The National Spiritualist-Summit

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2009



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The National Spiritualist-Summit

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Making A Difference – When God Thinks Big!

14-15/17



Acceptance of Differences – Who do we think we are?

30-31



A Guide to the Future Growth of Spiritualism

36-37

features

4-5 **Your Life – Making Important Choices**
Tap into the power of your soul
Laura Lee Perkins, *TNS* Editor

5 **The Candle or the Mirror?**
Ways to spread Light
The Rev. Carol A. Brown

6-7 **A Ghostly Look at Christmas**
Revealing glimpses of holiday characters
Earnest Leard

8 **Blessing Received...Blessing Returned**
A spiritual view of life's lessons
Kathleen Burns

10-11 **Holiday Greeting from *Friends***

13 **Do you Believe?**
Being a witness
Phyllis Brewer Brown

14-15/17 **Making A Difference– When God Thinks Big!**
Answering THE Call
The Rev. Drew Vogt

16-17 **Seeing the Future**
Ways to expand understanding and our churches
The Rev. Marie Herald Rowe

20 **Evolution**
Life and Spirit are endless
The Rev. Melvena Hafner

29 **Space Travel and Other Worlds**
Exploring Intelligent Life
Yvonne Limoges

30-31 **Acceptance of Differences**
Who do we think we are?
Dr. Norma J. Turner

33 **Know Thyself**
Being a flower in the garden of Spiritualism
The Rev. Lelia E. Cutler, NST

34-35 **Spiritual Influences through the Media**
We are being exposed to more and more spiritual info
Yvonne Limoges

36-37 **A Guide to the Future Growth of Spiritualism**
Moving forward into our own future
The Rev. Thomas F. Kearns

42 **The Great Now!**
When IS now?
The Rev. Rupert Sigurdsson

snippets of wisdom/poetry

43 **Smile**

47 **Poetry**

departments

READING MATTERS
9 NSAC Bookstore Offers NEW Gift Choices!

DEPT. of PHENOMENAL EVIDENCE
12 The Revs. Lynn & Brian Kent

MEDIA WATCH
18-19 The Revs. Tom & Lisa Butler

26 ***Spiritual Healing* Guide & Form**

EDUCATION SPEAKS
32 Julie Fadale

38-39 **CALENDAR CORNER**

40-41 **Daily Quotes to Bless Each Day**

44-45 **NOTES from the FIELD**
Lots of interesting news!

46 **MORRIS PRATT Pastoral Skills Class Info**

46 ***TNS-Summit* Subscription Form**

directory listings

21 Officers
22 Ministers/Mediums/Healers
23-26 Churches
27 Lyceum Books & Information
28 Books

Your Life – Making Important Choices

LAURA LEE PERKINS, EDITOR

Do you believe that events in life can be attributed to fate and are just meant to happen? If that is true, then how does free will enter into any situation? Free will inserts choice, and at that moment choice determines what you do—how you respond when the event happens. Do you take a difficult experience and turn it into a positive force in your life? Or do you complain and blame the world? Seizing these opportunities with carefully thought through responses results in you taking control and making changes that you deem necessary, thereby empowering your life path.



As a soul, you're an accumulation of all your experiences. **The choices that you make, as a result of these experiences, determine the quality of your life.** The choices are yours and yours alone. When your soul is born into the physical world, many people believe that predestination has written your life map. But it's your choice if you will follow the plan. You might meander through many different side roads, experiencing all that life has to offer, as you move to your soul's ultimate destination. Do you believe that there is a life map for each one of us?

Other people influence each one of us every day in a myriad of ways. And sometimes we listen to their opinions more than we listen to our own inner guidance. Always look carefully at your source; how is that person's life flowing? Is it smooth, or is there an enormous amount of drama? If you're going to seek professional advice, then do your homework and seek out the person or professional who's best equipped to help you make the best choices. Often we look to our own Spiritualist pastor as a potential source of guidance; a pastor's ability to listen carefully without trying to steer another's life is truly a gift. Sometimes having a willing ear allows us to hear our problems and concerns in a new way, in a clearer voice. A pastor is a mentor, and therefore needs to be a clear channel for spirit and to possess a compassionate, noncritical and loving personality.

If you receive advice from someone and it's not the best advice, it's easy to turn around and blame that person. But, in reality, it was your choice to listen to that advice. You have free will; you can choose to listen and follow another's advice, or you can practice listening to your own inner voice. That doesn't mean that we don't need others to listen, to respond and to support us when we decide to make changes. But ultimately everything comes down to the fact that you are accountable for your own choices in creating the conditions around you. Blaming others usurps your soul's power. When you take responsibility for your choices, your soul expands with empowerment.

What are your choices to walk the path that you need to empower your soul? How do you face obstacles and difficulties in your life? Do you check in with yourself to see where you are at this point on your soul's journey? Are you moving closer to your goals or are you farther away from where you want to be? What do you need to do right now to put yourself more in alignment with your path? By asking the question, you are demonstrating to spirit that you are willing to take responsibility for your life's direction and flow.

I find that in asking these types of questions, we demonstrate that we are flexible; we are open to new possibilities to steer us. We have all worked with closed-minded individuals who are unwilling to even risk looking at situations differently. This narrow mindset creates barriers which often become blockades in one's life. If we are scared to look at other options because, "I tried that once and it didn't work," that is like saying that once I was hungry (and I didn't like it) so I'm never going to be hungry again. Just because a particular approach did not work in a previous situation with different individuals under different circumstances, does not mean that it might not work in a new setting with new people.

When you take responsibility for your life and the choices you make, you'll begin to tap in to the power of your soul. You'll be able to listen to the intuitive wisdom that's inside you, and apply it to your outside world. Next time you make a decision, stop for a moment and ask yourself, "How do I feel about this decision?" "Does it feel positive or negative, and why?" Simply by doing this, you'll be able to access

Continued...

your own intuition, and be guided to make better choices. By making better, smarter, considered decisions and choices, you'll no longer be a victim of circumstance, but have the power and ability to change your outcome.

Your thought creates your reality; it's always your choice as to what kind of day you want to have. Do you begin your day in a positive way? Do you plan to attract positive opportunities and stimulating people into your life? When you are making your choices, always choose from the heart, especially if the "rational" side of your brain is trying to convince you to follow advice that just doesn't feel like it rings true for you.



At one time or another, we've made choices in our lives that did not have the outcome we had anticipated; we were disappointed. Hopefully we learn from these experiences and move on. By making peace with these past disappointments, we shall grow to make better choices in the future. As Spiritualists, our Principle #7 teaches us that "we make our own happiness or unhappiness."

As you build your intuition and confidence, you will discover the confidant strength to expand and deepen your intuition as an excellent resource to assist you when making important decisions. We all want to strive to make better choices in the future. We want to be firmly imbedded in spiritual guidance and wisdom. Remembering to ask questions and to listen for responses, allowing ourselves to be guided by the heart's connection to love, can be an enormous source of insight.

Our path is illuminated by knowledge, by knowing that now is the time to move forward or to hold back. Ask if you are responding to your ego or your soul. Wait until you feel sure, and then step forward, with confidence, onto the next step on your life's path. The journey is part of the destination!

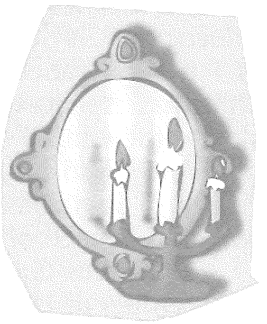
In Spirit,
Laura Lee Perkins, Editor

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feature

The Candle or the Mirror

THE REV. CAROL A. BROWN, NST – Virginia



There are two ways of spreading light:
to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.
– Edith Wharton, U.S. author (1862-1937)

What a powerful statement Wharton made, "There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it."

As I pondered this, I caught myself wondering why it has to be "the candle **OR** the mirror"...is it possible to be "the candle **AND** the mirror?"

We understand that we can be the candle – for we know we are expressions of Infinite Intelligence (God). We are reminded of this in the Bible verse that tells us *don't hide your candle under a basket* and in the song *This little light of mine – I'm gonna let it shine.*

We become the candle that spreads the light of Infinite Intelligence when we begin to recognize the God within our own self and within others, and then allow that higher consciousness—that light—to express itself through us.

We become the candle by showing our respect for others and by treating everyone as we wish to be treated (The Golden Rule).

But, if we are the candle, how can we also be the mirror?

After some thought I realized that in addition to being the candle we can also be the mirror that reflects the light of God:

By lifting up – not putting down others.

By setting aside our baser instincts (ego, jealousy, etc.) and celebrating the success of others ... allowing them to let their light shine and by taking pleasure and true joy in someone else being the candle.

There are two ways of spreading light:
to be the candle (and) or
the mirror that reflects it.

We must always strive to think, speak and act in a way that spreads only ***The Light.***

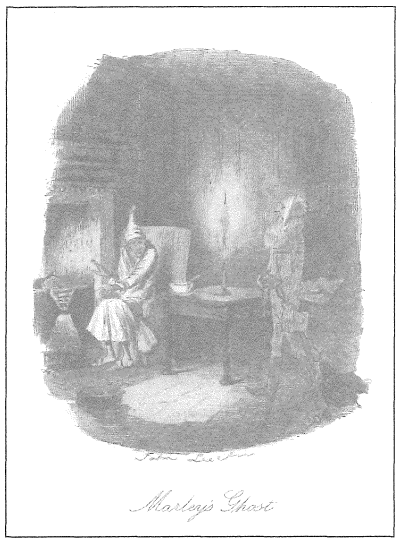
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A Ghostly Look at Christmas

EARNEST LEARD – Memorial Spiritualist Church – Norfolk, Virginia

Like most people, I enjoy watching movies. To a large extent, because people are reading fewer books these days, movies have replaced them as the primary vehicle by which people can learn life's lessons. In a relatively short period of time, in a pleasant environment, without having to actually experience the real pains, problems, or difficulties which usually accompany those lessons, one can become an armchair observer.

Like most Spiritualists, I especially enjoy movies whose contents contain elements of Spiritualism or spiritualistic phenomena. Some of these include *Ghost, Defending Your Life, What Dreams May Come,* and *What the Bleep Do We Know?* It was while thinking about films like these that two other favorites of mine came to mind – *A Christmas Carol,* based on a story by Charles Dickens, and *It's A Wonderful Life,* starring James Stewart. As I considered how much I enjoy these two films, I wondered how I could reconcile my Spiritualism with the heavy influence of Christmas that is present in both of them. As I thought about it, I began to realize that the Christmas aspects were actually only incidental to the plots – they could have been set at any time of the year. And I also began to realize how many different aspects of Spiritualism or spiritualistic phenomena can be found in each of them.



A Christmas Carol was written by Charles Dickens in December of 1843, just a few years before the birth of Modern American Spiritualism in 1848. But the ideas of ghosts or spirits, and the concept of communicating with them, would not have been new to him. In France, Anton Mesmer demonstrated spirit phenomena in the late 1700's, and Mother Ann Lee was active in spirit work in the mid-to-late 1700's in Manchester, England. It is quite likely that Dickens, a well-traveled and well-read author, was aware of them. No doubt, Dickens realized that a ghost story set at Christmastime would pack a "double whammy," which would make it very popular. Over the years, this story has been adapted into film many times, including a fairly recent production played as a comedy called *Scrooged,* starring Bill Murray. One of the best in my opinion, though, is the recent production starring George C. Scott.

It's A Wonderful Life was produced as a film in 1946, and was loosely based on the story *The Greatest Gift,* written by Philip Van Doren Stern in 1939. The story was modified slightly and set in the midst of small-town America shortly after World War II. Coming right after the war, it provided some answers for people who were searching for meaning in their lives, for an affirmation of the importance of the trials and sacrifices they had endured during the war years, and it offered some uplifting reassurance about the future.

In both of these very popular films, the main characters interact and communicate with spirits or angels. In *A Christmas Carol,* Ebenezer Scrooge is first visited by the spirit of his old friend and business partner, Marley, who is concerned about Scrooge's soul. Acting like a spirit guide, Marley tells Scrooge that he will be visited by three spirits, that he should listen and learn from them, and that Scrooge needs to mend his ways so he doesn't end up like Marley, joylessly wandering the world. In *It's A Wonderful Life,* an Angel Second Class by the name of Clarence is dispatched from heaven to answer the prayers of George Bailey and all his friends and loved ones. Both of these spiritual interventions occur on Christmas Eve.

The Ghost of Christmas Past allows Scrooge to see a life review, enabling him to recall and to consider the choices he has made in his life. Scrooge sees that most of these choices have tended to limit the growth and development of his spirit, and have brought no joy to his life.

Clarence prepares for his intervention with George by experiencing a review of George's life. Seeing the choices that George has made—many which George has mistakenly regretted because he has not truly realized how those choices have benefited himself and the people around him – was

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eye-opening. The Ghosts of Christmas and Christmas Future then show Scrooge the opportunities that are still there for him to take if he wishes to change his life, and the consequences he might face if he chooses to continue to live his life as he has in the past.

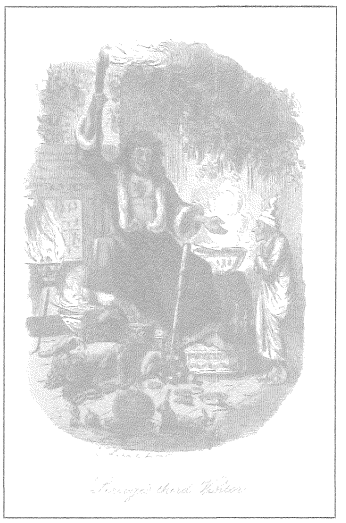
When he comes to Earth, Clarence offers George a reverse life review, allowing him to see how different things would have been if he had not been born. By seeing this, George comes to see how important his existence has been, how many people he has helped, and the good that has come into the world because of his choices.

Both Scrooge and George can clearly see our Seventh Principle in action. The consequences of their decisions to obey or disobey Natural Law are evident in the happiness or unhappiness they have experienced in their lives. George Bailey's "good" choices are re-affirmed as he sees the differences he has made in the lives of others and in the world. Scrooge perceives that his "poor" choices in life have led him to a lonely, loveless existence.

Interestingly, in both of these films, time is suspended. Everything that occurs happens in a single night, on Christmas Eve. It is as if the supernatural work of the spirits and angels can take place in an instant, as if time does not exist. Cutting-edge quantum physics theory postulates that exact theory – that time is not real, but is an artificial construct necessary in the physical world. Spirit entities, of course, are not constrained by physical restrictions, and thus are not limited by time.

Scrooge appears to experience an out-of-body experience, or astral travel. The spirits visit him as he sleeps, transporting him through time and space when he touches the spirit. George also experiences a kind of astral travel, accompanying Clarence to various locales in Bedford Falls at the speed of thought, with no apparent physical motion required. When Clarence shows George what the world would have been like if he had not lived, George sees an alternate reality, a world where the past is different from the one he knows.

Both our heroes (Scrooge does change to become a hero) are also reacquainted with our Sixth Principle, but it is most strongly impressed upon Scrooge, who learns that he must "do unto others as he would have them do unto him." And it is Scrooge who most clearly demonstrates the truth of our Eighth Principle – "We affirm that the doorway to reformation is never closed..." Even at his advanced age, it is not too late for him to reform, to become a loving uncle, a substitute grandfather for Tiny Tim, a kindly and grateful employer, a generous benefactor to his fellow man, and a person who can appreciate the joys of Christmas and fellowship.



The main characters in these two movies (especially George) also experience the workings of the Law of Attraction. Throughout his life, he attracts to himself like-minded individuals. When he is in the most dire straits, facing prison because of a loss of funds, his friends rally around him and the money he needs flows in like a tidal wave. But more important than the money is the love and fellowship he receives in return for all the good he has done. Scrooge, a penny-pinching, grasping man, has brought to himself all the money he could use. But his miserly ways, not only of the pocketbook, but also of the heart, have left him friendless, loveless, and lonely. At the end of the film, after he has reformed himself, he is said to be "as good a friend as any man could have."

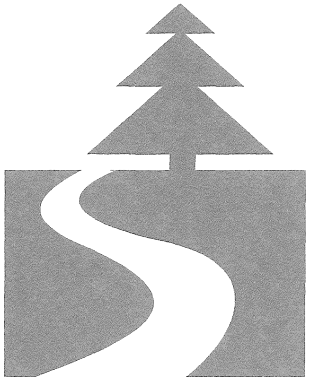
These two films advance a number of very meaningful messages. They both express the importance of helping others, thinking of others, and the absolute necessity of serving others in some capacity. They make clear that money is not a true measure of success and happiness. And they show us that each of us can make a difference in other people's lives and in the world. In a 1946 interview with Frank Capra, the director/producer of *It's A Wonderful Life*, he described the film's theme as "the individual's belief in himself," and said that he had made the film to "combat a modern trend toward atheism." As an indication of the importance of the spiritual messages contained in *A Christmas Carol*, one need only check the internet, which will turn up a multitude of writings on the subject. Two recent books you might find are: *Transforming Scrooge: Dickens' Blueprint for a Spiritual Awakening* by Joseph D. Cusumano, and *A Christmas Carol Special Edition: The Charles Dickens Classic with Christian Insights and Discussion Questions for Groups and Families* by Stephen Skelton and Charles Dickens.

So, as another holiday season rolls around and these heartwarming movies appear on your TV schedule and you consider "What should we watch tonight?", I encourage you to give these old classics another look, but this time through a Spiritualist's eyes. You may find things you've never noticed before. Happy Holidays!

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Blessings Received...Blessing Returned

KATHLEEN BYRNES – A friend of the First Spiritualist Church of Salem, Massachusetts



Life has truly blessed me. The circumstances of my life's stories have led me upon an adventurous path. With all the surprises (good and bad), bends, curves, and forks, both uphill and down; life has offered me a myriad of chances to grow beyond what was comfortable or familiar just a moment before. The challenge is always whether I will allow myself to let go of the familiar and trust that life has my best interest at heart.

Family dynamics are often the university through whose classes we are offered the opportunity to earn a PhD. in Life—mine being no exception. Building relationships with immediate kin is the primer, and as early as infancy, we respond to both the direct and the subtle modes of communication that structure the daily routine. Development of the primary bonds with mother, father, and siblings become the syllabus for later experiences, either directly or indirectly, affecting all relationships to come.

Christmas 1994, on the 25th anniversary of my father leaving the family home, life blessed me with a priceless gift—his return into my life. As he re-entered my world, reality as I had come to know it, was turned inside out, upside down, and on its head. From that moment on, I had a choice to make: hang on to the story I was told while growing up, or give my father and myself a chance to rewrite that story by being present to each other in the moment. We both chose to close the door on the past and to face this new adventure of father and daughter as a team, knowing there would be moments of pain and doubt, and also aware that we would never have this blessed opportunity again.

The road that is called "the Path of Least Resistance" is rarely discernable with the mind, but when we use the heart as our compass, our barometer, our motivation, this path glows bright before us like the beauty of our daily dawns and dusks. As my dad and I embraced each other after years, nay decades, of absence, the path rekindled ourselves and our relationship with a healing power that erased all previous learning based on doubt and mistrust. Time was precious to us—we agreed to stay "in the moment," stay "in the present" so as not to waste any of the time we had left—my Dad was dealing with a dual diagnosis of cancers.

As the conditions of his health deteriorated, we experienced an exponential growth in our love and acceptance of each other. Forgiveness was our foundation, compassion became the corridors of this new family home we were erecting; "the Path of Least Resistance" was paved in gold as it led to our open front door, welcoming all to come join us in celebration.

When years of chemotherapy and radiation treatments could no longer deter the course of the cancers, I kept company with Dad daily. While the morphine drip released him from the physical pain, I sat beside the bed, holding his hand, and conversed with the Higher Powers of Love, the spirits of our ancestors, and Dad's loving guidance. I asked for his transition to be free of guilt and shame, remorse and fear, and anything that felt like unworthiness.

On Thanksgiving Day 1997, I sat with Dad in this way. The doctors assured me that he had very little time left, but I knew this already through Spirit. My sister and brother were due to arrive in two days, but I was so very grateful for these final moments of solitude with Dad. He had been nearly comatose for two days, but I knew that he knew his only son and youngest daughter were coming—it was this desire that kept his spirit in his body.

Suddenly he awoke...sat bolt upright in bed, arms flailing and eyes wide open with a look of confused astonishment. Attending ICU nurses came to check on him, administered another dose of morphine, and laid my father back gently upon the bed.

When they left the room, he grabbed my arm and said, "Did you see them? Did you see them over there? It's been so long since I've seen them. They were standing right there and they were waving to me...all of them...Mum, Father, and Jimmy" (his brother who died at age 11). "Did you see them?!"

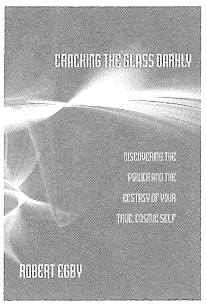
With this, he laid back down and the morphine kept him asleep until two days later when my siblings arrived. During their visit,for about an hour his spirit came forth again, and he was animated, jovial, ecstatic. My brother and sister returned to their lives the next day. One day later my Dad returned to Spirit accompanied by his mother, his father, and his only brother, walking together in the golden light of Love, down the Path of Least Resistance.

Note: My paternal ancestors were unknown to me in their physical lives, but they have all come to make themselves known through messages I have received while attending the Salem Spiritualist Church. Thus, Blessings Received and Blessings Returned.

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NSAC Offers Some Interesting New Books

The following books are newly available through our NSAC Bookstore (order form is on page 28). Perhaps there might be just the perfect gift here for the upcoming holiday season gift-giving time.



Cracking The Glass Darkly

– *Robert Egby* BKS621 **$ 16.95**

This book covers 4 major steps found on the path to higher consciousness: 1) How to break through the darkness (the negative ego that plagues humanity). 2) How to free yourself from the past and future and live ecstatically in the here and now. 3) Loving yourself unconditionally and enjoying great physical, mental and spiritual health. 4) Opening yourself to true self awareness where you can understand the Cosmos, Infinite Intelligence, work with Universal Laws, and enjoy life with all its challenges and rewards.

The Quest of the Radical Spiritualist

– *Robert Egby* BKS620 **$ 16.95**

The Journey home through metaphysics, sacred energies, Spirit and the Universal Mind. This book is designed to take you beyond the plains of Being, to the Land of the Unknowable Universal Mind. The Quester's faith is unconditional love.

Dead Rescue

– *Michael Evans* BKS896 **$ 14.00**

Filled with information about the set-up and operation of Rescue Circles. Provides actual cases and situations which are helpful to the serious worker.

GOD Made Easy

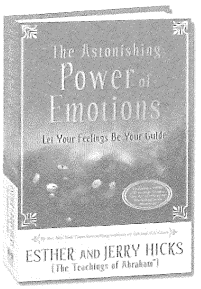
– *Patrice Karst* BKS854 **$ 6.95**

Wonderful readings, uplifting, light hearted. This little book brings us back to that reality in a light and enjoyable manner.

The Seeress of Prevost

– *John DeSalvo* BKS152 **$ 14.95**

Using his scientific expertise to decode her secret language and diagrams, Dr. DeSalvo examines the life and revelations of the Seeress of Prevorst and her importance in light of spiritual development over two centuries since her death.



The Astonishing Power of Emotions

– *Hicks* BKS752 **$ 16.95**

Let your feelings be your guide. This is the latest Abraham book for everyone who wants to make their life work better. Ester and Jerry help you understand the emotions you've experienced all your life.

"Connecting With The Other Side" (CD)

– *Vickie Gay* CDS013 **$ 18.00**

This instructional CD, gently and with compassion, takes you through the preparation to talk to those in the Spirit Realm. You are guided through a meditation that coaches you to go on to make your connection with your guides and loved ones in spirit.

The Articulate Dead

– *Michael Tymn* BKS842 **$ 19.95**

We can push this one for gift giving. The NSAC bookstore has about 50 we copies need to liquidate. This book has been featured in two previous TNS issues. Please support this wonderful writer who is so familiar to TNS subscribers!

Where Angels Tread (Hard Cover)

– *Durland* SALE 003 $10.00 ***Now Only*** **$ 5.00**

Get yours today before they are GONE! Contains the lost sequel to Stewart Edward White's book, The Unobstructed Universe, plus biographical sketches of the psychics who helped him in his work. An account of twentieth century "angels" and their human listening posts. Based on the private papers of Ruth Ebright Finley (1884-1955).

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Holiday Blessings

Love & Light for the Season
– Rev. Lelia E. Cutler, NSAC
President

Thank you for all of your kind words, pats, healing, loves and stories about your own animal family. I loved meeting you at convention and wish you all a wonderful holiday season.
– Your friend, Wiggles, Las Vegas, NV

Happy Holidays
– from the Board and
Members of the Temple of
Metaphysical Science, NY

Howdy from Arizona – Have a rockin' New Year!
– Church of the Living Spirit,
Glendale, AZ

Wishing my wonderful spiritual sisters in Spiritualism a wonderful holiday!
– Kat, CA

May the Love of Spirit surround you this Holiday Season.
– Bu3X, Marilyn J. Awtry, FL

May the joyous memories of our past bring us peace, love and gratitude for the ages.
– National Spiritualist Church,
Norwich, CT

To children of all ages – it is all about the presents!
– Spotlight Magazine

Honor the season of your ancestors with Peace, Harmony and Love.
– Vernon & Jackie Randall, CT

We wish you the blessings of Love, Light and Laughter this year and always.
– Rev. Jean & Ron Lerch,
Casselberry, FL

Chestnuts roasting, cookies baking, holiday scents fill the air
Snow is falling, lights are twinkling, children's eyes are sparkling
Sounds of carols fill the air, the feel of velvet, a taste of candy canes
Ahh, the holidays are here!! Wishing you the happiest and most wonderful season and year to come.
Love to All, Cosie & Alice – Las Vegas, NV

Our church family wishes you joy, health knowledge, harmony and prosperity in the New Year!
– Spiritualist Church of
Awareness, Orlando, FL

May the spirit of the season be with you always.
– Rev. Carol and Mr.
Lawrence Brown

May the Loving Light of Spirit surround you and yours this season.
– The Memorial Spiritualist Church, NSAC, Norfolk, VA

May you be blessed with happy memories during Christmas Holidays.
– Blessings, Carol O'Hare, First Spiritualist Church of McKeesport, PA



Greetings of the season and peace for all this coming year.
– A Sanctuary of Infinite Spirit, NSAC, Smithtown, NY



Happy Holidays to our West Coast Sisters and ALL. Keep that spirit going!
– Love, Your East coast sister Valerie and brother Frank

Peace and Joy to ALL now and every day of the year. See you in June!
– Temple Heights Spiritual Camp, Northport, ME

Blessings for All New Beginnings
– from the New Vision Spiritualist Center, Orlando, FL

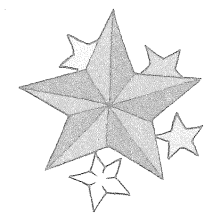


Holiday joy and blessings to Lyceumists everywhere.
– Rev. June E. Killmer, NST, Director, Dept. of Lyceums





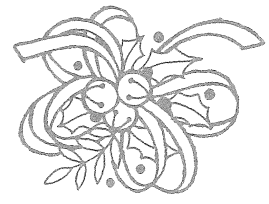
May the Holiday Spirit of Goodwill, Love and Joyful Abundance Bless One and All.
– Golden Gate Spiritualist Church, San Francisco, CA



Much Prosperity and Love to All.
– The Spiritualist Church of Indianapolis, IN

Look to the Light to Illuminate Your Holiday Path.
Wishing magnificent joy for each and every one of you!
– In Spirit, Laura Lee Perkins & Ken Green, AZ & ME

Wishing Everyone Joy, Love, & Peace.
– Jackie, Kathleen, Elizabeth



Blessings and Love to all of our Spiritualist family during the holiday season and throughout the year. Wishing you a blue sky day today and every day.
– Spiritualist Desert Church, NSAC – Las Vegas, NV

Best Wishes for a spiritual holiday season and a blessed New Year.
– Rev. Virginia & Peter Berg

Happy Holidays & Joyous New Year.
– from Temple Heights Spiritualist Church, Northport, ME



The National Spiritualist Association Of Churches
Department of Phenomenal Evidence

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2009 Department of Phenomenal Evidence Report

THE REVS. BRIAN AND LYNN KENT, Directors

The Rev. Richard Schoeller has been doing trance work for quite some time. It seems wherever he goes, spirit energies are with him to let the congregation of attendees know that there is life after the death of the physical body.

On July 18, 2008 Rev. Schoeller held a séance at his home in Huntington, Long Island, New York. This séance was held in preparation for his Workshop *Trance and Transfiguration* in Lily Dale, NY in August, 2008. Rev. Schoeller invited a few people who had never experienced a séance with trance or transfiguration. The following is a description of what happened that evening. The information below has been taken directly from the most wonderful, official affidavit.

Describe the location of occurrence • The séance was held in the medium's home, in his living room. The living room is about ten feet wide by eighteen feet in length. There was a cabinet set up at one end of the living room and chairs for the sitters facing the cabinet. There was a red light in place in front of the cabinet.

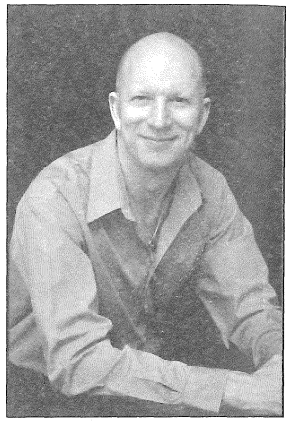
Describe the conditions present at the location • The windows in the room where covered with dark trash bags and the doorway was covered with a dark cloth to block out any light. There were eight people present along with the medium. The cabinet was constructed of heavy material and poles, and there was a chair inside of the cabinet for the medium. There were conformable chairs for each of the sitters.

What precautions were taken to insure test conditions • The room was darkened with cloth covering the two doors into the room and into the dining room. The windows were darkened with cloth covering the windows. There was a cabinet set with a red light facing the medium. We began the evening with a prayer; we sang a few songs and closed the evening with a prayer.

What Phase of Mediumship was demonstrated? • Transfiguration was the phase of mediumship that was demonstrated.

As expressed by Joan Schnaper of Ithaca, New York:

I participated in the séance of July 17, 2008 in which the medium, Richard Schoeller, sat in a darkened room within a cabinet where a red light was focused upon him. As soon as he began, the face of a man with a 5 o'clock shadow and a narrow face appeared superimposed over Richard's face. This face remained through out the session. He opened his eyes and his mouth was moving, trying to talk. He was my older brother Julius! It was no surprise that his energy was strong enough to stay for the entire session. That was his energy in physical life too! I was so touched and grateful to have had this amazing experience.



The Rev. Richard Schoeller

Although there was no audible message, Joan is certain, by the physical appearance and strength of her brother's face, that he presented himself that evening; he was definitely there. Other images were seen, yet passed quickly, but my bother "Julie" remained the whole evening.

Other signatures of witnesses were:
Claudia Brard, New City, N Y
Deborah Reale, Hillsdale, NJ
John Bottone, Huntington, NY
Mike Alberge, Carmel, NY

The Phenomenal Evidence Department congratulates Richard once again on his experiences with spirit identification in this way. We also would like to comment on the clarity of the affidavit, which made it easy to write an article. Thank you again, and please send us your experiences. For more information, please check out www.nascphenomena.org.

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Do You Believe?

PHYLLIS BREWER BROWN – First Spiritualist Church of Salem – Massachusetts



I recall my oldest sister telling me that our mother was very sick and that she didn't have much time left. Later in the day, she met with Mom to discuss any concerns Mom might have.

My sister assured me that she was not going to keep anything from me and would keep me informed. She said that one of the questions my mother asked was, "Does Phyllis know?" Her concern for me was warranted because of all her children, I was the clingy one. The next day I went to the hospital to see Mom. The room was still, my heart in suspended animation; she took my hand and said, "Phyllis, do you believe in miracles?"

To which I replied, "Yes, very much."

"Well, I'm going to be o.k. and well again, and I'll move in with you, and sit and watch the boats on the water."

Not wanting to burst her bubble, I nodded my head as she patted my hand. I knew in my heart of hearts that it would take something miraculous for her to ever be well again. In the months that followed, she kept close tabs on me and I on her as we proceeded on our paths. It felt like my path was strewn with boulders—my personal life was in transition and my rock was crumbling.

Time passes and I find myself at her bedside keeping her comfortable in her last minutes on the earth plane. I see vapors rising to and fro from her high heart area, checking with the nurse she explains that it is condensation and Mom's body is cooling down. I accept that for a few minutes until I realize the vapors move with a mindful motion according to what I say, it would stop to listen and then, as if trying to decide in what direction it should move—higher, lower, back and forth—each time gathering more strength, braver now, the vapor rises to my eye level.

I knew then that I was a witness to her spirit and ectoplasm (I would later learn this new word). That moment in time, all was revealed and understood—a gift of all gifts.

My understanding and faith is unshakable.

Years have passed, the path is smooth, Mom's spirit is alive and well. We share a house on the river and watch the boats sail by. The ever-changing currents in the water remind us of time. The river, a natural wind tunnel, allows a path for the air currents. Someone has called down the wind; it comes full throttle tunneling down the river, removing all things negative and refreshing the air with newness—butterflies and milkweed abound.

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Hope is the strongest driving force for a people. Hope which brings about change, which produces new realities, is what opens man's road to freedom. Once hope has taken hold, courage must unite with wisdom. That is the only way of avoiding violence, the only way of maintaining the calm one needs to respond peacefully to offenses.

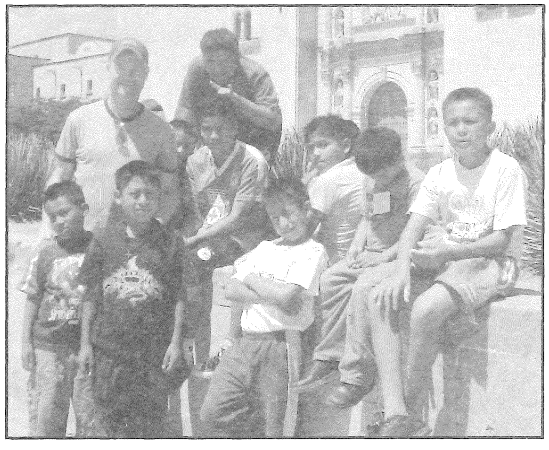
– Oscar Arias Sanchez, excerpted from his 1987 Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech.

Making a Difference—When *God* Thinks Big!

THE REV. DREW VOGT – San Francisco, California

This article is different than most. Instead of sharing spiritual philosophy or abstract theory, I'm going to share with you a real life story of *how* Spirit has been manifesting through our church in exciting ways! Love has been moving a lot of hearts to take action by helping orphans.

Two years ago when our new Celebrate Life Spiritualist Community Church was looking for local charities to become involved with, we kept our ears open. We didn't imagine that something thrilling was about to happen.



The Rev. Drew with ten boys at Santo Domingo Museum, Oaxaca, Mexico.

I met a lady who lives here in San Francisco, we'll call Cindy. When she told me she was on her way to a place in Mexico called Oaxaca (pronounced *wahaca*) for a vacation, I immediately felt overwhelmingly inspired to tell her about our new church. Then Spirit forcefully prompted me to tell her, "We're a small church, but we'd like to make a difference. Keep your eyes open for a project or orphanage in Mexico that's not well-funded and where our small donations could actually make a difference." But Spirit was thinking even bigger.

It's not common for me to share impromptu spirit messages with strangers, but at that moment I chose what felt right. Caught by surprise with this challenge, she seemed daunted. Cindy said, "Well I don't know any places like that." My guidance prompted me to say with confidence, "Don't worry, just keep your eyes open, you'll find something." With that prediction, my job was done. Then I forgot about it.



Molly with student, Telesforo.

A few weeks later I got a surprise! My path crossed Cindy's again and she was so happy; she had great news. She not only found several options for us to explore in Oaxaca, but Spirit lined her up with one *before* she even arrived! No hunting was needed! When she changed planes in Mexico City, a passenger next to her wanted to trade seats, so he swapped seats with a lady named Elisabeth who sat down next to Cindy. She quickly found out that Elisabeth was from here, but was going to Oaxaca to work at an orphanage. She immediately remembered my encouragement, and thought, this must be a divine coincidence! As it turned out, Elisabeth was on her way to a very small, under-funded orphanage that really did need a lot of help. It was a place where even small donations would make a big difference!

We arranged a dinner with Elisabeth and found out she believes in talking to angels. She found the small orphanage in shambles 11 years ago and decided to get involved. She created a non-profit to start helping with improvements, medicine, tutoring, and much-needed psychological counseling. Most of the boys have endured abusive families, alcoholism, and lost one or both parents, so they carry many emotional scars that might keep them from becoming happy, adjusted citizens. Without healing they could end up addicted to chemicals, going to prison, and/or continuing the cycle of abuse and poverty. She offers them love and healing first, then an education to climb out of poverty.

Our church got involved with just a couple hundred dollars in donations. As I got to know Elisabeth more and understand the importance of helping these little boys who will be fathers of new families someday, I realized I wanted to know more. As folks donated money, I knew that if I was going to speak up for these boys I needed to show up and learn first hand about their lives and challenges.

So in July 2008, I set out on my first trip to explore the city of Oaxaca, Mexico. Wow, what a thrill. Oaxaca is a Spanish colonial city founded in the 1500's and nestled in lush rolling mountains. Overlooking this city is Monte Alban, the ancient site

Continued...

of the indigenous peoples' capital complex. It thrived as an economic success, as well as with architecture that included pyramids from the 700's A.D.

Spending time with the boys was very moving. It was only my second time to be in an orphanage. Their "house" holds 14 boys. They end up there if there's no room at larger orphanages or if they get kicked out for behavior problems. Some end up there because they're homeless, hungry and are malnourished with bloated stomachs.



(L to R) Rogelio, The Rev. Drew, Gabriel, 3 years sponsorship through our church.

Members of our church and students from our classes donated 90 pieces of clothing for me to deliver. It was like Christmas in July when the boys got to select the styles and colors they wanted! Spirit also "coincidentally" aligned for my Spiritualist Minister friend, Tom Newman, to be in Oaxaca at the same time. Tom felt drawn to spend one day at the orphanage with me and wanted to get his church involved. I came home with a love for the boys that wanted to make a difference.

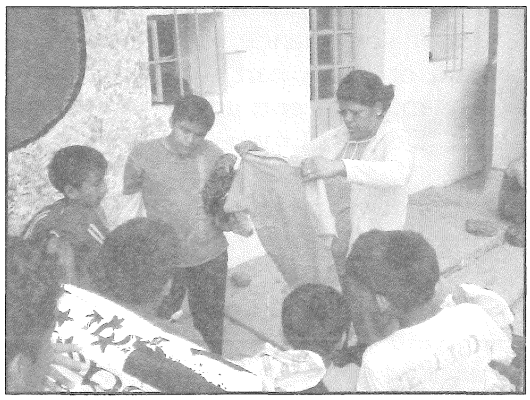
Elisabeth designed a way for the boys to continue their education beyond elementary school by going to a boarding school nearby. The cost for education with room and board is $250 per year. Tom's church sponsored two of the boys. On our church bulletin board we put up a couple photos of the boys, then one of our members sponsored one. Then our church sponsored another, and another, the money just kept adding up! One of our mediumship students sponsored another. Then one of our mediumship students founded a non-profit to do random acts of kindness, and she sponsored a boy! Through local press someone drawn to her new Meetup.com group decided to sponsor another boy! WOW—this feels like a vibrant Spiritualist movement—-and it feels great! Please note, a *movement* happens when people are *moved to take action*—-when WE get involved!

To-date, we've directly or indirectly sponsored 8 children for one year each, and one child for two years! Folks here are learning that Spiritualists care. More importantly, we're sharing God's infinite love with these orphans in spite of the economic times, and they're learning that Spiritualists care! Their lives will be forever changed by experiencing that someone loved them enough to care, and we are changed knowing we are part of it!

In July, 2009 I returned for my second trip, and I took with me Molly, one of my former students, to help with an arts project for the boys. This time, it was like going home. I was longing to see the faces of boys I met last year. I carried with me two suitcases of more than 100 pieces of clothing, toys, and school supplies that our members and students donated. These emerging goals gave everyone here something exciting to participate in! And that's contagious!

In spite of the challenging economy, people this year have poured out their love to these boys. Several folks donated cash for me to use in Oaxaca as I saw fit for their needs. A partial list of what we provided is: lots of fresh groceries, paper goods, school supplies, museum trips, birthday gifts, a learning arts project, and seven pairs of new school shoes.

Molly wanted to share this with you: "This was my first experience working at an orphanage. I can say that the experience I had working with the boys scored a 10 out of 10! Daily visits to the orphanage consisted of activities such as teaching a boy how to whistle, how to make a paper airplane, or playing table games. The art project we facilitated is called 'Trees of Life', which was an activity for the boys to draw their 'visions' for their dreams. The intent was to inspire hope for their futures.



Lulu, fulltime Supervisor, sharing our donated clothes.

In looking back at this experience I reflect, on what we gave to this group of beautiful children, and what we sparked. Simply put, we made a footprint of joy, love, and confidence. It's a start, and the seed has been planted."

It's important to note that all of this has happened very organically. We've put very little effort into this and yet it grew! People who love want to share it. They want to make a difference—-and they want their church to make a difference! Sometimes they just need an opportunity put in front of them and Spirit does the inspiring!

Our church leaders can welcome new ways to give back to other communities. As we do this, love

Continued on page 17...

Seeing the Future



THE REV. MARIE HERALD ROWE – Sarasota, Florida

Many people go to *mediums* or *spiritual readers* hoping to get answers to problems or to solve mysteries without having the patience to wait for the eventual outcome and outworking of all conditions. What most folks do not understand is that even the best *mediums* are subject to their own physical and mental limitations, and also to the mutable nature of conditions surrounding a future event. That is why sometimes questions are not answered in a satisfactory manner; the sitter is then disillusioned and disappointed in the *medium*. The *medium*, in most instances, has done his/her best to tune in with spirit; spirit has done its best to gather information and convey it through the *medium*.

Spirit Teachers have taught that conditions around humans change from moment to moment. If you understand that the colors in the *aura* change from moment to moment as our emotions change, then it is easy to understand how material circumstances around us can change. For example, some people get predictions at the beginning of the New Year. Under present conditions, the year ahead might look rosy and successful. If you change your habits, or your way of thinking or living part way through the year, then the year may not end up all rosy and successful as predicted. Does that make the prediction wrong?

If, for instance, you decide you want to be a pianist and you ask for spirit guidance and help in accomplishing your goal - that's all well and good. Your spirit guides bring in a spirit teacher and guide you to an earthly teacher who will help you accomplish your goal. Say that after everything is in place, and your way is clear, you change your mind and decide to go in another direction. All that spirit has coordinated and put in place for you to accomplish your goal of being a pianist is now swept aside and has to be abandoned. The future that a *medium* would see at the point before you changed your mind might be a glowing picture of you playing successfully and accomplishing great things. Then you change your mind; suddenly you are disillusioned and are certain that the *medium* was totally wrong and not to be trusted or believed. Is the *medium* to blame? Is Spirit to blame? It's simply your choice!

Sometimes we desire to know the next step we are going to take, how it is going to come about, and we want all kinds of details. So we go searching here and there for a hint or an answer. Like a game of chance, we're looking for a free ride. There are certain steps we, as individuals, must take as we go along our earthly journey. The road ahead is not always clear before us. That is where faith and belief in a Power higher than us comes into play. Instead of seeing 150 feet ahead, we might see only 50 feet ahead. By the time you travel those 50 feet, your next step will be clear before you, and sometimes this is at the 11th hour. It might not be in your idea of time, but it will always be on time. Faith and trust must abide!

It is *we* who make choices, changing the path and the future we tread. We cannot lay the load at the feet of our spirit helpers. They have chosen to be our Guides throughout this life. Guides - think about the meaning of the word. What is a guide? A guide is a wayshower, a helper, or an inspirer. A Sherpa Guide is invaluable to mountain climbers scaling the Himalayan heights. These guides go before them to clear the way, steer them around the obstacles and lead them on the safest path to reach the summit. So, Guides do not live our lives for us. No Guide would go against spiritual law and make choices for you or make things happen for you. No Guide can disregard another to benefit you. No guide can take from another and give to you. No guide can bring you material possessions or money that you haven't earned or don't deserve by your own activation of the spiritual Law of Abundance and Prosperity.

It has been my experience that the most evidential information from a medium comes spontaneously and unexpectedly. In other words, it is information given to the sitter without a specific question being asked - information that seems to come out of left field, so to speak. It is pure clairvoyance! Then is when you know for certain that spirit is delivering the message. Proof is in the end result; things worked out the way spirit said they would. As Spirit Teachers have often said, "Hindsight is always 100%."

Continued...

Making a Difference *Continued from page 15...*

builds a bridge and the "other" community becomes part of "our" community! If leaders are concerned about money going to outside groups instead of the church budget—I have good news! Because the Law of Abundance and Attraction is magnetic in nature, giving to other groups will attract more money for everything—not take it away! As members, attendees and the public realize your church is making a positive difference; they will be inspired to be generous! It's spiritual law.

One way we get the word out about our projects and church services is the internet, such as Facebook, Meetup.com, MySpace, and Craig's List. It's free advertising, and it brings people in!

Our church culture at Celebrate Life has a theme. In all of our classes and services we have an attitude of gratitude which says: *Love Spirit, Love People—-and Make a Difference!* We talk about the Law of Attraction and Love all the time so the most natural thing to do is to share this love with others. I am convinced that on the other side, someday, we will be able to meet people who have benefited from our love, even when they were strangers. Even though we didn't know them, we still cared.



The seven eldest boys for whom we bought school shoes.

Natural Law demonstrates that our loving actions cause positive ripple effects in the world. When our Spiritualist principles are lived, hurting hearts will be healed, hopeless souls will find hope, and illiterate children will learn to read, write, and make a life. Then, they too, as a living ripple of love, can listen for the voice of Spirit and make a difference!

Living our principles means we are aligning with the thoughts of God. They're usually bigger than our own thoughts. But when we think them and let them move us to action, we will make a positive difference! And that's something that will bring a smile to your soul, now and forever. ◆

Seeing the Future *Continued...*

So, what is the lesson here? Live each day to the best of your ability while asking for spirit guidance in all that you do. Work the Law of Abundance by always giving from a cheerful and grateful heart with no thought of return. Helping your own family and loved ones is a given - it is expected. Offering comfort, peace, healing and material substance to those outside your "comfort circle" brings the greater reward. Amassing wealth for the sake of just having more is borne of selfish motivation, and that is not a spiritual path. Using what you have, be it much or little, to enhance the lives of your fellow human beings is a noble endeavor that will bring rewards beyond your wildest dreams. You will want for nothing; all your needs will be provided and your cup will run over continuously.

"Seek ye ***first*** the kingdom of God
and its righteousness,
and all these things
shall be added unto you."
(Matthew 6:33)

GOD SPEAKS TO ME

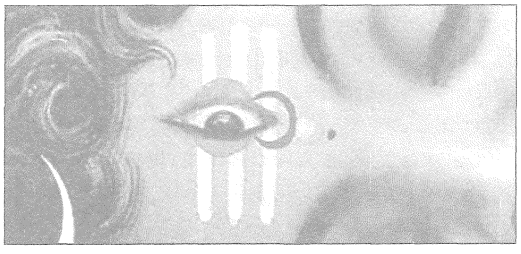
In the quiet, I hear you.
In the stillness, I am listening.
In the mist, I see you.
In the Light, I behold you.
In the twilight, I protect you.
In the dark, I enfold you.
In your temptation, I deliver you.
In your affliction, I heal you.
In life's burdens, I strengthen you.
In your despair, I uplift you.
In your laughter, I laugh with you.
When you remember My presence
within you, true JOY abounds.
There is no separation: no You, no Me,
Just THE ONE, All That Is!
I breathe My life essence in your being;
All that I have created is meant for our
good pleasure and enjoyment.

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MEDIA WATCH

THE REVS. TOM AND LISA BUTLER, NST

New Documentary on Scientific Evidence for the Paranormal • Is it possible that some people can read your mind, or look into the future? Why is it that some people can cure themselves while in the last stages of a deadly cancer. Does mind over matter really exist, and if so, how do we explain this? These and more questions are answered in the

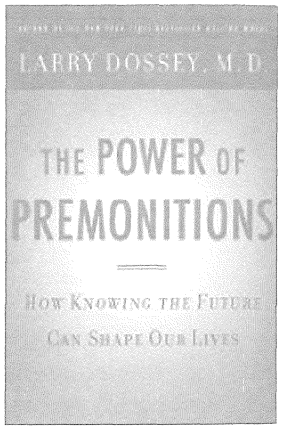


documentary *Something Unknown is Doing We Don't Know What*. Filmmaker Renée Scheltema was inspired to explore the realms of psychic phenomena after a series of curious and unexplainable events happened around her, all in a short period of time. She traveled to the US to meet with the top scientists, parapsychologists, psychologists, physicians and doctors within the field of research. These include Prof. Charles Tart, Dr, Gary Schwartz and Dr. Dean Radin. Along the way, she collects anecdotal stories from celebrities within the field, such as psychic detective Nancy Myer, author Arielle Ford and astronaut Dr. Edgar Mitchell. Renée found that experiments of today reveal how science is verifying numerous kinds of connections: mind to mind, mind to body, and mind to world—demonstrating that psychic abilities are part of our inherent nature. To order and for more information see: www.somethingunknown.com/index.html

After Death Contact with a Surgeon • The April edition of *Readers Digest Australia* included a story of an after death contact which is fairly unusual for such a conservative magazine. The writer, Stephen Wood, said that in October 1991, he was in the hospital with a fractured vertebrae awaiting an operation. The morning before the operation, he woke to see a doctor in a white coat who told him not to have the operation but to lay still and let his spine heal naturally. The doctor, who had been perfectly solid, then literally evaporated. When Mr. Wood told the nurse about what he had seen, she told him to tell no one but to follow the advice. Later that day Stephen saw a portrait of the doctor on the wall. The apparition was Sir George Bedbrook, a greatly admired and respected surgeon whose specialty was spinal healing using non surgical methods. Sir George had died earlier that year. Mr. Wood followed his advice and fifteen years later he is still in perfect health.

From: the *Friday Afterlife Report* by Victor Zammit, www.victorzammit.com

The Power of Premonitions • When Larry Dossey was in his first year of medical practice, he experienced a week of premonitions about patients, all of which came true. He had never had them before; they seemed to have come out of "left field." After the sensations stopped, writes Dossey in *The Power of Premonitions*, "It was as if the universe, having delivered a message, hung up the phone. It was now my job to make sense of it—which I try to do in this book."



The four parts of *The Power of Premonitions* take readers through documented cases of premonitions, including a remarkable instance when an entire Nebraska community skipped church the very day it exploded. An examination of recent science studying what is known as "presentiment", a discussion of what it all means to daily life, and practical, field-tested techniques for inviting premonitions.

Just as he did in *Healing Words*, the groundbreaking book that propelled Dossey into the public consciousness, in this compelling new book Dossey uses cutting-edge science to prove the value of what had long been considered spiritual mumbo-jumbo. This is a book for the skeptical mind, but it's also for the believer's heart—because its author possesses the rare gift of having both.

Continued...

Larry Dossey, M.D. is the award-winning author of several books. He has lectured at such major medical schools as Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Cornell and the Mayo Clinic. Dossey is an international advocate for the role of the mind in health and the role of spirituality in healthcare.

From: Barns and Noble, www.barnesandnoble.com

Scientists Say Colleagues Fake Data • A new study done by Daniele Fanelli of the University of Edinburgh suggest that faking scientific data and failing to report commercial conflicts of interest are far more prevalent than previously thought. One in seven scientists surveyed said that they were aware of colleagues having seriously breached acceptable conduct by inventing results; around forty-six per cent said that they had observed fellow scientists engage in "questionable practices," such as presenting data selectively or changing the conclusions of a study in response to pressure from a funding source.

Fanelli believes that high-profile cases, such as that of Hwang Woo-Suk, the South Korean scientist disgraced for fabricating human stem cell data, are less unusual than is generally assumed. "Increasing evidence suggests that known frauds are just the tip of the iceberg and that many cases are never discovered," he said.

The findings, published in the peer-reviewed journal *PLoS One*, are based on a review of twenty-one scientific misconduct surveys carried out between 1986 and 2005. The results paint a picture of a profession in which dishonesty and misrepresentation are widespread.

The study included scientists from a range of disciplines. Misconduct was far more frequently admitted by medical or pharmacological researchers than others, supporting fears that the field of medical research is being biased by commercial interests.

From: *Times Online,* "One in seven scientists say colleagues fake data." by Hannah Devilin
www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/science/article6425036.ece

Russia Put on Religion Watch List • A U.S. Congress-backed panel has included Russia on its watch list of countries where people's religious freedoms are at risk. The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom said the main reason it had put Russia on the watch list of eleven countries was the creation in February of the Justice Ministry's Expert Religious Studies Council, "which was given extremely wide powers to investigate religious organizations, including their activities and literature, for a broad array of reasons, including extremism."

Groups within Russia have expressed grave concern about Alexander Dvorkin, who was elected to head the council. Dvorkin has campaigned against various nontraditional religious and nonprofit organizations including Scientology, Mormons, Theosophy, Yoga and New Age movements. According to Dvorkin, there are over eighty large sects in the country and thousands of minor ones.

Russian academics are outraged at this shift toward intolerance.

From: *The Moscow Times,* May 4, 2009,
www.wwrn.org/article.php?idd=30846&sec=58&con=42

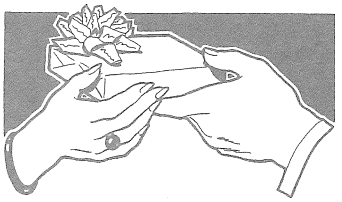
Giving • It turns out that money can buy happiness as long as you spend it on others! According to new research, giving other people even as little as $5 can lead to increased well-being for the giver. A survey of 632 Americans done by University of British Columbia's Elizabeth Dunn, Ph.D. shows that we are significantly happier when spending on gifts or charity. The difference was seen at all income levels and Dunn says that the good feeling can last six to eight weeks!

From: AARP, November/December "Spend Yourself Happy," by Gina Roberts-Grey

Life is Part of a Larger Plan • Harold G Koenig, M.D. professor at Duke University Medical Center says "People who feel their life is part of a larger plan and are guided by their spiritual values have stronger immune systems, lower blood pressure, a lower risk of heart attack and cancer, heal faster and live longer." Research now suggests that older people who give back have better physical and mental health and a lower mortality risk. Robert N. Butler, M.D., founding director of the National Institute on Aging, says that the key is to volunteer in ways that seem meaningful to you.

From: AARP Magazine, "Find Purpose, Live Longer" by Dan Buettner, November/December,
www.aarpmagazine.org/health/find_purpose_live_longer.html

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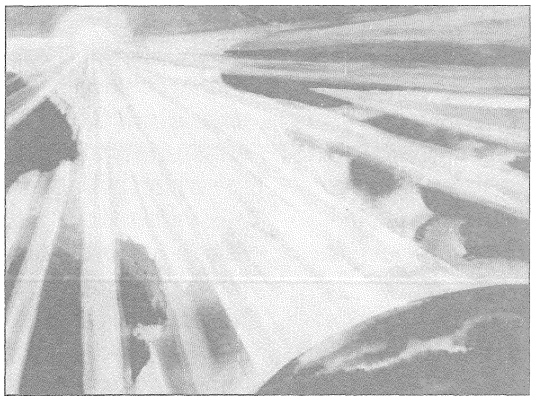
Evolution

THE REV. MELVINA HAFNER, Trans.
From *History Sparks, TNS,* November 1961.

"I and my Father are one."—John 10th chapter, 30th verse. As a drop of water is one with the ocean, a ray of light with the sun, even so God and man are one in being. "For in Him we live and move and have our being." Life and Spirit are endless, ETERNAL.

As a religion, Spiritualism begins with man's moral nature; the aspiring, inspiring, desiring part of him. It begins in his spirit and tells him he has always been and will always be; though change after change may come, as a part of spirit, he has always existed and will so remain. He is a spirit here and now, and when man leaves this physical body, he shall live on. Spiritualism teaches there is no death, only to the physical body which resolves itself again into its natural elements. The human body is only the abode. The natural LAW of LIFE provided this to be so, being essential that the ego, or personality of man must have a way or means of expressing soul development and progress.

God's Laws are not static. Eternity and space are the wonderful stage-setting of God's handiwork; forever and ever are we to see, or sense the workings of the ALMIGHTY CREATOR. This earth of limitations, with a hint of the masterful and wondrous planes yet to come. Man, who is the favored creation of Divine Intelligence to enter into the ETERNAL things of His handiwork. Jesus so plainly taught, "flesh and blood cannot enter the Kingdom of God". We know that the flesh-clad mind and spirit are two mighty forces, holding within their tender embrace the soul, and it is the soul upon which we are to work out our spiritual progression.



As we study the formation of this mundane plane on which we live, we know that it was ages in its formation and countless millions of years. We have seen great nations arise in their majesty. We have seen their material and spiritual growth attain great heights. And again they have gone into the peaceful repose of the past, and in their stead there are other kingdoms, other races of people.

We know that this great wheel of Evolution is moving itself as regularly as does the morning and even tide, which come and go. We know there is a great LAW of justice inherent in every atom of this Universe, and as it works this way or that, it is evolving into a higher expression of light. Out of the past, out of the crumbling creeds and dogmas that have existed from religious dispute, there still flows the blood of Spiritualism. As we read of those religious beliefs, we see that history has been written with human blood; we see that her mile-posts are piles of sticks where the martyr has burned. This is historical fact which cannot be denied. Yet out of it all, besmeared and discolored, there has come into the rosy tint of the daylight, Spiritualism. It means that in this daylight of Spiritualism, we are already beginning to prepare ourselves for a higher life. It means that we do not live with the hope of reward, or with the fear of punishment, but that we live because life is the gift of God and is DIVINE.

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By learning to contact, listen to and act on our intuition, we can directly connect to the higher power of the universe and allow it to become our guiding force.

– Shakti Gawain






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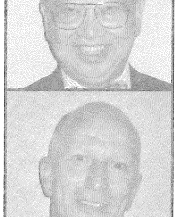
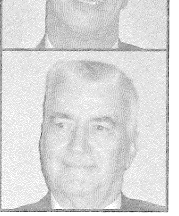
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CALIFORNIA STATE SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION • Pres., Janice Foote, mobile: (360) 261-0470; Secy., Carol Whyte; Mail to: 484 Lake Park Ave. #333, Oakland, 94610-2730, (510) 917-4801, Fax: (866) 615-6144, e-mail: cssasecretary@aol.com

AUBURN - Circle of Love Spiritualist Community • 884 Lincoln Way #30, 95603; Co-Pastors: Rev. Susan Petersen & Rev. June Killmer; Pres., Ed Killmer; Secy., Barbara Lewis (530) 305-0276; e-mail: www.circleoflove community.org

AUBURN - The 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, Vickie Gay; Pres., Rick Seybold; Secy., Linda Avery (916) 663-3848; Tel. (530) 823-1816, Fax (916) 663-4691; website: spiritualistchapelofthepines.com

MANTECA - First Temple of Spiritualism, NSAC • 874 Woodward Rd. #33, 95337; (209) 825-3940.

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 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." Pastor, Rev. Donald McFarland, NST; Pastor Emeritus, Rev. Alfred A. Conner, NST; Secy., Elsie Ann Soria, NST; Hillel House, 2nd & 4th Sundays of month, 33 Banbury Dr. (near SF State Univ.), 94132; Mail to: 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. Dr. Sandra Cook, e-mail: revsandic@msn.com; Sun. Healing Serv. 10:30 a.m., Devotional Serv. 11:00 a.m., Wed. Message Serv. 6:30 p.m., Thurs. Unfoldment Class 7:00 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; Pastor, Allen Noddin; 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; website: www.pinegrovespiritualistcamp.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@aol.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; mailing address - P.O. Box 143, 06870; Sun. Serv. 11:00 a.m., all welcome; Pastor, Rev. Simeon Stefanidakis; email: Revsimeon@albertsonchurch.org; (203) 276-1759.

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 - New Vision Spiritualist Center, NSAC, Inc. • www.spiritualistchurchorlando.com, meets at 709 Edgewater Dr.; Sun. 1:30; Mailing address: 10509 Jepson St., 32825; Pastor, Rev. E. Ann Otzelberger (407) 826-0807; e-mail: reveao@yahoo.com; Pres., William Partridge; Secy., Stacy K. Davis.

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; Pastor, Rev. Jean Kerr Lerch, NST, (407) 834-5378; Pres., Ronald J. Lerch, (407) 834-5378; Secy., Rev. Leslie Chaillou, NST, (407) 756-7331; Spiritualistchurchofawareness.org

• ILLINOIS •

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

CHERRY VALLEY - Cherry Valley Spiritualist Camp, Inc. • 8002 Service Rd., 61016, (815) 332-5359; Camp Season: June 1 thru Sept. 30; Lyceum 9:00-10:45 a.m.; 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. Lyceum 9:00-10:45 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., Pat Peck (815) 332-5359; Website: www.christabellesc.org

CHICAGO - 1st Spiritualist Church of Harmony, Unity & Truth • 6146 S. Ashland Ave., 60636.

CHICAGO - Illinois State Spiritualist Association of Churches • Pres., Marian Boesen, NST (815) 332-5359; Treas., Pat Peck (309) 787-3386; Secy., Peggy Bunch Cowley (708) 633-0196; e-mail: peggybunch@comcast.net

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

Continued...

every Sun.; Pastor & Pres., Rev. Florence Heyward; Sec., Judith Galar, 4050 N. Oriole Ave., Norridge, 60706-1117, (708) 452-8754.

CHICAGO - Tucker Smith Washington Spiritualist Temple • 6146 S. Ashland Ave., 60636, (773) 436-5076; Sun. Healing 11:00-11:20 a.m., Worship 11:30-1:00; Pastor, Joseph Guice, LM; Asst. Pastor, Rev. Arsenia Williams, NST; Messages @ all services; Private messages rev.arsenia@yahoo.com, (773) 436-5076.

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 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 •

GARY - First Spiritualist Church of Gary • 2430 W. 11th Ave., 46404; (219) 885-0091.

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 317-329-1217, 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.; Pastor and Pres., Rev. Mildred Schlagel, (317) 291-0799; Secy./Treas., Marilyn Smith; Church (317) 937-6292; website: www.newdawnchurch.org

MICHIGAN CITY - Spiritual Science of Life Church, NSAC • 314 W. Cool Spring Ave., 46360.

• IOWA •

CLINTON - First Spiritualist Curch • 5416 6th Avenue South, 52732.

CLINTON - Sunflower Spiritualist Church • 10 Mount Pleasant Park, P.O. Box 6, Clinton, Iowa 52732.

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; Pastor, Rev. Earl L. Wallace; Secy., Rev. Pat Wallace.

BANGOR - The Harrison D. Barrett Spiritualist Church • 15 State St., Sun. Serv. 10:30 a.m.; Secy., Rev. 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.

HARTFORD - Pinpoint of Light Spiritualist Center • #25 Camp Rd., 04220-5207; (207) 597-2600.

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. Rev. Pat Wallace (207) 282-6745 or Secy. Mike Carter (207) 797-2039; For program information and events, visit our website at www.madisoncamp.org or email us at madison@mainespiritualism.org

MEXICO - Pinpoint of Light Center & Camp – 767 River Rd., 04257 (Mail: P.O. Box 115, 04257); Kathy Touchette (207) 357-8400.

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; Secy., Marguerite Walker, 21 Old Windsor Rd., S. China 04358.

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: www.springfield.spiritualistchurch.com; Pastor, Rev. John Sullivan, Box 392, Worthington, 01098 - (413) 238-5344, e-mail: sully1942@verizon.net; Sec. Denise St Pierre, e-mail: denise1957@hughes.net

• MICHIGAN •

CHARLEVOIX - The Golden Rule Spiritualist Church • 07444 Old US 31N, 49720-9422 (Bayshore); (231) 347-9417.

FERNDALE - First Spiritualist Temple of Detroit • 2724 Goodrich, 48220; Auxiliaries Mailing Address: 631 Spencer, Ferndale, 48220-3544; Sat. Serv. 6:30 p.m.; Secy., Dianne L. Smith, (248) 545-5680.

JACKSON - Michigan State Spiritualist Association of Churches • 2540 Norwood Rd, 49203; Secy., Rebecca Strauss.

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 •

DULUTH - First Spiritualist Church • 1414 E. Ninth St., 55805-1611; (218) 724-6554.

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, NSAC • 3305 Spring Mountain Rd., Suite 51, 89102, (702) 876-8783 (message line only), website: www.spiritualistdesertchurch.com; e-mail: spiritualistdesertchurch@yahoo.com; Service times: Sun. 11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m., Thurs. 6:30 p.m. for

Continued...

DIRECTORY OF CHURCHES *Continued from page 18*

Healing and Meditation Service with a Development Circle following the service. Vicky Homann, Pastor (702) 234-1147.

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., Mary Beth LoVecchio, website: _http://renospiritualistchurch.org; Mailing address: Secy. Rev. Lisa Butler, 3415 Socrates Dr., Reno, NV 89512, e-mail: tomalisa2@aol.com

• NEW JERSEY •

WESTVILLE - Church of Eternal Life • 243 W. Olive & Folsom Sts., 08093; Sun Healing, Worship & Message Service 11:00 a.m. Call (856) 456-2196 for cancellations. Pres Rev Dr John Bassett Jr., PhD, 320 Savannah Rd, Essex, MD 21221 (410) 391-3656. Sec Kathleen M. Pollack 430 S. Broadway, Gloucester, MD 08030 (856) 456-3401. Website: NJCOEL.org

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

• NEW YORK •

EAST AURORA - First Spiritualist Temple • 29 Temple Pl., P.O. Box 465, 14052, (716) 652-5018, www.firstspiritualisttemple.com; 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.

FARMINGDALE - New Horizons Spiritualist Church, NSAC • 280 Route 109, 11735; (631) 669-3226; Pastor, Rev. N. A. Lloyd, NST.

LILY DALE - Lily Dale Assembly • 5 Melrose Park, 14752, (716) 595-8721, Fax (716) 595-2442; Office Hours, Sept.-June, M-F, 10 a.m.-2 p.m; June-Aug, M-F, 9 a.m.-4p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-12 Noon, closed Sunday; Camp Season: Last Friday in June to day before Labor Day; contact James Barnum, Secretary; website: www.lilydaleassembly.com; e-mail: lilydaleassembly@netsync.net

LILY DALE - Lily Dale Spiritualist Church • East St. Healing Temple, P.O. Box 1128, 14752-1128, (716) 595-3971; Sun. Serv. 10:30 a.m.; Healing 11:00 a.m. Worship Healing & Message Serv. each Wed. 7:30 p.m. Sept. – June; website: www.lilydalespiritualistchurch.com

LONG ISLAND - A Sanctuary of Infinite Spirit, Inc., NSAC • Healing & Worship Service, Sun. 11:00 a.m. at the Smithtown Masonic Lodge, 34 River Rd. (Nisequogue River Rd.), Smithtown; Pastor, Rev. Patricia Anne Duffield, NST, (631) 588-5869; Mailing address: 10 Ackerly Lane, Lake Ronkonkoma, 11779; Church phone: (631) 648-0403; e-mail: kenpatduff@hotmail.com; website: www.asanctuaryofinfinitespirit-NSAC.com

LONG ISLAND - New Horizon Spiritualist Church, NSAC • Sun. Healing & Worship Serv. 10:00 a.m.; 1580 Round Swamp Rd., Plainview, (Homewood Suites Hotel); Contact: Frances Warbeck, (516) 593-7213.

LONG ISLAND - Summerland Church of Light, NSAC • Healing and Worship Service: Sunday 10:00 a.m. Service held at 120 Plant Ave., Hauppauge; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5209, Hauppauge, 11788-5209, (631) 467-2076; Pastor, Rev. Richard P. Schoeller, NST, (631) 470-0221; website: www.SummerlandChurchofLight.com

LONG ISLAND - Temple of Metaphysical Science, NSAC • So. Ocean Ave. & Baker St., Patchogue, 11772; Sun. Serv.: Healing and Worship 11:00 a.m.; Pastor, Rev. Hugo Ruiz, NST; Mailing address: P.O. Box 3400, Patchogue, 11772, 800-316-1231; website: http://www.TMS-Li.org

ROCHESTER - Plymouth Spiritualist Church • 29 Vick Park A, 14607; (585) 271-1470; Voicemail (585) 234-2362; Sunday Devotional Services: 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon; Third Wednesdays All Message Service with Spiritual Healing 7-9 p.m.; e-mail & website: Plymouthspiritualistchurch.org (check our website for up-to-date circle and development class information; Pastor, Robin Higgins; President, Joanne Antinore; Secretary, Valerie Grosche, Valerie.Grosche@xerox.com

• NEW HAMPSHIRE •

SALEM - The Church of Spiritual Life, Inc. • 109 Main St. (Masonic Hall), 03079; Sun. Serv. 10:30 a.m.; Mail to: P.O. Box 144, 03079; Contact Pres. Dwight Broadstone (603) 783-4456 / www.nhspiritualist.com

• 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.

ASHLEY - First Spiritualist Church of Linden • 6 Wooley Park Drive, 43003; Mail to: Chrys Rice, Secy., P.O. Box 648, 43003-0648; Sun. Serv. 7:00 p.m.; For additional information, please contact: Treas., Steven Duffey, (740) 747-2212.

ASHLEY - Spiritualist Church of Spirit Revelation • Mailing address: P.O. Box 253, 43003-0253; (740) 747-2688.

ASHTABULA - First Spiritualist Church • 4230 Main Ave., 44004-6851; (440) 293-7056.

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.

• PENNSYLVANIA •

ALLENTOWN - Getter Memorial Church, NSAC • 1123 Oak St., 18102; (610) 770-7560.

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

REV. KATHLEEN L. ROTTINO, NST

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Space Travel and Other Worlds

YVONNE LIMOGES – Florida

The United Nations proclaimed 2009 the International Year of Astronomy. This month is the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission and the landing on the moon, *when humans walked on celestial body other than earth*; a momentous milestone in the history of humanity.

We have continued advancing our knowledge of the universe with the construction of the space station and the Hubble Space Telescope. This amazing instrument has provided spectacular photos of the far reaches of the Cosmos, depicting such order and grandeur that I don't know how anyone could deny the existence of a Supreme Creator.

In the second edition of *The Spirits' Book,* published by Allan Kardec in 1860, the spirit world stated that there were other planets and intelligent life on other worlds in space. This was before our current technology, which so far has confirmed the existence of over 200 planetary systems. Recently, a few of these were studied and appear similar to earth's solar system; they might provide the necessary requirements for life.



From May 11-28, 2008, Ohio University's Scripps Survey Research Center found in their poll of 1,003 people, 56 percent of adults believe it is *very likely or somewhat likely* that intelligent life exists on other worlds. Ages ago, people were considered heretics and many were burned at the stake for having such ideas.

Yet, many notable people have expressed this belief. One was Thomas Paine (an American revolutionary and pamphleteer who inspired the American colonists to revolt against the British), who wrote about it in his essay *Age of Reason*. The esteemed French astronomer Camille Flammarion (1842-1925) wrote a book *Plurality of Inhabited Worlds* (he also gave the eulogy at Allan Kardec's funeral). In addition, renowned astrophysicist Carl Sagan (1934-1996), generally known for his TV program *NOVA*, about space promoted the program *The Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence (SETI)*.

Spirits have stated that there were five general categories of inhabited planets: the *primitive worlds* (similar to when our cavemen lived); *worlds of tests and atonements* (we can tell our earth is in this category); *regenerating worlds* (next in earth's evolution); *blessed worlds* (there is more good than evil); and, the *celestial worlds* (where there is only goodness). To be able to incarnate on those better worlds, we must earn it through our own moral and spiritual actions and thoughts.

Remember, we could not see the life that existed at cellular levels until the invention of the microscope. Therefore, just because we as of yet have no proof of *intelligent life* on other worlds, does not mean it does not exist.

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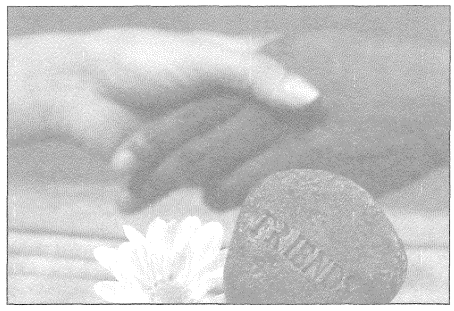
The essence of philosophy is that a man should so live that his happiness shall depend as little as possible on external things.

– Epictetus

Acceptance of Differences

Or to put it another way:

Who Do We Think We Are?



DR. NORMA J. TURNER – Church of The Living Spirit – Glendale, Arizona

When the subject of acceptance of differences among people came to me, many topics naturally arose. We all know that being different in any way can be difficult if you are nine years old and new to a school. You will be the subject of teasing and perhaps bullying. Being different can be difficult at any age, however, because that difference will set you apart from the norm, few of us want to be different from the norm. But just what is the norm today? Are there standards which serve as guidelines for us, as human beings, today? Are there ways we are supposed to be? To live? To dress? To behave? To believe?

I did a brief search in the library to see what acceptance of differences would bring up in terms of journal articles. The first was a review of the "SpongeBob SquarePants" movie in the *National Catholic Reporter.* This article focused on a scene from "The SpongeBob SquarePants" movie, which came under fire in 2005 for appearing in the video "We Are Family." Author James Dobson said the cartoon sponge was being used to promote homosexuality because the video's web site urged children to sign a tolerance pledge that advocated acceptance of differences of culture, belief, and sexual identity.

Would you believe SpongeBob receive an official invitation to join the United Church of Christ?

The next article was titled "Racial/Ethnic Identities and Related Attributed Experiences of Multiracial Japanese European Americans" by Karen Suyemoto. Ms. Suyemoto surveyed 50 multiracial Japanese-European-Americans who supported the idea of multiple simultaneous racial/ethnic identities and a differentiated multi-racial identity. These people said that being multi-racial made them feel different, and made them more sensitive to cultural cues, and more appreciative of different viewpoints. They were more accepting of differences and disliked exclusion because of their experiences.

The final article was titled "Living with Vitiligo: Dealing with Difference." Individuals with a disfigurement are at risk of experiencing psychological distress, but the level of distress is due only slightly to the seriousness of the condition. The study examined the experience of living with the skin condition vitiligo and understanding how participants have dealt with this chronic and disfiguring disease. Seven white female vitiligo sufferers were interviewed regarding their experiences with the disease. Probing questions encouraged the participants to share their thoughts and feelings as well as the reactions of others toward them. Initially, participants said they felt overwhelmed by their illness, but over time they "developed several strategies in order to 'contain' their difference in appearance within manageable limits." The authors talked about the participants' behavioral and cognitive strategies, but emphasized the importance of social support to help the participants cope with accepting their difference. However, "maintaining this acceptance was a struggle and the process (was) fragile." The authors' conclusion was that living with vitiligo was a continuous struggle. Other researchers have reached this same conclusion. Social support becomes an important element in the lives of anyone who lives a life that involves difference.

Here are three kinds of differences: SpongeBob and a lifestyle, the Japanese-European-Americans and an identity, and the sufferers of vitiligo with a disfigurement. What do they all have in common? The fact that they are different from the norm—whatever that is. The reality is that we are all different—each one of us. As we look around this room, we are all aware of ourselves, and how we see ourselves in comparison to others. We tend to weigh our self-perceptions and make social comparisons in areas of intelligence, academic skills, behavior, and social acceptance. We all have certain attitudes, prejudices, and preconceptions that we need to be aware of. Why? Because aside from all these differences there is one thing we share—a belief in Spiritualism.

We are different—and nowhere is this clearer than in our beliefs. As non-Christians, we are clearly NOT the norm. Yet, as followers of natural law and the teachings of the most honored teachers who have visited earth, we certainly can say that we have a great deal of guidance. Our belief system, although different from the norm, lies within a long and sacred tradition.

I have just finished the first volume of *The History of Spiritualism* by Arthur Conan Doyle. Did you know he was President of the London Spiritualist Alliance? Did

Continued...

you know he was President of the British College of Psychic Science? Did you know that in his own development, he was able to attain independent voice, if only for a while? Yes, this mystery writer has something in common with us—he is different.

And the people he wrote about were all different. That is what makes this history so interesting. Sometimes when I meet old friends and they inquire regarding my church-going or beliefs, I think, "Oh, boy, here we go." Because what I believe now is so different from what I believed 20 years ago. Yet, my experience is nothing compared to what these early Spiritualists experienced. You are all familiar with the names of the Fox sisters and the raps. You may even be familiar with Emanuel Swedenborg and Andrew Jackson Davis. Have you heard of Daniel Home, the Davenport brothers Ira Erastus and William Henry. Have you heard of Sir William Crookes or the Eddy brothers, Horatio and William, from Vermont? They were all famous mediums, some of whom travelled to England and around the United States. Doyle travelled to America to come visit some of them, as well as others, whom he talks about in his book. These people were different, and because of it, they paid a price. You see, in those days, there were people who would test these mediums, and they weren't always friendly. In fact, some were scientists, university professors or journalists who were quite unfriendly to the entire idea that spirits could possibly communicate from the dead. Imagine trying to conduct a séance surrounded by skeptics!

Yet these early pioneers held fast, holding séances, submitting to sometimes very humiliating tests, after tests, after tests, and sometimes going to jail on charges of fraud and deceit—despite the fact that witnesses attested to their truth. It is a small wonder to me that material phenomena began to fade out. It became quite dangerous, especially as this country entered into the war years and the population experienced general insecurity. This was no time to be different! I admire the Spiritualists who continued to teach and hold meetings and guide others in development.

Today, we remain different, and there are many people who are still ready to question and test us, creating a "hostile environment." From research and our own experience, we can conclude that we all need social support to accept and maintain this difference within a culture that is so characteristically Judaeo-Christian.

We may not be different in our lifestyle, our identity, or our physical features, but we are different in our religious philosophy. Are we able to talk about religion intelligently? Do we know what those differences are? Can we support one another as Spiritualists—even though we are different in every other way? Can we accept one another's differences, allowing each other to walk our paths as best we can, knowing that we don't need to compare ourselves with anyone? We are our own best selves—because we are different. Let us celebrate our differences—all of them.



To answer your questions:

Emanuel Swedenborg was a Swedish scientist, philosopher, and theologian who transitioned in 1772 in London but who greatly influenced Andrew Jackson Davis.

Andrew Jackson Davis was a major contributor to the Spiritualist movement. Andrew Jackson Davis wrote 30 books and transitioned in 1910.

Daniel Home was a famous Scottish medium who was known for his ability to levitate. Home's family moved to Connecticut, but he transitioned in Paris at the age of 53 in 1886.

Ira Erastus (d. 1911) and William Henry Davenport (d. 1877) travelled in a "magic" show, and failed to convince people, including Harry Houdini, that their "tricks" were acts of Spirit.

Sir William Crookes (d. 1919) was an English chemist and physicist who decided to investigate the claims of Spiritualism. He studied Kate Fox, Daniel Home, and Florence Cook. Crookes almost lost his Fellowship of the Royal Academy because of his support of Spiritualism. Apparently, other scientists thought Crookes had violated their notions of scientific truth.

Horatio and William Eddy suffered great physical abuse as children and later while performing an act in a sideshow, to which their father had sold them. The Eddys were capable of automatic writing, psychic healing, levitation, teleportation, and prophecy. They were quite popular in the 1870s, convincing many people of the presence of Spirit.

And now you know.

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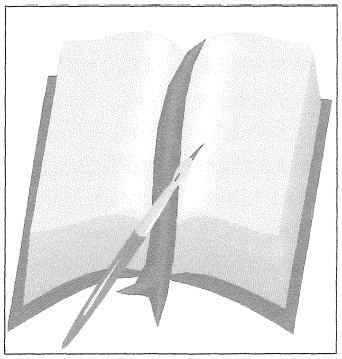
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The Subject of Death

Submitted by MPI Student Julie Fadale, Pennsylvania



The subject of death has been one of intrigue and mystery for all of mankind throughout the ages. While there are many death-affirming societies, I clearly understand that the United States is a death-denying society. Today's media want us to believe that as long as we can hold onto our youthful looks, we will have wonderful lives. We, as a society, are afraid to grow old. Many of us have been raised to fear death. Until a short time ago, this was my greatest fear.

I now better understand that death is a natural process. It is a time for growth. As Elisabeth Kubler-Ross informs us, once we learn to accept death and appreciate our own finiteness, our lives take on new meaning. Understanding this now will allow us to live more meaningful lives in this physical world. Hinduism and Buddhism stress this knowledge in their teachings; unless you can accept that you will eventually die, your life will not be full of meaning.

Learning about the details of near-death experiences, as accounted by Raymond Moody, was quite fascinating. I have always believed that near-death accounts and the experiences involved are a reality. If more people accepted this information as being valid, we may not be the death-denying society that we are to such a degree. Moody explains the incredible details of these experiences which include: traveling through a dark tunnel, feeling like you are outside of your body, meeting your deceased loved ones, and communicating with a being of light. I find it very interesting that those who have had near-death experiences find it difficult to express to others what has actually happened to them. Not only do the words in our language not adequately describe the experience, but it is almost as if the experience is too sacred to speak of, much like that of those who have experienced cosmic consciousness. I am not in the least surprised by the profound effects of the near-death experiences to those who have lived through them. The most enlightened are being more compassionate, and filled with love for all of humanity.

Learning about the stages which terminally ill people go through after having been advised of their diagnosis was a very personal experience for me. As I watched the physical death of my mother approaching, I realized that while she probably had experienced (or would experience) all of these stages, she never openly discussed them, at least not with me. Maybe she doubted my strength at that point in my life regarding her death. I now realize that I, myself, underwent these stages. I denied her upcoming death, I experienced great anger, and I tried bargaining with God to keep her here for "just a little longer." I remember experiencing great depression and the acceptance of her approaching death came long, long after her actual death.

Looking back, I hope she shared these very personal stages of her illness with someone she loved. With acceptance comes peace. I hope my mother experienced this; at this point, I had not. While the actual death had not yet occurred, the "sting of death" was very strong. The Spiritualist approach to death removed it. It has been a great relief to me. How remarkable to now finally have a concrete reason in my own mind for physical death to occur. How soothing to now understand that physical death is merely "a bend in the road." We go from that which was physical to that which is spiritual. As Kubler-Ross explains, death is not an end, but yet another beginning. There is no end. The soul survives. As A. J. Davis informs us, after actually witnessing what occurs at the time of physical death, death is nothing more than a birth of the spirit from a lower mode of existence into one which is elevated.

How interesting to realize that we do not change after our physical death. What we are (our nature/essence) here, we will be there. This knowledge assists me in trying to become a better person, right now, on this earth plane. Tomorrow may never come; improve yourself today. Be the best that you can be today, for yourself and for others. ◆

Know Thyself

THE REV. LELIA E. CUTLER, NST – Memorial Spiritualist Church – Norfolk, Virginia

"When one of his students asked Socrates, what he considered the most important thing in Life, Socrates said, to know thyself...we must know ourselves and our relationship to one another. And here we find once again, the great importance of Thought. A person may change, or repair his mental being, by simply his own thoughts. The process and making of his way of thinking, are largely dependent on his environment, his associations, and also that which is suggested to him."

– Frances Scher

One of the greatest things we can accomplish in life is to know ourselves, just as we have been told by Socrates. It is a gift—a spiritual gift—to know the true self. In order to determine who we are, we must look at our relationships with others. Are we "loners" or do we freely associate with other people? As Spiritualists, this empowerment of knowing who we are can help us with our responsibility of making our own happiness or unhappiness.



Often, we become so involved with our own thoughts and our own goals, we do not see our impact on the world around us. We do not see how we affect change in our relationships. For example, we get a "shiver up our spine" and discover that we have the gift of mediumship. At once, we must share that wonderful gift. The sense of service grows to the point that we do not see the effect on others. We are so caught up with our own growth. We forget that others have gone before us and they have also grown.

The same effect can be seen in the world of lectures and healing. Allow yourself to study, learn, and share with a group of like minded people—your gift will not disappear or lessen in nature. We have many gifts—mediumship, lecturing and healing are beautiful avenues for growth as a Spiritualist, but so are all our gifts. We might have the wonderful gift of leadership. Churches, camps, associations of all levels need individuals who have the gift of leadership and are willing to share that gift. Officers and boards of directors need to be filled with people who are aware of their gift of service to others. All must work together to create a harmonious church, camp, or association.

If you find yourself talking over another in a meeting, or trying to push your own ideas with fervor, look around. Are your colleagues and friends applauding, or are they stepping back to allow space. Individuals with strong personalities and charismatic natures do not always see the effect of their actions on others. The goal is to keep harmony in all our dealings in the churches. If people are resigning or backing away from positions, stop and ask why. One of the greatest challenges for any new worker in our religion is to keep the ego in check and eyes open to learn from our observations.

We are reminded by Socrates and The Rev. Frances Scher, NST that our thoughts are our source of change and our source of understanding. We need to remember that our thoughts are actually "things" and they can manifest easily. All we need to do is to focus on thought, and we manifest that which we are thinking and that which we desire.

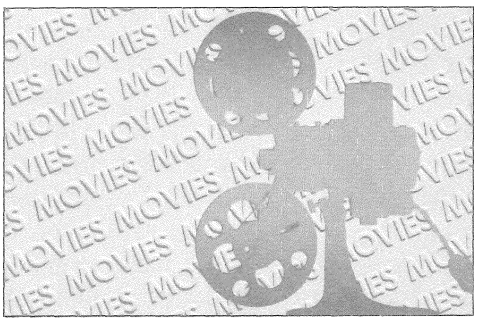
Our wonderful religion of Spiritualism certainly needs new workers and trained workers. We seek those who have the ability to "play well with others" while serving in ever growing capacities within the auxiliaries. When we cultivate the talents of others, it also helps us grow.

Abraham Lincoln said: "I want it said of me by those who knew me best that I always plucked a thistle and planted a flower where I thought best a flower would grow..." If we think of each other as flowers being planted in the garden of Spiritualism, we can see the growth and beauty of each stem. Be aware of the group around you, and then "know Thyself" as a part of that group, as well as knowing thyself as an individual spark of God. If we do not inflict our views on others, but listen to the views of the whole, we are truly working for the good of all. As Socrates told us, we must know our relationship with one another, and try to support and uplift each other on our path of life. ◆

Spiritual Influences Through The Media

YVONNE LIMOGES – Florida

Media influence has been subtle, and at times dramatic, creating great controversy, yet it has been continuous in divulging and promoting the ideas of mediumship, psychic experiences, the influences spirits have on those in the material world, the condition of spirits upon their return to the spirit world, and the subject of reincarnation and its moral implications, as well questioning of the basic tenets of Christianity. This has been accomplished especially through movies and books. Nevertheless, television programs and talk shows, cartoons, video games, as well as websites, have also had a tremendous impact.



Although many important movies of a similar nature were issued throughout the years prior to this, I consider the movie *Ghost* in 1990 a turning point in creating more widespread public interest in the subjects just mentioned. This movie clearly showed a material world side-by-side with a spiritual world, and, there could be communication between the two through mediumship. The following movies further contributed: *What Dreams May Come* with Robin Williams in 1998 (with life after death and reincarnation), *The Sixth Sense* with Bruce Willis in 1999 (mediumship in a boy and a spirit who did not know he was "dead"; how being a medium can provide a service to those in both the spirit and material worlds), *The Mummy Returns* with Brendan Fraser (reincarnation), *The Others* in 2001 (spirits who did not know they were "dead") and *Birth* (reincarnation and a good reason why we should not remember our past lives) in 2004, starring Nicole Kidman. There were also the *Star Wars* movies that began in 1977 and ended with its last episode in 2005 (Jedi's could see spirits and communicate with them and "The Force"). Children's cartoon movies talk of "the circle of life," and have shown representations of spirit communications such as in *The Lion King* in 1994.

There have been many books that have illustrated many types of spirit and mediumship phenomena, as well as containing moral and spiritual lessons, that have been made into movies. All the very popular Harry Potter books (which increased the number of teenagers reading) and the ones already turned into movies have influenced the young and adults. Children at the Hogwarts School see and communicate with spirits in a natural way. The same has occurred with the three *Lord of the Rings* movies (containing characters that have the faculty of prophesy, see visions, communicate with spirits, there is a case of obsession, and much more) released in 2001, 2002, and 2003. These were based on a book written by Professor J.R.R. Tolkien of Oxford University, and were first published in England in 1954. One popular 2006 film, *The Da Vinci Code* starring Tom Hanks, was based on a book of fiction that was on best seller lists for years. It caused great controversy by questioning the divinity of Jesus, yet obviously resonated with many people.

Unquestionably, it is television that has been an invaluable contribution regarding exposure. *The Ghost Whisperer* and *Medium* are two very popular continuing weekly shows about medium and spirit interaction. There is also a comedy show called *My Name is Earl* about a man who believes in karma. He makes a list of all the people he has wronged so (in each episode) he can find them, ask their forgiveness, and make some kind of reparation. There are many, many ghost-hunter and paranormal investigator type shows as well. Even in television shows not specific to psychic phenomena, regular characters are now "seeing" spirits as a normal part of the plot. There have also been documentaries of children living in the United States who appear to have remembered their past lives. On television talk shows, popular mediums now speak more freely of reincarnation and its personal implications in people's lives, giving advice to individuals and groups in the audience.

There are a myriad of websites on religion, spirituality, and philosophy particularly related to the so-called paranormal. In addition, two very popular mainstream websites are www.beliefnet.com and www.altreligion.com that contain information on non-traditional belief systems. Finally, many popular video games have to do with spirits and a spirit world.

Let me say, Americans, in general, are very

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receptive to this information for various reasons, but a large, aging demographic called the Baby Boomers (approximately 78 million Americans) are in a desperate search for meaning in their lives, for an explanation of life's inequalities, and the reasons for the terrible events occurring around the world. They are also now dealing with the sickness and death of friends and relatives, especially their own parents. They also face their own aging and mortality. Traditional religious beliefs, as we know, do not provide satisfactory answers for many. Those who have sought happiness through material success now realize this has left them unfulfilled. The media presents spiritual related ideas in a manner that appears very logical, scientific, and spiritually satisfying to many in this group.



Due to its influx of immigrants over many years, America is one of the most religiously diverse modern countries in the world. Eastern spiritual ideas brought in, especially since the 1960s, have been beneficial in providing more receptivity to the idea of reincarnation. What is extremely interesting is when an American is asked what their religion is, many say they are Methodist, Catholic, Jewish, etc. But these very same people, when asked, often also say they believe in spirits, the spirit world, mediumship, spiritual healing, and reincarnation. It takes a great modification for many people to change their beliefs about death. **Yet the media in its various forms has been very, very persuasive for many.**

Also, Americans have become more intimately involved in pursuing the hands-on practice of their beliefs. Many have started small lay religious groups with no clergy and also spiritual groups of many types. There has been a proliferation of metaphysical churches, schools, and psychic development groups. Private colleges are teaching parapsychology or transpersonal psychology. People take classes in many of these places as well as move from one group to another in their constant search for meaningful answers as to the purpose of life and death.

In conclusion, I believe the American consciousness is slowly absorbing concepts—through various media forms aimed at all age levels—that are shaping their belief systems, preparing them to be more receptive to more profound moral principles. What is most important is that there is a trend towards **people in the United States beginning to move beyond *mere belief* in spirit phenomena into an earnest search for a reasonable, moral philosophy.**

Since English is currently the *lingua franca* of the world, spread mostly through its movies and books, this can have world-wide implications as well. I believe we have a moral responsibility to reach out, interact, and educate others, especially starting with our own children (who hold our future in their hands) and family, as well as close friends. Now is the time!

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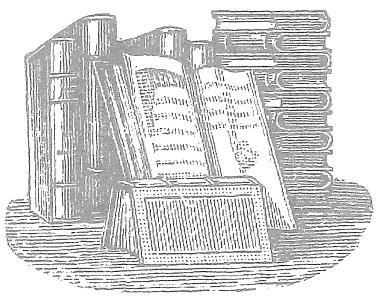
If there is light in the soul, there will be beauty in the person. If there is beauty in the person, there will be harmony in the house. If there is harmony in the house, there will be order in the nation. If there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world.

– Chinese Proverb

A Guide to the Future Growth of Spiritualism

THE REV. THOMAS F. KEARNS, BS, MA – New York

The Rochester rappings of 1848 hold an intrinsic importance to the development and growth of Modern Spiritualism. They ushered in a new age of communication that pierced the veil between the material and spiritual world and proved the continuity of life. Today we are witnessing another phenomena in the area of communications. It is the development and growth of the most incredible form of communication witnessed in many years. It is the Internet and the Web. It is a phenomena that is so important, it has added new words to our culture. What does www mean?, The World Wide Web! I used to think a link was part of a chain. URL means Universal Resource Locator (a web address). The internet has and will continue to change the way people do business, communicate with one another (email, blogs, weblogs, social networking, tweets, etc.) and most important to Spiritualism, how they find information.



Just as a message from spirit can help clarify an issue in your life, numbers will show how important the internet and the web can be to Spiritualism. The possibilities are amazing and the numbers are astonishing. The Beijing Olympics were seen by over 67 million people on TV. 70 million people clicked onto MSNBC to watch the opening ceremonies (streaming video) on their computers. There were 130 million unique visitors to the search engine Google in July 2008. What were they searching for? Information! What is most important is that they took action – a very important issue in conversion. I use the term conversion in a business sense. There are 1.2 billion people using the web. Millions and millions of videos have been posted on YouTube, which is owned by Google. People from around the world view them for free. In fact, 20% of all global internet users view videos on YouTube. The social networking site Facebook received 20% of all internet traffic and Myspace 7%. These sites cater to younger web surfers but their demographics are broadening. Now there is also Twitter and Linkedin.

Now, what about Spiritualism? The site www.NSAC.org received 1,200 unique visitors and lilydaleassembly.com received 16,000 unique visitors in August 2008. What does this mean for Spiritualism and Spiritualists? It means there are a lot of people who have not found us! The web offers an unprecedented opportunity for Spiritualism to grow. It is the primary "go to" place for people to get information. The web educates and reaches people who are seekers. As Spiritualists, we own a great deal of information about some very important topics, most notably, the continuity of life. We have the most experienced practitioners in the world when it comes to proving the continuity of life through spirit communication and some of the best teachers for spiritual and psychic development, spiritual healing and Natural Law. Do you think these are interesting topics? Here are some Google search results: 280,000 searches for continuity of life, 421,000 for spirit communication, 323,000 for spiritual healing and 48,000 for mediumship. These numbers prove there is a lot of interest in what we do better than anyone else!

Success on the web is based on a number of factors: content, popularity, links, networking and relevance are just some of them. You might say that the NSAC has a fine website. It has plenty of content concerning Spiritualism and the NSAC. It is not overly popular (1200 unique visitors in August 2008) but that is ok. A religious organization needs to be a bit conservative. But the web is information hungry, and the NSAC website is rich in information and relevance. If you do a Google search for Spiritualism the NSAC comes up in the number two spot in organic search. This position is subject to change! Organic search is free, paid search results are listed either at the top or on the right-hand side of Google. Even though the NSAC has a great position, it still has a potential to reach many more seekers. Spiritualism brought a new way of thinking to the world. Now we need to bring a new way of presenting our knowledge to the world. Think of the NSAC and Spiritualism as businesses. They are not for profit businesses but they are both brands, just like Catholic or Christian are brands. Do a search for the term Catholic and you will understand they know how to use the web.

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Enough about the past, that was all so web 1.0! The future of the web is developing now and is called web 2.0. It is really just beginning. It is a new phase of development that presents new opportunities for organizations and businesses that can react quickly to changing technology and the needs of the public. I've already mentioned some of the winners, like Google, YouTube, Facebook and MySpace, but you could also add Wikipedia. For those who do not know, Wikipedia is a free collaborative encyclopedia. It allows anyone the opportunity to write the next Britannica. By the way, a Google search shows that there are 283 million results under the term Wikipedia. If you do a search for Spiritualism in Wikipedia, you will find there are 26,734 results. There were 92,650 results for the term "continuity of life". This proves that there is a great interest in the information and experience that we own – this is the key to our future growth and success.

I've already mentioned that the NSAC website is okay for what it is today. But what about tomorrow. How can we take advantage of the great interest that people have for Spiritualism and related subjects. We must begin to think of ourselves as a small Google, eBay or Yahoo. How can that be? What do we have in common with huge web services? The answer is, we have more than they do. We have specialized history and we have content. Do a Google search, and Google sends you to a website. They do not own the website. But they have knowledge of what is on the website, what you are looking for and where you can find it. They get this through spiders or web-bots. Little programs that search and index where information is stored on the web. Google is like a traffic cop that you stop to ask directions. He points you in the right direction. So let us become the traffic cop for people who have interest in Spiritualism, mediumship, psychic and spiritual Development, spiritual healing and Natural Law. We must invite the web crawlers (bots) and users in with a more friendly, exciting and interactive website. We must also add new content on a monthly basis to bring the web-bots back.



Can we become the YouTube, Facebook, MySpace or Wikipedia of Spiritualism? Yes we can! Here's an example of how we can do it. Parallel to my interest in Spiritualism, I have been an astrologer for over 35 years. I also own an advertising and public relations firm. My website is ProfessorAstrology.com. How do I get people to find my website? I post videos on YouTube, have a Facebook presence, buy Google Adwords and write a monthly blog that is posted on the web. Go to YouTube, in the video search box – type the words, learn astrology. I have produced over 25 videos that give a little information and then send people to my website if they want more. I have also produced videos for Temple Heights Spiritualist Camp in Northport, Maine. I am currently producing a number of short videos which will teach people the proper way to hold a seance. They will be called "Seance at Temple Heights". I can also link each of these videos to my website where people can watch them. By the way, here is a number that will knock your socks off. In April of 2009, 6 billion videos were watched on YouTube! Yes, it is 6 billion!

This is the future of the web and the future of the growth of Spiritualism and the NSAC. Spiritualism has the information and people with expertise. The NSAC is a database that can be a primary source for people who are looking to grow spiritually. What will we offer them? Will we offer them web 1.0, or will we offer them the opportunity to learn in an easy and productive manner—video, blogs, tweets, etc. When they go to NSAC.org, will they find a clean white screen or will they be able to watch a video about the history of Spiritualism, healing and spirit communication? When I was serving Temple Heights this past August, I did a reading for a woman who is a producer on the *Today Show*. Since I worked at a TV station, I made the following comment to her, "If you own a website, you own a TV station." She looked back at me and with a serious tone replied, "It's scary, isn't it."

The NSAC and Lily Dale have long been the center of Spiritualism in this country, but a new and more dynamic approach is needed on the web. This is a new beginning. It must include video, blogs, social networking, adwords, tweets, wikipedia and other networking possibilities. If some simple steps are taken, the NSAC and Lily Dale will become the hub of Spiritualism for the 1.2 billion people who use the web around the world. The possibilities are indeed exciting!

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I can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses. It's all how you look at it.
– *J. Kenfield Morley*

What happened in NOVEMBER *throughout the years?*

NOVEMBER 11



Veterans' Day is a day for honoring all of those who mustered the courage and bravery to put their own lives on the line for peace. "If man does find the solution for world peace it will be the most revolutionary reversal of his record we have ever known." *George C. Marshall* (1880 - 1959)

NOVEMBER 14

E. W. Capron was a speaker at the first public meeting for Modern Spiritualism at Corinthian Hall, Rochester, New York in 1849.

NOVEMBER 14

Margaretta and Leah, the Fox sisters, presented their first public demonstration of mediumship and spirit communication, which led to the birth of Modern Spiritualism at Corinthian Hall in Rochester, New York in 1849.

NOVEMBER 16

Sidney Dean was born in 1818. In the "History of the New England Spiritualist Campmeeting Association" in 1907, a partial list of speakers and mediums appearing in the last quarter of the 1800s at Lake Pleasant Camp in Massachusetts (which drew 5,000-8,000 people each Sunday!) included luminaries of that era such as: Sarah Byrnes, J.M. Peebles, Nellie Brigham, J. Rhodes Buchanan, Juliette Severence, Moses Hull, William Denton, H.B. Storer, Ed S. Wheeler, Charles Dawbarn, J. Frank Baxter, Edgar Emerson, Tilley Reynolds, Lizzie Doten, Sidney Dean, Prof. Lockwood, Oscar Edgerly, Kate Stiles, Jennie Hagan, Cora Richmond, Maud Lord, George Fuller, J.J. Morse, Mattie Hull, Hudson Tuttle, J. Clegg Wright, N.J. Willis, Henry Kiddle, Fanny Allyn, Col. Robert Ingersoll, Juliette Yeaw, Ira Moore Courliss, W.F. Peck, Fanny Davis Smith, F.A. Wiggin, Dean Clark, A.E. Tisdale, Hortense Holcomb, and Andrew Jackson Davis.

NOVEMBER 26

Thanksgiving is an opportunity for Spiritualists to express gratitude. Our first Thanksgiving feast, shared by widely diverse cultures, centered on GRATITUDE back to God for those whose lives had been spared in The New World of America. Ann Rand (American scientist/writer, 1905-1982) said, "Thanksgiving is a typically American holiday. The lavish meal is a symbol of the fact that abundant consumption is the result and reward of production." Rand spent her life speaking about the importance of "greening" the world. ◆





What happened in DECEMBER *throughout the years?*

DECEMBER 11

Joseph Rhodes Buchanan was born in 1814 in Kentucky. As a medical doctor, he organized many experiments to test sensory and soul perceptions. He designed the term *Psychometry = measuring of the soul.* He became an excellent billet reader and could describe the spirit as it had appeared when on Earth. His writings were both prolific and thought provoking, and he was considered to be a man ahead of his time.

DECEMBER 12

William Lloyd Garrison was born in 1805 in Newburyport, Massachusetts. He became an ardent pioneer of Spiritualism and used his skills as an author (he was a newspaper editor at age 19!) and speaker (his lectures re: emancipation brought him a $30,000 reward after the Civil War) to promote our religion. Garrison made his transition on May 24, 1879.

DECEMBER 12

James Abbott was born in 1852. He went on to graduate from Yale University, and was exceptionally talented in both the written word and as an orator and debater. He was a contributing columnist and later became Editor of *The National Spiritualist* magazine.

DECEMBER 15

Charles H. Foster made his transition in 1885 at the age of 53. Many (during his lifetime) considered him to be the most remarkable medium since Swedenborg. He specialized in pellet readings and the production of stigmata, and was affectionately known as *The Salem Seer.* As a well-travelled individual, he was close to famous people, including Napoleon III, Tennyson, Thackeray and Dickinson. He was well-received and his demonstrations were always respectful, yet informal.

DECEMBER 24

Mercy E. Cadwaller transitioned in 1934. She was a writer, author and gifted speaker. Described as a tall, statuesque and strikingly attractive woman, Mercy carried herself with dignity on the platform. *The Andrew Jackson Davis Lyceum* in Lily Dale, New York was constructed thanks to her dedicated efforts. During WWI, she organized the movement for equipping and sending eight American Spiritualist ambulances to France. She was editor of *The Progressive Thinker* for 24 years, and was a member of the First Association of Spiritualists of Philadelphia for almost 40 years.

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2009 Quotes to Bless Each Day NOVEMBER 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together. *Desmond Tutu*	**2** If you don't try, you won't succeed. *Nancy Ashworth*	**3** Live a Soul-Filled Life!	**4** Every choice and decision you've made has brought you to this very point at this precise moment in time. *John Holland*	**5** History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again. *Maya Angelou*	**6** Faith heals the spirit and holds the heart steady. *Nancy Ashworth*	**7** Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal. *Martin Luther King Jr.*
8 Work on letting go of the past beliefs, fears, and hang-ups; start believing why you can, as opposed to why you can't.	**9** Social advance depends as much upon the process through which it is secured as upon the result itself. *Jane Addams, Nobel Peace Prize laureate*	**10** Thoughts and ideas are inspirations sent from God. *Nancy Ashworth*	**11** An act of love, a voluntary taking on oneself of some of the pain of the world, increases the courage and love and hope of all. *Dorothy Day*	**12** Visualize and feel yourself successful.	**13** The education/empowerment of all women will result in a more caring, tolerant, just, and peaceful life for all. *Aung San Suu Kyi*	**14** Planning your day defines your life. *Nancy Ashworth*
15 Choose from the heart – in every situation.	**16** All you can do really is give every opportunity your best shot!	**17** If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other. *Mother Teresa*	**18** Cement your unions with love, compassion and commitment. *Nancy Ashworth*	**19** That's all nonviolence is - organized love. *Joan Baez*	**20** There is no such thing as an acceptable level of unemployment …a ruined life is not acceptable. *Hubert Humphrey*	**21** Giving from the heart brings joy to the soul. *Nancy Ashworth*
22 The only thing that counts is faith working through love. *Galatians 5:6*	**23** Moment by moment we live by our decisions. *Nancy Ashworth*	**24** We train others how to treat us, by the way we treat ourselves.	**25** Gratitude is the magnet that attracts abundance.	**26** Be THANKFUL for every breath, for every freedom, for every bite of food, for each ray of sunshine – and for the gift of life itself. *HAPPY THANKSGIVING DAY!*	**27** The probability that we may fail in the struggle ought not deter us from the support of a cause we believe to be just. *Abraham Lincoln*	**28** It almost sounds too simple to feel important, but understanding the power of gratitude can change a life forever.
29 The gap between the rich and the poor is the most dangerous threat to world peace we have. *Hubert Humphrey*	**30** A friend makes a difficult day better. *Nancy Ashworth*	**NOV. 11** **HONOR OUR VETERANS**				

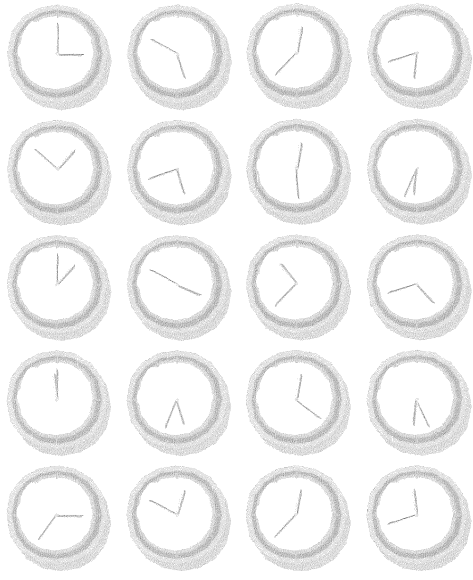
2009 Quotes to Bless Each Day DECEMBER 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
DECEMBER		**1** Remember that giving from the heart brings joy to the soul. *Nancy Ashworth*	**2** Always believe in success and your mind figures out solutions to lead you right to success.	**3** Never contemplate failure; don't even make it a possibility.	**4** When your soul is tired, give it a peaceful rest. *Nancy Ashworth*	**5** Every time we sit at a table ... remember that the food came from the work of men, women and children who have been exploited for generations. *Cesar Chavez*
6 Freedom is a state of mind. *Nancy Ashworth*	**7** Reverence declares: "All the things God established please me. I do not hurt any of them." *Hildegard of Bingen*	**8** Aerodynamically, the bumble bee shouldn't be able to fly, but the bumble bee doesn't know it so it goes on flying anyway. *Mary Kay Ash*	**9** As a soul, you're an accumulation of all your experiences that are happening now, as well as those that happened in the past. *John Holland*	**10** Kindness can never be understated. *Nancy Ashworth*	**11** I think that I have never lost the intuition that community life could be a sign that God is love, and love alone. *Brother Roger, Swiss Theologian*	**12** The God of life summons us to life; more, to be lifegivers, especially toward those who lie under the heel of the powers. *Daniel Berrigan*
13 Compose your life with glorious music. *Nancy Ashworth*	**14** Once you believe in yourself, you'll be surprised how others start believing in you more.	**15** The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. *Galatians 5:22-23*	**16** The unbelievable happens when you least expect it. *Nancy Ashworth*	**17** When I do good, I feel good; when I do bad, I feel bad, and that is my religion. *Abraham Lincoln*	**18** Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind. *Albert Einstein*	**19** The true meaning of religion is thus not simply morality, but morality touched by emotion. *Matthew Arnold*
20 Hold faithfulness and sincerity as first principles. *Confucius (551 BC - 479 BC)*	**21** Desire, ask, believe, receive. *Stella Terrill Mann*	**22** Do give books for Christmas; they're never fattening, seldom sinful, and permanently personal. *Lenore Hershey*	**23** A good conscience is a continual Christmas. *Benjamin Franklin*	**24** Christmas is a holiday that often persecutes the lonely, the frayed, and the rejected. How can you change that? *Jimmy Cannon*	**25** Whatever thy hand findest to do, do it with all thy heart. *Jesus Christ* MERRY CHRISTMAS!	**26** Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men. *Martin Luther King Jr.*
27 Our national flower is the concrete cloverleaf. *Lewis Mumford*	**28** In literature as in love, we are astonished at what is chosen by others. *Andre Maurois*	**29** There is always some madness in love. But there is also always some reason in madness. *Friedrich Nietzsche*	**30** Each new day is a blank page in the diary of your life. The secret of success is in turning that diary into the best story you possibly can. *Douglas Pagels*	**31** An optimist stays up to see the New Year in. A pessimist waits to make sure the old one leaves. *Bill Vaughan*		

The Great Now!

THE REV. RUPERT SIGURDSSON, NST – Maine

When is NOW? I am sure that it was Now when I got out of bed this morning, but it is now, NOW! How can that be? What is Now? Does Now have a length of time? Can it be measured? This moment that I am writing I feel is Now, but is it the same Now that it was when I started to write this word? Is Now something only within our own reality? Is all creation always in the same Now? Or, is there only Now, and the past Now and future Now do not really exist?



That is the question that was running through my mind when I woke up this morning. That was Now then – and I was sure it was – but I am also sure at this second that it is Now, NOW! How can that be?

I am always both curious and skeptical, and I have often asked the spirit side for their opinion. The answer has always been that they have no sense of time because it is not necessary for them. Only we have the need for a concept of time. We have day and night, we have to sleep and work; and time is a way to provide order for humans. But that answer has never satisfied me. How can you have a sequence of events if you do not have some form of time?

A few years ago I read a book which mentioned three different types of time:

I. When we are waiting for something to happen, time seems to be very slow and endless.

II. When we are having fun and really enjoying ourselves, time seems to move very fast.

III. When we are moving along through an average day, often time just seems to drift along.

It is the NOW that seems to move along, either fast or slow, but Now is always NOW. If Now *is always NOW*, then maybe there really is not time; but that doesn't seem logical. I am still writing, and it is still Now; it is the same Now that it was when I started—it is still Now to me.

There has to be an answer. I have always believed that the Natural Laws of the universe are perfect and that all operate as parts of a perfect system. So if everything is always in the NOW, then NOW seems like it must be the first universal law and everything else revolves around it. The Law of Now must be like an envelope with everything within it—all space, all time, all of creation and all forms of activity.

Many people have trouble living in the Now. They keep looking back over their shoulder, mulling about past events, or they worry constantly about the future. If you become more keenly aware of the often human desire to escape from Now, you will be able to bring your mind back into the present. The more we live in the Now by conscious choice, the more clearly we can think about our lives without being influenced by past shame and guilt or fear of the future. Living in the Now means moving closer into alignment with all of the opportunities that fill our lives on a daily basis.

The consciousness is always in the Now, although it can remember the past, dream of or plan for the future; but it is doing it in the NOW! Consciousness only exists in the Now. Can the NOW be the Creator of all-of God, Allah, The All, Infinite Intelligence or just maybe LOVE? I offer you this to think about, but for Now, it is time to quit writing and let you figure it out.

◆ ◆ ◆

We are complete in ourselves: and the reason why we fail to realize this is that we do not understand how far the 'self' of ourselves extends.
– Thomas Troward

Smile ☺

Old Farmers Advice

- Your fences need to be horse-high, pig-tight and bull-strong.
- Life ain't about how fast you run, or how high you climb, but how well you bounce.
- Words that soak into your ears are whispered…not yelled.
- Always drink upstream from the herd.
- Good judgment comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgment.
- You cannot unsay a cruel word.
- Every path has a few puddles.
- When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.
- Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back.
- Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen anyway.
- If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'.
- It don't take a genius to spot a goat in a flock of sheep.
- Sometimes you get, and sometimes you get got.
- The biggest trouble-maker you'll probably ever have to deal with watches you shave his face in the mirror every mornin'.



From the Mouths of Children

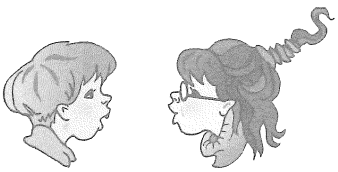
It was the end of the day when I parked my police van in front of the station. As I gathered my equipment, my K-9 partner, Jake, was barking, and I saw a little boy staring in at me. 'Is that a dog you got back there?' he asked. 'It sure is,' I replied. Puzzled, the boy looked at me and then towards the back of the van. Finally he said, 'What'd he do?'

☺ ☺ ☺

While working for an organization that delivers lunches to elderly shut-ins, I used to take my 4-year-old daughter on my afternoon rounds. She was unfailingly intrigued by the various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers and wheelchairs. One day I found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass. As I braced myself for the inevitable barrage of questions, she merely turned and whispered, 'The tooth fairy will never believe this!'

☺ ☺ ☺

While walking along the sidewalk in front of his church, our minister heard the intoning of a prayer that nearly made his collar wilt. Apparently, his 5-year-old son and his playmates had found a dead robin. Feeling that proper burial should be performed, they had secured a small box and cotton batting, then dug a hole and made ready for the disposal of the deceased. The minister's son was chosen to say the appropriate prayers, and with sonorous dignity, intoned his version of what he thought his father always said: 'Glory be unto the Faaather, and unto the Sonnn, and into the hole he goooes.'



The true measure of a man is how he treats someone who can do him absolutely no good.
– Ann Landers

NEW YORK

VICTORIAN WEEKEND – 2009
Lily Dale, NY



The Rev. Marilyn J. Awtry attended in full Victorian dress!

The weekend started off on Friday evening with entertainment and concluded with judges selecting the best outfits. All day Saturday, people wandered around the Dale in their Victorian garb—and that was under umbrellas as it was sprinkling rain most of the day. However, the cameras were busy all day. Out in the picnic area, vendors had tents with all kinds of items, i.e. food, jewelry, jellies, crafts, candles and more.

The most awaited and visited event was the Saturday night event. At 7:15 p.m. 19 medium's gathered in the Marion Skidmore Library for the group picture taking by photographer, Teresa Ford. From there, they went to the auditorium and were given a program and the number of their assigned table. Then, they sat in the bleachers until called upon. The guests were directed to tables of six or seven. After the opening remarks, the Hutchinson Family Revival entertained with songs of the days long gone by. At 8:45 a prayer was offered and the seance promptly began. At the close of the seance at 9:45 p.m., a wide assortment of delicious refreshments were served.

The event was "sold out." The mediums volunteered their services to assist in the raising of funds for the Marion Skidmore Library in Lily Dale, N.Y. If you missed it, look forward to the Victorian Seance 2010. ◆

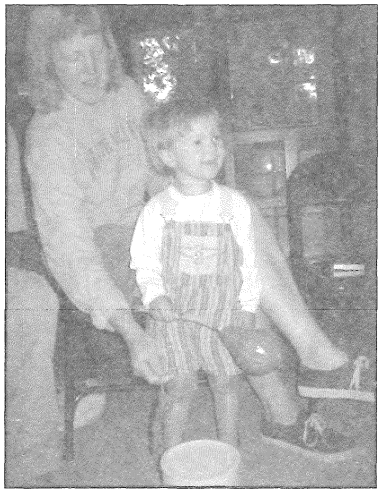
CONNECTICUT

KIDS DRUMMING
Niantic, CT

For the past several years, Joyce Orcutt has held several very popular drum circles at The Ladies Aid Society Camp in Niantic, CT. After last year's event there was talk of adding a drum circle for children old enough to hold a stick. Over the fall, winter and spring, Charlotte Mariani and The Rev. Kathy Rottino made rattles, drums and rain sticks. They also polished wampum and collected beach stones. All of these items were used in the give-away, which teaches both sharing what one can and giving-away something that can help someone else.



After the children arrived they were treated to pizza and a drink while they decorated their drums and rain sticks that they used during the drum circle.



Several of those attending were thrilled when they were asked to call in the spirits of the seven directions. Many of the children attending also learned how to use a scarf as wings and displayed the flight of birds around the circle during the drumming. A fun time was had by all and there is already talk about making this an annual event.



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NOTES Continued...

MAINE

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION!
Augusta, ME



The Augusta Maine Spiritualist Church, NSAC recently celebrated a 100th anniversary. Originally named The Progressive Spiritual Society, the church was chartered in 1909 through the Maine State Spiritualist Association of Churches. The physical building was a gift from Maine resident Georgie Staples Davis. Construction began in the fall of 1923, and the first service was held March 2, 1924. At this service an American flag was presented to the church; this was declared to be the first Spiritualist Church to display the American flag.



The Rev. Lelia Cutler, NSAC President, came for three days of festivities surrounding this anniversary. Her presentations included an Old Time Séance, a Pioneers of Spiritualism workshop, and two speaking engagements. In addition, John Alexander (from the UK) also presented a workshop to open the festivities. He was trained at the Spiritualist Association of Great Britain and at the College of Psychic Studies in London, England. There was an evening potluck meal and another evening of stories and musical sharing. More than 50 people attended the festivities!



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MASSACHUSETTS

HEALING PRAYERS
Salem, MA

Helen Riley's mother took seriously ill during this past winter. Helen, and her husband, Kevin, are regular attendees at Sunday services and sit in the Tuesday night non-members class of the Salem Spiritualist Church in Massachusetts. The power of prayer and healing prayer, in particular, is so very powerful. We appreciate Helen being willing to share this story, culled from an email she sent in to thank the church members.

I cannot thank you enough for your healing prayers. There are many details of my mother's condition that I won't go into; but I want to share with you our experience. The Sunday when my mom was in the ICU at Brigham and Women's Hospital, unconscious, intubated, her heart racing, and bleeding from the stomach as well as the brain (though they were getting that under control), we were told by the doctors that she was "extremely critical" and might not make it—and that they might have to do brain surgery.

That was in the afternoon. Around 6:00 pm, the doctors' objective was to get some kind of reaction from my mother, since she was in a coma and they simply did not know the extent of the brain injury. At precisely 6:40 pm, my mother's head jolted up and her arms moved! Kevin and I were standing on each side of her bed, holding her hands. When it happened, Kevin looked up at the clock and said, "Look at what time it is!" And we both knew...6:40 pm was approximately near the end of the healing service at church...no doubt my mother's response was because of all of you sending healing together with our Spirit Guides and God!

This is a story that should be shared with the church, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart! My mother finally woke up Monday, and they removed the breathing tube.

Editor's Note: Helen's mother is now back home. Prayer truly is a powerful medicine!

For those who believe, no words are necessary:

For those who do not believe, no words are possible.

Dom Inácio de Loyola

◆ ◆ ◆

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Class size is limited to 14. Early registration is necessary. A **deposit of $50** is required **sixty (60) days** in advance, with **full payment** required **thirty (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.

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2010 SITES AND DATES

- **PHOENIX, ARIZONA:**
  Church of the Living Spirit, NSAC – Two Week Session
  February 13 – 7:00 p.m., Orientation
  February 14-26, Classes
  Instructor: Rev. Sharon Snowman, NST

- **LILY DALE, NEW YORK:**
  Lily Dale Spiritualist Camp – Two Week Session
  June 12 – 7:00 p.m., Orientation
  June 13-25, Classes
  Instructor: Rev. Sharon Snowman, NST

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

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A Sanctuary!!!

DAVID McLELLAN



I never knew the immortals until I drove in that lane,
I now had reached a portal, never to be the same.
My eyes were so filled with moisture, they were closed so I could see,
My heart was with Stephen Foster, my soul in eternity.
Each brick in that great building was laid in the mortar of love,
Each stone in the tower of the belfry, was made by God above!
It seemed to be as an island, with the horizons stretched so far,
The sky enclosed something blessed, like the Heavens hold a star.
You could hear in the stillness of silence, a prayer from each loving heart,
A joining of Earth and Heaven, no one could be apart!

May man forever bless him, may Angels join in his songs,
While chimes ring to the Heavens, the echoes to earth belong.
This is more than a gladness, more than the mind can know.
A spark had touched a center, and made life aglow.
Here I stood in his shadow, only a little to see.
But all his goodness and beauty flowed right into me.

My feelings during my visit to the Stephen Foster Memorial at White Springs, Florida, written 1961.
– David McLellan

Forever Onward

HILDA SARRES, from *TNS*, 1963



Mortals on this mundane plane
Go forth with dauntless tread
Proclaim to all humanity
That all is life, there is no death.

Unfurl the banner of our cause
And let the golden hue
Of sunflowers symbolizing light
Bring courage, hope and strength anew.

Our ranks extend from sea to sea,
In town and hamlet small
And every race upon the earth
Responds to truths high call.

True pioneers have blazed the trail
And we their children ever,
Will carry on this glorious work
Which aught can never sever.

Our principles the corner stone,
Built on a firm foundation
Emancipated man shall be
Broadcast the proclamation.

All workers in the vineyard
Send forth the clarion call
That all is life, there is no death
God careth for us all.

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Declaration of Principles

National Spiritualist Association of Churches

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



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