The National Spiritualist-Summit

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Spiritualism is the science, philosophy, and religion of continuous life

TNS
The National Spiritualist-Summit

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The National Spiritualist-Summit

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Using Our Faith to Heal the Earth

LAURA LEE PERKINS, EDITOR



I woke up very early this morning; it is a Monday, and all day yesterday my mind was filled with ideas forming for this May/June *TNS-Summit* issue. During the past two weeks I have been engrossed, combing through the TNS 1952-1982 bound volumes that rest on the shelves here in our home office. These have been staring at me (on a daily basis) for a few months, beckoning me to read them thoroughly. Most of us remember many of the articles' authors, and some who are reading this today were also contributors to these earlier publications. The articles cradled in these black, bound volumes reflect the times in which they were compiled. Most were written in the third person as accounts of events, beliefs, and historical information, coupled with obituaries and church news from across our country. There are literary renditions of vibrant summer camp meetings, new church foundings and expansion plans for the future.

In addition to this information, what really popped out as I perused these past issues, was the inclusion of biblical references, over and over and over. The *Bible* was used by one author after another as a foundation of Spiritualist beliefs. This practice of using the *Bible* as a reference seems to have waned as Spiritualists moved through the 1980's and forward, now resting in the latter part of the 21st century's first decade. The *TNS* office does not receive many submissions today which use the *Bible* as a tool to support writers' points of view. This has really caused me to think about this in great depth. Each evening I would remove another volume from the office shelf. And when I went to bed each night, after reading so many interesting and fascinating articles in these past issues, I would again wonder about why we, as American Spiritualists, have moved away from using the *Bible*. So I went back to even earlier issues, which I feel so privileged to have housed here as part of my job as editor; once again I found many biblical references to support Spiritualism as I looked through decade after decade of *TNS* publications.

So I began an online discussion with The Rev. Stephanie Frobese from Hartford, Maine about this topic. Her helpful comments included:

> *Earlier generations of Spiritualists were greatly influenced by Christian ethics and beliefs; many of them came from Christian backgrounds. During the last half of the 20th century, society as a whole, and Spiritualists in particular, started looking more and more at all the religions of the world and what they have to offer. In our churches, our classes and in many TNS articles, we hear more and more about Buddhism, Judaism and Hinduism and their principles. I think that is a good thing and very appropriate for Spiritualism since we acknowledge that all religions and philosophies have much to offer in teaching us about spirituality.*

Humans certainly have had a tendency to move away from that which serves humanity best; just look at what humanity has been doing to our precious planet! Have we, as Spiritualists, moved away from that which illuminated many of our Spiritualist ancestors' strong characters – the *Bible*? It is something for us to think about and to explore internally. And as I compare our *TNS* issues of today with those of the past, it is rare that there are any biblical references in our contemporary articles. It is almost as if we are intentionally steering away from that which was a guiding focal point for those who poured the concrete foundations of our religion. Our Spiritualist ancestors incorporated biblical teachings into their writings, while most of us do not in 2009.

Using our faith as a foundation to heal is a very important part of our tenet. We believe that Infinite Intelligence can lead us, can inspire us, can heal us – and that everything is infused with a spark of this Divine energy. If we can engage Spirit to help heal ourselves, then we can certainly connect with Spirit to help heal our magnificent planet—which provides all sustenance for this earthly life.

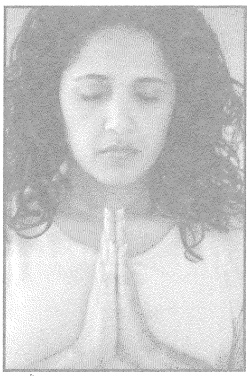
As I ponder *how*, I am led to many sources for guidance. What is it that we, as American Spiritualists who are so privileged to live in this free country, hope for? How can we help to heal the earth, and thus heal ourselves in return? Do we know what we really want? Do we have an idea of how to make a contribution to the united effort? Are we willing to make deep-seated commitments and to stay the course? What kind of earth-commitment are we making as individuals and as community churches?

Continued...

One of my very favorite writers about life on the planet Earth today is Barbara Kingsolver (b. 1955). With an intelligent process of gathering information, analyzing it, and then making a commitment to promote change, she states:

The very least you can do in your life
is to figure out what you hope for.
And the most you can do
is live inside that hope.
Not admire it from a distance,
but live right in it, under its roof.

Do we do that? Do we each know what we want for Spiritualism's future, and for the future of the Earth? Is the answer different or the same for these two? My answer is the same for both; I want a healthy, clean, alive vibrancy that thrives on expansion – on growth that is propelled by Light, by clean water and soil, by freedom to move and grow in Love through connection to each other.



Every living thing is connected by the life force. Yes, there are Natural Laws which guide us and our planet on this journey, and faith guides us constantly back onto the healing path. *But we must heal both ourselves and the Earth*...they are profoundly interconnected. We must *know* where we are going before we can arrive. We were born with a spark of Divine intention nestled firmly in our soul, and we have the spiritual inspiration to help us help others. Are we doing that at a level that is visible? Are we each a walking example of healing Love? Are we making the Earth a better place than it was yesterday? Are we part of the growing movement of healing?

What does the *Bible* say about humans functioning as caretakers of the Earth, about us teaching, guiding and protecting our planet's processes which make it possible for life to be supported in the lush green river valleys, on high mountaintops, in the arid deserts which teem with insect and reptilian activity, in the forests which so many four-legged animals call home and across the plains where much of our food supply is grown and then trucked to our local stores?

In my copy of Strong's *Biblical Concordance* (1740 pages!), there are several hundred references listed under the topic "Earth". I find mention of: *people shall inherit the Earth, Thy will be done on Earth, on Earth good will to men, thou mayst live long upon the Earth, he that is of the earth IS earth, the earth brought forth grasses from seed within itself, God made the Earth, let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the Earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the Earth, Earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters that cover the sea*...there are so many!

If our environment is the location for the practice of our faith, how can we nurture and support it? While the environment, in the past, was considered to be an issue for the public health department, or for the economists, today we know that it is truly a social ethics issue that has expanded into the concern for survival. Is this important to our religion and to our church communities? How can we become a vibrant part of the ecological movement to heal the planet, since *healing* is such an integral part of our religion? Many Spiritualists are healers, and this dialogue about ecology is moving into churches throughout the world. Will we be participants? Or will we sit on our hands, feeling like we are going to be transported to the other side after our transition anyway? I hope not.

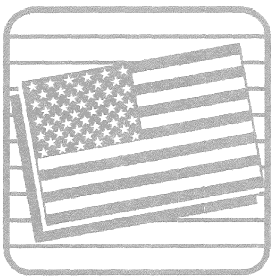
Gaze at the stars in the sky on a clear night. That is sheer awe – which is another name for Love. How do we put our earthly lives into some measureless, cosmic perspective? There is a universal connectedness that was stated by astronaut Edgar Mitchell in 1971 (when *TNS* was publishing so many Biblical references), "When I saw the planet Earth floating in the vastness of space...I knew that life in the universe was not just an accident based on random processes." Space exploration is and has been part of our spiritual unfoldment. Father Sky couples with Mother Earth in all North American Indian lore. They are a team, united in offering us the greatest gift ever – the gift of life.

How can we deepen the feeling that we can each make a difference in the future of our planet? When we look at our children and grandchildren, what is it that we trust will be there for them many decades down the road? Will Infinite Intelligence guide us to each do the *right thing* as we ponder how to spend our resources – our time, our money, our energy, our thoughts and prayers, our lives?

Our ancestors intuitively understood the caretaking connection to Mother Earth, which supports life in the most fundamental and magnificent ways. As we advance the science of consciousness, Spiritualism can serve the human experience of transforming the concept of "me and them" to "us". As we continue to blend our spiritual traditions and experiences with modern science, we understand, more than ever, that we are all ONE.

In Spirit,
Laura Lee Perkins, Editor

♦ ♦ ♦



Remember Our Country's Heroes on MEMORIAL DAY

A Memorial Day Tribute – *Remembrance*

THE REV. TOM PIORIE – United Kingdom

Now, here again is the time to beat the drum softly. To walk together down memory lane, with banners dipped in reverent remembrance of those who gave their all in freedom's cause, that you and I would continue to live free. Free to think, to speak, to move as we will in a world of enduring peace. Free to live in dignity, truth, tolerance, compassion and honor, one with another. Both a gift and a plea from Spirit given in unbreakable and unbounded love, which we hear and attest to on one precious day of every year.

From all corners of the world they came, determined that standards of decency and justice, so natural to *them*, would be *our* heritage. Those of us whose faith is rooted in a life eternal within God's "many mansions," *know* that many who pass to the higher life, return to loved-ones they left behind. So we can be certain we *are* joined in service by some whose young lives were so cruelly brought to an end by the insidious, and on-going "disease" of war. That most shameful, and heartbreaking demonstration of man's inhumanity to man!

They return to love, offering upliftment and assurance to the uncertain, and comfort to the sorrowing. They condemn not, nor stand in judgement of *our* failure to uphold *their* precious bequest of hopes, dreams and happiness in a peace *so dearly* bought. Being deeply conscious of the debt we owe to the fallen, we who remember, unite in tribute, and seek *forgiveness* for allowing hypocrisy, bigotry, and intolerance continued credence in our lives. Year, upon year, we pledge to mitigate our failings. Promising to strive towards creating lasting peace throughout the earth, and year upon year that peace becomes more elusive, in a world which grows ever more menacing and volatile. Everywhere we look, the killing and maiming, the agonies of suffering, are all unremitting in ferocity. How heartsore and weary those who look upon us from the realms of spirit must be. Time after time, time after time, they witness nation destroying nation, many destroying man, and face the brutal truth, that whilst *one* trigger remains to be squeezed, *one* bomb to be dropped, *one* missile to be launched, then *God's peace*, that which passeth all understanding, is *still* but an infant in need of nurturing care! Mindful of the unfailing efforts made to this end from beyond the veil, we in turn, need a renewal of purpose, lest we *too* forget!

Those who passed to the other side of life in war can *never ever* be forgotten. They live on in the memory of loved-ones left behind. Oh! speed the time to the eleventh day of the eleventh month becoming but *another ordinary day*. A day free from guilt from our inability to create lasting peace throughout the land, and free from our annual apology for failing yet again those we love. Oh! come the day when a newly-born generation can grow to maturity *unknowing* of war, without need of the panoply of Remembrance! With no desire to know or understand why their forbears followed the flag, other than that which they read in a history book!

The ultimate accolade to the fallen would be not a parade, not a hymn nor a prayer tainted by guilt, not one solitary day of Remembrance in a sad and sorrowing world. Instead, one day of peace throughout God's glorious, universe, seven days, one hundred days, one thousand days, of love, tolerance and kindness, one to another. Peace that *does* pass all understanding, in its gentle strength and assurance, Peace that feeds the soul of all men! Above all, peace to which we each may bring *not a renewal* of love, for such love is eternal, but perhaps, a re-burnishing of memory, brightening the image of loved ones enhanced by shared experiences from the past.

"Forgive them Father, for they know not what they do," Jesus prayed. Two thousand years later "Forgive us all, for not doing as you would have us do" must be our plea to those who, not too long ago, shared life with us and know themselves, how difficult the tasks that face us. Perhaps we misunderstand what they would have us do. Peace in the heart of man's world has been sought throughout those 2000 years and more. But what of peace in each man's soul? Could it be that loved-ones plead with us on this special day to forgive ourselves, and those they fought as enemies in order to understand that the burden of forgiveness is ours, not theirs? Perhaps all who fell without distinction of friend or foe point the way to enduring peace throughout the world as beginning within me, and within you? Maybe then, my bigotry, intolerance, and hypocrisy will no longer have credence in my life, and that new-born generation we spoke of, will be blessed by every war history reducing, in time, from a *book*, to a *chapter*, from a *paragraph*, to a *phrase*. "We remember in love."

Many were they who, mercifully released from the

Continued...

Transformation

THE REV. KATHLEEN L. ROTTINO, NST – Connecticut



In ancient civilizations, people had a different outlook about physical death than people do today. Death was not a mistake or accident, but it was a natural part of life. The beauty of Spiritualism is that it encourages people to discuss, study and recognize physical death as a natural part of life.

It is not so much that one does not want to leave this life, but rather that one does not want to stop eperiencing. One does not want to stop being. Many times, in many different ways, we are told, "There is much more." Sometimes some might still wonder, "What really happens after death?"

Spiritualists believe in Natural Laws. Energy can neither be created nor destroyed. Its form can be changed by physical or chemical processes, but its existence simply *is*. Take a piece of paper and cut it into as many pieces as you like, each piece is still paper, even though there was a physical change in the appearance. Instead of cutting it, burn it, its matter is transformed by chemical process of combustion, which divides the paper into different atoms. Now scatter the ashes to the wind. The energy or particles that formed the paper were not destroyed—only transformed.

In ancient times, people knew that as each day passed, they were closer to the threshold of their physical death. The spiritual side of life awaits all, yet there is no set time when the threshold will be crossed. Remember that you live on in the spiritual world, capable of communication with the physical world. The transition of your physical body is a cycle of your life. It is a new beginning of your existence, a time when you will be embarking on the most awesome of all journeys.

Rather than living in the disillusion that physical death would not come, the people of ancient times made preparation for it. They believed that for every ending, there was a new beginning. Like the changing seasons of the year, there is no darkness but rather bright hope for an eternal life in the Spirit World.

For every exit in life, there is an entrance. It is up to you to find it.

♦ ♦ ♦

A Memorial Day Tribute... *Continued...*

horrors of battlefields, passed into the realms of light and love, to a life more beautiful and fulfilling, than we can conceive of. Yet still they come lovingly to our side, uplifting our sorrow by assuring us that in due time we shall be together once more.

Unlike those who rightfully dwell in the peace of spirit, are the many who brought home their own scars of conflict. Those who endure a lifetime of pain and suffering. The true brutality, and futility of war is written large upon all who survive, none more so than the blind, the maimed, the paralyzed and the incurable. Many who remain, having out-lived their comrades, families and friends, constantly battle yet another enemy, that of abject loneliness and deprivation. Oh! would this world but grant peace of mind to every survivor of every war. Easing their suffering and thereby laying down the foundation-stone of God's peace in *this* land. Everyone of us must strive in this cause, compassion and tolerance being paramount. Each in our own wee small corner of the world, aspiring to the same undying allegiance of Faith, as they who have gone before, and to the courage and dignity of the scarred and wounded who did come home.

So, another year, another eleventh hour, another pledge. This year, and onwards, honoring the sacrifice of all who suffered, that you and I may live free. I hereby offer a solemn pledge—to seek within me that which can grow into "That peace that passeth understanding," to be shared with *all* God's children in harmony and love. That peace they have asked us so many, many, times to bring to reality. Then, and only THEN shall we all dwell in God's peace.

Though I am gone grieve not for me with tears,
Think not of death with sorrowing and fears.
I am so close that every tear you shed touches
And torments me, because *you* think me dead.
But when you laugh and sing with glad delight,
I too am lifted toward the light.
So laugh, be glad for all that life is giving,
And share with me...The blessed joy of living.

♦ ♦ ♦

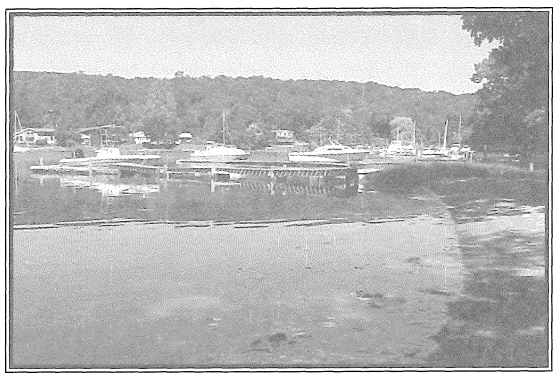
NSAC Summer Spiritualist Camps

One of the greatest treasures that Spiritualists share is our NSAC Summer Spiritualist Camps scattered throughout the United States. *TNS-Summit* always welcomes stories or photos about experiences at our magnificent summer camps, which continue to flourish year-after-year, decade-after-decade, and century-after-century because people who care volunteer to make it all happen. THANK YOU to each and every one of you who make a contribution of time, effort or money to keep the camp gems vibrant! All camps are listed on the web @ www.nsac.org/camps.htm

NEW ENGLAND & NEW YORK CAMPS

• CONNECTICUT •

Ladies Aid Society Camp at Pine Grove is located at 34 South Pine Street in Niantic, CT 06357. Their Summer Season will be June – August and, it promises many spiritual experiences, wonderful company, and



meeting new friends. For a schedule or additional information, call Secretary Chris Bellamy at 860-739-2157 or 860-442-8149.

• MAINE •

Madison Spiritualist Camp Meeting Association is celebrating its 129th year. The Madison Spiritualist Meeting Association, incorporated in 1879, constructed a large building in 1880 which served a dual purpose – a community building and a gathering place for Spiritualists during the months of August and September. This building was expanded and is now known as the Lakewood Summer Theater. When the building was sold in 1895, Spiritualist William D. Hayden made sure that a condition of sale guaranteed that Spiritualists would always have a place to meet. We own and meet in a small (but wonderful) chapel on the grounds. The Chapel is located six miles north of Skowhegan on Route 201 just off Beach Road (near the Lakewood Summer Theater) on the west side of beautiful Lake Wesserunsett.

Surrounded by this history, people who visit Madison Camp each summer feel a strong spiritual attraction in this special place to celebrate Spiritualism each summer. The 2009 summer program runs July through August. Our schedule includes a Friday night Message Circle, a Saturday morning workshop followed by private readings in the afternoon and a Saturday evening Message Circle. Sunday we hold a Church Service at 1:00 PM. Visit www.madisoncamp.org for more information.

We are a small camp and currently do not have facilities for camping or overnight lodging but there are lodging and camping opportunities nearby. Madison Camp owns a two bedroom cottage about 1/2 a mile from the Chapel. We have started renovating the cottage and need your help. If you would like to make a monetary donation to help in the resurrection of this spiritual gathering place, please send your tax deductible donation made payable to Madison Camp Spiritual Meeting Association and mail to Betty Simpson, Secretary, 715 Newburgh Road, Hermon, ME 04401. We are really

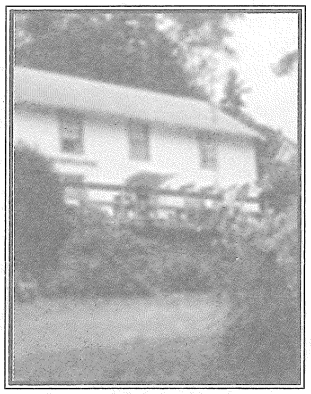


excited about breathing life back into this sturdy but neglected space. The cottage once renovated will provide lodging for 4-6 Spiritualists and/or visitors who would like to take part in our summer activities. Your tax deductible donation would help us move towards that goal.

Temple Heights Spiritual Camp, founded in 1882, is nestled on the shore of magnificent Penobscot Bay.

Continued...

This camp offers a unique and caring environment for exploring the wonders of Spirit. The relaxing, peaceful atmosphere creates space for healing, learning and centering. A spacious deck looks out over the ocean. Watch the ships pass by or walk to the water's edge to gather the multi-colored sea glass that washes up from the ocean's depths. The Camp offers workshops, message circles, private readings, healing and classes, church services and Sunday pot luck dinners. More importantly, it gives you the opportunity to spend time with like-minded people to share experiences, to create new friendships and to nurture the soul. Wonderful mediums and teachers come from all over the country to serve at Temple Heights. Rooms are available to rent at a reasonable cost for an overnight stay or by the week. Temple Heights Spiritualist Camp is located within driving distance to area towns/cities, restaurants, stores and shops that provide a diversity of Maine products and services, which are unique to coastal communities. Call the camp office 207-338-3029 or check the website www.templeheightscamp.org for detailed information. There is often a staff member available to answer your inquiries for 2-3 weeks before and after the camp season.



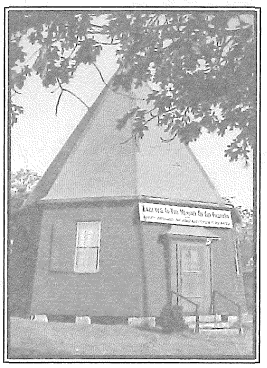
NIKAWA LODGE

Temple Heights Spiritualist Camp is truly a "full-service" camp with a packed schedule, including two mediums for some weeks.

The Pinpoint of Light Spiritualist Camp is a newer camp for Spiritualists. Located in Canton, Maine, the camp has been inactive recently. At our press time, we have no additional information. For details about their planned activities, please contact Kathy Touchette at P.O. Box 115 in Mexico, ME 04257.

• MASSACHUSETTS •

The **On-I-Set Wigwam Spiritualist Camp** is located at 9 Crescent Place W 13th Street in Onset, MA. Sunday services begin in May and continue into fall. An *American Indian Fair* is planned in June to celebrate the Summer Solstice. For more information, visit www.onisetwigwam.com or write to Patricia Craig, 703 Pleasant Street in Brockton, MA 02571.

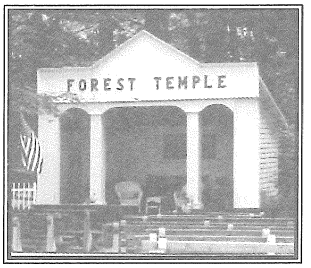


ON-I-SET WIGWAM

• NEW YORK •

NSAC Lily Dale Assembly Spiritualist Camp is truly indescribable on paper. There are many activities, including the most fascinating workshops, lectures and classes held each summer. Every topic of interest to Spiritualists is offered, with world-renowned speakers and presenters.

If you are interested in being an observer of more message work presented by a wide variety of mediums, or if you simply need a quiet lake respite environment where you will be surrounded by fellow Spiritualists, Lily Dale offers it all! Here you can have a room in a hotel which will transport you back in time to the post-Civil War and Victorian eras where you will be enveloped and nurtured by ancestral spiritual energies. You can meet as many new friends as you have time to get to know, and you can feel the inspiration and stimulation of fascinating talks, walks in nature, and experiences that you never expected! Readings are always available, and your day can be as full or as empty as you choose. Something is going on every day – all day – all summer long. The services in the huge open air auditorium fill one with serenity and joy in this largest Spiritualist Camp in the entire world! People come from many countries and throughout the United States. Other accommodations include guest houses, an on-site small campground and reasonably priced area hotels.



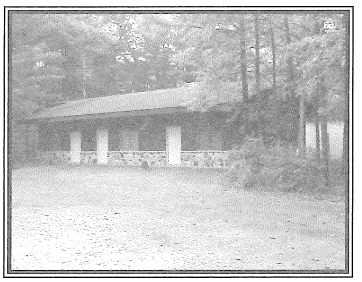
FOREST TEMPLE

For more information about their detailed summer events, go to www.lilydaleassembly.com or call the office 716-595-8721. It is possible to register for classes, other events, and lodging through their website. Advance registration is strongly encouraged.

MIDWEST CAMPS

• WISCONSIN •

Historical Camp **WONEWOC (Western Wisconsin Spiritualist Camp Association)** is located at 304 Hill Street in Wonewoc, Wisconsin. Described as a place of serenity, healing, peace, harmony and soul nourishment, this season will



WISCONSIN WONEWOC MOTEL

Continued...

be their 108th! For more information, please visit their website www.campwonewoc.com or contact the Wonewoc Spiritualist Camp Secretary Judy Ulch by mail at P.O. Box 187 in Wonewoc, WI 53968 or call (608) 464-7770. Email is info@campwonewoc.com.

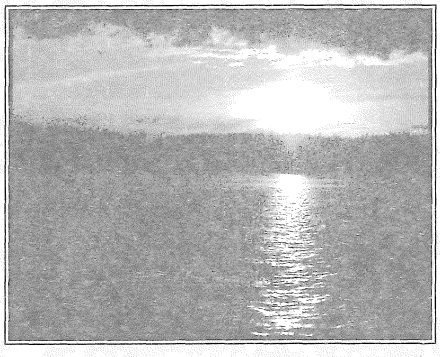
• OHIO •

The **Ashley Spiritualist Camp**, located at 10 Wooley Park in Ashley, Ohio can be contacted through Michelle Brown, P.O. Box 277, Ashley, Ohio 43003-0277. At press time, we have no additional information available.

• MICHIGAN •

Chain Lake Spiritualist Camp is located at 8000 W Chain Lake Road in South Branch, Michigan. At press time we have no further information about their summer schedule. Contact Secretary Mitchelene Weichner for more information.

Northern Lake Michigan Spiritualist Camp, located just 1.5 miles west of Bay Shore on old U.S. Route 31 North, has a website www.nlmsc.org/schedule which will guide you through their 2009 offerings for events in July and August. Sunday Services start at 10:30 a.m., followed by a pot-luck luncheon, and Wednesday Services are at 7:30 p.m., followed by a bon-fire gathering. Their camp season also includes mid-week classes, meditation circles, informational seminars and private consultations by mediums. Contact Secretary Susan Hoshield at 231-537-2938 or for a camp program e-mail: program@nlmsc.org.

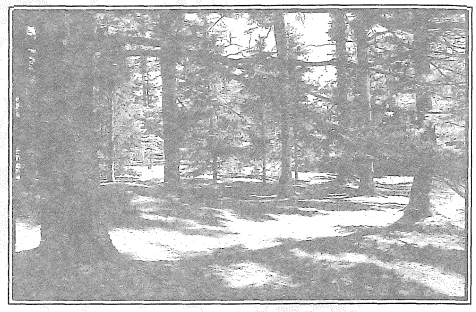


• IOWA •

The Mississippi Valley Spiritualist Association Camp (formerly called Mount Pleasant Camp) was the first Spiritualist Camp west of the Mississippi River. Located in downtown Clinton, Iowa, it was founded as a spiritual "summertime refresher/vacation" for those interested in Spiritualism. Folks used to pay admission to enter the campgrounds where large tents were set up for overnight stays. Because there was a very large pavilion – able to seat 2,000! – many nationally known speakers offered lectures for the public. The land has been in Spiritualists' hands since 1882, and became Mt. Pleasant Park. The lodging hotel was erected in the early 1890's, and it is still in use today. In past decades, one could hear the Bang Sisters, Harrison D. Barrett, Dr. J. M. Peebles, Moses Hull and many other highly prominent speakers. This summer's camp season will run from July – August 23. Please call Secretary Holly Chase at (210) 871-0686 or visit www.mvsa.info for more information about this season's schedule.

• ILLINOIS •

Christabelle Spiritualist Church and the **Cherry Valley Spiritualist Camp** share the same location. While Sunday services are held at the church 52 weeks per year, Cherry Valley Spiritualist Camp is in session from June to October 1st. Mediums give readings, classes are held, past life regression sessions are offered and interesting items are sold from vendors' tables set up on the camp grounds.



It's like time stands still here, and all you can think of is arriving so that you can feel the peace, feel the love, and feel a place that is untouched and unspoiled by the 20th century. This is truly a place where time does not exist for the whole precious afternoon. It is a place where we can go within ourselves and find ourselves; be okay about who we are and where we are in our walk through life.

Cherry Valley Spiritualist Camp is located at 8002 Service Road, Cherry Valley, 61016, which is next to Rockford, Illinois. The best time to call for directions would be Sunday morning because someone is cooking/preparing the feast. The 10:30 Healing Service is followed by the 11:00-12:30 Church Service with the meal beginning promptly at 1:00 PM. Later you can go outside to the wooded area and walk; there are benches and the trees are magnificent. For more information, call the camp phone (815) 332-5359.

NORTHWEST CAMP

• WASHINGTON •

Camp Edgewood, NSAC, Association can be contacted by writing to Cynthia Frye, Secretary at 1228 26th Avenue Court in Milton, WA 98354. Phone contact is (253) 927-2050 and the fax number is (253) 927-7531. The camp can be emailed at campedgewood@qwestoffice.net or campedgewood@yahoo.com for detailed summer

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Laughter To Raise Your Vibrations

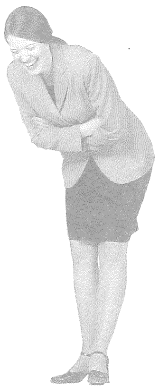
We all enjoy the feeling of a good, deep-belly laugh. Hopefully, your chuckles will raise vibrations as your laughter echoes throughout our TNS-Summit community!



Signs posted in foreign countries to assist English-speaking tourists:

- Ladies are requested not to have children in the bar. (Norway)
- Please do not feed the zoo animals. If you have any suitable food, give it to the guard on duty. (Budapest)
- Doctor's Office specializing in women and other diseases. (Rome)
- The manager has personally passed all the water served here. (Acapulco)
- Air Conditioner: Cooles and heates – if you want condition of warm air in your room, please control yourself. (Japan)
- Restaurant customers who find our waitresses rude ought to see the manager. (Nairobi)
- Take notice: when this sign is under water, road is impassable. (Athi River Road)
- Are you an adult who cannot read? If so, we can help. (Kencom)
- Open seven days a week, and weekends too. (Berlin)





- Mental Health Prevention Centre (Berlin)
- Airline Ticket Office: We take your bags and send them in all directions. (Copenhagen)
- Persons are prohibited from picking flowers from any but their own graves. (Germany)
- Hotel guests are requested not to smoke or do other disgusting behaviors in bed. (Tokyo)
- Our Swiss wines leave you nothing to hope for. (Switzerland)
- This hotel is renowned for its peace and solitude. In fact, crowds from all over the world flock here to enjoy its solitude. (Italy)
- Hotel Notice: Please leave your values at the front desk. (Paris)
- Our supermarket recommends, for your convenience, courteous, efficient self-service. (Japan)
- Laundry Services: Leave your clothes here and spend the afternoon having a good time. (Rome)



Happiness is not in our circumstances, but in ourselves. It is not something we see, like a rainbow, or feel, like the heat of a fire. Happiness is something we are.

– John B. Sheerin

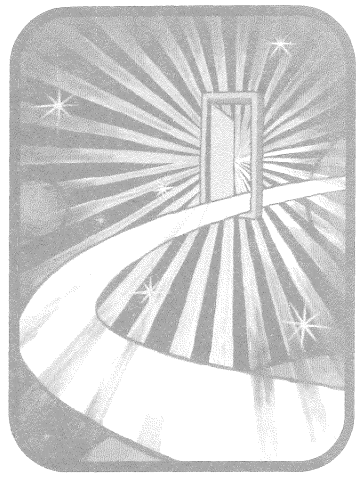
NSAC Summer Camps *Continued...*

information. The camp has issued an invitation which states, "All NSAC workers who would like to visit Camp Edgewood NSAC and work at camp while they're here are cordially invited with open arms."

Established in 1903, Camp Edgewood is most appropriately named, because it is nestled on the edge of Lake Surprise. Conveniently located to both Tacoma and Seattle, this camp has a very active and involved schedule. Pot luck meals combine with classes, spiritual teachings, readings and services to offer a full compliment of spiritual education and experiences!

♦ ♦ ♦

Spiritualism's Past and Bright Future



CAROL CAESAR – Virginia

In an effort to add an aura of mystery to the counter in our basement, the previous owner placed an auspicious plaque that stated "In 1848, on this spot nothing important happened." Everyone who sees it always gets a chuckle because we are so used to historical placards everywhere stating what happened, who lived where and what they did over 150 years ago.

I'm quite a fan of history and so I love to visit all of the historical places in DC, VA and MD. In fact, much to the consternation of my husband, I read every placard in every museum. It's amazing (to me) to read about how people lived and what they experienced. It's equally amazing, as I study the history of Modern Spiritualism, to understand how our religion began and progressed. It is appropriate to both appreciate our history and evaluate where we are headed. What is the future of Modern Spiritualism? What is next for us as Spiritualists? Will there be a plaque where this church stands in another 150 years that says, "Nothing important happened"? Or will that plaque say something else? If so, what will it say was accomplished on this site, The Center for Spiritual Enlightenment?

To begin with, let's take time to recall Modern Spiritualism's humble beginnings. Back in 1848 a very devout Methodist Fox family rented a small cottage in Hydesville, NY – a sleepy rural town south of Rochester, NY, where the family had purchased land in order to live near their eldest grown son, David. They rented the cottage while awaiting construction of their new home, not knowing any of the history of the former tenants of the cottage. Not long after they moved in, they began to hear unexplained noises, rapping sounds and had other unusual experiences. The family had two young girls living at home, Maggie who was about to turn 15 and Katie who had just turned 11. The other grown children were: Leah, who was living in Rochester abandoned by her husband and raising a daughter by herself by teaching music, Maria and Elizabeth on their own; and David who lived nearby.

The parents had separated years earlier because the father, John, had a drinking problem; the mother, Margaret, had left him and lived with her maternal family for a time in Canada. John cleaned up his act and reunited with Margaret and Margaretta (Maggie) and Catherine (Katie or Kate) were born after their reconciliation. They had already had enough soap opera in their lives, so they really didn't want to have the stress and fear that comes from renting a haunted house! But they did. And the girls were brazen enough to talk to the noises and rappings and discover that there actually was an intelligence behind the disturbances. A system of communication was worked out using the rappings—once for yes and twice for no—and later they got more detailed information by using the alphabet.

It was through this laborious process that it was learned that the intelligent rappings came from the spirit of a peddler, Charles B. Rosna, who had been murdered for his money by one of the previous tenants of the cottage. The proof of this communication was provided years later, in 1904, when the skeleton and peddler's pack was discovered in the crumbling wall of the basement of the cottage.

Many neighbors and witnesses came from miles around to hear the rapping communications made plain to two young, uneducated girls in that little cottage in Hydesville. The family hoped that somehow the rappings, publicity and invasion of privacy would end – in fact they prayed that it would end. Their house had been invaded, their lawn had been trampled and their daily routine disrupted by spirit communication and by curiosity seekers. They had to go and stay with son David because there was no peace in the little cottage. But the rappings followed the girls – even when Maggie and family stayed with David and Katie was sent to live in Rochester with Leah – the phenomena of spirit communication persisted. The family felt it was a curse or the work of the devil; they wanted nothing to do with it. But spirit had worked hard to lift the veil between the two worlds and soon the family received the message that spirit wanted them to spread the word by renting the biggest hall in Rochester, Corinthian Hall, to give a public demonstration of spirit communication.

Afraid for their reputations and even for their lives, they followed the directions given to them by spirit, and Maggie and Leah Fox demonstrated the rapping/spirit communication to an incredulous crowd. Test after test followed that first demonstration; the

Continued...

girls were strip-searched, practically tortured and threatened on a regular basis. Their home-life was destroyed; they grew up quickly under the pressures of serving spirit.

In spite of the initial lack of public acceptance, it wasn't long before other mediums came forward and began demonstrating. Spirit communication was the mid-19th century equivalent of going to Mars! It was a media circus. Critics abounded and many debunkers felt it was their moral duty to put a stop to these "charlatan-like theatrics". And so spirit communication was debated, tested and retested again.

Many scientists and other reputable members of society became believers while doing experiments, designed to expose fraudulence with mediums. But these same converts who lent credibility to Spiritualism often lost credibility themselves. Many lost important government posts, clients or respect from other colleagues in their profession. To announce that you were a Spiritualist was often political and business suicide in those days. Yet our movement progressed, slowly organized, and in 1893 the National Spiritualist Association (later renamed NSAC) was formed. Now member churches could pool together resources, collect statistics of spirit phenomena and put forth a unified message of what Spiritualists believe. The first five Principles—the ones we read every Sunday—were adopted in 1899. Later, the other principles were adopted. Each principle helped to define our religion. But more importantly, the organization was proclaiming that Spiritualism was not just belief in spirit communication. The principles espoused the general teachings that had been brought forth by spirit to us.

One thing that I find particularly powerful is the effect that Spiritualism played in history. In 1848, the U.S. was very different from today. We had people *owning* other people in the form of slavery. We had children laboring in sweat shops. We had women with no rights, no vote and usually no voice in the decision of who they would marry or how they would live. We had the educated, wealthy class and we had the uneducated, often completely illiterate poor. Living conditions for a great majority of people in the U.S. were terrible. So, in the middle of all of this social chaos in 1848, along came this phenomena of spirit communication with mediums bringing in spiritual messages and teachings.

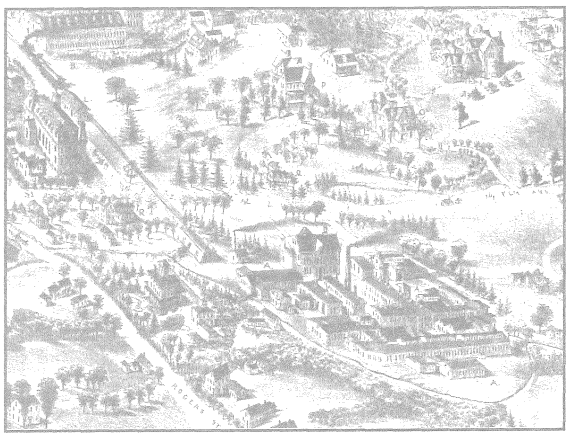
In my historical readings, I find that after experiencing spirit communication and hearing the spiritual teachings, people who had believed in slavery became abolitionists. When people were given the truth that "we are all children of God," that this physical body is just the dressing gown for our soul, they realized the wrong in slavery. Medium Nettie Colburn sat for many readings with President Lincoln, his wife and others *in the* White House. It is recorded that Mr. Lincoln was urged by spirit to issue the Emancipation Proclamation, ending slavery.

Spiritualists were at the forefront of social change. And how could they do otherwise? How could they receive the teachings of Spirit and not live by the dictates of the yearnings of their soul? They could not; they fought for social and religious freedoms. They were abolitionists, suffragettes, writers, politicians and ministers. Our pioneers stood up for change, for social equality. They envisioned transformation and they manifested it.

When I was growing up in the 1970's, Virginia Slims Cigarettes ran a pictorial ad campaign with the slogan *You've Come A long Way Baby.* They would show photos of Victorian women washing clothes on a large rock in contrast with the "modern" woman and her washing machine. They would portray a woman tied up in her tight corset and ankle-length, itchy wool dress in contrast to the contemporary woman's modern pant suit. I really never gave much thought to these Victorian women until I read about the Fox sisters, Emma Hardinge Brittan, Cora Richmond and the many other women pioneers of Spiritualism. These women were trail blazers. And the men of early Spiritualism – they too gave up a lot to put our religion on a sound footing. And so yes, we can say *You've Come A Long Way Baby* in regards to Modern Spiritualism; but what can we say about our future? Are we living in a way that honors their sacrifices?

Shakespeare said, "The past is prologue" – it sets the stage for the drama we are the stars. Will we celebrate our anniversary of Modern Spiritualism, March 31, 1848, by taking spirit communication and proof of eternal life for granted? Or instead, might we seek spiritual growth through service and by attuning to Infinite Intelligence through prayer and meditation. Out of this effort each of us would surely progress on our path more assiduously than before. Each of us would surely stand up for social and religious evolvement and acceptance. When help was needed, we would not look around for someone else to come forward to lead, but would instead be the first to step forward. We would surely never have time to grumble or complain because we would be too busy helping others to notice any mud upon our shoes.

Is this the today of Modern Spiritualism? Is this what the plaque will say that someone will read in another 160 years? Will it say, "In the beginning of the 21st century, Spiritualists took action through their thoughts, words and deeds that ended the tyranny of war and ushered in an era of peace and love."? ON this site in 2009, what will happen? That, my brothers and sisters, is up to each one of us. ♦



Portion of 1880 map available through the Library of Congress web site. Note Cheney Hall and the Cheney's railroad and factories.

Armchair Historic Research
CHENEY MANSION

SUSAN BARLOW, Manchester, CT Historical Society

Reprinted with permission from the
November 2008 edition of *Manchester Life*.

Technology has been a boon to historians. What a joy to conduct research without leaving the house. You can now read ancient tomes on line using Google books, read mini-biographies at Wikipedia, and look at panoramic maps on the Library of Congress web site.

Of course, nothing beats going to museums to view artifacts and immerse yourself in objects from long ago. And if you're going to conduct a walking tour, you must go out into the field to visit buildings, interview neighbors, and get a sense of the place. And then there's a problem with inaccuracies, such as "He died at age 53 in 1876," when the math doesn't add up to 53, but 43.

Still, the information available through the Internet can enrich our understanding of the past, and bring us details that would take us ages to find by combing through old records, if indeed we had access and knew where to look.

SPIRITUALISM

Recently when I was preparing for a Cheney Mansion walking tour, a fellow historian mentioned that Ward Cheney (1813-1876) was involved in the Spiritualism movement, popular at several periods during the nineteenth century. This would be fascinating information to include in an October event, when we're thinking about the various spirits out and about around Halloween.

Spiritualism was a new-age-type movement, which held that the living could communicate with the dead, often with the help of a medium, sometimes at a séance. In an age when loved ones died tragically young, desperate parents wanted to believe that they could communicate again with their dear departed children.

Kate Fox (1838–1892), a young medium from New York, stayed with the Cheneys in the mid-1800s. There's a framed conté-crayon portrait of her on a wall at the Homestead, drawn by Ward Cheney's brother, Seth.

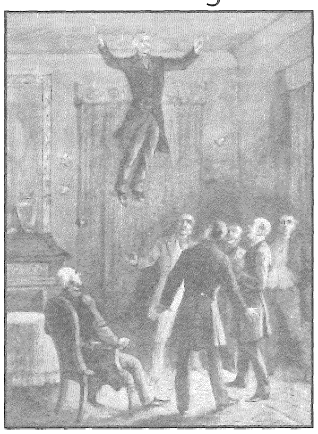
You can find a biography of Kate Fox at Wikipedia.com, the popular Internet site similar to an encyclopedia. (You can also read the 1891 book *Catalogue of the Engraved and Lithographed Work of John Cheney and Seth Wells Cheney*, written by Seth's wife, author Ednah Dow Cheney, at http://books.google.com/books.)



Portrait of Kate Fox at the Homestead. The eerie quality is actually just a result of reflections on the shiny glass of the frame. Photo by Susan Barlow.

Kate Fox was famous for interpreting table rappings as messages to the living from the dead. During her dramatic life, Kate Fox attracted notable people from "the higher social circles," including William Cullen Bryant, James Fenimore Cooper, and Horace Greeley. She and her sister, Margaret, also a medium, traveled extensively, and unfortunately both the young girls began to drink wine, a "pernicious habit" that may have led to Kate's alcoholism. In later life, she told the press that she had invented the messages from the dead to make money. However she had earned a substantial payment for making the confession to the newspaper, and she later recanted it.

Daniel Dunglas Home (1833-1886) also visited the Cheneys – he was not only a medium, but could levitate, and there were many of the rich and famous in America and Europe who invited him to stay



Wikipedia has this drawing of D.D. Home, with the caption: "The levitation at Ward Cheney's house interpreted in a lithograph from Louis Figuier, Les Mystères de la science 1887"

Continued...

with them. Per Wikipedia: "Home's breakthrough came in August 1852, in South Manchester, Connecticut, at the house of Ward Cheney, a successful silk manufacturer. Home was seen to levitate twice and then rise up to the ceiling, with louder rappings and knocking than ever before, more aggressive table movements and the sounds of a ship at sea in a storm, although persons present said that the room was badly lit so as to see the spirit lights."

Ward and his wife had lost a child, and this may have led to the Cheneys' connection with Spiritualism, and the hope of talking to the youngster.

Cheney Biographies

In Google books, researchers can read Appleton's "Cyclopedia of American Biography" to find out more about Ward Cheney, a member of the Cheney generation that founded the famous silk mills. This 1888 book, by James Grant Wilson and John Fiske, says that Ward Cheney is "known in business circles as a generous and progressive man...who frequently aided young men beginning mercantile life." Ward had early on worked in Providence, Rhode Island, in dry goods, then in Burlington, New Jersey in silk manufacturing, and came back to Manchester to work with his brothers, of whom, the Cyclopedia says, "...their relations with their workmen afforded a rare instance of cordiality and affection."

The brothers "established the model manufacturing village of South Manchester, with cottage homes, a spacious and architecturally elegant hall and theatre, where dramatic and other entertainments are given gratis and religious exercises are held on Sundays, a school, a library and reading room, boarding-houses and pleasure-grounds."

The book of course is referring to Cheney Hall, and the many worker houses that the Cheneys built. Several other Cheney biographies are contained in the Cyclopedia.

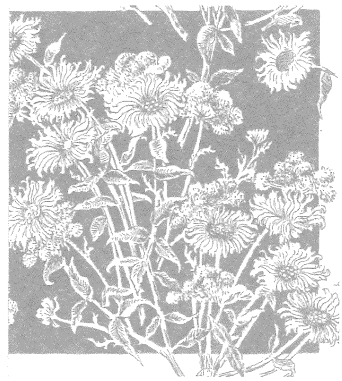
Online Maps

Old maps available on line show that the Cheney family's houses were originally quite close to Hartford Road, rather than spread across the Great Lawn, as we see them today. In a wonderful 1850 map online at http://magic.lib.uconn.edu (look for historical town maps) the names of property owners are listed next to the houses, rather than the names of streets, so you can see where the Cheneys owned property.

On line at the Library of Congress, you can find rich panoramic maps from 1880 and 1914. Go to http://memory.loc.gov and in the search box, type Panoramic Map South Manchester Connecticut. Then click on the map to zoom in and out.

Patents and Census Data

The government provides information on patents, which you can find through www.google.co/patents and by typing a subject into the search box. In the case of a Cheney mansion walking tour, I might want to show participants some Cheney fabric. So I typed in Cheney Design for Fabric, and found hundreds of patents, dating from 1881 to 1939. The images of the designs are lovely. Many were invented outside of the silk mills, and assigned to Cheney Brothers. I was surprised at the number of female designers.



Harriet W. Fowler's 1888 fabric design, assigned to Cheney Brothers, as viewed on Google/patents.

For census data, go to www.us-census.org/states/connecticut and you can find data, some of it transcribed, and all of it fascinating. For example, the 1790 census does contain data on Timothy Cheney, the grandfather of the silk-magnate Cheney Brothers, but it spells the last name with two e's, which is how the family pronounces the name, but not how the family spells the name. The 1790 census also tells how many slaves the family owns. The Pitkin family, but not the Cheneys, did own slaves. If you're looking for pre-1823 data, remember that we were part of East Hartford.

Historic Newspapers

You can read old Hartford Courants on line. Go to the Manchester library web site http://library.ci.manchester.ct.us/reference.html and select icon databases on the next three screens. You'll need to put in your library account number, which is printed on your card. When you enter the icon database, pick Link to Individual Resources, then pick Historical Hartford Courant, then click on the multiple databases button to choose individual newspapers and periodicals. Click continue, and then enter the subject and dates.

For example, you can read the June 1874 obituary of Charles Cheney, Ward's brother, which contains a summary of the history of the mills, as well as numerous compliments about the deceased: "He set an example to business men of an unfeverish pursuit of his calling, and of a happy spirit which made the most of this beautiful world. As to his integrity and high character, his devoted friendships, his quick sympathy with all who suffered, his modesty, his love

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Memorial Day Thoughts

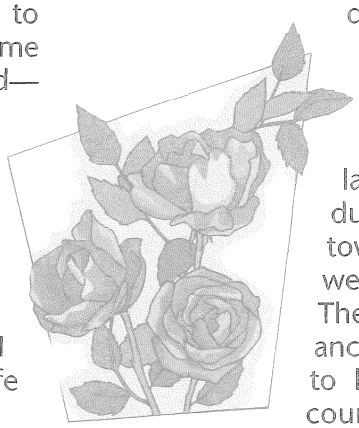
BONNIE WHEELER – Maine

The sweet scent of roses filled my car as I drove through the cemetery gates. I am grateful I have only one grave to decorate, my son-in-law's. He died too young, from a brain tumor, leaving my daughter widowed in her twenties with two young children to raise. I look at the long rows of gravestone's, some standing tall and erect, others old and cracked—neglected. Many are wreathed in colorful flowers, lovingly taken care of; others are sadly unkempt and lonely.

I saw red, white, and blue flags grandly waving in the breeze on selected graves. Men and women who fought in wars; that were unknown to me but I owe them so much. My husband gave 23 years of our lives to serve his country, and I know what they all sacrifice to keep America safe and free.

As I stop beside Jeff's grave, I see the American flag for his army service—a firemen flag also flies. And a colorful whirly waves, his daughter's choice at age 3; it was a very good choice. I could hardly believe it had survived the harsh winds and snow of winter. There it stood, catching the sun as it whirled, and I had to smile—knowing she would be so pleased.

I glanced around at so many tombstones, some very old with 1800 dates of sea captains—a few new graves, the young lost loved ones, gone too soon. Suddenly I looked at this cemetery in a completely different way than when I drove in. What would the sea captains, who navigated their tall ships to this new land, think today...the settlers who braved the harsh elements to begin a new life in America—the men and women who built the settlements, who fought Indians, cold winters, disease, loneliness, starvation, disappointment and poverty? Many came only to face death, their dreams ended here.



Without their sacrifice, I wouldn't be living the good life I live today. The teachers, builders, preachers, farmers, lawmakers—they worked and endured, used their hands to build towns and roads and bridges that we still use today without thought. Their talent, wisdom, and perseverance made this day possible for me to be standing here in a strong country, where everyone has a chance to live free and to prosper.

I felt such a connection to everyone who lies under this hallowed ground. Tears came to my eyes as the connection deepened and I thought, "How can I repay this debt I owe—do I go buy a car full of flowers and dress each grave?" I think they would expect more. I listen; I hear their whispers, "Appreciate all we did for you, cherish the Earth, appreciate the bounty, live your dreams, leave the world a better place, work hard, time is fleeting, we did it for you, it's your turn now, remember where we all come from and will return, give thanks and walk proud." I look over the sea of cold stones and softly say, "I will remember—thanks to you, thank you, thank GOD for you." ♦

Armchair Historic Research... *Continued...*

of all virtues, these are proverbial... Such men are the best pillars of society; their memory is one of its best treasures." Newspapers don't write such laudatory news obituaries any more, although families can purchase newspaper space for lengthy obituaries that they write themselves.

Just remember that newspapers have been known to make mistakes and it's best to double-check information before relying on it. In fact, any online resources can contain errors, a frustration somewhat balanced by convenience, but troublesome nonetheless.

Fun and Easy

Visit www.manchesterhistory.org for easy overviews of history and listings of our events. Visit www.mhs1955.com for stories and photos of old Manchester, with an emphasis on the 1950s.

Lost in the Volume of Information

Just as in library research, you can get lost in Internet research. You can come upon interesting tidbits and lose sight of your goal. The next thing you know it's four hours later! But it's not wasted time – the research on those tidbits may come in handy some time.

By the way, if you don't have a computer at home, libraries not only have computers, they have helpful staff who can untangle you if you lose your way in the patents and panoramic maps. Happy researching!

♦ ♦ ♦

Spirit Guides & Angel Guardians

RICHARD WEBSTER BOOK REVIEW / *Reviewed by Kate Smith – Illinois*

I love the *Spiritualist Church* for its affirming contact...in an open public forum...with our spirit guides.

New Zealander, Richard Webster, writes in his book *Spirit Guides & Angel Guardians* (Llewellyn Publications...I purchased at Borders) that "Spirit guides are people who have passed over into the next life and have reached a high spiritual level where they are, but still retain an interest in what is going on in this world. They are not like guardian angels that protect us, but are there to help and guide us when we ask for advice."



He continues by saying, "Guides are principally concerned with our spiritual growth and are prepared to help us with it. However, as they want us to be independent and stand on our own two feet, they discourage us from asking for help every time we have a small problem. They prefer to act as mentors, older and wiser, who have already learned the lessons we are so painfully trying to master."

He advises..."Communicate with your guides as often as you wish, but ask for help only when it is really necessary."

"Spirit guides are totally non-judgmental. Even if we make serious mistakes by ignoring or going against their advice they will be ready and willing to help again next time. They will never say, 'I told you so.' They recognize that we have to make mistakes sometimes to learn important lessons."

Spirit guides are usually, but not always, ancestors or close friends we have known and continue to love. "It can be extremely comforting to know that people who have been important to you in the past are still there to guide and help you whenever you need it." And that we have free and easy access to them, in the loving environment and authentic care of our pastor and mediums in our little *Spiritualist Church*.

I found Webster's book to be a wonderful surprise. Part Two, Chapter 11, which began with *Spirit Guides,* continues into *The Growth of Spiritualism,* which, according to Webster's studies "began on March 31, 1848, in Hydesville...upstate New York." When "Two sisters, Kate and Margaret Fox, began communicating with stage rapping sounds..." He points out "that séances were at their peak in the century leading up to World War II...due to the growth of Spiritualism, which taught that survival after death could be proven; and that *it* was possible to communicate with people who had passed over." *Home and Later Mediums* spans the time between the famous medium Daniel Dunglas Home (1833-86) born in Edinburgh, Scotland... adopted by a childless aunt and brought to the United States; and Edgar Cayce, the sleeping prophet, (1877-1945).

Chapters 12, *Ways to Contact Spirit Guides;* 18, *Becoming a Medium;* and 20, *The Past Life Connection* are equally brief, yet informative. I like the way Webster expands the information chapter by chapter in a *Notes* section immediately following... plus there's an extensive *Glossary* and *Suggested Reading* section...cleverly delivering the entire book as a *quick and easy read*...with 'stepping stones' that equally hold one's attention, and inspire further research.

In Chapter 22, *Conclusion,* Webster quotes a famous Chinese proverb that says, "I dreamed a thousand new paths...I woke and walked the old one." "Please don't do that," he says, "Dream of the new paths, and then follow the one that seems right for you. Use this book as a work book. Work through the different exercises." And then he says something we have been advised to do with our *Greetings*... "Keep a record of your results and findings. We all progress in stages. Sometimes we move ahead quickly, while at other times we feel as if we are simply marking time. By keeping records you can look back and see how far you have actually progressed."

Continued on page 20...

MEDIA WATCH

BY THE REVS. TOM AND LISA BUTLER, NST

Forever Family Foundation PSA • A professional producer has developed a Mother's Day Public Service Announcement (PSA) for the Forever Family Foundation (foreverfamilyfoundation.org). The AA-EVP is mentioned and EVP recorded by members is used in what we think is a historic radio spot. The PSA was played over many different radio stations. The text of the PSA is provided below, and you can hear it at www.aaevp.com/news.html.

*The voices you are about to hear are of deceased loved ones recorded by the American Association of Electronic Voice Phenomena: "**Hi Mom**," "**I love you.**" There are many ways to say "I love you" this Mother's Day. A message from a deceased loved one is the most precious of all.*

Brought to you by the Forever Family Foundation, a nonprofit supporting research into life after death. Visit us on the web at foreverfamilyfoundation.org. That's foreverfamilyfoundation.org

Afterlife Documentary • Filmmakers Michael Habernig and April Hannah of Coxsackie, NY released their documentary called *The Path-Afterlife* in January 2009. The documentary has interviews with twelve experts in the field of metaphysics. A few of these are the staff at The Monroe Institute, out of body expert William Buhlman and physicist and researcher of consciousness Thomas Campbell. The filmmakers say that it is their hope that the documentary will eliminate some of the fear associated with death and answer questions about spiritual realms like "What happens when we die? Does the soul live on? Is there an afterlife?" The filmmakers hope that *The Path-Afterlife* will allow people to make their own informed decision about life after death. The 71 minute film costs around $21 including shipping. For a trailer and more information, visit www.thepathseries.com.



Afterlife Data Dot Com • From their website: "The largest database of afterlife description and analysis on the Internet. This website is a compilation of information on the afterlife and other related critical concepts...as they relate to souls here on earth. We have not created this site to convince anyone of the validity of this information, we simply invite you to, visit to learn more. Using spirit sources from Afterlife101.com and respected authors like Michael Newton, Allan Kardec, Jane Roberts and others, the results of our first investigations reveal 94.8% agreement on a variety of very specific topics. We believe this website contains the largest correlation of spirit communications about the afterlife, all from respected sources, available anywhere. We will continue to expand this data as information is made available to us and our research expands."
From: http://afterlifedata.com/

What Really Happens in Near-Death Experiences? • Following a successful 18 month pilot study in the UK, the AWARE (AWAreness during REsusitation) Study was launched by the University of Southampton's Human Consciousness Project. This is to be the world's largest study of near-death phenomena. Dr. Sam Parnia, an expert in the study of near-death experiences and leader of the AWARE Study, said that "Contrary to popular perception, death is not a specific moment. It is a process that begins when the heart stops beating, the lungs stop working and the brain ceases functioning..." Research has shown that 10-20 percent of people who experience cardiac arrest report a lucid experience known as the near-death experience.
From: University of Southampton News Release: World's largest-ever study of near-death experiences, 10 Sept. 2008, www.soton.ac.uk/mediacentre/news/2008/sep/08_165.shtml

The Religion of Scientism • Rabbi Michael Lerner writes that most people experience their spiritual natures during meditation or prayer at their church, zendo, synagogue, mosque or while on a spiritual retreat at some lovely remote location, and then feel perfectly fine falling back into a more technocratic frame of mind when they return to work. Many look to "hard science" to validate their ethical or spiritual intuitions and feel that their spiritual values or

Continued...

experiences will not be taken seriously as authentic wisdom if they are not backed by "evidence" from a scientific way of knowing the world.

Lerner, the author of *The Left Hand of God* and *Spirit Matters,* says that this is just another capitulation to another religious system, "the religion of scientism." He writes, "The central belief of this religion – that whatever is real or can be known is only that which can be verified through sense data or measured – is itself as groundless as that of any other religious system. By its own criterion, this belief is either false or meaningless because the statement itself is not derived from or verifiable through any empirical data or measurement." He continues that we must move beyond a metaphysical grounding in scientism if we are to develop the spiritual politics sufficient to help heal and transform our world.

From: *Shift,* June- August 2008 No 19, "Healing the World, Healing Ourselves," Institute of Noetic Sciences.

A Proof of Infinite Intelligence? • Spiritualists see Infinite Intelligence as a universal source of energy from which all things in reality are formed and which embodies the rules that control its operation. We generally know this energy as Spirit, and the governing rules as Natural Law.

One might think of this concept as being just a religious tenet, but remember that Spiritualism is the science, philosophy and religion of survival and that the phenomena of Spiritualism are scientifically proven. So has the existence of Infinite Intelligence, Spirit and Natural Law been proven? Well...the answer is more "yes" than "no." Current quantum theory holds that there is an underlying field of energy described as "Zero Point Energy" (ZPE). This is comparable to the cosmological constant Albert Einstein speculated about as the difference between the absolute zero energy level of a true vacuum and the real zero energy level of space.

In her book, *The Field,* Lynne McTaggart describes how ZPE might be a field that underlies all of reality, and which is the medium that propagates the nonlocal effects of quantum entanglement. If this is the case, then it would also account for how life is interconnected and may even explain how thought propagates.

Dr. Dean Radin of the Institute of Noetic Sciences described a subtle field of energy that connects all of us. This "biofield" has been measured using random number generator arrays and is associated with energy healing, clairvoyance and presentment. Changes in this field can be detected as changes in the "randomness" of the array.

Dr. Rupert Sheldrake also describes a field of subtle energy that connects all of us. He maintains that this field holds the memory of how things are formed and how they behave. For instance, biological organisms are formed according to this memory, and things learned in one part of the world can propagate through this field to be influential in other parts of the world.

There are actually many field theories designed to explain same or similar observations, and the common denominator is that it is easy to find the Spiritualist view of Infinite Intelligence and the operation of Spirit governed by Natural Law in each of them. These researchers are unlikely to say they are studying a first cause or any kind of God, but it seems that it is an unavoidable conclusion that they are giving us fresh scientific proof of the phenomena of Spiritualism.

McTaggart, Lynne, *The Field,* Harper Perennial, 2003, ISBN: 978-0-06-093117-9

Radin, Dean, *Entangeled Minds,* Paraview Pocket Books, 2006, ISBN: 10-1-4165-1677-8

Sheldrake, Rupert, www.sheldrake.org/papers/Morphic/morphic_intro.html, 3 February 2008

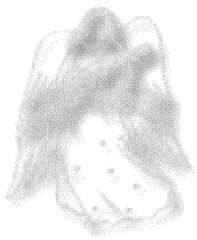
The Arlington Institute, a non-profit think tank specializing in predictive modeling of future events, hopes to utilize paranormal powers to provide an early warning of impending disasters or other critical events. Project WHETHERMAP is predicated on the idea that before catastrophic, world changing events, people have intuitional dreams that anticipate those events. While there have been a number of famous people throughout history who have accurately predicted the future, it also appears that almost everyone has premonitions from time to time in the form of dreams, visions, or simple gut feelings. WHETHERMAP will provide an online portal for people to create intuition journals which they could update daily. While maintaining complete privacy and anonymity, their reports will be scanned and aggregated with the most sophisticated sense making and pattern recognition technology available today in order to create visual displays of intuition clusters designed to identify potential catastrophic events. It is the Institutes hope that, through WHETHERMAP, human beings will have a system that can anticipate surprise events of global significance, and radically change the way that people look at themselves and at the world. You can fill out a Dream/Intuition form at www.arlingtoninstitute.org/Dream/Intuition-Entry-Form

Was it a Ghost? • In February, *The Sun,* (www.thesunco.uk), ran an article about a schoolboy who had captured footage of what he called a ghost.

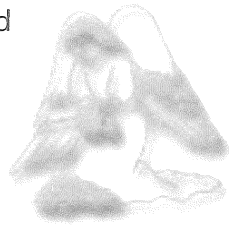
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Reading Matters *Continued from page 17...*

"Be patient. Remain positive and confident...Remember that the underlying spiritual message is exactly the same whether you choose to work with guardian angels, spirit guides, nature spirits, animals or anything else that interests you. All of them serve as symbolic representations of the love, help, and guidance that is available to you from the universe."



And finally, in continual agreement in Webster's wisdom, he states, "You can do much of this on your own, but your progress will be faster and more enjoyable if you develop with a like-minded person." I'll expand this to *like-minded people*...and the benefit of being present throughout the entire *Greetings* service. For indeed it is an *enriching experience* to be in receipt of your own precious message; yet how extraordinary to bear witness to the wisdom and guidance available from that which comes forth for the highest good of all. ♦



Available through NSAC Bookstore

Here is a list of newest books since last summer:

The God Experiments . . . . . Gary Schwartz
Slate Writing Invisible Intelligence . . . . . Ron Nagy
The Psychic Life of Abraham Lincoln . . . . Susan B. Martinez
Talking To The Other Side . . . . . Todd Jay Leonard
Dead Rescue . . . . . Michael Evans
GOD made easy . . . . . Patrice Karst
The Seeress of Prevorst . . . . . John DeSalvo, Ph.D.
Meditations to Empower Your Soul . . . . . Miriam Bostwick
All Animals Go To Heaven . . . . . Miriam Bostwick
Public Speaking and Platform Decorum Handbook . . . . . Rev. Bonnie Darby, NST, Rev. Lelia Cutler, NST, and Sue Jalbert with excerpt from Dr. Victoria Barnes
Platform Decorum . . . . . BY California State Spiritualists' Assoc.
Platform Decorum . . . . . Ann Otzelberger
Spiritualism . . . . . As prepared by The Rev. Lelia Cutler for the Jaffers Report 8-2008
A Brief History of The Fox Family and The Beginnings of Modern Spiritualism
Spirit Healing . . . . compiled by the National Healer's League Rev. Gene Pfortmiller, NST, Rev. Sandra Pfortmiller, NST designed by Rev. Janet Tisdale, NST
Spiritualism The World's Oldest Religion . . . . Elizabeth Harris

Media Watch *Continued from page 18...*

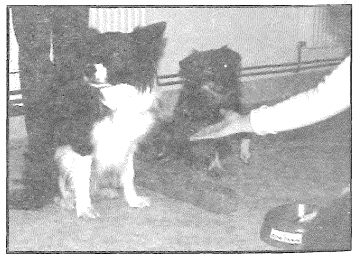
Reece Pitman, age 12, used his cell phone to film the shadowy figure just a few days after his nine-year-old sister complained that someone had been mysteriously finishing her jigsaw puzzles at night. Reece's mom said, "Reece looked scared witless. In the clip a white shadow appears from my bedroom followed by the dark image of a man."

In March 2009, the footage could be viewed at www.paranormalia.com. At that time skeptics were already trying to debunk the footage with very poor quality replication attempts. Perhaps there is some normal explanation for the shadowy figure in the footage, but it is interesting.

Dogs Have Sense of Fairness • It turns out that dogs are not only loyal, but they're also fair. A study reported in a December 9 journal found that man's best friend will turn away or even refuse to look at you if he sees that his fellow dog is being ignored. "Animals react to inequity," one researcher said.

The photo is from the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences; because the Border Collie has not received food for giving the paw in the last trials and observing that the partner did receive food, the subject is now refusing to give the paw and avoids looking at the experimenter. (Friederike Range / AP)

In the reward experiments reported in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Range and colleagues experimented with dogs that understood the command "paw," to place their paw in the hand of a researcher. It's the same game as teaching a dog to "shake hands".



The dogs sat side-by-side with an experimenter in front of them. In front of the experimenter was a divided food bowl with pieces of sausage on one side and brown bread on the other. The dogs were asked to shake hands and each could see what reward the other received. When one dog got a reward and the other didn't, the unrewarded animal stopped playing. When both got a reward all was well.

From: *The Associated Press,* "Studies show dogs have sense of fairness," by Randolph E. Schmid, AP Science Writer

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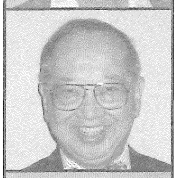
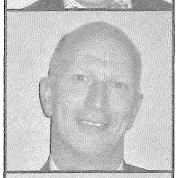
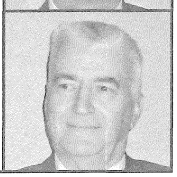
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JAMES, Rev. Jesse Jr., Medium, by appt. only, 1301 Pennsylvania St., 46407- (219) 885-0091

CARMEL

BIANCHI, Rev. Robert, NST, Certified Medium, Comm. Healer, 1119 Mohawk Hills Dr., 46032 - (317) 428-8740; e-mail: reverendbob@direct2spirit.com

BIANCHI, Rev. Sharon, NST, Cert. Med., 1119 Mohawk Hills Dr., 46032 - (317) 945-8437; e-mail: sharonbianchi2002@yahoo.com

INDIANAPOLIS

DARBY, Rev. Bonnie, NST; The Spiritualist Church of Indianapolis; (317) 329-1217; e-mail: bdarby02@sbcglobal.net

GALLOWAY, Mary E., Certified Medium; By appt. only; 849 Mellowood Dr., 46217; (317) 215-4994

SCHLAGEL, Rev. Mildred; Ordained Minister/Medium; Classes, readings by appt. (317) 291-0799

REEVES, Rev. Jacqueline A., NST; Spiritualist Church of Indianapolis; e-mail: jackiereeves1948@sbcglobal.net

• IOWA •

DAVENPORT

BUCHHOLZ, Rev. William E., Certified Medium, 806 E. Thirteenth St., 52803-4240 - (563) 326-3201

• MAINE •

AUGUSTA

WALLACE, Rev. Earl L, Certified Medium, Comm. Healer, 124 Spring St., Gardiner, 04345 - (207) 582-6745; e-mail: godfreed1@verizon.net

HARTFORD

FROBESE, Rev. Stephanie, NST, 546 Town Farm Rd., 04220-5115 - (207) 388-3436; e-mail: penf@megalink.net

HAWKINS, Rev. Kathleen, NST, Certified Medium, Comm. Healer, 1498 Main St., 04220-5115 - (207) 388-3140; e-mail: khawkins@megalink.net

NORRIS SIGURDSSON, Virginia, Licentiate Minister, Comm. Healer, 25 Camp Rd., 04220-5207 - (207) 597-2600

SIGURDSSON, Rev. Rupert, NST, Comm. Healer, 25 Camp Rd., 04220-5207 - (207) 597-2600

PORTLAND

CARTER, Rev. Elizabeth, Certified Medium, Comm. Healer, 15 Regan Lane, 04103-2047, (207) 797-2039; e-mail: 2007spiritualist@peoplepc.com

RAYMOND

CONNOLLY, Rev. Graham LS, Certified Medium, Comm. Healer, NST, 66 Martin Heights, 04071 - (207) 655-6673; e-mail: gconnol1@maine.rr.com

THORNDIKE

CROES, Lois L., 346 Gordon Hill Rd., 04986 - (254) 699-1543; Medium, Healer, Reiki Master

• MASSACHUSETTS •

LOWELL

WINGOOD, Rev. Kenneth, 300 Douglas Rd., 01852 - (978) 454-4163

WORTHINGTON

SULLIVAN, Rev. John F., NST, Pastor of First Spiritualist Church of Springfield, Certified Medium, Comm. Healer, classes, counseling, private consultations, public lectures, 480 Huntington Rd., P.O. Box 392, 01098 - (413) 238-5344; e-mail: sully1942@hughes.net

• MINNESOTA •

ROCHESTER

YOUNG, Rev. Joyce E., NST, Cert. Medium, Comm. Healer, 4814 115 Ave. NW, Byron, 55920 - (507) 775-6358; e-mail: jeyoung@rconnect.com

YOUNG, Rev. John E., NST, Cert. Medium, Comm. Healer, 4814 115 Ave. NW, Byron, 55920 - (507) 775-6358; e-mail: jeyoung@rconnect.com

• MONTANA •

KALISPELL

KLEINSCHMIDT, Rev. Charlene, NST, Cert. Medium; Albert C., Cert. Medium, Comm. Healer, 172 Wilson Heights Rd. 59901-7468 - (406) 257-4668

• NEVADA •

RENO

BUTLER, Rev's Tom and Lisa, NST, Comm. Healers, Directors American Assoc. of Electronic Voice Phenomena, P.O. Box 13111, 89507, e-mail: aaevp@aol.com; website: http://aaevp.com

• NEW HAMPSHIRE •

LONDONDERRY

SNELL, Rev. Catherine, NST, Certified Medium, Readings by appt., 31 Sugarplum Lane, 03053 - (603) 434-5381, Fax: (603) 434-5339

TRAVIS, Rev. Janet, NST, 31 Sugarplum Lane, 03053 - (603) 434-5381, Fax: (603) 434-5339

FOREST HILLS

RUIZ, Rev. Hugo, Pastor, TMS, NST, Certified Medium; 95-06 72nd Ave., 11375 - (718) 793-8434; e-mail: hruiz@nyc.rr.com

• NEW YORK •

HUNTINGTON

SCHOELLER, Rev. Richard P., NST, Certified Medium, Comm. Healer, by appt. only, The Huntington Atrium, 775 Park Ave., Ste. 255-17, 11743 - (631) 470-0221; e-mail: RPSchoeller@optonline.net

LAKE RONKONKOMA

DUFFIELD, Rev. Patricia Anne, NST, Certified Medium, Comm. Healer, 10 Ackerly Lane, 11779 - (631) 588-5869; e-mail: kenpatduff@hotmail.com

LILY DALE

CATON, Katie, Certified Medium, P.O. Box 241, 14752 - (716) 595-2992; e-mail; Choralkate@aol.com

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

KINCAID, Rev. George, 5 Fourth St., P.O. Box 261, 14752-0261 - (716) 595-8717

• OHIO •

BLOOMINGDALE

ANDERSON, Fred, Comm. Healer, 2624 Twp. Rd. 199, P.O. Box 79, 43910 - (740) 944-1102; e-mail: falconrising@windstream.net

• PENNSYLVANIA •

PHILADELPHIA

HUTT, Rev. Betty, Certified Medium by appointment, Seminar and Lecture, P.O. Box 433, Glenolden, 19036 - (610) 583-3268

PITTSBURGH

O'HARE, Carol, Licentiate Minister, P.O. Box 1981, 15230-1981 - (412) 398-7303

PORT VUE

KRALL, Frances, Medium, 582 Upston St., 15133 - (412) 678-2091

• RHODE ISLAND •

State Wide

KENT, Revs. Lynn and Brian, Certified Medium and Comm. Healer; specialize in physical phenomena table-tipping workshops, public readings for charity and grief counseling. (401) 864-8307; e-mail: lynn@lynnkent.com; website: www.lynnkent.com

• TEXAS •

HOUSTON

JESSUP, Rev. Jovita V., NST, Comm. Healer, Certified Medium, 5655 Meadow Creek Ln., 77017 - (713) 947-6586; e-mail: JessupJovita@aol.com

PFLUGERVILLE

BERG, Rev. Virginia, 20916 Bellerive Dr., 78660 - (512) 670-3408; e-mail: V.BergTX@aol.com

• VIRGINIA •

ALEXANDRIA

KRITHADES, Rev. Christine, J.D., NST, P.O. Box 7071, 22307 - (703) 317-1707; e-mail: ckckck@starpower.net

HAMPTON

BROWN, Rev. Carol A., NST, 712 Big Bethel Rd., 23666-2802 - (757) 826-9652; e-mail: CLBrown1@gmail.com

ROBINSON, Rev. Linda M., NST, 3 Redman Ct., 23669 - (757) 851-4735.

NORFOLK

CUTLER, Rev. Lelia E., NST, 7310 Midfield St., 23505-4126 - (757) 480-3799

SPRINGFIELD

GEHMAN, Rev. B. Anne, Certified Medium, Comm. Healer, 5409 Backlick Woods Court, 22151 - (703) 354-5767

VIENNA

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

VIRGINIA BEACH

CRIBB, Rev. Kathleen, 900 Park Landing Ct., 23456 - (757) 471-2414, cell (757) 573-6704, e-mail: BubbaCribb@cox.net

• WASHINGTON •

AUBURN

PEMBERTON, Rev. LaVerne, Ordained Minister of Church of Spiritual Unity, 35008 Military Rd. S., 98001 - (253) 833-9279

• WEST VIRGINIA •

CHARLES TOWN

ROLNICK, Rev. Alexis Sharon, Certified Medium, 128 Burnlea Rd., 25414 - (304) 725-3763, (240) 447-8912; e-mail: asrolnick@aol.com; website: www.churchofjoyousliving.com; classes, circles, readings

GREAT CACAPON

STARR, Rev. Barbara, NST, Comm. Healer, 4245 Woodmont Rd., 25422 - (304) 258-4861

• CANADA •

MONTREAL, QUEBEC

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

DIRECTORY OF NSAC CHARTERED CHURCHES & AUXILIARIES

• ARIZONA •

GLENDALE - Church of the Living Spirit, NSAC • Church Location - 3736 W. Wahalla Lane, Glendale, AZ 85308; Mailing address: 9106 W. Willow Haven Court, Sun City, 85351; Co-Pastor, Rev. Janet Tisdale, NST, (623) 972-3916; Sun. Serv. 10:30 a.m.; website: www.churchofthelivingspirit.org

• CALIFORNIA •

CALIFORNIA STATE SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION • Pres., Janice Foote, mobile: (360) 261-0470; Secy., Carol Whyte; Mail to: 484 Lake Park Ave. #333, Oakland, 94610-2730, (510) 917-4801, Fax: (866) 615-6144, e-mail: cssasecretary@aol.com

AUBURN - Spiritualist Chapel of the Pines • 457 Grass Valley Hwy. #7, 95603; Sun. Serv. 10:00 a.m.; All Message Serv. Fri. 7:00 p.m.; Pastor, Rev. George Brenner; Pres., Katrina Thompson (530) 852-0340; Secy., Nancy Pivonka (530) 346-8370; Tel. (530) 823-1816, Fax (916) 663-4691.

MONROVIA - The Spiritualist Church of Revelation • 200 W. Colorado Blvd., 91016; Sun. Church Serv. 11:00 a.m.; Pastor Martin Pina; The President is Pastor Martin Pina; Secretary is the honorable Mr. Winston Lumley; Contact: SCRMonrovia@gmail.com / Phone (626) 256-3403, e-mail: greenry@earthlink.net; for class info Please call church phone.

SACRAMENTO - Central Spiritualist Church, NSAC • 2500 Marconi Ave., Suite 209, 95821-4855. Mailing Address: 4800 Auburn Folsom Rd., #63, Loomis, 95650-9328; Sun. Serv. 10:00 am.; Classes (see Pastor); Healing All Message Serv. 7:00 p.m., last Tues. of the month; Pres., Denise E. Bell; Pastor, Rev. Sandra G. Dawson, NST, (916) 652-4568; e-mail: rdawson@wizwire.com; Secy., Elisa Nicholas, P.O. Box 162303, Sacramento, 95816 – (916) 712-3512; e-mail: enicholas_1@hotmail.com

SAN BERNARDINO - Temple of Spiritual Truth, NSAC • Please call Pastor Rev. Sara (Sally) Estes, NST, (909) 886-9242 for time and location information.

SAN FRANCISCO - Celebrate Life Spiritualist Community – Joyous Spiritualism to a modern world • The Celebration service each Wed, weekly classes, Modesto, CA classes, weekend services - see website or call. Rev Drew Vogt, Pastor (415) 568-7571 - P.O. Box 640216, San Francisco, CA 94164. Email: revdrew77@ yahoo.com Website: ourcelebration.org

SAN FRANCISCO - The First Spiritual Temple, NSAC • "The Teaching Church." Pres., Rev. Donald McFarland, NST; Pastor Emeritus, Rev. Alfred A. Conner, NST; Secy., Elsie Ann Soria, NST; Class 2nd Sun. by arrangement; Service 4th Sun., 33 Banbury Dr., 94132; Mail: 1101 National Avenue, #1328, San Bruno, 94066, (650) 583-2739.

SAN FRANCISCO - Golden Gate Spiritualist Church • 1901 Franklin St. at Clay 94109; (415) 885-9976 / website: www.ggsc.org Sun Lyceum 9:30 a.m. Sep-May; Healing 10:30 a.m., Devotional Service 11:00 a.m.; Wed - Healing 7:30 P.M. Devotional Service 8:00 P.M. Classes Available - Contact the Church. Pastor, Rev. David Burr, NST; Pres. Sonny B. Gee / Sec. Engeltie Lauderback.

SAN JOSE - The Spiritual Science of Life Church, NSAC • "The Friendly Church," 729 Morse Street, (Corner of Morse St. & Naglee), 95126; Sun. Serv. 6:30 p.m., 2nd & 4th Sunday; Pastor Rev. Louise Peruch, NST; 1327 W. Hedding St., 95126; (408) 615-0214; e-mail: PeruchLise@aol.com

SAN LEANDRO - Spiritualist Church of Two Worlds • 1550 San Leandro Blvd., (Deaf Comm. Center) 94577; Sun. Serv. Healing 10:30 a.m., Reg. Serv. 10:45 to 12:00; Co-Pastors, Rev.'s Betty and Don Nauratil, (925) 283-1449; Pres., Phyllis Macdonald, 1956 Kirby Way, San Jose, 95124; All mail to Secy., Rev. Betty Nauratil, 1048 Via Roble, Lafayette, 94549-2925.

SANTA BARBARA - Summerland Spiritualist Church of The Comforter • 1028 Garden St., 93101; (805) 965-4474; Pastor, Rev. Sandra Cook, D.D., e-mail: revsandic@msn.com; Sun. Healing Serv. 10:30 a.m., Devotional Serv. 11:00 a.m., Unfoldment Class 7:00 p.m., Thurs. Message Serv. 6:30 p.m.

• COLORADO •

LITTLETON - Chapel of Spiritual Awareness • Pastor, Patricia J. Haskins-Schott, (303) 973-9993; **All mail** to: 6457 S. Xenon St., 80127; e-mail: chapelspiritawar@aol.com

• CONNECTICUT •

CONNECTICUT STATE SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION • Pres., Rev. Lynn Gaffin, 70 Dell Ave., B5, New London, 06320, e-mail: Heart860@sbcglobal.net; Secy., Chris Bellamy, 66 Cedar Rd., Oakdale 06370, e-mail: jcb41756@hotmail.com

NEW LONDON - New London Spiritualist Church • 11 Freedom Way, Unit D6, Niantic, CT; (860) 701-1355; e-mail: nlspiritualist@sbcglobal.net; website: nlspiritualist.net; Mailing Address: 70 Dell Ave. #B5, New London, CT 06320; Pres., Lynn Gaffin, 70 Dell Ave. #B5, New London, CT 06320; Secy., Constance White, e-mail: ficaw@hotmail.com; Service Sunday 10:30 a.m., Medium's Days last Sat. of every month, 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

NEWINGTON - The Church of the Infinite Spirit • Masonic Temple, 80 Walsh Ave., 06111; Co-Pastors, Allen Noddin and Rev. Joyce C. Barlow, e-mail: Joyce-barlow@sbcglobal.net, tel. (860) 561-1489; website: www.newingtonspiritualistchurch.org; Church Secy., Peggi Camosci, e-mail: peggic@comcast.net, tel. (860) 635-6396. All Welcome.

NIANTIC - Ladies Aid Society Camp at Pine Grove • (The only NSAC Summer Spiritualist Camp in CT.) For program listing all summer activities contact: Pres. Rev. Lynn Gaffin, 70 Dell Ave. B5, New London 06360, e-mail: Heart860@sbcglobal.net; Rev. Kathleen Rottino, 109 Capitol Dr., Willimantic 06226, e-mail: k.rottino@snet.net

NORWICH - National Spiritualist Church of Norwich, Inc. • 29 Park St. (off Main St.), 06360, (860) 886-8522; Sunday Serv. 10:30 a.m.; Pres., Rev. Jacquelyn W. Randall, (860) 887-0068, e-mail: cincyada@yahoo.com; Pres., Susan K. Graf, (860) 564-5575, e-mail: president@nscnorwich.com; Secy., Tiffany-Michelle White; e-mail: NSCNORWICH@yahoo.com; website: www.NSCNORWICH.com

OLD GREENWICH - Albertson Memorial Church Of Spiritualism • 293 Sound Beach Ave., 06870; (203) 637-4615; Sun. Serv. 11:00 a.m., all welcome.

WILLIMANTIC - The First Spiritualist Church of Willimantic • 268 High St., 06226, (860) 423-5774; Sun. Serv. 10:30 a.m. Sept. thru May; service twice a month June thru August. For more information, please call the church; Pastor, Joyce Orcutt, 14 Harbourt Dr., Winchester, NH 03740, (860) 742-7846.

• DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA •

WASHINGTON - The Church of Two Worlds, NSAC • 3038 Q St., NW, 20007-3080; Phone (202) 333-5114; Sun., Healing 2:00 p.m., Serv. 2:30 p.m.; Message & Meditation classes, call Sue Bracey (301) 920-1784; Pres., Michael Gallion, LM, (202) 237-7659; Sec/Treas James A. Longmore (301) 739-8227.

• FLORIDA •

ORLANDO - Spiritualist Church of Awareness, NSAC • 3210 N. Chickasaw Trail (mail to P.O. Box 4010, Winter Park, FL 32792), (407) 678-3688; Sun. Serv. 10:30 a.m.; Wed. Serv. 7:30 p.m.; Healing, Sermon, Messages at all services; Sun. Children Lyceum; Pastors, Rev. E. Ann Otzelberger, NST, (407) 826-0807 and Rev. Jean Kerr Lerch, NST, (407) 719-9790; Pres./Asst. Pastor, Rev. Elaine Hager, NST; Secy., Shari Watson, NST (352) 873-1951.; Spiritualistchurchofawareness.org

• ILLINOIS •

CHERRY VALLEY - Cherry Valley Spiritualist Camp, Inc. • 8002 Service Rd., 61016, (815) 332-5359; Camp Season: June 1 thru Sept. 30; Serv., 10:30 to 11:00 Healing Meditation, 11:00 to 12:30 Church Service, Pot Luck follows; Pres., Ken Boesen (815) 626-5716; Secy., Marian Boesen, NST; e-mail: cherryvalleysc@verizon.net

CHERRY VALLEY - Christabelle Spiritualist Church • 8002 Service Rd., 61016, (815) 332-5359; Healing Serv. 10:30 a.m., Worship Serv. 11:00 a.m. every Sunday, Oct. thru May at Cherry Valley Spiritualist Camp; Pastor, Rev. Marian Boesen, (815) 626-5716; Pres. Kenneth Boesen, (815) 626-5716; Secy., Martha Witt, 1204 Game Farm Rd., Yorkville, 60560, (630) 553-2517.

CHICAGO - The Church of The Spirit • 2651 N. Central Park Ave., 60647-1101, (773) 489-5422; Chicago's Oldest Spiritualist Church; Sunday Family Worship: Healing, 10:00 a.m., Worship Serv., 10:30 a.m.; All Message Serv., 1st Wed., 7:00 p.m.; Call for current Development and Educational class schedule.; Pastor, Rev. Marrice Coverson; Secy., Dr. Alan Tenczar.

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

CHICAGO - Tucker Smith Washington Spiritualist Temple • 6146 S. Ashland Ave., 60636, (312) 436-0366.

LE ROY - J. T. & E. J. Crumbaugh Spiritualist Church • 102 S. Pearl St., P.O. Box 174, 61752-0174); (309) 962-9076; Sundays-Adult Lyceum 11:00

Continued...

a.m., Service 12:00 p.m.; Pastor, Rev. Bob Bianchi, NST; Pres., Charles Williams; Secy., Sharon Bianchi, (317) 945-8437. website: www.crumbaughchurch.org; e-mail: reverendbob@direct2spirit.com

• INDIANA •

INDIANA STATE ASSOCIATION OF SPIRITUAL SCIENCE
Pres., Rev. John Kampf, 4322 N. 500 E., Rolling Prarie, IN 46371; (219) 778-8332; kampf4322@comcast.net. Secy., Joy Marsh, 7122 National Blvd., Michigan City, IN (219) 879-0292.

INDIANAPOLIS - The Spiritualist Church of Indianapolis • Sun. Serv. 6:30–8:00 p.m. Services are being held at: All My Relations, 1008 Main St., Speedway, Indiana 46224. Reading Day is First Saturday of the Month from 1–4:00. Call Pastor Bonnie J. Darby, phone 317-373-1746, for more information. Mail all correspondence to: P.O. Box 39419, 46236.

INDIANAPOLIS - New Dawn Spirit of Light Church, Inc., NSAC • 3637 W. 10th St., 46222; Sun. Serv: Healing 11:00 a.m., Devotional and Message Serv. 11:30 a.m. Wed. - 6:00 p.m. Development Class. Every 5th Sunday, All Message Service, covered dish dinner, 1st Sat. each month Reading Day 12:00–4:00 p.m.; Pastorand Pres., Rev. Mildred Schlagel, (317) 291-0799; Secy./Treas., Marilyn Smith; Church (317) 937-6292; website: www.newdawnchurch.org

• IOWA •

DAVENPORT - Spiritualist Harmony Church • 1429 W. Seventh St., 52802-1212, (563) 324-9659; Sun. Healing Serv. 1:30 p.m.; Worship & Message Serv. 2:00 p.m.; Secy./Treas., Rev. William Buchholz, (563) 326-3201.

• MAINE •

MAINE STATE SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES • Pres., Graham Connolly, NST, 66 Martin Heights, Raymond, 04071, (207) 655-6673; Secy., Betty Simpson, 715 Newburgh Rd., Hermon, 04401, (207) 848-2273; Treas., Janice Nelson, 46 Homestead Rd., Washington, 04574-3620, (207) 845-2885; e-mail: mssac@mainespiritualism.org. Please visit our website, http://www.mainespiritualism.org

AUGUSTA - Augusta Spiritualist Church • Corner of Perham & Court Sts.; P.O. Box 2492, 04338; (207) 622-8980; Sun. Serv. 10:30 a.m.; Thurs. Awareness Class 7:00 p.m.; Pres., Earl L. Wallace, 124 Spring St., Gardiner, 04345; (207) 582-2745; Co-Pastors, Rev. Earl L. Wallace and Rev. Kay Hawkins; Secy., Rev. Pat Wallace.

BANGOR - The Harrison D. Barrett Memorial Church • 514 Broadway, beside Coldwell Banker Realty, Sun. Serv. 10:00 a.m.; Secy., Betty Simpson, 715 Newburgh Rd., Hermon, 04401, (207) 848-2273, email: betty.simpson@maine.gov; Church services may be canceled due to inclement weather, also location may be changing; website: http://www.hdbspiritualistchurch.org will be updated in case of changes. Please call the secy. for more information, other contact number for the church is Kathy Goodness, VP, at 989-7266.

MADISON - Madison Spiritualist Camp • Located at historic Lakewood Theater Village just off Beach Rd. on Route 201, six miles north of Skowhegan. Camp season runs July & August; Camp (207) 474-0124. Off season contact Pres. Sue Jalbert, CH at (207) 655-6673 or Secy. Betty Simpson at (207) 848-2273; For program information and events, visit our website at www.madisoncamp.org or email us at madison@mainespiritualism.org

NORTHPORT - Temple Heights Spiritual Camp Assoc. • Shore Road with Penobscot Bay view. Pres. Ernie Van Den Bossche. Camp runs mid-May-Labor Day w/different medium each week offering private readings by appt. Church services Sun. @ 2:30 & Thur. @ 7:30 PM. Message Circles @ 7:30 PM Wed & Sat. Workshop Sat. morning, Seance Tues. @ 7:30 PM, Social Enlightenment Fri. @ 7:30 PM, "How Do Mediums Do That" class Sun. @ 12:30 PM. Lodging available. During Camp Season Ph: (207) 338-3029 / Off-season contact Sec. Tamara Jetton, 21 Old Windsor Rd., South China, ME 04358 or Email thsc@mainespiritualism.org Website: www.templeheightscamp.org

NORTHPORT - Temple Heights Spiritualist Church • Shore Road, Northport; Services 2:30 p.m. Sundays at Temple Heights Spiritual Camp from May to October and at Excelsior Lodge on the corner of Shore Rd. and Cove Rd. Northport, from Nov. 1 to April 30; Pres, Janice Nelson (207) 845-2885; Sec/Treas., Jean Bower, 159 Northport Ave., Belfast 04915-6003 - (207) 338-1355.

PORTLAND AREA - Portland Spiritualist Church • meets at 719 Main St., Westbrook at the Unitarian Universalist Church; Mailing address: P.O. Box 6551 PTS, 04102; Sun. Serv. 6:30 p.m.; Fri. Class 7:30 p.m.; Pres., Rev. Graham Connolly, (207) 655-6673; e-mail: pschurch@maine.rr.com; website: www.portlandspiritualistchurch.org

• MASSACHUSETTS •

REHOBOTH - First Spiritualist Church of Brockton, Inc., NSAC • Services held at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday at the Anawan Grange Bldg., junction Rts. 44 & 118; Mailing address: P.O. Box 145, 02769, e-mail: firstspiritualistchurch.com. For more information contact Secretary, Sally Kubitschek, (508) 226-6580; e-mail: sallyrosekub@hotmail.com

SALEM - First Spiritualist Church of Salem • 34 Warren St., 01970; Sun. Early Serv. 5:30-6:00 p.m.; Lunch break 6:00-6:30 p.m., Healing & Evening Serv. 6:30-8:00 p.m.; Telephone for weather cancellations, (978) 745-2098; Church season is Sun. after Labor Day - June; Pres., Bradley Gosselin, 147 Sylvan St., Danvers, 01923 - (978) 774-1571, e-mail: BGoss92409@aol.com; Secy., Nancy L. Karolides, 144 Boston St., Middleton, 01949, (978) 774-4048.

SPRINGFIELD - The First Spiritualist Church of Springfield, Inc. • 33-37 Bliss St., 01105, (413) 732-1234; Worship Serv., Sun. after Labor Day until last Sun. in June at 10:30 a.m.; Development classes upon sign-up; Info on website: springfield.spiritualistchurch.net; Pastor, Rev. John Sullivan, Box 392, Worthington, 01098 - (413) 238-5344, e-mail: sully1942@hughes.net; Sec. Denise St Pierre, e-mail: denise1957@hughes.net

• MICHIGAN •

FERNDALE - First Spiritualist Temple of Detroit • 2724 Goodrich, 48220; Sat. Serv. 7:00 p.m.; Secy., Dianne Smith.

LESLIE - Flower Memorial Spiritualist Church • 430 Bellevue St., 49251; Serv. 10:45 a.m. Sundays; Contact Jackie North, e-mail J91943@ALLDIAL.NET or (517) 796-2858.

ROYAL OAK - First Spiritual Temple • 3224 Greenfield Rd. (1 1/2 blocks So. of 13 Mile), 48073-6534; Sun. Serv. 10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.; Pastor, Rev. Marguerite Gutt, NST, (248) 548-2240.

• MINNESOTA •

ROCHESTER - Third Spirit of Life Spiritualist Church • Meeting place: 1500 First Ave. NE, Ste. 112; Services Mon. 7:00 p.m.; Pastors, Rev. Joyce E. Young, NST, and Rev. John E. Young, NST; Secy., (507) 775-6358; Mailing address, P.O. Box 7312, 55903.

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

• MISSOURI •

ST. LOUIS - Fifth Spiritualist Church of St. Louis • 6026 S. Kingshighway Blvd., 63109-3558; Sun. Serv. 10:30 a.m.; Healing, Meditation & Message, 1st Wed. of the month at 7:00 p.m.; Assoc. Pastor, Marilyn Kalna, cell: (314) 707-3934; Pres., Carl Davis, 4451 Catherine Place, 63115 - (314) 383-5954; website: www.5thspiritstl.com

• NEBRASKA •

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

• NEVADA •

LAS VEGAS - Spiritualist Desert Church • 3355 W. Spring Mountain Rd., #19, 89102, (702) 876-8783, website: http://renospiritualistchurch.com; Service times: Sun. 11:00 a.m., Sunday evening 6:30 p.m., Thurs. 6:30 p.m., Healing Meditation, with a Spiritualist development class following the service, every one welcome. Vicky Homann, Pastor, e-mail: spiritualistdesertchurch@yahoo.com

RENO/Sparks - Spiritualist High Desert Church • Meeting place: Larry D. Johnson Community Center, 1200 12th St., Sparks, 89431, (775) 323-1114. Healing, Meditation and Message Service: Sunday 11:00 a.m. Pres., Shirley AirHart, website: _http://renospiritualistchurch.org; Mailing address: Secy. Rev. Lisa Butler, 3415 Socrates Dr., Reno, NV 89512, e-mail: tomalisa2@aol.com

• NEW JERSEY •

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• NEW YORK •

EAST AURORA - First Spiritualist Temple • 29 Temple Pl., P.O. Box 465, 14052, (716) 652-5018, www.eastauroraspiritualism.com; Sun. Healing Service 10:30 a.m.; Lecture and Message Service 11:00 a.m.; Social Hour 12:15 p.m.; Dinner Day 3rd Sun. of month; Secy., Jeanne Phoenix Laurel, (716) 286-8628 or (716) 876-4805.

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• OHIO •

ASHLEY - Ashley Spiritualist Camp Association • 6 Wooley Park Drive, 43003; Mail to: Selina Duffey, Secy., P.O. Box 277, 43003-0277; For additional information contact: Steven Duffey, (740) 747-2212.

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DAYTON - Spiritual Life Center, NSAC • 609 Watervliet Ave., 45420-2544, (937) 878-1165; Pastor, Rev. Raymond Moschke, e-mail: RMoschke@aol.com.

• OKLAHOMA •

OKLAHOMA CITY - Central Spiritualist Church • 2348 N.W. 36th St., Sun. Serv. 2:30 p.m.; Lyceum Sun. 1:00 p.m.; Pastor, Juanita Oyer; Pres., Charlotte Griffin, 1331 Lafayette; Secy., Juanita R. Oyer, 6216 S.E. 10th St., 73110, (405) 732-7975.

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MILTON - Camp Edgewood, NSAC • 1228 26th Ave Ct, Milton, WA 98354 Ph: (253) 927-2050 / Fax (253) 927-7531. Pres. David Chapman, Sec. Denice Chapman - Email: campedgewood@qwestoffice.net. Please visit our website for information on year-round Development and Educational Classes. http://campedgewood.nsac-churches.org

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MILTON - Church of Spiritual Truth, NSAC • Sun. Serv. 11:00 a.m. at 1228 26th Ave. Ct., Milton, WA Center. Student Pastor Denice (Dee) L. Chapman; Mailing address PO Box 1856 Milton, WA 98354.

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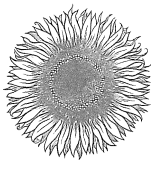
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The NSAC Healing Center

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

REV. KATHLEEN L. ROTTINO, NST

Spiritual 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.

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The NSAC Healing Center has a Healing Booklet that includes the NSAC Healing Prayer explanation and 87 affirmations to guide an individual into uplifting thoughts (which we know are helpful to the healing process). The Healing Booklet is also a wonderful tool to use when teaching a class about spiritual healing. If you are interested in forming a Healing Prayer Group, please contact me and I will forward information to you on how to get started. While there is no charge for this booklet, any donation that is received will help off-set the printing expenses and postage.

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

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

Thank you and Healing Blessings,
Rev. Kathleen L. Rottino, NST

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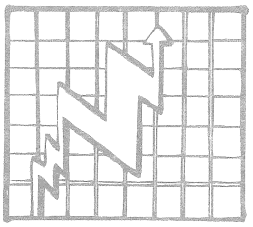
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The National Spiritualist Association Of Churches
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May/June 2009 Department of Phenomenal Evidence Report

THE REV. LYNN KENT



We have had many people participate in our ORB Workshop. We answer many questions as well as demonstrating how to acquire energy orbs on a regular basis. Please realize that there are many anomalies that look like orbs and that is explained in our orb workshop, too.

Some of the questions we are asked are: Why take photos of orbs? Are orbs a form of Spirit? How can this prove continuity of life? In this article I hope to clear up some of the confusion.

As we pass from the Earth Plane to that of Spirit ,we change form. We are no longer a solid substance. We are now a form of energy which can be seen, heard and felt by some. When one sees an apparition it is not solid; it is a form of energy. Many people who are not mediums wish to have some sort of communication with the Spirit World; they might find the orb phenomena compelling.

We have been experimenting with orb photographs for over a year now, and have had many interesting experiences. It is possible to "prove the continuity of life" through orb photography.

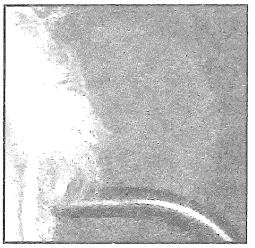
In the photos below, you can see why we teach orb photography. It is possible to make out different faces in many orb photographs, but with these we are looking at specific personages.



This is a photograph taken of my mother shortly before her 90th birthday at her home. She has always been interested in what Brian and I do and is willing to participate in our trials and errors. My mom Margaret communicates with her spirit loved ones in her own way. When this photo was taken we asked her to think of someone "in spirit". She told me later that she was thinking of her father, and she felt him whisper in her ear.

Although the out take is quite grainy, you can still make out the face of the man in the photo on the right who looks like the photo the family has of my maternal grandfather.

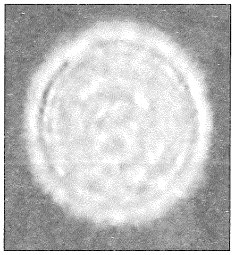




At the NSAC Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, Maria Garza of The Church of Divine Science in Houston, Texas came up to me with her own photos of "phenomenal evidence". Her brother passed at a young age, and Maria believes her brother is with her and the family at times. This photo was taken at a family gathering. We found it very evidential. Hopefully, you can see what we see...an orb of light.







We understand how hard it is to see this on a black and white photo printed on paper. All articles are available for viewing on the Phenomenal Evidence website: www.nsacphenomena.net

So, when you have a photo of an orb and you see the energy in it form a face, ask yourself these questions:

- Whom did you invite to be with you today from the side of spirit?
- Does it look like this person? Who were you thinking of?
- Who do you feel around you most of the time?
- Does it look like them? ♦

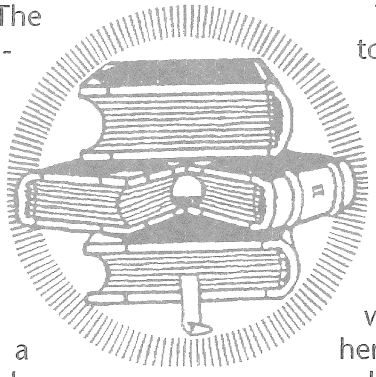
Spirits In the Room
A Case Against Reincarnation

ALAN ROSS – Florida

INTRODUCTION

The decade of the '60s planted for many the seeds for a quest for greater awareness and an understanding of the meaning of life. I was one of those caught up in this awakening, and in 1969 I decided to leave my Midwestern roots and head west to Los Angeles.

There, I discovered a new lifestyle—practicing yoga, reading eastern philosophy, attending lectures and becoming a vegetarian. The Hindu concepts of karma and reincarnation were taught everywhere I studied. I accepted these beliefs without question until one day something happened that caused me to begin to wonder. It took place after I had made a move north to Santa Cruz, a mecca of consciousness on the Monterey Bay, south of San Francisco.



At the city's central park I attended a New Age fair, and to my surprise, I heard my number called for a raffle prize. I could hardy believe my ears because it is so rare that I win anything. The prize was a three-hour psychic reading, compliments of the Berkeley Psychic Institute (which had a chapter in Santa Cruz at the time). I was not particularly thrilled with it because I had never had a reading before and thought this was nothing more than fortune-telling. Besides, I was not interested in anyone telling me my future in case they were wrong. Nevertheless, I booked it because I thought that maybe there was a reason why I had won it.

THE PSYCHIC READING

On arriving at the Institute, I was escorted to a second-floor room where, to my surprise, I was introduced to the three psychics who were to do my reading. They seated themselves in a row and told me to take the chair in front of them and to try not to be nervous. The first hour was filled with interesting and, I might add, accurate information about myself and my life. The second hour offered useful insights into what my future might hold, and the last hour was to be dedicated to revealing my past lives.

The psychics began by telling me that I was an ancient soul who had had many lives. The first one was that of an ancient Hebrew, who had made a pact with God and died in His service. Having been born into a Jewish family, that fit nicely, and I must admit that I liked it, for it made me feel important. It was also a possible explanation why I had a burning desire to become spiritual. Next, I was told that I was a crusader who had died trying to free the Holy Land. Then, I was a Frenchman robbed and murdered on the road to Paris, and, following that, a World War I soldier killed in the trenches of Europe.

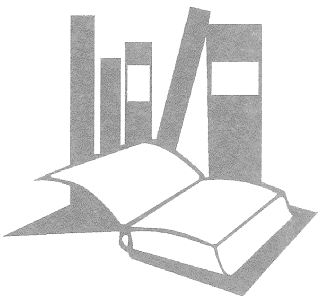
Then, without warning, my legs began to vibrate, then my arms, and, as the psychics continued giving me past lives, the energy intensified until I was flopping about in the chair. I didn't know what was happening. I thought this must be my kundulini rising. Suddenly, the door swung open, and the director of the school (a large woman) burst into the room, followed by her small assistant, and in a huff said, "What are all these spirits doing in the room? Get them out of here," and she began ordering the psychics about. Everybody get up! You, move the chairs. You, open the windows. You, do this. You, do that. This reading is over! Well, as one can imagine, I was bewildered, as well as disappointed that my reading had ended so abruptly before its natural conclusion. If it had gone on, I may have risen out of the chair. On the way home I wondered why the director had been so upset. I could only imagine that it was not common for spirits to be in the room during a private reading, or perhaps there were just more of them than usual.

As the weeks passed, I couldn't stop thinking about what had happened. I was tormented trying to figure it out. Then, out of nowhere, the answers seemed to pop into my head. I knew that it was true that the room had been filled with spirits, and that they were hovering around me during the reading. It was the combined energy of their auric field that had the power to vibrate my body so violently. I also knew that the psychics were indeed skilled in their craft and were able to read the identities of the "spirits in the room" and, in particular, their last experience on earth (their death). However, their mistake was telling me that the lives they were reading were my past

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lives, when in reality they were the lives of the "spirits in the room". I immediately thought that, if this is true, what about my pact with God? Not another set-back! Then, I realized that I didn't have to be an ancient Hebrew to talk with God; I could do it right now. So I said, "God, if you are there and listening, please help me to make sense of my life."

For you see, although I was relatively successful as a business man, I was not what you would call well adjusted. My life had caused me considerable pain, and I hoped that, if I could just find the spiritual truth, it would help me to cope in the world. I continued to search, but felt that I had come to a dead end. Although I had made some spiritual progress, I certainly did not feel enlightened or satisfied with what I knew. I was not sure what to believe any longer or where to turn. It seemed that I was having a spiritual break-down, and that my only option was to forget all the nonsense I had learned, wipe my slate clean and try to start over.



In the weeks that followed, I spent hours each day in the back yard asking, no, pleading, to know two things: what was the truth, and was there really a God? I had no way of knowing if anyone was listening at the time, but I didn't know what else to do. Then, one afternoon, when I was feeling particularly low, a great power suddenly came over me and had me in its grip. As the energy ran through my body, it held me pinned to the ground. I couldn't move, as it seemed to be purging me of pain. I can't say for certain what it was or how long it lasted, but I do know that it didn't hurt me, and surely helped me on some level. It definitely offered me my first experience with the supernatural, which demonstrated beyond a doubt that there existed great unseen forces about which I knew nothing.

Soon after, a series of coincidences led me to a small group of Spiritualists very near my home. I was attracted first to their Wednesday evening healing, and, because they were so kind and genuinely interested in my well-being, I continued going to the healing, and then to their Sunday morning service. The medium did not actually give evidence of survival, but went into trance and gave a wonderful healing message to all present. It was always uplifting and made me feel better, which is what I needed most at the time.

After several weeks, I learned that they had a founder; he was a Washington D.C., lawyer named James Padgett. Shortly after his wife Helen's passing in 1914, he became a medium and wrote automatically over 2,000 spirit communications until his own passing in 1923. Padgett chose to keep his mediumship from the public during his lifetime to protect his law career. Due to this secrecy, his mediumship has gone unnoticed to Spiritualism to this very day. I am convinced that Padgett had been chosen by Spirit to impart vital spiritual knowledge to benefit this fledgling religion during its formative years, but Spiritualism never received this knowledge.

PURIFICATION IN THE SPIRIT WORLD

After several weeks of reading Padgett's writings, which resonated with me, I came to a message from an ancient East Indian spirit, which took me by surprise. In it, he said he believed reincarnation was a process of purification that was necessary in order for a spirit to attain a state of purification and perfection and arrive at the blissful state of Nirvana. He continued, "In all the years of my spirit existence I had not known of a spirit to reincarnate, and in this my disappointment has been grievous. I have seen karma do its work in the Spirit World, and many spirits of my association have become pure and perfected spirits through renunciation; yet, they have remained spirits and have progressed to the highest realms without taking another body. When comparing the most advanced mortals in mind and soul condition, they are not equal to us in development. This makes me wonder what improvement could be made in our condition for us to progress, should we enter into another mortal body. Yet, strangely, many cling to belief in reincarnation and congregate together, waiting for something that needs to happen in order for reincarnation to become the destiny of our souls."

THE SOUL IS ENCASED IN A SPIRIT BODY

In another message from an advanced spirit it explains that, upon leaving the mortal body, the soul thereafter will inhabit a spirit or etheric body. This body is the envelope and protector of the soul and is what gives the soul its individuality as a conscious entity. The soul is encased in its spirit body, which, though physical in nature, is not of a dense, gross material. The spirit body remains with the soul as long as the soul exists. Thus, for a soul to enter into a mortal body, it would have to shed its spirit body, which it cannot do. Therefore, only unincarnated souls who do not yet have a spirit body can enter into a mortal body.

When mortals die, their souls have already

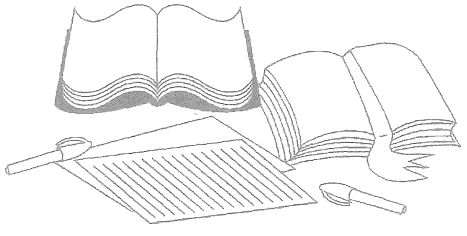
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achieved the purpose of incarnation, that is, individualization of the soul. A soul may become purified in the Spirit World through the exercise of will, the expression of remorse and the asking for forgiveness. It is, therefore, absolutely unnecessary for the soul to go back into the flesh for another chance to be purified.

When a child is born with a physical defect, it is not being punished for something that occurred in a past life. Instead, this child suffers due to a physical imperfection within its mother's womb, which prevented a perfectly developed fetus. This is not a judgment by God, but simply the result of an imperfect world, to which the flesh is subject.

MY MIND RACED WITH QUESTIONS

Then, the thought struck me—how is reincarnation actually supposed to take place? Does a spirit who wants to take another body roam the earth plane in search for a pregnant woman to invade her womb and attach to her fetus? It seems to me that something like this would be the process. Well, if this were true, what would determine if a woman will have an infant with an old karma-laden soul or a shiny new one from God?



I wondered what good is it to have a succession of lives when they can't be remembered. How can people be expected to shed their karma if they don't know what it is? And, could it be possible to live a life on earth without accumulating at least some karma and never getting off the alleged wheel of repeated death and re-birth?

I was feeling disillusioned with reincarnation; it was making less and less sense to me, and it certainly did not impress me as being a merciful plan. I guess I felt this way because I hated my childhood and the thought of repeating it, or something like it even one more time, was revolting to me. I never actually felt that I had lived before, nor did I have any proof that reincarnation was true. Since it was taught at my yoga school and all of my friends believed in it, I just went along.

I felt fortunate when I came across a Padgett message that helped me make sense of this. It stated that because something is believed in for a long time and by a great number of people, that in itself does not make it true. Truths are being revealed today and are constantly being revealed as time goes on. They should be accepted with as much credence and satisfaction as truths that were disclosed in ancient times. The minds of men were given to them to exercise by query, investigation and search. Never was it contemplated in human creation that the time would come when man should accept anything as the ultimate truth and cease making inquiries. Truths are so many, so great, and so deep, that humanity has acquired only a smattering of them. To rest in the belief that there is nothing more to be learned in the way of truth would violate and subvert the very object of human creation.

MY SEARCH FOR ANSWERS

I thought if reincarnation were not true, what about all the people who believe in it and how it influences their lives and their relationships. What about the millions they spend in the past-life industry on books, readings, regression, etc. Was it possible that all these people were being fooled, as the psychics were at my reading? Would reincarnation someday be proven to be a mistaken notion just as so many others of man's beliefs have been? I still needed more evidence to be certain before I made my final decision on this pivotal issue. So, I decided that I would go out and search for more evidence and see what I could discover.

My first destination was a Spiritualist community named Lily Dale in western New York State, located not far from Hydesville, the birthplace of Modern Spiritualism. I had sent a copy of my book *Spiritualism and Beyond* to NSAC's President, The Rev. Joseph Merrill. The afternoon of my arrival I accepted his invitation and paid him a visit at his home. As we chatted on the porch of his cottage, he seemed thrilled with the chapter on reincarnation, and congratulated me for putting out such a fine work. To my surprise, he informed me that he was a non-reincarnationist, as were most of the other board members, and that he was so certain of his belief that he had written a little booklet aptly titled, *Do I Have To Return?*

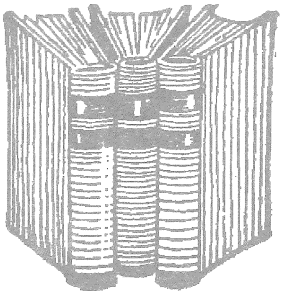
In it, Rev. Merrill stated that the superimposing of spirits can make us believe we have lived in a certain location before this life and have a familiarity with certain people. This is because spirits are continually interacting with the mortal world; child prodigies and child geniuses are said to be old souls who have come back in re-birth. Do people not know that children are most susceptible to spirit influence at the age of six or seven years, whether that influencing spirit is a musician, mathematician, poet or writer of prose?

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How easy it is to forget that spirits are around us at all times, mingling and co-mingling.

In the days that followed, I socialized with visitors and residents alike and soon realized that not everyone at Lily Dale shared Rev. Merrill's views. As I relayed my experiences, I was met with skepticism and even outrage. Then, one afternoon a very spiritual looking man from Toronto introduced himself to me. As we talked, he told me that he had sought me out because of my book and that he too was a non-reincarnationist. He said that he knew of considerable literature to support his position and offered to make me a list. On it, there were some unusual sounding titles like the *Osaphe Bible* and the *Urantia Book*. However, the one that intrigued me the most was *Thirty Years Among the Dead*.

A DOCTOR'S OPINION



I found my way to the Marion Skidmore Library on the Lily Dale grounds and there located the book. In it I learned that its author was a Chicago physician, Carl A. Wickland. Dr. Wickland was a dedicated researcher in the fields of psychic and abnormal psychology, who for 30 years, together with his wife Anna's mediumship, treated hundreds of patients with unusual disturbances who could not be helped by conventional therapies.

Through Mrs. Wickland's inspirational writing, a personal friend, Dr. J. M. Pebbles (author, lecturer, and diplomat), stated, "When I reached the Spirit World, I found such glory and happiness and beauty that I now realize this little Earth is a grammar school, not a university or even a high school; it is only the first lesson of life. Why should anyone want to come back again, to be confined in a body? In the Spirit World, you are free to travel everywhere. Why go back to that prison again?"

Dr. Pebbles continued, "You can learn in one day here what takes years to learn on Earth. Forget reincarnation, because it is a sandbag around your neck. You will have it so centered on your mind that you will think of nothing else, and you will stay just where you are. You will not progress because your mind will always revert to the earth again. You will not live on the earth more than once, for life is progression, not retrogression."

TESTIMONY FROM THE OTHER SIDE

The most compelling testimony in *Thirty Years Among the Dead* came from Helena Blavatsky. Madame Blavatsky was a spiritualist medium of considerable talent and co-founder of the Theosophical Society. She was a pioneer of the New Thought Movement, the forerunner of the New Age. She stated, "I studied reincarnation in India and thought there was truth and justice in the theory that we come back to learn and grow. I taught the theory and wanted to bring it to the world. I felt that I had remembered far back into my past, but I was mistaken. When you become sensitive and can feel the spirits around you, they speak to you by impressions, and their past will be like a panorama. A person feels it and will relive the past of spirits, but the mistake is made of taking this for the memory of past incarnations. I did not know this when I lived on earth, but when I came to the spirit side of life I learned differently.

"Once you reach the Spirit World, where all is congenial, where all is life, where all is bliss, where there is no jealousy, no envy, where all is one grand harmony, do you think for one moment that you would want to leave that beautiful condition to come back to earth and be a little baby, restricted in mind and knowing nothing whatever?" The memories of past lives are caused by spirits that bring such thoughts and represent the lives that they had lived. A spirit impresses a person with the experiences of its life and these are implant in the mind as one's own, causing one to think you remember your past lives."

I thought to myself that this could be the explanation why so many people have been told that they were Cleopatra, Napoleon, Joan of Arc or someone else famous in a previous life. This now seemed perfectly reasonable to me because these spirits in all likelihood had visited the earth plane many times and had left an impression of their identity with various mortals, which they in turn took as their own past life.

As I continued to search the Lily Dale library, I came across *The History of Spiritualism* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, author of the Sherlock Holmes novels. Sir Arthur wrote, "If reincarnation were true, there must have been millions of spiritualists, who, upon entering the other world, have sought in vain their kindred, children and friends. Has one whisper of such a woe ever reached us from the thousands of communicating spirits? Never!" After reading this I thought about it and realized Sir Arthur was right, neither I nor anyone I know has ever heard a medium say something like, "Sorry, dear, but your mom can't be here tonight to greet you because she has taken

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another body and is back on earth and is just a child growing up."

MEDIUMSHIP '94'

It was my good fortune to be in London the week of Mediumship '94. This was an extravaganza of mediumship and healing by some of Britain's finest mediums. It provided me with my first glimpse of a young medium, new on the scene, going by the name of 'Lincoln.' I remember his demonstration as though it were yesterday. 'Lincoln' went into trance. His voice changed as did his facial expressions and he gave a fascinating address from his spirit guide, Magnus (a former Fleet Street publisher). When he finished, there were questions and answers. The one that stayed with me was asked by a woman concerning reincarnation. Magnus responded by saying that he had seen many spirits waiting to return to earth, but had never seen any spirits actually leave the spirit world. Furthermore, he added that he and his companions were more advanced than mortals and, therefore, could not imagine what would be accomplished by returning to the Earth. I quickly glanced over at the woman to see her reaction. She was visibly taken aback. Obviously this was not what she had expected to hear. I, however, was elated by this unexpected evidence against reincarnation, and I left the theater in high spirits.



In Lincoln's book, *Inspired of Spirit*, his guide, Magnus, states that reincarnation implies repetition, and it is a hideous distortion of life's fear of change. The insidiousness of reincarnation has been used throughout the centuries to control people by those who have assumed authority. Those in lowly positions have been told, "Accept this, for you are being punished. You shall come back in your next life as a prince, so tolerate what happens to you. You deserve no better."

TALKING TO HEAVEN

The public's fascination with the afterlife has been greatly enhanced by the talented medium, James Van Praagh. His rise in popularity is due to numerous television appearances and his best-selling book, *Talking to Heaven*. In it, he states that the death experiences can be picked up by a sensitive medium. Spirits with the most traumatic deaths, say suicide or murder, are subject to reliving their final experience. The spirit sees his or her death over and over again, and it repeats itself like a bad movie. Amazingly, this fit my reading perfectly because, with each past life given to me at my reading, the death experience accompanied it, and in fact, every life had ended violently.

Van Praagh further validates that spirits are not limited simply to transmitting their death experience; their personality and their preferences may come through via telepathic links. Spirits are constantly around us. We are all mediums in our own right. We think these thoughts are our own, but, more often than not, they emanate from the spirit realms.

IN CONCLUSION

After thoroughly weighing the evidence, I am compelled to reject reincarnation as the destiny of the human soul. I realize that there are considerable numbers of people who believe in it in one form or another. This may be because it is ancient and a better alternative than hell or purgatory, or perhaps because it is a more comfortable thought to return to the familiarity of the Earth—the only home they have known—than to go into the unknown.

I am now convinced that, in the soul's progress from a formless entity to a perfected spirit, the earth is merely its 'nursery.' The soul does not retrace its steps or method of existence and will not go from being a spirit back to being a mortal. I realize for many people that the idea that reincarnation is not the destiny of their souls could be disappointing and perhaps difficult to accept. They may think that if they are not reborn into the flesh, they cannot shed their karma, attain enlightenment and reach Nirvana. I am, however, convinced to the contrary, that it is far more achievable to reach a high state of perfection without the encumbrance of a physical body and numerous returns to the Earth.

My conviction is total, a great spiritual world exists that was created for the eternal existence of the human soul. This world contains the knowledge and wisdom of the ages and abounds with wonders and glory beyond conception. If people only realized the pleasures and happiness that await them, they would not be attached to returning to the Earth; but, instead, would strive to progress through the spheres of consciousness closer to the source of the spiritual light of God. ♦

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What happened in MAY *throughout the years?*

MAY 1

We celebrate the founding of **The 1st Spiritualist Temple** in San Francisco, CA in 1907 and the establishment of **Cherry Valley Spiritualist Camp** in Cherry Valley, IL in 1926.

MAY 8

American Spiritualist Telegraph, a weekly publication, was founded by S. B. Brittan and Charles Partridge. Published in New York, in 1860 it merged into the *Herald of Progress*, which Andrew Jackson Davis founded.

MAY 10

Mother's Day was actually first celebrated on this date in 1908. Always held on the second Sunday in May, we honor all mothers on May 10 also in 2009.

MAY 12

The **Rev. Elizabeth R. Courtney** was born in Dresden, Germany. Due to her gift of hands-on-healing, which she practiced in hospitals when she was just four years of age, she was highly acclaimed among Spiritualists during her lifetime. At age 16, Elizabeth became the youngest person to be ordained by the NSA.

MAY 18

We celebrate the founding of the **MISSISSIPPI VALLEY SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION (Camp)** in 1896 in Iowa.

MAY 19

Camp Edgewood was founded in Washington state in 1890.

MAY 22



Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1859. His fame rests on his creation of the fictional detective Sherlock Holmes. Doyle published his first Holmes tale, *A Study in Scarlet*, in 1887. Over the following 40 years he published 56 short stories and four novels featuring Holmes and his sidekick, Dr. Watson. Late in life Doyle became closely interested in mysticism and wrote the 1926 book *A History of Spiritualism*. Doyle was knighted in 1903 for his services to the crown.

MAY 30

The **Chain Lake Spiritualist Camp Association** was formed in Michigan in 1929.

♦ ♦ ♦

What happened in JUNE *throughout the years?*

JUNE 3

The Hon. Mark Alton, born in 1881 in Bangor, Maine, made his transition on June 3, 1937. His mother was a medium, and he served Spiritualism as the President of Temple Heights Camp for seven years and as the Maine State Spiritualist Association President for 10 years. Later he became a Trustee for NSA, and served as Senior Counsel for many years.

JUNE 5

Camp Etna was founded in Maine in 1888.

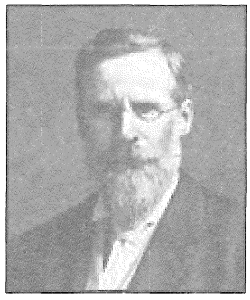
JUNE 22

Mattie Hull was born in Hinsdale,New Hampshire in 1840. As a young child she would go into trance and the doctor was often called. She was diagnosed as having "a chronic case of spiritual mediumship." Mattie developed into a fine musican, and she received outstanding educational opportunities from her family. Later, as the second wife of Moses Hull, she was widely known for her inspirational lectures, fine mediumship and her literary contributions to Spiritualism.

JUNE 14

On-Set Bay Grove Camp was established in 1877 in Massachusetts.

JUNE 17



Sir William Crookes was born in London in 1832. A prestigious Oxford chemist and physicist by age 22, he discovered both selenium and thallium. His later work lead to the discovery of X-ray techniques. He was invited to investigate phenomena, and was almost disinterested at the beginning of this research. Sessions with DD Home, Catherine Fox, Eusapia Palladino and Florence Cook turned his head and he became a strong advocate of the Spiritualist movement.

JUNE 21

The **First Spiritualist Church** of Onset, Massachusetts was founded in 1908, 29 years after the Spiritualist camp in the same town. ♦

Pain, Pleasure, and Spiritual Development

MARILYN KERCHER – Virginia Church of Joyous Living, Charles Town, WV

Our Seventh Spiritualist Principle states: **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.**

There seem to be two philosophies about life and spiritual reality:

- One says that the spiritually and emotionally mature person has to learn to accept the difficulties in life. Lack of acceptance breeds anxiety, and increases the difficulties. Abundance will come to the peaceful who do not waste energy struggling and creating more negativity. Cease struggling against the unchangeable.
- The other philosophy says that no destiny other than the one human beings mold for themselves need be accepted. We are mighty spiritual beings having a human experience, and we can manifest any destiny we want. Immeasurable abundance is available for all human beings right here and right now. God helps those who help themselves. Continue struggling to manifest your own life.



These two philosophies, one that says to cease all struggle and be in faith, and one that says to continue to struggle and create, seem to be in conflict. How might they both be true?

The common denominator seems to be about **how we handle fear**. If we want the positive because we fear the negative, our fear barricades the way to the positive. If we want happiness for its own sake, and not because we fear its absence, nothing will block its attainment. Straining towards pleasure or away from pain limits potential experiences. We may prefer pleasure, but we must accept pain with the same ease as we accept pleasure. How can anyone do that?

I have a friend who told me about her dying aunt. Her Aunt Irene was in the terminal stages of her life, and she was suffering. She had physical pain from her illnesses, and she had emotional pain from feeling abandoned by close family who were not attentive to her situation.

We fear the feeble body that up until now has served us well. We fear disillusionment about people whom up until now we thought we could count on. We fear separation from God whom we thought would be with us but whose presence we cannot feel. We tense up against this pain and this fear of separation. We strain to get away from it, and we suffer. **Pain + fear + avoidance = suffering.**

Towards the end, while still fully conscious, Irene came to a place of acceptance where she was not afraid of the pain or of her impending death. If you walked into her room, my friend said, you would not know that Irene was in pain, because she was not suffering from the pain. Her fear of the pain, and her straining to avoid it were gone.

She had come to a place of acceptance and once that happened, she became aware that she was not alone at all. She sensed and saw all the family on the other side who were there with her. She felt alive in her body even as it was now dying. She came into the *Now*, the eternal moment of creation, in full acceptance of all that was happening to her and all that might come.

How do we get to a place of deep acceptance, not of resignation, but of acceptance?

From American Buddhist monk, Pema Chodron:

"I can remember when my mind and my world (were) the size of a postage stamp and I was always unhappy and uneasy. And now I can say that I am glad to be alive to agreeable and glad to be alive to disagreeable, to sour and sweet, and tingly and itchy and refreshing and cold and hot, and the whole thing. And it doesn't matter that there is this voice that says, 'I don't like this' or 'I do like this'. That's fine. Somehow open and be at home with your body, with your mind, and with your world. The present moment is the doorway to liberation and vastness and an unobstructed quality of our mind, and we can experience the world that way."[1]

She goes on to explain that in order to stay in the present moment, we have to be able to stay present with what is happening to us, whether it is pleasant or unpleasant. We might prefer pleasure, but we must accept pleasure and pain with equal ease.

How do we stay present? Well, it is important to

Continued...

learn to tolerate our own feelings, so that we can stay present with what is happening; but it is also necessary to start questioning the reality that we have been born into.

We believe we are in a world of opposites: a world of either/or, good or bad, pain or pleasure, life or death, me vs. you. Earth superficially presents this view of reality. On the level of appearance life seems to die, evil always lurks in the shadows (no matter how much good may also exist), light opposes darkness, night opposes day, and where there is health, there is also sickness. There seems to be a lot to avoid and a lot to strain towards.



This duality, this world view of opposites and separation and me vs. you, causes suffering, because it does not reflect the true nature of God. If we believe that the force of God is divided into dual streams, one good and one evil or the angel and the devil, then we are going to strain towards one and away from the other. We tense up and become separate from the true nature of the oneness of God without even realizing it, because this level of reality seems so natural and seems so true. It isn't. There is a deeper reality to perceive underneath duality.

Spiritualism encourages us to think differently. We know there is no heaven or hell as other religions teach. We know there is no death and that life is one continuous stream. The state of ultimate reality contains the knowledge that you create your world, your conditions, your environment in a universe that is completely benign. Spiritualists recognize that a new vision of reality is gradually emerging from the fog of duality.

This is all very difficult. If the desirable occurs in our lives, we are most likely to be in faith and believe that all is possible. It is infinitely more difficult to maintain the same faith, the same knowing, when undesirable experiences occur. The feelings we have in reaction to what happens to us immediately fluctuate like the needle in a compass.

The spiritually mature person does not experience these fluctuations.[2] The outer experience of pain or pleasure in no way influences the deep knowing that the universe is completely benign and that there is nothing to fear. Such a person reacts to pain no differently than to pleasure, even though pleasure is preferred. In that way, pain and pleasure become indeed one and the same.

Duality is about opposites →which leads to the conviction that we are separate from each other and from God →which leads to fear →which leads to avoidance of staying fully present in our own lives →which leads to suffering.[2]

We still feel pain and unhappiness, just as we still feel pleasure and joy. We continue to be spiritual beings living in a very human body with all its emotions and physicality. It is just that we accept our experiences in these bodies, positive and negative, painful and pleasurable. We don't go into denial, or numb out, or escape into addictions. We stay right here in the current moment of our lives and right where God creates. ♦

1 Chodron, Pema. *Getting Unstuck: Breaking Your Habitual Patterns & Encountering Naked Reality* Audio CD. Sounds True, 2004

2 For more on the concepts discussed in this article, see the work of medium Eva Pierrakos who worked with a spirit teacher who called himself The Guide. See in particular *Finding True Abundance by Going Through Your Fear,* Pathwork Guide Lecture No. 130, and *Continue Your Struggle and Cease All Struggle,* Pathwork Guide Lecture No. 253, at http://www.pathwork.org/lecturesObtaining.html



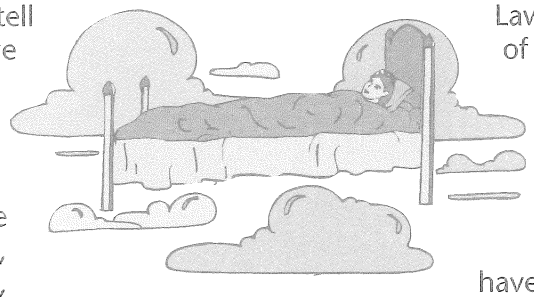
Lord Chesterfield once wrote in a letter to his son, "While you were a child I endeavored to form your heart habitually to virtue and honor, before your understanding was capable of showing your their beauty and utility." Surely, upon receiving that letter, Lord Chesterfield's son recognized one of life's eternal truths: that a father is a gift.

Dreams Are The Stuff of Life

THE REV. CAROL BROWN, NST – Virginia

Spiritualism teaches us we can attain our dreams. Dreams are thoughts and thoughts are things.

It is easy to become caught up in the Big Dreams. When we begin consciously working with our spirituality we awaken the Divine Spark within. Nourished by that which we have been seeking, we search for more truth. We attend church, read self-help books, ask questions, discuss our thoughts and meditate. We want to tell the world about what we have discovered. Our thoughts become lofty and we begin to dream the so called impossible dreams.



We dream of true equality, brotherhood, brotherly love. We dream of homes for the homeless, enough food for all human-kind, education for all people, freedom from hate and war. Many times we find ourselves trying to bring about these dreams for mankind and then becoming discouraged when we don't see immediate results.

We forget – it is only recently we have begun to see the possibilities. It is only recently that we began to feel the power of Infinite Intelligence in our lives. It is only recently that we began to really believe that we live and move within the totality of Infinite Intelligence. Infinite Intelligence moves and works through us – and, as expressions of Divine Intelligence, we are co-creators with Divine Intelligence.

We forget that each and every soul on this planet and in the Spirit World is on their individual pathway to their own understanding. Remember the phrase in the Christian Bible "do not cast pearls before swine"? If others are not ready to hear what you are so sure of, they will not hear what you say – no matter how loudly you say it.

So what are we to do? Give up? Forget these dreams of Love and Peace and Brotherhood? Quit trying? No, of course not. But, as we did when we came into the physical, we must crawl before we take our first step, take a few halting steps before we walk, and walk before we run. Spiritualism teaches personal responsibility. We are responsible for our own self and we are responsible for what we think, say and do that affects others.

We are not responsible for what someone else thinks or says or does. We can not force our dreams, desires, or way of life on any other soul. We must not decide what is best for someone else and then do everything in our power to bring it about. Would we want another to decide what is best for us and then make us follow their desires?

Infinite Intelligence has given each of us free will – to make our own choices, to sow our own seeds, to reap that which we have sown (the Law of Cause and Effect). But what of our dreams? What of love and peace and brotherhood? How can we hope to change, uplift, make better the lives of others?

Let's look back at our own progress – could it be that we have looked for the light and found it in the example of others? Could it be that as we asked, we were given new understanding? Could it be that we saw the light in others? Could it be that now, as we begin to see and understand the teachings of the past masters, we are beginning to live what we are learning? Could it be that we have now learned to see the light in those around us and to understand they are also expressions of Infinite Intelligence? Could it be that we are consciously beginning to live in accordance with our new understanding? Could it be that these teachings and these truths are becoming a part of who we are?

Now we can begin to see how our dreams will become reality. We can change, uplift, make better, the lives of others as we change, uplift, and make better our own lives. When we are growing and learning, when we continue to walk along the path of light and love, we will not have to tell anyone how great we are or what they should do. When they are ready to learn, they will find their light – their example.

What of our lofty dreams? Keep dreaming – keep dreaming and know we can make a difference.

Let us pray for new understanding and always ask for the highest good in all our prayers. Continue saying "I have a dream and singing *To Dream the Impossible Dream.*" Let us remember these dreams are already a reality and show it by our actions and deeds. Let us be an example. Let us allow our light to shine.

Dreams are the Stuff of Life.

♦ ♦ ♦



What Can I Offer to Spiritualism?

HOWARD PROCYSHYN – Winnipeg, MB

The statement that the Religion of Spiritualism can be no greater than those in it who represent it is so true. This statement could apply to business, marriage and other situations, which display characteristics of jealousy, bitterness or deceit. The tendency is to allow these people a listening ear in the administration of various duties because they have a strong voice. The minister and board must not let these people drive the direction of the church, just as the president and boards of companies must not let those people drive their businesses. As a church organization, we must seek to raise the level of personal growth to strengthen the weakest links in the organization, and then move forward with a sense of community driven by Spirit.

It is fair to say that many of us have seen good mediums and workers and also those who still require much growth. Realizing this, we must work towards a strong, unified community that encourages the strengths in individuals and promotes the positive attributes of those in the church. So what can I personally offer the science and philosophy and religion of Spiritualism?

Science. I am a person of science, and am educated as an Electrical Engineer. Many are repeatedly yearning for proof. There was a time in my life when I laughed at those who claimed to have received knowledge and information from a loved one. I accused them of being too gullible, and said the whole affair was a lucky coincidence. It simply was not believable to me then.

As time went on, I was introduced to some very gifted people who gave me the opportunity to attend a séance. At the end of that event, I had received the proof I needed to embark on a wonderful journey into Spiritualism. So now my contribution to the Science of Spiritualism is to share with others, particularly new people, the journey that led me to Spiritualism. I am able to acquire the trust of others because of my turnaround from being a skeptic to being a spokesperson. Science is an important component of all our lives and yet we must not get hung up on the inability of science to clearly explain why everything in Spiritualism is not completely and precisely known. I have not stopped being of a scientific mind. Science has taught me a great deal and will continue to do so. Spirit has also taught me a great deal, and I hope that will continue. I appreciate the benefits of both science and spirit.

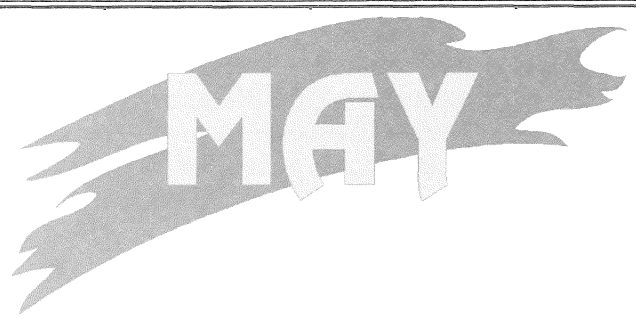
Philosophy. As a student in the late 60's and early 70's, I grew up in a generation of those who sat around philosophizing. Many discussions involved the question of how God thinks and acts on situations in our everyday life. Later in my days as a student, I was involved with a group of young people who designed radio dramas that encouraged people to realize their spirituality (or more exactly their lack of spirituality) through prepared skits of everyday situations. I realized how people are motivated religiously by taking a close philosophical look at my own nature and behavior. The part that I bring to philosophy is an open-mindedness toward those minds engaging in discussions of Christianity and reincarnation and many other topics. At this time in my life, I find myself applying the science to the philosophy to help realign my own thinking. I am not, and will never be, a philosopher. What I bring to the area of philosophy is a way of looking at things that have not been considered by others, or have been considered and forgotten.

Religion. It is easy to overlook the fact that Spiritualism is a religion. To finally realize our outcomes beyond any doubt, after our earthly lives have concluded, is a marvelous realization. Most religions are built on the hope and claim that life continues in spirit in some form. When the religion Spiritualism turns this hope into proof, it changes the concept of religion to one of daily living.

Since I was five years old, I have recited the Lord's Prayer before bed each night. I always had a belief in God and made many requests of God throughout my life. Now that I am a Spiritualist, I can look back and recall situations that were resolved by specific guides, as I now understand them. What I can offer the Religion of Spiritualism is to help people to realize the religion and work of spirit in our daily lives by having recognized these situations that occur to all of us all the time. I don't know how it all works. I just know that when I ask for a parking spot to be available, it is. Try it.

Most all religions have a common doctrine of love thy neighbor. The Religion of Spiritualism makes us realize the love, support, dedication and roles that our guides and departed loved ones play in our daily lives. We become closer to our guides, loved ones and God by acknowledging their presence. I hope to be able to establish routine spirit contact to further aid others in their growth and daily lives through Spiritualism. ♦

2009 Quotes to Bless Each Day MAY 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					**1** If you judge people, you have no time to love them. – *Mother Teresa*	**2** Begin at once to live, and count each separate day as a separate life. – *Seneca*
3 My religion is very simple—my religion is kindness. – *Dalai Lama*	**4** Our environment is a mirror of our attitudes and expectations. – *Earl*	**5** *Nightingale* Sharing is Caring – *Nancy Ashworth*	**6** Silence is the language God speaks. – *Thomas Keating*	**7** He who sows courtesy reaps friendship. – *Saint Basil*	**8** Amazing grace comes from an incredible God. – *Nancy Ashworth*	**9** Prayer is a perpetual stillness of the heart. – *A Spiritual Warrior*
10 **Happy Mothers' Day!** A mother is a mother still, the holiest thing alive. – *Samuel Taylor Coleridge*	**11** Holy Mother Earth, the trees and all nature are witnesses of your thoughts and deeds. – *Winnebago*	**12** Laugh every day and bring joy to all around you. – *Nancy Ashworth*	**13** Every passion and emotion affects the mind, which affects the body. – *Hazrat Inayat Khan*	**14** Spirituality is the atmosphere of God's Presence, goodness, truth and beauty. – *Dr. Ernest Holmes*	**15** Riches and power may vanish; only that which is within can we call our own. – *Hazrat Inayat Khan*	**16** He who plants kindness gathers love. – *Saint Basil*
17 You will find peace by confronting your problems courageously. – *J. D. Walters*	**18** Life is the soul's nursery – its training place for eternity's destinies. – *W. M. Thackeray*	**19** Those who have failed to work toward the truth have missed the purpose of living. – *Gautama Buddha*	**20** Behind every dark happening, behind every difficulty, there is a hidden blessing. – *White Eagle*	**21** Man improves himself as he follows his path. – *Paulo Coelho*	**22** What lies behind us and before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us. – *O. W. Holmes*	**23** It is spiritual poverty, not material lack, that lies at the core of all human suffering. – *Paramahansa Yogananda*
24 Spirituality is natural goodness. – *Dr. Ernest Holmes* **31** De-stress and be delighted. – *Nancy Ashworth*	**25** **Memorial Day** - Remembrance of all who have gone before.	**26** Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being. – *World Health Organization*	**27** The great lesson from the true mystics is that the sacred is in the ordinary. – *A. Maslow*	**28** A contented spirit is the sweetness of existence. – *Anonymous*	**29** When my spirit soars, my body falls on its knees. – *G. C. Lichtenburg*	**30** The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord. – *Proverbs 18:14*

2009 Quotes to Bless Each Day JUNE 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Liberty of thought is the life of the soul. – *Voltaire*	**2** The soul alone renders us noble. – *Seneca*	**3** There is a divinity within our breast. – *Ovid*	**4** Pressuring others to do your will causes "failability". – *Nancy Ashworth*	**5** The soul of man is immortal and imperishable. – *Plato*	**6** Sincerity and truth are the basis of every virtue. – *Confucius*
7 A man's true wealth hereafter is the good he does in this world to his fellow man. – *Mohammed*	**8** Self-acceptance comes from meeting life's challenges vigorously. – *J. D. Walters*	**9** That word Fate is the refuge of every self-confessed failure. – *A. Soutar*	**10** Fear always springs from ignorance. – *R. W. Emerson*	**11** The man without faith is a walking corpse. – *Pope Xystus I*	**12** Doubt is hell in the human soul. – *Madam Gasparin*	**13** No man was ever great without divine inspiration. – *Cicero*
14 To need nothing is divine. – *Socrates*	**15** Is death the last sleep? No, it is the final awakening. – *Sir Walter Scott*	**16** Religion is conscience in action. – *Henry Demarest Lloyd*	**17** The primary duty of a church is to be the community. – *W. A. V. T'Hooft*	**18** A church exists by mission as a fire exists by burning. – *E. Brunner*	**19** Let peace surround us and bring harmony to all. – *Nancy Ashworth*	**20** Spiritualism is a system of radical optimism. – *L. L. Perkins*
21 **Happy Fathers' Day!** Today we honor all earthly fathers who give love and care.	**22** Light your candle to display your spiritual intentions. – *L. L. Perkins*	**23** True religion is a profound uneasiness about our highest social values. – *R. Niebuhr*	**24** Solitude is the audience-chamber of God. – *W. R. Landor*	**25** Loss of sincerity is loss of vital power. – *C. N. Bovee*	**26** Know thyself. – *Thales*	**27** Nature teaches more than she preaches. – *John Burroughs*
28 Self-preservation is the first law of nature, but self sacrifice is the highest rule of grace. – *Anonymous*	**29** It is fun to believe in yourself, but don't be too easily convinced. – *T. H. Thompson*	**30** Millions of spiritual creatures walk the earth unseen. – *John Milton*				

Spiritual Receptivity

THE REV. DR. JOHN V. BASSETT, JR., NST, PhD, MD

Down through the ages many prophets have offered guidance to those who were seeking to understand our relationship with God or the truths of life. It must be remembered that each of these spiritual teachers molded his or her message to their particular moment in time, and yet all taught essentially the same message.

No single teacher, philosophy, or religion holds exclusive rights to the truths of life. It is said "Many roads lead to Rome." So too there are many different paths that lead to understanding the truths of life. There are probably as many ways of experiencing these truths as there are individuals.

When we examine the major religions of the world, we find that they all are seeking the highest truth or at-onement with God, or as Spiritualists say, Infinite Intelligence.

All the teachings of the spiritual teachers can only guide us. They can not experience the lessons of our lives for us. Death is a good example. We believe, or we know, that we return to the Spirit World, a much better world than we have here on Earth. Others believe they go to heaven or hell, and some believe in immediate reincarnation.

Yet upon the death of someone we love, we experience grief and sorrow, and we feel a great loss. If our beliefs are correct, we should be happy for the one who passed, even though their passing leaves us with an emptiness. Is it really all that different than when someone who is close to us moves away, perhaps to an area where communication is difficult, or to another country and we know that we will not see them again in this life? We have the good memories of them, and many times we will feel like they are still near us. Is it so different when a loved one graduates to the Spirit World? We will treasure our memories, and we, as Spiritualists know—which is more than just believing or hoping—that they are still with us. They do their best to guide us and help us as we continue to progress through our human lives.

The aim of true spiritual teachers is not to create a new philosophy or to gain a large following, but to inspire sincere seekers to live their lives in such a manner that they will grow spiritually, and just maybe, experience a view of the light of truth.

Many years ago a short poem was written called *I know for sure.* It goes: "I know for sure, that my Lord, beloved and supreme, is not far away from me. He is just beyond my mind's ego screen."



Ego is sometimes said to be one's sense of separateness and individuality; or ego can be said to be one's sense of being in relation to the things of this world...our job, home, family, status, money, beliefs, and country. Ego is our functioning sense of self in relation to our day to day living. The *I, me, mine* clearly define the realm of our egos, and can become quite a weight to carry.

We feel a relief from that weight when we think good thoughts about others, when we help others or when we lose ourselves in concentration. When we put all our attention into something while forgetting about ourselves, or when we allow our thoughts to go beyond *me,* a whole new, larger awareness comes into existence. It is during this expanded awareness that we begin to experience thoughts of the Spirit World, of the infinity of life, of eternity, or what some would call a closer oneness with God.

In *John 12:50,* Jesus says: "And I know that God's commandment is life everlasting." Jesus knew that although life is always changing form, it is everlasting. As Spiritualists, we know that life is energy, and as such, it has no beginning and no end. It cannot be produced nor can it be destroyed; energy can only be changed from one form to another.

In the *Bagvadad-Gita,* Krishna (the Hindu equivalent of Jesus) said, "The supreme happiness comes to those whose mind is peaceful, whose passions are at rest, who is stainless and has become one with God."

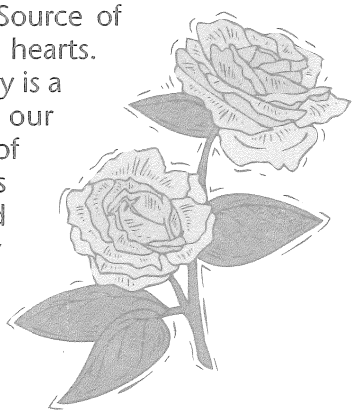
Jesus was trying to tell us about the Spirit World when he said, "My kingdom is not of this world." He went on to say to his disciples, "If you were of this world, the world would love its own; but you are not of this world, for I have chosen you out of the world." When you overcome your ego you experience a whole new outlook...one founded in love and oneness.

Continued...

In *Isaiah 55:12* it says, "For you shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace; The mountains and the hills shall break forth before you in singing and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."

One of the Upanishads, which are much older than the *Bible*, states, "The light that shines above the heavens and above the world, beyond which there is no other—that is the light that shines in the hearts of men." What this is saying is the simple truth that God exists within man. This has been the center of all real spiritual teachings for thousands of years.

God, being Infinite, can assume many forms. For some He is an old man sitting on a throne; to others God is a Supreme Intelligence. God can represent power, peace, creation, destruction, or pure energy. No matter how we perceive God, the Source of Love resides in each of our hearts. Therefore, the spiritual journey is a journey into the core of our being, to find the presence of God within us. A pure heart is necessary to finding that God spark within us. In *Matthew 5:18* Jesus says; "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."



One might ask, "How can one travel the path toward spiritual growth without a proper guide?" The truth is each of us has spiritual guides who have been with us all of our lives. All we have to do is call upon them for help.

Many centuries ago an Indian Sage said: "When the student is ready, the teacher will appear." To find the God spark within us, we ourselves must start the search and continue until we reach our goal. In *John 8:12* Jesus said: "I am the Light of the world: He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall find, for himself, the Light of the World." Notice that he said: "He shall find for himself," *not* that if you follow Him you will be given, which is what many of the Christian religions teach.

As our 7th Principle says: "You are responsible for your own happiness or unhappiness as you obey or disobey nature's physical and spiritual laws." This means that you yourself are responsible for your own spiritual growth. No one else can grow for you.

I am the "I" that is me – you cannot see,
You see only the form that you think is me,
This form that you see, will not always be,
But the "I" that is me, lives eternally.

This is very true, since each of us is a spirit in a human body; we can't see the spirit—which is the real us.

Let nothing disturb thee;
Let nothing dismay thee
All things pass,
But God never changes.

He who has God;
Finds he lacks for nothing;
God alone suffices.

– St. Teresa of Avila

As we grow spiritually, our rate of vibrational frequency increases. In other words, we are becoming closer to the God spark in our spiritual heart. When we sing the hymns in church, the purpose is to raise the frequency to make it easier for those in the Spirit World to send us the messages we all look forward to receiving. Raising the frequency also aids our spirit helpers during the healing portion of our service.

Now how can we each raise our own frequency? We all know that thoughts are things, and since everything is energy vibrating, our thoughts are also energy vibrating at a given frequency. When we think good thoughts, pray, and meditate, our vibration rate increases. This brings us closer, not only to our inner self, but also to those in the Spirit World who are trying to guide and help us to overcome our problems.

I know you all have heard many times that "thoughts are things" and that as you think so you will become. In order to overcome a problem we must be vibrating at a higher rate than it is. All problems vibrate in a low frequency range. So, to overcome the problem, no matter what it is, we must be vibrating at a high enough frequency that we will override the lower frequency, thereby transforming it. To grow spiritually, we must work to raise our frequency to get it as close as possible to that of Spirit. It is also often said that the higher your vibration, the greater is your imagination and your creativeness.

It is believed that children have much higher frequencies when they are young, as they are taught and learn about the things we as adults see as problems, it lowers their frequency. Then they no longer have the active imagination that allows them to have spirit friends as playmates. Researchers in the science of energy vibrations tell us that the qualities we refer to as insight, imagination, and creativity are also components of the higher states of the mind. So, working to raise our vibrations also raises our spiritual receptivity. ♦

Message For All Generations

For the Summit from my Spirit Guides.

THE REV. SANDRA DAWSON, NST – California

Life has its twists and turns that involve us all. There are examples of war and peace, need for honest communication, giving and sharing, help and healing for every generation. It takes time and work to understand life's needs; patience and peacefulness in every heart and land. Comparison is a necessary part for giving and receiving what has been known from the start. There is always something each one can do because we are family and connected to each other too. The message of Love, helping and healing happens in all lives every day, everywhere. It's the right thing to do to be involved and care about each day and every year. I get it now, *The Message for All Generations* is LOVE. With discovery, action, each one responds to the gift of life. We do have the capability to see the light from the inside out, not from outside in. May this generation bring the energy and acts of Peace on Earth, Good Will to All Life now and ever more.



This came first, then *Message For All Generations*

My spirit guides shared that the message of Spiritualism is progression with integrity and dignity for all. It works and proofs are a source for humanity that are meant to be shared and lived by. The works and communications deeply connect the Earth Plane and the Spirit World. The natural abilities that each one has resound and respond with the effects and energy from Infinite Intelligence. It does make a difference when there is the sharing of abilities, talents, love, life and healing. May all continue with Love, discovery, action and each one responding to the gift of life.

♦ ♦ ♦

MOTHERS

BONNIE WHEELER, 2005



The first person we love in life is our Mother…
The first comfort is our mothers' caring hands.
The first nourishment—often from our mothers breast.
Contentment in her arms made us feel safe.

Mothers teach children to stack blocks, tie shoes, brush teeth, ride a bike and do home work.
Mothers make birthday cakes, attend school programs, sign report cards and listen.
Mothers rock their children when they are sick, sit beside their beds when they have nightmares, and kiss their boo-boos when they skin their knees.
Mothers teach children to have good manners, to say please and thank you, to sing "Jesus Loves Me."
Mothers listen with excitement to first dates, first kisses, engagement rings, wedding planning, divorce dissolving and death parting.

Children draw on Mothers' strength when they are young;
Mothers draw on children's strength when they are old.

Mothers pray that their children live good lives of worth and dignity, remembering the lessons of hard work, respect for others and God's unconditional love.

When Mothers are gone, they are more than a memory.
She is always with you.
She is the voice you hear coming from your mouth.
She is the smell of certain foods—you remember.
She sits beside you in church when you sing her favorite hymn.
She is in your birthday morning, your tears, your joy…

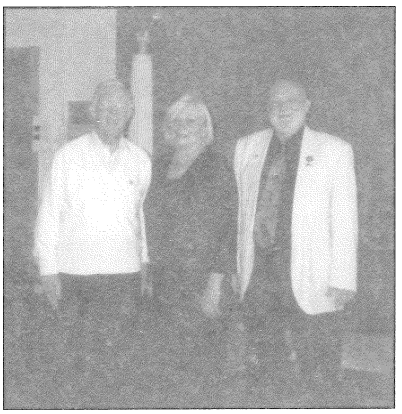
As long as you live,
She lives…

♦ ♦ ♦

British Medium Brings Color to Connecticut

Submitted by Joan Wooster
The Church of the Infinite Spirit

The Church of the Infinite Spirit, located at The Masonic Temple, 80 Walsh Avenue, Newington, CT had British medium and author Lionel Owen as their guest worker. After a luncheon, Lionel Owen held a 3-hour workshop on color, charkas and the aura.

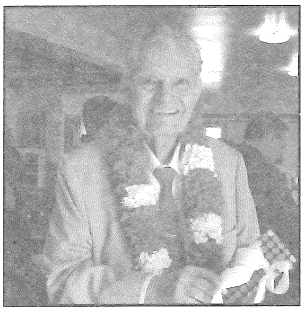


The Rev. Joyce Barlow and Acting President Homer Wooster (R) are shown with Mr. Lionel Owen (L).

Owen, who now lives in Brazil, was born in Liverpool, England. He began developing his mediumship skills at age 16, and eventually became a tutor and course organizer for the world famous Arthur Findlay College for the Advancement of Spiritualism and Psychic Sciences in Stansted, England. He now travels the globe sharing his skills in workshops and classes.

During his workshop "All Things Bright and Beautiful," there was attendee participation involving sensing and feeling of colors, "reading" the aura colors and the use of color in spiritual healing and mediumship. He also discussed wave lengths of color, how we see and sense color, and how it affects us. The workshop was attended by 40 people from various churches in Connecticut. It was an informative and enjoyable experience for all. ◆

Birthday Celebration

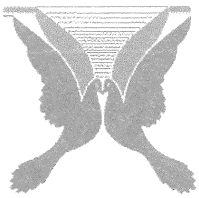


The Rev. David F. Burr, Pastor, Golden Gate Spiritualist Church of San Francisco, at celebration of his 90th birthday in January.

◆ ◆ ◆

Things To Think About

MERRY BROWNE, Kentucky



The Creator did not build walls between his children; the children built the walls. The time has come for the eldest among us, the wisest, the most closely attuned to our Father's wishes, to begin to tear down the walls, meet, greet and embrace our brothers and sisters so long and wrongly kept apart. Now is the hour of the Heart!



The mystic, Hildegard of Bingen, recognized and taught what mind-medicine is rediscovering, that health can only be experienced in a state of spiritual balance. She knew that it was the soul that was sick and needed healing—in order to heal the body it inhabits.

Ancient Wisdom is becoming Modern Medicine.

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PASTORAL SKILLS brings you knowledge of pastoral responsibilities in 96 hours of class work. Included are lectures, guest speakers, hands-on pastoral experiences through role playing of life-like situations, of funerals and other special services along with study into areas of counseling, such as: pre-marital, marriage, suicide, family dynamics, violence, chemical dependency, death and dying, and the grief process. The class is open to any dedicated student, and at this time Pastoral Skills is a required course for the NSAC Licentiate Minister certification.

Class size is limited to 14. Early registration is necessary. A **deposit of $50** is required **60 days** in advance, with **full payment** required **30 days** in advance, if you have not applied for the payment plan. **Complete information for the site will be sent upon payment** of a deposit. If 10 students are not enrolled for a session sixty days in advance, the session may be canceled.

For further information call the MPI Office at:
414-774-2994 fax: 414-774-2964
email: mpratt@execpc.com

2009 SITES AND DATES

- **LILY DALE, NEW YORK:**
  Lily Dale Spiritualist Camp – **Two Week Session**
  June 13, 2009 – 7:00 p.m., Orientation
  June 14-26, 2009, Classes
  Instructor: Rev. Sharon Snowman, NST

CLASSES: **Daily - 8 hours, classroom; Sundays - specified church assignments.**

MATERIALS: List will be provided upon payment of deposit. Required books must be purchased before class (apx. $100). Additional books may be ordered at site.

PASTORAL SKILLS REGISTRATION FORM

Morris Pratt Institute, 11811 Watertown Plank Road, Milwaukee, WI 53226-3342 • 414-774-2994

☐ Deposit $50

☐ Full Payment $600 (plus books—apx. $100.00, call for exact amount)

Payment: ☐ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ Credit Card (Visa, MC, Disc.)

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Mail to: THE NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST P.O. Box 6089, Sun City West, AZ 85376

117th Annual NSAC Convention

Houston, Texas
October 4-9, 2009

Please note that NSAC will need to pay for our meeting rooms if we do not get enough rooms booked under the NSAC. Please help by stating that you are with the NSAC Convention when you make your reservations.

Location

Both the convention and lodging are at:

The Crown Plaza Hotel
Houston North – Greenspoint
425 N. Sam Houston Pkwy. E.
Houston, TX 77060
Desk: (281) 445-9000
Fax: (281) 445-9826

Reservations/Deadline

Please make your reservations at The Crown Plaza Hotel by **Sept. 16, 2009.**

Accommodations

2 double beds (rooms sleep 4) or 1 king size bed:
Luxurious comfort, seven pillows.
$99.00/night, plus 8.25% tax

- Sleep Amenities – Lavender spray, CD, Eye Mask, Ear Plugs, Night Light, Drape Clips, 3 telephones in rooms.
- Dual Line phone with voicemail, modem port, dedicated data line.
- Nonsmoking & handicapped accessible rooms
- Concierge Services
- Fully equipped fitness center
- Relaxing outdoor pool & Jacuzzi
- 24 Hr Full-service Business Center
- Full Dining Services
- Nueces River Grill – American Cuisine/breakfast, lunch & dinner
- Lobby Piano Lounge

Directions

The Crown Plaza Hotel
Houston North – Greenspoint
(281) 445-9000
is located close to area restaurants and only 20 minutes from Downtown, The Woodlands, & the Galleria Willowbrook Mall and Cinema, Sam Houston Race Park, Red Stone Golf Course & Tour 18.

Transportation

Houston Intercontinental Airport (IAH)
Complimentary Airport Shuttle Taxi
(one way – 7 MI to Hotel):
$20.00 (10 minute drive)

Houston Hobby Airport (HOU) Taxi
(one way – 17 MI to Hotel):
$50.00 (40 minute drive)

Calendar of Events

Sunday, October 4
Church Service: 11:00am
at the First Church of Divine Science.
At the Crown Plaza Hotel
Reception: 2:00–5:00pm
Healing: 7:00pm
Evening Service: 7:30pm

Monday, October 5
Featured Speaker
Dr. Raymond Moody
Author of many books on his investigation of Near Death experiences.
Workshop will be on his work with the
PSYCHOMANTEUM
Cost: All Day – $30.00 for delegates
Details to be announced
Banquet: 6:00pm

Tuesday, October 6
thru Friday, October 9
9am to 5pm – Convention Business
7pm – Healing; 7:30pm – Evening Services
Service Club Meetings to follow
(Details to come)
Convention Registration for Delegates will be $20.00

Banquet – *Dinner*

Dancing & Entertainment
$40.00 per person

Deadline for payment:
September 16, 2009

PAYMENT INFORMATION:
Make check payable to:
First Church of Divine Science
and Mail to:
First Church of Divine Science
Attn: Liana Liles
27 Starrush Court
The Woodlands, TX 77380

Tours

GUIDED TOUR OF HOUSTON
Starting with Lunch at the National Museum of Funeral History, followed by a visit to the Art Car Museum, and finishing up with a drive through Downtown Houston
$40.00 per person
includes lunch, museum admissions & transportation.

Please designate for Banquet or Tours with payment.

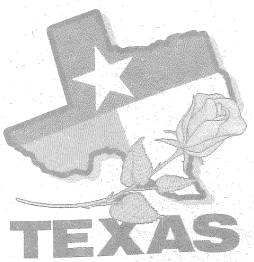
TRIP TO OLD TOWN SPRING
For a unique jaunt to a quaint turn of the century town composed of shops, restaurants, museums, and art galleries.
$25.00 per person
for transportation.

Deadline for payment:
September 16, 2009

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and Mail to:
First Church of Divine Science
Attn: Liana Liles
27 Starrush Court
The Woodlands, TX 77380

WAYS & MEANS

For financial assistance, make check payable & mail to: First Church of Divine Science, Attn: Liana Liles, 2115 Turner Dr., Houston, TX 77093
Afghans & donated items send to Maria Garcia, 7711 Fall Creek Road, Humble, TX 77396



Hosted by:
First Church of Divine Science, Houston, Texas
First Spiritualist Church of Austin

Theme:
"Natural Law is the Way"

See y'all in Houston!



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.



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