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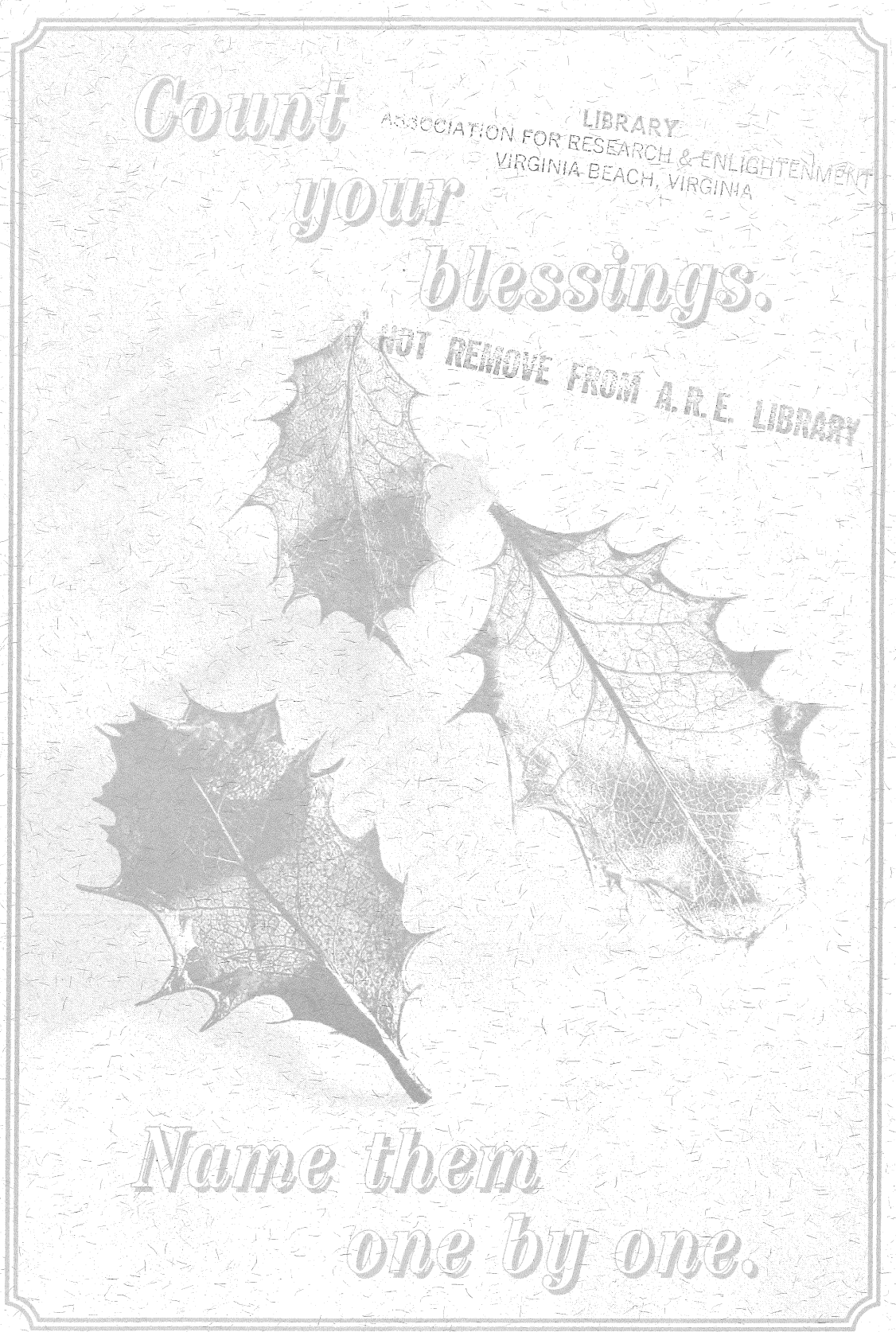
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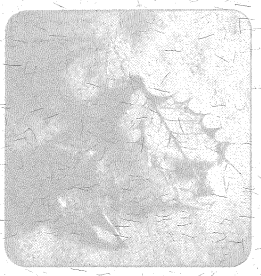


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Keep An Even Mind For An Even Path!

BY THE REV. SANDRA PFORTMILLER, NST

What in the world is happening? Everyone seems upset with life lately. Fun? Life is too busy for fun! I am out-of-balance? What really is balance? These are some of the comments that are spoken across my phone line. Have you ever felt faith slip, feeling that you try to live right, but life still is flooded with unhappy experiences? I guess we all have and often Spiritualists question this strongly for they are trying so hard to follow God's Natural Laws.

It is important to remember that the journey of life is a learning experience and the results or the destination is not the entire trip, for the road traveled affects the consciousness experienced – the happiness or unhappiness. Some of life's less than joyous events are needed to move the soul along the pathway, so when we get out of harmony as a spiritual individual it is important to strive to return to balance without judgement and, as always, to look for the spiritual blessing.



The first time someone asked me to explain what Andrew Jackson Davis' expression "Under all circumstances keep an even mind" meant to me, I was a bit surprised. It hadn't dawned on me there could be several and various interpretations. This caused me to think about the statement in a new way, applying it to new areas. It not only affects our physical life, but it is important in our spiritual growth and in our mediumship.

I believe at the time the question was asked I answered to try to stay balanced, no extremes, the middle pathway, open to all the good the Infinite has for us. This openness of life is only achieved when we can move from separateness to Divine connectedness, from ego to Universal, from fear of life to trust in Infinite Intelligence. This is a lifelong process.

Another area to examine for an even mind is our mediumship. As in all life there is personal responsibility, yet non-attachment to the results is especially needed for a medium. Each of us as healing mediums want to see results, desire our loved ones to improve, look for confirmation that those who come to us for healing have benefitted. We do not have a clue what is for the highest and best good of another, or for ourselves for that matter. As a healing medium all we need to do is to direct the healing energy from God to another to help in some way, to help in God's way, to help in God's time.

A mental and physical medium also must stay balanced in the Light when delivering messages. As a mental medium it is easy, without meaning to, to color a message by our own experience and desires. This is why it is so important to just give what is received – no more – no less. Then let it go. If the person does not accept the healing, does not accept the message, does not accept the religion – that is their right. Do not become so attached to your mediumship and your beliefs that you feel upset if the receiver closes themselves off from the energy.

The healer and the medium only get glimpses of the scenery on one's pathway so cannot possibly be aware of the individual's needs, but rather practice to be open to spirit and deliver exactly what is given. This is the best gift a medium can give to another.

As a medium we must remember that spirit communication also contains messages to help us regain balance. Our loved ones in the next dimension understand Natural Law, therefore, do not judge us, do not try to control us, do not make demands on us, do not scare us, and do not force us, to do something. Spirit greetings are to prove the continuity of the spirit, of life and love, yet often a prediction for the future is given. These predictions are helpers to guide us or indications of a direction one's pathway is leading. If the mind is out-of-balance, regaining balance will alter the direction. Changing our mind, changes our life.

There are always several pathways to take on life's journey, several options or choices. Mediumship may indicate an option – not the only one – an individual may travel. Each soul is gifted with free choice, personal responsibility and intuition. Therefore, the requirement for a good medium is to just do their best at being an open clear channel for Spirit.

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Only Remember

By Ruth Van Gorder

I shall not pray to God for you
for what I think you would
like to have, or ought to have,
of gain or grace or good;
or even for your current dream,
however absolute
lest time should prove we both had begged
for you a bitter fruit . . .
only remember you with love
without the least request;
and God, who loves you more than I,
will do for you what's best.

Each of us , as we work to follow God's direction, must also release any attachment to the results and know that God is with us in all ways always desiring good and growth for our soul. We want what we want, we receive according to our belief. Often we don't realize the depths of some ingrained ideas and beliefs and when brought to the surface in our growth process they may cause turmoil and questions. The human desire is to control the direction of life and the results of daily events. This ego control, rather than God control, is a deterrent to an even mind. Control involves judgements and expectation, and expectation rarely meets the concept of how the original thought envisioned the results. We have all heard the axiom, "Let Go and Let God!" To do this requires that we trust the Universe, that we know without question in our heart and mind that Infinite Intelligence will only bring us good, that the Universe is perfect.

There is a wonderful story told by Richard Carlson, PhD. in *Don't Sweat The Small Stuff . . . And It's All small Stuff.* It seems in a village there was a wise old man that the people turned to with their questions and concerns. One day a farmer, very distraught, came to the wise man to tell him his ox had died and question how he could now plow his field. "Isn't this the worst thing that could have possibly happened?"

The wise old man replied, "Maybe so, maybe not."

Of course the farmer did not understand and told the other villagers that the wise man was not so wise. The next day however the farmer saw and caught a strong, young horse that was running wild near his farm. Now he could plow his field and it had never been easier. He went to the wise old man and apologized. He said losing the ox was a blessing in disguise and felt this was the best thing that could have happened to him.



The wise old man replied, "Maybe so, maybe not."

Again the farmer thought the wise man had gone mad. A few days later the farmer's son was riding the horse and was thrown off, breaking his leg. The farmer went to the wise old man and said, "How did you know that capturing the horse was not a good thing? My son won't be healthy enough to help with the crops. Surely this is the worst thing that could have happened."

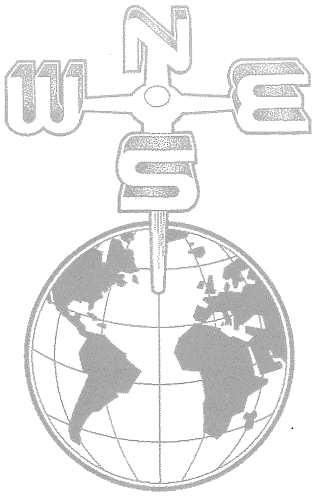
The wise old man replied in a compassionate tone, "Maybe so, maybe not."

Enraged the farmer stormed home. The following day troops arrived in the village to take every able-bodied man to a war that had just broken out. All the young men were taken except the farmer's son with his broken leg. Many young men would surely die, but his son had been spared.

What a powerful moral the story has, that we really do not have a clue about life, about changes, about possibilities. We will be better prepared to accept all the good God has for us if we remain open to all possibilities.

Thomas Keating wrote that if you want to fully live you must be embraced by both parts of life and all of God. The part "that allows suffering for the sake of purification and the one that brings the joy of union. When you feel physical pain or when psychological struggles are persecuting you, you should think that God is hugging you extra tightly. Trials are an expression of His love, not of rejection." We all have read the wonderful *Footsteps in the Sand* message that tells us when we are having problems in life the Infinite love and power are right there carrying us. Knowing this helps keep us balanced, helps get us through, helps us surrender to the Higher Power understanding that Infinite Intelligence, the Creative Process of Life knows the way. Not just any way, but the soul's highest and best way.

It is easier to keep an even mind when we are not thinking about winning or losing, but rather about discovering our higher self, working toward giving and accepting love and observing the soul transform as it draws closer to the Infinite. An even mind is not about struggle, for struggle is resistance, struggle carries emotions with it. Emotions often mislead us to see only one side of a story. Give the emotions to Spirit to harmonize and strive to bring yourself back to your center point. A. J. Davis wrote, "A wise man rules his passions; a fool obeys them." Life and balance is about surrender and trust in the Loving Perfect Universe. God wants to express through us, so as we work to keep an even mind, we will be open to receive inspiration and direction as we travel on our soul's journey. Let us all be grateful for Spirit's love and lessons, gifts and guidance.



Follow Your Dream

BY JUDY POWELL, WYOMING

You can be whatever you want to be, you can have whatever you want in life. The key is to only listen to your heart and know exactly what you want, then want it and do it with passion. How can God grant you what you want if you are not sure what it is that you really, really want?

Are you stuck in a dead end job? Do you detest going to work? Are you unable to find a position that pays enough or is rewarding enough? Does everyone around you tell you that you need to count your blessings that you have an income and that you are being materialistic; that happiness is only achieved through a heightened and enhanced spiritual life? Well, they are partially right.

There is no reason why you cannot have it both ways, as long of course as you keep your sense of direction and make all decisions in the spiritual light. Know your heart, know God! Know the reason behind the reason. Do you want to be well off because of the power? That's OK too, depending on how you plan to wield your power. Is it to help do good things or just to show off new toys? Will your new toys help bring joy to others or are they just to make a statement? What is it that you wanted to be or do when you grew up? There is no reason why you cannot still follow that dream. Have you heard about the 87-year-old lady who never graduated from high school, who decided to get her GED and go on to college? WHY NOT?

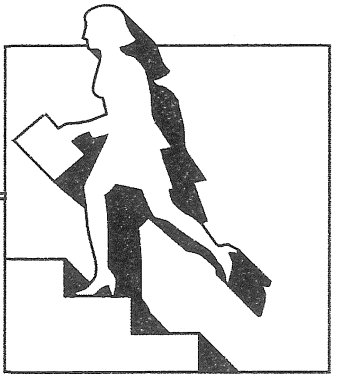
Have your close friends or relatives always told you not everyone can own a business or be rich or famous? They, too, are partially right. Those who lack the passion or commitment are not meant to be that which they have no desire to work for. But, if you have a deep-rooted passion or yearning, do something about it.

When you give yourself passionately, wholeheartedly and "holy" to your cause and take God (Infinite Intelligence, Spirit) as your partner, you can't lose. There are some variations to this plan, however, that may put your dreams in a little different light and that is being realistic. For example: if you have always wanted to be a jockey and you turned out 6 foot 4 inches, it would not be realistic to pursue a career as a jockey. A variation or a more realistic aspect of this dream would be to check into surrounding areas such as becoming a horse trainer, starting a company that promotes horse racing, or the sale of items needed in that industry. You might find talents you didn't know you had. The same thing applies to being a ballerina. If you have grown to be a bit larger boned than what is desirable to be a ballerina, why not become an agent promoting either up and coming students of the arts, or, again, start a company promoting related items. You may be the one responsible for discovering the next "Anna Pavlova."

When you decide what it is you want, turn it over to God and start drafting your plan of action. Start contacting people who can give you information, start interviewing people in that field and do it with passion. You will be amazed when your find your niche, how things will flow together as if by magic. It is never too late and you are never too old. Make your plan and work your plan, do not let up. I know you have probably heard the old adage "No one plans to fail," however, too many fail to plan, or give up before it takes hold. Do not give up because of minor setbacks, back off, regroup and know that if you have truly dedicated your lifetime desire to Spirit everything is as it is supposed to be.

This plan will not work either if you allow someone else to convince you that a certain business or field is where you need to be. Parents are a good example of this statement. How many of you had parents, or well meaning friends, or relatives who have talked you out of a plan because it wouldn't be right for you, or too many have tried and failed, or its just too much work? Have you ever said those words to your friends, children, or relatives yourself? We do not have the right to talk anyone out of his or her dreams. How many actors were told that they just weren't talented enough then went on to receive an academy award? They didn't give up because they had passion and a yearning in their hearts and a trust and confidence in themselves. They knew if just given the chance they could do it. Trusting yourself is trusting God, for He would never lead you astray. God is in our lives to give us the best of everything. He truly wants for you more than you even want it for yourself. So when are you going to learn to trust Infinite Intelligence, when are you going to believe in you? When are you going to reward yourself by "Following your dream?" Remember, Fairy tales can come true, they can happen to you when you have Spirit and passion in your heart. No more excuses: have what you want, be what you want! Do it in the right spirit, the sky is the limit. Plan your life, live your plan. Good luck and God Bless!

SPIRITUAL GOALS



BY ELIZABETH HARRIS, DSNU, CANADA

I like a state of continual becoming, with a goal in front and not behind.
– attributed to George Bernard Shaw

The goal of our spirit is to grow, and it enters earth life to do this. It assumes this temporary form to develop, learn meaning, grasp ideas and feel the warmth of love. This is its aim and purpose. So we can say then that having spiritual goals means looking ahead, moving forward and indicates action and change.

Change is unavoidable, for life itself is change as the Greek philosopher Heraclitus observed over 2500 years ago. We can't change all aspects of our world, but we can change the courses of our lives. We can change our behavior, thoughts and feelings. We can become more material or more spiritual, and how we do this is our individual choice.

As we are individuals and unique, we will change in our own way, in our own time and at our own pace. Henry David Thoreau explains this in *Waldon Pond* when he says, "If a man does not keep pace with his champions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music he hears, however measured or far away."

Where else but in the physical world can the spirit learn to grow? Is there another way the spirit can develop itself? Where else but in the material world can wisdom be reaped? How else but through one's own experiences can one discover feeling and thought, pain and love, and the meaningful lessons of earthly life? Is there some better way to learn these things? We know that mortal life span is short – so short we are baffled by its brevity, yet, there is profound meaning to it.

From the *Talmud* there is a wise saying.

> If I am not for myself, who will be for me?
> And if I am only for myself, what am I?
> And if not now – when?

Too, we must learn self-control, for the purpose of earth life is also to balance the spirit, mind and body. We should not dwell only on the spirit and ignore the body. We will be unbalanced if we concentrate on the body and ignore the spirit, for it's necessary to establish rhythm, harmony, balance and wholeness between the spirit, mind and body. This is fulfilling oneself. This is the fundamental goal of living and the aim of our earth life.

One of the richest and most exciting experiences of our physical existence is getting acquainted with our Higher Self – the spark of the Divine energy within – our spirit body, as it's called – allowing it to come into its own, to manifest and grow, for by doing this we become transformed. We can look at life through new eyes, with refreshing confidence and assurance.

We have right now within us, all the spiritual qualities we will ever have. The spirit body may be lying dormant and unknown within us, nevertheless, it is there. Once this spirit is awakened and consciousness begins to grow, then we know who we are and why we are.

The great Spiritualist pioneer, the Rev. Stainton Moses in his inspired book, *Spirit Teachings*, tells us; "The spiritual body is the object of training, to develop and fit it for its life in the spheres of spirit. This Being, temporarily enshrined in an earthly body, is a conscious, responsible intelligence, with duties and responsibilities, with capacities, with accountabilities, with power to progress. The incarnated spirit has its consciousness, crude frequently and undeveloped, of inherent right and wrong.

"It is the hidden spring. If it is working right, the external acts will be done. He who fulfills these acts according to his ability, with honesty and sincerity of purpose earns his legitimate reward in happiness and progression."

Learning how to live, invariably increases in progressive stages. When we progress, we begin to care less and less what happens to us and begin to think more and more and feel and act in causes beyond ourselves. A Hindu describes this as Atman becoming Atman.

Being human, as we learn how to live we naturally try to avoid pain and suffering, and we dread agony. Yet, if our lives were devoid of pain and suffering, we would miss much of life's richest experiences, for pain encompasses soul satisfaction and without doubt, has spiritual meaning.

Pain is just as much a part of God's plan as pleasure. Without pain there could be no pleasure, without darkness there could be no light. Action and reaction are equal and opposite. They are two sides of the same coin. This is the Natural Law of Polarity.

We cannot learn to live when our existence is untroubled,

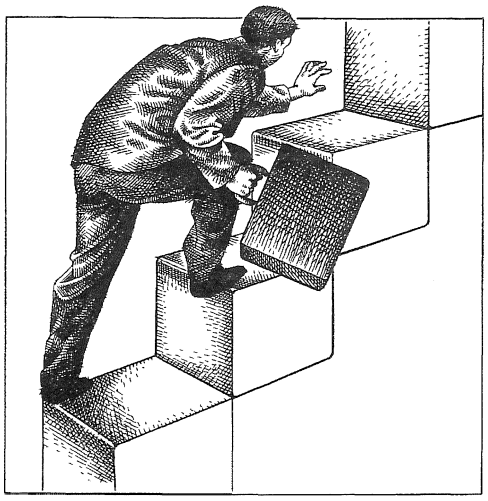
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when the sky is sunny and calm and all seems smooth and placid. It is only when the storm rages, the thunder roars, the lightening flashes and the rain beats down that a wonderful spiritual awakening comes about.

The psychologist Jung explains this: "Emotion is the fire whose warmth brings everything into existence. Emotion is the moment when steel meets flint and a spark is struck, for emotion is the chief source of consciousness. There is no change from darkness to light without emotion."

Philosophers and scientists, too, prove that our minds need emotions to work – one benefits the other. Neither means anything without the other anymore than a steering wheel on a car means anything without an engine – or an engine without a steering wheel. Therefore, we can say that mind and emotion, together, correct and compliment one another. Nature gave us a powerful engine of emotions and a controlling mind by which to steer, yet, with too much mind control the engine stalls and we skid to a standstill.

Life is full of problems. There are few roses and many thorns. Yet, some boundaries are necessary, for how could the spirit that is US ever grow to maturity without them? Limitations and hardships are necessary to measurement and comparison. Moreover, life must have clashes, adventure, pattern and emotion to fulfill its purpose – without which the pages of the chronicle of our life's experiences could easily be blurred, vague and in some cases blank.



As the scientist Guy Murchie in his beautiful book, *The Seven Mysteries of Life,* has pointed out, millions of people think they would love to loll in thornless roses forever if they got the chance, but, any sensible person knows that if we really did loll in rose beds, it is certain that the lolling would get so deadly dull, we would yearn for something to break the monotony. Finding a thorn on the roses would become an adventure, a jot of spice, a stimulating sensation.

Have you ever wondered why some people are challenged and stimulated by their hardships while others are overwhelmed by them? Why do some people bounce back, while others never recover? Virginia Satir responds to these questions:

> "Life is not the way it's supposed to be.
> It's the way it is. The way we cope with it,
> is what makes the difference."

Certainly we would be naive if we tried to live as if our world had no pain or injustice. Our greatest people rarely led lives untouched by suffering.

Dr. Viktor Frankl in his book *Man's Search For Meaning,* looks back to his three years in Auschwitz and Dachau in World War II and asks: "What causes some men to survive and others to perish?" He discovered that the explanation was found in the state of their minds.

He goes on to say: "We who lived in concentration camps can remember the men who walked through the huts comforting others, giving away their last piece of bread. They may have been few in number, but they offered sufficient proof that everything can be taken from a man but one thing; the last of the human freedoms – to choose one's way."

What Dr. Frankl is describing is obvious proof that we have the spirit of God within us. This gift of being able to change evil, to turn suffering into spiritual development, to take tragedy and transform it by loving, shows awesome power.

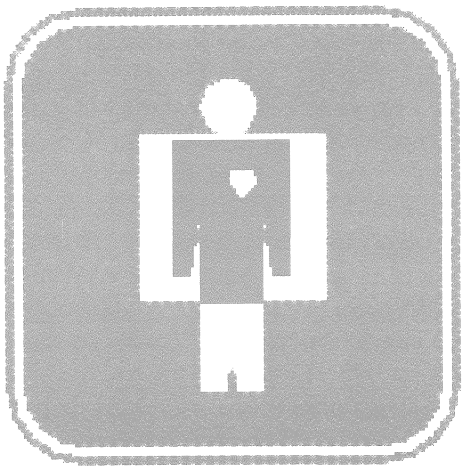
Similar choices and goals are open to us. We can allow ourselves to feel defeated, or we can hold the positive position of expecting success. For we are in charge of our lives and are personally responsible for our actions. Moreover, we are the masters of our fate. We cannot let someone else dictate what is important to us. We must move forward and progress, for the people who are most vibrant and alive are the ones who constantly develop their personalities and extend their horizons.

Life, according to religion, is not about pleasure and happiness. It's about personal transformation called spiritual growth. It's about growing awareness of who we are and what we're doing and where we're going. It's fundamentally a process of becoming what and who we were intended and designed to be – setting our goals ahead – moving forward.

Our hearts and minds tell us there must be meaning and purpose to our lives. Therefore our goal and aim in life is spiritual, and the Spiritualist philosophy shows us how to reach for higher spheres of consciousness. The pains of choice are the pains of progress and we derive spiritual blessings in direct proportion to the effort we make.

Too, we need to nurture ourselves. We must not assume that we will go on indefinitely undernourished, unrejuvenated and uncared-for. No machine works that way. The Law of Entropy in physics, is quite clear about it. This law states that all systems, left unattended, will run down. Unless new energy is pumped in, the organism will deteriorate. Albert Schweitzer wrote, "Some people neglect their souls . . . without being exposed to great temptations, they simply let their souls wither."

(Continued on page 30.)



Healing

BY LAURA LEE PERKINS, MAINE

The most spectacular journey in life – the one with the most breathtaking view – is travelled internally while exploring possibilities for desired transformation. Our greatest moments exist in a state of timeless suspension, when we know that our being is eternal. Our awareness expands and we feel Spirit as ourselves in our breath and in our blood, in the very heart and soul of our being. Such moments envelop the beginning, the middle, and the end of cyclical creation. We have a glimpse into the realm of God.

For those who work in the field of spiritual healing, surrendering our individual will, while not abandoning our trust, is imperative for both sides of the healing equation. Our individual spirit becomes still, our breathing deepens, and we enter into light – into a conscious presence with God. It is the nature of the body and the mind to heal itself through establishing normal circulation, assimilation, and elimination. The act of spiritual healing is the ground preparation for bringing together the healing forces. Illness causes us to feel separate because we are separated from our natural state of wellness. We also may feel separated from others and from parts of ourselves. Healing brings greater mental and physical connectedness through standing in the light of spiritual truth and wholeness.

When we really stop to think about just how much we have invested in life, we know all of our past efforts to live a meaningful existence just cannot be abandoned in times of illness. So we struggle to survive. However, it is often in ceasing to struggle that we heal. Over and over life's circumstances create challenges from which we must rebuild. Over and over we become more whole. During these times our romantic illusions are often stripped away, allowing them to be replaced by visions of substance. It is these perpetual cycles of transformation, revealing more and more about Spirit, that draw us magnetically into the presence of God. We are being summoned home. It is in times of inactivity, and often these times involve illness, that we are doing our deepest spiritual work. We must trust the experience. The truth of our soul is being revealed. Out of the chaos comes greater simplicity and we are offered an opportunity to revel in the wonder of it all as our body begins to respond to overcome the illness. Our prayers begin to be answered when we surrender our illusionary thoughts of control.

It is through patience that we learn to know ourselves. Illness requires patience – much patience – which communicates faith to our souls and to God. Spiritual healing is elevated by the hands of faith. Beyond hope and longing for wellness is a trust that we shall grow in that direction. It takes intestinal fortitude, and time may seem to stretch into months of waiting. But the body is readying itself for change. Fixing our focus on pain, disease, or loneliness drives the brutal wedge of self-pity into our being. Instead we must begin to think, to live the path of faith. We cannot receive the gift of healing if we are living in fear. Fears must be offered as sacrifices upon the alter of our hearts. We must be willing to burn our fears at the stake of transformation. Our capacity to heal is directly related to our commitment to live a spiritually based life, knowing that painful experiences such as illness and loss make way for strength and beauty. Remember the familiar words of Fredrich Nietzsche who said, "That which does not kill me makes me stronger."

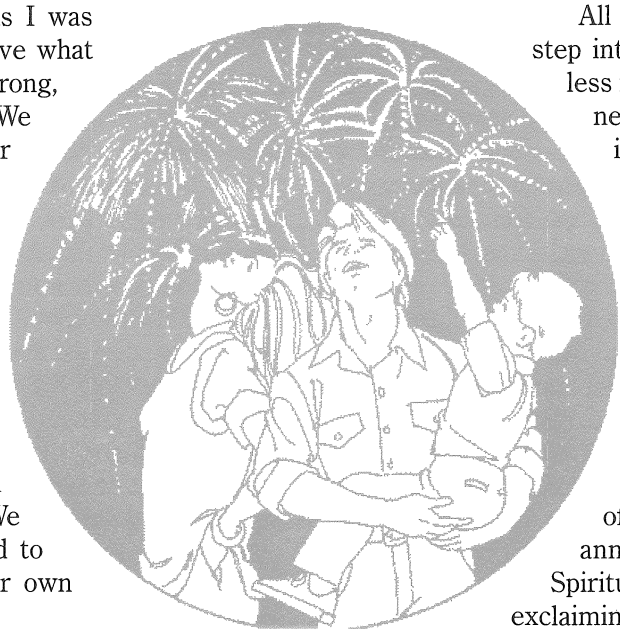
Illness often provokes us to respond in ways that leave us feeling fragmented, lost, and hopeless. It is to Spirit that we must turn to renew our sense of wholeness, home and faith. *Our journey into full relationship with Spirit, the most ecstatic journey of our lives, is often born from the loins of despair and fear.* Enveloped by mystical, angelic wings, we can be transported through the soul's dark night of wilderness. We must believe that it is possible to sense Spirit presence, and to feel guided in new directions which can often be expressed only in metaphorical, poetic ways. The experience cannot be forced, but we can align ourselves with thoughts and behaviors based on love, which will encourage healing. We can invite healing grace to enter our lives through open channels of love because love leaves us vibrant – it is stimulating. Opening into the full bloom of love is a mystical journey. And love is, in and of itself, healing energy. We can choose our path and decide how we shall

(Continued on page 30.)

OUT OF THE CLOSET, INTO THE LIGHT

BY THE REV. CHARLENE KLEINSCHMIDT, NST, NEW YORK

There are some among us whom choose to be closet Spiritualists. They may have come to our churches for years, supported our endeavors and encouraged the growth of our spiritual family but never taken the step to formally commit themselves to our religion. Perhaps, as I was told by a friend one time, "I believe what you say but, just in case you're wrong, I'm going to remain a Christian." We can never presume to know another person's reasoning unless they choose to share it. There may be family, community position or simple fear that keeps them from stepping into the light as we know it.



We say Spiritualism is a religion of conviction but, it is sometimes difficult to remember that, when we see the same person in the same pew week after week. We may feel we have somehow failed to convince them of the truth of our own convictions.

If we have come from orthodox backgrounds we should be the first to understand what a large and important step it is to make the leap of faith called for in renouncing the faith of our parents for a faith of our own. Like an overzealous ex-smoker, we may rush in where wiser ones do not tread, with a misguided but sincere desire to bring others to our new view.

Instead of concerning ourselves with another's attitude let us give time to nurture our own growth and progression. You may find yourself at times wishing you could go back into the comfortable closet from which you came. A visit to your old church on a Sunday or to another religious service may be what you need to find it's a nice place to visit but you no longer want to be there.

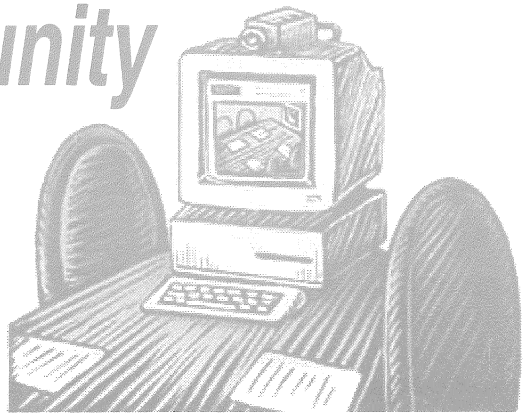
Some of us will, at times, miss the pomp and circumstance of more formal religions. But a few minutes of reading their materials or paying attention to the views espoused on TV or radio and we find the light we are in much more comfortable than the narrow definitions we have outgrown.

All of us grow and change when we step into the light, do you think it is any less for those whom sit every week and never miss a service? They are growing in their own way and that is their privilege. We must learn not to question, but to accept and encourage them wherever they are at this time in their journey.

When you question yourself on why someone you so earnestly desire to see participate in the Fellowship service does not do so, stop and check for a savior complex developing. I often think of my daughter, when I announced I was becoming a Spiritualist, running to her room in tears exclaiming "If I can't save my mother, who can I save?" Each of us has enough work of our own to accomplish without trying to "save" another from our presumed perception of their follies.

The further we walk in the light the more aware we will become of how precious the individual is, whether or not they are walking the route to the truth as we see it. At times in each of our lives we must symbolically step into the closet of ourselves and listen for the guidance that leads us further down the road we have chosen. The more attention we pay to our own growth and development, the more light we can shine on the path for others. At one time or another, in this existence or the next, each of us steps out of our closet and walks into the light beyond all understanding. Let us prepare to help those who follow, when they choose, to walk in the beauty of the truth as we know it.

Seize The Opportunity



BY TOM BUTLER, NEW MEXICO

A friend of mine, named Bill, was involved in an auto accident while driving to work. He was a computer programmer and had been going to work very early in the morning to finish an important project. The other driver was a young lady who had been drinking. My friend, who had a wife and two young children, was killed.

I was not in town at the time, but by all accounts, his untimely death was a great loss for everyone. And yes, by our society's standards, it was indeed, a tragedy. However, viewed from the perspective afforded to us by our understanding of the continuation of life and the Principles of Natural Law, Bill's death was a hard-won opportunity for spiritual growth.

You see, world view is everything.

I will explain by stating that it is fundamental to my world view that we are born into the human condition to experience all of the possibilities which are uniquely available on this Physical Plane. In fact, we actively seek or create opportunities to have experiences in which we may witness and gain personal understanding about the operation of the Principles of Natural Law. This understanding helps us gain in spiritual maturity and it is this understanding which we carry back with us from the Physical Plane to Soul and eventually to God.

So you see, I believe that we work very hard to create the opportunity to have specific experiences. There are no accidents. With this in mind, permit me to speculate on what actually transpired from Bill's death.

To begin with, I believe Bill deliberately navigated to the point in his life in which he would have his fatal encounter with that drunk driver. In fact, I can argue that he selected a lifetime that held the potential for his accident before he was born. He selected a situation which afforded a close family and a strong sense of church and community. All of which, served to assure that he would be missed by a large number of people, and that there would be strong community support for his orphaned family.

Let us speculate on how the others in his life faired after his death.

First, the girl who hit him would have experienced a broad spectrum of intense emotions including near terminal remorse and guilt. Such intense emotions would not be possible in her lifetime had she not killed someone. Especially, a person who had such strong community support. By killing Bill, she would have gained new insights in the concept of personal responsibility. And as an ex-hunter, I will say that there is no greater argument for the respect of life than to have taken a life and to experience the remorse that follows you thereafter. Finally, the girl's actions leading up to the accident and the accident itself, were essential to trigger all else that came to pass.

Bill's wife was forced to assume leadership of the family as a single mother. This would have made her stronger and more confident in her ability to handle situations in life. In Bill's death were the seeds of a life-style change for his wife that may not have been practical otherwise. Perhaps most importantly, Bill's family was deeply immersed in an orthodox Protestant community. His traumatic transition gave his wife an important opportunity to test the underpinnings of that belief system.

By surviving their loss and subsequent grief, Bill's children would have come to understand that life goes on. They would have also become stronger in their sense of self-sufficiency. Without a doubt, they would understand why it is important not to drink and drive, perhaps thus gaining insight into the operation of Natural Law. They would have new male role-models available to them as their mother dated other men, thus making it more likely that they would learn the relationship between personal responsibility and spiritual maturity.

The company Bill worked for also gained a few important lessons. When they worked with me, I had often reminded Bill and his boss to make sure the work is documented as it is being accomplished, rather than waiting until the final tests have been completed. "After all," I told them, "What if your programmer got himself run over by a truck or something. If the work is in his head, you may well have to begin over." Bill's work was still in his head. The software was so complex that the company did have to start over.

By the way, "run over by a truck" was symbolic of the key person leaving without notice. I had no conscious premonition of Bill's death.

Let me speculate a little further about Bill's experience with this hypothetical exchange of words between him and the girl who killed him shortly after she transitions out of the physical.

"Wow!" Bill flashed as he drifted up to the girl's coalescing light body. "That was really interesting to experience. Now I understand why detachment is so important."

"How So?" she asked, still trying to stand her non-physical body on two legs.

(Continued on next page.)

"I can see that, despite all of my effort to become important to my family and the community, I could not make myself indispensable. In fact, my sudden departure resulted in richer experiences for everyone involved."

"But they hurt so," the girl offered. Her light body radiated with emanations of pain and regret.

"You should have seen it from this side. Their hurt produced some of the most powerful emanations I have sensed over here. I am certain that they found new depths of spiritual understanding through their grief."

Bill paused to consider the girls distress. "You especially, my friend. I will help you understand."

The girl accepted his soothing emanations laden with the sense of order and purpose. After a time, her light body cleared to a bright golden aura. "Okay," she flashed. "Next time I want to make a sudden departure. Will you help?"

"Sure. I always wanted to be a truck driver."

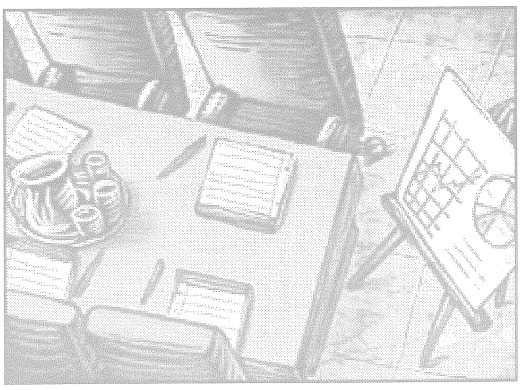
Okay, how about the spiritual significance of Bill's experience.

As you see, I suggest that Bill began preparing the opportunity for his sudden departure before he was born. He worked very hard throughout his life to prepare relationships and responsibilities suited to test the results of his traumatic exit. They had other experiences to tend to as well, but his wife, kids, friends and co-workers knowingly participated in this experience. It is clear that Bill's great involvement in the community served to heighten the emotional outpouring experienced by everyone involved.

From the perspective of his higher Self, had Bill wished, he could have avoided the consummation of his preparations by going to work later or by taking a different route. In my view, Bill created an opportunity for a life experience and when the opportunity presented itself, he seized it and experienced it to the fullest.

This then, is the point of my article: we work very hard to create opportunities for experience. It is our responsibility to recognize and seize these opportunities when they come to us, to live them to their fullest potential and to gleam from them all we can about the operation of Natural Law.

In this regard, the veil of forgetfulness we accept when we enter into this life is most helpful in making these opportunities learning experiences. Had Bill remembered that his body was to be mangled in an early morning automobile accident, he would surely have avoided the situation. Conversely, had he advised his future wife that he would suddenly leave her a widow with two children to raise, she may have declined to marry him.



You will see though, that as we gain in spiritual maturity, we begin to have glimpses beyond the veil. We begin to recognize the play of forces present as opportunities begin to gather in our lives. The reason these opportunities gather to us is that we call them forth through our actions and intention. There are no other influences able to operate in our behalf without our invitation. It is for us in our growing spiritual maturity to recognize these opportunities as they come to us and to step up to the experience they offer. In this way, our increased spiritual maturity permits us to be even more specific in our future experiences, thus accelerating our growth.

I am not suggesting that a more spiritually mature Bill would have foreseen his accident. Nor if he had, that he should have seized the opportunity for experience by letting himself be killed. I guess we would still call that suicide. But, I am suggesting something close to that. Specifics of this concept are difficult to visualize, but in principle, we must accept that we create our reality. We do so for a purpose. Our spiritual selves are seeking understanding that may only be gained through experience made available in our personal reality.

It is to our highest good to be aware of what we do and why we do these things. Having done these things, then it is our responsibility to glean every last bit of understanding from what we experience. Conversely, we can benefit from other people's experiences by recognizing the benefit they gain.

Bill's death was a tragedy in the physical plane. I would not dream of suggesting otherwise to his wife. On the other hand, I can see how she may have gained in spiritual maturity by losing her husband. I can also see how her pain could have been less had she been able to consider Bill's passing from the larger view possible without the veil.

In closing, I will say this: I am responsible for my every experience. I recognize that there is a play of forces, which is energy driven by my intention, that guides all events. There are no accidents. All things operate in accordance with Principles of Natural Law. No matter what happens for me, it is in my greater good to seize the opportunity to gain understanding. Perhaps the only sin I may commit is to fail to recognize and accept opportunities for experience as they come to me since I work so hard to create them.

In the interest of completeness, there is one more point I should make. While it is true that there are no accident and that you alone are responsible for your experiences, you should also know that you are not alone in your efforts to grow. Just as people in your life wish the best for you, so too, a host of entities beyond the veil take great interest in your spiritual growth. While you are the one who must make decisions about your experiences, do not hesitate to ask Spirit, and discarnate friends for guidance and help in seeing the best path. Your freedom of choice does not isolate you from the universal community.

The Community Church

BY THE REV.
RUPERT SIGURDSSON,
NST, MAINE

Wouldn't it be great if our churches could be community churches? Maybe there are some, but I have never known one. It seems with Spiritualism we draw our congregation from a wide area since our congregation is usually very scattered. It puts us at a great disadvantage when it comes to visiting the sick, or just being able to visit different members in their homes, meeting the rest of the family, getting to know the children that could be the future Spiritualists. This is the way a church grows.

What brought this to my mind was a phone call from a neighbor that just needed to tell her problems to a minister. She was not a Spiritualist, but had seen our new church sign and told me she was so happy to have a church near her. Although living near me for many years, we only had a waving acquaintance when she drove past as I was out walking my dog. On occasion she or her husband would stop and chat for a few minutes, but they never knew that I was an Ordained Spiritualist Minister until I started a church next to my house. This event gave me the opportunity to tell her something about our beliefs and she felt that they were not opposed to her feelings that she had been afraid to express openly. The neighbor asked if she could attend our church even though she was a member of another. Of course I told her she was very welcome.

This is just a true example of why we need to build up a congregation around us. There are many who are not opposed to our beliefs, in fact if you pick up some of the spiritual type magazines on the news stand it is easy to realize how many are very interested in, and searching to try to understand their spirituality.

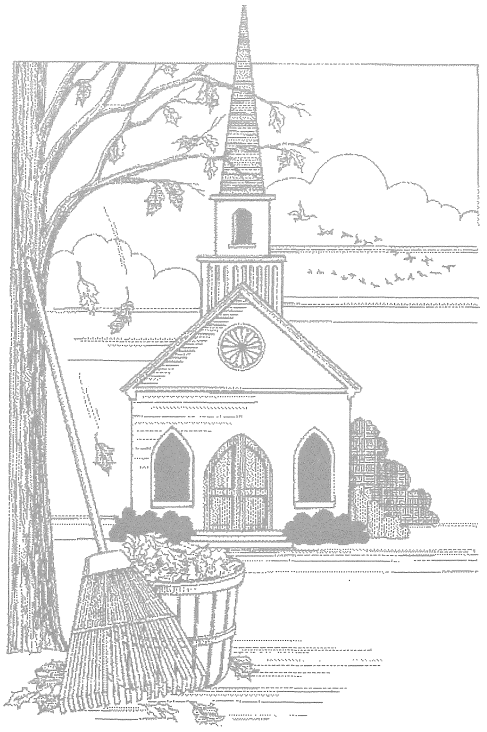
There is really no good reason why we can not build up a local congregation. A Spiritualist church is often like a light with a cover over it. When I moved to my present home I kept my eyes open to find a Spiritualist church. I asked a couple of psychics that advertised, they didn't know of one. I looked in the phone book, none listed, then the local paper after four years, had an ad in for a Medium's Day. From then on I was driving over forty miles, two to three times a week, to a Spiritualist Church that I eventually became the pastor of.

We, as Spiritualists, need to be more positive about our beliefs and not hide them and when asked at a hospital or some other place, what is your religion? state Spiritualist! When they ask what is that, as our local hospital did when I took my mother there, I had the opportunity to explain it to them and now on their computer Spiritualism is listed as a religion.

We find ourselves often bowing to orthodox terms. My sister-in-law, Virginia Norris, a student of Morris Pratt Institute, also the one who edits my articles, expressed the following: Christians say "God." Spiritualists say "Infinite Intelligence."

Christians refer to God as Him or He when speaking about God. They look up to a heaven where some think "He" is sitting on a throne, looking down, passing judgment on them; listening to the prayers of others; taking still others to be with "Him" (in death) to be judged at a later time.

In lectures in Spiritualist churches I have heard many speakers and mediums say when talking about a divine power, "Infinite Intelligence or as some say God." Why should Infinite Intelligence have to be explained? The Christian does not have to explain their terminology of a divine power. Spiritualists should take the time to say, Infinite Intelligence, in their talks and lectures and let it go at that.



We are Spiritualists, and don't let Spiritualism get watered down or mixed with other beliefs. We can build up a community church if we but put the effort into it and let people know that there is nothing strange or threatening about our religion and that it can give many of the answers and comfort that the other churches can't.






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ST. LOUIS

WITTICH, Rev. Brenda J., Medium, classes, private consultations by appointment only, 3903 Connecticut St., 63116-3905 - (314) 773-0106.

• NEBRASKA •

OMAHA

FANSLAU, Alace J., Licentiate Minister & Medium, consultations by appt., classes at Spiritual Science & Philosophy Church, NSAC, 321 Hascall Street (on So. 4), 68108-2121 - (402) 345-0101.

• NEVADA •

LAS VEGAS

STEWART, Rev. Catherine, NST, Certified Medium, 5532 Morning Swim Lane, 89113-1543 - (702) 871-1152 or Fax (702) 257-7506.

MINDEN

POTTER, Rev. Louis, Ordained Minister, Certified Medium; Pastor, Spiritualist Chapel of the Pines, Auburn, CA; P.O. Box 1657, 89423 - (702) 782-3108.

• NEW MEXICO •

SANTE FE

VOGT, Mr., Certified Medium. For classes, lectures, readings, contact P.O. Box 6147, 87502-6147.

• NEW YORK •

CLIFTON PARK

KRAMER, Rev. Hillary, NST, Certified Medium, 15 Huntwood Dr., 12065 - (518) 371-8975.

EAST AURORA

KLEINSCHMIDT, Rev. Charlene, NST, Certified Medium, 1071 Wish Circle, 14052 - (716) 652-4972.

KLEINSCHMIDT, Albert C., Certified Medium, Comm. Healer, 1071 Wish Circle, 14052 - (716) 652-4972.

FARMINGVILLE

LLOYD, Rev. Nancy, NST, Certified Medium and Counselor; Mail: P.O. Box 7, 11738-0007 - (516) 736-1058 for appt.

HOLBROOK

BERG, Rev. Virginia, Pastor, A Sanctuary of Infinite Spirit, NSAC, 1280 Claas Ave., 11741-3902 - (516) 588-3150.

LILY DALE

BURDICK-CAREY, Rev. Beverly, Certified Medium, 13 3rd St.,P.O. Box 1087, 14752 - (716) 595-2205.

LONG ISLAND

SNELL, Rev. Catherine, NST, Certified Medium, 17 Ann Court, Kings Park, 11754 - (516) 724-8025; csnell@hoflink.com .

TRAVIS, Rev. Janet, NST, 17 Ann Court, Kings Park, 11754 - (516) 724-8025.

SCOTTSVILLE

FEATHERSONG, Elsie, Certified Medium, private readings by appt., public lectures and workshops, 220-3 Robert Quigley Dr., 14546 - (716) 889-4434.

• OHIO •

WESTERVILLE

GRIFFEN, Rev. Neil C., Ph.D, Cert. Med., Comm. Healer, 8521 Olde Worthington Road, 43082-8852 - (614) 895-0873.

• TEXAS •

AUSTIN

BROWN, Mrs. Frances, Licentiate and Medium, 2723 S. Congress, Apt. 2311, 78704 - (512) 447-2188.

HAMNER, Dr. Jean, Licentiate Minister, Certified Medium, Comm. Healer; P.O. Box 4001, 78765 - (512) 376-9433; Lectures, workshops, classes, readings.

EDINBURG

MUSE, Evelyn, Rev., Minister, Certified Medium, NST, 1104 Susan Dr., 78539 - (512) 383-2510.

DALLAS

HANSON, Arthur E., Licentiate Minister and Healer, Rosie Lee, Licentiate Minister, 4653 Cedar Tone Dr., 75211.

• UTAH •

ST. GEORGE

SAVAGE, Virginia, Licentiate Minister, Certified Medium, 1444 Basswood Way, 84790, (801) 634-9467. Summers: Box 1064, Lily Dale, NY 14752 - (716) 595-3046. Phone reading available.

• VIRGINIA •

ALEXANDRIA

KRITHADES, Rev. Christine, NST, 8725 Stockton Pkwy., 22308 - (703) 799-4774.

ARLINGTON

BATES, Virginia E., Licentiate Minister, 2716 N. Lexington St., 22207 - (703) 538-5164.

NORFOLK

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

SPRINGFIELD

GEHMAN, Rev. B. Anne, Certified Medium, Comm. Healer, 7317 Westmore Dr., 22150 - (703) 451-7705.

VIENNA

STRANAHAN, Rev. Patricia, NST, 1717 Besley Rd., 22182 - (703) 242-8823.

• WASHINGTON •

MILTON

JOHANSON, Rev. Lillian, Box 132, 98354-0132 - (206) 927-5579. SEATTLE: 4524 - 2nd Ave. N.E., 98105 - (206) 633-3438.

• WEST VIRGINIA •

BERKELEY SPRINGS

STARR, Rev. Barbara, NST, Comm. Healer, 397 Quaint Acres Lane, 25411 - (304) 258-4861.

WHEELING

GASBER, Rev. Velma, 104 N. Broadway St., 26003, Pastor of Way Memorial Temple - (304) 232-5795.

• CANADA •

MONTREAL, QUEBEC

ROSSNER, Rev. Dr. Marilyn, Ph.D., Pres./Pastor, Spiritual Science Fellowship, 1974 de Maisonneuve W., H3H 1K5 - (514) 937-8359.

DIRECTORY OF NSAC CHARTERED CHURCHES & AUXILIARIES

• ARIZONA •

PHOENIX - Chapel of the Sunflower, NSAC
Pastor, Rev. Bernard Baker, NST, (602) 802-2768; Asst. Pastor, Rev. Janet Tisdale, NST; Sun. Serv. 2:00 p.m.; Wed. 7:00 p.m.; Call for details. e-mail: revbaker@ix.netcom.com.

PHOENIX - Church of the Living Spirit, NSAC
2641 W. Union Hills Dr. (at the Wyndham Garden Hotel); Mailing address: 3521 W. Topeka, Glendale, 85308-2325; Co-Pastors, Rev. Gene & Rev. Sandra Pfortmiller, NST, (602) 581-5544; Sun. Serv. 10:30 a.m.; Call about Classes Wed. at 7:00 p.m.; Pres., Rev. Gene Pfortmiller.

PHOENIX - Harmony Chapel, NSAC
1522 W. Encanto Blvd., 85007; Rev. Frank Staats, (602) 340-1939; Sun. Serv. 7:30 p.m.; Wed. Serv 7:30 p.m.; Thurs. Classes 7:30 p.m.; Sat. All Message Serv. 7:30 p.m.

• CALIFORNIA •

CALIFORNIA STATE SPIRITUALISTS' ASSOCIATION
Pres., Rev. Betty Nauratil, (510) 284-8287; Secy., Evadell Sordelet, 5537 Whitney Ave., Carmichael, 95608, (916) 481-8729.

ARCADIA - Spiritualist Church of Revelation
Sun. Serv. - Pastor/Pres., Martin Pina; Secy., Rev. Tamara Ervin; Info. Contact Teddie Harringer, (626) 791-9212.

AUBURN - Spiritualist Chapel of the Pines
Direct Mail to 461 Grass Valley Hwy., #19, 95603; Sun. Serv. 10:00 a.m.; Fri. All Message Serv. 7:00 p.m.; Church phone (530) 823-1816; Secy., Shyrlee Cole.

LONG BEACH - Spiritualist Society
3212 E. Eighth St., 90804; phone (310) 927-7079.

REDWOOD CITY - Redwood Church of Spiritual Science, NSAC
149 Clinton St., 94062; (650) 363-2253.

SACRAMENTO - Central Spiritualist Church, NSAC
2500 Marconi Ave., Suite 210, 95821-4855. Mailing Address: 4800 Auburn Folsom Rd., #63, Loomis, 95650-9328; Sun. Serv. 10:00 am.; Classes - first Tues. of the month 7:00 p.m., last Tues. of month Healing and All Message Serv. 7:00 p.m.; Pres., Denise E. Bell; Pastor and Secy., Rev. Sandra G. Dawson, NST., (916) 652-4568.

SAN BERNARDINO - Temple of Spiritual Truth, NSAC
732 N. Sierra Way. Direct Mail to: 27124 Cole St., Highland, 92346; Sun. Serv. & Healing 11:00 a.m.; Pres., William Sanabria, (909) 825-6809; Secy., Margaret Haskins, (909) 862-4376.

SAN FRANCISCO - First Spiritual Temple, NSAC
3324 - 17th St., 94110, (415) 621-0491; Sun. Serv. 10:00 a.m.; Classes 1st & 3rd Tues. 7:00 p.m.; All Message 2nd & 4th Tues. 7:00 p.m.; Pres., Arthur H. Iman, (510) 521-6650; Secy., Donald W. McFarland.

SAN FRANCISCO - First Temple of Spiritualism, NSAC
3324 - 17th St., 94110, (415) 621-0491; Sun. Serv. 10:00 a.m.; Classes 1st & 3rd Tues. 7:00 p.m.; All Message 2nd & 4th Tues. 7:00 p.m; Pres., Benito Santiago, (415) 626-6525; Secy., Joan A. McDaniel, (415) 321-5626.

SAN FRANCISCO - Golden Gate Spiritualist Church
1901 Franklin St. (Corner of Clay) 94109; Sunday, Lyceum 9:30 a.m., Sept. thru May; Healing 10:30 a.m., Devotional Serv. 11:00 a.m.; Student Service, Healing 6:00 p.m., Devotional Serv. 6:30 p.m.; Wed. Healing 7:30 p.m., Serv. 8:00 p.m., (415) 885-9976; Pastor, Rev. Donald Haddick, NST; Pres., Sonny B. Gee; Secy., Frances Richardson.

SAN FRANCISCO - San Francisco Spiritualist Society
1832 Buchanan (between Bush & Sutter); Sun. Serv., 6:00 p.m.; Pastor Rev. Barbara Thurman, (415) 924-1106; e-mail: bthurman@earthlink.net; President, Janine B. Milam, (415) 440-8464; JBMilam@aol.com; All mail to Secy., Rev. B. Thurman, 200 Marina Vista, Larkspur, 94939-2144.

SAN JOSE - The Spiritual Science of Life Church, NSAC
"The Friendly Church," 729 Morse Street, (Corner of Morse St. & Naglee), 95126; Sun. Serv. 6:30 p.m., 2nd & 4th Sunday; Pastor Rev. Louise Peruch, NST; 4504 Independence Rd., P.O. Box 310, Glencoe, 95232-0310, (209) 293-4795.

SAN LEANDRO - Spiritualist Church of Two Worlds, NSAC
1550 San Leandro Blvd., (Deaf Comm. Center) 94577; Sun. Serv. Healing 10:30 a.m., Reg. Serv. 10:45 to 12:00; Co-Pastors, Rev.'s Betty and Don Nauratil, (925) 283-1449; Pres., Jean McFarlane, 816 Cary Dr., 94577, (510) 483-5630; All mail to Secy., Rev. Betty Nauratil, 1048 Via Roble, Lafayette, 94549-2925.

SANTA BARBARA - Summerland Spiritualist Church of The Comforter
1028 Garden St., 93101; (805) 965-4474; Pastor, Rev. Sandi Cook, NST; Sun. Healing Serv. 10:30 a.m., Devotional Serv. 11:00 a.m., Wed. Message Serv. 6:30 p.m., Unfoldment Classes Monday and Thursday evenings 7:00 p.m.;Call for information on the Rev. Foard Memorial Library.

VAN NUYS - Spiritualist Chapel of the Flowers
7417 Van Nuys Blvd., Suite "R", 91405; Sunday Serv. 11:00 a.m.; Mailing address for church and Rev. Pat Smith, NST, 8901 Eton Ave., Sp. 39, Canoga Park, 91304, (818) 701-7633.

• COLORADO •

DENVER - Chapel of Spiritual Awareness
1939 S. Monroe Street, 80210; (303) 794-3154; Sun. Healing Service 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School/Lyceum and Worship Service 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Spirit Greetings 11:30 to 12:00. Beginning Spiritual Awareness Classes & Advanced Unfoldment are offered. Licentiate Minister, Dorothy Haskins; Pastor/Pres., Patricia J. Schott, (303) 973-9993; Vice Pres., Russ Dorren, (303) 973-4759; Treas., Don Larsen; Secy., Claudia Kunz, (303) 795-1179, 6457 S. Xenon St., Littleton, 80127; internet site: http://www.netcom.com/~myst4.

• CONNECTICUT •

CONNECTICUT STATE SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION
Pres., Homer Wooster, 101 Leffingwell Ave., Waterbury, 06710; Secy., Verline Eldridge, 34 Starr St., Norwich, 06360.

NEW LONDON - New London Spiritualist Church
2 Moore Court, 06320; (860) 440-3150; Sun. Serv. 10:30 a.m., Thurs. All Message Service 7:30 p.m.; Pres., Susan Ferency, 2 Moore Ct., 06320; Secy., Lynn Haluga, 70 Dell Ave., Apt. B5, 06320.

NEWINGTON - The Church of The Infinite Spirit
Masonic Temple, 80 Walsh Ave., 06111; Sun. Serv. 10:30 a.m. Sept. thru May; Summer services June & July, 2nd and 4th Sundays only; Pastor, Rev. Catherine Margiotta, 46 Webb St., Waterbury, 06704, (203) 754-3559; Pres., Mary Ann Noddin, 174 Daley St., Forestville, 06010, (860) 582-7385; Secy., Joan Wooster, 101 Leffingwell Ave., Waterbury, 06710, (203) 574-2017.

NIANTIC - Ladies Aid Society Camp at Pine Grove
June 14 - Sept. 13. Services, Sundays at 2:30, Tue., Thur., Sat. 7:30. For a program listing all Summer activities write to: Secy. Lynn Gaffin, 70 Dell Ave. #B5, New London, 06320.

NORWICH - National Spiritualist Church of Norwich, Inc.
P.O. Box 939, 06360; 29 Park St. (off Main St.), (860) 886-8522.

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

STRATFORD - The Temple of Divine Truth, Inc., NSAC
Boothe Memorial Park; Serv. 6:00 p.m. on the 2nd & 4th Sat., Sept.-June.

WILLIMANTIC - First Spiritualist Church of Willimantic
268 High St., 06226; Sun. Serv. 10:30 a.m. Sept. thru May; service every other Sunday June, July, August; Lyceum Classes every Sun. before service from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m., children and adults, all welcome. Pastor, Joyce Orcutt, 133 Wales Rd., Andover, 06232, (860) 742-7846; Licentiate Minister, Clinton Cady; Pres. and Secy., Cynthia M. Snyder, 16 Sterling Rd., Moosup, 06354-2039, (860) 564-5976.

• DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA •

WASHINGTON - The Church of Two Worlds
3038 "Q" St., N.W., 20007; Sun. Healing 2:00 p.m., Serv. 2:30 p.m., (202) 333-5114; Pres., John Rothamel, Jr., (410) 580-9187; Secy., Rev. John Meerschaert, 1715 15th St. N.W. #202, Washington, DC 20009, (202) 483-6084.

• FLORIDA •

ORLANDO - Spiritualist Church of Awareness, NSAC
3210 N. Chickasaw Trail (P.O. Box 571043, 32857-1043); Sun. Serv. 10:30 a.m. and Wed. 7:30 p.m.; Healing, Lecture, Messages all services; Adult Lyceum 10:00 a.m. first Sun. of each month; Co-Pastor and Pres., Rev. Jeannie Kerr Lerch, NST, 335 Piney Ridge Rd., Casselberry, 32707-3805, (407) 834-5378; Co-Pastor and Secy., Rev. E. Ann Otzelberger, NST, 4332 Woodlynne Ln., 32812, (407) 826-0807.

• ILLINOIS •

ILLINOIS STATE SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES
Secy., Arsenia J. Williams, 10913 S. Parnell, Chicago, 60628, (773) 928-4100 Voice Mail; Home (773) 995-1911.

DIRECTORY OF CHURCHES, *(Continued from previous page.)*

AURORA - Christabelle Spiritualist Church of Aurora, Inc.
Secy., Martha L. Witt, 1204 Game Farm Rd., Yorkville, 60560, (630) 553-2517.

BURNHAM - Puritan Spiritualist Church
13906 Greenbay Ave., 60633-1614; Sun. Serv. 2:30 p.m. & Wed. 7:30 p.m.; Pastor, Anna Gross, 10930 Ave. "M", Chicago, 60617-6929; Secy., Janet Schroeder, 4310 Park Lane, Apt. 3D, Alsip, 60803-2644, (708) 389-5374.

CHERRY VALLEY - Cherry Valley Spiritualist Camp, Inc.
8002 Service Rd., 61016 Rd., 61016, (815) 332-5359; Camp Season: June thru Sept., Nov. thru May; Serv.: First Sun. of each month at 1:00 p.m.; Pres., Kenneth Boesen; Secy., Richard Taylor.

CHICAGO - The Church of The Spirit
2651 N. Central Park Ave., 60647-1101, (773) 489-5422; Chicago's Oldest Spiritualist Church; Sunday Family Worship Hour, 10:30 a.m.; Tues Dev. Class, 7:00 p.m.; All Message Serv. on the first Wed. of each month 7:00 p.m.; Pastor, Ms. Marrice Coverson; Secy., Dr. Alan Tenczar.

CHICAGO - Spiritualist Church of Truth
6343 West Cuyler (1/2 block north of Irving Pk.) 60634; Serv. 2:45 p.m., Healing, Lecture, Messages every Sunday; Pres., Helen Lopotowski; Secy., Judith Galar, 4050 N. Oriole Ave., Norridge, 60634, (708) 452-8754.

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

LE ROY - J. T. & E. J. Crumbaugh Spiritualist Church
102 S. Pearl St., 61752-0174, (309) 962-9076 (leave message); Lyceum 1:00 p.m., Healing/Meditation 2:00 p.m., Devotional/messages 2:30 every Sunday; Pres., Chuck Johnson, (309) 661-1099.

• INDIANA •

INDIANA STATE ASSOCIATION OF SPIRITUAL SCIENCE, NSAC
Secy., Darlene Gettle, 1724 Marsha Dr., Indianapolis, 46214, (317) 248-9639.

GARY - First Spiritualist Church, Inc., NSAC
2430 W. 11th Ave.; Serv. Sun. 3:00 p.m., Wed. 8:00 p.m.; Pastor & Pres., Rev. Jesse James, Jr., 1301 Pennsylvania St., 46407; Secy., Verillia Shaffer, P.O. Box 4278, 46404; Unfoldment Classes Fri. 7:00 p.m.; Dinner every third Sun.

INDIANAPOLIS - First Spiritual Science Church
519 South Leeds Ave., 46203-1419; (317) 291-0799.

INDIANAPOLIS - Progressive Spiritualist Church, NSAC
6225 N. Carrollton Ave., 46220, (317) 255-4902; Sun. Healing Serv. 10:00 a.m.; Sun. Worship Serv. 10:30 a.m.; Readings on 1st Sat. of each month from 10:00 to 3:00 p.m.; Meditation class Mon. evenings at 7:00 p.m.; Course of Miracles class Wed. evenings at 6:30 p.m.; Pres., Paul E. Keller, 9341 W. County Line Rd., Camby, 46113, (317) 831-2499; Secy., Pam Estes, 545 W. 73rd St., 46260, (317) 253-8458.

MICHIGAN CITY - Spiritual Science Church, NSAC
314 W. Coolspring Ave., 46360, (219) 874-6002; Sun. Serv. 1:45 p.m.; Correspondence to: Pastor & Pres., Rev. Ruth Novak, 7008 W. U.S. 20 W., #77, Daphne Park, 46360, (219) 872-6621; Secy., Ms. Claudia Lord, 1312 Carriage Ct., Apt. 4B, Laporte, 46350.

• IOWA •

CLINTON - First Spiritualist Church
5416 - 6th Ave. So., P.O. Box 123, 52732-0123, (319) 243-3233; Sun. Worship and Message Serv. 10:30 a.m.; Sun. Adult Lyceum 9:30 a.m.; Dev. Class every Wed. at 7:00 p.m.; Church closed during months of July and August, open first Sun. after Labor Day; Pastor & Pres., Rev. Georgia Milton Reed, (319) 243-9738; Secy., Richard Turner, 229 - 20th Pl., 52732.

CLINTON - Mississippi Valley Spiritualist Assoc. Camp
P.O. Box 75, 52733-0075; 1998 Camp Season, July 11 thru August 22; Rev. Bonnie Horstman, Secy., NST, (319) 242-8460.

CLINTON - Sunflower Spiritualist Church
10 Mt. Pleasant Park; Mail to: P.O. Box 6, 52733-0006; Sun. Serv. at 10:30 a.m.; Co-Pastors, Rev. Harvey and Rev. Bonnie Horstman, NST.

DAVENPORT - Spiritualist Harmony Church
1429 W. Seventh St., 52802, (319) 324-9659; Laying on of hands healing Sun. 1:30 p.m.; Worship & Message Serv. Sun. 2:00 p.m.; Adult Lyceum Classes Tues. 7 p.m.; Children's Lyceum Sat. 10:00 a.m.; Pres. & Lyceum Conductor, Anita Buchholz, (319) 326-3453; (Closed during July and August.); Pastor, Rev. William E. Buchholz, Jr., 806 E. 13th St., 52803-4240, (319) 326-3201; Secy., Nancy Speer.

• MAINE •

MAINE STATE SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION
Pres., Graham Connolly, 25 Fessenden St., Portland, 04103, (207) 879-0424; Secy., Betty Simpson, R.R. #2 Box 5055, Carmel, 04419-9802, (207) 848-2273; Treas., Bernard R. Langley, 8 Dale St., Poland, 04274.

AUGUSTA - Augusta Spiritualist Church
Corner of Court and Perham Streets, 04330; (207) 622-4677.

BANGOR - The Harrison D. Barrett Memorial Church, NSAC
114-118 Harlow St., 04401, (under Lamb's Bookstore); Sun. Serv. 10:00 a.m.; Wed. evening serv. at 7:00 p.m.; Pastor, Rev. Nancy Marshall Parry, NST, (207) 848-3701; Secy., Betty Simpson, R.R. #2 Box 5055, Carmel, 04419-9802, (207) 848-2273, private readings are available with the pastor, please call for appointment.

HARTFORD - Pinpoint of Light Spiritualist Center
Mail address: R1, Box 91, Canton, 04221; Sun. Serv. 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., followed by a potluck lunch; Classes Wed. and Fri. evenings 7:00-9:00 p.m.; Secy., Virginia Norris; Pastor, Rev. Rupert Sigurdsson, NST; For information, phone (207) 597-2600, E-Mail - rupert@megalink.net.

MADISON - Madison Spiritualist Camp
Located at Lakewood Village, Rt. 201, six miles north of Skowhegan; For information: 74 Central Ave., Waterville, 04901-6214, (207) 474-7723; July-Aug. schedule to be announced. No accommodations for rooms, camping or meals. Pres., Zella Longley, (207) 465-3310; Secy., John Davidson, (207) 877-2204; e-mail jdavidso@mint.net.

NORTHPORT - Temple Heights Spiritual Camp Assoc.
Shore Road, Northport on Penobscot Bay; Camp session is from mid-June through Labor Day. A different featured medium each week. Services at 7:30 p.m. Sun., Tues., Thur. and Friday; Message Service 7:30 p.m., Wed. and Sat; Workshops Saturday mornings. Accommodations and kitchen privileges available. For a program or information: (207) 338-3029, P.O. Box 311, Lincolnville, 04849-0031.

NORTHPORT - Temple Heights Spiritualist Church
Shore Road, Northport; Services 2:30 p.m. Sundays at Temple Heights Spiritual Camp from May to October and at Excelsior Lodge on the Shore Road, Saturday Cove, Northport from Nov. to April; (207) 338-3029; Pres, Jean E. Bower, 159 Northport Ave., Belfast, 04915, (207) 338-1355; Secy., Carol A. Fricke.

PORTLAND AREA - Portland Spiritualist Church
719 Main St., (Unitarian Universalist Church), Westbrook; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 6551 PTS, 04102; Sun. Serv. 6:30 p.m.; Fri. Class 7:30 p.m.; Pres., Michael Carter, (207) 797-2039; Secy., Diane Warming, (207) 871-9334.

• MASSACHUSETTS •

MEDFORD - Medford Spiritualist Church, NSAC, Chapel of Peace
Sunday Services held at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 147 High St., 02155; Services at 5:00 p.m., Healing Lecture and Messages; Summer Services run from June to Aug. and are held on Tues. Evenings at 7:00 p.m.; For Info. call Co-Pastor/Pres., Sandra Millen, 103 Columbus Ave., Salem, 01970, (978) 744-0546.

ONSET - On-I-Set Wigwam Co-Workers Spiritualist Camp
Season opens June 7th till Labor Day; Camp phone (508) 291-0073; Sun. Serv. 2 p.m.; Wed. Open Class 6 p.m. & Service 7:30 p.m.; Mediums Day's - Message Circles - Workshops/Seminars scheduled; Pres., Mary Lou Baumhoff, (603) 898-8854, P.O. Box 2223, Salem, NH 03079-2223; Prior to season call or write Secretary: April Welch, 12 Gardenia St., Wareham, 02571, (508) 295-6654 for a full program.

SALEM - First Spiritualist Church of Salem
34 Warren St., 01970; Sun. Early Serv. 5:30-6:00 p.m.; Lunch break 6:00-6:30 p.m., Healing & Evening Serv. 6:30-8:00 p.m.; Telephone for weather cancellations, (508) 745-2098; Church season is Sun. after Labor Day - last Sun. in May; Pres., Dorothy Thurlow, 169 Bachelor St., W. Newbury, 01985, (978) 363-2009.

SOMERSET - First Spiritualist Church of Brockton
Mailing and temporary location: 17 Hampden St., Barrington, RI 02806; Healing and Church Service Sunday at 10:30 a.m.; Secy., Linda Boullard, (401) 245-8307.

SPRINGFIELD - First Spiritualist Church, Inc.
33-37 Bliss St., 01105, (413) 732-1234; Worship Serv., 1st Sun. after Labor Day until last Sun. in June at 10:30 a.m.; Children's Lyceum; Development Classes year-round; Pastor, Rev. John F. Sullivan, 26 Witt Hill Rd., P.O. Box 392, Worthington, 01098 - (413) 238-4495, e-mail: jsulli1942@aol.com; Pres., Daniel Duffy, 39 Parlin, Apt. 106, Everett, 02149, (617) 389-0834; Secy., Joyce C. Barlow, Box 873, East Granby, CT 06026 - (860) 651-0507; e-mail: barlow1104@aol.com.

• MICHIGAN •

MICHIGAN STATE SPIRITUALIST ASSOC. OF CHURCHES
Pres., Marcia Hyatt, 4161 Buckingham, Detroit, 48224-3538; Secy., Marjorie Elaine Weichner, 8022 W. Chain Lake Rd., P.O. Box 89, South Branch, 48761-0089, (517) 257-4133.

DIRECTORY OF CHURCHES, *(Continued from previous page.)*

CHARLEVOIX - The Golden Rule Spiritualist Church
(Bayshore) 07444 Old 31 N, 49720, (616) 347-3899.

CHARLEVOIX - Northern Lake Michigan Spiritualist Camp
(Bayshore) 07444 Old 31 N, 49720, (616) 347-7598.

DETROIT - First Spiritualist Temple of Detroit
4161 Buckingham, 48224-3538.

LESLIE - Flower Memorial Spiritualist Church
West Bellevue at High St.; Sun. Lyceum 10:00 a.m., Church Serv. 10:45 a.m.; Pres., Timothy Weichner; Secy., Nikki Potter, 1584 1/2 W. Barnes Rd., 49251, (517) 676-6136; Silver Star-Free Spirit Lyceum, Conductors Nikki Potter and Elda Goddard.

OXFORD - Spirit of Harmony Chapel, NSAC
340 North Lapeer Rd., 48371; (810) 814-9172.

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

SOUTH BRANCH - Chain Lake Spiritualist Camp Association
8000 W. Chain Lake Rd., 48761-0089; Sun. Serv. 11:00 a.m., June 21, 1998 through Sept. 6, 1998; Annual Retreat July 12-17, 1998; Lyceum Supt., Dawn Hyatt; Pres., Donald Weichner, 8022 W. Chain Lake Rd., P.O. Box 89, 48761-0089; Secy., M. Elaine Weichner, 8022 W. Chain Lake Rd., P.O. Box 89, 48761-0089, (517) 257-4133.

• MINNESOTA •

DULUTH - First Spiritualist Church
1414 E. Ninth St.; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3652, 55803; (218) 724-6554.

MINNEAPOLIS - Second Spiritualist Church
2230 Lyndale Ave. N.; Sun. Serv. 10:15 a.m.; Secy., Chrissy; Pres., Warren, P.O. Box 6115, 55406, (612) 529-0781.

MINNEAPOLIS - Spirit of Life Spiritualist Church
Services at Lake Harriet Community Church Bldg. at 4401 Upton Ave. S., 55410; (612) 572-8940.

ROCHESTER - Third Spirit of Life Spiritualist Church
Services Mon., 7:00 p.m., in the Unity Church building, 911 11th Ave. NW; Pastors, Rev. Joyce E. Young, NST, and Rev. John E. Young, NST; Secy., (507) 775-6358; Mailing address, P.O. Box 7312, 55903.

ST. PAUL - Spiritual Science Church
411 Main St., 55102; Sun. Serv. 10:00 a.m.; Pres., Joan LeDuc, 2169 Scheffer Ave., 55116, (612) 255-4609 (church) or (612) 699-4858 (home); Secy., Maureen Florés, c/o 2169 Scheffer Ave., 55116-1255.

• MISSOURI •

ST. LOUIS - Fifth Spiritualist Church
6026 S. Kingshighway Blvd., 63109; Sun. Serv. 10:30 a.m.; Healing, Meditation & All Message Service, 1st Wed. of the month at 7:00 p.m.; Student Minister, Toye E. Stinson, 10210 Tanner, 63136 (314) 867-0949; Secy., Rev. Brenda Wittich, 3903 Connecticut St., 63116-3905, (314) 773-0106.

• MONTANA •

BILLINGS - Spiritualist Church of Inner Light
928 Broadwater, Ste. 107, 59101, (406) 254-2863.

• NEBRASKA •

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

• NEVADA •

LAS VEGAS - Spiritualist Desert Church, NSAC
953 E. Sahara Ave., Commercial Arts Bldg. #D-12, 89104; Mailing address: Box 82134, 89180-2134; Tel. or Fax (702) 257-7506; Sunday Serv. 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.; Classes, Tues. & Thurs. 7:00 p.m.; Healing Serv. Wed. 7:00 p.m.; Pastor, Rev. Catherine Stewart, NST; Secy., Nancy Noble.

• NEW HAMPSHIRE •

SALEM - The Church of Spiritual Life, Inc.
Masonic Hall, 109 Main St., Rt. 97; Mailing address: P.O. Box 2089, 03079-1147; Year Round Services; Regular Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.; Wed. classes p.m. call; Pastor, Kenneth Wingood, L.M., (978) 454-4163; Secy., Christine Nagle, (781) 935-4397.

• NEW JERSEY •

MERCHANTVILLE - Stow Memorial Foundation
Herbert Schneider, 107 W. Maple Ave., 08109.

WESTVILLE - Church of Eternal Life
243 W. Olive & Folsom Sts., 08093, (609) 456-2196; Sun. Serv. 11:00 a.m.; Pastor, Lillian Joyce, 405 Binker Ave., Berlin, 08009, (609) 767-1651; Pres., Joyce Smith, 209 W. Madison Ave., Magnolia, 08049, (609) 627-6977; Secy., Joan Charlesworth, P.O. Box 103, Millville, 08332, (609) 327-3358.

• NEW YORK •

ALBANY - Capital District Spiritualist Center
2245 Central Ave., Schenectady, 12304.

BINGHAMTON - First National Spiritualist Church
97 Riverside Dr., 13905.

CLIFTON PARK - Spiritualist Open Center
1471 Rte. 9, Rome Plaza, 12065, (518) 383-1931; Service: First Friday of the month at 7:00 p.m.; Pastor, Rev. Hillary Kramer, NST; Pres., Helen Scheer.

EAST AURORA - First Spiritualist Temple
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LILY DALE - Lily Dale Assembly
5 Melrose Park, 14752.

LILY DALE - Lily Dale Spiritualist Church
All correspondence to church at P.O. Box 1128, 14752.

LONG ISLAND - A Sanctuary of Infinite Spirit, Inc., NSAC
Healing & Worship Service, Sun. 11:00 a.m. at the Smithtown Masonic Temple, 34 River Road, Smithtown, NY; Pastor, Rev. Virginia Berg, (516) 588-3150; Asst. Pastor, Rev. Nancy Lloyd, (516) 736-1058; Mailing address: 1280 Claas Ave., Holbrook, 11741-3902.

LONG ISLAND - New Horizon Spiritualist Church, Inc.
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LONG ISLAND - Temple of Metaphysical Science, NSAC
15 Oak St., Patchogue, 11772; Sun. Serv.: Healing 10:30 a.m., Worship 11:00 a.m.; (516) 366-2422; Pastors, Rev. Catherine Snell, NST, and Rev. Janet Travis, NST; Please address all correspondence to church Secy. at P.O. Box 1150, West Babylon, 11704.

ROCHESTER - Plymouth Spiritualist Church
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• OHIO •

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1751 Aberdeen Ave., 43211; Pastor, Rev. Neil C. Griffen; Secy., Carl Duffey, (614) 263-1631; Services, Sun. Morn. - Lyceum 9:30 a.m., Lecture Serv. 10:30 a.m.

COLUMBUS - Spiritualist Church of Spirit Revelation
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2272 Newgate Ave., 45420, (513) 256-2129.

MARION - Memorial Spiritualist Church
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OKLAHOMA CITY - Central Spiritualist Church
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• PENNSYLVANIA •

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PHILADELPHIA - Second Spiritualist Church
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TEXAS SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION
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DALLAS - Second Spiritualist Church of Dallas
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GALVESTON - Science Of Serenity Church, NSAC
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HOUSTON - First Church Of Divine Science
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SAN ANTONIO - Louise Scholtz Memorial Chapel, NSAC
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TAYLOR - First Church of Psychic Science, NSAC
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• VIRGINIA •

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• WASHINGTON •

MILTON - Camp Edgewood, NSAC Assoc.
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• WEST VIRGINIA •

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• WISCONSIN •

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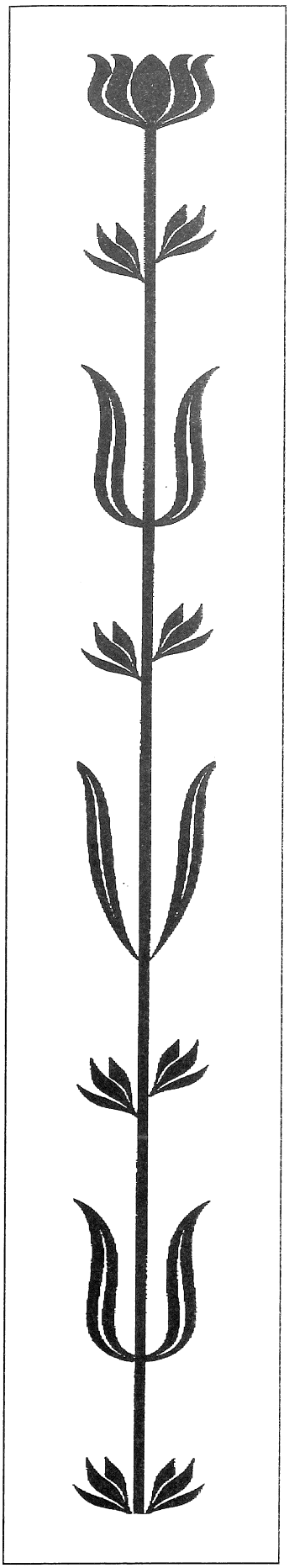
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The Most Beautiful Flower

The park bench was deserted as I sat down to read
Beneath the long, straggly branches of an old willow tree.
Disillusioned by life with good reason to frown,
For the world was intent on dragging me down.
And if that weren't enough to ruin my day,
A young boy out of breath approached me, all tired from play.
He stood right before me with his head tilted down
And said with great excitement, "Look what I found!"
In his hand was a flower, and what a pitiful sight,
With its petals all worn – not enough rain, or too little light.
Wanting him to take his dead flower and go off to play,
I faked a small smile and then shifted away.
But instead of retreating he sat next to my side
And placed the flower to his nose
And declared with overacted surprise,
"It sure smells pretty and it's beautiful, too.
That's why I picked it; here, it's for you."
The weed before me was dying or dead.
Not vibrant of colors: orange, yellow or red.
But I knew I must take it, or he might never leave.
So I reached for the flower, and replied, "Just what I need."
But instead of him placing the flower in my hand,
He held it mid-air without reason or plan.
It was then that I noticed for the very first time
That weed-toting boy could not see: he was blind.
I heard my voice quiver; tears shone in the sun
As I thanked him for picking the very best one.
"You're welcome," he smiled, and then ran off to play,
Unaware of the impact he'd had on my day.
I sat there and wondered how he managed to see
A self-pitying woman beneath an old willow tree.
How did he know of my self-indulged plight?
Perhaps from his heart, he'd been blessed with true sight.
Through the eyes of a blind child, at last I could see
The problem was not with the world; the problem was me.
And for all of those times I myself had been blind,
I vowed to see the beauty in life,
And appreciate every second that's mine.
And then I held that wilted flower up to my nose
And breathed in the fragrance of a beautiful rose
And smiled as I watched that young boy,
Another weed in his hand,
About to change the life of an unsuspecting old man.

– Author Unknown

How is Mediumship and Natural Law related?

BY HERB SEILER

First let us look at what Mediumship is. It is the phenomena of communication of mind with mind, or Intelligence with Intelligence. Some believe that their finite minds can communicate directly with the Infinite Mind. What a Fallacy! It is more than communication between carnate and incarnate entities, but rather communication of Soul with Soul.

What is Natural Law? We talk about the fact that we don't believe in dogmas and creeds but we believe in Natural Law. Natural means to be produced by or existing in nature, manifesting itself without artificial stimuli or means. Those manifestations which are inherent in one's nature such as the inherent abilities of music, art, etc., must follow a set of logical formulas which are a part of the sum total of Natural Law. Mediumship is also an inherent part and belongs to our psychic constitution.

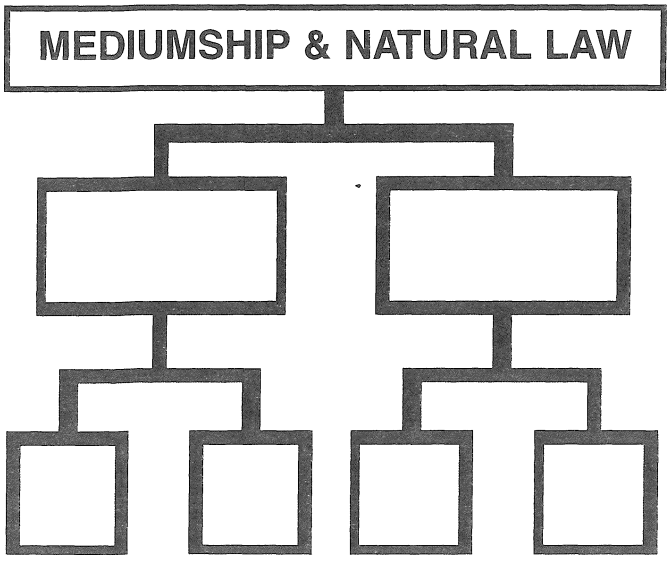
Let us now look at these Laws. First of all we have the Laws of Harmony; Love; Desire; Vibration; Cooperation; Compensation and Retribution; Polarity and Balance; Productivity and Receptivity; Cohesion and Adhesion; Cycles and Periodicity; Supply and Demand; Passivity and Activity; Attraction, Repulsion and Propulsion; and Cause and Effect. Let us look at these to see how they are connected with mediumship. First of all let us look at Desire and Love. Desire is a motivation force, the same as Love. As we desire, we start motion, we start to put into effect a force by the very power of our own desire. Love is another emotional factor which is a part of this motivating force. We realize to every action there is a reaction, to every positive, there is a negative, so if our desire is one of construction and good, if it is well organized, then we are going to build a force which has organization, power and strength in it.

The Law of Vibration is nothing more than the meaning that everything is in motion. All things move at a rate of vibration. Whether or not we are capable of seeing this movement depends upon whether or not it is within our scope of density. There is constant movement of every object including ourselves. Atoms and molecules are constantly moving and we can prove this scientifically. We must study Natural Law, the laws of Newton and his theory on motion and movement. When we say vibration, we mean that movement which is involved to sustain any objects or thought. Energy set forth from our minds vibrates in the form of thoughts.

We speak about compensation and retribution. We are speaking of payment. How are we going to be paid. It is the Law that that which we send out we receive payment for. If we send out a good thought we receive payment by receiving a good thought. If we are seeking communication between the two worlds, the quality of thought determines the quality of payment. The same as when we go into a seance room, if we go in with the thought of speculation and skepticism, or if we think of the seance room as being a place of fraud then through our own thought we are asking for fraud. We must keep an open mind at all times.

What is polarity and balance? In the science of electricity we understand the working between two poles, one being positive, the other being negative, such as with a magnet. We find that like attracts like and opposites will repel. So we find this working the same way in the thought of spirit communication. Thoughts are a form of energy, mind expression, mind function creating energy force. It creates energy but there must be a balance. Polarity would work in this fashion with spirit communication, the medium being a negative pole and spirit being a positive pole in this situation.

Cohesion is one of the main Laws in prophecy. It is the force that pulls together or holds together bodies of the same type or kind. In other words, when we receive prophecy, it is because our mind quality is in the same rate of vibration as another mind or another set of thoughts. Adhesion is the binding force of opposites. The spirit uses adhesion in our bodies as it manifests itself through the body. It is of the same quality only more highly refined and therefore, as it penetrates our body, we have the act of adhesion because spirit is positive and matter is negative. Cohesion is the attraction of like substances – this is where we find cohesion working as we attract to us our guides and our



(Continued on next page.)

Thanksgiving Prayer

Infinite Intelligence, fill our hearts
and our minds with love and light
that we may share it with all of Your creation;
inspire our words and thoughts
that only truth is sent forth from us.
We desire to become more aware
of the Spirit Energy of Your Glory
and the understanding that all life is sacred.
We open ourselves for Your divine inspiration
and guidance which we know
will bring spiritual growth to us.
Loving Creator, we are filled with gratitude
and give thanks for our many blessings,
for our abundance in each avenue of our lives.
We know that all things and all life's experiences
are gifts from Thee and we are eternally grateful.
We ask your great blessing on our loved ones
in the physical and the spiritual realms of life.
Amen.

THANKSGIVING

HOW IS MEDIUMSHIP AND NATURAL RELATED?

(Continued from previous page.)

teachers. That which we are, we attract to us, so the Law of Cohesion, which is the bringing of two like forces together, has been made manifest.

Cycles and Periodicity – Everything moves in cycles, the phenomena occurring in regular intervals and it works the same way that electricity works or the vibration works in trans-communication of or through electromagnetism. We find these electromagnetic waves working on high frequencies to transmit communication between radios, T.V.'s, etc., and so it is with the communication and the cycles of bringing through spirit communication. It works in the same way, the only difference being the frequency of thought transference is much greater than we have been able to comprehend at this time, or able to create and develop the scientific equipment to control and to test it properly.

Passivity and Activity – A medium must become passive in order that spirit might become active. Many times we find, especially in class rooms, people that are not capable of concentrating and bringing their mind down to a focal point. We must bring our mind to a state of passivity. Electricity helps us if we understand that there is a state or quality of communication, or a state or result of being, as electrons and protons move throughout this thinking energy (thought form energy) then we have the active and passive states.

Attraction, Repulsion and Propulsion – We come into a state of attraction, for we are the magnet. We attract to us those spirit people that are in harmony with our thinking. Repulsion – we repel that which we are not; we throw off, we try to stay away from. Propulsion or propel – the action or operating of starting a force; so we are the cause that starts it. We are not attracted to spirit, we attract spirit to us. We do not have spirit repelling us but rather we repel spirit. We are the propeller of this action and reaction.

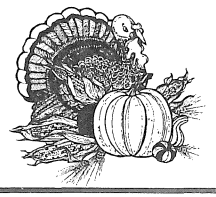
Spirit works with communion as well as we do. We earn that communication through that love bond – we attract them to us by that love bond. If we do not have that bond either from us or from them, we cannot make that contact, so it does not just depend upon you, it depends also upon spirit. Mediumship is a tool to be used to bring men and women to a realization of the brotherhood of mankind.

We can see that mediumship is a natural phenomena controlled and functioning through Natural Law.

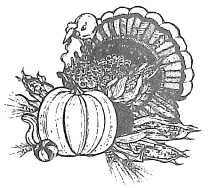
Positive Statements To Help Create a Positive Day.

Affirmations . . . NOVEMBER 1998

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Guide and bless all medium's messages.	**2** Disappointment is only a temporary stop.	**3** Blessings on our leaders, on all leaders.	**4** I am an Infinite expression of love and light.	**5** Spirit speaks through me, creating life.	**6** Love rules life and upsets are a denial of love.	**7** I am guided to my highest good.
8 The Oneness draws me to others to experience truth.	**9** My thoughts and my words create an energy of love.	**10** The inner power of Spirit transcends and renews me.	**11** I pray for and honor those who have served others.	**12** I am of one mind, balanced, when I am with God.	**13** My heart, my thoughts ask for the greatest good for all.	**14** Natural Law teaches me how to live and how to grow.
15 We are the clay and the Divine Source is the potter.	**16** I forgive myself and others and I am free.	**17** If my good is a blessing for me, it is a blessing for others.	**18** Meditation helps me realize my oneness with all life.	**19** I go deep within me to listen and to know myself.	**20** God's Blessings are as abundant as I am open to receive.	**21** I create the canvas of my life with my thoughts.
22 There is an eternal storehouse of ideas available to me.	**23** Spirit, please bless all those I love, wherever they are.	**24** The Infinite Love and Light within us is *all there is.*	**25** All activities in life are possibilities for growth.	**26** I am grateful to God – so thankful for all life's blessings.	**27** We are birthless, deathless, ageless, eternal Spirit.	**28** God is always at peace, nothing can disturb the Infinite.
29 I open myself to be bathed in the light of the Divine.	**30** The powers of God are expressed as Creative Energy.					



May your "Thanksgiving" be blessed!



Transformation Into A Spiritualist

BY THE REV. JOHN F. SULLIVAN, MASSACHUSETTS

It seems only a short time ago when I began my pursuit of the Spiritualist Religion. The year was 1977 and I was searching to ascertain the logic I might apply to the poltergeist activity which had inhibited my home since 1971. I found myself at a Spiritualist Anniversary Service of a local Spiritualist Church. The service was not particularly interesting, with several long-winded speeches in honor of the church ministers.

I continued to attend and during the summer program, became intrigued with the communication between the two worlds as well as those who could see the Spirit Realm. I began attending several churches and found to my dismay that each church seemed to have a different viewpoint regarding the teachings of Spiritualism. All the churches I attended were NSAC affiliated and therefore there should be consistency in the teachings, but this was not true.

In my need to understand the Spiritualist Philosophy, I enrolled in the original General Course in the History, Science, Philosophy and Religion of Modern Spiritualism, the Thomas Grimshaw Series revised in 1973. Although not an in-depth course, it allowed me to better understand the basic teachings of Spiritualism under the NSAC.

Today we have come great distance since the above named course and the Course of Modern Spiritualism is being revised to better teach the students, who profess an interest in becoming workers for spirit. Yet, there is still a distant gap between the teachings as outlined by the NSAC and those which I have heard in the many churches which have their charter with NSAC. What seems to be the problem which exists in this area?

Education! Education! Education! Too many have come into Spiritualism and have brought with them their old religious beliefs. Too long have they been empowered with positions on the church Boards without a hint as to the belief system they have now accepted. In their newly acquired positions, they have watered down and combined with their old belief system what was never to be called Spiritualism. As a Spiritualist, I would not be welcomed to join a Catholic, Protestant or Jewish church and unite my belief system with theirs any more than I would be allowed to give messages from the altar at a Catholic Service. So why, as NSAC Spiritualists, do we accept this behavior from our own?

I have found our own clergy, Ordained Ministers and Certified workers, as well as others who profess to operate NSAC Spiritualist Churches, unable to stand firm on the principles which were the founding backbone of our movement. I have gone into NSAC churches and had the moderator conduct the service by saying, "let us rise and pray in the name of Jesus." I was not only appalled by this opening but couldn't understand the rational behind such compromise of the Spiritualist belief. We are either Christians or Spiritualists, not both. We cannot serve two masters!

The division of the belief system is extremely important when we see the problems which exist today in our society, as we give over our life to a savior figure instead of taking the personal responsibility of our actions and deeds. As a Spiritualist, we are active participants in the life we live. If we follow the belief of a savior figure, we become as hopeless children, refusing to grow up and cut the apron strings. In this way our Spirit is allowed to become stagnant and does not grow to become the responsible spiritual being we are capable of attaining.

Our ranks dwindle in number because we have allowed the Religion of Spiritualism to be injected with religious thoughts and beliefs of the many other religions already existing in the world around us. In many of our churches we no longer maintain the convictions that were present at the inception of Modern Spiritualism of the 1800's. Where we have entertained other religious beliefs, we become devoid of individuality and proceed to become a spin off of other forms of Christianity.

We need to teach the fact that we are not Christians, and teach the moral responsibility of the individual at every opportunity. We need to teach those who come to us that the God of their understanding lies within, not in a past savior figure. We need to teach the fact that the mind, body and spirit operate as a total unit and that a true healing heals the spirit as well as the mind and body. We need to teach what we are truly about and not circumvent the issues of our belief system for fear that we might offend those who come to our doors. We need to start once again being true to ourselves.

Those who come to us are searching for another form of religion, worship and way of life. Educate them so that the future workers of the Spiritualist Movement will be credible, honorable and knowledgeable about their belief. It's time to pull ourselves from the ashes of despair and soar once again onward and upward. Leave your legacy to the world. Become the Spiritualist you say you are.

John Willis Ring

BY THE REV. EVELYN MUSE, NST, TEXAS



John Willis Ring was born near Scranton, Pennsylvania, September 7, 1876. His parents moved to Kansas when he was eight years old. It was during this time that the Angel Loved Ones began preparing him for a greater spiritual work.

In 1884 John's grandfather appeared in a vision giving him spiritual instructions and paving the way for further clairvoyant visions.

When John was only 13 years of age his mother "put on Invisibility;" this was a wonderful spiritual experience for him as he witnessed the "Process of Transition." After this experience his mediumship began to unfold more rapidly.

John was aware of the nearness of spirit and felt the urge of these loved ones leading him on. In 1895-1896 John, his sister, and his father lived in Paris, Texas, and were closely associated with a Mr. Petus and other Spiritualists in the movement at that time. Later in 1897, seemingly in a fantastic way – he was "led" to Galveston, Texas. It was in this beautiful city where he was ordained August 1, 1897, by Rev. Allen Franklin Brown.

In 1900, during the Galveston Flood, John lived with his father and a niece, Lina G. North. He remained the Pastor of the Spiritualist Society of Galveston for ten years. It was during this period of time that he served as Texas State President and Secretary.

John Willis Ring was an ardent Spiritualist and devoted much of his time to the Lyceum movement realizing the need of training youth for the future. At the 10th Annual National Convention he was appointed National Lyceum Conductor, and he served in this capacity about four years. John was an authority on the works of Andrew Jackson Davis. He left many helpful Lessons and beautiful Poems which have been used in the Lyceum Field. He was the editor of "The Progressive Lyceum" published in 1918.

Sixty years ago – September 28, 1899 – Rev. John W. Ring officiated in the marriage ceremony of Stenna and Allen Hogue in Lampasas, Texas. After the wedding ceremony John Ring, the young bride and groom, and other close friends left for Oak Cliff – Dallas, Texas, for the Spiritualist Camp Meeting.

"Grandmother" Hogue – as she is known to Texans – lives in San Antonio, and she is very active in the Scholtz Memorial Chapel. Oftimes she speaks of John Ring as one of her dearest friends.

John Willis Ring migrated to Colorado, and later to California; but he is endeared to hearts of Texans and Spiritualists all over the country. He passed to Spirit in Southern California in 1957. In his loving memory and for his untiring efforts in the Lyceum field we dedicate his Poem which was inspired by Angel Loved Ones to all Spiritualists:

"Because"

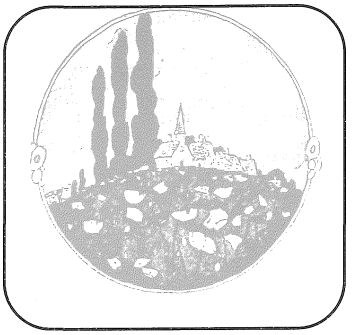
Because each atom of each world in space
Contains the Force that keeps them All in place;
Because each world and all that on it lives,
Exists because of Life that One-Force gives;
Because a Perfect-Order runs through All,
Unchanged by Mortal-Sense of Rise or Fall;
Amid the shifting Scenes-of-Life, I'm sure
That I, o'er All shall triumph and endure.

Because what's Better becomes Best, and show
That as my inner understanding grows,
A dominating Force unfolds in me
An ever-present, perfect Harmony;
Because I see the Beautiful and Good
Held manifest in Human Brotherhood;
Because I am the Image of that ONE,
I surely shall persist when ALL is done.

– John Willis Ring

Reprinted from *TNS*, February, 1960.

Morris Pratt Institute Association ■ The Rev. Joseph Sax, Secretary Emeritus



Each month ***The National Spiritualist*** *will feature the writing from a student who is currently taking the education course from the Morris Pratt Institute. Featured this month is an essay written by* ***Janet Himes.***

Through the research and investigative efforts of Sir William Crookes and The Society for Psychical Research, many Spiritualists and scientific skeptics became believers in telepathy as a demonstration of survival. It has been concluded that telepathy is thought-transference and not mind-reading.

There are many types of telepathy which can occur in the waking state, dream state, or a hypnotic state. Through years of investigation by scientists and parapsychologists it has been determined that telepathy exists from mind to mind and sphere to sphere. Telepathy relates to the sub-consciousness which includes dreams and altered states of consciousness. The scientists and parapsychologists have found their proof and now they are searching for conditions under which telepathy occurs.

Many people question telepathy as a means of spirit communication because of the "repeatability factor." It is sad, but if you look at Spiritualism today, from a scientific view, you will find little, if any, study in the field of telepathy.

It is my hope that Spiritualists, with their "open-mindedness" and through demonstration will continue to work with the scientific world.

Clairvoyance, which dates back to the Greek philosophers, has been readily accepted as fact and as a demonstration of communication with the Spirit World. "Clear Seeing" is activated by the World of Spirit and viewed by the medium with their inner eye.

Due to the many types of phenomena which are intertwined with each other, Spiritualists and parapsychologists have attempted to divide phenomena into classes and types.

Even though clairvoyance has been accepted by the Spiritualists and the scientific world, scientists still question the degree of how much is telepathic, how much is subconscious functioning, and how much comes from an unknown source. In the religion of Spiritualism, clairvoyance is an accepted fact. Currently little, if any, scientific investigation is being done. Yet since Spiritualism is a science it must be subjected to the tests of science.

Clairaudience is termed as "soul hearing" or "clear hearing." It is a mental form of clairvoyance. Many acts of clairaudience were recorded in the Bible and demonstrated by people such as Joan of Arc. There are over twenty-five references of voice phenomena in the Bible. One of the most successful platform clairaudients of our time was Arthur Ford.

Although little has been written specifically on clairaudience, it has been accepted as fact by the majority of Spiritualists today.

Even though Spiritualism has demonstrated these phenomena for over 150 years, it is a great challenge to the scientific world to accept and to prove these phenomena. Spiritualists, scientists, clergymen, and men in the field of medicine must all continue to work together in search of understanding. The demonstrations by mediums, lab experiments, researching, recording, and finally the publishing of their findings must continue. Although the Spiritualist accepts phenomena, as it relates to the world of spirit and the continuity of life after death, it is also important to understand how and why the phenomena works. This continued effort will lead to an understanding and acceptance from all. The challenge is being met and will be won.

Humor to put you in Good Spirits . . .

Slogans seen on sweatshirts: "I put the *FUN* in Dysfunctional." "Plays well with others." "Life's three L's . . . Love, Laughter, Laundry."

"Lots of people know a good thing the minute the other fellow sees it first."
– Yiddish proverb

Some people change their ways when they see the light; others when they feel the heat."
–Caroline Schoeder
Milwaukee *Journal*



An Even Mind Is Not The Same As An Open Mind

BY JUDY MERRILL, DSNU, CANADA

Andrew Jackson Davis received the Magic Staff from his guides to calm his depressed mind when the going got rough in life. There would be a golden light, then a staff would appear to his clairvoyant sight. This was a very personal aid he had received from his guides, but because of its fine message he chose to share it with us all.

"Under all circumstances keep an even mind." How often do we get caught up in our day to day activities and not give conscious thought to how we treat others, or how we handle these activities? Keeping an even mind is keeping balance. Balance within yourself as well as balance in all your activities.

When we think of the message of miracles being favoritism to one and nothing to another, we can see the importance of an even (balanced) mind in all our activities.

An even mind can calm our troubled spirit, because it is balanced and when we are troubled we are out of balance in some way.

Having an open mind means that we do not place our ideas in stone and refuse to entertain the opposite or opposing view. If we examine all sides of question, we are bound to find we have yet another way to look at the situation. Why is that? Are we so shallow? No, we have cast our ideas in stone and we have difficulty looking at the situation from the viewpoint of another's experience. All the situations of our life are colored by our experience and each of us has the privilege of walking their own path – thinking mentally about their life, before living it out, making their experience unique to their life.

"Behold, here is thy Magic Staff: Under all circumstances keep an even mind. Take it, try it, walk with it, talk with it, lean on it, believe on it, forever."

Keep an even mind to keep a balance of body, mind and spirit within. Keep an open mind to learn more that will not only change your thinking, but can change your life.

When we attune to spirit guidance, there is always much that can be taken from our inspiration. We can only learn at the level we have attained. That is why each person can receive a different message from the same words, it is colored by personal experience.

If we keep an even mind, we can see where this inspiration can work in our lives and allow others the same privilege with the message they have received.

If we have an open mind, we can learn something new that has to be thought about, assimilated and used or rejected. During this growth we are struggling to understand for ourselves, how can this help someone else? Perhaps sharing your growth experience, allows others to see, not only your vulnerability, but also your potential for change and growth, allowing them to enter into a deeper awareness of the message as well.

We have been assured that the teacher will be found when the student is ready. Can we be these teachers as well as students and grow with each other into spiritual understanding and awareness?

A teacher sees the potential and encourages their student to learn and grow beyond their own possibilities or potentials – there is no room for jealousies holding anyone back or a lack of potential in one individual being a drawback to another. The potential within any student will be fulfilled according to their need to grow and any road blocks placed through jealousy will just be part of the journey.

Keep an even mind. Keep an open mind. Find your teachers and helpers both here and in spirit. Isn't that the ultimate message of Spiritualism – to speak and find your own answers to spiritual questions?

– 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.

Healing The Children



In a Papago legend, the Creator wanted to make a special gift to the children. The Creator placed in a medicine bag the blackness of a girl's hair, yellow of the autumn leaves, a handful of blue sky, a spot of sunlight, and the red, purple and orange of the flowers. Before the children the bag was opened, presenting them with this gift of beauty – the first ***butterflies!***

I am not much of a news reader or watcher because it is usually all bad news and I try to surround myself with positive, uplifting and loving energy. However, it is difficult to not hear the general jest of what is happening. Recently on the news reports there have been stories about abandoned babies, teenagers dying at the hands of other teenagers, abused children, of gangs and gang wars. Luckily as school approached there were also honored young individuals.

This poem, featured in the Phoenix newspaper, was written by Mary Lou Hapner for a Foundation to raise money to help neglected or abused children. She also said, "There's nothing sadder than a child that is not treated lovingly."

Cherubs
by Mary Lou Hapner

"A heart-felt plea for bands of angels,
whose mission is simply
to heal and restore
the broken wings and hearts and halos
the spirits and daydreams . . .
set free to explore."

How can we as Spiritualists help today's children? Maybe in small ways we can make a difference if we try. We know the power of prayer for example, so let us each day send out a prayer for the young souls, that they will grow in love and light, in peace and harmony.

Let us be kind, listen and pay attention to the young people that are around us. *Our deeds determine us, as much as we determine our deeds* – Marian Evans. Our deeds, actions and attitudes are teachers for this next generation.

Some of us might volunteer as Big Brothers or Big Sisters or at the schools or libraries. Most of us have a child in our family or neighborhood that we can devote some time to making them feel special in a constructive way.

Maybe we might donate to (money, supplies, clothing) or volunteer at groups that are benefitting the children.

Of course our own NSAC Lyceums are always wonderful places to help the little ones grow in the understanding of Infinite Intelligence, Natural Law and Love.

Give to the children in some way. *A gift consists not in what is done or given, but in the intention of the giver or doer* – Seneca. Helping to heal the children on our planet, helps to heal the future of our planet.

– SP

SPIRITUAL HEALING REQUEST

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

Healing Prayers are requested for:

_____

because of the following conditions:

_____

_____

Requested by: _____

_____

Please send a "One A Day" packet to:

_____

_____

_____

_____

I will pray with NSAC Prayer Groups:

DAY_____ NIGHT_____

If you should wish to make a **Love Donation** to help offset the NSAC Healing Center expenses, please send to:

NSAC HEALING CENTER
c/o Rev. Gene Pfortmiller, NST
3521 W. Topeka Drive
Glendale, AZ 85308-2325

To request information on "How to Form a Spiritual Healing Prayer Group."

CHECK HERE ☐

The first week of each month the names received are compiled and sent to the NSAC Office for inclusion in the NSAC monthly mailing to all churches. Also many healers around the country are mailed the list. An individual's name will usually be kept on the healing prayer list for three months unless we hear from you that you are healed or that more healing is required. We also request prayer groups to keep in touch with the National Healing Center throughout the year.

Prayer Healing is a wonderful way to practice Absent Healing, to help others, to share a prayer and is something EVERYONE can participate in.

HEALING *(Continued from page 8.)*

traverse it, either with fearful steps or with the confidant steps of love and trust.

To open to this possibility takes much courage. *We must be willing to surrender completely.* If everything we have tried has rendered us ill, why not invite healing power into our internal parlor? The old and familiar ways and traditional medical methods may feel secure, but if they are not serving us in meaningful ways, what is the purpose of clinging to the familiar? Choosing God is about choosing power. Choosing God is choosing limitless opportunities for growth and healing.

When I was ill for many months a few years ago, I made a conscious decision to search for God's expressions of beauty every day. Sometimes it was as simple as seeing a sunbeam or a drop of water on the tip of an icicle, but I was determined to find beauty in the midst of my exhaustion. Something in me knew that I would heal, in spite of the doctor's warnings that I should file for permanent disability benefits. My chance of recovery was predicted at 20%; something stirred deep within me and I knew that I would eventually be part of that 20%.

During my illness, I felt unable to listen to music, even though music had always been the driving force in my life. Music was my livelihood. During this time listening to music brought up such yearning that I felt incapable of containing or expressing my grief. There was no music during the months of isolation and confusion. In hindsight, I believe that I loved music so much that it had become a substitute for God. As a teenager I used to say that music made me "feel funny." I now know that this was because it transported me to a realm where I felt the astonishment and wonder of God. Now, many years later, I needed to put God back on the throne of my musical heart and mind. I needed to understand that the music came from the love of God, from the desire to spread beauty. The power that music had over me was simply an expression of the magnitude of God's love.

No matter what has happened in our past or is occurring in the present, we can use the experience to grow. I believe that Spirit intends for us to spiral upwards, as we grow closer to the source of our own creation. Knowing that love and help are always available for every sincere request allows us to feel secure. It allows the mirror image of God as ourselves to come into clearer focus.

Accept the gift of love willingly. Each of us has access to the power which will help us to fulfill our dreams. Do not be discouraged if time seems to be dragging; perhaps the stage is being set for the opening act of a new drama in which you are the key player! Allow God to walk beside you. Offer your hands to the hands of the Divine as you ask for healing. Allow your beating heart to be held by spiritual hands, to be kissed by Divine lips, and to be caressed by the wings of angels.



SPIRITUAL GOALS *(Continued from page 7.)*

We need to clearly define our goals, know where we are going and why, or we will surely drift aimlessly through a boring life like a feather in the wind. There is an old saying: "What makes life dreary is lack of motive." Lewis Carroll, in Alice in Wonderland wrote:

> Alice: Would you tell me, please, which way
> I ought to go from here?
> The Cheshire Cat: That depends a good deal
> on where you want to go.

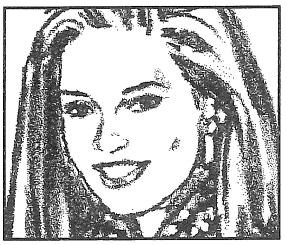
It is often by thinking of how we would like our lives to be summed up, that we can help clarify our goals. For example; considering the inscription which could be put on our gravestones can be a sombre thought, yet, surprisingly it helps. It can remind us that we are mortals and earth life is short. It is by thinking of how we would like our lives to be tallied up at the end, we become focused. We can then define our goals.

So, we can say that the way to successfully live is to perpetually become, setting the goals ahead instead of behind, coaxing the spirit within into higher expressions, and by so doing enjoy the boundless beauties, riches, dignity, grandeur and nobility of life.

> Spiritualism encourages all humankind to learn and practice living in accordance with God's Laws. These Natural Laws are like kind teachers who understand we learn by doing . . . and shows us the ways to grow. It reveals the nature of man . . . and stresses the unfoldment of the soul's potentialities.
>
> *– NSAC Public Relations*

Two Lessons About Life . . . From The Internet

• SMILE



She smiled at a sorrowful stranger.
The smile seemed to make him
feel better.
He remembered past kindnesses
of a friend
And wrote him a thank you letter.
The friend was so pleased with the thank you
That he left a large tip after lunch.
The waitress, surprised by the size of the tip,
Bet the whole thing on a hunch.
The next day she picked up her winnings,
And gave part to a man on the street.
The man on the street was grateful;
For two days he'd had nothing to eat.
After he finished his dinner,
He left for his small dingy room.
(He didn't know at that moment
that he might be facing his doom.)
On the way he picked up a shivering puppy
And took him home to get warm.
The puppy was very grateful
To be in out of the storm.
That night the house caught on fire.
The puppy barked the alarm.
He barked till he woke the whole household
And saved everybody from harm.
One of the boys that he rescued
Grew up to be President.
All this because of a simple smile
That hadn't cost a cent.

– Unknown

• INFORMATION, PLEASE

"Information, Please"

When I was quite young, my father had one of the first telephones in our neighborhood. I remember well the polished old case fastened to the wall. The shiny receiver hung on the side of the box. I was too little to reach the telephone, but used to listen with fascination when my mother used to talk to it. Then I discovered that somewhere inside the wonderful device lived an amazing person – her name was "Information Please" and there was nothing she did not know. "Information Please" could supply anybody's number and the correct time.

My first personal experience with this genie-in-the-bottle came one day while my mother was visiting a neighbor. Amusing myself at the tool bench in the basement, I whacked my finger with a hammer. The pain was terrible, but there didn't seem to be any reason in crying because there was no one home to give sympathy. I walked around the house sucking my throbbing finger, finally arriving at the stairway.

The telephone!

Quickly, I ran for the footstool in the parlor and dragged it to the landing. Climbing up, I unhooked the receiver in the parlor and held it to my ear. "Information Please," I said into the mouthpiece just above my head.

A click or two and a small clear voice spoke into my ear.

"Information."

"I hurt my finger . . ." I wailed into the phone. The tears came readily enough now that I had an audience.

"Isn't your mother home?" came the question.

"Nobody's home but me." I blubbered.

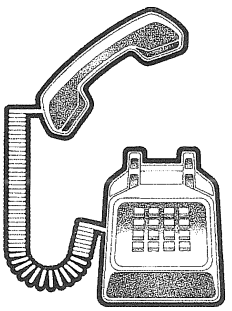
"Are you bleeding?"

"No," I replied. "I hit my finger with the hammer and it hurts."

"Can you open your icebox?" she asked. I said I could.

"Then chip off a little piece of ice and hold it to your finger," said the voice.

After that, I called "Information Please" for everything. I asked her for help with my geography and she told me where Philadelphia was. She helped me with my math. She told me my pet chipmunk that I had caught in the park just the day before would eat fruits and nuts.



Then, there was the time, Petey, our pet canary died. I called "Information Please" and told her the sad story. She listened, than said the usual things grown-ups say to soothe a child. But I was un-consoled. I asked her, "Why is it that birds should sing so beautifully and bring joy to all families, only to end up as a heap of feathers on the bottom of a cage?" She must have sensed my deep concern, for she said quietly, "Paul, always remember that there are other worlds to sing in." Somehow I felt better.

Another day I was on the telephone. "Information Please."

"Information," said the now familiar voice.

"How do you spell fix?" I asked.

All this took place in a small town in the Pacific Northwest. When I was 9 years old, we moved across the country to Boston. I missed my friend very much. "Information Please" belonged in that old wooden box back

(Continued on page 34.)

English Medium in Oklahoma



Charlotte Griffin, Pres. Dr. S. Ann Marshall, and Juanita Oyer, Pastor.

Dr. Ann Marshall of Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, England, was the special guest speaker/teacher for the 93rd Annual Spring Conference, hosted by Central Spiritualist Church of Oklahoma City on May 24th and 25th, 1998. After a special brunch on Sunday, May 24th, she participated in the Spiritual Healing Service and presented the lecture and clairvoyance to an overflow crowd. The service was followed by a Pot Luck Dinner including a special Sunflower Cake decorated by Charlotte Griffin. On Monday, May 25th, she offered a Workshop entitled, "Making Your Mediumship Better." We were all blessed as she shared her knowledge and love with all. Pastor Juanita Oyer expressed the appreciation of all and assured her she would always be welcome at Central Spiritualist Church.

Dr. Marshall has had the gift of clairvoyance since childhood but began training with the Spiritualist National Union (SNU) while in her early twenties. She is a Certified Medium through the SNU and a Registered Spiritual Healer with the World Federation of Healers. She has served more than fifty churches in the Northern District of England, for the SNU as well as Independent and Greater World Spiritualist Churches. Spiritualism is thriving in Ann's part of England and she presented true Spiritualism in its most beautiful light.

A Message from Maine

The Pinpoint of Light Spiritualist Center had a special Students Day service on Sunday, July 26th. Pictured below are students of the Wednesday evening development class.



(L-R) Back row: Lillian Leadbetter, Carol Turner, Louis Skoglund, Pat Chenery, and Gregory Leadbetter. Front row: Bonnie Cohen, Lisa Severy, Virginia Norris, Vicki Binkley and Rosemarie Osborn.

Give the GIFT OF KNOWLEDGE

With the Holiday sharing fast approaching, you may be questioning what you might give to a loved one or friend this year. Give them something to help expand their understanding, that will help them to grow. Some suggestions are a subscription to *The National Spiritualist,* or for the younger set, *The Spotlight;* the NSAC Bookstore has a great selection of books and tapes. Some of my favorite gift books are: the *NSAC Spiritualist* and *Lyceum Manuals,* Burroughs *Becoming A Spiritualist*, and the wisdom of White Eagle.

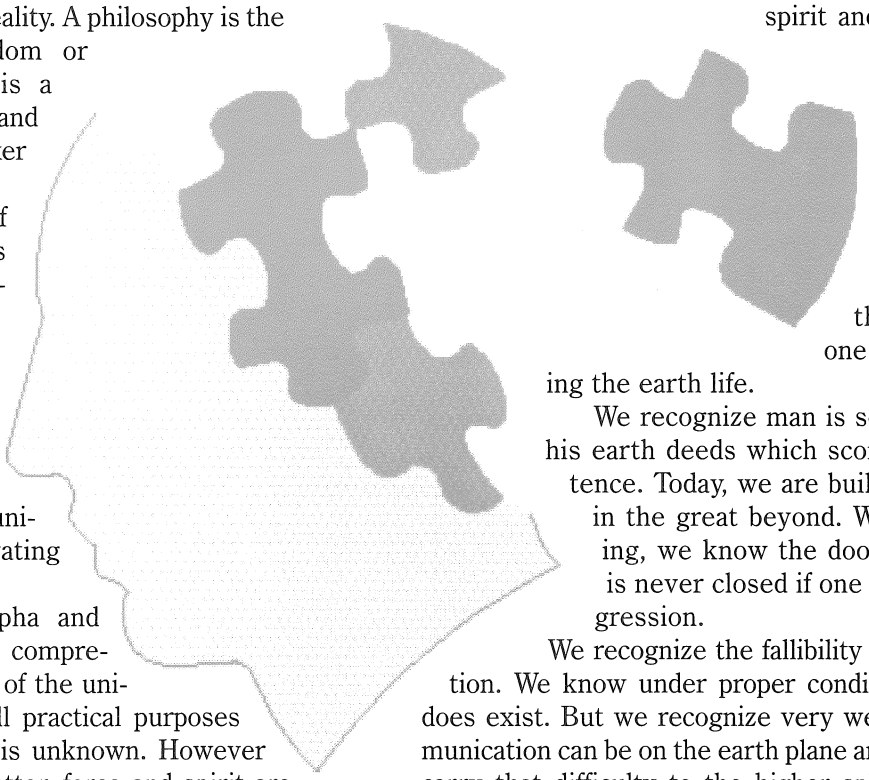
Give Spiritualism,
Give the Gift of Knowledge!

What Do You Think?

BY
THE REV. MARILYN J. AWTRY
(Taken from *TNS,* July 1980.)

What do you think . . . about philosophers and philosophy?

A philosopher is one who seeks wisdom or enlightenment, a reflective thinker; a scholar or investigator and usually a person whose chief interest is attempting to discover innermost essences of reality. A philosophy is the love or search for wisdom or knowledge. Spiritualism is a continued search for truth and the Spiritualist is the seeker of that truth.



Some philosophies of Spiritualism that we, as Spiritualists, should understand are:

We believe in God, an Infinite Intelligence, a Great Spirit. Each attunes at his own level of understanding. We are aware this power permeates the universe. Spirit is the activating force of the universe.

We understand an alpha and omega. However, we can't comprehend all the scientific facts of the universe. We state that for all practical purposes the origin of the universe is unknown. However we can understand that matter, force and spirit are indestructible.

We recognize Natural Law – the balancing factor of the universe that consistently governs all that is and all that will be. We are fully aware there is much of the Law that we have not yet tapped. But, when we come into new understanding, it is not necessarily new, but rather an understanding of that which has always been. We recognize the basis of the Law of Cause and Effect on which hang all the Laws.

We recognize that while science is proving the indestructibility of the elements of matter and force, Spiritualism is proving the indestructibility of the Spirit, predominantly by means of communication with the Spirit World.

We recognize the brotherhood of man. As was so well said by John Dunne, the English poet; "No man is an island unto himself."

We recognize the individuality of man. Each of us is unique. No two are identical. Therefore, each must unfold the self, *mentally, physically, morally and spiritually.*

We recognize man's moral status after death. It is the same as immediately prior to his transition. Man does not immediately change. Man is spirit and maintains his individuality although he can continue to grow and express himself in the world beyond. However, at the time of transition, one finds himself in the consciousness one has developed during the earth life.

We recognize man is solely responsible for his earth deeds which score his spiritual existence. Today, we are building our storehouse in the great beyond. With our understanding, we know the doorway to reformation is never closed if one earnestly seeks progression.

We recognize the fallibility of Spirit communication. We know under proper conditions communication does exist. But we recognize very well how difficult communication can be on the earth plane and realize that we can carry that difficulty to the higher spheres. Likewise, the receiver may misinterpret the message. We are aware Spirit entities do not become all knowing and thus we must seek advice from the level of consciousness required.

We recognize a medium dare not be fraudulent if he truly understands the philosophy of Spiritualism and the effects of the Natural Law. However, if one in the physical errs, we should be ready to assist in leading him into the path of the truth. Mediumship is recorded throughout the Bible, good and bad alike. The quality of the message depends on the value and truth of the message not on the message bearer.

We recognize the teachings of self-awareness – an enlightenment that is necessary to go on in a continuity of a spiritual life. We must unfold morally and spiritually – philosophy of this level can save the people of the world from error. What better philosophy can open the minds of man than the highest teachings and understanding of the philosophy of Spiritualism?

The Shadow Self

BY MERRY BROWNE, KENTUCKY



Psychology, the science of behavior, became recognized when Sigmund Freud announced that the mind was Superego, Ego and Id (Superconscious, Conscious and Subconscious). He taught that behavior was the subconscious instinctive response of our lower nature.

Later, Abraham Maslow, the founder of Humanistic Psychology taught that behavior could be controlled by the ego, the conscious portion of the mind. Still later, founder of Transpersonal Psychology, Roberto Assagiolo taught that focusing on the Superego – the Superconscious higher mind could control conscious mind which expresses as word in deed in the world at large, thus overcoming in time the lower nature – the shadow self.

Psychology teaches that the lower mind must be acknowledged. One must admit his lower nature in order to eliminate it. Recognizing and admitting one's flaws is the first step to ridding oneself of them. Without taking this first step, no progress can be made.

The shadow self, the lower mind kills, steals, lies, is unfaithful to mate, hurtful, harmful to people – whereas, the higher mind, the Superconscious mind does not kill, steal, lie, is faithful to mate, loving and helpful to people. To be mindful of this at all times is to grow into this which eventually eliminates the shadow self. Facing our shadow selves, our flaws – which are disobediences to the Laws of God, is the first step in regeneration. Until one knows what is wrong with him, he cannot possibly move toward the light in himself. Once having taken spiritual inventory, he can then focus upon Laws of God as what he must obey in order to transform – this is potent aid in the transmutation.

This self-administered medicine is sure cure of all that ails us.

The growing into higher mind is the outgrowing of lower mind. The transformation, as Psychology terms it, of the shadow self is assisted when at the end of each day we ask: *What did I think, feel, say, do today, that I should not have thought, felt, said, done?* Daily strive to be faithful, loving and helpful to people. Be Good – Do Good – Harm None – Help All!

TWO LESSONS ABOUT LIFE . . . FROM THE INTERNET *(Continued from page 31.)*

home, and I somehow never thought of trying the tall, shiny new phone that sat on the table in the hall.

As I grew into my teens, the memories of those childhood conversations never really left me. Often, in moments of doubt and perplexity I would recall the serene sense of security I had then. I appreciated now how patient, understanding, and kind she was to have spent her time on a little boy.

A few years later, on my way west to college, my plane put down in Seattle. I had about half an hour or so between planes. I spent 15 minutes or so on the phone with my sister, who lived there now. Then without thinking what I was doing, I dialed my hometown operator and said, "Information, Please".

Miraculously, I heard the small, clear voice I knew so well, "Information." I hadn't planned this but I heard myself saying, "Could you please tell me how to spell fix?"

There was a long pause. Then came the soft spoken answer, "I guess your finger must have healed by now."

I laughed. "So it's really still you," I said. "I wonder if you have any idea how much you meant to me during that time." "I wonder," she said, "if you know how much your calls meant to me." "I never had any children, and I used to look forward to your calls."

I told her how often I had thought of her over the years and I asked if I could call her again when I came back to visit my sister. "Please do," she said. "Just ask for Sally."

Three months later I was back in Seattle. A different voice answered "Information." I asked for Sally.

"Are you a friend?" She said.

"Yes, a very old friend," I answered.

"I'm sorry to have to tell you this," she said. "Sally had been working part-time the last few years because she was sick. She died five weeks ago."

Before I could hang up she said, "Wait a minute. Did you say your name was Paul?"

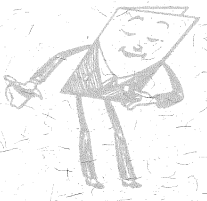
"Yes."

"Well, Sally left a message for you. She wrote it down in case you called. Let me read it to you." The note said, "Tell him I still say there are other worlds to sing in. He'll know what I mean."

I thanked her and hung up. I knew what Sally meant.

– Anonymous

Never underestimate the impression you may make on others.



FAVORITE SAYINGS TO LIVE BY



"If we do not change our direction, we are likely to end up where we are headed."

– Chinese Proverb

"There are two tragedies in life. Not to get what the heart desires, the other: to get it."

– George Bernard Shaw

"Life is not a having and a getting, but a being and a becoming."

– Matthew Arnold

"Not he who has little, but he who desires much is poor."

– Seneca

What happened in NOVEMBER throughout the years?

NOVEMBER, 1843

Andrew Jackson Davis was first mesmerized by Mr. William Levingston on this date and the results were amazing. The two worked together with the spirit helpers for several years and much wisdom from the other side of life was brought forth.

NOVEMBER 1, 1893

The original incorporation of **National Spiritualist Association of the United States of America** was filed in Washington, D.C. Then on November 20, 1920 an amendment was filed in Washington, D.C. to change the name from National Spiritualist Association of the United States of America to **National Spiritualist Association.**

NOVEMBER 3 & 11

November 3, **Election Day** and November 11, **Veterans Day.** Two days when we can demonstrate that we are proud to be Americans.

NOVEMBER 12, 1869

Mr. James Lawrence was working with Professor Hare's Spirit Dial, when he received the idea that there should be a date set aside each year to recognize the anniversary of the Advent of Modern Spiritualism on March 31, 1848.

NOVEMBER 14, 1849

The **First Public Demonstration** for Spiritualism, held at Corinthian Hall in Rochester, New York, by two young sisters, Margaretta and Leah Fox. Imagine the trust they had in their spirit communicators to subject themselves to a large hostile crowd in order to prove that life or the spirit does continue after the physical dies.

NOVEMBER 21

The birthday of **The Rev. Barbara Thurman, NST,** President of the National Spiritualist Association of Churches. Happy Birthday to You, Happy Birthday to You.

NOVEMBER 22, 1904

Charles B. Rosna's skeleton was found behind a false wall in the basement of the Hydesville, NY home that had been rented by the Fox family. This discovery proved once and for all the validity of the spirit communications that were first received by the young Fox girls.

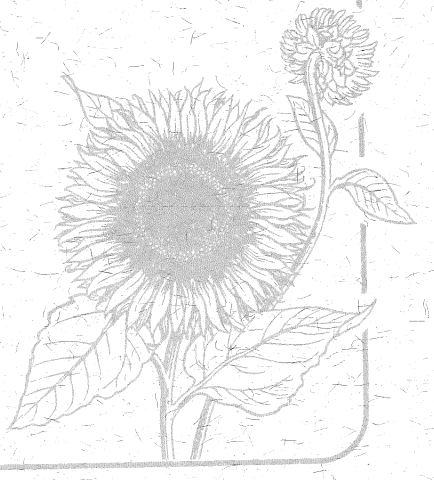
NOVEMBER 26

Thanksgiving Day, a day to give gratitude to the pilgrims of America, to all Pioneers and to Infinite Intelligence for all our blessings.

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: "Whatsoever ye would that others should do unto you do ye also unto them."
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 human soul here or hereafter.
9. We affirm that the precepts of Prophecy and Healing contained in all sacred texts are Divine attributes proven through Mediumship.



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