THE NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST SUMMIT

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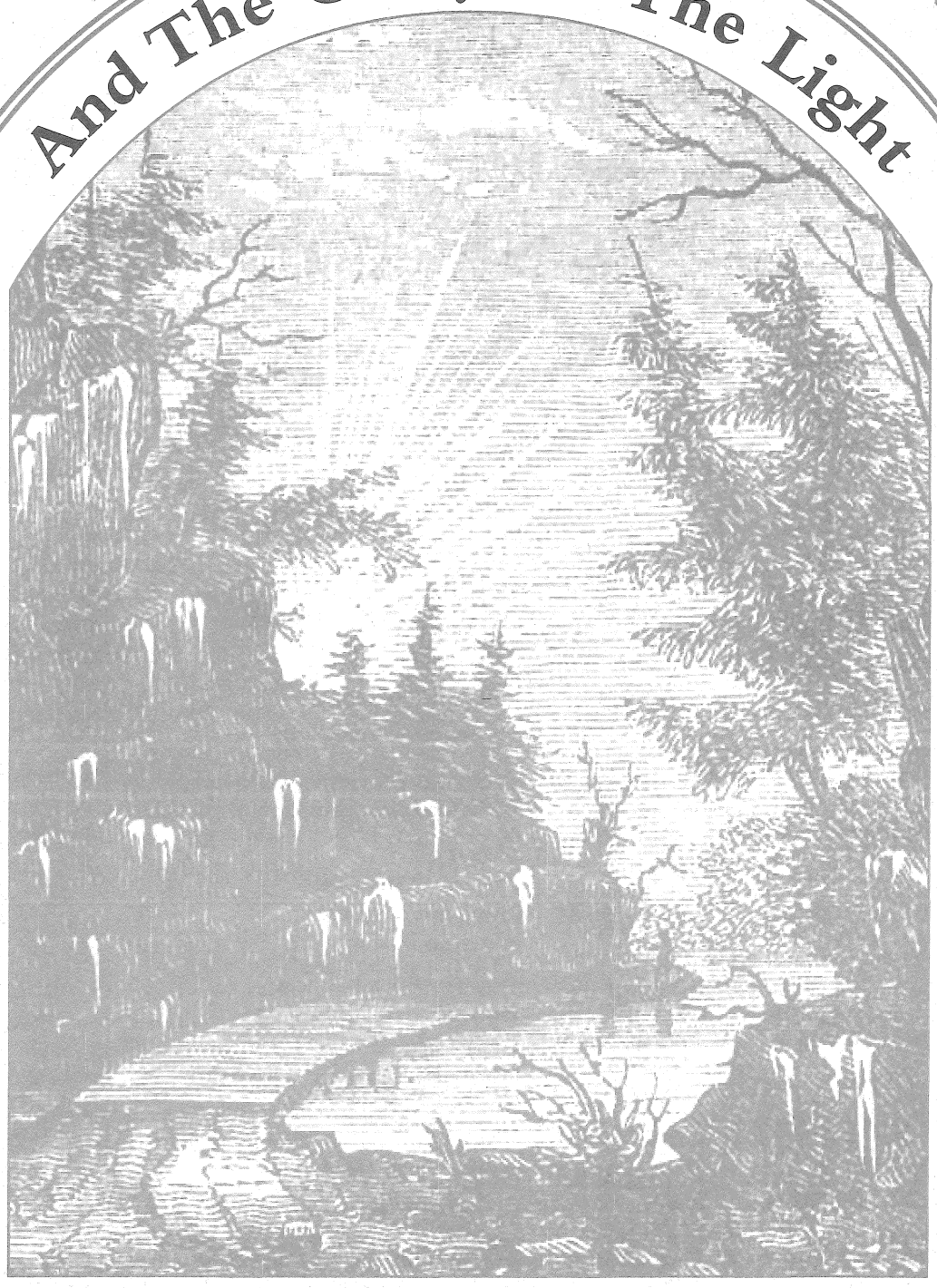
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And The Glory Of The Light



Shall Be Revealed!

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A Quiet Wonder

LAURA LEE PERKINS, Editor

Every area of our life experience is open to self-scrutiny - which can bring forth positive changes - or self-scrutiny can build internal barriers that might seem difficult to overcome. During the holidays we often visit with friends and relatives whom we seldom see throughout the rest of the year. We wear our fancy clothes, we cook delicious food, and we might travel long distances in vehicles with other people in constant conversation. During the holidays our emotions run high, and we have internal expectations of sharing joy, love and happiness. But these holidays also bring many moments of increased stress related to choosing and wrapping gifts, sending out holiday cards, extra grocery shopping and cooking, over-extended finances due to increased oil/gas bills, extra groceries and the responsibility of choosing and wrapping and delivering all of those presents! It is important to keep our time management skills sharpened. When we become over-tired, stress really can have a profound effect on us internally. Spirit will guide us; ask what is important to do *today* and save the other chores and duties until later, when you have a rested mind and body.



Our internal check-and-balance system comes from a combination of our intellect (mind) and our inner knowing (spirituality). When we have achieved some level of balance regarding mind and spiritual connections, which we arrive at only after honest internal evaluations, our bodies' receptors are tuned and prepared to receive powerful spiritual learning experiences. We have these opportunities in abundance during the holidays.

Neuro-researcher Candace Pert has stated that *your mind is in every cell in your body.* No wonder our intuitive functioning can be so accurate! By expanding our mind and preparing ourselves for deeper connections, we eliminate so much internal clutter and confusion from our life experience. We are able to live more within the realm of reality, and can therefore deal with things *as they are.* It is about living within the Truth; we stop self-defeating rationalizations, which can abound during the holiday season. Just listen to the conversations at any party or gathering – about being overweight, underfunded, too stressed, and on and on. Doesn't feel very spiritually based, does it?

During the holiday season, we are also often presented with relatives' impressions of ourselves. Do we see ourselves as others view us? Have we been delusional in our thinking, or have we been living in the present with a full acceptance of personal responsibility? Are we a living, breathing example of our Spiritualist Principles? Are we careful not to gossip, not to say anything negative about another? Do we come from a place of forgiveness and love in our conversations? These family gatherings can really be wonderful – or they can leave us feeling different from others, isolated and alone.

Remember back to times when you have heard another say how good they always felt after seeing you? Those memories illuminate that you can and will bring joy to others this holiday season. However, also remember that anything negative, anything that brings up the feeling of being less than totally accepted, should be discarded from your heart and mind immediately. Do not hold yourself hostage to others' negativity in any way. You *know your own intentions,* and when we come into any situation with a pure heart, our path is paved with the yellow glow of Spiritualism. Spread that glow through your shining smile this holiday season.

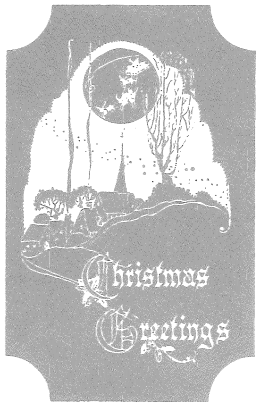
And then there are those times when we are informed about something that jars us to the core. Often when families gather, it is a time to share gossip about others. We might be told something, and asked *not to repeat it to other family members.* However, when we *know* something, we can feel a sense of clarity which can be peaceful - or it can also be jarring. How often we have heard, "It is really better for so-and-so not to know." We each have to decide if we are going to listen and not respond, or if we are going to respond in ways that demonstrate that we want to live from a position of love and caring. Family dynamics can be very powerful; search out those that are always supportive and loving.

Holiday conversations can leave us overflowing with others' concerns and needs. Rather than feeling loved and fulfilled, we often end up feeling depressed and exhausted. Unlike with our spiritual work, where the more we know, the hungrier we are to keep on going...after the holidays, we might need some solace to regroup internally. *Remember to honor thy self!*

(Continued on next page.)

A QUIET WONDER *(Continued from previous page.)*

During the holidays, we all yearn to reconnect with those who have transitioned; that is a normal desire. When we perceive that a spiritual experience brings forth a connection from a loved one on the other side, the insight often brings forth joy which includes both involvement and awe. How much of this experience can we share with our family members? Will they understand or roll their eyeballs? Are we choosing to be surrounded by those who share our beliefs? Can you wear the garment of our *faith* at your holiday gatherings? Cloak yourself in it before you go out the door, and allow it to warm you in the *knowing that life never ends.*



Each personality combines with its life experience to serve as a mentor in the world. Rather than our responsibilities decreasing as we age, the responsibility of serving as a mentor seems to increase as the years go by. It is in the formation of our inner spiritual knowing that we develop wisdom, and that wisdom comes from experience. And, as Spiritualists, we welcome the opportunity to be responsible.

Is your source of inspiration direct; do you know where to go both physically and internally to tap into the source of eternal well-being during these holidays? One day I understood exactly what experiencing direct contact meant as I sat just outside of Acadia National Park at Seawall where thousands of pinpoints of light danced *glory hallelujah* on the surface of the ocean. The temperature was perfect; the sun was glinting off the incoming waves as silent sailing ships and lumbering lobster boats bobbed on the swells. I could see crew members pulling on sail riggings and hauling traps filled with lobsters. Every person and every boat seemed to be dancing on the water in the joy of the Light.

The light on the water that day felt like **a quiet wonder**. Like so many powerful internal moments, it was bathed in quietude. It had the gift of being both intimately personal and totally universal. The fact that time stood still in these moments of relatedness seemed so simple, and two hours felt long and extended, yet still and calm as I sat, entranced by the warm light, on the cool rocks.

I was reminded of the delusion of separateness – the idea that one's thoughts and feelings are isolated. Nonsense! Know that you are never separate. We are part of the whole; experiencing oneself as separate is the process of creating a personal prison. You are *never separated from Spirit.*

That moment of light on the water was a moment of stepping into the exploration of mystery. *Humans struggle to embrace the mysterious. Invite the mystery to dinner. Feed it, digest it, talk with it and leave the door ajar so that it can come and go as a welcome visitor to your consciousness during this holiday season.* When your knowledge enhances your awe, then you are onto something really BIG. As you enter into direct communication with the mystery, your knowledge will expand and you will grow into new awareness and deeper connection with Spirit. Happy Holidays! •

TNS Price Increase – PLEASE READ



After no increase in subscription costs for ***The National Spiritualist Summit*** in over a decade, the following changes were approved at our NSAC 2008 Annual Convention in Phoenix, Arizona:

1. *The National Spiritualist Summit* magazine will be printed and mailed six times during the year (rather than monthly).
2. *The National Spiritualist Summit* will be expanded from 36 pages to 48 pages.
3. Annual subscription fees will increase; these increases will be phased in gradually. Your increase will be effective on your renewal date, which is printed on your address label. Multiple subscriptions (5 to same address) save $50 per year.
   - 1 Year U.S. Single Subscription @ $30.00
   - 1 Year U.S. Multiple Subscription (5 to same address) @ $100.00
   - 1 Year Canada Single Subscription @ $45.00 (U.S. currency)
   - 1 Year Canada Multiple Subscription (5 to same address) @ $175.00 (U.S. currency)
   - 1 Year Europe/Other Countries Single Subscription @ $65.00 (U.S. currency)

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Given inspirationally to THE REV. CAROL A. BROWN, NST, Virginia

What gifts have we been given? We tend to think of the following gifts as being wonderful gifts given to us by Infinite Intelligence so we can fulfill a great purpose!

1. The gift of being an artist...to create beautiful sculptures or paintings.
2. The gift of being a dynamic orator – with the ability to capture an audience's attention and hold them in rapt attention.
3. The gift of being a famous actor, dancer or singer.
4. The gift of writing a best-selling novel.

We are usually looking for a gift that will inspire humankind! As I was receiving this initial thought, I was then told, "And then there are 'the other gifts'."

The gift of a big appetite! Many of us are personally acquainted with this particular gift – and right away we probably think of the negative connotations of the word appetite, such as overeating, alcoholism, and an appetite for speeding (and getting tickets)!

And then I thought," Why would anyone want the gift of a big appetite?" And I heard, "We'll tell you why. You have a choice as to how to use this gift – it's up to you!" And I realized the gift of a big appetite can be a wonderful gift! An appetite for enjoying friends, music, laughter, playing with children, reading, loving, helping, gardening, swimming, walking in the fall leaves, living a healthy lifestyle, etc.



What a wonderful gift - **AN APPETITE FOR LIFE! Gifts of the Spirit:**

The Gift of Life

1. What is the purpose of my life?
2. What is my gift?
3. When will I know my gift and how I should use it to fulfill the purpose of my life?

PURPOSE OF OUR LIFE:

We are told that some of the purposes for our lives are to recognize that Infinite Intelligence is present everywhere – throughout all nature – and to recognize the God within all people and all nature. When we begin to recognize that God is manifesting through all people and all nature, we begin to understand no and that we, truly, are one with God, one with all humankind and one with nature – and act accordingly.

We may ask, "What is my gift, and how do I recognize my gift(s)?"

By living in accordance with natural law! As we learn about natural law we recognize and realize how everything we do impacts our life and causes/creates our future. The Law of Cause and Effect – what we sow we shall reap.

The Law of Retribution. Do we sow seeds of worry, anger, take advantage of others?

If so, we will surely attract to us exactly the same kinds of things we have sown. The Law of Attraction ensures we will attract to us that which we are. The Law of Thought also plays a role in this drama. Thoughts are things – "as a man thinketh, so shall it be" – we give energy to the thoughts we dwell on and, by doing so, we give life to (we create) exactly the things we focus on and think about.

The Law of Compensation. Or do we sow confidence, love, and help others?

If so, we will surely attract to us the fruits of our actions. Confidence begets confidence, good deeds beget good deeds; love begets love; good intentions beget good intentions. We will attract others of like vibration. The Law of Attraction, Law of Vibration, Law of Love—all play a part in what is returned to us.

Life can be discordant – like a musical band where everyone is focused only on their own self and the music they are playing (think of each band member playing different notes, forming dissonant chords.) *or*

Life can be harmonious – like a good band or a symphony orchestra – where each person considers what they are playing, and how it affects the rest of the musicians/music, creating harmony and upliftment.

As we become more aware of the natural laws and begin to live our lives in accordance with those laws, we will begin to recognize our gifts.

You've heard the old saying "those that have – get more!" Well, that old saying is absolutely true. It is the same as the saying *As you give so shall it be given unto you.*

As we develop our awareness and understanding of Infinite Intelligence, natural law and our relationship with all things, we will also begin to develop spiritually. We will be given greater understanding, and we will be given more gifts according to that enhanced understanding.

What gifts have you been given that will inspire humankind, and how will you use your gifts? That, too, will be made clear to you as you grow in your understanding and (righteousness) right-use-ness of your gifts.

We have been given the **GIFT OF LIFE**, the **GIFT TO CREATE**, the **GIFT OF FREEWILL** and the **GIFT OF CHOICE.**

Our GIFT OF LIFE - and choosing to live
that life according to Natural Law (God's Laws) –
will create harmony, beauty and peace in our lives,
and that will have an effect upon and inspire others. •

Holiday

Happy Holidays and peace and prosperity for all in 2009. *A Sanctuary of Infinite Spirit, NSAC – Lake Ronkonkoma, NY*



Joy and Blessings during the holidays and throughout the New Year. *Rev. Sandy Pfortmiller – Phoenix, AZ*

With Spiritual Love from our home to yours. Happy Holidays from *The Spiritualist Church of Awareness – Orlando, FL*

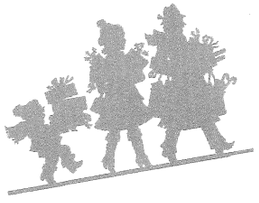
May Spirit pave your path in 2009. Blessings, *Marilyn J. Awtry – Sanford, FL*



Wishing you the Spiritual Blessings of the Holiday Season to our congregation and all members of NSAC. *Church of Divine Grace, NSAC – Edgewood, WA*



Happy Holidays and Spirit Blessings from *The First Spiritualist Church – Salem, MA*



Blessed Holiday to "Circle of Grace and NSAC" from *Atira & Robin – Seattle, WA*

May the spirit of this season be with you forever. *Reverend Carol & Mr. Lawrence Brown – Hampton, VA*

Best wishes for a Blessed New Year! *Ginnie & Peter Berg – Pflugerville, TX*

May the Love, Light, and Truth of Spiritualism shine through each one of us during this Holiday Season and throughout the New Year. *Laura Lee Perkins & Kenneth L. Green – Sun City West, AZ*



Blessings and Love to All. *Lelia E. Cutler – Norfolk, VA*



Happy Holidays! We wish each of you a joy-filled and prosperous New Year. *Your Friends at Memorial Spiritualist Church – Norfolk, VA*

May Spirit fill you with love and light always. *Barbie, Carol, Kathy, Pat & Valerie – Livermore, CA*

Greetings

Greetings for a Blessed Holiday Season and a Joyous and Prosperous New Year.
California State Spiritualist Association

Red shoes tip-toe through the house / Smells of turkey necks, mashed potato and pumpkin pie / Giggles galore / Dogs sliding on floors into gifts under our tree / Voices of friends and family raised in cheer / Love abounds. May your holidays be filled with fun and joy.
Cosie Allen and Alice Robertson
– Las Vegas, NV

Happy Holidays!
Golden Gate Spiritualist Church
– San Francisco, CA

May each of you be blessed with Joy of the Spirit.
Church of the Living Spirit –
Phoenix, AZ

Wishing you the awareness of the love, light and healing that is Infinite Intelligence.
Lily Dale Spiritualist Church
– Lily Dale, NY

May the laws of Nature bring you the best, now and always. The light within continues to shine on all in Nature.
Love and Light,
Spiritualist Desert Church, NSAC
– Las Vegas, NV

Our wish for you this year and always is for peace, joy, abundance & prosperity in all facets of your being.
Blessings – *Tom & Kitty Rugani*
– Lily Dale, NY

Wishing all of you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.
Christabelle Spiritualist Church –
Cherry Valley, IL

May the love, lights and laughter experienced during the Holiday Season be with you always!
The Spiritualist Church of Indianapolis, IN

Merry Christmas and Seasons' Blessings.
Cherry Valley Spiritualist Camp
– Cherry Valley, IL

May your spirit guides lead you to emotional fulfillment and financial prosperity in 2009.
Blessings, *Frank & Kathleen Cribb*
– Virginia Beach, VA

May your Holiday Season be blessed with Love, Peace, Joy and Harmony. Love & Light,
Jim & Jan Watson
– Virginia Beach, VA

May the love of Spirit fill your heart with joy and inspire you to follow the Light.
Jeannie & Ron Lerch
– Casselberry, FL

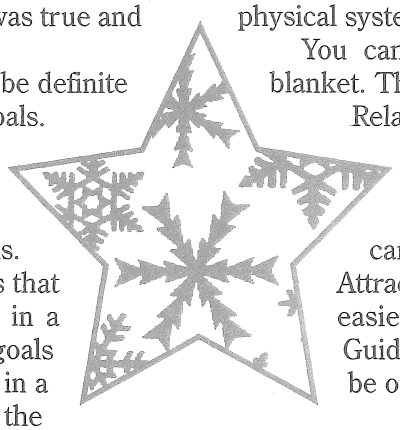
Discovering God's Guiding Goals

REV. DREW VOGT, California

Are you reaching your dreams and goals? Would you like it to be easier? Smoother?

A while back I was facing a major life change. I felt stuck and a good friend of mine said, "Drew, right now you're like a ship without a rudder." Ouch, it was true and it felt awful.

Have you ever felt like that? There might be definite blocks that keep you from achieving your goals. People often feel that the harder they reach for something, the more elusive it becomes. But there are easier ways to achieve wants, deep desires, and positive goals.



Let me share with you three simple points that I've found to be effective in achieving goals in a spiritual manner. I'll be clear here. Some goals come from the ego-self, which desires to stay in a safe comfort zone. Other goals come from the intelligent, loving God-Force, which is *out there* making new galaxies while simultaneously *inside of us* spurring us toward good.

First?...**God's Guiding Goals provide direction.** Goals that come from God put us on a path that leads upward rather than downward. This upward path feels calming, intentional. Because being in the flow of God's guiding influence feels right, it feels purposeful! This is partially because when we are aligned with spiritual pursuits, we are aligned with our highest and best self. It is Spirit, not ego.

This Spirit-self that we each have is strong enough to explore new goals and to achieve new heights. This bold way of living is *caused* by what I refer to as our spiritual DNA, which means, we're designed like the rest of the universe—progressing, expanding and moving forward! How fantastic!

What a masterpiece *you* are! You're higher up the food chain than a rock, a tree, or even a horse. You perceive spiritual things, receive divine guidance, and choose to act on it. Why? That's the way you're designed. So God's Guiding Goals provide direction that fulfills our spiritual DNA—our destiny!

Second?...**Fear shuts down, love opens up.** We all know that in fear we can freeze up or in desperation grasp for solutions. The human system isn't designed to prosper in fear. Divine love opens our mental and physical systems to good.

You can receive this divine love like a cozy blanket. The effects will be soothing and tranquil. Relaxation of your mind and body will open you up to receive divine hunches and ideas that will lead you forward. The more open you are, the more you can receive. For example, the Law of Attraction can bring you that new car in the easiest way possible. But let your Spirit Guides know you want a blue one, so you'll be open to receiving the blue one!

This is the beauty of Spiritualism - *It's personal!* Not only are Universal Laws on your side, but loved ones in the spiritual realm who know your preferences are working to make you happy. So love opens us up to new solutions and steps to where we want to go.

Third...**God's Guiding Goals provide us with a new start.** It's a fresh start away from the ego-driven self. Accepting God's goals brings in new experiences, new options and new inspirations. These become fresh enthusiasm that wakes us up in the morning with hope in our heart and a sparkle in our eye! For God is in us, around us, and manifesting through our desires! New inspiration can surge through your thoughts, heart and body fueling your new successes. You are now in the universal flow of progress!

If we pray this simple prayer each day, we will live in a healthy state of gratitude:

Thank you, Spirit, for giving us God's Guiding Goals.

• • •

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I know of no more encouraging fact than the unquestionable ability of man to elevate his life by conscious endeavor.

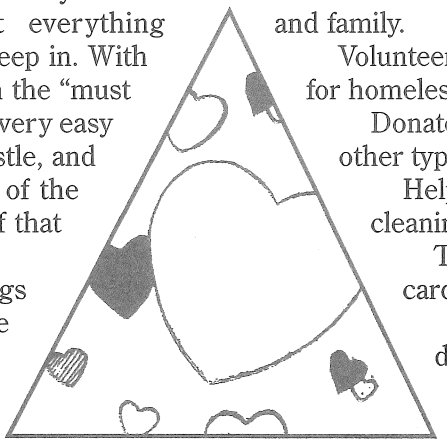
– Henry David Thoreau

The Gift of Self

SHEILA LEEDY, Arizona

It seems like just yesterday that the dog days of summer were beating down with the warm, in Arizona *hot,* rays of the sun. And yet here we are, our thoughts turning to time spent with friends and family as the morning brings in the cool air and the anticipation of the holidays. Of course, I'm sure in other parts of the country it may be more like *cold* air!

All the same, now is the time we start making our "to do" lists and checking them twice. We may start to wonder how we are going to get everything accomplished and the stress starts to creep in. With the retail stores' ads bombarding us with the "must haves" for all your holiday shopping, it is very easy to get all caught up in the hustle and bustle, and perhaps lose sight of the true meaning of the holiday season. How *did* we lose sight of that meaning?



Christmas time means different things to different people, but at the end of the day I bet the definition will be quite similar. Time spent with family and friends, good food , and, yes, gifts all play a role in this time of year. Sadly, this is not the case for everyone. We know there are many without friends or family or warm beds to sleep in or enough to eat. It is not my intention to sound depressing or to bring you down. If you will take a moment to reflect upon this, I would like to offer a challenge to you for this holiday season!

Still with me? Great! I knew you would be! As we Spiritualists know, **the greatest gift is love.** And for this holiday time, I would like to challenge you to go a step beyond remembering those in need in your prayers. Will you not consider giving the gift of yourself this year? You may be thinking, " I don't have the extra money or even the time." Hmmm..I have a few ideas of ways to spread love and good cheer this season. Most require no money, and really won't take too much time. You may even want to use some of these "gift" ideas for your own friends and family.

Volunteer a couple of hours at your local shelter for homeless people or animals.

Donate food or clothing to a senior center or other type of care facility.

Help a friend or relative do their shopping or cleaning if they are unable to do it themselves.

Turn off the TV and make Christmas cards or ornaments with your kids.

Volunteer to help at your church with decorating or cleaning for the up coming service.

There are numerous ways you can bring joy and love to others in your community during this holiday season. I'm sure that ideas are lighting up your mind like a Christmas tree right now. Whatever you do, I trust that your spirit forces will guide you and the love shared will be worth much more than the time and effort spent.

I wish for you a holiday season full of love and special blessings. •



A circle of friends
A family of love
Working together
With spirit above
To find a way
To shine loving light
Seeking peace, love and harmony
With such delight

Listening deeply
With hearts wide open
Feel them all here
By our side
Helping us
With this task at hand
Now this family
Has a loving plan

– Marsha Hall, Florida / Stands on Stone Spirit Woman



A Visit to Lily Dale

DANIEL O'ROURKE, CH, New York

This is a lecture given in the Lily Dale Auditorium on July 19, 2008 by Daniel O'Rourke.

I'd like to start with a few questions. Why did you come to Lily Dale? To this spiritual place? Why are you here this afternoon? What brought you here on this hot, humid day in July? I suspect there are many, complicated answers to these questions, but it may help to think about the events and motives, which led us to this auditorium on this particular afternoon.

First, let me say that I believe there are no accidents. With Carl Jung, I believe in synchronicity – that nothing happens only by happenstance. There is no such thing as pure luck. On the contrary, there is an overriding purpose, which uses events to shape our lives. All of us are meant to be here.

We are here, of course, by choice. Even if someone twisted our arm, eventually we said, yes. We have free will and for one reason or another have chosen to come. Besides free will, however, other factors have shaped that choice. Spirit's nudgings and God's grace (they are really the same) are chief among them.

Some reasons for coming to Lily Dale are nobler than others. Some motives are more self-centered, others less so. Some more of the ego; others more of the Spirit. Some motives freer; others more coerced. No matter, the Infinite Spirit God uses all our tangled, imperfect motivation to draw us closer to what we are destined to be.

Many of us came to Lily Dale looking for messages or healings. They are often two sides of the same coin, and in one way or another you will receive that – perhaps from the clairvoyant on this platform, perhaps at the inspiration stump, or in a private reading. Others will receive that message differently. Not from a medium, but directly from Spirit. Perhaps during a mindful walk on the grounds, our spirit guides or guardian angels will enlighten us. Unbidden, a candle will leap into flame in our heads. Where before there was darkness, we will see light. Or maybe it will happen waiting in silence or sitting on a bench in the Healing Temple. All of a sudden – or perhaps gradually – we will see a truth we need for our lives. Or perhaps your message will come from this lecture.

Some, though, didn't come for a message or healing at all. Like many visitors before you, you are skeptical, agnostic – unconvinced. Perhaps you came to humor your spouse, your lover or friend. No matter. You are in a holy place and grace, like the morning dew, will settle on your soul. Hopefully it will refresh it. Maybe you will not know it consciously. Or perhaps you will sense it dramatically, and though you came to scoff, you'll remain to pray.

Messages

Those who get messages might be surprised at the information given. The message might not be the answer for which they had hoped – or again, it could be. Perhaps our deep grief, our paralyzing pain surrounding the loss of a loved one will be healed by the words of a medium, convincing us with overwhelming evidence that our loved one lives on in Spirit – immortal. Such healings happen often here.

The message, however, could be different than we anticipated. Perhaps we were wondering about our finances, and the words from Spirit focused more on the love in our hearts than the money in our bank accounts. Perhaps we were concerned about a romantic relationship and the message we take home is more about our relationship with ourselves. Such graces are common here; be open to them.

Maybe we were wondering if we will grow old together with our spouse, and the message is an ambiguous "perhaps." Because it is more important that you grow closer together, and grow closer to the Infinite Spirit. After all, this life, with its cares and worries, is fleeting, like the blink of a firefly on a summer night. But our spirits are immortal – predestined for unending life.

Perhaps we came here wondering about possessions and will leave thinking about grace. Perhaps we came worrying about our body's health, and leave here determined to feed our spirits and our souls.

Material and Spiritual

Let me say a word about body and soul, about the spiritual and the material. They are blended together in our lives like vegetables in a stew. There is nothing on earth that is purely material – and nothing purely spiritual. They are intertwined. It would take a spiritual brain surgeon to separate them. Of course, we make intellectual distinctions between them, and the distinctions are valid enough. We should remind ourselves, however, that the

(Continued on next page.)

spiritual and material on earth do not exist independent of each other. Spirit incarnates in the flesh of our daily lives and the events of these lives provide the opportunities for us to advance spiritually.

But what do we focus on? Stuff or Spirit? Admittedly they are parts of the whole, but what do we want from this visit? Consoling words or Truth? Sometimes they are the same, but John of the Cross, that great Spanish mystic, wrote, "We should seek the God of consolations, not the consolations of God." We should not be seeking signs and wonders (although they may be given us); we should be looking for strength and grace to live our lives more mindfully, authentically and spiritually.

Most of us are too concerned about the surface and not concerned enough about the depths of our lives. We are too worried about our human relationships and not concerned enough about our relationship with Spirit. I'm not saying that surface things such as finances, success and relationships are not important. Of course they are. In this lifetime they are very important, and we work out our destiny in and through them. But by far the things of spirit are more important.

Shakespeare said, "All the world's a stage and all the men and women merely players." And in another play, "We are such stuff as dreams are made on; and our little life is rounded with a sleep." What was Shakespeare saying? The surface things, which consume so much of our energy and time, are the stuff of dreams. Ultimately, they are not real or not as real as we think. They are unsubstantial. The Hindus call it Maya – illusion. Shakespeare and the Hindus have a point. There is something much more substantial than money, pleasure, cars and jobs. It's the life in our souls.

Here's another way to look at existence. It's not from Shakespeare's Europe but from another continent. "There is a Dream (capital "D") – there is a Dream dreaming us," an African bushman once told Laurens Van der Post, an author who has taught us much about the soul of Africa. It is the Spirit God who dreams us.

The Spirit God is the Main Reality. Indeed the mystics and saints (and the Spiritualist principles) tell us it is the only reality. All the things we worry about; health, wealth, status and success are less important, or at least only as important in as much as they can bring us to God.

Adversity – Our Greatest Teacher

In our finite grasp of our lives, sometimes the things we want changed are the things that help us most. Often adversities are our greatest teachers. Some of the lessons we are here on earth to learn we'd never learn if we did not have pain – or even tragedy. The Irish have a proverb, "We learn in suffering what we teach in song." Often only distance gives us perspective and wisdom. Woody Allen once asked, "Do you know the difference between tragedy and comedy?" His answer, "Time." It is living that teaches us to laugh and sing about the things that once made us cry.

Often we come to Lily Dale and Spirit, seeking a cure from the things which vex our flesh or perplex our souls. I know I did – and still do. We want God to remove the sand from the oyster, but Spirit wants to grow the pearl. These irritants are Spirit's gift and the spirits will not wash them away. Spirit offers the healing, which helps us bear the pain, grow the pearl, and grow our souls. That's what the 19th Century poet, John Keats, meant when he wrote, "Some say the world is a vale of tears; I say it is a place for soul making." Soul making! Keats had it right. That's why we're here—to make our souls.



Go Within

I want to share a personal story. One night some summers ago, I wasn't feeling well. My digestion was off, my energy down. I was worried. A healer, whom I had met at the healing temple, came over to have supper with Marie and me. During the meal, seeing my distress, she asked if I wanted a healing. "Yes," I said readily. So after supper there in our home, she gave me a healing. Then, something I had never seen before happened. The healer was transformed, overshadowed and after the healing said in a changed voice, "The spirits are here. They wonder if you have any questions?"

Of course, I had questions. I had lots of them. We all have them. I wondered if the novel I wrote would ever be published. (It's not published yet.) I wondered if Marie and I would have any grandchildren. (Now we have six.) I worried if that pain in my belly was a cancer. (It wasn't.) But proudly I put those questions aside and asked another question.

I asked, "What can I do to become more spiritual?" The answer came from spirit slowly; it still gives me chills as I tell it. "That question," Spirit said deliberately, "carries within itself the seeds of its own illusion." I immediately knew what Spirit meant. There was nothing I could do, to make myself more spiritual. That is the free gift of God. It is a grace. So I stuttered something like, "I know, I know, but isn't there something I could do?" Spirit's answer came back quickly, "Go within. Go within. It's all there. It will spring up from within."

Do you want to profit from your messages and continue the healing you receive here? Go within. Even when the medium comes to you, you have to think about the words of the message. Go within. You have to pray and meditate on them. Go within. If you do, the message will

(Continued on next page.)

Getting Directions

MARILYN KERCHER, Virginia



I had been a Spiritualist, formally, only about two years. I marvelled at how people developed mediumship, at how they seemed to hear Spirit so clearly. That didn't seem to be one of MY gifts.

Then I moved to a new city for a new job. I ended up living in a very old part of the city, where some of the homes dated back several centuries. The roads seemed to be old cow paths and were not on any kind of grid that made sense. I didn't know anyone and kept getting lost as I tried to find the services I needed.

For the first time in a long time, I was in an apartment that didn't have a washer/dryer. The landlord didn't know where a laundry was. The neighbors had no clue. The phone book listed nothing. After washing out clothing nightly for about two weeks, I arrived at the point of simply having to find some place to wash my clothes. I needed a public laundry or a stream with a lot of big rocks.

I went to the several shopping centers I knew about, but there were no laundromats there. One Saturday I sat in my car with a basket of dirty clothes, wondering where to go and what to do.

I thought, "Well, OK, I need help. Anybody up there able to help me? Me, who doesn't get messages?" I sat and meditated in the car, outside my apartment, wondering if that would do any good.

Then it began. I felt an urge to start the car, which I did. I tried to keep my mind open and uncluttered with my own worry and unproductive thoughts. And then, gradually, I "heard" them. It was subtle. It was like being stroked with a downy feather, so gentle it would be easy to ignore.

But I didn't ignore it. I managed to recognize that something outside me was speaking to me. "Go straight." "Turn here." "Keep going." "Now, turn again."

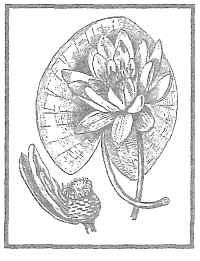
I arrived at a shopping center I had never been to, tucked away on one of those crooked, meandering 17th century streets. Right in the middle of this shopping center was a laundry. I went in and gratefully washed my clothes.

I discovered later that I had been directed to the closest laundry to my house via the shortest route. It wasn't my first experience listening to Spirit, I am sure. But it was the first time I knew that was what I was doing.

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A VISIT TO LILY DALE

(Continued from previous page.)



continue to bear fruit long after your drive out the front gate. When you leave here, think and meditate about what you heard and felt at Lily Dale. The answers are deep within – in your soul.

And what happens when you return home? What happens when this Lily Dale trip is history and you're back in Toronto, Rochester or Cleveland? The ancient Zen proverb says it well. "Before enlightenment, chop wood, carry water. After enlightenment, chop wood, carry water."

When you return home graced and healed by this visit, you will do the same things you did before. You will go to work, drive the children to soccer, pick up the dry cleaning, balance your checkbook, mow the lawn, repair the bicycle, or prepare supper. But you will do it more mindfully, more meaningfully, more peacefully – and more spiritually.

You are here in Lily Dale for a reason. When you leave, remember John Keats; we're here on earth for "soul making." That's why you were here. •

In With the New – Out With the Old

The Rev. Carol A. Brown, NST, Virginia

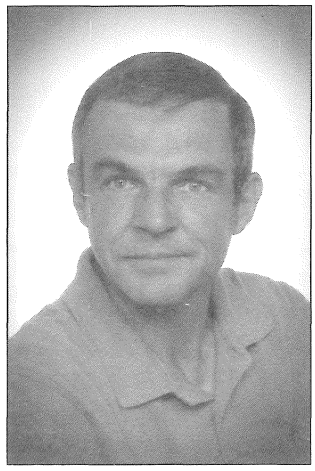
In with the new – Out with the old
Set new goals – Go on...be bold
Think of the things you'd like to do
Know in your heart dreams do come true

Think of the changes you'd like to make
Put it in writing for heaven's sake!
Then ask for guidance, for wisdom and power
And listen for answers in the quiet hour

For that still, small voice within you knows
The answers to anything you might propose
With love and with joy you can greet the new day
Knowing Infinite Intelligence is leading the way.

Spiritualism – Rebirth of the Golden Age

THE REV. JOHN C. LILEK



THE REV. JOHN C. LILEK

At this moment in time there is a quiet, but growing, excitement in the air; can you feel it? In places all over this great nation there is a steadily growing movement, and it is called Spiritualism. Through our different forms of media, the emphasis is beginning to strongly lean toward the works of the medium versus the psychic. Many people, young and old, are coming into the Spiritualist Churches with a more compelling curiosity, in a spiritual search for the truth. With all of the exposure Spiritualism has received from television, movies, books and many other sources (some good and some out in left field)—never the less, they are coming. For people to keep attending, they need messages of comfort, inspiration, and most of all proof! For many years, Spiritualism has survived on legend, but we are at that crossroad where we will either swim or sink.

Many feel we must modernize the entire teaching system, including the service and every program associated with it. Yes, Spiritualism is long over due for change in many aspects to effectively teach, inspire, and grow again. The most important key is a re-translation of our teachings and programs to make them exciting again—not worn out and tired sounding. It is amazing (to me) to see how some Christian fundamental religions are growing almost over night with service congregations of over 3000, requiring a second and often a third service to fill the need. The key to their success is a mastery of presentation, filling the needs of all ages; then there is a strong devotion of the congregation.

In Spiritualism today and right now, something great is happening all over and Spiritualists are beginning to feel it. All over the country people are hearing the rappings, and there are many table tipping circles growing. They are having results more and more consistently. It is reminiscent to the days of Katie, Margaret and Leah Fox hearing the rappings - where it all began. Puerile phenomena is sweeping the country just as it did over a hundred years ago. In that spirit of physical phenomena, it only gets better. There is fully developed trumpet in San Francisco, transfiguration in Toledo, Ohio and Long Island, New York, card and silk precipitation in Indiana. More phenomena is happening all over that we are not even aware of, but very soon all will come in to the light. This, my friends, is where we are at, standing on the threshold, about to enter in to the rebirth of the golden age of Spiritualism.

Development is coming quickly in many cases for those seekers who are dedicated and reverent in their spiritual quest. With this, it is evident that spirit is even more anxious to manifest and communicate. There has been too long of a lull in direct communication with the absence of all guidance, proof, and inspiration. In a 1922 Pictorial Spiritualism compiled by C. A. Burgess, President I.S.S.A., Spiritualist pioneers such as Harrison D. Barrett, George B. Warne, Dr. J. M. Peebles, W. J. Colville, Hudson Tuttle, Dr. Andrew Jackson Davis along with hundreds of other pioneers and past mediums who once served all over the country are now manifesting in transfiguration and materialization seances. Many times sitters see 75 to150 of these wonderful pioneers along with their loved ones and spirit teachers in each sitting. As I mentioned before, the spirit world is very anxious and working very hard to bridge the two worlds.

Spiritualists will need to continue to be dedicated and true as well to bring this to full circle. We need to reach out to one another as brothers and sisters of similar belief, and that includes the other Spiritualist organizations as well. There is talent in each organization, and we need to respect that and welcome it, or surely as the sun rises, we will fall. When direct communication is more widespread and at its highest degree, the Spiritualist medium will play a major role in shaping the world. Researchers, scientists, engineers and yes, people of political power will sit in direct communication with the highest of spirit to find ways to make a better world.

The circle, for the most part in the past, served mainly to guide, comfort and inspire many. Now, there is a greater purpose than ever before, because all during this long lull, new research from spirit needs to be given to those who will use it to benefit humanity. All of us have an important part to play in this wonderful rebirth of Spiritualism, with room in it for everyone. With all of the talent in the organizations, it serves no one unless we roll up our sleeves (so to speak) and work together to serve humanity. This is how we Spiritualists truly serve God. •

Positive Statements To Help Create a Positive Day.

Affirmations . . . DECEMBER 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 A present is a gift chosen with care.	**2** The pleasure you give is returned in multiples by those receiving.	**3** Joy shines in the eyes of a grateful child.	**4** Cherish what you have.	**5** Show your abounding love.	**6** Giving of yourself is a present of time.
7 Time comes and time goes but memories last forever.	**8** Doing without makes receiving a blessing.	**9** Celebrate your love with the wonders of gifts.	**10** Wonder in a child's eyes fills our hearts with pleasure.	**11** Celebrate a child's innocence; it is fleeting.	**12** A gift does not make a friend, but a hug and a smile can!	**13** Sharing your heart with others is a wonderful gift.
14 A healing hand can stop a heartache.	**15** You are never alone; ask for God to enter.	**16** Creating is sustaining.	**17** A song sung with love and compassion is a duet of sharing.	**18** Blow away negativity with a breath of Spirit.	**19** Time is a present; use it wisely.	**20** Always give thanks; your blessings are many.
21 Join in the fun and remind yourself of the gift of life – your own breath.	**22** Nice deserves nice back.	**23** Treasured gifts are those chosen by the heart.	**24** The skies roar, snow-flakes fall, and we are showered with brilliant wonder.	**25** Be grateful on this MERRY CHRISTMAS.	**26** Sustain your energy by limiting your desires today.	**27** We all have limits; being aware of limitations saves humiliation.
28 Give of your internal gifts and of your time.	**29** Handle others with tender care during the holidays.	**30** Spirit has created us as everlasting souls…how magnificent!	**31** The light in the night gives us glorious delight – HAPPY NEW YEAR!	*This month's affirmations were written by Nancy Ashworth of Missouri.*		



Gifts of the season include love.





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REEVES, Rev. Jacqueline A., NST; Spiritualist Church of Indianapolis; e-mail: jackiereeves1948@sbcglobal.net

• IOWA •

DAVENPORT

BUCHHOLZ, Rev. William E., Certified Medium, 806 E. Thirteenth St., 52803-4240 - (563) 326-3201

• MAINE •

AUGUSTA

WALLACE, Rev. Earl L, Certified Medium, Comm. Healer, 124 Spring St., Gardiner, 04345 - (207) 582-6745; e-mail: godfreed1@verizon.net

HARTFORD

FROBESE, Rev. Stephanie, NST, 546 Town Farm Rd., 04220-5115 - (207) 388-3436; e-mail: penf@megalink.net

HAWKINS, Rev. Kathleen, NST, Certified Medium, Comm. Healer, 1498 Main St., 04220-5115 - (207) 388-3140; e-mail: khawkins@megalink.net

NORRIS SIGURDSSON, Virginia, Licentiate Minister, Comm. Healer, 25 Camp Rd., 04220-5207 - (207) 597-2600

SIGURDSSON, Rev. Rupert, NST, Comm. Healer, 25 Camp Rd., 04220-5207 - (207) 597-2600; e-mail: rupert@megalink.net

PORTLAND

CARTER, Rev. Elizabeth, Certified Medium, Comm. Healer, 15 Regan Lane, 04103-2047, (207) 797-2039; e-mail: 2007spiritualist@peoplepc.com

RAYMOND

CONNOLLY, Rev. Graham LS, Certified Medium, Comm. Healer, NST, 66 Martin Heights, 04071 - (207) 655-6673; e-mail: gconnol1@maine.rr.com

THORNDIKE

CROES, Lois L., 346 Gordon Hill Rd., 04986 - (254) 699-1543; Medium, Healer, Reiki Master

• MARYLAND •

CHEVY CHASE

MEERSCHAERT, Rev. John, Certified Medium & Comm. Healer, Classes, Seminars & Private Consultations by appointment, 8855 Garland Ave., #301, Silver Springs, 20901 - (240) 305-7233, e-mail: seespirit1@aol.com

GLEN BURNIE / BALTIMORE

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

• MASSACHUSETTS •

LOWELL

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

WORTHINGTON

SULLIVAN, Rev. John F., NST, 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: sully1942@hughes.net

• MINNESOTA •

ROCHESTER

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

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

• MONTANA •

KALISPELL

KLEINSCHMIDT, Rev. Charlene, NST, Cert. Medium; Albert C., Cert. Medium, Comm. Healer, 172 Wilson Heights Rd. 59901-7468 - (406) 257-4668

• NEVADA •

RENO

BUTLER, Rev's Tom and Lisa, NST, Comm. Healers, Directors American Assoc. of Electronic Voice Phenomena, P.O. Box 13111, 89507, e-mail: aaevp@aol.com; website: http://aaevp.com

• NEW HAMPSHIRE •

LONDONDERRY

SNELL, Rev. Catherine, NST, Certified Medium, Readings by appt., 31 Sugarplum Lane, 03053 - (603) 434-5381, Fax: (603) 434-5339

TRAVIS, Rev. Janet, NST, 31 Sugarplum Lane, 03053 - (603) 434-5381, Fax: (603) 434-5339

• NEW YORK •

CLIFTON PARK

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

FOREST HILLS

RUIZ, Rev. Hugo, Pastor. TMS, NST. Certified Medium; 95-06 72nd Ave., 11375 - (718) 793-8434; e-mail: hruiz@nyc.rr.com

HUNTINGTON

SCHOELLER, Rev. Richard P., NST, Certified Medium, Comm. Healer, by appt. only, The Huntington Atrium, 775 Park Ave., Ste. 255-17, 11743 - (631) 470-0221; e-mail: RPSchoeller@optonline.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

CATON, Katie, Certified Medium, P.O. Box 241, 14752 - (716) 595-2992; e-mail; Choralkate@aol.com

CLARK, Gretchen, Certified Medium, e-mail:info@gretchenclark.com; P.O. Box 120, 14752 - (716) 595-3380

KINCAID, Rev. George, 5 Fourth St., P.O. Box 261, 14752-0261 - (716) 595-8717

• OHIO •

BLOOMINGDALE

ANDERSON, Fred, Comm. Healer, 2624 Twp. Rd. 199, P.O. Box 79, 43910 - (740) 944-1102; e-mail: falconrising@windstream.net

• PENNSYLVANIA •

PHILADELPHIA

HUTT, Rev. Betty, Certified Medium by appointment, Seminar and Lecture, P.O. Box 433, Glenolden, 19036 - (610) 583-3268

PITTSBURGH

O'HARE, Carol, Licentiate Minister, P.O. Box 1981, 15230-1981 - (412) 398-7303

PORT VUE

KRALL, Frances, Medium, 582 Upston St., 15133 - (412) 678-2091

• RHODE ISLAND •

State Wide

KENT, Revs. Lynn and Brian, Certified Medium and Comm. Healer; specialize in physical phenomena table-tipping workshops, public readings for charity and grief counseling. (401) 864-8307; e-mail: lynn@lynnkent.com; website: www.lynnkent.com

• TEXAS •

HOUSTON

JESSUP, Rev. Jovita V., NST, Comm. Healer, Certified Medium, 5655 Meadow Creek Ln., 77017 - (713) 947-6586; e-mail: JessupJovita@aol.com

PFLUGERVILLE

BERG, Rev. Virginia, 20916 Bellerive Dr., 78660 - (512) 670-3408; e-mail: V.BergTX@aol.com

• VIRGINIA •

ALEXANDRIA

KRITHADES, Rev. Christine, J.D., NST, P.O. Box 7071, 22307 - (703) 317-1707; e-mail: ckckck@starpower.net

HAMPTON

BROWN, Rev. Carol A., NST, 712 Big Bethel Rd., 23666-2802 - (757) 826-9652; e-mail: CLBrown1@gmail.com

ROBINSON, Rev. Linda M., NST, 3 Redman Ct., 23669 - (757) 851-4735.

NORFOLK

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

SPRINGFIELD

GEHMAN, Rev. B. Anne, 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, cell (757) 573-6704, e-mail: BubbaCribb@cox.net

• WASHINGTON •

AUBURN

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

• WEST VIRGINIA •

CHARLES TOWN

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

GREAT CACAPON

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

• CANADA •

MONTREAL, QUEBEC

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

DIRECTORY OF NSAC CHARTERED CHURCHES & AUXILIARIES

• ARIZONA •

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

• CALIFORNIA •

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

AUBURN - Spiritualist Chapel of the Pines • 457 Grass Valley Hwy. #7, 95603; Sun. Serv. 10:00 a.m.; All Message Serv. Fri. 7:00 p.m.; Pastor, Rev. George Brenner; Pres., Edward Killmer; Secy., June E. Killmer (916) 783-3546; Tel. (530) 823-1816, Fax (916) 663-4691.

MONROVIA - The Spiritualist Church of Revelation • 200 W. Colorado Blvd., 91016; Sun. Service 11:00 a.m.; Pastor Martin Pina; Pres., Martin Pina; Secretary Winston Lumley; Church Phone (626) 256-3403; e-mail: greenry@earthlink.net; for class info Please call church phone.

SACRAMENTO - Central Spiritualist Church, NSAC • 2500 Marconi Ave., Suite 209, 95821-4855. Mailing Address: 4800 Auburn Folsom Rd., #63, Loomis, 95650-9328; Sun. Serv. 10:00 am.; Classes (see Pastor); Healing All Message Serv. 7:00 p.m., last Tues. of the month; Pres., Denise E. Bell; Pastor, Rev. Sandra G. Dawson, NST, (916) 652-4568; e-mail: rdawson@wizwire.com; Secy., Deborah Ann Kinney, 2512 Morley Way, 95864, (916) 482-6614.

SAN BERNARDINO - Temple of Spiritual Truth, NSAC • 732 N. Sierra Way (between Waterman Ave. and Arrowhead Ave.), 92402. Sun. Healing and Devotional Services 11:00 a.m.; Pastor, Rev. Sara Estes (Sally) NST, (909) 886-9242; e-mail: revsal60@aol.com; Secy., Richard Patteson, P.O. Box 7006, Riverside, 92513. Church meets at the American Legion Hall.

SAN FRANCISCO - Celebrate Life Spiritualist Community – Joyous Spiritualism to a modern world • The Celebration service each Wed, weekly classes, Modesto, CA classes, weekend services - see website or call. Rev Drew Vogt, Pastor (415) 568-7571 - P.O. Box 640216, San Francisco, CA 94164. Email revdrew77@ yahoo.com Website: ourcelebration.org

SAN FRANCISCO - The First Spiritual Temple, NSAC • "The Teaching Church." Pres., Rev. Donald McFarland, NST; Pastor Emeritus, Rev. Alfred A. Conner, NST; Secy., Elsie Ann Soria, NST; Class 2nd Sun. by arrangement; Service 4th Sun., 33 Banbury Dr., 94132; Mail: 1101 National Avenue, #1328, San Bruno, 94066, (650) 583-2739.

SAN FRANCISCO - Golden Gate Spiritualist Church • 1901 Franklin St. at Clay 94109; (415) 885-9976 / website: www.ggsc.org Sun Lyceum 9:30 a.m. Sep-May; Healing 10:30 a.m., Devotional Service 11:00 a.m.; Wed - Healing 7:30 P.M. Devotional Service 8:00 P.M. Classes Available - Contact the Church. Pastor, Rev. David Burr, NST; Pres. Sonny B. Gee / Sec. Engeltie Lauderback.

SAN JOSE - The Spiritual Science of Life Church, NSAC • "The Friendly Church," 729 Morse Street, (Corner of Morse St. & Naglee), 95126; Sun. Serv. 6:30 p.m., 2nd & 4th Sunday; Pastor Rev. Louise Peruch, NST; 1327 W. Hedding St., 95126; (408) 615-0214; e-mail: PeruchLise@aol.com

SAN LEANDRO - Spiritualist Church of Two Worlds • 1550 San Leandro Blvd., (Deaf Comm. Center) 94577; Sun. Serv. Healing 10:30 a.m., Reg. Serv. 10:45 to 12:00; Co-Pastors, Rev.'s Betty and Don Nauratil, (925) 283-1449; Pres., Phyllis Macdonald, 1956 Kirby Way, San Jose, 95124; All mail to Secy., Rev. Betty Nauratil, 1048 Via Roble, Lafayette, 94549-2925.

SANTA BARBARA - Summerland Spiritualist Church of The Comforter • 1028 Garden St., 93101; (805) 965-4474; Pastor, Rev. Sandra Cook, D.D., e-mail: revsandic@msn.com; Sun. Healing Serv. 10:30 a.m., Devotional Serv. 11:00 a.m., Unfoldment Class 7:00 p.m., Thurs. Message Serv. 6:30 p.m.

• COLORADO •

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

• CONNECTICUT •

CONNECTICUT STATE SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION • Pres., Rev. Lynn Gaffin, 70 Dell Ave., B5, New London, 06320, e-mail: Heart860@sbcglobal.net; Secy., Chris Bellamy, 66 Cedar Rd., Oakdale 06370, e-mail: jcb41756@hotmail.com

NEW LONDON - New London Spiritualist Church • 11 Freedom Way, Unit D6, Niantic, CT; (860) 701-1355; e-mail: nlspiritualist@sbcglobal.net; website: nlspiritualist.net; Mailing Address: 70 Dell Ave. #B5, New London, CT 06320; Pres., Lynn Gaffin, 70 Dell Ave. #B5, New London, CT 06320; Secy., Constance White, e-mail: ficaw@hotmail.com; Service Sunday 10:30 a.m., Medium's Days last Sat. of every month, 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

NEWINGTON - The Church of the Infinite Spirit • Masonic Temple, 80 Walsh Ave., 06111; Co-Pastors, Allen Noddin and Rev. Joyce C. Barlow, e-mail: Joyce-barlow@sbcglobal.net, tel. (860) 561-1489; website: www.newingtonspiritualistchurch.org; Church Secy., Peggi Camosci, e-mail: peggic@comcast.net, tel. (860) 635-6396. **All Welcome.**

NIANTIC - Ladies Aid Society Camp at Pine Grove • (The only NSAC Summer Spiritualist Camp in CT.) For program listing all summer activities contact: Pres. Rev. Lynn Gaffin, 70 Dell Ave. B5, New London 06360, e-mail: Heart860@sbcglobal.net; Rev. Kathleen Rottino, 109 Capitol Dr., Willimantic 06226, e-mail: k.rottino@snet.net

NORWICH - National Spiritualist Church of Norwich, Inc. • 29 Park St. (off Main St.), 06360, (860) 886-8522; Sunday Serv. 10:30 a.m.; Pres., Rev. Jacquelyn W. Randall, (860) 887-0068, e-mail: cincyada@yahoo.com; Pres., Susan K. Graf, (860) 564-5575, e-mail: president@nscnorwich.com; Secy., Tiffany-Michelle White; e-mail: NSCNORWICH@yahoo.com; website: www.NSCNORWICH.com

OLD GREENWICH - Albertson Memorial Church Of Spiritualism • 293 Sound Beach Ave., 06870; (203) 637-4615; 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, 14 Harbourt Dr., Winchester, NH 03740, (860) 742-7846.

• DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA •

WASHINGTON - The Church of Two Worlds, NSAC • 3038 Q St., NW, 20007-3080; Phone (202) 333-5114; Sun., Healing 2:00 p.m., Serv. 2:30 p.m.; Message & Meditation classes, call Sue Bracey (301) 920-1784; Pres., Michael Gallion, LM, (202) 237-7659; Sec/Treas James A. Longmore (301) 739-8227.

• FLORIDA •

ORLANDO - Spiritualist Church of Awareness, NSAC • 3210 N. Chickasaw Trail (mail to P.O. Box 4010, Winter Park, FL 32792), (407) 678-3688; Sun. Serv. 10:30 a.m.; Wed. Serv. 7:30 p.m.; Healing, Sermon, Messages at all services; Sun. Children Lyceum; Pastors, Rev. E. Ann Otzelberger, NST, (407) 826-0807 and Rev. Jean Kerr Lerch, NST, (407) 719-9790; Pres./Asst. Pastor, Rev. Elaine Hager, NST; Secy., Shari Watson, NST (352) 873-1951.; Spiritualistchurchofawareness.org

• ILLINOIS •

ILLINOIS STATE SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES • Peggy Bunch Cawley, 16450 Patricia Ave., Tinley Park, 60477, (708) 633-0196; e-mail peggybunch@comcast.net

BURNHAM - Puritan Spiritualist Church, NSAC • 13906 Greenbay Ave., 60633-1614, (708) 868-6080; Sun. Serv. 2:30 p.m.; Asst. Pastor, Ruby Brya (815) 304-5162; Secy., Sandy Kilmek, 531 Pottawattonie Trail, Porter, IN 46304-1837, (219) 926-6884.

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., Marian Boesen, NST; e-mail: cherryvalleysc@verizon.net

CHERRY VALLEY - Christabelle Spiritualist Church • 8002 Service Rd., 61016, (815) 332-5359; Healing Serv. 10:30 a.m., Worship Serv. 11:00 a.m. every Sunday, Oct. thru May at Cherry Valley Spiritualist Camp; Pastor, Rev. Marian Boesen, (815) 626-5716; Pres. Kenneth Boesen, (815) 626-5716; Secy., Martha Witt, 1204 Game Farm Rd., Yorkville, 60560, (630) 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.; All Message Serv., 1st Wed., 7:00 p.m.; Call for current Development and Educational class schedule.; Pastor, Rev. Marrice Coverson; Secy., Dr. Alan Tenczar.

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

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., Charles Williams; Secy., Sharon Bianchi, (317) 945-8437. website: www.crumbaughchurch.org; e-mail: reverendbob@direct2spirit.com

• INDIANA •

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., Erma Russell, 2233 Vermont St., 46407; Unfoldment Classes 1st & 2nd Sat. of each month, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., Lyceum Sun. 3:00 p.m.

INDIANA STATE ASSOCIATION OF SPIRITUAL SCIENCE
Pres., Rev. John Kampf, 4322 N. 500 E., Rolling Prarie, IN 46371; (219) 778-8332; kampf4322@comcast.net. Secy., Joy Marsh, 7122 National Blvd., Michigan City, IN (219) 879-0292.

INDIANAPOLIS - The Spiritualist Church of Indianapolis • Sun. Serv. 6:30–8:00 p.m. Services are being held at: All My Relations, 1008 Main St., Speedway, Indiana 46224. Reading Day is First Saturday of the Month from 1–4:00. Call Pastor Bonnie J. Darby, phone 317-373-1746, for more information. Mail all correspondence to: P.O. Box 39419, 46236.

INDIANAPOLIS - New Dawn Spirit of Light Church, Inc., NSAC • 3637 W. 10th St., 46222; Sun. Serv: Healing 11:00 a.m., Devotional and Message Serv. 11:30 a.m. Wed. - 6:00 p.m. Development Class. Every 5th Sunday,

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

All Message Service, covered dish dinner, 1st Sat. each month Reading Day 12:00–4:00 p.m.; Pastorand Pres., Rev. Mildred Schlagel, (317) 291-0799; Secy./Treas., Marilyn Smith; Church (317) 937-6292; website: www.newdawnchurch.org

MICHIGAN CITY - Spiritual Science Church, NSAC, Inc. • 314 W. Coolspring Ave., 46360; Sun. Serv. 10:30 a.m.; Pastor, John Kampf, (574) 298-5080; All corresp., Spiritual Science Church, 1506 Farrand, LaPorte, 46350.

• IOWA •

CLINTON - Mississippi Valley Spiritualist Assoc. Camp • 2140 Jersey Ridge Rd., Davenport, 52803.

CLINTON - Sunflower Spiritualist Church • 10 Mt. Pleasant Park; Mail to: P.O. Box 6, 52733-0006; Sun. Serv. at 10:00 a.m.

DAVENPORT - Spiritualist Harmony Church • 1429 W. Seventh St., 52802-1212, (563) 324-9659; Sun. Healing Serv. 1:30 p.m.; Worship & Message Serv. 2:00 p.m.; Secy./Treas., Rev. William Buchholz, (563) 326-3201.

• MAINE •

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

AUGUSTA - Augusta Spiritualist Church • Corner of Perham & Court Sts.; P.O. Box 2492, 04338; (207) 622-8980; Sun. Serv. 10:30 a.m.; Thurs. Awareness Class 7:00 p.m.; Pres., Earl L. Wallace, 124 Spring St., Gardiner, 04345; (207) 582-2745; Co-Pastors, Rev. Earl L. Wallace and Rev. Kay Hawkins; Secy., Rev. Pat Wallace.

BANGOR - The Harrison D. Barrett Memorial Church • 514 Broadway, beside Coldwell Banker Realty, Sun. Serv. 10:00 a.m.; Secy., Betty Simpson, 715 Newburgh Rd., Hermon, 04401, (207) 848-2273, email: betty.simpson@maine.gov; Church services may be canceled due to inclement weather, also location may be changing; website: http://www.hdbspiritualistchurch.org will be updated in case of changes. Please call the secy. for more information, other contact number for the church is Kathy Goodness, VP, at 989-7266.

MADISON - Madison Spiritualist Camp • Located at historic Lakewood Theater Village just off Beach Rd. on Route 201, six miles north of Skowhegan. Camp season runs July & August; Camp (207) 474-0124. Off season contact Pres. Sue Jalbert, CH at (207) 655-6673 or Secy. Betty Simpson at (207) 848-2273; For program information and events, visit our website at www.madisoncamp.org or email us at madison@mainespiritualism.org

NORTHPORT - Temple Heights Spiritual Camp Assoc. • Shore Road with Penobscot Bay view. Pres. Ernie Van Den Bossche. Camp runs mid-May-Labor Day w/different medium each week offering private readings by appt. Church services Sun. @ 2:30 & Thur. @ 7:30 PM. Message Circles @ 7:30 PM Wed & Sat. Workshop Sat. morning, Seance Tues. @ 7:30 PM, Social Enlightenment Fri. @ 7:30 PM, "How Do Mediums Do That" class Sun. @ 12:30 PM. Lodging available. During Camp Season Ph: (207) 338-3029 / Off-season contact Sec. Tamara Jetton, 21 Old Windsor Rd., South China, ME 04358 or Email thsc@mainespiritualism.org Website: www.templeheightscamp.org

NORTHPORT - Temple Heights Spiritualist Church • Shore Road, Northport; Services 2:30 p.m. Sundays at Temple Heights Spiritual Camp from May to October and at Excelsior Lodge on the corner of Shore Rd. and Cove Rd. Northport, from Nov. 1 to April 30; Pres, Janice Nelson (207) 845-2885; Sec/Treas., Jean Bower, 159 Northport Ave., Belfast 04915-6003 - (207) 338-1355.

PORTLAND AREA - Portland Spiritualist Church • meets at 719 Main St., Westbrook at the Unitarian Universalist Church; Mailing address: P.O. Box 6551 PTS, 04102; Sun. Serv. 6:30 p.m.; Fri. Class 7:30 p.m.; Pres., Rev. Graham Connolly, (207) 655-6673; e-mail: pschurch@maine.rr.com; website: www.portlandspiritualistchurch.org

• MASSACHUSETTS •

ONSET - On-I-Set Wigwam Co-Workers Spiritualist Camp • Season opens June 9th till Labor Day weekend; Camp phone (860) 439-1395; Sun. Serv. 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., followed by fellowship; Spiritual Unfoldment Classes Tues. even. 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.; Wed. Open Class 6 p.m. & Serv. 7:30 p.m.; Mediums Day's - Message Circles - Workshops/ Seminars scheduled; Prior to season call or write for a full program: P.O. Box 1556, 02558.

REHOBOTH - First Spiritualist Church of Brockton, Inc., NSAC • Services held at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday at the Anawan Grange Bldg., junction Rts. 44 & 118; Mailing address: P.O. Box 145, 02769, e-mail: firstspiritualistchurch.com. For more information contact Secretary, Sally Kubitschek, (508) 226-6580; e-mail: sallyrosekub@hotmail.com

SALEM - First Spiritualist Church of Salem • 34 Warren St., 01970; Sun. Early Serv. 5:30-6:00 p.m.; Lunch break 6:00-6:30 p.m., Healing & Evening Serv. 6:30-8:00 p.m.; Telephone for weather cancellations, (978) 745-2098; Church season is Sun. after Labor Day - June; Pres., Bradley Gosselin, 147 Sylvan St., Danvers, 01923 - (978) 774-1571, e-mail: BGoss92409@aol.com; Secy., Nancy L. Karolides, 144 Boston St., Middleton, 01949, (978) 774-4048.

SPRINGFIELD - The First Spiritualist Church of Springfield, Inc. • 33-37 Bliss St., 01105, (413) 732-1234; Worship Serv., Sun. after Labor Day until last Sun. in June at 10:30 a.m.; Development classes upon sign-up; Info on web site: springfield.spiritualistchurch.net; Pastor, Rev. John Sullivan, Box 392, Worthington, 01098 - (413) 238-5344, e-mail: sully1942@hughes.net; Sec. Denise St Pierre, e-mail: denise1957@hughes.net

• 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; Sun. Serv. 10:30 a.m., except during July and August because our "camp" operates in the same location. 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; website: www.nlmsc.org; Contact Person: Susan Hoshield, Secy., 8688 Cedar Creek, Petroskey, 49770, (231) 247-9417; e-mail: shosh@youraccordion.com

CHARLEVOIX - Northern Lake Michigan Spiritualist Camp • Please see Golden Rule Spiritualist Church listing for contact information, driving directions, or website www.nlmsc.org: 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.

FERNDALE - First Spiritualist Temple of Detroit • 2724 Goodrich, 48220; Sat. Serv. 7:00 p.m.; Secy., Dianne Smith.

LESLIE - Flower Memorial Spiritualist Church • 430 Bellevue St., 49251; Serv. 10:45 a.m. Sundays; Contact Jackie North, e-mail J91943@ALLDIAL.NET or (517) 796-2858.

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

SOUTH BRANCH - Chain Lake Spiritualist Camp Association • 8000 W. Chain Lake Rd., 48761-0089; Sun. Serv. 11:00 a.m., June, July, August; Annual Retreat July; Lyceum Dir., Dawn Hyatt; Pres., Wendall Weichner, 8004 W. Chain Lake Rd., 48761; Mailing Address: Dianne Smith, 631 Spencer, Ferndale, 48220.

• MINNESOTA •

ROCHESTER - Third Spirit of Life Spiritualist Church • Meeting place: 1500 First Ave. NE, Ste. 112; Services Mon. 7:00 p.m.; Pastors, Rev. Joyce E. Young, NST, and Rev. John E. Young, NST; Secy., (507) 775-6358; Mailing address, P.O. Box 7312, 55903.

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

• MISSOURI •

ST. LOUIS - Fifth Spiritualist Church of St. Louis • 6026 S. Kingshighway Blvd., 63109-3558; Sun. Serv. 10:30 a.m.; Healing, Meditation & Message, 1st Wed. of the month at 7:00 p.m.; Assoc. Pastor, Marilyn Kalna, cell: (314) 707-3934; Pres., Carl Davis, 4451 Catherine Place, 63115 - (314) 383-5954; website: www.5thspiritstl.com

• NEBRASKA •

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

• NEVADA •

LAS VEGAS - Spiritualist Desert Church • 3355 W. Spring Mountain Rd., #19, 89102, (702) 876-8783, website: http://renospiritualistchurch.com; Service times: Sun. 11:00 a.m., Sunday evening 6:30 p.m., Thurs. 6:30 p.m., Healing Meditation, with a Spiritualist development class following the service, every one welcome. Vicky Homann, Pastor, e-mail: spiritualistdesertchurch@yahoo.com

RENO - Spiritualist High Desert Church • Meeting place: Larry D. Johnson Community Center, 1200 12th St., Sparks, 89431. Sunday 11:00 a.m. Healing, Meditation and Message Service. Pres., Dena Collins, (775) 323-1114, e-mail: denacinlv@yahoo.com; website: www.spiritualisthighdesertchurchreno.com; Mailing address: Secy. Rev. Lisa Butler, 3415 Socrates Dr., Reno, NV 89512.

• NEW HAMPSHIRE •

SALEM - The Church of Spiritual Life, Inc. • Masonic Hall on Main St., Rte. 97; Mailing address: P.O. Box 144, 03079; Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.; Wed. classes 7:15 p.m.; Call Dwight Broadstone, (609) 783-4456; website: http:www.nhspiritualist.com

• NEW JERSEY •

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

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

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

• NEW YORK •

EAST AURORA - First Spiritualist Temple • 29 Temple Pl., P.O. Box 465, 14052, (716) 652-5018, www.eastauroraspiritualism.com; Sun. Healing Service 10:30 a.m.; Lecture and Message Service 11:00 a.m.; Social Hour 12:15 p.m.; Dinner Day 3rd Sun. of month; Secy., Jeanne Phoenix Laurel, (716) 286-8628 or (716) 876-4805.

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

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

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

LONG ISLAND - New Horizons Spiritualist Church, NSAC • Sun. Service 10:00 a.m., 1585 Round Swamp Rd (Homewood Suites), Plainview, NY. F. Werbeck, Sec. 43 Grand Ave, Lynbrook, NY 11563 (516) 593-7213.

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

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

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

• OHIO •

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

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

ASHLEY - Spiritualist Church of Spirit Revelation • Mail to: P.O. Box 253, 43003-0253; Wed. Serv., 7:00 p.m.; For additional information, please contact: Secy., Judy A. Pearsell, (740) 747-2688, e-mail: JJPearsell@hotmail.com

DAYTON - Spiritual Life Center, NSAC • 609 Watervliet Ave., 45420-2544, (937) 878-1165; Pastor, Rev. Raymond Moschke, e-mail: RMoschke@aol.com.

• OKLAHOMA •

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

• PENNSYLVANIA •

ALLENTOWN - Getter Memorial Church, NSAC • 1123 Oak, 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. 10:30 a.m. Healing/Meditation, 11:00 a.m. Lecture and Messages; Tues. Mediumship Dev. Class; Church Social 2nd Friday each month; Minister, Carol O. Perella, L.M.; Pres., Gary Miller, (412) 901-3320, e-mail: gmsprt@comcast.net; Secy./Treas., Jeanne Turchek, (412) 414-7812; e-mail: angelgide@juno.com; website www.firstspiritualist.org

PHILADELPHIA - The Celestial Spiritualists Church • Sun. Healing, Worship and Message Service 12:00 noon. Call for service dates and location; (610) 583-3268; e-mail: celestial.07@mail.com; Rev. Betty J. Hutt.

• TEXAS •

AUSTIN - First Spiritualist Church of Austin • 4200 Ave "D" - Austin, TX 78751-3719, (512) 458-3987; Devotional, healing & message service every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.; Pres., Anne Berlin; Corr. Secy., Eana LaFont.

HOUSTON - First Church Of Divine Science, NSAC • 2115 Turner Dr., 77093; Mailing Addr.: P.O. Box 11088, 77293-1088; Pres., Rev. Jovita Jessup; Rev. Marie W. Smith; Secy., Liana V. Liles; Sun. Serv. 10:30 a.m.; Wed. Service: 7:30 p.m. Open healing, meditation, & messages from Spirit; Fri. Spiritual Development 8:00 p.m.; Sat. Spiritual Development 10:00 a.m.; Private Spiritualist readings by appt., (713) 695-2550; e-mail: lileshouston@aol.com; website: www.houstonspiritualists.org

SAN ANTONIO - Louise Scholtz Memorial Chapel, NSAC • 1627 PanAm Expwy. North, 78208-1143, (210) 225-2354; Sun. Serv. 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; Co-Pastors, Hector Caldera and Alex Sifuentes.

• VIRGINIA •

FALLS CHURCH - Center for Spiritual Enlightenment, NSAC • 222 N. Washington Street; Mailing Address: 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 Devotional Serv. at 10:30 a.m.; Children's Lyceum 10:00 a.m., Sept. through June; Shelly Wooldridge, Lyceum Director; Judy Griesse, Debbie Shoop, Lyceum Co-Directors; Pastor, Rev. B. Anne Gehman; Asst. Pastor, Rev. Patricia A. Stranahan; Pres., Rita O'Connor; Secy., Awilda Abaza, 2301 N. Street NW #606, Washington, DC 20037 / (202) 775-1907, e-mail: agabaza@earthlink.net; Exec. Coordinator, Sherry Truhlar, 1670 Fitzgerald Lane, Alexandria, 22302, (703) 577-7807.

NORFOLK - Memorial Spiritualist Church, NSAC • 307 W. 37th St., 23508-3207, (757) 622-5070; website http://www.memorialspiritualistchurch.com; Services held on Sunday at 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Wed. at 7:30 p.m.; Healing available at 10:30 a.m. Sun. and 7:00 p.m. Wed.; Ministers: Rev. Lelia E. Cutler, NST, (757) 480-3799; Rev. Kathleen Cribb, (757) 471-4014; Rev. Carol A. Brown, NST, (757) 826-9652; Pres., Jim Watson; Secy., Ann Marie Croteau; Lyceum Director, Rev. Kathleen Cribb.

• WASHINGTON •

MILTON - Edgewood - Church of Divine Grace, NSAC • Services held Sun. @ 2:30 P.M., Unity Church of Christianity, 2908 Meridian E. #101, Edgewood, WA 98371. Student Minister Atira Hatton, Pres. Bernie Allers (253) 833-4250, Sec. Robin Maylor (253) 565-4190. Email DivinegraceNSAC@comcast.com to Sherry Valentine.

MILTON - Camp Edgewood, NSAC • 1228 26th Ave Ct, Milton, WA 98354 Ph: (253) 927-2050 / Fax (253) 927-7531. Pres. David Chapman, Sec. Denice Chapman - Email: campedgewood@qwestoffice.net. Please visit our website for information on year-round Development and Educational Classes. http://campedgewood.nsac-churches.org

MILTON - Church of Spiritual Unity, NSAC • Held @ Camp Edgewood NSAC - 1228 26th Ave Ct. Church Service Sun @ 2:00 PM Sep-May. Mailing address c/o Pres. Colleen Mohler, 1210 26th Ave Ct 98354, Ph: (253) 927-2365. Pastor Rev. LaVerne Pemberton Ph: (253) 833-9279. Sec. Jennifer Currier (253) 927-7081, Email cynthia92969@yahoo.com

MILTON - Church of Spiritual Truth, NSAC • Sun. Serv. 11:00 a.m. at 1228 26th Ave. Ct., Milton, WA Center. Student Pastor Denice (Dee) L. Chapman; Mailing address PO Box 1856 Milton, WA 98354.

• WEST VIRGINIA •

CHARLES TOWN - Church of Joyous Living, NSAC • 128 Burnlea Rd., 25414; Services Sun. 12:30 p.m.; Tues. Circle at Noon. Office (304) 725-3763, Area Cell (240) 447-8912. Pastor, Rev. Alexis Sharon Rolnick; e-mail: asrolnick@zol.com; website: www.churchofjoyousliving.com

WHEELING - First Spiritualist Association of Wheeling • (Way Memorial Temple) North Broadway & Maryland Sts., (304) 233-5065 (church), (304) 232-5795 (parsonage); Sun. Lyceum at 9:30 a.m.; Sun. Healing and Worship Serv. 10:45 a.m.; Tues. Development Class at 7:00 p.m. with Alan Zerla; Wed. Healing 6:30 p.m., Wed. Message Serv. 7:30 p.m. with Pam Baker Shaw; Secy., Betty Schmidt; Pres., Alan Zerla (740) 282-9455, e-mail: docspirit3@aol.com

• WISCONSIN •

MADISON - Summerland's Lakeview Spiritualist Church • Rev. Annette L. Haak, (608) 233-1632; e-mail: endless29@sbcglobal.net.

WEST ALLIS - First Spiritualist Church of West Allis • 6228 W. Washington St., 53214, (414) 778-0088; Sun. Serv. & Healing at 10:30 a.m.; Pres., Heather Michaels; website: www.myspace.com\fscwa

WONEWOC - Western Wisconsin Camp Association, Inc. NSAC, (Wonewoc Spiritualist Camp) • P.O. Box 187, 53868, (608) 464-7770; Open June-August; Camp website: http://www.campwonewoc.com

• CANADA •

Britten Memorial Church of Canada • 657 Lansdowne Ave., Toronto, Ontario, M6H 3Y2.

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 Ave. North, Cambridge, Ontario, N1S 2K9, (519) 622-7177; Pastor, Rev. Karen Charles; Pastor, Rev. Ed Kenning (retired); Sun. Serv. 11:00 a.m. (includes Healing and Scheduled Mediums). Meditation, healing, education and Message circle, 1st & 3rd Wed. 7:00 p.m. Development & Healing Classes available. Call (519) 622-7177 for updates; Website: www.firstspiritualistchurcfhofgalt.com

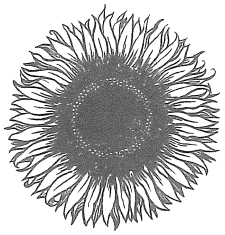
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Spiritual Science Fellowship • Office: 1974 de Maisonneuve W., Montreal, QC H3H 1K5, (514) 937-8359, Fax (514) 937-5380; Location: Days Inn, 1005 Guy St., Montreal; Sun. Serv. 7:30 p.m.; Mid-Week Serv. Thurs. 7:30 p.m.; Classes, Workshops, Teas, Meditation, Conferences, Discussion Groups, Spiritual Healing, Message Circles, Visiting Mediums; Pres./Pastor, Rev. Dr. Marilyn Rossner; Website: www.iiihs.org; e-mail mrossner@111hs.org

Spiritualist Church of Canada • 3027 New Street, Burlington, Ontario L7R 1K3; Pres., Rev. James Kinnear; website: www.spiritualistchurchofcanada.com

Spiritualist Society and Gateway Psychic Centre • 1069 Kensington Rd. N.W., Calgary, Alberta T2N 3R2; (403) 270-3341; Pastor, Rev. Karen Voegelie; Sun. Serv. 7:30 p.m. weekly, 11:00 a.m. (2nd & 4th Sundays Only); Weekly Development Circles and Healing/Message Evenings; Website: www.gatewaycentre.ca

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; 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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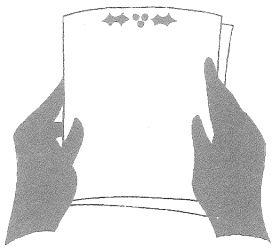
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The Continuity of Life

THE REV. RUPERT SIGURDSSON, NST, Maine

I have personally known many Spiritualist Mediums in three countries for almost 90 years. Some were very accurate, while others were not properly developed. I usually write about church problems and ways to promote or improve our programs and attendance; for a change, I will write about messages I have received that have been proven true, and the continuity of life.

The first message about me, that I know of, was told to me many years later by my mother. It was given to her by a healing medium in 1924 in England. She was treating my mother (who always believed in Spiritual Healing) and told her that I would work with healing. I was not told this until after I had studied a course in hypnotherapy many years later and was doing some work in the healing profession as an avocation. (I have been an NSAC Commissioned Healer for many years.)

My father, mother and I, went to a Spiritualist church in Canada in the early 1930's. I remember being told when I was 12 years old (by the medium) that I would work with electricity. I spent most of my life working in electronics.

It often seems to be years will pass before the event that a message predicted will come true. Another example of a message that a medium gave me at a service was that I should have a doctor check my esophagus. (I do not agree that a medical message should be given at a service.) So I paid no attention to that message as I felt that I had no problem. Several years later I started to have a problem swallowing and needed a minor operation and am still on medication for it.

I was given a message during a Sunday service that on the following Thursday I would get a letter that would be very important to me financially. A letter arrived on the following Thursday that an inheritance had been left to me, I had no idea that I would receive anything. This proves that no mind reading could be involved. Also, the letter was not from this country.

After my daughter, Barbara, went to the spirit side, I received a message from a visiting medium that her interest was in carousels, collecting pictures and visiting them was one of her hobbies. She also had a habit of patting me on the shoulder and circling her finger in my hair to remind me of a bald spot, and I still feel her doing it at times.

My wife, Mary, went to the spirit side in 2006, and a visiting medium described 27 events of which I can identify 23. And, this year a sister-in-law passed to spirit, and a medium brought the name the children called her by, and an event that happened 60 years ago that no one else had any knowledge of.

These are some of the messages that I feel prove the continuity of life. I have never gone to a medium for the purpose of receiving a message. It seems that if a person on the spirit side wishes to communicate, they will do so at the first opportunity presented.

Over the years, I have found that some mediums will always be correct with their information to me, and others will always miss. I think one of the reasons for this is that some will be on the same frequency level or vibration and others are not. Those who are of a similar vibration seem to be better connected and able to give more accurate information. I believe that we all work on vibration and frequency, just like the many frequencies used in communication today with cell phones, radio and TV.

I always like to state when I am chairing a service that messages are for the purpose of proving the continuity of life and not to tell you how to live your life; that is your responsibility. •



Be Courageous

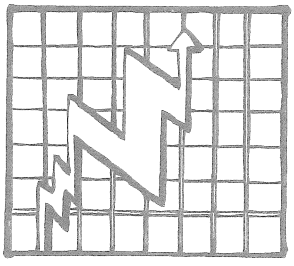
Nancy Ashworth, Missouri

Do you ever feel that tiny little bubble of jealousy when you see a great athlete, singer, dancer, actress or actor do something absolutely wonderful? It took courage for them to try to do it and that is the major factor in doing *anything*. Taking the first step...be courageous and start. Write that story that tantalizes you. Step boldly up and take that new job that you want so badly. Study, then build that bookcase you want or a dog house—whatever it is that you want to do—be bold and do it. When you have problems with it, don't have soooo much pride you can't ask someone for help. Very few people live their lives without asking for help from time to time. When you ask, you give someone else a blessing in being able to help you, and most people would love to help you. Lastly, with courage comes compassion. Share your joys of accomplishments with others, and your blessings will be bountiful. Great achievements just took courage to start them. Go with God Always. •

The National Spiritualist Association Of Churches
Department of Phenomenal Evidence

December 2008 Department of Phenomenal Evidence Report

THE REV. JOHN SULLIVAN, NST, Massachusetts



Orbs! Are They All Real?

Becoming an Informed Photographer & Viewer

Orbs—are they all real? We have been exploring this topic in several past articles. It is a question that we need to answer before we believe that every orb we photograph is spirit just waiting for us to recognize them. How do we make a determination? Some people tell me that we are weird non-believers and that's why we don't see any orbs. But that's not the truth; rather it's far from the truth. It's not necessary to believe or disbelieve; it is only necessary to scrutinize the resulting pictures to make sure we haven't included any interference: sunspots on the lens, glare from the glass in the windows, dust particles in the air, or (in the first pictures you're about to see) a way to make orbs appear that really aren't there.

Not too long ago I received a picture from the Department of Phenomenal Evidence which was taken on a cell phone. The first problem we encountered was that the cell phone has a low resolution, which does not give us enough resolution to be able to scrutinize the picture and ascertain whether it's real or not when we enlarge certain portions of the photo. So from this we learn that to accept pictures, they need to have a resolution high enough to expand the picture and to view certain areas only. Most cameras nowadays are able to complete this task, for their resolution quality is more than acceptable. Please be careful with using cell phones as cameras.

The next issue we have to deal with is the fact that most over-the-counter cameras that are used today always have the flash working. During the daylight hours, when there is enough light to take an acceptable picture, it would be advisable to shut off the flash to avoid any error in the final print. Consider for a moment that the flash will in fact bounce light off of dust, mist, fog, or at night reflection from flying insects. With these facts in mind, let us begin our scientific examination of several photographs.

We're going to duplicate a photograph using hair spray to create orbs. A picture was sent to the department taken on a cell phone, and we later learned that the person taking the photo had sprayed hair spray before taking the shot. A simple cell phone was not used for the following photos; instead a 7.2 megapixel Panasonic Lumix camera was used. In picture number one, many orbs are off to the side and a conglomeration of developing orbs are in the



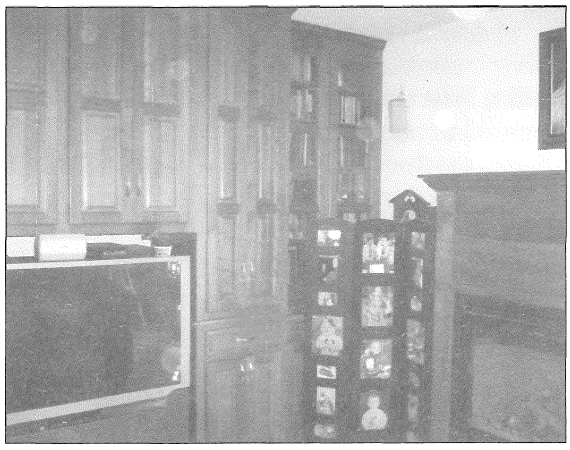
Picture #1

main portion of the picture. This picture was taken seconds after the hairspray was sprayed in the room. If you look to the right at the one on the fireplace, you will notice that the orbs have distinct patterns within them. Some people would consider this to be a real orb, a reflection of the spirit energy.

Looking at picture number two, you will notice that the main conglomeration of material has dissipated, yet there are many orbs still distinctly visible in the photograph. We are able to see through the orb to the bookcase behind it and yet we know that this is a residue

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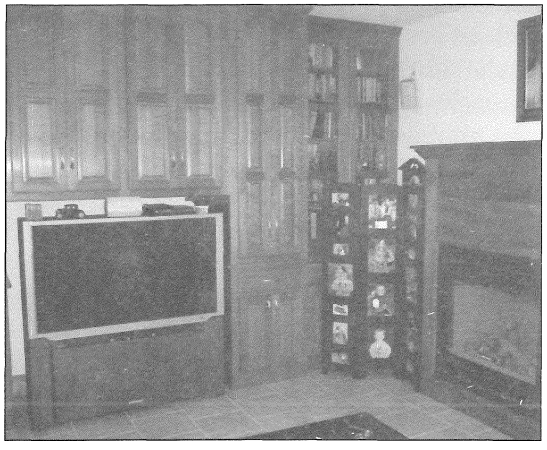
left over from the hairspray. Surely we can understand that we can create orbs, since particles in the air come in contact with the flash and are reflected back to the camera



Picture #2

almost like a double exposure. It's the moisture in the hairspray which reflects the light back to the camera, because it will be the first solid area the flash will hit and then it moves through to the background.

As you look at picture number three, this picture was taken by the same camera consecutively, after number one and two and there are no orbs present. I bring your attention to the TV screen. If you notice up in the right-



Picture #3

hand corner you will see, very clearly, a reflection of the chair as well as part of the couch on the opposite side of the room from the TV. Please be aware that when you start taking pictures you must scrutinize every detail so that you can be an informed investigator rather than just someone who thinks that every circle on the photograph is spirit. The glass on the front of the television makes a great reflective screen. Be careful that you don't believe every reflection is a spirit photograph. Investigate every picture you see intelligently, open to phenomena, but using common sense.

• • •

What happened in DECEMBER throughout the years?

DECEMBER 2

Morris Pratt, founder of the Morris Pratt Institute, made his transition in 1902, just 11 days before his 82nd birthday. He transitioned before the school opened on September 29, 1903 under the direction of President Moses Hull.

DECEMBER 6

Medium **Helen Victoria Duncan**, a Scottish mother of six, was arrested during a 1956 Nottingham séance. In their ignorance, the police had committed the worst possible sin of physical phenomena - that a medium in trance must never, ever be touched. A doctor was summoned and discovered two second degree burns across Helen's stomach. She was so ill that she was immediately taken back to her Scottish home and later rushed to hospital; on December 6, five weeks after that police raid, she transitioned.

DECEMBER 6

Pearl Harbor Day honors the thousands of uniformed and civilian men and women who perished in the 1941 Hawaii attack by the Japanese which drew the United States into World War II. 21 ships of the U.S. Pacific Fleet were sunk or damaged. Aircraft losses were 188 destroyed and 159 damaged. American dead numbered 2,403. That figure included 68 civilians, most of them killed by improperly fused anti-aircraft shells landing in Honolulu. There were 1,178 military and civilian wounded.

DECEMBER 12

James Abbott, dubbed "Most Ablest Debater of Spiritualism of His Day," was born in 1852 in New York City. A graduate of Yale University, he was exceptionally talented in the literary field, and was a contributing columnist for the magazine *The National Spiritualist.*

DECEMBER 24

The original **Cassadaga Hotel** was built in Cassadaga, Florida in 1894 for New York Spiritualists who wanted to escape the cold winters, was totally destroyed by fire. It was rebuilt in 1928.

DECEMBER 25



Christians throughout the world celebrate the birth **Jesus of Nazareth**. Spiritualists honor his teachings which are woven with Love and Forgiveness as integral elements for living a spiritual life. Jesus demonstrated spiritual healing and mediumship. •

Remembering the Watseka Wonder

MICHAEL E. TYMN, Hawaii



Lurancy Vennum

"Watseka, Illinois has been swept by a tidal wave of excitement, on account of the presumed insanity of one Lurancy Vennum, a young girl belonging to an unpretentious family in the suburbs of the city. Her insanity, as it was thought to be, dates from July 11th, A.D., 1877, and the remarkable phenomena continued until her perfect restoration through the aid of friendly Spiritualists and spirits on the 21st of May, 1878."

So began an article appearing in the September 1879 issue of the *Religio-Philosophical Journal*, titled "The Case of Lurancy Vennum," written by Dr. E. Winchester Stevens, a physician who treated the afflicted girl. The case would later be referred to as "The Watseka Wonder."

Mary Lurancy Vennum, who went by "Rancy," was born on April 16, 1864. It was on July 11, 1877, when she was 13 years old, that she told her mother that she was not feeling well, had a "fit," and remained unconscious for five hours. Upon regaining consciousness, she told her family that she felt "very strange and queer," but she rested comfortably that night. "The next day the rigid state returned, and passing beyond the rigidity, her mind took cognizance of two states of being at the same time," Stevens recorded. "Lying as if dead, she spoke freely, telling the family what persons and spirits she could see, describing them and calling some of them by name. Among those mentioned were her (deceased) sister and brother, for she exclaimed, 'Oh, mother! Can't you see little Laura and Bertie? They are so beautiful!' etc., etc. Bertie died when Lurancy was but three years old."

Over the next two months, Rancy had a number of similar trances, describing heaven and the "angels." However, sometime in September she appeared to return to her normal self. On November 27, she began experiencing severe stomach pains five or six times a day, and on December 11, she entered a trance state and again began seeing "angels." These trances continued over the next seven weeks and Rancy would often appear to be in a state of ecstasy, claiming that she was in heaven. Two physicians and the family's Methodist minister concluded that she was insane and recommended an asylum.



Upon hearing of the situation at the Vennum home, Asa Roff, a lawyer and one of the town's founders, called upon Rancy's parents and persuaded them to let Dr. Stevens of Janesville, Wisconsin, examine the girl before having her committed to an asylum. Roff and his wife were very sympathetic to the Vennum's situation as they had experienced a similar ordeal with their daughter, Mary, a dozen years earlier.

Stevens and Roff visited the Vennum family on January 31, 1878. They found Rancy sitting near the stove, looking "very sullen and crabbed." She called her father "Old Black Dick" and her mother "Old Granny." When Stevens asked her name, she replied somewhat antagonistically that it was Katrina Hogan, giving her age as 63 and saying she was from Germany. After carrying on a conversation with Stevens, she suddenly changed personalities and claimed to be a man named Willie Canning. "Willie" then started asking Stevens who he was, what his beliefs were, whether he went to church, liked to smoke, liked to drink, etc. After an hour and a half, Lurancy fell on the floor and went into a trance. She then began answering Stevens' questions "with rationality and understanding," She apologized for having such evil conditions about her and said she knew the evil spirits calling themselves Katrina and Willie.



Mary Roff

Stevens suggested that she look around her for a higher, purer, more intelligent, and more rational spirit to control her. After looking around, Rancy said there were a great many spirits there willing to come, but that one "angel" who stepped forward gave her name as Mary Roff. Asa Roff immediately spoke up and said that was his daughter.

Mary Roff was born on October 8, 1846 and died on July 5, 1865 at age 18. (Rancy was just a year old when Mary Roff died.) Mary began suffering from "fits" at an early age and would often become violent. Her physicians diagnosed it as "catalepsy." According to reports gathered by Smith, she would become "a raving maniac of the most violent kind" and later would enter a clairvoyant state in which she had no normal sense of sight, feeling, or sound and seemed not to recognize anyone, including her family members. She could see as if blindfolded and could even read a book without the cover being open. After one of her fits, she died.

Asa and Ana Roff were forced to put Mary in a sanatorium for a time, something which they later regretted as they eventually came to

(Continued on next page.)

realize that there were spiritual forces at work. It was due to the mistakes he felt he had made with his daughter, that Asa Roff was prompted to call upon the Vennums and suggest that Dr. Stevens, a Spiritualist as well as a physician, examine their daughter.

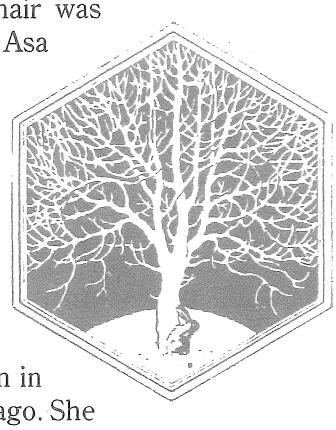
After apparently discussing the matter with some spirits, Rancy then announced that she was going to let Mary Roff take over her body for a period of time. "From the wild, angry, ungovernable girl, to be kept only by lock and key, or the more-distressing watch-care of almost frantic parents, or the rigid corpse-like cataleptic, as believed, the girl has now become mild, docile, polite, and timid, knowing none of the (Vennum) family but constantly pleading to go home," Stevens further recorded.

Upon hearing of the situation, Mary Roff's older sister, Minerva Alter, paid a visit to the Vennum home with Ana Roff. "There comes my ma and sister Nervie!" Rancy exclaimed, using her pet name for Minerva, a name not heard by anyone since Mary had died. After that reunion, Rancy, as Mary Roff, became even more homesick and begged to "go home." Reluctantly, the Vennums consented.

"On the 11th day of February 1878, they (the Vennums) sent the girl to Mr. Roff's, where she met her "pa and ma" and each member of the family, with the most gratifying expressions of love and affection, by words and embraces," Stevens continued. "On being asked how long she would stay, she said, 'The angels will let me stay until some time in May,' and she made it her home there until May 21, three months and ten days, a happy and contented daughter and sister in a borrowed body."

During those three-plus months, Rancy, as Mary, recognized old neighbors and friends. When Mrs. Parker and her daughter-in-law, Nellie, came calling, Rancy greeted them as "Auntie Parker" and "Nellie." Rancy asked Auntie Parker if she remembered when she (Mary Roff) and Nervie used to come to her house and sing, something which both Mrs. Parker and Nervie clearly remembered. When another neighbor visited, Rancy called her Mrs. Lord, even though Mary Lord, a widow when Mary Roff knew her, had remarried and had become Mrs. Wagoner.

As a test, one day in March Asa Roff asked his wife to retrieve a velvet hat which their daughter wore before her death. It was placed on the table while Rancy was outside. When Rancy entered the house, she said, "Oh, there is the headdress I wore when my hair was short." Lawyer that he was, Asa Roff tested Rancy in other ways and became satisfied that his deceased daughter was indeed occupying the body of Rancy Vennum. On February 19, he wrote to Dr. Stevens, who had returned to his home: "?...she recognizes everybody and everything that she knew when in her body twelve or more years ago. She knows nobody nor anything whatever that is known by Lurancy?...she has been nothing but Mary since she has been here, and knows nothing but what Mary knew. She has entered the trance once every other day for some days. She is perfectly happy."



In another letter to Dr. Stevens, Asa Roff wrote that while Rancy was in trance one day, the voice of someone who claimed to have lived and died in Tennessee spoke through Rancy and told him that Mary would retain control of Lurancy's body until it was restored to good health.

During the first month in the Roff home, Rancy refused to eat, explaining to her "parents" that her nourishment was coming from heaven and it was necessary for her to refrain from food until the body was ready. Gradually, she came to eat with the family.

On May 7, Mary (Rancy) called her mother (Ana) to a private room and told her that Lurancy Vennum was coming back. A change of personality then took place and the girl asked Ana where she was, began crying, and said she wanted to go home. However, after about five minutes, Mary returned to Rancy's body.

On May 21, Asa Roff recorded in a letter to Dr. Stevens: "Mary is to leave the body of Rancy today, about 11 o'clock, so she says. She is bidding neighbors and friends good-by?...She tells me to write to Dr. Stevens as follows: 'Tell him I am going to heaven and Rancy is coming home well.' She says she will see your dear children in spirit life?...She talked most lovingly about the separation to take place, and most beautiful was her talk about heaven and her home."

At 11 o'clock, Rancy "returned" and, speaking to Asa Roff as if a stranger, asked to be taken to her home. She lived a normal life from then on. •

When you realize you are one with the Divine, something automatically happens within you, an alignment with the One Power, a correction of consciousness, a healing action.

– Stuart Grayson

MEDIA WATCH

BY THE REVS. TOM AND LISA BUTLER, NST

Phenomenology • Studies of how mediums experience receiving information are being conducted at the Windbridge Institute. The study of how things are experienced by the experiencer is called phenomenology. In their first study, Phenomenology I, Windbridge researchers along with Dr. Adam Rock qualitatively analyzed research mediums' answers to the questionnaire item, "Describe in as much detail as possible your experiences while communicating with the deceased." A peer-reviewed paper detailing the results will be published in an upcoming issue of the *Journal of Scientific Exploration.* In brief, the researchers found that the mediums most often reported experiencing the deceased in multiple ways, including seeing and hearing the deceased, smelling fragrances associated with the deceased's physical life, feeling ailments or causes of death, and changes in emotional feelings.

From: *Winds of Change* Vol 1, The Windbridge Institute for Applied Research in Human Potential, Issue 1 Spring 2008, www.windbridge.org/index.htm

The Power of Collective Meditation • An annual trend in Washington DC is that crime levels rise in the summer as the temperature gets hotter. People stay out later, are more agitated, get into more fights, and the crime rate goes up. In 1993 John Hagelin, director of the Global Union of Scientists for Peace, brought together a large number of practicing meditators and trained even more. When the group reached 2,500 people there was a statistically significant drop in crime.

The group had predicted a twenty percent drop in crime and actually achieved a twenty-five percent drop. Just before the study the chief of police went on television and said something like, "It's going to take a foot of snow in June to reduce crime by twenty percent." But he allowed his department to participate in the experiment by collecting and analyzing the data. In the end, the police department signed on as one of the authors of a published paper. This is not just a one-time occurrence, an overwhelming number of papers have documented more than sixty experiments of group meditation's positive effect on reducing conflict.

From: Institute of Noetic Sciences, *Shift* magazine, No 15 "The Power of The Collective," by John Hagelin
http://istpp.org/pdf/Shift-PoweroftheCollective.pdf

You Take Nothing With You • The actress Jane Seymour, well known for the movie *Somewhere in Time*, treats every day as if it's her last after a near-death experience twenty years ago. An allergic reaction to antibiotic medicine on a film shoot in Spain almost killed the actress, and the scrape with death profoundly changed her whole outlook on life. Seymour explains, "I saw the white light and I saw, from the corner of the room, them trying to resuscitate me and I saw a syringe with blood in it. It did change my whole life because, when you die, I realized you take nothing with you except for what you've done."

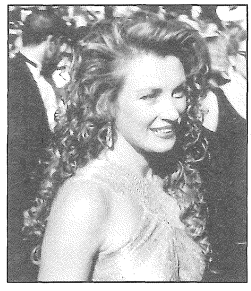


Photo by Alan Light, article from contactmusic.com

From: www.contactmusic.com, Jane Seymour - Near Death Experience Changed Seymour

NDE Causes Dramatic Transformations • Karlis Osis and Erlendur Haraldsson found no straightforward relationship between religiousness and deathbed visions. The researchers did find that an individual's belief system influenced the *interpretation* of the experience. Near-death experiences (NDE) may not be influenced by prior religious belief; however, several studies have documented that for many, an NDE permanently and dramatically alters their attitudes, beliefs and values, often leading to beneficial personal transformations. Near-death experiencers tend to see themselves as integral parts of a benevolent and purposeful universe in which personal gain, particularly at others expense, is no longer relevant. Aftereffects most often reported include: increases in spirituality, concern for others, and appreciation of life, a heightened sense of purpose, decreases in the fear of death, materialistic attitudes and competitiveness.

From: Institute of Noetic Sciences, *Shift* No. 17 "The Mystical Impact of Near-Death Experiences" by Bruce Greyson

The Near-Death Experience • Raymond Moody found fifteen recurring elements in near death experiences. These were: hearing yourself pronounced dead, being out of your body, a feeling of peace, seeing a dark tunnel,

(Continued on next page.)

encountering a bright light or being of light, hearing unusual noises, a panoramic life review, meeting spiritual beings, a realm where all knowledge exists, ineffability, cities of light, a realm of bewildered spirits, a supernatural rescue, a boundary or border and returning to your body. Moody reported that no two NDE experiences were the same and no experience in his collection included more than twelve of these fifteen elements. He also noted that no one element appeared in every narrative and that the order in which elements appeared varied from one account to the next.

From: Institute of Noetic Sciences, *Shift* No 17, "The Mystical Impact of Near-Death Experiences," by Bruce Greyson

Near-Death Experiences are Under-Reported • The NDE study done by Dr. Penny Sartori in Wales found that NDEs are an under-reported phenomenon. Only two NDEs in her study were spontaneously reported to staff members. These were deep NDEs, as they incorporated many of the NDE elements, and the experiences had sufficient impact to motivate the individuals to relate the experience to others. The remaining thirteen NDEs in her study would not have been disclosed had the patients not been interviewed.

Under-reporting is further supported by three patients who reported a NDE, yet died very soon after. It is possible that patients who briefly recover from a life threatening illness may have experienced a NDE during the acute phase of their illness, but do not regain their health sufficiently in order to report it.

From: The Scientific and Medical Network, www.scimednet.org, "A Long-Term Prospective Study to Investigate the Incidence and Phenomenology of Near-Death Experiences in a Welsh Intensive Therapy Unit," by Penny Sartori, PhD

"My Religion Isn't the Only Way" • A recent survey by the Pew Forum of 35,000 adults found that seventy percent of the American's interviewed believed that other faiths can lead to eternal life and sixty-eight percent said that there was more than one true way to interpret the teachings of their own religion. Fifty-seven percent of evangelical church attendee's surveyed also believed many religions could lead to eternal life. This is in direct conflict with traditional evangelical teaching. The survey found American's to be strongly religious: ninety-two percent believe in God, seventy-four percent believe in life after death and sixty-three percent say their respective scriptures are the word of God.

One shocking finding was twenty-one percent of self-identified atheists said they believed in God or a universal spirit, with eight percent "absolutely certain" of it. Pew senior fellow, John Green, says this may mean that "Many people who identify as atheists may not be telling us they don't believe in God, they may be telling us they don't like organized religion."

More than most groups, Catholics break with their church, and not just on issues like abortion and homosexuality. Only six in ten Catholics described God as "a person with whom people can have a relationship"—which the church teaches—while three in ten described God as an "impersonal force."

From: CBS News, "Americans: My Religion Isn't The Only Way," www.cbsnews.com

Lily Dale in the News • In August, *Time* Magazine ran an article titled, "Lessons from the Spirit World," by Nancy Gibbs. The article focused on Lily Dale with quotes from NSAC President Lelia Cutler and historian Ron Nagy. Gibbs has authored over 100 *Time* stories and has covered the last four presidential campaigns. Along with news, Gibbs focuses on stories exploring the intersections of religion, values and politics. The article was positive and will attract more visitors to Lily Dale.

From: *Time* Magazine, www.time.com

Dolphin Rescues Beached Whales • In New Zealand a group of people were trying in vain to get two beached pygmy sperm whales back out to sea and all were ready to give up when Moko, a local dolphin known for playing with swimmers, appeared and led the whales to safety. Conservation Department officer Malcolm Smith was quoted as saying "I've never heard of anything like this before. It was amazing…I don't speak whale and I don't speak dolphin, but there was obviously something that went on because the two whales changed their attitude from being quite distressed to following the dolphin quite willingly and directly along the beach and straight out to sea."

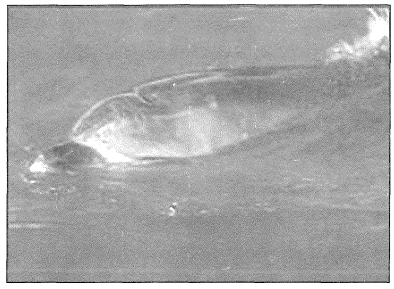


Photo of Moko (from BBC News)

From: BBC news, "NZ dolphin rescues beached whales," http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/7291501.stm

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Life is a promise; fulfill it.

– Mother Teresa

Myths and Paradigms

NORMA J. TURNER, Arizona

It is December, soon to be Christmas, a time of year that for many people is a bitter-sweet experience. This should be a time for joy, a time for family and friends, a time for giving and receiving, sharing and inviting one another into our homes and hearts. This season is also a time of remembrance of Christmases past, of people who are no longer here but whose warmth is still felt at this time. We think of a childhood gone but relived in our own children or in the children of others, and a time of anticipation with the New Year just around the corner. This is a time of hope, happiness, and eagerness to begin a new year.



But this is also a bitter-sweet time—because for many people, it is a time of pain - a time when the fun and laughter of the season only highlight the anger and frustration in their hearts. This season is a time when the joy of people coming together might only be reminiscent of how very lonely one really is, deep down, when everyone else is attending to their friends and family, and no one is there - for me. Christmas is one of the most difficult times of the year for therapists and counselors who work overtime trying to help people live through these days which should be filled with love and friendship and the spirit of giving. So what gives? What is happening?

Quite frankly, Christmas is a time when our myths let us down and our paradigms clash. Let me explain.

Mythology—Myths are stories told to reveal a profound truth. They are stories which form the framework for the way we live, often unspoken and just assumed. Another word for what I am talking about is paradigm.

Paradigms—Thought Patterns or Models, originally parables or fables. Now the word paradigm is used in the world of science to refer to new theoretical models, but I want to use the word here in the sense of patterns of thought or models. Let me give some examples.

1. In our culture, we still have a myth or paradigm about who should drive the car when there is a man and woman, both of whom can drive.

2. In our culture, we still have a myth or paradigm about who is the worst driver: the man or the woman.

3. In our culture, we still have a myth or paradigm about who should be responsible for the management of the inside of the house as opposed to the management of the outside of the house.

4. In our culture, we still have a myth or paradigm regarding who should take care of the sick child.

[Granted there are exceptions, but the paradigms are still there.]

In our culture, we still have a myth or paradigm about marriage. Very few people walk down the aisle, put their hands together in marriage, and say, "I thee wed until I really feel like moving on." The strength of the myth about marriage is found in the pain one feels when going through a divorce. Even when you know the divorce is for the good and that it is a healthy decision, there is still that feeling that one has failed. Failed what? Failed to live up to the myth of what marriage is all about.

In our culture, we have myths or paradigms about beauty, value, merit, success, happiness—and on Christmas day, there we stand, our myths all aglow–and then no one lives up to them. What a heart break.

One myth reads: Friends and family share a meal lovingly prepared by all for all. Stories are shared, and everyone catches up on each others' lives.

The reality: People gulp their food down so they can gather round the tree to open up their gifts. All that food that you spent all day cooking is wolfed down in fewer than 10 minutes, with hardly any consideration for the loving preparation you put into placing an appetizing meal in front of your friends and family.

Another myth reads: Everyone will eagerly accept the sharing of gifts as a sign of love and affection.

The reality: This person is upset over the color of the sweater she received; that person cannot believe that Joe would not know she already had an espresso machine; that child is wailing because she wanted Barbie at the Beach, not Barbie on a Horse, and on and on and on. Oh, brother!

Yet another myth states that I should be content and pleased with the things that I have: my family and friends,

(Continued on next page.)

my home, my pets, my job, and my involvements. I should feel blessed to be able to open my home to people and that I should have a smile on my face at all times to indicate the sense of inner happiness which is mine, all mine.

> The reality is that I'm mad, frustrated, and tired—no exhausted; I want these people out of here, and I just want someone to show me I am loved and cared for. You see, too many people do not have that sense of being loved and cared for, regardless of the number of people who surround them. They are lonely people, and this time of year, a time of general all-around partying, only serves to highlight the fact that they are lonely.
> So, what do we do?

First, we need to realize that myths and paradigms, while they are helpful in living day to day, are just that: myths and paradigms. Sometimes the myths and paradigms do not fit our individual lives. In those cases, we need to build new paradigms. We need to step out of the dream world of what should be and step into the real world of what is. Only when we realize that we are living a myth, can we help ourselves replace that myth with reality.

Hanging on to a myth or a paradigm which is clashing with the reality of our lived situation will only cause us grief. For example, if I am hanging on to the myth of my granddaughter, the little princess whom everyone else has named the ornery brat, I am creating grief not only for myself but also for others.

How do I know if my myth or paradigm is becoming undone? People will tell me; they will give me clues:

> "Grandma, stop buying her things; she is just using you, can't you tell? She's wiping out your bank account, and at age 25, she should be able to take care of herself!" That is a definite clue to a faulty paradigm on my part.

If at this very happy time, I am feeling a tremendous sadness, I have a clue: my paradigm is clashing with reality. I am not happy. I, who thought I had many friends, do not have friends. I need to do something about that. What? Maybe I need to reach out to others by volunteering. I need to change my paradigm about expecting people to love me just because I am here. I need to move myself out of the way in order to put other people first and allow the Natural Law of Cause and Effect to function. As Spiritualists, we take responsibility for our feelings and know that the only way the world around us will change is if we change ourselves.

The Christmas season is a time to take stock of our feelings; our feelings will tell us a great deal about whether our myths and paradigms are working for us. Am I happy? Am I content? Do I like these people? Do I like being with this person? Am I bored? Am I satisfied? What aspects about my life do I like? Is this season of joy truly a season of joy for me?

Finally, Santa Claus is one of the myths of our culture who represents happiness, reward, and glee. There are some people who choose not to teach their children about Santa Claus, but most people do because of the profound truth that underlies this happy man: Be good, and you will be rewarded at Christmas time. Christmas time can be a time of fun and fancy; may your Christmas be a time of health and happiness! •

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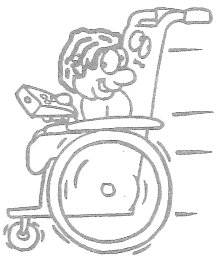
Freedom for Sandy

Bonnie Wheeler, Maine

Sandy came to grade school in a child's wheel chair. Her Mom and Dad pushed her into the classroom and Sandy would say, "You can go now." She had Muscular Dystrophy. Each of her classmates would take a turn placing her wheel chair by their desk, and she would look on with us and do the school work. Sandy was smart so you loved having her at your desk!

During recess, we would stop at the top of the handicap ramp, let her go and catch the wheel chair at the bottom. We gave Sandy a daring ride, if the teachers weren't watching. She loved it! During recess, she was daring, just as all little kids are.

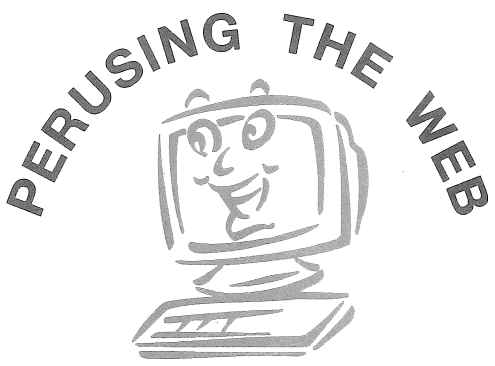
I remember one recess when we were in second grade. We were all pretending to be a herd of wild horses, racing across the playground and around the building. I was pushing Sandy and we were flying with the herd of exuberant kids when we hit a rough place and both of us went down hard. It scared all of us, especially me.



Everyone gathered, lifted the wheel chair, with her still strapped in and began to brush her off. One kid was going to run to the office to call her parents. She said, "NO, I want to play. Push me Bonnie, let's go"...and I did. We went home that day, both of us a little bruised and dirty, but it was a wild special day in our childhood when Sandy ran with the herd.

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www.religioustolerance.org



December Winter Solstice Celebrations

www.religioustolerance.org is a far-reaching website, encompassing a wealth of information. The sample material below is from www.religioustolerance.org/winter_solstice.htm

Reviewed by LAURA LEE PERKINS, Editor

Religious folk worldwide observe many seasonal days of celebration during the month of December. Most are religious holy days, and are linked in some way to the winter solstice in the Northern Hemisphere. On that day, due to the earth's tilt on its axis, the daytime hours are at a minimum in the Northern hemisphere, and night time is at a maximum.

The seasons of the year are caused by the 23.5 degree tilt of the earth's axis. Because the earth is rotating like a top or gyroscope, it points in a fixed direction continuously – towards a point in space near the North Star. But the earth is also revolving around the sun. During half of the year, the southern hemisphere is more exposed to the sun than is the northern hemisphere. During the rest of the year, the reverse is true. At noontime in the Northern Hemisphere the sun appears high in the sky during summertime and low in the sky during winter. The time of the year when the sun reaches its maximum elevation occurs on the day with the greatest number of daylight hours. This is called the summer solstice, and is typically on June 21 in the Northern Hemisphere – the first day of summer. "Solstice" is derived from two Latin words: "sol" meaning sun, and "sistere," to cause to stand still. The lowest elevation occurs about Dec 21 and is the winter solstice -- the first day of winter, when the night-time hours are maximum.



December celebrations in many faiths and locations - ancient and modern:

• ANCIENT BRAZIL – Brazilian archeologists have found an assembly of 127 granite blocks arranged equidistant from each other. They apparently form an ancient astronomical observatory. One of the stones marked the position of the sun at the time of the winter solstice and they were probably used in religious rituals.

• ANCIENT EGYPT – The god-man/savior Osiris died and was entombed on Dec 21.

• ANCIENT GREECE – The winter solstice ritual was called Lenaea, the Festival of the Wild Women. In very ancient times, a man representing the harvest god Dionysos was torn to pieces and eaten by a gang of women on this day. Later in the ritual, Dionysos would be reborn as a baby. By classical times, the human sacrifice had been replaced by the killing of a goat. The women's role had changed to that of funeral mourners and observers of the birth.

• ANCIENT ROME – Saturnalia began as a feast day for Saturn on Dec. 17 and of Ops (Dec 19). About 50 BCE, both were later converted into two day celebrations. During the Empire, the festivals were combined to cover a full week: Dec 17-23. By the third century CE, there were many religions and spiritual mysteries being followed within the Roman Empire. Many, if not most, celebrated the birth of their god-man near the time of the solstice. Christianity won out by becoming the new official religion in the 4th century CE.

• BUDDHISM – On Dec 8, or on the Sunday immediately preceding, Buddhists celebrate Bodhi Day (a.k.a. Rohatsu). It recalls the day in 596 BCE, when the Buddha achieved enlightenment. This day is generally regarded as the birth day of Buddhism. Being an Eastern tradition, Bodhi Day has none of the associations with the solstice and seasonal changes found in other religious observances at this time of year. However, it does signify the point in time when the Buddha achieved enlightenment and escaped the endless cycle of birth, death and rebirth through reincarnation – themes that are observed in other religions in December.

• CHRISTIANITY – Any record of the date of birth of Yeshua of Nazareth (later known as Jesus Christ) has been lost. By the beginning of the 4th century CE, there was intense interest in choosing a day to celebrate Yeshua's birthday. The western church leaders selected Dec 25 because this was already the date recognized throughout the Roman Empire as the birthday of various Pagan gods. Many symbols and practices associated with Christmas are of Pagan origin: holly, ivy, mistletoe, yule log, the giving of gifts, decorated evergreen tree, magical reindeer, etc. In Massachusetts, Puritans unsuccessfully tried to ban Christmas entirely during the 17th century,

(Continued on next page.)

because of its heathenism. The English Parliament abolished Christmas in 1647.

• DRUIDISM – Druids and Druidesses formed the professional class in ancient Celtic society. They performed the functions of modern day priests, teachers, ambassadors, astronomers, genealogists, philosophers, musicians, theologians, scientists, poets and judges. Druids led all public rituals, which were normally held within fenced groves of sacred trees. The solstice is the time of the death of the old sun and the birth of the dark-half of the year.

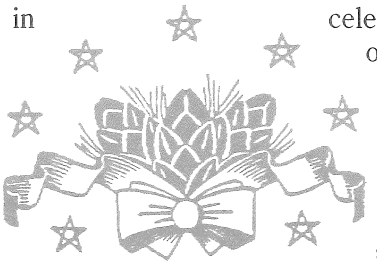
• INCA RELIGION – The ancient Incas celebrated a festival of Inti Raymi at the time of the Winter Solstice. It celebrates the Festival of the Sun where the god of the Sun, Wiracocha, is honored. Ceremonies were banned by the Roman Catholic conquistadores in the 16th century as part of their forced conversions of the Inca people to Christianity. A local group of Quecia Indians in Cusco, Peru revived the festival about 1950.

• IRAN – Shabe-Yalda (a.k.a. Shab-e Yaldaa) is celebrated in Iran by followers of many religions. It originated in Zoroastrianism, the state religion which preceded Islam. The name refers to the birthday or rebirth of the sun. People gather at home around a korsee – a low square table – all night to tell stories and read poetry. They eat watermelons, pomegranates and a special dried fruit/nut mix and bonfires are lit outside.

• JUDAISM – Jews celebrate an 8 day festival of Hanukkah. It recalls the war fought by the Maccabees in the cause of religious freedom. Antiochus, the king of Syria, conquered Judea in the 2nd century BCE. He terminated worship in the Temple and stole the sacred lamp, the menorah, from before the altar. At the time of the solstice, they rededicated the Temple to a Pagan deity. Judah the Maccabee lead a band of rebels, and succeeded in retaking Jerusalem. They restored the temple and lit the menorah. It was exactly three years after the flame had been extinguished – at the time of the Pagan rite. Although they had found only sufficient consecrated oil to last for 24 hours, the flames burned steadily for eight days. Modern-day Jews celebrate Hanukkah by lighting one candle for each of the eight days of the festival.

• NATIVE AMERICAN SPIRITUALITY – The Pueblo tribe observe both the summer and winter solstices, although the specific details of the rituals differ from pueblo to pueblo. The Hopi tribe's ceremony is called *Soyal*. It lasts for 20 days and includes prayerstick making, purification, rituals and a concluding rabbit hunt, feast and blessing. There are countless stone structures created by Natives in the past to detect the solstices and equinoxes.

• NEOPAGANISM – This is a group of religions which are attempted re-creations of ancient Pagan religions. Of these, Wicca is the most common; it is loosely based on ancient Celtic beliefs and practices. Wiccans recognize eight seasonal days of celebration. Four are minor sabbats and occur at the two solstices and the two equinoxes. The other are major sabbats which happen approximately halfway between an equinox and solstice. The winter solstice sabbat is often called Yule. It is a time for introspection, and planning for the future.



Monotheistic religions, like Judaism, Christianity and Islam, tend to view time as linear. It started with creation; the world as we know it will end at some time in the future. Aboriginal and Neopagan religions see time as circular and repetitive, with lunar (monthly) and solar (yearly) cycles. Their rituals guarantee the continuity of nature's cycles, which traditional human societies depend on for their sustenance.

• NEOLITHIC EUROPE – Many remains of ancient stone structures can be found in Europe dating back many millennia. Some appear to have religious/astronomical purposes; others are burial tombs. These structures were built before writing was developed. One can only speculate on the significance of the winter solstice to the builders.

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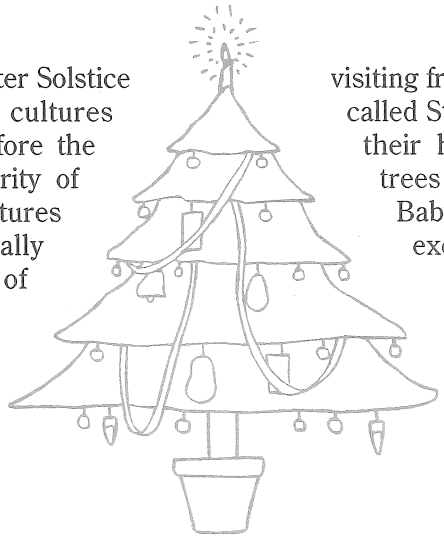
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The History of Christmas

THE REV. STEPHANIE FROBESE, NST, Maine



Celebrations at the time of the Winter Solstice have been conducted by various cultures throughout recorded history, long before the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. The majority of these practices were part of pagan cultures who worshiped multiple gods, usually associated with different aspects of nature.

Many of these traditions began with the Mesopotamian celebration of New Years. The Mesopotamian's chief god was Marduk. Each year as winter arrived, it was believed that Marduk would do battle with the monsters of chaos. To assist Marduk in his struggle, the Mesopotamians held a festival for the New Year called Zagmuk. This New Year's Festival lasted for 12 days.

The Persians and the Babylonians celebrated a similar festival called the Sacaea. Part of that celebration included the exchanging of places; the slaves would become the masters and the masters the slaves, who then obeyed the dictates of the temporary master.

Early Europeans believed in evil spirits, witches, ghosts and trolls. As the Winter Solstice approached, with its long cold nights and short days, many people feared the sun would not return. Special rituals and celebrations were held to welcome back the sun.

In Scandinavia during the winter months the sun would disappear for many days. After 35 days, scouts would be sent to the mountain tops to look for the return of the sun. When the first light was seen, the scouts would return with the good news. A great Yuletide Festival would be held and a special feast would be served around a fire burning with the Yule log. Great bonfires would also be lit to celebrate the return of the sun. In some areas people would tie apples to branches of trees to remind them that spring and summer would return.

The ancient Greeks held a festival similar to that of the Zagmuk/Sacaea festivals to assist their god, Kronos, who would battle the god Zeus and his Titans.

The Romans held a festival to honor their god Saturn. Their festival was called Saturnalia and it began the middle of December and ended on January 1st. With cries of "Jo Saturnalia!" the celebration began, and would include masquerades in the streets, huge festive meals, visiting friends, and the exchange of good-luck gifts called Strenae (lucky fruits). The Romans decked their halls with garlands of laurel and green trees lit with candles. Like the Persians and the Babylonians, the masters and slaves would exchange places.

The early Christians thought it an abomination to honor the pagan gods. They wanted to keep the birthday of their Christ child a solemn and religious holiday, not one of cheer and merriment, as was the pagan practice. But as Christianity spread, leaders were alarmed by the continuing celebration of pagan customs among their converts. At first the church forbade this kind of celebration. But it was to no avail. Eventually it was decided that the celebration would be tamed and made into a celebration fit for the Christian Son of God.

Some legends claim that the Christian Christmas celebration was invented to compete against the pagan celebrations of December. The 25th of December was not only sacred to the Romans, but also to the Persians, whose religion, Mithraism, was one of Christianity's main rivals at that time. The Church eventually was successful in taking the merriment, lights, and gifts from the Saturanilia festival and embodying them into the celebration of Christmas.

The exact day of Jesus' birth has never been pinpointed. Traditions say that it has been celebrated at the Winter Solstice since the year 98 AD. In 137 AD the Bishop of Rome ordered the birthday of Jesus celebrated as a solemn feast. In 350 AD another Bishop of Rome, Julius I, chose December 25th as the observance of Christmas. My mother always said if the history of the New Testament is accurate, Jesus' birth had to be in the spring, because the shepherds were bringing their sheep UP the mountain, when the grass would begin growing again in the spring.

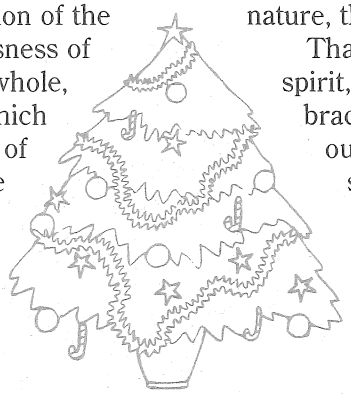
Spiritualism is not a Christian religion, but we celebrate Christmas to celebrate the changing seasons. The Winter Solstice ushers in the return of the sun and increased light upon the northern hemisphere. Spiritualism recognizes Jesus as a brother, a master

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teacher and the greatest medium in recorded history. We are all equal in the eyes of the Infinite, just as Jesus taught as he traveled. Our Eastern culture, and many of us, have been brought up with the teachings of Jesus. Spiritualism closely aligns itself with his teachings and endeavors to encourage and nurture the development of the Christ Consciousness in our members, churches and in society. We share in the celebration of Christmas, not because of the man, but because of the principles of love and service to humanity that he taught in his life on earth. The life of Jesus parallels the seasonal transition from darkness to light. He embodied the love of the living Creator and gave freely of that love. His existence on Earth lifted the veil of death and attempted to teach humanity there is life eternal.

One of my teachers, Alice A. Bailey, in her book *From Bethlehem to Calvary* said this about Jesus,"Members of the kingdom of God will surely embody the heritage of four kingdoms, as man embodies the heritage of three. This higher citizenship involves the expression of the Christ consciousness, which is the consciousness of the group, of the relation of the part to the whole, and of the human to the divine (something which Jesus continuously emphasized). The result of this realization must surely be, under the evolutionary scheme, the appearance of another kingdom in nature. This constitutes the great task of Jesus. Through the power of His realized divinity, He produced the man who blended in Himself the best of all that had been, and revealed also what could be. He brought together into a functioning unity the higher and the lower, and made out of them "one new man." He founded the kingdom of God on earth, and produced a synthesis of all the kingdoms in nature, thus causing the appearance of a fifth kingdom. We might sum up the at-one-ments which He brought about as follows:

1. He unified in Himself to perfection the physical, emotional and mental aspects of man, and demonstrated therefore the perfect Individual.
2. He unified in Himself soul and body, the higher and the lower aspects, and therefore produced a divine incarnation.
3. He unified in Himself the best of all the kingdoms in nature, mineral, vegetable, animal, which means in their synthesis, the human with the intellect functioning.
4. Then He blended this synthesis with a higher spiritual factor and brought to the birth another kingdom in nature, the fifth."



That last kingdom referred to is the realm of spirit, which Spiritualists acknowledge and embrace as our future home. Let us all partake of our Christ-like potential at this changing of the seasons, this time of giving and showing our love for those in our lives. May each and every one renew and spread the true Christmas Spirit during this holiday season and throughout the coming year.

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Submission Guidelines from the Editor

Thanks to all of you who enjoy submitting articles, poems, photographs, announcements, affirmations and other materials for *TNS-Summit* publication consideration. We accept both electronic and hard-copy submissions, although electronic submissions are now preferred. If possible, please submit in Microsoft Word or Works [attachments] or you can insert your articles into the body of an email. These types of submissions allow us to alter fonts, spacing and to make corrections and adjustments as needed.

Please know that we shall make every effort to print your materials as submitted. However, editorial prerogative does prevail and materials chosen for publication may be used in part or whole. Content needs to fall within the National Spiritualist Association of Churches' philosophies. We shall make every effort to keep your writing intentions as submitted, but there are articles that arrive which need clarifications, spelling and grammar corrections, inappropriate material removed, and some are simply too lengthy to meet our space requirements that month. Sometimes rewording seems necessary to make the writing stronger or to clarify a certain point. The *TNS-Summit* is edited and managed by a collective organization which seeks to educate and inform the public about Spiritualism. Therefore, the printed materials must agree with Spiritualists' principles and philosophies.

Thank You, Laura Lee Perkins

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Declaration of Principles

National Spiritualist Association of Churches

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



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