, they still do not go up and sit. It is Spirit's encouragement that all in attendance do so. They have enough love and energy for everyone.

Those who stand behind the healing chairs should clear their minds, say a prayer, offer an affirmation, or prepare in whatever method that individual chooses prior to standing behind the chair. They are called to do God's work. Hands on healing, as it is called, is one of the best parts of the Spiritualist service, so keep it sacred in your mind and in your actions. Know that it is a great way to build yourself up and help others at the same time. More church Healers should follow rules of preparedness before the healing service begins.

Attend the next healing class near you, and serve Spirit and mankind.

## DIRECTORY OF NSAC CHARTERED CHURCHES & AUXILIARIES

### • ARIZONA •

**GLENDALE • Church of the Living Spirit** • 3736 W. Wahalla Lane, Glendale, AZ 85308; Mailing address: 9106 W. Willow Haven Court, Sun City, 85351; Pastor Rev. Janet Tisdale, NST, (480)510-2581; Sun. Svc 10:30am.; [www.churchofthelivingspirit.com](http://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](mailto:Qantas523@aol.com). Church email: [info@spiritualistlivingcenter.com](mailto:info@spiritualistlivingcenter.com). Web: [spiritualistlivingcenter.com](http://spiritualistlivingcenter.com)

### • CALIFORNIA •

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

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

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

**SAN FRANCISCO • First Spiritual Temple** • Svc: 2nd & 4th Sundays, 10am at 33 Banbury St., 94132. Classes. Healing at svc & privately a major part of our ministry. Rev. Elsie Ann Soria, NST, Pastor. Pres: Ben Santiago. (650)731-4490. Email: [4kateri@gmail.com](mailto:4kateri@gmail.com); 370 F Street, #309, Colma, 94014.

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

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

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

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

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

### • CONNECTICUT •

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

**GROTON • The Spiritualist Church of Peace & Light** • 15 Thames St. (Bailey Agencies bldg) Sun Svc 10:30am; Mailing address: 70 Dell Ave. #B5, New London, CT 06320. [www.speacelight.net](http://www.speacelight.net). Email: [speacelight@yahoo.com](mailto:speacelight@yahoo.com); Rev. Lynn Gaffin, [heart\\_860@yahoo.com](mailto:heart_860@yahoo.com); Rev. Rich Terpe, [richterpe@att.net](mailto:richterpe@att.net). (860)442-1709.

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

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

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

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

### • FLORIDA •

**ORLANDO • New Vision Spiritualist Center, Inc.** • [spiritualistchurchorlando.com](http://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](mailto:reveao@yahoo.com); Pres. William Patridge; Rev. Ann Otzelberger, 4332 Woodlyne Ln., Orlando 32812.

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

### • ILLINOIS •

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

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

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

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

### • INDIANA •

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

### • MAINE •

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### • MASSACHUSETTS •

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

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

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

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

### • MICHIGAN •

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

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

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

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

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

### • MINNESOTA •

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

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

### • MISSOURI •

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

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

### • NEBRASKA •

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

### • NEVADA •

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

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

### • NEW HAMPSHIRE •

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

### • NEW JERSEY •

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

### • NEW YORK •

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### • OHIO •

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

### • PENNSYLVANIA •

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

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

### • TEXAS •

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

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

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

**• VIRGINIA •**

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

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

**• WEST VIRGINIA •**

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

**• WASHINGTON •**

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

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

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

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

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

**• WISCONSIN •**

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

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

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

**• CANADA •**

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

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

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**REMINDER: All Annual Listing Renewal Fees are due in October.**  
**All Listing Renewal Fees: \$25**  
**Payable to TNS Summit**  
**659 George Ct. MT. Dora FL 32757**

# “We Are One”

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

Saturday, June 18, 2016, six days after that heart-wrenching horrific act that sent 49 human beings into the World of Spirit and 53 others hospitalized, a Healing Song Service was held at the Spiritualist Church of Awareness on 3210 North Chickasaw Trail in Winter Park, Florida, a suburb of Orlando. It was a service to bring peace of mind to those who attended and send love and healing to those who made their transition, to those who were in the process of mental/emotional and physical healing, and to the families of all 92 who were dealing with the loss of life of a loved one or those who were dealt physical harm. The lighted billboard at the church was surrounded by 49 American flags, placed by Lee Peters, to signify each life that was taken. Although not all of the victims were American citizens, we want the community to know that Americans grieve all of those who transitioned.

The service opened by a welcoming from the church Pastor, the Reverend Jeannie K. Lerch. The congregation sang “Whispering Hope,” followed by the Invocation. Candles in the five-place candelabra were lit one at a time. We light this first candle for our grief. Like the heat of this flame, the pain of losing our family or friend is intense; the second candle represents our need for courage and strength, and we know our loved ones, both here and in the Spirit World will help us; the third candle is lit with memories: family games, private jokes, traditions, and plans for the future; and the fourth candle is the light of love. Each day we cherish the special place in our hearts that they touched—their laughter, encouragement, support, strength, inspiration, and spirituality has given us a life-long gift to cherish. We light this final candle for healing. Their transition has left emptiness in our hearts, our homes, and our lives. Now we must comfort one another; rebuild our lives; and move forward as they want us to; knowing that their presence and love will always be with us. We know they are going to be watching over each and every one of us until we meet again.

Rev. Lerch then read 1st Corinthians 13:7 and 13:8. She then led the congregation in reading the Spiritualist Healing Prayer, followed by a few moments of silence. Church member Marsha Hall played the Native American flute as inspired by Spirit. The Rev. Marilyn J. Awtry then offered words on the medicine for healing simply called Love. She followed this with quotes on Love from countries around the world concluding with a Chinese Proverb: “If there is light in the soul, there will be beauty in the person. If there is beauty in the person, there will be harmony in the house. If there is harmony in the house, there will be order in the nation, and if there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world.” This segment of the service was completed by the Pastor offering insight from the Dalai Lama as follows: “The past is past; nothing can change it. But the future depends on the present; we still have the opportunity to shape it. This is not a matter of employing technology or spending money; it’s a question of developing a sense of concern for others’ well-being. We need to show each other affection, to be sensible, warm-hearted, more compassionate human beings.”

The congregation then sang “Peace Like a River.” The finale of the service was offered by Church member Lee Peters who took the congregation into a deep meditation as he played the singing bowls. The Service concluded with the singing of “Let There be Peace on Earth.” The pianist for all the hymns was Church member Carol Collins.

# Learning to Work with Spirit

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

**A**utumn is in the air. It is the time of completing harvests and starting into cooler nights, frosty mornings and gradually working our way into the holiday season. The evenings are longer, it gets dark earlier and we have time in the evenings to settle in and be cozy and comfortable in our homes. With yardwork finished or nearly so, there is more time for reflection. I personally find television less appealing than ever. Do you relax with a book? Do you think about just doing nothing? Perhaps if there isn't a lot of noise in the house it is a good time to attempt to learn to meditate a bit.

We should think about being responsible to ourselves rather than always to the needs and requests of those around us. We speak of tuning in to the Spirit and trying to just be still and listen. You don't have to plan on so much as a half hour, you just need a few quiet minutes to tune in. In the solitude, just still your mind and listen. Remember to ask Infinite Intelligence to be with you and only draw to you those with your highest and best interests. If you have a clock that ticks, hear it and give thanks for your ability to hear. Maybe there are still crickets chirping outside. Try not to focus on anything in particular. Try to lightly close your eyes and float above yourself seeing with your mind's eye how things would appear to a stranger.

Is the air serene? Does the house have a peaceful feeling? Are there cracks or sounds that many call the house settling but may also be Spirit attempting to catch your attention? If you are alone, speak aloud to the sounds quietly but firmly so Spirit knows you are receptive. Ask if Spirit is there with you, then just listen. When you hear something again ask if there is anything Spirit wants to tell you; again, just listen. It is that simple and easy to be with Spirit. After about 7 to 10 minutes, thank the God Force for being with you and giving you the sense of peace you have received.

Part of working with Spirit is believing you can! Spiritualists know they are never alone. Spirit is around and about each one of us at all times. It is true that a grieving person whose aura and atmosphere are "heavy" with sorrow has lower vibrations, making it more difficult for Spirit to reach through to them. If you carry the knowledge that the soul lives on beyond Earth plane, you are better able to overcome grief. That is one of the most important lessons that

we as Spiritualists teach, and probably one of the most difficult for people to accept. Yes, their minds want to accept the belief and the comfort it brings, but they also have to reach the point where it becomes real in their hearts.

Believing Spirit can reach you and allowing yourself time to give them a quiet time daily is one of the best exercises to bring them into a communicative state with you. Start your quiet minute with meditation to the highest Force of God that you can accept, and then quietly let your mind drift. When you receive a thought or inspiration you don't feel is typical of you, it may be that Spirit brought that into your mind. With practice, the subtle communications Spirit brings to your mind become stronger, and you'll grow more sure of their presence.

Those of you who are trying to develop your mediumship for others should share the message exactly as you have received it. It isn't for the medium to understand. The message is for the recipient to recognize or work with until it falls into place with them. Sometimes it takes a while. If you are receiving nothing there is no dishonor in simply saying "right now I don't have anything, but thank you." Part of the problem with Spirit demonstration has to do with ego, and those who are practicing mediumship need to be open and honest.

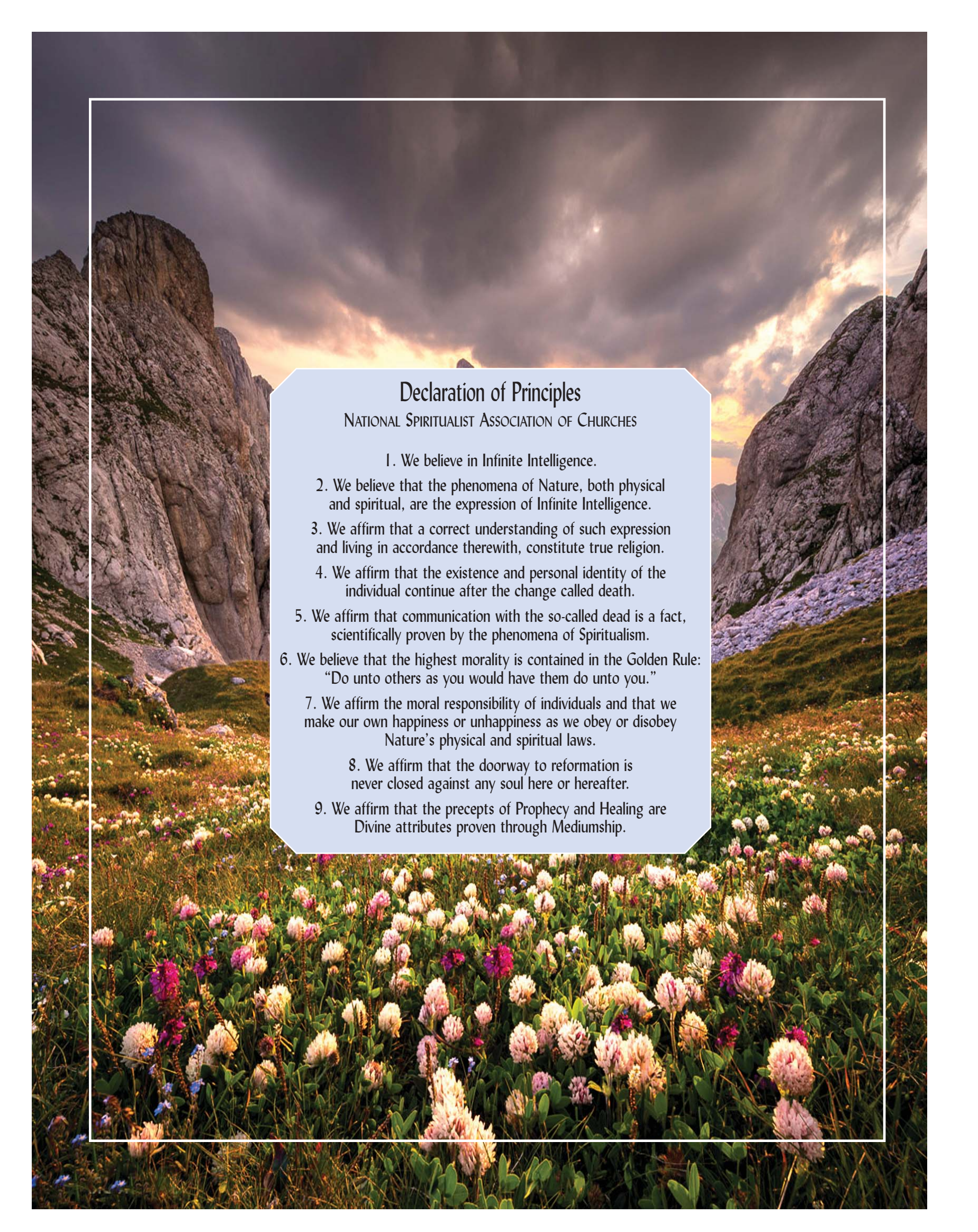
You should also know that not everyone is going to receive a message each time they are in a Spiritualist Church. Spirit can actually be present and around you without having anything significant to say at that particular time. Just as you may be attentive to a conversation with others, perhaps learning from it but having nothing constructive to add at that time, Spirit entities also may present for the conversation but listening rather than speaking.

Never feel left out when you do not receive a message. Frequently a message given to one will also fit another person in a different way. It can be frustrating to a medium when someone who has received their message gets restless while others are still being served by Spirit. We advise sitting quietly and listening to what is given and seeing if what is being given would also apply in your own life.

Messages are about Spirit greetings, and often are given by entities who may not have been able to reach through in the past, but who see the light of the service and wander in, surprised themselves that they are able to get through and make contact. As we know, many churches do not participate in this type of service so there aren't many of opportunities for these souls to touch in.

Try to sit quietly for a few minutes each day in the presence of Spirit and Infinite Intelligence. Meditate, and realize you are in the presence of loved ones, listen, and if nothing is given, just thank Spirit for being with you. Perseverance pays when you are learning anything new.

I hope this helps those who desire to be able to contact Spirit, and for those with experience, I hope this refresher inspires you to continue to grow in your quest.



## 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.