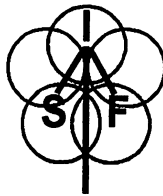


~~July~~
~~April~~ 2003

Yours Fraternally

quarterly magazine



**The
International Spiritualist Federation**

Established in 1923



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Yours Fraternally

July 2003

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The Committee requests that any matters members wish them to discuss should be in the form of a signed letter posted to the general Secretary.



President's Page

Perhaps like me when you meditate you have a symbol of white light which fills the mirror of your mind, enabling the spirit workers to draw close; time to reflect upon our faith and feel the quietness within, also the pathway ahead.

The world is in an upheaval state where so many factions are trying to maintain control over so many. Has mankind advanced over the centuries? Nothing seems to have changed the purpose and thinking of all those who wield the power.

We all have come to this earth-plane as innocent tiny babes, bringing with us the love in our souls from the divine essence. The most important faculty is free-will, to choose our earthly pathway. I do believe we make the choices, good or bad, as individuals, or perhaps the in between pathway to just accept the easy way forward.

We are mostly free-thinkers who can choose to take the opportunities to grow, our soul energies to expand. We need to make full use of all the wonderful guides and angels who work to give us the link with the universal force of love, but we must be still and at peace with ourselves to let the divine power of prayer shine through.

Can we make a difference in our small way? I like to think we can - thoughts are powerful energies.

The proof we have is when we enter a dwelling where love has blossomed - it reverberates around the very walls. Perhaps for you it is a garden in full bloom, wonderful colours and scents, a token of God's blessing to mankind. For me it's the Anglican Shrine of our Lady in Walsingham, Norfolk. There is a holy well; water is freely given to those who enter this special place. (If you decide to visit, take your own bottle.) Many cures are said to have taken place through the holy water's healing qualities. Perhaps it is all the prayers and beauty that abound, which have gathered over the many centuries - the thought power of love from those whose prayers have remained and gained momentum as this energy has pervaded and become a tangible force.

When we reflect on the beauty of this world we can liken ourselves to being part of a huge orchestra. Maybe we all are finely attuned, as individual instruments, with the ability to create beautiful sounds of harmony.

The opposite is also true. When only one instrument is out of tune it can spoil the whole piece of music, all the efforts of the rest of the orchestra are wasted.

My prayer for today is, Infinite Spirit may we all gather the energy of love from the divine source, let this shine through our thoughts that the purpose of intent may be shown through our own spirituality.

*Blessings and Love,
Marjory.*

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Committee is most grateful to Jane Podgorski for standing in and producing the July issue of YF. Thank you, Jane!

Australian member, Garth Willey will take over the role of editor as from the October issue and you are invited to send any contributions to him:

Mr Garth A Willey, Woodlands Sanctuary, 3 Woodland Way, Gruyere,
3770 VIC, Australia. Email: YF_ISF@Bigpond.com

Cath Robertson
General Secretary

NOTICE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY TO ALL MEMBERS

Membership Subscriptions are now **OVERDUE**.

Individual Members:

If your subs for the financial year to 31 March 2003 are not paid, this will be the last copy of Yours Fraternally that you will receive and we will be obliged to remove your name from our lists.

Individual Members £15, US \$25, or €28

(Life Membership (if you are 55 or over): £150, US\$ 225 or €240)

Organisations:

National Groups: £90, US\$ 135 or €150

Local/Independent Groups: £50, US\$ 75 or € 85

Associate Groups: £24, US\$ 38 or € 50

All remittances should be made payable to **The International Spiritualist Federation** and posted to Mrs K Rumens, Membership Secretary, PO Box 25282, LONDON N12 7WY, UK

Connie Ransom 1906 - 2003

Whilst not born into Spiritualism, once Connie adopted it she quickly became involved. There will be older members at the Spiritualist churches in Finchley and Reading who will remember her well and be aware of the work she did there.

She devoted herself to The International Spiritualist Federation from the early 1960's and through that involvement she met many of Britain's leading post war mediums. These would have included Gladys Osborne-Leonard, Bertha Harris, Joe Benjamin, Nan McKenzie, Helen Hughes, Gordon Higginson, Harry Edwards, Maurice Barbanel, Robin Stevens and Ursula Roberts. Also because of all the work she did for the ISF she will be fondly remembered by Spiritualists all over the world, including Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Canada, France, the Netherlands, Scandinavia and the United States.

Those who only knew Connie from her attendance at ISF Fraternal Weeks in 1997 and 1999 didn't really know her at all. They will remember a slightly eccentric but loveable old lady who in 1999 went around all week with an increasing number of feathers in her hair.

The real Connie was a determined, innovative lady whose first great contribution to the ISF was to help President Margaret Wilson to hold it together during the early 1980's. These were the most difficult years it has ever experienced; years when financially it was living from hand to mouth and apathy surrounded the organisation like a thick fog. Had it not been for the efforts of these two ladies at that time, we would have had no ISF today.

Connie joined the Federation in the late fifties or early sixties and she soon became involved. Firstly helping May Brown check credentials at the 1966 Congress in Copenhagen, Denmark then in 1969 succeeding Harry Dawson as ISF Treasurer, which duties she carried out for almost 20 years. During her time as Treasurer she recommended the Executive Committee to buy stock in Great Universal Stores, an investment which is now worth many times what was paid for it and underpins our present financial strength. For several years she combined the duties of treasurer with those of Membership Secretary, until the indefatigable Kay Rumens took over that role.

In 1984 she became President and this was when I first got to know her. I was traveling regularly to the USA even then and she went out of her way to send me details of Spiritualist churches in America. I still remember the kind and encouraging letters she wrote. Robin Stevens succeeded her as Treasurer but after a while his health began to fail and he felt he could not continue in that role. Connie, typically putting the ISF's best interests first, agreed to exchange jobs with Robin and became Treasurer once more.

During her first term as Treasurer, the Federation was left a significant sum of money in the will of Mrs. Ivy Shelton. The Executive Committee decided to set up The Shelton Trust to administer this fund. Connie became one of its first Trustees and continued to be so until June last year.

Important though the foregoing work was, I believe it was as an innovator she made her greatest contribution to the organisation. As a result of her suggestion, Congress 1975 at Froebel College, London became the first Congress where accommodation for delegates and members, together with all meetings, took place in the same building. This format has been extremely successful and is still used today.

Being a maiden lady, Connie rarely had many people gather to celebrate her birthday each August. It is probably most unkind to suggest that this prompted her to launch our two-yearly week at Stansted Hall while she was President. Whatever the reason, Connie invented Fraternal Week and we were all more than happy to celebrate her birthday there each year!

Let us thank the Great Spirit for the life of Connie Ransom and for everything which she did for Spiritualism and to make the ISF the wonderful organisation we all love so much today. I am sure she will still be saying to everyone in spirit as she often did to me, "Don't worry. Life's too short, keep smiling!"

God bless you Connie.

Lionel Owen

Immediate Past President ISF
April 2003

TORREVIEJA

SELF AWARENESS AND HEALING FELLOWSHIP

Eileen Ledger OSNU, Spain

I moved to Spain in 1992 and almost immediately started a Circle in my apartment. Every week more and more people were asking to join the Circle so I decided to find a public room to hold meetings. A member of the Circle contacted a snooker club, which had a spare room away from the bar (very rare in Spain where there are very few public rooms without bars!).

As the numbers attending our meetings increased, I was able to invite one UK Medium per month to spend a week with us, taking the meeting and giving private sittings. Eventually I was able to persuade people to attend workshops and my apartment became too small to hold all those wishing to attend and I moved to a house.

During this time we had to change the location of our public meetings several times and I decided we needed our own premises. With this in mind, I started looking for property with room to build and in December 1998 I moved to my present address and set about finding an architect and builder and obtaining planning permission to build a Centre. The meetings meanwhile continued in my sun lounge which held about 40 people.

The building was dedicated by Judith Seaman, a Minister of the Spiritualists' National Union, on 9 November 2000. At this time, because of problems with the builder, the interior of the building was incomplete, there being no tiles on the concrete floor and the kitchen was just an empty space. Because the Dedication Service had been advertised, we decided to go ahead with it anyway.

By January 2001 the work was completed and we were able to start a full programme of activities. Judith Seaman and her husband Barry had moved to Spain and Judith took over the organising of classes.

Our next step was to set up a committee and seek affiliation to the Spiritualists' National Union. In addition to the mediumship classes, we now hold a numerology class and a Chi Ball class and have fundraising events, such as Christmas Fairs and Open Days to attract other people to our Centre.

We have also held several Naming Ceremonies and a Wedding Blessing. We are now able to invite 2 mediums per month from the UK to take our 2 weekly services, give private sittings and run 2 one-day workshops.

We are also attracting people from the UK and other countries to attend week-long seminars, the first of which was held in June 2002 when a group of people joined us for a seminar with Judith Seaman and Margaret Falconer as tutors.

In November, we were joined by friends from the UK, Germany, Portugal and America for a Trance Seminar with Steven Upton and Judith, whilst Steven's wife Stella took a group on mediumship. We are planning several more seminars in 2003 and are looking forward to welcoming friends from other countries. Our congregation is mainly British, but we also have Swedish members and people from other countries who are holidaying here join us from time to time.

Although the Spanish attitude towards Spiritualism has eased somewhat, as yet we have no regular Spanish attendees, but hopefully this will change.

As you will realise we are a very lively and active Fellowship and are well blessed in having Judith Seaman as our resident Minister. I now feel I can relax and enjoy all the activities of the Fellowship.



The International Spiritualist Federation
28th World Congress



will be held in

FINLAND

5-12 June 2004

***Details to follow in October issue of
Yours Fraternally***

THE LIGHT OF LOVE

*The light of love shines all around.
It's man who tramples on the ground
The greyness generated by dislike
That makes the lustre shine less bright.*

*We must endeavour, be pleased to show,
How our hearts and minds do know
That gracious love from our Creator
Makes us more than a spectator.*

*We asked to come and learn of life
Centred here amid such strife.
We must give out all we can
To help and heal our fellow man.*

*We didn't come for a life of ease
We came in hope that we could please
The team that backs, but never chides
In love and help, our kindly guides.*

*So while on Earth give out your love
Which came in abundance from above
Give all you can and so receive
Life's fulfilment of your need.*

Inspired poem given to Michael Ayers (UK)
on Tuesday 22 October 2002 for 'Yours Fraternally'.

SPLASH

Susan Hill (Canada)

One cold fall morning my adult son who sleeps in a back bedroom on the second floor of our house was awakened suddenly at 6 a.m. (yes, 6 A.M.!) by the sound of the diving board of our backyard swimming pool which was reverberating quite loudly as it does when a heavy adult jumps off it; then a big splash. He wondered who on earth is swimming at this time. He got out of bed and looked out the window. Seeing no one there he was alarmed enough to bolt downstairs and outside in his bvd's. There in the middle of the pool he saw a tiny baby squirrel lethargically struggling for its life in the cold water. He immediately rescued it with a skimmer net. The poor little thing was frozen to the point of almost immobility. It was a baby red squirrel; the body was about 4 inches and the tail a few more. He brought him in and in a few hours he was fine and trying to chew his way out of the plastic laundry basket and towels we had put him in. He now regularly visits our feeders and we call him "Chee Chee". How clever of Spirit to awaken my son with the sound of the diving board reverberating - a noise that would get him on his feet and out the door to rescue this little creature so quickly. Believe me, nothing I have ever done or said has got my son up that fast! Considering the size of the little creature, the splash it would have made falling over the side into the pool would never have been loud enough for anyone to hear, especially someone who is a really good sleeper! And he probably would not have got up if he had just heard a splash, it was the sound of the diving board reverberating that woke him and got him to his feet. I never tire of the wonderment when Spirit intervenes in our lives. If they can manipulate a situation to save a little squirrel - the possibilities of the power of Spirit are incredible to think of!

FRATERNAL WEEK - SELLING GOODS

We are offering ISF members

the opportunity to rent a stall to offer for sale
books/other items for £10 per evening .

Stalls will be available after the last evening session.

Members only will be permitted to sell items at Fraternal Week in this way.

ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE MADE IN ADVANCE

Contact Marjory Kite (President) - details at the front of this YF



Bookings available now for.....



**The
International Spiritualist Federation**

Fraternal Weekend

at

*The Arthur Findlay College
Stansted Hall
England*

5-7 December 2003

*The unique atmosphere of the Hall will help to make this
a wonderful weekend of learning and friendship
organised by Pat Campbell (UK)*

The cost will be:

£130 members £140 non-members

Supplement for single rooms and en-suite

Booking forms are available now from:-

Organiser: Pat Campbell

2 Downham Rd, Firth Park, Sheffield, Yorkshire, S5 6QB

Telephone: 0114 281 8738

E mail: PATCAMPDOWNHAM@aol.com

Accommodation Hostess : Ann Luck

183 Ascot Crescent, Stevenage, Herts SG1 5SY

Telephone: 01438 729787

E.mail: luckann@hotmail.com

Forms also available on the ISF web site: www.isfederation.org



The International Spiritualist Federation

FRATERNAL WEEKEND

Arthur Findlay College, Stansted Hall, Stansted
Friday 5th December 2003 - Sunday 7th December 2003

Application Form

(Please complete a separate Application Form for each person)

I wish to reserve a place on this teaching weekend at a cost of:
Non members £140 (US\$230 or €215) or Members £130 (US\$215 or €195)

**I enclose a non-refundable/non transferable deposit of £30 (US\$50 or €45)
and will pay the balance of non members £110 (US\$180 or €170)
or members £100 (US\$165 or €150) by 31st October 2003.**

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name

Address

Country

Tel:

Dietary Requirements: Vegetarian: yes/no*

Room Requirements:

I would like a single room (there is an extra charge £15 (US\$25 or €20) Yes/No*

En-suite when available (at an extra cost of £7/US\$12 or €11) Yes/No*

I would like to share with (Name)

Name to be written on your badge:

(e.g. If your name is William Smith do you want to be called Bill Smith?)

**Please delete as appropriate*

Signature

Please pay by Cheque or Postal Money Order payable to "I.S.F." in Pounds Sterling,
US Dollars or Euros and SEND FORM AND DEPOSIT TO: I.S.F (Bookings),
183 Ascot Crescent, Stevenage, Herts , SG1 5SY, U.K.

Unfortunately we cannot accept payment by credit card.

----- cut or photocopy -----

I.S.F. Fraternal Weekend 5th-7th December 2003

**The balance of non-members £110 (US\$180 or €170) a head
or for members £100 (US\$165 or €150) a head must be sent to:**

**I.S.F (bookings) 183 Ascot Crescent, Stevenage, Herts SG1 5SY, UK
by 31st Oct 2003**

Cancellation after this date **WILL** make you liable to pay the total charge in full.
You are strongly advised to take out insurance to guard against this possibility.

ALONE on a GUIDED TOUR – part III

By Maria Jacks (Germany)

How did I ever end up in the tiny village of St. Ulrich in the very south of Germany in the middle of the Black Forest? I still do not know. Maybe I fell in love with its remoteness, its small old monastery, its scattered old farmhouses, the lovely green meadows, the forests and the spectacular view over the Rhine Valley to the French Vosges mountains in the distance.

The environment is completely different to where I grew up. I was born and raised in the north of Germany on the Baltic Sea amongst a family of sailors. For generations the men of my family have been seafarers. Those who joined the Navy later sailed amongst others on a sailing ship called 'Gorch Fock', a fourmasted sailing ship, used to train naval officers. This ship closely resembles the famous 'Pamir' which sank when I was about 7 or 8 years old. I still remember the day when the tragic news reached us and our whole family was devastated. Luckily there is still her sister ship 'Passat' which is based in the nearby harbour of Travemünde. I spent much of my childhood there, where my mother had been evacuated during the war and my beloved brother, now in the spirit world, was born.

My brothers and I started sailing when we were kids and I guess sailing and travelling is in our blood. It is therefore not surprising that I began travelling at a fairly young age.

Many years later I felt this urge to go down under to explore the magnificent islands of New Zealand. The following encounter happened shortly after I left a place called Kaikoura on the eastern shores of the South Island where I had been doing some whale watching out at sea. It was fascinating to watch these enormous mammals rising out of the water and diving back under with their tails high in the air.

I was slightly sad leaving Kaikoura, because it was my last day on the South Island where I spent such memorable, beautiful weeks meeting all sorts of lovely people. I was heading for Picton where I had to hand my rented car in to take the ferry back to the North Island the next day. I had one more night left. When I arrived at Picton, a beautiful small harbour by the sea I left it again straight away. I needed to be alone.

So I quietly and slowly started to drive up a twisty road which led up the mountain overlooking the Marlborough Sounds, an absolutely wonderful area with many inlets and islands. On and off wide openings in the lush vegetation permitted absolutely stunning views over the almost mystical bays below. The windy road was getting narrower, steeper and it eventually led me to a gorgeous secluded bay.

The place was called 'Te Mahia' and consisted of just one motel by the sea, and a few houses visible up on the hills in amongst the trees. The name of this hamlet so much resembled my name and as it was getting dark I decided to stay there.

I spent my last evening on South Island on the balcony in front of my room overlooking the sparkling sea below, drowning my 'sorrows' in a few glasses of red wine. I was so reluctant to leave.

Remembering my roots and where I came from I craved for a boatrip that would take me out to sea again to have a better look around these Marlborough Sounds. But alas - it seemed to be too late, I had to leave for the North Island in the evening of the next day.

The following morning, I just finished packing my car, slammed my boot shut and heard the familiar "took,took,took" of a small motorboat approaching the shore. Spontaneously I turned, approached the captain and asked if he knew of anybody taking people out to sea.

"Come with me, no problem. Just walk over there" he replied and pointed to a small wooden landing a bit further down the bay.

"I will come and pick you up. In fact, there are two other ladies wanting to join me, so I will take the three of you with me when I go out farming my mussels."

Only a few minutes later we are taking off in his small boat and the three Kiwis, those two ladies and the captain, start chatting away. I am listening quietly and from what I gather the ladies are from Christchurch, being out here on holiday.

I myself am in a pensive mood staring out to sea, reminiscing. We hardly exchange a word and I am therefore astonished when at the end of the trip the two elderly ladies called Yvonne and Sonia invite me to their place for a cup of coffee. I accept with pleasure.

When they ask me where I am from it transpires that Yvonne had been to Freiburg near where I am presently living.

She raves about the town and its surroundings including the Black Forest. One thing leads to another and we find out that each of us is living in a small cottage, mine having been an old tobacco store. That triggers off an experience that she had in a place called Kaysersberg at the foot of the Vosges mountain range. It is just across the border in France about 40 minutes from Freiburg. It is one of my favourite places in the Vosges. I love it, but it is very small and therefore I am amazed Yvonne knows this place. Feeling my excitement she continues telling me about other small places in the Freiburg area that she loved and went to, trying to remember their names. We eventually find out that she has been to a small town called Staufen, where I happened to start my own business and lived for some time.

Suddenly she is trying to remember the name of a beautiful monastery in the area. I am reciting all the famous ones and Yvonne replies: "No, no, no", trying hard to remember, "no, that's not the one." Eventually I mention the one in the village of St. Ulrich where I used to live. "That's the one!" she exclaims. I can't believe it. This place is so small, it has not even got a shop. It is on a dead end road leading into the Black Forest. Most people from the nearby town of Freiburg have never seen or heard of it.

So, here we are, in a remote area of New Zealand, talking about places and people that we both happen to know in and around this small village in the Black Forest in Southern Germany. Yvonne had been in St. Ulrich at exactly the same time that I had been living there. Still amazed about this incredible coincidence, Yvonne continues: "My husband and I loved this place so much that we even came back a second time after a trip up north to the Baltic Sea. You know, my husband used to sail on the Pamir," - with that remark my whole body is covered in goose pimples.

"He wanted to go and see her sister ship 'Passat' which is based in a small port called Travemünde" she says. By now, tears are welling up in my eyes. "Oh, I am just emotional" I say trying to excuse myself as the tears just stream down my face. She also knows the 'Gorch Fock' the ship on which many of my loved ones sailed - around which my brothers and I used to sail in our small sailing boat when we were young, exchanging jokes with our mates high up in the yards or waving goodbye when our men sailed to foreign countries.

After having experienced so many surprising 'coincidences' during my trip around the South Island of New Zealand, I can hardly believe that during those last hours of my stay I am to experience yet another one. My brother, father and grandfathers, now in the spirit world, were sailors and officers in the navy. Presumably one of them is behind this.

Still unable to control my tears and being slightly embarrassed in front of Yvonne and Sonia, I talk to my folks in the spirit world saying "that this is nearly getting too much". Emotionally I am almost unable to handle the quantity of these unbelievable encounters. But they did not abandon me just because I was leaving South Island, no, they continued to guide me invisibly for the remainder of my trip and afterwards.

Now, months later, I realise that I have developed so much faith that I continue to follow their signs and messages. At times it takes courage, for they seem to lead me into a totally new future in a different part of the world, amongst others having to give up my beautiful cottage near Freiburg.

These experiences - and there were many more during this very special trip and afterwards - taught me to trust in their and in the Divine Guidance. I am not alone on my guided tour.

EASTBOURNE 2nd-9th AUGUST 2003

Hi Friends,

The address of the hotel for the Fraternal Week is:

T&G Hotel, Grand Parade, Eastbourne. Tel 01323 433900.

If you wish to stay extra nights at the hotel you must contact them direct.

Please remember to bring a raffle prize.

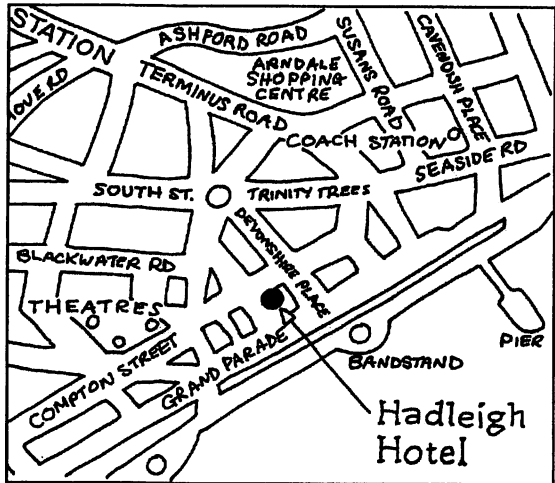
Main Line Railway Station

24 Hour NCP Car Park

Costs: £8 per day or 7-day ticket in the 'lock-up area' for £23. Tel: 01323 734812 to reserve a place (recommended).

Please note: 'On Street' parking is in very short supply. Maximum stay is 4 hours, with 'No return Within.... Hours'.

The 24 Hour NCP Car Park is approximately 10 minutes walk from the T&G Centre.



FRATERNAL WEEKEND 5-7 December 2003

Come and join us in an enjoyable Christmas Weekend at Stansted Hall. Meet up with old and new friends and enjoy some wonderful teachings as well.

Please see the booking form in this quarters' Yours Fraternally.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Love and Light,

Ann

SPIRITUALISM FOR LIFE

by Doreen Haslam – *Liaison Officer for NZ*

This is a complex subject as it involves my whole life. Spiritualism has always been part of me as I was born into a Spiritualist family, attended the Lyceum and the local Spiritualist Church. Because of my parents' interest in regional and national Spiritualism, I met many SNU national figures, including Gordon Higginson, who in his younger days regularly travelled to the North East to work for our local Churches. In later years, I had the honour of being on stage with him (along with many others!) representing New Zealand at the SNU Centenary celebrations at Wembley.

I didn't really know anything about the ISF then, except that there was such an organisation, and I remember that at least once or twice my father, Norman Ainley, attended the ISF Congress in London. I have the impression that they were always in London but that may not be correct, and were rather stiff and starchy affairs with rather academic theses or papers being presented, and without much of the fun and light-hearted fellowship we achieve today. I hope this doesn't offend anyone because, as I say, I had no first hand knowledge.

As is normal, I veered away from Church when I grew up, took up a career and left home, then later married and had children. My husband, Fred, and I emigrated to Auckland, New Zealand, in 1960 with two pre-schoolers and our third child was born there. We soon began to visit and then became members of Carlton Gore Spiritualist Church in Auckland. This is an ISF Church now but I don't know when their affiliations began.

However, it wasn't until we moved to Dunedin in 1966 that my interest in Spiritualism was seriously re-fired. Dunedin Church was one of the first in New Zealand and began in the 1920s, when a few pioneers visited and toured the country. These included Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Robert Stout and others.

Some of those early established Churches formed an association together, called The Spiritualist Church of New Zealand, and in 1924 this was ratified by an Act of Parliament, called The Spiritualist Church of New Zealand Act. So, from then on there has been a national Spiritualist organisation in NZ, but there have always been many more Churches outside the SCNZ than within it.

Some are Christian Spiritualist and affiliated to the Greater World, and many more are independent. All this makes for as interesting a mix of Spiritualism as may be found anywhere.

My personal involvement with the Dunedin Church grew rapidly as I joined the committee, accepted every office in turn, and became a Minister in the 1970s.

Learning about Spiritual Healing and then looking after the Healing in the Church is something I have always done in Dunedin. I was also involved nationally and became National President for 12 years in the 1980s and 1990s.

During that time, I did my best to interest independent Churches in becoming part of the SCNZ, but must admit that most of them preferred to retain their independence. When I retired from that position, I just knew it was time to hand on to someone else.

In the 1980s, I contributed a number of times to a weekly Sunday morning radio programme called 'Faith for Today'. This was 4 to 5 minutes long about ordinary life situations. No mention could be made of Spiritualism, but it did bring in my personal reactions and feelings, obviously coloured by my beliefs, and I received some wonderful letters from people all over the country.

I have enjoyed, and am enjoying, my association with the ISF. There are very few members in New Zealand, but the world seems a small place when I think of the friends I have made around the world - and they remain friends even when we don't correspond very frequently.

Spiritualism is changing - not in its essential truths, but in the way in which we present them and comprehend them. Much of the world has become more tolerant and understanding of us - even here in New Zealand more people express interest, instead of preferring to change the subject or ignore us. Today working within the Dunedin Church is sufficient for me - that and my small involvement with the ISF.

LETTER FROM BERIT ISAKSSON (Sweden)

Thank you, Lionel, for sharing your meditation with us! (see 'The Mystery' by Lionel Owen January 2003 YF).

It went right into my heart. I know from my own experience how difficult it is to find words for a strong spiritual event. And yet, I think we shall try. We can always 'light a candle' somewhere, for someone.

So very true it is that we 'two-leggeds' try to understand the Great Mystery with our brains! Yes, surrender is the word. I laughed aloud reading your sentence "Why, oh why must we complicate everything?" Yes, why!?

I thank Great Spirit for the moment of understanding that we are one; that we are all related to each other and all that is alive.

Thoughts of Love, Light and Peace I send to All My Relations!

God!

At that first great moment of the Universe, God really created 'GOD'. The power of God permeates every particle in every corner of the universe. No one can avoid it, you can ignore it, you can deny it but it will always be in you and everything you touch. Only man has created images of God - do not condemn ancient civilisations for their idols, we are no better. We find it difficult to believe in something we cannot see and touch, just as those before us, must create images to focus our thoughts and beliefs on. As God is everywhere, then they were right in having 'Gods' of land, sea, air, trees and many others, what they did not realise was that they were all the same God. We think we know better, but even now we are not seeing the whole scene - it is not enough that we believe in the continuity of life and the infinite power of God throughout the universe, until we can draw together with all the other religions - put aside petty quarrels and focus all of our combined powers of thought and energy, we cannot hope to cure the ills and evils of the world - we must continue to develop - to spread our influence - for when the day comes that we are all united, all working for the same ultimate goal - we all have our part to play - as Shakespeare wrote, 'All the world is a stage' - but we are not actors, we are living a real life, we must do the best we can for the future of UR world and bring together as much of God's power as possible! GOD WAS - GOD IS - GOD WILL BE FOREVER.

Dean Norris (UK)

Originally received in 1995.

Letter from Marie Andersson

Liaison Officer for Sweden

19 February, our President Marjory Kite visited Gothenburg. We had the honour of being given a demonstration at the 'Two Worlds', where the audience had filled the space and were pleased and interested!

The rest of the stay, 'Maria School for Healing and Spiritual Development' was visited and here the students received lectures, which were much appreciated.

With lots of love and light,

Marie

Hail Prince of Peace

by Peter Watson (Oct 2002)

*They say in times of old, when earth in turmoil lay,
And man at war with man in vicious conflict slay.
The helpless victims plead, the heartless lust appease,
When can the simple heart cry out 'Hail Prince of Peace'.*

*The legend tells of wise men, and they're journeying
Across the ages, steadfast in their quest of Him.
The sage of old foretells, He is to surely come,
With angel hosts to visit everyone.*

*The earth revolves in awesome splendor still
And He, the prince of peace, awaits the will
of men to change, and see in every man
the foretold face to be, of Him.*

*Yet still we celebrate the special day,
when He indeed in lowliness did come to stay,
To bring to earth as in the heavens above,
Gods message of eternal love.
Hail prince of Peace.*



Please remember these friends in your prayers:-

John Adolfson (Sweden) Greta & Sven-Bertil Andersson (Sweden), Marie Andersson (Sweden), Simon Bijster and family (UK), Frank Breakspear (UK), Ron Colley (UK), Bernard Ellis (UK), Moni and Heinz Gugger (Switzerland), Tony Hudson (UK), Eileen Homles (UK), Hans-Ake Jacobsson (Sweden), Marjory Kite (UK), Agnete and Carl Lindstedt (Sweden), Simone Meulemeester (Belgium), Tat Norris (UK), Shirley Olive (UK), Eileen Roberts (UK), Kay Rumens (UK), Judith Seaman (Spain), Jean Shilton (UK), Barbara Thurman (USA), Peter Watson (UK), Pat Wilkinson (CI).

Using the Light of the Spirit

As a worldwide organisation we should be in a unique position to use thought and the light of the Spirit to help bring about changes in the world.

Every evening at 10pm local time, every member, and as many of our friends as possible, are invited to join together and sit quietly for just ten minutes and imagine pure white light surrounding

Iraq

So that there may be peace upon our beloved Earth and the light of the Spirit will penetrate the darkness of man's thoughts.

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The International Spiritualist Federation

Established 1923

Application for Individual Membership

RENEWAL*/NEW MEMBER* (*delete as applicable)

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

I, (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms*)

Address

.....

..... Post Code/Zip

Country Telephone

Email Address:

desire to become a member of The International Spiritualist Federation and If accepted, I agree to conform to the Constitution of the said Federation.

Signature Date

Membership renewal date - 1st April each year

We are trying to build a fuller profile of our members and it will help us if you would kindly give us the following information about yourself:-

I am a professional*/semi-professional*/non-professional* (do not charge fees) medium	YES/NO*
I am a registered healer	YES/NO*
I am a speaker & lecturer on Spiritualist subjects	YES/NO*
I am willing to help organise ISF publicity/fund raising meetings	YES/NO*
I am not a medium, speaker or healer but wish to support the ISF as a member	YES/NO*

**delete as applicable*

When completed, this form, together with cheque, bankers credit or draft for £15 Sterling, \$25US or €28 Euro should be posted to the address below.

(If joining between 1 August & 31 January, please pay £22.50, \$38 US or €42 and you will not need to pay again until a year the following April). Life Membership for 55 years or older is 10 times the current yearly payment.

ANY DONATIONS WILL BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

No CASH accepted in \$US dollars or €Euro

All remittances payable to The International Spiritualist Federation



ALL REMITTANCES TO:

Mrs Kay Rumens

The Membership Secretary

The International Spiritualist Federation

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