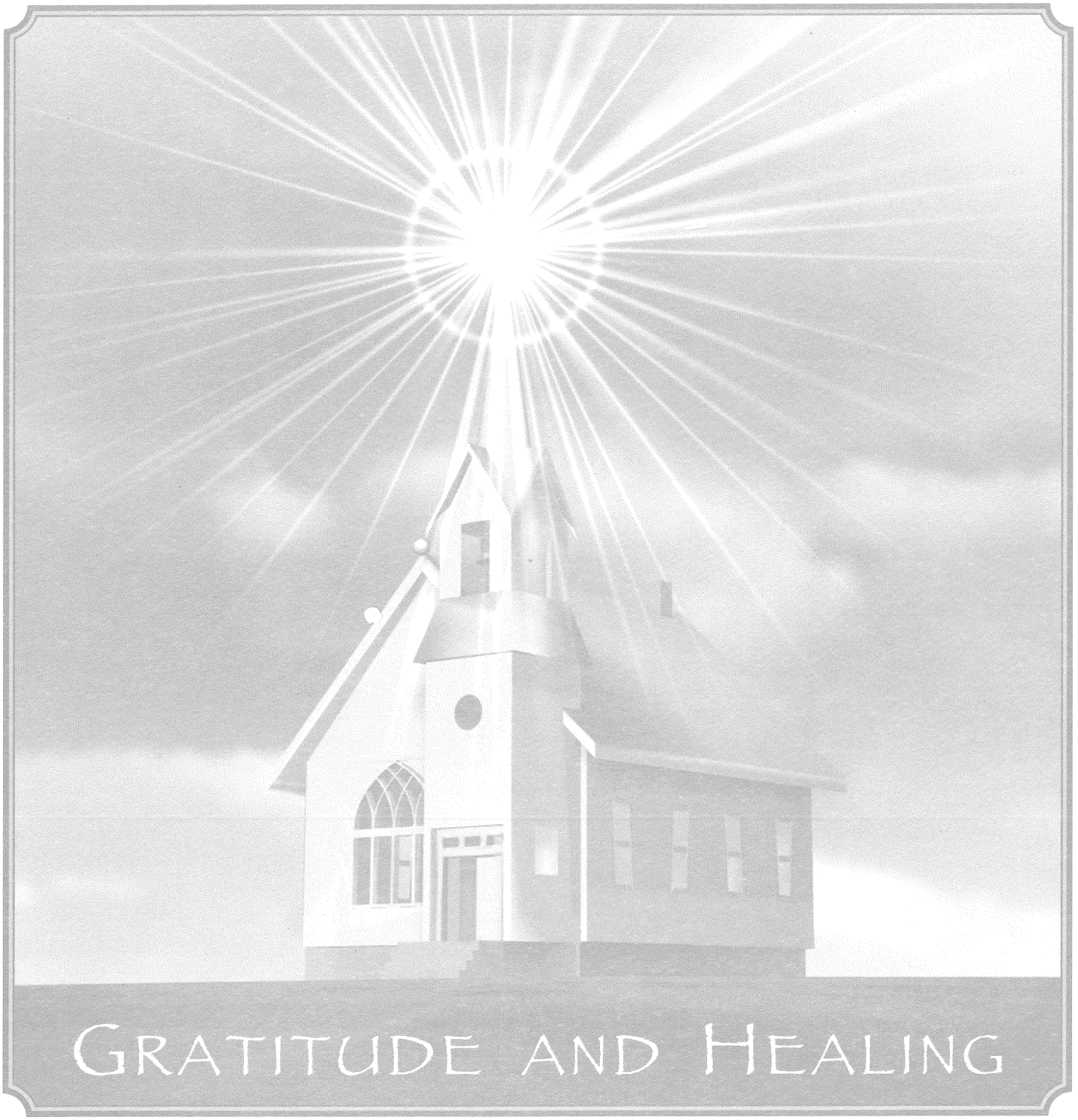
The National Spiritualist-Summit

MARCH/APRIL 2010

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Gratitude and Healing

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

TNS

The National Spiritualist-Summit

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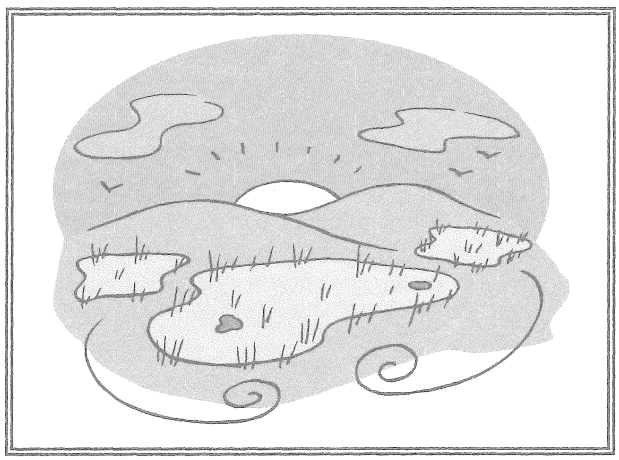
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Healing into Wholeness

LAURA LEE PERKINS, EDITOR

We are spiritual beings living in a physical world. Therefore, we age and that process involves changes that can bring either profound disappointment or extreme satisfaction. As humans who are surrounded by a myriad of choices in our lifestyles, we can make choices that will reinvigorate our lives.



As Spiritualists, we believe in the power of healing...and that we must *do our part* to aid healing. In the month of April, when spring is bringing forth new, visible signs of life, we celebrate the opportunity to heal and to be healed. Healing is about being infused with new growth, and there are many ways to encourage this process. Some of the ways that we can "walk our talk" will be explored in this month's editorial.

One particularly effective and mentally protective course of action is to expand our intellectual curiosity. Some years ago, David Snowdon, a scientist with the University of Kentucky's Sanders-Brown Center on Aging, and a team of neurologists and psychologists began studying a group of older nuns at the convent of the School, Sisters of Notre Dame. They were curious why some of the lifelong nuns had developed Alzheimer's Disease, while others seemed to have no trace of its presence, even though they were at very advanced ages. Since their environmental influences had been identical for many decades, they were a wonderful group of control subjects for this study.

The team of researchers was looking for the connection between Alzheimer's disease and aging, language usage, outlook on early attitudes and educational levels. Examining the "idea density" in their early autobiographies, penned when they were first accepted into the convent, actually revealed that researchers could predict (with 85-90% accuracy!) who would develop Alzheimer's. How clear their written thoughts were at those young ages actually predicted how well their brains would continue to work as they aged.* Keeping one's mind filled with thought-provoking ideas helps to keep the brain tissue healthy and functioning.

Current research has shown that enriching and thought-provoking environments generate new brain tissue and additional levels of a helpful brain chemical named glutamate. Glutamate is what causes those familiar "ah-ha!" feelings; this is a chemical that we need in order to remain mentally vibrant. If we simply need to surround ourselves with mentally enriching experiences that provoke deeper thought, then our churches can be a wonderful source of mental healing. Healthy discussions enrich our lives, and educational experiences encourage the brain to remain energetic. Our churches have the opportunity to offer both, plus we offer the opportunity to sit in a healer's chair for spiritual healing.

The second important component of remaining mentally viable is our emotions. Having a positive outlook, so that our emotions are joining with mentally-enriching and thought-provoking environments in an affirmative pattern, increases our mental acuity. Negativity destroys; optimism affirms. As we plan our lectures for our church services, we should always focus on the positive side of whatever topic we are presenting. It is through accentuating the positive that we widen our circle; affirming heals.

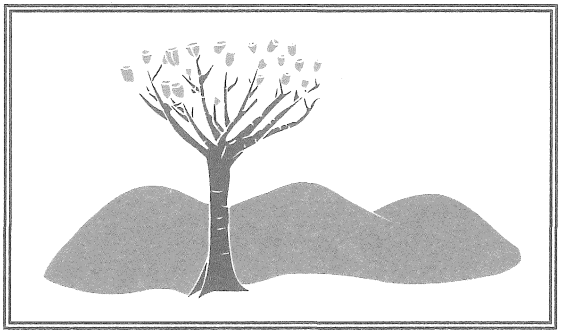
Our nutritional intake is also vital to our well-being. We *are* what we eat. Once again, by asking "Is this in my highest and best interest?" about what we choose to chew and swallow, we are opening ourselves to the intake of more and more positive guidance and healing. Good nutrition, combined with a few hours of exercise each week, will allow us to live longer and healthier lives. Poor nutrition, coupled with a sedentary lifestyle, can shorten our lives by a whopping 10-15 years.

Once again, we hear the echo of our *Spiritualist Healing Prayer*, "and I promise to do my part." Without fully engaging ourselves in our Spiritualist commitments, we are keeping ourselves separated from the level of health and healing that are accessible to us. Are we "walking our talk" to the very best of our abilities?

So many of us seem to be *so proud* of being *so*

Continued...

busy. Is that really not just because we think that if we are so busy we must truly be needed by others? But is that really true, or do we simply keep ourselves *too* busy in our contemporary, fast-paced world? Are many of us simply over-worked and sleep-deprived? Is that what Infinite Intelligence wants for us – to be so busy that we do not have time to enjoy the magnificent pleasures of nature? Are you so busy that you seldom set aside quality time when you can simply relax and *be immersed in Spirit*? Are we not, in fact, creating more distance between ourselves and our Source by living hectic and demanding schedules?



A fast-paced life is often interwoven with many worries, complications and frustrations that result in short tempers and explosive anger. When we have an episode which raises our anger levels to eruption, we double our chances of a heart attack within two hours following the flare-up. The next time you think about telling others about just *how busy you are*, stop and think about what you are really saying. You are making an outright statement that you feel overworked, that you feel pressured, and that you have chosen to take on so many tasks that separate you from the opportunity to *simply be with Spirit.* That is nothing to brag about.

What if, the next time someone asked you about your schedule, you were able to reply that you are actually taking time to enjoy this magnificent gift of life? Just think about how the ripples of that kind of response might echo throughout the world!

Do you know that people who meditate just 10 minutes per day have been found to be biologically 12 years younger than their chronological age? That is an astonishing statistic which affirms our need for spiritual connection. Remove as much stress from your life as possible. Meet Spirit face-to-face many times throughout your day. Say thank you for the "little" things, including the sunshine, earth, plants, animals, water, air and fire that make life possible here on our planet. Thank the magnificent Infinite Intelligence for the gift of life – and make the gratitude deep and meaningful. Offer thankfulness for the wisdom to help others on their path. And open yourself to being guided in ways that will heal your life, serving as a mentor to others who watch you walk your path.

Know, deep in your soul, that fear can be transformed into trust. Fear can be healed, and without fear we move into direct alignment with the magnificence of Spirit. May you be healed from all that keeps you separate, and may that healing immerse you into the Love that is God.

In Spirit,

Laura Lee Perkins, Editor

*Ragnar, Peter. "Will You Know Who You Are at 85?" *What Is Enlightenment* – Issue No. 38 - 2007, 130. ◆

TO PONDER

– Jacqueline Benenati, Florida



If I had to live part of my life over, I'd have more faith in God than men. I'd ask for more courage to see me through all the trials and tribulations that awaited me, instead of asking to be relieved of them. I would worry less about receiving and concentrate more on giving. It's time to forget about what might have been and get on with what is. Yesterday is gone, tomorrow has not come and there is only today. ◆

Healing Mediumship

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

There seem to be some misconceptions concerning the wonderful forms of mediumship. Any interaction when an entity in the spirit world helps, aids, or inspires a person in the physical world, is a form of mediumship. Healing is a form of mediumship. The desire of some mediums to receive certification as a "mental medium," a "physical medium" or as a "commissioned healer" only indicates the desire of the medium to focus on a particular aspect of mediumship for their certification.

All workers in the NSAC and other Spiritualist organizations know, or should know, that all healing comes from Infinite Intelligence. The assistance received from our spirit helpers is part of the inherent powers used in the healing process. Since the definition of "inherent" states "existing as an essential constituent or characteristic," that would include the inherent power of mediumship. To quote yet another, "Inherent means the God-given ability of every person—it is an intrinsic part of our nature including any form of mediumship. Intrinsic, according to the same dictionary, *The American Heritage Dictionary unabridged,* means "pertaining to the essential nature of a thing; inherent." The misconception arises when one believes that healers, using the reservoir of their own power, are limited to magnetic healing. We teach that each and every person has the ability to work as a medium, and each individual must expand his or her awareness of that ability. When we sit in development classes or circles, we are developing our awareness of how spirit works with each person, not developing the mediumship, but expanding our use of this wonderful ability.



There is a reason that the NSAC provides the means to receive recognition and certification for the different methods of mediumship. Not everyone wishes to become a commissioned healer, but many of our workers focus on that area of service. They are not necessarily interested in being a channel for message communication or for demonstrations of physical phenomena. However, they do wish to use their mediumship to help others release the "dis-ease" or imbalance in their lives and bodies. We live in a world where spirit communication, aid and help are as natural as breathing. A statement was made by a writer in the *Psychic World,* "if one were to ask 100 healers if they were mediums, perhaps only a small percentage would answer in the affirmative." This is a scary statement to me. I sincerely hope these healers were not trained and commissioned by the NSAC, since each and every healer receiving that designation has been taught the basics of their mediumship, and would know that spirit help in their practice of healing is certainly considered mediumship.

Many times healers, speakers and clairvoyants, experience a light state of trance while working. That is certainly allowing spirit to work with them and through them. It also allows the physical mind to step aside and not "get in the way of the healing process." We need to allow spirit to work with us without putting ourselves in the way. Those around the worker may not always discern the level of trance, but light trance is not unusual for any form of mediumship.

Sometimes individuals have a very narrow view of the ministry because they have not been exposed to the training and courses taught in our auxiliaries and schools. We have a study course with the Morris Pratt Institute that prepares for the testing procedures for any level of certification; however, that should be just the beginning for any worker. We do not have to travel to other countries or other states to sit in classes to further our education as mediums and workers in the field. Qualified persons should teach classes in every church and every camp; and members, friends and workers of the auxiliary should attend. Teach if you can—the teacher always learns more than the student.

◆◆◆

Healing

FRANCES D. MONTGOMERY, L.M. – Dayton, Ohio

Healing. Now there is a topic! What does it bring to your mind? Usually people think about healing in the context of bodily ills – headaches, fevers, flu, strokes, cancer, broken bones, auto accidents, surgery, rehabilitation, physical therapy, and pain relief. All of these situations are included in healing.

Healing. That also brings thoughts of doctors, nurses, therapists, and specialists in all areas of the health care profession including technicians operating machines expressly designed for healing. Then we might have thoughts about diagnostic procedures, CT Scans, radiology, X-Rays, Ultra sounds, Pet Scans, Chemotherapy, breathing treatments, and dialysis machines. There are so many varied areas in the medical profession, it would be difficult to name them all or credit the professionals performing the tasks.

Usually we think of healing as being needed in the physical sense to relieve pain and clear physical conditions. Healing can also assist with a person's transition from the physical body to the spirit world. All of this is related to physical healing.

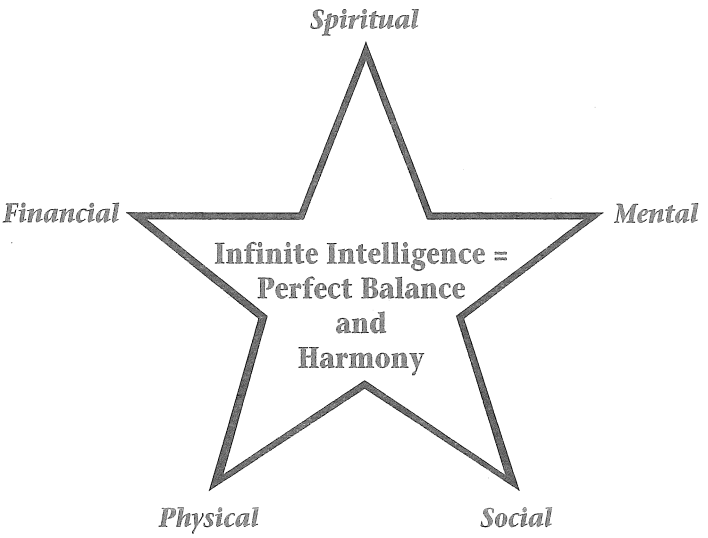
Mental illnesses are included in healing. Many emotions start within your mind when you think about and react to how this or that occurred. With mental healing, if people would make wiser decisions/choices; rage, anger, and emotional issues would be lessened. Negativity would be controlled.

Also, as you probably know, the subconscious mind cannot take a joke. When you say you are tired, you reinforce tiredness in your subconscious mind, which will manifest physically. We are aware that certain emotions can bring on certain types of illnesses; cancer supposedly is triggered by deep resentment or hatred. Arthritis is thought to be brought on by a feeling of being unloved. Louise Hays' book *You Can Heal Your Life* has affirmations for self-healing.

With all of the problems in the world today, social healing is undoubtedly important. If families, husbands/wives, neighbors, friends, co-workers, and even nations could heal their social ills, the world would be a totally different place. Think about dysfunctional families, co-workers who don't get along, neighbors who sue neighbors, and religious wars throughout the years—fought due to intolerance for others' beliefs. There are many examples of social illnesses that need to be corrected. Social healing covers almost every area of our lives.

Financial healing is another area people struggle with daily, especially in this current economy. Everyone desires enough income to pay their obligations on time, to purchase food, and to secure medical attention, transportation, education, and shelter for their family. There is nothing wrong with asking the Infinite for enough financial assistance to be comfortable in life.

Spiritual healing – the prayer that each person could reach an inner peace and a relationship with the Spirit of the Infinite within – certainly that is a form of healing that enables us to cope with life and its problems, as well as assisting our souls to expand in understanding, both here and hereafter. Perhaps spiritual healing is the most important healing of all!



My parents were Spiritualists and this is the way I was taught to think of healing: a five pointed star with Infinite Intelligence (perfect balance and harmony) as the center portion of the star and each of the five points having a title: Spiritual, Mental, Physical, Social, and Financial. Everything in this life experience falls under one (or more) of those titles. Each arm of the star is governed by the center of the star; we are supposed to work throughout our lives to balance each area until it merges into the center which governs all. I didn't find that information in the Morris Pratt course, so I don't know if that was just an old-

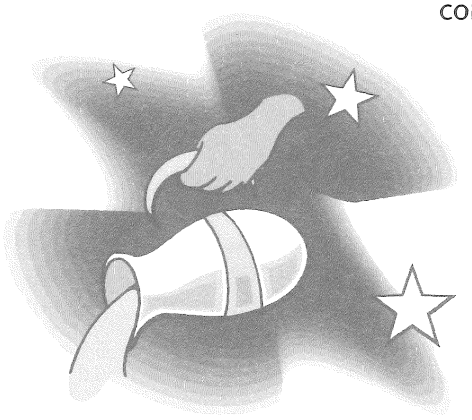
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fashioned idea/teaching, or if our religion has changed the way we look at healing.

Let's talk about our *Healing Prayer*:

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

This first portion of the healing prayer is to both heal ourselves of any problems, opening the flow ***for*** healing for ourselves ***and*** to put us in tune ***with*** the God-Force which cleanses us as a channel for the Infinite Energy to work ***through us*** as we direct it to others. The most important part of the statement is that we ask sincerely and honestly and that WE WILL DO OUR PART to become ONE with the God Force Energy by being open and receptive to its healing Power.



The second portion of the prayer continues:

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

We should remember that "present ones" include people not only in the room with us, or on our healing list, but also includes all those on the earth plane where ever they may be, who are in need of help. Absent ones – those not in church today? Not necessarily! That also includes those on the Spirit Plane who are not yet enlightened or not awake and aware of their location and the ability they have to progress. We are actually including them when we send healing. Our *Healing Prayer* is pretty all-inclusive and far reaching, which increases the Power sent out everywhere when we use it. That is the end of the **National Spiritualist Association of Churches' *Healing Prayer*.**

The Rev. Laura Holloway, of the old National Spiritualist Association, headed the Central Spiritualist Church at the corner of Haynes and Hulbert Streets here in Dayton, Ohio many years ago. My sisters, Juanita and Lucille, attended her Lyceum Classes as children. All of my life I have been exposed to the *Healing Prayer*. I didn't find out until adulthood that our healing prayer in Dayton is different than the one used nationally.

The Rev. Holloway felt the prayer was sort of "unfinished" and spirit led her to alter it in the following manner; after the end of the national prayer we continue, "May there be health of body, peace of mind and spiritual understanding. This is our prayer. Amen." I would like to see that added to our prayer in her honor someday.

With those thoughts in mind, please continue to work with the God-Force and send healing in the spirit of love, asking not what you would prefer or like to see done, but asking that God's Will be done for the highest and best good of all concerned. ◆

The Easter Bunny evolved from a number of traditions, some dating back thousands of years. The earliest humans noticed the link between the cycles of women, the birth of children and the cycles of the moon. In the oldest records from Asia, the hare was the symbol of the moon. So it followed that the moon and the rabbit both became the symbol of rebirth or life after death.



In ancient Egypt, the rabbit was also recognized as a symbol of fertility and renewal. This belief spread to the Greeks and then to the Romans who shared it with the rest of Europe. Later, the Celts and other early European groups celebrated the festival of Eastre, a goddess of the dawn associated with springtime. Her symbol was the rabbit, the most fertile animal and a symbol of new life.

During the Middle Ages, the rabbit also became associated with chicken eggs, since both were symbols of fertility and rebirth in the spring. The Easter Bunny, as a holiday symbol delivering candy and eggs, is thought to have started around that time in Germany. ◆

The Healing Power of Tears

THE REV. STEPHANIE FROBESE, NST – Maine



From the time of our birth, crying is discouraged. We rush to fix the needs of the crying infant. In infancy, crying usually occurs when there is a physical need, generally associated with nutrients – the baby is hungry or having difficulty evacuating its intestines. Another cause is not getting the sleep needed, as in the case of an infant suffering from colic. We all know how cranky a tired child can be. Even though the spirit wants to continue taking in all that is going on around and about it, the child's body is crying out for rest. Pain seems to be something babies are unaware of, because it doesn't invoke tears. It seems to be something they learn from the reaction of adults when they bump their head or fall head over heels. As children grow older their emotions develop more fully and they cry when physically or emotionally hurt. It seems that the older we get, the more reasons we have to cry.

Being hurt, emotionally or physically, is the main reason we cry. Remember as a child when you injured yourself or got your feelings hurt, you cried. When that happened you were told, "Don't cry" and were either coddled or scolded and, instead, encouraged to be happy. Why does someone crying upset those around them so dramatically? Nobody likes to feel bad, and when one person feels bad, it affects those around them, causing them to feel bad as well. It isn't only the tears of pain that seem contagious. Seeing someone in tears, for whatever reason, evokes tears in us. Our first response is, inevitably, "Don't cry!"

Tears are as natural in other animals as they are in humans. Dr. Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson, author of *When Elephants Weep* and *Dogs Never Lie About Love,* began studying animals' emotional lives In the 1990's. He, and other scientists, have observed elephants crying when one of their own was killed or injured. Animals are one of the greatest sources that stimulate our emotions, all of our emotions – sorrow, joy, empathy. Because crying is most often associated with pain or sorrow – both negative experiences – we discourage it and try to stop others' crying. But our tears aren't always the result of something negative. We cry tears of joy, tears of compassion, tears of happiness – and then there are crocodile tears, tears with no emotional stimulus.

We need to understand that the crying process is a cleansing process which heals us. When we are in a state of emotional distress or unhappiness, harmful toxins are produced in our bodies. Tears are a mechanism to wash away those toxins and release them from our bodies. Don't you always feel better after you have a good cry? Whether the tears are brought on by physical pain or emotional pain, tears help to release the emotional distress we are experiencing. Crying is an innate, natural reaction to things that make us unhappy or hurt us in some way – physically or emotionally. An internet blog asked, "What is the scientific reason for tears?"[1]

We have tear ducts to lubricate and protect our eyes from dust and other particles. The ducts are under the upper eyelids and produce a salty liquid—a tear-—that gets spread throughout the eye after each blink. Animals too have the ability to produce tears, but not necessarily for the same reasons that we humans produce them.

Crying helps make us less depressed, and returns our body to a stable state after we feel sad. This is because when emotion affects us, it stimulates the cranial nerve in the brain and this sends signals to the neuro-transmitters and to the tear glands. The tears release an excess amount of hormones and chemicals that are produced when we feel sad or upset. Thus, after you cry, you feel better.

As far back as 1957, it was known that emotional tears are chemically different from tears that result from eye irritation. Emotional tears contain more beta-endorphins, some of our bodies' natural pain relievers, and protein.

In a study by William Frey II, Ph.D., a Researcher at St. Paul-Ramsey Medical Center St. Paul, MN subjects kept "tear diaries." A pattern emerged:

1. Sadness accounted for 49% of tears;
2. Happiness, 21%;
3. Anger, 10%
4. Sympathy, 7%
5. Anxiety 5%
6. Fear 4%

"...one reason people might feel better after crying could be because they are removing, in their tears, chemicals that build up during emotional

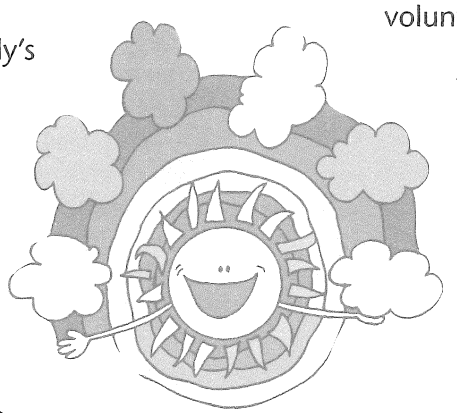
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A Rainbow in Somebody's Cloud

GEORGIA YEDGER – Church of the Living Spirit, Glendale, Arizona

I had the privilege of hearing Maya Angelou speak at this year's AARP Convention in Las Vegas. I have always admired her ability to get to the heart of the matter with the least amount of words. It is in that vein that I share with you, her latest pearls of wisdom.

"Be the Rainbow in Somebody's Cloud," she said. It immediately conjured up all kinds of images in my mind. "I can easily do that," I thought. Can't a simple smile, an unexpected friendly gesture, a word of encouragement, change a person's day for the better?



Today I visited Hospice West. How many times had I passed with the intention of stopping by? The donated magazines and puzzles were greatly appreciated.

Everyday there is an opportunity to make a difference, whether we make an extra batch of cookies or add a little extra for leftover soup. These can be shared with that neighbor you have been meaning to introduce yourself to, or maybe it's time to make the long overdue visit to a relative. Isn't there a nation-wide call to volunteer?

Sharing in the AARP speech was Norman Lear. He reminded us that, indeed, we are our brother's keeper. I did not know what good friends Lear and Angelou are. It was a privilege to listen to them banter back and forth. What admiration they have for each other! A pang of sadness crossed my mind, for at 87 and 82, respectfully I wondered how much longer we would have to enjoy their sage advice.

What ways can you think of to be a rainbow in somebody's cloud? ◆

> Be careless in your dress if you will, but keep a tidy soul.
>
> – *Mark Twain*

The Healing Power of Tears *Continued...*



stress."[2] Frey's research indicates that tears, along with other bodily secretions like perspiration, rid the body of various toxins and waste.

In addition, researchers also are discovering that people who cry frequently enjoy better health overall. Margaret Crepeau Ph.D., professor of nursing at Marquette University, stated that she believes healthy people view tears positively, while people plagued with various illnesses see them as unnecessary, even humiliating. Crepeau, who conducted research on tears at the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing in 1979, says, "Laughter and tears are two inherently natural medicines. We can reduce duress, let out negative feelings, and recharge. They truly are the body's own best resources."

So the next time you see someone crying, instead of telling them to stop, tell them to let it all out; and don't be so hard on yourself when you feel a tear coming on. Crying can be very good medicine for the mind, the body and the spirit. ◆

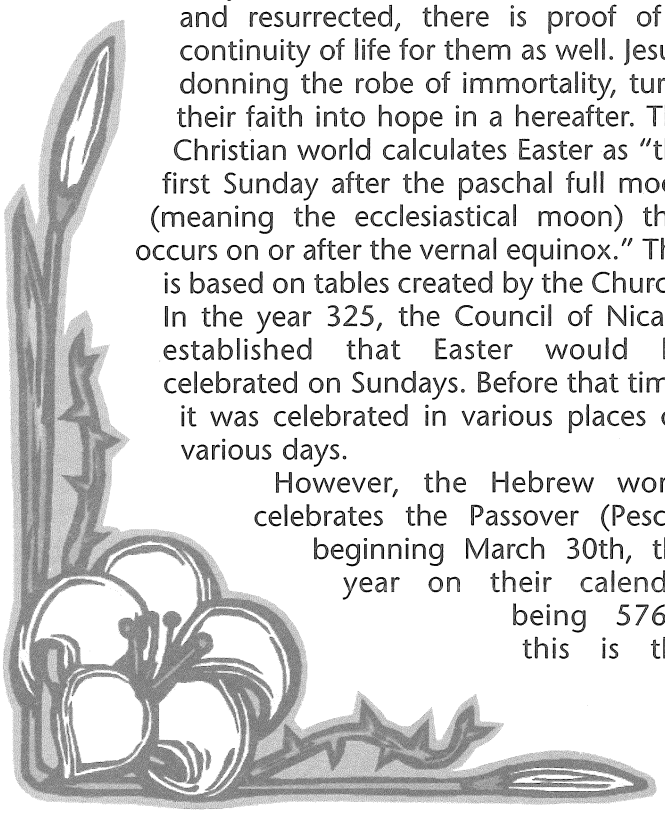
1. http://uk.answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20081028073144AAconVd
2. *CRYING: The Mystery of Tears*. Copyright © 1985, Winston Press, Inc. William H. Frey, II, Ph.D. with Muriel Langseth

Sunrise, Oh' Sunrise – Easter 2010

THE REV. MARILYN J. AWTRY, NST – Florida

Sunrise, another day to express one's awareness here on the earth plane of life! Springtime offers another new season in time. The seeds, long held in darkness, now turn to the light. New life begins. All of these actions are in accordance with the Natural Laws of the universe that demonstrate the cycle of life, death and rebirth. The deep message of the Easter Story comes to every group of people as they raise their consciousness in their own understanding of being.

For the Christian world, April 4 is a time to celebrate the resurrected Christ. They show their gratefulness for a resurrected savior, Jesus the Christ. They believe that as Jesus lived, died, and resurrected, there is proof of a continuity of life for them as well. Jesus, donning the robe of immortality, turns their faith into hope in a hereafter. The Christian world calculates Easter as "the first Sunday after the paschal full moon (meaning the ecclesiastical moon) that occurs on or after the vernal equinox." This is based on tables created by the Church. In the year 325, the Council of Nicaea established that Easter would be celebrated on Sundays. Before that time, it was celebrated in various places on various days.



However, the Hebrew world celebrates the Passover (Pesch) beginning March 30th, the year on their calendar being 5769. this is the celebration of the Israelites exodus from Egypt. It is the commemoration of their exodus from slavery under Ethyptian rule.

Many other religious groups celebrate specific holidays around the same time frame. To each it holds a major significance. It is a time of new beginning and a time to give thanks. It is, perhaps, a time to recognize that every soul attunes to the God of their understanding to be given new hope.

This is a time for Spiritualists to reconnect with the Source of all. It substantiates the teaching of several of the phenomena of Spiritualism: prophecy, levitation, apportation, materialization and independent voice. Jesus gave the thieves (on crosses on either side of him) the prophecy, "Today thou shalt be with me in paradise." The rolling away of the stone, that some feel was lifted from the tomb, demonstrates levitation. The disappearance of Jesus' body is expressed by the term apportation, meaning carried away by an unseen force. Then, Jesus appeared to his disciples in the upper room, demonstrating the phenomena of materialization. He not only appeared, but spoke to his disciples and told them, "Greater things than these shall ye do. Go thou and do likewise." He taught forgiveness when ready to be killed by saying, "Father forgive them, they know not what they do."

In his lifetime, he taught how one could prepare the inner self (the soul) by demonstrating loyalty, courage, endurance, sacrifice and, above all, selflessness by Love. We, as Spiritualists, understand that Jesus was one of the greatest teachers, greatest healers, and one of the most highly elevated individuals who ever lived on earth. We know that if we choose to become more attuned with the spiritual Natural Laws, we too can bring light unto a darkened world.

As this new season of light and love comes into your consciousness, may you find peace, joy, and good health. ◆

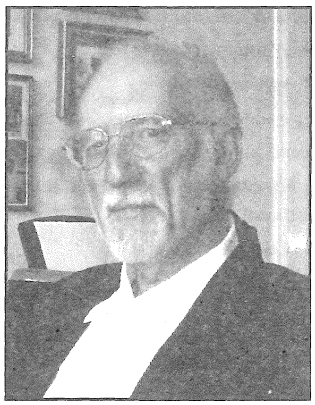
Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that you have received... but only what you have given: a full heart, enriched by honest service, love, sacrifice, and courage.

– St. Francis of Assisi

MEDIA WATCH

THE REVS. TOM AND LISA BUTLER, NST

Stewart Alexander • The Society for Psychical Research (SPR) has published a highly detailed article on the work of medium Stewart Alexander. Stewart has dedicated more than 40 years of his life to the development of physical mediumship. The article was written by Lew Sutton. Sutton, who has reported on many séances in the past, says that in order to keep these reports at a reasonable length, descriptions of the séances always had to be brief. He felt that a really thorough description detailing the phenomena, procedures and conditions was needed so that readers would be able to understand the exact nature of the phenomena demonstrated and the tightly controlled conditions taken to make sure that the phenomena was authentic.



STEWART ALEXANDER

The SPR used to lead the world in investigating the authenticity of survival evidence. It would be a benefit to humankind if the Society was once again returned to this type of rigorous investigation and reporting.

Picture from *Experiences of Trance, Physical mediumship* by Katie Halliwell as reprinted by Saturday Night Press Publications, York, England sbppbooks@yahoo.co.uk

Defense Department Budget for Telepathic Communication • The Pentagon's Defense Advances Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is trying to develop telepathic communication technologies for use on the battlefield. There is a four-million-dollar budget for a program called "Silent Talk." Its aim is to allow user-to-user communication on the battlefield without the use of vocalized speech through analysis of neural signals. Before being vocalized, speech exists as word-specific neural signals in the brain. Researchers hope to develop a device able to detect these signals, analyze them, and transmit a translation to an intended interlocutor.

The military has been funding a handful of mind-tapping technologies recently; including last year's project at the University of California to investigate the potential of computer-mediated telepathy. It is thought that telepathy might provide advantages other than covert communication. Last year, the National Research Council and the Defense Intelligence Agency released a report suggesting that neuroscience might also be useful to "make the enemy obey our commands."

From: Hightech.com, *Mind Reading Devices for Soldiers*
http://blog.800hightech.com/

Rupert Sheldrake • A paper by Rupert Sheldrake entitled "Sensing the sending of SMS messages" has just been published in *Explore, The Journal of Science and Healing,* and is online at sheldrake.org in the Articles section. This was an automated test that worked on mobile phones. Sheldrake found that people could detect who was sending them a text message before it arrived in a way that seemed telepathic, with hit rates significantly above chance.

Rupert says that his precognition experiment using mobile telephones in the UK is working well, and that he is now trying to recruit people in the UK to try to improve their intuitive powers by doing it repeatedly. The test automatically gives feedback to participants. He is also developing a new web-based precognition test with the help of Dr. Ashwin Beharee, of University College, London, and hopes that this will be up and running in the New Year. It should work anywhere in the world. Sheldrake says that the advantage of precognition tests is that they are cheat-proof and hence give reliable results even under completely unsupervised conditions.

The SOPHIA Research Program • The VERITAS Research Program of the Laboratory for Advances in Consciousness and Health (formerly the Human Energy Systems Laboratory) in the Department of Psychology at the University of Arizona was created primarily to test the hypothesis that the consciousness (or personality or identity) of a person survives physical death. Dr. Gary Schwartz directed the project.

In January of 2008, the VERITAS Research Program, as it existed prior to 2008, was closed and the research was expanded into a broader, more comprehensive, spiritual communication project named the SOPHIA Research Program, also directed by Dr. Gary Schwartz.

Continued...

The purpose of this study is to investigate the experiences of people who claim to channel or communicate with Deceased People, Spirit Guides, Angels, Other-Worldly Entities / Extraterrestrials, and / or a Universal Intelligence / God. The ultimate objective is to investigate if these communications can be validated under controlled conditions.

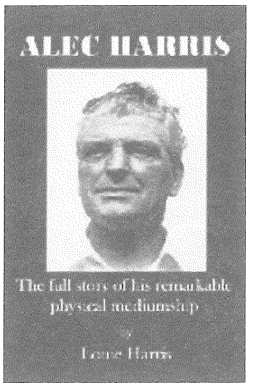
If you are interested in participating in this study, please contact Mark Boccuzzi at meb@email.arizona.edu or visit the website at http://lach.web.arizona.edu/sophia/

The Reality of the Afterlife • Craig Hogan has created a website called After Death Communication Guides (http://adcguides.com/). The site is devoted to providing information about the afterlife and spiritual growth, focusing especially on the recorded descriptions of the afterlife given by people who are now living there, conveyed through direct-voice mediums.

Hogan writes, "The afterlife is as real as this life. Volumes of research data, verified accounts of experiences, and recordings of people from the afterlife are available today. The mass of evidence testifies to the undoubtable fact that the afterlife is a reality. However, in spite of the vast array of evidence, Western culture still lives in ignorance about what happens after a person dies. The truth was obscured first by the church that dominated Western culture until the 17th c, then by materialism that took hold of Western thought from the 17th c until today. Both the church and materialism suppressed evidence about the afterlife because it ran counter to their doctrines. They derided or persecuted anyone who spoke of the life after this life. They continue to do so today.

"As a result, Western culture has lived in a dark age of ignorance about the afterlife. Today, that is changing. Television and the internet have allowed humankind to learn about the evidence for the afterlife and the nature of the realm that everyone enters after leaving the Earthly plane. The result is the renaissance of spiritual realization we are now just beginning to experience. It's an exciting time to be alive."

Death and Healthcare • Evan Thomas had this to say about our health-care system in *Newsweek*, 9/21/09. "The idea that we might ration health care to seniors (or anyone else) is political anathema. Politicians do not dare breathe the R word, lest they be accused—however wrongly—of trying to pull the plug on Grandma. But the need to spend less money on the elderly at the end of life is the elephant in the room in the health-reform debate. Everyone sees it but no one wants to talk about it. At a more basic level, Americans are afraid not just of dying, but of talking and thinking about death. Until Americans learn to contemplate death as more than a scientific challenge to be overcome, our health-care system will remain unfixable."

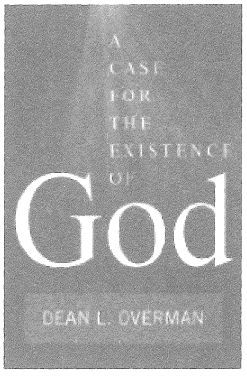


Alec Harris • Ann Harrison has just published the full story of the remarkable physical mediumship of Alec Harris from the original manuscript written by Louie Harris. Ann writes that, "The original book *They Walked Among Us* contained about half of the manuscript and that there was no healing, no spirit help, no details of colored ectoplasm, no animal contacts, and nothing about his work in South Africa. There are some wonderful stories among the new pieces." Alec's son, Bradley, was particularly helpful in digging out family photos and pictures of the guides done by Alec under control (but not trance) so that Ann could include them in the book. Available at Amazon.com.

SCEPCOP • From their website: "The Scientific Committee to Evaluate Pseudo-Skeptical Criticism of the Paranormal (SCEPCOP) is the 1st Coalition of Paranormal Researchers, Investigators, Writers and Intellectuals united to counter and expose the pseudo-skepticism movement for their fallacies, misinformation, dismissal, denial, censorship, suppression, bigotry and ridicule toward any evidence, experience or science that challenges orthodoxy or does not fit into a materialistic reductionist paradigm. We do not support every quack claim on the planet, but advocate true skepticism, objectivity, open-mindedness and fairness toward paranormal or unconventional evidence, experience or science. We are the world's first counter-pseudo-skeptic movement providing resources, articles, books, videos and an online community exposing the fallacies and psychology of pseudo-skepticism."
See www.debunkingskeptics.com/

Help Wanted: An Austrian insurance company has caused quite a stir by advertising for employees in sales and management with the star signs of Capricorn, Taurus, Aquarius, Aries and Leo. The ads met with a wave of protests and an investigation by the country's anti-discrimination authorities. The company was sticking to its guns claiming that, "A statistical study indicated that almost all of our best employees across Austria have one of the five star signs." Austrian authorities said it was not illegal to seek employees born under certain star signs, as this did not involve discrimination based on gender, age or race.
From: "Austrian company under fire for recruiting certain zodiac signs", www.telegraph.co.uk/ ◆

Book Reviews



Lawyer/Theologian Makes A Case for the Existence of God

In *A Case for the Existence of God*, Dean L. Overman examines the latest theories about the origins of the universe and explains why even the most sophisticated science can take us only so far. Ultimately we must make a leap of faith to understand the world, and Overman argues that a leap into theism provides the most satisfying conclusions.

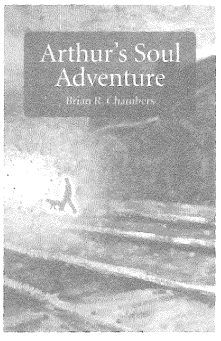
Overman explores fundamental questions about why our world exists and how it functions, using principles of logic, physics, and theology. In a time when religion and science are often portrayed as diametrically opposed, *A Case for the Existence of God* presents a refreshing view of the interplay between science and religion and makes a compelling case of the existence of God and His role in our world.

"Drawing on modern cosmology and information theory, Overman exposes fallacies that have infested skeptics' thinking since Hume and Kant. Clearer reasoning establishes an astonishing harmony between quantum physics and religious orthodoxy, so providing a credible defense for free will and moral judgment...Willing to challenge the logic of unbelievers such as Dawkins and Dennett, Overman goes far beyond such logic, insisting that those searching for religious truth must remain open to non-rational modes of knowledge...a book for readers willing to wrestle with the largest questions."

— *Booklist,* Starred Review, January 01, 2009

Dean L. Overman is a former senior partner of the international law firm of Winston & Strawn, LLP. He was a Templeton scholar at Oxford University in the fields of information theory, physics, and religion. He also studied theology at Princeton Theological Seminary and was a visiting scholar at Harvard University. He is the author of *A Case Against Accident and Self-Organization.* ◆

Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. - **ISBN-13:** 978-0-7425-6312-4 / $24.95 / Hardcover 9.1 x 6 x 1.2 " / 229 pgs



Arthur's Soul Adventure

Brian Chambers

A dream of his late father, Arthur, as a young boy standing on the railroad tracks in the tough inner-city of Boston during the Great Depression, telling Brian he had something very important for him to do, inspired Brian Chambers to write this magical and uplifting story, sprinkled with humor and bittersweet episodes that will touch the inner spirit of anyone who reads it. The main character, Arthur, after suffering a severe blow to the skull that causes him to die temporarily, shares with readers the journey he takes through heaven alongside his Guardian Angel George. This compelling boy learns how powerful we really are and how we can literally overcome anything – even our deepest fears – when we accept that we have the power within us to do so. During Arthur's journey, he develops a warm friendship with a lovely, yet reclusive, elderly woman who believes in him and is deeply changed by his message of hope. He soon learns a valuable lesson that Spirit celebrates all the many paths we take in finding our way "back home," and not to listen to those who tell us there is only "one" way there. When Arthur returns to his life on earth and shares his experience with neighborhood friends, they also begin to understand that their new sense of power comes from within themselves.

The symbolic boy in the author's dream was his own father who mystically conveyed to him the important message young Arthur received during his fantastical journey through heaven; but, he never told a single person about his experience during his actual lifetime. Arthur's Soul Adventure shares the message that had been entrusted to him long ago.

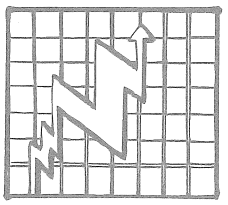
Brian Chambers, like Arthur, grew up in a rough and tough Boston neighborhood, where much of his education was learned on the unforgiving streets and where his life sank into a hopeless existence. After experiencing a life-changing event while Pope John Paul II was visiting Boston, this author fought his demons, got his life back together, and later was the first in his family to graduate from college and then he earned a graduate degree also. Haunted by the dream about his late father asking him to tell his story, Chambers finally began writing; a year later ***Arthur's Soul Adventure*** was born. ◆

Order from: Ascot Media Group Inc., P. O. Box 133032, The Woodlands, TX 77393. 281-333-3507

The National Spiritualist Association Of Churches
Department of Phenomenal Evidence

MARCH/APRIL 2010 Department of Phenomenal Evidence Report

THE REVS. BRIAN AND LYNN KENT, Directors



I did a "reading party" at Libby Hopkins' home for her family and friends. While there, she and her "ghost squad" showed Brian and me photos taken over the last few years. She also had us listen to the EVPs. This is the story of how this family and their friends became interested in "spirit communication." In Libby's own words:

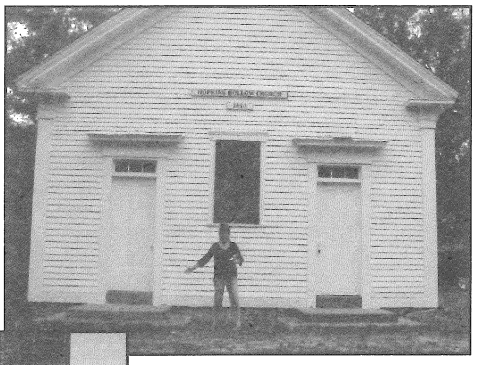
"To make a long story short, on Father's Day, 2007, my girls, at the time 15 and 19, asked me to take them ghost hunting. We went to Knotty Oak Cemetery with a flashlight and a tape recorder. We immediately listened to our tape when we got home. Much to our surprise, we got EVPs that we did not hear while we were at the cemetery. Four of the EVPs – in different tones, areas of the cemetery and different voices – said Stacey (my older daughter's name). Thus a hobby was born. Since then, we have pictures and clear EVPs. Help me Daddy, Dream of me, over there, Come see, LOOK, and I'm going to kill you two, amongst others. (These we heard ourselves).

My daughter and I recently had the opportunity to meet with Keith Johnson and Brian Harnois of TAPS. They both asked me for copies of my pictures, as have many others. I have repeatedly declined to share them with anyone but you. I give you full permission to use my pictures in any way you see fit. After your readings at my house, I have faith in you. I only ask that you mention my name because not many will believe that I took these pictures. I have seen and heard many things that I can't explain throughout my life. No one ever believed me, so I just didn't tell anyone. My children have heard and seen things and I believe them; they can share their experiences with me. So much has happened since I've seen you.

My last name is Hopkins and most of my paranormal happenings revolve around the name Hopkins...not only at Hopkins' Hollow but also at Knotty Oak. It has been a pleasure to meet both you & your husband; I hope the article goes well. I especially hope we can keep in touch from time to time. I am a true believer - not only in the after-life, but also in you. I look forward to reading your article and would be very interested in copies." Libby

**Note: We have noticed that there is a lot of "I'm going to kill you" among unprotected EVPs. We have never run into that problem; we always ask for the highest and the best.*

Below you will see photos taken by Libby Hopkins, her friends and family, with a digital camera and some with a cheap one-time-use camera. The EVPs were done with a tape recorder (not digital).



Hopkins Hollow Church, circa 1850 on Rt. 117 in W. Warwick, RI.



The "Hopkins Ghost Squad"



The photo below was also taken while the "Hopkins Ghost Squad" was checking out the Hopkins Hollow Church. There could be many different explanations for the face in the window. Looking at the history of the area and the fact that the spirit is attracted to members of this family in some way, we leave it for you to decide what or who it might be. This is a great, fun-loving group of people who enjoy doing spirit investigations.

Libby's home sits on what use to be the family farm, and it has been handed down from generation to

Continued...

Frequency: The Power of Personal Vibration

PENNEY PIERCE

Learn to feel and use personal vibration and turn it back into your body. It tells people how to manage their energy state in these chaotic times when it is so vitally important to their mental and physical health to tap into the primal intuitive core, personal vibration, develop heightened perception, and expand human capacity for spiritual wellness as they navigate together to respond to the new world.

Inside us and everywhere around us, life is vibrating. In fact, each of us has a personal vibration that accurately communicates who we are to the world and helps shape our reality. It shows readers how to feel their personal vibration, improve it, and use it to shift their life from ordinary to extraordinary. A simple shift in frequency can change depression to peace, anger to stillness, and fear to enthusiasm.

We need new methods for navigating in an accelerating world. It gives readers a reassuring, step-by-step roadmap into a positive state of awareness. By learning to use frequency principles, methods based on the way energy actually functions, readers can keep their energy levels high and productive, receive subtle information directly from the environment via "emphatic resonance," and quickly free themselves from negative or low vibrations.

By learning to refine the conscious sensitivity of the body, readers can find their "home frequency," who they really are, and discover how to materialize a life that contains everything they want and need to live their destiny. They can also improve relationships, find upscale solutions to problems, and speed their personal growth.

Try This! Enter Your Body in a Deeper Way

Right now you have an opportunity to Be. Bring your attention inside your skin, and forget that there is such a thing as a past and a future. This, right here, is fascinating.

1. Say to yourself: "In this moment and in this body I am 100 percent present." Feel what it means and come into alignment with the statement.
2. Turn down the sound of your thoughts as if you're adjusting the volume on a radio. Soon you'll hear your body's teeming, which might sound like ringing, white noise, or a steady hum. Imagine something deeper behind or through the body hum. Enter the silence at the core of yourself, which is always there in spite of any physical noises.
3. Imagine you're in the center of your head looking out from behind your eyes. In that centermost point is a tiny gleaming diamond, emitting transparent light that radiates through your brain, clearing your mind to a neutral state of observation.
4. Imagine you're inside that diamond looking out, and it can move through your body like a tiny flying saucer. Let it fly down to your throat and hover. Look out at the world from this vantage point, your body's head is up above you now. Then fly down to the center of the chest near your heart and hover. Look out at the world. Some of the body is above you, some below. You're centered in the middle.
5. Now fly down to the base of the spine and hover. Look out at the world from this vantage point. You're much closer to the earth's energy, the mind-in-the-brain is far above, and the body understands other bodies directly without language.
6. Experiment with flying to a variety of places in your body and feeling the vibrations in: the arch of a foot, a kneecap, the tip of your pointer finger, the base of your tongue, the center of a vertebra, your heart, your diaphragm. As you take these various vantage points, you may notice that you know the world in a particular way, that there is a certain kind of awareness inherent in each place. Some places are incredibly quiet and wise.
7. Come back to the center of your head, open your eyes, and walk around, paying attention to your environment by noticing only color, shape, texture, temperature, smell, and noise. Don't label anything; just remain in the direction experience, moving smoothly from one impression to the next as an animal might.
8. Later, try doing an activity that emphasizes one or two of your senses; dance around the living room to music, make a blender drink with fresh ingredients and drink it slowly. Notice your body's pleasure, and not exactly how it feels. ◆

Frequency: The Power of Personal Vibration (ISBN): 978-1-5827-212-4), is available from www.beyondword.com.

DPE Report *Continued...*

generation. This might also be a draw to the communication of spirit in many different ways around the family. We find this to happen in many cases because family members might still be around watching that all is well.

**One note of importance: Not far from the Hopkins Hollow Church is the deserted area of The Station Night Club Fire of Rhode Island, which occurred beginning at 11:07 PM EST, on Thursday, February 20, 2003. There have been unpublished reports of interesting happenings in that area.* ◆

The Physical and Spirit are Commingled

NEIL C. GRIFFEN – First Spiritualist Church of Linden, Ashley, Ohio

In God's world there is no judgment, just Natural Law.
– old Spiritualist saying.

Science has discovered something basic underlying the structure of nature. No matter where you go, everything follows the same physical principles. Ponder for a moment the wonder of this. A chef in Paris, following the same recipe, will get the same results in Tokyo. A vaccine developed in India will work in Alaska. The gravitational principle of attraction works on earth and is what holds the galaxies together.

This is almost universally accepted among all scientists in all fields. Some theoretical physicists are wondering if there is more than one universe. If so, then do these other universes have the same physical laws? This is still pure conjecture and, unless you are planning to travel to one of these other universes, not particularly relevant.

Whatever power holds the universe together and keeps it ticking does not seem to vary or pick favorites. It is taken for granted in planning for the future. Engineers do this. They use their understanding of nature to design new devices and machines. Because the laws do not change, they can use their knowledge of physical laws to predict what a new device will do or how it will act before it is even built. This is the power of engineering; to predict how something will act in the future.

Back in 1890 Harry Drummond extended this idea in his book entitled *Natural Law in the Spiritual World.* What he proposed was that if all this is true about the physical world, what about the non-physical or spirit world. It seems reasonable that any action involving the non-physical world would not vary according to who conducted the action or where it was done. A smile is a smile that can lighten the mood anywhere on the earth. A negative thought produces a negative result in the same way everywhere.

It did not take long for science to discover the universality of physical laws. It is relatively easy to conduct scientific experiments in many different places. It is not so obvious for moral and ethical laws. Cultures are built on differing concepts of God and the spiritual world. But even among many cultures, there is the idea that God acts the same everywhere. It is just that there are different sources and interpretations of how God acts. The discussion is not about the universality of God (Spirit), but rather about the particulars of its nature and relationship to people and the world.



From this it does not seem to be a far stretch to say that activities that involve spiritual or non-physical components also follow a unique and universal set of laws. This is conformance with the scientific viewpoint.

Drummond points out many of these laws. The emphasis is on the application to both the physical and non-physical world, with a smooth blending between spiritual and physical laws.

In science, if a ball is thrown, its future path can be pretty well predicted. It is pretty well accepted that I do a good deed, that will set up a pattern that eventually will work its way back to me. The insight of Natural Law, both physical and spiritual will have both physical and spiritual components. The two do not operate separately.

This is further evidence of the connectedness of the physical and non-physical world. As Spiritualists, we accept the idea that we are Spirit living in a physical body. These are not two independent bodies, but are commingled into one life form. Since we are both physical and non-physical, the Natural Laws that affect our lives are both physical and spiritual. Put another way, a physical action results in physical and spiritual responses. A spiritual action will also have a physical and a spiritual response. All actions have physical and spiritual aspects.

One area where science has demonstrated this is in mind/body studies. The effect of the mind on the body, and the body on the mind, is studied in the healing and behavioral fields. Here the spirit mind or the non-physical part of our minds is affected by and affects the body. Though this is a complicated relationship, it seems reasonable to conclude that the same laws work the same in all people. Because people are different, the manifestations will be different, but the laws that produce them are the same. So it is more appropriate to say that Natural Law applies to one world

Continued...



The Seventh Principle

ROSALEE JACKSON – Reno, Nevada

The Seventh Principle states, "We affirm the moral responsibilities of the individual, and that we make our own happiness or unhappiness as obey nature's physical and spiritual laws." We are aware of both physical and spiritual laws; however, are we aware enough to understand when we are disobeying nature's physical laws?

We go to work, and work and work. We come home and keep going – just like that little energizer bunny in the television commercial. We do not allow our bodies to rest. We do not allow our mind or spirit to rest. We are aware enough to know that we should be silent – to be still some of the time – but often we don't do that either. Then we eat too much – sometimes all of the wrong things. This is disobeying nature's physical laws.

Did I mention complaining? I think complaining falls into both categories, physical and spiritual. When we complain it keeps us in a lower vibration. We might complain to ourselves or we might feel that we must complain openly to everyone who will listen. This keeps our energy low and keeps our spirit in a low vibration. We should be careful of what we say and think. Someone said that your body believes everything you tell it. We should be aware of our thoughts. Think joyous, loving thoughts - even if we have to stop and rethink.

Make every attempt to avoid negative thoughts, people, and situations. Some of us fear living our lives more fully because of ancient religious beliefs we learned in childhood. We were told that it was sinful to be joyous, happy and to have fun, to laugh and dance, to love and look up at the stars. As a result, we have stymied our happiness by not thinking for ourselves. When we discovered this was happening, we were too traumatized to break out of that mold, so then we felt guilty.

GUILT is another way we disobey nature's physical and spiritual laws. True spirituality encourages us to treat everyone as we wish to be treated; with respect, kindness and consideration. We must also treat ourselves with respect, kindness, compassion and consideration. One big problem most of us have is simply saying NO! Learn to say no. If guilty feelings come up, say "Let me think about it" or "I'll get back to you." Being kind and considerate does not mean doing something that is not right for you. Saying no may be just the thing you should do.

There are emotions that we hold on to that keep us in a low vibration and make us ill. We disobey nature's spiritual laws when we hold on to anger, resentment, hatred and unforgiveness. Anger is a powerful emotion. You might get angry with someone and stay angry for a long time. There is constant chatter in your head about the incident. You can't let it go. Then one day you wake up and think, "It was all my fault." Then you turn all that anger inward on yourself. You can't let it go. You pull in some guilt with it, too. You beat yourself up every chance you get. It's all right to be angry with someone or even with yourself, but do not hold onto it. Let it go. Discuss it with the person who made you angry, if that is possible. Talk with a friend about it or just have a long talk with yourself and get over it.

These things are simple things to do. We can remember to take care of ourselves first if we take the time to be still – to be still and listen. Listen to what Spirit is trying to tell you. Ask for help in eliminating negative emotions and negative thinking. Listen for the answer. Someone wrote that your eyes believe what they see; your ears believe what they hear; your heart neither sees nor hears...listen to your heart. ◆

The Physical and Spirit... *Continued...*

in which there are two components, the physical and non-physical.

My point is...when we drive a car, we are very aware of traffic and other conditions around us. We closely control the car to avoid unpleasant experiences. There is no doubt that scientific physical law is controlling and predicting the future positions of the car. Why then is it any different for the moral and ethical actions we take? Just as small adjustments affect the path of the car, so do minor spiritual acts adjust our future spiritual path. This is as certain for spiritual actions as it is for the physical care.

I find this very comforting. There is a pattern in all and it is not capricious. Just as scientists are learning more and more about the physical world, I wish there were more studies of the combined effects of the physical and non-physical actions. It is how our future is created; the actions of today, both physical and non-physical, determine the world we will live in tomorrow. ◆

My Healing Journey

DAVID DARNBROUGH – Los Montesinos, Spain

"A journey is best measured in friends rather than miles"
- Tim Cahill

This is the story of an ordinary man, from an ordinary background who – thanks to Spirit – embarked on a fascinating journey through healing. This journey has enabled me to meet many people and to make many friends, in both this world and the next. Little did I know when I was born in 1954, how my life would be influenced by healing and Spiritualism and what a journey it would take me on.

My name is David Darnbrough; I am a Spiritual Healer, Hypnotherapist, Reiki Master, Medium and I teach mediumship and spiritual awareness classes. I am originally from England, but presently live in Spain. I have worked in England, Spain and America, where I have taught workshops and served many spiritual churches.

I was born in a city called Leeds, which is in the county of Yorkshire, the largest county in England. I was brought up in a working-class background; my father was a bricklayer and my mother was a tailoress. Nothing during my childhood gave any indication as to the spiritual adventure that would later open up in my life in so many ways, allowing me to experience so much spiritually.

My life went on like most people's lives do. I was in a job working for the local council, which I didn't like, but it paid the bills and the mortgage. In 1982 I got married to my wife, Sharon, and we bought a house together.

The house we bought was very old and it needed a lot of work; as we hadn't much money, we did the work ourselves. We quickly became plumbers, electricians, painters and decorators. We were in the throes of doing the house up when Sharon suddenly felt a lot of pain from her shoulder; she was unable to move her neck and shoulder. I called the doctor, who diagnosed a frozen shoulder. Sharon had a collar support put on and was told she would have to rest for a few weeks. She had endless weeks of painkillers, injections and immobility – and even with all this, there was no improvement at all.

To this day I still do not know what made me (or prompted me) to ask Sharon to take the collar off. I began to massage the shoulder, and then placed my hands on the affected part. Little did I realize what I was doing, but this was my first experience of healing.

Immediately Sharon felt a warmth coming into her shoulder and started to shake uncontrollably. Subsequently, she fell into a deep sleep. When she awoke, which was at least a couple of hours later, her shoulder had completely healed. She had no pain – and had complete mobility – and no hint that she had ever had a frozen shoulder.



David Darnbrough of Spain, originally from Great Britain, and his wife Sharon were recent visitors to The Church of the Living Spirit in Glendale, Arizona. David presented a Membership Class and was a guest speaker for the Sunday service.



I was not really sure what had happened. I needed some answers, so I started to read many books on healing. I became aware that there must be some kind of intelligence behind this healing because I seemed to know where to place my hands during the healing session.

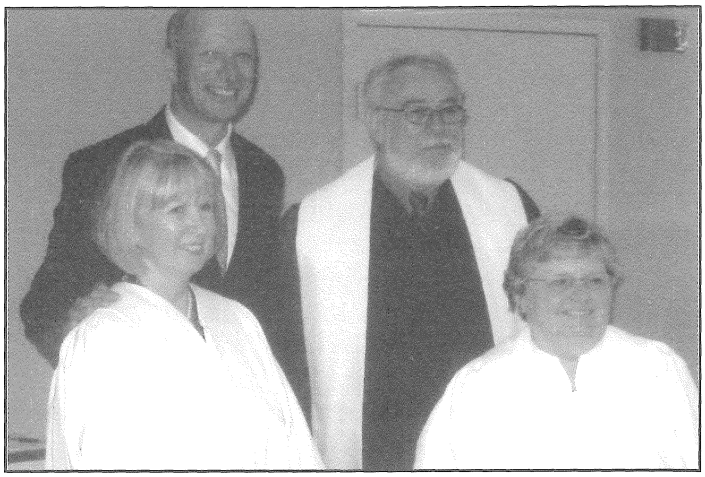
From that time on, when I was in my early thirties, I started to give healing to family members and friends who were open to receiving healing. This started me on a journey to discover what was happening. Many times when I put my hands on people to give healing, they would say, "That is just where it hurts, and I didn't tell you about that." Instinctively I seemed to know where to

Continued...

ORDINATION SERVICE

Patty Palmer and Betty Simpson, co-pastors of the Harrison D. Barrett (HDB) Spiritualist Church of Bangor, Maine, were ordained September 26 by The Rev. Richard Schoeller. Patty and Betty also received their NST degrees. The Rev. Graham Connolly, MSSAC President, served as the chairperson for the service. All of the HDB Church Board Members took part in the ceremony. Sandy Scott, LM, gave the invocation, Nedra Foster read "Desiderata," Kathy Goodness assisted Rev. Schoeller with the presentation of flowers, and Glen Simpson and Sue Jalbert, MSSAC Board Members, provided a musical interlude with Sue playing the drum and Glenn playing the Native American flute. About 90 family members and friends were present for the Ordination.

It is difficult to know for sure (because church records have been destroyed by fire), but it is believed that this is the first time a member of HDB Church has been ordained. Patty and Betty plan to teach classes now that they are ordained and are NSTs. One of their goals is to bring the unconditional love and peace of Spiritualism to the community. ◆



L-Rear: The Rev. Richard Schoeller/The Rev. Graham Connolly.
L-Front: the Rev. Patty Palmer/The Rev. Betty Simpson.

My Healing Journey *Continued...*

place my hands when healing.

I became more and more fascinated with healing and studied Reiki and began to meditate on a regular basis. I gradually became aware that there is a spirit surgeon who works with me and guides me when I am healing.

I have now been healing for over 25 years. The knowledge of knowing that my spirit surgeon works with me is displayed when sometimes he shows me glimpses of inside the body – like an x-ray – when there are certain problems to be healed. During healing and meditation he gave me details of his name and the hospital where he worked. I could see the clothes he wore. I did some research and found out that he, in fact, had worked at the hospital he mentioned. Then the most amazing thing happened; I had been living in Spain for a few weeks and I met a lady who was at my local church. I told her about my surgeon helper and much to my amazement, she told me about a friend of hers, who was now in her 80's and used to sit in circle with her in England. When she was younger she had been a nurse and she had worked along side the surgeon who now heals with me. The spirit world does work in truly amazing ways!

I feel very blessed that I can work with spirit so closely. The wonderful feelings I feel when someone is healed or partially healed are such a blessing. Of course, I have learned over time that it is not always possible to heal everyone. Even if their illness is not completely healed, they are always brought a kind of calmness through the healing ,which seems to help people cope at whatever level they need to.

Over the years I have had some amazing results with healing. I had a lady who had problems with her back for over 13 years. These problems consisted of spondalitis of the spine, continual pain; this also caused her to limp. After one session, she had some improvement, and, after five sessions, the limp had gone completely and she was free of pain. She is now able to walk to the village, a 20-minute walk, with no problems at all. This is something she could not do previously.

My story is true, and I hope it inspires many of you to acknowledge your potential. If Spirit wants you to do spiritual work for them, they will make it happen, whatever hurdles life may put in front of you.

Healing is about the soul's process. I do not believe it is a physical one; when a soul is ready the physical healing will take place. I would like to finish with a quotation that I feel sums up my story...

> *"I haven't a clue as to how my story will end. But that's all right. When you set out on a journey and night covers the road, you don't conclude the road has vanished. And how else could we discover the stars?"*
>
> *– Anonymous.* ◆






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

VIRGINIA BEACH

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

• WASHINGTON •

AUBURN

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

PORT TOWNSEND

HAZARD, Susan, Certified Medium, 60 Vancouver Lane, 98368-9675 - (360) 379-0859, website: www.susanhazardintuitivemedium.com

• WEST VIRGINIA •

CHARLES TOWN

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

GREAT CACAPON

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

• WISCONSIN •

MADISON

HAAK, Rev. Annette L., NST, Pastor of Summerland's Lakeview Spiritualist Church, Certified Medium, Comm. Healer; Classes private consultations 2932 Waubesa Ave., 53711 - (608) 354-2694; email: Revannettehaak@madison.org; website: SLSCMADISON.ORG

WAUKESHA

ORLOWSKI, Rev. Kimberley, NST, For further information email kimberley@abuncha.biz / Phone: (262) 442-3053 / Church Website: http://SLSCMadison.Org

• CANADA •

MONTREAL, QUEBEC

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

DIRECTORY OF NSAC CHARTERED CHURCHES & AUXILIARIES

• ARIZONA •

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

• CALIFORNIA •

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

AUBURN - 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.circleoflovecommunity.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; Contact Joan McDaniel – (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: www.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 every Sun.; Pastor & Pres., Rev. Florence Heyward; Sec., Judith Galar, 4050 N. Oriole Ave., Norridge, 60706-1117, (708) 452-8754.

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DIRECTORY OF CHURCHES *Continued...*

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 317-297-8675, 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.
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., Pat Cizewski, (617) 745-9840; Secy., Janice Kaplan, 21 Buttonwood Lane, Peabody, 01960 - (978) 532-2044; Church website: www.firstspiritualistsalem.org
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 Healing and Meditation Service with a Development Circle following the service. Vicky Homann, Pastor (702) 234-1147.

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DIRECTORY OF CHURCHES *Continued...*

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.; Pres. David Brown, (215) 455-0446; Call in case of inclement weather or for information; Secy., Kathleen M. Pollack, (856) 456-3401.

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.

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

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

The NSAC Healing Center

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

REV. KATHLEEN L. ROTTINO, NST

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

It is easy to send a request for healing prayers for yourself or another. You can send your request through the NSAC site at www.nsac.org by clicking on *Healing* and filling out a form. You can e-mail k.rottino@snet.net, or call 860-642-7976 or write to me at 109 Capitol Drive, Willimantic, CT. 06226 with the name of the person you want healing prayers for.

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

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

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

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

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Questions to Ponder

LINDA CHILES – Church of the Living Spirit, Glendale, Arizona

Recently I was visiting my sister in Chicago for three weeks over Christmas – the longest period spent there in over 10 years. I was thrilled to be able to have a white Christmas after more than 20 years of Christmases in Phoenix, Arizona. It seems I was a minority of one; the others involved wanted Christmas in the warm country.

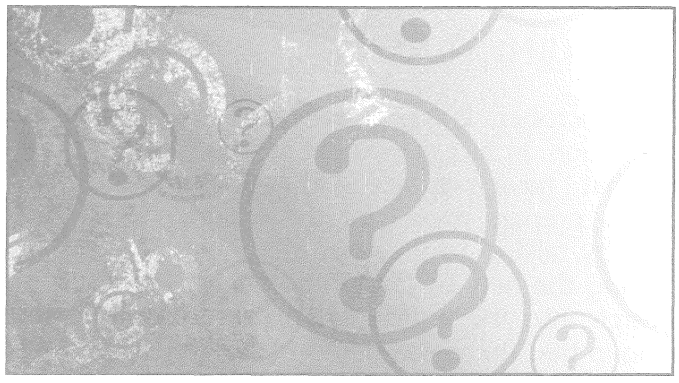
The day after Christmas, I was lying in bed after interpreting a dream about many pens; seemed like Spirit was encouraging me to do some writing. My immediate thought was, "But I don't know what to write about." When I got out of bed and walked into the kitchen, my brother-in-law said, "Have you got a minute?" He read the following Dec. 26, 2009 *Chicago Tribune* article written by Peggy Noonan, *Wall Street Journal.* She wrote:

"I'd like to see a poll on this. Yes or no:

1. Have we become a more vulgar country?
2. Are we coarser than, say, 50 years ago?
3. Do we talk more about sensitivity and treat each other less sensitively?
4. Do you think standards of public behavior are rising or falling?
5. Is there something called the American character; and do you think it has, the last half-century, improved or degenerated? If the latter; what are the implications of this?
6. Do you sense, as you look around you, that each year we have less or more of the glue that holds a great nation together?
7. Is there less courtesy in America now than when you were a child, or more?
8. Bonus question: Is 'Excuse me' a request or a command?"

Are these not great, thought-provoking questions? For those of us aged 50 or over, I can almost guarantee that the answer to these questions is, undeniably, YES. Now, having answered those questions in the affirmative, what are we prepared to do to change them to a NO? (Now isn't that something...promoting what is generally considered a positive into what is generally considered a negative?!)

We all are responsible for our own actions and we, as Spiritualists, work at serving as role models for others.



1. What are your words and actions showing to others?
2. Do your actions reflect the sensitivity you feel for others? Most importantly, ARE you sensitive to others?
3. How do you behave in public – are you conducting yourself in public (as well as in private) in a manner your parents would be proud of?
4. Do you know what the American character is and when was the last time the subject of "character" came up in your discussions – other than as a description of someone in films or books?
5. What IS the glue that holds a great nation together?
6. How courteous are you towards others?
7. When you say "Excuse me," do you utter it as a statement or as a question?

Each one of these questions could serve as a separate article for extensive, deep contemplation and examination. The purpose of this particular article is, however, to simply get you thinking - thinking about your own actions. How are you conducting yourself throughout 2010 (which, speaking in terms of numerology is a "3" year...a year of creation).

I encourage you to choose any one or two (or more if you're really ambitious!) of these questions and examine your own actions. Nothing speaks more loudly about a person than his/her actions. The old adage *actions speak louder than words* is so true. Let us make 2010 a year when we all change at least one of these thought-provoking questions from a negative YES to a positive NO.

◆◆◆

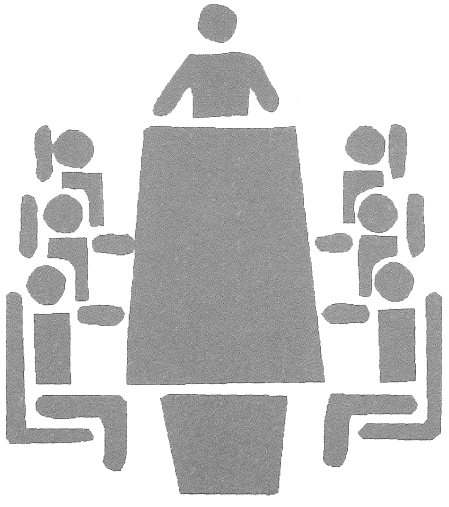
Where is Spiritualism Headed?
A First-Timer's Viewpoint

ERNEST LEARD – Memorial Spiritualist Church, Norfolk, Virginia

In October 2009, I attended my first NSAC Convention. In fact, it was the first convention of any kind that I have ever attended as a voting delegate. I tried to prepare myself for the experience as best I could by talking to previous attendees, reading and studying the new by-law proposals, and doing some research into the anticipated issues. It was obvious going in that there was going to be some pressure to change the NSAC in some ways, including revision of our *Declaration of Principles*, the fundamental expression of our Spiritualist beliefs.

In between convention sessions, and in the days and weeks that followed, I participated in discussions about the convention, the NSAC, and the views and opinions of the people who attended. There were expressions of frustration, feelings that the organization (NSAC) was not responsive to the concerns of its membership, and even some statements that sounded truly paranoid - if a church, auxiliary, or individual does something the NSAC doesn't approve of, the NSAC will move in to "shut them down", etc. Many people expressed the feeling that we need to change the way we do business (as an organization, at the church level, etc.) and cited the declining numbers of Spiritualists. Others observed that the decline in numbers may be due to accounting procedures, and that, in fact, the number of people expressing many basic Spiritualist beliefs is actually growing, though they are not official members of our faith. There may be a lot of truth to this point. How many people pay high prices ($20 to $100 per ticket) just to sit in an audience and have a chance to get a reading from a well-known medium like John Edward, Robert Brown, James Van Praagh, or others? The number is undoubtedly in the hundreds of thousands every year. How many people tune in weekly to television programs like *Medium*, *Ghost Hunters* (the stars of which have, incidentally, been guests at Lily Dale), *Psychic Detectives*, *Most Haunted*, and others. This number must be in the millions. All of these venues and programs are based on two basic beliefs: the continuity of life and communication with spirit.

There is a vast group of potential Spiritualists out there. They either don't know about our religion, our message, our churches – or they do know, and they choose not to leave their traditional faith and/or affiliate themselves with ours. Most other faith traditions have experienced significant membership losses over the last 20 or 30 years. Many experts and polls say these people are not necessarily discarding their faith and belief in God; they are choosing not to express it in their traditional, organized religious setting, such as a church or temple. It is possible the declining Spiritualist membership (if it is, in fact, truly occurring) is due to the same cause.



If we, as a church, want to remain relevant in the world, to these people and, even, to ourselves, we must be willing to change. And the history of NSAC has shown that this organization has been willing to adopt change, though perhaps not always as quickly as some people would prefer. Many of our members decry the "politics" that are part of their church's operations or that manifest themselves during our annual convention. Some say our organizations are too slow to change and modernize and that is why our membership is declining.

Yet, what is the purpose of an organization like the NSAC? In many basic ways, the NSAC serves many of the same purposes of many other large, non-religious organizations. First and foremost, the organization is a representative of its members, member churches and auxiliaries, a representative to other organizations, individuals, even to the various governing bodies we all interact with every day at the local, state, and national levels. In turn, it provides a sense of belonging, of being part of a larger group of like-minded individuals who share the same general set of religious and philosophical beliefs. We should consider, "Where would we be without the NSAC?"

Through the NSAC, and the U.S. Congress' recognition and approval of its articles of incorporation, we

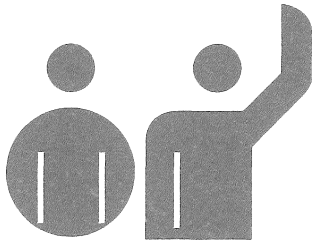
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receive a formal recognition of our faith and a legitimization of our existence as a unique faith group. In order for that to have occurred, we have had to demonstrate that we are a well-organized, serious, and competent organization capable of governing our own affairs.

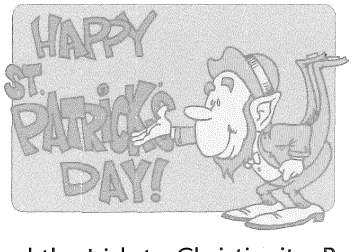
The NSAC also has responsibilities to its membership. It provides support and guidance to its members in many forms, including legal assistance when necessary. It provides for education and training. It can take disciplinary action, when called for, and can act to protect the interests of individual members, clergy, churches, and other auxiliaries through the promulgation of a code of ethics, the establishment of an ethics committee, and may even convene a court when the occasion demands it.

Though we, as Spiritualists, do not proselytize, the NSAC also has a responsibility (as do we all) to promulgate the faith, to "let the word be known" about Spiritualism. There is no need to hide our light under a bushel. One of the primary vehicles for this effort is *The National Spiritualist-Summit* magazine. In print form for many years, there is good reason to explore other avenues of dissemination for this worthy publication, like the Internet. Other venues that have been used are radio and TV programs and print interviews, as well as local church and camp activities that involve the general public. Active chaplaincies at hospitals and nursing homes may also have a role to play in exposing people to Spiritualist ideas. Even the annual national convention can be seen as an effort to spread the word about Spiritualism as we bring ourselves and our organization to the attention of major U.S. cities and to leading scientists and research organizations (like Dr. Gary Schwartz and Dr. Raymond Moody).

What do we need to do, both individually and organizationally, to reach the many potential new members who are out there? What other avenues are available to us to get the word out about our churches, our religion, our beliefs, our activities? Are we making the most of those we are already using? Should we expand our contacts and interaction, formal and informal, with other Spiritualist groups, like non-NSAC churches and auxiliaries, the Spiritualist National Union (SNU) of Great Britain, the International Spiritualist Federation (ISF), or to like-minded groups like the Institute of Noetic Sciences, the White Eagle Lodge, etc.? If we want to continue to grow and develop, both in numbers and in understanding, we would do well to maintain an open mind and a willingness to learn from others, just as our Pioneers did.



The NSAC is an institution. As such, it serves many good and necessary purposes. Like most other large, long-lived organizations, it is resistant to change. That is why these institutions stay around for so long. But the history of the NSAC shows that it is not incapable of change. Indeed, change is necessary for growth to occur, and change **will** come, though it may be gradually and incrementally (evolutionary), rather than suddenly and disruptively (revolutionary). If you feel that the NSAC needs to change, do not simply bemoan the lack of forward progress, and opt out of the process. The organization needs your energy and your input, just as it needs the balance of the more conservative members and their continuing efforts and support. Regardless of which group you fall into, I encourage you to ask yourself, "Do my actions and words divide and diminish the NSAC and the things for which it stands, or do they support and uphold it, as I work alongside others of like mind, to improve ourselves, our churches, and the national organization that holds us all together?" ◆



St. Patrick's Day is an Irish holiday celebrated on **March 17th**, which is the day that Saint Patrick died. He was a missionary in the 4th c who converted the Irish to Christianity. Born around 385 AD in the United Kingdom, his real name was **Maewyn Succat** (he took on Patrick after he became a priest). When he was 16, he was kidnapped by a group of Irish raiders and sold into slavery in Ireland. During his six-year captivity as a shepherd, he began to have religious visions and found strength in his faith. He finally escaped to France and became a priest—and later a bishop. At age 60, Saint Patrick returned to Ireland to spread the Christian word. He used the **shamrock**, which resembles a three-leafed clover, as a metaphor to explain the Christian concept of God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit).

The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place in New York City on March 17, 1762. Green is associated with St. Patrick's Day because it is the color of spring, Ireland and the Shamrock. ◆

Do Our Pets Pay Us?

THE REV. RUPERT SIGURDSSON, NST – Maine



Our pets do cost us money; we buy the feed, we pay to take them to the veterinarian, some of us take them to be washed and clipped – and we pay to get them in the beginning. To keep a pet becomes more expensive each year. A few years ago, a dog or cat would be given to us or we could get one for maybe five dollars at the shelter. They lived the average lifespan and died, never going to a veterinarian.

Today's world is very different; a pet is considered a family member. The medical treatment they receive is about the same as any other member of the family, and often is more expensive. Their meals are not table leftovers anymore; they are balanced meals designed for their digestive systems and priced accordingly. They do live a lot longer with the improved care.

Why do we keep a pet when they are a major expense? Is it because of their companionship? Is it because of their healing affect on our lives? Or is it just because we like them?

Pets return what they cost us in many ways; they are of far more value than what we spend on them. My dog gets me up in the morning – even if it is snowing, raining or the sun is shining brightly – it makes no difference. When Abby, my previous dog, came to my bed and put her paw up on the side of the bed, or my current little Pomeranian, Zippy, presses his nose against my face, I know what it means. They have to go out to do their business, and that gets me started for the day. My dog just did me a favor – I might not have gone out of the house all day for fresh air and exercise without their encouragement.

A pet is a great companion. You can tell them a problem and they never talk back; they will just cuddle up to you. A cat will purr, a dog will lick your hand or face to tell you all is well. A horse will rub its face up to you in thanks for their feed and will give you a great ride through the country. Birds and fish of all kinds will give you amusement when watching them. Pets of all kinds have a calming influence that helps in healing not only mental problems, but also physical ones. Pets help to teach responsibility to children and teach them how to care for an animal; children who are cruel to an animal will be the same to a person and pets help to teach kindness. Pets have a great healing affect on children in hospitals.

Hospitals and Senior Citizen Centers find that patients are calmer and more relaxed when a dog is brought to them for a visit. Prisoners who train dogs for the handicapped are better behaved and give less trouble. Horses and dogs have saved many lives in disasters and, in that way, have helped with the healing process.

I don't think there is any question that pets help you to have a healthier and longer life, and they more than pay for their care in many ways. There is a big bonus when you give good care to a pet you always have a loving companion. Who could ask for anything more? ◆



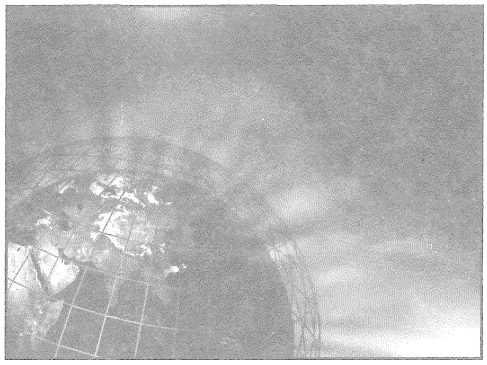
There is nothing in the world that shuts us off from God like being too smart.

– Emmet Fox

The Light of the World –
The Birth of Modern Spiritualism on March 31, 1848

THE REV. MARILYN J. AWTRY, NST – Florida

Two clichés readily heard are "Out of the mouth of babes" and "A little child shall lead them." How wondrous that the family of John D. Fox moved into the house at 1510 Hydesville Road in the Hamlet of Hydesville, New York. It was there that the two young children, Margaretta at age eleven (born Oct 7, 1837) and Catherine at age nine (born March 27, 1839), opened the doorway to communication in this new dispensation.



Although the opportunity presented itself previously in this small cottage, rather than seizing the opportunity and finding the cause of the disturbances, that family simply moved, leaving the peddler's body and communications buried deep in the east wall of the cellar. Not so, with the Fox Family. Although they had been disturbed ever since they took up residency in December of 1847, they just went on with life – ***until...*** yes, until that night when the noises and rappings became almost unbearable for them. Then little nine-year old Katie, in a playful manner, snapped her fingers, saying "Mr. Splitfoot, do as I do." And as the story goes, the peddler responded. This was the beginning detailed account of the communication between the Fox family and the murdered peddler, Charles B. Rosna.

Mr. Ben F. Heyden, in his address at an anniversary of this day, made this statement, which we all should take to heart: "*I would that his name and accomplished mission were inscribed in golden letters upon the title page of every book and pamphlet issued from the spiritual press. It should adorn the walls of every Spiritualist Church and be framed as a motto and hung in every Spiritualist home throughout the world. In short, among Spiritualists, at least, I would have the name of Rosna as familiar as that of Jesus among Christians. I would have the name of Charles B. Rosna so closely blended with that of the Fox sisters that one would not be spoken without thinking of the other, and while the Christian minister is performing the last rites and ceremonies over the bier of the departed, telling the mourners he has gone to that bourne from which no traveler ever returns, I would have all remember that Charles B. Rosna proclaimed to the world that the dead do return and stand ready awaiting for an invitation and opportunity to declare that we still live and for a purpose; and as we live so shall ye live also. Therefore, Margaretta and Catherine Fox and Charles B. Rosna, now, henceforth and forever.*"

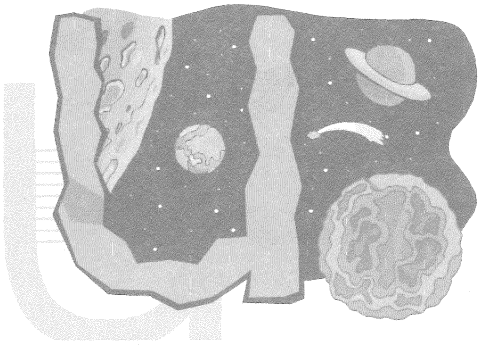
We often talk about the Fox family, and more often of Leah, Margaretta and Catherine. We celebrate March 31, 1848. We often refer to them on the birth dates, but all too often we forget that if the murdered peddler had just resolved to move on in the Spirit world, that wondrous communication would not have taken place. So, it might be well to remember that one of the names should not be spoken without the other.

As we study the early beginnings and move along in the lives of the children, we are often reminded of the negative effects of alcohol that overwhelmed them at times. In calling this to attention, we should also remember that while they moved the demonstration of mediumship from the hamlet of Hydesville to the city of Rochester and then to the world, they suffered at the hands of the unmerciful. While happiness was their joy, a greater unhappiness was a cross they had to bear. And this heaviness caused them to issue *The Curse of Spiritualism* and denial of their wonderful demonstrated acts of mediumship. However, although the death-blow to Spiritualism outlined by Rueben Davenport in his book in 1888 was a truth, their Recantation in 1889 totally wiped out any death-blow and restored Spiritualism and its phenomena to its rightful place. On this date, let us all remember the wonderful gift given to us and to the world by the Fox family.

Leah made her transition November 1, 1890, and is interred in Green-Wood cemetery, (known as Brooklyn's best kept secret, where the rich and famous are interred). Catherine made her transition on July 2, 1892. At that time, there was no one to take care of Catherine's burial and her body was put in a storage vault in Green-Wood. Maggie made her transition on March 8, 1893. Seventeen months later, after Catherine's transition, Mr. Titus, a long time family friend, had Catherine moved from the vault to be interred with her dear sister Maggie in Cypress Hills Cemetery, Brooklyn, N.Y. ◆

Space Travelers in 1870?

MITCH MARTIN, 1955



Spiritualist Pioneers were the Denton family, who claimed to possess unusual powers – and one of these was the ability to visit other planets.

The news that a family named Denton of Wellesley, Massachusetts had been visiting the planet Mars regularly in the years 1860 and 1873 created no great excitement in this country. It is possible the Martians may have been disturbed by the presence of the foreign, unidentified Spirits. The observation made by the Dentons about Mars is strangely prophetic now in view of the flurry of unidentified objects being reported.

The Dentons were a family of means and culture who believed in a spiritual universe as well as a material one—a universe that contained all that is, as well as all that ever has been. They explored this universe in an effort to add to man's knowledge of himself, the world he lived in, and the world he came from.

William Denton, head of the family, lectured and wrote continuously of his experiments and findings. He was convinced that there was scarcely anything which could not be made known to man through psychometry. A personal relic of Shakespeare could, in half an hour, reveal more of the bard to the Dentons than his biographers have been able to unearth in 200 years. A pebble from the streets of Jerusalem contained more information than a library full of books on Jewish history. "I have known a little dust from a copper knife to reveal the story of the ancient copper-miners of Lake Superior," Denton said.

To psychometrists, or psychometers as Denton called them, the secrets of ancient times were open as a field in the sunshine. WE have only to open our spiritual eyes to discover them!" he said.

In 1845, William Denton began conducting psychometric experiments with the assistance of his sister, Anne Cridge, his wife, and, later his young son Sherman, all of whom were sensitives. They shared his belief in the domain of the Spirit which had been so little investigated. That his findings were rejected was to be expected.

"It is easier, by far," he wrote, "to believe in the dishonesty, or at least the self-deception of those making the experiments, than to credit the marvels that they relate."

However, Denton was determined to prove to the world that psychometry could be a boon to mankind. His first sensational proof came in 1860. "When the oil excitement broke out in Pennsylvania," he wrote, "Mrs. Denton psychometrized a specimen of Favorites Gothlandica containing petroleum in its cells, and saw at once its animal origin and that it had no necessary connection with coal or carboniferous beds." At the time, all scientists attributed its origin to vegetable matter.

Denton and his wife wrote three books about their geological, astronomical and archaeological examinations, which are now collector's items. The contents of those books are a storehouse of the most fabulous information, which is gradually being proven to be in complete harmony with the facts rediscovered in this generation. Denton lived to see many of his facts verified.

Early in his career as a psychometrist, Denton discovered that when he placed an object upon his sister's forehead, she saw visions which generally had a direct connection with the history of the object, a history unknown to his sister by normal means.

"I had not experimented very long before I discovered that visions were not only presented to the internal eye," he wrote, "but sounds to the internal ear...the eagle's scream, the volcano's bellow, the low wind's sigh; all were as readily heard as if the sensitive had been present at the time, and the bodily senses thus influenced."

"At first" he explained, "the sensitive, or psychometer, is generally a merely passive spectator, like one who sits and observes a panorama; but in time he becomes able to influence the visions, that is, pass them along rapidly, or retain them longer for a close examination. Then the psychometer, at times, dwells in that past whose history seems to be contained in the specimen. Like a free spirit unhindered by a gravitating body, he moves over its savannas, dives beneath its waters, soars to the summits of its loftiest mountains,

Continued...

visits its caves and watches their tenants or plunges into the fiery craters, and sees the rushing floods as they are belched from the earth's hot hell."

"At length," he went on, "the psychometer becomes released even from the specimen. At will, he leaves the room, passes out into the air, looks down upon the city, sees the earth beneath him like a map, or sailing still higher, beholds the round world rolling into darkness or sunlight beneath him. He drops upon island or continent, watches the wild tribes of Africa, explores the desert interior of Australia, or solves the problem of the earth's mysterious poles."

Denton insisted this wonderful power of psychometry was not confined to a few; though there were but few, he admitted, who could exercise it in its highest manifestations. "Those persons who can see objects with the eyes closed are generally persons who have a large natural endowment of this faculty," he wrote. "The objects are sometimes landscapes and sometimes faces of various persons (sometimes known but generally unknown) that are most frequently observed when the seer is perfectly passive, and hence most readily just before sleep."

His suggestion was to have such persons take a specimen of any kind and, placing it upon their foreheads, close their eyes and then observe the images that presented themselves to their internal vision. "They will be able," he wrote, "in many cases, to observe the connection between the images and the specimens. Sometimes the images may appear to be entirely foreign, but a more accurate knowledge of the history of the specimen might show them to be remarkably appropriate."

He pointed out, however, that a speck of dust upon the surface of the specimen might call up images entirely distinct from those that belonged to the specimen itself. "This is most likely to occur when the history of the specimen is not particularly impressive," he wrote.

Denton stated that he believed at least one in every 10 women had such visions, and at least one in every 20 men had undeveloped psychometric abilities. "Not withstanding the disbelief of materialists and material scientists," he wrote, "there lie realms beyond the domain of physical science abounding with objects of intense interest, and whose existence can be demonstrated as positively as that of the trilobite in paleozoic time; though, for ages, the world's keenest observers never dreamed that it had a being."

"There is more of man than the scalpel ever dissected, or the eye of even the microscope has beheld; and infinitely more of the exterior universe than any physical senses have yet discovered. There are countless myriads of stars that we never saw, and had it not been for power telescopes, used only by a few, we should have had no knowledge of their existence."



Denton's dream was to bridge (by means of psychometry) the chasms of history and peer into unrecorded ages and nations whose early history was lost in darkness. "The ancient manuscripts, paintings and other works of art which still exist," he wrote, "are doubtless still instinct with the Spirit that produced them, and capable of revealing to psychometric exploration the living realities with which they were once connected. At present, these relics are barren of significance. Their hidden meaning lies waiting for the future explorer, as the hieroglyphics of Egypt awaited arrival of Champollion to interpret their significance."

In February of 1867, Denton was given a fragment of an elephant's tusk unearthed by goldminers near Stanislaus River in Toulumne County, California. He placed it upon the forehead of his son, Sherman. "His eyes were closed but otherwise he appeared to be in a perfectly normal condition during the time and could readily notice what took place in the room; frequently laying down the specimen, joining in the conversation, and then going on with the examination." Sherman spoke of visions of white hot lava running down the beds of the Stanislaus River, of a forest fire, and elephants and Indians running to escape a heaving volcano.

In 1867, there was no evidence such a volcanic eruption had taken place in California, nor that elephants had existed there. Nevertheless, a year later at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Professor Whitney, who was a state geologist of California, exhibited a human skull, said to have been obtained at a depth of 130 feet blow the surface, *under four beds of consolidated volcanic ash, known locally as lava.* "Apart from anything connected with this skull," Professor Whitney reported, "the labors of the survey clearly demonstrated the fact that man and the mastodon and elephant had been contemporaneous in California."

A shabti from a Theban tomb in Egypt was used on Sherman, who immediately envisioned a woman's head and a lion's body. Later when he placed the specimen on his sister's forehead, she said, "This takes me to a curious place underground; it is artificial. There are dead bodies. It looks like a catacomb. They must have been embalmed; for I can see their faces. Some bodies are laid down, others seem to be standing."

When Denton gave Sherman a fragment of the skull

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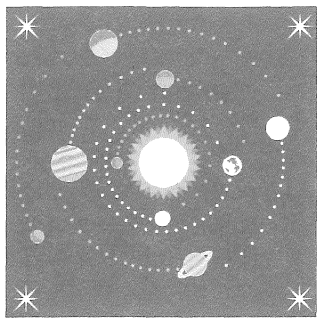
of a mummy from Egypt and asked what he saw, Sherman described a great dark room, in a large building, filled with dead bodies covered with white cloth and spider webs. "The bodies are wrapped and wrapped in cloths a great many times..." In later years, Denton found that specimens were not always needed for the explorations. On October 17, 1869 at 4:30 in the afternoon, he opened a map of the Eastern hemisphere and asked Sherman to look at it. "Go east," he commanded, "until you can see the sun rise." Sherman closed his eyes and reported seeing an ocean and strange island. He spoke of being up so high he could see Europe, the Mediterranean, and the British Isles.

To skeptics this must sound like nonsense, but Sherman, in speaking of Australia, said he saw a large body of salt water, like a sea, in the center of Australia. At that time, there was no record of any such body of water in the wilds of central Australia. However, 70 years later a researcher going through Denton's book noted that such a body of water was discovered and explored for the first time in 1920.

"The labor of a working-man's lifetime would hardly buy a first telescope," Denton wrote, "and when bought, he could but faintly discern the outlines of land and water on a planet as distant as Mars. Tens of thousands possess telescopes much better than that, as sunshine is brighter than candlelight; all they need is knowledge of their own powers and a little instruction in the way to make use of them. With these telescopes they can not only see the outlines of land and water, but they can see water, rocks, plants, homes and people, and watch these people as they follow their daily avocations.

"A telescope," he continued, "only enables us to see; but the spiritual faculties enable their possessors to hear, smell, taste, and feel, and become, for the time being, almost inhabitants of the planet they are examining." In this fashion, Denton believed the secrets of our solar system, which scientists sought so earnestly to penetrate, could be revealed.

His first astronomical observation was in 1866. "We were in the orchard in the evening after supper," he wrote, "Venus shone like a young moon in the western sky, and I said to Sherman, "Look at that star; and then shut your eyes and tell me what you see." Sherman described trees, animals that were half fish and half muskrat, and water that was heavy but not wet. This was the first of a number of experiments in outer space, achieved by choosing the object, then closing the eyes. To visit the planets, Denton would instruct his psychometers to "go into space as far as you can see." The examination of Mars by various members of the Denton family is of more than passing interest today, though at the time it was considered too fantastic to be seriously considered. At the time, psychometry was looked upon as a parlor game.



Sherman went "out into space" as far as he could, at his father's command, and reported that there were people on Mars who looked astonishingly like earth people. He said that they soared above traffic on individual flycycles and seemed particularly fond of air travel, as many as 30 persons occupying single large flying conveyances.

At this time, aluminum was scarcely heard of; yet the Dentons reported it was widely used on Mars for building materials, flying machines, and cooking utensils. Dentons predicted, "When we have discovered some easy method of reducing its abundant ores, we shall probably use aluminum as commonly, as the people on Mars use it."

All the information unearthed by the Denton family was published. It presented a fascinating saga of ancient Egypt, Syria, Europe, and Asia. Denton wrote of primitive races of black men in Italy, of a race of giants, of bird-eaters and stone-throwers, of the Swiss lake-dwellers, of gigantic, hairy Indians who once occupied ancient America and looked more like apes than men. His findings were ignored. He was looked upon as an eccentric crank, although his motives were of the purest.

"Psychometry," he wrote, "will shed much light upon the spiritual nature of man. Every successful psychometric experiment is a revelation of its wondrous powers. I sometimes listen with breathless awe to the statements of psychometers as they unravel the profoundest mysteries of Nature, and I see that we possess power we have hitherto considered the exclusive property of the gods."

Denton was convinced that the beings on Mars had studied our planet and traced us as a people in 1873. "I believe we can, in time, learn to hold communication with them. Perhaps they are psychometers!" he wrote.

In view of today's interest in unidentified flying objects, it seems that Denton's amazing report of 90 years ago (now it is 1955) of his family's psychometric explorations, through outer and inner space, merits attention. Perhaps the development and encouragement of former psychometrists might help to throw some light on a confused world.

At any rate, the amazing Dentons, who penetrated the past of our planet for the benefit of the botanist, the geologist, the historian, soared through outer space to study the planets and to discover other worlds in our solar system, have left a wealth of astounding possibilities needing further experimentation by those of us who hunger to know more of time and space and God!

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Remember Gratitude Day –
The Fourth Sunday in March



Spiritualist Benevolent Society (SBS) is an account that was set up by the National Spiritualist Association of Churches (NSAC). The sole purpose of this account is to help the retired workers or someone who has insufficient income. The recipients of this award are determined on basis of their financial needs and being a dedicated worker in some compactly in a NSAC church. They do not have to be a certified worker, however, they must have demonstrated the love of Spiritualism in their church or camp by serving willingly to further Spiritualism for at least 20 years.

Below is a letter that came to our office in January 2010.

> Thank you to those who contribute to the Benevolent Society. For those of you who do not understand how much this means for the recipients, let me explain. I speak only from my own experience but, I'm sure I'm not unique. Because I have a very small emergency savings account and a life insurance policy, I am not entitled to extra help like food stamps.
>
> I am grateful I am so "rich" I do not qualify but, when my medical expenses and groceries outlast my income, I would be lost without your help. Please realize the Benevolent Society may be a lifeline for someone in need and not a frivolous gift.
>
> God bless,
> A Grateful Recipient

When you are at an early age in life, it is difficult to understand that at one time you will be unable to work, and you will depend on your retirement income. Unfortunately, inflation and long term investments do not work in your favor. Therefore, what you thought would be a good income turns out to be short for the present needs.

It is our responsibility to help our fellow Spiritualists who are in need. One way we can do this is by contributing to the SBS account. You can make out a check **payable to SBS** and mail it directly to: **NSAC, PO Box 217, Lily Dale, NY 14752-0217** or you can phone **716-595-2000** and make a contribution by using your credit card.

March 28, 2010 will be **Gratitude Sunday**. This is a wonderful way of remembering our pioneers who made this religion a success. On Gratitude Sunday we ask all of the churches to have a special collection for the SBS fund or have a special fund raiser for this event. It is coordinated with the birth of Spiritualism, March 31st. Please take this up among yourselves to make this a gratifying fund drive.

As Treasurer of NSAC, I must inform you that if we do not make this account grow, we will not be able to provide for the future needs. Please give with your heart after you have meditated on this article.

Thank you,
Peter Berg, NSAC Treasurer

What happened in MARCH *throughout the years?*

March – We celebrate the anniversary of Modern American Spiritualism.

MARCH 13

Dr. James Martin Peebles was born March 13, 1822 in a small Vermont town called Whittingham. Even though he was one of seven children, he was highly educated and became a medical doctor, who practiced until age 80. He transitioned just one month before his 100th birthday, during his 70th year of devotion to Spiritualism. A voluminous writer, he constantly urged his readers to "spiritualize" their lives. *The grave is no prison house for the soul, but that life—progressive life—is ours, eternal in the heavens. Dr. J.M. Peebles*

MARCH 19

Gladys Osborne Leonard made her transition in 1968. As an English child, born in 1882, she was known for her many spiritual visions. Later known as *The Queen of English Mediums, The British Mrs. Piper* and the *Greatest Trance Medium*, she channeled her great-great grandmother Feda, who had been a Hindu during her physical life on earth. She went public with her demonstrations at age 28, encouraged to do so by Feda, and became well-known as Sir Oliver Lodge's medium. Her autobiography, *My Life in Two Worlds,* is a most interesting account of her work as a Spiritualist medium.

MARCH 21

Prof. J.S. Loveland was born in 1818 in Stoddard, New Hampshire. After serving as a Methodist minister for 16 years, he resigned and took up the torch for Spiritualism. A talented orator and medium, he also authored *Esoteric Truths of Spiritualism.*

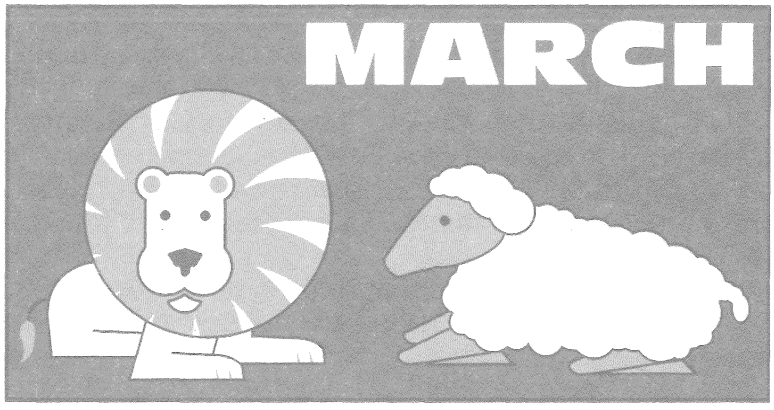
MARCH 31

Allan Kardec transitioned on March 31, 1869. Allan Kardec is the pseudonym of the French teacher and educator Hippolyte Léon Denizard Rivail (Lyon, October 3, 1804–Paris, March 31, 1869); he adopted the name given to him by spirit contact. He spent the final two decades of his life writing about Spiritism.

MARCH 31

The Advent of Modern Spiritualism! Let us remember and honor the Fox sisters, through whose mediumship, communication with the Spirit World was established.

T. Lynn was a northern England miner who contributed a great deal to further the understanding of physical mediumship. September 1928 began a period of seven months – ending in **March 1929** - of sitting for experimentations for the British College of Psychic Science. ◆



What happened in APRIL *throughout the years?*

April – We celebrate HEALING.

APRIL 13

Musical Composer Prof. Chalmers Payson Longley of Hawley, Massachusetts received two complimentary letters, both authored on April 13, 1906, from Dr. J.M. Peebles and Harrison D. Barrett, then ex-president of the N.S.A. The letters commended Mr. Longley for his wonderful efforts to promote Spiritualism through published music and song. Dr. Peebles wrote, "A splendid bound book of over 100 pages of melody: songs and words adapted to Spiritual meetings and social home gatherings. These cheering and inspiring songs of Prof. Longley will live on long after he has passed to the highlands of Immortality where motion is music and harmony is as abiding as the stars." Mr. Barrett's letter stated, "Throughout the past winter I have been helped in my public work by the spiritual songs that you have given to the world – fresh and sparkling with the life-giving waters of inspiration – all up and down the Missouri Valley, through the territories and in the Middle West your songs have found their way, blessing the thousands who have heard them as well as cheering the souls of those who have sung them."

APRIL 14

On April 14, 1865, **President Lincoln** was assassinated. That morning, he mentioned to one of his Cabinet members not only his odd dream of previous nights, but that he had seen it in the stars; he would die tonight. Spiritualists mourned their lost President, but pointed to his predictions as proof of Spiritualism's power. When the American Civil War broke out in 1860, volunteers from the Midwest introduced ideas of Spiritualism to other groups of people. 1 out of 4 Union soldiers were foreign born, a majority of which were German Spiritualists.

APRIL 15

"April 15, 1912 the **Titanic** sank in mid-ocean. My father was a passenger on this ship and passed on to the next world. A fortnight after the disaster, I saw my father's face, and heard his voice just as distinctly as I heard it when he bade me good-bye before embarking on the Titanic. With help of a well known voice medium, Mrs. Etta Wriedt, I talked with my father for over twenty minutes. ***The Blue Island*** provides very definite proof of communication from the spirit world."
Stead, Estelle. W. and Pardoe Woodman.1922 copyright.

APRIL 18-22

From April 18-22, 1924, **the first exhibition of psychic art** was held in the country in Auckland and later the New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts accepted a number of designs drawn through the mediumship of **Mrs. Bertha Sinclair Burns** for display. This woman was also the Editress of a magazine, *Aquarius,* which was devoted to Spiritualism and creative thought.

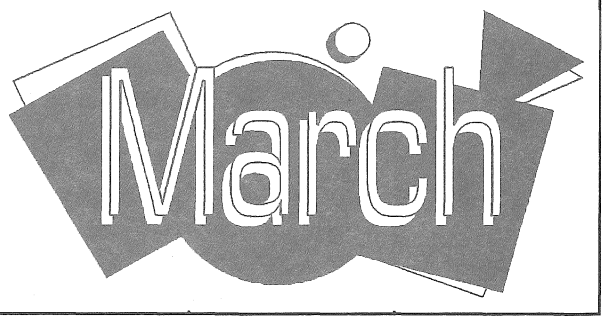
APRIL 24

The first Spiritualists arrived in **Wonewoc**, Wisconsin in 1874, most of them from New York, and organized the Joint Stock Spiritualist Association. By 1880 the Spiritualists had a well-organized society and had acquired Wonewoc's first frame school building which was built in 1857. John L. Potter was the regular lecturer, and according to the Wonewoc Enterprise, he lectured each week. The Camp hosted dances, pot-luck dinners, concerts, and all kinds of activities widely attended by the townspeople. In 1893, the JSSA bought a piece of land (24x30 rods) on the bluffs overlooking Wonewoc, where the Camp stands today. **Western Wisconsin Camp Association organized on April 24, 1902**, and held its first Camp Meeting from July 12-28, 1893. The second Camp Meeting was held August 13-27, 1903. Since 1874, Camp Wonewoc has embraced people and given them **a place to come for healing.** ◆



2010 MARCH 2010

QUOTES TO BLESS EACH DAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
From the Trance Mediumship of The Rev. Miriam Bostwick (trans.)	**1** We are enlightened through a simple system of balancing the energies of the mind with the energies of the soul.	**2** Experience is the effect of one's view of the law of life.	**3** Help me to always be aware of my motives that I may ever strive to purify them.	**4** I am not the thought. I am the mover of the thought.	**5** I am Spirit, formless and free; whatever I think, that I will be.	**6** Oh God, I am grateful for all life's experiences, especially the difficult ones, for I know that they are in truth my greatest blessings.
7 Free me from the prison of my judgments.	**8** Fear is the brain's control of the soul; faith is the beauty of the soul's expression.	**9** I accept that the key of wisdom to the door of freedom is the ability, willingness and joy of change.	**10** God, in ignorance and fear I made a judgment which I now fully release to you.	**11** Acceptance - something good is happening!	**12** Thank you, God, for granting me the opportunity to be your unobstructed vehicle for the divine flow.	**13** God is the true source of my supply and everything is working out the way it should; therefore I am free from all concern.
14 What of the heart freely gives in God's love forever lives.	**15** As freely as I give, so shall I receive.	**16** One who cannot forgive oneself is not capable of forgiving another.	**17** **HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY** I affirm that Truth is the awareness of the divinity within me.	**18** I let the magic creative imagery of divine thought work within me.	**19** That which we hold destroys us; that which we give unfolds us.	**20** Make friends with your own adversities; they are in truth your own attachments.
21 Attachments bind us to creation and serve to retard our spiritual growth.	**22** I alone am personally responsible for this feeling of mine.	**23** Irritation wakes the soul; satisfaction lets it sleep.	**24** I make moment by moment application of what I am thinking.	**25** Compassion is the key which unlocks the door of pity so that we may free our soul to view objectively.	**26** Compassion has the light of reason.	**27** To empathize, not sympathize, brings balance and freedom.
28 I willingly and freely serve the Light.	**29** I experience the joy of living as I freely express goodwill, generosity and compassion toward all.	**30** Once you forgive something, you free it.	**31** **The BIRTH of Modern Spiritualism** Thank you, God, for multiplying my supply.			

2010 APRIL 2010

QUOTES TO BLESS EACH DAY

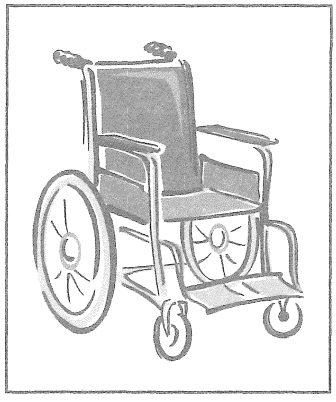
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			**From the Trance Mediumship of Mary Sigurdsson (trans.)**	**1** Laugh instead of cry, don't dwell on the past.	**2** Negative thoughts bring sadness and can destroy the brain.	**3** Everyone needs someone to share their life with; being lonely is not healthy.
4 **HAPPY EASTER!** Your life *can* be what you want it to be.	**5** Live your life one day at a time, take things as they come, then deal with them.	**6** Our negative thoughts can block healing.	**7** Healing needs a strong belief.	**8** Our physical thinking often interferes with spiritual thinking.	**9** The color blue is a help in healing; if you don't feel well you should wear something blue.	**10** Always think perfection; believe, know and see yourself as a perfect being.
11 Meditate; picture a beautiful flower garden to raise yourself to a higher state of mind.	**12** Mentally cast out disease through meditation and picture yourself in perfect health.	**13** The past is the past, let it go. Bad things that happened are in the past – gone.	**14** Negative thoughts can block spirits' help.	**15** You have friends in spirit; you will be guided.	**16** Allow your spirit friends to help you expand your life to the fullest.	**17** Do your best with whatever your mission on earth is.
18 Keep yourself young, healthy, happy and study – become whatever you want.	**19** Do not let people pull you down; instead, pull them up.	**20** All ideas come from Spirit.	**21** A laugh is contagious; a smile is one of the greatest things a human can do.	**22** The creative fire that helps you to the highest levels is always being fed to you by Spirit.	**23** Positive thoughts help you to keep yourself healthy.	**24** If you do not live a good life on the earth, how can you expect to find it on the spirit side?
25 You have got to help yourself.	**26** No one has the right to destroy life.	**27** Be *willing* to live in full spiritual consciousness.	**28** You must be thankful for every day you live and for your guides.	**29** When you wake up in the morning, it is to make a better day than the day before.	**30** Progressing in a spiritual way is not always easy.	

Aiding the Chronically and Terminally Ill

THE REV. CHARLENE KLEINSCHMIDT, NST – Montana

I am writing this article to help you understand how, as Spiritualists, you can aid the chronically and terminally ill in appropriately dealing with their conditions. This is one of the best opportunities we have to demonstrate our sincere belief there is no death and that life is continuous. Whatever the condition, spiritual healing can, if not cure, alleviate some of the pain and discomfort. Regardless of our physical appearance or limitations, we are free in spirit and should live to the highest, within present limitation, always working to be as active as possible and choosing to be positive about the future.

Just to assure you I know of what I write, I shall list the illnesses and symptoms that have led me to my present circumstances. Among my "companions" I deal with: anemia (all 3 kinds), Asthma, Calcinosis, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (actually I just think I'm tired of the rest); Esophagitis; Fibromyalgia: Gastroparesis; GERD; hypothyroidism; Interstial Lung disease with minor fibrosis; Post Polio Syndrome (a real delight, never know how you're going to look when you walk, if you're fortunate enough to still be walking!); Raynauds; Scoliosis; Sjogrens; Sleep Apnea; spondylosis; Systemic Scleroderma; and Telangiectasias. Just think – I'm one of the lucky ones! If you wish to further explore the definitions of these, your favorite search engine will usually lead you to well informed definitions and support groups.



During the day the only signs are gloves almost 24/7, removed when water is involved. You'd be amazed at the people who take 24/7 literally and are appalled when you remove them to wash dishes or touch food. It's simply my way of avoiding dirty hands. One thing with gloves, you have no doubt when your hands are dirty! Bottled water (numbered) to be sure I stay hydrated; an unseen lift in my left shoe; hoodies or hats worn when the Raynauds hurts my ears plus multiple layers of clothing which make it appear I'll be taking to the slopes any minute, and the ubiquitous cane, which I figure every 70 year old who's made it this far without breaking something should carry as a badge of honor and not a symbol of age, simply the realization you'd like to keep your balance!

When I take the time to sit, you will find me wrapped in my Snuggie® as even in summer I freeze. I'm a real sight at bedtime! By the time I get my C-pap, heated neck band, mittens and booties on and the pillow between my knees you can hardly find any part of me, except the top of my head and hair.

Too often we allow finite judgment to cloud our view. The human body is temporal. We need to accept that. While healing is possible, we should not try to judge what degree of healing is occurring within. If we are true to our Spiritualist foundations we understand that the soul is unaffected by the outward manifestation of illness and infirmity. Emotionally, we have the choice to accept the reality of current situations and our response to them. Sometimes a temporary acceptance of a negative response may be totally acceptable.

For example when someone states they're never going to get well, and the facts appear to verify their feelings, it can be more helpful to agree and encourage finding solutions that make the present situation possible to use positively. Please try to avoid statements such as "Don't say that." At that moment they need to feel your support – not the guilt producing feeling they've upset you. This is not about you, it is about the person's present reality.

Sometimes when I hear Alzheimer families being counseled to "go where they are," I wonder whose reality is the "real" one. Particularly when they are visiting with relatives long-passed and seeing rooms we don't! Perhaps they're already spending time behind the thin veil between our worlds.

Statements to try to banish from your language: "You don't look sick!" Would you care to see my interior, in stages of turning to stone? If I look like death warmed over, don't exclaim "You look great" or "You haven't changed a bit." I can still see in a mirror. On the other hand, those statements are nice if I've spent four hours putting on makeup and finding a color that makes my skin look fairly normal. Just don't lie to me, accept what you see and if you're not comfortable don't make any comments on my appearance.

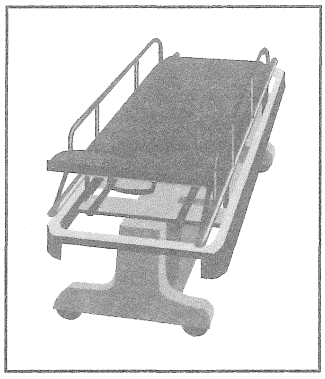
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Please keep yourself from saying "I know just how you feel." Whether bereavement or life threatening illness, none of us know how another feels. Even if we share the same disease or disaster, as with the God of your understanding, every one has an unique and personal relationship with the experiences in their life.

Another well meant gesture is trying to "help" me understand what I have done to bring this on or why I made the "choice" to experience it. Believe me I've spent hours trying to figure that one out and sometimes I don't care. It's here and what happens next is my concern. Please drop the blame the victim attitude.

Here are some suggestions for making Spiritualism more visible in your community:

1. Many nursing homes have young adult residents who would appreciate visits from younger members of your congregation.
2. Learn about the elderly in your community who could use a friendly visit.
3. Find out about support groups and visit them to better understand what people are experiencing and where you might be able to help.
4. Holidays are often used by many groups, but these people are there 365 days a year.
5. Have your lyceum make tray decorations at other times of the year when most long term facilities would love them.
6. Anyone with talent or a choir? Offer to entertain some evening or, even better, afternoon. Mornings are often full of dr. visits or tests but, afternoons waiting for family members to come can be devastatingly lonely when you're hooked up to machines and the only time someone appears is to change your position or hang a new bag on your IV.
7. If you have the facility and someone who is willing to be there to make sure things are in order and lock up, offer use for support groups at a nominal fee or as a gift to the community.
8. Watch out for the myriad of support organizations running walks and other events for fund raising or public awareness. Perhaps you can have tee shirts with your church name or logo made and run as a group.
9. When a member develops a malady, educate yourself about its symptoms and prognosis, work with them to find help and if there isn't anything in the area, start something. This is not the time to proselytize (something I hope no Spiritualist would try to do) but, simply to demonstrate your presence and joy in life.



Think your congregation is too small and far flung? Give them a chance, all of us can do something, no matter how small to make another's day better.

There are easy ways to make your church more disabled friendly:

- First, try to have handicapped parking as close to the door or ramp as possible. Many places have the right idea, but they place the parking a difficult walk away.
- Second, either paint or use yellow tape to mark steps for those with low vision and put handrails on both sides of stairs where possible. Check to see if a person can use them to bear weight without pulling them loose. This may be impossible but, many of us actually use them to help pull our body weight up.
- Third, put hand sanitizer in your restrooms. For you a little cold water might be momentarily uncomfortable, for us, it can lead to hours of excruciating pain. Many of us never try the water faucet because of past experience. While we probably carry it in our purse, we may have left it at the table.
- Be sure toilet paper is readily available. It can be embarrassing to have to call out for help. Better yet, place a package of adult wet wipes on the top. Many suffer bowel incontinence.

If there is no way to make your church accessible, try to locate a convenient facility with the necessary accommodations. Some senior citizen organizations or community meeting rooms are willing to allow you to use them free of charge or for a nominal fee. Then offer a monthly (or the more the better) service specifically for those in need of healing, their families and friends.

Last, but not least, find ways to let us help. We need to feel needed and our self confidence benefits mightily when we are treated as contributing members of society. Many of us are no longer able to work but, we can make sure the hymnals are distributed at the door or sit and greet incoming guests and members. (Think Walmart!) Your thoughtfulness will be appreciated, believe me. ◆

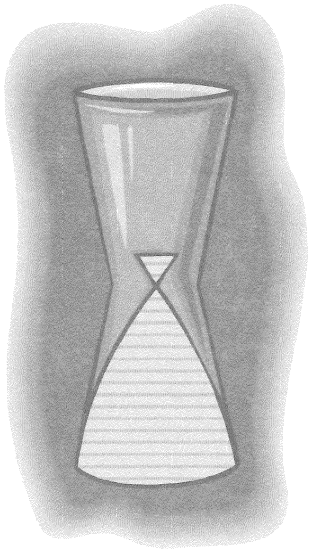
The Chain of Life

Lesson from Spirit received through the Mediumship of The Rev. Florence Becker (trans.)

THE REV. DEL LAUDERBACK – Golden Gate Spiritualist Church, San Francisco, California

Reverend Florence Becker founded the Golden Gate Spiritualist Church in San Francisco in 1924, and she was its principal medium and spiritual leader until her passing in July, 1970. Her weekly séances were well known for the variety of physical phenomena that occurred in them. In these séances, spirit voices manifested through trumpets that moved, unaided by human hands, around the séance circle and manifested independently anywhere in the séance room. Playing music boxes floated about the room. Spirit voices spoke to those present and gave evidence of the spirit speakers' identities and offered comfort to loved ones. While all this was going on, spirit also spoke through Rev. Becker's entranced body. The Rev. Florence Becker's mediumship was widely known for the high spiritual level and accuracy of direct spirit contact.

Special séances were held from time to time, at the direction of spirit, for the production of paintings precipitated directly on canvas from the Spirit World through Rev. Becker's mediumship. More than 20 of these precipitated paintings are presently on display at the Golden Gate Spiritualist Church in San Francisco.



For many years, Rev. Becker worked publicly as a trance medium. Learned addresses were delivered through her by her guide, Dr. E. J. Briggs, and by others from the Spirit World. A Native American woman, Squaw Sally, gave messages to the church assembly using Rev. Becker's entranced body. Rev. Becker received reports from members of the assembly that Squaw Sally was sometimes very direct in her message work, revealing information about the person receiving the message that the person didn't particularly want others in the assembly to hear or know. Some years later, Rev. Becker, being highly clairvoyant and clairaudient, decided to take over the message work herself.

When she first tried to give messages from Spirit from the platform in this way, she found the pull mentally from all those in the assembly interfered too much with her message work. She decided to have people write their question on pieces of paper (billets) and submit them. This didn't work too well. She found the strong mental pull from the assembly directed at her still interfered with spirit contact. So she decided to work blindfolded, to divert the attention of the audience from her to the billets, using two large linen dinner napkins as a blindfold. The conductor of the service would tie them tightly around her head, one at a time. Since she could see neither the billets nor the people, the assembled audience would have no reason to focus on her, to try to mentally influence her.

To give messages from Spirit, Rev. Becker planned to use her gift of psychometry that allowed her to "read" the billet by holding it in her hand. She found she was unable to distinguish one person's vibration on the paper from another when the billets were placed all together in a basket. The individual vibrations were mixed. To keep the individual vibrations from becoming mixed, she decided to ask people to put the billet in an envelope and to write identification on the envelope before placing it in a basket. On the platform, Rev. Becker held the envelope with its identification up so her guides could read the identification to her, which she then spoke out.

Receiving a response, Rev. Becker opened the envelope, removed the billet, held it in her hand, and, through her gift of psychometry, told the person exactly what they had written on the billet. She then answered their inquiry through her various gifts of mediumship. Remember, she was completely blindfolded while doing this. She worked this way from the platform of the Golden Gate Spiritualist Church and many other Spiritualist platforms, including those of California State and NSA (later NSAC) conventions, for approximately three decades.

A large portion of Rev. Becker's spiritual work was devoted to teachings of a very high nature from the Spirit World which were received through her mediumship in various ways. One time she was taken into trance for 16 consecutive hours to learn the nerve

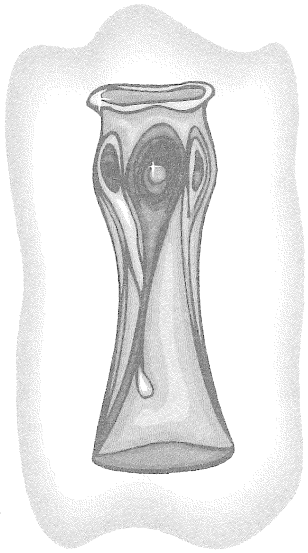
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currents that interpenetrate our physical and mental bodies. These are the channels (both to us and through us) that those on the spirit side use to communicate. Balance of these nerve currents helps our spiritual progression.

Another time she was directed by spirit to obtain a large roll of butcher paper and gather together five of her students. Spirit told her they were going to take her, in trance, for an extended period of time to dictate lessons through her. Her students were to take turns writing these lessons down, eating, and sleeping.

This was accomplished. Spirit held her in trance for 36 hours while the body of knowledge known as the *Science of Being* was dictated through her. After she passed to Spirit in 1970, Rev. Becker's husband published these teachings together with some others that had been received through her mediumship. That book, *The Science of Being,* is available through the NSAC bookstore (bookstore@nsac.org).

During the 1940's, 50's, and 60's, a large body of teachings known as *The Faculties of Being* were revealed from spirit through Rev. Becker. This material remains unpublished. The following lesson is from these teachings. It touches on the First Faculty of our Being - Duty, Gratitude, and Tolerance. This is one of her briefest lessons, but beautiful, nonetheless.



****

CHAIN OF LIFE

Received through the trance mediumship of The Rev. Florence Becker

The Chain of Life that links all mankind together is the Golden Thread of Truth of man's Being – his Oneness with God. Seek this Golden Thread or Wisdom – it must be found. It is by nature separate from the function, but man loves to mingle it with the tangled web of human weaving. You become weary as you try to function alone without God. When there is confusion, struggle, and unrest, it is because of your failure to use the power intelligently which God has for you to use.

Halt! Stand tall and might in this Presence. Take your rightful place from this moment that no day shall dawn nor sun set without a few quiet moments with God that the human weakness or error may be given over to God's strength. If you would learn to turn within to find that which you wish expressed in your outer world, you will have learned one of the greatest secrets of the Universe. You pause, you think, you apply, you concentrate, you meditate – then search for this Mighty Treasure. When you have found it, no outward thing can take it from you.

God's likeness (Christ Principle) is awakened in your consciousness. Then you can strengthen not only your human weakness but the error of others.

How little you realize the power you carry with you. It shall lead you on and upward to this Path of Life. It shall flood your Universe and burn through all conditions if you keep it lighted. But if the way points to force of the human, you are mixed with illusion. If it leads to Spiritual Substance, it points the way to Freedom.

Gratitude, Tolerance, and Duty – store up Spiritual Substance.

****

Spiritual Substance, she taught, is that out of which Spiritual bodies are made. Spiritual Substance is formed from the "Formless" through the application of the Second Faculty of our Being - Faith, Poise, and Humility. The "Formless" is that Great God Power Everywhere Present in the Universe. We have the functions of the brain, our five physical senses, and our Faculties of Being, "which house our soul and lead us out." ◆

A more complete article about The Rev. Florence Becker, her life, work, and mediumship appeared in the July, 2006 issue of *The National Spiritualist Summit.* Reprints of this article, and another detailing a séance she held on the 100th Anniversary of Modern Spiritualism (also published in *TNS*), may be obtained from the writer, Rev. Del Lauderback @ engeltie@aol.com Please include your mailing address and in the subject space of the email, write "Rev. Becker Reprints."

Goodness is a process of becoming, not of being. What we do over and over again is what we become in the end.
– **Joan Chittister,** *Benedictine nun, author, and lecturer.*

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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

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My Sister's Keeper?

NANCY MOTZ – BS, ChE
Spiritualist Church of Awareness,
Orlando, Florida

When does personal responsibility extend to others? Are we responsible for other's actions?

I joined the religion of Spiritualism because of a founding principle – personal responsibility. Take away the ability to talk to the dead, bend spoons, channel energy, or table tip (all innate human abilities) and what is left in our religion? The ability to grow by taking responsibility for one's own actions remains. When, if ever, does this transfer to others? Yes, inevitably, we are all responsible *for* one another and it is in our best interest to improve the lives of each other through love and peace. As we evolve, we shall join in family units of light and there will be no war. Until we are there, we incarnate on the earth plane and take charge of a physical body. On the earth plane, we are held accountable for our own actions and not those of others. This is enough for us to handle. Most of us, according to my beliefs, are even "veiled" from past and future life knowledge to help us focus as we start anew on earth.

The division of responsibility on earth ends at the boundary of the physical skin, the largest organ of the body. We *are not responsible for other's actions on earth,* just as we are not responsible for any would-haves, could-haves or should-haves. So does our religion walk the talk? Does our religion uphold this principle in its governing bodies and in our churches? One of the reasons I left traditional religion was the discovery of things that were kept secret from me over the years. That did not feel good to me, but I have learned that certain aspects of all religions operate behind closed doors. So we are shielded from truly knowing...our governments operate this way also.



Does a religion stand on its own principles in its ecclesiastical decisions. Am I my Sister's Keeper? Yes, but in a different way...by choosing to stand with our family of light in the openness of truth so that we may all grow by each other's example. ◆

poetry

POEMS

BONNIE WHEELER – Maine

Healing Hugs

Wonder what a hug can do
Perchance change
a person's attitude?
We need more folks to be carriers,
A hug can break language barriers.
No need to save them
for rainy days
The more you give,
the more you have
to give away.
Reach out your arms,
without delay,
Hug everyone on your path today.



Joy of the Healing Spirit

The joy of
abiding in Spirit
Awaiting the healing touch
Feeling safe, guided, unconditionally
loved –
Waiting for the sun to rise
So I can hold Spirit's hand –
To receive healing,
Ask and step aside
Placing your burdens
In Spirit's hands
Where wisdom
truly abides.

National Spiritualist Association of Churches (The)
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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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