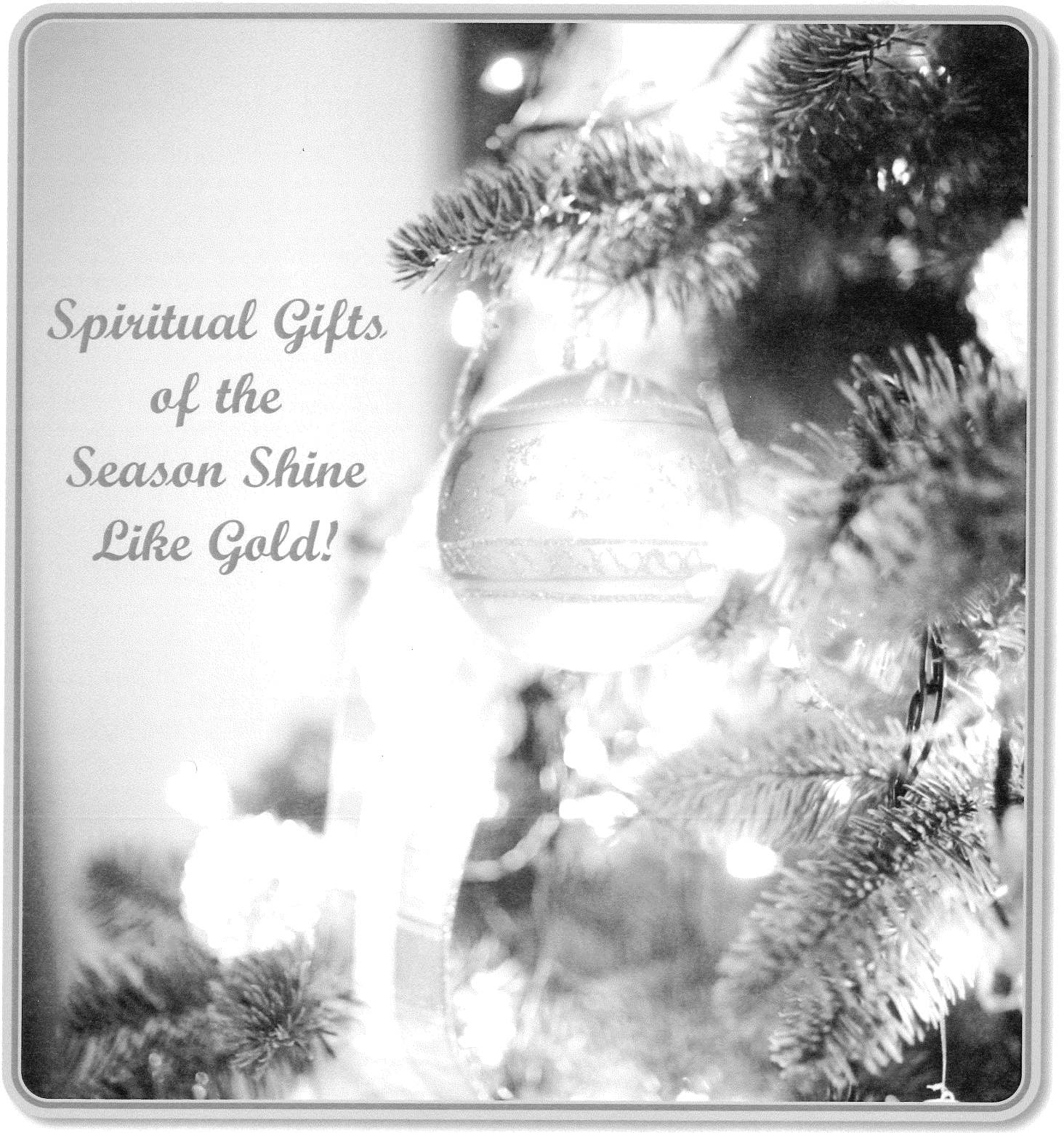
The National Spiritualist-Summit

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2012



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

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The National Spiritualist-Summit

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Holiday Spiritual Explorations

LAURA LEE PERKINS, EDITOR – Arizona/Maine

As we enter into the annual Holiday Season, let us remember that this time brings us many new opportunities. During November, the month of *Gratitude*, we have many opportunities to say "Thank You" out loud, in front of family and friends. During December, the month of *Giving*, we learn more about the cyclical joys of giving and receiving as we hunt for a special card or gift that will express just how important a loved one's presence is in our lives. Gratitude and giving are both inherent parts of the life of Spiritualists, who join in the celebration of the Holiday Season.

Commercial messages about holiday expectations are mostly just "commercial" and empty — devoid of deep meaning. However, even these repeating (and often annoying) messages can spur us into deeper spiritual thoughts and experiences. When we compare what the commercial messages promise to bring into our lives to the reality of the experience, we are often nudged by Spirit in a different direction. We know that the silent, cold, star-filled nights can inspire awe, and that Christmas carols can bring tear-filled memories. We understand how hard a loved one searched to express their caring when we take the time to read the holiday card's special message or lift the cover of a wonderful, unexpected gift box.



Take the time to experience the spiritual mysteries of the holidays; express your desire to Spirit to explore spiritual transcendence, which elevates us into direct spiritual contact. Close your eyes and breathe deeply, speaking the words *gratitude* and *giving* — express both over and over and over. Write these two words on a special piece of paper with a colored pen and place the paper where you will see it several times each day.

Be grateful for the opportunity to serve and offer *yourself* as a gift back to God. You will never be sorry, but your life will change, opening into clearer and more focused intentions. You will not wander in the fog of uncertainty, but will be gently guided into the gentle current of *flow*. You will be induced into a higher level of consciousness, which is similar to falling in love, because we are learning about the essence of love out of which we were born. There will be a feeling of "coming home" to God.

As you search for answers in silence, similar to a computer search, you are looking for what you are going to manifest in life. You are allowing yourself to be led back to the source of your own creation — Infinite Intelligence. As you take the holiday season to rise into higher states of consciousness, becoming immersed with Spirit, your internal vibration will accelerate, moving you from one level of vibration (physical/visible) to another (spiritual/invisible). This transformation, once initiated and supported daily, helps us to find and follow our purpose on earth. Out of life's natural upward spiral, we develop a stronger personal relationship with our Higher Power.

Humans use rituals (celebrations) to celebrate, mark and remember what is important to us. Rituals help us continue to grow in our search for deeper spiritual connections because they help us to focus, remind us of God's presence, offer symbolic ways to express remorse, gratitude, and giving. Rituals help to offer completion. Rituals offer us opportunities to be both exuberant and reverent.

Worship, prayer, thanksgiving, offerings and gratitude are all rituals of hope, which open the gate to love. It will be opened in the right way at the right time if we trust and ask to be led forward. Prayer is hope in action with no boundaries…the answer to a prayer can happen at any time in any place. Are you up for an adventure? Infinite Intelligence will answer your summons, maybe not quite in the way you expected, but you will receive an answer.

As your relationship to Spirit deepens, you learn about patience and persistence. You can wait without fear, take an active roll in moving through hurts, allowing the unseen future path to unfold, knowing that you are being guided. Most things of real value take time and involve uncertainty and challenges. Patience allows us to hang in there until we can reap the rewards. *Prayer offers hope. Prayer doesn't change the Almighty or the spirits, but it does change us.*

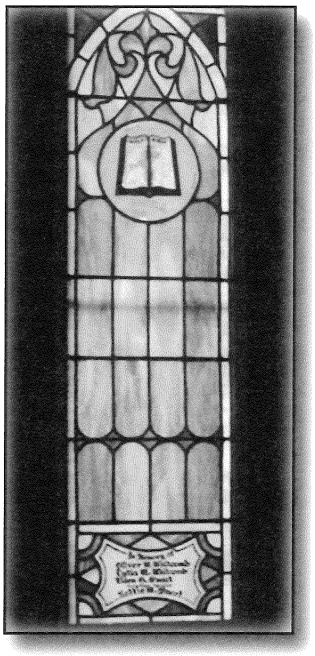
When faced with the commercialism of the Holiday Season, accept the responsibility to move forward into deeper spiritual relationships. Over time the desire to be closer to Spirit and to live in the constant

Continued...

A Spiritual Quest

JOE BROWN – Ontario, Canada

Many times in our lives we hear about the "realities" of one's life. Some time ago, Spiritualism wasn't heard of in certain parts of my county and, believe it or not, it still isn't. I believe this has to do with the lack of promoting it. Maybe one doesn't care if it gets to all parts of the globe as long as his or her congregation is up to par, with enough memberships to keep the doors of their sanctuary open? Unfortunately, promotion of this great religion, which I found only nine short years ago, needs to improve.



Questions upon questions entered my mind about what it's all about and what it consists of and how to get a grip on the totality of it all. Did I let this hinder my development or falter the road to progress? Absolutely not; I reverted to books and the subjects of those books were about life after death and the supernatural, subjects I had many encounters from childhood. *The National Spiritualist-Summit* magazine was the best source!

During a time of introduction to Spiritualism, one has many questions, especially when one has experienced the supernatural and the phenomena of spiritual apparitions throughout his life.

As we all know, this can be a frightening experience when it happens later on in life for the first time. I was fortunate, as I always believed in ghosts and had encountered a few in my early childhood days. Making the adult experiences more acceptable (after shutting out or turning off this ability) and calling this a gift really helps.

For two years I sat, practically in silence, in a Spiritualist Church. I should say I actually zigzagged between two, not knowing which one I'd get the most information from. I approached the pastors and then some of the Mediums and asked questions. Often times my questions were diverted. "Not good enough," I thought; there has to be more.

My point of view, in retrospect, is that some church leaders or pastors seem to remain somewhat secretive about how to enhance this wonderful gift from Spirit. A beginner lacks in knowledge and takes a long time progressing spiritually to a higher level of consciousness. An individual might just give up. I want to express my gratitude to those who reached out and offered their utmost best, taking the time and effort to explain, enough to hold me within my spiritual frame of mind at that time. They encouraged me to buy as many books on the subject as possible. Books on what I was looking for were not easily accessible here and I had never heard of Lily Dale until three years ago. Without those individuals, I would not have developed or progressed to where I am today. Without their guidance and help, my guides might still remain anonymous.

To those leaders who are approached and questioned concerning spiritual development, please take the time to give your best. This promotes the spread of Spiritualism; who knows what part of the world this message will be taken next. Spiritualism is a part of my life and also to those reading this. Without it, I'd find myself lost in a material world without value or means. With it, I find myself very rewarded and spiritually blessed as I have found many friends of the same nature.

Infinite Spirit works in many wonderful ways; make that way your way as you reach out to help those inquiring about their spiritual quest. Offer them a copy of *The National Spiritualist-Summit* and a smile. Let them know what we are all about. •

Holiday Spiritual Explorations *Continued...*

presence of LOVE becomes the guiding light. We learn to make decisions in new ways from a position of trust. We learn when to hold back and when to push, and we feel more and more love towards others. When we connect with Spirit and with the divine nature in ourselves, we perceive that divinity in others. We feel connected and we no longer have a sense of isolation and loneliness. WE KNOW LOVE and can comfortably ride through the Holiday Season using *gratitude* and *giving* to express the solid foundation of Spiritualism.

In Spirit –

Laura Lee Perkins, Editor •

NSAC/Stow Memorial Scholarship

The 2012 NSAC/Stow Memorial Foundation Scholarship has been awarded to Gabriella Stearn of Summit New Jersey High School. Her winning essay is presented here.

WHAT SPIRITUALITY MEANS TO ME

GABRIELLA STEARN

Spirituality is an awareness of the nonmaterial aspects of life. It is a personal connection to God. Beliefs, faith, and religion are also parts of spirituality. Whether it is Judaism, Hinduism, Christianity, Islam, or any other faith, it is man's connection with the unseen. My belief in a higher being has led me to have faith that there is a reason behind everything that happens in our world. The globe is orchestrated by a higher being. Events occur sometimes for reasons unknown.



I grew up in Israel, a Jewish country in which religion surrounds you. You can walk down the streets of Jerusalem and feel the spiritual presence of God. For instance, visiting the Kotel, otherwise known as the Wailing Wall, I am overpowered by religion. To merely stand in such a holy place is breathtaking. You feel as if you are one with God. You feel as if your prayers are going straight to Him. That the wall is God Himself and you are inserting your hopes for Him to read and make come true. Spirituality to me is my religion, Judaism.

Furthermore, in Israel, when a Jewish holiday happens, the whole country stops. Wherever you are, you will be empowered by the holiday, there is no escaping this aroma. For instance in Yom Kippur, a day where you are fasting, not allowed to use electricity, or drive a car, the whole country is at rest. There are no cars on the street. People are walking to Synagogue. You see children riding bikes. All the stores are closed. You can walk out of your house and feel the vibe of religion. Everyone is practicing the same routines and you cannot feel alone. You have a special bond with your fellow countrymen.

Moreover, spirituality is faith. Even if you are going through rough times, you fall back onto something to believe. You will not give up because your faith will help you through. Faith sends our ambitions for many people. For instance, during the Holocaust, people were put in the worst traumatic conditions. They were dehumanized, separated from their family, starved, given inhumane living conditions, and forced to work till death. They were tormented, beaten, and mass murdered. Yet some were able to escape and survive. Faith is the reason for this occurrence. Though they were in this horrific situation, they believed and prayed. With their strong need to escape, many did as much as they could to flee. They looked to God for guidance. They were not going to let this torture cause their religion to go into extinction. Man is capable of unbelievable actions when put in special circumstances, like these survivors were.

Moreover, spirituality is internal. It is inside each individual and he chooses whether to embrace it or not. It can dictate your life in some cases, for instance in Orthodox religious groups. Where they live their life based on the Holy Scriptures, where what they can and cannot do is directly related to what the Scriptures state. For instance nuns, they devote their life for their religion. They will not marry. They will live their whole life in a Church doing missionary work. Their life is full of spirituality. Every action they take is due to the *Bible*. Yet this does not mean that if you do not devote your whole life that you are not spiritual. In fact, you might be as spiritual as the nun, but choose to utilize it in other ways.

Spirituality is open to interpretation, which is the beauty of it. There is no correct answer or ways to show your faith. You have the power to do with it as you choose. Yet being spiritual helps you throughout life. It gives you something to believe in. Spirituality teaches life lessons of devotion, love, and routine. Throughout history there are stories of miracles that happen because of faith. Faith is a substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1). And though some might seem unpredictable, the world is full of surprises and no one holds the right answers. Therefore, who is to say that something did not occur? Spirituality to me is my religion, and holding onto my faith. Judaism is my way of internally connecting to the unseen.

• • •



You've got mail!

Email for your church—an easy, helpful guide

SUSAN HAZARD – California

You may have email, but does your church? Sending postal mail, in an envelope with a stamp, is much more costly and slow than electronic mail. No wonder postal mail now is called "snail mail."

How does your church communicate with its members? How does the church make its services available to the community? If your church is without a *church* email address, you are lacking a basic tool for fast, easy, effective communication with current members and potential new members. Almost everyone now has email and is willing to share that address with you, to stay in touch with the church about services, special events, activities, and more.

An email address list can be used to quickly broadcast reminders for church service times and speakers, events as fund raisers or special speakers, class schedules, and holiday gatherings. Printed programs and announcements are costly to design, print, stuff into envelopes, and mail. Email is easy to use, fast, and effective—at a minimum cost.

If your church presently is using the email address of the pastor, officer, or member, this is not as valuable as an easily-identifiable church address, or as professional-appearing. Plus, church emails for an individual may be clogging their mailbox, not located quickly, or forwarded to the appropriate person.

The following easy steps will help you set up your church with it's own email address:

1. **If you have a church website**, first verify if you already have a "contact us" email address through that site. If so, it may be the preferred church email address. Ask your webmaster or contact the NSAC Webmaster, about its use. Ask who monitors the email? Be sure more than one person can monitor it, in case the primary person is not available.
2. **Find an email provider** if email is not available through the church website. Among popular choices are Gmail or Yahoo/Ymail. These are not tied to an Internet service provider account and can be accessed from any computer with Internet access.
3. **Decide on your church email address** (words before the @). Keep it simple and memorable. List several choices before starting, in case the name you pick already has been taken.
4. **Go to the Internet** and type into the browser address bar gmail.com or yahoomail.com. You should see the option to sign up for an email account. Pick one of these or another email provider that is free.
5. **The sign-up process** will ask for an account name. What did you choose? Enter that name. If it is available, the sign-up procedure will proceed. If already in use, you will be asked to choose another name. You need not select other names suggested by the provider; try one or your other choices. Hint: Try adding a period (dot) or hyphen between words if a favorite choice already has been taken. Example: heavenly.spiritualist@gmail.com or my-church@yahoo.com.
6. **Choose a password** for your account. Example: mychurch1955. Write your password down and keep it in several safe places, as well as given to your church secretary and any person monitoring emails. A board member or minister also may need access.
7. **The email provider** will acknowledge the successful registering of your account name and password.
8. **Check email inbox often.** Familiarize yourself with it. Learn how to open emails, save them in folders for future reference or delete them, attach files, open files, and more.
9. **Send your email address** to your church members. Let them know you are available to them by email.
10. **Open the address (contacts) book** in the email account and add your church members. You may want to establish a group list, so all can be sent a group message as "To: MyChurch Member," without having to add each address individually on every message. Learn to hide individual addresses in group messages.
11. **Ask visitors to sign your email list.** If people are shy about leaving their email address on an open guest book, supply forms on small cards, to be dropped into a box, offering basket, or other container. Be sure to ask them to print legibly!
12. **Start an email newsletter.** Send the newsletter to your email list. Also send notice of upcoming events, reminders of services, changes in service times, and suggestion requests; promote your church! •

It's easy – it's useful – it's time!

NSAC Public Relations Bulletin 1206 Contact: Susan Hazard, 805-618-0354, mz.hazard@gmail.com



The Yard Sale

THE REV. PATTY PALMER – Maine

We never know where Spirit will lead us, but I always trust there's a plan, even when I don't have one. As I look back 10, 20, even 30 years ago, I can see that my spiritual journey has led me here, to this moment, and I remember how I have evolved spiritually. I'm sure that when you look back over your life, you can see that you, too, are no longer the person you once were. This is what our spiritual *journey* is all about.

Life, as it unfolds for us, proves that we are *evolving spiritually* through our choices and our life experiences. We know this because when we look back at how we used to be, we can see that we are not the same. How far we have come is measured by many things, especially how we handle adversity as we have overcome and persevered, learning through "life's lessons."

It is important to remember that *self-transformation is* a continuous process, not a one-time event. We can't say, "I used to be *a non-spiritual* person, but now I have been transformed into a spiritual person." Becoming more deeply spiritual happens over a long period of time. We are constantly, consistently being transformed. While we might be the same individual on one level, on another level we are different. At each major turning point, we have become transformed because certain habits or people, things and possessions have dropped away. Things that no longer serve us have been left behind and sometimes, through challenges, lessons, and life in general, we simply let go of things.

Life changing events happen to us all the time, and *who we* are no longer fits because we have outgrown our former selves. Sometimes we're forced to change. Change can be good, it's growth, but sometimes it hurts, physically and emotionally. But it's a chance to become better, stronger; it's an evolution into a new way, which, most often, is a better way with a better you!

I'd like to share how Spirit gave me a wonderful affirmation of how far I have come on my Spiritual Journey. I had a one day yard sale and those of you who have had yard sales know how much time and energy this involves. Unless you get rid of most everything, it can be even more work afterwards. I had one yard sale, about 25 yrs. ago, and I remember saying that I would never have another one. Since then I've been giving things away, to avoid a yard sale. But since we're always accumulating stuff, I found my garage full again with some big items that I couldn't haul away in my car. Rather than paying someone to come and haul things away, I thought, "Why not have people come to me and perhaps earn a few dollars?" Amazingly, there were a couple of things in this yard sale that were in my *first* yard sale. These things had been in various apartments over the years, in storage for years and recently came back to me.

I picked a beastly hot day, very few people came, and I found myself just sitting (which is something I never do) and reminiscing about how easy it had become for me to let go of things compared to many years ago. I took time to write in my journal about things that I once thought were so important and had formed attachments to: my son's very first dresser, acquired when he moved from his crib to a bed and an old rocking chair I used to rock him in. He's now 40 years old.

My first yard sale had been an accumulation of 20 years of stuff. It was a bitter-sweet experience. My attachment to things made it hard to price them. I felt "guilt" over getting rid of things that belonged to my first husband (he had transitioned) or to his family, and it was difficult to let go. It was a challenging experience for me, and I had a heavy heart that day and in the days that followed.

As I sat there, rocking in the old rocking chair, I remembered thinking about when my first husband's health kept declining and we knew it would continue to be this way. Now I thought, "How easy it would be to *give up* every thing I own to have him back — healthy. Everything I owned meant *nothing* in comparison. Things and stuff are just nothing when you're faced with those kinds of challenges. Life gets put into perspective. When you have your health, you have everything. I never take that statement (or my health) for granted any more.

A couple of weeks ago I couldn't wait to be rid of this garage sale stuff; if anyone showed the least bit of interest in things, I practically gave them away. My son said," Mom, why bother to have a yard sale if you're going to give everything away?" Well, everyone loves a bargain. I experienced no "aches of attachments" to my son's dresser that I put out again. It had outlived its usefulness and even he was ready to be rid of it.

The spiritual journey is a journey of ***detachment***, a process of learning how to let go. Sometimes our problems and unhappiness are caused by our fixations, our latching onto things emotionally…not only material or physical things, but emotional and mental things, as well.

I found it very difficult to let go of things that

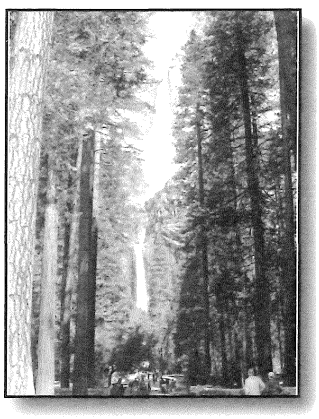
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belonged to my first husband because, to me, it meant letting go of him. I realized that after awhile. I hung onto things because they seemed to fill a void, but, over time, I finally realized that I needed to fill that void myself with simply living life. I realized that some stuff I accumulated wasn't just sentimental to me, but was interwoven into my sense of self, a sense of who I was. These were things that I thought defined me and who I was. I enjoy having beautiful things. I'm very visual and love colors, and I surround myself with gardens, all around my home, and lots of colors inside.

I'm not saying that it is wrong to treasure things in your home or hold onto things because you might use them some day, or because something has sentimental value to you; that can be very important. We all have pieces or mementos of our life that are priceless. "Treasures" are important. We work hard to accumulate things, that's what we do. But it's important to look at the stuff that you hang onto that might be clogging up your space, your mind and your connection to Spirit. Once I "purged" myself of so many material possessions, a great sense of peace and freedom came over me. I know I have let go of much more than material items, which I thought defined me and who I was. I've come to realize that I don't need physical things to define me, or to make me happy. But it has been a "process" of learning what feeds my soul spiritually. Physically letting go of things helps us to let go of emotional things that can hold us back and stifle us.

Now, I am finally able to let go of my home. That's a big one. I've known for a long time that I would have to move from my home in order to move on with my life. I've had that awareness for a very long time—not to slam the door, but to just gently close this door to my past, because it isn't who I am any longer. I do not need this house anymore.

Following your own path can be arduous in the face of conformity. People question you; they sometimes try to convince you that you're wrong. They simply don't understand. I've had people ask me, "How can you move from your home after 30 yrs?" How can I possibly explain my reasons, in a sentence or two, that would convey my heart? I can't. One would have to walk in my shoes, have lived my life and see it from my perspective.



While I understand why people ask me, they see things from their perspective, where they're at on their own personal spiritual journey. My journey has taken me through widowhood twice. And letting go is a process that everyone comes to and goes through at their own time and pace. I believe it takes a lot of courage to let go of the past, removing things that hold us back, to be able to step into the unknown of the future.

I read once that fear doesn't encourage us. Fear steals away our chance for happiness. It robs us of a wonderful future. When fear creeps into my awareness, which it does do sometimes, I know it's my ego, using fear to keep me from moving ahead. My life experiences have taught me that when one door closes, another one opens. There is no need to be afraid. Many doors have been opened for me, and I've opened a few doors myself. I know that Spirit gives me an occasional nudge when I need it to keep me moving forward. Releasing things of the past (and even the present) opens us up to gain more insight about our spiritual needs.

What is it that makes your heart sing? What is it that makes you smile for no reason? Contentment is a wonderful place that I have found myself in as I've been decluttering my house for months, readying it to put on the real estate market. And you know what has happened? The more I physically cleaned out, the better I felt, both emotionally and mentally. Physically getting rid of stuff has helped me to let go.

Albert Einstein said, **"Out of clutter we find Simplicity, and from discord...harmony, in the middle of difficulty...lies opportunity."** People who know me know that I try to keep my life simple. It isn't easy, but I try. My affirmation is: **Live Simply...so we may simply live.**

I am not the same person that I was even 5 yrs. ago. My life has changed, dramatically, off and on, over the years. My house does not fit me anymore; I have evolved. Where I once felt *aches of attachments*, I now feel the *relief of letting go.* When things don't serve you any longer, dare to let them go, so you can blossom into something new and better.

Life is about *gathering and releasing...*a continuous process that we find ourselves a part of; we gather things and people in our life, making our life feel full. Then we find ourselves different from who we once were, challenged to change our personal world to fit our evolved spiritual identity. We know that our journey is a process of *becoming* what we have always been. We begin as a *spiritual being*; we live this existence as a physical being, ever evolving spiritually (if we so choose) as we go through life. Our experiences, wonderful and tragic, are all *destined and designed* to teach us "who we truly are." Each one of us is, truly, a *Child of God.*

Embrace who you are and where you're at in this very moment. Embrace your life and your experiences. Your **Soul is evolving** with every breath you take. ***We are what we do...and who we help...and the difference we make in the world. And, at the end of our journey, we are simply returning home. God Bless You -*** •

Where Were You?

THE REV. JANET TISDALE, NST – Arizona



Those of us who are old enough know where we were when we sat and watched the 9-11 events or when John F. Kennedy was assassinated, but do you remember where you were when you were stricken with the truth and proof of Spirit-connection?

I was not raised in Spiritualism, per say, but I learned many years later that my grandmother, mother, father and many aunts and uncles were all believers and workers in the field of mediumship and healing. When I moved to AZ in 1966, I became separated from my family's interests. Spiritualism and working with Spirit was not really brought up, so I never really knew what everyone was doing. My personal life involved raising four children and trying to make a life in a new strange place. Arizona was really different from what I was used to, but we had moved to Arizona because of my health. It became a life saver for me and I began to feel better, but I missed my family and the marriage was not going well.

Because of certain circumstances, I had to take a trip back home to Michigan. That is when I discovered that my twin sister and mother had been attending a trumpet class for the past seven years. It was held in the basement of the medium and Mom told me that it was time for me to experience this. All the way over, I remember thinking, what are they into?

We entered an old house and started to go down a dark stairway. I had never felt so scared in my life. We arrived in a big room with several chairs set in a circle; I was told to sit over in the far side of the room. The leader of the circle was a Trumpet Medium (not knowing what that was at the time) and what an experience I had! There was a prayer, and then the lights went out. Not knowing what to expect, I just sat very quiet and was very nervous.

After a few minutes, when my eyes became adjusted, I saw some sticks of glowing circles. As the energy got stronger, I felt like I was in a different place. I began to hear sounds coming from these glowing objects. After a few minutes, one landed on my left shoulder, which scared the heck out of me and I fell off my chair. There was a very strong voice and it said, "My name is Red Blanket and I will protect you, so when you need me, you call my name." It left just as fast as it came.

Even though (at that time) I didn't know a thing about spirits or mediumship, I felt truth, comfort, and I felt as though my life was going to change forever. That was where I was in my moment of TRUTH and PROOF of Life after Death.

I tell you this next part to show you how Spirit worked and placed me on the journey into Spiritualism. When I got home, my then husband had wanted me to borrow some money from my family and they refused to give us anymore. When I explained that to him, he got very angry. I found myself calling out to RED BLANKET. This Indian, with a full head-dress, appeared and engulfed the whole room. He proceeded to separate us. Red Blanket looked straight into my eyes and said, "Go, you must go now, and everything will be just fine."

As I was running out of the house, grabbing my purse and uniform for work, hysterical, I was asking God to take care of my children. I got in my car and the last thing I remember was this mad person chasing me down the street. I drove around for over an hour, crying and scared to death, not knowing what or where to go. I noticed the gas gauge going down and I had less than $10 in my pocket. Something kept catching my eye on the floor on the passenger's side. I finally pulled around a corner and stopped the car. I bent over to pick up this piece of paper and it turned out to be a $100 dollar bill. I thought, "Oh, My God, where did this come from?" I sat for the longest time, feeling very confused. But I still remember feeling that although it would all be OK, now what? I decided to go to the hotel that was located behind the place where I was working and I stayed there for two weeks, until I was invited to stay with a friend until I got my feet on the ground. Needless to say, I never went back to the marriage. It took months to get things worked out and years to get my life together, even with the help of Spirit.

Every Spiritualist has a moment when the awareness of a progressive life was demonstrated. This was the beginning of a fantastic sequence of events that followed. I have appreciated all I learned from that day. Understanding and living the teachings of Spiritualism has been *life-saving* in so many ways. Thank God, they all have not been as dramatic, but still effective. Spiritualism has brought me peace of mind and allowed me to enjoy life to its fullest. I love sharing what I have learned about the existence of life after death. What a great philosophy to practice each and every day! Spirit makes me laugh, love, learn, and has taught me about myself.

Enjoy your everyday experiences and embrace your first awareness of your TRUTH. •

Spirit Influence

YVONNE CRESPO LIMOGES – Florida



In addition to our spirit protector (assigned to us since our birth to advise and protect us) and other spirits of family/friends already in the Spirit World...there are other spirits, those whom *we ourselves have attracted to us by how we think and act.* They are drawn to us by our current level of morality and intellect. We attract them and they are attracted to us...because we are similar in our natures.

People who are generally "good" attract good spirits. Those who have ill will or low morals (greed, anger, jealousy, envy, vengeance, illicit passions, etc.) attract similar types of spirits because like attracts like. These spirits can encourage and influence us to continue in wrongful or immoral thoughts and behaviors.

Therefore, we should periodically do a personal inventory of our state of mind and sense of morality. We should strive to have good thoughts and behave as a good person as much as possible. We are not perfect; that is why we are here on earth — to progress— but we don't have to let our passions, obsessions, or any undesirable behaviors run wild. We must try hard to keep these in check on a daily basis.

Prayer for assistance, right thought and right conduct are our best defenses. These attract good spirits to help us be aware of and avoid those who have a negative focus, in both the invisible world and the material world, who might desire to influence us. Have good thoughts, think before you act, and be ever vigilant! •

A student asked Soen Nakagawa during a meditation retreat, "I am very discouraged. What should I do?" Soen replied, "Encourage others."

Connection with the Sacred in the Ordinary

THE REV. MARIE HERALD ROWE – Florida



In preparation for an upcoming vacation, my daughter brought over a pair of jeans she had purchased and asked me to hem them for her.

The next day as I settled in at my sewing machine, I thought to myself, "It's been a long time since Elizabeth has asked me to hem something for her." I began sewing for her when she was yet in the womb. In the sixties they didn't have sonograms to tell parents the sex of their unborn infant. Mother's Intuition told me I was carrying a six pound baby girl named Elizabeth Anne. Awaiting her arrival, I proceeded to sew everything my Elizabeth Anne would need to wear. She wore my hand sewn creations all her growing up years.

Sewing is just an everyday, ordinary task I've done practically all my life. I proceeded to measure and cut and sew the hem on each pant leg. As I sewed the hem, I realized the sewing machine could not sew through the thickness of the seams on the jeans, so I machine-stitched each side up to the seam and stopped. I then took a needle and thread and began hand sewing the very thick seam areas. As I sewed, the thought hit me that my daughter is 42 years old and she still needs me to shorten her jeans - WOW! At that moment an overwhelming feeling of contentment filled my consciousness. A few seconds later, I realized that my daughter, having no children, will have no daughter who will ask her to shorten her jeans. She will not know this soft, sacred contentment I'm feeling at this moment and a wave of sadness swept over me. Then the thought gently slipped into my mind, "but her path is not the same as mine, and that's all right." I vowed to keep faith for her that some other experience, different from mine, will give her the same sacred feeling of contentment in her later years.

In her old age I will slip in unseen from the world of spirit and give her hugs and kisses. I will place my hands on her shoulders and send her love and light and the vibrations of peace and sacred contentment will warm her heart as they did mine long years ago.

My daughter passed to spirit on Nov. 22, 2007, at age 46. Now she has to look in on me instead. •

SEASONS GREETINGS



May the peace and joy of Spirit be with all of humanity throughout this wondrous Holiday Season and always.
Spiritualist Church of Awareness, NSAC - Orlando, FL



Health of Body, Peace of Mind and Spiritual Understanding for All. With Blessings and Seasons' Greetings from
Spiritual Life Center, Sunflower Chapel - Dayton, OH

Happy Holidays and may the Spirit Blessings be abundant in the New Year.
The Rev. Marilyn Awtry - FL

May you always be filled with the spirit of this season.
Reverend Carol A. and Mr. Lawrence R. Brown

Warm Greetings from the
First Spiritualist Church of Austin.



Love and Light from
Peter Berg
and
the Rev. Virginia Berg
sends her love from Summerland.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Love and light-filled blessings for the Christmas season...
The Rev. Lelia Cutler



May the Peace of the Holiday Spirit fill your Heart with Compassion and your soul with Light.
In Spirit, Laura Lee Perkins & Ken Green

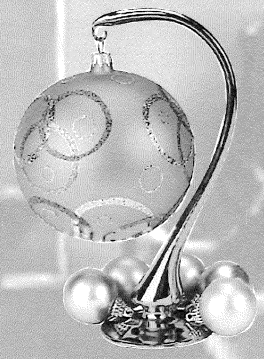
May you always be filled with the peace and love of Spirit.
Ron & Jeannie Lerch - Casselberry, FL

May your Holiday Season be overflowing with Abundant Joy and Great Good Health!"
Golden Gate Spiritualist Church - San Francisco

May each of you embrace the peace, love and joy of the Holiday Season.
NSAC Board of Directors.

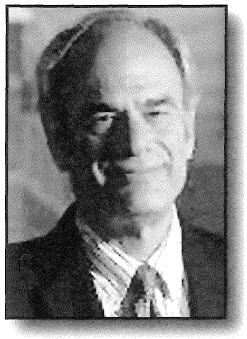


Holiday greetings to all our friends during this special season of the year.
Board of Directors and Ministers. The Memorial Spirituralist Church, Norfolk, Virginia



MEDIA WATCH

THE REVS. TOM AND LISA BUTLER, NST – Nevada



UC Riverside gets $5 million to study immortality • The John Templeton Foundation has awarded the University of California at Riverside $5 million to study age-old questions surrounding immortality and life-after-death. They're calling it the "Immortality Project," and its goal is to apply rigorous scientific research to questions surrounding immortality and the afterlife. The project's lead investigator is philosopher, John Martin Fischer (shown here) who says, "I'm kind of a skeptic about an afterlife…I'm inclined not to believe there is one, but I certainly don't know."

Half of the money will fund "scientific" research projects regarding various questions of immortality: $1.5 million will go to philosophers and theologians to support them in writing articles and books and $1 million will fund post-doctoral and graduate students, conferences and a website. Research topics will include: whether and in what form a person could survive bodily death, whether the information in our brains could be uploaded into a computer to allow one to exist there in perpetuity, and how a person's beliefs about immortality influence their behavior, attitudes and character.

From: Southern California Public Radio, "UC Riverside gets $5 million to study immortality" by Stephanie O'Neill, Jul 31, 2012, scpr.org/news/2012/07/31/33557/uc-riverside-gets-5-million-study-immortality/

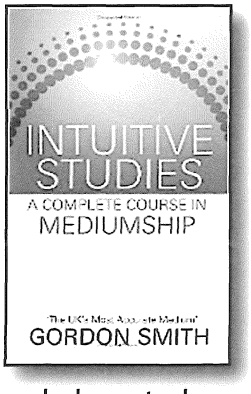
Our Consciousness Can Influence Machines • The people at the Princeton Engineering Anomalies Research Laboratory say that we can do just that. Their research has consistently shown that average people who claim no psychic abilities can influence the behavior of a random event generator (REG), which is like an electronic coin tosser, with their consciousness. Two-thirds of the volunteers have been able to affect the REG in the direction they had intended (to select more high or more low numbers), while only half of them would have produced those results by chance. And, consider this, volunteers did not even have to be in the same room or same country as the REG machine to influence it.

The Princeton team has built other machines that are showing the same striking results. There's the Random Mechanical Cascade known as Murphy (after Murphy's Law), a 9-foot-high vertical contraption that drops 9,000 small polystyrene balls from a spout onto a grid of 336 evenly spaced nylon pegs. The balls land in a horizontal row of 19 bins at the bottom, in a distribution pattern that looks like a bell-shaped curve. Volunteers can "think left" or "think right," and a majority of them can cause a modest but measurable shift in where the balls land. A more recent experiment involves operators trying to control the swing of a custom-built pendulum. In another one, they're seated in front of a computer displaying two superimposed pictures, and are told to try to suppress one and bring the other to the foreground.

You might want to think about this the next time you have trouble with your computer. Sweet talk might work!

From: "Mind over Matter" by Rogier van Bakel at Wired.Com (wired.com/wired/archive/3.04/pear.html)

Also learn about Psyleron, the maker of research-quality REG tools at psyleron.com.



Intuitive Studies • Gordon Smith, known as Britain's most accurate medium, has a new book out that aims to help others develop their mediumship. From the press release of *Intuitive Studies, A Complete Course in Mediumship,* "During the many years he spent delivering messages of hope and love from the spirit world, Gordon Smith has observed how many people long to learn how to be more intuitive themselves, and would love to be able to connect to the other side in the same way he does. Gordon feels strongly that developing your intuitive gifts should be something that gives you joy, brings you clarity and makes you more contented in your life. Based on his experiences of teaching and guiding complete beginners on their paths to communicating with spirit, this book provides simple and easy-to-follow exercises that will help you

Continued...

sharpen your psychic senses, open yourself to receive communication from your spirit guides and interpret the telepathic language of spirit."

Intuitive Studies: A Complete Course in Mediumship by Gordon Smith, Hay House Publishers, ISBN-13: 978-1848508361. This book is available through the NSAC at Bookstore at NSAC.Org or phone: 716-595-2000.

Telepsychiatry • There is a new wave of psychiatrists. Dr. Avrim Fishkind counsels his patients online via inexpensive, web-based, video conferencing. He says that out of 60,000 patients encountered, he only knows of six who refused teleconferencing. He even suggests that many patients feel that this method is less threatening and it is easier to open up about difficult things that need to be discussed. In many instances, telepsychiatry is a necessity when patients are located in areas with no private psychiatric practices. It is also often used to treat prison inmates and nursing home patients. As more insurance companies reimburse for telepsychiatry treatments at the same rate as in-person visits, we will see this treatment grow. Fishkind says, "Thirteen to 25-year-olds are most comfortable with it because they use Skype and other technologies to communicate. That's the way they've communicated their whole lives."

From: Web-Based Counseling-Telepsychiatry-Is Taking off, computerworld.com/ Feb 9 2012 and "A World Transforming," *The Noetic Post* Spring/Summer 2012

Music and Humor can Lower Blood Pressure • A recent study from Japan found that listening to your favorite tunes or enjoying humor can lower your blood pressure about as much as cutting down on salt in your diet or losing 10 pounds. Japanese researcher, Eri, Eguchi followed people ages 40 to 74 who participated in twice-monthly hour long sessions designed to provide either a person's favorite type of music, humorous storytelling (they were also encouraged to listen to music often at home) or no therapy at all. By the end of three months, the individuals listening to music or humor lowered their average systolic blood pressure (the top number) by five to six points. Those who didn't listen to music or increase their laughter didn't see any change in their blood pressure.

From: "Can't Sleep Try Music," by Dr. Mache Siebel, *Huffpost Healthy Living,* March 11, 2012, huffingtonpost.com/mache-seibel-md/sleep-and-music_b_1325132.html

The Harry Edwards Healing Sanctuary was founded in 1946 by the world-renowned spiritual healer Harry Edwards and is located in his former home. The Sanctuary is dedicated to promoting health and well-being through spiritual healing. The Sanctuary offers contact healing for people and animals with trained healers every day between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. and they do distance healing for those who can't attend and are in need of healing. See their website at sanctuary-burrowslea.org.uk. They also offer two year training courses. Contact Harry Edwards Healing Sanctuary, Burrows Lea, Shere, Surrey GU5 9QG UK or info@burrowslea.org.uk



Saving Hope • Is a new Canadian supernatural and medical television series on NBC. Unlike the typical medical drama, *Saving Hope* delves into the spiritual world, with a comatose doctor roaming Toronto's Hope Zion Hospital as a spirit, helping other patients who are having a near-death-experience. Meanwhile, his fiancée and co-workers are faced with the impossible task of figuring out what to do next. The show, which began this past summer, did not start out with a large audience of viewers, so we will see if it continues to air. It is nice to see the idea of out-of-body experiences filtering into mainstream media.

Empathetic Rats • An experiment at the University of Chicago asked whether a rat would release another rat that was confined in an unpleasant, restrictive cage, if it could. The answer was yes. Hearing distress calls from the caged rat, the free rat learned to open the cage and became quicker at the task over time. Amazingly, if given access to a batch of chocolate chips, the free rat would usually save at least one treat for the captive rat.

The editor for The Noetic Post wrote, "The idea that animals have emotional lives and are capable of detecting emotions in others has been gaining ground for decades...but empathy that leads to helping activity, what psychologists term 'prosocial behavior,' hasn't been formally shown in nonprimates until now."

From: "Rat in Experiment a Good Samaritan to Fellow Rat" by David Brown, Washington Post. sfgate.com/news/article/Rat-in-experiment-a-Good-Samaritan-to-fellow-rat-2393177.php, 12/9/2011 and The Noetic Post Spring/Summer 2012

Fear of postmortem punishment lowers crime • A new study indicates that crime is lower in societies where people's religious beliefs contain a strong punitive component than in countries where many more people believe in heaven than in hell. The finding surfaced from a comprehensive analysis of 26

Continued on page 17...

HEALING – Do You Want to be Well?

ELSIE ANN SORIA, NST – California

Recently I read an article in an old UCM publication about healing by The Rev. LaVaughn Divine that gave a very different view point on healing that I found interesting. The main difference between UCM, the Universal Church of the Master, and NSAC, the National Spiritualist Association of Churches, is that UCM is Christian-based. However, they give messages and do healing at the end of their services. The article posed the question, "Do I want to get well more than I want to remain ill?" I found this an interesting way to look at illness, so I read further.



Everyone loves health and happiness, but do they want it consciously? What subconscious reason does someone have for remaining ill? What hidden motive, what secret, demands suffering or blocks healing? Are people even aware they are subconsciously drawing illness to themselves?

Are there people today who are suffering who could get well? Are they somehow, somewhere in their life compensating illness for health? How often do you hear people say "my arthritis" "my headache" "my heart condition?" When we do this we are claiming it for our own. They are claiming the discomfort and the pain as "theirs." Many will dispute they would rather be ill than well. But what are they doing about it?

They need the courage to ask themselves if they really want to get well more than they want to remain ill? Inquire, "Is there any hidden reason for me to remain ill? Is there some subconscious motivation that drew this illness to me, and makes it convenient for me to keep it? What am I getting as a result of this illness, that I would lose if I were to get well?"

These questions might seem shocking, but they are important to anyone seeking healing. Do you wonder why you have a certain illness? Does illness give you a sense of power over those who are concerned about you, or who must take care of you? We have all heard people brag about how many operations they have had and how many trips they have made to the hospital.

A very timid young man felt inadequate in the presence of others his own age and felt rejected by his elders. As he became older he was afraid to face the world. When his parents urged him to find work he felt they were pushing him out of the house. The next day when he went looking for work he collapsed and an ambulance was summoned. Doctors and medical tests could not explain what mysterious ailment was causing his medical problems. That was the last time he left home. The family's world revolved around him and caring for him. This young man had achieved dominance in his family - power. By getting well he would have had to give that up.

Ask yourself, does illness enable me to escape from an unwanted or undesired duty, task or responsibility? Is your job so stressful you think that you could have a heart attack? The body will oblige you according to your thinking. Some people cannot seem to cope, so they hide in imaginary illness until it becomes a reality in their lives. The subconscious mind is very obliging. The conscious mind needs to teach the subconscious to let go and become well, healthy and happy.

Sometimes we punish another person by our illness – usually a loved one. This is a form of control. Is your illness a way of punishing another or even yourself for some sense of personal guilt?

Take a look at the cause of your illness; then you can get rid of the effect. Explore the root of your health problems and do not focus on just the symptoms. Remember that every problem has a creative solution and nothing is truly hopeless. The mind will attract experiences to match what it loves, fears, or expects. Remember, you are what you think.

Turn your attention from the undesirable to the desirable and from the destructive to the positive. Analyze your desires and what you want to achieve from a certain condition. Illness is the most damaging method to escape something you do not want. Do not punish the body for some failure of the spirit. Do not say something "just makes me sick!" because it will. We must all learn to manage our thoughts and to discipline our emotions.

Punishment by illness, whether directed towards others or self, denies the power of forgiveness. Things that happened to us in the past must remain in the past by forgiving and letting go.

Continued...

years of data involving 143,197 people in 67 countries. According to Azim F. Shariff, a psychologist at the University of Oregon who led the study, "The finding is consistent with controlled research we've done in the lab, but this shows a powerful 'real world' effect."

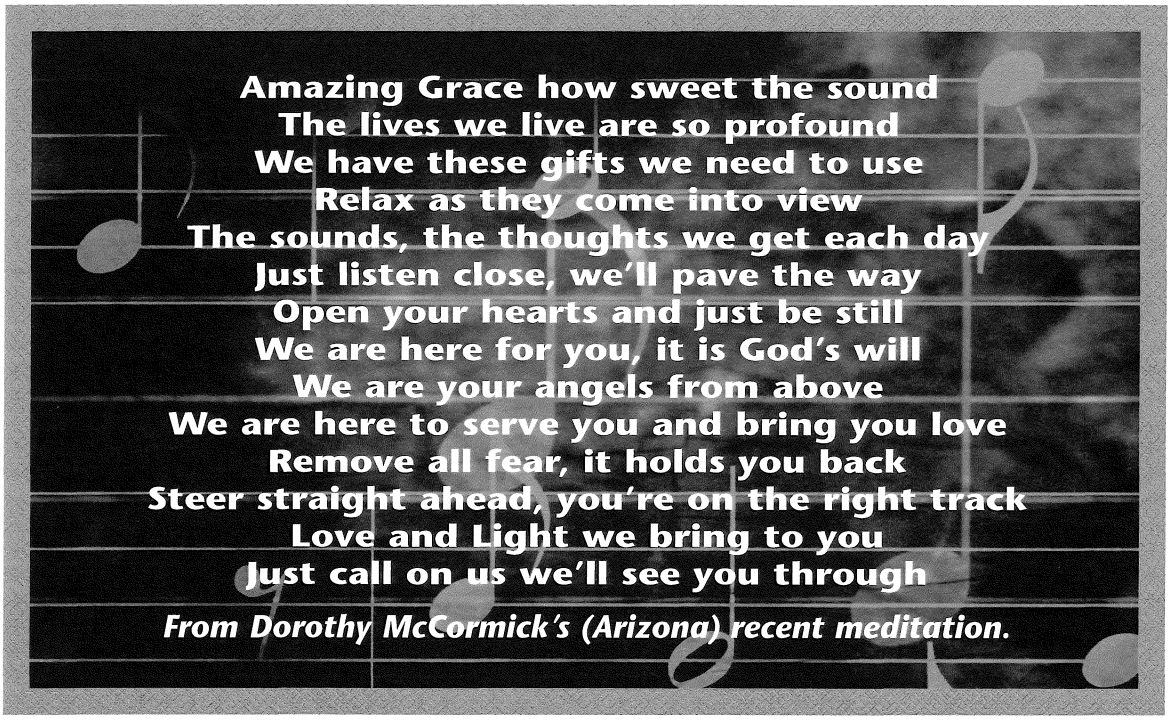
"The new findings," Shariff said, "fit into a growing body of evidence that supernatural punishment emerged in human culture as a very effective innovation to get people to act more ethically."

From: World Science, Religion: It's the hell part that makes us behave, study finds, world-science.net/othernews/120622_hell, June 22, 2012

The Academy of Spirituality ASPSI is now the ASCSI: The Academy of Spirituality and Paranormal Studies has changed their name to the Academy for Spiritual and Consciousness Studies, Inc. (ASCSI)." The Academy was founded in 1972 as the academic affiliate of the Spiritual Frontiers Fellowship. They publish two scholarly quarterlies, ***The Journal for Spiritual and Consciousness Studies*** and a newsletter, ***The Searchlight***. Both deal with religion, psychical research and related topics.

Please visit the Academy's website at ascsi.org.

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- Refuse to accept illness as the answer to any unsolved problems.
- Refuse to make illness a weapon or an excuse.
- Refuse to make illness a substitute for anything.
- You must want to get well more than you want to be ill.

HEALING AFFIRMATION:

I release my illness. It is of no use to me. I know that every need I have can be, and will be, satisfied — not through my illness, but through my health. I truly want to get well. My inner strength will carry me through every job, problem, and responsibility. I do not need to accept substitutes for the health and happiness I want. I truly want to get well, and I am getting well now!

AFFIRMATION

I Affirm today that no one can hurt me because I refuse to believe in being hurt.

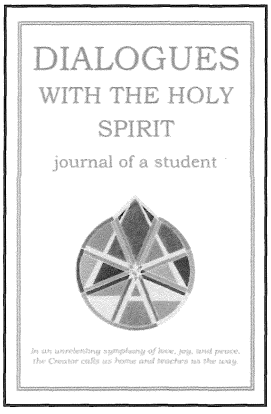
Today I remain above anything and everything that tries to make me angry, jealous, irritable or afraid.

Today I see only the pleasant side of life because that is what I am looking for.

Today I am in harmony with all of life

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Book Reviews



Dialogues with The Holy Spirit

Rusty Stephens
Balboa Press, $20.99

In an unrelenting symphony of love, joy, and peace, the Creator calls us home and teaches us the way.

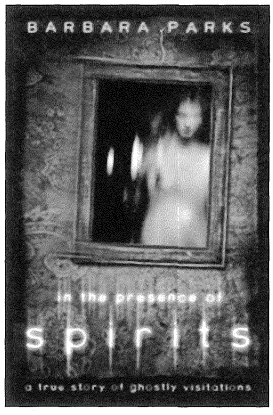
Preferring to call his role scribe and not author, Rusty Stephens had for a very long time, been searching for a new level of understanding about spirituality. He could not see how to go forward, knew he could not go back, yet was experiencing increasing discomfort with where he was. A point of dissatisfaction and bewilderment had come. He would soon learn that such times reached by all of us, often described as a "dark night of the soul," are points of spiritual tension, signaling opportunity for growth.

In his frustration he became angry at God and said out loud, "I am tired of trying to read signs, clouds, chicken entrails, or tea leaves. There must somewhere be a giant red phone with a giant capital letter 'G' on the dial plate and I want, by God, the **800 number**!" A turning of the corner had come in that moment of frustration, anger, and yet also, prayer.

One night the spiritual phone rang and he was instructed to write down the dialogues that followed. He learned of the true unity of all things and that each of us, brothers and sisters, are a vital loved and loving part of that whole. A wide range of topics was covered including: the Creator, the Universe, the Holy Spirit, love, peace, joy and bliss, spiritual growth, ego, personality, right relationship, meditation, miracles, the world crisis, Masters, America, karma, the reality of brotherhood, the Christ, and humanities' critical role in the unfolding of these extraordinary times of change. Given also were specific techniques and exercises for spiritual awareness and growth. He was also to learn of the importance of actually *asking* for spiritual help and guidance and that this capacity to ask and also to receive is hardwired into each of us.

Rusty Stephens is of boomer age and resides in North Carolina with his wife.

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In the Presence of Spirits: A True Story of Ghostly Visitations

Barbara Parks
Llewellyn Publications/$15.99
ISBN 978-0-7387-3352-4

Discover a Life Lived in the Presence of Spirits

One woman's true story of overcoming fear accepting and embracing her gifts.

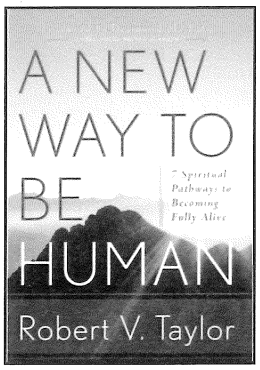
After being traumatized by vicious poltergeist attacks as a teenager, Barbara Parks never imagined that her deep-rooted fear of ghosts would disappear. In her new book, ***In the Presence of Spirits: A True Story of Ghostly Visitations,*** Parks describes the journey of overcoming fear, accepting her gifts, and connecting with spirits. After years of terror following the attack, Parks begins to experience helpful, loving spirits when, still mourning the sudden death of a beloved friend, she receives a miraculous visit from him. This encounter marked her first step toward healing and opening up to the spirit world.

In the Presence of Spirits chronicles Barbara's uplifting, personal journey of gradually accepting and embracing the clairvoyant gifts that allow her to see spirits. She shares dramatic and heartwarming stories of interacting with spirits who turn up everywhere: at home, on vacation, and accompanying her patients. From the departed uncle that protects Barbara's young children from grave injury to the child spirits who bring comfort to their parents, these amazing true tales are convincing reminders that our loved ones are never far away.

Barbara Parks is a microbiologist and podiatrist with her own private practice who lives in Kalamunda, Western Australia. She has spoken about poltergeists on the radio and her paranormal investigations are featured in The West Australian newspaper.

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Desmond Tutu Lauds New Book
Seven Spiritual Pathways

"I've admired Robert's compassionate ministry of God's love and the integrity of his life and leadership over many decades. It is a joy to see that authenticity revealed in these pages, inviting others into a deeper, transformative life with God. It is a hum-dinger of a book! A must have for anyone on a spiritual path. In a time when people are searching for values and meaning, this book will repeatedly inspire and draw you deeper into love and compassion for Creation, the human family and yourself."

– Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Laureate

A nationally known spiritual leader who has worked for decades with Archbishop Desmond Tutu and legions more activists in the fields of religious and political freedom, homelessness, poverty and discrimination, Robert V. Taylor has distilled his lifetime of achievement and profound spiritual experience into his long-awaited new book, *A New Way to Be Human: 7 Spiritual Pathways to Becoming Fully Alive.*

An invaluable guide to transforming lives, revolutionizing our society and refining our world, *A New Way to Be Human* is for those who seek:

- *An impactful life of meaning and purpose, love, hope and compassion*
- *The courage to cross the boundaries of religion and move beyond demonizing debates about gender equality and human sexuality*
- *The spiritual wisdom discovered in many forms and disguises of the Holy*
- *To claim their own voice and recognize the interconnectedness of all people*

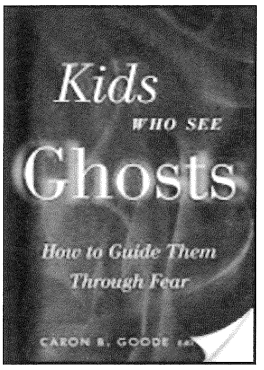
By identifying seven pivotal, universally recognizable life occurrences as spiritual pathways, *A New Way to Be Human* connects each reader to actionable personal spiritual practices.

Robert V. Taylor is a sought-after spiritual leader and public speaker who invests his life in helping individuals and organizations to realize their full human potential and impact in the world. Born and raised in South Africa where he was active in Progressive Party politics, at an early age he organized a national multiracial event bringing students together from throughout the country. Later, he co-founded Faith Forward, a multi-faith environment and poverty initiative, and the Seeds of Compassion Network.

A popular public speaker, Taylor maintains a busy schedule of appearances on the media and at churches, conferences and gatherings throughout the United States.

Again from Desmond Tutu: *"What footprint will you leave in this world among God's family and the fragile beauty of the Creation? We cannot each do everything, but this book reminds us that we can each do something as God's partners. Imagine the ripples of love and compassion flowing like a spiritual tide of hope, as your life joins with that of others on a spiritual quest changing our footprint as we assist in making the world a more just, compassionate and loving place! Robert's book is a guide to a lifelong journey with God who says, "Please, please help me in loving. Please discover that we are made for oneness."* •

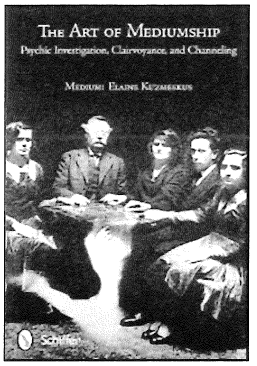
NSAC BOOKSTORE NEWS



Kids Who See Ghosts

BKS 942 – $16.95

Author Caron Goode discussed children's brain-wave states and how the brain goes through stages of growth and development. Brain-wave patterns and frequencies correspond to different levels of perception. Also discussed is how, in cultures where adults recognize ghosts, children have a model to mirror. •



The Art of Mediumship

BKS 940 – $16.00

Author Elaine Kuzmeskus offers evidence of what really takes place in a seance and how mediums receive their information. Learn how to develop clairsentience, clairaudience and clairvoyance. Read about Electronic Voice Phenomena and explore the field of psychic photography. This book provides up-to-date information for the student wishing to expand their knowledge of mediumship. •

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Looking Back Through *TNS*

The Ocean

THE REV. MELVENA V. HAFNER, Trans. 1983



The Ocean

The Rev. Melvena V. Hafner

Each way I watch the mysterious sea,
Its changeless moods, so thrilling to me;
As I watch the ocean waves toss and roll,
Such wondrous energy stirs my soul.

Some days when it is still and calm,
Then it brings to my heart a healing balm;
And I think of Him who stilled the waves,
Long, long ago in those Biblical days.

Then after a storm I beheld the sea,
Angry and boisterous as could be;
And it brought to my troubled breast
Longing, sadness and unrest.

Many a time when the tide was low,
I've walked the sands with footsteps slow;
And casting my eyes far over the sea,
God's handiwork touched my soul, infinitely.

But when sometimes I watch at night,
While all the stars are shining bright;
And the moon rises with its golden glow,
Then charm and admiration over me flow.

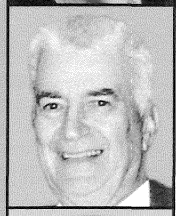
As I gaze sometimes upon the ocean's tide,
I think there is a purpose, vast and wide;
All things intermingle united to be,
One great Force of God-power, eternally.

The Reverend Melvena V. Moody Hafner passed to the spirit side of life on March 31, 1983 at the age of 93. Melvena was born in Merrimac, New Hampshire and lived most of her life in the Merrimack Valley of Massachusetts. Rev. Hafner was ordained as a National Spiritualist Association of Churches Minister on December 10, 1946. In 1957 she founded The Psychic Science Spiritualist Church in Haverhill, Massachusetts, which she headed for many years before it merged with The Church of Spiritual Life (Spiritualist) in Methuen, Massachusetts.

She demonstrated her mediumship for Spiritualist churches throughout the Northeast as well as many Spiritualist camps including Camp Etna, Maine; Lily Dale, New York; and the Onset Wigwam in Massachusetts. She also traveled to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Indiana to share the Science, Philosophy and Religion of Spiritualism. She served her church on a regular basis as a medium and speaker as well as organist. She loved playing the organ and was marvelous at it in spite of a malformed hand. Melvena always shone the brightest when she was serving spirit, always dressed in bright, lively colors that only magnified her beautiful aura. She remained a member of The Church of Spiritual Life for the remainder of her sojourn on the Earth plane, and continues to work diligently from the spirit side of life with those carrying the message of Spiritualism forward.

Melvena was a beautiful person and a wonderful instrument for spirit. She received many inspirational writings of prose and poetry through her Spirit Guide, Minister Man. Many of her writings were published in *The National Spiritualist-Summit* magazine. She also had many poems published in local newspapers. It was her wish that all of her writings be donated to *The National Spiritualist-Summit* magazine in the hope that what spirit brought through her might continue to uplift and inspire those seeking the truth of the continuity of life, of our relationship as humans with the world of spirit and the wonderful gift of spirit communication.

– The Rev. Stephanie Frobese



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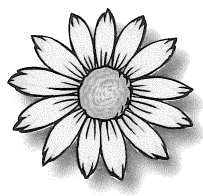
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MONROVIA - The Spiritualist Church of Revelation • 200 W. Colorado Blvd., 91016; Sun. Service 11:00 a.m.; Pastor/Pres. Martin Pina, church phone (626)256-3403 / secretaryscor@yahoo.com; call for class info.

SACRAMENTO - Central Spiritualist Church • 2500 Marconi Ave., Suite 209, 95821-4855. Mailing addr.: 4800 Auburn Folsom Rd. #63, Loomis, 95650-9328; Sun. Service 10:00 am.; Classes (see Pastor); Healing All Message Service, last Sun. of the month at 10:00 am; Pres. Hal Clark; Pastor Rev. Sandra Dawson, NST; (916)652-4568 / rsdawson@wavecable.com; Sec. Dawn Meeker; Mailing send to church address.

SAN FRANCISCO - Celebrate Life Spiritualist Community – Joyous Spiritualism to a modern world • 4530 18th St., 94114; The Celebration Service each Wed. & Sun., weekly classes; Rev. Drew Vogt, Pastor (415)568-7571; celebratelifesc@gmail.com / www.ourcelebration.org

SAN FRANCISCO - First Spiritual Temple, NSAC • Service 2nd & 4th Sunday's, 33 Banbury Dr. (near SF State Univ.), 94132; Mail: 1101 National Ave., #1328, San Bruno, 94066, Email: spiritualtemplesf@gmail.org; *"Center for Spiritual & Reiki Healings.* Call for appt.; Pastor Elsie Ann Soria, NST (650)583-2739; Pres. Ben Santiago; Pastor Emeritus Rev. Alfred A. Conner, NST.

SAN FRANCISCO - Golden Gate Spiritualist Church • 1901 Franklin St. (corner of Clay) 94109-3414; (415)885-9976; ggspiritualistchurch.org; Service Schedule, Sun. 9:30 Lyceum (classes) Sept. – May, Healing 10:30, Devotional Service 11:00; Wed. Healing 7:30, Devotional Service 8:00; Classes available (See Website); Pastor Rev. Del Lauderback; Assoc. Pastor Rev. James Ehrhart; Pres. Sonny B. Gee.

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

SAN LEANDRO - Spiritualist Church of Two Worlds • 1550 San Leandro Blvd., (Deaf Comm. Center) 94577; Sun. Service Healing 10:30 a.m., Reg. Service 10:45 – 12:00; Co-Pastors, Rev.'s Betty and Don Nauratil, (925)283-1449; Pres. Rev. Sandi Deckinger; <u>All mail to Sec.</u> 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. Judy Campbell-Clark, NST; pastorjudycc@verizon.net; Sun. Healing Service 10:30 a.m., Regular Service 11:00 a.m., Wed. Message Service 6:30 p.m., Sun. Unfoldment Class 1–3 p.m.

• COLORADO •

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

• CONNECTICUT •

CONNECTICUT STATE SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION • Pres. Verline Eldridge, 110 Pukallas Ave. A1-15, Norwich, 06360; Sec. Rev. Jackie Randall, 60 Ward St., Norwich, 06360 / cincyada@aol.com; Mailing addr. 29 Park St., Norwich 06360.

MYSTIC - The Spiritualist Church of Peace & Light • Comfort Inn, 48 Whitehall Ave., 06357; Sec. Joan St. John, 70 Dell Ave. #B5, New London 06320; (860)442-1709; Email: scpeacelight@yahoo.com

NEWINGTON - The Church of the Infinite Spirit • Pastor Allen Noddin, 80 Walsh Ave., 06111; 2nd & 4th Sun. each month; Adult Lyceum 9:15 a.m.–10:15 a.m., Service 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.; www.newingtonspiritualistchurch.org; Sec. Celeste Lamarre-Vernale, Lamarre@snet.net

NIANTIC - Ladies Aid Society, Inc., Pine Grove Spiritualist Camp • For program listing all summer activities, please visit our website at www.pinegrovespiritualistcamp.net; Mailing addr.: P.O. Box 405, 06357; Physical addr.: 34 S. Pine St., 06357; (860)739-2157.

NIANTIC - New London Spiritualist Church • For new location please see our website: www.nlspiritualist.com; Mail. Addr: 1568 Route 80, Guilford, CT 06437 / info@nlspiritualist.com; Sun. Service 10:30 a.m. till noon; Coffee, food and fellowship follow; Check our website for Mediums' Day information, class schedules, workshops and other events; Pastor Rev. Barney Thomas; Pres. David Foulkes; Sec. Barbara Thomas.

NORWICH - National Spiritualist Church of Norwich, Inc. • 29 Park St. (off Main St.), 06360, (860)886-8522; Sun. Service 10:30 a.m.–12:00 noon, coffee & fellowship; Pres. Jacquelyn Randall; Sec. Catherine Murphy. FMI call church Pastor, Rev. Jacquelyn Randall (860)887-0068 / www.nscnorwich.net

OLD GREENWICH - Albertson Memorial Church Of Spiritualism • 293 Sound Beach Ave., 06870; (203)637-4615; mailing address - P.O. Box 143, 06870; Sun. Service 11:00 a.m., all welcome.

WILLIMANTIC - The First Spiritualist Church of Willimantic • 268 High St., 06226, (860)423-5774; Sun. Service 10:30 a.m. Sept. thru May; service twice a month June – August. For information, call the church Pastor Joyce Orcutt, 14 Harbourt Dr., Winchester, NH 03740, (603)239-7268.

• DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA •

WASHINGTON - The Church of Two Worlds, NSAC • 3038 Q St., NW, 20007-3080; (202)333-5114; Sun. Healing 2:00 p.m., Service 2:30 p.m.; Message and Meditation clases available; Pres. Michael Gallion, LM, (202)237-7659; Sec. Maria J. Wolf; Treas. James A. Longmore (301)739-8227.

• FLORIDA •

ORLANDO - New Vision Spiritualist Center, NSAC, Inc. • www.spiritualistchurchorlando.com, meets at 1700 Edgewater Dr.; Sun. 1:30; Healing, Sermon, Messages at all services; Children Lyceum Dir. Fionnula Davis-Patton; Adult Classes taught by Pastor Rev. E. Ann Otzelberger, NST, (407)826-0807 or reveao@yahoo.com; Church mailing address: 10509 Jepson St., 32825; Pres. William Patridge; Sec. Stacy K. Davis.

ORLANDO - Spiritualist Church of Awareness, NSAC • 3210 N. Chickasaw Trail; Mail: P.O. Box 4010, Winter Park, FL 32792, (407)678-3688; www.spiritualistchurchofawareness.org / news@myscoa.org; Sun. healing 10:30 a.m., service/messages 11:00 a.m.; Wed. healing 7:30 p.m.service/messages 8:00 p.m.; Pastor Rev. Jeanne Kerr Lerch; Pres. Marsha Hall.

• 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 – Sept. 30; Lyceum 9:00-10:45 a.m.; Service, 10:30 – 11:00 Healing Meditation, 11:00 – 12:30 Church Service, Pot Luck follows; Pres. Ken Boesen (815)626-5716; Sec. Marian Boesen, NST; cherryvalleysc@verizon.net

CHERRY VALLEY - Christabelle Spiritualist Church • 8002 Service Rd., 61016, (815)332-5359; Healing Service 10:30 a.m., Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Lyceum 9:00-10:45 a.m. every Sun., Oct. – May at Cherry Valley Spiritualist Camp; Pastor Rev. Marian Boesen, (815)626-5716; Pres. Kenneth Boesen, (815)626-5716; Sec. Pat Peck (815)332-5359; 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; Sec. Donna Bates (815)871-5515; dkbates61@msn.com

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

CHICAGO - Spiritualist Church of Truth • 6343 West Cuyler (1/2 block north of Irving Pk.)60634; Service 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.

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. Butch Tull; Sec. Sharon Bianchi (317)945-8437; www.crumbaughchurch.org; reverendbob@direct2spirit.com

• INDIANA •

GARY - First Spiritualist Church, Inc., NSAC • 2430 W. 11th Ave.; Service Sun. 3:00 p.m.; Pastor & Pres. Rev. Jesse James, Jr., 1301 Pennsylvania St., 46407.

INDIANAPOLIS - The Spiritualist Church of Indianapolis • Sun. Healing, Devotional & Message Services 6:30–8:00 p.m.: 3020 S. Meridian St., Ste. E&F, 46217-3221. Energy Circle or Adult Lyceum Class every Tues. 6:30-8:00 p.m. FMI call Pastor Bonnie J. Darby (317)796-3503 or (317)374-0794 or www.thespiritualistchurchofindianapolis.com *Spiritualism Changes Lives!*

INDIANAPOLIS - New Dawn Spirit of Light Church, Inc., NSAC • 3637 W. 10th St., 46222; Mail: 6707 Heritage Hill Dr., 46237; Sun. Serv: Healing 11:00 a.m., Devotional/Message Service 11:30 a.m. Wed. Development Class 6:00 p.m. Every 5th Sun., All Message Service, covered dish dinner, 1st Sat. Reading Day 12:00–4:00 p.m.; Pastor/Pres. Rev. Mildred Schlagel, (317)291-0799.

MICHIGAN CITY - Spiritual Science of Life Church, NSAC • 314 W. Cool Spring Ave., 46360; Service Sun. 10:30 am; Pastor John Kamph (574)298-5080; Sec. Joy Marsh (219)879-0292.

• IOWA •

CLINTON - New Sunflower Spiritualist Church, MVSA • Mount Pleasant Park, 52732; Holly/Dana Chase; chasehealing@yahoo.com; (563)570-2768.

CLINTON - Mississippi Valley Spiritualist Association Camp • Mt. Pleasant Park, 52732; admin@mvsa.info; (563)570-2768 (Sep-May); (563)242-0116 (Jun-Aug); Holly Chase, mail: 2140 Jersey Ridge Rd., Davenport, 52803.

• MAINE •

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

AUGUSTA - Augusta Spiritualist Church • Corner of Perham & Court Sts.; P.O. Box 2492, 04338; (207)622-8980; Sun. Service 10:30 a.m.; Thur. Spiritual Awareness Class 7:00 p.m.; Pastor Rev. Earl L. Wallace, (207)582-6745; Pres. Theresa Clifford, (207)504-1088

BANGOR - The Harrison D. Barrett Spiritualist Church • 15 State St., Sun. Service 10:30 a.m.; Sec. Rev. Betty Simpson, 715 Newburgh Rd., Hermon, 04401 (207)848-2273; betty.simpson@maine.gov; Church services may be canceled due to inclement weather. Check www.hdbspiritualistchurch.org or call the Sec. or Kathy Goodness VP, (207)989-7266

HARTFORD - Pinpoint of Light Spiritualist Center & Camp – Mail: 546 Town Farm Rd., 04220; Meetings Sun. 10:30 a.m., 1190 Main St., Hartford, ME; Pres. Robert Foster, pinpointoflight@live.com / pinpointoflight.org; Sec. Rev. Stephanie Frobese (207)388-3436.

LEWISTON - Spiritualist Church of Eternal Life • Entrance – 4th level in Centerville Garage, Canal St. Lewiston; Pres. Rev. Catherine Sabine (207)784-6129; crsabine@gmail.com; 28 Champlain Ave., 04240; Sec. Linda Bragg (207)713-2130

MADISON - Madison Spiritualist Camp • Located at historic Lakewood Theater Village off Beach Rd., Rt. 201, 6 miles N. of Skowhegan. Camp season May–Sept.; Camp (207)474-0124; Pres. Rev. Beth Carter (207)582-6745; Sec. Mike Carter (207)797-2039; For program information and events, visit www.madisoncamp.org or email madison@mainespiritualism.org

NORTHPORT - Temple Heights Spiritual Camp Assoc. • Shore Road on Penobscot Bay. Pres. Ernie Van Den Bossche; thsc@mainespiritualism.org / www.templeheightscamp.org

NORTHPORT - Temple Heights Spiritualist Church • 4 Park St., Temple Heights, Northport; Service Sunday 2:30 p.m., May 1–Oct. 31 at Excelsior Lodge, corner of Shore Rd./Cove Rd., Northport; Nov. 1–Apr. 30 Services canceled for snow/ice storms; Pres. Jean Bower (207)388-1355, 159 Northport Ave., Belfast 04915; Sec. Diana Kimball (207)388-6275.

PORTLAND AREA - Portland Spiritualist Church • Mailing address: P.O. Box 6551 PTS, 04102; Sun. Service 6:30 p.m.; Fri. Class 7:30 p.m.; Pres. Rev. Graham Connolly, (207)655-6673; pschurch@maine.rr.com; www.portlandspiritualistchurch.org

• MASSACHUSETTS •

METHUEN - The Church of Spiritual Life, Inc. • 126 Merrimack St.; Sun. Service 10:30 a.m.; Mail to: P.O. Box 115, 01844; www.churchspirituallifenh.org

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

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

SALEM - First Spiritualist Church of Salem • 34 Warren St., 01970; Sun. Early Service 5:30-6:00 p.m.; Lunch break 6:00-6:30 p.m., Healing & Evening Service 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; Sec. Janice Kaplan, 21 Buttonwood Lane, Peabody, 01960 - (978)532-2044; www.firstspiritualistsalem.org

SPRINGFIELD - The First Spiritualist Church of Springfield, Inc. • 33-37 Bliss St., 01105; Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Sun. after Labor Day until last Sun. in June; Development classes listed on website; www.springfieldspiritualistchurch.com; Pastor Rev. John F. Sullivan, P.O. Box 392, Worthington, 01098; (413)238-5344, sully1942@verizon.net; Sec. Denise St. Pierre, dstpierre7@verizon.net

• MICHIGAN •

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

CHARLEVOIX - Northern Lake Michigan Spiritualist Camp • Old U.S. 31, Clairvoix, MI; Sec. Susan Hoshield, 8688 Cedar Creek Dr., Petoskey, MI 49770-8871, (231)347-9417.

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

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

LESLIE - Flower Memorial Spiritualist Church • 430 Bellevue St., 49251; Sun. Service 10:45 a.m.; Co-Pastor Jinki Boyer (517)512-2091 / jboyergoodwin@yahoo.com

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

SOUTH BRANCH - Chain Lakes Spiritualist Camp • 8000 Chain Lakes Rd., 48761; Sec. Mitchelene Weichner, 8004 Chain Lakes Rd., 48761; (989)257-2106.

• MINNESOTA •

ROCHESTER - Third Spirit of Life Spiritualist Church • 1500 First Ave. NE, Ste. 112, 55906; Service Mon. 7:00 p.m.; Pastors, Rev. Joyce E. Young, NST, and Rev. John E. Young, NST, Sec. (507)775-6358.

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

• MISSOURI •

ST. LOUIS - Fifth Spiritualist Church of St. Louis • 6026 S. Kingshighway Blvd., 63109-3558; Sun. Service 10:30 a.m.; Healing, Meditation & Message, 1st Wed. of month 7:00 p.m.; Pastor Marilyn Kalna, (314)707-3934; Pres. Lisbeth Tintera (314)353-4779; www.5thspiritstl.com

• NEBRASKA •

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

• NEVADA •

LAS VEGAS - Spiritualist Desert Church, NSAC • 3305 Spring Mountain Rd., Suite 51, 89102, (702)876-8783 (message line only), www.spiritualistdesertchurch.com; spiritualistdesertchurch@yahoo.com; Service Sun. 11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m., Thu. 6:30 p.m. Healing/Meditation Service, Development Circle follows. Vicky Homann, Pastor (702)234-1147.

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

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• 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 re: inclement weather or FMI; Sec. 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; Sec. Jeanne Phoenix Laurel, (716)286-8628 or (716)876-4805.

LILY DALE - Lily Dale Assembly • 5 Melrose Park, 14752, (716)595-8721, Fax (716)595-2442; Office Hrs., 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 Sun.; Camp Season: Last Friday in June to day before Labor Day; contact Martha (Martie) Hughes, Sec.; www.lilydaleassembly.com / lilydaleassembly@netsync.net

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

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

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

LONG ISLAND - Summerland Church of Light, NSAC • Sunday Silent Meditation 10 a.m.; Healing/Worship Service 10:15 a.m. at 120 Plant Ave., Hauppauge; Mail: P.O. Box 5209, Hauppauge, NY 11788-5209; Sec. Valerie Miller, Voicemail: (631)406-4161; www.SummerlandChurchofLight.com

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

ROCHESTER - Plymouth Spiritualist Church • 29 Vick Park A, 14607; (585)271-1470; Voicemail (585)234-2362; Sun. Services 10:30 a.m.; Plymouthspiritualistchurch.org; Pastor Robin Higgins.

• OHIO •

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

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

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

DAYTON - Spiritual Life Center, NSAC • 609 Watervliet Ave., 45420-2544, (937)878-1165; Co-Pastor Rev. Raymond Moschke, Moschke@att.net; and Co-Pastor Rev. Frances D. Montgomery, (937)252-3299; www.sunflowerchapel.org

• OKLAHOMA •

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

• PENNSYLVANIA •

McKEESPORT/PITTSBURGH - First Spiritualist Church of McKeesport • 809 Locust St., McKeesport 15132, (412)672-1272; Sun. Service 10:30 a.m. Healing/Meditation, 11:00 a.m. Lecture / Messages; "Medium Sunday" on the first Sunday of each month with Lunch/Readings Noon-2:30 p.m.; Mediumship Development Class Tues. 7-9 p.m.; Pres. Lisa Naylor; receivingspirit@1stspiritualistchurch.org; www.1stspiritualistchurch.org.

PHILADELPHIA - The Celestial Spiritualists Church • Sun. Service 12:00 (noon); celestial.07@mail.com; Rev. Betty J. Hutt, NST.

PHILADELPHIA - Second Spiritualist Association • 421 N. Preston St; Sec. Gladys Faison, 2118 N. Natrona, 19104.

• TEXAS •

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

HOUSTON - First Spiritualist Church of Houston, NSAC • 2115 Turner Dr., 77093; Pres. Liana V. Liles; Sec. Kristi Hallmark; Sun. Service 10:30 a.m.; Wed. Service 7:30 p.m.; Mon./Tues. Spiritual Development 8:00 p.m.; Priv. Spiritualist readings by appt., (713)695-2550; lileshouston@aol.com; kristihallmark@hotmail.com; www.houstonspiritualists.org

HOUSTON - Spirit Lights NSAC • 12655 Woodforest Blvd., Ste. 530, 77015; Wed. Service @ 7:30 p.m., Healing, Lesson, Messages. Please join us in seeking the Truth of Spirit and deeper spiritual relationships. Platform Committee: Shirley Williams, Catherine Carter, Doyle Ward. President: David Karraker, (713)451-4476 / (713)816-0357; We are on Facebook!+ www.spiritlight.ehost.com; Contact Shirley Williams, Sec., 13115 Labelle Lane, 77015.

SAN ANTONIO - Louise Scholtz Chapel • Meeting location: Thomas Jefferson Bldg. at the First Unitarian Church of San Antonio; Devotional, Healing and Message service, Sun. 5:00 p.m.; Mailing addr. P.O. Box 762231, San Antonio, TX 78245; (210)401-1713; www.SanAntonioSpiritualists.com

• VIRGINIA •

FALLS CHURCH - Center for Spiritual Enlightenment, NSAC • 222 N. Washington Street; Mailing Address: CSE (NSAC), P.O. Box 6535, 22040-6535; (703)354-5767; www.TheCSE.org; thecse@TheCSE.org; Year-round Sunday Services: 10:00 a.m. Healing Service/Devotional & Message Service 10:30 a.m.; Pastor & Pres. Rev. B. Anne Gehman; Asst. Pastor Rev. Patricia A. Stranahan; Sec. Beth Watson.

NORFOLK - Memorial Spiritualist Church, NSAC • 307 W. 37th St., 23508-3207, (757)622-5070; www.memorialspiritualistchurch.com; Services held Sunday 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Wed. 7:30 p.m.; Healing available at 10:30 a.m. Sun. and 7:00 p.m. Wed.; Adult Lyceum Sun. 9:30 a.m.; Children's Sun. Lyceum 11:00 a.m.; Ministers: Rev. Lelia E. Cutler, NST, (757)480-3799; Rev. Carol A. Brown, NST, (757)826-9652; Pres. Eugene Turner; Sec. Ann Marie Croteau; Lyceum Director Charlotte Miller.

• WASHINGTON •

EDGEWOOD - Church of Divine Grace, NSAC • Sun. Service 2:30 P.M., Unity Church of Christianity, 2908 Meridian E. #102, 98371, (Mail to 11113 SE 323rd St., Auburn, 98092); Student Minister Atira Hatton; Pres. Bernie Allers (253)833-4250; Sec. Robin Maylor; churchofdivinegrace@gmail.com

MILTON - Camp Edgewood, NSAC • 1228 26th Ave Ct, Milton, WA 98354 Ph. (253)927-2050 / Fax (253)927-7531. Pres. David Chapman, Sec. Denice Chapman; campedgewood@qwestoffice.net. FMI re: year-round Development and Educational Classes; campedgewood.nsac-churches.org

MILTON - Church of Spiritual Unity, NSAC • Held @ Camp Edgewood, NSAC - 1228 26th Ave Ct. Church Service Sun @ 2:00 PM Sep-May. Mailing address c/o Pres. Colleen Mohler, 1210 26th Ave Ct 98354, (253)927-2365. Pastor Rev. LaVerne Pemberton Ph: (253)833-9279. Sec. Jill Mohler, 1015 Emerald St., 98334; (213)568-0333; j.m.mohler@hotmail.com

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SPIRITUAL HEALING

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.

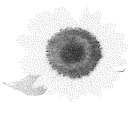
It is easy to send a request for healing prayers for yourself or another. You can send your request through the NSAC site at www.nsac.org by clicking on *Healing* and filling out a form. You can e-mail k.rottino@tampabay.rr.com, or call 860-642-7976 or write to me at 7288 Blackbird Ave., Weeki Wachee, FL 34613 with the name of the person you want healing prayers for.

The NSAC Healing Center has a brochure that includes the Power of Prayer, How Spiritual Healing Works, How to Get Started and the NSAC Healing Prayer. If you are interested in forming a Healing Prayer Group, please contact 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



– Prayer for Spiritual Healing –

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

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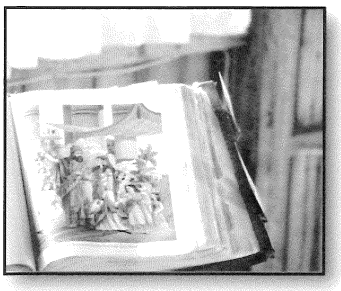
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LYCEUM

AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

THE REV. JUNE E. KILLMER, NST



In society today, too often the words "thank you" are never heard. We have been blessed to live in a land of plenty, but how many take time to express their gratitude for the riches which are ours? It has been said that an "entitlement mind set" has permeated American society.

It is quite common to compile wish lists for Christmas and a list of resolutions for the New Year, but the list that is often overlooked is the Thanksgiving list. Taking 5-10 minutes each day to express gratitude can be a transforming experience. Instead of complaining about something, take the time to be positive through your expressions of gratitude. When practiced daily, you will find, in a few short weeks, that gratitude has become a habit or learned trait. Gratitude expressed through words and deeds will heighten us and brighten our day.

Thankfulness is something that can be shared with family members, especially children, so they will learn at an early age to incorporate this into their daily lives. This is one of the greatest gifts we can pass on to another generation. It could surprise you what might be most appreciated by a young child — the person who held their hand as they tried something new or the pet who sat next to them after they had fallen. Remember this lesson of life: it is the little things that really count. What matters is not material things, but helpfulness or service when given from the heart.

We have often heard the question, "Is your cup half-empty or half-full?" The reply from an optimist will usually be that the cup is half full. The reply from an pessimist would be that the cup is half empty. The child of God would say, "My cup runneth over."

• • •

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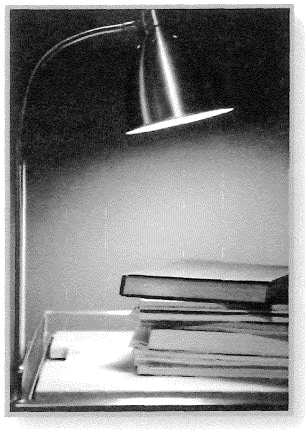
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Self Realization

MPI student, JANET DUGAN, New York

I have practiced the Korean martial art of TaeKwonDo (Way of Foot and Hand) for about twelve years now. At this point I have attained the rank of fourth degree black belt.

I practice every day, except Sunday, at home (my 50+ body does better with a rest day!) and I prefer to do this in the early morning, when the house is quiet. While I do meditate in the conventional sense, "sitting and doing nothing," I have found that some of my most profound experiences have come through the moving meditation that is TaeKwonDo.

First, there is the laser-like focus that accompanies poomse (Korean for "pattern" or "form") practice. I find that when I am working my way through a number of forms, I am concentrating only on the next movement required; my attention is all on the movements of my body and the correctness of what I am doing. When I'm in that state (my fellow practitioners call it "being in the zone") an elephant could walk through my kitchen and I would probably not notice. Second, there is the meditation experienced during sparring or fighting a partner. To many people that might sound odd – how can you meditate while fighting?! It is important to recognize that sparring is NEVER about you, it is about your partner. You must focus on your partner, read their body language and react accordingly; you are concentrated on nothing but the bond between you, the give and take. Sometimes there are magical moments when time slows to a crawl and you can anticipate every move, being so "in the moment," so connected, to that person and to your respective places in that moment that it is literally mind blowing. The Japanese call this *mushin* or "no mind." There is no thought involved because there doesn't need to be; there is simply the moment and where you are in it. These experiences are not tremendously common, but are unforgettable and illustrate what meditation is all about. I am aware of who I am, where I am in relation to those around me and connected to a Source far greater than I could ever be – and it feels like nothing else.

In this busy, complicated, ever-changing world, we are presented with all kinds of ideas about "who we should be" – what kind of education to get, what kind of neighborhood to live in, what kind of work to do, what to wear. In all of this chatter, many of us have lost the ability to recognize who we really are under all the trappings that surround us. Who can be truly happy or at peace until they know themselves?



One of the highest goals for us, as humans, is to reconcile our intellect and outer life with the piece of Infinite Intelligence that lives within, thereby achieving wholeness and allowing ourselves to grow into the people who can be.

The process of self-discovery is open to all of us, but it does require a definite effort and perseverance. The journey begins with the challenge of self-knowledge: learning to know yourself, like yourself and apply yourself to further discovery. In order to reach this goal, we must recognize the connection between mind, body and spirit, and to identify our strengths and limitations in each area. None of us are perfect. We all need more work in specific areas and that's all right. We're here in the physical world to learn and grow, not to exist as faultless specimens. Self-realization is a lifelong purpose, not a contest to see whom can be enlightened first!

Meditation is a tool that can be used to assist self-discovery. One definition of this practice is "intentional direction of attention to the clear aspect of one's inner nature." Meditation is not a way to "tune out" of physical reality or to attain a false "high," but a way to go within, quiet the mind and learn about ourselves and our greater existence. The ancients recognized meditation as "soul discovery." History records numerous examples of how and why it was applied, from Christian mystics to Sufi masters to ancient martial artists.

As previously stated, meditation helps us to re-establish the often lost link between physical mind and body and the Divine spark within us. As humans, we can reach our greatest potential through uniting mind, body and spirit. In addition, there are side benefits to working at this process: greater serenity, efficiency in everyday life, a sense of peace and self-worth, and the recognition of our inescapable bond to our fellow creatures. Also, meditation helps us to understand and control our emotions instead of being ruled by them.

There are many types of meditation:

- **intellectual meditation** uses the will and the thought processes to reach higher and alter perception;
- **emotional meditation** encourages an opening up and expansion of the emotions in order to better

Continued...

understand others and the universe;

- **physical meditation** emphasizes the use of the physical body to focus on one task at a time (like my poomse practice) and action and meditation uses a specific skill as a point of attention to help the meditator grow as a human being (as in TaeKwonDo sparring). In terms of mental meditation, one may practice a structured meditation and focus carefully and precisely on a specific task, or use an unstructured meditation in which all aspects of a chosen topic are considered.

It was mentioned earlier that meditation is work which requires application, patience and persistence. Some pitfalls include boredom, sleepiness or a wandering mind. If the practitioner persists, however, and realizes that progress is incremental, there will be increased relaxation, a better understanding of life, and a sense of one's place in the universe.

In order to successfully meditate, one must be able to center oneself, to achieve the relaxation and poise that allows the meditation to unfold, and to concentrate, to focus and form the "one-pointed attention" without distraction. These components lead to the ability to quiet the mind and body and to LISTEN with the heart and inner being.

Meditation and mediumship go together. It is vital to quiet the mind and relax the body in order to receive spirit messages and to help ourselves become better vessels for this type of communication. A side effect of this meditation is often psychic phenomena; we are opening up to our intuitive abilities and the phenomena often follows. There is some danger in focusing on these phenomena; the purpose of meditation is self-knowledge and growth, not exploration of phenomena. They may be acknowledged and observed, but should not be the purpose of meditation.

Comprehensive living denotes the practice of living in all of our aspects: mind, body and spirit. Meditation can help with the process and benefits spill over into the little details of everyday life. We become better at problem solving, creating relationships with others, keeping our physical bodies healthy and reducing physical and mental stress. Meditation can help us to find renewed purpose and energy and it can help to rid us of negative attitudes and beliefs. In short, meditation is a tool to be used in the process of transformation.

I've embarked on the journey and have experienced wonderful things. Tomorrow morning I'll be back in the kitchen, practicing poomse and focusing my mind, feeling that bond with something far greater than I am. Once you begin, I can't imagine wanting to stop. •

What is Spiritualism?

MPI student, GRAHAM WILLIAMSON, Florida



What is Spiritualism? This is a really deep and extended question, and not a simple one to answer. There can be many answers, not only from the questioner's point of view, but also of the responder.

At the 26th Annual Convention, Mr. Whitwell stated, "Spiritualism is the concrete result of the recognition and investigation of the universally acknowledged fact of the possibly of communication with those who live in the Spirit World." This has been adapted and modified since then.

To one who has made a profound study of Spiritualism in all its phases, and whose feet stand firmly on the solid rock of truth, he/she will tell you that your question cannot be answered in a sentence nor in a minute's time. He will say that Spiritualism is three fold: a religion, a science and a philosophy.

Spiritualism is a Religion because it strives to understand and to comply with the physical, mental, and spiritual laws of nature, which are the Laws of God.

Spiritualism is a Philosophy because it studies the Laws of Nature, both the seen and unseen, and bases its conclusions on observed facts. It accepts statements of observed facts of the past ages and conclusions drawn therefrom, when sustained by reason and by results of observed facts of the present day.

Spiritualism is a Science because it investigates, analyzes, and classifies facts and manifestations demonstrated from the spirit side of life.

"What is Spiritualism?" It is not only the most comforting, uplifting, simple and utterly reasonable religion – the most satisfactory and workable philosophy – the most interesting, thrilling and accurate science, but, over and beyond all that, the most tremendous TRUTH that has ever offered itself to the consciousness of man.

Spiritualism, to me, is being part of a collective of like-minded persons of both genders, who actively and knowingly connect with departed spirits of past friends and loved ones. In doing so, they prove not only to the recipient of the reading, but also to the Medium who allows Spirit to work through their bodies, conveying clearly and accurately things from those departed souls that only the question-

Continued...

er/recipient could know.

The three-fold aspects that make up Spiritualism really have one important message to all mankind. Everyone can have their fears and worries relieved when they understand, through Spiritualism, what happens to each and every person who has lived on this earth. The science of Spiritualism has proven, beyond doubt, that our spirit does not cease to grow and function when our material bodies stop working and we "die." Those who are willing to listen can see through the Medium, actions of their loved ones, who are still alive and growing on the other side. When we pass over, it is not into a dead zone, without any connection with other living energies/spirits/souls, but into a realm that is so much more vibrant and conducive to inner peace, happiness and spiritual growth.

Spiritualists have knocked at the door into knowledge that will set them on a pathway into a life full of wonder. A shut door blocks all forward motion in life. To understand that each motion, thought, word or deed has a profound ripple effect could help them live a healthier, productive and more rewarding life. This is what I have found for myself. I am not the same "non-spiritualistic" man I was when I was in my early 20's, filled with self-doubt and materialism, which had blocked my spiritual abilities. (I could not feel any connection with them at that time.) Now I have been more aware, and changing my ways has re-opened my connection to Spirit. I can now answer such questions from a non-Spiritualist, and speak from experience about what Spiritualism means to me.

Each day I wake up knowing it will be different from the previous one through my conscious effort to do what I can to help others, with the guidance of Spirit. I want to allow Spirit to help others, through me. In doing so, I know that I have done something to help change someone else's life and my own. I seek no reward in doing this. I just do it because I know I am doing my best for all. •

Healing

MPI student, VICKY HOMANN, Nevada



All healing energy comes from Infinite Intelligence, and each individual has some form of healing ability. The mother who touches her child's skinned knee to make the pain go away and the medical doctor who treats one's ailments are healers. The Spiritualist Healer is a willing instrument of Infinite Intelligence and must strive to be the best channel possible through attunement, knowledge and by taking care of their physical, mental and spiritual self.

Attunement is an essential element for the Spiritualist Healer; without attunement, the link to spirit healers and doctors would not be as strong. Attunement for healing mediumship is different than attunement for the communicating medium. The healer attunes to spirit healers and doctors rather than to an individual spirit entity so that (s)he may remain an open vehicle for the healing energies. In order to achieve this attunement, one should go to a quiet place, seek a certain "mental abandonment" and an inner upliftment, combined with the desire to be of service to others for their highest and best good.

Knowledge of Natural Laws is essential for the Spiritualist Healer, including, but not exclusively, the Laws of Vibration, Attraction, Thought, Harmony, Desire, Love and Cause and Effect. The healer should be blind to race, color, creed, or economic status. Every individual is spirit and has a right to spiritual healing. Healers should also have tolerance with those who criticize the practice of spiritual healing, realizing that every individual has the right to their own belief system. The Spiritualist Healer must also have knowledge of states' laws regarding healing. The Spiritualist Healer is not a doctor, so cannot diagnose illness or prescribe any form of medication.

The Spiritualist Healer and recipient are bound by certain ethics. Whatever occurs during the healing is confidential, and the healer should avoid giving any kind of advice. If absolutely necessary, the healer must encourage recipients to solve their own problems.

The healer must be aware of and take care of their own physical, mental and spiritual self. This includes physical cleanliness, getting the proper rest, eating correctly and being of a high moral character so that he can be the best possible channel. The Spiritualist Healer must evaluate his own self and not be a healing agent if ill or disturbed by emotional or spiritual matters.

All of the responsibilities do not fall on the shoulders of the healer. The recipient seeking a spiritual healing should come to the healing with a positive attitude and a tranquil mind and observe basic rules of health and well-being. The recipient should realize the necessity for doing their part; they might need to make lifestyle changes, such as quitting smoking, eating healthier or seeing a medical doctor, if needed.

The recipient should understand that healings are not necessarily instantaneous. Since there is no concept of time in the Spiritual Realm, the healing may

Continued...

The Old Split-Rail Fence

LAURA LEE PERKINS

The old split-rail fence
Is bent and weathered,
Leaning toward the ground
To which it is tethered.

Like an old, aged person
It looks very worn
With no hope for recovery
Except to be reborn

Into a new existence -
Maybe the fence into a table?
And a person into spirit form
When their transition is able

To bring a new existence,
A new world into view -
We shall all be transformed
From the old into the new.



EDUCATION SPEAKS *Continued...*

occur at once or take a long period of time. There are some reasons why the healing may not take place at all. Sometimes the recipient doesn't want to get better; perhaps (s)he has grown accustomed to the illness or prefer to be ill, like an elderly person who receives company when they are ill, but these same people don't visit once they are well. Perhaps the illness/ailment is necessary for a lesson in one's spiritual growth.



In order to become a Commissioned Healer through NSAC, there are certain requirements that must be met. The Commissioned Spiritualist Healer might be called upon for various services. If a member of the church is ill, the healer might wish to visit and, if requested, to say a prayer and send healing. The healer should have communication with the family members not only about their loved one. Perhaps they also need support in the emotional process. The healer might be asked to chair the healing service within the devotional service or (s)he might be asked to hold a healing class, either for teaching student healers or to offer information about healing.

Healing is a wonderful gift that has been given to all individuals and it should be used in a respectful manner. Attunement, knowledge and personal awareness are necessary ingredients for the Spiritualist Healer. •

Three Things We Can Learn from Hospice Patients

GINNY GRIMSLEY – Florida



Does our society hold too narrow a view of what defines strength?

The things many would point to as indicators – youth, wealth, a fully capable body – fall short, says Dr. Charles Gourgey, a veteran hospice music therapist and author of *Judeochristianity: The Meaning and Discovery of Faith* (www.judeochristianity.org), a book that explores the unifying faith elements of Judaism and Christianity.

"Youth is ephemeral, abundant wealth is for just a few, and we all experience some kind of disability, usually at several points in our lives," he says. "A car accident, the loss of a job or a home, grief over a loved one's dying: such things can happen to anyone and easily destroy our happiness."

Gourgey says some of the greatest strength he's ever seen was demonstrated by certain patients facing imminent death. "Some people have complete love and grace when facing death – it's how they've lived their lives, and at the end of their lives, it's what supports them," he says. "Those who, at the end, are peaceful, grateful and confident share some common characteristics." They are:

- **Their love is non-self-interested.** When we have awareness of and deepest respect and reverence for the individuality of others, we overcome the high walls of ego and experience a tremendous sense of freedom, says Gourgey. He says he continues to be inspired by patients who cared more for the well-being of others, including their fellow hospice patients, than themselves while facing their own mortality. Non-self-interested love – loving others for themselves without expecting or needing anything in return – is the greatest form of love, he says.

- **They have an unwavering faith that transcended religious dogma.** Faith is the knowledge that there is more to life than the apparent randomness of the material world; a sense that we are known to a greater reality and will return to that reality. No matter what their religion, the patients who were most at peace with their life's journey were those who had faith in something higher than themselves. The problem with many concepts of faith, Gourgey continues, is that people attach specific doctrines to it, which means some people will always be excluded. A unifying faith – that all people are connected and love is the force that binds us – allows for trust, compassion and caring.

- **They are motivated by an innate sense of what is good.** They didn't get mad at themselves; they didn't beat themselves up for mistakes they might have made in the past. That's because they were always guided by their sense of what is good, and they made their choices with that in mind. That did not prevent them from making some bad choices or mistakes over the course of their lives, Gourgey says. But when they erred, they addressed the problem with the same loving compassion they extended to others. "Their compassion overcame even any self-hate they may have experienced."

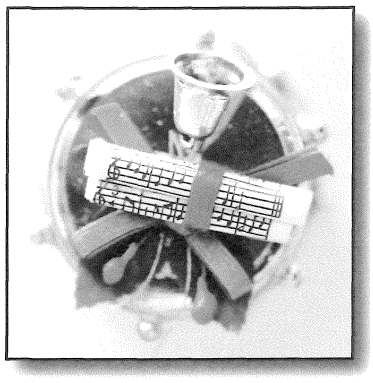
Many patients left lasting impressions on Gourgey, and taught him valuable life lessons. He remembers one in particular.

"She was in hospice, a retired nurse who had developed a rare, incurable disease," he recalls. "She would go around every day, checking to see what she could do for the other patients. She fetched blankets for a 104-year-old lady who always complained of cold feet. She sat with and listened to patients who needed company and someone to talk to. She had an attentive awareness about her, like she was fully in touch with her soul."

Gourgey was with the woman when she died.

"She was radiant, she just glowed. She kept repeating how grateful she was for her life," he says. "It was as if the life of love she'd lived was there to transport and support her at the end."

• • •



Holiday Season 2012

THE REV. FRANCES MONTGOMERY, NST – Ohio

It is early August as I begin to think about this November/December issue of *The National Spiritualist-Summit* magazine which I enjoy so very much. I am extremely grateful to those who keep it in publication and feel indebted to those who provided the financing to give it color and life. Perhaps, as we think about Thanksgiving, that is one of the joys for which I **most** wish to show gratitude and which I do not take for granted.

Thanksgiving traditionally begins the Holiday Season – regardless of our beliefs, or the way in which we choose to celebrate.

Thanksgiving is a most important Holiday, indigenous to the United States – no gifts are required, no hustle and bustle to do or outdo what we have done previously, is involved. Thanksgiving is about giving thanks – for a bountiful table with special foods prepared sometimes only at this season, indulging in gratitude to Infinite Intelligence whose loving spirit is around and about us every day of the year, to family and friends who are in our lives adding their special personalities, quirks, foibles and zest for life. Thanksgiving is about appreciating these people, warts and all, sharing laughter and stories about those who may no longer be with us on the earth side of life but who are most definitely with us at this time of celebration; listening to our laughter, sharing in our remembrances of them, hearing again the tales of the days they were with us and reflecting about their outcomes. Thanksgiving is about engaging in humble gratitude for the year nearly past and the things that could have occurred but didn't, and for the way things turned out because Spirit was protecting us when we didn't even stop to think about it.

Thanksgiving should be about the manner in which we live our lives daily but really do not. Thanksgiving is warmth in a home when outside the weather may be less than warm – or in warmer climates, about the fact that it isn't as hot as it had been during the midst of the summer season. Giving thanks should become a way of life daily – not just on the third Thursday of November of every year.

When groups of people are gathered in sharing, laughing and reminiscing I always think about the 100th Psalm which starts out with "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord…" because in my mind Spirit isn't quiet, solemn, dreary or doleful. I believe Spirit is happy, loving, joyous, energetic and interacts more closely with us when we display those qualities. May you enjoy that type of experience this Thanksgiving.

And then, as we start into this time frame, Thanksgiving Day is all too soon over; we begin the excitement of the Christmas Season, gift giving becomes a swirl of attempting to find the right purchase, a bargain price, crowds of people thronging around big box stores, whose very purpose is to take our money and subliminally allure us into spending more money than sometimes we should with caroling music and gay displays; many people decorate colorfully with Christmas trees, twinkling lights, shiny balls which reflect brightly off other shining lights. May we all strive to become a shining light reflecting the happiness of this season as well as the peace, serenity and giving nature that is so prominent at this time of year, carrying that forward into the ongoing days of our lives. This is the time when many celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Master Teacher who came to show the way to live; to show us that the Iron Rule of "Might makes Right" or an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth was outdated - that the "Silver Rule" – of not doing to others what you would NOT like done to you was not "good enough" and the Golden Rule – that of doing unto others as you would that others should do unto you was the highest and best way to live.

My favorite time of this portion of the season is usually Christmas Eve, most especially if there is a fresh snow and the traditional "Christmas Card Look" to the world. Even most who profess to be Grinches secretly enjoy a soft snow on Christmas Eve. Realizing this is strictly a Midwestern point of view and having never lived where December can be hot, I have wondered how it would feel to go to the beach on Christmas Eve, walk barefoot on the sand at the edge of the water and watch the moon rise while the warm waves lapped at my toes. I am certain in the Deep South, Southern California or on many islands people can actually do that on Christmas Eve. I am aware that my New Zealand friends are in the midst of summer at this time of year and I think about them because at this time their gardens are fully in blossom, vegetables are maturing and their way of celebration is probably much different than ours.

Just a week later, we are at New Year's Eve – with the choice of making resolutions of what we would

Continued...

Laughter is Good Medicine!

Who are the patron saints of vacations?
St. Thomas, St. Croix, and San Juan.

What do you call it when a rabbi, a priest and a minister hold a service together?
A triple pray.

What do you get if you cross an American homeowner with a minister?
A taxprayer.



***Minister:* Do you spend much time wondering about the hereafter?**
Old-timer: I'll say! Whenever I find myself in front of the refrigerator with the door open, I have to ask myself, "What am I here after?"

How does one angel greet another?
She says, "Halo!"

What do you call a team of ministers who play a game in Yankee Stadium?
Baseball prayers.

***Minister:* Faith can move mountains.**
Boy: I believe you, but I think dynamite works faster.

How much fruit did Noah take on the Millennium Ark?
Two thousand pears.

A group of scientists has found a way to cross a praying mantis with a termite.
They've come up with an insect that says grace before it eats your house.

After hearing a *Bible* lesson about miracles, a little girl went up to her religion teacher.
"In my house," said the little girl, "when handwriting appears on the wall it's not a miracle, it's the work of my little brother."

What did the Zen master say to the New York City hot dog vendor?
Make me one with everything.

Did you hear the one about the man who quit the CIA to become a bishop?
Now all of his files are marked "Sacred" and "Top Sacred."

Did you hear the one about Little David?
He delivered a slingin' telegram to Goliath.

***Minister:* I'm now going to pray over the meal before we eat dinner.**
Boy: Relax, Reverend. Mom's cooking isn't all that bad.

Why did the Israelites wander for 40 years in the desert?
Because Moses refused to ask for directions!

Holiday Season 2012 ***Continued...***

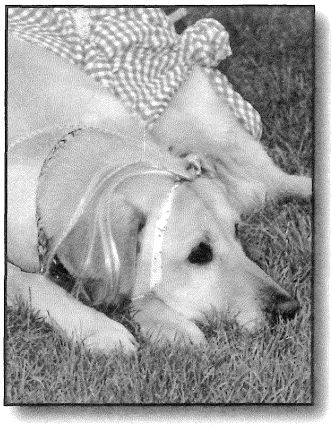
like to change about ourselves in the upcoming New Year. Hopefully one of those will be to become more Spiritual beings, more in tune with the Infinite Spirit, more aware of the gentle nudging of our conscience, or following the impressions Spirit gives us to become more in tune with Nature and Natural Law.

Finally the Ball drops on Times Square – the New Year has officially begun with all the typical gaiety and hope for a wonderfully fulfilling time to begin anew with a clean slate in the New Year.

May we remember the gratitude we felt on Thanksgiving Day; may the wondrous hope that Christmas brought to us, following the teachings of Jesus, our Way Shower, the spirit of sharing and giving stay with us thoughout the year; may the implementation of our resolutions make us better as individuals, as Spiritualists, and may our lives as a more caring Human Race begin.

Have a warm Thanksgiving, a wondrous Christmas and a joyous and Happy New Year. May Spirit be with you always.

• • •



Pets and People

THE REV. MARIE HERALD ROWE – Florida

Many people have enriched their lives tremendously by owning a pet, whether it be a snake, a dog, a cat, a bird or a goldfish. These pets are imbued with the godlike energy. They come from a realm of God consciousness different from that of human beings. Although they are of the same God substance, their lives manifest in a different manner.

Most folks do not realize that these pets are loving souls and spirit beings. They have a different degree of intellect than we. They have a highly developed instinct. Everything they do is by instinct. A dog is a dog, it's not a human being. A dog has certain traits. They like to establish their territory and once established, it's their domain and the domain of their master. They will defend and protect that domain. There is also a hierarchy within the dog kingdom; there are dominant dogs and there are those who must bow to the dominant dog. That is the way of the animal kingdom. People try to change those traits and wonder why they do not act as they expect them to act. They expect them to act as people act but that is not the way of the animal. All pets have their own distinct personality; they have their likes and dislikes just as we humans do. We accept them, sometimes with reservations, but they accept us unconditionally.

So much can be learned from having a pet. A cat is very independent. Some cats will allow you to stroke their fur and some of them will even allow you to massage their ears and their neck. When they've had enough, they walk away and you get the message fairly quickly. Some cats will sit on your lap, others will not.

I have seen animals come running when their master has been injured. They hover around the individual just as we do around our loved ones who have been injured or need help. They are concerned and they don't know what to do. I've seen it happen time and time again. They come to comfort, to allow their beings to express love to their master. When they see that everything is all right, they calm down and go back to their corner, blanket, couch, chair or wherever they feel comfortable. They are ever watchful lest their owner has a problem; and then they will come running again to attend to them in the only way they know how, nuzzling them to make sure they're still alive and all right.

I know someone who studies a lot because she's going to college. When she studies for a few hours, her dog comes and pats her on her right shoulder with his paw saying, it's time you took a break, it's time for you to take me outside and play.

I've also seen it happen when everything is in confusion in a person's life, their very loved animal pet will act up; he will act antsy, run to the door, run back, push his bowl around, tear up paper, do all sorts of things to draw attention. Actually what he's doing is mirroring the emotional state of his owner. If the owner is sharp and takes a lesson from this, he will see the dog is having a problem and he will look at himself and say, "I must have a problem as well; I'm going to chill out a while and get my emotional life in order." As soon as one recognizes the issues at hand, then the animal settles down.

Animals and children react alike to stressful and confusing situations. If you've ever noticed when there are problems in a family, the children will act up or act out to get attention. Animals do the exact same thing.

If we are to learn a lesson from this, we will recognize when this happens. We will pause and take stock of our own lives and see where we can improve, see where we need to make some adjustments and changes, learn from the experience and go on from there. That is one of the lessons we can learn from pets.

When pets die, whether they do so naturally or are euthanized, their love for us does not end. They just step out of that physical body and step into their true home in the world of spirit and they are as happy there, if not happier, than they were here. They are just as glad to be free of a dis-eased body or an old and tired body as we humans are or will be when it comes our time of transition. If there is great love between the owner and the animal, there will remain this great love when the animal makes his transition to spirit. The animal can now run and jump and play just as before, only with no physical limitations such as pain or deafness or blindness.

If your animal was used to sitting in a certain spot day after day, or sleeping at the foot of your bed night after night, he will come again in that same way to let you know he is still around and has not deserted you. They come to bring you comfort and love, to let you know they are not dead. They have merely graduated to a higher expression of life just as we will do one day. You may catch a glimpse of your pet walking by out of the corner of your eye; you may feel your pet brush against you; you may feel the weight on your feet when you're in bed. There are many ways a pet can manifest. As long as you have a caring and a love for that pet,

Continued...

M O L L Y Reveals the *I AM Presence*

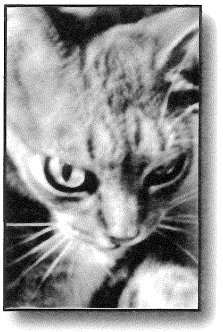
G. G. ROBERTS – Maine



Have you met Molly? Molly loves computer board games, like Mah-Jong. More specifically, Molly likes to sleep on my legs, which are propped up on the computer desk. Molly is a five-pound, six-year-old, spayed, white-point Abyssinian-mix cat with white mittens, white knee-high boots, and a white triangular bib, the apex of which extends the white onto her belly. Her fur is predominantly gray, very short and very thick. The white points are clearly visible. She has a black ridge of hair, somewhat coarser than her fur, down the middle of her back, from neck to the tip of her black-ringed tail. She has black, ring-like markings much like a Siamese or tiger cat. Before Molly came to me, someone in her babyhood had all four paws declawed.

She came to live with me when she was three years old, after having been passed through four households in less than a year. In the last one, she lived with an elderly, single male, who couldn't find her right after she had been brought to him. Molly could be heard in her litter box and her food bowl after he turned out the lights and had gone to bed. Ted (not his real name) was beside himself. At the time, we worked at the same place and he knew I had recently lost a cat I had loved dearly. He asked me if I would take Molly, since she seemed to be a "woman's cat." When she was first here, she found a high place to hide and came out after it was quiet in the house. Two weeks went by and, finally, she came to eat when her housemate, Tom, an orange, neutered, 20-pound Maine Coon cat, was eating his supper. Tom believes it is his duty to protect his home from predators to the same degree he protects himself – vehemently! He began bullying Molly and, each time he got caught, he'd be escorted to the door and invited to leave to cool his heels. There are plenty of neighborhood cats nearer his size he can – and does! – argue with, until they understand his lordliness.

I began to notice Molly's behavior when Tom was not at home and the difference in her when he was. Molly, like most cats, is only affectionate when it pleases her and absolutely refuses to be held. As she became more confident that this is home, she would get up in my lap, rub her face and ears on my hands and wrists and allow me to stroke her. When Tom would come back into the house, Molly began disappearing. When it was mealtime, she would come out to eat and, one day, I caught Tom bullying her out of her food. He was forcefully ejected from the front door.



Molly became subservient and could only be herself when Tom was out. Her – and his – favorite place to sleep is on the sunny window ledge in the living-room. For several weeks, he would bully her out of his spot and she let him. Then, one particularly beautiful, sunny afternoon, the sacred royal spirit of Molly's ancestry kindled her I AM Presence, God in Action.* With her huge green eyes flashing, she said, in Catese: "ENOUGH is ENOUGH", the screams coming from her sounded like an animal three times her size, clawlessly fighting back, the Venetian blind became decimated, and she BIT him! He screamed and headed for the door! He now treats her with the respect a woman deserves. •



*Ascended Master St. Germain, I AM Discourse, Vol. 3 through Godfre Ray King

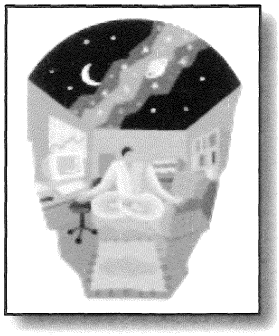
Pets and People *Continued...*

that love will be returned. When it is your time to make your transition, your pet will come bounding down the walk to meet you and welcome you home. The pet will provide that needed unconditional love that you always had and you will be united and truly happy once again with your pet. They will manifest for us for as long as the bond of love is strong and as long as we have need of them. Pets are wonderful reflections of our Creator's love in physical expression. For their unconditional love we give our thanks. •

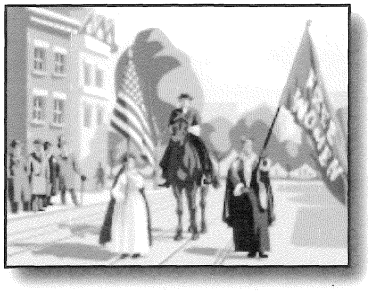
What happened in NOVEMBER *throughout the years?*

Robert Dale Owen was born on **November 9, 1801** in Glasgow, Scotland. He came to America at age 23 with his father who was a founder of the New Harmony, Indiana Socialist community. Robert was a very educated and involved personality who was elected to the Indiana Legislature at age 34 and later moved forward in Congress, where he drafted a Bill proposing the Smithsonian Institute. He later was chair of the Smithsonian Building Committee!

After meeting with D.D. Home in Naples, Italy, he became convinced of the validity of Spiritualism and spent the rest of his life involved in spiritual phenomena investigations. As a speaker and author for the cause of Spiritualism, he authored several books: *Footfalls in the Boundaries of Another World, The Debatable Land Between This World and the Next,* and *The Policy of Emancipation.*



November 14, 1849 was the date of the first public demonstration of spiritual communication by **Margaretta and Leah Fox** at Corinthian Hall in Rochester, New York. This area of the United States became world-famous for the suffragette movement and many women gathered repeatedly in this same hall to support women's right to vote.

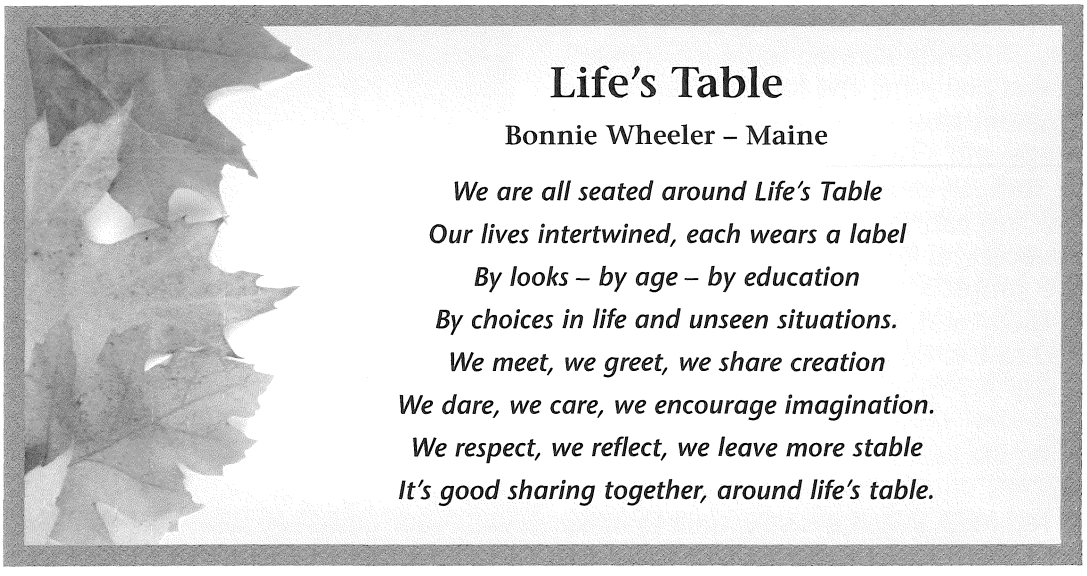


November 22 – THANKSGIVING Day in the United States. *Express GRATITUDE for all of our freedoms in every way that you can this holiday, and share your abundance with someone less fortunate!*



November 25, 1861 was the birth date of **The Rev. Ellen Whitwell**, wife of the 3rd President of the National Spiritualist Association, Joseph P. Whitwell. She was a very influential writer, speaker, medium, teacher and minister; this couple was very influential in the advancement of Spiritualism in the early 1900's.

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Life's Table

Bonnie Wheeler – Maine

We are all seated around Life's Table
Our lives intertwined, each wears a label
By looks – by age – by education
By choices in life and unseen situations.
We meet, we greet, we share creation
We dare, we care, we encourage imagination.
We respect, we reflect, we leave more stable
It's good sharing together, around life's table.

What happened in DECEMBER *throughout the years?*

December 7, 1941 brought the United States immediately into World War II when **Pearl Harbor** was bombed by the Japanese. It is important to honor and remember all those who participated in this four-year event to allow *freedom* to thrive. At many different times during this war, the pendulum was swinging in favor of different outcomes. Millions of people suffered enormous hardships for long periods of time, and, as Spiritualists, we are so grateful to each and every person who participated in saving LIBERTY for ALL.

December 13, 1820 brought **Morris Pratt** into the world in Eaton, New York. Later a resident of Whitewater, Wisconsin, he was fascinated with Spiritualism and phenomena. After a dream which revealed the location of some valuable mines, he would use some of the profits to benefit Spiritualism. He founded the ***Morris Pratt Institute*** in 1888 at the age of 68. The Temple, composed of lecture rooms, an office, a dormitory and a chapel was built and aging Morris Pratt asked Moses Hull to serve as MPI's first President. He agreed and the school officially opened on September 29, 1902, just 10 months after Morris Pratt's transition.

December 25 brings sharing and caring through the celebration of **Christmas**. This is a season when each one of us can find a way to extend our personal outreach to aid and assist others who are in need of help. Whether we sing in a hospital ward, bake bread for the hungry, visit those who live alone or put money in the Salvation Army's bright red kettle, we can each do something a little extra to reach out into our communities with a longer arm and a more open heart. Celebrated as the birthday of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, a truly remarkable soul who came to earth in human form to teach us all about LOVE, let us remember to honor and practice his teachings every day of every year. **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**



On **December 29, 1911 Camp Madison** was founded on the shore of Lake Wesserunsett in Madison, Maine. The quaint wooden-shingled building, nestled on the grounds of the infamous Lakewood Summer Theatre where Clark Gable, Bob Hope, Lucille Ball and many other famous actors performed, remains a vibrant symbol of Spiritualism during July and August each summer.



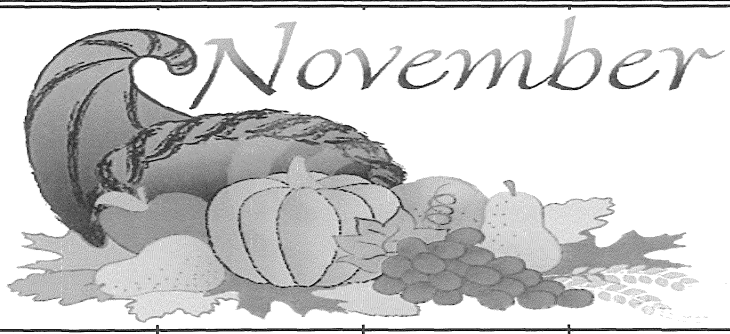
December 31 – NEW YEAR'S EVE! Is a perfect opportunity to set our spiritual intentions a bit higher. We have no idea how far we can go if we stand still; step forward into 2013 with a clear-sighted vision of what YOU want to accomplish next year. **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** •



Christmas really isn't about toys,
However much we love them, young and old.
Reductions in the fat of Christmas day
In time restore its vigor and its health.
So let us not display our absent wealth,
Though children should have ample chance to play.
More sweet and joyous music must be sung,
And thoughts of peace and mercy make their way
Silent and uncluttered through the noise.
– *Author Unknown*

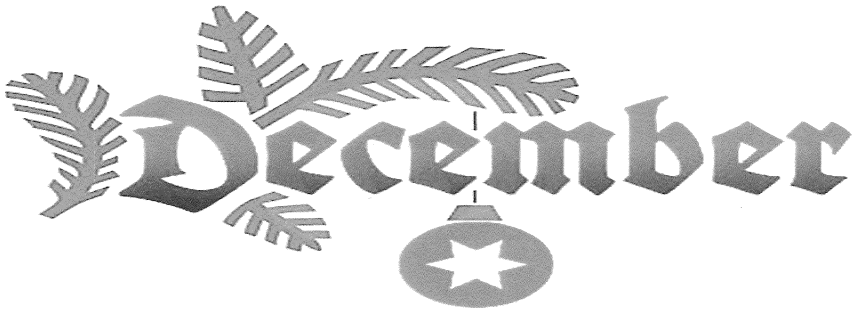
2012 NOVEMBER 2012

QUOTES TO BLESS EACH DAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Do not ever give up.	2 In spirit you can choose what you wish to do, there are no restrictions, but you can be guided.	3 The Spirit World is a pleasant, peaceful, calm place to be.
4 There is much opportunity to learn in spirit.	5 Aches and pains leave on entering spirit, but love is still there.	6 Life never ends.	7 Each impression you leave will add up.	8 Most Spirit Healing Does Take Time.	9 Any object that you believe will help you. The power of suggestion is the secret.	10 There is no end to your life; you go on and on.
11 ***Veteran's Day*** Gratitude consists of being aware of what you have... FREEDOM. ***Thank a Veteran!***	12 Your thoughts can make a great difference in your world.	13 Always think to yourself, "I am doing well. I am doing what I am suppose to be doing."	14 Say to yourself, "I am doing my best.	15 Don't ever be afraid to ask questions of spirit.	16 The earth is a good school.	17 Your thoughts can make good or bad conditions in your life.
18 Too much analyzing can destroy spirit contact.	19 Don't hurry on the earth. Stop, look and listen.	20 Good things are worth waiting for.	21 The Spirit World is a world of beauty and loveliness.	22 ***Thanksgiving*** As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them. *– John Fitzgerald Kennedy*	23 You do not feel or think any different in spirit.	24 Spirits send light to the earth.
25 In spirit, thoughts cause immediate reactions.	26 The American Indian was closer to spirit because of the nature connection.	27 I may be spirit, but I am not dead.	28 The world was made beautiful and perfect.	29 It is people with wants and conflict who cause disharmony.	30 Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all the others. *– Cicero*	 ***Unless noted, these quotes are from the trans-mediumship of Mary Sigurdsson.***

2012 DECEMBER 2012

QUOTES TO BLESS EACH DAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Death can be beautiful to the person going to the spirit side.
2 Death is like going home.	3 Your home is the Spirit World; you go to the earth to study and learn.	4 The spirit side cannot help you if you do not help yourself.	5 The past will never be again; it is past.	6 God gave you a gift of 86,400 seconds today. Use one to say "thank you." – *William A. Ward*	7 You must learn to get along with others, to love all.	8 To be true to others, you must be true to yourself.
9 The white light is the spiritual sun.	10 Always say, "I can do it" – never say, "I can't."	11 Don't use the words if, when or cannot.	12 Do not let anything in life stop you from thinking positive thoughts.	13 There are more aspects of the Spirit World than you can ever imagine.	14 If you are not content with what you have, you would not be satisfied if it were doubled. – *C H Spurgeon*	15 Make your life full of sunshine.
16 Do Not Let Anything Hold You Back.	17 Living And Dying Are All One Experience.	18 Always keep going forward with patience.	19 Try to keep yourself happy and contented. Try to help others around you.	20 A grateful heart is a joyful heart.	21 The thankful heart sweeps through the day and finds, in every hour, some heavenly blessings! – *Henry Ward Beecher*	22 Grace isn't a prayer you chant before eating. It's a way to live. – *J Windspear*
23 The spirit is the real you.	24 Believe, trust and help others.	25 ***Christmas*** Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it. – *William Arthur Ward*	26 Gratitude... goes beyond "mine" and "thine" and claims the truth that all of life is a pure gift. – *HJM Nouwen*	27 Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life, turning what we have into enough. – *M. Beattie*	28 Gratitude turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. – *M. Beattie*	29 Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, creates a vision for tomorrow. – *M. Beattie*
30 Hem your blessings with thankfulness so they don't unravel.	31 Gratitude is the sign of noble souls. – *Aesop Fables*					



ARIZONA

GLENDALE

In Memory...

The Rev. Sandra Pfortmiller passed to Spirit on September 11, 2012 and was honored in a Memorial Service in Phoenix on September 22, her 73rd birthday. The Revs. Robert and Mandy Cowden presided and HAPPY BIRTHDAY balloons were released outdoors after the service. There was a celebration of her life at her house on Topeka Drive in Glendale. She was a delight to all who knew her; she was a kind, caring, devoted Spiritualist who served as Editor of *The National Spiritualist-Summit* for 19 years. Sandy's delightful sense of sweet humor endeared her to all, and we are comforted, knowing that she has joined her husband, The Rev. Gene Pfortmiller, in Summerland. Sandy became an ordained minister in 1992. Sandy and Gene were the founders of The Church of the Living Spirit in Arizona.

Sandra is preceded in death by her parents Bruce and Vida, her husband Gene, and her twin sons Derik and Keith. Sandra is survived by her daughter Kimberlie Hansen, her sister Yvonne Peterson, her grandchildren Derik, Bryan, Angel and Keith, her two great grandchildren Ashton, and Kaleah and one on the way.

The Spirit Is Eternal

The Rev. Sandra Pfortmiller, NST



The spirit is eternal, it has been said,
So think not that another is in any way dead.
When our journey in this body is over and through
We move to the Etheric in a body that's new.

We are greeted by loved ones who have arrived before
The meeting is special and our heart does soar
For love never ends, in fact it just grows
It's the way of life and this our soul knows.

Our life is reviewed when we pause to look
It shows us the way, the way that we took.
No judgement from others, only the self
Resolves to do better and this is our wealth.

The Spirit World is beautiful and filled with peace
All misconceptions are soon released
We put our trust in God and open our being
To be directed and guided in all we are seeing.

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PHOENIX

Ordination



On August 5, 2012 at the Church of the Living Spirit, NSAC in Phoenix, AZ, Havivah Richards was ordained. Family, friends and church members joined in the celebration. The officiant was The Reverend Sandra Cook, Havi's mother. Flowers were presented by family members and The Reverend Janet Tisdale presented the flower for the ministry, representing the extended church family. Havivah also received her National Spiritualist Teacher's degree. A reception followed at the church.

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CALIFORNIA

SAN FRANCISCO

L.M. Certificate Presented



Elsie Soria, NST receiving her Licentiate Minister credential at First Spiritualist Temple of San Francisco, California Church service on August 26, 2012. The presenter is Ben Santiago, Church President. Elsie is the Church Secretary who "does so much to keep the church going." •

Continued...

TEXAS

PFLUGERVILLE

In Memory...



The Rev. Virginia (Ginnie) Joan Koepke Berg, made her transition to "Summerland" on Thursday, August 23, in Pflugerville, Texas, at the age of 70. Virginia was born July 2, 1942 in Jamaica, Queens, New York, to Gertrude and Henry Koepke and was the oldest of four children. The family moved to Uniondale, then to Middle Island, NY and at a Lutheran youth rally in Patchogue on March 10, 1956 she met the love of her life. She married Peter Berg three years later on October 4, 1959, in Ridge, NY.

Virginia and Peter built a house in Holbrook, NY, in 1962 where they raised their three children. She was a dedicated wife and mother who volunteered with the Ladies Auxiliary of the Holbrook Fire Department, as a Sunday School teacher and leader at St. John's Lutheran Church, and was a Girl Scout and Cub Scout leader. With a high value on education, Virginia worked hard to finish her GED, and entered college as a mother with three young children. After persevering many years, she received her BA and MA (1980) from C.W. Post College in Speech Pathology. She worked for over twenty years as a Speech and Language teacher in Sachem School District and had a private practice as a Speech Pathologist.

Serving people, being a healer and teacher were core to Virginia's character and life. Her spiritual journey eventually led her to the Spiritualist Church, and she was ordained as a minister in the National Spiritualist Association of Churches November 30, 1985. She served as a minister to the following churches: A Temple of Metaphysical Science (Patchogue, NY), A Sanctuary of Infinite Spirit (Smithtown, NY), and the First Spiritualist Church of Austin (Austin, TX). Under her leadership and vision, the Sanctuary of Infinite Spirit began meeting in her basement in Holbrook, before moving to the Masonic Temple in Smithtown. She was a Trustee and Secretary of the Pine Grove Spiritualist Camp in Niantic, CT where she served as a Spiritualist worker every summer giving readings, teaching, healing and preaching. As a missionary, she also served dozens of churches throughout the country. In addition to her church work, she was a member of the Eastern Star, Rosicrucians, White Eagle, and Lucis Trust.

In 2006, Virginia and Peter, built their dream house in Pflugerville, TX, complete with a swimming pool, hot tub and waterfall, and moved with their menagerie of parrots to the great state of Texas.

She is survived by: her husband, Peter (Pflugerville, TX); her children, Wendy and her husband Dwayne Bailey (Hamilton, NJ), Michael and his wife Terrie Berg (Holbrook, NY), and Matthew Berg (Chicago, IL); her grandchildren, Michael and his wife Amanda Berg (Medford, NY), Brandon Berg (St. Paul, NC), and Kathryn Bailey and her fiancé Ben Farmer (Denton, TX); her sister Marjorie and her husband Dan Maceda (Washington, DC), and her brother Richard Koepke (Amherst, NY). She was preceded in death by her parents, and her brother Robert Koepke.

Memorial Services for Virginia were held both in Texas on Sept. 1 at the First Spiritualist Church of Austin with The Rev. Shirley Williams of the Spirit Lights NSAC, Houston, TX presiding and on Sep. 23 at the Masonic Temple in Smithtown, NY with The Rev. Patricia Duffield of the Sanctuary of Infinite Spirit NSAC, Ronkonkoma, NY presiding. Gifts may be made to the First Spiritualist Church of Austin in memory of Virginia. •

SAN ANTONIO

Ordination



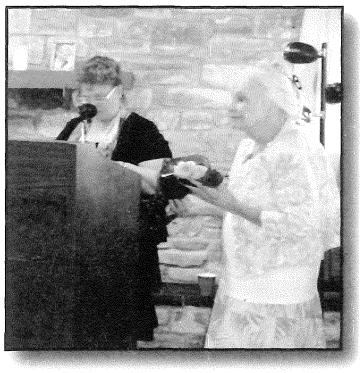
On September 9, 2012, the Louise Scholtz Memorial Chapel, NSAC, of San Antonio had the distinct honor of hosting the Ordination ceremony for Licentiate Minister Shirley L. Williams of Spirit Light, NSAC in Houston. Presiding at the Ordination was The Rev. Janet Tisdale of the Church of the Living Spirit, NSAC, Glendale, AZ.



Peter Berg, from the 1st Spiritualist Church of Austin presented Rev. Williams the minister's stole worn by his beloved wife, the late

Continued...

Rev. Virginia Berg, who had ascended into spirit just two weeks earlier. The LSMC congratulates The Rev. Williams, thanks Rev. Tisdale for officiating and we are grateful for the opportunity to serve NSAC and the Spiritualist churches of Texas. •



VIRGINIA

NORFOLK

Ordination



The Rev. Ernest Leard was ordained at The Memorial Spiritualist Church in Norfolk, Virginia, on June 2, 2012. The rite of ordination was performed by The Rev. Lelia E. Cutler, NST. A reception was held following the service for family and the congregation.

• • •

Different Levels of Morality

GINA DOUGHERTY

Some people who get angry will knock over a pile of books.

Some people who get angry will think about knocking over a pile of books; knowing it is wrong, they will do it anyway.

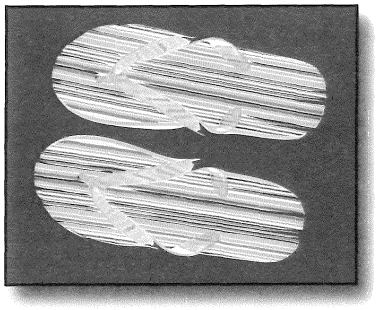
Some people who get angry will think about knocking over a pile of books; knowing it is wrong, they don't do it.

Some people would not get angry to begin with.

What would you do?

A Helping Foot – Community Outreach

NANCY ASHWORTH – Missouri



My church recently started helping some Burmese refugees, called Karens, who have been relocated to Kansas City, providing them with needed personal and household items. These kind and humble people have been in refugee camp from 9 to 20 years. A few of the younger Karens speak English and translate for us.

I was told by one young lady that Saturdays are the most boring day of the week because they have no transportation, so they just sit in their small hot apartments. I thought and prayed long and hard on this – wondering how I could help. Then God whispered in my ears that I have a lot of crafts on hand that I could share...specifically beads, beading needles and string. I knew exactly what I would need and what I needed to purchase. I was so excited!

I called my sister, Rita, and told her what I was planning on doing on the next Saturday afternoon. We talked about my new friends and I mentioned they all wear flip flops (rubber summer shoes) and that I felt bad because a lot of them don't fit...too small or too large. They are the only ones they have, so they had to wear them.

On Saturday morning my sister, Rita, called and asked me to stop by her house (she is in bed recovering from knee replacement surgery). She handed me $50 and said to purchase new foot-wear for the Karens. Happily I drove to the store and bought 26 pair of flip flops...enough for all the teenagers and adults to have a new pair. Saturday afternoon in a small apartment, 19 men and women sat on the floor making jewelry, and 26 happy people received new flip flops that fit! They were delighted and very appreciative of the new shoes and wore them to church the next morning. When asked by their Sunday school teacher if they had seen God that week, they proudly held up their new flip flops and newly made beaded necklaces and said, 'Yes.'

Isn't it amazing how God works? Go with God always. •

Storms of Life

THE REV. FRANCES MONTGOMERY, NST – Ohio



Sometimes, on life's journey, times are horribly difficult; everything looks bleak and we wonder if or how we will survive. If we do survive, we wonder what is the difference and why are we still here? Sometimes life seems ominous, Infinite Intelligence seems far away and inspiration seems nearly nonexistent. There are times when life runs through an area very desert-like; and yet, even in a desert, there is movement, there is beauty, there is life. Somehow there is enough moisture to sustain many plants; cacti of many types thrive and bloom beautifully, suddenly, abundantly.



So it is with life; even in the most desolate times, loving Infinite Intelligence is there to envelope us, to nurture us, to be with us, even though we can't feel that Power or touch into that Great Life Force. When we can't tap into Spirit's energy, the only thing to do is to become quiet, attempt to still our minds, to simply **be.** Allowing ourselves to hurt, cry, rail against fate, and then collect ourselves and attempt again to be still as we wait to feel renewed.



Psalms 46:10 says: "Be still and know that I am God." Matthew 26:20 states: "...lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world, amen." These and many other references assure us that Spirit is always there for us. While we are out of touch, at times, with Spirit, Spirit never deserts us, leaves us or is out of touch with *us.*

There are many demonstrations in life and in nature to reinforce tumultuous events. The sky will look vicious — winds will roar, storms deliver wind and rain, hail, sleet, or snow — creating havoc for awhile, disturbing the regular routine patterns of life. Always after those periods, things will right again. Blue skies start being revealed, clouds turn from black and blustery to gray and then to white (as of the Infinite) as more and more light begins to filter through. All of nature experiences those events – forest fires started by a random strike of lightening, floods raging from an oversupply of rain, trees ravaged by twisting winds, animals in the wild fleeing for their lives from whatever source of change the weather has wrought.

Humans sometimes endure these kinds of experiences through interactions with other humans and humans are affected by horrendous weather patterns over which they have no control. Sometimes illness brings tension and fear for a loved one, sometimes anti-social events occur that are unthinkable, unspeakable, or unexplainable. Our very souls feel shaken. It is, at those times, that Spirit is closest to us, even though we might feel incapable of recognizing its awareness.

Spiritualists are taught and know that we are never alone. That is one of the most beautiful teachings we have — and **have demonstrated** – life after death, life after devastation, life around us, with us, in us and though us. Loved ones never desert us, Infinite Intelligence loves and nurtures us at all times through all things, ever and ever with us. What more do we need? What more could we ask? We are special (as is all life) to the Infinite that created us. For this, we should be thankful and show gratitude as we grow forward. Our prayer should always be to strive for the highest and best we are able to reach. Be still and listen quietly, waiting for the promise brought by a beautiful rainbow.



Infinite is good and ever with us. Let us give thanks. •

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

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

2013 SITE AND DATES

- **LILY DALE, NEW YORK:**
  Lily Dale Spiritualist Camp – Two Week Session
  June 15, 2013, Orientation 7pm
  June 16-28, 2013, Classes
  Instructor: Rev. Sharon Snowman, NST
  – Registration Deadline: April 12, 2013 –

CLASSES: Daily – 8 hours – classroom; Sundays – specified church assignments
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Spiritualism – What Is It?

THE REV. BERNARD F. BAKER, NST (trans.) – *Edited by Laura Lee Perkins*



The primary object of Spiritualism is to prove the continuity of life and the survival of the individual human personality after the change called death. Death of the physical is really the beginning of a new and much broader life — life in the Spirit World! We all have two bodies: one is the physical (which we can see) and the other is the spiritual (which is invisible). Our two bodies are joined by a physical cord.

The cord must be cut when we are born into our new existence. When we die, the cord linking the two bodies is severed. At that time we have no more use of the physical body and it is returned to the earth, while the spiritual body then becomes like sleep, without pain. When we awake we find we are still the same person that we were before the changes except we no longer have a need for material things. What we have taken is our individual personality, without change. We have not suddenly become a wise, pure, faultless individual. We have all of the same faults and virtues that we had before.

If we have lived a good life, trying our best and attempting to help our fellow humans, then we should have no fear of death. Because we have prepared ourselves for life in spirit, we are once again united with our friends and loved ones. However, if you have lived a life of selfishness, you will have a different journey. Natural Law at work is action and reaction, cause and effect. This is perfectly explained in our 7th Principle.

Acts of goodness and service that we have performed will increase our spiritual status, while acts of omission or commission will just as naturally retard it. There is however, no hell in which a person is condemned for eternity (our 8th Principle). Once a person is ready to advance, there are enlightened spirits willing and ready to help this progress. The principal application of Spiritualism teaches us all to lead the best kind of life we can while on earth, and to practice the Golden Rule at every opportunity.

Heaven and hell are not actual places, but rather states of mind. We make our own Heaven and hell even now, so the choice is clearly our own. The Spirit World is here, interpenetrating our own. So those friends and loved ones who have passed on are not in some far off place doing things like playing harps and sitting on clouds. No, they are often close to us, guiding and loving us just as they did when they were in the physical.

There are realms of existence that are invisible to us because they function at a different rate of vibration and in a different manner from those on earth. Millions of vibrations of sound and sight fall outside of the range of our senses and are lost to us. Radios and television sets enable us to see and hear some of these things. The inhabitants of the Spirit World are indeed real, even though they may be unseen.

Our mediums are highly sensitive and trained individuals who can and do communicate with our spirit friends; mediums are the agents through which communication is achieved. There is nothing supernatural about this. The universe functions in a constant manner in strict accord with Natural Laws, or God's Laws. Since these are God's Laws they are perfect and cannot be changed.

God is the creative universal Spirit which manifests in and through the entire universe. God is perfect. God is spirit. Wherever there is life, there is spirit, and wherever there is spirit, there is life. There is the spark of divinity in all of us. This is the divine relationship in which we say that we are all God's children.

We do not believe in vicarious atonement as taught by some orthodox religions. Jesus is not our savior because we need no savior (except ourselves). We are each responsible for our own actions and we reap the rewards or pay the penalty for them here and hereafter. It is not only moral but it makes much more sense for us to acknowledge our actions and make amends for them, if necessary, than to place our transgressions on the shoulders of another.

What makes Spiritualism unique is the absolute evidence of survival after the physical death, proven to us through our mediums. Most religions teach of a future life as a hope, faith or belief. We maintain that reasonable people can and do prove this for themselves; the soul never dies but is eternal.

• • •

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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