TNS

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2003

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FEATURES

Celebrate! 3
By The Rev. Sandra Pfortmiller, NST
The Spirit World rejoices with each accomplishment.

Philosophy 6
By The Late Elizabeth Harris, DSNU
Some history of philosophy.

Views From The Wing Of A Robin 8
By Robin Quiroz
All You Need; The Other Side

Be Grateful To Receive 12
By The Rev. Charlene Kleinschmidt, NST
There must be a giver and a receiver.

Joy Of Living 13
By The Late Angelique Zelle
What we focus upon creates our joy or lack of joy.

Things To Think About 23
By Merry Browne
Various thoughts and quotes.

War And Psychical Phenomena 24
By Michael E. Tymn
Premonitions, dreams and clairvoyant descriptions related by soldiers.

International Spiritualist Federation Fraternal Week 26
By Laura Joy
I.S.F. Conference

I.S.F. – Learning At A Mini United Nations Of Spiritualism 27
By Sonny Bing Gee
Another view of the Conference.

Christmas Blessings 29
Holiday Greetings from Spiritualists

Holidays Of The Season 30
By Kebba Buckley, M.S., O.M.
Holy Days and Festivals in December

Food, Air, and Images: How The Spirits Communicate With Us 31
By Kenneth W. James, Ph.D.
Images come at us constantly and spirit works to reach us during our quiet moments.

Is Your Knowledge Wasted? 33
By Edmund C. Bujalski
Question your thoughts and actions: Are they motivated by charity?

POETRY

The Hug By Norman Burnikel 35

My First Christmas In Heaven 35
Author Unknown

MONTHLY

SPIRIT IN MY LIFE: The Spirit World 5
By Marlita Springett

CALENDAR CORNER 9

FAVORITE SAYINGS 9

DEPARTMENT OF PHENOMENAL EVIDENCE 10
By The Revs. Tom and Lisa Butler, NST

INTERNET INSIGHTS: 11
• A Letter From Heaven
Anonymous

AFFIRMATIONS for a positive day. 14

IN GOOD SPIRITS 28

NOTES FROM THE FIELD 34

DEPARTMENTS

Officers 15

Directory of Ministers 16

Directory of Churches 17

Lyceum Books and Information 21

Books 22

TNS is waiting to publish your articles and newsworthy items. Send them in today!

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Celebrate!

BY THE REV. SANDRA PFORTMILLER, NST



A Season of Hope

With the Holidays approaching, I wondered if the Spirit Realm celebrated Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or New Years, or any days we think of as Holidays throughout the year. As soon as I questioned this in my mind I heard, "We celebrate everything. We celebrate a soul's birth into the physical and later their departure from Earth and arrival into the Spiritual Sphere. We rejoice with every lesson, each triumph, every achievement, each moment of joy. We honor the trials, the illnesses, each relationship—in fact whatever comes into a life is celebrated. We feel all life is cause for rejoicing."

"What about specific holidays that are important to each religion?" I continued to wonder. Again a mental thought, "If the holiday observed brings joy, soul searching, upliftment or growth, we look forward to them and honor them. Our thoughts are not quite the same as you may have in your sphere, however, if there is a sacred energy in a celebration we commemorate it and are attuned with you in the physical. This period of each year heralds the glory of the Creator and praises Spiritual happenings."

Never having questioned how the Etheric World responded to our physical memorials, I was pleased with the answer, especially if there is sacred energy present, then the spiritual guides and loved ones are present. Our physical world is full of rituals and ceremonies, so I questioned my guide, "How do souls in the next realm celebrate?"

"Music, dancing, fellowship and sharing!" was the reply. I thought, "Well, that is kind of similar, yet, how wonderful celestial music, etherial dancing, loving fellowship and sharing would be—sure hope we give our guides and helpers constant reasons to make merry."

Infinite Intelligence meant for our souls to be joyful. The *Spiritualist Manual* tells us: "We cannot praise God with a sorrowing heart. Life should be a blissful, earnest experience for us. The atmosphere of Christmas foretells for us the joy that must be ours in the realms of eternity. The harmony of the spheres proclaims it, and the love and affection we bear toward one another mirrors it in the hearts of men (and women)."

There is definitely something about this time of year that is supernal and sacred. While many people may review the events of the past months and look for areas where they grew spiritually in their dedicated pathway of growth, other individuals barely pause with their busy calendars of life for any commemoration or sanctification. They feel accountable to their material existence, yet something about this time of year encourages them to spread more love, forgiveness, and good cheer, briefly exchanging and altering normal physical goals. Even these slight fluctuations charge their systems and send good energy into the ethers. Like our spirit friends, we should rejoice for every fluctuation or vibration of love is charged with healing energy and growth possibilities. All life is on purpose and guides us toward our greater good. Sai Baba teaches that: "Every activity in the world is God-directed, Godward moving."

Next, I started to question gifts and Spirit. The thoughts came: "Life is a gift, with free will or choice—very precious gifts from the Creator. The process of soul transformation requires individual choice, then the energy of commitment. Growth is a process, a changing of mind or the free will to participate in the creation of our own life."

We each have wonderful potentials and talents, and our inner DNA, soul, inspiration, guides us to exercise and develop these talents. When recognized, then our intention brings inspiration. Our heart seems to recall all the information we have ever been exposed to in our lifetime and our relationships. Sometimes these memories create walls in our structures and how we relate to others. We create our thoughts to protect our fragile emotions and this creates our vision of the future. As the year ends, remember it is good to examine these walls and release any discord the past may have brought. Create new visions, for what we envision is what we receive. Each change we desire for ourselves, if it is according to Natural Law, will benefit us, benefit those we are close to and benefit the world. This is a gift.

Many people go to Church just a few times a year, so we try to make our Christmas service as spiritual, loving and uplifting as possible—a gift to those who attend. Maybe a spirit guide or loved one whispered in their ear to attend Church, or maybe some past guilt that you go to Christmas services brought them. Whatever, this service might have to inspire them for a long time, so ask your spirit guides to

(Continued on next page.)

Angel Wings

Here is an assignment for each of you this holiday season—watch an old movie, *It's a Wonderful Life*. This classic film is usually on television once or twice during December or may be rented at a video store.

The movie tells about a man, George Bailey, who is planning to commit suicide because of some serious problems in his life. He is talked out of it by his angel "in training," Clarence. George tells the angel things would be better if he had never lived, so Clarence shows him the differences his life made and how it affected the others in town and his family.

It has a happy ending, including his little daughter saying, after hearing a bell ring, "Every time a bell rings, an angel gets its wings." There are several nice themes that flow through the movie. Clarence accomplished something then progressed to a new spiritual level is one theme of the movie, showing we continue to help others and to progress when we graduate to the spiritual dimension. Another theme is how each one of us contributes to the whole and how each life is interconnected. When we understand that the love and kindness we share has a ripple effect, it makes it even more rewarding to share positive energy and to help others. ❋

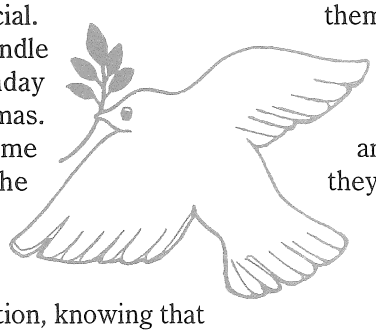


Happy Holidays from *TNS*, and from Sandy, Sharon, Nancy and Betty.

CELEBRATE! *(Continued from previous page.)*

help make the worship service special.

One thing we do is to have a candle lighting service during the Sunday worship service closest to Christmas. There is something uplifting to me about lighting a candle with the intention of creating spiritual energy in my life and in the world around me. Then seeing a glow from all the candles of the congregation, knowing that they have sent a loving thought into the ethers, is a powerful experience. We encourage this energy by reading poems, singing songs and saying affirmations. These words were some that were read last year:

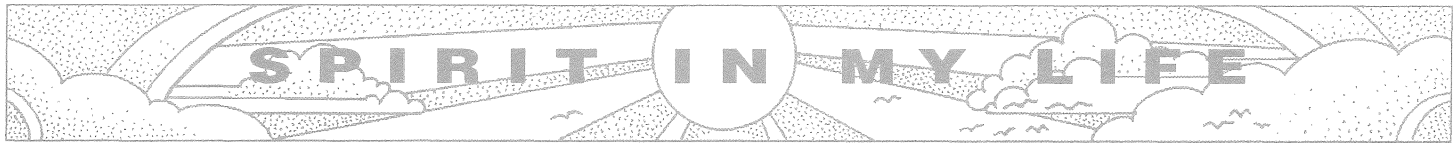


Let my energy and life be like this light,
And let it shine forever bright.
Let this light be seen by Divine Spirit,
Let all I do have blessed merit.
Let God's Light fill each corner of my soul,
Let light and love be my ruling earthly goal.

Then as each person's candle meets the flame we invite them to silently affirm something they wish to bring into their life, some spiritual attribute to elevate their soul. The congregation is encouraged to review this positive warm thought throughout the holiday season and throughout the year, re-lighting their candle when they want to reinforce their intention and desire. They are reminded to celebrate their Divinity, their Uniqueness, their Inner Spirit.

Let this candle light remind me
to let truth and love flow
And grow brighter, for life never ends
but continues to glow.
Show me this gleam in everyone I meet and see
For the flame of Spiritual light will help to set us free.
Let my inner luster shine from me on my Spiritual way
So that I may reflect Spirit's brilliance each and every day.

As you enjoy the lights, music, friendship, gifts and family of the holidays, remember to invite your spirit guides and helpers to share this loving time and celebration with you. When you laugh, smile or feel uplifted, know that your spirit friends are rejoicing too. ❋



Spirit In My Life *is a monthly column for each of us to share something that has affected our lives where our spirit friends are involved. We all have a story, let us hear yours.*

A Visit From The Spirit World

BY MARLITA SPRINGETT, New York

The Spirit World exists here and now along with the physical. All the gifts of the Higher Realm, the spiritual guidance, comfort, healing, and love are always available to us. However, it sometimes takes a unique experience to be reminded of this. Such an event happened with me many years ago.

My special friend was only nineteen when he began the fifty-mile drive to visit me at college. It was to be a surprise visit to clear up some disagreements between us. He was just four miles from home when the crash occurred, and he passed quickly into spirit. It was not until the following day I learned about all this. My shock and sorrow were compounded by a deep sense of guilt that because of me he had died unhappy.

The guilt persisted causing a depression that led to hormonal imbalance. Before long I was being treated with strong medication that would be "for the rest of my life." Several months later a frightening side effect developed, and on my own I stopped the medication. Then I tried to confront my guilt and negative thinking that must have caused this medical problem. For several years my health improved, though some guilt and sorrow continued. Then an amazing event brought new comfort and complete healing.



It was a moonlit night when I was blessed with a visit from above. In my sleep, I felt myself walking (now I know this as my spirit body) to the kitchen for a drink of water. At the same instant I recognized my special friend, he communicated with me, "Don't worry about me, I am okay."

Then he was gone, and I felt an immediate sense of relief and comfort that he had cared enough to reach me to convey he was alive and well. When I woke in the morning, the healing within me was warm and real. Soon afterwards a medical exam showed my health was normal with no need for medicine. Thankfully, this has continued to the present time.

Now, forty years later, my memory of this remarkable experience is as clear and close as when it occurred. My healing continues to be complete and permanent. These qualities, in my understanding, are evidence of a valid spiritual experience and of true healing. My gratitude to God, to guides, and friends in spirit is unbounded and eternal. ❋

If You Think Gasoline Is Expensive, Here's Something To Think About...

- A bottle of Diet Snapple for $1.29 per 16 oz. equals $10.32 per gallon,
- Gatorade for $1.59 per 20 oz. equals $10.17 per gallon,
- STP Brake fluid for $3.15 per 20 oz. equals $33.60 per gallon,
- Vick's Nyquil for $8.35 per 6 oz. equals $178.13 per gallon,
- Evian *water* at $1.49 for 9 oz. equals $21.19 per gallon...for *WATER!*

Philosophy

BY THE LATE ELIZABETH HARRIS, DSNU

Somebody "has a philosophy" we ordinarily say – when he or she has a thoughtful view of what is important, a view of his or her major ends and goals and of the means appropriate to reaching these.

Spiritualism is defined a Religion, a Philosophy and a Science, because it is a unique combination of these three disciplines. Although each is separate and distinct, and one no more worthy than the other, Spiritualism, in the mid-nineteenth century unified these basic studies to form a vibrant system of living suitable to the modern man and woman in today's society.

Let's take a brief look at philosophy, now, to attempt to chart its course from its conception, through the ages to the present time, identifying phases which pertain to Spiritualism.

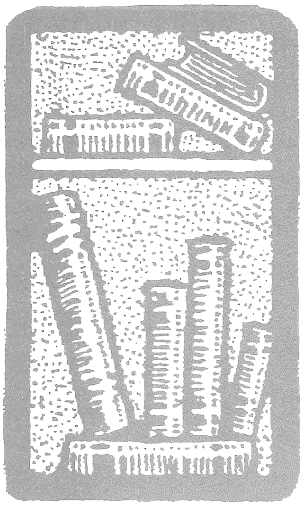
Throughout its long and varied history, philosophy has meant many different things. For instance, philosophy has been the search for the wisdom of life, the meaning closest to the Greek words from which the term derived; an attempt to understand the universe; humanity's moral responsibilities and social obligations; an effort to fathom divine intentions and the individual's place in them; an examination of truth, goodness and beauty, etc.

Although the definitions of philosophy are vague and indefinite, "philosophizing" is a reflective, meditative activity, a "mulling over" a variety of subject matters. Therefore, we can have philosophy of Religion, philosophy of Science, philosophy of Nature, etc.

Philosophy is more similar to art than to science for the philosopher stamps his theories with his or her own personality. Therefore, we can say philosophy, in contrast to science, may not be able to be proven true. Yet, it is not necessarily false.

Many consider philosophy as an outlook on life. This in turn produces a specific attitude to life. And, because a person acts according to personal thoughts, the attitude which forms the thoughts is of the utmost importance to the life of the individual.

The history of philosophy can be divided into four main periods. The first great school of philosophy was that of Ancient Greece which lasted 1,000 years. We owe both philosophy and its name to the Greeks. Too, it was the Ancient Greeks who developed the first science of thinking—the dialogue.



Then in A.D. 529, the Roman Emperor Justinian put an end to all independent thinking by closing the philosophy schools of Athens, confiscating their property and silencing the profession. This was the beginning of the Dark Ages which lasted another thousand years. During this time, philosophy made no new advances.

After the Dark Ages, came the Renaissance in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. This was considered the third main philosophical period. The revival of learning was outstanding during these times. The fourth period of philosophy came in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

We can clearly see that when each new epoch was born, it contained the seeds of its predecessor. This has been true from the time of Socrates to the present Spiritualist's philosophy of Andrew Jackson Davis.

Looking back into the dim and distant past we see that the Ancient Greek, Socrates (470-399), was the Father of Philosophy. Surprisingly, he summed up his position as a philosopher by saying, "One thing only I know, and that is that I know nothing." To doubt one's beliefs was the essence of philosophy to him, and he held that it was important to turn the process of self-criticism upon one-self. "Know thyself," said Socrates.

He was convinced that there is only one real misfortune—to do evil, and only one real happiness—to do good. Socrates can be considered a Spiritualist, for from childhood he was visited by "spiritual voices." He occasionally went into trance. He believed that the soul was divine, and immortal, and was released at death.

Socrates was followed by Plato and Aristotle. It has been said that every person is either a Platonist or an Aristotelian. In other words, a person's outlook could be either idealistic or realistic. Plato was idealistic, Aristotle was realistic.

One of Aristotle's greatest distinctions

(Continued on next page.)

was that he created the science of "logic." He said, "We do good deeds, not because of virtues, but are virtuous because of good deeds." Like Socrates, Aristotle believed that virtue was the direct fruit of wisdom and could only be achieved by a fully developed person. It has been said that Socrates gave the world **philosophy** while Aristotle gave it **science**.

After the Dark Ages came the Renaissance and a great reconstruction of philosophy began. It was the beginning of a grand New Age in which Elizabethan England emerged as the greatest modern nation; producing the first great Renaissance philosopher Francis Bacon.

Francis Bacon (1561-1626) gave a new direction to philosophy. Like the Ancient Greeks, Bacon realized the importance of correct thinking, but said, "Knowledge, if unapplied, was useless. "This was the beginning of what we label "materialism."

Bacon foresaw water power for industry, surgical experiments on animals to save human suffering, genetics, air transport and submarines. He predicted foreign trade, a world economy, and a world peace.

In his famous *Essays* he included psychic phenomena as he believed all available knowledge was the basis of philosophy. Everything had to be included—dreams, predictions, telepathic communications and physical phenomena. He said, "For it is not known in what cases, and how far, effects, formerly attributed to superstition, participate in natural causes."

Holland produced the great philosopher Benedictus Spinoza (1632-1677). He was an exiled Jew, living as a refugee in Holland. He was eventually excommunicated for his daring and bold philosophy—especially his belief that God and Nature are one. He said, "All is in God, all lives and moves in God." In other words the Universal Law of Nature and the eternal decrees of God are one and the same thing. And, "When we accept the Laws of Nature more willingly, we realize the necessity of living in harmony with them, not in opposition to them." This is similar to Andrew Jackson Davis' *Harmonial Philosophy*.

As for "good" and "bad," Spinoza said, one and the same thing can be good, bad and indifferent. For example, music is good to the melancholy, bad to the mourners, and indifferent to the dead. He said, there is no virtue but intelligence. We are only free when we *know*. No other modern philosopher has influenced philosophy more than Spinoza.

Immanuel Kant, the German philosopher (1724-1804) made a detailed analysis of the origin and evolution of thought. He said, "Experience is by no means the only field to which our understanding can be confirmed. Experience merely gives us separated and isolated sensations." Kant termed this study of the laws of thought as "Transcendental Philosophy." Kant went on to say, "Good actions are not measured by good results but by the conscience, an inner sense of duty which is a law not founded on experience."

G. W. F. Hegel (1770-1831) is regarded as Germany's greatest philosopher. He was greatly influenced by Greek philosophy. His fame, thought, rested on his conception of the "Unity of Opposites." He said, "Every idea expressed naturally leads to its opposite, e.g. poor and rich, love and hatred, wisdom and ignorance, good and evil, new and old, past and present, spirit and body, etc." Modern Spiritualism calls this the Natural Law of Polarity. Hegel pointed out that conflict and strife are stages along the road of progress. Evil must be opposed. Good can only be reached through struggle.

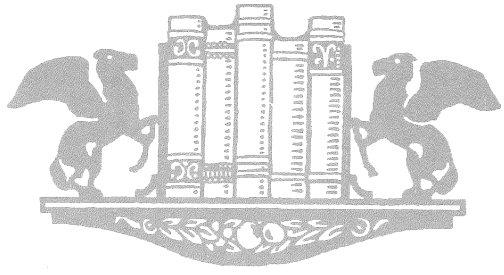
The Industrial Revolution was in full swing in the nineteenth century—electromagnetism, the atomic theory, and Darwin's evolution theory were allowing science to control the world. But science needed to be directed toward the benefit of humankind. Herbert Spencer (1820-1903) undertook the task.

Spencer knew science breeds other sciences, philosophy develops hundreds of new concepts, and religion takes a thousand forms to meet humanities complex needs. Integration, the unity of these parts into wholes, was the key idea of Spencer's philosophy.

But, Darwin's *Origin of the Species* (1859) and Spencer's philosophy together were responsible for rampant materialism. For Spencer interpreted the world as "force" and that it was a "mechanical universe of matter." This concept was never accepted by Spiritualists and has been proven wrong by modern physicists.

Reaction soon developed against materialism. The French philosopher Henri Bergson (1859-1941) attacked materialism when he published his *Creative Evolution*. His championship of a spiritual view of the world was welcomed everywhere. Bergson's spiritualistic philosophy opposed Spencer's materialism as Kant's idealism opposed Bacon's realism.

However, there is a difference between the idealism of Kant and the realism of Bergson, for Bergson's theory is based on scientific research. Bergson was an active member as well as, at one time, the President of the Society for Psychical Research which began in England in 1882. Psychical Research—where science and religion meet—became the basis of the new philosophy of subsequent Spiritualist philosophers.



The present Philosophy of Spiritualism, however, is considered to have originated from the combined efforts of Emmanuel Swedenborg, the Swedish scientist and philosopher who passed to spirit in 1772, and

(Continued on next page.)

Views From The Wing Of A Robin

BY ROBIN QUIROZ, California



• All You Need

All you need, you already have, for it is within you. God is the answer to everything. Include God in all that you do and desire in life, for God is life, God created it and put us here to understand it and to master it. When we master our purpose for being in the physical, spirit takes us by the hand and leads us to the Spirit Realm. There we can use the knowledge we learned from our earthly experiences and excel to a higher level to help others.

God never gives us more than we can handle. Somehow it all passes and we get through it. The more people put their trust in God, the more they will see the truth about things, and this world will be a better place to be.

• The Other Side

When we pass on to the other side, there are many different levels (each with a vibratory rate). The level each person ends up on there depends on the life they have lived in the physical (and the vibratory rate they have attained, for like attracts like). The other side is a loving, beautiful, clean, pure, positive place, with no darkness. What could be more wonderful. Imagine that, having something so great to look forward to.

We cannot reach perfection in the physical—on earth nothing is perfect. We as the human race have not yet learned even half of the lessons. Perfection comes after we live a life of treating others in the way we want to be treated. ❋

The innocence of the child is his wisdom, the simplicity of the child is his egolessness. The freshness of the child is the freshness of your consciousness, which never becomes old, which always remain young.

– Osho

PHILOSOPHY *(Continued from previous page.)*

Andrew Jackson Davis, an American medium, who in 1844 began to communicate with the spirit of Swedenborg. These teachings are known as the Harmonial Philosophy of Modern Spiritualism. Andrew Jackson Davis gave to the world numerous writings of this new outlook on life, revealing the spiritual nature and destiny of humanity in a modern and scientific way.

This Philosophy, basic to Modern Spiritualism includes the unity of all Spirit; the Brotherhood of all men and women, discarnate and incarnate; the survival after death; communication with the Spirit World; and the concept of eternal progress. It's been satisfactorily supported by scientific proof and becomes transformed into Religion because of its practical application to life's problems. ❋

I am content to
follow to its source
Every event in action
or in thought;
Measure the lot;
forgive myself the lot!
When such as I cast out remorse
So great a sweetness flows into the breast
We must laugh and we must sing,
We must laugh and we must sing,
We are blest by everything,
Everything we look upon is blessed.

– W. B. Yeats (1865-1939

What happened in *DECEMBER* throughout the years?

DECEMBER 11, 1814

The birthdate of **Joseph Rhodes Buchanan**, a medical scientist who conducted experiments in soul sensing and coined the term Psychometry. Author of *Buchanan's Journal of Man*.

DECEMBER 11, 1901

The Morris Pratt Institute Incorporated in Whitewater, Wisconsin as an educational facility for Spiritualism. Morris Pratt passed to spirit shortly before the school opened.

DECEMBER 20

The first day of **Hanukkah**, the Jewish Festival of Lights, which is celebrated for eight days to remember a victory over the Syrians and the rededication of the Temple at Jerusalem.

DECEMBER 24, 1934

Mercy E. Cadwallader passed to the Spirit World on this date (research also showed December 12). She was a zealous worker for Spiritualism and was one of the organizers of the National Spiritualist Association in 1893. NSA elected her as honorary vice-president, but she stepped down in favor of being appointed a Missionary. She was the owner and editor of *The Progressive Thinker* for twenty-four years, wrote several books including *Hydesville in History*, poems and piles of articles. It was through her efforts that the Andrew Jackson Davis Lyceum building was built in Lily Dale, New York; that a marker was erected at the Hydesville property to designate the exact spot where the Fox Cottage stood; and she was on the committee in charge of the erection of the obelisk shrine in Rochester, New York. Mrs. Cadwallader was a great student of Spiritualism and was called the "Animated Encyclopedia of Spiritualism." She had a keen mind, an aggressive personality, a crusading temperament and a fearless devotion to truth, besides being a gifted, dynamic speaker, a medium and a missionary.



DECEMBER 24

Board member, **the Rev. Marrice Coverson**, celebrates her birthday on this date. Let us all send her thoughts and good wishes for a very special year.

DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day, the date chosen to celebrate the life and birth of the great teacher, medium and healer, **Jesus of Nazareth**. We are told Jesus taught and practiced Natural Law and Love for all life. These are lessons we can each grow from.

DECEMBER 26

The African-American celebration of **Kwanzaa**, which emphasizes the principles of unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, co-operative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith.

DECEMBER 31

The International **World Healing Meditation Day**, where people from around the world send positive prayers, healing and energy for peace, love and brotherhood. **New Year's Eve** is a time when many set their intentions for the coming year. A suggestion to include in your intention is more spiritual growth, the gift to see love and light in all life, and the ability to discern an awareness of truth. ❋



FAVORITE SAYINGS TO LIVE BY



"All I have seen
teaches me to trust the Creator
for all I have not seen."

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

"We are co-creators with God,
not puppets on a string waiting for
something to happen."

– Leo Booth

THE NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES
DEPARTMENT OF PHENOMENAL EVIDENCE

December 2003 Department of Phenomenal Evidence Report

BY THE REVS. TOM AND LISA BUTLER, NST

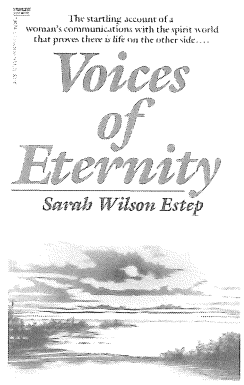
How They Let Us Know that They are Near. The International Survivalist Society now has the book, *Precognition and Human Survival*, by Charles Drayton Thomas, available in their online library. The book is the outcome of thirty years intensive study of the trance mediumship of the gifted sensitive, Mrs. Osborne Leonard. This quote from the book may give you pause when you think about a loved one during the holidays.

"A few weeks after my sister Etta died she spoke at my sitting with Mrs. Osborne Leonard, the gifted trance sensitive, and said, 'I came to see you recently. You were in your study, standing near the table on which were several books. You were too interested in what you were doing to think of me. I stood near you by the corner of the table, but you did not feel me in the least. I wondered how it was you did not feel my presence; I had forgotten that I was not trying. Then the Guide who had come with me said, 'Concentrate.' I calmed myself and tried for the time not to feel too loving, not to want to touch you, but that you should feel me. You did not at first; then you suddenly thought of me and forgot what you were doing; at least, you closed the book you had been looking at, placed it on the table, and sighed, thinking of me very strongly. You then turned round and faced me, but you did not see me and, of course, thought it quite natural that the memory of me should come in and interrupt what you were doing.'"

From: www.survivalafterdeath.org/books/thomas/human/intro.htm

Animals Healed by Touch. This was the name of an article written by Carly Wall in the September 2003 *Fate* magazine. The article gives an overview of Healing Touch or laying on of hands healing and how it has been successfully used on animals. We read that the healing classes for animals given by Dr. Joy Craft are, "charged with energy as she explains her healing methods and demonstrates her techniques to relax the bodies of pets, helping release toxins that restrict and harm... She instructs that you must channel love while focusing on the presence of a higher healing energy, learn to listen to your animal's needs and feel that vibration opening to an innate power that even a beginner can use and develop."

A Book on Electronic Voice Phenomena (EVP). *Voices of Eternity*, written in 1988 by United States EVP pioneer researcher, Sarah Estep, is now available to be downloaded at the American Association of Electronic Voice Phenomenon web site at http://aaevp.com/resources.html. The book details Sarah's communication with the spirit world using her tape recorder and the messages that she received.



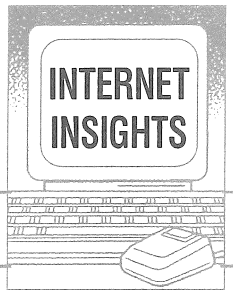
As Researchers Study how Spiritual Experiences Happen Inside the Brain. Mario Beauregard, a University of Montreal neuroscientist, wants to find out exactly what is going on during the most intimate of religious experiences. Mario is using resonance imaging, positron emission tomography and multichannel electroencephalograms to peek inside the minds of nuns as they have mystical experiences.

Beauregard is one of a growing number of scientists using the latest technology to study the physiological basis of religious and spiritual experience. In addition to nuns and monks, researchers are studying epileptics—who often report visions during seizures—as well as people who do not have intense religious experiences. This new field, known as neurotheology, is raising questions about the nature of God and the human soul in an unprecedented—and controversial—effort to bridge the gap between science and religion.

From: "A push to map the mystica," by Jeremy Licht, www.sunspot.net/news/health/bal-te.theology18aug18,0,1994969.story coll=bal-news-nation

Dowsing Data Defy the Skeptics. There is no scientific reason why dowsing should work, yet it does. Two organizations, the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP) and the James Randi Educational Foundation (JREF) dismiss dowsing as paranormal nonsense. They have both staged demonstrations

(Continued on next page.)



A LETTER FROM HEAVEN – *Anonymous*

To my dearest family: Some things I'd like to say. But first of all, to let you know that I arrived okay. I'm writing this from heaven. Here I dwell with God above. Here, there's no more tears or sadness; here is just eternal love. Please do not be unhappy just because I'm out of sight. Remember that I am with you; every morning, noon, and night. That day when I had to leave you, when my life on earth was through, Spirit picked me up and hugged me and said "I welcome you. It is good to have you back again. You were missed while you were gone. As for your dearest family, they'll be here later on. I need you here badly; you're part of my plan. There is so much we have to do, to help your mortal man." God gave me a list of things, that He wished for me to do. And foremost on the list, was to watch and care for you. And when you lie in bed at night, the day's chores put to flight; God and I are closest to you,...in the middle of the night. When you think of my life on earth, and all those loving years; because you are only human, they are bound to bring you tears. But do not be afraid to cry; it does relieve the pain. Remember there would be no flowers, unless there was some rain. I wish that I could tell you what God has planned, but if I were to tell you; you wouldn't understand. But one thing is for certain, though my life on earth is o'er; I am closer to you now, than I ever was before. There are many rocky roads ahead of you and many hills to climb, but together we can do it by taking one day at a time. It was always my philosophy (and I'd like it for you too) that as you give unto the world, the world gives back to you. If you can help somebody who is sad and feeling low, just lend a hand and pick them up, as on your way you go. When you're walking down the street and you've got me on your mind; I'm walking in your footsteps—only half a step behind. And when it's time for you to go...from that body to be free. Remember you're not going...You're coming here to me.

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DEPARTMENT OF PHENOMENAL EVIDENCE

(Continued from previous page.)

in which dowsers were asked to find buried pipes. Dowsers did no better than the laws of chance predict.

Now comes a massive set of data that suggests there may be validity to dowsers' claims. The study was financed by the German government and published in the *Journal Of Scientific Exploration*. The project was conducted in the hope of finding cheaper and more reliable ways of locating drinking water supplies in Third World countries.

Researchers analyzed the successes and failures of dowsers in attempting to locate water at more than 2000 sites in arid regions of Sri Lanka, Zaire, Kenya, Namibia and Yemen over a ten year period. Drill crews guided by dowsers did not hit water every time but their success rate was impressive. In Sri Lanka, for instance, they drilled 691 holes and had an overall success rate of 96 percent.

In hundreds of cases the dowsers were able to predict the depth of the water source and the yield of the well to within 10 or 20 percent. The sites in Sri Lanka were in regions where the odds of finding water by random drilling were extremely low. As for a USGS notion that dowsers get subtle clues from the landscape and geology, Dieter Betz, a physicist at the University of Munich, who headed the research, pointed out that the underground sources were often more than 100 feet deep and so narrow that misplacing the drill only a few feet would mean digging a dry hole.

By the way when the German researchers did laboratory experiments with these same dowsers trying to find buried pipes the tests were similar to those of CSICOP and JREF.

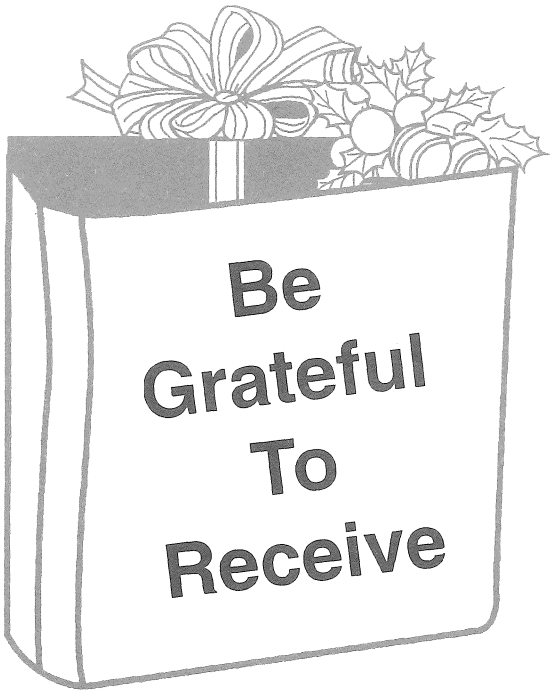
"The Ultimate Psychic Challenge" was shown on the Channel 4 in England in August. The audience was constantly reminded that the program was devoted solely to discovering the answer to the question, "Can we talk to the dead?" Yet there was deliberate suppression of important and relevant material in favor of irrelevant gimmickry. Viewers were denied information about the scientific evidence that comes from mediumship. Montague Keen had been asked to contribute to the program and would have provided evidence in support of mediumship. His contribution was edited down to one minute. This was in stark contrast to Randi, the notorious closed minded skeptic, who was given 40 minutes of air time.

From: Victor Zammit's Friday Report Aug. 23 2003 at www.victorzammit.com/index.html

Dead Skeptics: all dressed up and nowhere to go.

(Thanks also goes to Victor Zammit's Friday Report for this funny one liner.) ❋

Please send information about phenomena in your church, life or community to The DPE, Tom and Lisa Butler, PO Box 13111, Reno, Nevada 89507, or via email to phenomena@nsac.org. Your donations to the DPE, same address, are tax exempt and will help fund our work in the department.



Be Grateful To Receive

BY THE REV. CHARLENE KLEINSCHMIDT NST, New York

This year many of us may find ourselves in an unfamiliar and difficult situation to accept. Used to doing the giving, we may now find ourselves having to receive aid, while it saves our wallets, we may choose to allow it to injure our pride and self-esteem. The recent large corporate cutbacks leave many unemployed, and illness may be taking a toll on our resources, or any number of circumstances may make it hard to swallow our inability to be the great provider.

How many times in your life have you cheerfully given to a charity, donated to a food or clothing drive, or delivered gifts to the needy? How did you feel when you were in the position of bearing gifts? It felt wonderful, didn't it? You knew for a little time you were lifting someone else's load. The smiles and delight of the children and the thankfulness of their parents made you swell with pride because you were able to help in a rough situation. Did you look down on them, think they should be doing something to provide for their needs, or did you realize something had temporarily interfered with their ability to provide, and the gifts could be a turnaround for them.

Are you afraid your family, friends and neighbors might think less of you? Now is the time to stop that thinking in its tracks. Admit you are in a tough situation and be thankful there are those whom are able to answer your needs today. Thank God for these angels in the flesh and realize in accepting their help you are generously allowing them to feel good about themselves.

One time I was in difficult circumstances, a single mother with two children, I was amazed when I came home from work to find three food baskets on my doorstep. The strange thing being, I didn't think anyone knew I was having a tough time. Because my family was helping us, and we would be there for Christmas dinner, I didn't need the baskets. I immediately called my church and asked them to take the baskets to other families in worse straits than ours. I was thankful I hadn't been home when they were delivered, because I would have been embarrassed had some of my good friends delivered them. Later I came to understand it wouldn't have mattered to them because they were giving out of love. I was more amazed when I learned where the baskets came from, the one from church I could understand, but the other two came from local groups I didn't know. A few weeks later a couple from church stopped me, handed me two tickets for a Sabres game, and told me they would provide transportation for my son and me. He was really into hockey and it was a precious gift. They barely knew us, but had talked to my son often about his likes and dislikes. At first I protested, but then the gentleman said, "We like to help children, so every year at this time we pick a child and treat them to something we know they wouldn't be able to do on their own. This year it's his turn and you are going as his chaperon. You can't refuse his gift and I'm sure he won't either." They also invited my daughter to stay with their daughter since they knew she didn't like hockey and neither did their daughter. In truth they knew I couldn't afford a baby sitter. My wounded pride was bandaged, and we had a wonderful evening.

I can't remember who said it or the first time I heard it, but I was told "It's better to give than to receive, but if there is no one to receive, you deny someone the chance to give."

If this is your year to receive instead of give, look at the giver and you will find love in their eyes, not condemnation or judgement. Remember how good you felt when wearing the other shoes. You never know when you will be able to give them a gift of love in return.

If you are having a difficult time and still have a desire to give gifts, write a thank you to someone for what they have done for you. Be specific and they will be pleased that you remembered. Make up a coupon booklet of things you can do for another, such as shovel snow or prepare their dinner (if you think it's necessary to avoid misunderstanding, include "from your kitchen" on the coupon). If it's for a young mother, offer her a few hours of free time while you baby sit. Use your imagination and what you know about the person to make a gift for little or no money that shows how much you care.

Remind yourself the time will come when you will be able to be the giver. In the meantime, be thankful that you were given an opportunity to help someone else enjoy the joy of giving. ❋

Joy Of Living

BY THE LATE ANGELIQUE ZELLE

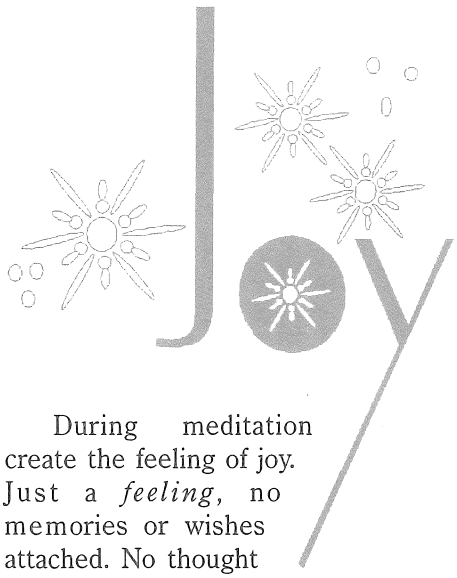
One of the mistakes that is often made when a person begins their "spiritual" work is the assumption that in order to be "spiritual" one must be pious, serious, somber, reverent.

Truly, the most spiritual vibration is joy.

Happiness is usually looked for outside of the self, through the emotional, mental, or physical levels. As experience has it, these spurts of happiness are only temporary and usually intermittent. There is no permanent happiness until one goes within and knows true peace, the peace of knowing God within. With this contact one unfolds their Divine Plan and experiences a sense of enthusiasm, which in turn sparks a sense of fulfillment that brings a true feeling of happiness—the Joy of Living.

There are many distortions and reasons for not experiencing joy in oneself: finances, illnesses, relationships, time. Indulgence in dwelling upon what is wrong with life can create more of what is not desired. Where we focus our energy grows and expands. For example: focus on lack of money, be poor; focus on positive aspects of someone (including self), harmonious relationship; focus on being well, be well.

To break through the conditioned negative responses that create unhappiness, focus the feeling of joy into each aspect where joy and happiness are needed.



During meditation create the feeling of joy. Just a *feeling*, no memories or wishes attached. No thought of a lover, a place, a thing; just a feeling. Focus on that feeling as long as possible allowing it to flow, without drifting into thoughts. When you notice that you have drifted into thoughts, bring yourself to the feeling of joy again, each time with a stronger feeling, a more uplifting feeling. If a picture, much like a frame of film, comes to mind of a situation in your life that is in need of healing, allow it to be bathed in that vibration of joy you have created and are allowing to flow through you.

Things will start turning around in your life. Where there has been a lack of a light heart there will be happiness. You will notice a change of attitude about situations, and that will begin to unfold a positive and uplifting view of life. Happiness will be yours because you made it so. Continue to do the meditation each day. After there is great healing and the meditations have waned remember how it came about. Feel the joy of being one with the God within, and there you are—in the Joy of Living.

Through the conscious act of meditation you are taking charge of your life, taking responsibility of *self*. You are no longer a victim to be tossed about by the "world did it to me" or the "why me?" attitudes. If you choose to be a victim, be a victim consciously. If you choose to be poor, sad, have continual upsetting relationships, then do so consciously. Know that when you are in any situation in your life you created it, or co-created it; you are, at some level, a willing participant.

This method of healing can be done with every aspect of self, be it a present situation in your life or a past memory. With past memories the healing will take place in the present within the self, being at peace with the memory and transforming the guilt into joy. Being free of guilt—to love and allow everything you have ever thought, said and done—is a quantum leap to knowing the God within.

Happiness is the key to open all doors; the hand to turn the key is knowledge. Judge your abundance not by what you have but by what you enjoy.

Peace be with you.

– Angelique Zelle
Reevis Mt. School
(Died in 1995)
October, 1988

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Positive Statements To Help Create a Positive Day.

Affirmations . . . DECEMBER 2003

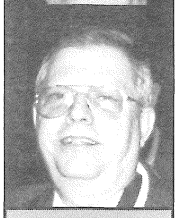
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 "Let it be revealed to me how my works can best honor Life." – *Clay Johnson*	**2** I am expressing through the body of truth, the body of Love, the body of God.	**3** I strive to be loving, tender, kind and tolerant of myself and others.	**4** I affirm that my spirit helpers are a guiding light and a source of love and wisdom.	**5** Truth is always available when we are open and willing to receive it.	**6** The Universal Life Force flows through everything as perfect energy.
7 We evolve slowly, but continuously, growing in understanding and awareness.	**8** "Our minds are forever thinking." – *Legh Townsend*	**9** Today I refocus my vision and my direction to always look to the Light.	**10** Our lives are mirrors of our innermost thoughts and desires.	**11** I am trustworthy, efficient and practice integrity in all I do.	**12** Be careful what you wish for, because thoughts and wishes return to you.	**13** I desire to feel completely healthy and whole so I may express love and light.
14 "Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers." – *Henry Adams*	**15** Think of God's Light as spiritual understanding, as the cause and effect.	**16** I am comfortable expressing my emotions honestly.	**17** Spiritual energy is the motivating power behind all things.	**18** "Things do not change; we change." – *Henry David Thoreau*	**19** "Where the light is brightest, the shadows are darkest." – *Goethe*	**20** I breathe deeply, freely and fully, the breath of the Creator's Divine energy.
21 Everyone is needed in God's plan, with their personal talents and abilities.	**22** Life presents me with wonderful opportunities to serve and to grow.	**23** I celebrate the blessing of family, the blessing of life and the love of God.	**24** Divine Light fills each heart and soul today, blesses all creation.	**25** "God's self-giving nature rises up to the level of our receptivity." – *A. Potash*	**26** We are inseparably one with Infinite Intelligence.	**27** My soul desires to know Spirit, to experience Divine energy.
28 What a unique emanation of God all people are.	**29** What new beginning do I want to come into my life in the coming year?	**30** Today I pray that all life gets better and better each day.	**31** Successful living is like playing a violin – it must be practiced daily.			



Holiday Greetings and Blessings!







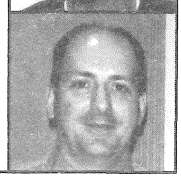

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WALLACE, Earl L, Licentiate Minister, Certified Medium, Comm. Healer, 124 Spring St., Gardiner, 04345 - (207) 582-6745; e-mail: Godfreed@AOL.Com.

BELFAST

PARRY, Rev. Nancy Marshall, NST, Certified Medium, Healer; private readings, public lectures, classes, workshops, retreats; 28 Merriam Rd. #201, 04915 - (207) 338-4690; e-mail: clown@mint.net.

CANTON

NORRIS, Virginia, Licentiate Minister, Comm. Healer, R1, Box 91, 04221 - (207) 597-2600.

SIGURDSSON, Rev. Rupert, NST, Comm. Healer, Rt. 1, Box 91, 04221 - (207) 597-2600; e-mail: rupert@megalink.net.

LEWISTON

NYE, Rev. Gloria, NST, Certified Medium, 191 Dyer Rd., 04240 - (207) 786-4401; e-mail: glorygirl@midmaine.com.

LINCOLNVILLE

CROES, Rev. Lois, 2574 Atlantic Hwy., 04849.

• MARYLAND •

GLEN BURNIE / BALTIMORE

ROTHAMEL, Rev. John Edward Jr., NST, Certified Medium, Classes, Lectures, Seminars, Consultations, (410) 590-9187; e-mail: JRothamel@cablespeed.com.

TAKOMA PARK

MEERSCHAERT, Rev. John, Certified Medium and Comm. Healer, private consultations by appointment, 8716 Bradford Rd., Apt. 5, 20901 - (301) 585-0261, e-mail: seesspirit@aol.com.

• MASSACHUSETTS •

LOWELL

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

WORTHINGTON

SULLIVAN, Rev. John F., Pastor of First Spiritualist Church of Springfield, Certified Medium, Comm. Healer, classes, counseling, private consultations, public lectures, 480 Huntington Rd., P.O. Box 392, 01098 - (413) 238-5344; e-mail: jsulli1942@aol.com.

• MINNESOTA •

ROCHESTER

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

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

• NEBRASKA •

BELLEVUE

CLARK, Rev. Wm. L., NST, Comm. Healer, Teacher; Private classes and consultations by appointment; P.O. Box 183, 68005-0183 - (402) 292-3197.

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 •

CARSON CITY

HOBLITT, Emma, Certified Medium, Comm. Healer; 893 Vista Park Dr., 89705 - (775) 267-9988.

MINDEN

POTTER, Rev. Louis, Ordained Minister, Certified Medium; Pastor, Spiritualist Chapel of the Pines, Auburn, CA; P.O. Box 1657, 89423 - (775) 782-3108.

RENO

BUTLER, Rev's Tom and Lisa, NST, Directors NSAC Dept. Phenomenal Evidence, Comm. Healers, Certified Mediums, Directors American Assoc. of Electronic Voice Phenomena, P.O. Box 13111, 89507, e-mail: phenomena@nsac.org, web sites; http://nsacphenomena.com & http://aaevp.com.

• NEW HAMPSHIRE •

SALEM

BAUMHOFF, Mary Lou, Certified Medium, P.O. Box 2223, 03079-1152 - (603) 898-8854, Fax (603) 893-3603.

WINDHAM

SNELL, Rev. Catherine, NST, Certified Medium, by appt. only, 23 Pleasant St., 03087-1775 - (603) 880-3599; e-mail: csnell45@adelphia.net.

TRAVIS, Rev. Janet, NST, 23 Pleasant St., 03087-1775 - (603) 880-3599; e-mail: jtravis24@adelphia.net.

• NEW YORK •

BELLMORE

RIVERA, Rev. Milagros G., Medium and Spiritual Counselor, Healer; Readings and Classes, 1830 #21 Bellmore Ave., 11710-5567 - (516) 781-9773.

CLIFTON PARK

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

DEER PARK

LLOYD, Rev. Nancy A., NST, Certified Medium and Counselor (call or write for appointment); Mail: 80 Jefferson Ave., 11729-2004 - (631) 243-2935; e-mail: nlloyd@suffolk.lib.ny.us.

EAST AURORA

KLEINSCHMIDT, Rev Charlene, NST, Certified Medium, 1071 Wish Circle, 14052-9656 - (716) 652-4972.

KLEINSCHMIDT, Albert C., Certified Medium, Comm. Healer, 1071 Wish Circle, 14052-9656 - (716) 652-4972.

HOLBROOK

BERG, Rev. Virginia, Pastor, A Sanctuary of Infinite Spirit, NSAC, 1280 Claas Ave., 11741-3902 - (631) 588-3150; e-mail: VBergLI@optonline net.

HUNTINGTON

SCHOELLER, Rev. Richard P., NST, Certified Medium, by appt. only, 26 Sabbath Day Path, 11743-2752 - (631) 271-2985; e-mail: RPSchoeller@netzero.net.

LAKE RONKONKOMA

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

LILY DALE

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

KINCAID, Rev. Sylvia W., NST, 5 Fourth St., P.O. Box 261, 14752-0261 - (716) 595-8280; e-mail: Sylkin@netsync.net.

• NORTH CAROLINA •

HENDERSONVILLE

GRIFFITH, Rev. Gail, NST, 175 Crestview Dr., 28791 - (828) 891-1312; e-mail: gailgriffith@juno.com.

• RHODE ISLAND •

State Wide

KENT, Revs Lynn and Brian, Certified Medium and Commissioned Healer; Private consultations by appt., home gatherings, specialize in physical phenomena table-tipping workshops, public readings for charity; (401) 245-8307; e-mail: lynnkent@spiritmedium.com; website: www.spiritmedium.com.

• OHIO •

FAIRBORN

MOSCHKE, Rev. Raymond J., Comm. Healer, 1468 Ironwood Dr., 45324 - (937) 878-1165.

• PENNSYLVANIA •

ALLENTOWN

ZERNICEK, Rev. Ludwig, NST, Pastor of Getter Memorial Church; mail: 323 N. 8 St., Apt. #3, 18102, e-mail: rev_lance@entermail.net; (610) 770-7560.

• TEXAS •

AUSTIN

BROWN, Mrs. Frances Cervin, Licentiate Minister and Certified Medium, 2721 S. Congress, Apt. 2111, 78704 - (512) 447-2188.

EDINBURG

MUSE, Rev. Evelyn, NST, Minister, Certified Medium, 1104 Susan Dr., 78539 - (956) 383-2510.

HOUSTON

JESSUP, Rev. Jovita V., NST, Comm. Healer, Certified Medium, 5655 Meadow Creek Ln., 77017 - (713) 947-6586.

LOCKHART

HAMNER, *Rev. Dr. Jean I., NST, Certified Medium, Commissioned* Healer, Angels of Light Pastor, 2714 FM 713, 78644-4163; Private spiritual consultations by appointment, public lectures, classes and workshops - (512) 376-5310; e-mail: ALSCNSAC@AOL.COM.

• 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, 5904 Mt. Eagle Dr., Unit 318, 22303-2500 - (703) 317-1707.

HAMPTON

BROWN, Rev. Carol A., NST, 712 Big Bethel Rd., 23666-2802 - (757) 826-9652.

NORFOLK

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

SPRINGFIELD

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

VIENNA

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

VIRGINIA BEACH

CRIBB, Rev. Kathleen, 900 Park Landing Ct., 23456 - (757) 471-2414.

• WASHINGTON •

SEATTLE

PEMBERTON, Rev. LaVerne, Ordained Minister of Church of Spiritual Unity, 3827 S. Mead, 98118 - (206) 722-2348.

• WEST VIRGINIA •

GREAT CACAPON

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

• CANADA •

MONTREAL, QUEBEC

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

DIRECTORY OF NSAC CHARTERED CHURCHES & AUXILIARIES

• ARIZONA •

PHOENIX - Church of the Living Spirit, NSAC
Meeting place: LaQuinta Inn, 2510 W. Greenway Rd., 85023; Mailing address: 3521 W. Topeka, Glendale, 85308-2325; Co-Pastors, Rev. Gene & Rev. Sandra Pfortmiller, NST, (623) 581-5544; Sun. Serv. 10:30 a.m.; Healing, Meditation and All Message Service, 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.; Tuesday Classes 7:30 p.m., call about location; website: www.churchofthelivingspirit.org.

• CALIFORNIA •

CALIFORNIA STATE SPIRITUALISTS' ASSOCIATION
Pres., Rev. Sandra Cook, (805) 965-4474; Secy., Melissa J. Haddick, 640 The Alameda, Berkeley, 94707-1602, (510) 524-0910, ext. 2, Fax (510) 524-1027; e-mail: cssa@mjaustin.com.

AUBURN - Spiritualist Chapel of the Pines
457 Grass Valley Hwy. #7, 95603; Sun. Serv. 10:00 a.m.; Fri. All Message Serv. 7:00 p.m., first Fri. of month; Pastor, Rev. Louis Potter; Assoc. Pastor, Rev. George Brenner; Pres., Pauline Conrad; Secy., Evadell Sordelet, (916) 481-8729.

MONROVIA - The Spiritualist Church of Revelation
200 W. Colorado Blvd., 91016; Sun. Services 10:30 a.m.; Pastor, Martin Pina; Pres., Mary Munerlyn; Secy., Rev. Toni Ervin; Church phone (626) 256-3403; e-mail: Greenry@earthlink.net.

SACRAMENTO - Central Spiritualist Church, NSAC
2500 Marconi Ave., Suite 209, 95821-4855. Mailing Address: 4800 Auburn Folsom Rd., #63, Loomis, 95650-9328; Sun. Serv. 10:00 am.; Classes - second 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; e-mail: rdawson@centralspirit.com.

SAN BERNARDINO - Temple of Spiritual Truth, NSAC
732 N. Sierra Way, 92402. Sun. Serv. & Healing 11:00 a.m.; Secy., Richard Patteson, P.O. Box 7006, Riverside, 92513.

SAN FRANCISCO - The First Spiritual Temple, NSAC
No weekday evening classes at this time; all correspondence and inquiries to the Rev. Alfred A. Conner, NST, Secy./Treas., 69 Idora Ave., San Francisco, CA 94127-1057, Tel. (415) 564-2260.

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.; Wed. Healing 7:30 p.m., Serv. 8:00 p.m., (415) 885-9976; Pastor, Rev. David Burr, NST; Pres., Sonny B. Gee; Secy., Engeltie Lauderback; website: www.GGSC.org.

SAN FRANCISCO - San Francisco Spiritualist Society
1031 Franklin St. (Urban Life Center, Fireside Room); Church phone, (415) 927-2139; Sun. Serv., 6:00 p.m.; Pastor Rev. Barbara Thurman, (415) 924-1106; e-mail: sfspiritualist@earthlink.net; 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; email: tssolc@hotmail.com; Sun. Serv. 6:30 p.m., 2nd & 4th Sunday; Pastor Rev. Louise Peruch, NST; 5409 N. Staple Way, 95236, (209) 887-2043.

SAN LEANDRO - Spiritualist Church of Two Worlds
1550 San Leandro Blvd., (Deaf Comm. Center) 94577; Sun. Serv. Healing 10:30 a.m., Reg. Serv. 10:45 to 12:00; Co-Pastors, Rev.'s Betty and Don Nauratil, (925) 283-1449; Pres., Rev. Sandi Deckinger, 649 16th Ave., San Francisco, 94118, (415) 751-1384; 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, e-mail: churchofthecomforter@earthlink.net; Sun. Healing Serv. 10:30 a.m., Devotional Serv. 11:00 a.m., Wed. Message Serv. 6:30 p.m., Unfoldment Classes Sunday, Monday 1:30 p.m., Thursday 7:00 p.m.; Call for information on the Rev. Foard Memorial Library.

• COLORADO •

LITTLETON - Chapel of Spiritual Awareness
Pastor, Patricia J. Haskins-Schott, (303) 973-9993; **All mail** to: 6457 S. Xenon St., 80127; website: Go to www.spiritual-awareness.org; Call for information.

• CONNECTICUT •

CONNECTICUT STATE SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION
Pres., Lynn Gaffin, 70 Dell Ave., B5, New London, 06320-3346; 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., Rev. Lynn Gaffin, 70 Dell Ave., #B5, 06320; Secy., Rev. Lynn Gaffin; e-mail: slynnh@aol.com; website: www.nlspiritualist.com.

NEWINGTON - The Church of The Infinite Spirit
Masonic Temple, 80 Walsh Ave., 06111; Sun. Serv. 10:30 – 12:00 the second and fourth Sundays during Sept., Oct., Nov., Jan., Feb., May and June. Open the first, third and fifth Sundays in Dec., the second and third Sundays in March, and the second, third, and fourth Sundays in April. Closed July & Aug.; Pastor, Allen Noddin, 174 Daley St., Forestville, 06010; Pres., Mary Ann Noddin, 174 Daley St., Forestville, 06010; Secy., Catherine Watso, 11 Evergreen Dr., Granby, 06035; Contact Mary Ann Noddin at (860) 582-7385 for further information.

NIANTIC - Ladies Aid Society Camp at Pine Grove
June 16 - Sept. 11. Services, Sundays at 2:30, Tue., Thur., Sat. 7:30. For a program listing all Summer activities write to: Acting Secy. Susan Ferency, 12 Butlertown Rd., Waterford, 06385.

NORWICH - National Spiritualist Church of Norwich, Inc.
29 Park St. (off Main St.), 06360, (860) 886-8522; Secy., Sandra Morse.

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

WILLIMANTIC - The First Spiritualist Church of Willimantic
268 High St., 06226, (860) 423-5774; Sun. Serv. 10:30 a.m. Sept. thru May; service twice a month June thru August. For more information, please call the church; Pastor, Joyce Orcutt, 133 Wales Rd., Andover, 06232, (860) 742-7846; Licentiate Minister, Clinton Cady, P.O. Box 67, 06226; President, Renee Provost, P.O. Box 370190, W. Hartford, 06137; Secy., Marie Kuper, 106 Old Andover Rd., Hebron, 06248, (860) 228-0762.

• DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA •

WASHINGTON - The Church of Two Worlds
3038 "Q" St., N.W., 20007-3080, Phone (202) 333-5114; Web: TwoWorlds.Org; email: Info@TwoWorlds.Org; Sun., Healing 2:00 p.m., Serv. 2:30 p.m.; 3rd Wed.: Healing 7;30 p.m., Message Serv. 8:00 p.m.; Fri.: Unfoldment Class 7:30 p.m.; Pres., Michael Gallion, (202) 237-7659; Secy., Rev. John Meerschaert, (301) 585-0261.

• FLORIDA •

ORLANDO - Spiritualist Church of Awareness, NSAC
3210 N. Chickasaw Trail (P.O. Box 571043, 32857-1043), (407) 678-3688 Please leave message; Sun. Adult Lyceum 10:00 a.m., Sun. Serv. 10:30; Wed. Serv. 7:30 p.m.; Healing, Lecture, Messages at all services; Co-Pastor and Pres., Rev. Jean Kerr Lerch, NST, 335 Piney Ridge Rd., Casselberry, 32707-3805, (407) 834-5378; Co-Pastor and Treas., Rev. E. Ann Otzelberger, NST, (407) 826-0807; Secy., Stacy K. Davis, 10509 Jepson St., 32825-6606, (407) 658-7624.

• ILLINOIS •

ILLINOIS STATE SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES
Secy., Stanley L. Pierce, 6458 So. Maryland, Chicago, 60637, (773) 324-1065.

BURNHAM - Puritan Spiritualist Church, NSAC
13906 Greenbay Ave., 60633-1614; Sun. Serv. 2:30 p.m.; Pastor, Anna Gross, 10930 Ave. "M", Chicago, 60617-6929; Secy., Sandy Kilemek, 531 Pottawatomie Trail, Porter, IN 46304.

CHERRY VALLEY - Cherry Valley Spiritualist Camp, Inc.
8002 Service Rd., 61016, (815) 332-5359; Camp Season: June 1 thru Sept. 30; Serv., 10:30 to 11:00 Healing Meditation, 11:00 to 12:30 Church Service, Pot Luck follows; Pres., Ken Boesen (815) 626-5716; Secy, George Kittnar (815) 633-9150.

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

CHICAGO - The Church of The Spirit
2651 N. Central Park Ave., 60647-1101, (773) 489-5422; Chicago's Oldest Spiritualist Church; Sunday Family Worship - Healing 10:00 a.m., Worship Serv., 10:30 a.m.; Worship/Message Serv., Wed. 7:00 p.m., Development Class 8:00 p.m.; Pastor, Rev. Marrice Coverson; Secy., Dr. Alan Tenczar.

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

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

LE ROY - J. T. & E. J. Crumbaugh Spiritualist Church
102 S. Pearl St., P.O. Box 174, 61752-0174); (309) 962-9076; Sundays-Adult Lyceum 11:00 a.m., Service 12:00 p.m.; Pastor, Rev. Bob Bianchi, NST; Pres., Sharon Bianchi, (317) 570-0094; Secy., Joseph Meyer. website: www.crumbaughchurch.org; e-mail: reverendbob@direct2spirit.com.

• INDIANA •

INDIANA STATE ASSOCIATION OF SPIRITUAL SCIENCE, NSAC
Secy., Bonnie J. Darby, 7274 Lakeside Woods Dr., Indianapolis, 46278, (317) 329-1217, Fax (317) 329-1218, e-mail: BDarby02@aol.com; Pres., Rev. Jessie James, (219) 885-0091.

GARY - First Spiritualist Church, Inc., NSAC
2430 W. 11th Ave.; Serv. Sun. 3:00 p.m.; Pastor & Pres., Rev. Jesse James, Jr., 1301 Pennsylvania St., 46407; Secy., Angeletta Banks; Unfoldment Classes 1st & 2nd Sat. of each month, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., Lyceum Sun. 3:00 p.m., Jacqueline Crooms and Donna Emery.

INDIANAPOLIS - New Dawn Spirit of Light Church, Inc., NSAC
3637 W. 10th St., 46222-3376; Sun. Serv: 11:00 a.m. Healing - 11:30 a.m. Worship and Message Serv. - Kids Time 11:00-11:30 a.m.; Wed. 7:00 p.m. Development Class and Meditation; Every 5th Sunday All Message Service, covered dish dinner; Adult Lyceum 10:00 a.m.-10:55 a.m. every 4th Sunday; Church phone, (317) 917-0427; Secy., Marilyn Smith, (317) 291-9550; Pres. & Pastor, Rev. Mildred Schlagel, (317) 291-0799.

MICHIGAN CITY - Spiritual Science Church, NSAC, Inc.
314 W. Coolspring Ave., 46360, (219) 874-6002; Sun. Serv. 12:00 Noon; Pastor & Pres., Rev. Ruth Novak, (219) 872-6621; All corresp. to Rev. Ruth Novak, 7008 W. U.S. 20W #77, 46360; Secy., Victoria Coar, (708) 889-1678.

• IOWA •

CLINTON - First Spiritualist Church
5416 - 6th Ave. So., P.O. Box 123, 52732-0123, (319) 243-3233.

CLINTON - Mississippi Valley Spiritualist Assoc. Camp
P.O. Box 75, 52733-0075; 2004 Camp Season, 7-10-04 thru 8-20; Stella LaTour, Secy., (219) 871-0686.

CLINTON - Sunflower Spiritualist Church
10 Mt. Pleasant Park; Mail to: P.O. Box 6, 52733-0006; Sun. Serv. at 10:00 a.m.; Co-Pastors, Rev. Harvey and Rev. Bonnie Horstman, NST; Secy., Rev. Bonnie Horstman.

DAVENPORT - Spiritualist Harmony Church
1429 W. Seventh St., 52802-1212, (563) 324-9659; Sun. Healing Serv. 1:30 p.m.; Worship & Message Serv. 2:00 p.m.; Pastor, Rev. William E. Buchholz, 806 E. 13th St., 52803-4240, (563) 326-3201; Vice Pres., Joy Strasser, (563) 445-1144.

• MAINE •

MAINE STATE SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES
Pres., Graham Connolly, 66 Martin Heights, Raymond, 04071, (207) 655-6673; Secy., Betty Simpson, 715 Newburgh Rd., Hermon, 04401, (207) 848-2273; Treas., Jeanne Bower, 159 Northport Ave., Belfast, 04915, (207) 338-1355.

AUGUSTA - Augusta Spiritualist Church
P.O. Box 2492, 04338, (207) 622-8980, corner of Perham & Court Sts.; Sun. Serv. 10:30 a.m.; Thurs. Awareness Class 7:00-9:00 p.m.; Co-Pastor, Earl Wallace, (207) 582-6745, e-mail: godfreed@aol.com; Co-Pastor, Vaikko Allen, (207) 622-2799, e-mail: vallen@adelphia.net; Secy., Phyllis Norton, e-mail: secretaryasc@yahoo.com.

BANGOR - The Harrison D. Barrett Memorial Church, NSAC
114-118 Harlow St., (under Tesoro Restaurant); Sun. Serv. 10:00 a.m.; Secy., Betty Simpson, 715 Newburgh Rd., Hermon, 04401, (207) 848-2273, e-mail: simpsonb@hermon.net. Church services may be canceled due to inclement weather; From July 1 to third Sun. in Sept. the church may hold evening church services or cancel church services for the summer. As of this printing Gallery Readings are held the second Friday evening of every month at 7:00 p.m. Please call the secy. for more information.

HARTFORD - Pinpoint of Light Spiritualist Camp
Mail address: R1, Box 91, Canton, 04221; Open July and August - Service, Seminars and Classes; Co-Pastor & Secy. Virginia Norris, LM, CH; Pastor, Rev. Rupert Sigurdsson, NST. For information, Phone (207) 597-2600, Fax (207) 597-2295; e-mail: rupert@megalink.net.

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. 7:00-9:00 p.m.; Co-Pastor & Secy., Virginia Norris, LM, CH; 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, ME. We meet July 13th through August 17. Schedule to be announced. For information, contact President John Davidson, 74 Central Ave., Waterville, 04901, phone (207) 877-2204; e-mail: jdavidson@midmaine.com; Secy., Dorothy Dee. There are no accommodations for the general public for rooms, camping, or meals. There are plenty of locations in the surrounding area.

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. Church services Sun. at 2:30 p.m.; Tues. & Thurs. at 7:30 p.m.; Gallery Readings at 7:30 p.m. on Mon.; Message Circles Wed. & Sat. at 7:30 p.m.; Workshops/seminars on Sat.; Accommodations available; June-Sept. call (207) 338-3029; Off season contact Pres., Earl Wallace at (207) 582-6745 or 124 Spring St., Gardiner, 04345; e-mail; godfreed@aol.com or Secy., Sue Jalbert, 66 Martin Heights, Raymond, 04071; e-mail; cats2@maine.rr.com.

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., Graham Connolly, (207) 655-6673; e-mail: pschurch@maine.rr.com.

• MARYLAND •

GLEN BURNIE/BALTIMORE - The Light Center Spiritualist Church
HELD AT: Hampton Inn, Governor's Shopping Plaza, 6617 Governor Ritchie Highway North, Glen Burnie, (410) 761-7666. OFFICE: 7851 Foxfarm Lane, Glen Burnie, 21061-6324; (410) 590-9167, Fax (801) 730-9109, Info@LightCenter.org, www.LightCenter.org. SERVICES: 1st Sunday: MPI Study Group - 10 a.m., Devotional Serv. - 11 a.m., Thought Exchange - 12:30 p.m.; 3rd Sun: Adult Lyceum - 10 a.m., Devotional Service - 11 a.m., Seminar - 12:30 p.m.; 5th Fri: Healing/Message Serv. - 7:30 p.m. CLASSES: 1st Fri: Meditation - 7:30 p.m.; 2nd/3rd/4th Fri: Development - 7:30 p.m.; EVENTS: Workshops, Guest Speakers/Mediums, Picnics, Field Trips, Seances, Circles, Dinners, Community Awareness/Aid Programs.

• MASSACHUSETTS •

MEDFORD - Medford Spiritualist Church, NSAC, Chapel of Peace
Sunday Serv. held at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 147 High St.; Serv. at 5:00 p.m., Healing Lecture and Messages; For Info. call Acting Pastor/Treas., Sandra Millen, 103 Columbus Ave., Salem, 01970, (978) 744-0546.

ONSET - On-I-Set Wigwam Co-Workers Spiritualist Camp
Season opens June 9th till Labor Day weekend; Camp phone (860) 439-1395; Sun. Serv. 2:30 p.m.; Wed. Open Class 6 p.m. & Service 7:30 p.m.; Mediums Day's - Message Circles - Workshops/Seminars scheduled; Secy., Rev. Susan Ferency, 12 Butlertown Rd., Waterford, CT 06320, (860) 439-1395. Prior to season call or write 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, (978) 745-2098; Church season is Sun. after Labor Day - June; Pres., Bradley Gosselin, 147 Sylvan St., Danvers, 01923 - (978) 774-1571, e-mail: BGoss92409@aol.com; Secy., Nancy L. Karolides, 144 Boston St., Middleton, 01949, (978) 774-4048.

REHOBOTH - First Spiritualist Church of Brockton, Inc., NSAC
Services held at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday at the Agawan Grange Bldg., junction Rts. 44 & 118; Mailing address: P.O. Box 206, Swansea, MA 02777-0206. Please see our website for updated schedule and e-mail addresses, http://www.firstspiritualistchurch.com or http://clix.to/spirits.

SPRINGFIELD - The First Spiritualist Church of Springfield, Inc.
33-37 Bliss St., 01105, (413) 732-1234; Worship Serv., 2nd Sun. after Labor Day until last Sun. in June at 10:30 a.m.; Development classes Thurs. evenings at 7:00 p.m.; Pastor, Rev. John F. Sullivan, P.O. Box 392, Worthington, MA 01098 - (413) 238-5344, e-mail: jsulli1942@aol.com; Pres., Tom Ruelke; e-mail: bigrock@localnet.com; website: www.masslive.com at the community link.

• MICHIGAN •

MICHIGAN STATE SPIRITUALIST ASSOC. OF CHURCHES
Pres., Marcia Hyatt, 4161 Buckingham, Detroit, 48224-3538; Secy., Rev. Marguerite I. Gutt, NST, 813 E. Evelyn, Hazel Park, 48030-3106, (248) 548-2240.

CHARLEVOIX - The Golden Rule Spiritualist Church
07444 Old US 31 North, 49720-9422, (231) 347-9601 or (231) 347-7916; Sun. Serv. 10:30 a.m., except during July and August because our "camp"

operates in the same location. (During cold weather months it is advisable to call our Secretary just in case. We held services for the winter of 2001/2002, but weather is beyond our control.) Located halfway between Petroskey and Charlevoix. Turn on Murray Road and immediately turn right on Old 31 N - go 8 tenths of a mile on the left; Pastor, Rev. Cosie Allen, NST and Certified Medium; website: www.churchseek.net/church/goldenrule; Mail: c/o Stanhope, 1086 Maple Grove Rd., 49720.

CHARLEVOIX - Northern Lake Michigan Spiritualist Camp
Please see Golden Rule Spiritualist Church listing for contact information, driving directions, and website address: Open July and August for Sunday services at 10:30 a.m. and Wednesday services at 7:30 p.m.; Potluck follows Sunday service and bonfire with snacks follows Wednesday service; Classes, circles and readings/private consultations available. Pastor, Rev. Cosie Allen, NST and Certified Medium; Mail: c/o Stanhope, 1086 Maple Grove Rd., 49720.

FERNDALE - First Spiritualist Temple of Detroit
2724 Goodrich, 48220; Sun. Serv. 8:00 a.m.; Secy., Diane Smith.

LESLIE - Flower Memorial Spiritualist Church
Pres., Dennis Goddard, (517) 694-8107.

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. Marguerite Gutt, NST, (248) 548-2240.

SOUTH BRANCH - Chain Lake Spiritualist Camp Association
8000 W. Chain Lake Rd., 48761-0089; Sun. Serv. 11:00 a.m., June 1, 2004 through Sept. 1, 2004; Annual Retreat July 11-16, 2004; Lyceum Dir., Dawn Hyatt; Pres., Donald Weichner, 8022 W. Chain Lake Rd., P.O. Box 89, 48761-0089.

• MINNESOTA •

MINNEAPOLIS - Spirit of Life Spiritualist Church
Services at Lake Harriet Comm. Church at 4401 Upton Ave. S., 55410.

ROCHESTER - Third Spirit of Life Spiritualist Church
Services Mon., 7:00 p.m., 21st Century Building, 2130 S. Broadway, Ste. 170; 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) 225-4609 (church) or (612) 699-4858 (home); Secy., Gerold Kemling, c/o 2169 Scheffer Ave., 55116-1255.

• MISSOURI •

ST. LOUIS - Fifth Spiritualist Church of St. Louis
6026 S. Kingshighway Blvd., 63109-3558; Sun. Serv. 10:30 a.m.; Healing, Meditation & All Message Service, 1st Wed. of the month at 7:00 p.m.; Student Minister/Pastor, Toye E. Stinson, 9540 Miriam, Overland, 63114, (314) 423-3516; Secy., Lisbeth Tintera, 901 Peace Haven Dr., 63125, (314) 845-3492.

• NEBRASKA •

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

• NEVADA •

LAS VEGAS - Spiritualist Desert Church
3355 W. Spring Mountain Rd., Ste. 68, 89102; For information on Church services or development classes, please contact Vicky Homann, Pres., (702) 369-9449, or e-mail: VickyVJean@aol.com.

• NEW HAMPSHIRE •

SALEM - The Church of Spiritual Life, Inc.
Masonic Hall, 109 Main St., Rt. 97; Mailing address: P.O. Box 144, 03079; Year Round Services; Regular Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.; Wed. classes 7:15 p.m.; Call Pastor, Rev. Kenneth Wingood, (978) 454-4163; website: http://www.NHSpiritualist.homestead.com.

• NEW JERSEY •

MERCHANTVILLE - Stow Memorial Foundation
Robert Egby, P.O. Box 339, Westville, 08093.

WESTVILLE - Church of Eternal Life
243 W. Olive & Folsom Sts., 08093; Sun. Healing, Worship & Message Serv. 11:00 a.m., (856) 456-2196 for cancellations; Pastor, Lillian Joyce, 300 McCourt Ave., Berlin, (856) 767-1651, e-mail: spiritone@snip.net; Pres., Russell E. Joyce, 300 McCourt Ave., Berlin, (856) 767-1651; Secy., Kathleen M. Pollack, 1762 Crown Pt. Rd. #537-A, Thorofare, (856) 848-7053; website: http://users.snip.net/~spiritone.

• NEW YORK •

EAST AURORA - First Spiritualist Temple
29 Temple Pl., 14052, (716) 652-5018; Sun. Healing Service 10:30 a.m.; Lecture and Message Service 11:00 a.m.; Social Hour 12:15 p.m.; Dinner Day 3rd Sun. of month followed by Circles; Secy., Robert Lowell, (585) 786-8549.

LILY DALE - Lily Dale Assembly
5 Melrose Park, 14752, (716) 595-8721, Fax (716) 595-2442; Office Hours, Sept.-June, M-F, 10 a.m.-2 p.m; June-Aug, M-F, 9 a.m.-4p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-12 Noon, closed Sunday; Camp Season: Last Friday in June to day before Labor Day; contact Donna S. Riegel, Secretary.

LILY DALE - Lily Dale Spiritualist Church
Sun. Serv. 10:30 a.m.; Healing & Message Serv. each Wed. 7:30 p.m.; Pres., Michael Pillsbury, e-mail: pillsbury@madbbs.com; Secy., Sueanna Vollmar.

LONG ISLAND - A Sanctuary of Infinite Spirit, Inc., NSAC
Healing & Worship Service, Sun. 11:00 a.m. at the Smithtown Masonic Temple, 34 River Rd. (Nisequogue River Rd.), Smithtown; Pastor, Rev. Virginia Berg; Asst. Minister, Rev. Patricia Anne Duffield, NST, (631) 588-3150; Mailing address: 1280 Claas Ave., Holbrook, 11741-3902; e-mail: asisli@optonline.net.

LONG ISLAND - New Horizons Spiritualist Church
Meeting: at 10:00 a.m., 1130 N. Broadway, Massapequa; Classes available; Mail to: Frances Werbeck, Secy., 43 Grand St., Lynbrook, 11563, (516) 593-7213; Pastor, Rev. N. A. Lloyd, NST, 80 Jefferson Ave., Deer Park, 11729-2004, (631) 243-2935, e-mail: nlloyd@suffolk.lib.ny.us.

LONG ISLAND - Temple of Metaphysical Science, NSAC
15 Oak St., Patchogue, 11772; Sun. Serv.: Healing and Worship 11:00 a.m.; Pastors, Rev. Hugo Ruiz, NST, Rev. Richard P. Schoeller, NST; Mailing address: P.O. Box 3400, Patchogue, 11772, e-mail: TMS@hoflink.com; website: http://www.TMS-Li.org.

ROCHESTER - Plymouth Spiritualist Church
29 Vick Park A, Rochester, 14607; (585) 271-1470; Voicemail (585) 234-2362; Sun. Serv. 10:30 a.m.; Third Wednesdays All Message and Healing Services 7-9 p.m.; Plymouthspiritualistchurch.org; Pastor, Robin Higgins; Pres., Joanne Antinore.

• OHIO •

ASHLEY - Ashley Spiritualist Camp Association
Wooley Park Drive, P.O. Box 277, 43003; Secy., Nikki DeWitt, (740) 747-3825, e-mail: www.ashleycamp.com.

ASHTABULA - First Spiritualist Church
4230 Main Ave.; Sun. Serv., 2:00 p.m., Healing & Clairvoyance; **TELEPHONE FOR WEATHER CANCELLATIONS.** Pres., Dorothy A. Benes, 8513 Creek Rd., Williamsfield, 44093; Phone: (440) 293-7056; For information contact: Charles J. Benes, 8513 Creek Rd., Williamsfield, 44093; Phone: (440) 293-7056. **LET PHONE RING.** Services are held starting with the 2nd Sun. in Sept. and continue through the last Sun. in May. Church is not in session during June, July, and Aug.

COLUMBUS - First Spiritualist Church of Linden
1751 Aberdeen Ave., 43211, (614) 263-1631; Pastor, Natalie Smith Blakeslee; website: http:www.loveandlight.com; e-mail: NATALIE@LOVEANDLIGHT.COM; e-mail or call for church program and list of classes and development circles.

COLUMBUS - Spiritualist Church of Spirit Revelation
1081 E. Weber Rd., 43211.

DAYTON - Spiritual Life Center, NSAC
611 Watervliet Ave., 45420, (937) 878-1165.

MARION - Memorial Spiritualist Church
667 Henry St., 43302-6137; (614) 387-8887.

• OKLAHOMA •

OKLAHOMA CITY - Central Spiritualist Church
2348 N.W. 36th St., Sun. Serv. 2:30 p.m.; Lyceum Sun. 1:00 p.m.; Pastor, Juanita Oyer; Pres., Charlotte Griffin, 1306 S.W. 38; Secy., Juanita R. Oyer, 6216 S.E. 10th St., 73110, (405) 732-7975.

• PENNSYLVANIA •

ALLENTOWN - Getter Memorial Church, NSAC
1123 Oak, 18102; e-mail: getter@entermail.net; Lyceum 9:30 a.m. with Sun. Service to follow at 10:00 a.m. including healing and message work; Pastor, Rev. Ludwig Zernicek, NST; e-mail: rev_lance@entermail.net, phone (610) 770-7560; Pres., Sharon George-Politz, C.M., (610) 434-3454; Secy., Susan Zernicek, e-mail: getter_sec@entermail.net. or phone (610) 770-7560.

McKEESPORT - First Spiritualist Church
809 Locust St., 15132, (412) 672-1272; Sun. Serv. 1:00 p.m., Healing, Lecture and Messages; Pres., Carol Perella, P.O. Box 1981, Pittsburgh, 15230-1981, (412) 461-7002; Vice Pres., Jim Rocky, (412) 381-7584, Secy., Dianne English, 820 Stanton Ave., Pittsburth, 15209.

PHILADELPHIA - Second Spiritualist Church
423 S. Broad St., 19147, (215) 735-9630; Lyceum Sun. 4:30 p.m.; Healing and Worship Service 5:30 p.m.; Wed. all message, 7:45 p.m.; Pastor, John E. Faison, Sr.; Co-Pastor, Betty Hutt; Secy., Gladys M. Faison, 2118 N. Natrona St., 19121, (215) 232-9219.

• TEXAS •

AUSTIN - First Spiritualist Church
4200 Ave. "D", 78751, (512) 458-3987; Devotional, healing & message service every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.; Pres., Tom Denney; Corr. Secy., Beth P. Fitzherbert.

CAMERON - First Spiritualist Church
802 S. College Ave., P.O. Box 1152, 76520; Sun. Serv. 10:30 a.m.; Lunch 12:00; Second Service 1:00 p.m.; Third Sun. of each month; Pastors, Mrs. Frances Brown, Licentiate & Medium, 2723 S. Congress, Apt. #2309, Austin 78704, (512) 447-2188, and Rev. Evelyn Muse, NST, Certified Medium, 1104 Susan Dr., Edinburg, 78539, (956) 383-2510; Secy.-Treas., Verna Hentz, 406 E. 7th St., (254) 697-3912.

DALLAS - Second Spiritualist Church, NSAC
13610 Midway Rd., Suite 212; Devotional, Healing and Message Serv., 2nd and fourth Sundays each month at 2:00 p.m.; Class/Circle following service at 4:00 p.m.; Pres., Ann Council, (972) 218-7220; Secy./Student Pastor, Robert Croteau, (972) 675-9080; Mail: 1318 Guildford St., Garland, 75040; e-mail: SSC@SSCNSAC.ORG; website: http://SSCNSAC.org.

HOUSTON - First Church Of Divine Science, NSAC
2115 Turner Dr., 77093; Mailing Addr.: P.O. Box 11088, 77293-1088; Pres., Rev. Jovita Garcia-Jessup; Rev. Marie W. Smith; Secy., Norma L. Freshour, 2280 Des Jardines, 77023-5118; Sun. Serv. 2:30 p.m.; Wed. open healing and meditation 7:30 p.m.; Messages from Spirit 8:00 p.m.; Fri. Spiritual Development 7:30 p.m., (713) 695-2550; e-mail: ITZNOWOO@aol.com.

HOUSTON - Church Of Divine Spirit
8010 Wier, #1, 77093-6138.

McMAHAN - Angels of Light Spiritualist Church, NSAC
2714 FM 713, Lockhart, 78644-4163; Devotional, healing and message serv. followed by class/circle, 2nd and 4th Sundays at 2 p.m.; Pastor and Secy., Rev. Dr. Jean I. Hamner, (512) 376-5310; e-mail: ALSCNSAC@AOL.COM.

SAN ANTONIO - Louise Scholtz Memorial Chapel, NSAC
1627 PanAm Expwy. North, 78208-1143; Sun. Serv. 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; Co-Pastors, Hector Caldera and Alex Sifuentes; Secy.-Treas., Elizabeth Dolyak, 10211 Sandyglen, 78240, (210) 641-6589.

TAYLOR - First Church of Psychic Science, NSAC
1300 W. 4th & Ferguson, P.O. Box 1113, 76574; (512) 251-5425.

• VIRGINIA •

FALLS CHURCH - Center for Spiritual Enlightenment, NSAC
222 N. Washington St.; Mailing Addr. CSE (NSAC), P.O. Box 6535, 22040--6535; (703) 645-8060; website: www.TheCSE.org; e-mail: thecse@TheCSE.org; Year-round Serv.; Healing Serv. each Sun. 10:00 a.m., followed by Worship Serv. at 10:30 a.m.; Children's Lyceum 10:00 a.m., Sept. through June; Judy Griesse, Lyceum Dir.; Pastor, Rev. B. Anne Gehman; Pres., Wayne Knoll; Secy., Larry Leonard, 5905 Sherborn Lane, Springfield, VA 22152, (703) 569-1541; e-mail: larry@larryleonard.com.

NORFOLK - The Memorial Spiritualist Church, NSAC
307 W. 37th St., 23508, (757) 622-5070; Service held on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Wed. at 7:30 p.m.; Healing available at 7:00 p.m. Sun. and Wed.; Pres., Fred H. Brown; Secy., Ann Marie Croteau; Lyceum Director, Beth Yates.

• WASHINGTON •

KENT - Church of Divine Grace, NSAC
Services held on Sunday at 11:00 a.m. at The Spiritual World, 216 First Ave. So.; All Correspondence to: Allers, 11113 S.E. 323 St., Auburn, 98092, (206) 824-7454; e-mail: Info@divinegrace.org.; Pres., Bernie Allers; Secy., Lezlie Deuchress; website: www.DivineGrace.org.

MILTON - Camp Edgewood, NSAC Assoc.
1228 - 26th Ave. Ct., 98354; Tel. (253) 927-2050, Fax (253) 927-7531; Pres., Colleen Mohler, (253) 927-2365; Secy., Karen Wennerlind.

MILTON - Church of Spiritual Truth, NSAC
Camp Edgewood - Sun. Serv. 11:00 a.m.; Pastor, Rev. Lillian Johanson; Pres., David Chapman, Sr.; Secy, Denice Chapman, P.O. Box 646, Milton, 98354.

MILTON - Church of Spiritual Unity, NSAC
Camp Edgewood - Church Serv. Sundays, 2:00 p.m.; Pastor, LaVerne Pemberton, (206) 722-2348; Pres., Colleen Mohler, 1210 - 26th Ave. Ct., 98354, (253) 927-2365; Secy., Catherine Cesaro, (206) 782-3779; e-mail: csunsac@yahoo.com.

• WEST VIRGINIA •

WHEELING - First Spiritualist Association of Wheeling WV.
(Way Memorial Temple) N. Broadway & Maryland Sts., (304) 233-5065; Sun. Lyceum at 9:30 a.m.; Healing and Worship Serv. 10:45 a.m.; Tues. Development Circle; Wed. Healing 6:30 p.m., Message Serv. 7:30 p.m.; Fri. Open Circle and Discussion. Lyceum Conductor, Beverly Goff, Asst. Conductor, Josetta Ludwig; Pastor, Raymond Jones, 104 N. Broadway St., 26003, (304) 232-5795; e-mail: pastorray@1st.net; Church website: http://users.1st.net/pastorray; Church e-mail: waymemorialtemple@1st.net. Church open year round.

• WISCONSIN •

WEST ALLIS - First Spiritualist Church of West Allis
6228 W. Washington St., 53214; Sun. Healing & Worship Serv. 10:30 a.m.; Pastor, Rev. Pamla Ashlay, (414) 545-7650; Pres., Manila Kochanski, W1371 Hwy. O, Oconomowoc, 53066, (920) 474-7332; website: fscwa.org.

WONEWOC - West Wisconsin Spiritualist Camp Association
304 Hill St., 53968, 1-800-974-7035 or (608) 464-7770; Open mid-June to mid-September.

• CANADA •

BRITTEN MEMORIAL CHURCH OF CANADA
657 Lansdome Ave., Toronto, Ontario, M6H 3Y2.

CHURCH OF SPIRITUAL WISDOM
674 Kennedy Rd., Scarsborough, Ontario M1K 2B5; Sun. Serv. 2:00 p.m. Spiritual Healing, Lecture & Message Serv., Thurs. 7:30 p.m.
Delphi Center for Development, Enlightenment, Spiritual Healing; Contact Rev. Judy Merrill (416) 264-6758; e-mail: jmmevolve@yahoo.com.

THE FIRST SPIRITUAL CHURCH OF MONTREAL
2186 St. Catherine St. West, Montreal, Quebec, H3H 1M7; English Serv. - Sun. 2:00 p.m. & Wed. 7:30 p.m.; French Serv. - Sun. 4:30 pm., 2nd & 4th Wed. 7:30 p.m; Rev. Mary Amato, Minister, (514) 365-0661.

THE FIRST SPIRITUALIST CHURCH OF GALT
72 Grand Avenue North, Cambridge, Ontario, N1S 2K9; Sun. Serv.: Healing 2:30 p.m., Devotional 3:00 p.m.; Summer (June, July, Aug.): Healing 6:30 p.m., Devotional 7:00 p.m.; Meditation, healing and message circle, Wed. 7:00 p.m.; Development & Healing Classes available; Pastor, Rev. Ed Kenning (semi-retired); Pastor, Rev. Karen Charles (519) 622-7177; website: http//members.rogers.com/fscg; e-mail: fscg@rogers.com.

SPIRITUAL SCIENCE FELLOWSHIP
Office: 1974 de Maisonneuve W., Montreal, QC H3H 1K5, (514) 937-8359, Fax (514) 937-5380; Location: Days Inn, 1005 Guy St., Montreal; Sun. Serv. 7:30 p.m.; Mid-Week Serv. Thurs. 7:30 p.m.; Classes, Workshops, Teas, Meditation, Conferences, Discussion Groups, Spiritual Healing, Message Circles, Visiting Mediums; Pres./Pastor, Rev. Dr. Marilyn Rossner.

SPIRITUALIST CHURCH OF CANADA
83 Ottawa Street North, Hamilton, Ontario, L8H 3Y9; Pres., Rev. Alva Folkes; website: www.spiritualistchurchofcanada.com.

SPRINGDALE CHURCH, TORONTO
30 Merritt Rd., Toronto, Ontario M4B 3K5; Sun. Serv. 3:00 p.m. Spiritual Healing & Messages, 7:00 p.m. Address and Spirit Messages; Tues., 7:00 p.m. Spiritual Healing & Messages; Thurs. 7:00 p.m. Spiritual Healing, Messages and Open Development Circle; Development Classes; Pastor, Rev. Doreen Bauld, (416) 759-3958.

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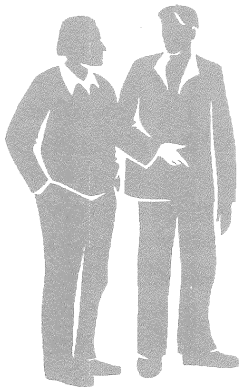
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Things To Think About

BY MERRY BROWNE





"Arthur Ford"

In *Arthur Ford Anthology* an explanation is made of consciousness as spirit-soul-psyche-mind within mental body form which resides within a physical body. And, that while everything is energy mind—mental body vibrations are much greater than the physical body.

What it did not explain was that mind and mental body vibrations function physical body's systems and organs which is why when mind leaves physical body at so-called death, physical body functions cease.

In 1961 Ford foretold of times to come as end of an age, which is now seen clearly as New Science, New Medicine and New Religion. The knowledge of everything being consciousness, the discovery that mind causes and cures illness and that people are leaving traditional religions in search of personal spirituality, is a break from traditional dogma to the search for true spirituality which is so clearly defined in The Golden Rule.

Any truth given us by whomsoever is a great gift. We should be truly grateful for it and treasure it.

"Habits"

It is easy to see that the best way to break bad habits is to form good ones which end the undesirable ones. A spiritually bad habit is selfishness, therefore we must replace it with selflessness. This is not an easy task, but when it is understood that the way to accomplish it is to think of others constantly, be aware of their needs, their loneliness, etc. When we focus on others, we take our minds off ourselves automatically, and this fosters compassion which induces service to them. From this comes their gratitude to us and this love nourishes us. We lose nothing, we gain everything.

"Quotes"

"Forgiveness is the balm after the harm."

"Think ahead for tomorrow, don't wait till it dawns on you."

"Trying to understand people is a loving gesture. Loving them without understanding is a grand gesture."

"Everything we say and do is a show and tell of what we are."

"A person's sense of worth comes from how we value them."

"Attention and tenderness influences people and wins friends."

"Success can't be imitated, it has to be initiated."

"One cannot commit an act without creating a consequence."

"Thought is seed of deed. Consequence of deed is in seed."

"To not react to negativity is a true superiority complex."

"Compassion—losing your heart and finding your true mind."

"Forgiveness—recognition of one's own imperfection." ❋

Each soul is the mirror of an indestructible universe.
– G. W. Leibniz (1646-1716)

War And Psychical Phenomena

BY MICHAEL E. TYMN, Oregon

Editor: *TNS* recently received the June 2003 volume of *ARPR Bulletin*, a quarterly publication of The Academy of Religion and Psychical Research, Michael E. Tymn, editor. This edition was devoted to War and Psychical Phenomena and contains some interesting stories shared by the editor that the readers of *TNS* might also enjoy.

"Man will assuredly outgrow war, with increasing knowledge and spiritual development," wrote Hereward Carrington, Ph.D., in his 1919 book, *Psychical Phenomena and The War*. If Carrington (1880-1958) is viewing things from his present realm of existence, he must be shaking his head in dismay and disgust at the lack of progress over the 84 years since he wrote those words.

An early chapter of the book is devoted to the psychology of the soldier. "It is a psychological fact of great importance and significance, that those at the front have the greatest confidence," he wrote. "The nearer the front we penetrate, the greater this feeling of confidence becomes." In his research during WWI, Carrington observed that there seems to be little fear of death on the front lines, that nearly every soldier feels a sort of inner conviction that he will not be killed—that fortune will shine upon him. The instinct of self-preservation takes over." All the centuries of intervening civilization are swept away in an instant; and we see before us, not the cultured gentleman of yesterday, but the primitive brute-beast, fighting for his existence and his life precisely the same way that his ancestors fought—and with no other, higher ideals in mind! It shows us at once and graphically the effects upon the mind of war—and proves to us that it leads, not only to material destruction, and to mental and moral deterioration, but also to the very extinction of the spirit of man himself—in the almost instant reversion of civilized man to savagery."



Carrington goes on to document prophecies and premonitions concerning the war, apparitions and dreams of soldiers, clairvoyant descriptions of death, and communications from soldiers who have "died." Here are a few of those stories, anecdotal, but interesting nonetheless:

A Premonition of Death: During the campaign on the Gallipoli Peninsula in 1915, Private Reynolds, a New Zealand foot soldier, awoke with a start from his sleep in the trench. He told his mate, Private Pugh, "I shall have to go on listening post duty at midnight on the 25th of June, and I shall be shot through the head." Pugh asked him to explain. "I had a dream just now, and in that dream I saw my mother reading a newspaper. She looked up from it suddenly, and her face was so white and her eyes so horror-struck that I found myself looking over her shoulder to see what she had been reading, and there in the 'roll of honor' my name stood out— 'Private Reynolds, shot through the head while on listening post duty on June 25,' is what I read."

Pugh laughed and joked about it with other chums in the unit. They said his dream was the result of fatigue and bad food. However, several days later, on June 25, Private Reynolds was assigned listening post duty and was shot through the head. The officer in charge of the unit confirmed the story.

The Ghost of Private Rex: A Lieutenant Smith was marching his unit from one place to another. Suddenly he saw Private Rex falling behind. Smith confronted Rex and asked him if he were hungry. The private responded, "A little." The officer gave him a malted milk tablet and took note of the fact that Rex's hand was icy cold and that he was very pale. The officer's attention was diverted and when he returned to check on Rex he was gone. Another officer reminded Smith that Rex had been killed in battle three days earlier. Smith told Carrington that because of the stresses of subsequent fighting and of the death of so many others, he had momentarily forgotten. However, he was emphatic that he had seen, talked to, and touched Private Rex that evening. "It takes away all the fear of death," Smith said, "for I know that Private Rex lives, though dead."

The Pearl Tie-Pin Case: Miss C. had a cousin, a British army officer, who had been killed in battle in France a month before she sat at the ouija board and saw her cousin's name unexpectedly spelt out. After some identifying exchanges, the following message came: "Tell mother to give my pearl tie-pin to the girl I was going to marry, I think she ought to have it." Miss C. asked her cousin to give her the name and address of the young lady. The full Christian and surname were spelled out, the latter being a very unusual one and unknown to both sitters. The address turned out to be wrong and incorrectly recorded by the sitters as a letter sent there was returned, and the whole message was thought to be fictitious.

Six months later, it was determined that

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the officer had been engaged to the very lady whose name was given. However, he had told no one. It wasn't until the War Office had sent over the deceased officer's effect that relatives found the woman's name in his will and as his next of kin. It was exactly as given on the ouija board. Equally remarkable was the fact that a pearl tie-pin was also found in his effects.

Apparition in the Trenches: A very popular commanding officer of a British regiment was badly wounded in battle, losing an arm. Upon returning home, he was fitted with an artificial arm and felt he was well enough to rejoin his regiment. His request to do so was denied, but he was offered a post in the Dardanelles. Shortly after arriving there, he contracted a severe case of dysentery, and was sent home in a hospital train. At the very moment of his death in the hospital train, he appeared to his old regiment in the trenches of Flanders. The sergeant-major of one of the regiment's companies was surprised to see the colonel and commented to a company commander that the colonel was back. As the company commander was about to greet the colonel, the colonel disappeared. The apparition of the colonel is said to have been witnessed by many other soldiers present that day.

Sapper Keller finds 32 wells: The absence of water was the biggest obstacle facing the allied forces in holding their position on the Gallipoli peninsula. Military engineers had sunk shafts in search of water but without success. The heat was intense and a complete breakdown was threatened when the generals in command heard of Sapper Kelly's reputation as a dowser. Kelly was a member of the Australian Expeditionary Forces. Carrying a small piece of copper in his hands, Kelly located 32 wells, on which pumps were subsequently erected. He was able to say whether it was merely a pocket of water, a spring, or an underground river.

The Return of Private Dowding: Thomas Dowding was a 37-year-old schoolmaster in a small eastern England town before the war. He joined the army in 1915 and went with his battalion to France in July, 1916. He was killed on the battlefield during August. Seven months later, he began communicating through the automatic writing of Wellesley Tudor Pole. "On Monday, 12th March, 1917, I was walking by the sea when I felt the presence of someone," Pole explained. "All that day I felt as if someone were following me, trying to reach my thoughts."

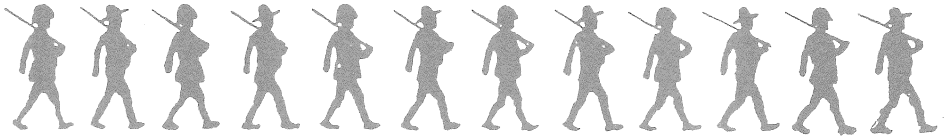
Later, a clairvoyant friend told Pole that she saw a man with a small moustache and dressed in khaki sitting in a chair nearby. That night, Pole sat down at his writing table and his pen began moving in an involuntary way. "The thoughts were not my own; the language was a little unusual," Pole explained. "Some of the ideas were not in conformity with preconceived notions of my own." Here is some of what Private Dowding had to say as he guided the pen in Pole's hand:

"Something struck, hard, hard, hard, hard, against my neck. Shall I ever lose the memory of that hardness? It is the only unpleasant incident that I can remember. I fell, and as I did so, without passing through any apparent interval of unconsciousness, I found myself outside myself! You see I am telling my story simply; you will find it easier to understand. You will know what a small incident this dying is. Think of it! One moment I was alive, in the earthly sense, looking over a trench parapet, unalarmed, normal. Five seconds later I was standing outside my body, helping two of my pals carry my body down the trench labyrinth towards a dressing station, I seemed in a dream. I had dreamt that someone or something had knocked me down. Now I was dreaming that I was outside my body. Soon I thought I shall wake up and find myself in the traverse, waiting to go on guard."

Dowding said that he followed his body as it was taken to a mortuary and stood near it all night. He lost consciousness and when he awoke his body had disappeared. He hunted for it without success. He soon came to realize he was "dead." "It seemed as if I were floating in a mist that muffled sound and blurred the vision," he continued. "Through this mist slowly penetrated a dim picture and some very low sounds. It was like looking through the wrong end of a telescope. Everything was distant, minute, misty, unreal. Guns were being fired. It might all have been millions of miles away."

After a period of feeling lonely, Dowding was greeted by his brother, who had passed over three years earlier. The brother took him to a rest hall. "Confusion at once dropped away from me," Dowding went on. "Never shall I forget my happiness. I sat in the alcove of a splendid domed hall. The splashing of a fountain reached my tired being and soothed me. The fountain played music, colour, harmony, bliss. All discordances vanished, and I was at peace."

Private Dowding struggled to understand his condition. "Evidently I am in a state of consciousness not far removed from earthly existence," he explained his environment. "I am journeying towards a wider, truer life, but I am not yet there. I have no right to speak with any authority on my experiences here. I am ashamed at having troubled you. [But] perhaps the ideas I have tried to express may help some of those who are not yet here. Anyway, my life seems quite as real as it did on earth, even more real. There is something that lives and moves within me that is not illusion. That something will forge its way into the light some day. I can but go on trying." ❋



International Spiritualist Federation Fraternal Week

BY LAURA JOY

On August 1, 2003, Marilyn Kercher, Steve Vogel and Laura Joy flew from Virginia to England and then drove to Eastbourne, on the south coast, to attend Fraternal Week of the International Spiritualist Federation. Let's begin with a bit of background.

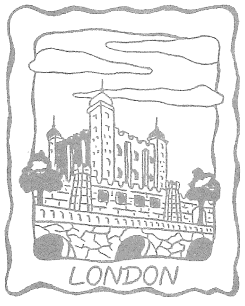
Early World Spiritualist Conferences were held, including Barcelona (1888), Paris (1889) and Liverpool (1901). Several attempts to form an international federation were made and had almost succeeded when they were interrupted by World War I. The first meeting of the International Spiritualist Federation was finally held in 1923 at Liege, Belgium. Subsequent Congresses were held in Paris, London, The Hague, Barcelona and Glasgow until the second World War stopped all international work.

It was not until 1947 that a new start was made: a small number of delegates from Great Britain, France, South Africa, Canada and Sweden met in Bournemouth, England, at the invitation of the Spiritualists' National Union of Great Britain. The enthusiasm for international unity was demonstrated by the fact that 42 nations were represented at the first postwar Congress, held in London the following year.

Modern congresses, which (unlike Fraternal Weeks) include two mornings of business meetings, have been held every second year in many countries including Sweden, France, Denmark, Scotland, England, Holland, Spain, the United States, Austria and Canada. The 28th World Congress will be held next June in northern Finland. There are both individual and group members of the Federation (including the NSAC) in some 35 countries.

The aims and objects of the I.S.F. can be found on the I.S.F. web site, http://www.isfederation.org.

All I.S.F. weeks include an afternoon's outing to a local attraction (this year we went to Hever Castle, once the home of Ann Boleyn).



Each day, from 8 a.m. to 10 or 11 p.m., was filled with workshops and lectures; demonstrations of mediumship, including trance, psychic art, and auragraphs; evenings of poetry and music; and local entertainment, such as the soloist, vocal duo and the Morris Dancers were enjoyed in Eastbourne.

Every day begins with a choice of meditation or t'ai chi, and twice a day ten or more healers give their time to do hands-on healing for anyone who requires it. During the week private readings are offered by mediums from all over the world, and 1/2 of the very reasonable fee (£20, about $34) paid for readings goes to the I.S.F.

Every I.S.F. week includes a special healing service during which names submitted by each attendee are read aloud, interspersed with readings and music, while a team of over a dozen healers offer hands-on healing to those attending.

The tutors and workshop leaders this year came from the UK, New Zealand, Sweden, Finland, Iceland, France, Switzerland, Australia, Germany and the USA (that would be Steve and me). Also represented were Israel, Belgium, Austria, Guernsey, Canada, Portugal, Spain, Italy and the Netherlands. All sessions are in English; sometimes there are one or two people who translate for others, but this is rare. One year we did have a Korean attendee who had some difficulty with English, so a Japanese member translated for him!

Each day there are three hours of group work: there is always a group for beginners, one for those interested in healing, and in recent years the other groups have concentrated on development of mental or trance mediumship. The members of each group become very close and trusted partners in their collective spiritual growth over the days.

This year the part of the week that touched me the most was meeting and working with our group's tutor, Mark Brandist. Mark had been a jockey. One day while leading the race, his horse stepped into a hole, throwing Mark into the path of the 13 horses behind him. One can only guess what kind of spiritual awakening might accompany dying on the operating table for over three minutes, lying for many months in a hospital bed, and being told one would never walk again. Despite a metal plate in his back, Mark appears whole and healthy; what I found remarkable about him was his deep spirituality and the way he was able, each day, to create a sacred and safe space for us to come together and share and learn. I have attended I.S.F. weeks for many years, but have never before experienced this depth of love and spirituality from any other teacher.

One afternoon I was privileged to present a workshop myself, which was called, "Give voice to the Spirit." I spoke about vibrations—physical, emotional and spiritual; the modern problem of "noise pollution"; the importance of sound, music, and also...silence. Individuals were invited to stand up and make a sound that expressed how they felt at that time; and we closed by proving the power of our own names, when one person sat in the circle surrounded by 35 or so people chanting their name time and time again, over-lapping, singing and sending love. It was a very powerful feeling that I only truly appreciated when I was in the center myself! ✳

ISF – Learning At A Mini United Nations Of Spiritualism

BY SONNY BING GEE, President, Golden Gate Spiritualist Church, San Francisco



No matter how exciting the page-turner novel or how enticing the multi-channeled monitor in the seat in front of you are, the air flight across the pond from California to London is inescapably a very long trip. My wife, Carla and I landed at London-Gatwick on the first of August at six a.m., not knowing that a huge heatwave was heading our way. We gratefully gobbled down a full English Breakfast which included bangers and mash, then dragged our heavy luggage to the train station, hardly able to keep down our excitement. Who needs sleep?

We were on our way to a huge learning adventure. We had booked ourselves for the I.S.F. – Fraternal Week in Eastbourne. Every other year, the International Spiritualist Federation offers a week of learning and fellowship in the UK, on the continent or in North America. During the intervening years, they hold their World Congress which includes days of business meetings intermixed with the exciting mediumship classes throughout the week. Last year, it was held in Toronto, Canada with many members of the NSAC attending.

We arrived at this year's Fraternal Week in Eastbourne not knowing exactly what to expect. Although through the ISFederation.org website we learned that the organization was formed in 1923 in Belgium and now has members from over 30 countries, we were especially relieved to know that the official language used at all gatherings is English. Presently, the major core of its membership and teachers are from the UK.

While huddled with our luggage in the spacious lobby of the seaside hotel waiting for our checkin, our first experience proved that the I.S.F. truly meant friendship, fellowship and laughter. Ann Luck in deep conversation with Pat Campbell about organizational problems needing immediate attention, both broke step to greet us and offer help and comfort. We had only met Ann Luck, the Secretary, via email and snail mail. We no longer felt like lonely immigrants on a foreign shore. We're going to enjoy this week.

There were eight class groups being offered for the week. One on Physical Mediumship, taught by the new and very capable ISF President, Marjory Kite; two on Trance; three on Mental Mediumship; and Two on Healing. Five of the eight tutors were from the UK with one each from New Zealand, Iceland and Sweden. We were each enrolled in a class according to our pre-booking questionnaire which spoke of our interests and mediumship experience.

Each morning began at 7:30 a.m. with a choice of a Tái Chi Group led by Ann Luck or a Meditation Group with different leaders. Then a big, resplendent British buffet breakfast at 8 a.m. We knew we were not going to keep our weight under control on this trip. At 9:30 a.m., we attended our assigned classes, with a half-hour coffee break at 11 a.m. Then, back to our Class Group till the 1 p.m. Lunch break. At 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. each day, a rich variety of demonstrations and workshops were the enticements. The subjects included Dreams and their meanings, Mandala and Color, Sensing the Aura, Bali --- Gods, Spirits and Mediums, Crystal Healing and so many more we wished we could split ourselves into three. We luckily attended the intensely powerful Shamanic Journey (Drumming) demonstration by Steve Vogel. Over forty in that gathering circle felt the power and blessings from our Native American Spirit guides.

An abundant Dinner at 6 p.m. is followed by Healing for those who wished it, and at 8 p.m., a major Demonstration of Trance, Clairvoyance or an evening program of entertainment and laughter.

At our very first breakfast, we realized we were in a truly multi-cultural gathering. We sat at a table of Icelandic Spiritualists and bonded immediately. Then, at lunch, we met a group of exuberant Finns whose limited English did

(Continued on next page.)

Humor to put you in
Good Spirits . . .

• Three Letter Airport Codes

It seems that much of life has been condensed to letter codes. This can become humerous as is seen on airline tags or on our e-tickets when we travel. The bureaucratic shorthand for airports sometimes combine to produce nicknames that range from the odd to the profane. Check out a few of these codes from around the world: Los Angeles, California – LAX; Fresno Yosemite, California – FAT; Lafayette, Indiana – LAF; Terre Haute, Indiana – HUF; Kirksville, Missouri – IRK; Dunedin, New Zealand – DUD; Belgrade, Serbia – BEG; Moudjeria, Martinique – MOM; Da Nang, Vietnam – DAD; Brownsville, Texas – BRO; Galena, Illinois – GAL; Blackwater, Australia – BLT; Guam – GUM; Holguin, Cuba – HOG; Hamburg, Germany – HAM; and Modesto, California – MOD.

• Feet

Science has shown that people think faster on their feet. Bet they didn't test someone who had been out holiday shopping all day. ❋



ISF – LEARNING AT A MINI UNITED NATIONS...

(Continued from previous page.)

not hide their natural warmth. We did not want to ignore our fellow Americans, so we had dinner with three wonderful NSAC Spiritualists from Massachusetts. That evening's opening ritual included the marching in of over 20 different flags representing the homelands of the nearly 150 attendees of the Fraternal Week. What an auspicious beginning.

I can only comment on the classes Carla and I attended. Each evening, Carla would enthusiastically share with me the wonderful teachings and tips from her daily classes on Mental Mediumship taught by the irrepressible Pat Campbell. I wanted to be there, too.

My class on Trance was led by a tall, clear-eyed, no-nonsense but gentle New Zealander, John Goldingham. How do you teach trance? First, he defined it, demonstrated it, then used some truly creative techniques to gently coax each of his 17 students to let go enough to allow their Spirit Guides to take over more and more each day. Every single student improved. Some exponentially.

During one of our morning classes, we even held our own International Trance Demonstration by featuring a student from the UK, Switzerland, Finland, America and Israel. The one amazing incident that made this long trip especially worthwhile and memorable was a Finnish lady going into a deep trance being taken over by a stuffy, angular but kind German medical doctor from Spirit. He offered to give healings while expounding in broken English and German. The movements, body language and voice were dramatically different from hers. Suddenly, she visibly shrank in size and demeanor as a Tibetan lady healer from Spirit took over. A fellow student sat for healing while the Tibetan Spirit spoke a language none of us present understood, at the same time deliberately pressing invisible acupuncture needles into the patient's head and body. She gently tapped them in further and later came back to each needle to twirl it. I witnessed all this from four feet away with my mouth agape and eyes unblinking. When the student-patient returned to her seat, I quietly whispered, "How did that feel?" She dreamily replied, " As each needle went in, I could feel an energy go in and through my body." Amazing. In a heartbeat I would return to a class with John Goldingham.

Regretfully, the five days of classes zipped by. The culminating evening was the traditional fun night of entertainment where small groups from different countries showed their lighter sides with music, laughter and silly skits. Laura Nimue Joy, a talented American familiar to NSAC members, sang with true sweetness and love. The UK group took a silly swipe at phony apport séances. Their skit put the truly talented British trance medium, Mark Brandis, naked in diapers only, seated in a portable cabinet. When the house lights were lowered, tiny wrapped candies and balled-up pellets of tissue were ejected out of the cabinet as apports from spirit. Such fun ended with the big raffle drawing and the final ritual of the flags each being taken out to sadly end the ISF Fraternal Week.

What's next? In June of 2004, the I.S.F. World Congress will be held at The Hotel Crazy Reindeer in Hullu Poro, Finland. Spin your atlas again and look further north. It's in cool Lapland. We're looking forward to future adventures and more learning with this mini United Nations of Spiritualism. ❋

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

Happy Holidays! *From: The San Francisco Spiritualist Society, CA*

Season Greetings! *From: The First Spiritualist Church of West Allis, WI*

May God in Spirit continue to bless each & everyone. Happy Holidays! *From: Golden Rule Spiritualist Church, Northern Lake Michigan Spiritualist Camp*

Blessings & Peace to all this Holiday Season. *From: A Summerland Spiritualist Church of the Comforter, Santa Barbara, CA*

May each soul be filled with the grace & blessings from the Infinite Source on this special day of love. *From: Janet & Tommy, Mesa, AZ*

May the happy spirits bring joy throughout the year. *From: The Third Spirit of Life, Rochester, NY*

Our wish is for holiday Peace & Love to continue throughout the year. *From: A Sanctuary of Infinite Spirit, NSAC, Smithtown, NY*

Giving you Joy, Peace & Love for Christmas & the New Year. *From: The Central Spiritualist Church of Oklahoma City, OK*

May the holiday spirit of generosity & good will bless you throughout the New Year. *From: Golden Gate Spiritualist Church, San Francisco, CA*

Our Love & Blessings to all for the holidays. *From: Spiritualist Church of Two Worlds, San Leandro, CA*

Warmest holiday wishes. *The Spiritualist Desert Church in Las Vegas, NV* continues the vision of Reverend Kit Stewart. Services are held every Sunday.

Happy Holidays! *From your Friends at the Memorial Spiritualist Church of Norfolk, VA*

The NSAC Service Clubs pray for Divine Love and Spiritual Growth for our planet this year.

Happy Holidays & Blessings in the New Year. *From: First Spiritualist Church of Salem, MA*

May the warmth & energy of Christmas bring Peace & Enlightenment. *From: The Center for Spiritual Enlightenment, NSAC, Falls Church, VA*

May the blessings of Infinite Spirit embrace you & yours this Holiday Season. *From: Frank & Kathleen Cribb, Norfolk Church, Virginia Beach, VA*

Season Greetings with Blessings of Peace & Abundance. *From: The Plymouth Spiritualist Church, Rochester, NY*

May the Spirit of the Season be with you throughout the coming year. *From: Bill, Cosie Allen and Family, Grand Rapids, MI*

Season's Greetings with wishes for Health, Happiness, and Joy during this Holiday Season and for a very Special New Year!

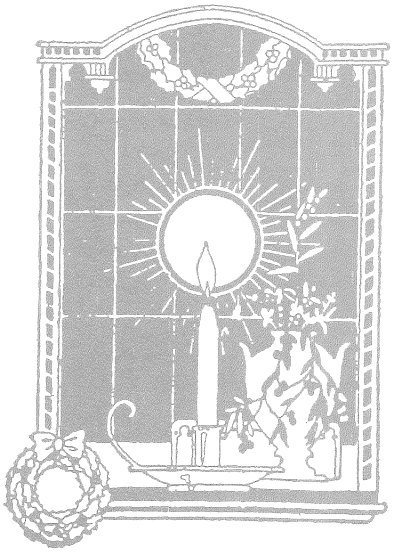
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Peace, Enlightenment and Joy are the wishes we have for you all in the New Year. *From: Central Spiritualist Church, Sacramento, CA*

We wish you all Joyous Blessings and Spiritual Light throughout the Season and the New Year. *From: Gene and Sandy Pfortmiller, Phoenix, AZ*

Holidays Of The Season



BY KEBBA BUCKLEY, M.S., O.M., Arizona

Let us share some ideas about the meanings of the December holidays. There are a number of Holy Days and festivals that various folks celebrate this month. People around the world are wishing each other:

Kelemes Karacsonyt (Hungarian)
Nadolig Llawen (Welsh)
Blessed Christmas, Feliz Navidad, Joyeux Noel
Happy Chanukah
Celebratory Kwanzaa
Happy Wren Day
Happy Boxing Day
Reflective Ramadan
Festive Solstice
and Happy Cake Day!

Cake Day, I just learned, is celebrated on December 25th, as Jesus' birthday, and some people bake a birthday cake and sing Happy Birthday to Jesus! Think of the fun we could have selecting symbolic ingredients for the cake.

Look at all these Holy Days and Festivals in one month! This year, I began to ask around, what is it with all these celebrations in December? I have gotten a few answers, and I think this will end up a long time, ever expanding research project:

1. Hey, it's a cold month in a lot of countries, and it's good to have an excuse to pull households and communities together to do something cheery.

2. We have the OVERLAY EFFECT. For example, the Kelts celebrated solstice at this time, thousands of years ago, because days would now begin to get longer. Everyone "knew" back then that the Sun was the Source, so the turning of shortened days into lengthening days was a powerful time to be celebrated.

The Romans celebrated Saturnalia at this time of year. This was a celebration of their God, Saturn, equivalent to the Greek God Cronus, who was a Titan that rules the Universe. I don't know yet WHY Saturnalia was at this time of year.

Now, the early Christian Church needed a time to celebrate Jesus's birth. We know Jesus was born in the Spring, for several technical reasons around the positions of the planets. We also know it was warm, because the shepherds were tending their flocks IN THE FIELDS. In December in the Holy Land, you don't sit out with your flock, you get your flock to a sheltered area. Now, the Spring calendar in Rome and Greece was already crowded with spring festivals, so what better time of year to celebrate the earthly birth of your God than in December, when the Romans won't even notice your celebration is for a different reason?

So this is a massive example of what I call the Overlay Effect.

Now that we've been celebrating Jesus's birth for 2000 years, what is the modern shape of this celebration and the other two major ones in this country? For many of us, this time becomes "The Holidays," a season, rather than a single Holy Day.

Everyone I know has his/her own set of experiences and feelings, stories and images, around the idea of "The Holidays." Dedicated shopping enthusiasts have already purchased décor and gifts throughout the year. Festive types are often wrapping boxes, making cookies, hanging lights, and playing holiday music, by November or earlier.

We have visions of what "The Holidays" mean and what they should be. Some people see these holidays as times for gathering with family and friends. Others see them as times for pulling communities together and remembering humankind's noblest directions. (Services.) Some hold their breath and pray for the holidays to be over. Others may feel isolated from the apparent mainstream of joy and socializing. Many love the seasonal symbols and colors. Some cringe at the commercial promotion of gifting. In lots of homes, elaborate foods, heavy feasting, and expanding waistlines are traditional. For a few, it's a time to go help serve meals at St. Vincent de Paul.

The prevalent celebration of our December traditions is, of course, what is now known as "Christmas." This is literally Christ Mass, a celebration of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, December 25th. Jesus is believed by many to be the Moshiach, the Messiah. Prophesied by many more than 2000 years ago, the Messiah was to change humankind by his appearance in human form. The advent of Jesus, and his

(Continued on page 32.)

Food, Air, and Images:
How The Spirits Communicate With Us

BY KENNETH W. JAMES, Ph.D.,
The Church of the Spirit, Illinois



Spiritualism is about wholeness, about knowing the fullness of our being, and about living without fear in a world full of confusion and questions. In our church services we have healers and mediums that work with Spirit to guide us back to a state of integrity and authority in our lives. Yet, Spiritualism is a Religion that upholds individualism and independence as well. We do not want to be followers of a medium or dependent on a healer, although the services of mediums and healers are important parts of our faith.

We know that mediums and healers receive spirit communications as part of their professional practice, but how can all Spiritualists take advantage of the messages from Spirit even if there is no healer or medium around? To understand how the spirits communicate with us right now and always, it will be helpful to look at the various ways we receive nourishment from our environment.

First, consider the need we have to build up and sustain the physical body. We must take in food and water to sustain our material form. Food and water are mysteriously converted into energy, which supports all that our material form needs to do. Since spirit and matter indwell together, food and water are as much spiritual as material. Spirit requires healthy physical forms to serve as receptacles for spirit communication, so we need to be mindful of our physical needs for nutrition and health.

Along with food, air is an important element from the environment that we need in order to function. By breathing, we take in oxygen and release carbon dioxide, making humans, along with all the animals, important links in the chain of life that sustains our planet. We take in oxygen, and convert it to carbon dioxide, which is breathed in by the plants on our globe. Together, through our use of the air around us, we sustain the entire planet and all the wonderful life forms that are around us.

So, briefly, food sustains our physical body, and air sustains not only the physical body, but the entire planet also. What's left?

The cosmos, including the world of Spirit and the Earth Plane, is the next aspect we consider as Spiritualists. What I am calling "cosmos" means the realm of Earth and Spirit, all that is. The Cosmos includes everything that is influenced by Infinite Intelligence, and that means everything. How does the human being play a part in the cosmos, and what is the role of spirit cosmically? It is our ability to use and produce images that are the key to our connection with the Spirit World, and it is through the realm of image that spirit speaks to all of us, if we can listen.

Images come at us constantly. We live today in a world of image-addiction and image-gluttony. Pick up the newspaper on any day of the week (it's worse on Sundays) and you will be bombarded by images in pictures and words, images of death, destruction, splendor and excess. We become immune to the effect of these images, but they have an effect nonetheless. Soon, we become so full of images that we can't sort any of them out. We can't decide, "Do I want this image? Where does this image come from? What does this image mean?" The images just come too fast and furious for us to practice discernment.

Yet it is in the images that spirit tries to reach us. As Spiritualists, we must become as careful about our diet of images as we are about our diet of food or the quality of our air. We cannot afford to take in, to "eat" if you will, just any image that comes along. If we are to develop the capacity to recognize spirit communication through image, we must become able to control the inflow of image that tries to invade us.

This is why when someone trains to be a medium or healer, the first step they must take is to engage in a period of meditation. But meditation is not just for mediums and healers. As Spiritualists, we recognize the importance of meditation in awakening us to spirit contact in all its earthly forms. Meditation prepares us to receive images discriminately, recognizing how spirit speaks to us through image on a daily basis.

Meditation is not anything mysterious or exceptionally holy; quite the contrary, it is the most simple and earthly thing possible. Meditation, first and foremost, is just sitting. My meditation teacher, who was a Zen priest (but nevertheless a real person—before he became a Zen priest he was a bus driver and jazz musician on the side) used to tell me that in Japanese the word for meditation is

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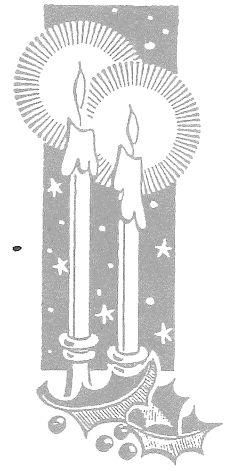
HOLIDAYS OF THE SEASON *(Continued from page 30.)*

teachings, ushered in a new era of compassionate values and visioning for the planet. (God is Love.)

This holy day, with up to a 12-day holy season, has been celebrated in many ways, throughout many cultures. In addition to religious services, there are many festive traditions for Christmas: decorated fir trees, singers "caroling" from house to house, church groups re-enacting the Nativity scene, candy canes to represent shepherd's crooks, and a mythical Saint Nicholas who delivers gifts or coal in a flying sleigh. The Christmas tree comes from an old German religion in which people literally worshiped trees as Gods. In about 300 AD, St. Bonaface proved that a key tree was not God, by chopping it down. I believe that is the beginning of people CUTTING DOWN fir trees to put them INSIDE and decorate them.

The EARLIEST celebration in history to become one of our major December holidays is what we now know as Chanukkah, the Festival of Lights. It commemorates a miracle regarding the Temple's nehr tamid, eternal light. On another level, it represents the military victory of the maccabees over the Romans, resulting in the retaking of The Temple in Jerusalem. Today, many Jews light a series of eight candles plus shamos, the center helper candle, to celebrate over an eight-day period. Chanukah always falls in December, based on lunar calendar dates.

The most recent of the religious traditions to become a December celebration in this country is Kwanzaa. "Kwanzaa" is Swahili for "first fruits." Based on a traditional African harvest festival, Kwanzaa was developed in the United States, in the 1960's, as a celebration of African heritage and the importance of family. It is always celebrated from December 26 to January 1. Seven values are celebrated: Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (Self-determination), Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative economics), Nia (Purpose), and Kuumba (Creativity). A red, black, or green candle is lit each day. ❋



FOOD, AIR, AND IMAGES: HOW THE... *(Continued from previous page.)*

"shikantaza" which translates as "just sitting." Meditation is nothing special, but it clears the screen, so to speak, and when we meditate, we become aware of the fact that images have different flavors and textures, can be fresh or stale, healthy or toxic, just as food and air can be. When we meditate, we become better able to "taste" a foul image and reject it, much as we would spit out sour milk or get rid of tainted chicken. As Spiritualists, we owe it to ourselves and our community to meditate a little each day. It doesn't have to be for hours. In fact, some of the most effective meditation can be done using something called the "Stop" exercise.

When we do the "Stop" exercise, we decide that at several random times during the day we will just "stop" right in the middle of what we are doing, and be still. We can do this in the morning in the shower (at a certain point, just stop for a minute or two, no longer, and do nothing, don't move, don't talk, just breathe and be). At work, when we take a coffee break, instead of spending the whole fifteen minutes talking with our friends or doing "stuff," "stop" for a minute and just breathe. Then go back to what you are supposed to be doing. The "stop," coupled with some ten or fifteen minute sitting meditations every few days or so, can begin the process of healing our addiction to images, and make us more aware of how images can convey messages from spirit if we just know how to listen.

The great psychologist Carl Jung talked about "synchronicity," by which he meant the recognition that some "coincidences" have a deeper meaning than we might notice at first. Images from spirit come to us that way. We may be ruminating about a problem, and spirit brings us an image, synchronistically, through a story in the newspaper or a picture on the television of someone who is coping with that same problem, and we get some ideas to help ourselves. Of course, we must be able to recognize this image from spirit as something that is set apart from all the other images that bombard us, and that is where our meditation training can help. Soon, we become aware of the deeper layer of meaning behind some of the images that greet us, and we begin to "metabolize" those meanings, and our lives become richer.

The popular musician Sting once sang a song called "There is a deeper world than this," reminding us that beneath the "empire of the Senses" there is a layer of meaning that connects us with a world beyond our world of space and time, beyond the Earth Plane. This is the world of spirit, ever present amidst the worldly things we must endure. It is through image that spirit connects with us, and connects us with that deeper realm of meaning and guidance. Let's become "image nutritionists," sensitive to the quality of images we take in, and open to deeper meanings behind some of those images, meanings that come from spirit to us. In this way, and with the support of mediumistic messages and Spiritualist healers, we can recognize and affirm that spirit speaks to us always and everywhere, if we can be aware of the messages being sent.

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Is Your Knowledge Wasted?

BY EDMUND C. BUJALSKI, Virginia

Edmund and his wife, Dee, are members of the Center for Spiritual Enlightenment in Falls Church, Virginia, and members of the Lily Dale Assembly. Edmund is a student Healer in his church, an MPI student studying for the ministry, and a Reiki Master Practitioner.

While skimming through an online Reiki magazine, I was drawn to the following story:



"As a young scholar in India, I learned a valuable lesson. At that time, I came from a privileged family, spending most of my time reading. One day, while on a journey, as the boatman took me across a wide river, I described to him how I had gathered all my knowledge.

The boatman listened attentively; then, after a time, he asked me if I could swim. 'No,' I replied, 'I cannot.'

'Then I'm afraid your knowledge is wasted,' said the boatman. 'The boat is sinking.'"

Does that story resonate with you? I know it did with me.

As I thought about it over the next several days, I came up with several different interpretations. However, as Spirit is wont to do, I was lead to Paul's letters to the Corinthians, 1-13 verses 1-3:

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and angels and have not charity, I become as a sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal.

And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge: and though I have faith so that I could remove mountains, and I have not charity, I am nothing.

And though I bestow all my good to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing."

I believe that in Paul's words we can find the true meaning of the parable of the young scholar. Of course, he speaks of charity as we speak of love, the unconditional love that is gifted to each of us by Spirit.

As we cross this river we call life, in whatever vessel we construct for ourselves on our journey of spiritual unfoldment, perhaps the question we should be asking ourselves is not "can I make it to the other side if my boat sinks," but rather, "are my thoughts, words and actions—the real elements of our vessel on this journey—truly motivated by charity?"

To fully answer that question, we must understand the full meaning of charity as the word is used by Paul in his words to the Corinthians. Joan Borysenko, Ph.D., a most gifted scientist, therapist and mystic, has given us an elegant definition:

"The blessings of charity include: humility, encouragement, forgiveness, non-judgment, generosity of spirit, innocence, kindness, compassion, flexibility and the ability to see God in all people."

Reflecting on this definition, how many of our daily actions are truly guided by charity? How many of our conversations come from kindness, compassion and generosity of spirit?

Asking myself these same questions, I must admit that I often fall short of the mark. I say this not in the mode of confession or self-denigration, but to point out and recognize that I still have a long way to go before achieving spiritual maturity. A few examples might be helpful.

How often have any of us talked about someone else to a friend, perhaps sharing a juicy tidbit of gossip or two, all with the intention of getting a rise out of our friend at the expense of the person we're talking about? A conversation motivated by compassion and kindness? I don't think so.

Or have you ever taken satisfaction in thinking that you are smarter, or more knowledgeable, or even "more spiritual" than someone else? Non-judgmental? Doesn't quite sound like it.

How many times have you felt sorry for yourself, or gotten really angry, because at one time you "went the extra mile" to help someone, but when you needed that person's help, he or she wasn't there for you? Forgiveness and flexibility? Maybe not this one time.

We can all add to these examples. If you think about it, it will become obvious that a good many of our thoughts, words and actions do not originate from charity. It follows then that we might all have a little room for improvement in our lives.

"Aha," you say, "why should I bother to improve? Doesn't the Eighth Principle in our Declaration of Principles state that '...the doorway to reformation is never closed against any soul here or hereafter?' Why be too hard on myself now, I can work on this in the hereafter?"

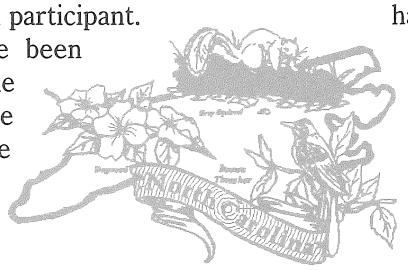
One can't argue with the truth expressed in the Eighth Principle. I am looking forward to being in spirit, though I am not seeking to have that experience just yet. When thinking about crossing over to the next life, however, I'd

(Continued on next page.)

GREETINGS FROM NORTH CAROLINA

The Monday evening circle that the Rev. Gail Griffith, NST, conducts in her home in Hendersonville, North Carolina, will soon celebrate its third anniversary.

Gail writes, "We are proud of the longevity of our group. It is a tribute to the commitment of each participant. The core members of our group have been together since the beginning. Some come from here in town, others from Asheville and Brevard, and one even drives more than an hour up mountain roads from Spartanburg, SC. We work from the premise that we are all students learning and growing together."



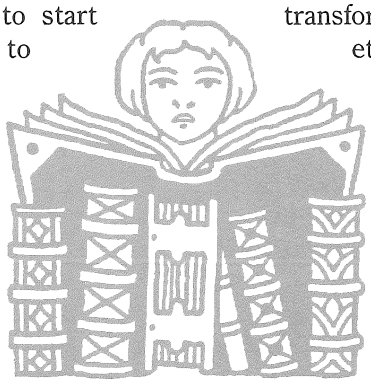
In addition to the circle, Gail acts as a resource person for people who live in the Carolinas and Tennessee, but at long distances. Between her weekly advertisement in an Asheville paper and the NSAC website, she gets requests for information about Spiritualism and mediumship. She responds by telephone and e-mail, sends packets of materials, including copies of the *Summit* and *Spotlight*, and forwards the NSAC Newsletter.

Gail was recently invited to be a member of the circle of trustees of The United Religions Initiative of Henderson County, representing her faith tradition, Spiritualism. She has presented a program on Spiritualism, serves on the program committee, and will participate in the Interfaith Service on New Year's Eve. "The purpose of the United Religions Initiative is to promote enduring daily interfaith cooperation, to end religiously motivated violence and to create cultures of peace, justice and healing for the Earth and all living beings." The URI was born out of the interfaith service held to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations in 1995. ❋

IS YOUR KNOWLEDGE WASTED?

(Continued from previous page.)

like to think that I will do so at a reasonable level of spiritual development. After all, one of the things we learn as Spiritualists is that the spiritual state of development that we are in when our physical bodies die is the same state of development we will be in when we continue life as spirits. I would like to think of my spiritual state when I transition as being such that there is less for me to need to work on in spirit, leaving more time to start enjoying things in the "Summerland," to borrow a name for the Spirit World from Andrew Jackson Davis.



Let me explain a bit further.

Two of the Natural Laws that we study are the Law of Compensation and the Law of Retribution. The Law of Compensation basically says that we are "paid back" for what we do in this physical life, either here or hereafter. While this can have positive and negative implications, it is usually associated with rewards earned by our good deeds in this life. The Law of Retribution can be loosely translated as "what goes around comes around." I think we all know what that means.

Now, take these two laws, laws which go to the consequences of our actions, and combine them with the core of our seventh Principle, "...we make our own happiness or unhappiness as we obey or disobey Nature's physical and spiritual laws." Doesn't this lead us back to living our lives by being motivated out of charity?

The reality is that thinking, speaking and acting out of charity are in our own best interest. Doing the right thing at all times is always serving our own needs best.

In further support of this thesis, it is reported that all people who have near death encounters and who have a recollection of a conscious experience while "dead" report three consistent "lessons" that they learned. One is that when we cross over, we are not instantly morally transformed, but rather that we are in the same ethical and moral states as when we died. In reviewing their lives in this "near dead" state, they all add that it is not so much *what* they did in their lives that was important but rather what the *motivations* were behind their actions.

It is assumed that everyone reading this wants to be happy, not only now but also in the hereafter. We know as Spiritualists that each of us is responsible for our own happiness or unhappiness. It seems to me that the surest way to insure that we make our own happiness is to examine our hearts and constantly strive to think, speak and act out of charity. This charity should not only be expressed toward others, but also toward ourselves.

You are invited to spend some time meditating on how to bring more charity into your life. To paraphrase President Kennedy, "Ask not what you can do for others, but ask whether what you do for—and say to—others is motivated by true charity."

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The Hug

By Norman Burnikel

It's wondrous what a hug can do
A hug can cheer you when you're blue
a hug can say "I love you so
Oh how I hate to see you go,"
A hug is "welcome back again" and
"Great to see you, where have you been?"
A hug can soothe a small child's pain,
And bring a rainbow after rain.
A HUG – there's no doubt about it,



We scarcely could survive without it.
A hug delights, warms and charms,
It must be why God gave us arms.
Hugs are super for fathers and mothers,
Sweet for sisters, great for brothers,
And chances are some family aunts
Love them more than potted plants.
So stretch them arms without delay
And give someone a HUG TODAY.

My First Christmas In Heaven

Author Unknown

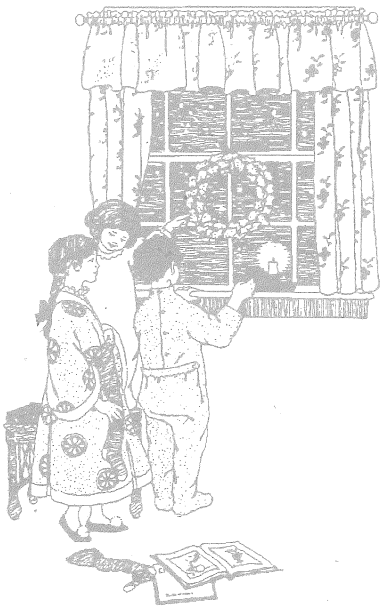
I see the countless Christmas trees
around the world below
With tiny lights, like Heaven's stars,
reflecting on the snow.

The sight is so spectacular,
please wipe away the tear
For I am spending Christmas
with Spirit in Heaven this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs
that people hold so dear,
But the sounds of music can't compare
with the Christmas choir up here.

I have no words to tell you,
the joy their voices bring,
For it is beyond description,
to hear the angels sing.

I know how much you miss me,
I see the pain inside your heart,
But I am not so far away,
we really aren't apart.



So be happy for me, dear ones,
you know I hold you dear,
And be glad I'm spending Christmas
with Spirit in Heaven this year.

I sent you each a special gift,
from my Heavenly home above,
I sent you each a memory
of my undying love.

After all, love is a gift,
more precious than pure gold,
It was always most important
in the stories we've been told.

Please love and keep each other,
as God has said to do,
For I can't count the blessing or love
God has for each of you.

So have a Merry Christmas
and wipe away that tear,
Remember, I am spending Christmas
with Spirit in Heaven this year.

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Declaration of Principles

National Spiritualist Association of Churches

1. We believe in Infinite Intelligence.

2. We believe that the phenomena of Nature, both physical and spiritual, are the expression of Infinite Intelligence.

3. We affirm that a correct understanding of such expression and living in accordance therewith, constitute true religion.

4. We affirm that the existence and personal identity of the individual continue after the change called death.

5. We affirm that communication with the so-called dead is a fact, scientifically proven by the phenomena of Spiritualism.

6. We believe that the highest morality is contained in the Golden Rule: "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 soul here or hereafter.

9. We affirm that the precepts of Prophecy and Healing are Divine attributes proven through Mediumship.



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